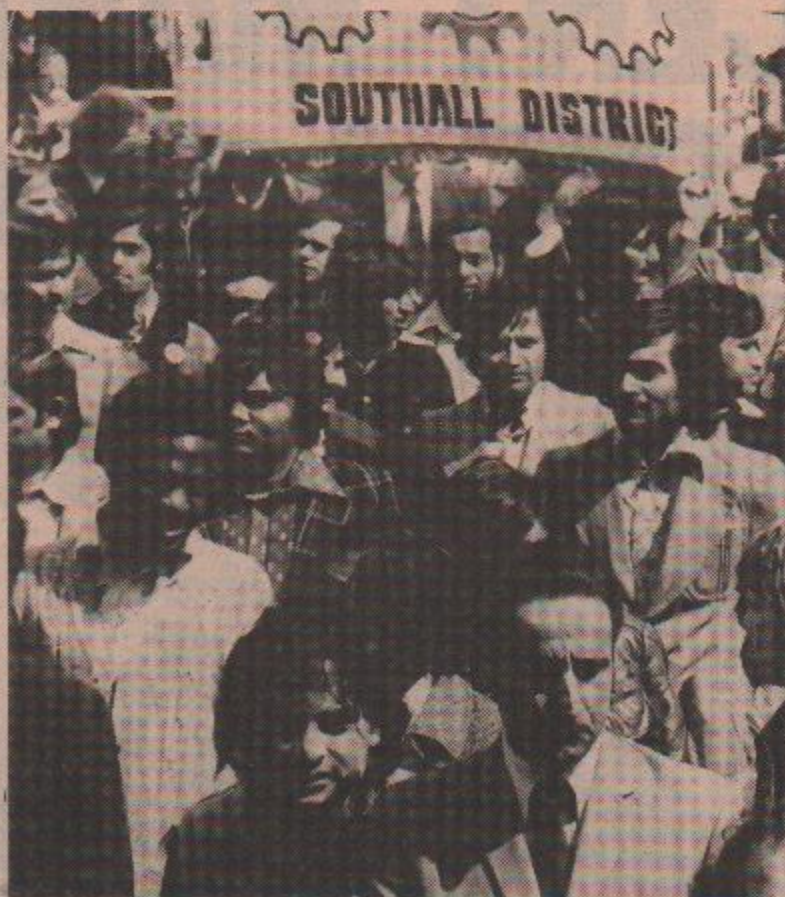


HOW MUCH MORE MUST THESE

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p



The Grunwick strikers: they want the right to belong to a trade union

Police fiasco over Deason 'evidence'

AFTER just one day of this week's Old Bailey trial of Right to Work marcher John Deason, the police evidence was looking extremely thin.

John Deason was one of the 43 marchers arrested when the Hendon police attacked the Manchester to London Right to Work march last year.

The most serious charges have been reserved

for him, the Secretary of the Campaign.

He is accused of hitting Sgt Leslie McCliment with a loud hailer, causing him an injury which kept him off duty for eight weeks.

The prosecution produced the loud hailer, which Sgt McCliment identified as the instrument he picked up from the road after being 'hit'. It was denied then, he said.

Parrot

Yet a photograph taken later shows McCliment on the steps of Hendon police station holding an unidentified loud hailer.

The prosecution case rests on the evidence of McCliment, who repeated parrot-fashion: 'I saw the man who hit me. It was John Deason.'

He apparently saw John Deason hit him from his left side while looking straight ahead. He later picked Deason out at an identification parade.

But he had to agree when Judge Miskin, Recorder of London, suggested that he could have picked out Deason as the man on the march with the loud-hailer, even if he had never hit him.

The police have produced only one person who 'saw' Deason hit McCliment—and that's McCliment.

Intimidation

On this scanty 'evidence', John Deason has been charged with assaulting McCliment with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, maliciously wounding him, and assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duty.

The case is an attempt to intimidate trade unionists and unemployed workers so as to stop them demonstrating and protesting.

Support for John Deason has come from thousands of trade unionists and trade union organisations, including the Shrewsbury pickets, Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, who were also victims of a police frame-up.

As we go to press, the trial is going on.

If John Deason is not cleared of every charge, a massive campaign will be launched throughout the trade union movement to quash all convictions and stop any more Shrewsburies.

STRIKERS TAKE?

A NEW menace now threatens strikers battling through the longest and dirtiest dispute in the country.

Pickets at Grunwicks in North West London have already been beaten up by thugs, attacked by the courts and arrested by the police.

Now, after ten months on strike, they find themselves up against a firm of labour spies.

Socialist Worker can reveal that Grunwick bosses have hired a squad of 'surveillance experts' calling themselves the FBI.

The initials stand for Findlay's Bureau of Investigation, which operates from FBI

After ten months of violence, pickets face bugging threat

House in Church Road, London, SE19.

Forget the jokey title—this is a serious outfit, with a formidable reputation among London's undercover 'security' organisations.

No precise details are known of their work for Grunwick's. But they fit a

pattern of what, until now, have been a series of mysterious events.

Throughout the dispute, strikers have told how management always appeared to have advance warning of their plans. It was almost as if the strikers' meetings were bugged...

Curiously, FBI's balance sheet for 1974—the latest available—shows an investment of £2000 in 'radio equipment'. They are believed to have since bought the most sophisticated aids in electronic surveillance.

Meanwhile, the strikers—who are members of the white-

collar union APEX—have been hit by other 'aids' to management, such as:

□ **THUGS** menacing the picketing lines on 10 and 12 March. Then, on 15 March, striker Kanti Patel, alone on the picket line, was dragged inside the factory and beaten up.

□ **LEGAL** attacks from the National Association For Freedom, who won a court injunction stopping blacking by postmen.

□ **POLICE** harassment, with strikers even being arrested for complaining about incidents involving management violence.

Interestingly enough, Grunwick security officer Mr Woollett formerly served with the local police and still has many friends at the stations which 'deal' with the strike.

The way those stations are 'dealing' with the strike has embarrassed even the Home

Office, who have told them to 'calm down'.

One senior policeman, Chief Inspector Johnston of Willesden, has been speedily retired as a result, Socialist Worker understands.

Such is the battery of enemies the Grunwick's strikers, many of whom are Asian, have lined up against them—just to deny them the right to form a trade union and thus improve their pitiful £25-a-week wages.

Scandalously, the leaders of the trade unions—who love to sound off about low-paid workers and rogue employers—have done nothing.

Len Murray of the TUC, for instance, visited the picket line in December and promised the strikers the earth. They've heard no more.

And yet the strikers can win—with the help of the rank and file of the trade union movement.

1400 such rank and file trade unionists turned out last week to join a mass picket.

That picket now needs to be continuous, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And the strikers are organising exactly that, to seal off the factory and win the strike.

To do so, they need your support.

Every reader of Socialist Worker in London should organise delegations now from his or her workplace.

Join the picket
□ Details from Brent Trades and Labour Hall, 375 High Road, Willesden, London, NW10.



The police—a powerful aid to the Grunwick bosses: Pickets have been arrested for no reason

North Sea blow-out: This was no 'accident'

IT WAS a miracle that no-one was killed in the blow-out in the Ekofisk North Sea oil field last week.

It will be an even bigger miracle if no-one is killed in the next blow-out. For there is going to be another blow-out—despite the attempts of the oil companies and the British and Norwegian governments to forget that the whole thing happened.

The blow-out was not a simple accident. Workers on the rig say they were instructed

From Simon Andrewes in Oslo

by the oil firm Phillips to press on with the job of placing a safety valve in position without waiting to check if the pressure in the well stable.

The reasons for Phillips' impatience are not hard to find. Ekofisk is the most profitable field in the North

Sea. Profit after tax is not likely to be less than seven billion pounds, giving a return on invested capital of 66 per cent.

On top of this, the Norwegian state will collect 14 billion pounds in taxes. The state and the giant firms were not nearly as successful at agreeing a plan to deal with emergencies as they were in agreeing to share the profits.

Inadequate preparation for hazards such as the blow-out led to the resignation of a top

official, Arne Flikke, from the Oil Directorate in 1974.

A Norwegian parliamentary white paper states: 'It is quite evident that existing technology cannot prevent serious damage in the event of a major, uncontrolled blow-out'.

Risks

Yet only two months ago, Norwegian industry minister Bjartmar Gjerde scornfully dismissed a report pointing to

the risks of an uncontrolled blow-out.

His reaction was understandable in the light of the powerful forces that stand to gain from the mad rush to exploit the North Sea. Apart from Phillips four of West Europe's largest oil companies are involved in the Ekofisk field, with a total turnover of 28 billion dollars in 1974 and control over 610 subsidiary companies in 70 to 80 countries.

The oil companies know

exactly what risks are involved. They know another blow-out could happen at any time.

Gambling

But they also know that delays brought about by improvements to the sandalwood safety precautions would cost them millions in lost revenues.

So they go on gambling with the lives of workers and the future of the Scottish, Danish and Norwegian coasts.

RACIST THUGS GET A SHOCK

THREE TIMES Bengali vigilantes attacked National Front and white racist thugs in Brick Lane East London on Sunday.

One white boy jostled and punched a Bengali and a group of Bengalis immediately came to his aid.

Three white youths chalked 'National Front' on a wall and were given a running battle which many bystanders joined in.

A gang of white thugs abused a young Bengali, Abdul Salam, and punched him. They also were given a running battle.

Battle

The police have arrested Abdul and charged him with 'possession of an offensive weapon' a stick which they still have not found.

He's also being charged with assaulting the police.

The young Bengalis have organised into vigilante squads following a spate of racist attacks in Tower Hamlets in recent weeks.

On Friday afternoon, five thugs attacked a young Bengali with milk bottles. He had to have 30 stitches in the side of his face.

The National Front were taken by surprise on Sunday and will most probably bring reinforcements next week.

Join us next Sunday, 10.30am, at the Naz Cinema, Brick Lane, E1.

Another court attack on students

THE PRESIDENT of North East London Polytechnic Students Union, Andy Strouthous, has been served with a High Court writ for trespassing and being in contempt of court.

It was served while he was having a cup of coffee in the students union bar.

All over the country, the college authorities have found a new way to deal with student protest—slap on a High Court writ and bring in the police.

Police stormed the London School of Economics, Middlesex students appear at the Old Bailey for contempt

picket or blacking contact: Lock Out Committee c/o NUAAW Offices, Cattlemarket, Kettering. (Kettering 516145).

□ FIGHTING FOR THE CLOSED SHOP. A Journalists Charter pamphlet, 20p. From 63 Paddington Street, London W1.

MAGNIFICENT MARATHON STRIKE GETS A BOOST

RON HUNT, editor of the Northamptonshire Evening Telegraph, drove through the journalists' picket line in a Rolls-Royce on Monday to celebrate his 100th scab edition of the paper.

Hunt, an NUJ member, has been producing the paper single-handed since the journalists' dispute began 22 weeks ago.

Under NUJ rules, he is allowed to do his 'normal work'.

Management's celebration champagne reception didn't go down too well with the NGA printers, who stopped work briefly in protest.

Meanwhile, provincial newspaper journalists throughout the country are preparing for a 24-hour strike from 5pm Thursday in support of the Kettering NUJ members.

Lock-out

The strike has been timed to hit coverage of local authority elections.

The Kettering journalists were 'locked out' by the East Midlands Allied Press management when they refused to work with members who tried to join the Institute of Journalists scab force.

The chapel had been on strike over a house agreement. NUJ rules stop members from leaving the union during a dispute.

The dispute was stepped up after an overwhelming call for action at the union's recent annual conference in Blyth. For months the union's executive had failed to give a lead.



Supporters of the Stop the Chile Campaign leafleted the Scotland Sweden international at Hampden last Wednesday. This was the last international before the team is due to go to play football in top torture centre Santiago Stadium.

As a result of the conference call, all the EMAP chapels are on strike in support of Kettering and all chapels whose employers belong to the Newspaper Society (the bosses' organisation) are being called out on Thursday.

The Kettering lock-out looks like being long and

bloody. The bosses have already shown their determination to smash the NUJ's attempts to maintain post-entry closed shops.

They have set up the ironically named NUJ Closed Shop Defence Fund and have expelled the South Essex Recorder group, where the

first closed shop agreement was signed in January.

The NUJ conference instructed Press Association journalists not to provide copy to newspapers where NUJ members are in dispute. This is vital if the one-day strike is to be effective.

A mass meeting for NUJ

members is being held at the St Brides Institute (off Fleet Street) at 11am on Friday.

Journalists in London will be supporting a 24-hour picket of the Press Association in Fleet Street from 5pm Thursday.

□ For further information and offers of help with the

Heathrow: It's not over yet

By the Heathrow SWP branch

believe they've won something. The strike has given them a new dignity and a feeling that the struggle will force British Airways to cough up decent shift allowances in the next few weeks.

The return to work 'formula' had been agreed with management two weeks earlier and imposed on the AUEW shop stewards without proper discussion.

It was based on a document drawn up by the shop stewards' negotiating committee and taken by Reg Birch to the management, who responded with a document of their own.

The document gave sapped our strength. These

documents became the basis for negotiations.

They narrowed our horizons and scuppered the militancy that might have compelled British Airways to place money on the table then and there.

But this was always the intention of our officials, anyway—both the left-wing variety as well as the right wing.

They couldn't stomach the sight of the stewards meeting independently and leading our members into action.

Suddenly these officials recognised that when the rank and file moved, they had no real role to play. Our Negotiating Committee in-

advertently gave them back their role.

Nevertheless the formula at least conceded the shiftworkers' claim in principle. A principle which the leaders of the other airport unions then tried to destroy.

Under the terms of the agreement, the AUEW stewards were to meet the stewards of the other unions and agree on a common shift claim.

There would then be a return to work, negotiations with management would start immediately and be finalised by 13 May.

Incredibly, the national officials of the other unions refused to let their stewards even meet the AUEW stewards.

Hence the strike was prolonged by these officials from the National Joint Coun-

cil who a week earlier had signed the notorious Blacklegs Charter.

Most of these officials hold office by appointment. They have never been elected by anyone and can hang on all their life.

But if, by 13 May, the shiftworkers have not obtained an agreement which fulfils their aspirations, the blame will lie with those who have consistently tried to sabotage the magnificent fight put up by the AUEW members—not least those leading members of the Communist Party who, at every turn, tried to stab us in the back.

We hope that if this happens, members of the other unions will join us in a united struggle, in spite of the national officials, for a decent shift allowance.



Andy Strouthous: High Court writ

of court in two weeks' time, and students from the School of African and Oriental Studies have already appeared in court for refusing to leave their occupation.

The writ served on Andy Strouthous sums up the college authorities' contempt for the wishes and rights of students at North East London Poly.

Expelled

Andy was expelled for defending the Students' Union.

But the students are standing firm. At the end of last term we voted 1,200 to one for Andy's reinstatement.

We have already held a three-day occupation for it. More occupations, demonstrations and protests will follow until he is reinstated unconditionally.



RAR Broadsheet now available Temporary Holding around the slogan Love Music Hate Racism 10 copies for £1. Buy it and sell it RAR T-Shirts. Yellow with red RAR symbol. White with Black RAR symbol. State small medium or large (note: small is small!!) £2 each (inc. post and packaging) RAR Badges 22p (inc. post) 10 for £1 50 post free

Anyone at the Mayday gig at the Roundhouse who would like to book the Kartoon Klowns ring Red. Saunders 01 734 9083

Thanks to everyone for making Mayday such a great night. Love music. Hate Racism. Rock Against Racism.

Contact us through 5 Cottons Gardens London E2. All monies go into gigs and producing more propaganda.

MAY DAY 1977...and our rulers celebrate the smashing of working-class living standards

WHAT WE THINK

'THE past twelve months have almost certainly seen the sharpest fall in the real living standards of Britain's working population in any year for at least a century, including the wars.

'Indeed, to find any comparable fall it would probably be necessary to go back to the 18th and early 19th centuries,' writes Professor Alan Day in the Observer (1 May 1977).

'In a single year, from April 1976 to April 1977, the real living standards of our typical man have fallen by between 4 and 8 per cent.'

The pay cuts have been uneven of course but, by any standards, the Social Con-trick has proved the most

successful anti-working-class policy devised by any government within memory.

Day strongly approves of pay cuts for workers—a blessing in disguise—but is very concerned that 'the real take-home pay of high salary earners has been squeezed very severely.'

Sauce for our goose

Apparently, that is *not* a blessing in disguise for them. Why not? Perhaps because Professor Day belongs to this group himself. What is sauce for our goose is definitely not sauce for Day's gander.

Some light is thrown on the dire plight of Day's class by another article in the same paper.

It tells of the tribulations of one Mitch Komedra, who draws just under £15,000 in salary but his life style reflects a lusher scale of remuneration.

'You may think this funny,' he says, 'but in the last few years I have had to make some significant adjustments.'

'I usually take the family (five adults and two children) abroad four times a year. We go to Norway for the skiing at Christmas and then we go three times to our villa in Spain during the summer.'

'We always used to travel first class. Now we travel second.' Poor Mitch. Not that he is taking the squeeze lying down.

'Of course, we could see the hard times coming. That's why we bought this farm. We are getting to be self-sufficient. We pickled a whole lot of mushrooms last year.'

