

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

IT'S ALL LIES!

Dig deep for special fund

THE CRISIS has one good result. A good number of people have decided that their days as armchair socialists are numbered. They are making up their minds to join the battle against the Tories and their system.

These people have helped to put together the £650 we've collected in the first week of our appeal for a crisis fund of £5000.

We need the money fast, in the crisis weeks of January and February. We need more organisers, more leg-work, more expensive newsprint for Socialist Worker, more paper and ink for pamphlets and leaflets.

Dig deep. Every penny is welcome. Donations to Jim Nichol, IS National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

● Meanwhile our monthly fund collected from IS branches can report collecting £1028 in December. This is magnificent.

● Among the branches contributing were: Leeds £72.67, Bath £28, Lowestoft £15, Dudley £10, Hackney £36.33, Oldham £25, Barnet £4.25, Wigston £9, Capper Pass £3, Dewsbury £20, Bradford £15, Aberdeen £5.

● Thank you, comrades. Keep up to the £1000 in January.

'Crisis' is political con-trick

by DUNCAN HALLAS

IT'S A LOCKOUT. There is no other word for it. Three-day working is NOT necessary because of any actual shortage of fuel. The facts that have now come out in spite of the government's propaganda smokescreen prove it to the hilt.

Harold Wilson once accused what he called 'a tightly-knit group of politically motivated men' of

'holding the country to ransom'. That is a fair description of what is happening today.

Heath, Barber and the rest of their tightly-knit group have taken a cold calculated decision to cripple British industry in the hope of turning

workers against the miners.

We repeat: three-day working is a lock out organised for political ends. Coal stocks at the power stations this week amounted to 14 million tons. That is rather more than on 9 January 1972 when the miners' strike began.

But that was a total stoppage. This time there is only an overtime ban. Production is 60 to 70 per cent of normal, as opposed to nil in 1972.

In addition to the power station stocks, the Coal Board has stocks of 4½ million tons at the pit head. 10½ million tons have been mined since the overtime ban began.

Normal winter power station consumption is one to 1½ million tons a week.

Nor is it true that the movement of coal has been hampered. British Rail has given the lie to that government claim.

'British Rail,' reported The Guardian on Monday, 'said it was certain that supplies had not been interrupted since the start of the miners' overtime ban and the locomen's policy of non-co-operation.' On top of all this coal is being freely imported, notably coal from Poland.

The oil and petrol shortage is something of a fiction too. 'Information compiled by Lloyds of London shows that the tanker tonnage sailing from the largest Arab oil terminals has in fact increased considerably in the last month,' reports the New York Times.

The 'energy crisis' is nine-tenths fake. The Tory government is trying to put across a gigantic confidence trick. But why do they go to such lengths? Because, for them, profits are the supreme consideration.

RECESSION

All their experts are predicting a recession later this year. In a recession profits tend to fall off. So the Tory government is determined to force the miners to settle within the terms of Phase Three if they possibly can.

And that in turn is only a step towards a worse government attack on wages. Government spokesmen are already speaking of Phase Three as 'too generous'.

There should be no illusions about this. The 'crisis' is being deliberately created to aid the government's attack on real wages.

What can be done? First of all, it is in the interests of every working man and woman that the miners beat the government.

Inflation is speeding up and will continue to speed up for six months at least because of price increases already in the pipeline. Unless wages keep pace, living standards will go down.

More important still, the recession will mean a sharp rise in unemployment. The more effective the cut in real wages, the bigger the unemployment will be and the longer it will last.

