

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY 10p

ADVERTISEMENT

National Right to Work Campaign

Defend the Right  
to Work marchers  
**STOP THE  
JAILINGS**

Support Mike Lynch's appeal this Monday 17 January,  
Middlesex Crown Court by Westminster Tube, 9.30am.  
**BRING BANNERS**

How they do it...

## HUGE HAND-OUT TO THE RICH

GEC—one of Britain's top three employers—has started 1977, the Year of the Beaver with a scheme which will double the income of thousands of rich shareholders.

The dodge, dreamed up by the firm and its tax lawyers, involves inventing 'capital notes' which shareholders will be able to turn into an unbelievable £178 million in hard cash.

*This sum would be enough to give every one of GEC's 166,000 workers a £20.62 a week wage rise.*

It would be enough to stop the cuts in all the hospitals in Britain for a year. Enough to pay the winter quarter electricity bills of every needy pensioner.

But it's not going to the needy. It's going to line the pockets of those who're already extremely wealthy.

The scheme which avoids the government's dividend

I'M TAKING THIS MONEY OFF YOU SO I  
CAN INVEST IT IN MORE JOBS!



...And  
what  
they  
get out  
of it

## £175 million for GEC shareholders

controls, has been secretly allowed by the Treasury.

GEC shareholders who sell their capital notes won't even have to pay income tax on their proceeds.

For Sir Arnold Weinstock, GEC's managing director (2,779,441 shares) it will bring in an extra £632,323 even after capital gains tax has been paid.

Thousands of assorted millionaires, speculators and capitalist thieves of every variety will benefit enormously.

The richer they are, the richer they will become. And what have they done to create this wealth—precisely

nothing.

Thus huge wealth has been made for GEC by mass sackings

*Remember the arguments of the government and the TUC to persuade workers to accept the Social Contract?*

**THAT** all sections of society—the wealthy as well as the workers—were forced to make 'equal sacrifice'.

### Solution

**THAT** high profits which resulted from wage restraint would find their way into more investment and more jobs.

GEC has proved once again that the first is a lie and the second a fraud.

The GEC share scandal has been almost completely ignored by the newspapers and the television programmes which are so quick to hound £20-a-week so called 'scroungers'.

The people who own those newspapers and television (among them director of GEC) are not at all keen that working people should know who the real scroungers of our society are—the Weinstocks, and Bonds.



SIR ARNOLD WEINSTOCK, managing director, 2,779,441 shares. He'll make a cool £632,000.



LORD NELSON OF STAFFORD, chairman, 64,290 shares. He'll make about £15,000.



SIR KENNETH BOND, deputy managing director (knighted by this Labour government for 'services to industry'), 215,347 shares. He will make about £50,000.

## Help us to grow!

SOME people never lose their socialist enthusiasm. Listen to Mr K D Harding, aged 63:

'Do we really have at last a Revolutionary Socialist Party, living in the real world, with courage and drive, honesty and principle, and the sort of newspaper it needs.

'I can't believe it, it's too good to be true. All the best'.

Enclosed was a donation of £5.

It's the need to tap and build on such enthusiasm that has led the Socialist

Workers Party (formerly IS) to plan an expansion of its activities in the months ahead.

The first step has been the production of 20,000 copies of a wonderful new book, *Why You Should Be a Socialist*, by Paul Foot.

• • •  
We think it will win many hundreds of people to the building of the new socialist party.

*But our extra activities are going to cost us a lot of money. That's why we are asking our members and sympathisers to help us raise £30,000.*

Many people have con-

tributed to the fund because of Socialist Worker's fight against racialism.

A reader in Ingatestone, Essex, writes: 'I'm sending you a small contribution (£3) to help you in your great fight against unemployment and racialism

'I found it very moving to experience the depth of anti-facist feeling, especially among members of the SWP. Many thanks for all you've done. Good luck for the future'.

A Coventry reader had a good idea for providing a regular flow of money. M House writes:

'I wish to donate £4 a month. The Socialist

Workers Party seems to be the highest priority

Bankers' orders from Socialist Worker supporters are one of the easiest ways for us to move towards out £30,000 target.

• • •  
The Party's Inner East London District is already raising £24 a month from non-members in this way.

The fund has only been in operation a week, but money has already begun to come in. Help speed up the flow.

□ Send donations and collections to the Treasurer, SWP, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

# EGA: SUPPORT THIS VITAL CONFERENCE



## Baffled about Ireland? You've been reading the papers...

By Eamonn McCann

**THE RIGHT To Work Campaign is calling for maximum support for the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson hospital solidarity conference on 12 February.**

Members of the Campaign have been taking EGA workers to meet shop stewards' committees and persuade them to send delegates to the conference. 'We are determined to keep the hospital open, but if we are to win we will need support from workers in other industries as well as the health service,' said EGA shop steward Pam Jones.

### Urgent

'The conference will be vital in bringing together people who can give us the support we need. We are going to need a pool of workers with various skills to carry out repairs that the health authority refuses to pay for. We will need a flying picket that we can call on whenever the authority tries to move patients or equipment.' The EGA in Euston Road, Central London, is run for women with an all-female medical staff. It has been run down over the years, now the government says repairs would cost too much. 'They have been trying to get rid of us for years by shunting us around from one health district to the next,' said Pam Jones. 'They obviously thought because we were all women we would not put up much of a fight. But they were wrong.' The EGA has been occupied since November. The Area Health Authority wants to move the EGA to

## And here's how to spread the word



The EGA must not close. Womens Voice supporters taking the message onto the streets of North London last Saturday.

four wards at the nearby, Whittington Hospital. Medical staff from the EGA went to look at two of the wards they have been allocated—and were appalled by conditions. 'They are two old workhouse wards with toilets and washing facilities that open directly onto the ward.

'They also found ratholes which would suggest that the place is or has been infested,' said Pam. **Support the EGA Conference Saturday 12 February, 11am-1pm at the EGA. Credentials from EGA shop stewards' committee, EGA Hospital, Euston Road, London WC1.**

SOME OF MY best friends are retired terrorists, which, if you believe what you read in the papers, puts them in imminent danger of getting their brains blown out. They all seem strangely unworried by the prospect. Last Friday, every British daily paper dwelt on the

### Rubbish

terrible dilemma of young people in the North, disillusioned with membership of paramilitary organisations but afraid of vicious reprisals if they drop out. The stories were linked to the manifesto of the peace movement, which promised to

appoint 'escape officers' to smuggle 'peace converts' out of the IRA. The Mirror described it as a 'revolutionary plan... which could lead to a head-on collision with the 'paramilitaries'. The Express announced dramatically that 'efforts will be made to smuggle them out of Ulster to safety in mainland Britain'. Derek Brown, who reports the North for the Guardian, informed readers that groups like the IRA 'have simple and deadly rules about life membership'. And so on. All this is lies. But since it served to emphasise once again the image of the Provos as a sub-human species dependent entirely on fear, the hacks gibbered it out to their London offices and editors eagerly splashed it across their pages.

### Distortion

People leave the Provos all the time and for all sorts of reasons: because they are fed up with life and reckon they have done their bit; because they are resentful of not being promoted; after political disagreements; because they have to go on shift work; or, very commonly, because they get married or start going steady and discover the attraction of staying in at night (terrorists work very unsocial hours.) The result is that in a place like the Bogside or Turf Lodge, there are at least as many ex-Provos as active ones. And there is no recorded case of any of them being shot for leaving. The formalities of resignation are pretty simple. You must tell the local boss you're pulling out. That is, of course, by no means the biggest or the most significant example of pre-distortion of the news from the North. But it does indicate how instinctive the process of distortion has become. Press men in Belfast would have known there was no truth in the story—if they thought about it. But of course they didn't think about it. When the falsehood fell on their desks last Thursday, they automatically tapped it out on their teletypewriters, knowing it was exactly the kind of stuff the newsroom across the water wants to hear: true or not.

## NO HOME? HARD LUCK . . .

LAMBETH'S Labour Council has issued High Court summonses against 105 people squatting in empty houses in Villa Road. The Council initially negotiated with the Villa Road

group and showed them various houses. Then, without notice, they issued summonses. The Council have a 17,000-strong waiting list. But rather than let them live in empty

existing houses the Council prefers to demolish houses to make way for redevelopment. The squatters have strengthened their barricades and intend to resist the summonses.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER CAMPAIGN AGAINST RACISM WITH SOCIALIST WORKER

## Happy New Year in Britain? Not for an 'immigrant' like Katun

ASHAFUL Nessa Katun, 18, was looking forward to a New Year and a new life when she arrived at Heathrow Airport from Bangladesh on 27 December.

### Detention

But Britain's racist immigration laws swiftly put paid to her hopes and led to Ashaful being locked up in the infamous Heathrow detention centre. She is still there. The Katun family didn't want their daughter to have to struggle through the inhuman bureaucracy which pretends to sift applications for permits

and papers. In reality, of course, her Majesty's Immigration Service is a haven for racists in uniform. What's more, Ashaful's mother was ill. So Ashaful caught the plane with her dad from Bangladesh on 27 December without all the 'necessary' papers. She was refused entry. Her dad then suggested, Ashaful should be allowed in

### ASIAN FAMILY HOUNDED

A HOMELESS Asian family have had to turn down the offer of a house in East London because of racist abuse and attacks. Yakub Ismail, his wife and family viewed the house in Hollybush Gardens, Bethnal Green just before Christmas. While they were looking round, they were insulted by some white youths. They also discovered the house had been vandalised with racist slogans and that the previous occupants, also Asians, were driven out by persistent harassment.

for six months. The Home Office, predictably, said No. Their reason—they didn't believe Ashaful would leave at the end of the period. Ashaful's father and mother and their friends have even gone to the lengths of raising £200 as a bond which they would forfeit it. Ashaful didn't leave after six months. Why the hell should she leave anyway? Her mum and

dad are here. There's more food in Britain than in Bangladesh, more houses to go round—thousands of them standing empty. Her story joins hundreds of others in Britain's catalogue of immigration misery. Ashaful's mother and father came to Britain some years ago. When they came, Ashaful was left behind in the care of her uncle. But her uncle became ill recently. So the Katuns decided that Ashaful should come to join them in Burnley. Socialist Worker is proud to repeat what we have said before—away with all these rotten immigration controls. Those who want to leave the country are free to do so. Those who want to come in should be in a similar position.



Rupi: My thanks to SW

## RUPI IS FREED AFTER XMAS IN JAIL

RUPI AHLUWALIA has finally been released after spending the most unpleasant Christmas of his life in Pentonville Prison. As reported in Socialist Worker, Rupi—a member of the Southall Youth Movement—was taken from his home by Immigration Officers. Nine months before, he had told the Home Office that he had entered Britain illegally. He believed he would be granted an amnesty because he was now married. While waiting for a Home Office decision, he was active in the anti-racist upsurge in Southall last summer. Then, in November, he was suddenly detained under Home Office instructions for seven weeks. No clear reason has been given for either his detention or his release, though he has now been assured he is legally resident in Britain. Rupi told Socialist Worker: 'I take the opportunity to express my sincere and heartfelt thanks for all the effort taken by your esteemed paper to publish the facts and to get me released from prison.'

### Lies

And tens of millions of British people take it in at breakfast every morning. In the same way, a press release from, say, a tenants' association or local priest alleging army brutality or involvement in some killing is automatically screwed up and tossed in the bin. Thus is the news from the North packaged to meet British political requirements. **If the 'Peace Women' really wanted peace, they would be calling for the withdrawal of British Troops from Northern Ireland. They aren't. But some people are.** On Sunday 30 January, supporters of the Troops Out Movement and of Socialist Worker will be demonstrating from Shepherds Bush Green, London at 1.30pm. They will be commemorating the fifth anniversary of Bloody Sunday—the murder of 13 unarmed people by the British paratroop regiment.

# Good start to the Year of the Leech

by MICHAEL FENN  
NASD member, London Royal Docks

AT THE TOP of the street I live in is a hospital. On the front entrance for the past four years there has been a notice saying: 'Serious casualties to Stratford Hospital.'

That's approximately one and a half miles away.

Two weeks ago Stratford casualty department must have been closed, for another notice has appeared telling people to go to East Ham in future. That's two and a half miles away and there's no direct public transport.

People will die trying to get there. It's all part of the cuts.

It's a story that every Socialist Worker reader could repeat. So why bother to write about it?

Old people are dying of cold, kids are going without dinners, people are sitting in hospital waiting rooms for hours or waiting to be admitted for months. All part of the cuts. Everyone must share the burdens! says the government.

Or is it everyone?

A senile old man is taken ill on holiday and wishes to come home. His family phone the Prime Minister and a VC10 jet is sent to pick him, up with a full medical team on board.

Who is this lucky chap? An old miner, an old hospital porter, an old dustman?

No. Surprise, surprise, it's Lord Avon, formerly Sir Anthony Eden, whose contribution to keeping Britain Great has hardly ever been equalled.

His most memorable action was the invasion of Suez. With due regard for the immense debt we all owe to this great Englishman the government sent a VC10 to Miami to fly him home to die.

Maybe the government could tell us what the cost was, with medical teams laid on and two ambulances picking him up at the airport?

It must be very heavy indeed, considering it cost Lady Beaverbrook £8000 to charter a plane one way to take her two poodles to New York last autumn. That little lot can't have cost less than £30,000 of public money.

The day this harrowing event was first reported, there was another story in the papers. It was about an old peoples' home on Humber-side where ten old men died in a fire. It had grown to an inferno—because of staff shortages.

**That week the local Social Services had required a cut in overtime working. Result: no attendants, no fire alarm, ten dead—all part of the cuts.**

It's clear that this year will be the same as the last: 'The year of the leech'.