Another struggling toiler in roughly the same salary bracket is Joel Barnett, Denis Healey's deputy, who was on television late last Thursday.

He did not, it is true, complain that he was reduced to travelling second class and living on pickled mushrooms but he did give an exhibition of arrogant complacency that deserves to be ranked with Marie Antoinette's telling the starving Parisians to eat cake.

Suffer

There is nothing, absolutely nothing, said Barnett, that this or any other government can do except what they are doing now. Living standards down? Too bad. You will just have to suffer in 'the nation's' interests.

Massive unemployment? It can't be avoided. Prices going through the roof? Price control would do more harm than good.

Champagne

What Barnett did not explain was, if what he says is taken as true, what use is the Labour Party to working class people? Who needs Barnett? You can have Tory policies from the Tories or, for that matter, from the Treasury bureaucrats.

No one asked him that question of course. Nor was anyone so tactless as to ask him about this news item. 'Champagne imports in 1976 rose 72 per cent to 5.28 million bottles.'

Pity the poor rich, brothers and sisters.

...BUT WHERE ARE THE CHIEFS?



In Healey's pocket, every one!

THE RANK AND FILE ARE HERE TO FIGHT BACK...



May Day in London. 7000 people joined the most successful march for many years, with floats, bands, banners and posters. Notable were the large contingents of left-wingers from Turkey, Iran, Chile and Spain, as well as banners from virtually every trade union in London.

Humour was not absent from the demonstration—as shown by the banner above that made a mysterious appearance.

JUDGE WHITEWASHES RACIST KILLING

'I AM quite satisfied that neither of you were activated by feelings of racial prejudice.'

These astonishing words fell out of the mouth of Mr Justice Lawson as he passed sentence on two white youths who pleaded guilty at the Old Bailey on Monday to the manslaughter of Gurdip Singh Chaggar. They were given a few years in prison.

Gurdip was the Indian boy stabbed to death by a racist

gang last summer in Southall, West London.

At the time, Jaswant Atwal, who co-ordinated opposition to the racist upsurge in the Southall area, told Socialist Worker: 'The police are claiming there were no racist overtones to the killing. But this is nonsense.'

Brawl

A gang charged down the main street banging Indian shop windows and then with

knives in their hands charged at a group of young Indians.'

The police case throughout was that the killing was the result of a street brawl between two gangs, the kind of brawl that could take place on any Friday night after closing time.

The contempt of the Southall police for the young Indians knows no bounds. Only four weeks ago a young Indian had his stomach slit open by yet another white knife gang.

A friend of his, Harmail Johal, told Socialist Worker: 'We've been to the police but they just don't seem to want to know.'

The trial of the rest of the white gang, and of the young Asians allegedly involved in the 'affray' is still going on.

Denied

Whatever the outcome, one lesson is already clear. The law in this country is weighted so heavily against

young blacks that even the most elementary forms of justice are denied them.

There can be only one antidote: self-organisation and collective self-defence. The Asian youth movements that sprung up in the summer indicated that this was exactly the feeling of many of these youngsters.

The task of socialists is to give them every possible assistance.

□ Rally of Black Revolutionaries pages 8-9.



Socialist Workers' front page the week after Gurdip Chaggar was stabbed to death

The union chief who loves the Con-Trick



Lord Allen (far left) at the TUC: he used disgraceful tactics

By Alan Gibbons, chairman, Crewe CWS Tea

IN PROTEST against rising food prices one delegate to last week's USDAW conference presented Chancellor Denis Healey with a cabbage.

Which is more than we got in the fight to defend our living standards.

Healey's speech and the Executive Council's report on

wages and economic policy beat back the grass roots rebellion against the Social Contract.

A motion calling for an immediate return to free collective bargaining was defeated by 186,656 votes to 107,257.

Lowest

So now our union, which has some of the lowest-paid workers in Britain in its ranks, is committed to a pay rise of less than ten per cent.

The successful defence of the Social Con-Trick maintains control of the right-wing machine, the Progressive

Labour Group, over the union.

The PLG lost only two propositions during the conference, held in Scarborough, and has again sacrificed the wages and conditions of the membership to keep a bankrupt anti-working class Labour government in office.

And to do so, General Secretary Lord Allen used the most disgraceful tactics, rebaiting one left-wing delegate continually.

He even appealed to delegates to consider rejecting the mandates of their branches when deciding how to vote on wages policy.

There was the beginning of a fightback, however. Forty delegates attended a meeting of the newly-formed USDAW Rank and File group, which produced two conference bulletins to counter the arguments of Healey, the Executive and the press.

Eroded

We showed how living standards had been eroded and unemployment increased to bail out British capitalism, and how the arguments about a free-for-all, differentials and the spectre of Thatcher were being used to make us pay the price of the economic crisis.

We now have a modest but growing network of militants ready to fight to recapture our union for the poorly-paid mass of the membership by intervening in regional and national conferences and forming combine shop stewards' committees.

And how we need such an organisation. Lord Allen said inflation and unemployment 'sadden' him—they are bloody killing us!

GRIMSBY: 50 NEW MEMBERS

By Mike Stanton, SWP candidate, Grimsby by-election

'STANTON joins picket line.' That was the main headline in the Grimsby evening paper during the first week of our by-election campaign.

It became the trademark of what we were saying—support

for all workers in struggle. From the beginning, we said that we gave full support to the Heathrow engineers in their fight to smash the Social Contract.

Then 300 TGWU members came out on a one-day strike over a bonus dispute.

While we joined the workers on the picket line, Harry Hall, a well-known local councillor and AUEW shop steward, showed his colours by leading

the AUEW men through the lines.

On three occasions during the campaign I was able to join picket lines to show clearly what we stood for.

We began the campaign with some doubt. Paper sales were only 25 to 35 a week and membership was tiny.

But three weeks' intense political activity transformed the situation. Paper sales topped 400 a week during the election and membership is now around 50.

There is a good chance of a new branch in nearby Scunthorpe

Why wait

The major lesson for us is 'why wait for a by-election?' We got out on the estates and round the factories in a way we had never done before.

We talked to people we had never even considered before and we reaped the benefits.

The election gave us the impetus, but we intend to carry on. Grimsby may have a Labour MP, but they know who the socialists are.

...and 25 in Ashfield

IN THE ASHFIELD by-election we recruited 25 new members to the Socialist Workers Party, including two miners.

At the start of the campaign, two young textile workers joined and worked flat out for two weeks.

At the end they said: 'We've learnt more in two weeks than we would have done in three years.'

Among the people who offered support was a former chairman of the Labour Party. He delivered 900 election

addresses for us.

We now have a new branch in Ashfield of 12 members, a new branch in Hucknall, and a much stronger Mansfield branch.

Sold

On the last Saturday of the Campaign, we sold 110 Socialist Workers in the streets of Sutton and 100 in Hucknall, both small towns.

There is no doubt that in this area of Nottinghamshire, the by-election has put us firmly on the map.

£40,000 FUND

£36,197 SO FAR

CLIVE JENKINS, not content with the £10,000 he has squeezed from you, our readers, is now on the rampage against the 27 full-time ASTMS officers who signed a financial appeal.

Each of them has now been asked to sign or agree to what amounts to a loyalty oath. We understand that at least two full-time officers face a disciplinary hearing.

Paul Foot of Socialist Worker will challenge Jenkins to debate the matter in the open at a public meeting at next week's ASTMS conference.

Slowly, slowly does it, for the last leg of our fund. Out there among our readers are many people who have still to contribute. Perhaps you think it's all over, bar the shouting.

But £4,000 is still a lot to raise—so dig deep and help win our target.

Donations, collections to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP

Thanks to:

- M O Sullivan
- Ealing
- Camberbury
- UCATT 5 Herts Branch
- Leamington Folk Concert
- 'Disgusted' ASTMS member
- R Garner
- S Newhouse
- Tottenham Garage
- Jan Hunnan
- ASTMS Manchester Central Branch
- Edinburgh
- A White
- S Cherry
- J Summers
- M Banestock
- B Conway
- M Postlethwaite
- J McDonald
- J Summers
- A White
- E Twitchell
- M Baverstock
- G Peterson NATFHE Leeds
- C Keogh
- H McFedris
- University of E Anglia SU
- Hammersmith SW
- 265a Rochdale
- S Cunningham
- Guildford
- Paisley College of Technology
- Glasgow College of Technology
- Yarrows Shipyard
- Caterpillar Tractors
- Colin Hall
- Napier College SW
- Readers
- Natsopa Clerical Branch Camden
- Central London Public meeting
- NLP Students Union
- GLC Branch
- Central London
- G Lander NW2
- Stockport
- G Bradshaw, Lincoln
- Anon, Edinburgh
- Durham
- M Reddy
- Preston
- Barnie Collins
- Glasgow
- Anon, Sutton
- Bookmarks Collection Box
- Pontracraft
- Royal Docks
- 7/84 Theatre Group
- D Leighton
- P Wagstaffe
- Grays
- G Peterson NATFHE Leeds
- S Cunningham, Leicester
- Guildford
- Anon-London
- Gloucester
- N Williamson, Nottingham
- T O'Connor, Ireland
- Anon-London
- South East London
- Medical Branch A/24
- ASTMS
- Anon-Edinburgh
- Islington SWP
- Chessington Estate
- Brighton
- Anon-Welwyn Garden City
- NALGO members at weekend school.



Rank and File DIARY

National meeting of PLATFORM, the rank and file organisation of bus workers. Sunday 8 May (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE), 11.30am-5pm. Mitre Hotel, Cathedral Gate, Manchester 3. For transport from London, phone 01-706 2823, from Sheffield 0742-584661, from Birmingham 021-643 5717, from Glasgow 041-221 3426. PLATFORM, rank and file bus workers' paper—April/May issue now out. Ten copies for 70p from Platform, 11 Woodlands Road, Ilford, Essex (phone 01-553 4550).

TASS CHARTER: Pre-conference edition—still some left, new edition out soon, available from Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Support Tyndale teachers: Public meeting, Monday 9 May, 6.30pm, Friends Meeting House, London NW1. Called by Tyndale teachers and supporters.

April issue of THE COLLIER out now. Articles on Gormley's prod deal, the threat to Notts Coalfield, the fight for dust victims' rights and



much more. Up to 10 copies, cash with order (5p each plus 6p postage). More than ten copies post free (send no cash with order; pay us for the copies you sell). Orders to The Collier, 38 Abbey Lane, Cundy Cross, Barseley, South Yorks.

MERSEYSIDE UNEMPLOYED WORKERS EDUCATION CLASSES: on Why there has been so much unemployment on Merseyside. All meetings on Mondays, 12 noon, Kirkby Labour Club, St Chads Drive, Kirkby. Free of charge.

9 May: Unemployed struggles in Britain in 19th and 20th centuries. All inquiries to Brother T Jones, 34 Roughwood Drive, Northwood, Kirkby. Sponsored by the Merseyside Right to Work Campaign.

DOWN THE ROAD: an exhibition of 35 photographs by Bob Golden taken from the book of the same name. Available for hire to trade union branches, schools, colleges, public meetings. Fee £5 plus carriage. All proceeds to the Right to Work Campaign. Speakers can be arranged to introduce discussion.

Write to Down the Road Exhibition, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-359 1371, evenings).

HOSPITAL WORKER has called a lobby of the NUPE Conference, Sunday 22 May, at the Dome, Brighton, Coaches from Reading and London. Details next week.

NEWCASTLE Trades Council Delegate Conference: The Jobs Crisis in North-East Industry. Speakers include: Ernie Ennew (chairman, Plesseys Action Committee, Sunderland), Don Brown (chairman, TASS Joint Office Committee, Clarke Chapmans), Jim Murray (convenor, Vickers Elswick Works), Peter Burns (chairman, Joint Shop Stewards Committee, C A Parsons), Saturday 4 May, 11am to 4pm, Lecture Theatre No 1, Sussex Building, Newcastle University (behind The Haymarket, Newcastle). Credentials: Terry Rodgers, 12 Bainford Avenue, Newcastle 15.



NALGO ACTION NEWS: April edition still available from 23a Alpha House, Ashbridge Street, London NW8. 5p a copy plus 7p postage.

ACTION ON THE CUTS—fight compulsory transfer! Meeting organised by the London Education Cuts Action Committee Thursday 6 May, 6pm, Polytechnic of Central London, Regent Street, London W1.



JOHN DEASON IS INNOCENT—Right to Work Campaign stickers. Thousands already used around London. Rush off an order today, 4in x 3in, in green. £2 for 1000, post free by first class post. From Rank and File Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. CASH WITH ORDERS ONLY.

WHERE WE STAND

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 overturned.

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.

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.



THE LOYALIST STRIKE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

AS Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday, the strike led by the extreme right-wing Loyalists in Northern Ireland was tightening its grip. Here EAMONN McCANN writes on the background to the struggle.



FLASHBACK to the last Loyalist strike, in May 1974: below, a UDA human barricade closes off a factory. Right: Hooded UVF members.

The ultra-right's first step towards power?

THE main demand of the stoppage in Northern Ireland is that the IRA be smashed by any means necessary—including an all-out, uncontrolled military assault on the whole Catholic community.

In the longer term, the stoppage is the first step in the ultra-right's push for full power in Northern Ireland.

The politicians and murder gangs who have come together in the United Unionist Action Council want nothing less than a return to one-party sectarian rule, with trade unions destroyed and the Catholic community crushed.

Even if they falter at this first step, let it not be doubted they could eventually succeed. They are strong.

The reason neo-fascism is strong in the North is that Northern Ireland Secretary Roy Mason—like Merlyn Rees before him—has followed the long British tradition of backing off every time the bigots have advanced. It is late in the day now for bluster about 'toughing it out'.

The stoppage depends on intimidation, on the thugs with cudgels who prowled the streets on Tuesday morning making it clear that your skull could be cracked while going into work.

Terror

But to pretend—as newspapers from the Express to the Morning Star do—that support for the stoppage depends entirely on terror is light-minded balderdash.

Many Protestant workers, possibly a majority, are bigots. They were not born bigots. They had bigotry thrust irresistibly upon them.

For generations Orange sectarianism reigned supreme in the North, made Protestants feel privileged and led them to believe that only by keeping the Catholic hordes at bay could this position be preserved. Britain taught them to believe that.

In return they gave Britain automatic loyalty and defend-



ed British interests with relentless ferocity.

Small wonder at their bitterness now, seeing Britain apparently betray them.

What Ian Paisley tells them seems perfectly plausible because—and this is crucial—most of it in no way contradicts what Mason and the media say too.

Paisley's consistent demand is that the IRA be 'rooted out'. Tory spokesman Airey Neave makes the same point with monotonous regularity. Week in and week out it is echoed in national newspaper editorials.

War

Never do you get a hint of the truth—that the IRA is strong because large numbers of Catholics, however much they dislike its tactics, see it as

their only defence against the thugs organised by Paisley and his friends. The IRA cannot be destroyed militarily without an all-out war against the Catholic population as a whole.

Roy Mason insists he is doing all he can in this direction. He has sanctioned non-jury 'police perjury', the murder of children like Majella O'Hare, the torture of Catholic detainees.

Despite it all the Provos persist.

It is logical for Paisley to argue that the answer is even fiercer repression: internment, curfews, wholesale slaughter—whatever it takes.

As far as security is concerned, he is not asking Mason to take a different road. He is urging him along the same road, but further, faster: the

road which British governments and Ulster Loyalists have traditionally travelled together.

Mason and his supporters have put up a show of reluctance and confronted Paisley on the issue not because they are squeamish about killing more Catholics, but because they still entertain hopes of somehow reassembling a 'power-sharing' administration which would bring together middle class Protestants and Catholics.

Safe

The Loyalists believe that power-sharing is an impossible dream of ignorant Englishmen, that Ulster can only be made safe from subversion by a strong government which would brook no

nonsense about civil rights and keep Catholics securely in their place.

And they are right. That is the only way Ulster as a separate entity can ever be made stable.

The North is an artificial area, built by Britain on sectarian foundations, is irreformably undemocratic. Seven years of bloodshed bear testimony to that.

Trying to create 'democracy' within Northern Ireland is like attempting to devise a square circle.

Thus Britain has repeatedly taken tentative steps away from Protestant ascendancy—and each time pulled back when the ultra-right rebelled.

The pattern will probably continue. Paisleyism will exist as long as Northern Ireland is there.

... and the trade unions babble on

HIGH on the list of those responsible for the strength of Paisleyite reaction are the leaders of Northern Ireland's trade unions.

All, including those on the 'left', have quietly accepted sectarianism in workplaces for years.

They have never led a struggle against anti-Catholic discrimination in recruitment, for example, into the Belfast shipyards and engineering factories.

Now, facing a massive right-wing mobilisation, they have responded in typical fashion: issuing joint statements with the bosses' Confederation of British Industry and the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce.

The statement made no reference whatever to the separate interests of workers, but babbled instead about 'the ability of industry to deliver the goods... firms both large and small with severe cashflow problems'.

It is this absence of principled union activity that has given Paisley and his followers a clear run among the Protestant working class for generations. Clearly any real challenge to reaction will have to come—as in Britain—by building from the rank and file up.

