

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

## Free Abortion on Demand!



ALL OUT SATURDAY DETAILS BACK PAGE

# A MILLION WOMEN OUT OF WORK!

By JENNY JACKSON

UNEMPLOYMENT is down this month by a few thousand—and the government breathes a big sigh of relief.

The papers tell us to stop worrying. We've 'turned the corner'.

According to their figures, the number of women out of work has dropped to only (only!) 287,000.

What a sick joke!

The real number is nearly 1,000,000. One million women—their skills as nurses, teachers, machinists and typists wasted . . .

### Revealing

After an extensive survey among 5000 women, Women's Own magazine published some revealing facts in their 20 March issue.

□ Only three out of 10 women actively looking for work register at the employment exchange.

□ One out of three mothers at home who replied to the survey want to go back to work but can't find anyone to look after the children.

□ Three out of five working women have a job because the family need the money.

□ 14 per cent are the main breadwinners.

This means that the real unemployment figures are now near 2,000,000.

It means that the jobless figures aren't falling. They're going up.

The government statistics leave out most married women looking for work. If they haven't paid the full stamp, they can't collect the dole, so they don't bother to sign on.

### Crippled

So they are left out of the figures. Almost 700,000 women—ignored.

It's convenient for the government—but it doesn't help solve our problems: how to pay the gas bill, the electric bill, the grocery bill . . .

They tell us that we only work for pin money and can happily go back to the kitchen



Women taking leaflets from a Right to Work march. Throughout the recent three-week trek, the marchers received enormous support from women workers.

□ The Assembly on Unemployment—Page 7.

sink 'where we belong'. But they don't have to struggle to keep the family out of debt.

The government wants to forget us. So do many of the trade union leaders—and even some men workers.

And they will forget us—unless we fight. Unless we organise.

At work, we must make sure no women (or men) are made redundant.

We also have to fight the bosses and the union leaders

who are prepared to sell women's jobs to keep the men on.

Women out of work have to organise too—though it's much more difficult.

On the estates, in the launderettes, at the tenants' associations—wherever women can get together.

Join the local Right to Work Committee—and force it to demonstrate for more nurseries, to mount a picket on a factory where they are threatening to cut jobs, to campaign to get married women to sign on and fight for proper benefits.

We want work. We need work. And we're going to fight for it!

### Just one of the victims



PICTURE: Derek Bowie (IFL)

ANGIE HANSON is just one of the 700,000 women who don't appear on the government's unemployment figures.

She was an international telephonist in London and the union rep on her section.

'We tried to get a nursery in the Post Office, but they wouldn't hear of it.

'I'm at home looking after my little girl now. If I had a nursery place for her, I'd go back. I'd love to go back to work.

'We have to rely on my husband's wages whatever happens—even if the roof falls in.'

## Sunny Jim: Now a junta all of his own..

JAMES CALLAGHAN, known as the Junta's man because of his assistance to the barbaric regime in Chile, looks like getting control of a junta of his own.

The 'safe man of the centre' is now almost certain to lead the Labour Party and become the next Prime Minister.

### Services

He will instantly get to work to please people who have paid him for his political services in the past. People like

□ The Police Federation, which paid him handsomely for 12 years to 'represent their interests' in Parliament.

□ Sir Julian Hodge, the Welsh moneylender, who made a fortune from selling second mortgages and high-interest loan agreements, especially to black immigrants in the Midlands. Callaghan is still a shareholder in Hodge's Welsh bank.

□ The Italian International Bank, a consortium of grasping Italian bankers who paid Callaghan as a director from 1972 to 1974.

How can Mr Callaghan please all these people at once?

By continuing with the policies of the government.

By tightening the squeeze and freeze on working people, and increasing the handouts to the people who make money for nothing.

'Give him a chance' shriek Labour MPs and councillors all over the country.

That means giving the government's policies 'a chance'.

As far as we're concerned, they've had far too much of a chance already.

## SCANLON'S SABOTAGE

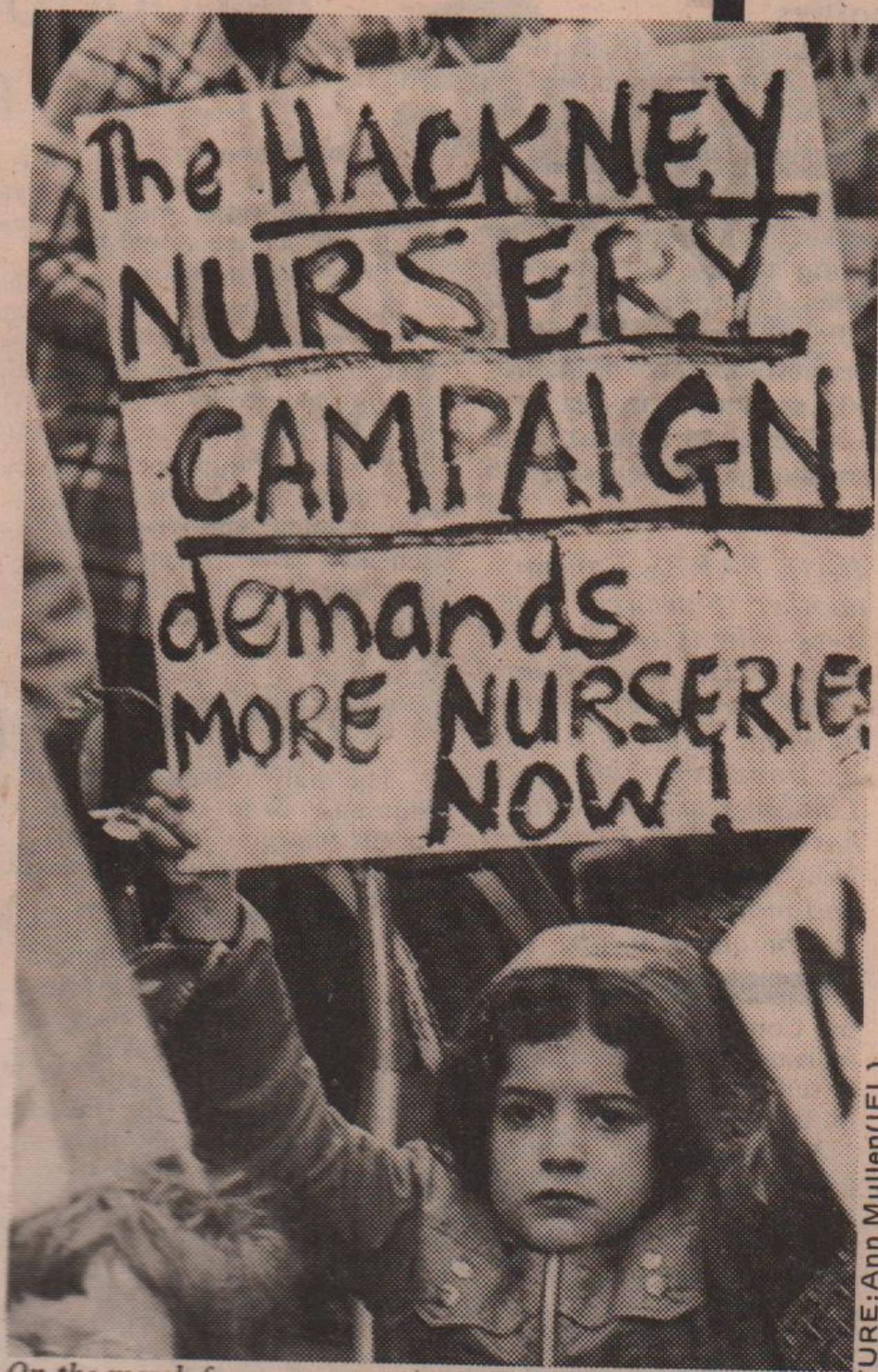
HUGH SCANLON and the Engineering Union have joined the Press witch-hunt against two groups of engineering workers on strike.

Toolroom workers at SU Carburettors and at Rovers, Coventry, are on strike to force managements to pay what they agreed more than a year ago.

Similar strikes and union leaders' sell-outs in 1969—at Girlings and at Sankeys—encouraged the last Labour government to introduce anti-union legislation.

This time there will be no need. For Scanlon, Boyd and Co have already proved far more effective policemen against their members than any judge or magistrate.

□ The case for the men at Rovers and SU Carburettors: Page 15.



On the march for more nurseries in East London: one out of three mothers can't work because of the lack of them

PICTURE: Ann Mullen (IFL)

## DESMOND TROTTER

AS WE GO TO PRESS, the fate of the Dominican freedom fighter Desmond Trotter still hangs in the balance. Condemned to death on a trumped-up charge after a political trial, Trotter faces the death sentence. A final decision will be made this week. All Carib clubs, West Indian societies and groups are urged to send telegrams to the Dominican High Commissioner in London demanding a reprieve.

# LET THEM EAT CAKE

'LET THEM eat cake' said Marie Antoinette, when told that bread prices were beyond the reach of the Paris masses.

Shirley Williams, Labour's Minister of Consumer Affairs, might sing the same tune today (if only cake prices weren't so high).

The Labour government keep saying that inflation is going down. Most working people just don't believe it. And this week comes another burst of increased prices—especially in food.

On this page we look at some of the increases—and rackets



## SPUDS

Now profiteers take them from the mouths of the starving

MR 'BUTCH' Woolf of the trading firm H J and M Bennett is a happy man.

Until recently, he has made a lot of money for himself and his shareholders by exporting potatoes.

Now he's found a new, profitable business: importing potatoes from the country with the most starving people in the world: India.

### High

Derek Colby, a director of Bennetts, told Socialist Worker:

'Well, the price of potatoes is very high. We've been looking round the world for surplus potatoes. We heard that India has 30,000 surplus tons. So we're arranging to import them. We think the price will keep up'.

Messrs Wolf and Colby are not the only ones profiting from the price of potatoes.

This time last year, eight pounds of good potatoes cost 25p. Today they cost a fantastic 91p.

Almost every time you go to the greengrocer you hear someone say something like: 'I'm afraid we can't afford potatoes any more'.

Why? Because the farmers and the government-controlled Potato Marketing Board have cut down the number of acres where potatoes can be grown—to increase the farmers' and traders' profits.

The potato acreage has come down from 580,000 acres in 1972 to 500,000 acres today.

### Shot-up

This meant that the farmers could only produce enough potatoes in 'good weather' years. Last year was a very bad weather year for growing.

So the farmers couldn't produce enough potatoes.

The price shot up, and lots of people went without because they couldn't afford them.

Farmers and traders, of course, made a killing.

Now the same traders are cashing in on the shortage by transporting potatoes from a country where 400 million people are starving!

That's capitalism. It's what Margaret Thatcher calls 'enterprise' and 'initiative'.



## BREAD

Up again next Monday

THE LABOUR government's most definite promise about food prices were about subsidies on bread. Now the subsidies are being withdrawn—and bread is to go up again. On Monday large loaves go up by 1p, small loaves by 1/2p.

## BEEF

Afford it or not, we're paying three times over

A THOUSAND TONS of beef—enough to provide a million joints for British families—is being put in cold storage every week. The result? Less meat in the shops, higher meat prices, and higher taxes to pay for the storage and to subsidise meat exporters.

This is the latest present to British families from the Common Market. It's a present which French, German and Italian families have been suffering from for several years.

Last month in Brussels, Agriculture Minister Fred Peart agreed to a form of the Common Market 'beef intervention' scheme in the British market.

Under this scheme, farmers in Britain and Northern Ireland, can flog their beef direct to the 'intervention cold stores'.

For this they get a higher price than the British government's standard subsidy.

### Fiddle

So the scheme brings bigger profits to the big farmers—and to the slaughterhouse owners who handle the 'intervention' cheques, and can easily fiddle the smaller farmers out of the money due to them.

This leads to a shortage of beef in the shops—and much higher prices. The beef in store loses much of its nutritional value.

The beef mountain grows higher and higher. In Europe, there are 300,000 tons of unsold beef in cold store.

It isn't sold on the home market in case it brings down the price of beef (and the profits for butchers, slaughterhouses owners and farmers).

Eventually, in desperation,

**ELECTRICITY goes up again this week—even after going up by 88 per cent since Labour came to office. There is a rise of 1 1/2 per cent because of 'dearer oil', another one per cent just for good measure and another four per cent in July.**

**RAIL FARES went up another 16 per cent last week—the third rise in 18 months. The more the fares go up, the less people travel by train. In the past year, the travelling public on the London-Glasgow route has dropped by 30 per cent. Now it will drop further—and more railway workers will be out of a job.**

the Common Market or the individual government agree to sell the beef at a low price on the world market.

Meat exporters demand a government subsidy to make up the going price.

We all pay three times for the beef mountain.

We pay in taxes to the Common Market for the 'intervention' buying.

We pay in higher meat

prices in the shops.

And then we pay in more taxes to subsidise meat exporters to sell the stored beef on the world market.

Meanwhile, the cheaper cuts of stewing beef which we used to import from Argentina are banned by the Common Market!

At present, only beef from Northern Ireland is being stored under this disgusting scheme. But farmers in England, Wales and Scotland are expected to cash in soon.

### Nonsense

The only reason for this nonsense is to keep up the profit margins of farmers, traders and slaughterhouse proprietors.

Last year, Fred Peart was an enthusiastic campaigner for the Common Market. He promised 'little or no' rises in meat prices if we went in.

Fred has a special relationship with the meat industry. When Labour was in opposition from 1970 to 1974, he was a director of the Fatstock Marketing Corporation, Britain's biggest butchers and meat traders.

Fred the Red served the industry well. And he is serving the industry even better now—at our expense.

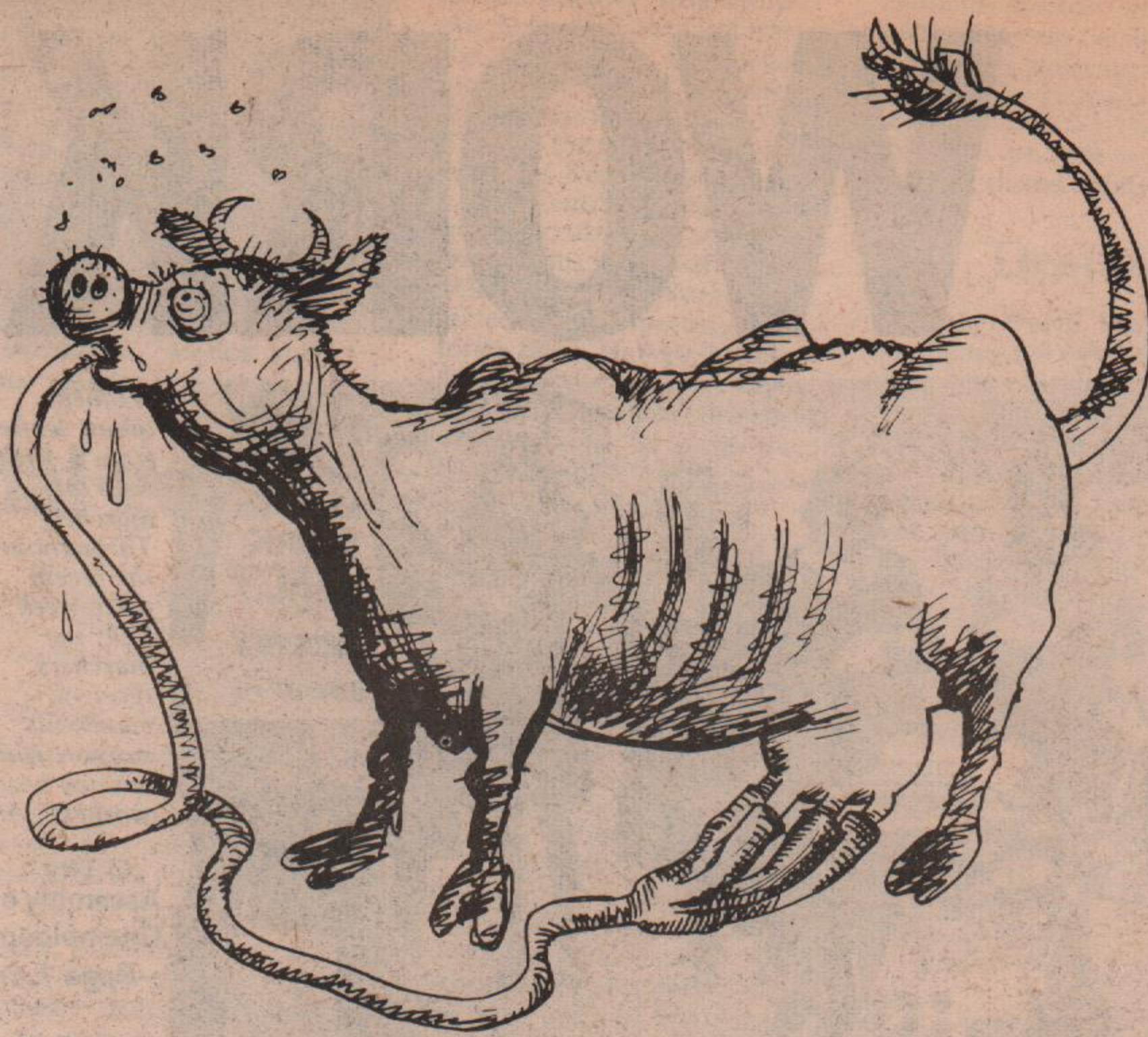
### REMEMBER THESE WORDS?

THE LABOUR Government in its first period of office, will introduce strict price control on key services and commodities.

Bulk purchase and new marketing arrangements will help stabilise food prices, and selective use of subsidies will be applied to the items bearing most heavily on the family budget.

We shall renegotiate those elements of Common Market policy which deliberately impose food taxes on the British people.

—Labour's election manifesto, February 1974.



There's too much milk in the country. So they're drying it and putting it into store. Then they are feeding the old stock back to the cows. I don't know why they bother. They could save a lot of time and money and storage space if they just connected up the cows' udders to the cows' mouths.

—Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary of the Engineering Union speaking at last Saturday's Assembly on Unemployment.

## About these 'greedy' workers...

By Carry Akroyd and Brian Scotney

THE PRICE of a 50lb bag of potatoes has gone up by £2 to £6.50 in the last two months. And yet, last summer, we were paid between 10p and 15p for every bag we picked, riddled and tied.

Our pay, on a farm near Peterborough, varied according to the weather and the pressure the gang of pickers could exert, always bearing in mind that the gang could be sacked if another was available locally.

### Stored

If it rains for a week, that's a week without pay. Most of the women bring their kids and work to buy school uniforms, or to get the family a holiday.

Most of the potatoes in the area were later bought by someone from London who stored them in two huge aeroplane hangars, lined with straw.

He probably didn't know much about potatoes, only about making money.

The cost to the farm for seed, fertilisers and labourers isn't quite the figure of £250 a ton that potatoes are now selling for!

Support the Campaign for the Restoration of Trade Union Rights in Iran: Nabarde Kargar (Workers' Struggle), PO Box 21, 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

# NO CONCORDES, NO SACKINGS!

**SOCIALIST WORKER** has always attacked the Concorde.

It's a disgraceful and dangerous waste of resources, a symbol of a twisted and corrupt society.

Its only conceivable purpose is to get wealthy business executives from New York to London in time for lunch.



We've often been counter-attacked by some Concorde workers. 'You are selling our jobs down the river' they have argued. 'An attack on Concorde is an attack on the jobs of 20,000 people who work on it.'

Now the truth is coming out. It's the supporters of Concorde—the British and French governments, the British Aircraft Corporation and Sud Aviation—who are preparing to sack Concorde workers by the thousand. They've failed to sell their one



white elephant. No airline outside Britain and France wants to fly half-empty aeroplanes which use more fuel in a minute than the average family uses in a lifetime.

*So the production line is being closed.*

Concorde workers have responded vigorously. They have organised joint demonstrations of workers in Britain and in France against redundancies.

Unfortunately, many of these workers think that the best way

to save their jobs is to sing the praises of the Concorde.

'We have faith in the project' said one Bristol shop steward this week.

*But faith and praise for the Concorde is the worst way to fight for jobs.*

The government and the employers will say to the stewards: 'If you want to save Concorde, you must accept 100 sackings here, 1000 there. The only hope for all of you is that some of you go on the dole'.

And if the stewards do want to save the Concorde, they'll go on accepting sackings until every worker goes down the road.

