

Rank & File win freedom for Chile 5

FIVE victims of Chile's fascist junta arrived at London's Heathrow Airport on Tuesday night. They were the Cornejo family, three children, wife and husband.

Pedro Cornejo had been in one of the junta's concentration camps since soon after the 1973 coup. He was suddenly released this week and allowed to leave the country. This followed months of patient effort and organisation by the Rank and File Organising Committee here in Britain to get him released and accepted as a refugee by the British government.

Pedro, a national leader of the Chilean Agricultural Workers' Union and a member of the General Council of the Chilean TUC is one of many of the junta's victims whose cause has been taken up by the Rank and File Organising Committee.

Now their persistence has paid off. Secretary Roger Cox, stewards from Heathrow Airport and other trade unionists went to London Airport to welcome the Cornejos, who they are now helping to find work and a home.

We join them in that welcome and congratulate the Rank and File Organising Committee on their fine work.

TUC abandons the unemployed

PAUL FOOT REPORTS FROM THE TUC CONGRESS IN BLACKPOOL

ONE and a quarter million are unemployed now. This will be one and a half million by the very least at Christmas.

Ten million of the workers lucky enough to have a job are stuck in low-paid industries living in terrible, rising poverty as prices soar even faster in the first months of the freeze. Altogether, it is the most desperate crisis faced by the workers in the lifetime of most of us.

I had to remind myself of all this from the newspapers as I sat in the Opera House at Blackpool this week. The delegates to the TUC Congress have been conducting their business gently and complacently, almost in oblivion of the dreadful situation into which the people they represent are being plunged.

By day, the resolutions come and go. 'Congress deplores this . . . totally rejects that . . . demands the other'.

By night, as the booze flows even more lavishly than usual, the serious business—the horse-trading on votes, resolutions and TUC General Council positions—is under way.

Cynical

If anything, the synthetic anger generated at the Congress rostrum has been less in evidence this year than previously. As the crisis of the capitalist system drives more and more workers to the wall, so their trade union leaders seem to get less and less angry about it.

Presiding over the whole cynical operation has been the man with the largest number of votes in his pocket, Transport Union secretary, Jack Jones. In previous conferences, Jones has stood on the left—against the incomes policy in 1968, against the Industrial Relations Act in 1971. Now on almost every issue, Jones stands with the right.

Now Jones talks in language which he himself rejected out of hand before the crisis. Now he blabbers about a 'banana republic', about a 'definite link between wages and unemployment', about 'the danger of a Tory victory at the next election'.

And all for what? For a £6 wage freeze which will cut purchasing power, send unemployment rocketing, condemn his members to a year of growing poverty, and hand the next election to the Tories on a plate.

Jack Jones put his position at the Tribune rally. 'Socialist ideas are fine . . . But they are not on the agenda for today . . . Our movement could be crushed under the falling edifice of capitalism.'

So what are we to do? Support capitalism in case 'our movement collapses'?

Petty

When Jack Jones talks about 'our movement' he does not mean the masses of organised workers. He means trade union officialdom with its junkets, its petty privileges, its mean and narrow-minded politics, its devotion to discipline and order and negotiations and lobbies, which have dragged its members to the edge of the pit.

That officialdom depends on capitalism. So the greater the crisis of capitalism, the more Jones and company manoeuvre to keep the system intact at the expense of their members.

And the more rank and file workers need to stand up and declare for rank and file action to save jobs, rank and file action to free Des Warren, rank and file action to stop the government cuts, rank and file action which makes no compromise with the system which is destroying the jobs, jailing the pickets, cutting living standards and which caused the crisis in the first place.

INSIDE

Ireland: Why the murders go on . . .	2
TUC Congress—full report	3
17, and on the dole	5
Talking about socialism	6
Franco's terror	7
The 'moderate' murderer	11
Letters on Labour	12
The 'crime' of two Indian sisters . . .	13
Jury rumpus in pickets trial	16



Revolution Yes! Right-wing government No! Unity of the Revolutionary Forces! Part of a gigantic demonstration of workers, tenants and rank and file soldiers and sailors in Lisbon last week. The demonstration was hardly mentioned in the British press. Full report and analysis —pages 8-9

VICTORY TO THE PORTUGUESE WORKING CLASS!

All out on Saturday 20 September

March from Charing Cross Embankment, London at 2pm
Every International Socialist Branch to mobilise maximum support

Why I'll go 400 miles to march

THERE is a demonstration in London in a fortnight which every reader of Socialist Worker should support. It is to express solidarity with the revolutionary struggle of Portuguese workers and to oppose those right-wing forces here and in Portugal that are trying to turn the country into another Chile.

John McKenna, senior Electricians' steward at Standard Telephones, East Kilbride, explains why he will be travelling 400 miles to be on that march.

The company I work for is part of a multi-national combine which has interfered in the politics of countries all over the world. Everyone knows about ITT's involvement in Chile. Not so many know about ITT's involvement in countries such as Portugal.

The big multi-nationals are clear what they want when it comes to international events. Trade unionists on the other hand, don't always make the connection with what's happening in their factory.

The events in Portugal have changed that in an important way. In a company like ITT it is difficult not to be concerned about the issues involving our fellow workers there.

That is why it is vital to support the Portuguese solidarity demonstration, and why I will be going.

IRELAND: WHY THE MURDERS CONTINUE

THE RISING TOLL of sectarian murders in Northern Ireland and the new wave of bombings in London have proved once again how bankrupt the government's Irish policy is. Despite the talk of a 'truce', more than 140 people have died violently in Northern Ireland this year.

The seven people who died on Monday night were only the latest victims in an unending succession of murders. In the wake of the shooting of four men in an Orange Hall in Altnamackin, Armagh, prominent Unionist politicians have been demanding 'action' from British troops. Yet these politicians, men like Ian Paisley, are themselves largely responsible for the existence of sectarian murder.

The present wave of sectarian murders began with the killing of individual Catholics for no other reason than the fact that they were born into Catholic, not Protestant families. The republican organisations, including both wings of the IRA, not only denounced the murders, but insisted that there should be no retaliatory killings of Protestants.

By contrast, the men who provide the power base for most of the Loyalist and Unionist politicians, the leaders of the Loyalist paramilitary organisations, have organised the sectarian murders and said so in public.

Organisations like the UVF have boasted publicly about setting off bombs in Southern Ireland that killed 34 people. The UVF's publicity officer has claimed responsibility in the press for attacks on Republicans.

Yet men like Paisley have been only too happy to work politically with such people, while the British troops rarely take action against them.

There are clear indications that not only the UVF, but also units of the British-run Ulster Defence Regiment, have been involved in recent murders of Catholics.

Bombs

The result has been to inflame centuries-old sectarian hatreds within the Catholic community, despite the anti-sectarian line of the Republican leaders.

The same bitterness lies behind the willingness of some Catholics to countenance the idea of bombing attacks on civilian targets in Britain.

Socialists oppose any notion that attacks on Protestant workers or bombings that endanger the lives of British workers can solve Ireland's problems.

But the responsibility for these attacks doesn't lie with individual Irishmen. The real blame rests with those who have brought Ireland to its present state—British and Northern Ireland Unionist politicians who have deliberately inflamed sectarian feelings over the years to maintain their own political hold.

When Merlyn Rees talks today about sending more troops to an area like South Armagh, he is not talking about a solution to the problem of sectarianism but of actions that can only make it worse.

If he really wanted to weaken sectarianism in Ireland, he would disband the sectarian Northern Ireland police and the sectarian Ulster Defence Regiment.

He would break off all relations with the Unionist and Loyalist politicians, whose whole political base is sectarianism.

And he would withdraw British troops from Ireland, so forcing Protestant workers to see themselves as workers living alongside Catholic workers and not as some sort of superior species whose superiority is backed up by hordes of soldiers.

By Alan Wilson, ETU shop steward
Glasgow Corporation
electrical workshop

TROOPS breaking the Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike last March after the Labour council had refused to honour their promise of £4 extra.

At the time, all sorts of phoney arguments were used to excuse the use of soldiers as strike-breakers.

All the Labour councillors said the troops were being used to safeguard the health of the community and not to defend the Labour government's social contract.

But, last Wednesday, the council received a bill from the Ministry of Defence and its real motives became obvious.

It cost Glasgow Council £191,673 to pay for the troops as



PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

At last...the £333,000 truth

strike-breakers. On top of that, it had to pay for private contractors and other additional expenses during what they called the three-week emergency, making £333,000 in all.

Pay

Had the Council paid the £4 increase, it would have cost them £104,000 in a full year.

Instead it chose to pay three times as much for a three-week

period, rather than keep their promise to pay the dustcart drivers a reasonable weekly wage.

The Labour councillors had no interest or desire to pay the increase to the Transport and General Workers members on strike and had little interest in the safety of the people who live in Glasgow.

They were solely concerned with defeating a wage claim and so considered strike-breaking soldiers cheap at the price.

Miners ballot: It could have been so different

WHEN THE MINERS voted to accept the £6 wage limit, many of them had heard only one side of the argument—the government's side. Against the propaganda of the television, the newspapers, the government, the TUC and the miners' own executive, there were few people putting the other side.

Even in Yorkshire, Arthur Scargill, NUM Area President, did not, as he explained to the Guardian newspaper, campaign against the majority executive position.

But in one or two areas there was a campaign. Although it had many faults, it shows what could have been

'CLOSE ANTI-ABORTION CENTRE', COUNCIL TOLD

by Liz Cleland.

ABERDEEN: The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC), an hysterically anti-abortion organisation, has always had difficulty spreading its ideas in Aberdeen. The local health board has had a liberal policy on abortion from way back in the 1930s.

But in August SPUC opened up an advisory service, under the guise of 'The Society of the Innocents', to guide women away from the terrors of having an abortion.

The local branch of the National Abortion Campaign wants to get the centre banned. A resolution was passed by the Donside and District branch of the print union SOGAT and overwhelmingly carried on the trades council.

They called for the Aberdeen and District Council to close the centre. 'We believe that pregnancy advice is the job of the social services department. The activities of SPUC constitute an unwarranted interference in their work, and this

is against the interests of working-class women. We resolve to support the NAC in any reasonable action against the SPUC centre in Aberdeen to ensure its closure.'

The resolution led to a stream of publicity in the local press, mostly sympathetic to SPUC views.

For the first few months the 'Innocents' intend to be cautious with their experiment. There is to be no advertising in the local press, and the centre is to open in the evenings only.

But NAC in Aberdeen knows that the centre is potentially dangerous. In Glasgow, where SPUC is well organised, it is extremely difficult to get an abortion, and Glasgow MPs, such as James White, have to look to their Catholic vote.

The centre was picketed for the whole of the first week it was open. A week of action is planned in October, and it will be picketed again.

done. *Charlie Anderson, who works at Comrie Pit, near Dunfermline in Fife, spoke to Socialist Worker about what happened in Scotland:*

‘A lot of people felt they shouldn't go for confrontation over the £100... but I never met anyone who thought we should take £6. It wasn't a great campaign in Scotland but it was successful. There was one article in Scottish Miner (the official paper of the National Union of Mineworkers).

There was only one leaflet and one meeting at each pit head. That was the extent of the campaign. The leaflet was very poor, arguing about the Labour government, Labour Party Conference and who makes decisions.

It should have concentrated on what the £6 means to our wage packet. This point was brought across at pit head meetings. Although most of the men don't go to these, word soon gets around.

Revolt

The feeling now is that we have got to accept the decision, but later in the year feelings might be different. McGahey has been saying all along that if this goes through there will be a rank and file revolt.

It looks as if he is going to sit and wait for it to happen rather than give it a bit of encouragement.

I can quite see it happening. Rates and rents are going up already here in Dunfermline and we are told that, after tax, and so on we will only have £3.10 out of £6.

Portugal: Why your cash is so vital

THE NEW YORK Times revealed last Friday how the Portuguese Socialist Party has been able to make such a big impact with its pro-big business, pro-NATO policies despite its lack of active supporters within the factories.

'The West German Social Democratic Party,' the paper's Bonn correspondent disclosed, 'has supplied several million dollars in aid during the last year and a half.'

They have openly sent office supplies, typewriters and newsprint. The West European Socialist leaders have quietly made money transfers during visits to Portugal. The visits take place 'at least once a month', a party official said.

It is no wonder that the Socialist Party has been able to flood the country with its posters, to dominate two daily papers (as well as the paper Republica until its workers ousted control from the party's supporters) and to produce a weekly tabloid, and to pump out literature for parliamentary and union elections.

Claim

Western politicians have tried to justify this interference in Portuguese affairs by referring to huge sums allegedly supplied by the Russians to the local Communist Party.

They have not, of course, been able to supply any evidence to back up their claim.

More important, however, is the fact that those fighting for genuine socialist change in Portugal cannot look to any foreign power for funds.

The organisation which is fighting for workers' councils, for workers' power and for a revolutionary army in place of the existing army in Portugal, the PRP, can only get funds from one source—from the contributions made by Portuguese workers.

In this sense, it finds itself in the same position as IS in this country—except that Portuguese workers are even worse paid and suffer even higher unemployment than we do.

Real

That is why every penny sent to Portugal by revolutionaries in this country represents a real source of help to Portugal's revolution.

This week the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund has collected the magnificent sum of

£525.50

Our efforts are now being assisted by Workers Power in the US, which is also raising money for the PRP. But we need much more than we have collected so far.

It is up to every reader of Socialist Worker to help us raise this money. If you cannot afford to give more yourself, what about taking a collecting sheet around your factory or among other people you know agree with Socialist Worker?

Printed collection sheets can be obtained from the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, or from any of the IS bookshops.

Contributions have come this week from J Settle and B Wean, from Wigan, who sent their shop stewards' fees, £10; Chelmsford IS £38.50; £13.67 from the sale of badges and posters; £4.65 Newcastle UPW; £18 North London IS; £4.94 from a German comrade; £5 Ipswich wedding collection; £400 from a Birmingham comrade.

Send donations to the Socialist Worker Portuguese Solidarity Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

IS AUEW Fraction National Aggregate

Saturday 13 September
Milton Hall, Deansgate, Manchester, 11am. All AUEW IS members urged to attend. Admission by IS card. Non-members by invitation.

A pooled fares system will operate to keep travelling costs to a minimum. Coach Departs London, Left Luggage Office, Kings Cross, 7am.

TUC CONGRESS:

This is why we need a Rank and File Movement

WHAT WE THINK

IT'S difficult to open a paper or turn on the television without seeing some dignitary deploring the rising unemployment.

With the exception of some cranky, but honest, right-wing Tories it's impossible to find anyone who openly supports higher unemployment. From the Queen to John Stonehouse they're all against it. All the same, it continues to rise toward the 1½ million mark. Clearly it won't be stopped by fine words from famous people.

You might expect a different approach from the leaders of the TUC. They do at least have to make some response to pressure from the members.

But their only improvement on the usual pious statements is a handful of militant-sounding resolutions at the TUC Congress in Blackpool this week.

And not one seeks to commit the trade union movement to any organised fight back against unemployment.

Unemployed members of the General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU) will be pleased to know that their union is calling for 'budgetary measures designed to bring down the level of unemployment'

SOLUTION

Building workers will be just as thrilled to hear that their union, UCATT, realises the 'gravity of the economic situation' and insists that Congress should 'stand by its view that the solution lies in a voluntary agreement on wages, profits, prices and all other forms of income coupled with implementation of the economic policies outlined by the TUC-Labour Party liaison committee'.

Phew! What a relief that is for the Eldon Square scaffolders and the Cammell Laird builders who are threatened by the courts and intimidated by the police. What a fantastic boost to the 400,000 jobless building workers who could be roused to fight for jobs.

Fighting unemployment and redundancies needs more than pious resolutions. It requires action—action to unite employed workers behind unemployed workers, action to fight every redundancy, action to force the government to nationalise without compensation firms that claim they cannot afford to

continue providing jobs for their workers.

Yet action is the one thing missing from all the TUC's resolutions. The only action they are interested in is action to hold down wages.

Occasionally the leaders of the trade unions come up with some allegedly new scheme to patch up the faults in the capitalist system. Jack Jones unveiled one this week with his plan for a £2000 million compulsory investment fund. This is far from original and in no way socialist.

Yet Jack Jones and company have great difficulty in getting even their blatantly pro-capitalist policies adopted. Because when the Confederation of British Industry shoots the proposition down with cries of 'unwarranted interference with the rights of management',

the leaders of the TUC are not prepared to take action to force government and big business to adopt their proposals.