THE BIGOTS BEHIND THE STRIKE

ANYONE who thinks the stoppage in Northern Ireland is based on genuine workers' demands should look at its leaders:

□ IAN PAISLEY first rose to fame back in the mid-1960s, when the IRA hardly existed. Paisley led anti-Catholic riots. The 'inspiration' of his speeches produced the first sectarian murders—of Catholics by members of a Loyalist gang, the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Paisley came to prominence again in 1968 when imprisoned after inspiring attacks on Catholics demanding 'One man, one vote'.

□ ERNEST BAIRD: This 'worker' owns a chain of four chemist's shops and lives in a prosperous suburb.

□ GANDY TYRRE: Head of the biggest paramilitary group in Northern Ireland, the Ulster Defence Association, which has organised hundreds of sectarian murderers.

UDR told 'Carry on'

SEVEN THOUSAND members of the security forces in Northern Ireland were assured on Monday that they would not be involved in dealing with the Loyalist thugs leading the stoppage. These were the members of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR), which allegedly exists to 'help keep order' in Northern Ireland.

The UDR is full of friends and relatives of the members of the Loyalist gangs. They were promised on Monday that their job would be to forestall attempts by the IRA to take advantage of the situation—that is to ignore the intimidation of workers who wanted to work, and instead to continue their own intimidation against the Catholic community.

Yet again Labour policy is shown bankrupt

THE EVENTS in Northern Ireland this week show the complete bankruptcy of British government policy.

For years we have been told that the British troops are 'keeping order' and 'stopping a bloodbath'. Now it is virtually admitted that while the British troops have been fighting the IRA, other forces have been left intact, forces capable of 'intimidation' and 'terrorism' against anyone, Protestant or Catholic, who has disobeyed their will.

They are the forces of extreme

WHAT WE THINK

right-wing Loyalism.

The British army claims it is going to move against intimidation by Loyalist terror groups today, when industrial profits are threatened. It has rarely done anything about such intimidation when the lives of Catholic workers were at stake.

Indeed, British generals and politicians have engaged in regular chats with the leaders of the Loyalist terror groups. Northern Ireland

secretary Roy Mason was still chatting with them on Monday this week.

The generals may move to break the stoppage. Their motives were spelt out in full by The Times, writing during the last Loyalist strike three years ago.

There was, the paper, said, 'a vital interest in the defeat of this strike. Constitutional government in modern conditions is vulnerable to

the weapon of the political strike. It is a weapon more will be eager to take up with every proof of its success'.

Socialists want to see the stoppage collapse—but because rejected by Northern Ireland's workers, not broken by the British army.

Success for the army in attacking the strike will not solve any of Northern Ireland's problems. The fact that the Loyalist murder gangs still exist shows more than anything else that the way forward in Northern Ireland does not lie in more power for the British army, but in getting that army out now.

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Chris Harman

The leaders at this week's economic summit know that there is no end in sight to the international crisis—despite what Labour Ministers try to tell us.

Seven worried men...

SEVEN important but worried men are gathering in London this week. They are the leaders of the seven Western powers and their world economic summit takes place as it is becoming clear that after three and a half years there is still no end in sight for the international crisis.

They are worried because they have been telling those they rule over: 'Tighten your belts, behave moderately and everything will be all right very soon.'

Boom

Only a year ago they were confidently promising a boom—in Britain they spoke again and again of an 'export-led boom'.

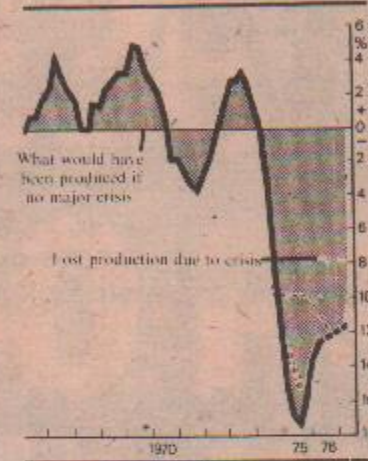
But all their efforts have barely

succeeded in pushing the amount of wealth produced by the main Western countries back to the level it was four years ago.

Industrial Production (1970 - 100)

	1973	end of last year
US	120	122
Japan	127	129
Germany	113	114
France	120	125
Britain	111	106

Things in Britain are worse than in most other countries—but nowhere has there been any real advance on four



From The Economist, 1 January 1977

years ago. Yet those intervening years have been years of immense crisis. The diagram above shows how much less wealth was produced in the advanced countries than would have been if the world economy had just continued growing at the same average rate as it did until 1974.

As can be seen, about 18 per cent less wealth was produced in 1975 than was possible if unemployed workers had been allowed to operate the shutdown factories throughout the Western world. Last year about 12 per cent more wealth could have been produced.

Yet each and every government represented at the economic summit has been telling its own workers they cannot have pay rises and that their social services must be cut because 'the country cannot afford it'.

But more worrying still for these men is that the crisis shows no signs of ending. As they meet there are many signs of a new down-turn in the world economy.

In West Germany there are—according to the Financial Times—steadily increasing doubts that the economy will stay on the upward course officially predicted at the beginning of the year.

In Japan, industrial production declined by 0.7 per cent in February, the third successive decline and the steepest so far.

Erosion

In France production has only just returned the level of spring 1974, before the crisis. Yet there is 'erosion of morale' among industrialists.

In the biggest economy of all, the US, there is still some economic growth. But it has also been producing an increase in inflation.

This led President Carter last month to drop plans to encourage faster growth—plans which only a week earlier he had said were 'indispensable'.

The international picture was summed up last week by a report written for the inter-governmental agency, OECD, by a group of powerful bankers and industrialists. 'There is little sign anywhere' they said, 'of the revival of productive investment that is necessary for sustained economic growth.'

No light

Their views are a long way, of course, from the phoney optimism you get from Labour ministers when they try to sell us another round of pay policy. The OECD certainly do not think 'there is light at the end of the tunnel.'

That is why those at the economic summit are worried men. Their system shows symptoms of a deep illness, and they cannot find a cure, however hard they try. They are worried that the demand for euthanasia is growing in popularity.

We will look at the causes of this sickness of the system next week.

THE BUTCHERS

THE CARVE-UP of London's two evening papers, the News and Standard, has shown two of Fleet Street's leading hatchet men, Vere Harmsworth and Jocelyn Stevens, at their 'best'.

Harmsworth, the grandson of the man who 40 years ago turned the Daily Mail into a recruiting for the British Union of Fascists, has already knifed the Daily Sketch, which disappeared in 1971.

But he prefers to hover in the wings, making arrogant decisions for suitably arrogant hirelings to enforce.

Thus, four years ago, Evening News journalists negotiating better conditions

were told by Harmsworth's management: 'We're not going to push any more buns through the bars.'

And a rejected pay offer brought forth another classic: 'Someone's got to be the lowest-paid journalists in Fleet Street and it might as well be you.'

Unlike Harmsworth, Jocelyn Stevens hides

WHEN Alfred Harmsworth took over the Evening News 80 years ago, there were nine London evening newspapers... and 28 national dailies. Soon there will be only one evening paper and possibly just seven national dailies.

behind no-one. He revels in his own butchery.

He once told the Sunday Times: 'If I have a reputation for being a cold-blooded sacker, it is justified...'

Justified largely by the blood by spilt at the Scottish Daily Express. That was Stevens at his cynical, cold-blooded best.

Early in March 1974, rumours that the paper's Glasgow offices were to be closed, and 1800 jobs axed, were rife.

So rife in fact that Stevens went to the trouble of announcing in public that there

JOCELYN Stevens, like all good capitalists, showed his dynamic ability to create wealth from an early age. He inherited £750,000 when he was 13 days old.

was no substance to them. At the same time, he was privately working out detailed plans for that very closure.

Two weeks later, he announced what he had only days before denied and, by the end of March, the closure had been executed and the saga of the Scottish Daily News was about to begin.

He described later how 'satisfying' the whole operation was.



Stevens—'a cold-blooded sacker'



Harmsworth—hatchet man



By Tony Heal

JACK JONES, general secretary of the Transport Union and architect of the Social Contract, is speaking on a serious subject at the Humber Leisure Conference.

It is: 'Why we need more leisure time and how to use it.'

With 1½ million unemployed, and millions in work doing overtime to make ends meet, this must be the sickest joke yet in the 'year of the beaver'.

SIR FRANK McFadzean, chairman of British Airways and the man who caused the engineers' dispute, has just made a little money.

In the last 14 months he has sold shares in his former company, Shell, and made between £404,000 and £532,000.

He has kept shares worth just over £91,000. While he worked for Shell he was getting around £90,000 a year salary and various hand-outs.

And this is the man who won't give the Heathrow engineers an improved shift pay allowance of about £10 a week.

A TOUCHING ceremony was held at the Fairfield Shoe factory in Richmond to mark five years of devoted service by one worker, Nora Appleby.

There was a speech from the managing director, thanks all round, a ceremony in the works canteen and a presentation.

And the presentation? A 50p postal order.

FORMER Minister of State at the Department of Industry Eric Heffer, recently showed how 13 years in Parliament haven't tarnished his love of the workers.

Eric and his wife arrived in Treforest for a recent weekend school and immediately insisted that he couldn't possibly sleep in the Polytechnic of Wales chalet rooms like the rest of the human race.

Instead he demanded to be booked into the nearest British Rail Hotel, with the school's organisers, the South Wales Miners, picking up the bill.

AT THE Maternity Hospital in Mill Road, also in Cambridge, health officials have just issued a report telling how pregnant women have to sit in draughty corridors, wearing their nighties.

No doctor has an office, samples for analysis have to be taken several

miles away, no car parking is available, and hospital records are kept in cardboard boxes in the nurses' dining room because there isn't anywhere else.

Nothing can be done about this, because, of course, they say there isn't the money around.

OUTSIDE A SMASHED LABOUR HQ A TRIBUTE TO ADOLF HITLER

THIS IS the outside of Bethnal Green Labour Party in East London after the Nazis passed through.

Windows were smashed and birthday greetings to Adolf Hitler were daubed on the walls.

Hitler, for the uninitiated, was born on 20 April. (88 stands for HH, Heil Hitler, H being the eighth letter of the alphabet).

Nearby was scrawled the emblem of the unashamedly Nazi organisation, the British Movement.

Several local members of the National Front are believed to have recently left to join the BM.

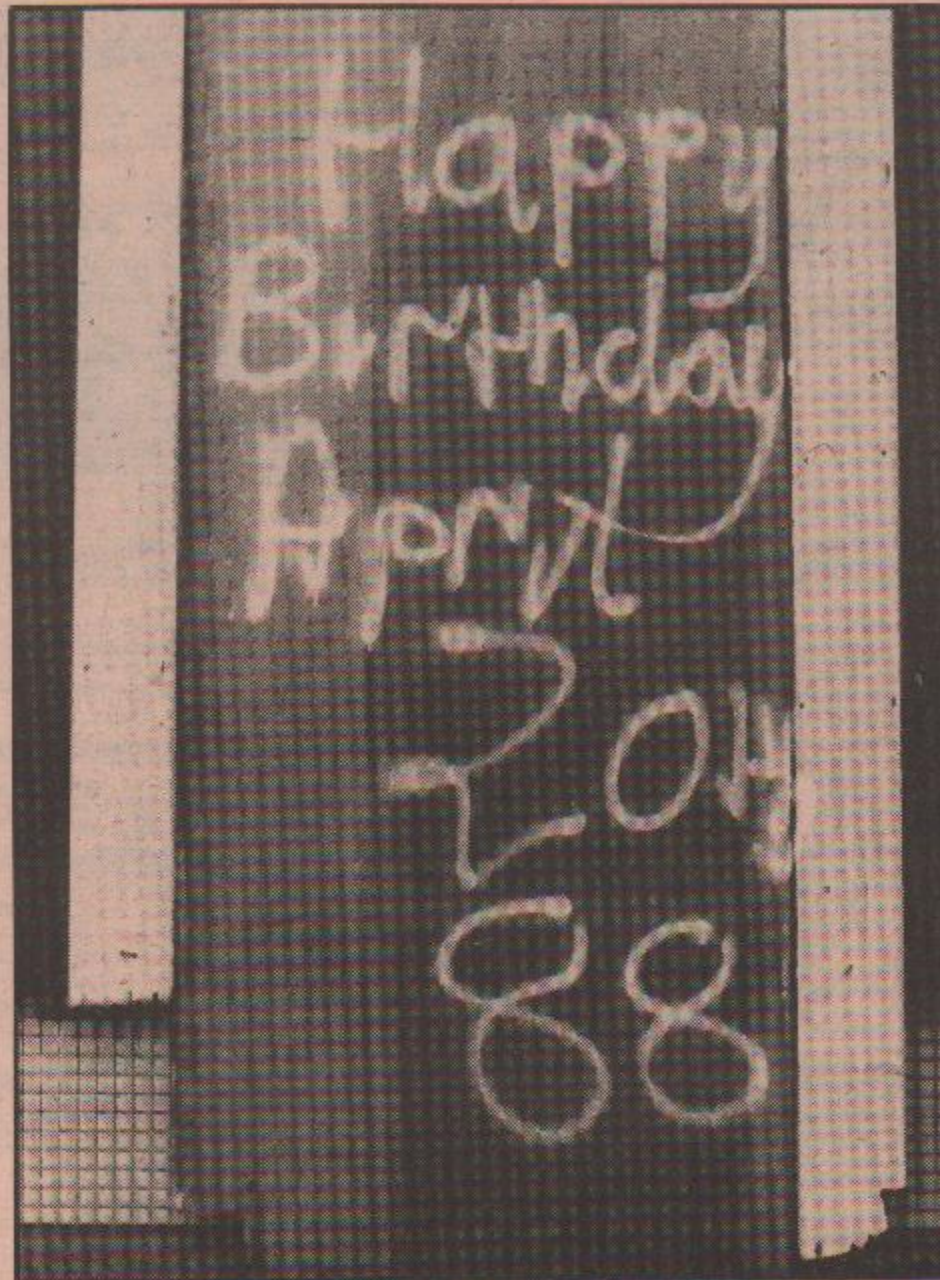
Clearly they were getting restless about the Front playing down its Nazi sympathies...

SACRIFICE CORNER

CAMBRIDGE University's Magdalene College is holding the most expensive ever 'May Ball'. Tickets cost £36 for two.

Men must wear white (not black) bow ties and evening dress, women must be in evening dresses.

Champagne will be



served throughout the night as the lucky people dance to groups, orchestras discos and so on.

At nearby Queen's College, the less well-off will be able to go to another May Ball. Tickets for two cost the bargain

price of £29.50—as well as champagne, they are offering whole roasted pig, numerous boars' heads and salmon.

As a special concession, men will be allowed to wear a black bow tie with their evening dress.

THUGGERY IN SPAIN...MURDERS IN TURKEY

SPAIN's police proved on Sunday that they have not changed since the days of Franco.

They viciously attacked workers and students trying to assemble for peaceful May Day rallies.

The government of Franco's hand picked heir, King Juan Carlos, had banned the rallies as part of its preparation for the elections to be held in six weeks' time.

Francoist

It wants the elections to appear democratic, while giving an in-built advantage to the so-called 'centre' and right-wing groups that stand in the Francoist tradition.

So within a short period of 'legalising' left-wing parties and trade unions, it used the police to stop the demonstrating.

May Day massacre

People trying to get to a rally called by trade unions in Madrid stadium were beaten up as they walked out of underground stations.

When other demonstrators tried to assemble in a park, mounted police rode among the tables of a cafe, lashing customers with their whips.

Customers were forced to stand up and shout fascist slogans.

Horsewhips

Among those beaten with police truncheons and horsewhips was a Reuters journalist.

One of the mounted police officers shouted out, 'Franco isn't dead, you understand'.

In other cities, the picture was the same. The police attacked demonstrations in Barcelona, Bilbao and Valencia. In Madrid, 200 people were treated in hospital for injuries, in Bilbao 15.

The police attack shows that Spain needs more than elections to move towards democracy.

It needs the destruction of the police and military organisations that are led by the same thugs who prospered under fascism.

THIRTY-FIVE workers were killed when shooting broke up Istanbul's May Day demonstration.

The demonstration was called by Turkey's biggest trade union federation, the DISK, which is strongly influenced by the Communist Party.

Its call was followed by tens of thousands of workers. But hardly had they started gathering than they were fired on by a group of civilians.

Maoists

The police claim the shooting was from Maoist groups. This is possible. As in Portugal, some of the Maoists so hate the Communist Party, who they call 'social fascist', that they regard it as a bigger enemy than the right wing.

Also, as in Portugal and Spain, it is quite likely that the police and the CIA have infiltrated such groups to use them for their own ends.

However, the *Financial Times* correspondent noted on Monday that 'political observers were sceptical' of the police story.

Were fascists to blame for the Istanbul killings?