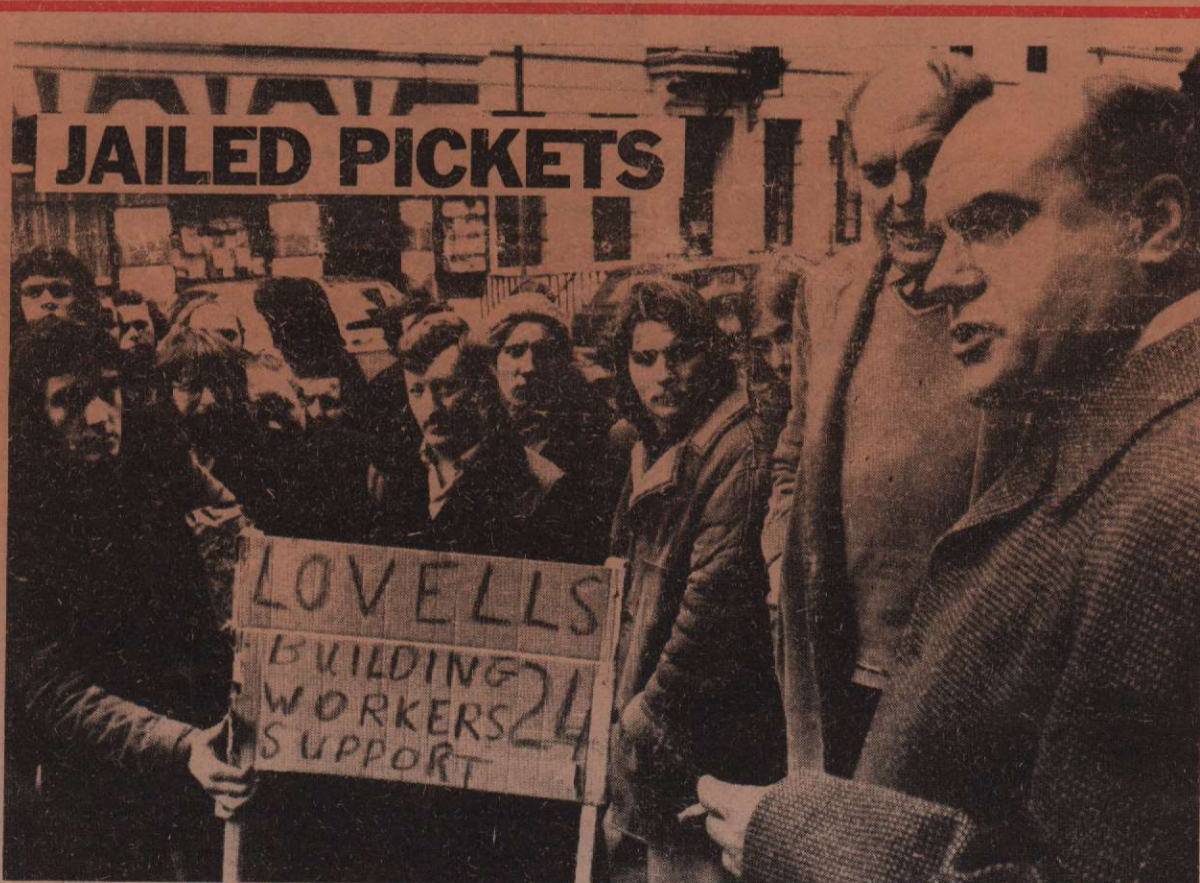
Yet there is no necessity either for real wage cuts or for unemployment. Britain and the other developed capitalist countries are richer than ever.

Only the crazy logic of the capitalist system produces poverty in the midst of plenty. It is not our system. It is not our crisis.

We must reject the Tory lies and insist on FULL WORK OR FULL PAY.

No one needs to be restricted to a three-day week. No one should accept less than five days' pay. Opinion in the unions must be mobilised to fight for this basic demand.

The Tories can be beaten. They can be driven out of office. A victory for the miners and a refusal to accept pay cuts will do it.



Building workers lobbied the TUC's pre-Christmas meeting, demanding action to free the Shrewsbury Three. Here they are seen discussing with miners' leader Lawrence Daly. Picture: Chris Davies (Report).

'Thanks for your support'

Socialist Worker is proud to publish a letter from the wife of one of the building workers in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial. Three of them received vicious prison sentences on 20 December.

I AM THE WIFE of John Carpenter who stood trial at Shrewsbury over the past 11 weeks. Firstly on behalf of the other wives and myself I would like to thank you, your staff and all IS members near and far for the wonderful contribution you made to us.