Even a superficial glance at the history of the working-class movement in Britain shows that the TUC General Council has never led a real fight against unemployment. In the 1930s it hummed and hawed and then attacked the National Unemployed Workers' Movement, the rank and file body which was organising the unemployed.

Under the last Tory government, which the TUC was committed to oppose by a ton of resolutions, was it the knights of the General Council who led the fight against unemployment? No. The real struggle against redundancies and unemployment has been a history of rank and file initiatives. The

Upper Clyde Shipbuilders' work-in and the Fisher-Bendix occupation, which broke the tradition of accepting closures as inevitable, were both led by shop stewards.

Fighting from within by occupations, departmental sit-ins, internal picketing, work-ins and so on have become accepted industrial tactics. But there has never been an occupation instigated by trade union full-time officials. At best they have turned up after the event.

In many cases they have done their utmost to isolate those in struggle—as the Transport Workers' Union officials in Hull told the workers occupying Imperial Typewriters to discourage assistance from 'outsiders', even when such outsiders were dockers prepared to black all typewriters.

EFFECTIVE

The only hope for a fight against falling living standards and rising unemployment lies with the rank and file. Many rank and file groups of workers have already taken the initiative. But to be effective, this must not be a fight back by isolated groups of workers alone.

If the strength of the many strong rank and file trade union organisations was drawn together on a national level, then a real struggle could be launched.

A National Rank and File Movement does not mean abandoning the official trade union movement to the bureaucrats. We have to fight within the trade unions for increased control over officials, kicking out and replacing those who resist such control.

We most certainly want militant policies to have official backing.

But we must not wait for long drawn-out procedures to change union rules and replace officials. We have to take action now to link together those sections of the movement controlled by the rank and file, despite the opposition of the bureaucrats. This means strengthening and extending organisation at shop steward level, forging links between different sections of workers, co-ordinating rank and file action within each combine and union and at national and district level.

This means building a National Rank and File Movement. There is no other way.

TUC threatens Shrewsbury picket with police

PANDEMONIUM broke out at the TUC Congress on Tuesday afternoon when Ricky Tomlinson, jailed Shrewsbury picket, was ordered out of the gallery for demanding the right to speak.

The debate on the Shrewsbury jailings opened quietly as Reg Birch of the Engineering Workers Union (AEWU) moved a resolution calling for the 'full strength' of the TUC to be used to free Des Warren.

Mick McGahey of the Miners Union drew a burst of applause when he said that the TUC General Council had done 'everything bar action' to free Des.

'I'll tell you this. It wouldn't be a miner lying in there now. If they had put miners in jail for picketing as they tried to do in 1972 they'd have to find a new way of getting coal out without men,' he said.

The next speaker was Breakell, of the Electricians' Union, who was against a move to free Warren. 'We can't have gangsterism,' he said, and was cut short at once by a great burst of angry shouting and booing from the gallery.

Ricky Tomlinson came to the front of the gallery shouting: 'No more appeasement, no more visits to Jenkins, all out action to free Des now. Let me put Des's case to you, brothers.'

Earlier in the day the TUC General Purposes Committee turned down a request from the civil servants' union CPSA delegation that Ricky Tomlinson be allowed ten minutes to speak to Congress. By a narrow vote, the CPSA delegation decided not to challenge the committee's decision on the floor.

The shouting from Ricky and his supporters, many of whom had come to Blackpool for a 'Free Des

Warren' demonstration organised by the North Wales Defence Committee, continued for several minutes while Breakell stood in silence at the rostrum.

Marie Patterson, TUC chairman, then said: 'This is a terrible thing that has happened. If it goes on I shall have to call the police.'

Breakell continued his pathetic speech with several interruptions.

Passed

The AEWU resolution was passed with only the Electricians' Union delegation voting against. Congress also decided to send a telegram to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins demanding the release of Des Warren.

Ricky Tomlinson told Socialist Worker afterwards: 'It breaks my heart to break up a trade union meeting, but there was nothing else I could do. I was in prison with Des Warren for many months, and I feel his agony now. I had to tell them to do something about Des, and I was prepared to risk my neck to do it. I couldn't stand it when I heard the word gangster used.'



Some of the 10,000 pensioners who lobbied the TUC Congress to demand action for a £28-a-week pension for a couple and £18.60 for a single person, compared with £19.50 and £11.60 now. Supporting the demands, Transport Union general secretary Jack Jones agreed that this would breach the £6 a week pay curb. PICTURE: Chris Davies (Report).

OVERWHELMING VOTE FOR ABORTION CAMPAIGN

BY an overwhelming majority the Trades Council Congress called on Tuesday for a working-class campaign for abortion on demand.

Only about 30 hands were raised against the resolution which could prove one of the most important in the history of the fight for women's rights.

The resolution called on the TUC General Council and on all affiliated trade unions to campaign actively in the labour movement.

Firstly, to defeat the Abortion Amendment Bill and any other attempts to introduce restrictive abortion legislation. Secondly, for the right of all women to adequate services, contraception and abortion on request, available free of charge.

Thirdly, to resist any changes in the 1967 Abortion Act which would produce conditions detrimental to the health and welfare of the women in this country.

In a brilliant speech moving the resolution, Terry Marsland of the Tobacco Workers' Union poured contempt on 'those gallant Labour MPs who propose new restrictions on working women.'

'Have those same MPs ever argued for new laws to improve conditions of working women? Do they know anything about the noise and the fatigue which women who work in factories have to put up with?'

Passing the resolution is a victory for the campaign against the James White Bill. Now we must take the TUC at its own word, and actively campaign against all restrictive legislation. This means going to every trade union branch and organising support, meetings, petitions and pickets.

The National Abortion Campaign can use the resolution to mobilise thousands of trade unionists for a massive demonstration in November.

Socialist ideals not on agenda says Jack Jones

THE socialist conscience of the trade union leadership crept into the ballroom at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool, on Sunday when Tribune, the left-wing group within the Labour Party, held its annual rally before the TUC Congress with editor Dick Clements as chairman. A scattered audience of 50 was spread throughout the large hall together with a press corps of another 30.

Clements, welcoming Transport Union general secretary Jack Jones as the opening speaker, said 'his record as a fighter for socialism is second to none.'

I am delighted to have present those who argued strongly on both sides in this debate in the labour movement. Socialism is about comradeship as well.'

Jones made it clear who his 'comrades' now were. He is not trying to challenge capitalism. He is not even trying to change it. 'Socialist ideals are fine,' he said. 'But that is not on the agenda for today... We should always remember that our movement could be crushed under the falling edifice of capitalism.'

His socialism presumably consists in trying to prop up this edifice.

Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the white-collar union ASTMS, spoke next. 'I don't believe in instant socialism,' he revealed. 'I just want to see the country better managed.'

His solution is for the Labour government to adopt the managerial techniques supposedly used in Scandinavia—such as selected import controls and improved direction of investment. 'If we did all the things now that the Tribune group has proposed we would still be 15 years behind the Swedes,' he argued. Which is a long time for the unemployed to wait.

THE UNIONS

Willie Lee speaking tour

WILLIE LEE, senior Engineering Union shop steward at Chrysler Linwood and a candidate for the union's post of national organiser, is touring Charter groups this month. Socialist Worker has consistently urged support for him.

The Charter meetings are not an exercise in vote-catching. They will mark the birth of a national network of rank and file activists.

A central task for Charter groups will be to push now for the demand for a national across-the-board increase and a 35-hour week in 1976. These resolutions

can then go to the first divisional meetings of 1976 and to National Conference.

If you are in the AUEW, support your local Charter group. If there isn't one in your area, call a meeting of local AUEW activists. Ask branches and shop stewards committees to sponsor the meeting.

The Charter is printed in the penny pamphlet *The Case Against the Postal Ballot—The Need for an Engineers' Charter*, and is available from Engineers Charter, c/o Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince of Wales Road, London N16 8BY.



Willie Lee, AUEW national organiser candidate

Picture Chris Davies (REPORT)

AUEW: It's empty talk again

By John Deason

AS USUAL, the Engineering Union are leading the opposition at this week's TUC to the government's right-wing stampede and to its allies in the General Council.

The engineering section of the AUEW list action necessary to fight attempts to impose unemployment. It includes 'maximum solidarity action with all affected workers', a shorter working week, longer holidays, reduction and ending of overtime, and no voluntary redundancy or natural wastage schemes in any agreements.

These points are part of the basic framework of policies necessary to fight unemployment. But the engineering section go further. They call for control of the export of capital, lowering of interest rates, increases in social services spending and increases in wages to push up the demand for goods and therefore create jobs.

And they call for more nationalisation and greater government control of large-scale investment, particularly in areas of heavy unemployment.

Battle

Many of these policies are essential to bring down unemployment. The government is doing almost the exact reverse. Every effort to push up wages and so create jobs is now a battle against the government.

How have the Engineering Union succeeded in their efforts to fight for the policies they are verbally supporting this week at Blackpool?

They call for higher wages to push up consumption and create jobs, but have avoided submitting, let alone fighting for, across-the-board national wage increases. The union has the strength to push up wages in thousands of factories in a national battle. In plant-by-plant negotiations, the weakest factories go to the wall.

The resolution calls for solidarity action with workers facing redundancies. But when was the last official blacking directive, the last official solidarity picketing?

The resolution calls for a shorter working week. But the present AUEW leadership sabotaged the only major battle for 35 hours, in Manchester in 1972. The demand has since been dropped from successive claims.

It is a bitter irony that the AUEW are the only powerful section of workers who have not won a decent national wage rise in recent years.

The union's left wing 'Broad Left' leadership is trapped between a re-emerging right-wing, led by John Boyd, and by its own distance

from the rank and file militants who fought to get Hugh Scanlon and others elected.

There is no disagreement on the left about the sort of general policies needed to fight unemployment. But there is every difference about how to translate, for example, the

resolution at the TUC into real policies and into action.

The central reason for the failure of the left in the recent AUEW elections was that many militants who have traditionally campaigned for Broad Left candidates found it difficult and unpleasant to argue the need to support candidates with a consistent record of left talk and no action.

In most areas of the country, the traditional Broad Left organisation is in a state of collapse.

The Engineers Charter has been drawn up by rank and file engineers in an effort to end a situation where we have to rely on the good intentions of the men we fight to elect.

The Charter seeks more control over officials by the rank and file, and to increase rank and file activity

The Charter is not finalised. Groups are being set up across the country to discuss the draft and begin to fight for it inside the union.



Introducing the world's fastest drinker...

MEMBERS of the white-collar union ASTMS will be excited to know that their officials are yet again leading where others merely follow.

Take assistant general secretary Bob McCusker, for instance. Yes, that's him on the left.

He was lucky enough to win a free seat on the recent Concorde flight over the Atlantic. It was Concorde's first public passenger flight—and Mr McCusker marked the occasion with the odd swig or two.

It made him, in the immortal words of the Press Association's caption writer, 'the world's fastest scotch drinker'.

No comment, absolutely no comment...

Wages and jobs...from the Charter's draft programme

WAGES

- opposition to all forms of incomes policy.
- for national, meaningful, across-the-board wage increases with official campaigning and propaganda within the membership for such claims.
- for £50 minimum time rates.
- for full equal pay and job opportunity for women workers.

JOB SECURITY

- for official opposition to closures, short time working, speed up and volun-

tary redundancies.

- for official occupations to force nationalisation, without compensation of plants threatened with closure.
- for 100 per cent closed shops and strong shop stewards' organisation to maintain manning levels and control of work speeds.
- for district committee control of job replacement and registration—a strict restriction of job loss.
- for a 35-hour week without loss of pay.

SPEAKING TOUR

THE NEED FOR AN ENGINEERS CHARTER

by Willie Lee
Senior Steward
Chrysler Linwood

SWANSEA: Tuesday 9 September, 7.30pm AUEW House.

MANCHESTER: Wednesday 10 September, 8pm, Milton Hall, Deansgate.

WEST YORKS: Sunday 21 September, 7.30pm, Star Hotel, Westgate, Bradford.

N LONDON: Monday 22 September, 8pm, Golden Fleece, Fore Street, Edmonton, N18.

LEEDS: Thursday 25 September, 8pm, Trades Council, Club, Saville Mount, Chapel Town.

17-and on the dole

OSSIE LLOYD is 17. He left school in June and, like most of his mates in South Shields, cannot find a job.

His father is a West Indian who settled in England after fighting in the Second World War.

He had high hopes of life and work in South Shields, hopes which disappeared when no company on Tyneside would employ him, as a draughtsman, despite his seven-year apprenticeship.

Fed up with being rejected for every job in his chosen trade, he became a tailor's cutter.

I asked Ossie about his school, his friends, the problems of being unemployed—and what he thought should be done.

'There was a total lack of preparation at school—they never told you that you'd be unemployed, they never told you how to claim social security.'

'There was a part-time careers officer for 1500 kids. But all they ever told you was how to join the armed services and the police.'

'There was a general attitude that those who want to work can find a job.'

'Every year there was a thing called Work Experience week. This meant sending a few kids out into the factories for three or four days.'

Wanted

'It was just unpaid labour so the employers weren't averse to having a few kids round doing the errands making the tea, especially when they didn't have to make any commitment to employ us when we left school.'

South Shields schools are all comprehensive and Ossie attended the former grammar school. But the headmaster—a reverend—wanted to preserve the image.

His sixth form is regarded as good recruiting ground for officers when the armed services make their annual visit.

'The headmaster started the system of service groups which were supposed to make us responsible. What it did was put the caretaker out of a job.'

'We had to open and close the school, mend the coffee machines and see to the general running of the school. Once the head

At school, they never told you that you'd be unemployed. All they ever told you was how to join the armed services and the police . . .

—OSSIE LLOYD, aged 17, unemployed

1,250,334 people are now out of work in Britain, according to the latest figures. And 165,623 of them are school-leavers. Ossie Lloyd is one of them. He told Socialist Worker this week of the future this system offers him—a life of desperation, a life being destroyed on the dole at 17.

threatened to close our common room, so we went on strike for two days.

'When I left, the headmaster said I didn't have the right attitude. His last words were "get out and don't cause any more trouble".'

Ossie and his mates have, on average, each had 12 interviews for jobs. They find continual rejection demoralising.

'One of my mates has been to 25 interviews. He is even worse off

than the rest of us. His lass is pregnant and they're getting married in October.

'She works six or seven days a week as a hospital cleaner and brings home £19 after tax. A few of the lads have jobs, but they're all dead-end or temporary.'

A couple of examples from Ossie's experience show how bad the situation is.

'South Shields corporation offered nine labouring jobs. 500 kids applied for them. There was a job

going with Northern buses as a diesel mechanic—and 15 kids that I know went after it.

'At school they make a big thing of getting academic qualifications but plenty of kids I know with 'O' levels can't get jobs.'

Now that unemployment is rocketing in South Shields, the black population is feeling it most.

'One of my friends is half-Arab. He has a few 'O' levels and tried for a lot of jobs when he left school last year.'

'In desperation he went to the Army recruiting centre, passed the test and was told he was just the type they needed. He was taken on as a radio technician.'

'After a week he was thrown off the course. They told him he was too stupid. But then, of course, he was the only black lad in the barracks—and the NCO used to use him as a skivvy.'

One of the worst things about being unemployed is the boredom. Ossie and his mates have nothing to do and most of them wander the streets every day.

The £6.85 social security has to go into family housekeeping—so they can't even go for a pint.

Ossie thinks the labour movement should be doing more about unemployment.

The CIA, by a man who knows

PHILIP AGEE, the former CIA agent whose book *Inside the Company: a CIA Diary* is now a world-wide best-seller, will be starting a tour of Northern Britain on 15 September.

He will be speaking mainly at Socialist Worker factory discussion meetings in Manchester, Glasgow and Newcastle. To set the scene, Agee will be writing in next week's Socialist Worker on how a CIA case officer would work in the British trade union movement.

'The CIA issue is useful,' Agee says, 'because it is the secret police of the most advanced and most powerful Western capitalist nation. The usefulness to workers anywhere of discussing the CIA or other intelligence services is that this helps define the principle economic and political fact that they are simply instruments of the ruling class.'

'It shows how the government of the United States, for example, serves the minority interests of the owners and managers of the multinational corporations who are an infinitesimal percentage of the population.'

Agee was recruited by the CIA when he finished university in 1957. 'I was a product of the McCarthy era,' he explains. 'I accepted that our intervention in the affairs of foreign countries was justified because we were helping them buy time.'