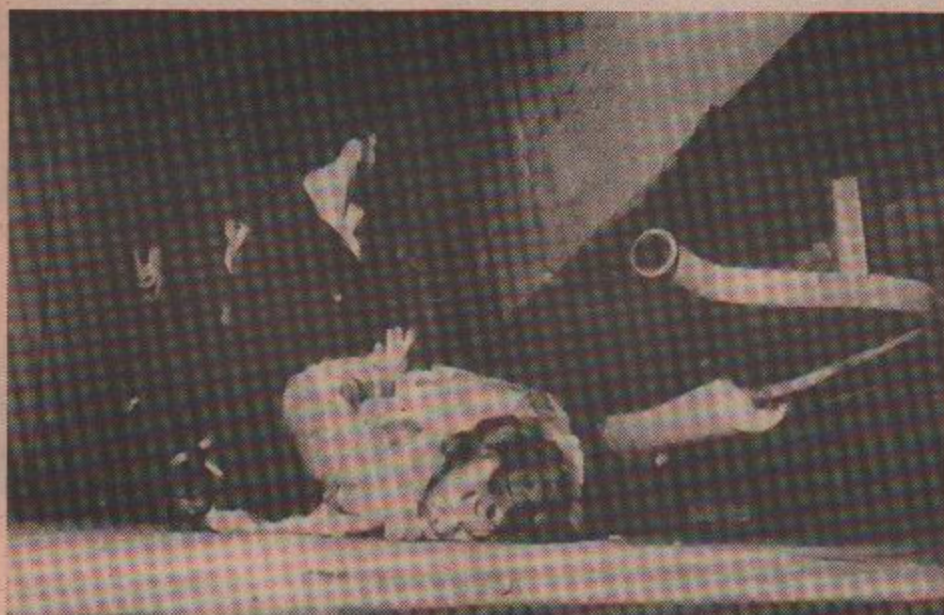
They recall that since last Monday right wing groups belonging to the deputy prime minister's neo-fascist National Action Party have staged violent attacks on rallies.

The Turkish right have been following an old tactic—what is known in Italy as the 'strategy of tension'.

They create bloodshed and chaos and then use it as an excuse for their friends in command of the army and police to take over.

Elections are due in a few weeks time that the extreme right are likely to lose. The May Day massacre may be their first move towards stopping these.

BUT IN DENMARK THE WORKERS SHOW THEIR STRENGTH



Police move in as workers protest against the threat to jobs

Apartheid agents at work?

THE MAILBOX of the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign was broken into last week and the mail stolen. Two men were seen running away.

The box is one of several padlocked mailboxes outside offices at 101-103 Gower Street in Central London. All are padlocked. The SASC box was the only one robbed.

The theft is probably the work of South African government agents searching for addresses of opponents of apartheid.

IT'S NOT only in Britain that printworkers jobs are threatened.

In Denmark the threat led last week to the biggest riots in Copenhagen for seven years.

The country's biggest print firm, which produces the paper *Berlingske Tidende*, had announced in January that it was going to sack a third of its workers because of 'new technology'.

The workers responded with a strike which soon spread to the other main papers, although it was declared illegal by the labour court.

The bosses tried to break the strike by bringing out scab editions and by producing wall newspapers, containing classified adverts and a little news, which school students were paid up to £10 an hour to paste up.

Then, last week, the management tried to start getting out their paper using foremen and sending out material for printing elsewhere.

Thousands of trade unionists from all over Copenhagen staged a mass picket.

Seamen refused to allow

Riots over axed jobs

scab papers to go on ferries to other parts of the country. And after a few words from the strikers' leaders, the supervisory staff finally gave up trying to produce the scab papers.

The strike has gained massive solidarity from other workers. The printers have produced their own papers calling for support and having been going round the factories speaking to mass meetings.

Unemployed groups have been making collections for the printers, and 350 artists have given their services to raise money.

The struggle is of key importance. Unemployment in Denmark is higher than virtually anywhere else in Europe and this is the first major fight back.



Demonstrating in support of the print workers

WHERE THERE'S A WILL...

THREATS by strike leaders to supervisory staff and families to-night stopped publication of the Copenhagen newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* again.

The paper appeared on Monday in an emergency edition, made up with the assistance of supervisory staff only.

The chairman and deputy chairman of the

newspaper's shop stewards' organisation gained access to the newspaper offices and told supervisory staff that if they continued to assist in the production of what they called the 'pirate edition,' their names, addresses, and photographs would be published in pamphlets.

— *Financial Times*, 28 April

'CIA behind Aussie plot'

THE AMERICAN spy organisation, the CIA, was involved in the plots to throw out the Australian Labour government 18 months ago.

A CIA agent Christopher Boyce on trial for selling secrets to the Russians, revealed this to an American court last week.

He told how top secret US bases in central Australia were used to:

□ **INFILTRATE** two trade unions, the railway workers and the airline pilots.

□ **DECEIVE** the Australian Labour government.

□ **BRIBE** at least one leading member of the Labour Party.

Boyce suggests that the CIA behaved very much as in Chile before the overthrow in 1973 of Allende, deliberately 'destabilising' the situation so as to give the right an excuse to take over.

His allegations have received support from a report in the respected Australian publication, the *Financial Review*.

This tells how a top official in the Australian defence ministry told governor-general Sir John Kerr that the CIA believed the Labour government was jeopardising the security of American bases.

Three days later, Kerr, as the Queen's representative, removed the Labour government from office.

WEEK OF ACTION ON ZIMBABWE: 9-14 May, supported by the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign.

Picket BP/Shell against sanctions-busting, Friday 13 May.

LONDON: Shell Centre, South Bank, 12.30pm-2.30pm. Meet Waterloo underground.

LEEDS: Town Centre House, Merrion Centre, Leeds 2, 12.30pm-2pm.

NEWCASTLE: Newgate House, Newgate St., Newcastle 1, 12.30pm-2pm.

BIRMINGHAM: Alpha Tower, ATV Centre, Birmingham 1, 12.30pm-2pm.

Saturday 14 May: Zimbabwe Forum and Social. Further details from SASC, 101-103 Gower Street, London WC1, or Zimbabwe Ad-hoc Campaign, c/o 247 Pentonville Road, London N1 (01-607 1270).

THE National Front expect a lot of votes in this week's local council elections. But growing numbers of workers are now learning how to fight them. Last week's demonstration in Wood Green, North London, is a warning to the National Front that they cannot control the streets. This must be rubbed home every time they try to march.



The Wood Green demonstration proved that they can't even rely on the police to protect them. We broke through at Wood Green and we will do it again and again.

But it isn't enough to drive the National Front off the streets. They thrive on poverty, misery and unemployment caused by this government. Every vote they win is someone trying to shift the blame for the crisis, for declining living standards, for unemployment, to black workers and to immigrants.

We have to shift the blame back where it belongs, on the rotten system this government is trying to prop up by attacking workers' living standards. We must take the campaign against the National Front and their ideas into the community, into the schools, into the housing estates, and into the workplaces. Every racist idea must be challenged and argued against.

The great hope lies in the numbers who have demonstrated against the National Front in the past fortnight.

In Hoxton, East London, last Saturday, in just two days 500 socialists, trade unionists and black people organised to march against the National Front when it booked a meeting in a local school.



Many had not been on demonstrations before. With just two days notice, journalists on a local paper went on strike when the editor wanted to insert an advertisement for the racists' meeting. Teachers at the school appealed for a picket and held classes on the National Front and why racialism is wrong.

Similar quickly organised local mobilisations have frightened the Front in other places—such as Bristol, Gloucester, Brick Lane in East London, and Newham where 200 demonstrators assembled in just 24 hours.

Socialists march where blackshirts ruled . . .

by ANNA DEASON
Teacher at Shoreditch School, East London.

HOXTON has always been a fascist stronghold. In the 1930s Mosley's Blackshirts successfully organised there. In the 1970s the National Front cash in on the poverty and unemployment of the area to spread their racist filth.

But on Saturday the streets of Hoxton resounded to the slogans 'Black and white, Unite and fight! Smash the National Front!', as socialists and trade unionists marched through the area after picketing Shoreditch School, where the National Front had been allowed to hold a meeting.

The picket, called for by



teachers at the school, received wide support from teachers, school children, parents, dinner ladies and local trade unionists.

We shouted our opposition to the Front and to racism. We got support from white people on their balconies. Groups of black and white kids joined in.

We finished with a brief street meeting in which we declared our intention actively to continue the fight against

racism in Hoxton.

Teachers at our school had been horrified on return from holiday to find the National Front had been allowed to hire the school hall for an election meeting.

Shoreditch is a multiracial school. The decision to allow the Front to meet there was seen as a clear insult and a crude attempt to intimidate the many Bengali, Greek, Turkish, Indian and West Indian kids who attend there. There are also black teachers on the staff.

On Tuesday a meeting of the staff decided to call for a picket, to send a letter to parents expressing our opposition to the meeting, and to raise the matter with the kids in our classes.

A group of teachers and kids began preparing a wall display of immigrant newspapers, multi-cultural books, collages of different

kinds of families, the origins of pop music and so on. All this was mounted in the main hall.

An ad-hoc committee formed to support the teachers' call for a picket tried to place an advert in the local paper, the Hackney Gazette. This was refused.

Hatred

Journalists on the paper came out on strike against the placing in the paper of a three-quarter page advert by the National Front. They said: 'We don't want the Hackney Gazette to be used in any way by a party whose main platform is racial hatred.'

The matter was raised in the local branch of the teachers' union, the NUT, and on Hackney Trades Council. Rank and file teachers organised to support the picket. Eleven teachers came from one school, Hackney

Downs.

Discussion with the kids at school raised support too. And even those who turned up on the night to watch the 'punch-up' were affected.

One asked me at the end of the march: 'When can I come on one of these again? You won't forget to tell me when there's another, will you Miss?' The march and picket had changed his attitude from one of apathy to one of active anti-racism.

Juliet Alexandra, a reporter on the Hackney Gazette, told the Rally of Black Revolutionaries last Saturday: 'We were supported in our action against the National Front advert by 70 organisations in the borough. We stayed out for three days over this. We lost three days pay, but we don't care. We'd stay out for six months—we think it's that important.'



LEFT: The 500-strong demonstration outside the school. ABOVE: Juliet Alexandra of the Hackney Gazette. BELOW: Marching through Hoxton



Latest issue now out. Articles on police harassment in East London, the war in Zaire, the class war in Kenya, blacks in the British Army, and the latest in official Home Office racism . . . their 'sex-snooping' operation. 12p a copy (including postage) from Flame, 6 Coltons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

This is the way to fight the fascists

YOU DON'T RULE THE STREETS: The National Front face smoke bombs in North London last week. PH

We're black and we're fighting back!

by JOANNA ROLLO
A HUNDRED and thousands of young black workers all over Britain attacked the Socialist Workers Party Rally for Black Revolutionaries last Saturday.

Thousands of young black workers took to the streets last summer to fight the racism of Southall, Brixton, Brent and throughout the country.

Now a growing number of black workers are building a revolutionary organisation of black and white workers.

Alock Biswas, secretary of the Hackney Asian Organisation, introduced the discussion on fighting racism. 'Racism today is direct black workers but history shows that other workers before us got the same result.'

Unity

'You never hear of business men being deported—they can come go as they please. The bosses have their money but we must build ours. We



Picture: Derek Speirs

sts



Iftikha Mahmoud



LEFT: The magnificent Hornsey Journal front page on the fascist march. Says the paper: 'The fascist parties are being allowed to flout the law. The judiciary and the forces of law and order are unwilling to use the powers available to them. The incidents seem to indicate that even when the police took the easy way out... they were less than impartial.'



Alock Biswas



Steve Matthews



Frank Osei-Tutu

stretch out our arms to white workers saying: 'Hold me brother, don't let me go.'

Iftikha Mahmoud had first-hand experience of what the racist immigration laws meant. He's the latest victim of the sex-snoopers. His home was invaded by police and immigration officials who cross-questioned him and his wife about whether they really were married.

'They asked my wife about our bedroom, about what clothes, shoes and socks I wore.

'I arrived here five years ago, but they asked me the name of the immigration official who questioned me on arrival, how tall he was and what clothes he was wearing.'

'We must win unemployed youths away from the

nationalists who will lead them down the road to nowhere', said Tony Bogues.

'We have to relate to the mass of Asian and West Indian workers outside our organisation.

Presence

Kadifa Williams, secretary of the Hackney Flame Group, called for Flame groups to be built in other areas. In the past four months the Hackney group has grown from two to 20 members.

'We used leaflets and posters to establish our presence in the community.

'Most blacks are suspicious of whites, even white socialists, so we only allow whites into meetings by invitation.

'It's up to us to inject the politics of class struggle. Black people will not bring about the revolution on their own. We have to unite with white revolutionaries and white workers.'

Rehana Minhas led the discussion on fighting the cuts and unemployment. 'The hundreds of black workers who joined the 17 November demonstration got the confidence to go back to their workplaces and fight against the cuts.

'Whatever the officials say, it is up to the rank and file to organise. We must start working now to mobilise black workers and unemployed youth to join the Right to Work March to the TUC Congress in Blackpool in September.

'The deportation of 9,500 nurses will not mean more jobs for white workers—it's another way of carrying through the cuts. We can win workers away from these illusions, to fight for jobs and better services.'

Frank Osei-Tutu, a Post Office Workers Union branch secretary from London, stressed the need for rank and file organisation. 'We have to organise on the shopfloor. It's no use just talking about the cuts—we should be prepared to demonstrate and strike over every job.'

The Bolton Asian Youth Organisation called for a revolutionary paper in Gujarati. 'If we don't start fighting now there will be a time when most blacks are unemployed. We need a newspaper as a tool to organise that fight.'

Closing the rally, Kim Gordon called for action to defend the Islington 18. 'There's no lack of issues to fight on—deportations, sex-snooping, police brutality, and the cuts.

'It's our task to go from this rally and build in our areas.

'We must search out the fighters, search out the militants, search out the angry, find anyone who wants to fight and say to them, join us, struggle with us.'

EMERGENCY

This is our last chance to stop the Benyon Bill

EMERGENCY!

The right of every woman to get an abortion is under attack. The Benyon Bill going through parliament will make it near impossible for many women to get an abortion on the NHS.

Yet—with the National Abortion Campaign demonstration just a week away—the mobilisation still has no sense of urgency.

Most people don't realise the danger to working women if the Benyon Bill is passed. Women will have to shop around different doctors for abortions. Most will be deterred or prevented from getting abortions in this way.

We have to get that across to people—fast.

The same arguments with the same people won't bring tens of thousands on to the streets on Saturday 14 May—or go on to defeat the Benyon Bill. The campaign has to be taken into the opposition camp.

In the past two years the Catholic church has gone on the offensive over abortion. They are attempting to pull back their members from moving into the 20th century by a combination of blackmail and preying on the fears of pregnant women.

This is despite the fact that opinion polls show an overwhelming majority of women to be in favour of abortion. This includes about half Catholic women.

These women know the misery that is caused through bringing up an unwanted child in poverty.

They know the fear in women's minds when they discover yet another pregnancy.

They know the despair at trying to stretch wages to feed another mouth.

They know the hypocrisy of the priests who talk of the sanctity of life but do nothing to help the living.

That is why they can be brought to support the right of women to choose whether or not to have a child. Because they know as well that Catholic women— forbidden to use contraceptives—suffer more un-

wanted pregnancies than anyone else.

It isn't an accident that the country whose rate of illegal abortions is the highest in Europe—Italy—is also the country where the hold of the Catholic church is strongest.

The majority of working-class women recognise the right to abortion—but many feel too guilty or too intimidated to admit it.

Organisations that support the women's right to choose have failed sufficiently to take account this. It is almost as if they assume that these women are automatically in the anti-abortion camp.

That is why we must go on the offensive in the last few weeks that remain to defeat the Benyon Bill.

■ ■ ■

We must organise pickets of churches on Sunday.

We must leaflet the Catholic schools, making an appeal to the many teenagers who are no longer prepared to be lobbying fodder for the anti-abortion campaign SPUC.

We must go to the Catholic training colleges and approach the students there.

Let's get out and leaflet and hold street meetings where large numbers of working-class women gather—such as bingo queues. Let's explain the issues to them. Let's make them see that this is a struggle that affects all their futures.

We can only reverse the tide at this late stage if we stop preaching to the converted and take the issue to large numbers of working-class women.

The Socialist Workers Party women's paper, Women's Voice, is urging all its supporters to campaign flat out in this way over the next fortnight. It is calling on them to organise the pickets at churches, the leafletting, the street meetings near bingo halls this weekend.

For this could be the last chance to stop the Benyon Bill.

Socialist Worker

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION

SATURDAY MAY 14th 1.30pm
BELVEDERE ROAD, WATERLOO
LONDON SE 1

Abortion stickers, leaflets, and coaches to the march—see page 10.

If you want more information about the Socialist Workers Party and Women's Voice write to:
SWP & Women's Voice
London E2

WOMENS VOICE

BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!

Scotland

ABERDEEN Women's Voice discussion meeting: Violence. Tuesday 10 May, 7.30pm, 163 King Street (first floor).

SCOTTISH speaking tour by Barney Mookgale, from Soweto, South Africa: Victory to the Freedom Fighters!

STIRLING: Monday 23 May, 1pm, Stirling University, and 8pm, Stirling Labour Club.

ABERDEEN: Tuesday 24 May, 8pm, Marichal College, Broad Street.

GLASGOW: Wednesday 25 May, watch for details.

EDINBURGH: Thursday 26 May, 8pm, Societies Centre, Hill Place.

DUNFERMLINE: Friday 27 May, 7.30pm, Carnegie Baths.

PAISLEY and **CHRYSLER LINWOOD** Socialist Workers Party meetings on The Meaning of Marxism: Forthnightly on Tuesdays, 7.30pm, Paisley Trade Union Centre, 17 May; Scottish nationalism—a sidetrack. Speaker: John Leopold (ASTMS).