The old people's home where ten died—staff had been cut

# THE £millions BEHIND THE RISING PRICE OF BREAD

THE rising price of bread, say the press and the Prices Minister, Roy Hattersly, is the fault of the bread delivery drivers.

No mention will you find of the fact that the government has just put up the price of bread by cutting the bread subsidy.

Nor that the rising price of bread brings fantastic profits to the giant milling and baking monopolies, Rank-Hovis, Spillers and Associated British Foods. Rank made £33 million last year, and Spillers, £15 million.

Spillers have just opened a special bank account in a tax haven, the Channel Islands, so as to keep out of range of the inquiries of the Price Commission. Salted away in the account is a cool £12 million.

The government's plan for 'cutting' bread prices

## WHAT WE THINK

does not touch these profits. Instead it merely allows bakers shops and supermarkets to sell bread they buy from the monopolies at less than the recommended price.

In the short term this will, of course, be of limited benefit to working people—although prices would not be cut by anything like as much as the government has pretended. But in the long term, the result will be that small bakers' shops which cannot afford to cut prices will be driven out of business by the big chain stores and supermarkets.

These will then be able to raise the price of bread as much as they like.

No wonder some of the bread delivery men are frightened of losing their jobs. The trouble is that they are frightened of their jobs in the wrong way.

By insisting that the price of bread is not cut they are not attacking those to blame for high prices and redundancies in the bread industry—the giant millers and bakers. Instead they are fighting their fellow workers, while the giant profiteers get away scot free.

They have fallen into the same trap as people who demand import controls. They think the only way to protect the jobs of some workers is to force up prices for all other workers.

The real answer lies in a struggle against the companies and the government policies that mean both unemployment and high prices.

Where the CIA is OK... but not a socialist

Where the CIA is OK... but not a socialist

FULL-TIME Labour Party organisers have voted to back left-wing Labour Party youth officer Andy Bevan. What a bunch of hypocrites they are.

Without a murmur they've worked with crooks like John Stonehouse and Andrew Cunningham. Without a murmur they've worked with CIA agents and stooges.

Then, at the very time the millionaire press rounds on socialists within the Labour Party such as Andy Bevan and other supporters of the Militant newspaper, the Labour agents suddenly move into action.

What a crew they are! And what a ship!

## WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST

PAUL FOOT

... the case for the new Socialist Workers Party

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

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

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

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

This is our case. Will you read it?

WITH CARTOONS BY PHIL EVANS

polling booth

Please send me . . . . copies of WHY YOU SHOULD BE A SOCIALIST at

- One copy for 50p\*
  - Five copies for £2\*
  - One copy of the book, plus Socialist Worker each week for the next two months for £1.50.\*
- Please tick appropriate box. (\* All prices include postage).

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

I enclose £ . . . . (Cheques and postal orders payable to SW Distributors please).

SEND THIS SLIP TO: SW Distributors, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2.

'I'M NOT INTERESTED IN EXPOSING ONE GROUP OF SPIES TO ANOTHER'

# Agee: The CIA lies that Rees swallowed

THE TRUTH behind the government's planned deportation of American journalist Phil Agee is coming out.

In a secret conversation with the leader of the Liberal Party about ten days ago, Home Secretary Merlyn Rees said Agee was responsible for the deaths of two Western intelligence agents in Poland. He had, said Rees, betrayed these agents to the KGB.

David Steel, whose political backbone resembles the soft part of a blancmange, bravely decided not to ask any hostile Commons questions.

Phil Agee heard of the conversation through a third party. He strenuously denies the allegations.

\*\*\*

'I'm meant to have met this Polish agent when I was working for the CIA in Mexico in 1968' he says. 'But that's ridiculous. I never worked on Eastern Europe matters. I was concerned solely with South and Central America.'

The CIA planted this story in a paper in Los Angeles last January—but the paper didn't print it because the story didn't check out. They want people to think I sold CIA agents to the KGB, and they seem to have persuaded Rees of this.

'But anyone with the slightest knowledge of intelligence knows that I have never done anything like that. I'm not interested in exposing one group of spies to another.'

'I'm interested in exposing the danger of intelligence services to democracy everywhere.'



Phil Agee, the former CIA spy, speaking in Hyde Park last Sunday: 1000 people marched through London to protest at his threatened deportation.

# It's time we started to control our own union



Tommy Riley: the members are the union

THERE WERE ten of us in our family, so as soon as I left school I went to sea.

I did my apprenticeship and became an AB (able-bodied seaman), but the conditions were terrible, lousy pay, lousy food and a 56-hour week.

### Refused

The skipper on one ship was a right Captain Bligh. He even accused me of mutiny once.

I'd refused to load coal into the galley because it wasn't my job. The mate took me to the Captain, who was getting pissed in his cabin with a New York harbour official.

He ordered me to load the coal and when I refused,

## SAYS TOMMY RILEY, RIGHT TO WORK CANDIDATE FOR TGWU GENERAL SECRETARY

pulled a bloody great big revolver out of his desk and said he'd be within his rights to shoot me.

The harbour official, who was paralytic drunk, kept saying, 'Shoot the bastard, go on, shoot him.'

I told him if he was going to shoot me it'd have to be in the back, turned round and legged it.

I went straight down onto the docks to see the union steward. Within minutes, the docks were at a standstill.

### Blacked

The dockers boarded the ship and dragged off the harbour official.

Eventually I was paid full wages and passage back and charged with 'broken toes' (the standard compromise).

In 1957, we had the big unofficial strike over wages and hours. The strike ended with the 'Cunard phone call'.

We blacked all the ships and Cunard desperately wanted this ship anyway. Over the phone they promised to meet our demands if we released this ship, which we did.

Of course, they ratted on the agreement, the strike was broken and I was one of many victimised.

I got married and moved to St Helens to work in the coal

mine. We were living with my mother-in-law, so when I heard that I could get a house if I went on the railways I became a goods guard.

We were always having strikes about safety. That's one thing I've seen in every job I've been in.

The boss couldn't give a damn about your safety, so it's up to you to look after yourself. That's why I'm on the Safety Committee at Metal Box now.

There can be no compromise on safety. If there's any doubt, black it.

The next job I worked on was demolition and we had to be dead careful there. If you weren't careful, you were dead.

We used to blow up mill chimneys, engine beds, tree stumps, anything you like.

The crunch came on that job when the boss told us to work till 9.30 one night. I called a meeting of the lads and was delegated to tell the boss to get stuffed.

I did just that and we went on strike. None of us ever went back and I think that chimney's still standing.

### Respond

That's when I started at Metal Box as a stacker truck driver and I've been there ever since. The biggest lesson I've learnt here is to trust the members.

A lot of people will tell you that workers won't follow you if you give them a lead. That's bullshit.

You keep your members informed and involved and they'll respond when you give a lead.

As far as I'm concerned, that's the only way for a steward to act. That's why I support the Rank and File Organisation.

They know that the members are the union, not the well-heeled, well-paid officials, but the ordinary lads and lasses.

That's what I'm standing in this election for, to say to the members that it's time that we started to control our own union.

Our officials are supporting the Social Contract. We never voted for wage cuts and unemployment.

The pamphlet that's been produced says it all: TGWU WHO RULES?

The message of this campaign must be clear. We, the members, are going to.

Interview by Alistair O'Riordan

## JOBS CAMPAIGNER JAILED IN POLICE FRAME-UP



Billy Castley: six months in prison

BILLY CASTLEY, secretary of the Skelmersdale Unemployed Action Committee and a prominent Right to Work marcher, has been sent to prison for six months after a vicious frame-up by the Skelmersdale police.

Billy has been harassed by local police since he started to campaign on behalf of the unemployed. He has been

arrested on charges of assault twice by the same policeman. The first time, several months ago, the police case was laughed out of court.

### Charge

This time, the case went to Preston Crown Court and was heard by Judge Openshaw, a ruthless defender of 'law and order'. Billy was charged with assault and actual bodily harm on the

policeman. The actual bodily harm charge was dismissed, but the assault charge was upheld after the Judge had explained that 'the slightest contact' with the police constituted an assault.

The wretched policeman could not even remember what part of his body Billy was alleged to have hit.

A spokesman for Billy's lawyers told Socialist Worker: 'This was an ex-

tremely stiff sentence and we are advising our client to appeal'.

The victimisation of Billy Castley has infuriated many unemployed people in Skelmersdale. Billy's friends are asking his supporters to get in touch with him right away and send good wishes and messages of support. He is in Walton prison.

□ B J Castley, No 726010, HM Prison, Walton, Liverpool 9.

# WHERE WE STAND



### INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION:

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

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

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

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

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

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

a workers' militia.

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

### INTERNATIONALISM

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

We oppose everything which turns

workers from one country against those from other countries.

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

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

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

We are for real, social, economic and

political equality of women.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

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

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

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Slave labour

**THE RIGHT TO WORK** Campaign this week called for mass pickets of Trust House Forte hotels on Saturday 22 January.

Trust House Forte own hotels in Sheffield and Oxford where workers have been sacked for joining the Transport and General Workers Union.

The strike at the Randolph, the poshest hotel in Oxford, has been going on for six weeks, the strike

at the Grosvenor in Sheffield for four.

At another Oxford Hotel, the Linton Lodge, workers have been on strike for seven weeks after being sacked for joining the TGWU.



Tommy Riley, the Right to Work Campaign's candidate for General Secretary in the TGWU, called for the national picket.

**THESE HOTEL WORKERS FOUGHT IT—AND WERE IMMEDIATELY SACKED. NOW THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT**



Another arrest on the Randolph picket line: three pickets were arrested last week alone

**JOIN THE MASS PICKETS, Saturday 22 January, Noon-2 pm**

**LONDON:** Cafe Royal, Regent Street.

**MANCHESTER:** Grand Hotel, Aytoun Street.

**LIVERPOOL:** St George's Hotel, Lime Street.

**EDINBURGH:** Carlton Hotel, North Bridge.

**YORK:** The Post House, Tadcaster.

**READING:** The Post House, Basingstoke Road.

**BIRMINGHAM:** The Post House, Chapel Lane, Great Barr.

**DUNDEE:** Queen's Hotel, Neltergate.

Trust House Forte have large hotels in nearly every city. Details of other hotels can be obtained from the Right to Work Campaign 01-802 0978. Make sure your local hotel is picketed.

Contact the hotel workers beforehand and prepare leaflets on the strikes. Hold collections on the picket.

Trust House Forte own all Post House hotels and Lillywhites shops.



On the picket line at the Linton Lodge, Fred Lloyd and Seamus Keyes.



Margaret Radbourne: take-home pay from the Randolph: £17.19.

## OXFORD: 58 hours—for £20

**A ROOM at Oxford's Randolph Hotel will cost you £17.50 a night.**

A set dinner costs £3.25, though a much more expensive menu is available. Breakfast is another £1.30.

But to get in, you have to cross a picket line.

The Randolph has sacked 20 workers for daring to join a trade union. Fifteen of the strikers are chambermaids.

### Night

The owners, Trust House Forte, pay them 75p an hour. There is no extra money for working at weekends.

Chambermaid Margaret Radbourne, now a shop steward, takes home £17.19—not enough to pay for a night in the Randolph.

She told Socialist Worker: 'After I've paid £7.50 a week

rent, it's just nothing to live on'.

A mile away there is a picket line outside another Oxford Hotel, the Linton Lodge. Conditions are even worse.

When the Transport and General Workers Union asked management to recognise the union, the two shop stewards were called in and sacked.

Other workers struck, and received a letter telling them, they were sacked: 'because you are on strike'.

One of the pickets, Seamus Keyes, a chef, said: 'I work around 58 hours a week and get £20'.

Fred Lloyd, a waiter, added: 'You don't get paid for overtime. They just instruct you to work on or to come in at weekends.'

'You can end up doing a 65-hour week and getting £20. Some days it's non-stop,

particularly when the coach tours pour in.'

At both hotels managements have sacked workers for belonging to trade unions. Margaret Radbourne says: 'They want to keep the union out because the money's so bad. They know things will change once we're organised.'

### Work

At the Randolph, she continued, 'Trust House Forte sent in a new manager—he's only 20 but he's been to four hotels. They sent him to deal with the union.'

'He arrived and sacked five chambermaids in the TGWU who refused to work weekends. They all had young families at home.'

The management have a tough and resourceful ally: the Oxford police force. So far

nine trade unionists have been arrested on the picket line.

Harassment, threats and assaults on the pickets have been ignored by the police.

Last week alone, three pickets were arrested in different incidents.

One night before Christmas, police moved in on a mass picket of 150 trade unionists outside the Linton Lodge. Four pickets were arrested and charged with assault on the police and other offences.

A few nights later, a Cortina Estate accelerated when it approached the picket line. Two pickets were caught on the bonnet.

One was carried about 20 feet before flying off. Another was carried nearly 50 feet before the car skidded and stopped. A woman screamed

from inside the car: 'You ignorant people, you haven't got any brains at all'.

Two police cars arrived escorted the passengers inside the hotel—and then came out to arrest yet another picket.

The police refused point blank to take any action against the driver of the car.

Another night, two of the Linton Lodge managers arrived at lam. A few pickets were still there. One of the managers said, 'Let's have a go at them'.

### Arrested

They started smashing placards, and then Jos Ureta, the restaurant manager, smashed one picket across the face and broke his glasses.

The police arrived and a customer came out of the hotel and offered to act as a witness to the assault.

The police refused to charge Ureta and announced instead: 'This is a civil matter. We can't do anything.'

Just two weeks before, the same police arrested two trade unionists from Ruskin College, and charged them with actual bodily harm on Ureta.

No-one else witnessed this alleged attack. The arrests were made on Ureta's unsupported word.

In Oxford it is quite legal to harass, intimate, assault and even knock down pickets.