Also our most grateful thanks for the wonderful support Socialist Worker has given to us. Without your support and one or two others, I am sure nobody in this country would have known this most suspect trial was taking place.

Although my own husband suffered a suspended sentence and was allowed to leave the court, we had no joy in our hearts knowing that we were leaving behind three lads whose only crime was to struggle

for better wages and conditions for their fellow workers.

To be there daily and see the heartbreak and misery was an experience I will never forget. To know these gallant girls who stand firmly behind their husbands is a

great privilege and the bonds of friendship and understanding we have formed will I am sure last forever. So once again we the united wives thank you for your loyal support.

RITA CARPENTER

SHREWSBURY STRIKE SET FOR 15 JANUARY

TUESDAY 15 January has been named as a day for all-out strike action to release the 'Shrewsbury Three'—Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones.

Last week the London Shrewsbury 24 Committee backed a call from the London Trades Council for strike action on 15 January. It said the day should be 'the start of action aiming at General

Strike proportions to secure the release of the Shrewsbury Three building workers jailed for picketing.'

All International Socialists members should make a major effort to win support for strike action on 15 January—the start of a vital struggle to free the jailed trade unionists and defend the right to picket.

● More on Shrewsbury: pages 3, 6, 7 and 12.

The London Shrewsbury 24 Committee

Free the 3!

Public Meeting
Shoreditch Town Hall
(Corner of Old Street and Shoreditch High Street)
Friday 4 January, at 7.45pm

Speakers: George Anthony—President North London AUEW
Alan Tattam—UCATT Regional Official, (Personal capacity) and prominent trade union speakers.

All London IS members to attend

New stab in back for right to picket

by Laurie Flynn

JUST 24 hours after the savagery meted out in the Shrewsbury pickets trial, the Tory government quietly slipped another knife into workers' rights.

On Thursday 21 December the five law lords decided that no picket has the right to stop lorries or workers in order to persuade them not to cross the picket line.

As a spokesman for the National Council for Civil Liberties put it in a statement to Socialist Worker this week: 'What they are effectively saying is that you can't picket. Picketing without the right to stop people and explain your case to them is absolutely meaningless.'

The law lords' decision followed from their consideration of an appeal against a conviction for obstruction from John Broome, a full-time organiser for the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians.

John Broome was arrested during the national building workers strike in 1972. His case went before the Stockport Magistrates. The magistrates found that the picket was entirely peaceful and that John Broome's nine minutes in front of the lorry was entirely reasonable.

Convict

The magistrate then dismissed the police case on the grounds that the right to picket peacefully was 'meaningless unless the picket places himself in such a position that the person to be persuaded is obliged to stop and listen for a reasonable length of time.'

But the Tory Home Secretary ordered the Lancashire Police to appeal against the magistrates' decision. The Appeal Court headed by Lord 'Bloody Sunday' Justice Widgery ruled that the law afforded no right to stop a lorry and instructed the Stockport magistrates to convict.

John Broome appealed to the House of Lords and they have now upheld the Court of Appeal decision, adding for good measure that a picket has no right to stop a person either.

So by express decision of the highest legal authority in the land yet another set of legal dots and commas against the effective conduct of strikes is to be rigorously applied.

Vital

So far the TUC has made no comment on this severe attack on workers' liberties. And not one single member of the Labour leadership has so much as opened his mouth on this issue.

John Broome has fought the case this far because of its vital importance to all workers. He does not yet feel able to comment on the decision because he has not read the full judgment.

But Mr Broome did state that every trade unionist should have their eyes firmly on Shrewsbury.

'The government,' he told Socialist Worker, are the only conspirators in this matter, not the lads. They have got together with the employers and the police, adding on special charges so that they could put someone away. The working-class movement has got to free the three.'

Busmen accept Phase 3

LONDON busmen have accepted a Phase Three offer by a majority of 14 branches. The offer was referred back to the branches after the busmen's central committee split on whether to recommend acceptance or rejection to a special delegate conference. 27 garages voted against, more than generally expected.

Busmen who voted in favour are looking forward to an advertised £4 rise in April. They are in for a shock. The rise will be at least £1 less than this on average and will vary enormously from week to week because of an 'unsocial' hours payment.