By Steve Jefferys

'We provided internal stability so they would be able to install some economic growth and reform. It was not till after I got down to Latin America that I realised that the more successful we were in our operations, the further away the reform programme became.'

After spending three years in the Air Force doing military training, during which time he was commissioned a lieutenant, Agee was assigned to the Western Hemisphere Division of the CIA's Clandestine Services.

'In late 1960,' he says, 'I was sent to Ecuador, where I worked for three years. From there, I was transferred to Uruguay where I worked for two-and-a-half years, until about September 1966.'

'I then came back to Washington where I worked until June 1967 when I went down to Mexico.' Agee was in Mexico City at the time of the Olympic massacre of 1968 and finally left the CIA early the following year.

Agee will be explaining at the factory discussion meetings exactly how the CIA operates. His personal experience on the inside includes:

The running of agents who are spies within the left-wing political parties.

Physical surveillance teams, groups of people who follow an individual round the streets.

Telephone tapping and bugging.

Militant action, that is, terror squads.

Bombing squads.

Trade union and student operations.

Police, particularly the police and military intelligence services.

Agee will also be speaking at some Socialist Worker public meetings on the general role of the CIA and its style of work in situations such as that in Portugal today. He has already named several CIA men at work in Lisbon.

'John Morgan, the CIA Chief of Station, was in Brazil during the period when the death squads were operating at full force,' he points out.

And James Lawler, who was on the same training programme as Agee, and who is now deputy-chief of station in Lisbon, in Brazil in 1962 and in Chile in 1964, when millions of dollars were spent financing candidates and in keeping Allende out.'

In Agee's opinion, 'the CIA are moving in people who have got a lot of experience in repression and in election operations in Latin America . . . to try to spring the type of event that occurred in Brazil and Chile.'

By agreeing to do this tour for Socialist Worker, Philip Agee has given our readers a tremendous opportunity to find out more about how the other side works.

Full details of the tour will be published in next week's issue alongside his article. Make sure you don't miss them.



Picture: Ray Smith (IFL)

Ocean

'Bernard Appleton, secretary of the local Trades Council, said recently that firms should be compelled to take the government-agreed quota of apprentices.'

'At the moment, they just get a £100 fine if they don't. That's a drop in the ocean for the big engineering firms.'

Ossie knows first hand the harsh realities of living in a society based on greed and exploitation. He says:

'I've been a member of the International Socialists for 12 months now. It has done more to fight racialism and the National Front than any other group.'

'It is important that we now take up the fight against unemployment seriously.'

CATHY
COTTON

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM by DUNCAN HALLAS

'THE Labour Party is the only viable path to socialism,' wrote a reader in last week's issue of Socialist Worker and so, of course, all socialists ought to be in it, pushing forward the good work.

Is this really still an issue? Unfortunately, yes. If you point to the Labour government's manifestly capitalist policies, people like this reader will brush the wretched government aside. It is not Wilson, Callaghan and Healey we are defending, they protest. Not what the Labour Party is but what it should be or what it can become.

There are a number of variants of this line and added together their

Labour's 'golden myth'

adherents make a goodly number. The Tribune MPs and their followers represent a pure strain. Then there is the Communist Party whose programme, The British Road to Socialism, states 'it is not the aim of the Communist Party to undermine, weaken or split the Labour Party ...

'As Communists we sincerely desire the strengthening of the left trends within the Labour Party. We

believe that the struggle of the socialist forces to make it a party of action and socialism will grow ... When the Labour Party rejects reformism, moves into the attack on capitalism, ends the bans and proscriptions against the left, it will ensure itself a vital role in the building of socialism.'

Another variety, and one that is itself pretty variegated to borrow the gardener's term, is that of the

'marxist' or 'revolutionary' Labour Party member, a species that seems to flourish in the soil of Labour's youth organisation.

Their hope for the future is 'the mass left wing' which, 'when the crisis comes,' will mushroom into a force that will transform the Party and either capture it for socialism or break away and found the revolutionary party.

Naturally this very mixed bag

disagree violently among themselves on all manner of matters. The CP differs from all the rest in believing that another party—their own—is necessary. But all share the view that a major, if not the major, activity of socialists ought to be directed to winning the Labour Party to 'socialist policies'.

To get to grips with this argument we need to examine three things: what the Labour Party has been, what the experience of the various left wings in the past can teach us and what is the state and prospect of the Party today. This week we will take the first point.

Some of the 'reform' Labour Party school have a more or less realistic understanding of the Party's history: a great many, however, are under the spell of what a critic brilliantly labelled 'the myth of the golden past'.

Mild

The Party has fallen sadly away from its former commitment to socialism, they believe, but it once had that commitment and it can recapture, if not the first fine careless rapture, then at least the essential elements thereof. Commonly the golden days are located in the Party's first decade, before the First World War.

That is not how it was seen by left-wingers at the time. 'To attack the Parliamentary Labour Party nowadays may look like flogging a dead horse,' wrote G D H Cole, most prolific of all writers on the labour movement in this century, in 1913.

'The Party consists of about 30 liberals, often of the mildest type, and six or seven socialists. It is led by a man [Ramsay MacDonald—DH] who quite honestly believes in independent Labour representation, but believes also in the Liberal alliance. It consists largely of men who do not believe in independent Labour representation at all.'

Not, please note, men who do not believe in socialism, that was too obvious to be worth saying, but who do not believe even in the idea of an organisation independent of the Liberal Party.

The Parliamentary Labour Party—there were then no Labour Party organisations outside parliament, they came later—was the product of the unwilling recognition by liberal trade union leaders that they needed a parliamentary pressure group to defend the existence of their organisation against legislative attacks and especially attacks from the judges—the Taff Vale case, the Osborne judgement.

But it is the socialist minority that matters to us. What sort of socialists were they? They were men thoroughly imbued with two ideas: the notion that socialism means simply the expansion of the powers of the existing state and the 'inevitability of gradualism'.

Freed

These ideas were the contribution of the Fabians, the immensely influential little group of intellectuals who provided the Labour Party with the only coherent body of ideas (other than liberalism) that it ever had.

Fabianism was a conscious attempt to inoculate the labour movement against acceptance of the class struggle and the socialist revolution.

'Its first achievement, as already mentioned, was to break the spell of Marxism in England,' wrote the society's historian Edward Pease in 1916.

'The Fabian Society freed English Socialism from this intellectual bondage, and freed it sooner and more completely than Revisionists have succeeded in doing anywhere else.'

He was not boasting. That minority of Labour MPs who were not simply orthodox liberals were completely under the Fabian spell.

The consequences, the emergence of the 'left-wing' opposition and its castration in 'revolutionary' victories, set the mould, so to say, for the whole future of the Party. But that will have to wait until next week.

5 FIFTH COLUMN



A new mug everyday

THE news that the National Front are holding an anti-mugging demonstration in East London this weekend should cause some surprise. The NF's previous record, and the record of its founders, has been that of an enthusiastic group of muggers as one is likely to find.

Take KEITH SQUIRES for example. He was the NF candidate for Wood Green, in North East London at the last general election. His celebration of the campaign culminated in him hurling a public address system at others gathered to hear the result. His subsequent conviction is the only memento he has left of his crusade for law and order.

'Searchlight' a monthly paper which surveys the activities of the various fascist groupings in the country has published interesting lists of the NF's action in bringing peace to the streets.

Like ROY MENNIE who was charged with 'carrying an offensive weapon' after attacking an anti-fascist with a wooden staff.

Perhaps the NF would like to explain their anti-mugging policy to the West London trade unionist whose eye-sight has been permanently damaged after an assault by various NF badged men last year.

In the good old days of the early 1960s the fascists were less reticent about putting on the black shirts and swastikas. Alas, the results began an impressive toll of police convictions starting with the 'Spearhead manoeuvres' of 1962. There they gathered, in Temple Guiting in Gloucestershire to try on their uniforms and play with their guns.

Playtime was sadly interrupted, while the gathering were 'drinking English ale' under their 'beloved Northern skies' by local villagers. The locals apparently objected to them. Spearhead, rather blunted, ran away.

If there weren't plenty of people around Britain who have been injured by NF members, if Kevin Gately wasn't dead, and if Adolf Hitler hadn't existed then derision might be an appropriate reaction.

That's what West Indian Hector Smith might have felt. But Smith is dead. He was murdered in Glasgow by Brian Howe, a supporter of the Ulster Defence Association—and member of the National Front.

'With the words "Do you think you are a brown nigger?" Howe shot Hector dead. Niggers are willing to be shot dead. They are not willing to be shot dead by a white man.'

ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS AN INADEQUATE LITTLE MAN. HE WAS ALWAYS BEING PUSHED AROUND.

BY HIS BOSS: SIR! CLEAN UP MY OFFICE BEFORE YOU GO HOME WORMFORD...

BY HIS LANDLORD: (The man is shown in a room with a rat infestation.)

BY THE POLICE AND HIS WORKMATES. THEY MADE HIM FEEL SMALL AND HELPLESS. (The man is surrounded by police and workmates holding signs like 'PICKET LINE' and 'OFFICIAL STRIKE').

BUT SOMETIMES, IN THE PRIVACY OF HIS LITTLE RAT-INFESTED ROOM HE WOULD DREAM ...



A wee nest in the Dales. The home the Crofts built ...

From the bustle to the Throstle...

ARE you tired of the daily grind? Is your job too much for you? Are your hands ruined by that hard nasty tap water, when you do the washing up? Are you asphxiated by cooking fumes when you prepare delicious gourmet meals? Are you driven to the bottle as a consolation?

Do you long for the open air? For the wild wind blowing across the dales? For the smell of the heather and the plaintive keening of the hawk on the wind?

Then Throstle Nest Cottage, near Conistone in the Yorkshire Dales is the place for you.

There's only one snag. Mr J Croft has bought it, and is moving in come October. Mr Croft's old home is situated on the edge of a town. It is a very nice house, but it is not the Throstle Nest.

affrontery which has driven Croft to his Throstle Nest. He paid £100,000 for it. The builder working on it estimates further changes will cost £80,000.

A machine supplies high pressure and low pressure soft water, plus high pressure hard. The hard water is useful for those trying moments when Mr Croft seeks solace with a wee dram.

The kitchen equipment, from Germany, Switzerland and America, including an electric char broiler with built in extractor fan, costs more than £4000. The 'master bathroom' features a double bath in pale blue—doubleless to economise on water.

Total cost of the Nest is estimated at £250,000. These people will be living there, and doubtless will be happy to pay their way.

FRANKLY HELPFUL...

LABOUR Party democracy is again under threat. Frank Tomney, the 'hang 'em and flog 'em' Labour MP for Hammersmith is faced with the sack by local Party members.

Tomney knows how to fight back. He is sponsored by the General and Municipal Workers Union. So he has suddenly developed an interest in making sure that the 15 representatives that the union is entitled to appear on the constituency committee.

How heartening that he should seek to encourage trade union interest in the Labour Party. So enthusiastic is he that he's been writing out cheques for the GMWU members' Labour Party subscriptions himself.

'It's all within the rules,' explained a Labour Party spokesman. Tomney has explained that the new members have paid him the money themselves—and he had merely made out the cheques.

Tomney is doubtless just being bashful. He obviously realises the hardship that the Labour government is wreaking on his union members makes it difficult for them to afford to join the Party.

It is quite understandable that the press haven't dwelled on his cheque signing, when he too is under threat from the red menace. He isn't the first Labour MP to realise the importance of union representation in Labour branches. Mr James White, the Labour anti-abortion MP is well served in a similar technique ...

Death sentences for Franco's enemies

REPORT BY LAURIE FLYNN

ANY day this week the tottering Spanish fascist dictatorship is due to strike another blow for law and order.

Last Friday a military court found 23-year-old Jose Antonio Garmendia and 33-year-old Angel Oteagui Echevarria guilty of killing a corporal in the civil guard. The following day death sentences were pronounced.

The way in which these death sentences are to be carried out is calculated to terrorise the working people of Spain. Jose Garmendia, who is critically ill from head wounds inflicted during his arrest last year, and Angel Echevarria are to be garotted.

The Franco regime has long had an affection for the garotte. The brutality of the operation satisfies their blood lust, their desire to smash the workers' movement and dissent in general.

For the garotte, the victim is taken and put against a stake. A metal collar is put around the neck. At the back there is a device which enables the collar to be tightened slowly, turn upon turn until it strangles

you and brings your life to an end.

Puig Antich, the young anarchist militant, was done to death in this way two years ago. It took twelve minutes to kill him.

Fortunately the workers of Viscaya and Guipuzcoa did not delay after the sentences were announced. Immediately they were on the streets demonstrating for the two men's lives, demonstrating for their own liberty and freedom.

NOW

Hundreds of thousands of workers in the two provinces came out on strike and stayed out. In the course of their demonstrations another comrade, Jesus Garcia Ripaldo, was brutally murdered by fascist policemen. But still the demonstrations grew.

In eight jails throughout Spain 300 political prisoners went on hunger strike in protest against the Garmendia Echevarria trial.

Everywhere the struggle is rising in Spain. Hopefully it will rise to such a pitch that Generalissimo Franco's dictatorship and his big business backers will be overthrown, a fate which they richly and thoroughly deserve.

That's not the way Britain's Labour government sees it. They may have made the odd noise about fascist atrocities in Spain over the years, but they've never done anything about it, probably because of extensive British business interests in the fascist tyranny.

In the case of Portugal however the Labour government has matched words with deeds. They've imposed import controls against Portuguese textiles, a cruel blow against the country's working class.

The difference is that Portugal's workers are heading towards real socialism. Clearly that's something that had to be stopped.

LEFT: Demonstrators marching in London last week in protest at the brutal death sentences passed in Spain. The banner shows five members of the Spanish anti-fascist organisation FRAP, who are on trial for allegedly killing policemen.

PICTURE: Andrew Wiard (Report)



ZIMBABWE: Failure for the Vorster and Kaunda carve-up

ANC EXILES: WE FIGHT ON

IMMEDIATELY after the collapse of the Victoria Falls talks Wenda Clenaghan interviewed for Socialist Worker Comrades Nkala and Malianga, two of the African National Council delegates to those talks, on their return to exile in London last week.

In the interview the two made it clear that since Ian Smith, the racist prime minister of Rhodesia, was resolutely opposed to immediate majority rule, the only way that the black Zimbabwean people would obtain their freedom was by stepping up the armed struggle.

Comrade Nkala, in particular, criticised the involvement of Zambian premier Kenneth Kaunda in the moves towards a compromise with Smith.

Asked if he thought there would be renewed talks, Comrade Malianga replied: 'Yes, I can see the possibility of the plenary session taking place.

WITH the collapse of the Victoria Falls talks, the latest attempt to settle the 'Rhodesian problem' in the interests of big business and white power has failed.

It failed despite the presence at the talks of the architects of detente in Southern Africa, John Vorster of South Africa, and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia.

Zambia, heavily dependent on its copper mines, has been badly hit by the slump in copper prices, inflation and bad harvests. The only source for the economic aid Kaunda desperately needs is South Africa.

The collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire and the FRELIMO takeover in Mozambique has made South Africa's borders vulnerable for the first time to direct guerrilla attacks. Vorster also faces an increasingly militant, organised and conscious black working class.

So, both need detente, an end to confrontation between black and white in Southern Africa.

The price was a settlement, in

But I doubt whether the full-scale conference will begin because of the intransigence of Smith.

'Even if the talks do begin I doubt if they will produce the result that we require. This means that we must continue the guerrilla struggle. If we cannot obtain our demands through negotiation then we must fight for Zimbabwe.

LOSS

Asked what he thought of the role of NAC leader Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Comrade Nkala argued that Muzorewa appeared to be moving towards the ZANU position that guerrilla warfare was the only way to achieve majority rule. 'In one statement the Bishop told Smith that he'd better negotiate within three months or face a full-scale war. That has always been our way of thinking. We think he'll support the war if talks

by Alex Callinicos
IS Africa Group

Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) under which obedient, middle-class black politicians would be groomed to take over power from the Smith regime.

Smith and the white settlers were forced into line by the withdrawal of South African troops from Zimbabwe and threats to deny them access to South Africa's ports, while Kaunda jailed black guerrillas who wanted to continue the war of liberation.

Failed

The talks failed, ironically, because of the role Zambia and South Africa played in the carve-up. The conference was agreed on in Pretoria three weeks ago by Vorster, Smith and Mark Chona, Kaunda's personal adviser. No representative of the African National Council of Zimbabwe (ANC) took part in the discussions.

break down.'