On the other hand, if stewards and workers stop arguing for an impossible project, and concentrate exclusively on the right to work, they can save all their jobs.

They can use the full industrial strength of the huge British Aircraft combine—against all sackings and all natural wastage.



At the same time, they can argue that there are thousands of things which BAC workers could produce which are more useful and valuable to society.

*They can say to the aircraft bosses and the government:*

**'You hired us. Either you keep us all in work, or we'll shut down every aircraft factory in the country'.**

## Arrested marcher MPs support pledge

THE CAMPAIGN to defend the 44 unemployed workers arrested on the Right to Work March will well under way.

Barnet Trades Council has set up an independent trade union inquiry.

Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the POEU, the post office engineering union has agreed to serve. He is also a member of the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party.

### Support

Two MPs—Sid Bidwell and Neil Kinnock—will also serve.

Another ten members of the Tribune group of MPs have urged support for the inquiry, and for the Defence Fund.

The ten signed a statement after meeting the marchers in the House of Commons, making it clear that this is 'without commitment to the ten demands on which the Right to Work march was based'.

The MPs are Dennis Skinner, Eric Heffer, Arthur Latham, Jo Richardson, Frank Allaun, Ron Thomas, Ted Fletcher, Joan Maynard, Russell Kerr and Brian Sedgemore.

## The Ideal Home blast: Why the bombers struck

UNTIL RECENTLY the London bombers concentrated for the most part on restaurants and clubs where the idle rich besported themselves—and on the idle rich themselves.

The campaign was hopeless. Such campaigns always are. But the selection of targets at least indicated a glimmering of class consciousness.

Now targets are chosen at random. The Ideal Home Exhibition is specifically designed, through massive advertising and gawdy display, to dazzle large working class crowds.

The men and women planting bombs are now clearly motivated by a fervent nationalism which blinds them to all other considerations.

They have an implacable hatred of everything British and they make no distinctions.

*This is futile and wrong and reactionary.*

It plays straight into the hands of Metropolitan Police Commissioner Robert Mark and his Tory friends who hunger after more and more power to oppress.

Its most immediate affect is to drive masses of British people into accepting the anti-Irish and anti-working class measures.

### TROOPS OUT



### Resist

We must resist the reaction of Press, television and thousands of people in the country to shout for more repression to 'deal with the bombers'.

The bombers won't be dealt with by repression. Repression only creates more desperation and more bombings.

Repression means victimisation of Irish people who engage in open political activity.

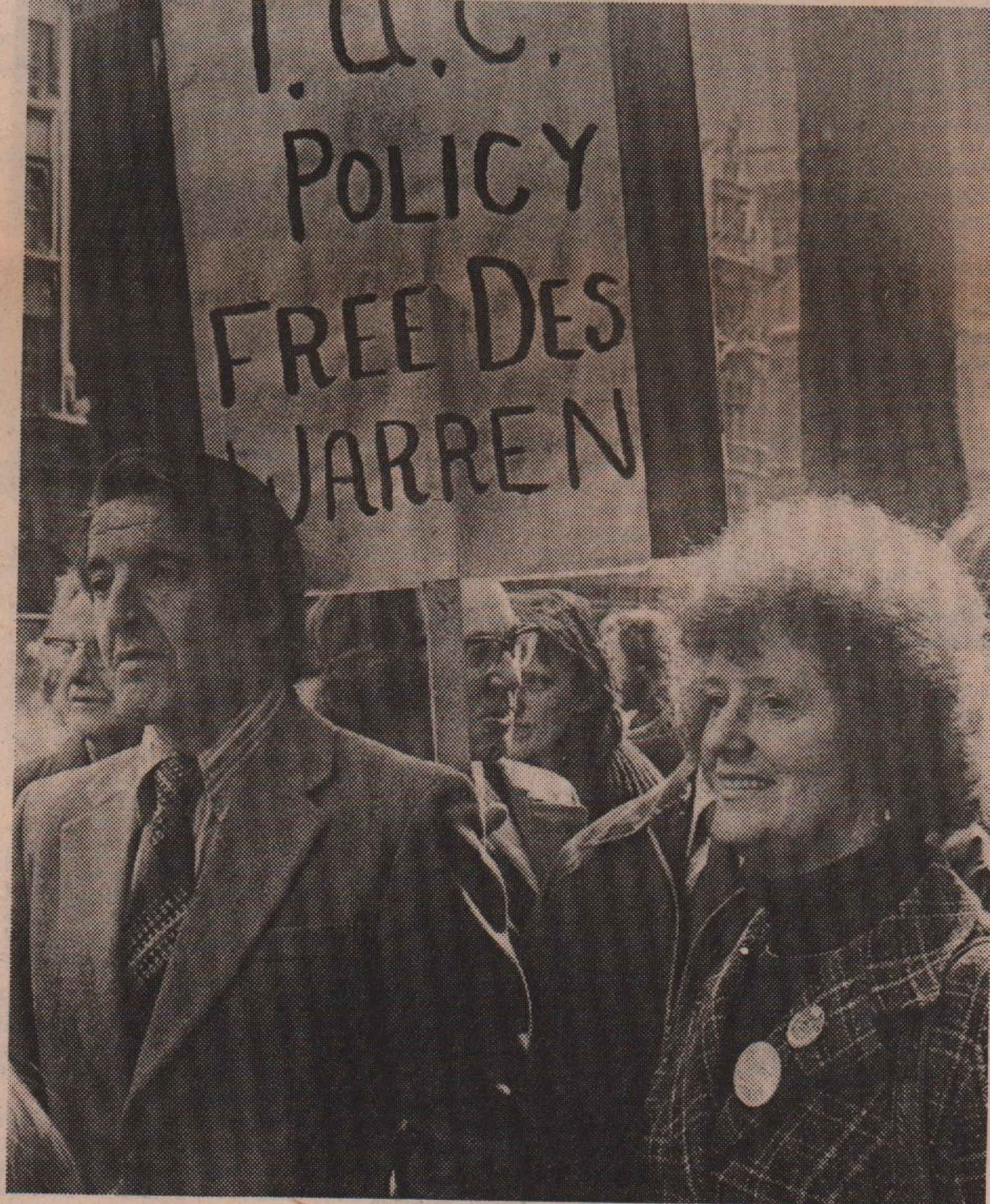
People like Margaret O'Brien, secretary of the non-terrorist Irish Civil Rights Association, who was taken from her home in East London with her 15-year-old daughter last Monday.

Under the Act, police can hold her for seven days without trial or deport her without trial. That doesn't stop bombers. It provokes them.

Had the troops not been there, the blind nationalism and hatred which motivates a minority of Irish Republicans would never have existed.

And there would have been no bomb at Olympia.

**EAMONN  
McCANN**



## Des Warren and the 'rule of law'

**ELSA WARREN**, Dennis Skinner MP and other supporters picketing the Home Office last week for the release of Shrewsbury picket Des Warren.

■■■  
Their picket came just as the first-ever prosecution against a major construction firm for lump tax-dodging was coming to a head.

The directors of Joseph Murphy Ltd were found

guilty of plotting to defraud the Inland Revenue. Some of them received jail sentences.

They were not however prosecuted under the Conspiracy Laws. It is not Director of Public Prosecutions policy to prosecute businessmen under these laws.

The Murphy company itself was also fined for tax evasion. But on Monday the £750,000 fine was cut to

£500,000 and the judge agreed that Murphy's could pay by instalments.

The fine was for tax evasion of £1 million which shows that the judges have a proper sense of proportion and did not in any way wish to impose 'a deterrent sentence'.

Also interesting is why the Inland Revenue has only prosecuted Joseph Murphy. In 1971, the newspaper

provided hard evidence that John Laing and the lump outfit Whelan and Grant had conspired to avoid tax and make sweetheart payments to workers.

■■■  
No prosecution has resulted. Sir Maurice Laing is, of course, a member of the British establishment whereas Joseph Murphy is not.

## RIGHT TO WORK 44 NEED YOUR SUPPORT

MONEY IS already coming in to the Defence Fund for the 44 arrested Right to Work marchers. The total so far is £813.80.

Contributions include £8 from West London Theatre Workshop and Task Force; £11 from a collection at Eatons Transmissions, Worsley; £25 from Peter Jackson, Brighton; £5 from M F Young, his expenses as a delegate to the Albert Hall from his ASTMS branch; £14.39 from a collection at a Troops Out Movement meeting and £75 collected at the Confed Assembly on Saturday.

Socialist Worker is giving the proceeds from the special issue produced after the police attack.

Money received so far from subscribers for individual copies:

Adrian Mitchell £10; O Lewis £5; and M O'Flynn £5; P Andrews £10; Pat Owen £3; T Hill £5; R Murdock £5; J Hemmings £5; M Simon £5; S Mason £5; C Hann £5; G Williams £3; M Pike £2; I Colquhoun £1.50.

Heading the long list of those who gave a £1 for a single copy is Peter Jones.

Others £1s came from M Miles, A Wilson, H Willets, P Jones, A Adair, D Wooley, 'Illegible' Rhondda, M Waring.

Contributions from SW Subscribers:

Anon Stoke, £10; R Pater-son £5; P J Hall £2; N Leveritt £5; J Gee £1; W Kelbie £3; M G Tebb £1; R Carroll £1; W & J McNamara £3; G A Wood £1; G Prince £0.50p.

Kathleen Jones £2; J E Cook £5; A E Winchester £1; Mrs C M Howlett £1; Glynis Davies £0.40p; J Gannill £1; J Taylor £5; E Gladden £3; E Gladden £3; T G Mortimer £1; D D Francis £2; P J Sills £1.

Anon London N5 £30; C Jackson £5; J Flynn £1.50; P Damper £0.40p; A Hughes and D Divers £1; S Newman £1; R D Harris £1; A McNaughton £500.

### RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN MEETINGS

**MANCHESTER:** Moss Side Neighbourhood Centre, Thursday 1 April, 8pm. Speakers: Danny Evaristo, Joe Cronshaw, Bobby Buirds.

**S W LONDON:** Thursday 1 April, 8pm, WCCR, 172 Lavender Hill. Report on the Right to Work March from Sam Strudwick, locally sponsored marcher.

**SHEFFIELD:** First meeting of Sheffield Right to Work Committee, Wednesday 7 April, 7.45pm. Mail Coach, West Street, Sheffield.

**MARCH AND ELY:** Fight the Rail Cuts! Local ASLEF and NUR speakers. Thursday 8 April, 7.30pm, Labour Rooms, March (nr Peterborough).

**PETERBOROUGH, STAMFORD AND ELY** Defend the 44! Fund-raising social. Friday 14 May, 8pm. Watch SW for further details.

# ABORTION

NO RETURN TO BACKSTREET ABORTION!

Demonstrations organised by the National Abortion Campaign Saturday 3 April

LONDON: 1.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park.  
GLASGOW: 2pm, Blythwood Square.

## This is a battle that only action by trade unionists can win

PAUL FOOT

A HANDFUL of MPs are conspiring to wreck one of the best reforming laws of the past 20 years. Their target is the 1967 Abortion Act.

If they succeed, they will put tens of thousands of working women at the mercy of the backstreet abortionists.

Many people still do not believe it. They put their faith in a 'law of progress'. They say: 'However bad a mess we're in, they won't touch the progressive laws about sexual or moral behaviour'.

The story of the abortion laws proves how wrong these people are.

In 1861, when there were no Labour MPs and when trade union leaders could be sued for damages after a strike, parliament passed the Offences Against the Person Act. Abortion of any kind was made a crime.

For more than 100 years of boom and slump, parliament resisted any attempts to change this law. Blood-curdling stories of its effect on tens of thousands of working-class women were met with simple answers. This, it was said, was the law of God.

The sanctity of family life had to be upheld. What was sanctified above all was the right of men with property to lay down a moral code for women with no property.

But in the 1950s and 1960s things began to change. There were no slumps. There was full employment. The economy grew.

### System

This was a good time for reformers who wanted to make things easier without changing the profit system.

In March 1966, Labour won an enormous majority in the House of Commons. In the same month, a young Liberal MP, David Steel, proposed a Bill to make abortions legal where the mother was at risk.

The Labour government allowed time for his Bill. The vast majority of Labour and Liberal MPs supported it. The Tory Opposition greeted it kindly. Margaret Thatcher voted for it.

The vote for the Bill's second reading was 223 for and only 29 against. Almost all the opposers were Roman Catholics.

### WHERE DOCTORS STAND

Last September, the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists voted by 28 to 2 that they were 'not dissatisfied' with the 1967 Abortion Act.

In October, the British Medical Association voted by 360 votes to 4 to oppose the James White Bill.

### EVIDENCE FOR

'The Abortion Act has relieved a vast amount of individual suffering... We are unanimous in supporting the Act and its provisions'.

The Lane Commission 1972.

### EVIDENCE AGAINST

'When the Select Committee examined the authors of Babies for Burning, I must say that I had never seen such a pair of charlatans before a Select Committee. When we asked for the tapes of the most gruesome parts of the book, it was admitted that no tapes existed.'

David Steel, Commons debate, 9 February 1976.



ABOVE: Collecting signatures in Leicester for a petition in favour of abortion. One 15-year-old girl who stopped to sign said she herself had had to pay £62 for an abortion after being refused one on the National Health. Her boyfriend had given her £2.  
LEFT: Nurses at Whittington Hospital, North London, listen to a member of the National Abortion Campaign.



The Act has brought nothing but relief to thousands of women and families.

It has almost done away with backstreet abortions, and the deaths and injuries resulting from them.

It has helped change attitudes of hospitals and health authorities towards contraception so cutting down the number of abortions performed.

A fully-qualified Commission has reported that the Act is working well and fairly.

Yet in February 1972, James White, a Labour backbencher, introduced a Bill which, if passed, would wreck the Abortion Act, by making it much more difficult to get a National Health Service abortion.

Many liberal commentators laughed at him. In the debate in the House of Commons, he

and his supporters were trounced in the argument.

Yet, when it came to the vote, White's Bill was given a second reading by 203 to 88 votes. The Tory Party was solid behind it. The Labour Party was split.

The Bill went to a select committee. The committee agreed on nine ways of tightening up the Act. These covered almost every objection to the Act which White had made in February.

Yet, only last month, White and Co asked parliament to set up the select committee again so that they could wreck the Abortion Act with further amendments.

### Confident

Again, reformers scoffed. The Sunday Times weighed in with a powerful leader against the Bill. Many left-wing Labour MPs felt confident that they could vote down White's new move.

All the facts were against White, they argued. And the vote was on a Monday, when MPs who weren't interested might stay at home.

Yet more MPs voted than had ever voted on abortion in all history. 313 MPs, including nearly 100 Labour MPs, voted to give White the go-ahead. Only 172 voted against.

Why? Why has a House of

Commons, in which Labour and Liberals have a large majority vote, twice voted so overwhelmingly for such a reactionary measure?

Because the debate was decided, as it was in 1966, not on the facts about abortion, but by the prevailing economic and political situation.

In 1966, the class which owns property felt confident. In 1966, no one talked about a crisis in the capitalist system. In 1966, it did not need to impose moral laws in order to keep hold of its property.

Then it gave time and space in newspapers and television to liberals and reformers.

### Rampage

Now that class no longer feels safe or confident. Now it must fall back on its old moral codes, which it must impose on the masses. Now it must marshal its religious allies. Now it gives time and space to the most drivelling sensationalism and lies.

Against this reactionary rampage, Labour and Liberal MPs are hopelessly weak.

Parliament is constructed so that individual MPs vote according to the party whip or according to their consciences. Links between MPs and the people they represent—especially Labour MPs and working-class people—are discouraged.

So MPs are easy prey to the massively-financed anti-abortion lobby.

When an MP gets 50 letters a day telling him to vote for the James White Bill, he thinks: 'Well, I've nothing to lose by voting for the Bill. But I've a lot to lose if I vote against it'.

## Put not your faith in the MP's

THE National Abortion Campaign has built a powerful movement of resistance to the James White Bill. But many NAC campaigners still believe that the campaign should concentrate on persuading MPs to vote down the Bill.

They want to take on the Church and Property propaganda machine at its own game.

As long as the resistance to the James White Bill takes that road, the Bill is certain to become law.

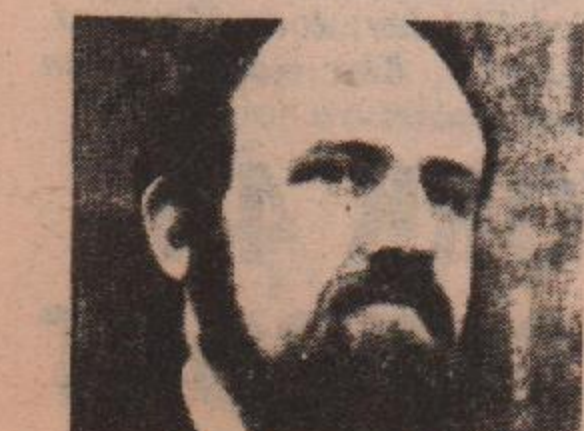
The key to successful resistance is the labour movement. On the factory floor, in council estates, workers can be won for a fight against the Bill. They can be won not by expense-account lobbyists but by men and women with whom they work.

### Organise

Trade unionists, once won to the campaign, can exert real influence and power against the Bill. They can organise campaigns inside hospitals and among doctors for making National Health abortions more available. They can instruct Labour MPs who vote for White that their trade union support will be withheld unless they vote against White.

Last September, the TUC voted almost unanimously for a campaign against the James White Bill. But a campaign will not just emerge. It has to be fought for in the rank and file—in union branches and in workplaces.

It must be fought for. For only a class campaign on our side can defeat the class campaign which is being waged on the other side by the Most Holy Order of Backstreet Abortionists.



Four MPs who have built their reputations on 'enlightened reformism'—BUT ARE NOW VOTING FOR THE James White Bill. From top: Shirley Williams, Philip Whitehead, Frank Judd and Ian Wrigglesworth.

## THE MEANING OF MARXISM

**Duncan Hallas**

This pamphlet is intended as an introduction to some of the leading ideas of Marxism

25p plus 7p postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4

### Lecture series on THE MEANING OF MARXISM

**CENTRAL LONDON:** Tuesdays, 6.30pm, The Roebuck Pub, Tottenham Court Road, (nearest Tube Goudge Street). Open to all SW readers.  
6 April—The revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**WEST LONDON:** Every second Tuesday at 8pm, Kings Head, Acton High Street, W3.  
6 April: Marxist economics. Speaker: John Ure.  
20 April: Why capitalism is in crisis. Speaker: Michael Kidron.  
4 May: What is imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
18 May: The Labour Party. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.  
1 June: Building the revolutionary socialist party. Speaker: Tony Cliff.

**SOUTH-WEST LONDON:** Every second Monday, 8pm, Battersea District Library, Lavender Hill, Clapham Junction, SW11 (Buses 19, 37, 49, 77, 168, 249).  
12 April: Marxist economics. Speaker: John Ure.  
26 April: Racism and imperialism. Speaker: Nigel Harris.  
10 May: The State. Speaker: Paul Foot.

**EDINBURGH:** Every second Thursday, 7.30pm, Trade Union Centre, Picardy Place.  
8 April: What is imperialism? Speaker: Jimmy McCallum.  
22 April: Nationalism and Socialism. Speaker: Allan Armstrong.  
6 May: Is there a parliamentary road to socialism? Speaker: Harry McShane.  
20 May: The revolutionary socialist alternative. Speaker: Peter Bain.  
3 June: What is the revolutionary socialist party? Speaker: Mick Napier.

**EAST LONDON:** Every second Friday, 7.30pm, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London. E8.  
9 April: The Meaning of Marxism. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

## WHAT THE FIGURES SHOW

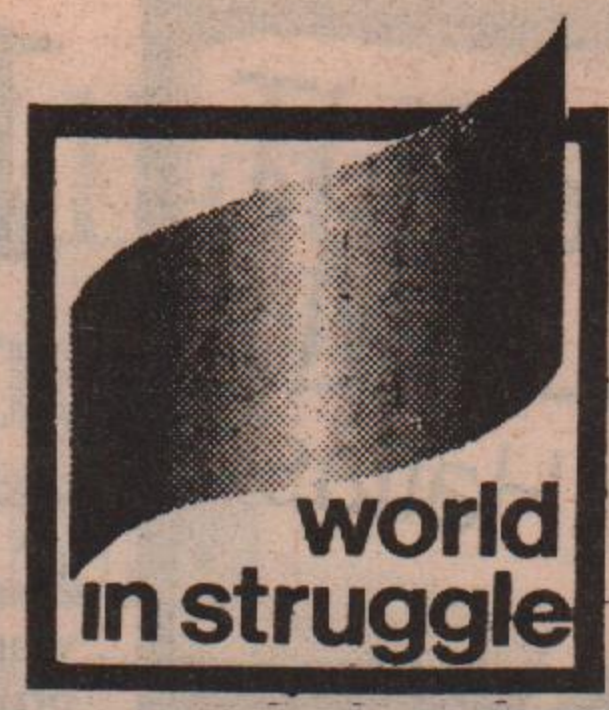
In 1975, the number of foreign women having abortions in Britain was down by 37 per cent. The total number of abortions was down by 14 per cent.