What you're not allowed to do is support a strike for decent wages and trade union organisation.



A scab threatening pickets at the Randolph: minutes later, police arrested another picket—and ignored scabs threatening the Socialist Worker photographer.

## SHEFFIELD: Union official helps police finger pickets

**FOUR PICKETS** were arrested at Sheffield's Grosvenor House Hotel on Sunday—with the active help of the local Transport and General Workers Union official Jim Holmes.

Forty six women have been on strike for four weeks after being sacked by Trust House

Forte for joining the Transport and General Workers Union.

More than 150 local trade unionists, including strikers from Edgar Allen Balfour, attended a mass picket called by the strike committee.

Twenty-five police arrived and announced: 'There are too many pickets for a Sunday.'

They then telephoned Holmes, and asked him to come down.

One of the strikers, shop steward Trevor Jones, explained what happened next: 'Without consultation with us, he agreed with the police that there should be four at the front and four at the back.'

'The police then moved in

and broke up the picket. They were clearly arresting individuals to set an example.'

Among the four arrested was Sylvia Greenwood, a TGWU convenor at Easterbrook Allcards, and Simon Turner from the Sheffield Right to Work Committee.

Despite the arrests, the pickets succeeded. Inside the

hotel, management had arranged a special Christmas dinner for all the scabs.

At last year's dinner more than 300 attended. This year 30 came.

After the arrests, one picket told Socialist Worker: 'We have to win the strike ourselves. It's no good replying on the union officials.'

'Jack Jones is retiring soon, what does he care about us?'

□ Donations to Trevor Jones, c/o Grosvenor House Strike Fund, Transport House, Hartshead, Sheffield.

# The value of labour

TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM  
Duncan Hallas

What determines a workers' value in society? Do we need to distinguish between 'productive' and 'non-productive' workers?

WE SAW last week that the idea that some types of work are 'productive' and other types of work are 'unproductive' was invented by economic theorists in the early days of industrial capitalism.

Later on, in the second half of the nineteenth century, the distinction was rejected by all 'respectable' economists as a heretical and dangerous notion.

Now, however, a sustained campaign is being conducted by all the means at the disposal of our rulers to persuade us that state or public expenditure (and therefore work done in this sector) is 'unproductive' whereas 'private' expenditure (and therefore work in the private sector) is 'productive'.

The old distinction, long banished from the textbooks, is becoming 'respectable' again.

So what? Why is the matter worth discussing? Mainly, I think, because it is a useful illustration of the supremely important fact that there is no neutral social science; no neutral economic theory, no neutral history, no neutral sociology and so on. And so there are no neutral experts.

Every theory is developed for a purpose, developed to serve the interests of some class or group of people. Economic theory was developed in the interests of the class we call capitalists.

The vast majority of economists today serve those interests. Remember that the next time you listen to 'our economic correspondent' on the TV. He is one of their experts, not ours.

The very words used are 'loaded', indeed have to be 'loaded'.

Theories change, so therefore do meanings and often the very terms used. Is this simply a matter of changing fashions? Not at all. It is a matter of the changing interests of the classes the theories are meant to serve.

The story of the terms 'productive' and 'unproductive' work (labour in the older speech) shows this.

Let us start again with Adam Smith, the late eighteenth century prophet of unregulated, competitive capitalism.

## Unproductive

There is one sort of labour which adds to the value of the subject upon which it is disposed; there is another which has no such effect. The former, as it produces a value, may be called productive; the latter, unproductive labour.

Thus the labour of a manufacturer [Smith means the worker, not his employer, DH] adds, generally, to the value of the materials which he works upon, that of his own maintenance, and of his master's profit. The labour of a menial servant, on the contrary, adds to the value of nothing.

Though the manufacturer [ie, worker] has his wages advanced to him by his master, he, in reality, costs him [ie, the master] no expense, the value of those wages being generally restored, together with a profit. . . . But the maintenance of a menial servant is never restored.

Smith's purpose was to defend the capitalist and his profits from the 'unproductive classes'—the aristocracy, 'the sovereign' . . . with all the officers both of justice and war, . . . the whole army and navy.

The only way to increase 'the wealth of nations', he argued, was to curb those consumers of wealth and let the capitalist have his head.

Now at that time this was exactly what capitalism needed and, as the capitalists grew in wealth and power, Smith's writings came to be regarded as self-evident truth.

But wait a moment. Read carefully the passage I have quoted. It outlines a labour theory of value. Wealth or value is created by workers. The capitalists' profit is the surplus produced by the workers over and above the value of their wages.

Smith, like all the pioneers of economic theory, took this as indisputable.

In 1776, the year 'The Wealth of Nations' appeared, this was no problem. The enemy was the establishment, 'Old Corruption' the radicals called it—and most early industrial capitalists were radicals.

## Theory

Move on a century. Old corruption is dead. The danger now is the fast growing working class. And if the workers produce the surplus, why should the capitalists be allowed to take it?

New dangers, new needs, new theory. The distinction between productive and unproductive work is historically, and indeed logically, tied to the labour theory of value.

That theory, as all students of economics were then taught—and still are—is wrong, dangerous, pernicious and quite untenable!

The new theory of value—the 'marginal utility' theory shifted economic theory away from production to demand. What determines the value of anything, as any modern elementary textbook will tell you, is what people (in a free market) are prepared to pay, what utility they attach to it.

## Victory

I haven't left myself space to expound the enormous consequences of this revolution in economic theory. Suffice it to say that if it is valid, the distinction between productive and non-productive labour must be nonsense.

That is a necessary logical consequence of the marginalist theory. But the spokesmen of capitalism are now using just this distinction again! New needs, new problems for the capitalists. And sooner or later a new theorist will arise to square the circle.

What matters to us is this. The capitalists' whole object in reviving the issue is to justify cuts in the social wage. And these are against our interests.

If we accept the distinction between productive and unproductive work—and Marxists do accept it—we must remember this.

Some of the most useful work is non-productive! Surgeons and sewermen are typical unproductive workers on Smith's classification (and Marx's). They are also indispensable.

# Knight of the people?

WHO ARE the 'three wise knights' on the appeals panel which recommends whether Phil Agee and Mark Hosenball are allowed to stay in Britain?

The interests of the intelligence service, which both Phil and Mark offended by their writing, are represented by Sir Derek

Hilton, former British secret agent.

And the Home Office, which has been yelling for the deportations, is represented by Sir Clifford Jarrett, former Home Office civil servant.

But don't work. The other man is officially described as 'a trade union representative'. He is Sir Richard Hayward who was deputy

general secretary of the Post Office workers union in the 1950s and 1960s.

Like so many other union bosses (including Ron Smith, then general secretary of the UPW) Hayward deserted the union to join the bosses.

He went on the Post Office board in 1969, and was labour relations director

during the vicious nine-week official strike of postal workers in 1971.

Union members were so enraged by Sir Richard's blatant anti-union attitude during the strike that they expelled him from union membership at the 1971 conference.

Sounds like just the man to afford Phil Agee a 'fair trial'.



KEEN TELEVISION viewers will have noticed that the nature of holiday advertisements has changed somewhat.

We are no longer lured into coughing up extortionate amounts for the privilege of golden sands, blue skies, and all those wonderful extras thrown in if you're lucky enough to be able to book two weeks with Horror Holidays.

No, the entrepreneurs of the travel industry have finally reached the stage when they have to fill the screens with the promise that if you pay for a holiday, you will actually get one.

But don't be fooled. There is a wonderful thing in the travel industry known as 'consolidation'.

What this means is that although you may book a two-week coach tour to Austria in May if they can't sell enough seats on it, you could end up flying to Marrakesh instead, and tough luck if you get airsick.

LORD LEICESTER, the fifth earl of Holkham Hall, Norfolk, left £11,314,062 in his will.

NATIONAL FRONT member Richard Craven was jailed for six years at Leeds Court after admitting that he had an arsenal of explosive devices and ammunition—some home made—and a firearm.

He boasted of his hatred of blacks and Asians to police and said he was waiting for the 'right occasion' to use his armoury.



FORTY YEARS on and the Nazi style is still the same.

The picture above was taken at a National Front election meeting in Cambridge recently.

Left is the Nazi leader of the 30s Sir Oswald Mosley in his favourite pose . . . reaching forward with a clenched fist.

# Question time for Ron

Thomas.

Ron is always on about how Left wing he is (except where the Right to Work campaign is concerned. Ron wrote specially to disassociate himself from the campaign last year).

But Ron, like so many other Left-wingers, is also a 'good House of Commons man'. He 'mucks in' with other MPs of all parties.

And he's enthusiastically joined the board of The House, a disgusting magazine about the House of Commons which is circulated to 'important people' everywhere.

The House deliberately

avoids controversy. It is full of folksy, whimsical nonsense about 'personalities in the House' 'interesting moments in House of Commons history' and so on.

But perhaps the most interesting thing of all about The House is that it is delivered free to all MPs together with a free copy of the Free Nation—the extreme right-wing organ of the National Association of Freedom.

Why does Ron the Red allow himself to be associated with this nasty enterprise?

Bristol readers might like to write to him, and find out.

STH  
COLUMN

Tightening our belts—episode 17

The senior directors of Mather and Platts are set to share out a capital gain of £391,000 between themselves.

The cash comes under their share incentive scheme.

It represents their little windfall after the takeover by Wormald International.

Chairman Sir William Mather and one other director had been getting by on salaries of just over £30,000 per year but most of the directors have had to scrimp and save on a mere £20,000-£22,500 per year.

Sir William, for example, will pick up some £30,000 as his 'incentive' plus of course £74,000 nearly for his beneficial holding.

But then his belt is tighter than most.

WELL KNOWN 'socialist' and Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland is planning a bit of Jubilee-style money wasting to celebrate his own 'reign' as President of the Common Market Council of Ministers.

According to a report in the Daily Express, he has invited some of his EEC cronies to sample the delights of Leeds Castle, near Maidstone for a weekend.

The stately home is fully equipped with silver and marble bathrooms for each of its 20 bedrooms.

A NEWLY-FORMED consortium of businessmen are to spend between £500,000 and £1 million on a campaign to 'promote the role of business in the community'.

The propaganda machine is being coordinated by Michael Mander, advertising director of Times Newspapers told the magazine Campaign that the money is being raised from corporations throughout the country.

He says: 'It is a million light years away from anything Aims of Industry have ever done. We want to help people not in business to understand how much life in this country depends on business being successful.'

We shall see when the campaign is launched in the summer.

How to meet the boss . . .  
A new trade union education centre which will teach members how to meet management on their own terms, was opened in Leeds by Sports Minister Mr. Denis Howell.  
Mr. Howell was acting in this capacity as president of the Association of Executive and Professional Staffs (Apex).  
The regional centre, in Graphical House, Wharf Street, Leeds — the first of its kind to be opened by any trade union — will teach Apex members how to deal with aspects of management and business.  
Mr. Howell defended company profits, saying efficiency in industry would be a major concern of the centre.

WITHOUT COMMENT: Mitchells and Butlers, the brewery which was ordered to pay £25 damages for discriminating against a man who applied for a bar job, claimed it was not their fault.  
It was the manager's wife who was in charge and conducted the interview on the telephone. She told him the job had gone.  
The brewery had taken steps to instruct managers on the Sex Discrimination Act, but not their wives.

The South African government has banned an all-black film based on Gibson Kente's musical How Long—because they say it is 'harmful to race relations.'

DIARY DATE The 3rd World Scroungers Conference will be held in Geneva this May.

Sponsored by the International Tax Planning Association, the conference will feature a wide range of speakers—freeloaders from all over the world.

They will be discussing the best ways of holding onto their hard-scrounged profits and keeping the taxman from the door.

**Socialist Worker**  
EDITORIAL  
Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.  
01-739 6361  
739 0185  
739 9043  
Circulation department: 8 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 9DN. 01-739 2538. Published weekly except final week of December. Subscriptions: £7 yearly, £3.50 for six months, £1.75 for three months. Printed and published by Socialist Worker Printers and Publishers Ltd (TU all departments), Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office.

# MURDERED

## His 'crime' was to be a socialist...

**BAHRU ZEWDE, a comrade and friend of a number of us in Britain, has been executed in Ethiopia.**

His crime was to be a Marxist and an opponent of the military regime, the Derg.

### Arrested

Bahru was arrested in October, soon after returning to Ethiopia. He had just completed studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

By Peter Alexander and Tom Hickey

It was as a student at SOAS, and as a leading member of the World-wide Federation of Ethiopian Students, that many of us came to know him. Bahru, an opponent of the feudal autocracy of Haile Selassie since his schooldays, was one of a small group instrumental in getting Independent Television News to expose the truth about the famine in Ethiopia.

But his opposition to oppression and exploitation did not end with the coup, and in April 1974 he found himself having to oppose the new regime of the Derg.

Like many thousands of Ethiopian workers, peasants and intellectuals, he was imprisoned for this

opposition. In the past three months, 1500 Ethiopians have been murdered.

Among those executed with Bahru were Dr. Eshetu Chole, one of Ethiopia's leading Marxists, and Abebech Dekele, the first President of the students' federation.

Despite this, the movement against the Derg, led by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party, has grown. Workers' militias have been set up in the towns, and the EPRP has a military wing operating in the countryside.

Bahru always insisted that the Ethiopian revolution could not be separated from the international struggle for socialism.



Bahru Zewde: executed for opposing military regime

*As internationalists, we shall remember his execution as if it were the execution of one of our own comrades in Britain.*

When sometimes we are reticent to take action for fear of arrest or victimisation, let us remember Bahru, who was executed merely for being a revolutionary.

### Remember

When sometimes we feel demoralised, let us remember those, like Bahru, who have given their lives in the battle for socialism.