Brum IS: all out for crisis

BIRMINGHAM district committee of the International Socialists last Sunday discussed ways to mobilise during the current crisis. It was agreed that all factory bulletins and leaflets produced by the industrial branches should concentrate on three key topics:

ONE: argue the need to support the railwaymen and miners to smash Phase Three and place the blame for the layoffs firmly with the Tories

TWO: publicise and argue the need to support the building workers sentenced at Shrewsbury through strike action and collections.

THREE: argue complete resistance to any management offensive to use the three-day week working for speedups, tearing up agreements and the repricing of jobs.

Leaflets will also go out at labour exchanges and IS members who are laid off will sell Socialist Worker at other factories. On the issue of Shrewsbury, IS members will attempt to get resolutions passed through their trade union branches and shop stewards com-

mittees. All members of the Birmingham district will be doing mass work in the next few weeks to publicise and win support for a Socialist Worker Rally in Birmingham on Sunday 30 January.

Starting this Saturday, 5 January, there will be wide canvassing and selling on two large estates, Castle Vale and Nechells. Leaflets will be given out on Saturday and papers sold in shopping areas and door-to-door selling will take place on Sunday. IS members and supporters living in South Birmingham should meet at the Rocket, Great Francis Street, Nechells on Saturday at 11 o'clock and Sunday at 1.30. Tel: 357 6417 for further details and information.

Members and supporters in North Birmingham should meet at the Lancaster, Castle Vale shopping centre on Saturday at 11 o'clock and Sunday at 1.30. Tel: 554 1193 for further details and information.

The aim is to establish new IS branches in these areas. Any readers who would like to assist in the work to make the rally a success should contact 25 Selbourne Road, Birmingham 20, tel: 554 1193.

NORTH WEST LONDON: 60 people filled the Willesden Junction Hotel on Wednesday 19 December to hear Roger Cox, president of Chiswick 5 AUEW branch, and Tony Cliff, IS executive committee member, speak on 'The government versus the workers.'

Roger Cox outlined the demands trade unionists should make if threatened with the three day week: five days' work or five days' pay, no flexibility in jobs, no agreement to work outside the normally agreed hours without extra pay, no agreement to lay offs. Tony Cliff outlined the political situation in which the crisis had occurred and called for total support for the miners.

In discussion, workers from Associated Automation and CAV spoke of the measures they were preparing to take against the lockout. A collection of £5 was raised for the families of the three jailed workers. Mike Caffoor, the NW London organiser of IS, said the district was on full alert after the holiday period to take advantage of the crisis situation to build IS in the area.

TORY SNUB FOR CHILEAN VICTIMS

by Paul Foot

HOME SECRETARY Robert Carr is determined to prove that the British government is the most faithful ally of the brutal military dictatorship in Chile. He has ruled that seven Chilean students who fled from the junta to Britain must get out of the country.

The seven, all of whom have contacts and friends in Britain, applied to stay here as visitors. The Home Office said no.

They then asked to stay as students. Places in universities and colleges, they demonstrated, could easily be found for all of them. The Home Office said no. Finally, last Friday morning, they lodged an official application for political asylum.

It has always been the proud boast of British liberals that persecuted people can find a safe home in 'democratic' Britain. The seven's application proved that

if they were in Chile they would be in prison, tortured, and probably murdered by the junta. One of the seven has already been brutally tortured.

None of the seven was called for interview at the Home Office—the normal procedure. The applications were refused the same day. (A court injunction on Monday has held up their expulsion.)

Their only contact with the Home Office was an abrupt interview with an immigration officer at the offices of the National Council of Civil Liberties last Saturday night. The officer told them—as the Home Office argued later in a press statement—that the only place they could apply for asylum was the first country they visited after leaving Chile—Argentina.

DEVICE

This is nonsense. The British government granted asylum to thousands of refugees from Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 although all the refugees had visited other countries—usually Austria—after leaving their home country.