The West Midlands, has the lowest number of National Health Service abortions in the country outside London—but the highest total number of abortions. Newcastle has the highest number of National Health abortions, but the lowest total number of abortions.

This shows that the Abortion Act is reducing the number of abortions.

PICTURES: Angela Phillips (R report)

# ARGENTINA: DINNER PARTY JOY OVER COUP



## 20,000 Africans boycott over bus fares

by JAN MARSH

AFTER more than two weeks' walking, workers in the town of Springs, to the east of Johannesburg, are still refusing to travel the 10 kms to work and back by bus as a protest against fare rises.

Bus fares are an explosive issue in South Africa. Forced under apartheid segregation policies to live in townships several miles outside the 'white' town centres, yet also forced to travel into those towns to earn a living, African workers cannot avoid paying for transport.

The impressive thing about the Springs boycott has been its strength and organisation. When the first increase was announced—5 cents (3p) more for a single journey—the residents in Kwa Thema township began the boycott at once.

### Solidarity

It was total, and took the bus company by surprise. 'I was obviously well organised', said a spokesman. 'They started walking to work very early'.

They had to—to be at work by 8am in the white-owned factories and homes of Springs. Twenty thousand workers were involved: an impressive display of solidarity and determination.

At the end of the first day a mass meeting in the township voted to continue the boycott. It was their only weapon. Excluded by law from bargaining for higher pay through their unions, African workers have no other means of defending themselves against rising costs.

As he trudged wearily home after his day's work, Joseph Ramathibela said: 'We will keep on walking as long as this increase remains. The bus company must pay their drivers although there are no passengers. But let us see how long they can go on paying them while buses return empty every day.'

### Spirit

Later the company revealed it was losing 6000 Rand (£3500) a day on the route.

At first the bus company announced it would 'sit it out', evidently assuming the workers' spirit would be soon broken by sore feet.

Some employers began using their own trucks to transport their workers to and from home. The authorities began using 'persuasion' in an attempt to break the strike—the police warned employers they needed special permission to transport workers.

The proposed fare increase will eventually affect half a million Africans in several other cities. More boycotts are expected. Last October a major victory was won at Newcastle in northern Natal when steelworkers at the ISCOR plants forced down fares after a month-long boycott.

'THE military coup in Argentina and the collapse of the Peronist government gave a special glow to the dinner parties that make the upper class Argentinians the social lions of Latin America.

So the International Herald Tribune summed up the feelings of the ruling class about last week's coup.

The feelings of the workers will be rather different. Not that they were enthusiastic about the government of Isabela Peron.

It was a government that could not solve any of the problems facing the country. Inflation reached more than 700 per cent. The regime was so corrupt that the rich managed to avoid paying virtually any taxes—last year 70 per cent paid no income tax at all.

The workers were faced with repeated threats of wage freezes. They were only able to defeat these with massive strikes, as with the general strike last June.

### MURDERED

The army controlled the police and the prisons, holding more than 5000 political prisoners. Unofficial right-wing terror groups, like the Anti-Communist Alliance (AAA) murdered socialists and rank and file trade unionists almost at will.

The alliance was run by sections of the police and the government.

The background explains why the workers, who showed their immense power last year, were not prepared to move on any scale last week.

But the immediate impact of the coup will be to weaken the workers' movement still further.

The Isabela Peron regime was reactionary. But it



relied on the reactionary leaders of the trade unions, as well as on the army and the right-wing terror squads. So it was forced to make certain limited concessions to the workers' movement.

### BANNED

Now the generals are dispensing with the services of the trade union bureaucrats. They have occupied the trade union offices. They have suspended the labour code, leaving trade unionists without any legal protection. They have banned strikes.

Martial law has been imposed, with the death penalty for 'damage of any kind to public transport, communications, gas services or factories'. Troops are authorised to shoot offenders on the spot.

The organisation of the revolutionary left have been banned, although not the Communist Party.

Western commentators are claiming that the new military president, Videla, is a 'moderate' who will avoid repeating what took place in Chile. But there are strong pressures in Argentina for a Chilean solution.

## Portugal's 'press freedom' exposed

THE right-wing socialists who dominate the Portuguese government showed last week how hollow is their talk of 'freedom of the press'.

They imposed £2000 bail on Isabel de Carmo, editor of *Revolucão*, the paper of the revolutionary socialist PRP, and ordered her to attend for trial. Her crime? Printing articles accusing the government and the military council of the revolution of following

anti-working class policies.

The government's sensitivity is perhaps explained by the growing number of strikes. The threat of conscription into the armed forces had to be used to break the nurses' strike. Even then, nurses in Lisbon's hospitals continued with a work-to-rule.

In Oporto, a one-day strike of shop assistants met with considerable support. The workers are threatening an all-out strike if their wage demands are not met soon.

There were other strikes in Oporto by gas and electricity workers over wages, bus crews in the towns of Coimbra, Avera, Beja, Ferreira do Alentejo and Nazare and shopworkers in Evora and Beja.

In Sanimar, locked-out building workers broke into their workplace to guard the machinery against the employer, who wanted to move it. The paramilitary police attacked the workers and after much violence

succeeded in throwing them out.

The construction workers were due to be involved in an all-out strike, since the employers have been refusing to give the workers a new wage agreement. But the Communist Party-controlled national negotiating committee decided to suspend the strike. They claimed: 'The social instability in which we are living today means that such a strike could be made use of by forces wanting to see the return of fascism.'

PLACES are still available on the delegation of trade unionists to visit Portugal at the end of April. Its aim is to see the workers' struggle at first hand and to discuss with Portuguese workers what active solidarity is possible in Britain.

Contact the Rank and File Organising Committee, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## EGYPT: 17,000 TEXTILE WORKERS OUT OVER PAY

SEVENTEEN thousand Egyptian textile workers clashed with police last week. The workers, from Damietta at the mouth of the Nile, were protesting at the withholding of annual bonuses. They burnt down several shops, before being attacked by riot police with batons and teargas.

At the same time several hundred workers marched through the streets of Cairo, calling for wages to keep up with the cost of living and for

better living conditions.

President Sadat attacked the strikers, saying that 'strikes, disturbances and pressure from any element against the government are strictly forbidden'.

Sadat must be afraid of a repetition of strikes last year. Then there were massive demonstrations on the streets of Cairo, and in March virtually an uprising in the cotton town of Mehalla el Kobra, south of Alexandria.



Early warning: Air force soldiers man a barricade after they seized three bases in December.

## Why Argentina?

ARGENTINA is not a backward, agricultural country as many people think. It is a predominantly industrial country, where workers are a higher proportion of the population than in, say, Italy.

For Argentinian big business, economic advance has depended on holding wages and living standards back. It is because it has not been able to reconcile such a policy with 'democratic' forms of government that the country's history over the past 20 years has been one of repeated coups.

The problem for the workers' movement has been that by far the most powerful political force within it has preached the unity of workers and the national ruling class. This force has not been orthodox social democracy or the Communist Party, as in most other countries, but Peronism.



President Estela Peron: Her overthrow is the end of a 20-year illusion.

It grew in the years immediately after the Second World War, when international economic devastation and the world meat shortage gave the Argentine economy massive advantages. The then military president, Juan Peron, was able to combine high living standards for the workers with high profits for big business.

By the 1950s, this reconciliation of opposed interests was no longer possible. Peron was removed from power by a coup.

But the vast majority of workers dreamed of a return to the period of high wages and identified it with a return of Peron to political power.

The military dictatorship that followed Peron found it could not smash the workers' movement by simple repres-

sion and finally decided, in 1973, to allow Peron to return.

The years since have been bewildering for those workers who believed in Peron. He soon showed that the interests of Argentine big business came before those of the workers. When he died, his widow Isabela took over.

The Peronist movement split between a left wing and a right wing.

The left wing, including the Monteneros urban guerrillas, have considerable support in the massive industrial city of Cordoba, where the car plants are. The non-Peronist ERP (Popular Army of Revolution) is said to have strong bases in the far north of the country.

### Illusions

But the left has not yet broken with the illusions of Peronism. The Monteneros still dream of a 'united national struggle' based on Peronist principles, including sections of the ruling class. Even the ERP talks of the 'fatherland' rather than class struggle.

The working class has already paid a bitter price for accepting the politics of class collaboration. Under the new dictatorship it will need revolutionary, class leadership even more.

## BOOK BARGAIN Until Easter

Michael Farrell: **NORTHERN IRELAND: THE ORANGE STATE**  
The first political history of the puppet state and its current disintegration. £5 paperback.

Geoffrey Bell: **THE PROTESTANTS OF ULSTER**  
The history, the culture, the jobs, the politics of the 'most criticised and misunderstood community in Western Europe'. £2.00 paperback.

Pre-publication Offer: £5.00 for both, post free (cash with orders only).  
Pluto Press, unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH.



# TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Duncan Hallas

Thy children shall be brainwasheth in school and thy Labour MPs, though not believing in the word of the Lord, shalt decently turn the other cheek...

# 11th Commandment

A MOTION recognising the need to maintain and improve the opportunities for religious education and an act of worship in schools was approved (by the House of Commons) without a division. (Guardian, 20 March).

## Burning

So what? Granted, the question of the indoctrination of children with religious dogma in schools is hardly the most burning issue of the day.

But the resolution is still worth noting as an excellent example of the

cynicism and hypocrisy of MPs, and especially of Labour MPs.

The official Tory spokesman, St John Stevas, declared in the debate: 'It is right that doctrinal teaching should carry on about the great facts of existence—death, judgement, hell, heaven, salvation and redemption.'

'It is right that teaching about these truths should be provided in the maintained (school) system.'

It is possible, of course, that the man sincerely believes in these dogmas. If so he is not typical.

For there is not the slightest doubt that the majority of MPs, and most certainly the great majority of Labour MPs, no more believe in heaven and hell than they believe that the moon is made of green cheese.

In this respect, if in no other, they are

representative of the bulk of the population. Stevas, who has at least the merit of candour, tells us:

'The fact that church-going is declining makes it all the more important to preserve the act of worship in schools.'

In other words, because Christianity is steadily losing ground, the state school system must continue to be used to prop it up as far as possible.

## Compulsory

Margaret Jackson, Tribune and Education Under-Secretary, hastened to reassure him that the government had no intention of amending the 1944 Education Act which, for the first time, made religious indoctrination compulsory in all state schools.

And the unbelieving majority of MPs was only too happy to agree, without any dissenting vote, that children should continue to be taught, as 'these truths', dogmas which they themselves privately dismiss out of hand.

Why? *Sheep cowardice and opportunism in the case of some Labour MPs.*

But for others, and for most of the Tories, because they secretly agree with Marx that religion is 'the opium of the people'.

They support compulsory religious indoctrination in schools as a prop, albeit a pretty rotten prop nowadays, of the status quo.

One Labour MP, Richard Crawshaw, put it this way: 'It is essential to have some basic principles of morality, which are best attended to by the Church of England.'

Although religion is much weaker now than it was when Marx first wrote about it (1844), his words are still relevant.

'The foundation of criticism of religion is this: man makes religion, religion does not make man.'

'Religion is indeed the self-consciousness and self-awareness of man who either has not yet attained to himself or has already lost himself again ...'

## Suffering

'Thus, the struggle against religion is indirectly the struggle against that world whose spiritual aroma is religion.'

'Religious suffering is at the same time an expression of real suffering and a protest against real suffering.'

'Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, the spirit of unspiritual conditions. It is the opium of the people.'

'The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is the demand for their real happiness.'

'The demand to give up the illusions about their conditions is a demand to give up the conditions that require illusions.'

Now you might suppose that some left-wing MP, not bold enough perhaps to vote for the abolition of religious indoctrination outright, might at least have put an amendment to have that point of view included in the syllabus so that it could be discussed.

## Shaped

Not a bit of it. Not one of them had the gumption.

Instead, the left-wing, Tribune Under-Secretary assured the House of Commons:

'We acknowledge that since Christianity is the religion which has shaped our national culture, it must play a leading and major part in any programme of religious education in our schools.'

In small things as in great, the Labour Party proves that it is 'fit to govern'!

# IN THE COURTS - A BAD WEEK FOR THE NAZIS

DETAILED evidence of under-cover Hitlerite activity in Britain came to light last week in a trial which ended with two former National Front members being jailed.

Tape-recordings of conversations between British Nazis operating in the Midlands show, among a number of other things, that a network of contacts existed at an international level.

An offer had been made, for instance, to Belgian Nazis to visit Northern Ireland for a 'working holiday' with the guarantee of 'a kill'.

The trip was to be organised by the Ulster Defence Association with Column 88, a shadowy group of Nazis in this country acting as go-betweens. Other plans included

the setting up of Ku Klux Klan branches in Britain.

The tape-recordings were made by an anti-fascist, David Roberts, who had infiltrated the Nazi groups.

Mr Roberts, to preserve his cover, took part in an attack on an Indian restaurant with two Nazis, David King and John McLaren.

He received a suspended jail sentence at Birmingham Crown Court last week while King and McLaren, both 'expelled' from the National Front for 'extremism', were jailed for two years and a year.

Just how seriously the NF took King's 'expulsion' and 'extremism' can be gauged from the fact that when he organised parties to celebrate Hitler's birthday, many of those present were NF members...



WONDERFUL, OUR POLICE: Right to Work Marcher Martin Brownbridge, arrested after the Staples Corner attacks, gave the police his home address in York so as to get bail. York police duly paid a visit and were told by Martin's friends that, yes, he did live there. Back to Martin's cell at Paddington. 'Sorry, they've never heard of you at that address—you'll have to stay inside for the night ...'

WHILE on the subject of Britain's creeping police state, consider the case of Hoylake rugby club.

They were leading Birkenhead Park 9-0 recently when, in the middle of the match, police arrested their prop forward Kenneth Roberts for not paying a motoring fine.

A senior police spokesman said: 'It was felt best to expedite the warrant at that time.' Stripped of Roberts' services, Hoylake eventually lost 9-10.

Club officials say the law's action was revenge. Hoylake had thrashed a police team 38-12 the previous Saturday ...

HAD ANY good free meals lately? Reginald Maudling has. In fact, he had two in one day last week.

Hardly had the bloated Tory finished stuffing himself at a Downing Street luncheon for Russia's Gromyko, than he was scurrying back in the evening for ... that's right, a dinner for Russia's Gromyko.

The bill for Maudling's blow-out, which came to more than most workers earn in a week, was paid for out of taxes (that is, what is stolen from most workers in a week).

SOCIALIST WORKER has learned to live with phone-tapping. But we're obviously not the only ones with problems ...

A reporter on the magazine Street Life arranged for former CIA agent Philip Agee to phone him at 5.30pm one day recently.

Another reporter happened, however, to be using the same phone at that time, speaking to CBS Records. Suddenly there was a pause, a click and then the sound of his conversation being played back to him ten seconds after he had spoken.

Clearly the phone tappers need better equipment ...



British Nazis parading at the fascist shrine of Diksmuide in Belgium: it's here that international contacts are made—such as the one to bring Nazis to Northern Ireland 'for a kill'.

# British justice strikes again

ENGINEERING worker Larry Joyce had just got home from the factory when, suddenly, two detectives burst in and started firing questions at him.

Did he have any money on him? How much? One cop seized Larry's jacket and turned it upside down, emptying the contents.

He then ransacked the bathroom of Larry's

Huddersfield home, breaking a basket and weighing scales in the process.

Larry, bewildered, was then taken from the house and put in the back of a police car.

There he found his foreman, who told him £200 was missing from the foundry office at Hopkinson's, where they both work.

More questions from the police. What were his

movements that day?

Larry, still confused, was finally released with the words: 'If we come for you again, we'll take you in.'

Larry was the only worker in the foundry to get a police visit, a fact not unconnected with his politics. As an active Republican and a member of the Communist Party, he has been visited by the police several times in the past.

Back to work the next

day. The money, he was told, had been found ...

No apology was offered or given by personnel manager Alan Brown. An official union complaint was lodged, but not until 10 February, 12 weeks later, was Larry told of management's reply: a brief, almost insulting, apology.

This is known as British justice ...

# WITHOUT COMMENT

Free speech and the right to work are among the rights guaranteed by the law and it's the duty of the police to uphold them. We often find this task extremely difficult.

—Sir Robert Mark, head of the Metropolitan Police, giving the Dimbleby Lecture in 1973.

1155 MAR 23  
CORRECTION IN NEW LEAD SUMMARY 1200 VIA GNS  
PLEASE NOTE THAT MR FOOT IS SECRETARY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND NOT UNEMPLOYMENT +

—from a BBC Radio Stoke news bulletin, 23 March

GIVE ME a leaflet and I'll stick it down your gullet.

With those delightful words, John Kingsley-Read—Fuehrer of the National Party—sped for all he was worth down a Manchester street, hotly pursued by anti-fascists.

He had just emerged from court, where an injunction had been placed on him to stop the distribution of racist material.

Kingsley-Read told the hearing, held two weeks ago, that he was one of the dole and lived on contributions from his supporters.

To which the judge replied that his supporters would simply have to foot the bill for his £800 costs ...

RECENTLY, I heard a bloke from Shelter nattering about housing the homeless.

He threw out—almost as a casual aside—a fascinating fact. Apparently, statistics had shown that most local authorities spend more administering rent collections than they rake in.

This is especially true of rent arrears. Indeed, one London borough, Islington, made a profit when a NALGO strike ground the system to a halt.

In other words, providing council houses free would be cheaper than offering them for rent!

But the root objection to the rent system is that it butchers human dignity.

It thrives on rationing and stigma. Do what we say! Pay what we say! Otherwise out!

Yet it is all unnecessary. By planning our resources properly—putting human need before privilege and profit—we could all have a home, (just one), free.

DAVID BUNCH

SACRIFICE CORNER: £1,000 million was spent on advertising in Britain last year, according to J Walter Thompson, an advertising agency.

# Socialist Worker

## EDITORIAL

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# JOB'S: Let's make this a real Day of Action!

THERE WERE some very good speeches at last Saturday's Assembly on Unemployment.

There were also some very theatrical speeches, and some very bad speeches which show up many of the problems the working class movement faces.

Topping the bill of the theatrical performers was undoubtedly Ray Buckton, general secretary of the train drivers' union, ASLEF, who immediately took flight into wordy left wing rhetoric.

He declared himself incredulous that, instead of changing the system, the Labour government was proposing it up.

## Demand

When it came to practical solutions, however, Ray Buckton suddenly lost his spellbinding capacity. Patchwork measures, he declared, would not work.

Then of course, he issued a call for import controls, a patchwork measure if ever there was one.

He called for 'urgent measures that attack capitalism'. But always from someone else. His urgent measures did not include supporting his own train drivers in their recent action against the cuts.

Buckton's calls for import controls against Japanese goods brought out the worst in Phil Ballard, a member of the National Union of Seamen.

He launched into the most disgraceful speech about the alleged menace of the Race Relations Act allowing importation of Third World labour to work aboard British ships.

Ballard did not disclose that for the past year his union has been accepting a pay-off from

**SOCIALIST WORKER** welcomes the Assembly's call for a national day of action against unemployment.

A national mobilisation can provide a massive boost to the fight for the Right to Work.

It will give new heart to those who are fighting against redundancies and the government's cuts. And it will provide a focus of opposition to the TUC General Council's attempt to get support for a renewal of its disastrous wage restraint measures at either a special TUC or a meeting of trade union executives.

Experience shows that it is no good relying on the call from a body like the Assembly for the day of action to be translated into reality.



Some of the big names who were on the platform—like Ray Buckton of ASLEF—will do little to mobilise for the call. Indeed, they may try and sabotage it.