Asked about the working class in Zimbabwe, Comrade Nkala argued that the working class was not the key force. 'We have not pursued this line of thinking for one simple reason, workers have families to look after. If you call them out on strike then there is a whole range of stringent laws that Smith can use in retaliation. And if a strike collapses then you collapse.'

What kind of society are they fighting for in Zimbabwe? Said Comrade Malianga: 'At present the system is based on the exploitation of man by man. We would like to get rid of such a society and bring about one where all human beings irrespective of their office, status, religious belief or anything of this sort would be able to have a share in the state. We will have a socialist state which suits the conditions of Zimbabwe.'

The conference collapsed because the agreement provided for negotiations to take place solely in Rhodesia and Smith refused to allow two ANC leaders, Ndabaningi Sithole and James Chikerema, who he charged with 'terrorism', into the country.

Smith would now like to go through with the farce of negotiating with the tribal chiefs within Zimbabwe. Since the chiefs are hired, fired and paid by the regime the results would be predictable. Smith is angling for 'provincialisation', a form of apartheid similar to South Africa's Bantustans under which obedient tribal leaders would be given some powers of self-government, with the real power in white hands.

Force

For Vorster and Kaunda the options are more difficult. They could try to force ANC back to the negotiating table, although this would be difficult since opposition to detente is mounting within ANC.

Alternatively, they could encourage a split within ANC. Joshua Nkomo, President of the ZAPU wing of ANC, is known to be only too eager to make a deal with Smith—he is even rumoured to have signed one in secret. But Nkomo would not have the support of ZANU, the wing of ANC that has spearheaded the guerrilla offensives of the past three years.

The real struggle inside Southern Africa is becoming that between those who are prepared to fight for the genuine liberation of its peoples and those who, whether black or white, wish to see control remain in the hands of big business, much of it British, even if blacks replace whites in government.

It is the Vorster-Kaunda alliance that has to be beaten if Southern Africa is to be free. And that is a fight against capitalism as well as apartheid, a fight in which the black workers of South Africa will play the decisive role.

And nothing for the Palestinians

IT'S that man again. The British press has an amazing love for Dr Henry Kissinger. Mere mention of his name conjures up images of progress, peace and human compassion in their editorial columns. That tendency has been at work again over the past week, since the Doctor moved in to conclude his so-called peace agreement in the Middle East.

Kissinger has brought 'peace' to other countries of course. He ordered the bombing of Cambodia, and when it stopped picked up the Nobel Peace Prize. More important he was the man who masterminded the intrigues against the Allende government in Chile.

Scrap

Kissinger's agreement in the Middle East involves an Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai passes of Mitla and Gidi, except for footholds at the eastern end. The Israelis will also return to Egypt the oilfields they seized in 1967. In return Israel will get two billion dollars of compensatory aid.

All this sounds very nice, except that it is not going to solve the problem that lies at the heart of the Middle East—the plight of more than a million Palestinians.

These people were physically driven off their lands to make way for the Israeli state. For years they have rotted in stinking refugee camps in Jordan and the Lebanon, on 2½p a day from the United Nations.

While that is their fate, and while imperialism continues to hold the Middle East in its poisonous grip, they will be right to fight on. That's why the Kissinger peace is a phoney peace.

Defend the revolution! IS public meetings

TEESSIDE IS public meeting: The struggle in Portugal, the struggle in Britain. Speakers: John Charlton (just back from Portugal) and Mike Atkinson (NUPE). Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Cleveland Hotel, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

N LONDON IS public meeting: Portugal, the struggle for workers' power. Speakers: Laurie Flynn and Pete Glatter. Thursday 11 September, 8pm, Lord Morrison Hall, Chesnut Grove, Chesnut Road, N17.

DUDLEY IS public meeting: Solidarity with Portuguese workers. Speakers just returned from Portugal. Thursday 11 September, 7.45pm, Smiling Man pub, Hall St, Dudley.

INNER W LONDON IS public meeting: Portugal: the struggle for workers' power. Speaker: a comrade recently returned from Portugal. Sunday 14 September, 5pm, Luncheon Club, Ladbroke Grove.

E LONDON IS public meeting: Solidarity with Portuguese workers. Speakers: Pete Glatter (a London busman) and John Deason, both just back from Portugal. Wednesday 17 September, 8pm, Princess Alice, Forest Gate.

CHELMSFORD IS public meeting: Portugal—the struggle for workers' power. Speaker: John Deason (recently returned from Portugal). Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Civic Centre.

INNER E LONDON IS public meeting: Solidarity with Portuguese Workers. Speakers: John Deason and a local trade unionist (both just back from Portugal). Thursday 18 September, 8pm, Music Library, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (just two minutes walk from Bethnal Green tube).

CENTRAL LONDON IS day school on Portugal: Saturday 13 September, 11am-4pm, The Bank, 50 Hampstead Road, (by Tolmers Square), NW1. All welcome.

MID-HERTS IS public meeting: Solidarity with Portuguese workers. Speakers recently returned from Portugal. Thursday 11 September, 7.30pm, The Beehive, London Road, St Albans.

CARDIFF IS public meeting: Defend the Portuguese workers' revolution. Speaker: Bill Jones (recently returned from Portugal). Thursday 11 September, 7.30pm, The Four Elms, Elm Street, Cardiff.

CAERPHILLY IS public meeting: Portugal—what is really happening? Speaker: Allan Swann. Thursday 11 September, 7.30pm, Tywn Community Centre.

SWANSEA IS public meeting: The Revolution in Portugal. Thursday 9 October, 7.30pm, AUEW House, Orchard Street, Swansea.

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

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

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

S E LONDON IS DISTRICT Half-day school: The progress of the revolution in Portugal. Report back from comrades and trade unionists just returned from Portugal. All SW supporters welcome. Saturday 5 September, 2-5pm, Charlton House, Charlton Village, SE7.

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

CP breaks rank and

PORTUGAL has now had six provisional governments since the overthrow of fascism. Each has been less effective and less credible than the one before.

Why? Because each government has tried to reconcile the irreconcilable, to placate both the professional army officers and the rank and file, the workers and the businessmen, the revolutionary forces in the Lisbon area, and the reactionary forces in the rural north.

But as the crisis gets worse, this balancing role becomes more and more difficult.

For the Communist Party, reconciling the irreconcilable has been the basis of its whole political philosophy.

Despite its talk of socialism and revolution, it decided after the overthrow of fascism to reform Portuguese capitalism by working hand-in-glove with the professional officers and the politicians.

It removed all reference to the dictatorship of the proletariat from its programme.

It has manoeuvred with professional army officers to control society from the top down, while supporting the use of troops to break strikes like those of the postal workers and airport workers last summer and of the telephone workers a few weeks ago.

But all its efforts have been unable to bridge the unbridgeable. The right wing in Portugal does not trust the Communist Party.

At the same time, rank and file Communists have been leaving the Party for left-wing organisations because their own party's policies have not been militant enough.

The leader of the Communist Party cell in the worker-controlled paper, Republica, for instance, broke with the party because of its refusal to support the call for workers' councils.

In recent weeks, the isolation

of the Communist Party from both the right, organised behind the Socialist Party, and from the left, organised by the revolutionaries, has become acute.

A half-hour strike called a fortnight ago by the Communist Party controlled union centre, the Intersyndical, was a virtual flop, although held only a day before a very large demonstration of the revolutionary left.

The isolation of the Communist Party has left it defenceless when faced with defending the positions of power it had won previously for its reformist politics.

Its most significant base in the armed forces, the Fifth Division, has been closed down without it being able to do a thing.

It is probably weaker than the revolutionary left in terms of influence on those sections of the military that have guns.

Last week, the Communist Party found one way to escape from its isolation. It agreed to a united front with organisations to

the left of it, revolutionary organisations. Together they will appeal for the military of 27 August.

The results of the strike did not trust the Communist Party, yet agree fully with the revolutionary left, the streets to demand government, and upon popular workers' committees parliament.

Here was the factories, the of smashing the and for all.

If that power into united organisation, calling for workers' committees, hood committees, military units, local Communist

ANOTHER massive working class demonstration—the second in a week—set Lisbon astir on 27 August.

Led by deputations of rank and file soldiers, sailors and airmen, workers marched from virtually every factory and neighbourhood committee in the area.

And their slogans sang out their determination to carry Portugal's revolution forward:

The soldiers always on the side of the people—workers, peasants, soldiers, sailors, united we will win—forward on a revolutionary programme—forward to popular power—against fascism, against capitalism, for a popular offensive—death to the CIA, down with social democracy—popular power.

Lead

No-one knows how many people were on the demonstration. There were too many to count. British pressmen, safely ensconced in the bar of the Tivoli Jardim hotel two miles away, 'authoritatively' put it at 15000.

Even the right-wing Lisbon press admitted to a figure of well over 100,000.

But what mattered was not the exact figure, but that Lisbon's workers had reaffirmed their determination to fight to the end in defence of the gains they have made since fascism was overthrown in April last year.

They know these gains are now at stake, no matter how confused some may be by the manoeuvres, the wrangles, the splits and the shifting alliances at the top of society between professional career officers and professional politicians.

Over the last 16 months, workers have developed enormous power. Walking through the streets of the capital, you see the signs everywhere:

Gain

The banner proclaiming that a factory, a hotel, a supermarket, a clinic, has been taken over by its workers, the posters outside and inside the banks and insurance companies, discussing how best they should be run under workers' control in the interests of the people, the notices in the slum areas calling the inhabitants to meetings to discuss the allocation of empty houses to the needy, the uniformed soldiers discussing politics, walking openly in and out of the offices of the left-wing parties, the radio stations proclaiming that it is occupied by the workers in the interests

Portugal: What is really at stake

of the working class and the struggle for socialism.

But these gains are threatened, first of all by a growing economic crisis.

Although many chunks of industry are controlled by the workers, the overall framework of the economy remains capitalist. There is no overall economic plan, and all the waste and planlessness of capitalism continue.

Conflict

The crisis hitting the rest of the world is not passing capitalist Portugal by. And it is made worse as businessmen in country after country impose an economic boycott.

The effects are mostly felt in the economically backward rural regions of Northern Portugal, where an illiterate population all too readily believes the priests and the former fascists, who blame the crisis on the revolutionaries in Lisbon.

As in Chile two years ago, international big business is causing economic chaos and then blaming it on the left.

This is what is adding to the second threat to the revolution, the threat from the right.

The middle class, who were prepared to tolerate the revolution when it was just a matter

of fine words, are moving rapidly to the right as they are squeezed between the economic crisis and the demands of the workers.

This is just as true of the middle classes in the armed forces, the officers who supported the revolution when it was a question of ending unpopular wars in Africa, but now fear that their privileges and those of their relatives will be ended.

They are backed by all the pro-western political forces, in particular the Socialist Party of Mario Soares, which, despite its name, is a middle class party which may get workers' votes, but does not depend on workers for its funds, its organisers or its strength.

The right wing forces have

enjoyed enormous successes in the North and Centre of the country in the last few weeks as Socialist Party rallies have been followed by attempts to drive left-wingers physically from the area.

The prize that still eludes the right-wing is Lisbon, the political and industrial centre of the country. The left has shown that here it can mobilise on the streets ten times as many people as the right, including the Socialist Party.

Lisbon is also the place where the rank and file in the armed forces most openly challenge the power of their officers and demonstrate with the revolutionary left.

The so-called moderates have made it clear that their principal aim is to gain control of the

government and to control of affairs in the country. The right-wing general, repeatedly said that it was to 'restore authority' to the armed forces, while his criticism of the Communist Party has been that it has failed to be influential 'anarcho-populism' of the revolutionaries.

Soares underlined that his aim was to influence of the Lisbon. He said he would rejoin the government worker-controlled Republica was put in the hands of its proprietors.

But tens of thousands of workers and rank and file have indicated that they will fight to the death. They see such things happen

It has to be revolution, say military police

A MASS meeting of the military police voted unanimously last week to campaign against any further section of the Armed Forces being sent to Angola. This coincides with the position of the authentic Angolan liberation force, MPLA, which has denounced the role played by the Portuguese government in Angola and called for the withdrawal of Portuguese troops.

The military police resolution stated that 'the continued sending of troops to Angola is the continuing of the colonial war under the guise of

neo-colonialism. The only way to end the war is to show them our proletarianism by making the revolution

The right wing in the army has arrested some military policemen for the issue, no doubt hoping to crush the left within this key section of the

But reports on Monday indicated that it had not been cowed and that military leafletting other units in the Lisbon area of their demand.



Rank and file soldiers (above) and soldiers were wearing stickers calling for a united front.

On-the-spot report from **CHRIS HARMAN**

rank and file unity

tionary organisations, it would provide the means for smashing the right wing throughout the Lisbon area and beginning a real taking of power by the workers.

But the Communist Party leaders soon showed that they had not dropped their dream of gaining power for themselves by manoeuvring with the enemies of the workers.

Instead of ending the demonstration as had been agreed in advance, with a united call for action, they arranged for the prime minister, Goncalves to address it—and, even worse, followed him with the president Costa Gomes who, all week, had been conniving with the right wing of officers.

The PRP led a large number of demonstrators in a protest walk-out.

When Gomes spoke of the need for 'tolerance' towards the right wing and made veiled hints about the need to come to an agreement with the pro-western

leaders of the Socialist Party, it was too much even for those who remained. They drowned his voice with cries of *Death to the CIA, down with Social Democracy.*

Within 24 hours, the Communist Party leader, Cunhal, who had agreed to demonstrate under the 'down with social democracy' slogan, was calling political discussions with the Socialist Party leaders!

In a communique, the PRP pointed out that this was treachery by the Communist Party to its own rank and file. And on Monday the Communist Party was expelled from the united front. One Communist leader tried to re-write history by claiming the front had never existed.

It remains to be seen whether the rank and file of the Communist Party will allow the leadership to abandon the revolutionary left for conciliation with those forces that have been leading a reign of terror against Communists and revolutionaries in Northern Portugal.

er in the streets, barracks, capable of right for once

r was translated organisation in each together the wor- the neighbour- the left-wing representatives of Party and revolu-



workers (below) demonstrating for revolutionary unity in Lisbon last week: the slogan for 'popular power' and were chanting 'the soldiers, always on the side of the people'.

AMONG THOSE who back the Socialist Party are a Maoist splinter group who hate the Communist Party and call themselves the Portuguese Communist Party-Marxist Leninist.

Their members have made themselves popular with the right wing by their talk of the CP as 'social fascist'.

But on an SP demonstration last Wednesday, the demonstrators noticed they called themselves Communists. All the pleading in the world that they were PCP-ML—not PCP—could not dissuade the demonstrators from beating them up.



THE UNITED Revolutionary Front has not confined its activities to the Lisbon area.

On Friday it called a united left wing demonstration in the main Northern city, Oporto, backed by a number of workers' committees, neighbourhood committees and trade unions.

The demonstration was at least 25,000 strong, at least as large as a demonstration held two days before by the Socialist Party and the right.

d this state capital. 'The Fabiao, has the aim must 'unity' in the 'bares' main Communist Party allowed it- ed by the the revolu-

on Sunday smash the workers in would only ent if the newspaper back in the OR thousands of file soldiers they will rather than

ice

to the Angolan 'etarian inter- in Portugal.' responded by agitating over ice and for all armed forces. that the left y police were rea in support



1922—and de Valera reviews anti-Treaty IRA units: but his Republicanism always contained the seeds of betrayal

de Valera

EAMON DE VALERA was buried in Dublin on Tuesday amid pomp and stately ceremony, a message of sympathy from the Queen and, from the British press, a chorus of praise for his statesmanlike qualities. Yet, in his time, he was denounced by British politicians and newspapers in the terms now reserved for Provo leaders like David O'Connell. There was a price on his head and a 'shoot-on-sight' order to British Army units.

Obituaries in Irish republican papers, drawing attention to this contrast, describe de Valera as 'a traitor'. In so doing, they miss most of the point. Because what is important to understand about de Valera, what makes his life starkly relevant to the struggle in Ireland today, is not the limits of his idealism but the limits of his politics.

After the execution of Connolly and the other leaders of the Easter Rising in 1916, de Valera—spared on account of his American birth—emerged as unchallenged political leader of the resurgent Irish National Movement.

He, more than any other single individual, dictated the ideology of the Movement—Sinn Fein and its military wing the IRA—as it launched the War of Independence which was to end with the Partition Agreement of 1921.