The 'first country' argument is a device by which the Home Office hopes to disguise the real cause of their brutal decision: the fact that a large number of boardroom Tories are stuffing their pockets with loot from the Chilean junta.

Tory shipbuilders are rubbing their hands at the business they expect from the recent visits to Chile of Admiral Sir Michael Pollock, the First Sea Lord.

Sir Michael made it clear to the Chilean torturers that he was absolutely on their side, especially if even more orders for the Chilean navy could find their way to British shipyards. Tories in charge of Scott Lithgow and Vosper Thornycroft, who built £100 million worth of frigates for the Brazilian navy, are optimistic.

All these gentlemen hated the Allende government for fear that their wealth in Chile might be taken by the people who produce it. They are passionate supporters of torture and terror by the Chilean junta.

They insist on maximum co-operation from their cousins, friends and puppets in the Tory government. Robert Carr, himself a former director of S Hoffnung, export merchants, and Metal Closures Ltd, importers of Chilean copper metals, is the quickest to come to heel.



Demonstrators in London on 23 December demanded the release of the Carabanchel 10. Picture: Chris Davies (Report)

Britain's dirty hands from Spanish terror

by Chris Harman

POLICE FORCES all over Europe have been co-operating with the Spanish police in the search for the group which assassinated the Spanish prime minister, Carrero Blanco on 21 December. Yet sentences handed out to trade unionists on Saturday proved that the Spanish regime remains as viciously repressive as ever.

Ten men, leading members of the 'workers' commissions'—the underground trade union organisation—have received 161 years in prison between them. The trial was the culmination of a bitter campaign waged by the authorities against all forms of popular opposition to the regime in recent months.

In El Ferrol and Vigo, leaders of two major strikes against the government have been arrested. In Zamora, six priests have demanded the status of political prisoners since their arrest for complicity in the workers' commissions.

In Catalonia 113 members of the semi-clandestine Popular Assembly of Catalonia have been arrested and charged. And in the Basque country at least two of the members of the revolutionary nationalist organisation, the ETA, await-

ing trial have been murdered by the police.

The latest turn to the crudest form of repression has come after a period in which the western press has been attempting to give the impression that Franco's Spain has 'liberalised' itself. But the 'liberalisation' was only skin deep, leaving intact the police apparatus that has persecuted, imprisoned, tortured and murdered its opponents for 35 years.

Sections of the capitalist press in Britain have protested at the sentences on the leaders of the workers' commission. But significantly, they do not mention the fact that it is not only the rulers of Spain who benefit from the repression against trade unionists. British, French and American firms own factories in Spain and are able to boost their profits because of the ban on legal unions.

Among those sentenced last week was

a 55-year-old lathe operator, Marcelino Camacho, who was given a 20-year term of imprisonment. Camacho had only been free for three months when he was arrested, following a previous five year sentence.

Before his imprisonment Camacho was employed by Motores Perkins in Madrid—part of the same combine which owns Perkins in Peterborough and Massey Ferguson in Coventry. The combine took advantage of the police regime earlier this year to sack 17 workers' representatives at its Motores Iberica plant at Pamplona when they campaigned for higher wages.

Given this economic tie-up between British big business and the Spanish government, it is hardly surprising that the press expressed horror at the assassination of Carrero Blanco and that the British and French police have been reported to be co-operating with the Spanish in the search for his assassins.

Raids by the police get a roasting

by Jim Higgins

THE POLICE have been blasted by Bristol Trades Council which held a tribunal to inquire into police raids on the homes of local socialists and militants in April and September last year.

The decision to go ahead with the tribunal followed the refusal of the Home Secretary to hold an independent inquiry into the antics of the police during the raids.

Complaints from the local National Council for Civil Liberties brought the usual internal police whitewash. In this case the whitewash was exceptionally well prepared. The Chief Constable of Bristol, Mr Twist, was before his appointment, a member of the Liverpool force. The investigation team comprised the Assistant Chief Constable of Liverpool, Mr Bailey and his assistant, Mr McKenzie, who had been a detective inspector under Twist.

With police 'impartiality' assured, Bailey and McKenzie attempted to lean on the NCCL with remarks about 'people who make frivolous complaints against the police'.