The onus for making it a success will depend upon the rank and file bodies that mobilised for the Assembly itself and for the Right to

## 26 MAY All out — support the 44

### WHAT WE THINK

Work rally in the Albert Hall the week before.

So organising for the day of action has to be a central task for all rank and file activists over the next seven weeks.

Regrettably, the organisers of the Assembly did not do all they could to make that mobilisation easy. By refusing to permit discussion on how organisation for it fitted in with the campaign to defend the 44 Right to Work marchers who were attacked by the police and who come up for trial on 21 May, the chair opened the door for the right wing press to speak of 'splits' in the Assembly. Many delegates left confused about where their priorities should lie.

Many felt like Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary of the AUEW, who said: 'We have always

had our disagreements and our differences in the movement. But we must not be prepared to stand aside and see any section attacked by the police and done down.

'We must make sure that on 21 May, when they come up to court, there are mass demonstrations'.

Dennis Skinner added his voice to the call for action on 21 May. 'The movement never fought hard enough to keep Des Warren Out'. The Clay Cross councillors were now being made bankrupt because they hadn't been supported.

'Let's not say we can ignore the courts. If we allow them to be picked off you can be absolutely sure others will follow'.

That is why the National Right to Work Campaign is urging people both to picket the court on 21 May

and to work for the biggest possible turn-out on the day of action.

There need be no contradiction between the two. On the 21st, key thing is to impress on the courts that they are not just taking on a isolated unemployed marchers, people who have the support of a considerable section of the trade union movement.

That means there must be a picket with large numbers of delegates from union bodies and union branches.

The Day of Action, by contrast, should be based not just on delegates, but on the action of whole sections of workers in their workplace meetings and demonstrations, if possible on a page-by-page basis, depending on the strength and organisation of particular groups.



There is, however, one problem that the Assembly was allowed to consider properly. This is to be either a special TUC meeting of trade union executives within days of the 26 May.

The Assembly declaration of action on that day, but does not relate the action on the 26 May this.

We believe that the most appropriate Day of Action would be that of the TUC meeting. That is the day on which the fate of the new phase of the government's income policy will be decided.

That is the day on which the leaders of the unions should be made aware of their membership opposition to the cuts and the high level of unemployment.

We would urge trade union bodies and the organisers of the Assembly to try and make sure even at this late date, that the day of national action is the day of the TUC's special meeting and not a few days before or after.

Last Saturday's call can be a vital step in the fight back against the government's Tory policies. Let's campaign for a successful fighting Day of Action.



Right to Work Campaign Secretary John Deason addressing the Assembly: 'We need rank and file pressure to fight unemployment,' he said.

the British employers for agreeing to let Asian seamen work at lower rates.

He did not issue a call for the organisation of the Asian seamen into the Seamen's Union. On the contrary, he demanded controls against Third World labour.

Fortunately, big sections of the audience showed that they would have no truck with these poisonous notions.

Earlier a young Asian worker, B Gill from Ford

## Laurie Flynn reports from the Assembly on Unemployment

Langley, had won loud applause when he objected to those who say the solution to unemployment lies in such attacks on our fellow workers.

'We will never find a solution to unemployment as long as we set worker against worker. The only solution that can save us is a socialist solution.'

At no time on this crucial issue did the platform attempt to give a lead.

Why? Because the Assembly is mainly conceived as a means of pressure on the Labour government to change its course a little, rather than as a means of activating layers of the working class to tackle unemployment from the bottom up.

This was the theme John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign drove home.

'When we started our march for the right to work', he said, 'we started with some very simple ideas. The first of these was that the employed and the unemployed had to unite to tackle unemployment.'

'We also tried to hammer home the message that it was

the rank and file that had the remedy to unemployment.

'That remedy lies not in nationalistic slogans and calls for import controls. It lies in fighting and fighting hard for bans against overtime, for the shorter working week and longer holidays.'

'We must fight for occupation when sackings are declared and we must fight to force nationalisation'.

'What worries me is that people will go away from here looking for someone else to do something.'

'In fact, every single trade unionist can take up the fight on the shop floor. We can fight unemployment with real rank and file pressure.'

The morning session of the Assembly closed with a speech from Elsa Warren, wife of jailed picket Des Warren.

She noted that the directors of Murphy's had been jailed over the lump. It was interesting, she added, that they had only plotted while Des had conspired.

Mrs Warren brought a message from Des in jail for action against unemployment.

Ernie Roberts, assistant

general secretary of the Engineering Union, made a fighting speech.

'We need united action by employed and unemployed workers', he said.

'The task of the next Prime Minister is not to prop up a decadent system which causes poverty, unemployment and war, but to change it.'

'Our movement must fight for the thirty-five hour week and longer holidays. We must bring an end to the outrageous amount of overtime still being worked.'

Bro Roberts also insisted on support for the attacked Right to Work Marchers.

### March

Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, underlined that Parliament was not for the working class. It only produced anything of value, he stressed, when the working class movement was united in action.

The conference ended in some turmoil as the organisers declined to shift their proposed date of action to 21 May, the day the marchers appear in court. They offered no explanation to the marchers.

Nevertheless 26 May will be a day of action. And it will be a very successful one if people fight and fight hard.

The potential is there. What is needed is the will and the hard work.

## What the Confed proposed

THE LONDON Confed and the London Co-op Political Committee put forward the following resolutions to the Assembly. No amendments were accepted.

- This Assembly proposes as a minimum guide the following actions:
- The recall of the Trades Union Congress and Labour Party Conference in order to mobilise the Movement for support of the policies outlined above.
- Letters, telegrams, resolutions to Trades Unions, the Labour Government and from Labour Movement organisation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer before Budget Day, 6 April.
- Make the fight against unemployment the main theme of May Day demonstrations throughout the country.
- A National Day of Action on Wednesday, 26 May, to include marches, demonstrations and whatever is felt to be the most

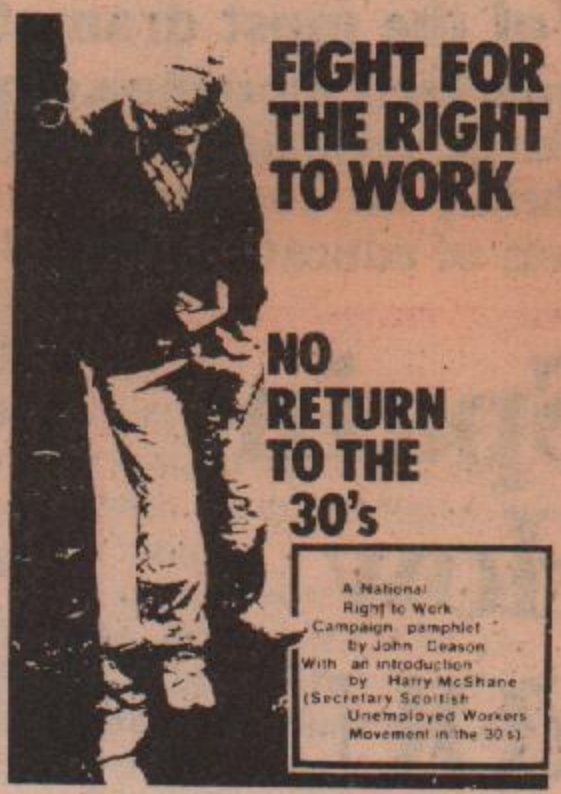
appropriate action in each area of Britain. These actions should take place during working hours. In London and the Home Counties it is proposed to organise a march and lobby of MPs at the House of Commons.

□ Organise delegations to lobby the TUC Special Conference of Executives.

□ Arrange meetings with MPs in their constituencies on unemployment and the cuts and also propose that towns meetings be held.

□ To establish Action Committees to campaign against unemployment based on Trades Councils, Trades Unions, factory groups, political organisations and to support actions taken by workers in defence of their jobs.

□ The two organisers of this Assembly, the London Co-op Political Committee and the No 8 Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, will consider organising mass demonstrations at the TUC and Labour Party conferences to press for policies that will lead to full employment.



What the Right to Work Campaign is all about. 19p (inc postage) or 10p a copy for orders of ten or more. From Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## The arrested marchers need your help . . .

If you were a witness of the attacks on the Right to Work March, then you must get in touch with the Right to Work Campaign Office, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4. If you have photographs or information of any variety please do not hesitate.

## ...and your money

It will cost a lot of money to keep up the Right to Work Campaign and defend our arrested brothers and sisters. So, brothers and sisters, dig deep, raise the matter in your stewards' committee and branch. Affiliate to the campaign and/or send us some money earmarked for the Defence Campaign. Send all monies to: Right to Work Campaign Defence Fund Treasurer, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London N4.



# This is our struggle



LEFT: Fascist police armed with submachine guns stand guard in Madrid.



RIGHT: Raising the Catalan flag over a Franco war memorial in Barcelona.

**THE third of March 1976 will remain in the memory of the working class of Vitoria as one of the most dramatic in their history.**

From early morning a general strike paralysed all the large companies—with the sole exception of Michelin, all the small factories, building sites, centres of education, most businesses, bars, banks.

The call, launched by the Commissions representing the factories in struggle was a resounding success. All the people of Vitoria expressed, in an impressive and clear way, their solidarity with the workers on strike demanding the reinstatement of the sacked workers.

At 10am the first large demonstration of the day took place. From the Andurza district some 8000 people marched towards the centre of the city, where they waited for a large number of students to join the demonstration.

The police fell on the demonstrators with an extraordinary violence, using all their resources; rubber bullets, tear gas, firearms.

On hearing the first shots nobody thought of the tragedy that was approaching. Nobody, save the fascist authorities, which had already decided how the Vitorian workers' struggle would end.

### Massive

At midday there was another massive demonstration in the Avenida del Generalísimo, at the same time as other smaller demonstrations were taking place in the working-class districts. In front of the Telephone Exchange a vast crowd of women were repeating the slogans that were resounding throughout the city.

'Reinstate the sacked workers!'  
'Less police, more work!'

The whole town participated in the struggle. Some people demonstrated in the street, others from the windows of their houses supported the demonstrations, others helping those chased by the police to escape.

The behaviour of the armed police continued in the same vein as the morning. In their enthusiasm to threaten the population they even began to fire their machine guns and use smoke bombs against

**SOLIDARIDAD VITORIA**  
UNA JORNADA DRAMÁTICA

This report is taken from a leaflet produced by the coordinating committee of the Workers' Commissions of the Basque Country.

people who appeared at their windows.

At 1pm the forces of repression momentarily abandoned their positions, something that was taken advantage of by the Vitorian people in order to organise themselves. They built barricades.

### Church

Some 5000 people assembled in the Church of St Francisco to reflect on the situation and work out plans of action for the afternoon. But the 'greys' soon returned, surrounding the church to stop more people from entering the meeting. They wouldn't even allow the representatives from the factories on strike to enter the church.

Within a short time a large number of people were concentrated outside the church, were shouting slogans deman-

ding the reinstatement of the sacked workers, the withdrawal of the police, and that the employers accept the demands of the striking workers.

The tension increased every minute. The 'greys' who surrounded the church received reinforcements and, without waiting for more, brutally attacked those standing outside the church. At the same time they began throwing bombs of tear gas into the church through the windows.

There is no need to explain the consequences. Immediately the interior of the church became completely unbearable.

The police waited outside. The orders they received were precise. A few minutes earlier the 'greys' who surrounded the church had received the following message on their radios: 'If you cannot disperse the crowd in any other way, SHOOT TO

### KILL.

That is what they did. As soon as those inside the church began to leave, sick from the gas, the armed police charged them, waving batons in all directions.

The workers tried to defend themselves in any way possible from the aggression.

Immediately, the police began to machine-gun the crowd. To kill. The screams of the crowd were so loud they drowned the noise of the machine guns which continued unfeelingly.

### Murdered

Three comrades, Pedro Maria Martinez, Romualdo Burroso and Francisco Aznar, were murdered. More than a hundred were wounded by fascist bullets.

Horror, indignation and uncontrollable anger extended throughout Vitoria as

people heard the news.

There were not just the deaths. There were some comrades whose lives hung precariously between life and death. One with a bullet through his head, one with his liver destroyed, one with a perforated throat, one who had been hit in the testicles, another who had his leg amputated...

The same night the Committee of Representatives [of the striking factories] agreed to issue a call to express their solidarity with the people of Vitoria and issued the following document:

After two months of strikes by the whole working class and working people demanding bread, the answer from the employers, with their government backing them up, is one, two, three deaths and large numbers of wounded.

The working class and the people of Vitoria demand popular justice for the murderers of the dead workers.

We demand the removal of the Civil Governor, the Chief of the Police, of the Mayor, and the President of the Committee. We demand the dissolution of all repressive bodies.

In the face of such a massacre we call for an INDEFINITE GENERAL STRIKE of the whole working class and people of Vitoria.

We call on the whole town to attend factory and neighbourhood meetings and that everybody comes out on the streets.



Barcelona demonstrators flee charging police.



## PARTY CALLS FOR NATIONAL STRIKE

A SPANISH revolutionary, a member of the Organisation of the Communist Left (OICE), explained to a Socialist Worker supporter the perspective for the workers' struggle in Spain. We publish a summary here.

TODAY Spanish big business is aiming at a so-called 'democratic' evolution from the present government, in which the Minister of the Interior, Fraga, plays a key role. They see this as a political solution to a situation in which purely fascist methods cannot control the workers' movement.

But their reforms are resisted by the so-called 'immobilist' section, or 'bunker'. This is made up of bureaucrats who got their jobs because of their fascism. They are linked to the Fascist

unions, the Cortes—the fascist parliament, and the repressive forces. This gives them the power to obstruct the reform.

At the same time, they know that if they don't make some adjustment they could lose their positions completely. So in the fascist unions they are trying to adapt a little.

### Reformist

The reformist groups with the workers' movement, such as the Communist Party, see this clash between the immobilists and the reformist section of big business as the central cause of the political crisis. But we say that the ma-

## Spain: How YOU can help

THE information in these pages comes from newspapers and pamphlets printed secretly in Spain, sources that don't exist in Britain.

We can only print the facts about the Spanish workers' struggles because of the consistent work of the International Socialists in building contacts with Spanish revolutionaries, by sending delegates to underground conferences of revolutionary organisations.

We want to send money to our comrades in Spain. Every secretly printed paper or bulletin puts their printshop or duplicator at risk. They need money to replace those seized by police.

So the workers of Spain need your support, political and financial. Raise the question in your trade union or workplace. Send a donation—individual or collection—to the SW International Fund.

Total this week £97.70. Thanks to R. Powell, £5, Exeter University. NOISS £10, GLC £5 members £3.20, Newcastle, £5 £4.30. Anon £9.90, SW readers in Lisbon £20, sales of pamphlets £27.60.

Donations to SW International Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.



# gggle

## THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM IN SPAIN- IN THE WORDS OF THE WORKERS THEMSELVES



FAR RIGHT: Socialists give the clenched fist salute as they march through Madrid demanding the release of political prisoners.

SPAIN has experienced in the past three months the greatest wave of struggle since the civil war.

Millions of workers have taken part in the strike wave. Hundreds of thousands have defied the armed fascist police to join street demonstrations and mass meetings.

Hundreds of workers' representatives have been arrested. Several have been murdered.

One expression of the workers' upsurge has been the flowering of the underground, illegal revolutionary press. Dozens of duplicated workers' newspapers and bulletins have appeared, in tens of thousands of copies, to be passed from hand to hand in the factories and working-class districts.

We print here extracts from two of these to tell to workers in Britain some of the story of how the workers of Spain are fighting for their rights against a fascist state.

**THE Valencian region has never known a strike movement as extensive and militant, as that in January. Strikes, demonstrations, mass meetings, lock-outs spread and involved the majority of the Valencian working class.**

The struggle began with negotiations over new wage agreements. The demands were drawn up at open meetings of workplace delegates to the fascist unions, the CNS.

The climate of struggle was reinforced by the fight in Bunol.

In this town of 10,000 inhabitants there had been a conflict since July last year in the Cointex factory, which has 220 workers. This was caused by the unbearable heat. The management responded by sacking the workplace delegates and taking sanctions against seven other workers.

### Chaotic

At their trial before the magistrate, the rest of the workers and members of the public shut themselves up in the church.

In the days that followed, the whole population of Bunol went on to the streets, producing several confrontations with the repressive forces. The movement came to a climax on 10 January with the closing of all shops and a demonstration of the whole population.

This mobilisation caused

## 'There were massive meetings, where the workers began to play the key role instead of the delegates to the fascist unions'

*From VOZ OBRERO (Voice of the Workers), Valencian edition*

the resignation of the mayor of the town and of the district delegate of the fascist union, as well as getting a judgment from the magistrates favourable to the sacked workers.

It was then that the struggles in the construction and metalworking industries flowed over into the streets. The fascist union began to refuse to allow workers to use its building. They had to meet in churches or in the streets.

There were massive meetings, where the workers began to play the key role instead of the delegates to the fascist unions. The meetings usually ended with demonstrations. By mid-January the strike in construction was total throughout the region of Valencia.

Workers in other factories and industries joined in the struggle for their own particular demands. The banks began with the first partial strikes in mid-January.

On 25 January textiles entered into struggle. There were victimisations in many factories. The workers went on to the streets with daily meetings and demonstrations.

At the same time began the strike of health workers and teachers. On 24 January the workers of the La Fe hospital held their first mass meeting.

At the beginning of February the teachers' strike began. At mass meetings they decided to create information commissions that explained to pupils and parents the issues.

On 11 February there were intermittent stoppages in the furniture industry. At the beginning of February there were the first mass meetings in the graphics industry.

From a distance, all these mobilisations can appear as a single struggle. But in reality they were sectional struggles that coincided in time. This was caused by the rising cost of living, the relaxation of repression for a brief period and the coming together of the negotiations for the renewal of different agreements.

### Spark

One of the principal impulses to these movements in their early phase was given by the reformist currents, especially the Communist Party. Through the meetings of delegates to the fascist unions they could act as a spark of considerable importance.

But they never intended that the movement should get out of hand. In the mass meetings they showed themselves in favour of partial stoppages and not all-out strikes. They never meant the distinct sectors to come together in a united struggle against the central problem, the wage freeze and the need for a Workers' Union.

When, in the struggle in construction, they saw themselves overtaken in the key role by the mass meetings and the delegate committees elected from them, the reform-

mists did an about-turn and supported the signing of agreements without consulting mass meetings.

The reformists tried to capitalise on the strikes on behalf of the politics of class collaboration. On 16 January there took place a peaceful demonstration to deliver a petition. There were 25,000

people on the demonstration, ranging from the Christian Democrats to the extreme left.

The slogan shouted was different from that on workers' demonstrations on the days before and after. Instead of 'The people united will never be defeated!', the construction workers chanted on the days after: 'The class

united will never be defeated!'

The initiative in many cases began with the delegates to the fascist unions.

But everywhere the idea that the assemblies had the maximum authority dominated, that the important decisions must be taken in assemblies and not by delegates.



# Don't miss it

This May Day is going to be special. A Socialist Worker special. For the 50th anniversary of the General Strike, Socialist Worker is bringing out a special issue. Make sure your Trade Union organisation gets its May Day greetings in. For only £1 you could reach over 100,000 fellow trade unionists and their families.

**Send in your greetings NOW**

**RATES**

Special Classified  
20 words £1

Semi-Display  
3cms single col (3x3½cms)  
up to 20 words £1.50

Display  
3cms single col (3x3½cms)  
up to 15 words £2  
6cms single col (6x3½cms)  
up to 30 words £4  
6cms double col (6x7cms)  
up to 60 words £8

For special positions or size rates or any enquiries ring  
01-739 2639

Final copy date  
Friday 16 April

Fill in this coupon and attach it to your greeting (typed if possible) and send it to: **Socialist Worker May Day**, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

I would like the following size of greeting (please tick)  Special Classified  Semi-display  3cms single display  6cms single display  6cms double display

Name and Address of Organisation

**Socialist Worker**

I enclose cheque/PO for .....

## IONAL RECONCILIATION

contradiction is between the ruling class as a whole and the workers' movement.

Big business is frightened to do more than slowly reform the present structure, because it still needs the repressive forces to hold back wages. It is frightened of a decisive break with fascism.

Only a situation of massive struggle, of mass strikes and so on, would force the middle class to accept such a break.