Let us remember Bahru, comrade and friend. May he make us redouble our own efforts.

# MURDERER

'RIOT' POLICE GUN DOWN JUAN, 15

A 15-YEAR-old school student, Juan Manuel Iglesias, was murdered by riot police in the Spanish city of Bilbao last weekend.

Juan, the son of a factory worker, was one of 10,000 demonstrators marching through the industrial suburb of Sestao demanding an amnesty for the country's remaining 200 political prisoners.

### Mask

The murder shows the real face of King Juan Carlos' government, which it has been trying to hide beneath a 'democratic' mask.

It is allowing elections in the spring—but is going to use the police to ensure that its supporters have a built-in advantage.

It hopes that this will keep the old fascists in power under a 'democratic' guise.

The police have confiscated all the copies of one Basque magazine for describing police actions.

The editor of another Basque paper is in prison, charged with 'disrespect to the military'.

He printed a letter from a reader accusing the police of brutality.

And in Madrid the public prosecutor has called for an 18-month prison sentence and a £2000 fine against a labour lawyer, Enrique Baron, for remarks made to a news magazine.

But the government is not having things all its own way. Demonstrators threw up barricades in Bilbao and Pamplona last weekend.



Riot policeman in action: an editor has been jailed for describing their brutality

# MURDERED

## The truth about the massacre Smith blamed on guerrillas



RIGHT: The victims. ABOVE: The culprits? A former Rhodesian soldier has told of troops dressing up as freedom fighters and killing blacks so as to discredit the guerrillas



30p  
**OUT NOW**  
**MON TON**



From 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2, 30p plus 10p postage.

JUST before Christmas, the BBC and most of the press carried reports of a massacre of black tea plantation workers in Rhodesia.

The massacre, they alleged, was the work of African guerrillas.

The only evidence for this allegation was a statement by the racist regime of Ian Smith. But this did not stop the BBC and the papers repeating the claim.

### Disguised

A statement from the black freedom forces, ZIPA, that the Smith regime had committed the massacre, using mercenaries disguised as guerrillas, was hardly reported.

After all, most papers

accept the Smith regime's claim that it employs 'no mercenaries'.

Yet there is strong evidence that the Smith government's account of the massacre was a tissue of lies.

Two days before the massacre, The Guardian reported that there was tremendous military activity by the Rhodesian armed forces in the local Honde valley area.

Nine days before, the New York Herald Tribune reported that 'Americans in the Rhodesian army are known among local Americans as 'the other American connection'.

They were 'an increasingly important factor in the Rhodesian war effort'.

By CHRIS HARMAN

numbering '400 out of a thousand foreigners in the army altogether.'

Five weeks before the massacre, on 7 November, the freedom fighters' ZIPA radio reported that an American author, Robin Moore, had carried a gun in the Honde Valley area.

He was there at the express wish of General Yarborough, former head of US army intelligence, who had visited Rhodesia in April.

On 24 November (a month before the massacre) ZIPA radio carried a statement from a former member of one of the black units in Smith's army, the Selous scouts.

The man, Edward Kasembe, told how 'one of the

special tasks of the Selous scouts was to go to operational zones disguised as freedom fighters and to kill local people so as to discredit ZIPA'.

### Lies

The lie is given to the Smith government's claim that it employs no mercenaries by the desertion of an American mercenary, Lawrence Meyers, from Rhodesia to neighbouring Botswana last week.

The tea plantation workers were further victims of a bloodthirsty racist regime trying to keep itself in power by any means.

But the regime is not going to succeed. The mercenary deserter said that 'Rhodesia does not have enough arms to hold out against the black insurgents', who are making 'tremendous gains'.



SOLIDARITY BADGE

in red, black and white, form International Socialists (Intl Dept), 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 15p each (plus 6½p postage). £1.50 for ten (post free), £10 for 100.

# WOMEN for strong trade unions...for decent wages...against the cu

Picture: John Sturrock (Report)



Women picket at Progressive Metals, Port Glasgow, last year. They were out for nine weeks—and only defeated when the boss closed down the factory. BELOW: The victory vote at Trico, West London, where six months of 24-hour picketing won them their 'legal right'—equal pay.

Picture: Andrew Ward (Report)



Asian women strike against slave labour at London's Heathrow Airport.

## Campaign for Women's Rights

by JEAN GRAY

**'WE VERY MUCH regret this decision because quite obviously this is a business which cannot possibly operate without the women'.**

Those were the comments of an industrial tribunal which dismissed the case of six women working in a herring preparation factory who thought they were entitled to equal pay with the men.

The women's work, according to the tribunal, was 'every bit as important and skilled (if not more

so) as the men's work'. But they lost their case for equal pay!

1976 was hailed as the year in which women would win equal pay at last. In fact, the gap between men's and women's pay has widened.

At the beginning of 1976 women manual workers got an average of 34p an hour less than men. Now, they get 43p an hour less. The average wage for women is now £48, compared with £74.70 for men, and the gap grows every month.

**How has this astonishing slide happened?**

To win equal pay through a tribunal a woman has to prove that she is doing 'the same or broadly similar' work as a

man, and being paid less.

Women who can't compare themselves with men doing exactly the same work in the same workplace have no case under the Act. So this excludes hundreds of thousands of women who are doing what is still called 'women's work'.

### Serious

For example a widow wrote to the National Council of Civil Liberties: 'I do general office work for 35 hours a week. My gross pay is £28 a week. On 2 January I asked the boss what he was doing about equal pay, and he said "Nothing!"

'I Told him he would never get a man



to e  
said  
ma  
T  
the  
tom  
bus  
emp  
fast  
do  
trea  
T  
Tim  
for  
The  
che  
cas  
kne  
for  
oth  
cri  
ma  
Ac  
fro  
the  
mo  
cor  
Se  
app  
wit  
per  
the  
uni  
ter  
que  
uni  
cor  
bud  
gov  
aut  
I  
tion  
exp  
T  
toc  
cri  
tion  
S  
tha  
of  
we  
enc  
an  
ins  
bec  
ma  
we  
rig  
we  
by  
An  
Co  
we  
str  
an  
the  
on  
su



# WANTED!

## A massive picket to stop the Right to Work marchers going to jail



Mike Lynch, unemployed miner, Right to Work marcher, and Labour Party member who faces a six-month jail sentence.

**'I'M PROUD** of what I've done. I'm proud that I've been associated with the Right to Work Campaign and done what I can to fight against one of the greatest crimes against human beings — unemployment.'

The words of Mike Lynch, unemployed miner from Dunfermline in Fife, and a defendant in the first Right to Work trial at Hendon Magistrates Court in London last year. Mike will be back in court again next week for his appeal against false conviction for police assault.

As a result of his experiences at the court last autumn, Mike isn't putting any faith in another dispensation of British justice. As he says: 'My best defence is the trade union movement. We need a firm lobby and strong demonstration outside the court when the appeal comes up next Tuesday.'

'Not one of us tried so far even had a jury trial,' Mike told Socialist Worker. 'The local police took the cases to the local magistrates court. There, as usual, there were compliant magistrates, biased from the start.'

'The photographic evidence in our trials was absolutely damning. It showed the police beating up marcher after marcher.'

### Plot

'But you could see the chairman of the bench, Mrs Pamplin, shying away from the photos. She was out to protect the police. And that's scarcely surprising when you consider that she is the wife of a Tory alderman.'

'I think their hostility to myself showed clearly when it came to giving bail. They found me guilty as a favour to the police. Then they wanted me to spend months in jail before my appeal was even heard. They tried to set difficult conditions.'

'Fortunately they failed. Otherwise I would have done four months of the six months they gave me before my appeal against conviction and sentence was heard.'

'I've asked myself many times why they found me guilty. I can only think that because I have previous convictions from five years ago they singled me out.'

'Like thousands of other working-class boys I was in trouble with the police when I was a teenager. I was found guilty of police assault then and sent to borstal.'

'It doesn't matter to them that all this took place in the

winds and throes of adolescence. It gives them the pretext for jailing me again years later. This is completely unjust.'

'As I say, I'm proud of what I've done and I would do the same all over again. The situation with regard to unemployment nationally and locally is nothing short of a scandal.'

'We have up to 20 per cent unemployment in Fife. But we still find that it is being deliberately raised by the Labour government. This is appalling.'

'I thought that the Right to Work Campaign was a fine, bold initiative. I thought it marvellous that it attempted to unite unemployed and employed.'

'In Dunfermline we decided to send up an action committee and one of the first objects was to sponsor someone on the Manchester to London March. That turned out to be me. I went as a replacement.'

### Seize

'We came 300 long miles without incident, and the truth simply is that we were attacked by the police. I've been over it in my mind many times and I still can't make up my mind exactly why they did that to us.'

'I find it a wee bit difficult to believe that it was a capitalist plot pure and simple, though there are a number of facts which do point in that direction.'

'Why was there this huge police presence at Hendon police station?'

'Why was the Special Patrol Group ordered in there several

hours before we ever came near the place?'

'Why were the cells at the ready and so many police on standby outside the biggest police station in North London?'

'The other theory is that the police simply lost their heads.'

### Seize

'I didn't see the very first incident. But I have no reason to disbelieve my friends and comrades who told me that the police came for the lead banner, tried to seize it from the marchers' hands and, when they failed, went wild.'

'After that happened we linked arms defensively. John Deason, the secretary of the Right to Work Campaign, had grabbed the megaphone and appealed to the police to leave our peaceful march alone.'

'Almost as we were linking our arms the police charged us, grabbing people here and there.'

'My first thought was to pull people away from the police. As I was doing this I was jumped on and brought to the ground. The policeman who brought me down and myself sort of rolled over and over.'

'As I was getting up I was set upon and went out like a light. Joe Cronshaw, who was by me, told me later that I had been kicked in the head as I rose.'

Another policeman dragged me off by my hair, later being assisted by another who grabbed my ankle. I was taken into the charge room.'

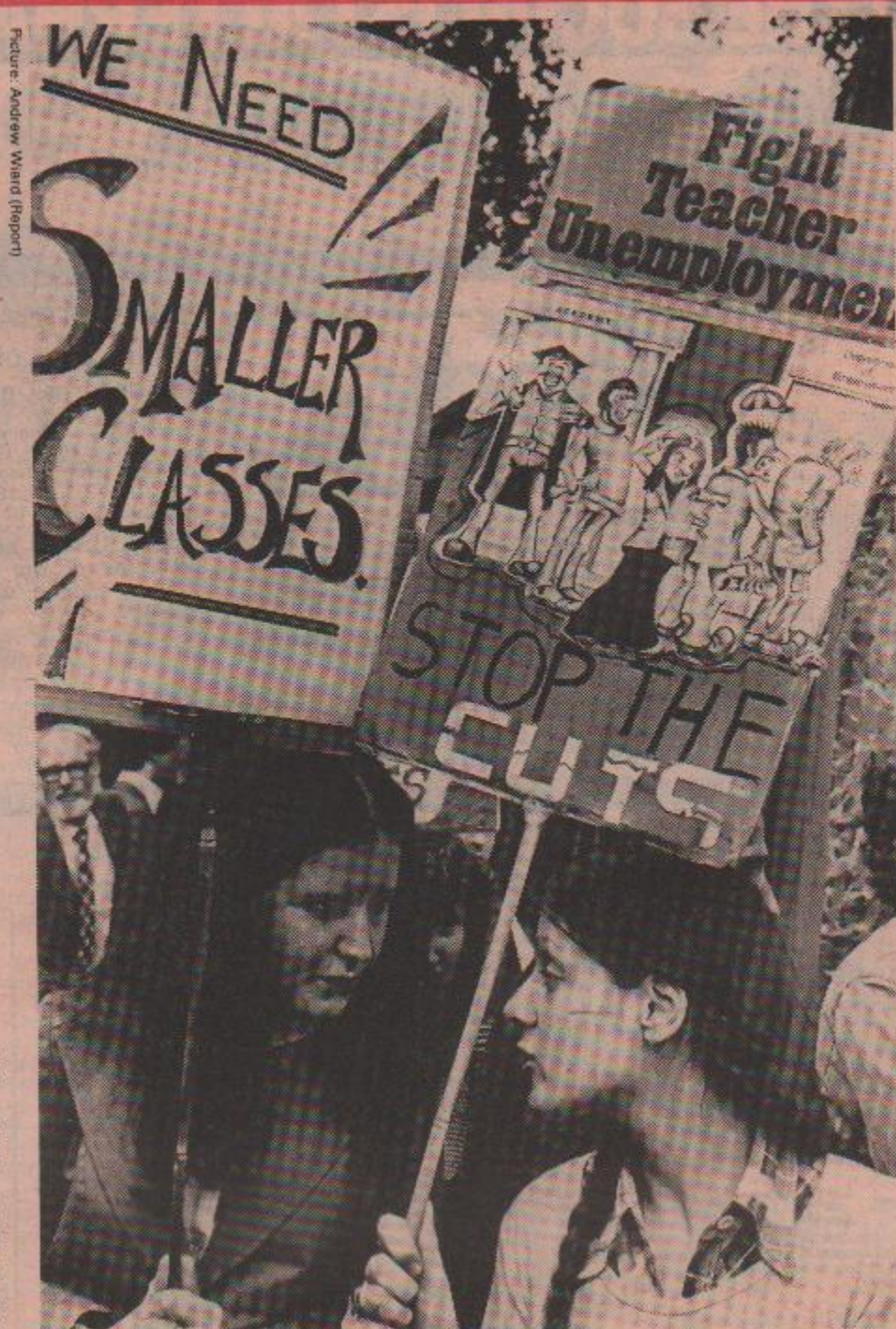
'By that time I had come round enough to remember Pete Fysh. He was savagely beaten like me, charged with assault like me, but cleared even by the biased Hendon magistrates.'