EDINBURGH Socialist Workers Party/ Women's Voice discussion groups on Women's Politics: Saturday mornings, 11.30, Room 6, Trades Council, 14 Picardy Place (top of Leith Walk).

7 May: Hidden from History—Women and revolution.
14 May: Breaking the Chains—the split in the Suffragette Movement.

LIVINGSTONE Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash the Social Contract! Speaker: Willie Black. Tuesday 10 May, 8pm, Craigshill Farm.

DUNDEE Socialist Worker meetings on The Meaning of Marxism: Wednesdays 7.30pm, Socialist Worker Bookshop, 128 Victoria Road.

11 May: Why we need a Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Ian Fenton.
25 May: Is Russia socialist? Speaker: Bob Fotheringham.

North East

DURHAM Socialist Workers Party public meeting: How Capitalism affects everyday life. Speaker: Chris Phillips. Thursday 19 May, 8pm, Collipitts Hotel, Sutton Street, Durham.

Yorkshire

LEEDS Socialist Workers Party CPUSA/NALGO meeting on The Case for Socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Wednesday 18 May, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount.

LEEDS Socialist Worker Party **TEACHERS FOR SOCIALISM** meeting. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 19 May, 8pm, Leeds Trades Club, Saville Mount.

HALIFAX Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash the Social Contract. Friday 27 May, 7.45pm, Room A, Harrison House, Harrison Road (next to police station).

North West

LEYLAND, Lancashire, Socialist Workers Party branch meets every Friday, 8pm, Eagle and Child, Church Road. Anyone interested in finding out more about the SWP is welcome to come for discussion and a drink.

SALFORD Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Women and Socialism. Speaker: Thelma Kennedy. Wednesday 11 May, 8pm, Kings Arms, Whit Lane. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE.

WIGAN Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Right to Work Campaign. Speaker: Tony Jones (Kirby Right to Work Committee and FTAT) Thursday 12 May, 8pm, Swan and Railway (opposite Wallgate rail station). ALL WELCOME.

MANCHESTER Socialist Workers Party lectures on Socialism: The Castle Hotel, Oldham Street. Admission 20p.
Monday 16 May: What do we mean by revolution? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

Socialist Worker public meetings

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



A PLACE CALLED ARDOYNE

Film and speakers on Northern Ireland, national tour organised jointly by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies and the Troops Out Movement

MANCHESTER: Thursday 5 May, 5.30pm, Polytechnic.
NORWICH: Monday 9 May, 7.30pm, University of East Anglia.
WOOLWICH: Tuesday 10 May, 12.30pm, Thames Polytechnic.
BIRMINGHAM: Tuesday 10 May, 7pm, Polytechnic.
COLCHESTER: Wednesday 11 May, 1pm, Essex University.
NORTH LONDON: Thursday 12 May, 12.30pm, Highbury Technical College.
PORTSMOUTH: Thursday 12 May, evening, Polytechnic.
WEST LONDON: Friday 13 May, 1pm, Brunel University.

EXETER: Friday 13 May, 7.30pm, University.
MERSEYSIDE: Tuesday 17 May, 12.30pm, Liverpool University.
LANCASTER: Tuesday 17 May, 5.30pm, University.
BRADFORD: Wednesday 18 May, 1pm, University.
SHEFFIELD: Wednesday 18 May, 7pm, Polytechnic.
CENTRAL LONDON: Thursday 19 May, 12.30pm, Kingsway Princeton College of FE, 5.30pm, SOAS, Malet Street.
NORTH LONDON: Friday 20 May, 6.30pm, North London Polytechnic, Kentish Town.

Socialist Workers Party **GAY GROUP** meets alternate Mondays in London. Contact Penny Old (01-405 2705) or Richard Tarry, 19 Redman Road, London E1 J01-790 2454.

TOWER HAMLETS Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Thursdays, 8pm, Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Road, London E1.
12 May: Politics in the community.

SOUTH LONDON Socialist Workers Party district meeting for all members in Lambeth, Southwark and Croydon: Saturday 7 May, 2pm, Brixton Training Centre (bottom of Brixton Hill). Agenda: Our work in the area.

NORTH LONDON Women's Voice public meeting: Costa del Trico, the Women's Theatre Group play about the long-running Equal Pay strike, followed by meeting and discussion on Equal Pay. Monday 16 May, 8pm, Stroud Green School, Ennis Road, N4.

South West

SWINDON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The economic crisis—causes and cure. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Tuesday 10 May, 7.30pm, Coop Hall, East Street (above Sheraton Suite).

BRISTOL Socialist Workers Party meets every Thursday 8pm, Baptist Mills Community Centre, Horley Road, St Werburghs.
12 May: Immigration and racism. All welcome.

SW Notices

BE A BOOKSHOP MANAGER! Enthusiastic and responsible comrade wanted for thriving SWP district. Start June-July. Write to Socialist and TU Books, 224 High Street, Digbeth, Birmingham 12 (phone 021-643 5717).

SELF-CATERING HOLIDAYS for socialists and trade unionists: Morecambe Bay, own kitchen, communal lounge, £8 per person, children 4-14 half-price. P. Griffin, 88 Hampsfell Drive, Westgate, Morecambe, Lancs (phone Morecambe 419573).

COMRADE URGENTLY NEEDS ROOM. PREFERABLY IN SWP house/flat, North or Central London. Phone Eli or Terry, 01-609 1260.

BIRKENHEAD Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Social Contract or socialism? Why we need £15 a week extra now. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Tuesday 17 May, 7.45pm, Pier Hotel, Woodside, Birkenhead (by Woodside Ferry).

Wales

CARDIFF Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Workers' struggles in Eastern Europe. Speaker: Anna Paczuska (secretary, Polish Workers' Defence Campaign). Wednesday 11 May, 7.30pm, Joint Students Union, Park Place, Cardiff.

WALSALL Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Smash the Social Contract! Speakers: Jimmy McCallum (former TASS convenor, John Brown Engineering, Clydeside) and a local trade unionist. Tuesday 24 May, 8pm, Red Lion, Park Street.

STOKE-ON-TRENT: All interested in local socialist discussion meetings and/or helping local activities of the Socialist Workers Party, please contact Stoke SWP, c/o 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

South East

CHELMSFORD Socialist Workers Party public meeting: What's happening in Ireland? Speaker: Jim Blake. Thursday 5 May, 8pm, Royal Steamer (behind Chelmsford Station).

MAIDSTONE Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Mondays, 8pm, The Old Palace, Mill Street.

NOISSE members returning home to ESSEX this summer who are interested in contacting their nearest SWP branch, please write to Geoff Elen, 113 Robin Way, Chelmsford or phone Chelmsford 59129.

CHELMSFORD Women's Voice public meeting: Why we must fight the Benyon Anti-Abortion Bill. Speaker: Gerry Nbris. Thursday 12 May, 8pm, Royal Steamer (behind Chelmsford Station).

ESSEX Socialist Workers Party day school: Rank and file organisation—why we need it and how we can build it. Speakers include Duncan Hallas and Kevin Prior (AUEW shop steward, Heathrow Airport). Group discussions on women, docks, print engineers, public sector, buses, fords, firemen. Saturday 4 June, 10.45am-4.30pm in Chelmsford. Plus Anti-Jubilee Disco in evening. Details from Chelmsford 59129.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Socialist Workers Party discussion meetings: Every Wednesday, 8pm, Rose and Crown (small room), Old High Street.
11 May: Socialism and education. Introduced by Valerie Chick.

London

Socialist Workers Party **BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES GROUP:** Monday 9 May, 8pm, Centreprise Bookshop, Dalston Junction, London E8.

EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party meeting: What the SWP stands for. Saturday 7 May, 1pm-5pm, Centreprise Bookshop, Kingsland High Road, E5. Session 1: International—Russia, China, Third World, Western Europe. Speaker: Nigel Harris. Session 2: Britain—Labour Party, Communist Party, trade union leaders, rank and file movement. Speaker: Geoff Elen. (Socialist Worker).

SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party day school on practical trade unionism. Speakers: John Fitzgerald and Will Fancy. Saturday 7 May, 1pm-5pm, Charlton House, The Village, London SE7.

CENTRAL LONDON Women's Voice public meeting: Fight for a woman's right to choose. Speakers: Gerry Matthews, Avril Levy and Maggie Dunne. Friday 6 May, 7pm, Enterprise pub, Chalk Farm Road (next to Chalk Farm tube) Croche provided—phone Vera, 01-267 5069.

SOUTHWARK Socialist Workers Party public meetings: The Stirling Castle, Camberwell Church Street (near Camberwell Green), London SE5. All at 8pm.
Thursday 19 May: The fight against racism.
Wednesday 1 June: Why we need a revolutionary socialist party.

SOUTH EAST LONDON Socialist Workers Party public meetings: Alternate Wednesdays, 8pm, Charlton House, The Village, SE7. Speaker: Nigel Harris.
11 May: The Third World.
25 May: China.

NEWPORT Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: Architecture, planning and socialism. Speaker: Mike Fleetwood. Wednesday 11 May, 7.30pm, Students Union, Emlyn Street.

Midlands

COVENTRY Women's Voice public meeting: Fight the Benyon Bill. Wednesday 11 May, 8pm, Elastic Inn, Cox Street (by Pool Meadow).

LEAMINGTON Socialist Workers Party supporters' discussion meeting: The Rank and File and Union Democracy. Wednesday 11 May, 8.15pm, Stoneleigh Arms, Clemens Street.

NEWPORT Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Fight against Phase Three. Speakers to be announced. Monday 16 May, 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Stow Hall.

BANGOR Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Fridays, 8pm, Liverpool Arms, High Street, Bangor. Everyone interested is welcome.
13 May: Socialists and the environment.

Wales

NEWPORT Socialist Workers Party discussion meeting: Architecture, planning and socialism. Speaker: Mike Fleetwood. Wednesday 11 May, 7.30pm, Students Union, Emlyn Street.

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BANGOR Socialist Workers Party public meeting: Fridays, 8pm, Liverpool Arms, High Street, Bangor. Everyone interested is welcome.
13 May: Socialists and the environment.

WILLENHALL and **WALSALL** Socialist Workers Party meetings: Every Tuesday, 8pm, The Falcon, Gomer Street, Willenhall. All welcome.
10 May: Fascism and how to fight it.
17 May: Working as a revolutionary socialist on the shop floor and in the trade union branch.

NORTHAMPTON Socialist Workers Party public meeting: The Case for Socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 12 May, 8pm, The Guildhall.

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11 May: The Third World.
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Women's Voice ABORTION STICKERS (left): Red on yellow, 50p for five sheets of 12.

Women's Voice ABORTION LEAFLETS for 14 May demonstration: £1.50 for 1000. Cash with orders to **WOMEN'S VOICE**, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

WANTED

Womens VOICE

For threatening grievous bodily harm to thousands of working women
Who is he? Read the latest issue of **Womens Voice**. Out now
Copies from **Womens Voice**, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

TRANSPORT to the abortion demonstration, Saturday 14 May. **WEST MIDLANDS:** Coach £1.50, children free. **DUDLEY:** 9am, The Smiling Man car park, Hall Street. **WOLVERHAMPTON:** 9.30pm, Fiakland Street car park. **WILLENHALL:** 10am, Gomer Street.

WIGAN: Details of coach from SW sellers.

Monday 16 May: What do we mean by revolution? Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

11 May: Why we need a Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Ian Fenton.
25 May: Is Russia socialist? Speaker: Bob Fotheringham.

12 May: Politics in the community.

13 May: Socialists and the environment.

14 May: Breaking the Chains—the split in the Suffragette Movement.

17 May: Scottish nationalism—a sidetrack. Speaker: John Leopold (ASTMS).

FREE ABORTION ON DEMAND!
Demonstrate May 14

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13 May: Socialists and the environment.

14 May: Breaking the Chains—the split in the Suffragette Movement.

17 May: Scottish nationalism—a sidetrack. Speaker: John Leopold (ASTMS).

20 May: Why we need a Socialist Workers Party. Speaker: Ian Fenton.
25 May: Is Russia socialist? Speaker: Bob Fotheringham.



NEW LEAFLET for Socialist Worker estate rounds, etc: Two colours, A5 size. £3 per 1,000, from SW Circulation, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. Cash with order only.

SKEGNESS Lost Property: A wide range of articles found at Skegness after our departure are now at Cottons Gardens. If you want to inquire about something you lost, please write to Skegness Lost Property, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, or phone 01-739 9772, giving name, description of lost item and if possible work out some means of collection other than by post. If items have to be sent by post, you will have to pay the postage. All articles to be claimed by the end of May. The rest will go to Jumble Sale for the Fighting Fund.

NOISS

National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies

NOISS WOMEN'S CAUCUS: Sunday 15 May, 11am, Central London Polytechnic, New Cavendish Street, London W1. Two delegates from each IS Society, plus unlimited observers. If you want accommodation on the Saturday night after the abortion demonstration, phone 01-739 1878.

MARKISM 77—HELP WANTED! Can you spare some time between 1-8 July to help organise the running of Markism 77 at North London Poly (on rota basis). Phone Lindsey German, 01-739 1878.

NOISS schools for all new members—and any who haven't attended before.

LONDON: Weekend 7-8 May, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, WC2. Sessions on Third World struggles, Women, History of the SWP, Student struggles. Speaking in public. How to organise. Details from Patrick, 01-267 5059.

NORTH WEST: Weekend 7-8 May, Lancaster University. Details from Liam Duffy, 0524-65201.

SOUTH: Weekend 21-22 May, Portsmouth Polytechnic. Details from 01-739 1878.

Schools to be organised in **NORTH EAST, YORKSHIRE, SCOTLAND, MIDLANDS, SOUTH WEST.** Watch for details.

NOISS social: Saturday 14 May, 8pm, Roebuck, Tottenham Court Rd, London WC1. Benefit for Women's Voice. Disco and bar, tickets 20p on the door.

Action in the unions

Socialist Workers Party **TEACHERS** meetings postponed. Now 28 and 29 May, at Polytechnic of Central London.

HEALTH WORKERS: The meetings advertised for Saturday 14 May have been postponed in order to give fullest support to the Abortion demonstrations in London and Glasgow. More details later.

TASS: National meeting for SWP members in TASS. Saturday 14 May, in Manchester. Full details next week. All districts/branches must send delegates.

CIVIL SERVICE: Meeting for all SWP members and supporters in the civil service in Scotland. Saturday 21 May, 2pm, Trades Council, Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

BUILDING WORKERS: National meeting for all SWP members in the construction industry. Saturday 7 May, 12 noon-5pm, The Mitre Hotel, Cathedral Gates, Manchester 3 (two minutes from Victoria Station, just off Deansgate). Maximum attendance essential.

BRISTOL Rock Against Racism. Pop at the Bamboo. Local bands, including Freeway, disco, West Indian dance group. Friday 13 May, 8pm till late (24-hour licence). Bamboo Club, Portland Square. Tickets 50p (70p on the door). Proceeds to pay local anti-racist funds, to pay recent fines.

BRISTOL Socialist Workers Party jumble sale: Saturday 7 May, 3pm, Baptist Mills Community Centre, Horley Road, St Werburghs. Handicrafts, Chilean stall, auction, refreshments. Proceeds to anti-fascist fighting fund.

SHIPLEY Socialist Workers Party Jumble Sale: Friday 27 May, 6pm-8pm, Glen Room, Victoria Hall, Salford. Jumble still required, if you have any ring Shipley 55913 or 593669 for collection.

CARDIFF Flame and Chingari present: **ROCK AGAINST RACISM**. A musical extravaganza, with Mountain Child, Watkins Wobbly Rock Band, 7th Hotel and others. Friday 20 May, 8pm-1pm, Central Hotel, St Mary Street. Late bar. For further details phone Mike Pearson, Cardiff 397403. Tickets available from 108 Bookshop, Salisbury Road, Cathays, Cardiff, and SWP Bookshop, 58 Bridge Street, Cardiff Central.

BRIGHTON Socialist Workers Party benefit folk night: Saturday 7 May, The Eagle, Gloucester Road. Admission 25p.

ISLINGTON Socialist Workers Party presents Sam the Man, a play on the life of Labour Left-wing MP Samuel Keir Hardy Muggins. CAST Theatre group. Sunday 15 May, 7.30pm, Caxton House, 129 St Johns Way, Archway, London N19. Admission 75p (unemployed 25p).

EDINBURGH Socialist Workers Party Grand Folk Night: Saturday 14 May, 7.30pm, Heriot-Wa' Students Union, Grindlay Street. Groups include The Laggan, The Lowliers, George Duff, Billy Jones, Two bars, raffie, etc. Tickets 80p (40p unemployed) from Andrew McGeevor, 12 Oakville Terrace, Edinburgh (phone 031-554 6310).

SALE of sets of Socialist Worker/Labour Worker 1964-76. Best set £25, others cheaper. Proceeds to International Fund. Phone Norah or Ian, 01-807 1741.

DURHAM Socialist Workers Party **GRAND MAY SOCIAL**: Wednesday 9 May, 8pm-12.30am, The Chaplaincy, Old Elvet, Durham City. The Newcastle Beggarman, bar till 11.30pm. Tickets 60p from Durham SWP, 47 Western Hill, Durham. All proceeds to Socialist Worker Defence Fund.