But the Communist Party cannot give the lead needed to produce such struggles.

It wants to show big business that it has to be taken into account, that it controls the movement of workers. So

it wants token demonstrations and strikes that it can control.

In the past three months there have been massive struggles starting with concrete programmes of demands. But the Communist Party has not been agitating round these, but around general slogans.

### Bitter

Struggles around concrete demands will be bitter, as in Vitoria.

If revolutionaries put forward concrete demands, however, they are able to keep the movement going. For instance in the Barcelona

construction strike, after nine days the Communist Party said return to work—but the workers kept up the fight for concrete demands for another three to four days.

After the Vitoria shootings the revolutionary and semi-revolutionary organisations in the Basque Country put out a call for a general strike together with the workers' commissions. The Communist Party said nothing.

In Barcelona, the Catalan Communist Party merely stepped up its calls for 'national reconciliation'.

But there were massive strikes in the Basque Country of 400,000 workers.

# Socialist Worker NEWS...

# ...and WHAT'S ON

## 70 HEAR CLIFF ON LENIN

DUNDEE: 70 people heard Tony Cliff speaking on Lenin and the need for a revolutionary party.

Cliff clearly set out the historical background of the Bolshevik Party, pointing out that it was not solely on the initiatives of Lenin or Trotsky that the Russian Revolution took place.

He pointed out that in fact the Bolshevik leaders were 24 hours too late in issuing a leaflet calling for a general strike. Cliff clearly indicated the revolutionary potential of the working class.

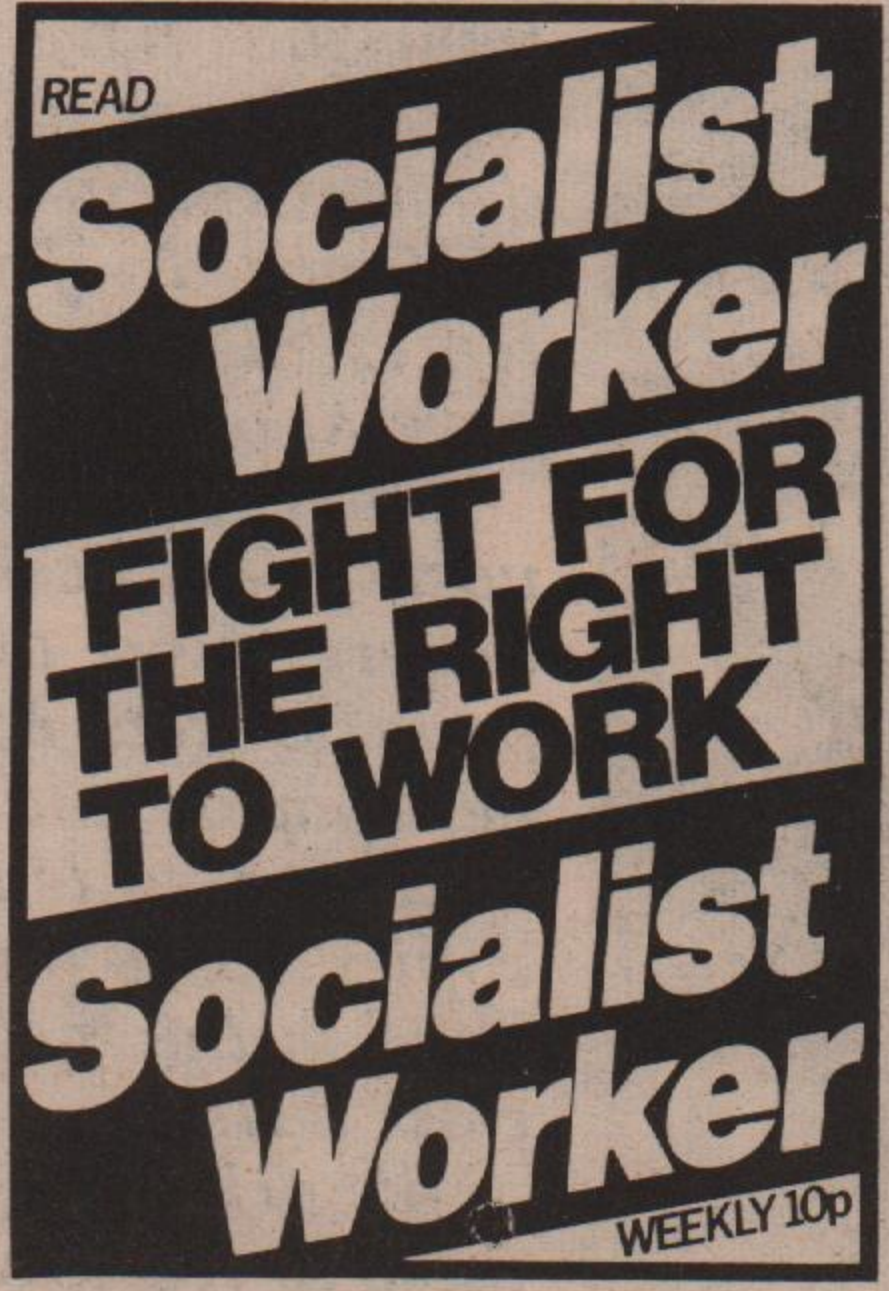
However he also showed the dangers of being ultra-left in terms of leading struggles in your workplace; the importance being not to lead too far in advance of your workmates.

To smash the prevailing ruling ideology was a slow accumulative struggle. Anything socialists could do to raise the consciousness of working people should be pursued to the utmost.

A discussion took place with several people from different political parties. Two people joined the branch.

IS Books has changed its name to Bookmarks. After years of being a distribution centre for IS branches, we have now expanded our services to a much bigger audience and the new name will hopefully reflect this.

# Use these posters to push up sales



THREE new posters have been produced to help increase sales of Socialist Worker.

The first is for areas where SW is being sold by newsagents. More and more are now taking the paper regularly and this is a poster for general use in advertising this.

The second is a 'billboard' poster, with a large space left for writing in the headline on local news that may appear inside the paper. It's for both newsagents and factory gate paper-sellers.

The third ties Socialist Worker with the Right to Work Campaign.

People who hear about the campaign will want to know where they can find the week-by-week reports. The poster tells them.

£2 for 100, from SW Circulation, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN (cheque or cash with order please).

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

BRADFORD SW public meeting: Call this a Labour government? The need for a workers' party. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 8 April, 7.30pm. Star Hotel, Westgate.

LAMBETH COUNCIL WORKERS SW public meeting: Women and Revolution. Speaker: Judith Condon. Thursday 8 April, 12.30pm. Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. All welcome.

DUDLEY SW public meeting: The struggle for socialism. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Tuesday 6 April 8pm. The Two Bulls Heads pub, Stone Street, Dudley.

SW School on the Labour Left. Saturday 10 April, 2.5.30pm. International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Speaker: Duncan Hallas.

CHESTER SW Inaugural public meeting. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 20 May. Venue and further details to be announced.

CHESHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE IS District Aggregate: Friday 30 April. Report back from Party Council. Further details later.

SOCIALIST WORKER EVENTS

LAMBETH SW public meeting: Portugal Today. Speaker just returned from Portugal. Wednesday 7 April, 8pm. Brixton Training Centre (corner of Brixton Hill), London SW2. All welcome.

Socialist Worker AGITPROP BULLETIN: First issue is ready, with ideas for using posters, tapes, slides, films, music in political work. Send stamped, addressed, large envelope for a copy, to SW Agitprop Group, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

WOMENS VOICE BADGE: Abortion, our right to choose. White on red. Price: 17p inc postage, 10 or more 10p each, post free. Money with orders please, from Womens Voice, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Socialist Worker is looking for a NEW JOURNALIST. Political and journalistic experience, particularly of subbing, required. Write to The Editor, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Give details of involvement in Socialist Worker's politics and of any journalistic background. No phone calls. Letters only.

SOCIALIST WORKER MEETINGS

NO RETURN TO BACK-STREET ABORTION! Womens Voice and Socialist Worker public meetings.

NEWHAM: Thursday 1 April, 8pm, Lawrence Hall, Cumberland Road. Speakers: Margaret Renn and Dr Ron Singer.

WALTHAMSTOW: Friday 2 April, 8pm, Ross Wyld Hall, corner of Church Hill and Hoe Street, Walthamstow.

GLASGOW DISTRICT SW PUBLIC MEETING: Which way to socialism? The Communist Party and the British Road. Speakers: Steve Jefferys, Willie Lee AUEW shop steward, Chrysler Linwood. Chairperson: Angela McHugh (AUEW shop steward, Rawplugs). Sunday 4 April, 7-9pm, City Halls, (Mid Hall), Albion Street, Glasgow.

SW DAY SCHOOL on Africa. Saturday 3 April, 10.30am. IS Books 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham. (01-643 5717) Sessions include Southern Africa perspectives, workshops and solidarity work.

PETERBOROUGH SW public meeting: The lessons of Clay Cross. Speaker: Dave Nuttall (Clay Cross Labour Party). Chairman: David Toone. Tuesday 27 April, 7.30pm. TGWU Hall, Cowgate, (near BR station).

THE WORKER, paper of the Socialist Workers Movement (Ireland), will now appear on the 17th of every month. Branches which do not order it and would like to, should send orders to The Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. The March issue will be available with this week's Socialist Worker. Money for the last issue should be returned to above address.

FOR SALE: SW Collection from No 207 to date (few missing), Private Eye No 235-350 (few missing), Ink (all but 2), Proceeds to Fighting Fund. Rush offers to 46 Westport St, London E7.

SE LONDON SW Film Show: FIGHT THE CUTS! The film made with the help of the Rank and File Organising Committee, Friday 2 April, Charlton House, Hornfair Lane, SE7, 7.30pm. Details from Caroline Bracken, 52 Woodland Terrace, SE7, Telephone: 317 8812.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

CENTRAL LONDON DISTRICT Aggregate: Wednesday 7 April, 7pm. University of London Union, Malet Street.

EETPU Fraction EC meeting: Saturday 3 April, 2.30pm. Details from Fraction Secretary or Industrial Department.

URDU and GUJERATI editions of the Communist Manifesto, price 10p, and Bengali edition of State and Revolution, price 15p, now available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Please add 15p postage to all orders.

SUMMER TRAINING SCHOOLS: 21-24 June IS full-timers school, 19-22 July Women's Voice School, 2-5 August National Cadre School (Manchester), 23-26 August National Cadre School (London). Details from Training Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

THE MEANING OF MARXISM is now back in print—but the file of back orders from IS branches has been mislaid. Please reorder copies: ten copies £2.50 (£1.75 if cash with order) from Mary Philips, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN. Phone 01-739 2639.

PUNJABI CHINGARI out now. Lots of news and views from India. TUC, unemployment and work-permits. The Education Act and Immigrant children. Send in money for the last issue NOW. Chingari, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS BLACK CAUCUS MEETING: Lozells Social Development Club, 1 Finch Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. Sunday 4 April 11am. All black members welcome. For accommodation Saturday night, ring Birmingham bookshop, 021-643 5717.

Are you a delegate to your TRADES COUNCIL? Meeting for IS members and SW supporters to discuss trades council work. Saturday 3 April, 9.30am. The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1 (nearest tube Warren Street).

N ESSEX IS Aggregate: Sunday 11 April, 2.30pm, Essex University. Important for all members involved in Right to Work Campaign to attend.

WORKERS AND NORTH SEA OIL: Edinburgh IS pamphlet now sold out. We hope to revise it and print a second edition later this year.

IS JOURNAL issues 21-40 and issue 51 (special issue on Ireland) for sale. Highest offer accepted—all proceeds to Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. Write to: Mary Philips, ISJ, 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

LABOUR WORKER: Back numbers still needed to make up official file for SW office. Search your attics! Issues needed: 60, 51, 43, 41, 39, 37, 36, 32, 30, vol 3 no 5, vol 2 nos 1 and 2, any in vol 1.

ROOMS available for IS members in three houses in London. Phone Liz Baifour, 01-739 9772.

### A SKILLED JOB IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY

SW Litho are offering an apprenticeship as a compositor, to work in the pre-print department, which handles copy preparation, typesetting and page make up for litho reproduction of magazines and newspapers. Training will be given in works on a whole range of techniques, and also by day-release education at a printing technical college.

Applicants should be 18 or under, and must be prepared to undergo a written examination and an interview (plus a medical examination) held by the union.

The job will be offered subject to the applicant's successfully meeting the requirements of the above examinations.

Write for further details and/or interview to SW (Litho) Printers Ltd, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Telephone 01739 1413/1870.

## Adult places still available

There is still time to take up available adult places. See your Socialist Worker seller now or write to Socialist Worker (Skegness), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## Transport to Skegness

There will be heavy booking of coaches during Easter so Skegness Organisers should book transport now.

## Time of Arrival and Departure

Time your transport to arrive any time after 1pm on Friday 16 April. Coaches will depart after lunch at 1pm on Monday 19 April.

## Pay Up and Keep Happy

Send the balance of your money for Skegness to Socialist Worker (Skegness), 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

## Entertainment

Long discussions are now bearing fruit. Next week you will see the top-class entertainment in store for you.

## Seven-a-side Football

Prize: Barrels of Fullers Real Ale. Encouraged by the entries for the competition, Socialist Worker is donating nine gallons of Fullers Real Ale to be taken back to the triumphant district.

# SOCIALIST WORKER RALLY

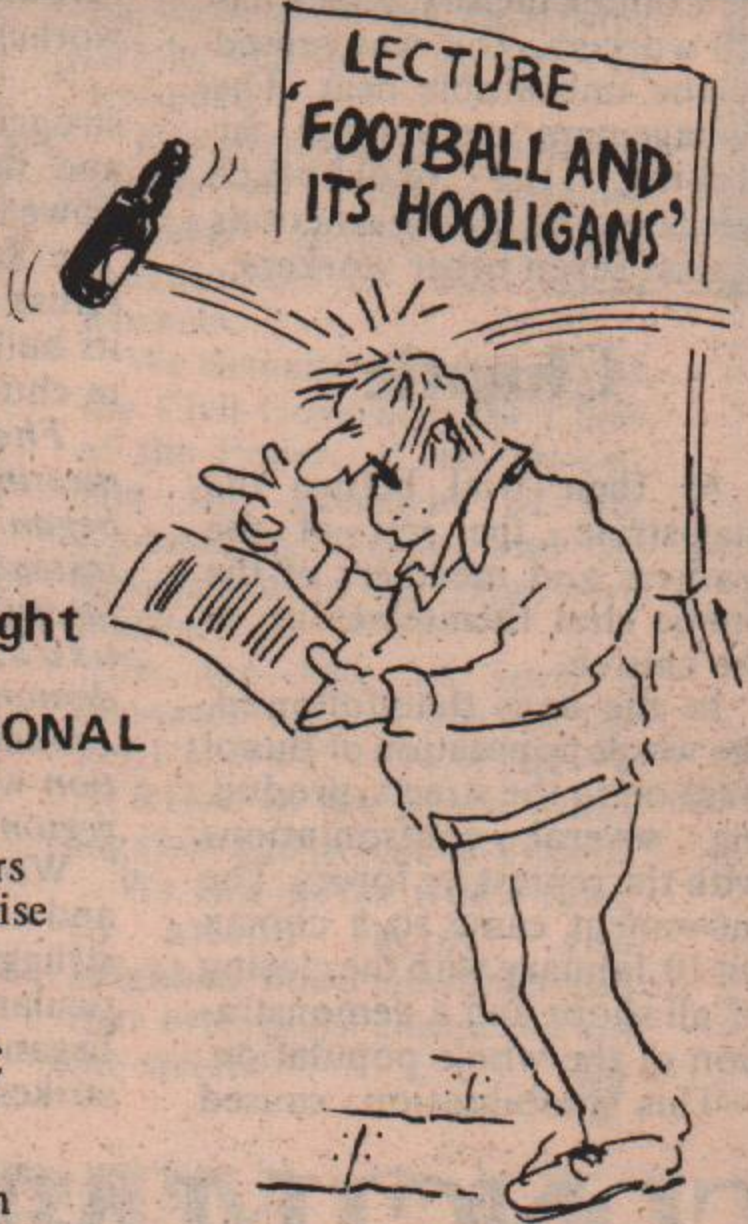
## What happens on Saturday...

9am - Noon	2 - 5pm	7 - 9pm	9pm-Midnight
FOOTBALL	FOOTBALL	CINEMA	INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
Wes v Yorkshire Leeds v Central London	E & N London v Scotland North-East v Liverpool	Executive Action Viva Maria	Battle of Algiers Koshima Paradise
CHILDREN'S MATINEE	CINEMA	LIVE THEATRE	LIVE MUSIC
Laurel & Hardy Cartoons	State of Siege How I Won The War	Kartoon Klowns	Black Reggae in Dance Hall
POLITICAL EVENTS	POLITICAL EVENTS	POLITICAL EVENTS	
Ray Challinor on The Origins of British Bolshevism	Michael Kidron on The Changing Nature of Capitalism	Laurie Flynn on Law and Order	Irish Ceilidh Band
Tyrl Harris on The Ideas of Wilhelm Reich	Ian Taylor on Football and its 'Hooligans'	Nigel Harris on China and Socialism	Newcastle Beggar Men in the Drifters Bar (seating 800)

This is, of course, a sample programme. In addition, there are nature walks, visits to the Zoo, craft-making, table tennis, crazy golf, swimming, colour TV for kids and adults. There are five separate pubs on site, so if you don't like the noise or the music there will always be somewhere quiet to talk and drink. Bar extensions have been applied for on each night.

Come to the Socialist Worker Rally, Friday 16 April to Monday 19 April at the Derbyshire Miners Holiday Camp in Skegness. £16.25, covering all meals, accommodation and entertainment.

Skegness 16 April



# CONVOY!

There's more to this record than it says

'MERCY sakes alive. Looks like we got us a convoy'.

Convoy, by C W McCall, has been in the top ten record charts for over a month—both here and in America.

It's a song about the lorry drivers' battle to earn their living.

Truckers in the US have had such a bad contract, they have to risk their health—by driving for long hours, or by busting the speed limit, in their rigs which may have bad brakes, bad suspension, bad ventilation.

Over-the-road truckers are paid by the mile. The longer it takes to make those miles, the less a driver makes an hour.

So to beat the speed limits, they go in convoys. Spread out over 15-20 miles, but running together, they can make good time.

The lead truck (code name Rubber Duck) keeps the others warned of the presence of state troopers.

He organises the convoy over the short wave radio (called Citizens Band, or CBs) most truckers have in their rigs.

This is illegal, of course. So the truckers speak in code.

## Sackings

Bear, or Smokey the Bear, are the state troopers. They're called that because of their funny hats like Smokey Bear on the American fire prevention posters.

The Citizens Band radios were well used in the Independent Truckers strike in 1973.

Truckers closed down huge sections of road transport to protest at the big jump in the price of petrol, which would have driven them right off the road.

Truckers drove their rigs out on the Interstate Highways and shut them off. They stopped their trucks on the freeway interchange of Los Angeles.

They blocked the bridge and tunnels of New York and New Jersey.

The government was forced to deal with them. But unfortunately, they weren't well enough organised at the negotiating table to win much—when they were in a position to take all.

Truckers across the US are organising now for the fight over their new three-year contract.

## Picket

In the past the bosses of their union, the Teamsters, have made sweetheart agreements which mean they have to either drive 12-14 hours a day or break the speed limits to earn a living.