Trial

'Labour must wait,' de Valera pronounced in 1918, meaning that class was irrelevant to the Republican struggle: a sentiment which even today is implicit in much of Irish Republicanism.

Bereft of Connolly's Marxist leadership, Labour tamely submitted.

Since there was no separate working class presence in the struggle to bring an independent Irish state into being, it was inevitable that, after the withdrawal of the British from Southern Ireland, workers found that they had indeed got rid of 'foreign exploiters'—but had in the process acquired a new set of native, 'patriotic' exploiters.

De Valera at first opposed the Treaty—not, as is sometimes supposed, because of partition, but on the grounds that some of its provisions hampered the development of a viable, independent capitalism.

Avoid

Then, after a vicious civil war, he finally abandoned Sinn Fein and entered the Dail (Parliament) as leader of the newly-formed Fianna Fail party.

In 1932, Fianna Fail won a majority. From then until February 1973 it was in office for all but six years.

De Valera never lost his talent for rhetoric about a United Ireland.

But at no time did he challenge the existence of the sectarian Northern state. Indeed, he brutally suppressed those Republicans who, taking the rhetoric seriously, did mount a challenge.

To have done something serious about partition would have brought him into renewed conflict with British Imperialism—and the class he represented, having achieved sufficient 'freedom' to exploit their 'own' workers, had no interest in such conflict.

'Traitor' he was, 'traitor' he had to be...

De Valera remained *Taoiseach* (Prime Minister) until 1958, when he was eased out and given the ornamental position of President.

By then his particular brand of 'Green Toryism' had become redundant. The limits of independent capitalist development had been reached.

Those who came after him, Sean Lemass and then Jack Lynch, saved the Irish economy from total collapse by negotiating its re-integration into that of Britain. Fianna Fail 'Republicanism' had come full circle.

Influence

It could not have been otherwise. De Valera was bound to 'sell out' in the end and to earn tearstained tributes from erstwhile enemies, not because he was a cynical, dishonest man—although that is true too—but because of the nature of his politics.

'Republicanism', no matter how fiercely expressed, cannot defeat Imperialism unless and until it recognises that only the working class has a genuine interest in fighting oppression to a finish.

Those who do not recognise that and who do not base themselves on the working class, either go down to defeat, or make their peace with the oppressing power. There is no other way.

That is the lesson which Republicans today need to learn, and learn quickly, from the long life of Eamon de Valera.

EAMONN McCANN



DAY SCHOOL ON WOMEN

MANCHESTER district IS are organising a day school on women in September. Details about the school have been sent out to 16 IS districts and interest seems to be snowballing. As the number of delegates from each district may have to be limited, Manchester IS would like to know as soon as possible who will be coming.

To help the smooth running of the school a 50p fee is being charged, to be sent in advance if possible, and a pooled fare scheme of £1 will be worked out. A creche, sleeping accommodation and a social are being organised.

Will those districts that are expecting members to go to the school please contact the Manchester district immediately, at 061-832 8102.

The next national meeting of the IS Women's Committee will be on Saturday 13 September, starting at 11am, at 8 Cottons Gardens. Every district and fraction must send a delegate, and the meeting will discuss a report from the IS Party Council, the abortion campaign, Women's Voice and women's Voice groups, the cuts. Please make sure your delegate is there.

JOURNALS NEEDED!

ISSUE 80 of International Socialism Journal is in short supply. Anyone sitting on copies of IS 80 should return them to 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN, as many comrades are unable to get hold of copies.

IN SCOTLAND

TWENTY members of IS in the East of Scotland, some from as far away as Inverness, came to a day school in Dundee last week.

The morning started with a discussion on the present economic and political situation with the emphasis on building a rank and file trade union movement. A practical session on public speaking followed, in the City Square. Members were introduced to open air speaking for the first time, and 60 copies of Socialist Worker were sold.

The day was completed with a discussion on Portugal, introduced by Marilyn Tweedie, and £7 was raised for the Portugal fund.



چنگاری
انقلاب پرنگالی
حمایت کریں
اینکلاہ پورترگالی
دی مہرہ رتہ
نظاہر کریے
مہراجہ رتہ
Saturday 20 September
Charing Cross Embankment 2.00 pm

Colin Sparks answering questions at a Tyneside IS meeting in Solidarity with Portuguese workers. Every IS district or branch should be organising public meetings about events in Portugal between now and the demonstration in London on Saturday 20 September. More than 150 people packed into a room for the Central London district IS public meeting to hear members just back from Portugal. Half the audience were not members of IS, which shows that trade unionists are eager to hear at first hand about the progress of the revolution and reject the lies in the national press. The meeting closed with a call for a massive turn-out for the Solidarity demonstration.

PICTURE: Ray Smith (IFL)

WHAT'S ON

IS public meetings

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

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

BARNSELY IS public meeting: Their crisis: not ours. Speakers: Paul Foot and local trade unionists. Thursday 11 September, 8pm, The New Library, Shambles Street, Barnsley.

COVENTRY IS fortnightly meetings on Fridays: Harry Wicks (founder member of the British Communist Party) speaks on The Last National Crisis 1929-31—Friday 5 September, 7.30pm, Sidney Stringer School, Cox St, Coventry.

CROYDON IS debate with Labour Party: David White (GLC Labour councillor) and Duncan Hallas (IS). Thursday 11 September, 8pm, Ruskin House (corner of Coombe Road and Park Lane, Croydon).

Meetings for IS members and Socialist Worker supporters

CENTRAL LONDON IS DISTRICT Day School on the cuts: Saturday 6 September, 3.30-7.30pm, Friends International Centre (opposite Dillons Bookshop), Torrington Place, London, WC1.

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

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

NORTH WEST LONDON District IS meeting for all members: Tuesday 9 September, 7.30pm, Anson Hall, Anson Road, London NW2. The first half will be political perspectives and elections; second half a practical discussion on the situation in Ireland.

CENTRAL LONDON District IS aggregate: Thursday 11 September, 7.30pm, The Roebuck, Tottenham Court Road. To discuss perspectives. All members to attend.

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

CENTRAL MANCHESTER IS student cell first meeting: Wednesday 17 September 7.30pm, Manchester Poly, Aytown St. All student comrades in Salford, West and Central Manchester to attend.

IS notices

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH WEST LONDON District IS Social Saturday 13 September, 8pm, Foresters Arms, Mitcham Lane, Tooting SW17 (Tube Tooting Broadway). Bar, Disco, Food, Home spun entertainment! 50p. All proceeds to Portuguese Solidarity Fund.

WANDSWORTH & District IS jumble sale: Saturday 4 October. Please start collecting now. Further details later.

DARLINGTON IS Jumble Sale: Saturday 13 September, 10am all day, Mechanics Institute, Skinnergate, Darlington. Jumble collected—ring Darlington 56728.

IS students going to Durham University this autumn please contact Durham IS c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

GREECE-CYPRUS-TURKEY. An IS committee has been set up to cover this area and the communities in Britain. If you have any contacts, or can speak Greek or Turkish, or have a Cypriot or Turkish community in your area, contact GCT community, c/o 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.

CENTRAL LONDON IS social in aid of the SW Portuguese Solidarity Fund: Friday 19 September, 7pm, Camden Studios, Camden Street (nearest tube Mornington Crescent). Tickets 50p on the door.

BAT (British American Tobacco) combine committee: Will any readers of Socialist Worker willing to help strengthen the combine please contact Southampton IS (c/o Industrial Department, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2). We will pass all contacts on to the union activists who are building the shop floor in Southampton BAT.

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

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

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

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

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

SOCIALIST WORKER needs another journalist. Knowledge of subbing and journalistic techniques is useful but not essential. More important is a willingness to help improve the paper and spread the influence of the International Socialists. Write but do not phone to the editor, including details of any experience you consider relevant to the job, at Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2.

Labour Party backs out

'LABOUR moderates back out of talks'—that was the front-page headline in Tuesday's Peterborough Evening Telegraph. Two city councillors had agreed to debate with David Bunch and David Toone—their ex-colleagues who quit to join IS.

Last week, the Labour men changed their minds. They took offence at an IS leaflet. It asked: 'Should workers pay for the bosses' crisis?'

Nevertheless, the meeting went ahead. After short speeches from the Labour rebels, the audience were invited to join in. Predictably, Labour right-wingers were bitter about IS. David Toone answered that:

'There is no alternative. The Labour Party is corrupt. It does not even bother

to talk about changing the system these days. As for smears, IS is used to them. The very early militants got the same treatment. Like them, we stand for socialism with no nonsense.'

The local Communist Party also lined up with Labour's right-wing. They were condemned by David Bunch.

Hunt

'Some individual Communists deserve respect. Yet, however militant their motives, party tactics force them to sell out. The hunt for trade union positions means becoming respectable.'

'That is why the scaremongering press are wrong. There are no Reds under the

bed. Most of them are cosily snuggling between the blankets.'

IS was strongly defended by workers in the audience. 'It is the only group that does anything for us around the factory,' shouted an angry engineer. A postman agreed. 'Socialist Worker tells ordinary blokes the truth,' he said.

Neither of these men, and others who supported them, were members of IS.

The meeting—which almost filled the city's TGWU Hall—was clearly a success. After it, two prominent industrial militants joined IS. Other workers agreed to buy the paper.

As John Toomey, the NUPE militant who chaired the meeting, put it: 'The debate showed that Peterborough IS is the only credible Left force in the city.'



What we stand for

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

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

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

The smashing of the capitalist state. The state machine is a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Against unemployment, redundancies and lay-offs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 35-hour week.

For nationalisation without compensation under workers' control.

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

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

Against racialism and police victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against all forms of imperialism, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

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

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to join the International Socialists, then send this form to:
The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name _____

Address _____

Trade Union _____



Portrait of a 'moderate'



JAMES HOFFA, UNION LEADER AND MURDERER

JAMES Riddle Hoffa has disappeared. He is almost certainly dead.

The biggest gangster in the United States trade union movement has fallen foul of his own thugs.

The only regret socialists will have at his downfall is that it was at the hands of the Mafia and not rank and file Teamsters.

More than any other man, Hoffa was a symbol of the takeover of the American unions by gangsters and bureaucrats.

Tough

Born in 1913 in a working class family, he grew up into the hard world of Detroit in the 1930s. It was tough work to organise. As Hoffa recalled: 'The police would beat your brains in for even talking union.'

But this world was also the centre of a massive upsurge of organisation.

Conditions and pay were appalling. The bosses were prepared to use any means to break the new unions which sprang up everywhere. Picket lines were attacked, union meetings broken up, organisers jailed and sometimes murdered.

Police, crime syndicates and government were all in the grip of the employers. In the face of all this, strikes had to be fought like military operations. Pickets often carried revolvers and shotguns.

The drive to organise the truck drivers in the Mid-West came from revolutionary socialists in Minneapolis, led by Farrell Dobbs. Nearly all the drivers in that city had been unionised and important gains over wages and conditions had been won.

Tactics

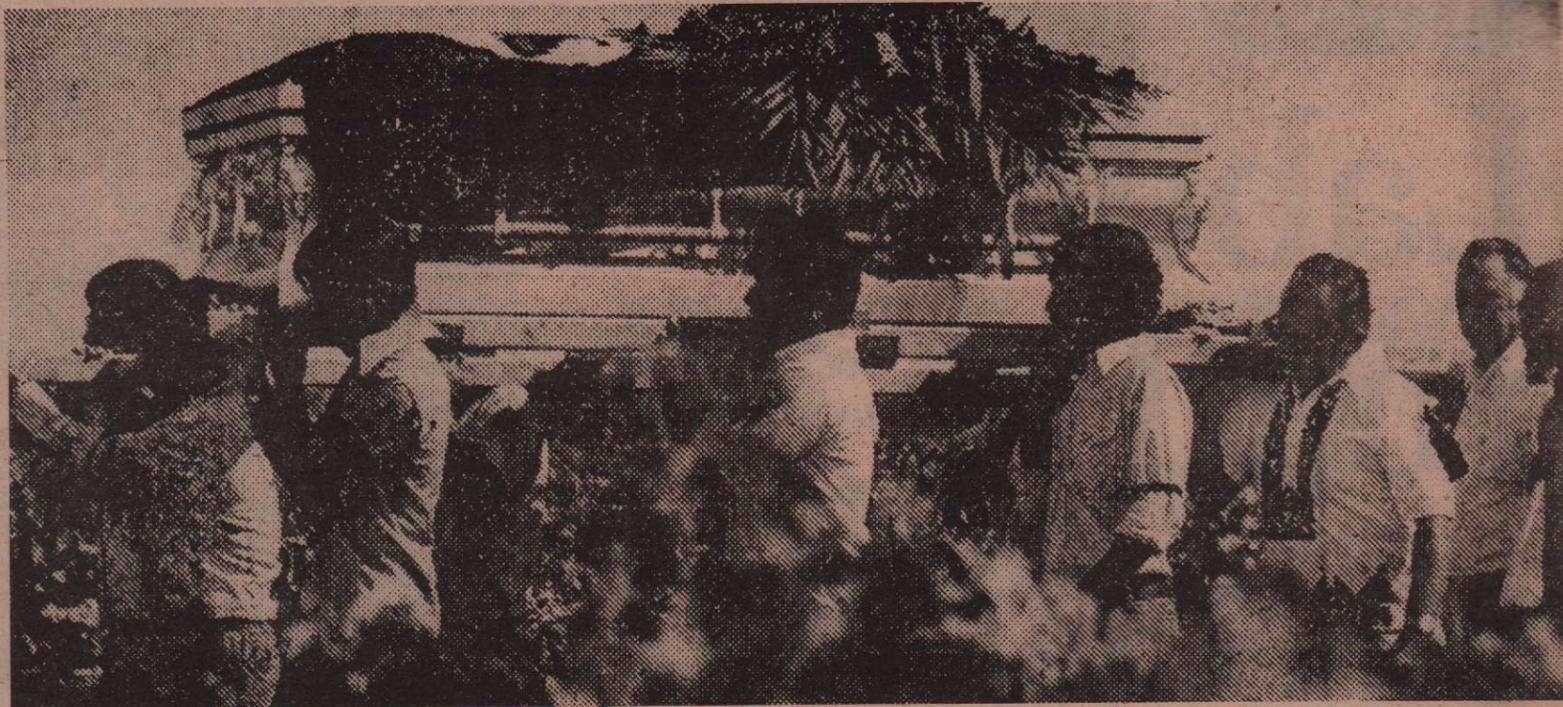
In the course of these battles, the Teamsters had developed new tactics. Mass pickets had won pitched battles with the police and deputies.

Direct links with local farmers had been set up. Hospitals had been improvised.

The Minneapolis Teamsters had built a model of workers' organisation in which the energy and initiative of the rank and file was harnessed through democratic decision-making and regular mass meetings.

Dobbs spread organisation out from Minneapolis by using the strong organisation of the long-distance drivers to force union contracts on the bosses in weakly-organised towns.

Watching all this was Jimmy Hoffa. From Dobbs he took tactics and organisation but he got his methods and ideas from very dif-



THE FUNERAL in August 1973 of Juan De la Cruz, a Californian farmworker shot dead on a picket line by a member of the Teamsters, Hoffa's union.

The strike by members of the United Farm Workers is still going on today—despite another murder like that of De la Cruz, and despite attacks by police.

The strike began when grape workers all over California found they were being issued with Teamster membership cards and were working under a much tougher agreement than that won by their real union, the United Farm Workers.

The Teamsters had done a deal with the employers. And when farm workers refused to take it, police and Teamster officials attacked their picket lines.

By the end of 1973, with thousands injured, and more than 3000 members in jail, the UFW called off the pickets and sought nationwide boycotting of California grapes.

They are supported by the American equivalent of the TUC, the AFL-CIO, which has expelled the Teamsters. And they need your support.

The new crop of grapes has been blacked by dockers in Britain, but some will still get in through un-organised ports.

The Rank and File Organising Committee is issuing a leaflet to affiliated bodies on how to recognise Californian grapes, and making suggestions for pickets of central fruit markets in London and other large cities.

ferent sources.

He had a hand in the government-led purge which kicked the socialists out of office in 1941, and he quickly moved into the vacant position on the Central State Drivers' Council.

Hoffa replaced the power of the rank and file by the guns and blackjacks of the Mafia. Any firm could buy a trouble-free time if they gave the Teamsters a contract and a kick-back for Hoffa and his friends.

Any group of workers who stepped out of line found the goon squads attacking their picket lines.

But at the same time, Hoffa was always careful not to go too far. He was ready to call effective strikes if any employer thought he was bluffing.