### Refuse

'Later on I was slapped about and beaten, still more by two officers. They banged my head against the cupboard, and concocted some preposterous statement which I refused to sign.'

'Eventually I was charged with police assault, released and had to attend hospital. From there I went to the victory rally at the Albert Hall.'

'And I look to my brothers and sisters in the trade union movement to ensure that we all stay free to carry on the campaign.'



Teachers demonstrate against cuts in school jobs—bigger classes and poorer education

## Where it starts...

**A NEW 'campaign for women's rights' sounds very fine. But what does it mean?**

by MARGARET RENN

Socialist Workers Party women's organiser

Here are some examples of small battles and campaigns that are being fought by women all over the country. They're the sort of battles which could and should be fought in your workplace or your area.

Hundreds of thousands of women could be drawn into these campaigns if we, socialist women, start campaigning now.

□ Cuts in the hospital service in North Wales mean induced births for women. So a group of women there are organising for a better maternity care.

□ In Dundee and Glasgow empty nurseries were occupied to get them opened for local women. There are hundreds of purpose-built nursery

buildings all over the country, unopened, waiting to be used—waiting to be occupied.

□ In East London, teachers have voted for a creche during union meetings, so that mothers of young children can get to the meetings, and be a part of their union.

□ In a North London factory management have agreed that the women in each section can have a half-hour meeting with their shop stewards each week, during working hours, so that the women are involved in the union organisation.

□ Women in NALGO, the government office workers union, in South London, have decided to fight for a nursery for their women members, because there aren't enough council nurseries.

□ Maternity leave has

become law for thousands of women this spring, but it won't become a reality unless women in each union start fighting now for the best agreement they can get.

At the first meeting of the Women's Committee of the Socialist Workers Party we made plans for the campaign.

**SPECIAL FEATURES** on women's rights are being written for rank and file trade union papers. A PAMPHLET on maternity leave agreements is planned. A WORKING CONFERENCE for women fighting for women's rights will be held in May.

### Abortion

On SATURDAY 5 MARCH, three days before International Women's Day women all over the country are being asked to organise a picket, demonstration, street meeting on a local issue of importance to women. In London we will be organising for a demonstration. International Women's Day is like May Day, a socialist day.

On FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY Women's Voice and the National Organisation of Student International Socialist Societies (NOISS) are calling a demonstration outside parliament against the new changes in the abortion law. The Saturday before this, women in every area should organise a street meeting or picket to campaign against this attack on women's rights.

All branches and districts of the Socialist Workers Party are holding meetings to build the party. We want the party to recruit women too. SPECIAL MEETINGS should be held in the following weeks on the campaign for women's rights and socialism.

### READ THE NEW

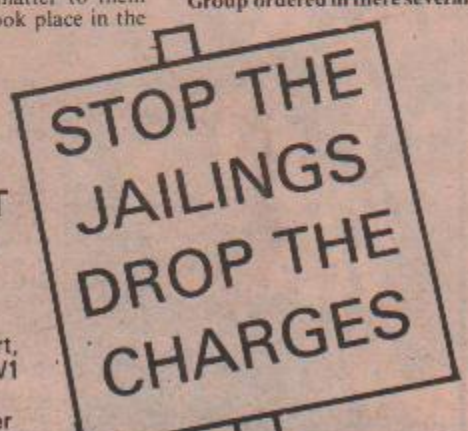


Women's Voice is out now to help organise the campaign. With articles on maternity leave, what's happening in the unions, the EGA hospital occupation, an interview with Maureen Colquhoun, and on the abortion campaign. Price 10p. Copies direct from Women's Voice, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2. (Phone 01-739 1878). Or ask your local Socialist Worker seller.

### MASS PICKET

Monday 17 January, 9.30am, Middlesex Crown Court, London, SW1 (near Westminster tube)

**DEFEND THE RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS**



ts

to my work for the same pay and he "But you're not a man, I know a couldn't live on that money."

the Su... Times Business News hit mail o... the head in a so-called que in cheek piece of New advice for businessmen.

you have to employ people, employ women. They work harder, er and better. They are cheaper and not strike unless really badly dead."

that may be a joke to the Sunday es, but it's the deadly serious truth bosses throughout the country. want to keep 'women's work' as labour.

ey know that they can dodge most under the Equal Pay Act. They w too that the cost of real equality women is astronomical.

o the Equal Pay Act is a farce. The same goes for the government's er great 'liberator', the Sex Discrimination Act. the government has e its own cynical attitude to the clear—in the following extract a circular to local authorities from Education Department.

the Secretary of State expects that local authorities will be able to mply with the requirements of the Discrimination Act by making ppropriate administrative changes about incurring significant extra exditure.

**Expensive**

however, any authorities find that existing arrangements imply awful discrimination within the es of the Act and that in conse- quence some extra expenditure is avoidable, they will be expected to maintain that expenditure within gets which are consistent with the government's general advice on local ority expenditure.'

**In other words, sex discrimina- is against the law unless it is too expensive to get rid of.**

the problem is that for our rulers it is expensive to get rid of sex discrimination, low wages and exploitation of women.

as long as we rely on the tribunal they can dodge and the Members Parliament who dance to their tune, won't get equal pay, we won't get an to discrimination, and we won't see and to any of the superstitions and ts that are handed out to us.

76, the year of hope for women me the year of disaster. We can e 1977 a year of success, but only if rganise ourselves to fight for our s—as the Trico women fought and ver six long months last year.

ne need a campaign for our rights— working women themselves. As e Coffey, a shop steward for the nion bingo women, who recently nion recognition by long, hard ggle, said:

hen we started we were timid n-experienced, but we learned unity among ourselves was the way to win. I think we were all rised at our own strength.'



# The 'heroes' of Entebbe strike again...

AT ABC CINEMAS for the next couple of weeks, you can watch Kirk Douglas and Burt Lancaster rescue Elizabeth Taylor from Idi Amin and Palestinian guerrillas at Uganda's Entebbe airport in Victory at Entebbe.

At Odeon cinemas, as an alternative, Charles Bronson and Peter Finch are rescuing another galaxy of Hollywood stars in Raid on Entebbe.

Coming soon is a third star-packed film: Rescue at Entebbe. There are two more arriving in the Spring.

*This massive propaganda does not, of course, portray those other, far more revealing, events of 1976, which show the reality of Israel.*

There were, for instance, three general strikes organised by Palestinian Arabs and involving hundreds of thousands of Arab workers and their families.

In the General Strike in April, the Israeli police and army shot dead six young Arab demonstrators in one day. Thousands of others were arrested.



Arabs in Israel have been a persecuted minority since the State was established by a British Labour Government and their American allies in 1948.

When the British announced the partition of Palestine between Arabs and the Jews, Jewish colonists—the Zionists—launched a series of savage attacks on Arabs.

The Arab town of Jaffa was bombed, the Arab community in Jerusalem attacked. In April 1948, the military wing of Zionism, the Irgun, took part in an attack on the Arab village of Dair Yassin. 254 women and children were captured, lined up and ordered.

Right across Palestine, Arabs fled. More than one million Arabs left their homes in Israeli-controlled areas and fled to neighbouring Arab countries.

They set up Palestinian refugee camps in the Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Today there are more than two million Palestinian refugees in these camps living on United Nations hand outs. They see Palestine, now called Israel, as their home.



After the massive exodus of Arab refugees, the new state of Israel set up laws to discriminate against Arabs.

Arab-owned land and property was confiscated and handed out to Jewish immigrants. In 1947, two-thirds of the population of what is now Israel were Arabs, owning 94 per cent of the land. By 1967, 90 per cent of the Arab lands had been confiscated.

Any Arab who fled to avoid the fighting found on his return that he was now categorised as 'absentee'. In the city of Acre, nearly every Arab was classified as 'absentee'. Jewish immigrants took over the city.

Many Arabs are contract labour. They are given special passes to allow them to leave their villages and go to work in special lorries. Wages are less than half that paid to Israeli citizens.

Any Arab can be imprisoned and held indefinitely without trial. Thousands are in prison. Thousands of others are restricted to their own village,



THE OTHER ISRAEL. Troops attacking an Arab in Nazareth during a general strike last year. Six people were killed

## PETER CLARK LOOKS AT THE TRUE STORY BEHIND THOSE PROPAGANDA FILMS



THE OTHER ISRAEL: A victim of an Israeli napalm attack

some for as long as 20 years. In 1967, Israel seized further areas inhabited by Arabs, the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip—the so-called 'occupied territories'.

East of Jerusalem Arab houses have been flattened to make way for new Jewish developments. Arab villages have been bulldozed to make way for roads.

One refugee camp in Gaza, at Jabalia, was razed to the ground. 40,000 people were packed off to live in the Sinai desert.



Fear of the Palestinians and continuing repression is central to the survival of the state built by the Jewish colonists. The former Prime Minister, Golda Meir, said she cannot sleep because she 'thinks about how many Arab children are being born every night'.

But the vast wealth that enables Israel to survive, fight four major wars in the last 28 years and mount attacks like the raid on Entebbe, does not come from Israel.

Billions of dollars are ploughed

in every year. A tenth of all western aid to underdeveloped countries goes to Israel.

Between 1967 and 1973, the United States gave Israel 1,400 million dollars, of which 1,000 million dollars was military aid.

That is why Israel is the most consistent defender of whatever the United States does. The Israeli army is, in effect, an extension of American armed power in the Middle East.

The same massive power that invaded Vietnam and bombed Cambodia also financed the assault on Entebbe airport. The same army that rescued the hijacked passengers also shot down unarmed demonstrators on strike in Galilee last April.

The Palestinians are beginning to fight back, not through senseless hijacking operations but by organising mass resistance by the hundreds of thousands of workers in Palestine who are fighting for their homeland.

Elizabeth Taylor, Charles Bronson and company will not be taking part in any films about the hijacking of a nation.

LIKE MANY of you, I'm getting to know and enjoy Pluto's latest Big Red Diary—the Law and Disorder issue for 1977.

This is the fourth Big Red Diary and my only criticism of them is that, while they're a first-rate guide to what's gone on in the past, they don't say much about the future.

In an attempt to remedy that, here are a few exclusive extracts from the Big Red Diary of 1983, looking back at the pre-revolutionary days of 1977.

**20 JANUARY:** Cyril Smith threatens to quit Liberal Party.

**25 JANUARY:** Tory MP Iain Sproat names five Labour back-benchers who are, he claims, socialists. The five at once begin proceedings for criminal libel.

**FEBRUARY:** Unemployment reaches two million. Michael Foot says he is appalled.

**1 MARCH:** Reg Prentice joins Tory Party.

**15 MARCH:** Reg Prentice resigns from Tory Party because it's too left-wing.

**30 MARCH:** Reg Prentice takes another step to the right and falls off the edge of the world.

**1 APRIL:** Government launches space probe to find Reginald and bring him back to an ungrateful nation.

### Drought

**5 APRIL:** Budget Day: Mr Healey says that if everyone will work for nothing for the next five years, they can all have a bag of sweets in August. Len Murray says: 'We will need to look at this one very carefully from all its aspects.' Ten million promptly down tools.

**6 APRIL:** Mr Healey makes it two bags of sweets—£ drops 15 cents against the dollar.

**MAY:** No rain for a month—£ loses ten cents against the dollar as drought fears grow.

**JUNE:** Heavy showers—£ loses ten cents against dollar as fears that things will get quite wet grow.

**1 JULY:** Unemployment reaches two and a half

million. Michael Foot appalled.

**10 JULY:** New package of crisis measures by Healey. Taxes up, rents up, interest rates up, prices up. Daily Mirror welcomes package as only way of beating inflation and bringing prices down.

**20 JULY:** Social Contract Mark Three—pay cut by five per cent. Defended by Len Murray as in fact a pay rise of minus five per cent. Seamen's pay claim blocked for third year running.

**1 AUGUST:** Seamen vote ten to one for strike action. Daily Telegraph says this is a threat to society as we know it.

**10 AUGUST:** Seamen's executive and TUC ignore strike mandate and produce peace peace formula. Telegraph acclaims victory for democracy.

**20 AUGUST:** Oxfordshire



If this is the shape of 1977, roll on Christmas...

BY PAUL O'FLINN

County Council cuts education budget for fifth year running. Food to be removed from school meals as an extravagance and replaced with pulped election manifestos.

**10 SEPTEMBER:** Schoolchildren stage mass walk-out in Oxford schools.

**15 SEPTEMBER:** At Tory Conference, Rhodes Boyson condemns anarchy in Oxford schools and calls for re-introduction of capital punishment in third form. Passed by acclamation.

### Decide

**16 SEPTEMBER:** Margaret Thatcher admits to press that Rhodes Boyson meant to say corporal punishment, not capital punishment, but there's not much she can do about it as it's now official party policy.

**OCTOBER:** Unemployment reaches three million. Michael Foot appalled.

**10 NOVEMBER:** Oil companies decide to raise price of petrol by ten per cent, banks decide to raise price of borrowing by ten per cent and British Rail decide to raise price of travel by ten per cent. The Times welcomes the moves as in the national interest.