ASTMS: Meeting for all Scottish SWP members in ASTMS. Saturday 7 May, 2.30pm, SW Books, 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1. Agenda: Jenkins libel, fraction organisation, ASTMS Rank and File. Any member not able to make the meeting please phone John Leopold, 041-889 2327.

Socialist Workers Party INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Saturday 7 May. Agenda and meeting place have been circulated.

PRINTWORKERS AND JOURNALISTS: Joint national meeting of SWP members in NUJ, NGA, NAT-SOPA, SLADE, SOGAT. Saturday 7 May, 11am-5pm, International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

STUFF THE JUBILEE!

In celebration of 25 years of arrogant rule by the richest monarch in the world, a set of eight **ANTI-JUBILEE STICKERS**. Not in solid silver, but printed in republican red and black. Give your town these stickers, to make sure the Queen's jubilee is really memorable.
□ £1.50 for 800 (100 of each design)—£2 if they are to be sent by post.
FROM Socialist Worker Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.



SPOT THE SCROUNGER

ANTI-JUBILEE POSTERS: Red and black 30 for £1 (£1.50 if by post) or £3 for 100 (£4 if by post) from SW Recordings, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.



ANTI-JUBILEE BADGES: Red and black, 20p each, ten for £1.50, 50 for £7, 100 for £13, from Sherri Yanowitz, 116 Fortune Green Road, London NW6.

CASH WITH ALL ORDERS PLEASE.

Another jubilee, another circus...

TODAY, when there is a smell of coalition in government circles, it is perhaps pertinent to compare the 1935 silver jubilee of the Queen's grandfather with the current shenanigan.

It was promoted by the reactionary 'National' government headed by the renegade Labour premier Ramsay MacDonald.

Former glory?

And it was without precedent. Even Queen Victoria had to wait 50 years before there was any official celebration of the length of her reign.

It was a deliberate attempt to revive former glories, echoing the imperial conquests of a past era. But there were many who saw it as a trick to help the 'National' Government ride to victory in the general election that autumn.

There seemed little to celebrate. Like today, capitalism was in one of its crises.

There were one and a half million unemployed on the register and at least another half a million unregistered and consequently without receipt of the dole.

War clouds were gathering. Japan had invaded Manchuria, and Mussolini was getting ready to crush the

Jubilee Mugs

OSSIE LEWIS REMEMBERS POMP AMID POVERTY IN 1935

Abyssinians.

Hitler, who had come to power two years earlier, was building up the Third Reich and had marched his troops into the Rhineland.

Patriotic

Meanwhile, the home-brewed 'Bilderberg group' of that day, known as the Cliveden set, composed of British pro-German political figures, met regularly and often entertained the Nazi ambassador, Joachim von Ribbentrop, who was later to be hanged as a war criminal. 'Cliveden' came into prominence again in 1963 as the place where War Minister

John Profumo first met Christine Keeler in an association which rocked the Macmillan government.

In 1935, the first cracks were appearing in the British Empire with the Indian National Congress headed by Mahatma Gandhi (no relation to Indira) pursuing a campaign of civil disobedience. But on the home front the patriotic drums were being loudly beaten.

Mosley's blackshirts, like the National Front today, were parading the streets with Union Jacks flying and were encouraged by the Daily Mail.

There being few black



George V: there wasn't much to celebrate. . .

immigrants, they concentrated their attacks on the Jewish population and smashed up some of the smaller shops in London's East End.

They met with strong opposition from thousands of workers and were rendered quite impotent.

It was against this backdrop that the 1935 jubilee was staged to distract the attention of the masses from the real issues of the day.

Conscription

A J P Taylor, in his *English History, 1914-1945*, claims that 'leading civil servants

were drawing up plans for total war, rationing, exchange control, mass evacuation and conscription of labour. Yet the public who would be involved in these plans were being told nothing.'

Children at school were given a party and presented with a spoon and mug and some manufacturers made rich pickings.

One amusing incident was in a shore broadcast of an evening commentary of a naval review. The commentator, a naval officer, excited, exclaimed: 'The Fleet's lit up—Oh! Now it's gone'. The transmission was immediately

shut off.

It was only too apparent who was lit up.

The main event was the parading of the King and Queen in a horse-drawn open landau through the main streets in London. George V had been seriously ill earlier in the year with bronchial pneumonia and there can be no doubt that showing him off in this manner prevented his full recovery.

Funeral

He was not well enough to attend the Remembrance service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall and the November state opening of Parliament was cancelled. The following January he died.

This called for another show of royal pomp. During the discussion in the Commons on the arrangements for a state funeral, Communist MP Willie Gallagher echoed the sentiments of lots of workers when he commented:

'In the name of Imperialism the bourgeoisie have killed their king, now let them mourn their own.'

In times of crisis, the ruling class with the fervent support of the reformists, will always 'play the Royal cards'.

Two years ago, there was the state wedding of Princess Anne to the son of Wall's sausages manager.

The jubilee is to be followed by a stork race between Princess Anne and the Duchess of Gloucester and doubtless we shall shortly be entertained on TV by the wedding of Prince Charles.

Bread may be expensive, but there is no shortage of circuses.

Did you know Shelley was a revolutionary socialist?

Yes, Shelley the poet. Find out how the establishment has twisted our history—and our poetry. Come to Marxism 77, seven days of revolutionary socialist ideas and discussion at the Polytechnic of North London, 1-8 July.

'British poets and the French revolution' is one subject in the course on Literature and Revolution. Other courses: Revolutions of the 20th century, The Marxist Method, Women's liberation and the struggle for socialism, Capitalism and crisis, Labour history. Plus guest speakers, debates, films, music, free crèche, accommodation. Registration fee £5. Send to Marxism 77, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

OPEN TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS AND STUDENTS

MARXISM 77

Organised by the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies

POISONING YOUNG MINDS

DID YOU KNOW that terrorists are planning to destroy London with nerve gas?

Or that the most odious crime of all is to kill a judge? That the only way to 'go' is in defence of the law?

Probably not, which isn't really surprising because these thoughts appear in comics which increasing numbers of youngsters are reading.

Tortures

I'm not referring to just any comics, but to two in particular, ACTION and 2000 AD.

These are published by Reed International. Now this firm are very progressive, consult unions, pay well and

all in all have little scandal attached to them.

Except that they own more than 40 companies in South Africa and another five in Rhodesia. They also own that friend of the working class, the Daily Mirror.

ACTION used to be disgusting, with British secret agents complaining of various tortures the Russians would use to extract information.

This kind of story line was published just after the British government was found guilty of ill-treating and torturing prisoners and detainees in Northern Ireland.

ACTION also includes the adventures of 'Hellman of Hammer Forde'. This is an everyday tale of simple Nazi soldiers fighting inhuman Russians.

By Dick Larkin

Sounds like 'Comic Cuts for Junior National Frontiers' or 'Happy Tales for the Hitler Youth'.

I said ACTION used to be bad. It still is. But now we have 2000 AD, which is even worse.

The first strip in this comic is Invasion. In 1999 Britain is invaded by the Volgans from Central Asia, who just happen to look like Russians.

Outnumbered

Britain is, of course, outnumbered ten to one in the air (thereby telling us that still more money must be spent on defence).

Britain also gets attacked by nuclear missiles, (indicating that we must build up nuclear armaments supply).

And North Sea Oil rigs (the keystone to successful economic growth) are, god forbid, taken over.

Strung up

The Volgans speak like caricature Cold War marxists. 'We have liberated you from your oppressors'. 'You are an enemy of the New Peoples Republic of Britain.'

MPs are strung up from lampposts, an idea with which I must say I had some passing sympathy.

MACH 1, another character, is a six million dollar man type and also a secret agent. He likes breaking the necks of unfriendly

heads of state.

And in Harlem's Heroes sheer unadulterated racism comes to the fore in the notion that what black people are good at is confined to sport.

But worst of all is the Judge Dredd strip. In this masterpiece, vigilante lawmen catch, judge and sentence criminals and the Judge enjoins us to die for the law.

Frightening

It all leaves you with a really frightening feeling. How long will it be before we get Chilean-style comics where Donald Duck shoots two vultures—Karl Marx and the philosopher Hegel.

With Action and 2000 AD, we're more than halfway there.

The fairy-tale Health Service?

DURING the day TV is busy indoctrinating people about babies. The programmes Having a Baby (BBC) and All About Babies (ITV) give a totally false picture.

They make no mention of the many accidents in hospitals due to understaffing. They pretend that pregnant women automatically see consultants and ignore the government spending cuts which mean increasing pressure on staff to use hormone induced birth techniques on a 9am-5pm basis.

This was brought home vividly when a friend was put on the hormone induced birth machine, which broke down and her baby was born prematurely because the machine pumped her full of hormones. Staffing cuts meant the machine and our friend had been left to themselves.

In the face of terrible conditions in hospitals, is the TV giving us a fairy-tale NHS to replace the one that is rapidly disappearing?

□ MALCOLM POVEY.



The Bootle and Stanley Hospital on Merseyside—up for auction.

POSTAL POINTS

WE TRUST that the Transport Workers Union will take appropriate action against the drivers of the following coaches which were used to bring National Front members to London for the fascists' St George's Day 'rally':

Aire Coaches, Bradford.
Express coach, Rugby (registration number COT 859K).

□ JOHN FARRELL, Prisoners Aid Committee, London N1.

PLEASE send us 50 'Fight the Cuts and Stuff the Jubilee' badges so that we can sell them in our fruit and vegetable shop.

One of the only two other fruit and veg shops in town is supporting the Jubilee and displaying obscene photographs of the royal scrounger above their highly-priced carrots and onions. We've already got the 'Spot the Scrounger' poster from Durham SWP branch and want to push the confrontation a bit more.

□ DAVE WHITE, Durham Community Cooperative, Langley Park, County Durham.

□ Anti-Jubilee badges, posters and stickers—see page 11.

I ENJOYED Skegness very much, but it wasn't long enough. Why not hold it at Christmas or in the summer so we can make it longer?

□ MARK NORRIS (aged 14), London N17.

Letters

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

Case of the missing candidate

A copy of a letter sent to the Morning Star.
Dear Tony Chater, I'm writing so that Morning Star readers don't miss a bit of news that was left out of your report on the TGWU election last Friday.

As you know I stood in the election for the general secretary of the TGWU as a Right to Work Campaign candidate. My election address and campaign leaflets called for militant fighting policies against the Social Contract, unemployment, racialism and discrimination against women.

I toured the country meeting shop stewards and hundreds of TGWU activists who bitterly resented the role Jack Jones has been playing for these last few years.

My campaign was aimed at these rank and file TGWU members. I also called for the election of all officials in the TGWU and stood opposed to the undemocratic regime within the union.

All these ideas did meet with a response. That was why 27,445 TGWU members voted for me, and why I came fifth out of the 14 candidates. For the first time ever in the TGWU a rank and file member actually best two appointed national officers in an election.

That is good news. Not for me, but for every rank and file militant in the TGWU and in other unions too. It shows that with a united rank and file response we can build a movement is turning away from blind support for the Social Contract and is looking for new policies.

Yours fraternally,
Tommy Riley, deputy convener, Metal Box Westhoughton.

□ Socialist Worker writes: When the election results were declared, a journalist from Socialist Worker telephoned John Flower of the Morning Star to inquire why Tommy Riley's name and vote was missed out of their report. John Flower said he had written the article and that the omission was not deliberate, and he would try and get a correction in on Saturday.

Nothing appeared on Saturday, or on Monday.

It is a pity that the Morning Star appears to put sectarian opposition to put what Tommy Riley stands for before the obligation to give its thousands of working-class readers a full account of the TGWU elections.

At the time we went to print this week, Tommy Riley's letter had still not been printed in the Morning Star.

□ VIVIEN POOLE (USDAW), Bristol.

The 20 April saboteurs

THE Birmingham Evening Mail ran a gleeful headline two weeks ago, 'Strike action fizzles out to demo by a few'.

They were referring to the 20 April Day of Action. Their version was that British Leyland workers had refused to listen to the strike call by Derek Robinson and his 'unofficial' Leyland shop stewards combine.

The truth is somewhat different. Because of the leading role that Leyland and Longbridge was supposed to play in the strike, it's important that all workers fighting the Social Con-trick know the facts.

At Longbridge the joint shop stewards committee endorsed the call for a one-day stoppage by an overwhelming majority.

In every shop where meetings were held, the

shop floor voted for strike action and a mass demonstration. 6,287 voted for the strike and only 1,042 voted against.

Unfortunately Robinson and other Leyland convenors then decided—well before the 3 April conference—not to go through with the strike. At Longbridge the works committee issued a bulletin to shop stewards arguing against strike.

It stated that the 6-1 vote was 'inconclusive' (!)—many shops had not even had a vote—that the company was in 'a serious position' and that in view of these 'circumstances', the strike was off. 20 April was going to be a normal working day and only a few paid delegates would participate in the famous 'Day of Action'.

A day later the Longbridge Communist Party issued a bulletin on the fight against the Social Contract which didn't even mention the Day of Action.

COMPUTERS, YES —BUT NOT OURS

MEMBERS and supporters of the SWP at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea are baffled at Eamonn McCann's story that the British Army in Northern Ireland have been using the computer here to store information (SW, 16 April).

It would be virtually im-

possible for information used by the army to be stored in the centre's computer without it being fairly common knowledge to the staff.

Also, the machines at the centre are just not capable of providing the sort of facilities the army now get and certainly too obsolete to meet the army's future plans.

Even when more up-to-date equipment is available, it will not be possible for the information to be extracted as the article suggests.

Socialists are right to worry about the masses of information already stored in computer installations which is potentially valuable to forces of repression.

There is no doubt that information, not only about Irish republicans but about militants and socialists, is being held by the security services—but not at the DVLC. It is no coincidence that the Ministry of Defence are the biggest users of computers in the country.

□ SWP member, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea.

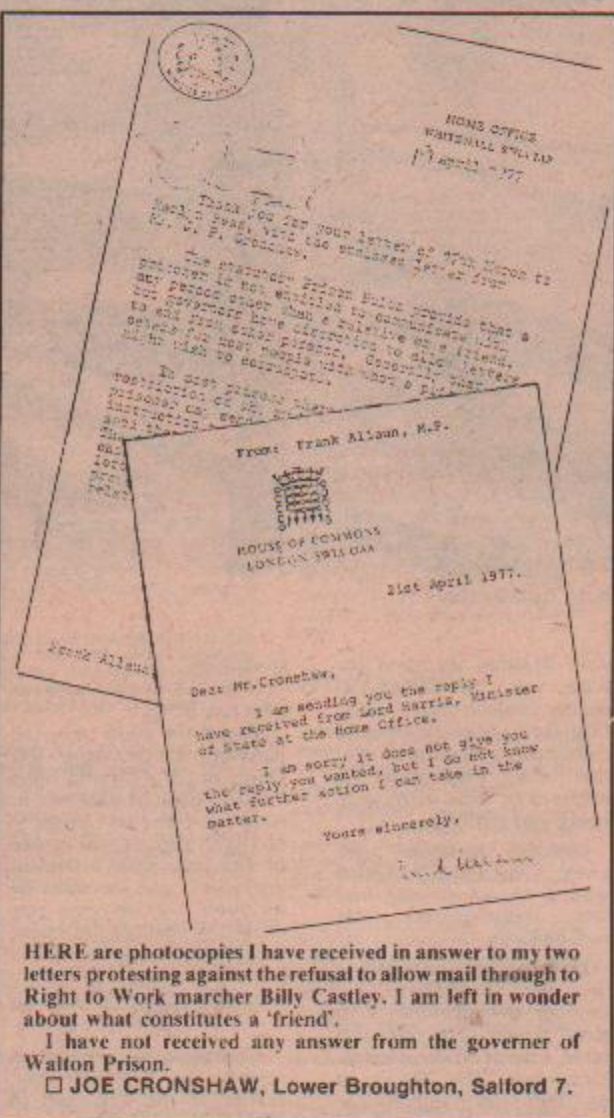
In the bitter aftermath of this somersault by the factory and combine leadership, the shop floor voted to call off the strike—but it has to be emphasised that if Robinson and his colleagues had put their backs into fighting for the strike instead of sabotaging it, Longbridge and many other Leyland plants would have been out on the 20th.

It is obvious to us in the Longbridge SWP that we cannot afford to rely on this type of leadership in the fight to regain our wages and conditions.

We have set ourselves the task of building a solid socialist presence in every part of Longbridge and are working with other socialist militants to build a rank and file group which will put some backbone into the trade union organisation in the plant.

Militant speeches by convenors at left-wing conferences will not break the Social Contract. It is up to us at the rank and file level to make sure that our fellow workers use their industrial strength to smash this diabolical con-trick.

□ AUEW member, British Leyland, Longbridge, Birmingham.



HERE are photocopies I have received in answer to my two letters protesting against the refusal to allow mail through to Right to Work marcher Billy Castley. I am left in wonder about what constitutes a 'friend'.

I have not received any answer from the governor of Walton Prison.

□ JOE CRONSHAW, Lower Broughton, Salford 7.

NOW BACK IN PRINT

We socialists are not fanatics or time servers. We are socialists because we see the prospect which life holds out for all working people.