He made sure the men he depended on, the inter-state truckers, got good contracts, although weaker sections found sweetheart deals thrust down their throats.

In 1957, Hoffa moved into the

big league as President of the Teamsters. He re-organised the union and concentrated all power in his own hands. He was making sure that no bright young men copied his ideas and built themselves up as his rivals.

He needed a secure position, for his robbery of union funds had moved into the big league as well. He lined his own pockets, embezzling the union's pension fund and giving well-paid and easy jobs to his relatives.

In 1964, he was nailed by an alliance of rich liberals and other union bosses. He was jailed for 13 years for embezzlement and jury rigging.

But even in jail Hoffa had cards to play. He fixed the biggest deal of his life.

For years, the Teamsters' money had gone into the Democratic Party's election funds, but suddenly they switched to back the Republican, Nixon.

Richard Milhous Nixon was

elected President of the United States and James Riddle Hoffa walked out of jail on parole. He had served just four years.

But things were not so easy now. The American economy was moving into a slump and murmurings from below began to break up the peaceful world of the bureaucrat. The thieves at the top began to fall out. Hoffa's disappearance is part of that story.

Hoffa had built his power in the boom conditions of the war and the years of capitalist expansion. In those days, it was possible for the bosses to buy off well-organised sections like Hoffa's long-distance drivers.

Corrupt

Hoffa knew this and used it to his own advantage.

His legacy is more than just a corrupt union. In carving out his empire, he fostered an utterly corrupt vision of labour struggles in which a few workers profited at the expense of many, and in which the muscle of gangsters replaced the muscle of the rank and file.

Times are changing. American capitalism is no longer booming. The American working class are beginning to rediscover the militancy of the thirties. They are starting to re-learn the tactics of the thirties.

Hoffa's methods will no longer be enough to stop them. The bureaucracy and gangsterism which fed on the passivity of the rank and file still flourish with Hoffa gone, but his fall is the sign of a changing world.



TONY CLIFF:
LENIN
Volume 1: Building the Party

Lenin wasn't God. Or a lunatic, or a dictator, or a saint. He was the architect of a new kind of political organisation, the Bolsheviks.

The Bolsheviks destroyed the old Russia of the Czar and replaced it, for a time, with one part of the world controlled by the workers, owned by the workers.

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ON THE BOX

FRIDAY
ITV: 8pm. **THE VIRGIN AND THE GYPSY**, a 1970 film based on D H Lawrence's short story, is worth watching. Stars Joanna Shrimkus and Franco Nero.

SATURDAY
ITV (London Weekend): 10.45pm. Film version of Terry Southern's satirical novel about the adventures of **CANDY**, a 17-year-old girl who has a series of bizarre experiences in her search for 'the meaning of life and love'.

SUNDAY
Tom Courtenay, always worth watching, appears in **I HEARD THE OWL CALL MY NAME**, a film specially made for television about an Indian legend (LWT, 3pm). Later, at 7.25pm, ITV launch their latest 'comedy' series about twin brothers, one a copper, the other—yes,

you've guessed it—a leftie. Might be worth a glance.

Definitely worth watching is **TOUCH OF EVIL** (BBC-2, 10.10pm), an Orson Welles thriller starring Charlton Heston as a drugs investigator caught up in a murder case with overtones of police corruption.

MONDAY
OPEN DOOR (BBC-2) returns with the first of a series of six programmes. This one is about the Unemployed of Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, with workers commenting on how television manipulates the less articulate.

TUESDAY
Scottish Television are showing **THE HOOK**, an anti-war film starring Kirk Douglas. Three American soldiers have to decide whether or not to kill their North Korean prisoner. 7pm.

HELIOS PRIETO
CHILE: THE GORILLAS ARE AMONGST US
Translated and introduced by Mike Gonzales



In this implacable attack on Allende's government of Popular Unity, Prieto shows clearly the dangers of not preparing the people for successful resistance to counter-revolution.

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MAL COLLINS

LETTERS

Send your letters to **LETTERS**, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Let us have your name and address, but specify if you don't want your name published. Please try to keep letters to not more than 250 words.

Build...and many will join you

Labour's road to socialism?

LAST WEEK E Phillips of Essex (Letters, 30 August) argued that David Toone and I should not have joined the International Socialists. For him, the Labour Party, with '12 million votes', is the 'mass' party of the 'working class'.

But while IS is steadily growing, Labour's membership and support continues to decline. Further, Socialist Worker has, I believe, three times the circulation of Transport House's weekly paper.

As for changing the Labour Party, militants have tried before without success. Nye Bevan—in the tradition of Lansbury, Maxton, and Wheatley—pointlessly coughed his way up from the Welsh mines to the coffin of Westminster. As for Wedgwood Benn, Wilson in the early 1960s had the same 'Left Halo'.

If Benn ever became leader, he would sell out as well. Indeed, he is already doing that. So is the 'Tribune' Minister for Unemployment, Michael Foot.

Before he died, Bevan realised that real power is not in the House of Commons. It lies with the bosses in and around the boardrooms. Therefore only workers—not smooth-talking MPs—can smash the system.

Still not convinced, Comrade Phillips? Read Roger Kline's excellent IS pamphlet *Can Socialism Come Through Parliament?*

Like David Toone and I, you might then decide to join IS. It is the only socialist party rooted in the workplace.—**DAVID BUNCH**, Peterborough.

LIKE E Phillips (Letters, 30 August) I am a member of the Labour Party, but I cannot support him in any of the points he raised.

It is true that 12 million people voted Labour last year. They voted Labour because they had seen the attacks on the working class made by the Tories, yet now we see the same right-wing policies being carried out by the Labour government, without any opposition from

Foot, Benn and Co.

The Labour Party today is no more than a bureaucratic election machine which is geared towards keeping in office at all costs, rather than challenging capitalism. The only real opposition within the Labour Party comes from the Militant group, yet their analysis is far too superficial and their policies so bankrupt that they can never attract the many good socialists

who are still in the Labour Party.

Many members are totally disillusioned with the Party yet do not feel the time has come to make the break. There is no organisation strong enough to offer an effective and viable alternative to the Labour Party, but the embryo of such a party does exist around Socialist Worker.

If the International Socialists, or any other socialist group, does

succeed in transforming itself from its present state into a party with a strong base in the working class, then there are a great many Labour Party members who will follow the path of comrades Bunch and Toone.

—**HUGH ROBERTSON**, branch chairman LPYS and general management committee member, North Aberdeen Labour Party (in personal capacity).

REMEMBER CHILE...

IS E Phillips (Letters, 30 August) totally blind to what is happening in the real world?

He writes that the Labour Party is the only organisation for socialists, when Wilson and Healey are attempting to solve the crisis of the capitalist system by cutting workers' living standards and increasing unemployment. A fine socialist solution!

The trouble is that the Labour Party is committed to the parliamentary road to socialism. We in the International Socialists argue that parliament is a ruling-class institution. It is there to see to the affairs of the capitalist class and act in the best interests of that class.

Suppose we corrected the Labour Party's faults and it was elected with leaders who were going to introduce socialist policies. Would we get socialism?

No, the ruling class would resist all the way. Look at the events in Chile.

Allende and his socialist party were telling the workers just to sit back and wait for them to legislate socialism from above. Because the workers failed to organise themselves there was a coup and thousands of socialists were killed or imprisoned.

THAT £25-A-WEEK RISE

SOCIALIST WORKER is in my opinion the best left-wing newspaper on the market. This week's article (SW 30 August) sums up the political frustration we all feel about the dead-beats in the present Labour Party. As a pensioner I was shocked when they awarded themselves a rise of £25 a week and at the same time near enough cut the pensioners' £10 bonus for Xmas. Are we paying for their rise?

Keep up the good work friends—'rummel' them up.—**JOHN A BEST**, Glasgow.

Points Postal

SOCIALIST WORKER is a great paper but it ignores TV and radio programmes. A lot of conversation seem to start with what was on telly the other night... what about more coverage of programmes of general interest, music, controversial programmes. They all have a big influence on people's lives.—**B SALISBURY**, Hitchin, Herts.

COLIN Sparks' conclusion about Frank Hardy (Socialist Worker 23 August) that 'our feet are marching to the same goal—workers' power' would be news to the revolutionary left in Australia.

Over the past few years Hardy has worked at gaining himself a reputation not as a 'Marxist militant' but as a respectable literary and television celebrity.—**JANEY STONE**, Australia.

WHAT is the British Herald Wilson says I have to give a year to? If someone can tell me when to go I will take my year along personally and hand it in.—**BOB WOOD**, London, W7.

HOW ABOUT some IS members writing to the small 'Time' magazine about the Communist Party's campaign with regard advertising. If we could cover over the CP's campaign more quickly and effectively.—**TOM SKELLY**, Devon.

Socialists in straitjackets

MORE articles like that headed 'Two faces of the Labour Party' (SW, 30 August) please. These kind of problems in the Labour movement we have got to look at more closely.

I think that not all Labour councillors are corrupt or career-seeking. It just happens that they are unable to break out of the strait jacket Peter Regan finds himself in. On the other hand I wish we had more people like Charlie Bunting in the International Socialists. There are lots—Charlie Buntings around.

Our saying in your article that '... road to municipal socialism leads to a Wessex Hotel is a distortion of the truth, and does a disservice to people like Charlie Bunting and other City Council members.

cillors. They were quite aware of what they were doing when they started their campaign against the Tory 'Fair Deal' Act and their fight against right-wing Labour politicians. They stirred the heart of the Labour movement. How I wished they were IS members.

Alley

Living in a mining village I understand some of the problems facing socialists. What do you tell them? Don't stand for council, it's a dead end and a blind alley? Problems do exist which want sorting out. How would people see IS if you told them that?

What I would say, and what I believe IS will have to say, sometime or another, is that there are limitations of what we can do in the parliamentary field—but we will work for parliamentary and electoral representation, to expose it from the inside, like the Clay Cross councillors.

I hope IS starts working on these lines before the next round of elections occur. The issues are rent, rates, education, the mass attack on the working-class community. We have the answers. We have to leave the street party from Hyde Park Corner to Trafalgar Square alone—the only people we come in contact with that way are American tourists.—**BILLY SPINK**, Campbell, South Wales.

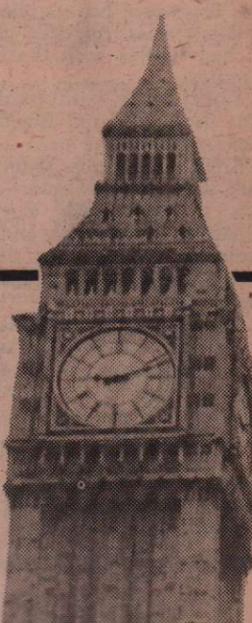


Chile 1973: A left-wing magazine burns as Allende's 'parliamentary road to socialism' is brutally blocked

Chile had previously been called the Britain of South America because of its democratic traditions.

The parliamentary road to socialism is a dead end, a road that leads only to the cemetery.

We need to fight for the self-activity of the working class. If comrade Phillips and other militants in the Labour Party want socialism then they should join IS and build a revolutionary party in the working class instead of fostering dangerous illusions about parliamentary socialism.—**MARTYN HANDLEY**, Southwark IS.



CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT?
by Roger Kline

An International Socialists' pamphlet on the Labour Party and why 'the parliamentary road to socialism' is unworkable.

10 copies 7p postage free.
100 copies 25p postage free.
1000 copies 25p Seven Sisters Road, London, W4.

GUJERATI? NO, IT'S SAFER IN ENGLISH

THE recent occupation by Asian women workers at the Decca colour TV plant in Battersea obviously put the skids under the local employers and trade union officials.

A 'seminar' is being arranged for the autumn, organised by the Department of Employment, Wandsworth Council for Community Relations and the Employment Service agency as a 'stepping stone towards encouraging local firms to set up language classes for immigrant workers'.

While agreeing entirely with the idea of providing tuition in work time, for any workers who do not speak, read or write English, we must condemn the racist nature of this conference. The organisers are saying that a 'breakdown in communications' was responsible for the factory occupation, in other words: 'poor, ignorant wogs didn't understand what was going on'.

In fact, the very opposite is the case. The women understood clearly what was happening—they were being sacked and ten unemployed workers were already chasing every job vacancy—they were sick of being messed about by the bosses and decided to fight back.

It was precisely because a few of the workers 'communicated' with the rest in leaflets written in Gujarati that they did know what was happening.

Could it be that the real reason for the conference is to make sure that rank and file Asian workers, who make up a large part of the workforce in low-paid jobs and in small sweatshop factories, do not get organised to fight back? Even with weapons no stronger than leaflets in Gujarati, especially when printed by the local branch of the dreaded International Socialists!—MIKE CARVER, Wandsworth, London, SW18.

MISSING IN LONG KESH

THE following is part of a letter smuggled out of Long Kesh internment camp in Northern Ireland to Socialist Worker:

ABOUT the copies of Socialist Worker that are sent here. To be honest your suspicions are correct. It's very seldom that we see them in here. We see the odd one but it's seldom on a weekly basis.

But the ones you sent should keep us going for a while. The camp censors probably object to them. (This letter is smuggled out of here, otherwise you probably wouldn't get it.)

The lads have asked me to ask you if you have any books concerning revolutions past and present, but preferably present. I see a lot of books advertised in your paper, and if you have any available we would be very grateful if you could send some.—A READER, Long Kesh, Northern Ireland.

Readers who have books they wish to send to socialists in Long Kesh should send them to Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, and we will pass them on.

IN DEFENCE OF JAMAICA

WHY does Socialist Worker want to slander Jamaica? The black man suffers enough attacks as it is. The situation in Jamaica is not as bad as you say. In particular it is not true that one in three children never go to school. Parents have to send their children to school and get into trouble with the courts if they do not.—FORD WORKER, Dagenham.



Dhanbai (left) and Hirbai—they were to be sent back from Heathrow Airport without being allowed to see their mother who was waiting at the customs barrier. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

THE 'CRIME' OF TWO SISTERS

IF a worker living in Glasgow took a job in Birmingham and moved down, there would be no question about his wife and family joining him. They wouldn't be refused the right to travel and be put on a three-year waiting list.

But this is the situation facing black workers taking jobs in this country. The fundamental right of a worker to be united with his wife and children is swept aside by a series of racist justifications which are the foundation of the Immigration Acts: that there are too many of 'them' here, that 'hordes' of black immigrants will come 'flooding' into the country, that there aren't enough facilities for 'their' children and so on.

'Waiting for one's turn in the queue' may mean up to six years of separation for husbands and wives, and children growing up without one parent or without both.

When nine-year-old Dhanbai and her 16-year-old sister Hirbai arrived at London's Heathrow Airport, they were told they would be deported without even being allowed to see their parents. Their mother, on the other side of the barrier, fainted when she was told that she could not see her daughters.

The children were closely questioned. They were threatened that if they did not speak the truth they would 'go to prison'.

What crime had they committed? They had come to join their parents in Britain without first being processed by the bureaucracy in Bombay.

LACK

Their mother explained that when she came to Britain in 1972, she could not afford to pay for the air fares of all her four children. She informed the British consulate that she would send for her two daughters as soon as she could afford the fares. The situation became urgent, however, when her eldest son, who had been looking after the two girls, had to take up a job in Muscat. The girls became homeless.

The parents at once sent them their air tickets and a kindly neighbour accompanied them on the 300-mile journey from their village, in Kutch, to Bombay, and put them on the plane.

That evening the children were taken to what they thought was prison—the detention centre at Harmsworth near Heathrow. They were shut in a room by themselves.

SABRI GENÇ, a Turkish shop steward in the Transport and General Workers Union, is in Pentonville prison and about to be deported.

His crime? Helping to build a strong organisation among Turkish workers at London Eating Houses. Since winning trade union recognition these workers have fought and won, trebling their wages and forcing their employer to obtain work permits for them.

by Soonu Engineer

They could not speak to anyone as they did not know English. They were terrified and cried themselves to sleep.

The next morning they were taken to the airport, without being given breakfast or even a drink. They had not eaten for more than 18 hours.

In the meantime, the parents had contacted a member of their community in London, Parbat Hirjani, a building worker. He went to the airport armed with documentary evidence to establish the relationship between the two girls and their parents. He took along birth certificates, letters, tax returns, receipts of money sent by the parents.

He had several objections to the way the case was being handled. First of all, the father and children

They wanted to be with their parents in Britain

were being interrogated by a Hindi-speaking interpreter, when they in fact spoke Kutchi, a dialect of Gujarati. Naturally, there were misunderstandings, which were then used by the officials against the family.