**11 NOVEMBER:** Working classes decide to raise price of labour by ten per cent—Daily Express denounces the wreckers.

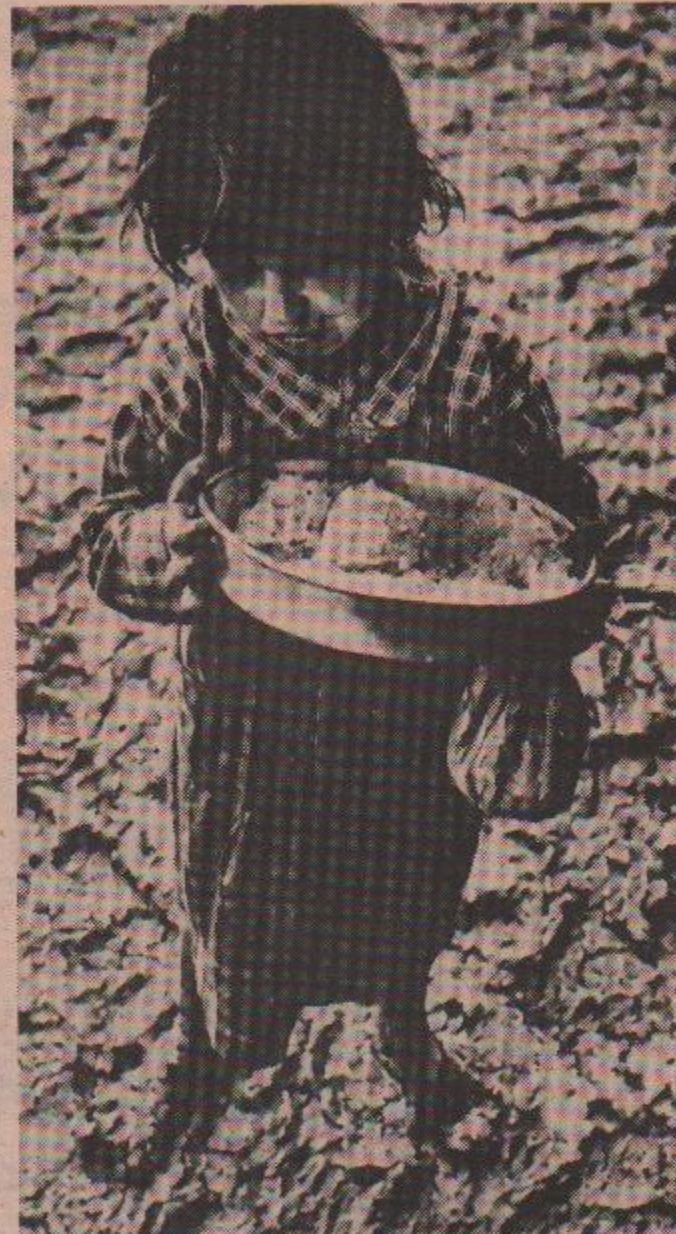
### Denis

**1 DECEMBER:** Nobel Prize for Literature awarded to page three of The Sun. The awarding committee point out that this seems only fair since, in previous years, the Peace Prize has been given to Henry Kissinger and the Economics Prize has been given to Milton Friedman.

**20 DECEMBER:** Equity ban on trade union leaders appearing in Christmas TV show, which blocked their appearance in 1976, is lifted. Highlight of show is Jack Jones in his beaver costume leaping blindfold through hoops supplied by Denis Healey. Also very moving is Joe Gormley's rendering of 'The Social Contract Mark Four, or Somewhere Over the Rainbow'.

**23 DECEMBER:** Unemployment reaches four million. People have finally had enough and stage successful socialist revolution. Michael Foot appalled.

**28 DECEMBER:** Cyril Smith threatens to quit Liberal Party.



THE OTHER ISRAEL: The misery of the refugee camps

# Letters

## We must use direct action to defend our kids

**SADIE BLOOD'S** article last week on how our kids are being sacrificed was great.

Dinner ladies in Kirklees in West Yorkshire were recently ordered not to dish up spuds to the kids because they cost too much—and then were told to take a cut in hours and wages because of the time saved in not peeling the spuds.

They threatened to go on strike, because the authority is having to think again. But you can bet that they'll have some other little scheme up their sleeves to save money at our expense if we don't watch out.

Sadie's right when she says that we've got to struggle to get back everything we've won in struggle in the past. And housewives and mothers, who often feel powerless in these things, really can get involved.

Recently in Leeds a penny-pinching headmistress decided to save the authority some money by not letting the kids have their annual Xmas party. Some of the mothers staged a protest and got quite a bit of publicity in the local press.

Direct action like this is going to be even more essential when the next cuts come. I hope *Socialist Worker* will have lots more articles like Sadie's to encourage us in the fight back.  
 **NANCY HALL, Leeds.**

## AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

**CONGRATULATIONS** for printing the splendid interview with veteran socialist Maggie Nelson (SW, 18 December). Too often it is assumed that the vast army of unemployed during the 1920's and 1930's was almost entirely men.

During the war women had entered the munitions and engineering industries to replace the men conscripted to

the army. After 1918 they were sacked by the thousand and forced to retreat into the traditional areas of female employment—textiles, catering, hairdressing etc.

The first and second Labour governments' answer to female unemployment was to set up training centres where unemployed women workers could be initiated into a life of

domestic slavery.

Rightly, the National Union of Unemployed Workers resisted this wholeheartedly and fought for the right of both men and women to work or full maintenance. Nevertheless, many thousands of women were cut off from unemployment benefit because they refused to take up jobs in domestic service.

This period affords us many lessons for the movement today, perhaps the most important being the necessity of resisting the employers' tactic of pitting men and women against each other in the fight for work.

A marriage bar was put into operation forbidding the employment of married women in teaching, nursing and the civil service.

*RIGHT: A woman chimney sweep during the First World War, when women were drawn into all types of work—to be thrown on the dole in 1918.*



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

## They're driving wages DOWN

**AS AN** unemployed printworker and SOGAT member, I am experiencing the same difficulties as most of us 'scroungers' in getting a job.

After I signed on last Monday (for which I received the magnificent reward of £8.53) I went to look at the job vacancies. Two jobs in the trade were advertised.

One, in a paper and polythene factory offered £32 for three shifts. The other was handfeeding an offset litho machine in a label factory for £33.17 plus £6 bonus. It stated preference for a SOGAT member.

Having always been an active trade unionist, I knew for a start that both these rates of pay were below the national minimum rate for the lowest grade workers (women and labourers).

As I have now been unemployed for two months, I inquired after the second vacancy, having worked for the past 18 months in the label department of a London print factory.

## Stopped

No sooner had the employment officer phoned and got out the words 'I have a young woman here...' than he was stopped and informed they required a time-served worker.

Two things can be understood from this. First, no time-served printworker, under normal conditions, would work for £1 below the lowest rate and £7-£8 below the journeyman's rate. Secondly, what was really being said was that they wanted a man for the job.

Socialist Worker and Women's Voice have always shown up the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Act for the sham they are. Both these employers used loopholes in these Acts—the first using shiftwork to discourage women applicants, the second using craft.

Times being what they are, someone will ultimately fill these jobs, thereby undermining trade union organisation within the industry, and allowing one more employer to use the high levels of unemployment as a stick over the heads of the employed.

## Cheap

It also divides the unemployed—in this instance men against women. I am also denied any recourse through my union as unemployed SOGAT members are not full members of the branch.

The only thing I, as an individual could do was to demand that the Job Centre remove the advertisement from their lists. The employment officer agreed that their function was not to provide cheap labour, underselling nationally agreed wage rates.

Unfortunately, these employers have recourse to national newspapers—which have closed trade union shops—to advertise for cheap labour.

**JANIE BORELL, unemployed SOGAT member, Manchester.**

## Wait for the Big Red Songbook!

**I CONGRATULATE** Nigel Fountain on his perceptive review of punk rock (SW, 18 December), which clearly drew the connections between most forms of music and the multinational music industry.

Surely one of the most important products of the music business boom in the 1960s was the freedom of record company executives to experiment with working-class groups, such as the Merseyside groups.

Today, in a capitalist recession, such experimentation is considered unprofitable. So we are fed a diet of revitalised 1950's and 1960's hits and safe 'bubblegum' rubbish. If punk rock bands are given contracts we can be sure that theirs is not 'highly political' music.

To see such music as 'political' is a mistake, except in its broadest sense. Anyone wanting real 'political' songwriting should look forward to the coming Pluto Big Red Songbook!  
 **G K WHITE, Leamington Spa.**

women as possible who were active during these years, particularly those who were in the Communist Party.

If this applies to you or if you know of an elderly woman comrade who would talk to me about her experiences please phone 01-5820156 or write to 38d Clapham Road, London SW9.

**SUE BRULEY, London SW9.**

## Jamaica: What socialists?

**WE DON'T** like external interference in the affairs of any country, hence our opposition to the operations of the CIA. However, we must always be careful to discriminate regarding what we are defending.

The PNP regime in Jamaica is nothing to defend and their political rivals are no better. With or without the intervention of the CIA, political killings have been the hallmark of Jamaican politics. Indeed the intervention of the CIA would be superfluous.

Who are the 'socialists'

whom you claim were murdered (SW, 27 November) Are you suggesting that members of the PNP are socialists in the revolutionary sense of the word?

You must be careful not to be caught up in the present wave of opportunism whereby a CIA-assisted Prime Minister turns round and proclaims socialism and Marxism-Leninism. This is the trend in the 'Third World' today.

It will continue as long as Eastern Europe, described as socialist, competes with China for the loyalty of these leaders,

## PUNK ROCK 'CONFUSION'

**I THINK** it is an important part of our work to try and win the energy of punk rock fans to socialist politics, as an alternative to barbarism. The Sex Pistols (SW, 18 December), however, probably alienated many would-be socialist workers already confused by the rest of the media as to what socialism is.

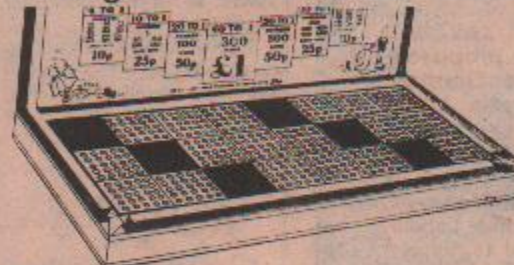
Punk rock, particularly the Sex Pistols, is not on our side. On the contrary, it is a channelling of frustration, which could be on our side, in the fascist direction.

The Clash bands are different, but that is precisely the reason not to identify them with deviation-mongers like the Sex Pistols—which is what featuring Clash under a Sex Pistol headline and picture does.

**GARETH CALWAY, Pontypool, Gwent, and Norwich NOISS.**

## RANK AND FILE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

1 Irving Street, Dumfries, Scotland.



## RAISE FUNDS INSTANTLY

A guaranteed £13 clear on a £2 outlay. Our pocket-size punchboards will raise quickly the much-needed funds for your local Right to Work Campaign, rank and file trade union organisation, or branch of the Socialist Workers Party.

It contains 600 tickets at 5p each, with 43 winning numbers. Takes in £30—pays out £15, winnings paid on the spot. The board only costs you £2, so you make at least £13 clear.

OK under Small Lotteries Act—no legal problems. Easier, faster and better than raffles or draw tickets. Give it a try—you can't lose.

### ORDER FORM

Please send by return post - - - punchboards, price £2 each postage included. Enclosed total cheque/postal order to value of - - - -

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

Please print address clearly in BLOCK LETTERS.

SEND THIS FORM TO:

Rank and File Organising Committee, 1 Irving Street, Dumfries, Scotland.

# Revealed—the sickening truth about Labour's 'glorious dawn' of 1945

ONE OF the great myths of the British Labour movement is the myth of the 'glorious dawn' of 1945.

You still find older workers who will tell you that from 1945 to 1951 Labour government worked.

In 1945, there were more socialists in the British working class than ever before or since. Literally millions of them wanted social change. They wanted an end to the dark days of Fascism and slump. Socialist books and pamphlets sold, even in the army, by tens of thousands.

Against all the odds, and against the predictions of Labour Party leaders such as Clement Attlee and Herbert Morrison, who wanted a coalition government with the Tories, a Labour government swept into office with an enormous 145-seat majority.

One of the new Labour Ministers, a stuck-up snob called Sir Hartley Shawcross, was reported as saying: 'We are the masters now.'

*How was the new socialist spirit of confidence in the working class reflected in the new government?*

This month, the Cabinet papers for 1946, the first year of that Labour government, have been released to the public.

## Decide

They show that, from the beginning, the new Labour government was anxious to 'cool down' the rising socialist fever in the country; and to make peace with the 'powers that be'.

**THE LABOUR Cabinet met to discuss proposals of a special committee set up by the Prime Minister for 'maintaining essential services in times of widespread industrial disturbances.'**

There was 'general agreement' that the government 'must accept responsibility for seeing that there was no widespread or lasting break-down of services' caused by strikes or 'as a result of action taken by political extremists.'

Sir Stafford Cripps, President



Bevin, Attlee and Morrison: they set up a strike-breaking force

of the Board of Trade, who had campaigned throughout the 1930s as an extreme left-wing socialist, argued that the plan should be agreed by employers and trade union leaders.

Ernest Bevin, Foreign Secretary, disagreed. 'The trade unions,' he said, 'would expect the government to be ready to maintain essential services in an emergency; but if they were asked in advance to collaborate in devising an organisation for this purpose, they might regard this as an invitation to assist in the building up of a strike-breaking organisation.'

## Strike

Bevin suggested that the emergency plan should be drawn up in secret in Whitehall, and the trade unions should be kept out of all discussion.

Ernest Bevin, by the way, had recently retired as general secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union.

His strongest supporter for keeping the unions out of all emergency powers discussion was George Isaacs, Minister of Labour and former general secretary of the print union NAT-SOPA.

So the government went ahead

## PAUL FOOT REVEALS THE SECRETS OF THE CABINET PAPERS JUST MADE PUBLIC

with a strike-breaking force which is almost certainly still in action today. The only opposition came from Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health.

Even he insisted that essential services in times of general strike were 'the responsibility of the government.'

No one pointed out that in the most militant areas during the 1926 General Strike, essential services were run very efficiently by the workers themselves.