We want the commitment of workers who laugh and live and want to end the wretchedness and despair which shuts love and laughter out of so many lives.

We do not have to spend the rest of our lives, and leave our children to spend the rest of their lives, wrestling in the struggle against a mean and despotic ruling class.

Society can be changed, but only if masses of working people abandon the rotten shipwreck of the 'leave it to us' reformers, and commit themselves to change from below.

This pamphlet puts our case. Will you read it?

WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST
PAUL FOOT

50p including postage/five copies for £2
SOCIALIST WORKER DISTRIBUTORS, 6, Cottons Gardens, London E2.

SO WHO CANVASSED WHOM?

TWO MEN called on me yesterday, canvassing for the Conservative Party in the local elections. I told them straight away that I was a socialist and a Right to Work Campaign member.

We had about an hour-long discussion on politics, cab-bages and kings (literally). We

went from education cuts, to butter mountains, to Marx, to the abuse of technology, to what would you do about unemployment? (they didn't know).

We finished up talking about revolution and world war. We all agreed that a revolution would be bloody,

but war would be final.

They believed in nearly everything I said, and went away with copies of Socialist Worker. I could have sold them The Case for Socialism but they couldn't afford it!

In the souls of the people, the grapes of wrath are growing ...

HAVING read recently about the dumping of apples in France, of the burning of corn in Canada and the dumping of dead fish into the sea, I was moved with great anger.

Moved all the more I think because I had just finished reading John Steinbeck's great novel *The Grapes of Wrath* in which he traces the misfortunes of the Joad family, driven off their land in the depression of the Thirties by drought, debt, and, most importantly, the banks.

They travel to California to look for a new life. They are lured there by the big Californian farmers, as are thousands of others, by the promise of jobs and the vision of a land of milk and honey, a land of plenty.

Slaughter

When they get there, they find poverty and degradation worse than is imaginable. With real imagination, Steinbeck writes of the lengths to which the big farmers will go to keep prices and profits up and wages and workers down.

Burn coffee for fuel in the ships. Burn corn to keep warm, it makes a hot fire. Dump potatoes in the rivers and place guards along the banks to keep the hungry people from fishing them out. Slaughter the pigs and bury them, and let the putrescence drip down into the earth.

There is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation. There is a sorrow here that weeping cannot symbolise. There is a failure here that topples all our success.

The fertile earth, the straight tree rows, the sturdy trunks and the ripe fruit. And



The face of America in the Thirties: above right, workers queuing for bread make a mockery of the poster behind them.

WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING



MARY ANN STUART REVIEWS A BOOK EVERY SOCIALIST SHOULD READ

children dying of pellagra must die because a profit cannot be taken from an orange.

And coroners must fill in certificates—died of malnutrition—because the food must rot, must be forced to rot.

The people come with nets to fish for potatoes in the river, and the guards hold them back; they come in rattling cars to get the dumped oranges, but the kerosene is sprayed.

And they stand still and watch the potatoes float by, listen to the screaming pigs being killed in a ditch and covered with quicklime, watch the mountains of oranges slop down into a putrefying ooze; and in the eyes of the people there is the failure; in the eyes of the hungry there is a growing wrath.

In the souls of the people the grapes of wrath are filling and growing heavy, growing heavy for the vintage.

The great agrarian revolt that Steinbeck predicted did not happen. There was a war instead.

But the indignation of these lines remain and means as much to us today. Steinbeck saw, not only the injustice, but the way to end it.

Destruction

He saw the need to organise as Tom Joad, one of the major characters in the book, also comes to see it.

After being involved in a fight on the picket line in which he kills one of the attackers of the picket, he is forced to hide out for some time and finally he reaches his conclusion:

I been thinkin' how it was in that govment camp, how folks took care a theirselves; an' they wasn't no cops wagglin' their guns but they was better order than them cops ever give.

I been a-wonderin' why we

can't do that all over. Throw out the cops that ain't our people. All work together for our own thing—all farm our own lan'.

I been thinkin' a hell of a lot, thinkin' about our people livin' like pigs, an' the good rich hun' layin' fallow, or maybe one fella with a million acres, while a hunderd thousan' good farmers is starvin'.

Ma said "Tom, they'll drive you an' cut you down, like they done to young Floyd"

"They gonna drive me anyways. They drivin' all our people."

And he decides to become an agitator, an organiser of the migrants.

Steinbeck wasn't really a socialist but felt instinctively and saw around him the evils of capitalist society, society based on profits.

He felt that the only way things could change was through collective action, through organisation. But mostly he felt indignation.

Quite rightly, he felt bitterly at the waste and destruction that went on in the crisis of the thirties, the same waste and destruction of human lives and potential that is going on in the crisis of the Seventies.

That, we need more of. It is time today that we, too, felt the bitter indignation that moved him to write the way he did in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Anger

It is a book every socialist should read, for it is a book that stirs that indignation, stirs a hatred for a society and the masters of it which destroys food that is badly needed simply because it does not make a profit, a system in which those who reap the profits create the crises and then demand that the workers pay.

Our fight-back should have its roots in indignation and anger, because that is what will keep us going, and that is what in the end will destroy capitalism and lay the foundation for a just and socialist society.



The misery of the Thirties: 'there is a crime here that goes beyond denunciation'

IT'S YOUR PAPER—WRITE FOR IT!

WRITE FOR Socialist Worker. Every page is open to all readers to send in their ideas and views. The success of every page depends to a large extent on the contributions that are sent in.

Letters on page 12. Disagreements with other articles, arguments at work or while selling SW, postal points on any subject at all. Get people who don't agree with us to write in letters or questions about what we are saying, so that we can carry on the argument.

Fifth Column on page 6. Contributions on the fascists organisations, like the National Front, employers organisations like Truamid, corruption, interesting facts that reveal the contradictions in our society, information on union officials, outrageous court stories, the police and special branch.

Reviews and ideas on pages 11 and 13. Reviews and short comments on books, plays and films that are easily available. Articles on ideas or books or happenings and experiences that for example made you into a socialist or that you learnt from. Discussion on every sort of political idea. Articles on working class history. On how racist or other ideas came into being.

Industrial news—every strike report cuts battle and fight over unemployment we can find the room to print, plus ideas and comments on safety at work, the lessons of industrial disputes, experiences of the shop floor, what's going on in

the unions. There is always far more sent in for these pages than we can possibly squeeze in uncut, but everything is valuable. It helps us if you keep articles and contributions brief.

International news—do you have relatives abroad or do you come from another country or speak foreign language, or have interests in a particular part of the world. It can all help with our international coverage. Much of the material depends on these sort of contacts with socialists in other countries. Pictures can be got from foreign news papers and photographers. Try approaching them direct for prints.



Racialism—we need a constant fund flow of news about racialists attacks and arguments, about successful fights back about arguments that are convincing when arguing with racialists, and we need to know what are the racialists arguments that more information is needed to argue against successfully.

Photographs—black and white photographs on any and every subject, with a story or a short caption. Send the film to us, developed or undeveloped, by first post Monday morning. (20 exposures, black and white film, 35 millimeter

is available from Socialist Worker, 25p plus postage.) Our SW photographer is always on hand to help with any technical problems.

we receive far more articles and contributions than we can possibly print. And very often we have no choice but to shorten what we do print. We try and get in everything we receive whenever it is possible. Even if you write something and it doesn't appear it can still be very helpful.

The paper is finished each week on Tuesday. But we prepare some pages before the weekend and some on Monday. These are the times when articles should arrive by

Thursday Fifth Column, pages 11 and 13 on ideas, reviews, history.

Friday Letters

Monday Morning by the first post. All ads for What's on, Classified, and Rank and File Diary, and other ads. It causes considerable problems to receive ads after this, and often it means they can't be fitted in.

Monday before 11 am Everything else except industrial news stories.

Monday At 4.00pm Industrial news stories.

These are the latest times, and it helps enormously to have articles earlier. If something important happens later on Monday evening or on Tuesday we can always make changes. But it is easier to do this if everything else has gone through on time, or ahead of time.

1,000 strike over cuts

GLASGOW: 1,000 janitors and cleaners from 50 secondary schools in the Strathclyde region went on a 24-hour strike last Monday. Their action was part of a campaign of rolling industrial action by NUPE members against the Regional Council's plans to cut cleaners' working hours by a tenth and so cut pay.

The Labour-controlled Strathclyde Council has threatened legal action because the janitors may refuse to hand over keys to headmasters to open the schools.

The Regional Council is determined that the NUPE strike will be broken by headmasters who are prepared to scab.

The leadership of the main teaching union, the FIS, has played a disgraceful role. In many areas it is instructing its members to work normally. That could mean crossing picket lines.

The Strathclyde Labour Council, notorious for its maladministration, has finally reached rock bottom. It is threatening the trade union organisations of the very people it claims to represent.

Members of trade unions affiliated to the Labour Party should raise this issue in their union branch as a matter of urgency and demand that Strathclyde Council drops its threat to use legal action against NUPE.

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.

Party to raise funds for the BRITON ANTI-FASCIST MOVEMENT. Saturday 7 May, 8.30pm-2.30am. Real beer, food, folk and Reggae. Ring 720-4701 for details.

RUSKIN HISTORY WORKSHOP 11 Rank and File Movements Weekend 21-22 May. Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford. Tickets £2.50 and programmes from History Workshop Collective, Ruskin College.

Meeting of ACTSS LEGAL WORKERS BRANCH Friday 13 May, 7pm. Transport and General Workers Union HQ, 203 North Gower Street, London WC1 (near Warren Street tube). All workers in solicitors' offices welcome.

REMEMBER SOWETO! 16 June 1976 DEMONSTRATE on 18 June 1977 Assemble Speakers Corner, 1 pm. Rally Bullring 3pm. Called by National Union of Students, supported by the National Union of School Students and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Contact NUS International Dept, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1 (phone 01-387-1277) for details and publicity material.

WEST LONDON ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP public meeting Rhodesia Wednesday 11 May 8pm. Westway Lanchester Club (near Ladbroke Grove tube). Speaker: Jeremy Birchill (ZAPU representative).

WORKERS SAY NO TO THE SHAH—Labour law and strikes in Iran. by T. Jalil. Foreword by Bob Wright (assistant general secretary, AUEW). New book published by Campaign for Restoration of Trade Union Rights in Iran. 216 BCM, London WC1V 6XX. 130 pages. £1.50 from left bookshops.

THE OTHER CINEMA

25 TOTTENHAM STREET (at Charlotte St.), W.1. 637-9308/9

BLOW FOR BLOW—dramatised documentary on the occupation against sackings of a factory in France. Friday 6 May, 5pm, and Sunday 8 May, 8pm.

OCCUPY! and BEHIND THE RENT STRIKE—two films about the struggle in Kirkby, Merseyside, against the Fisher-Bendix factory closure and the 'Fair Rent' Act. Friday 6 May - Tuesday 10 May, 7pm.

THE JACKAL OF NAHUELTORO—the first Chilean socialist film. Friday 6 May - Thursday 12 May, 9pm.

Essex firemen set for all-out strike

ESSEX: Firemen throughout the county are poised for an all-out strike against the cuts from next Tuesday.

Delegates on the brigade committee voted unanimously this week to recommend the action, which would be the strongest stand the union has taken since the Glasgow firemen struck in 1973.

Branches were later mandating their delegates for a special recall

committee meeting on the eve of the proposed strike.

Anger has exploded over County Council plans to axe the turntable ladder at Clacton fire station, with the loss of 12 jobs.

Promise

Industrial action followed and brought a promise of a Home Office inquiry. This has now recommended that the ladder be scrapped along with six jobs.

But a statement from the brigade committee this week rejected these

compromise cuts and added:

'The government promised that the effect of cuts in local authority spending would NOT reduce the establishment of the Fire Service. We can clearly see that the government's attitude has changed and so has created not only a local issue, but a national precedent.

'If we allow one brigade to be picked off in this manner, no brigade in the country can be considered secure from cuts in manpower.'

The Essex firemen have already used some of their massive strength to

block other cuts planned by the county council.

A strike now can demolish this threat to the jobs at Clacton. But support must be quickly organised from other brigades around the country. Otherwise the leadership of the Fire Brigades Union will move in and try to smash the strike as they tried to smash it in Glasgow four years ago.

Messages of support to: J Ross, secretary, Essex FBV Brigade Committee, 31 Wickham Place, Basildon, Essex.

CPSA: No more wage controls!

By Doug Beesley

A MILITANT resolution calling for annual wage claims and an immediate interim wage award was defeated by 111,000 to 72,000 votes on Monday at the annual conference of the biggest civil servants union, CPSA.

The motion was opposed by the Broad Left-dominated Executive and by the right wing. But the vote for a militant struggle now was the biggest ever at a CPSA conference.

Speaker after speaker argued that the members back in the branches who had accepted the April Phase Two increase of £1.86 had already said 'enough was enough'.

The conference then decided overwhelmingly to seek a return to free collective bargaining as soon as Phase Two ends.

In the Presidential elections, Mike McGrath, the candidate of Redder Tape, the rank and file organisation in the CPSA, got about the same vote as last year, 12,500.

The Broad Left and Communist Party candidate, Len Lever, won with 99,307 votes, and the extreme right winger, Kay Losinska, came second with 95,822.

Mike McGrath was re-elected to the executive with 80,000 votes.

Littlebrook site shut

DARTFORD, Kent: Construction workers at Gleasons Littlebrook 'D' power station, Kent are on strike. They are defending their senior and deputy senior stewards.

Since starting this contract, Gleasons have used every means to prevent an active trade union organisation. They have been ably assisted by Brother W Kelly, a UCATT branch secretary and now a Gleasons' labour officer.

The site Liaison Committee, composed of senior stewards from every major company, has now led all the men out and the site is completely shut.

Messages of support and donations to: J Lukes, 22 Thanet House, Napier Rd, Northfleet, Kent.

Water walk out

By John Rees

LANCS: 120 water supply workers in St Helens, Wigan and Warrington are on strike over the victimisation of three colleagues last week. The action included a sit-in by 60 workers at St Helens.

There has been a long dispute with management—the North West Water Authority—over pay, and men have been sent on minor repair jobs frequently in bad weather.

The strikers are members of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

Messages of support and donations to: Alec May, 349 Warrington Road, Abram, near Wigan, Lancs.

House, Hartshead, Sheffield.

By Tom McFarlane, student at Jordanhill

STUDENTS at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow voted on Tuesday to occupy Jordanhill College of Education.

32 third-year students were accepted three years ago for a one-year teacher training course at Jordanhill. Now only around a dozen are being offered places.

SUPPORT NUPE'S LONDON STRIKE CALL, 11 MAY

STEEL MEN STRIKE AGAINST THE CUTS

by Paul Lutener, ISTC Works Rep, Greenwich Reinforcements (BSC)

SOUTH EAST LONDON: At Greenwich Reinforcements, a steel plant we have voted overwhelmingly to strike next Wednesday in support of the action in London against the cuts.

Workers at Burts and Harvey's, a chemical plant at Erith, are joining us. Other local factories are making a decision this week.

We shall be joining the march organised by the local Hospitals Action Committee. The day of strike action has been called by the Public Employees Union, NUPE.

Our decision to strike, taken at a mass meeting, is the result of a clear understanding of what the threatened hospital closures would mean for us locally.

Five closures are planned by the Area Health Authority, a further two by the Region.

Just two large hospitals would be left.

The effect would be to make our jobs more dangerous. We recently had a strike over safety and are in no mood for more threats to our well-being.

Another reason we are coming out on strike is that our own jobs are on the line for the same reason—public expenditure cuts.

British Steel want to shut us down just three years after opening us up, all because of the cuts.

South East London marches

9.30am, leaves British Home for Mothers and Babies, Charlton; St Nicholas Hospital, Plumstead; Brook Hospital, Shooters Hill.

8.45am leaves Greenwich District Hospital

Public meeting: Old Woolwich Ferry Terminal, 10.30am.

DEMONSTRATION AND LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT called by NUPE

Assemble Hyde Park, Noon, march to meeting at the Temple and lobby of House of Commons.

PICKET AND DEMONSTRATION at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, Euston Road, London, NW1, 10.30am.



PART OF a meeting of more than 300 people in Balham, South London, to protest at the threatened closure of the Weir Maternity Hospital.

It followed a march and demonstration supported by workers from five other hospitals and the local Trades Council.

Among the speakers were Bill Tizzard from the Save our Hospitals Campaign and Ron Keating, the district secretary NUPE.

They won't axe this hospital!

HOUNSLOW: Rank and file initiative is showing how to block the cuts.

'We are determined to stop the closure of Hounslow Hospital,' says Chris Potter, secretary of the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee at West Middlesex Hospital.

'We're organising a mass picket on the 11th. Workers there have been given four weeks' notice either to quit or accept alternative employment.

'But we aren't going to stand for it. We will stop them moving equipment out.'

'We are very well organised with our "picket-tree", a pyramid of phone numbers of trade unionists ready to respond immediately.'

MASS PICKET, Hounslow Hospital, 10.30am.

GARSTANG BOOST

GARSTANG, Lancs: Two busloads of would-be strike breakers joined the picket line at John Laings Water Treatment site this week.

85 building workers have been on strike for the last seven weeks.

'They are refusing to work overtime because of high unemployment amongst building workers. They also want a collective bonus.'