For example, the father was asked how many 'chora' he had. To the interpreter 'chora' meant sons. To the father it meant wife. There was trouble.

WROTE

Parbat Hirjani still has a letter signed by the immigration official that the children had signed documents read out to them in Gujarati, when in fact they had been read out in Hindi.

He insisted that no action could be taken before a Gujarati interpreter had talked to the family. He managed to take the children home that night after refusing to accept

that minors can be kept at the detention centre alone.

After that there were six more interviews. The girls would be taken away for several hours 'questioning'. Once they were kept for eleven hours—9am to 8pm—and their requests for food were turned down. Mr Hirjani complained several times, but the girls were still not given anything to eat.

He then took the case to the Indian Workers Association (IWA) and to the local MP. After three weeks of interrogations at the airport, and the intervention of these parties, the children were given permission to stay.

If the immigration officers had had their way, the girls would have been deported to become homeless and orphans in Bombay. By the time their appeal was considered by the British consulate, the elder girl would be too old to qualify as a dependent. That assumes the sisters would have survived that long without anyone to care for them.

They got into the country because there were people willing and able to take their case up and fight. Hundreds like them in the same or similar situations are deported without any chance to fight back.

THE HOME OFFICE MARRIAGE TRAP

THE Home Office has found a novel way of harassing and insulting a large section of the black community: it is using a piece of legal technicality to declare void the marriages of thousands of Pakistanis living in this country.

The wife of a British citizen has the right to become British herself. But many of the wives of Pakistanis registered as British citizens have had their applications turned down on the grounds that their marriage is not legal.

According to an amendment to an Act of Parliament passed in 1971, if you were married in a country which permits a man to have more than one wife then your marriage is not recognised in Britain. This applies even if both husband and wife are single at the time of their

marriage.

The law is being used retrospectively. Marriages that took place before 1971 are treated as void.

Sylvia Whitfield, author of a pamphlet on this subject, describes this Home Office practice as 'undesirable, unreasonable, and technically suspect'.

'These people were married in good faith, believing their marriage to be legally acceptable. Yet by a simple administrative procedure the Home Office is now forcing people to re-marry, and to accept that they were not properly married before. This is an affront to basic human rights. The undoing of marriages, after all, is a very serious matter, and should not be dealt with in a casual way.'

Shop steward faces deportation

Sabri Genç is being deported because he had previously worked without a permit—yet the Home Office have agreed to 'regularise' the position of most of his fellow workers. But Sabri Genç is a militant, a shop steward, and it is this the Home Office—and London Eating Houses—don't want. Before they joined the union these workers earned 30p an hour!

Also he was active in organising the May Day strike of London

Eating Houses' workers in support of the Shrewsbury Two.

This is political victimisation. The British government will tolerate 'illegal' immigration just as long as the immigrants accept gross exploitation. The message of Sabri Genç's case is IF YOU FIGHT YOU ARE OUT.

We must defend Sabri Genç and all other foreign workers fighting for basic rights, pay and conditions. Cases of victimisation of this kind

are increasing—and will continue unless we put a stop to it.

●A meeting has been arranged on Thursday 4 September at 7pm in the Friends International Centre, Courtauld's House, Torrington Place, London WC1, (nearest tube Goodge Street), to mount a campaign to stop the deportation of Sabri Genç, and to bring attention to the increasing use of repressive laws against immigrant workers. This meeting is called by the Sabri Genç Defence Committee, and supported by the Campaign to Repeal the Immigration Act.

Ladbrokes lock-out: We'll step up action

GLASGOW: The 280 workers locked out by Ladbrokes decided at a mass meeting last week, to step up their campaign against Britain's most profitable gambling empire. They are demanding recognition of their union the TGWU.

The strike committee's recommendation to extend the picket lines was enthusiastically taken up. They wish to keep secret some of the actions they will take, but feel sure that the dispute will begin to hurt the company soon.

Many of the strikers saw the decision taken at the meeting as a turning point in the dispute. In the ten weeks of the strike Ladbrokes had so far not suffered any serious blow to their betting shop operations. The strikers blamed this on the lack of real support from the TGWU officials.

Ladbrokes have just announced increased profits for the past half year and marked increases in their takings in the past two weeks. It isn't surprising then that Ladbrokes management have felt strong enough to reject any compromise solution suggested by the TGWU and to continue with their lockout of the 280 strikers.

The only way to break the company's vicious anti-trade union stand is by building mass pickets and extending the solidarity for the dispute.

Some of the dispute leaders are now convinced that they will have to take action against other Ladbrokes activities—such as race courses and other sporting events—and not just against the betting shops. This means involving other trade unionists in the fight to make this employer accept trade union rights.

AEROQUIP 600 DEMAND £5

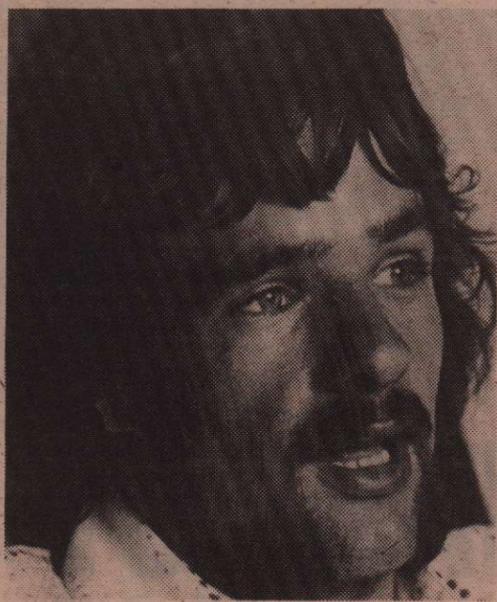
CARDIFF:—600 workers at Aeroquip are striking one day a week to force management to come up with a £5 rise, as their part of the annual wage agreement signed last January.

Aeroquip, which produces seals and hoses for the motor industry, is pleading poverty. But the men, members of the General and Municipal Workers Union (GMWU) who used to be well paid by Cardiff standards, have seen themselves sliding disastrously down the local wages league.

Carl Cave, GMWU steward on the negotiating committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The key to the claim is the need to involve the whole of the membership in open discussion and only on that basis can the shop stewards give a decisive lead. The stewards cannot afford to hide behind the membership, or to be too far ahead.'

'The fight for a decent wage increase and the fight against unemployment must be won on the shop floor. And our local leadership has too often avoided mass meetings and the real involvement of the rank and file.'

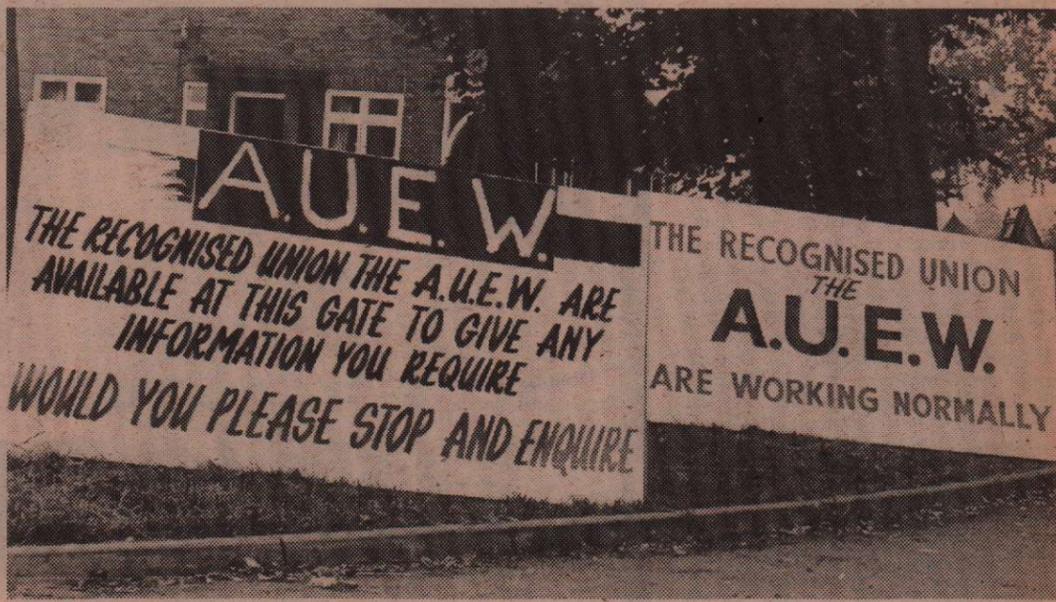
TRAILERS BOSS SETS PICKETS ON PICKETS



JOHN BACON (above) victimised shop steward at York Trailers, Northallerton, and the union that won't back him. Transport and General Workers Union members are on strike, but members of the Engineering Workers' Union (AEUW) are working and doing their best to wreck the strike.

The dispute began four weeks ago when two stewards complained that there was a fire risk in the spraying chamber. Management promised to have it cleaned up, broke the promise, and sacked the stewards for not going through procedure when they attempted to get the fire brigade to examine the fire hazard.

A long wrangle followed with both unions putting the case to an industrial tribunal, and winning a case for unfair dismissal. Management nevertheless refused to have the men back, and the TGWU called its members out to demand reinstatement for John Bacon, the TGWU steward involved.



The AUEW are not attempting to get reinstatement for the AUEW steward victimised at the same time. Instead they are taking advantage of the strike in an attempt to freeze the TGWU out! The AUEW have now called for an engineering union monopoly, in the factory, where the TGWU organise half the workers and have had recognised stewards for some time.

HAPPIER

Management couldn't be happier—they are backing the compliant AUEW all the way, and encouraging them to picket 100 yards down the road from the TGWU. Lorry drivers approaching the TGWU picket line are first stopped by AUEW men who tell them that the TGWU strike is unofficial and urge them to go into the factory!

This scabbing is supported by management, who have placed an executive bungalow at the gate at the AUEW's disposal, complete with colour TV. Management have also had large signs painted for the AUEW and, according to reliable reports, are paying the men while

they picket!

Every dirty trick in the book has been used, with the bosses telling the local papers that most of the men are back at work (a lie) and writing to the local Social Security office with details of the men's pay—even though most of them have not applied for benefits.

Northallerton is a small country town with no big organised labour movement, so the strikers at Yorks desperately need all the help that can be sent. They also want the local AUEW off their backs. AUEW district secretary Hammond and plant convenor Calvert have violated every basic trade union principle in the book and their behaviour ought to be brought up in AUEW branches across the country. One ex-steward in the AUEW is so disgusted by his union's behaviour that he is on strike with the TGWU men!

Help is being organised in the docks, where a consignment of trailers were turned back by Teesport dockers, but more is needed. The address for information and donations is: c/o John Bacon, 148 Ashlands Road, Northallerton, Yorks.

Cables: Waiting game

EAST LONDON:—The strike at Commercial Cables over a parity claim with Western Union is now in its fifth week. It is still solid, though there are blacklegs working. Members of the white-collar union ASTMS are working normally in the regional offices, so the company is still ticking over.

Management—in effect the multinational ITT—is playing a waiting game. A month ago, Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASTMS, proposed to the company that the matter be dealt with by the Industrial Arbitration Board, but there has been no response from management as yet.

Large-scale redundancies are threatened at Commercial Cables in London and the regions. Western Union have made 65 workers redundant, all ASTMS members. Management there have always been in close touch with the management of Commercial Cables.

Rank and file ASTMS members must fight against the selling of jobs and the fight must be stepped up and widened out. They should get the support of rank and file trade unionists in the area and circulate leaflets explaining the position to factories and offices.

Commercial Cables must be occupied and the company must cease to function until the workers there are given what they want. Failure to win this strike would mean even more redundancies and victimisation.

Messages of support and donations to: Ron Dowe, c/o Hat and Feathers pub, 2 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1.

DOCKERS BLACK COURTAULDS

SPENNYMOOR:—The strike at Courtaulds is now in its eleventh week. The strikers are demanding an increase of £3.60 and last week the strike committee refused to negotiate with management for lesser amounts. Support has come from Liverpool dockers, who have decided to black Courtaulds products from plants similar to Spenny Moor. A meeting is to take place with Hull dockers to win similar support.

Financial help has come from Courtaulds plants in the north. Help from other trade unionists is needed to picket the main warehouse for Spenny Moor at Bolton to prevent stocks being sent elsewhere.

Messages and donations to the AUEW Convenor, Brian Gibson, 7 Magdalen Place, Ferry Mill, County Durham.

SAFETY STRIKE PROVOKED ON THAMES BARRIER

EAST LONDON:—Work on the Thames Flood Prevention Barrier is again being held up because the management has provoked a strike. A few weeks ago they started using unskilled piling hands to do the skilled work being done by the 20 steel erectors, members of the Engineering Workers Union (AEUW), on the site.

Last Wednesday the AUEW members came out on official strike against the management's action. 'They shouldn't be using unskilled workers for steel erecting—it's dangerous work,' said Neil Cronin, the men's spokesman.

Work is still proceeding on the site, though there are growing signs of support from other skilled workers—the welders (Boilermakers Union) and the skilled workers in the Transport Union. But this is an issue which should command support of all workers on the site. The AUEW members need to issue posters and leaflets emphasising that it is a question of safety.

This is an urgent problem on the site. The latest worry is that one of the copper dams, which are located at intervals across the river to protect the barrier from shipping, is beginning to move. Trade unionists must not allow changes in working practices to increase the risk to life and limb.

Classified

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

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

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

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

MEDICINE IN SOCIETY, a Marxist journal of health studies. Issue 5 contains articles on trade unions in the NHS by Eder Brookstone (NUPE) and Hugh Faulkner (ASTMS-IPU), Abortion Law Reform and Ivan Illich's 'Medical Nemesis'. 25p post free, or £1 annual subscription, from Marxists in Medicine, 74 Brookdale Road, London E11.

MERSEYSIDE CHILE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN: Picket Chilean Consulate, Pacific Steam Navigation Company, Dock Road, opposite Sandon Dock. Thursday 11 September, 12 noon, second anniversary of the coup.

LIVINGSTON Rank and File public meeting: Gleno Asbestos—still a hazard! Speakers: John Todd (Health Committee, TGWU), Tony Hughes and a hospital doctor. Wednesday 10 September, 7.30pm, Riverside School Assembly Hall, Craigshill, Livingston. Sponsored by 7/162 Glasgow Insulation Workers Branch TGWU.

NATIONAL ABORTION CAMPAIGN: Thursday 11 September, 12-2, picket outside British Postgraduate Medical Federation, 11 Millman Street, London WC1. To protest at support of anti-abortion doctors' conference in Birmingham.

JUST OUT: 25-minute black-and-white newsreel film (16mm) on WOMEN'S FIGHT FOR FREE ABORTION ON DEMAND available from the Other Cinema, 12/13 Little Newport Street, London WC2. (Phone: 01-734 8508/9). Hire fee £5. This film is the first of a series of monthly newsreels to be made by the NEWSREEL COLLECTIVE. The next two films are to be about the revolutionary situation in Portugal, and on working-class struggles around housing, rents and squatting in Britain.

WANTED: Two people to share room in Tottenham flat. Shared cooking/living with view to setting up a communal household. Phone: 01-801 0173.

ADVERTISEMENT
NATIONAL RANK AND FILE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Health and Safety at Work

Another series of day schools have been arranged, sponsored by local shop stewards' committees and trade union branches. Please write direct to local organisers for further details.

TEESSIDE: Saturday 13 September. Organiser: Brother B E Taylor, 55 Heythrop Drive, Acklam, Middlesbrough. Hartlepool 60481, ext 270 or 279, or Middlesbrough 821995.

GLASGOW: Saturday 4 October. Organiser: Brother John Glen, 20 Argyle Street, Paisley. Phone (messages only) Glasgow 424 1048.

CARDIFF: Saturday 18 October. Organiser: Brother W Williams, 12 Coburg Street, Cathays, Cardiff. Phone (messages only) Cardiff 387881.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Saturday 25 October. Organiser: Brother J Clifford, 37 Probert Road, Fordhouses, Wolverhampton. Phone Wolverhampton 788472.

WEST LONDON: Saturday 1 November. Contact through the Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

WEST YORKSHIRE: Saturday 8 November. Organiser: Brother G Shaw, 1 Hoyle Court Road, Baildon, Shipley, Yorks. Phone Shipley 54043.