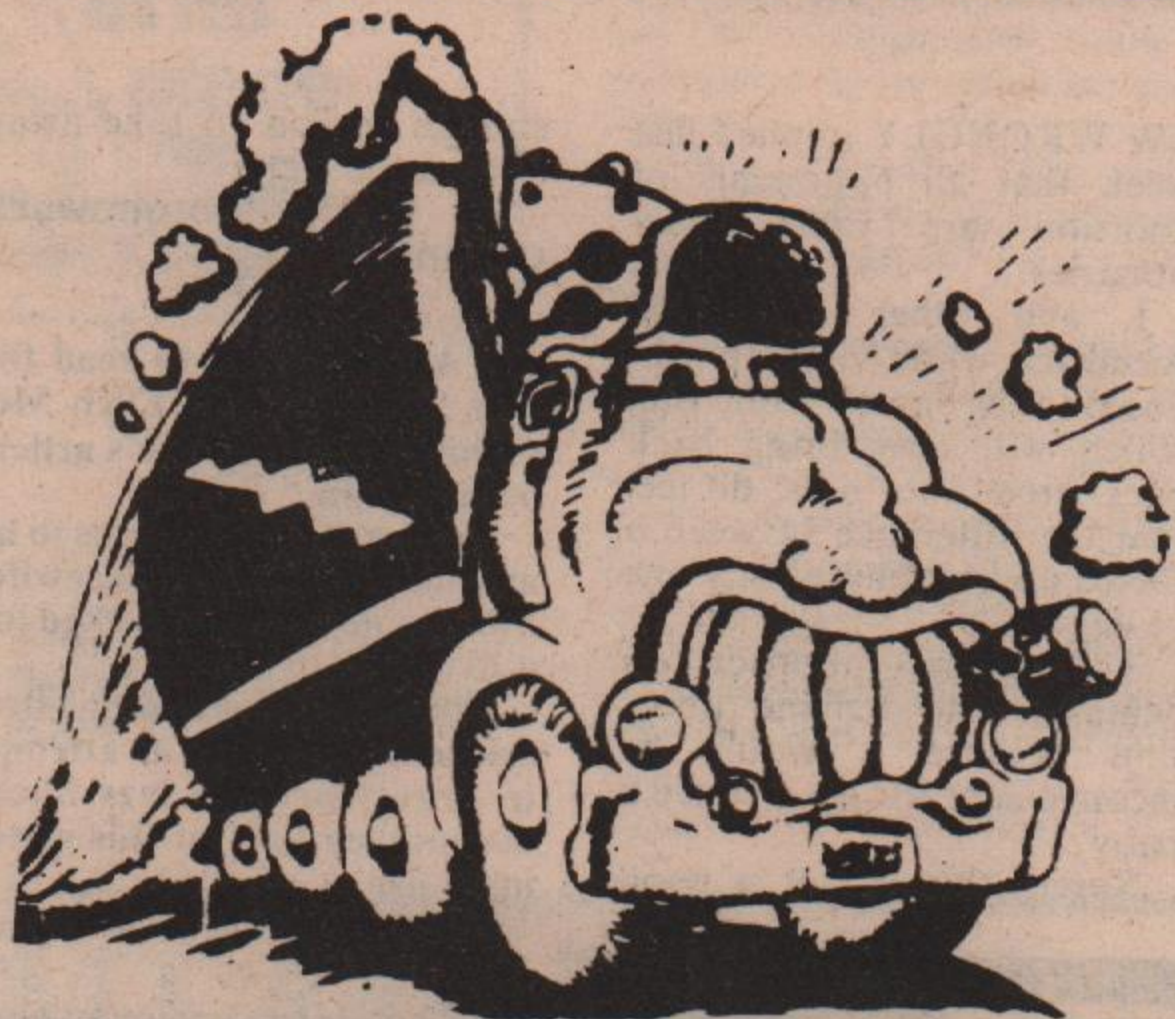
The rank and file grouping—Teamsters for a Decent Contract—is taking on not only the huge road transport companies, but the union leaders—many of whom are in the Mafia.

Former Teamster president Jimmy Hoffa, who did deals with the Mafia (and President Nixon) disappeared last summer—loser of the leadership fight in the union. It is thought he now lies in a block of concrete in one of those interstate highways.

Rank and file Teamsters have got a bloody big fight on their hands. Their bulletin is called Convoy.

If you want to find out what they're doing, read Workers Power, the weekly paper of the International Socialists in the US. It's available from IS bookshops here.

JENNY JACKSON



LEFT: A drawing from the paper Workers' Power, which carries regular coverage of the US truckers' fight—and US miners, carworkers, teachers. It's the weekly paper of the International Socialists there. You can get Workers' Power through the post—order from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4, at £1.75 for 10 issues including postage.

Or buy it at your local IS bookshop.



## PREVIEW

**SATURDAY:** SECOND CITY FIRSTS (BBC2) is about a man who loses faith in the super-powers and decides to solve his problems by digging a fall-out shelter. THE WORLD AT WAR (ITV) is fighting it out in Berna.

**MONDAY:** HORIZON (BBC2) shows Geronimo's Children—the Apache survivors still struggling for decent houses so their children don't die of the cold.

**TUESDAY:** BUDGET 76 (BBC1) brings you the bad news as it happens

Good Irish music from the Chieftains on the OLD GREY WHISTLE TEST (BBC2).

**FRIDAY:** THE MONEY PROGRAMME has its 10th anniversary—and goes over the events since 1966, when inflation was 3.6 per cent, unemployment was at 330,000 and the average manual wage was £20 a week.

On Playhouse (BBC2), THE BUTTON MAN is about a pit manager and his friend the miners' lodge secretary who fall out over a victimisation case. The Yrlais Male Voice Choir are thrown in for good measure.

## FILMS

GARRY BUSHELL REVIEWS One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

# Sane in a mad world

TAKE an American state mental hospital in 1963.

Add a number of depressed, apathetic inmates and an overbearing nurse with a long list of rules and regulations.

Then add Randall P McMurphy. Result? One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

McMurphy is a natural rebel, a joker and a fighter. Because he's too human—he fights and fucks too much—he ends up in jail.

Rather than stay there, he gets himself transferred to the mental hospital.

## Useless

Now the hospital is firmly under Nurse Ratched's thumb, as are the patients. She smothers them with her procedures. McMurphy's not the type to be smothered. His series of clashes with Nurse Ratched act like a catalyst for the others. You watch them gaining confidence in themselves.

McMurphy even manages to set them free from the stifling mass of rules for the 'illegal' fishing trip and later a midnight party.

ONE OF the oldest arguments against socialism that seems to come up every time you get talking to a liberal, a moderate, a parson's wife or this bloke you met somewhere in a pub, is that socialism's all very well but it doesn't take account of human nature.

All that stuff about sharing the wealth is noble and unselfish, they say, and very like the home life of our own dear Jesus. But sadly the evil that lurks in men's hearts means it could never come to pass. (Sigh.)

It's such a common argument that in 1906, when Robert Tressell started to write his classic socialist novel The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists, he built a counter-argument right into the title.

Under capitalism, the building labourers and house painters who fill the novel are called ragged-trousered philanthropists because they spend their whole lives in poverty and ragged trousers working at their 'noble and unselfish task of making money for

# So it's human nature, is it?

Mr Rushton (their boss). Socialism, says Barrington the agitator, is very different:

It is not a wild dream of Superhuman Unselfishness. No one will be asked to sacrifice himself for the benefit of others or to love his neighbours better than himself as is the case under

the present system, which demands that the majority shall unselfishly be content to labour and live in wretchedness for the benefit of a few.

There is no such principle of Philanthropy in Socialism, which simply means that even as all industries are now owned by shareholders... so shall they in future belong to the State, that is, the whole people—and they shall be organised and directed by committees and officers elected by the community.

Tressell's arguments are 70 years old but they still have much of their original force.

## Betray

It's worth using them as a yardstick to measure the performance of the present government which calls itself socialist.

For Tressell, socialism will make life better by putting the means of production, the source of power and wealth in any society, under popular ownership and control.

Social democratic reformism aims at nothing so radical but does insist that by, say, putting teeth into the RSPCA and doing something about smelly drains it will in the end make things sort of nicer, don't you know?

The present Labour government offers neither of these things.

## Signed

Mr Healey's message, backed by Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon, is that if you work your arse off, then your reward this year will be a cut of five per cent or so in your standard of living.

Mr Healey seems to think that this is socialism. Robert Tressell, who knew better, called it capitalism or ragged-trousered philanthropy.

The irony of all this is that the original manuscript of The Ragged-Trousered Philanthropists is now housed at the TUC Headquarters.

Could somebody there take a minute off from organising support for Mr Healey to have a look at it? It could teach them something. All they have to do is read the title.

PAUL O'FLYNN



Eventually the hospital reacts by destroying him.

Like it or not, the film makes you think about insanity. Are the depressed best served by being locked away in institutions?

What makes men and women 'insane'?

Why do some people withdraw from the com-

petitive rat-race laughingly called civilisation?

In itself, it doesn't directly answer any of these questions.

But the film is a powerful, moving spectacle—a celebration of the fight for human freedom against the stranglehold of bureaucracy everywhere.

THE GOOD SOLDIER SVEJK and his Fortunes in the World War JAROSLAV HASEK



A NEW AND UNABRIDGED TRANSLATION BY CEIL PARROTT WITH THE ORIGINAL ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOSEPH LAUDA

# Book of the Week

Fantastically funny story of a bumbling but well-meaning soldier who manages without realising it to sabotage everything his officers try to do. Svejk mocks the whole structure of authority in the army—by innocently sticking

to his commonsense view of the world.

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IS Books

# POSTAL POINTS

THE LONDON radio station LBC pours out fascist and right-wing propaganda every night. I am convinced the fascists are using the phone-in programme to put over their filth.

Let's call on the Labour government to close this and other commercial radio stations.

□ H Smith, Clapton, E London.



I FEEL immensely encouraged by SW. But I wince when you criticise the left of the Labour Party and the rank and file of the Communist Party so harshly.

When they are misguided, it would be helpful to point out their errors patiently and not just blast them. I may be wrong—but at 76 I still doubt the effectiveness of the dogmatic, headmasterly approach.

□ W Van Clute, Basingstoke.

What do other readers think?



I MUST OBJECT to the article (13 March) on British Rail's computer system. I am a computer worker and in a supervisory or management grade.

SW should attack the misuse of computers by capitalism and show how, in a socialist society, they will be harnessed to workers' needs by reducing the number of boring and repetitive jobs.

□ F Garrity, Carlisle, Lanarkshire.



TWENTY PAGES! Find enclosed a £1 postal order for your fighting fund. I'd love to send more but I've been on the dole for six months.

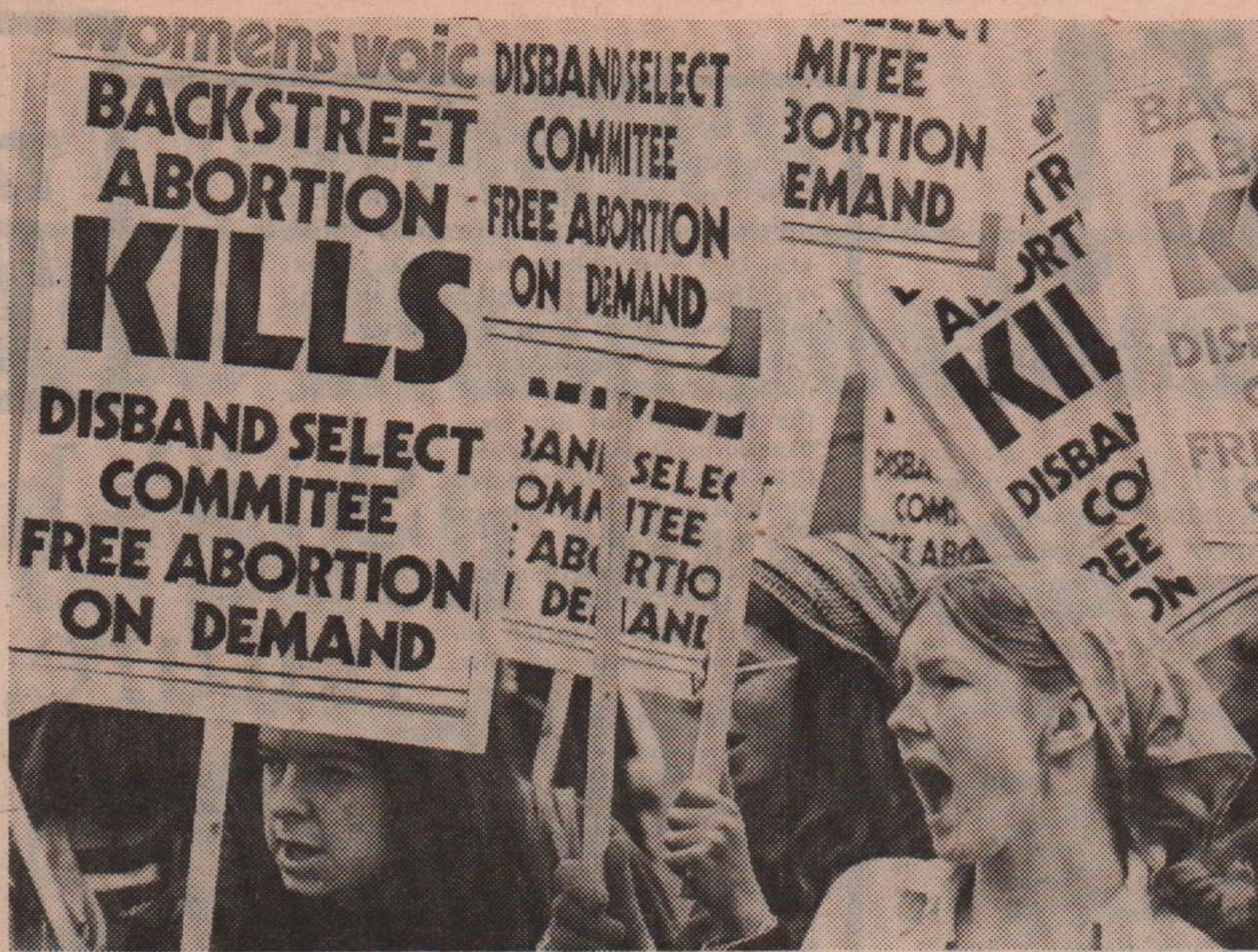
□ Kevin Patterson, North Shields.



SW'S FRONT PAGE (20 March) fell sadly below the paper's normally high standards. Shril, abusive, tasteless headlines such as The Rat Who Left The Stinking Ship and The Rodents in the Queue—one of the 'rodents' being Wedgwood Benn—merely cut us off from thousands of potential sympathisers.

□ SW Supporter, London N8

Similar letters have been received from Martin Brewer and Eddie Childs (Hertfordshire), Sue Buckle and John Coates (Leeds) and D Spilsbury (Birmingham).



Picture: John Shumock (Report)

The fight for abortion on demand: our opponents 'are not all rabid reactionaries'.

# Can socialists support abortion on demand?

SW WRONGLY implied last week that all opponents of abortion are rabid reactionaries.

I, and other committed socialists, while violently opposed to the James White Bill, which will only bring back back-street abortions, do feel that the difference between a foetus and a baby is only one of degree.

To demand 'abortion on demand' is to demand 'abortion because it would be inconvenient for me to have a baby'.

Surely this is not a good

enough reason to take away human life?

□ Mark Woronowski, Coventry.

I WAS disturbed to read the way SW described Ellen McCormack in last week's article on abortion.

You wrote: 'She claims to be an amateur, just a housewife. She has never even worked for a living'.

While understanding that this may have been an attempt to convey her as a lazy bitch, the implications of this statement are

- That housewives don't work

- That unless a woman goes out to work she is not worthy of respect

If you are really serious about housewives having an equal role to play in building socialism (as you were at pains to point out last week) this kind of sloppy and insulting writing will not do.

□ Rosie Smallwood, Edinburgh.

## Now oppose import controls!

BRITISH Leyland is to invest an estimated £10 million in South Africa to produce the new Rover car.

About one-third of the money is to be spent in a consortium with an unnamed Japanese machine tool manufacturer.

The contract was won against competition from Leyland Cars, another part of the Leyland group.

It still seems that the much talked about reorganisation only meant to apply to the shop-floor, as the various Leyland subsidiaries still act as companies outside Leyland.

The major part of the Rover investment will be in machine tools which, in Britain, are supplied by British Leyland's own machine facility with Leyland Cars, the main operating subsidiary.

How much longer is Socialist Worker going to tell us that there is no need for selective import controls?

□ Billy Hyde, Abertridwr, South Wales.

# A JOKE'S A JOKE -OR IS IT?

A JOKE'S a joke—isn't it? Perhaps not if you're a member of IS.

What is generally known as a 'thick' Irish joke was made by me in IS company. This now evidently makes me a racist.

As a socialist for over 25 years and a member of the Anti-Apartheid movement for ten years, I found that to be equated as a racist on the basis of what I considered a harmless joke deeply hurtful.

I make jokes about Irishmen, English, Scotsmen, Germans, priests, rabbis, lorry drivers, MPs etc.

Jokes are not made about non-persons. On the other hand, I never make jokes about disabled persons or persons with any affliction.

Surely the ability to laugh at, or with, ourselves is a good thing?

## Cartoons

It's not so many weeks ago that an IS comrade who drew the cartoons for the Skegness Rally got a real drubbing for being anti-feminist.

What society we are going to live in if we can't laugh at ourselves and must weigh every word before we open our mouths.

Perhaps when the revolution comes we shall elect a Commissar of Humour (or lack of it).

Would other comrades care to comment on this. Am I a racist because when I make a joke I mention a particular nationality? — TERRY STEWART, Dumfries.

PS: I don't consider Irishmen any 'thicker' than Scotsmen are 'mean'.

# A CASE OF GIVE AND TAKE?

READERS might be interested to hear of the latest example of generosity by that well known perpetrator of kindness, the DHSS.

From 1 April they have agreed to pay full time nurses and midwives the maximum increase under the present pay policy, ie £312 a year. All well and good you might say, but read on...

However, this supplement will not count for excess hours, or special enhancements, which will continue to be calculated on the basic salary scales. The lodging charges for resident staff will also be increased from 1 April 1976.

This is certainly another example of giving with one hand and taking away with the other and should be fought by ALL hospital workers, but I fear it is already too late.

□ Jim House, Harold Wood, Essex.



I AM DISGUSTED that SW has not found space to call any protest against the visit to Britain of Gromyko, the Russian foreign minister.

We should be seizing every possible opportunity to show that we oppose the imperialism and totalitarianism of the Soviet bloc every bit as much as that of the Western powers.

□ Bernie Wilcox, Manchester.

# WRONG, SW!

COME OFF IT, Socialist Worker! I'm not a mathematical genius but I could see that there were far more than 4000, as you claimed, at the Right to Work Rally in the Albert Hall.

□ Jim Harris, Hampshire.

Editor replies: You're quite right. We estimated the attendance at 4000 before the Albert Hall gave us—too late for publication—an official figure of 5500.

# Letters

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

# Solzhenitsyn and BBC bias

IN THE PAST month, the BBC has given Alexander Solzhenitsyn two well-publicised chances to air his views on world political questions.

This is a welcome development. Solzhenitsyn is a great writer, and his views are of interest.

They are also, of course, exceptionally right-wing.

As yet, the BBC has not given other Russian dissidents with different ideas the chance to present their views at any great length.

## Brilliant

Leonid Plyusch, or the Medvedev brothers, would give a picture of world problems which—like Solzhenitsyn's—would be critical of both the West and of Russia. But their criticisms would be from the Left.

In the 1930s, a brilliant Russian exile, a famous writer, who was very critical of Russia and of the West, was not to my knowledge given BBC facilities to express his views. His name was Leon Trotsky.

Could it be that the BBC is actually biased?

□ Graham Veitch, Manchester.

'RADICAL' SNP? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING...

ANDY SCOTT, a Dundonian, claims (Letters, last week) that the Scottish National Party is the only radical party in Scotland. Where was this angry protest on 5 March, when the city of Dundee was on strike and 8000 workers demonstrated in the City square against the cuts and unemployment?

And what has the Golden Boy of Dundee, Gordon Wilson MP, had to say about the imminent sacking of 50 nursery nurses and the non-opening of old folk's homes in the city? Nothing. Not a word.

But maybe that's not surprising. Those well-known radical leaders, patriots and millionaires Willie Wolfe and Hug Fraser can't afford to get too closely involved with rank and file trade unionists and socialists. People might stop to think for a moment. Perhaps you should, Andy.

□ Paul Richardson, TGWU, Dundee.

# Free speech and fascists (cont'd)

P TOBIN (Letters, last week) supported Communist Party members who voted against a proposed rule banning National Front members from Norwich Trades Council.

He argued that the Trades Council has no right to exclude elected delegates, whatever their views or

behaviour.

Those of us who supported the proposed ban (which includes IS members, some non-aligned and, initially, a CP member) believe that the NF should be chased out of the labour movement.

By fomenting racial divisions, the NF threatens

trade unionism. We totally oppose the NF and make no apologies to Comrade Tobin or anyone else.

The fascists will not be defeated by the left-wing backing down or seeking popularity among trades council delegates by appeals to 'free speech', or arguments that 'we'll sort out the NF when we're ready', or that 'the NF member was elected by his union branch so we are powerless to oppose him'.