**BY THE SUMMER of 1946, the housing shortage in most British cities, especially London, had become intolerable. Working class families started to take direct action.**

They squatted in deserted army camps. They squatted in empty,

richer properties in London and other cities.

The Cabinet was furious, especially when they heard some Labour councillors, notably in Bristol, were actively encouraging the homeless to squat in empty properties.

On 12 September, the Cabinet ordered a 'strong circular' to local authorities not to provide 'facilities' (water, gas electricity) for squatters' houses.

Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, Marxist and militant, quickly agreed to draft the circular and send it out. But it didn't do the trick.

All over the country, thousands of homeless workers' families squatted in empty houses.

Five days later, on 17 September, the Cabinet held another, emergency meeting. They congratulated Sir Hartley



Guess who at the 1945 Labour Party conference: it's Major Denis Healey

'we are the masters now' Shawcross, the Attorney General, for his decision to prosecute London squatters' leaders for 'conspiracy to trespass': that is, to commit a crime by conspiring to do something that wasn't a crime!

The Cabinet ordered 'loudspeaker vans' to tour the squatted estates, warning that prosecutions would follow unless they got out. They decided to take 'proceedings for damages against all those who remained in illegal occupation.'

**SMUTS, the Prime Minister of South Africa, proposed to seize the former German territory of South West Africa. Almost every government in the world objected.**

At a special cabinet meeting on 18 October, the British Labour Government decided to support Smuts and the South Africans.

## Struggle

They also decided not to press for an independent international attempt to find out whether the black people of South West Africa wanted to be ruled by white

South Africans.

The Labour Government's support for the South Africans made it easier for them to enslave South West Africa, which they have done ever since.

**AT A MEETING in January, the Cabinet discussed a memorandum on reform of the House of Lords by establishing life peers and women peers. The meeting decided: 'That the King's wishes be sought'.**

The King was consulted and his views were reported to the Cabinet in March. 'The Cabinet was informed that the King would prefer no action to be taken at present on the proposals put forward'.

## Ready

So, of course, no action was taken on the House of Lords reform.

A single strain runs through these Cabinet papers. It is that the Labour government intended to govern without the help or participation of the masses who had elected it.

Every demonstration of mass action, strikes, squatting, black revolt in the Empire, was greeted with alarm—and with measures to suppress it.

All their policies and decision were based upon promoting power among those who already had it: among senior civil servants, employers, trade union leaders, bankers, foreign governments and so on.

That was when the Labour government was strong and confident; when it had huge, enthusiastic support among the working class.

It will be 30 years before we find out how a Labour government behaves when it is weak and drifting and when the working class, after four generations of betrayals, regard it with open bitterness and hostility.



Squatters' Vigilantes in Brighton calling on Minister of Health Aneurin Bevan to resign in favour of someone who would take over vacant houses: no such luck . . .

# Firemen hit out after whisky blast

**A MASSIVE explosion rocked Clydeside last Tuesday. It shattered windows in Renfrew and Paisley and spread debris over an area four miles wide.**

The disaster was the result of storing whisky, tyres, chemicals and agricultural vehicles together at the Braehead Container Depot. Vibrations were felt on the other side of the Clyde at Scotstoun and Clydebank.

We agree with George Gorman, a

## AN OPEN LETTER TO STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

from Paul McDonald, Glasgow Fire Brigades Union

depot manager, when he said: 'It was fortunate that no staff were working, or the consequences would have been unthinkable.' But we'd like to know why no one thought of this when the storage plans were made.

We are relieved that Teddy 'Tory' Taylor, shadow Scottish Secretary of State, called for yet another 'immediate and full-scale inquiry'. But we want a workers' inquiry made up of firemen and warehouse workers, not another whitewash like the Flixborough inquiry.

We are delighted that Geoffrey Shaw, convenor of Strathclyde

Regional Council, said he was satisfied with security arrangements at the warehouse, but is he going to patch up the broken windows and reassure frightened families in the area?

### Absolute

We are amazed that the councillor says it is impossible to store whisky in absolute safety. Has he forgotten the fire in a whisky bond in Cheapside Street, Glasgow, when 19 firemen died?

We want answers, not excuses. That's why we don't trust official

inquiries.

We want prevention, not righteous speeches at gravesides. That's why we insist that fire hazards must not be stored near or in working-class districts.

We remember Flixborough and the recent chemical explosion at the Sanmex factory in Glasgow, which scarred 10 workers. That's why we are sick and tired of hearing about how it couldn't happen again.

To end, the men of the Strathclyde Fire Service extend New Year greetings to the Strathclyde Regional Council and wish them well in their continuing fight to implement further cut-backs in the fire service and to prepare for the next disaster.

# CRITTALLS CUT PENSIONS FOR 1700 WORKERS

**MEN and women working for Crittall-Hope—the engineering firm asset-stripped by Jim Slater on his rise to fame—are up in arms after being told their pensions are being cut.**

Management dropped the bombshell last month to the 600 staff workers at their major Essex factories in Braintree, Witham and Silver End.

Also affected are another 1100 staff workers—including some management grades—at factories in Smethwick, Leeds, Glasgow, Coventry, Telford and Birmingham.

This week every staff worker in Essex was sent an 'improved' offer by management. The letters were promptly rounded up, mark-

ed 'unacceptable' and returned.

Norcros, the parent company, say the Crittall pension scheme is nearly bankrupt. It has, they claim, taken them two years to find this out.

In 1973, when Jim Slater amalgamated several small engineering firms into the Crittall-Hope combine, staff workers were offered a new pension scheme, which came into operation in January 1974.

### Staff

Two months later, Crittall-Hope was taken over by Norcros, whose pension scheme was far inferior.

The staff workers sensed trouble. They asked for guarantees that their pension benefits would remain the same: two-thirds of salary after 30 years' contributions, and life assurance equal to four times annual salary.

They were given those guarantees three times, in March, April and October 1975.

Still uneasy, the staff workers nevertheless agreed in 1975 to join the Norcros scheme.

Then, last month, came the bolt from the blue. All assurances were thrown out of the window as management announced that, in fact, the pension benefits would be far inferior.

### Loss

Now the staff workers would have to pay in for 40 years instead of 30 and the life assurance would be worth only two years' annual salary instead of four.

For example, a 50-year-old worker with 22 years service and due to retire in 1991 would suffer a pension loss of 49 per cent, assuming an annual inflation rate of 10 per cent. If inflation is higher, the pension loss is higher.

Not surprisingly, a wave of anger has swept the Crittall-Hope factories.

A 30-strong committee was immediately set up in Essex to fight this scandal. Other factories in the combine have been approached to show a united front to management.

## Theatres fight back

**THEATRE workers are organising against the cuts. More than 100 people attended the first Fight The Cuts meeting at the ICA Theatre, London, one of the first victims of the cuts, on Sunday.**

Sacked members from Humberstone Theatre, Hull, urged the meeting to fight urgently to prevent more closures like theirs.

Subsidised repertory and studio theatre, theatre in education and touring 'fringe' theatre face cuts and closures across the board.

## In defence of Tyndale

**NORTH LONDON:** The disciplinary tribunal has now heard all the evidence against the victimised teachers at William Tyndale School.

The chief prosecution witness, the education officer Dr Briault, is the man who brought the charges. He retired half-way through the trial as the teachers could cross-examine him.

The ILEA solicitor summed up how he expects the tribunal to behave when he said: 'Normal rules of evidence and fairness don't concern a domestic inquiry, it needs to be more concerned with the practicalities of the employers' position.'

The initial charge sheet listed only two teachers. The ILEA Labour Group held a closed meeting, and all the teachers were then charged with taking strike action.

## MILITANT SACKED

**by ROBBIE HAMILTON**  
CPSA branch secretary, Haringey and Islington, North London.

I HAVE been sacked as a direct result of my actions in fighting the cuts.

I am the branch secretary of Haringey and Islington CPSA, the civil servants union. On 17 November, the day of action against the cuts, my office was shut down as members stayed away and attended the rally.

The office representative of the CPSA and I were twice

## Secret plan threat to students

**YET another secret plan that threatens the future of thousands of students has come to light.**

The Department of Education has already closed 20 colleges of education. It will announce the closure of 30 more this month. Not content, they are now turning to the universities—a sector previously cushioned from the worst cuts.

The Department plan is to persuade the universities' central funding body, the UGC, to stop paying for about 1000 postgraduate teaching places. This would lead to the closure of 10 of the 28 university education departments.

These cuts will mean a lot of jobs will go and a lot of people who want to be teachers won't even have the chance to train—which will save the government a lot of embarrassing statistics when they can't get jobs at the end.

Already 20 colleges have been condemned. They went without a fight. So the government thinks it can go on chopping colleges.

Students everywhere should begin preparing to fight now. If your university has a small education department, or your college of education is rumoured to be closing, begin publicising the closures and proposing direct action now.

## ASTMS strike

**BIRMINGHAM:** Birmingham University's attempt to smash the strongest union on the campus—the white-collar ASTMS—now looks like being defeated.

As the selective strike actions gets into its 14th week the university is in a desperate situation. Despite blacklegging by lecturers and students, the university has oil supplies for only two weeks and food supplies are also low.

## NALGO: Kill the Cuts!

**TEN PEOPLE** were burned to death in their rooms in a county council old people's home at Hesse, near Hull, just after New Year. The tragedy was a direct result of government cuts.

One staff member explained that there should have been two men on duty when the fire started—the but previous week this had been cut to one. 'An extra man on duty could have made all the difference,' he said.

The government cuts kill. That is one point local government workers, in their union, NALGO, have been trying to make in their campaign against the cuts.

This Friday there is a special NALGO National Conference on the cuts and unemployment.

The national executive called the conference because of growing rank and file pressure—but

## UNION AID PICKET BUSTERS

**EAST LONDON:** Management at the North East London Polytechnic have won a minor battle against five striking cleaners—with the help of Bill 'Go-to-he' McCall, the local full-time official of the General and Municipal Workers Union.

Last Thursday they had Portakabins—prefabricated buildings—erected at the Greengate annexe of the poly. The cleaners have been out for 15 weeks at Holbrook to have asbestos dust removed from the building.

Said striker Mary Pelling: 'They've got these Portakabins—which are filling them with the same equipment as in Holbrook. They're planning to close Holbrook and run courses at Greengate.'

The Portakabin delivery drivers, mostly Transport Workers Union members,

were turned away by a mass picket on Thursday morning. But three hours later, when many of the cleaners' supporters had gone to work, the police, drivers and management came back and crossed the line.

They had letters from Bill McCall saying the strike and the picket were unofficial. Only the cleaners haven't received this letter.

Ann Nicholson told Socialist Worker:

'He said he couldn't make the strike official at the start. He said he didn't have the power. But he made the picket official—have you ever heard of that? We've got a letter saying saying it's official. Now he reckons it's all unofficial.'

They still need money and resolutions of support. Send c/o NELPSU, Livingstone House, London E15.



Through the picket line—the scabs arrived with letters from the GMWU official.

## BUSES: MIDLANDS WALKOUT AND TORIES SCAB IN FYLDE

**WEST BROMWICH:** Bus workers walked out over Christmas when six were suspended for refusing to take out buses blacked by their union branch because they were without heaters. The suspensions came on top of unrest about heating in the canteen and the Christmas schedules.

Said one busman: 'Our argument isn't with the public. We've been complaining to management about heaters on the buses for over 12 months.'

'The drivers get all the complaints from the public about cold buses and all the drivers can do is report the

complaints to the union and we take it up with the engineers.'

'The engineers say they can't do anything because they can't get the spare parts. It's a vicious circle.'

'As a result of three 24-hour stoppages the suspended busmen were paid right up to when we all came out on strike and so far 13 buses have been fitted with heaters and checked by the union as fit for the road.'

'New gas heating has been installed in the canteen and although it still isn't working yet the engineers are working on it.'

'The blacking on the buses was lifted to start negotiations, which are still continuing, but it wouldn't yake much to cause another walk off the job as the lads are still simmering.'

by DERRICK ARMSTRONG

**LANCASHIRE:** Young Conservatives and the Chamber of Trade in Fylde are running free bus services to try and break a four-week-old strike against cuts in services and new schedules by busworkers.

The Young Conservatives are trying to disguise this as a service to pensioners and the infirm. For this reason, the free bus service have not been picketed—yet.

After carrying on right through Christmas, the strikers are more determined than ever to win. Sarah Lakeley, wife of one of the strikers, said: 'I'm prepared to suffer this Christmas. I want them to fight to get what they want and not to give in.'

More than 4,000 busworkers in Blackpool, Preston, Lancaster, Morecambe, Blackburn and throughout East Lancashire have struck for one day in support. Now action will have to be taken to prevent the strike-breaking.

## Victory over private practice

**STOCKPORT:** After a short strike, operating theatre ancillary workers at Stepping Hill Hospital have won a victory against private practice in the NHS.

Two orderlies refused to bring a private patient from the ward to the theatre. The consultant had to fetch his own patient and as a result of this 'outrage' three men were called to the office to be disciplined.

We walked out of the meeting when management refused to withdraw the disciplinary action and all the theatre orderlies, assistants and technicians stopped work in support. Other hospital workers were contacted for support.

Facing such a rapid and solid response, management gave in. At a crisis 2½ hour meeting that evening they agreed to withdraw all disciplinary action and pay for the time we had been on strike.

At a meeting on Friday morning we voted to return to work but to keep up the pressure on management to sort out other long-standing problems.

# FURY OVER EARLY RETIREMENT DEAL

Tractor plant men strike as Ford's try to get tough

**COLLIERY WINDING engine men in the Barnsley and North Yorkshire area struck this Wednesday in protest at a decision by leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers to exclude them and other surface workers from the early retirement deal with the National Coal Board.**

The winders decided to strike every Wednesday until they are included in the proposals. Their action shows the mounting anger of pit-top workers at the sell-out

By Bill Message

being negotiated by the NUM Executive. Surface workers and NUM members in NCB workshops could follow their lead.