Jobs Centres in Preston and Blackburn and even as far away as Stoke, had been working all out, hand in glove with Laings, to recruit a strike-breaking force.

START

Monday's successful picket has shown Laings that this site is out to win.

Don Greenhill, a piler from Preston, was one of the men recruited to start work after being unemployed for about six months.

He said: 'We were told by the Jobs Centre that the strike was over, but it's not, so I'll give my support to the workers.'

The strikers have already succeeded in getting IGWU drivers for Topmix Concrete and a scaffolding firm, Mills,

to block the site, and a one-day strike at North West Building Sites is being organised in support.

Messages of support and donations to: J Harrison, Convenor, c/o 10 Velmont Road, Blackpool, Lancs.

Sheffield busworkers battle on

SHEFFIELD: 1,800 busworkers are in the second week of their overtime ban. They are fighting for changes in shift schedules.

Over the last few years, management have been increasing the hours worked by abusing the agreement. For nine months, negotiations have got nowhere, and eventually a rank and file ballot overturned a shop stewards' recommendation and called for action.

The action is causing chaos on the buses, with as many as

one third off the road during the rush hour.

Steve Warmack, one of the TGWU shop stewards, told Socialist Worker: 'There is strong resentment towards the conditions, which we have to accept at work.'

'For example, we have to put up with extremely long duties, 4.15am to 2.30pm, and spells up to 5½ hours on one bus without toilet and refreshment facilities.'

Messages of support to: Keith Garner, Branch Secretary, c/o Transport

East Kilbride: Three strikes link arms

EAST KILBRIDE: Workers on strike in three factories on one industrial estate are joining together in one united demonstration.

On Thursday workers from three different factories on the Nerston Industrial Estate will demonstrate their anger and solidarity when they march through the town to win support from other workers and their families.

Organised jointly by the shop stewards from the Sunbeam Electric, Hayward Tyler and Laird Portch strikes, this is a significant step in overcoming the isolation of

the individual disputes. The demonstration has the full support of East Kilbride Trades Council and delegations from other factories will join the march.

Ellen Nicklin, convenor at Laird Portch, told Socialist Worker: 'The basis for the three disputes looks different on paper. Our strike is for equal pay, the Sunbeam strike is over bonus payments and the

Hayward Tyler strike is a fight against redundancies.

Fighting

'But at the end of the day we are all fighting to protect our living standards—that's why we are demonstrating together and why we are calling for support from other workers in the town.'

□ **DEMONSTRATION** assembles at 10.30am on Thursday 5 May at the footbridge between the Laird Portch and Sunbeam factories

□ **EAST KILBRIDE Socialist Workers Party public meeting:** Support the East Kilbride strikers. Tuesday 10 May, 7.30pm, Murray Halls, Murray Shopping Centre, East Kilbride. Speakers: Angela McHugh (AUEW sub-convenor, Rawlplug, Glasgow), Willie Lee (AUEW shop steward, Chrysler Linwood), and local strikers. Chair Jack McKenna (former ETU convenor, STC East Kilbride).

Laird: 400 strike for equal pay

LAIRD PORTCH: 400 women from the factory came out on strike for equal pay last Tuesday.

The women are members of the National Union of Tailor and Garment Workers, and have been in dispute since January 1976, when they asked for a job evaluation scheme.

Five months later a national agreement was drawn up between union and management on equal pay. Then management threw out the national agreement and promised to do job evaluation on a plant basis. Now they are refusing to keep their promise because there are no male machinists in the factory.

Since then the women have already staged a one-day strike.

At the start the local union official told the women to rely on rank and file action and to avoid the ACAS arbitration service and industrial tribunals. He has since changed his tune.

The women have rejected management's excuses for not implementing equal pay. They are skilled clothing machinists, cutters and



Women pickets outside the Laird Portch factory talk to the convenor (left) from Sunbeam Electric, also on strike.

female inspectors, yet they only receive a guaranteed wage of £33.10 for a 40-hour week, plus the last £6 and the 5 per cent increases under the Social Contract.

Unskilled men in the factory are earning £43 a week. The women are demanding parity with these men as a minimum step towards equal pay.

They have maintained a 24-hour picket and have stopped all goods entering or leaving the factory. The picket has been so effective that management have laid off the staff and shut the factory.

Financial support and help on the picket line has started to come in from other fac-

ories in the area. Rolls-Royce workers in East Kilbride have guaranteed support for the picket, even during their week's holiday. Other factories in the Jaeger group at Kilmarnock, Coatbridge, Alloa and Glasgow are all backing work from East Kilbride.

Some of the women on strike have real problems—other members of their families are on strike at two other factories in East Kilbride.

□ **All donations and messages of support to: Ellen Nicklin, 153 Leeward Circle, Westwood, East Kilbride.**

Hayward: TASS 47

HAYWARD TYLER: The dispute is now in its fifth week since management ignored basic procedures in announcing six redundancies, which they said were the result of 'rationalisation'.

Curiously no other redundancies have been announced by the Stone Platt Industries Group, of which Hayward Tyler is part. And, funnily enough, the redundancies just happen to include the local TASS branch secretary, TASS divisional council delegate and another well-known TASS militant!

Stewart Lindsay, one of the strikers, told Socialist Worker: 'It's blatant witch-hunting. They're determined

to smash the union.

All 47 TASS members in the plant are now on strike and maintaining a picket throughout working hours. The big problem is that the shop floor is non-union labour and workers have been crossing the picket.

Official

The strike is official. Most TGWU drivers are turning back.

□ **Donations and messages of support to: Stewart Lindsay, Hayward Tyler strike, AUEW Halls, Shiell Avenue, East Kilbride.**

Sunbeam: Gatehouse occupied

SUNBEAM ELECTRIC: The occupation of the gatehouse by 62 engineering and electricians union members in the bonderising department continues.

The strike, over the payment of bonus, escalated immediately after the Easter holiday when management laid off the rest of the workforce, although there was and is plenty of work in the factory.

To their credit the 500 men and women who were laid off backed the strike. The gatehouse occupation has ensured control of the gates. Management and non-union members have been successfully locked out.

At the time of going to print management have been forced to conduct their business from the Stewart Hotel in East Kilbride. They still refuse to meet the strikers.

The stewards suspect management tactics, which have been designed to escalate every small dispute to confrontation. They are following the example of the car manufacturers in laying off workers when orders are low.

□ **Donations and messages of support to: John Cowen, 7 Colville Drive, Eastfield, Glasgow.**

Hotel strikes: Victory for one, a boost for all

THE strike at the Linton Lodge Hotel in Oxford has ended in victory after 23 long winter weeks.

All the demands of the strikers—contracts of employment, reinstatement for those who want to return, and compensation for the others—have been won.

Throughout the dispute the strikers have shown tremendous determination and self-reliance. Their union, the Transport and General, has

done virtually nothing for them, other than cough up hardship money.

All the graft has been carried out by the strikers themselves. They have picketed their regional committee, occupied part of Transport House until Jack Jones received them, and established links with trade unionists throughout the country.

The victory must give a tremendous boost to thousands of hotel workers

who have known only lousy pay and conditions, and have never dared to get organised into unions for fear of the sack.

The prospects of winning the Trust House Forte strikes at the Night Out in Birmingham, the Grosvenor in Sheffield, and the Randolph in Oxford were increased last week when the TGWU at last decided to implement the blacking of THF within region 5. *Why was this policy not implemented five months ago*

and on a national level?

Pickets at the Night Out in Birmingham were attacked by scabs while police stood idly by last week. This week police moved in themselves and arrested six pickets for 'obstruction' on Monday.

An advertisement in the Sun on Tuesday, apologising for the 'inconvenience' of the strike and putting the management case, would have cost them £29,982. If they were that concerned with the in-

convenience of the strike, why not recognise the union, reinstate the sacked shop stewards and pay their staff a decent wage?

Committee

One of the best things to come out of the hotel strikes is the formation of the Hotel Workers Action Committee, which has drawn the strikes together together with other organised sections in hotels and catering.

Unionised groups of hotel workers, whether in the TGWU or the GMWU, should affiliate. Contacts made during the Right to Work Campaign pickets of THF should be urged to do the same.

□ **Write to: Hotel Workers Action Committee, c/o 127 Botley Road, Oxford.**

□ **Black Trust House Forte—support the strike funds: Grosvenor Hotel strike committee, c/o Trevor Jones, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield; Randolph Hotel strike committee, 41 Bridge Street, Oxford; Night Out strike committee, Transport House, Broad Street, Birmingham.**

TOM LANGAN: MILITANT AND SOCIALIST

THE working-class movement has lost a fine son. Tom Langan, a shop steward at Ford Dagenham and a longstanding member of the International Socialist, died last Friday after a long and terrible illness.

Tom will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

He was born in Ireland and like so many others was driven into emigration to find work. His first job in England was working the fishing boats out of

Lowestoft.

After this he went into the army, an experience which reinforced all his socialist beliefs and which nourished in him a profound dislike of all forms of colonial oppression.

After leaving the army he went to sea, becoming involved in the Seamen's Strike of 1966. After this experience Tom was to be a fine fighting trade union militant and socialist for the rest of his days.

Taking up employment

with Ford, he knew the intensity of modern capitalist exploitation at first hand and was involved in battle after battle with one of the most vicious and artful employers anywhere in the world.

His illness laid him very low. But he bore his tribulations with great courage as did his family. Socialist Worker sends them fondest fraternal greetings in their time of trial and best wishes for the future.

□ **Thomas Connolly LANGAN, lifelong socialist and trade unionist, died aged 35 years last Friday 29 April after a long and desperate illness, courageously born.**

Cremation Thursday 5 May, 3.30pm, Islington Crematorium, High Road, London N2. No flowers at the family's request. Donations in memory to Right to Work Defence Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

560-0! Talbot sparks defy Chapple

by JULIAN GOSS

PORT TALBOT 'Frank Chapple has not frightened me one bit. If he sacks me and every other shop steward on the site we'll just form a strike committee instead of a shop stewards committee and carry on.'

That was Wyn Bevan, convenor of the Port Talbot electricians, after receiving a unanimous vote of confidence at last Friday's mass meeting of the 560 sparks on strike at BSC Port Talbot.

The electricians were showing what they thought of the letters they had received from the FEETU general secretary Frank Chapple. He had ordered his members to surrender their cast-iron case for an across-the-board rise in return for taking on new responsibilities in the new sinter plant.

He wants them back to work. If they won their case, every steelworker in Britain would stand to benefit.

Deal

BSC management knows this, which is why they haven't even talked to the electricians' shop stewards in the six weeks of the dispute! The strikers and the 8,000 workers laid off at Port Talbot know it because a similar deal had already come to light at British Steel's Shepote Lane plant in Sheffield. Financial support has been pouring in from workers in every union and every area of Britain. The shop stewards have decided to issue a bulletin to explain the details of the dispute to other trade unionists.

Gauntlet

Meanwhile the rank and file members can see the need to increase the involvement of all the strikers in pickets, delegations and visits to local factories, pits and steelworks.

Frank Chapple has thrown down the gauntlet. It's up to the rank and file to pick it up.

□ **Messages of support and donations to: Bill Curtis, 27 Hawthorne Avenue, Baglan, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan.**

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PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

NO MORE NYPROS!

By John Crawford and Dave Charlton, ASB
 'NOBODY wants a repeat of the disaster which killed 28 people. This chemical plant must be made safe.'

These were the feelings running through the minds of us all when we struck at the disaster-hit Nypro site at Flixborough near Scunthorpe last week when a welder was sacked.

We are construction workers employed by Quinn

Brothers on the site.

The welder was dismissed for abiding by a decision that no-one was to work in rotten weather.

On Friday afternoon, it started raining and everyone went to the cabins. After some time, several lads had their names taken and were told to report to the Industrial Relations Officer.

Consequently all were given written warnings except the welder, who was sacked, because he had already received

a written warning for refusing to work in bad weather.

This is a clear case of victimisation and these bullyboy tactics by Quinns must be stamped out immediately.

Unrest

There has been constant unrest since the job started. The original bonus system was kicked out by the shop floor, because wages differed week each week by as much as £20.

We are now working under a new bonus scheme which also appears to be inadequate.

We cannot rely on union officials to give us better wages and conditions. The only way to achieve these aims is to fight together. Solidarity is the only answer.

'Let's build this as a monument to the people that died,' said one of Quinn's bosses.

Who was he thinking of, Nypro's future profit or the widows of the 28 people that died?

Defend Tyndale teachers

THE NORTH London Teachers Association called for strike action on Monday to defend the jobs of the six Tyndale teachers who the ILEA want to sack for striking.

Nearly 200 teachers were at the meeting. Despite vicious opposition from a number of local headteachers, the strike amendment was overwhelmingly passed.

But the Executive of the National Union of Teachers will only sanction action if many more associations and schools throughout the country pass similar motions calling for strike action.

All Socialist Worker readers are urged to raise such motions urgently.

An appeal for strike action to lobby the ILEA Education Committee on 25 May is being signed by a number of officers of London Associations, and NUT reps.

So far the list includes Dick North and Beth Stone (National Executive members), Bernie Reagan (President of East London Assn), David Whiteley (Secretary of Wandsworth Assn), Dave Ransome (Vice-president of East London Assn), Dave Potter (Secretary of Hillingdon Association) and many other officers and NUT Reps.

If you are willing to sign such an appeal please contact: Jeff Hurlford, 607 8067, 18 Williamson St, N7.

PARSONS: WE FIGHT FOR EVERY JOB, WEINSTOCK

NEWCASTLE: C A Parsons announced 1,600 redundancies at their turbine generator factory last week.

This is a direct result of the government's refusal to order the completion of the Drax B Power Station in Yorkshire.

This has been held back because of pressure from Arnold Weinstock, chief of General Electric.

Weinstock wants to see the Parsons factory closed and the whole of the power generating industry handed over to GEC on a plate.

The Labour government has betrayed the thousands of working people in Newcastle

By Bob Murdoch TASS Joint Office Committee, C A Parsons

by actively supporting one of the most vicious employers in the country in his attempt to destroy the jobs at Parsons.

Make no mistake. Weinstock wants to see the Parsons workforce halved immediately, with complete closure shortly afterwards.

Faced with the possibility of what is laughably known as 'restructuring' in the industry, the Joint Union Committees at Parsons, Clark Chapman and Babcock and Wilcox have met frequently.

A list of demands was hammered out—the main one being that we would accept no run down in the industry.

It is vital that this does not become a dog-fight between different groups of workers, which is just what Weinstock would like.

We need a policy for the industry and for the Parsons

Combine. Workers at Parsons Peebles plant in Scotland are also facing redundancies.

We must fight to protect all jobs—in all plants in the industry. Otherwise we can be picked off one by one at the convenience of the employers and the government.

On the streets

On Tyneside our campaign has started. Hundreds of Parsons workers took to the streets on last Saturday's May Day Rally. Another demonstration is planned this week.

Regardless of any government decision, we are not going to accept redundancies.

We are seeking the support of trade unionists throughout the country. We shall resist all redundancies by any means necessary.



Parsons workers on the May Day march in Newcastle: 1600 face the sack

SACKED FOR STRIKING!

Public Meeting in support of the Tyndale Teachers

Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, NW1. Monday 9 May, 6.30pm. Speakers: The Teachers, Jeff Hurlford, Margaret Ford. Chairperson: Dorothy McColgan. We must act now. Meeting called by: Tyndale teachers and supporters.

Sparks take on employers

ELECTRICIANS at Dinnington Colliery site in South Yorkshire have taken on their employers in spite of opposition from their own union executive.

The General Secretary of the electricians' union, the EETPU, Frank Chapple, has said the strike won't be made official. He says it is a 'political strike'.

Demands

In fact, the contracting electricians, who are working on a coalmine modernisation scheme, are demanding a pay increase of just 35p an hour.

They are getting £1.23 an hour from their employers, Hall and Kay. Other electricians on the site, employed by other contractors, are getting above £2.48 an hour. But Hall and Kay operate

under the Joint Industrial Board, the JIB. This is the agreement between the employers and the EETPU which controls pay and conditions in the contracting industry, and tries to prevent shop floor bargaining over wages and conditions.

All 22 electricians have been on strike for nine weeks. Shop steward Dave Bland and shop chairman Glen Jennings told Socialist Worker: 'We have to get this

35p increase.

'We are determined to win, because we know it would result in other small sites being able to follow us in getting a better rate.'

Excuses

'Our union is back pedalling. The officials' hands are tied or at least that's what they say, but they aren't proper representatives.'

'If we elected them instead

of them being appointed, we could bring pressure on them. Support for our strike has been very good from EETPU members all over the country, but we need more if we're going to win.'

'We call on all EETPU contractors to attend the Rank and File Contact conference against the JIB on 28 May in Sheffield.'

Conference

'The Conference is a great idea and it's the first step to organised action against the JIB.'

The Dinnington strikers will be circulating a letter to all the sites that have been supporting their dispute calling on them to attend the Rank and File Contact conference.

Money and messages of support to: V Wilkinson, 215 Yew Lane, Sheffield.

Rank and File Contact Conference Against the JIB

Saturday 28 May, Memorial Hall, Sheffield. Chairman: Billy Williams, (Cardiff EETPU). Leaflets and further details from 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

Name
 Address
 Trade union

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 6BN