Unfortunately, we did not succeed in ejecting the NF member. CP members P Tobin, who spoke against excluding the NF, and A Panes, who defended the fascists' 'right to speak', actively opposed us.

But we did present an uncompromising view on how to fight the NF, and we did gain significant minority support. Taking a principled position does not always put us on the winning side, but we will continue our efforts to make fellow trade unionists aware of the true nature of the fascist menace.

Comrade Tobin accuses us of being 'sectarian', 'anti-communist', 'politically inept', 'bureaucratic', 'inconsistent' and 'opportunist'.

In fact we work with CP members on a principled basis, but we will not run for

cover when faced with 'unpopular' issues.

Readers of SW and delegates to Norwich Trades Council are in a position to make up their own minds on the question of the NF and Comrade Tobin's allegations.

It is a pity that the Morning Star has not given its readers the opportunity to do the same.

□ Steve Cherry, ASTMS; Mel Quantrill, USDAW; P White, TGWU; Jon Gubbay, ASTMS; Norwich.

PETER Tobin's letter was a confused and nonsensical cover-up of a wrong decision. To let a fascist 'delegate' slip into a trade union body and still maintain that this doesn't mean they are for freedom of speech for fascists only proves how politically ignorant Tobin and his Communist friends are.

□ E Reddish.

# What did you do in the class war, Daddy?



We know what the TUC did. They sold out. But for thousands of rank and file trade unionists, the General Strike was a different story.

For them it unleashed the imagination, the determination, the power that, in normal times, our 'democratic' society keeps firmly under control.

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the strike, Socialist Worker is producing a special supplement. So if you were around at the time, we want to hear from you.

We want your anecdotes, your clippings, your old photographs and strike bulletins. Anything you send us will, of course, be returned.

Contact Socialist Worker (General Strike), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 8DN or 'phone 01-739 6361.



by  
Kathy Sims

I THOUGHT I'd write in answer to your article in Socialist Worker about workers' ideas on how industries could be run for the people under socialism.

I am trained as a typist. It's a job that often alienates the worker because we don't actually produce anything. We are the ones that seem to produce nothing but reams of useless paper.

However, I've had many jobs in my time and some of them made me think how the working class could use the productive forces which are now being abused.

I once worked at ITN, just by the Post Office Tower in London. I had to type out reports of foreign news as it came in.

The room where I worked amazed me. I was surrounded by television sets which were plugged in to stations all over the world. British news reporters were speaking to news reporters in Japan, Africa, Russia, as though they were just in the next office.

I remember thinking to myself how easy it would be when the time came to take over that place and broadcast the news of the workers' victory to countries the world over.

# HOW WE'D SOLVE THE HOUSING PROBLEM

Also, if this incredible technological achievement was harnessed correctly, natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods would be known about the moment they happened. Then, within hours, planes carrying food and medicine and ships to get people away from the disaster areas could be organised.

The people in the newsroom weren't particularly impressed with the amazing gadgets around them. I was impressed with the wastage and the apathetic attitude of those people working there.

I got so excited I could hardly type for thinking about how easy it would be if we occupied the building. When you think that it took Lenin months to get news of the Russian situation when he was over here as an emigre.

Then I spent some weeks working in

Barclays Bank in the Strand.

It was like working in a mansion. Fitted carpets, chandeliers, posh statues of naked men everywhere, swivel chairs and G-Plan furniture, a first aid room that was better than my living room.

Outside you could see tramps carrying all their belongings in paper bags.

## Opposed

I thought this would make a fairly comfortable hostel for homeless families since it had hot running water, as well as central heating. Even the lifts had carpets on the walls—at home, we didn't even have one on our floor at that time.

I've worked in plenty of offices that are better equipped than most working

people's homes. They know they can get more work out of you if the place is air-conditioned and fairly pleasant.

There isn't a 'housing problem'—the places are there ready to be lived in. The problem is the 8 per cent of this society who think they're doing me a favour by letting me work in a palace during the day and spend my own time in a sub-standard house. Well, I don't feel happy about it—I feel pretty resentful actually.

I once worked in a box factory—I don't know if boxes will be the 'in' thing during the revolution but they might come in handy for wrapping up all the reams of rubbish I've typed over the years.

And wooden ones about six foot long and three foot wide might be useful for bank managers and company directors.

## DEAR EMPLOYERS,

INTER-UNION rivalry in the building industry is flaring up again.

After merger talks have broken down, there are signs that the main building union UCATT (250,000 members) will be waging war on the building section of the Transport and General Workers Union (90,000 members)—and vice versa.

Such a war can only damage the interests of all building workers. But leading left-wingers in UCATT, including some members of the Communist Party, are taking up sides.

The unions are shouting the odds against each other. In January's issue of the TGWU paper, The Record, there is a full-page article on the National Exhibition Centre near Birmingham.

It takes a very big union indeed to achieve completion on time without a single day lost through industrial relations problems,' trumpets the Record, pointing out that the Exhibition Centre was built 'entirely by TGWU members'.

UCATT hit back. In the March issue of the union's journal, Viewpoint, there is a double-page spread, entitled 'The Land of the Firsts.'

### Unfair

It's about the Birmingham International Station (built with UCATT labour), about the £12 million complex of hotels, the Warwick and Metropole Hotels (again built by UCATT operatives) and the exhibition itself, where the 2000 exhibition workers were all UCATT members 'of course'.

The message of both articles was as follows: 'If you want to build businessmen's conference centres, extravagant railway stations and luxury hotels, then the TGWU and the UCATT will compete with each other in acting as policemen over their workers' workers.'

There have also been instances of inter-union bickering on sites. On a South London site recently a TGWU picket was mounted when UCATT officials insisted on a subcontractor's bricklayers, who refused to join UCATT, being dismissed because they had been signed on a TGWU 'block ticket'.

This was partly in retaliation



tion to another picket mounted recently at another site this time by UCATT officials demanding that all the TGWU carpenters be laid off before the UCATT carpenters regardless of the length of time they'd been on the job.

This nonsense could be stopped at once if the left in the union united against it.

Unhappily, the largest section of the left, the Communist Party, appears to be joining in the dog-fight on UCATT's side.

### Freeze

Communist Party members point out that UCATT is a more democratic union since a recent rules revision conference voted for regular election of officials. They also point to Communist Party success in union elections, especially in London, as proof of their potential in UCATT.

But the answer to the undemocratic structure of the TGWU is to fight for rank and file control within that union: not to champion the bureaucracy of another union.

Many Communist building workers fear that the turn to inter-union rivalry among certain of their leaders heralds

a break with rank and file organisation altogether. They fear for the future of the Building Workers Charter, which has done so much work to strengthen rank and file building workers, especially in Birmingham.

At a time when the lump is becoming less profitable, and when more and more subcontractors are seeking 'block tickets' which give bogus membership of both UCATT and the TGWU, the importance of rank and file organisation in both unions cannot be exaggerated. At least two-thirds of the industry isn't organised at all!

A recent meeting of the International Socialists' building workers' group passed the following resolution, which should serve as a guide to militants in the industry

everywhere:

'The following demands should be fought for in all unions:

- 1 Regular elections of all officials.
- 2 No selection committees or restrictions on candidates.
- 3 No check-off or block tickets.
- 4 The union to encourage and promote branch life.
- 5 Conference to decide policy. Executive only to interpret.'

## Rank and File teachers stand for executive



Dick North, one of the six Rank and File candidates

TEACHERS all over the country will be voting this week and next for the executive of the teachers' union, the NUT.

For the first time in years, the NUT executive last year heard some real rank and file arguments. Dick North and Beth Stone, the Rank and File members, have argued consistently against the £6 limit, the union's new disciplinary measures, the attempt to divide London teachers over the London Allowance Campaign—the list is endless. Don't miss your chance to

keep them on the executive: and to strengthen their position by adding other Rank and File candidates.

Six Rank and File teachers are standing for the NUT executive on this fighting platform:

- No cover for non-appointed staff or absences of more than three days.
- No increased teaching loads.
- No co-operation with compulsory transfer.
- Strike action against any local education authority threatening

redundancies.

- Support for all initiatives which link teachers and other groups of workers in the fight against cuts and unemployment.
- Free NUT membership for unemployed teachers.

Make sure you vote for these teachers:

### Demand

John Clossick: District 11 (Leicestershire and Northamptonshire); Beth Stone, Birendra Singh and Archie Foulds: District 27 (Extra Metropolitan); Dick North and Amanda Leon: District 26 (Inner London).

Dick North and Amanda Leon are opposed by a joint platform of Sam Fisher of the Communist Party and Robert Richardson, who is not even in the Labour Party. Fisher and Richardson have no programme whatsoever.

Richardson, who is described on the campaign poster as a 'tireless fighter', says: 'I stand for firm and responsible leadership.' Fisher is billed as 'the union's leading spokesman'.

It's a pity they don't explain just what they wish to lead and speak for.

the maximum unity.  
—Jack Jones, in this month's edition of Record, the Transport Union Paper.

Send your sample of statesmen like quotations from the TUC leaders to TUC Quote of the Year Competition, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

UNION CHIEFS  
JOIN TITLED  
IN KELLY'S

A new edition of one of the leading reference books, "Kelly's Handbook," comes out this week with a fresh look. "The guide to the Titled, Landed and Official classes" has conceded after 99 years of discrimination, that women should be listed alphabetically with men.

And for the first time, leading trade unionists are included. Len Murray, Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon are among the 20,000 or so entries which include Peers and Baronets, Knights and Dames, Members of Parliament, etc.

The other new feature is the price—£12. The first edition published in 1875 sold at eight shillings. The 1975 edition, the last published, cost £8.75.

Len, Jack and Hugh going UP, UP, UP!

Daily Telegraph 23 March

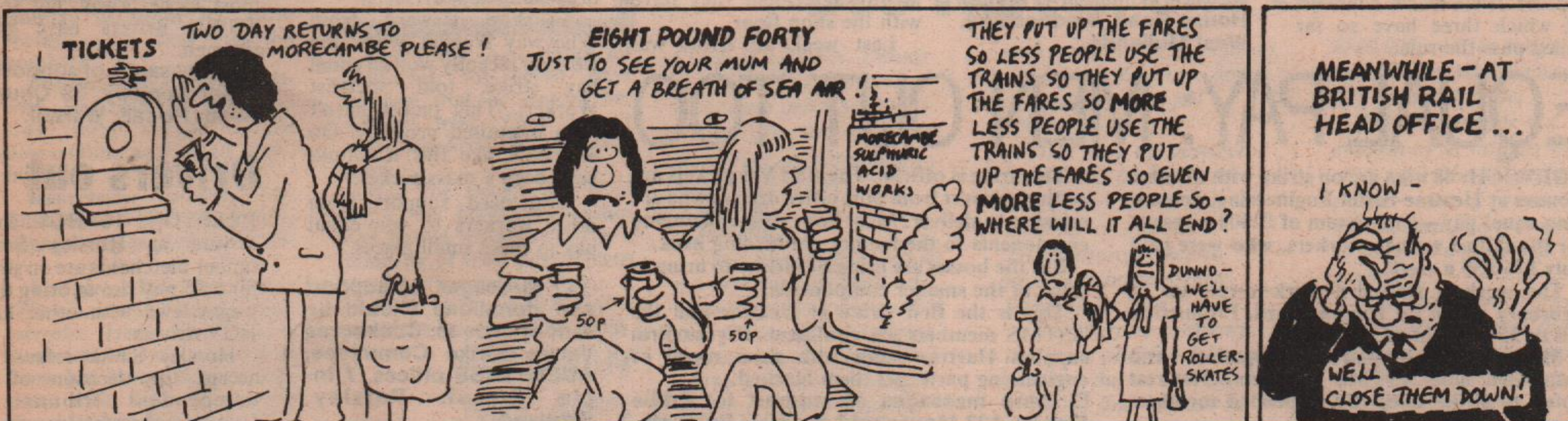
## THE 'LATER' MAN

'THE government's White Paper on public spending plans must clearly be subjected to the searchlight of the social contract in coming weeks, but for the moment our real priority is to see that the government understands the overwhelming importance of getting its budget decisions absolutely spot on—achieving steps towards a full recovery of the economy and securing



NUT executive member Beth Stone speaking at a Hyde Park rally

## OUR NORMAN



# Trades council suspended in manoeuvre

By JAMES ANDERSON, treasurer and executive committee member of Camden Trades Council.

## THE TUC has suspended Camden Trades Council for refusing to implement the new Rule 14.

The new rule bans trades councils from any attempt to 'cooperate with or subscribe to the funds of any organisation whose policies or activities are contrary to those of Congress'.

The man who organised the suspension, announced it before it happened, and stopped meetings of delegates and the executive, is not a full-time official at the TUC. He is the secretary of Camden Trades Council, Sid Gregory, a member of the Communist Party.

The trades council has recently moved leftwards and voted against the right wing Labour and Communist Party bloc on many issues. It voted by 37 to 25 to support the Right to Work Campaign's Albert Hall Rally.

On 1 March Sid Gregory received a letter from the TUC saying that if Camden continued not to accept the new Rule 14 'ultimately recognition would be placed in jeopardy.'

### Voted

Ultimately doesn't usually mean tomorrow, but after the trades council voted in favour of the Right to Work Campaign, Gregory announced that the trades council was suspended.

On 23 March, Gregory wrote to executive members of the trades council: 'As the TUC has suspended the trades council for refusing to adopt Model Rule 14, the April executive committee meeting will have to be cancelled.'

The same day he wrote to all

## WHAT WE THINK

Socialist Worker opposes both the new Rule 14 and the old one it replaces. We are against all bans and proscriptions against any working-class organisations.

We do support bans against fascist organisations, which exist to destroy the labour movement. All organisations that are part of the labour and trade union movement, whatever their faults and

regardless of differences, should be granted full rights to put their point of view.

Meeting of all members of the International Socialists who are delegates to trades councils: Saturday 3 April, 9.30am, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road, London WC1. (nearest tube Warren Street). Meeting will end in time for NAC rally.

delegates: 'The TUC has taken the decision to suspend Camden Trades Council, subsequently the April delegate meeting will have to be cancelled.'

The letter ended by announcing a meeting in May. 'Only delegates who can produce written evidence on their branch's note paper or whose secretary has previously notified me that their branch is prepared to accept Model Rule 14 will be admitted.'

But five days earlier, on 18 March, Gregory had written to the TUC: 'It has been decided to cancel our activities for April to [give] affiliated branches the opportunity to reconsider their decision, and to reconvene in May, accepting only delegates from

branches which have indicated that they have accepted Model Rule 14.'

'In view of the TUC's decision to suspend the trades council the above was the only action that the chairman and the secretary could think of taking.'

In fact the TUC had not suspended the trades council. Although Gregory sent out letters dated 23 March, announcing clearly that the TUC had suspended the trades council, two days later, on 25 March the TUC press office stated that Camden had not been suspended. The committee which deals with suspensions hadn't even met.

But Gregory's letter had given the TUC the go-ahead. On 25 March they sent out a letter suspending Camden Trades Council and approving Gregory's procedure for the May meeting: Gregory announced: 'The TUC has endorsed my actions'.

### Vicious

The Communist Party has a fine record of fighting 'all bans and proscriptions'. In the past they have been the victims of vicious witch-hunts against their members on trades councils.

Yet one of their members had brought about the suspension of Camden Trades Council for refusing a new rule that will lead directly to proscriptions.

Gregory's actions in Camden have cleared the way for further attacks on trades councils in other areas. The battle at Camden will affect the future of active trade unionists in trades councils everywhere.

Opposition to Rule 14 on the Northamptonshire Association of Trades Councils prevented it getting the necessary two-thirds majority. The association represents six trades councils, of which three have so far failed to pass the rule.

## EQUAL PAY: MEN OUT TOO

NORWICH: 48 men are on strike with the nine women at Heatrae-Sadia Engineering, demanding equal pay—a minimum of £2000 a year—for the skilled women workers, who were paid only £26-£35 a week.

The workers started a work-to-rule on 24 February which hit Heatrae hard. Production fell to 25 per cent of normal.

Management refused to negotiate and suspended nine ASTMS members. The rest voted to strike until the suspended members were reinstated.

The strike is official. The ASTMS pickets are getting support from post office drivers who are refusing to deliver. Most lorry drivers bringing components to the factory are turning back.

But the bosses are using Securicor to bring in some of the smaller components.

This is the first strike at Heatrae and the ASTMS members are confident. If your firm supplies Heatrae-Sadia with sheet metal or engineering parts, get them blacked.

Send messages of support to: Eddie Finney, 137 Household Avenue, Norwich.



Picture: Derek Bowie (IFL)

## GMWU men cross picket

WEDNESBURY: The strike of 25 women at the H J Barlow engineering factory has been made official by the General and Municipal Workers Union. But the men in the GMWU are still walking through the picket line.

The women are demanding a £3.40 increase to put them on a par with the rates for the 115 men. They were confident they would win.

But the lack of support from the men has made them a bit cynical. June Williams, the works convenor, explained: 'Half the men are for us, the others against us. They think if you're a woman your husband earns enough.'

'But not only are a lot of women single or widows, those of us who are married need that money for rent and food. The women have amazed me with their willingness to stay out.'

### Victory

The men are walking through a picket line of their own union. The full-time official hasn't asked them to stay out. Yet everyone of the women on the picket line agreed that if the men supported them it would be over quickly, with a victory.

Messages of support to: June Williams, 45 Manor House Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands.



## SIXTY AID PICKET AT COCKBURN VALVES

GLASGOW: For nearly three months 45 members of TASS, the white-collar section of the Engineering Union, have been picketing the Cockburns Valve factory on Hillingdon factory estate. The strike, for equal pay, is the first dispute for the women members in the factory, but the spirit on the picket line is high.

The picket has stopped production at the factory—most of the shop floor workers have now been laid off because the supply of parts and materials has dried up.

Management have tried everything possible to break the strike, even breaking the lay-off agreement they have with the shop floor.

Last week an effort was

made to involve other workers in winning the dispute. Bill Nivan, the AUEW/TASS official, asked the Paisley district committee to join the picket line on the Wednesday.

Most of the big factories on the estate had already taken a decision to stop work at 3pm that day in protest at unemployment. A mass picket would have been an excellent focus for the protest.

In all, 12 factories stopped work that afternoon, but only 60 workers turned up on the picket line—and this was because of the work done by members of the Glasgow Right to Work Committee in organising support.

A shop steward from Wheway Watson, where the workers recently won an equal pay strike, told Socialist Worker: 'This picket hasn't been organised properly. On an estate like this it should have been a mass picket.'

'You need support from other workers to win equal pay in these small places.'

Messages of support and donations should be sent at once to: Cockburns Valves Strike Committee, AUEW/TASS offices, 7 Ingle Street, Paisley, Scotland.

## WOMEN WORKERS OUT OVER £6 CLAIM

WOMEN workers at the Wembley offices of the Life Insurance Company of India have been on strike for four weeks over a wage claim put in nine months ago.

In India, the company, second largest insurance company in the world has used the state of emergency to freeze workers' wages.

In Britain it hides behind the government pay policy to evade wage increases. In answer to a wage claim for £6 put in last July it has offered £2.50—and that only after all the staff took strike action.

All the strikers are members of the white-collar union ASTMS. The strike has been official from the start.

'They compare it in rupee terms and say we are getting a lot. But most of us get £28 a week and that isn't a lot,' said one striker.

The strikers were told by Wembley police that only two pickets were allowed at any time, and were warned: 'If there are more than two we'll arrest you.'

The strikers are pleased that Socialist Worker and our Asian language sister paper Chingari publicise their struggle. 'We approached the Punjab Times and Garvi Gujrat', said shop steward Hasu Patel, 'but they were not at all interested. They were only concerned about getting advertisements from the firm.'

Messages of support and donations to: Strike Committee, c/o M Godfrey, 28 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middx.

## GEC bid to split strikers

WALSALL: Sixty women workers for GEC Birlec, at Aldridge, are on official strike for equal pay. The average pay for the women is £10 less than that of men doing clerical jobs and £7 less than the lowest paid man.

Janet Appleby, the TASS rep, explained: 'Management are pushing us to see how far they can go. They offered £2 and £3 to some of us—nothing to most—in an attempt to split the union. But the offer was a sham which didn't bring us anywhere near equal pay.'