Yorkshire area NUM President Arthur Scargill told me: 'There is no doubting the anger of these men, and as far as I am concerned no NUM members should ride in cages operated by non-NUM members.'

Covered

In the past our claims have covered all the members. This will be the first time that a section of the membership

have been excluded from the terms of a settlement.'

Robert Middleton, another surface fitter at Grimethorpe, said: 'Up to now it's an absolute sell-out for surface workers. We were asked to vote in the ballot, but we're getting nothing out of it.'

The claim, passed unanimously at last July's NUM Conference, demanded retirement at 60 by this month for all mineworkers. The Executive voted 13-11 to postpone it to August or even later, depending on Phase Three of the Government's wage freeze.

Even if the retirement age is reduced in August, it will only be to 62. The original claim also demanded a further reduction in retirement age to 55 by

1980. The NCB offer, which has been accepted by the NUM Executive, goes no further than lowering the retirement age to 60 by the end of 1979.

Some 25,000 surface workers, cokemen and other NCB workers would be included.

Another important part of the claim was the demand for no loss of earnings up to state retirement age. The NUM leaders have accepted a deal which would limit payment to about 80 per cent of earnings.

The terms of this deal are worse than those of the current redundancy scheme, under which older men in many areas are able to leave the industry early on 85 per cent of earnings.

**BASILDON:** Workers on the final assembly line at Ford's Tractor Plant voted to strike on Tuesday over the suspension of two men for 'drinking tea outside of the official tea break'.

Since these workers have to keep up with a moving line, it makes no difference to the number of tractors produced if they drink a cup of tea, smoke a cigarette or stand on their heads.

SIX OF THE BEST . . .

**DAGENHAM:** Six women workers have won recognition of the Transport and General Workers Union after a ten-week strike at Chloride Gaedor.

The women have also won the maximum increase under the Healey pay package. And the employers have agreed to shorten the working week from 44 to 40 hours a week without loss of pay.

When tackled on this point, a supervisor agreed and put the reason for the new ruling down to the 'need for greater discipline'.

As one worker put it: 'It's like being in the army. They want to own your body and soul'.

This determination of management to rule is nothing new. It dates from the tyrannical Henry Ford the First, who even forbade talking during the lunch hour.

It is this inhuman reduction to an impersonal unit of labour that Ford workers resent the most.

At the Tractor Plant, it looks as if this time they're determined to stand up and fight it.

## Steward sacked

**LEYTON:** Management at Chamberlain Industries have sacked Engineering Union shop steward Ray O'Brien.

All 250 engineering union members and the five electricians union members are out on strike in support.

Ray's sacking came after the Christmas celebration of the shop floor.

After victimising him, management refused to implement part of the new agreement, which dealt with free boots, overalls and showers.

The personnel manager, widely known as Basil Fawley, has threatened 'disciplinary action' and has started a redundancy scare. But the strikers are staying out until they win.

Support and donations to Ron Rossi, AUEW c/o 28 Denmark Street, London W1.

## NO JOBS AXE HERE!

**HULL:** Hawker Siddeley at Brough have announced that 450 of the 5,000 workers are to be made redundant within the next three months.

Hull and North Humber already has nearly 16,000 unemployed—10.4 per cent—and faces several thousand more redundancies soon in the fishing industry.

Bill Ashton, the works convenor, said: 'There is no way we would accept any job cuts at Brough. We shall be opposing redundancies.'

## Victimised

**AYLESBURY:** Electricians union shop steward Allan Boyle is being victimised by Gerhard Moeller Ltd.

Management have just recognised the union at the Southern Road factory where Allan works. Now he has been told: 'Improve your attitude and performance or we sack you.'

If the warning is not withdrawn, strike action will follow.

## Jobs battle looms at Harvey's

**SOUTH EAST LONDON:** Butterfield-Harvey's (of office furniture fame) have a reputation in this area for being a 'hard' employer.

Last December 120 workers were sacked from the office furniture section at Charlton. Then management immediately demanded 220 sackings from the fabrication

## Sheffield Journalists win vital support

By Peter Sandy, NUJ chapel clerk

**SHEFFIELD:** Journalists at BBC's local radio stations have begun a lightning strike in support of their colleagues at Radio Sheffield who have been on strike for over four weeks against the sacking of their FoC (Shop steward).

□□

Roger Currell was suspended when—in line with union policy—he refused to obey a management order to include a sport item.

Journalists from Radio Sheffield picketed the head office of their union (right) where the NEC emergency committee was meeting. They were demanding an all-out strike by other BBC local radio stations, but the committee decided on lightning strikes.



## Kettering: Boost for striking journalists

**By Ian Reinecke**  
**KETERING:** Journalists on strike for six weeks for better pay and conditions have won a major victory.

They have forced management to drop its demand for a three-year agreement.

Responding to requests by the National Union of Journalists for a stop to the scabbing activities of the editors of the Evening Telegraph and two weeklies, the NGA national council is likely to issue an instruction to the NGA chapel at Kettering.

## Backs

Support has also come from NUJ nationally, which has increased strike pay and ordered a meeting of the Press Association NUJ chapel.

If copy from PA was stopped, the reading public of Northamptonshire would be spared the further embarrassment of the worst evening paper ever produced.

Messages of support and money to Jerry Connolly, 2 Hatton Avenue, Wellingborough, Northants.

# VICTORY AT UNICEM

**NUNEATON:** 26 delivery drivers forced the local depot of the giant UNICEM drugs combine to back down last Saturday on their agreement on wages and conditions.

The drivers walked out last Monday week and were joined by the 80 women production workers to fight for a claim which had been in the pipeline since 16 December.

The depot has been organis-

ing in the Transport Union for only three months.

The men had been working a 48-hour week for £42.50. They wanted a 40-hour week but were told this would break the Social Contract.

UNICEM made more than £6 million profit last year. So the workers submitted a claim for £2.50 plus a £2 bonus, overtime rates for evenings and after 2pm on Saturdays,

and personal use of the vans.

Management agreed to the claim three times—and each time rejected it again. They tricked the women into returning to work last Thursday by telling them the men had settled, and then told the men that they couldn't agree to the use of vans.

But when deliveries of drug and medical equipment dried up and the supplies to the depot were cut off, management caved in.

pay, and nationalisation, with an occupation of the factory when the first name of anyone to be sacked is known.

## Picket

To give the maximum encouragement to a fight back, the committee has called a mass picket at Friday's mass meeting and is asking all supporting bodies to send delegations and banners.

□ Fraternal picket of Harvey's, Friday 14 January, 7am (Libraco entrance), Woolwich Road, SE17. Called the SE London Right to Work Campaign.

**KILMARNOCK SWP PUBLIC MEETING:** The crisis and the socialist alternative. Speakers: Willie Lee (AUEW shop steward, Chrysler Linwood) and Dave Sherry (Clydeside reporter for Socialist Worker). Wednesday 19 January, 7.30 pm, Grand Hall, London Road.

**CLYDEBANK SWP PUBLIC MEETING:** Why you should be a socialist. Thursday 3 February, 7.30 pm, Clydebank Town Hall Lecture Room.

## Massey workers stage sit-in

**COVENTRY:** In their third week on strike, more than 1,000 assembly workers at Massey Ferguson have occupied the administration block in the Banner Lane plant.

Meanwhile, the company are refusing to negotiate over the lock-out of 136 workers for 'inadequate effort'.

## Solidarity

All the assembly workers immediately struck in solidarity and continued their action after the Christmas break, despite loss of holiday pay.

The company are now demanding that the men return to work and produce 48 tractors a day before negotiations take place.

□ Messages of support: Massey Ferguson assembly workers strike committee, Banner Lane, Coventry.

# Socialist Worker

Please rush me my weekly copy of *Socialist Worker*. I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to *Socialist Worker* for

- £7 for one year
- £3.50 for six months
- £1.75 for three months

(Please tick) to pay subscriptions and postage, so start sending them to:

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

When completed post to Socialist Worker Subscriptions, Circulation Department, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN

# Subscribe!

(BLOCK CAPITALS)

# Socialist Worker

## SHEFFIELD: IT'S ENGINEERS AGAINST EMPLOYERS

**SHEFFIELD:** The fight to stop the Edgar Allen Balfour factory closure receives a tremendous boost this week.

The powerful Sheffield Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has called a city-wide half-day stoppage and demonstration on Wednesday.

Engineering factories all over the city will be closing for half a day and hundreds are expected to join the demonstration.

Support for the strike is reaching beyond Sheffield. Already AUEW stewards from International Harvesters in Doncaster have voted to strike and join the demonstration.

Dennis Hearnshaw, convenor of Woodhouse Rickson Flanges, told Socialist Worker: 'This is the sort of action which is necessary now. We can't

by SIMON TURNER

leave the 2,000 Edgar Allen Balfour workers out on their own.

'This is not just a question of the jobs. The employers are trying to close a factory which has one of the best trade union organisations in the city. If they are allowed to get away with it we'll all suffer.'

'We need to step up the action. I am fully behind the strike and my factory will be closing for the afternoon.'

As the dispute enters its sixth week it is clear that the local Engineering Employers Federation is behind the attempted closure.

### Refused

Clive Hartley, convenor of one of the striking factories, explained: 'The Sheffield Employers Federation have been vociferous in their opposition to Clause II of the Employment Protection Act, which has recently come into effect. This

### Hospital protest

WORKERS at the Prince of Wales Hospital, in Tottenham, North London, held a half-day strike and demonstration on Monday against the proposed run-down and closure of the hospital.



Picture: Phil McCowan

is the clause which allows workers to claim parity of wages and conditions with other workers doing comparable jobs.

'This explains their determination to close Capitol Tool Works, one of the best-paid and organised factories in Sheffield. The employers are terrified that Clause II might be used by other workers in the city to claim comparable wages and conditions.'

'We are in a direct confrontation between the Sheffield employers and the Sheffield engineers. That is why we must involve the whole labour movement in this fight.'

'We will be looking towards a 24-hour stoppage and district overtime ban to put further pressure on the management.'

□ Send messages of support and donations to the strike committee, New Inn, Carbrook Street, Sheffield 9.

## Appeal to Liaison Committee: Unite against the Social Contract

THE Right to Work Campaign has made another appeal to the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions for united action against unemployment and the cuts.

The Liaison Committee is an unofficial, rank and file organisation, which in 1969 and the early years of the Tory government led unofficial actions in defence of the trade unions.

It organised unofficial one-day national stoppages against the 1966 Labour government's anti-union plans, In Place of Strife, and then against the Tory government's Industrial Relations Bill.

The Liaison Committee has now decided to call its first conference for several years, to discuss action on cuts and unemployment. This will be in London on Saturday 26 February.

The Right to Work Campaign is urging all its supporters to fight to get the maximum support for the conference from trade union organisations.

John Deason, secretary of the Right to Work Campaign,

has written to Jim Hiles, the Liaison Committee secretary, a second time.

The letter reads in part: 'Once again I would like to draw to your attention the following resolution carried unanimously by the 749 delegates representing 451 bona fide trade union organisations at the Right to Work Conference last November 6th:

'This Conference calls on the organisers of last March's Assembly and the Liaison

Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions to unite with the Right to Work Campaign in our efforts, and to speedily agree a joint meeting of appropriate officers to facilitate such liaison.'

The letter asks the Liaison Committee to include five points in the draft declaration to be presented to the conference. These are:

1. A call for a one-day national strike with local demonstrations against the cuts and the Social Contract on 23 March.
2. A commitment to active support, including

solidarity stoppages, for all forms of industrial action against the cuts, for the right to work, and against the Social Contract.

3. Support for initiatives of the Right to Work Campaign, in particular the April Skelmersdale Unemployed March.

4. Support for the quashing of prison sentences on Right to Work marchers—no more Shrewsbury!

5. For the formation of a coordinating committee between the Liaison Committee, the organisers of last March's Assembly on Unemployment, and the Right to Work Campaign to better unify initiatives against the cuts, for the right to work, and against the Social Contract.

The Right to Work Campaign has already appealed to trade union organisations to pass the five points and send them to the Liaison Committee for inclusion on the draft declaration.

John Deason ends his letter to Jim Hiles by saying: 'I am sure that you agree that when it comes to fighting against the cuts, for the right to work, and against the Social Contract, then all those prepared to fight must unite.'

### KEEP BLACKING TIGHT AROUND THESE FIRMS

ALL trade unionists should be blacking products from and goods going into the following factories (trade names in brackets):

Sheffield Edgar Allen Tools (Easicut and Stag), Balfour Darwins Tools Division (Capitol and Steadfast), Edgar

Allen Aerex, Edgar Allen Engineering, British Rema Manufacturing Company, A R Heathcote and Company (Park Machine Lines), George Turton Platts and Company, Yorkshire Aluminium, Halifax Dragonware, Oldham Entwhistle, J J Humphreys and Son, Manchester Edgar Allen Companies, Nottingham Sandiacre Screw Company, Wolverhampton Charles Snape and Co, Bristol Heathcote Rudge.

**JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY**

Name .....

Address .....

Trade union .....

Please send me more information

Send to: National Secretary, Socialist Workers Party, 6 Cottiers Gardens, London, E2 6JA

ADVERTISEMENT

**The National Right to Work Campaign calls on all trade unionists to support**

**THE LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF TRADE UNIONS CONFERENCE**

in London on Saturday 26 February

Fight to make sure your trade union organisation sends delegates to the conference. Credentials from Brother Jim Hiles, LCDTU, 137 Wanstead Park Road London.