If there isn't a school in your area why not raise it at your next union branch or shop stewards' committee meeting. We'll be pleased to help you organise one. Schools are being planned in Liverpool, Hull, Ipswich, Tyneside.

The Rank and File safety pamphlet, A Cause for Concern, has been re-printed, and is available at 5p each, plus postage. Cash with orders please. Write to:

National Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16 8BY. Phone: 01-249 1207.



Observer bosses try to con NATSOPA

OUR WORD is our bond—until we've got you back to work. That was the message The Observer management spelled out to NATSOPA machine room workers last Saturday.

They were trying to dock a week's pay—and the men angrily rejected any notion of arbitration over the matter. They insisted at a chapel meeting that if management didn't give way, they would strike.

At this, David Astor and Co gave way. Everyone, they said, would be paid, provided NATSOPA members started work immediately.

But at 12.30 that night, management went back on their 'promise' of a few hours before. Once again they attempted not to pay up. This incensed the men again and proved to them that promises from Fleet Street employers are worth little.

Bill

The chapel is due to meet again this weekend to discuss the situation.

Management attempts to force through redundancies, together with the behaviour of national union officials, has meant that many men are tempted to get out of The Observer in a hurry for fear that the paper will soon fold.

But to do this will have serious consequences. It will mean that the Newspaper Publishers Association will have succeeded in pushing through the first part of its plans to destroy jobs throughout the whole of Fleet Street.

By walking away, workers will face reduced job opportunities elsewhere.

A united struggle for jobs in The Observer could still be won. There's precious little to lose since management may well try to close the paper anyway. And there's everything to win, since the NPA's schemes to massacre the print-workers of Central London would receive a decisive set-back.

Tenants in rates battle

LANARKSHIRE: Tenants are fighting back against a £3.50 rate increase introduced by the Labour council last month. In Bellshill, 1200 angry tenants attended a public meeting organised by the recently formed Action Group and voted overwhelmingly to withhold any increase.

A few miles away in Shotts, tenants put up barricades in one street to draw attention to the increases and to the appalling standard of housing.

Two years ago, the Labour councillors promised that tenants would be rehoused and that in the meantime, rents and rates would be frozen. Conditions have since got even worse. Dampness in some houses is so bad that the wallpaper won't stick to the walls. The 'temporary' flat roofs, built 'for the duration of the war', leak every time it rains. Stone walls and floors make the houses like igloos in the winter.

Cut

The fight has spread to Maryhill and Granhill, two districts of nearby Glasgow, where tenants have held a demonstration to protest against rotten accommodation.

These tenants are organising to fight back. Week after week they have tried to make ends meet on a shrinking wage and a massively increased food bill. They are fighting for the right to decent accommodation, and to protect their rapidly disappearing wages. They are organising because they know that a rent or rate rise is a wage cut.

BABCOCK AND WILCOX: 1500 OUT

RENFREW:—At Babcock and Wilcox, 1500 workers are on strike against management attempts to introduce a 4p an hour differential between welders and other workers. At a mass meeting in Paisley Town Hall the workers rejected the negotiating committee's recommendation to go back to work. They are now in the third week of their strike.

Swan Hunter: We fight on

NEWCASTLE: 5000 shipyard workers at Swan Hunter are continuing their battle against the £6 wage limit. They have been on strike for £8.30 for eight weeks.

Last week, the pressure to return to work increased when local full-time union officials claimed the strike was endangering government contracts essential to the shipyards. Then the Department of Employment said the men could not get more than 55p because they have already had one settlement in the last year.

Now shop stewards are demanding that parity with other workers in the shipyards be established as soon as the £6 limit is over. The differential between ancillary workers and boilermakers is as much as £22.

LAY-OFFS: CHRYSLER PUT THE BOOT IN

CHRYSLER SOCIALIST WORKER MEETING
Fight the Participation Con
Saturday 6 September, 11.30am
Elastic Inn, Cox Street, Coventry (1100 yards from Pool Meadow).

CHRYSLER is putting the boot in. After several weeks of phoney negotiation over workers' participation, mass lay-offs have been announced.

Last Friday, the Chrysler combine committee was on the point of giving the company everything they wanted. Now the company has turned round and smacked them in the face.

More than 17,000 of us in Coventry and Linwood now face short time working throughout September and we have no guarantees for October.

By Willie Lee, AUEW senior steward, Chrysler Linwood and Andy Enever, TGWU steward, Chrysler Stoke.

We said in May that the worker participation scheme was only a smokescreen set up by the company to play for time and to take the heat out of the wage claims. Now Chrysler's time has run out.

Chrysler's British operations depend on export orders, particularly their special order with Iran. Now Chrysler are claiming that Iran is backing off because of balance of payments problems.

Iran has no balance of payments problem, nor is it

likely to because of its massive oil resources. Chrysler have also deliberately leaked news of the lay-offs to newspapers so they can claim they cannot borrow money because bankers' confidence has been undermined.

Chrysler have produced yet another explanation. The new paint and trim shop in Iran has not been completed on time. It was due to be finished in May. This shouldn't cause a sudden decision to introduce mass lay-offs in August.

Amid all the verbal trickery, one thing is clear. Senior management have decided that they can get away with murder. Constant weakness has encouraged them. Now the managing director Don Lander is due to return to Britain on Thursday 'maybe with worse news'.

We need to prepare the fight now. Our future doesn't lie with trying to improve Chrysler's plans but with ourselves. If Chrysler can't guarantee our jobs, we have to fight to make this Labour government guarantee them.

We have to fight for nationalisation of Chrysler without any compensation and under full shop-floor control.

Only in that way can we guarantee that WE will be in control of our wages and conditions, and that we won't be squeezed onto the growing dole queues.

BAN

The stewards' committee at Linwood started the fight last Tuesday. They called for a ban on all overtime and complete withdrawal of co-operation throughout the plant; for a reconvened meeting of the National Car Industry stewards meeting; for forcing the company to honour their agreements in the yellow book, which guarantees four week's notice of short-time working and six weeks in areas where overtime has been worked.

If the company refuses, recommendations for industrial action will be made by the stewards to a mass meeting of Linwood workers.

Special stewards' meetings are being held in other plants later this week. These must follow the Linwood stewards and prepare to fight—and the way to fight is to demand:

The immediate withdrawal of overtime and all co-operation to make the company withdraw the lay-offs.

Five days' work or five days' pay.

Thirty-five hour week with no loss of earnings.

If the company refuse to withdraw the lay-offs or declare any worker redundant, immediate occupation of the plants.

For the nationalisation of Chrysler, without compensation and under shop-floor control.



Local government workers in NALGO marching to the Elephant and Castle in London last week to protest at the cuts in social services. The number of social workers in one area of Southwark has already been reduced by 14, another ten are leaving in the next few weeks. This will leave one senior social worker, and five social workers, down from 30. Picture John Sturrock (REPORT)

Marks and Spencer bosses blackmail Ritz workers

WHO MAKES the clothes you buy at Marks and Spencers? In Glossop in Derbyshire, workers at the Ritz factory make shirts and blouses to boost the Marks and Spencers profit mountain.

All they get for it is a flat rate of 54p an hour. After weeks of existing on the flat rate, they were offered a big new order by Marks and Spencers—on condition they accepted retiming for each job.

A collar which took four minutes would be timed at three and a half, equivalent to a wage cut of 12½ per cent.

A mass meeting of the 200 machinists voted by a majority of 2 to 1 to refuse the

order on these crippling terms. As one worker put it, 'We have no choice; we can't afford things now—let alone after taking a wage cut.'

Management reaction was swift. Workers returned from their annual fortnight's holiday in August to a three-day week. The original order was passed on. Then a new order emerged from the blue and Ritz is back on five days this week.

Break

Management took advantage of a half-day's absence by Tailors and Garment Workers steward Betty Done. They steam-rollered retiming through on a new basis.

One time was taken from the skilled collar makers and given to less skilled workers. Then the collar job could be reclassified as less skilled and the time cut—to two minutes. Cuts that apply to collar times will apply proportionately to all the jobs.

Ritz workers will not put up with this. Betty Done has wrung an agreement from the management for payment at the old price pending further retiming and discussions with the union official.

The two-minute collar means, for top

performance workers, the possibility of making only £6 per 15 dozen collars as against £9 before. In week one of this struggle, the workers were offered a 12½ per cent wage cut. Six weeks later, they are being offered a 33 and a third per cent cut. Some of the highest skilled workers will earn less than the flat rate.

Shop steward Betty Done says: 'The girls must realise that the union is only as strong as they make it. It's no good saying 'We'd better go along with management or we might lose our jobs.'

'What good is a 'safe' job if you end up getting less than peanuts for it? About as good as a 'safe' boat made from a collarander.'

Betty points out that a really firm refusal to accept the retiming by the 20 collar hands would stop the manager making cuts for all 300 workers. 'What good will his blouses be if they have no collars?'

'We are not going to work a job in half the time we have accepted as normal for the past four years. Our real enemy is Marks and Spencers, and the only way to fight them is to stick together and to force the union to organise across the factories.'

Pluto Press
Workers' Handbook No. 2

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Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

**Socialist Worker
Fighting Fund:
This is our target**

JURY RUMPUS AS PICKETS FACE TRIAL

THE vitally important trial of building workers from the Eldon Square site, Newcastle started on Monday against a background of increasing legal attacks on workers and dis-senters.

The Clay Cross councillors who defied the Tory 'Unfair Rents' Act only to be sold out by the Labour government were being 'dealt with' by a bankruptcy court.

In Leeds three 'Free George Davis' campaigners were still being held without bail on conspiracy, the same sinister charge used against the

Shrewsbury pickets.

A string of other conspiracy trials against Persian students and various magazine publishers are due to start soon.

And in Glasgow on Monday the prosecution case opened against seven of the trade unionists and socialists arrested after the police riot at the Kingston Hall on 24 May this year.

The Newcastle trial involves the prosecution of ten of the scaffolders involved in the bitter struggle against McAlpines the builders earlier this year. The scaffolders are charged with threatening behaviour and assaulting the police. No charges have

been brought against scabs or police heavies. No charges have been brought over flagrant breaches of the industrial safety regulations on the site.

The opening of the trial on Monday was greeted by a demonstration through the city centre supported by 200 trade unionists.

SEPERATE

The defence lawyer told the court that he thought it would be difficult to secure an uncontaminated jury for the trial. In fact there are ten separate trials covering the pickets, each one with a separate jury, even though

eight of the ten are on the same charge of 'threatening behaviour likely to occasion a breach of the peace'.

Robert Henderson, the first, is charged with threatening behaviour and assault of a police officer. Already significant discrepancies have arisen over police evidence. Even the judge was confused at one point.

During the afternoon break on Monday two women jurors were seen talking with three of the police witnesses. One of the policemen said about the defence lawyer: 'He likes to get you over a bed of nails doesn't he?' Laughter followed.

Several people complained to the defence lawyer and Ken Ternent, vice-president of Newcastle Trades Council, who overheard the exchange. Ternent made a statement about this and it was discussed by an inquiry during Tuesday morning.

The inquiry found that the evidence was sufficient to warrant a new trial. But the defence lawyer and Robert Henderson agreed to continue the existing trial after getting an assurance that in future the jury was to be provided with separate provisions at recesses.

Already the trial has proved that the word of the police is often automatically accepted at the expense of the hard honest truth.

Shrewsbury picket backs scaffolders

A PUBLIC meeting was held the night before the trial started in Newcastle with Ricky Tomlinson, one of the pickets jailed at Shrewsbury, as the main speaker. 100 trade unionists attended the meeting, which was sponsored by the 8/219 Scaffolders branch of the TGWU, the Eldon Square Defence Committee and the Rank and File Organising Committee.

Ricky Tomlinson brought fraternal greetings from Des Warren, who is still in prison, and the Cammell Lairds pickets who were arrested last week. He drew comparisons with the Shrewsbury building workers' arrests and trials and drew the political conclusions that all workers must stick together and fight against the increasing attacks on pickets.

He said of the Eldon Square arrests: 'Their fight is our fight. Their victory will be a victory for the working class.'



The mass picket outside Cammell Lairds, PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

Lairds: Police back off for mass picket

BIRKENHEAD:—A mass picket of 500 building workers last week won a round against the police in the battle outside Cammell Lairds shipyards. 40 building workers are demanding that they be employed on the site by a new contractor, who has been brought in to replace the original firm.

Last week the police arrested eleven pickets in an attempt to intimidate and break the pickets. All eleven have been remanded on bail on condition they do not go

within half a mile of Lairds.

The mass picket forced the police to keep out of the way. About 20 police stayed on the other side of the road while others waited down side streets in buses.

The scabs, employed by Wimpeys, the new contractors, never arrived.

The next morning the normal picket of 30 building workers was faced by the usual array of police and scabs in coaches. But there was a complete change. All the coaches

were stopped. Pickets were allowed inside to address the scabs. Later in the day a delegation was allowed onto the site to address the scabs.

Inside the yards 1000 fitters stopped work in solidarity.

Now 1600 boilermakers have taken control of the main gates, the security offices, and the main administrative buildings. They are demanding that lay-offs affecting 100 boilermakers be stopped and that there be a guarantee of no more lay-offs.

ON Monday the Daily Mail let the cat out of the bag about the Tory Party's new treasurer, Alastair McAlpine. He went to the £992-a-year Stowe public school. There he was known as 'Roly Poly' because of his greed and the size of his tuck box. What's more the Mail revealed McAlpine is absolutely useless at counting money.

His talents appear to be confined to spending it. But then he's only one of a whole class of people whose only role in life is to dispose of what others have produced.

Socialist Worker exists to lead the campaign to get rid of that class—the tiny minority with wealth and power who control this society.

We want to see their strength broken from the shop floor all the way up to the law courts they use to beat us down when we resist, as the McAlpine's are doing this very week in Newcastle.

To do that job more efficiently we need your money. Last week we got in only £127 for the Socialist Worker £6000 Fund to buy the phototypesetting equipment which will enable us to improve not only Socialist Worker but the many papers we also produce for groups of rank and file trade unionists.

As a letter from a General and Municipal Workers Union member in Manchester puts it: 'If every supporter of Socialist Worker donated just 25p (the price of a pint) we could buy the equipment tomorrow. Just 25p.' Bigger sums are gratefully received.

This week's £127.15 brings the total so far to £972.58. Our thanks to:

Dumfries IS £3.50, Anon £7, Guildford reader £5, Plymouth IS £5, NGA members £10, Swindon SW reader 50p, SW supporters, Metal Box, West Houghton £5.50, SW reader, Spalding £1, Lambeth Community Law Centre SW readers £2.58, Sheffield supporter £5.50, Tower Hamlets IS £26, West London Hospital workers £11.50, Bristol IS £2.60, Durham IS £1, C A Parsons IS branch £21.17, North London hospital workers £2.20, Manor House hospital SW readers £2.60, Royal Free Hospital SW supporter £2, Hove reader £1.50, Doctor, Leicester £10, GMWU SW supporter Manchester £1.

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STOP THE NATIONAL FRONT MARCHING IN THE EAST END!

THE National Front is staging a provocative march through London's East End this Saturday (6 September). According to their July internal bulletin this 'really big anti-immigration march' is 'the really big event of 1975'. All National Front members, the bulletin continues, 'will curse themselves if they do not attend'.

This march is just the latest stunt from a political organisation whose purpose is to set worker against worker at any price.

The National Front always works hard to play on the fears of ordinary people. So this time they're calling their demonstration against 'mugging' and for 'law and order'.

People of the East End know plenty about law and order. George Davis, for example, knows about it

in detail. He's serving a 20 year sentence after being found guilty of an offence that he did not commit.

The kind of 'order' that the Front wants to bring to the streets of East London can be judged by the fact that Front leaders have a string of convictions for attacks on black people.

ASSULT

One of their speakers after this Saturday's operation is Hackney National Front branch chairman Derrick Day. Day is due to appear at Old Street Court on a charge of assaulting a West Indian woman who lives on the same council estate.

Make no mistake, the National Front are new Nazis. That is why

they have to be stopped from spreading their poison. For if they ever succeed, it will mean that every independent working-class organisation, every trade union branch, every shop stewards' and tenants' committee will be smashed and broken in the interests of the tiny minority who own and control this country.

For these reasons the London region of the International Socialists is supporting the counter-demonstration called by Hackney Trades Council. We call on all readers and supporters of Socialist Worker to make it a massive show of strength against the National Front.

● COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION: Assemble 1pm, Saturday 6 September, Victoria Park Square (near Bethnal Green Tube), E2.