The dispute has caused chaos inside. We disrupted the telephones and closed the telex. Oxygen and acetylene deliveries have been turned away, which will bring the welding section inside to a standstill.

The men inside—staff and shop floor—are supporting us. Letters explaining the dispute have gone to all the manual workers' stewards. We intend to visit the other GEC plants with our divisional organiser.'

The pickets have turned most lorries away, but some TGWU drivers have gone through.

Messages of support to Janet Appleby, 39 Church Road, Pelsall, Walsall.

## Drivers out

PRESTON: 16 HGV lorry drivers at Horsley Smith timber merchants are on strike for a £5 pay rise to bring their wages level with other local HGV drivers.

Horsley Smith refused to accept the decision of an independent tribunal in favour of the men.

## Notices and meetings

Notices for this column must be posted to arrive by first post the Monday preceding publication. We cannot take them over the phone. Send cash with copy (5p a word) to CLASSIFIED, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS. No invoices can be sent.

**NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION** Sunday 25 April—Against cuts in the NHS—Ban all private practice. Called by: National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the NHS. Sponsors include: NALGO, Socialist Medical Association, NUS, AUEW District Committee, Sheffield. March from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square. Finishing with a rally. For further information and copies of mobilising literature posters etc, please contact Dr P Stern (secretary), 55 Bridge Lane, London NW11.

**NHS IN CRISIS, HOW TO FIGHT BACK.** For speakers on this subject or any other issue within the health service contact Bill Geddes, 15 Etheldreda Road, London W12, 01-749 4834.

**TROOPS OUT MOVEMENT:** Support the Labour Movement delegation to Ireland! Public meeting with film, Friday 2 April, 7.30pm, Hammersmith Town Hall.

**Local labour CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CUTS:** Main speakers include Dennis Skinner MP and Peter Bain (Chrysler shop steward), Saturday 3 April, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Walk, Brixton, London SW2. Creche provided. Details and delegates/visitors credentials from V Wiseman, 23 Saunders House, St Martins Estate, London SW2. Organised by Lambeth Trades Council, Norwood Labour Party. Sponsored by Battershall/Wandsworth, Southwark Trades Councils and South West London Right to Work Committee.

**BENEFIT SOCIAL** for Keith Blackman lockout, Saturday 3 April 8.00pm, Red Lion pub, Tottenham High Road/Lansdown Road junction, N17. Bar extension until midnight. Disco 65p entrance at door. Organised by Haringey Trades Council/North London Right to Work Committee.

**THE COLLIER** Editorial Board is reformed. An issue will be out within the next three weeks. Contributions, information and orders from The Collier, 38 Cundy Cross, Barnsley.

**North West Regional Council TUC:** March against cuts in public expenditure and unemployment. Saturday 24 April, 1pm, AUEW office, The Crescent, Salford, to New Century Hall, for a meeting.

**NO to cuts in the NHS. Ban all private practice.** National demonstration, Sunday 25 April, 1pm, Hyde Park Corner, London. Called by National Co-ordinating Committee against Cuts in the NHS.

**Manchester Troops Out Movement** forums on Ireland. Tuesday 13 April—British Imperialism and Ireland.

Tuesday 27 April—The role of the army in Ireland. Tuesday 11 May—Ireland and the British labour movement.

Tuesday 25 May—Why self-determination? The Black Lion, Chapel St, Manchester 3. All meetings start at 7.30pm.

**Lambeth Trades Council Conference on Unemployment:** Saturday 3 April, 2-5.15pm, Stockwell Hall, Stockwell Park Walk, Brixton. Speakers: John Fraser MP, Dennis Skinner MP, and a Chrysler shop steward, Creche. Further details from Vanessa Wiseman, 23 Saunders House, St Martins Estate, London, SW2. Telephone 01-674 4684.

**Come to the best social ever:** Saturday 3 April, 8pm till late, at City Polytechnic, Whitechapel Road, Algate East, London, E1. Cheap food and beer, plus Irish singers and fiddlers, the Stepany Sisters and a disco. Tickets 60p, 30p for unemployed. East London Troops Out Movement.

# GEC workers vote to go back

by members of the Metal Mechanics Union at Keith Blackmans.

**NORTH LONDON:** The dispute at Keith Blackmans, the GEC subsidiary, is over after 12 weeks.

An official recommendation to return to work was accepted on Friday. The vote went 160 to 114 and showed a significant number were prepared to fight even though some leading stewards gave up the struggle to get a victimised TASS shop steward reinstated.

No recommendation was made by the stewards committee to the meeting, so the result was hardly unexpected. Some shop stewards, including two members of the disputes committee, argued against the decision.

GEC's aim—to reduce the credibility of the shop stewards committee—has been achieved.

## Failure

Why did we lose? Blacking was never effectively organised, support from local shop stewards committees was not sought except in irregular collections. More seriously, the union officials, particularly the TASS executive member, didn't fight for solidarity action in the better organised sections within GEC.

What proved crucial to our defeat was the lack of rank and file links among GEC factories and local companies. The initial contact made by activists in the area who raised money for the dispute was never followed through.

Organisation at Blackmans must be held together to stop GEC holding down wages and imposing flexibility, mobility and so on.

## Director busts in

**WEST LONDON:** The four typewriter engineers at Clansons Office Equipment, South Ealing, occupied their offices last week. They have been on strike for 12 weeks for recognition of their union, the AUEW.

Anthony Beckley, the managing director, and two lump building workers carried a ladder around to the back of the building, smashed through the top window and broke down two doors inside. They sent the blockade of packed electronic calculators flying and caused hundreds of pounds worth of damage.

## VICTORY

**RUGELEY, Staffs:** Color-trend trainees and technicians have won recognition for their union, the white-collar ASTMS. The trainees will go on to weekly salary instead of hourly wages after working in the company for 12 months.

The final stages of negotiations were carried out without the personnel manager.

When they returned to

# AUEW calls one-day strike to back bakery workers

**LIVERPOOL:** After four months on official strike, the 20 workers at Sayers bakery received a boost last week.

The AUEW district committee has called for a one-day stoppage of all engineering union members in Liverpool on Friday 12 April to support the Sayers workers. They have also called for a mass picket line.

The 20 are demanding the reinstatement of three shop stewards, sacked after supporting a stoppage by other workers in the plant.

Sayers bakery shops in Liverpool should be boycotted and picketed. Leaflets are needed in every factory, workplace and AUEW branch urging that everyone stops on the day and joins the picket line.

## HOSPITAL STEWARDS OUTLAW THE LUMP

**LEEDS:** An angry meeting of nearly 60 shop stewards in the Public Employers Union (NUPE) has passed an emergency resolution opposing the further introduction of contract labour into Leeds hospitals.

Several hospitals in the area are trying to get rid of NHS staff—supposedly through natural wastage—and then hand the jobs out to contractors.

Tim South, shop steward for the porters at the hospital, told the meeting: 'This is the thin edge of the wedge. If the window cleaners' jobs are given to 'Manpower Ltd', or any other scab firm, then none of our jobs are safe.'

## AGREED

'Domestics and catering staff will be next. We know of a couple of hospitals where it's being tried. What we need now is the joint action of all the unions involved to safeguard out members' jobs.'

Tim raised the issue at the last Leeds Right to Work Committee meeting, where it was agreed that the committee would actively support any action opposing contract labour, such as the picketing of the local contracting firms.

work, some of the engineers in ASTMS were told to take two days holiday immediately—despite the fact that the days had already been included in their holiday bookings. This threat to those who supported the strike was withdrawn when it became clear that it would be fought by the union. One of the ASTMS members, told Socialist Worker: 'This dispute has strengthened our organisation.'

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# Leyland toolroom witch-hunt

**TOOLROOM workers in three British Leyland plants are facing a vicious press witch-hunt.**

These men are 'wrecking Leyland and threatening thousands of jobs', according to the Daily Express and the Sun. Leyland management claim that all their future plans are now in jeopardy.

Hugh Scanlon, president of the Engineering Union, has told the strikers at SU Carburettors, Birmingham, and Rovers, Coventry, to get back to work. The AUEW executive is backing him.

The fantastic pressure on the strikers has nothing to do with Leyland management's concern for those laid off by the dispute.

Leyland management have deliberately escalated the disputes because they want to use the £6 wage limit as a way of breaking the power of Leyland toolroom workers throughout the combine. Toolroom earnings have always set the pattern for wages throughout the combine.

## YARDSTICK

Toolroom workers at Rover, for example, base their earnings on the average of the highest-paid skilled production workers. Their earnings are a yardstick for everyone else.

At SU Carburettors, the toolroom workers are demanding parity with other Birmingham toolroom workers. This will amount to a rise of about £12 and would break the £6 limit. All this was agreed with Leyland before the £6 limit.

Far from hurting other Leyland workers, victory in either of the toolroom disputes would lead to higher wages for all Leyland workers.

by Sheila McGregor

If toolroom workers at SUs broke the freeze, thousands of other workers could follow.

Leyland want to end all the local bargaining throughout the combine and impose one set of national wage negotiations. These would be negotiated with senior full-time trade union officials and senior convenors.

## ENDLESS

Workers' participation would be a convenient way of policing the agreements. The wages for the entire combine would be controlled by one committee meeting in endless sessions without reporting back.

There would be no more of the localised strikes which have always had the effect of boosting Leyland wages.

Members of the Engineering Union must campaign in the branches and district committees for full support for the strike at SU Carburettors and at the Rover plant. AUEW members should be instructed not to cross any picket lines and fellow trade unionists should join their brothers on the picket line, raise money for the strikers and get messages of support.

## ISOLATION

The press will continue to scream at the strikers that they are endangering all jobs at the Leyland by staying out. Management will call further 'top-level' meetings of stewards to try and put pressure on the strikers and increase their isolation.

Letters have already gone out to all the Rover strikers telling them to return to work in the best interests of everyone. It is up to the trade union movement to ensure neither of these strikes is lost. The strike committee at SU



Picture: John Sturrock (Report)

Some of the unemployed workers who were on the Right to Work March seen picketing outside the headquarters of the TUC. They asked to see TUC general secretary Len Murray but were told he was 'unavailable'. Before the marchers left Manchester they wrote to Murray asking to see him when they got to London.

# NIGG BAY RIG SITE WORKERS SAY: 'WE STAY OUT'

**SCOTLAND:** 2000 workers are still on strike at Brown, Root and Wimpey's Nigg Bay oil rig construction site in Ross-shire. They want the reinstatement of convenor Bill Lindsey and shop steward Alan McBeath, who were suspended after being accused of sleeping during night shift.

The two stewards totally deny the accusation.

A mass meeting of the men last Thursday overwhelmingly voted to continue the strike and the site has been closed by effective picketing.

Construction Union official, Tommy Lafferty is doing his best to go over the heads of the shop stewards and get a return to work and acceptance of the sackings.

## Destroy

During the negotiations the workers were never allowed to be represented by their stewards, and have no idea on what basis the two stewards have been sacked.

Unlike the full-time officials, the shop stewards' committee and workers are fully aware that a defeat by the management will totally destroy the credibility of the committee and break the on site trade union organisation.

Messages and donations of support to Alec Gault, 10 Seaforth Gardens, Dingwall, Ross-shire.

# RIGHT TO WORK WON

**BOLTON:** Engineering Union members at the Metal Spraying company have been on official strike for 11 weeks fighting for the right to work and the right to belong to a trade union. And they've won.

In the past 12 months union organisation has succeeded in doubling rates of pay. In a blatant attempt to smash the union organisation, management have used redundancy to victimise five union members, including the AUEW shop steward.

The men were sacked for going on strike against the redundancy plans. Regular picketing has prevented any goods entering or leaving the factory.

The Bolton district committee of the AUEW threatened a mass picket. The company got wind and caved in.

The Bolton Right to Work Committee had supported the picket, provided transport to get workers round other factories and held a meeting which raised £30 for the strikers. Three of the Right to Work marchers and the steward spoke at the meeting.

## 50,000 out in Glasgow

**GLASGOW:** The call for a stoppage last Wednesday by Glasgow district committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions got the support of thousands of workers in the West of Scotland.

In Glasgow more than 50,000 workers stopped on Wednesday afternoon.

This action showed the tremendous resentment there is against unemployment, a growing rank and file resentment.

But most factories only stopped at 3pm. For most workers the stoppage only lasted just over an hour. Apart from that there were no demonstrations, no protests, no pickets, and no focus whatsoever.

## Knowsley

**KNOWSLEY:** A mass meeting of workers in the council's direct works department has agreed to return to work. The redundancy notices given to 181 workers have been suspended while negotiations take place.

Senior Transport Union shop steward Frank Jeffers said: 'The offer of negotiations is a face-saving manoeuvre by the council.'

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Support!

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS 10p

# This is why women have a right to choose abortion

by DEBBIE DELANEY  
I FOUND out I was four months pregnant last August. I had just started on the Pill when I conceived.  
The sister at the Family

Planning Association reassured me that my lack of periods was connected with my erratic menstrual history, but when the constant backache started I began to worry.  
I went to the FPA for a test and when the doctors

felt my belly their eyes rose to heaven. They sent me to my own doctor, who made me an appointment for a week away at University College Hospital.  
There was no doubt in me—I had to have an abortion. I was not men-

tally or financially equipped for motherhood.  
The consultant surgeon at the hospital told me that it was illegal for him to perform an abortion after 20 weeks pregnancy. I found out later that the limit is 28 weeks.  
‘I’m sorry, my dear, you’ll have to put up with it,’ he said. I was handed over to a social worker who assumed I had a religious crisis.  
Next I tried the Pregnancy Advisory Service, who wouldn’t help after 20 weeks either. The days were passing.  
I then heard of a sympathetic South London doctor who might refer me to Kings College Hospital. He was very suspicious and needed melodrama to be convinced.

### Private

My appointment was two weeks later. By this time I would need an induced abortion. They said no.

The last resort was a private abortion. I paid £10 to be referred from the Pregnancy and Maternity Trust to a Harley Street surgeon.

He would charge £260, which I could borrow. He almost had cash registers ringing in his eyes. He would love to do it, he said, but his staff were squeamish about 24-week foetuses. However if it were twins they would be less formed and thus less upsetting!

So I paid £10 for an X-ray. It was not twins.

After the birth, the child was adopted. I very much resented being treated as a reproductive machine for four and a half months, and bearing an unplanned child. To be in the lengthy throes of labour agony when you have never wanted a child is a mad, traumatising confusion.

I was told there are waiting lists for white healthy babies. I know there are also adoption homes full of unwanted children.

Women must have their own right to choose, abortion, pregnancy or adoption.

### Demonstrations organised by the National Abortion Campaign

**Saturday 3 April**  
LONDON: 1.30pm, Speakers Corner, Hyde Park  
GLASGOW: 2pm, Blythwood Square

Coaches to London: READING: leaves 12 noon, Reading Station (organised by Reading Women's Group). IPSWICH: leaves 9.30am, Electric House (housewives and unemployed to travel free). COVENTRY: leaves 10am, Pool Meadow (£1 return, Creche available, phone Coventry 21662).

# THE MURDEREROUS PARTNERSHIP

## Scandal of the factory inspectorate and asbestos danger

by LAURIE FLYNN  
THIS WEEK'S Ombudsman's Report on the killing of asbestos workers at Cape Industries' Acre Mill, Hebden Bridge, is a most welcome document.

For the first time in any official report the scandalous behaviour of the Factory Inspectorate has been admitted and documented in detail.

It's been a long fight even to get it admitted, involving years of struggle by rank and file workers—in the Glasgow and London ladders' union branches and by their supporters.

Five years ago, Socialist Worker said on the front page (3 July 1971): 'There is a slaughterhouse in the little Yorkshire town of Hebden Bridge. Its victims are human beings, people who have had the misfortune to work for Cape Asbestos since it brought its mill there.'

For asbestos dust is a killer, crippling the lungs and causing a slow painful death.

### Flagrant

That article hit out strongly at the Factory Inspectorate. At Acre Mill they informed the employers in advance when they would be inspecting. They allowed the most flagrant breaches of the 1931 Asbestos Regulations.

The Central Asbestos plant in Bermondsey, London, also left people crippled and dying. When Socialist Worker contacted chief inspector of factories Brian Harvey, he refused to discuss the case, saying that the companies concerned were entitled to have their affairs kept private.

The lawyers for Central Asbestos' victims asked to see the inspector's reports on the plant. The Inspectorate tried to avoid disclosure by claiming this was 'not in the public interest'.

So the revelation of facts that might save the lives of workers is 'not in the public interest'. What were the inspectors hiding?

Not just the negligence of the inspectors who visited Acre Mill, which is spelt out in detail in the Ombudsman's report. Not just the 'maladministration and inefficiency' that Secretary of State for Employment Harold Walker claims is the issue.

No. Years of investigation into the asbestos industry by Socialist Worker point to one thing: collusion at the highest level between senior civil servants and ministers controlling the Factory Inspec-

torate, collusion with the asbestos employers in the name of profit.  
Far from acting as the policemen of the employers, they have acted as their accomplices.  
Government officials accepted then as they accept now that the asbestos firms must be 'free' to maximise their profits at the expense of human life.  
That is why there were few prosecutions against asbestos employers despite the most flagrant breaches of the law.  
That is why reports were suppressed, deaths passed off as 'natural fatalities' and company doctors wheeled on with incessant regularity to pronounce asbestos safe.  
The same process is at work today despite all the talk of 'progress' and the wonders of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

### Deaths

In the North Sea, the oil companies are fighting to keep their rigs outside the legislation so that they can go on killing with impunity.

At PVC plants throughout Britain, Turner and Newall and other employers have done their best to ensure that the safety standards are not 'too high'.

The result? More Hebden Bridges, though with something other than asbestos on the death certificates.

The common thread is plain to see—the pursuit of profit and not enough resistance from rank and file workers.

## Right to Work shock for officials

TRADE union officials in Manchester had a short reminder of what unemployment is really about on Tuesday.

A cocktail party arranged by the Tory Lady Mayor and attended by dozens of local trade union officials including the secretary and treasurer of Manchester Trades Council, was invaded by pickets of the Manchester Right to Work Campaign.

All of the serious rank and file trade unionists had refused to attend. A picket had been arranged by the Right to

Work Committee, the Manchester Fight the Cuts Committee and supported by Manchester Playgroup workers who had recently been refused a £6 wage rise.

Most of the trade union officials sneaked in by the backdoor to avoid the picket, which included unemployed workers recently on the Right to Work March.

Despite press reports to the contrary, the only violence on the pickets was attempts by Town Hall flunkeys to smash a camera held by one of the marchers.



'Industrial safety—that's none of my business, I'm here to ensure your pickets are as ineffective as possible.' Police and pickets at the Isle of Grain power station this week.

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## ... the scandal goes on

AFTER the Ombudsman's report, Secretary of State for Employment Harold Walker claimed that things were different now in the insulation and asbestos industries.

He should tell that to the workers locked out at the Isle of Grain Power Station in Kent. They were sacked after declining to work with fibreglass insulation materials unless the company provided overalls. Their employers? Cape Industries, formerly of Hebden Bridge, working in consortium with two other leading asbestos murderers, Darlington Insulation and Turner and Newall.

These companies are simply re-running the asbestos story with fibreglass. They claim that fibreglass is safe 'according to the best of modern medical knowledge'.

In fact what medical knowledge there is suggests that fibreglass may cause mesothelioma, the very same cancer associated with asbestos.

White asbestos is still widely used as a building material. More and more of the ultra-lethal blue asbestos is being pulled down to be relagged.

This is being done in the same profitable but cavalier way it was put up, Socialist Worker understands that this very week in Barking Power Station blue asbestos was being delagged without the proper precautions. This could mean deaths.

At the Isle of Grain they have invoked the £6 pay limit to help them claim they have paid the ladders to the limit, so cannot provide free overalls.

## Socialist Worker Fighting Fund

THE total sent to the Socialist Worker fighting fund this week is £44.64.  
Our thanks to: Phil Wagstaff £1, John Coates £4.50, L C Butler, Colwyn Bay £1, SW supporters, Ninewells Hospital, Dundee £3, GLC SW supporters, M L Norris £13, ISJ back copies sales £10, SW supporters, Cramlington, Northumberland £1.80, SW supporters, Ormskirk £1.44, Members and supporters, Macclesfield £5.  
Send your collections and donations to: SW Fighting Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.