How frivolous were the complaints can be gauged by the signed testimony of those raided before the tribunal.

Study

The April warrants, searches and seizures were made under the Criminal Damage Act 1971, specifying 'articles intended for use to destroy property'. But police squads failed to turn up any such material.

Nevertheless, they spent hours examining diaries, documents and papers, with particular reference to address lists and phone numbers. At several addresses they removed large quantities of documents for further study.

In the September raids on squatters the police held several people without charge for periods up to 25 hours. A young mother with a small baby was held for eight hours. She was not allowed to feed or change her baby.

At the time of the September raids, the offices of the St Pauls Advice Centre, premises in the centre of the immigrant area, where a great deal of squatting has taken place, were burgled. Nothing was stolen, although files were examined and letters opened. It is interesting to note that the 'burglars' were interested in the same items as were the police in simultaneous raids.

Letters

The tribunal sets out three main conclusions:

1. The police on 13 April were updating their address lists of left wingers. They did not even make a pretence of looking for explosives.
2. The 'burglary' at the St Paul's Legal Aid Centre took place sometime during the weekend of the 14 September raids. This was the first time they had ever been burgled. Nothing was taken but files were disturbed and read, as were unopened letters.
3. Agent provocateurs had been used by the police to tempt young people at 104 Ashley Road into violent actions.

Bristol Trades Council have exposed the extra-legal activity of the police, their surveillance and harassment of left wingers. The worker's tribunal gives added emphasis to the clear fact that civil liberties are coming under more and more pressure, not just from reactionary chief constables, but from the system itself.

The Industrial Relations Act and the Pentonville jailings, the Shrewsbury case and the vicious sentences on building militants are all part and parcel, together with the Bristol case, of capitalism showing its true face.

SOCIALIST WORKER

WHAT WE THINK

DID YOU HAVE a good Christmas and New Year? Dennis Warren, Eric Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones did not.

They spent the festive season in jail, starting to serve three years, two years and nine months respectively. And on the 18th of this month another 18 building workers go on trial in Shrewsbury for the same 'crime'.

What was that 'crime'? In a word, effective picketing. Naturally that was not what appeared on the charge sheet. The Shrewsbury 24 were, and are, accused of organising violence against scabs. They denied it and any impartial person, reading the evidence, would accept their denials.

But suppose, just for the sake of argument, that, in the heat of the moment, some violence was used. The maximum penalty, prescribed by law, for that offence is three months in jail. How can anyone get three years for an offence which carries a three-month maximum sentence?

The answer is the use of the infamous conspiracy laws. What is a conspiracy? To any ordinary working man or woman the consultations between the bosses of McAlpines Ltd, the police and Attorney General Sir Peter Rawlinson as to who to prosecute and where, constitutes a conspiracy.

But legally that is not a conspiracy at all. The 'conspiracy' of which the Shrewsbury Three were convicted was simply an agreement between three or more persons to mount an effective picket which might have led to a punch-up, a bit of rough stuff, on the picket lines.

Shrewsbury —a Tory conspiracy

Of course nobody anywhere, at any time, organised a picket on any other basis. It is always possible for scabs, or the police acting in support of scabs, to cause violence on a picket line. The 'conspiracy' of which building workers in Shrewsbury were convicted was no more and no less than the ordinary collective decision to mount a picket.

Why were these workers picked on by the so-called 'law'? They were picked on, by a conscious, deliberate decision of the Tory government, in full consultation with the employers, to destroy the right to picket. There must be no illusions at all about this. Warren, Tomlinson and McKinsie Jones are in jail today for doing what most trade union militants have done as a matter of course.

The arguments of the capitalist press and television about 'violence' and 'law and order' are particularly obscene in this case. The sites picketed were largely manned by 'lump' labour. The 'lump' is a systematic violation of the 'law' with respect to income tax and social

security. How many employers have been prosecuted for this flagrant law-breaking?

The 'lump' has led to the violent deaths of hundreds of building workers due to flagrant disregard of government-approved safety regulations. How many employers have been prosecuted for this violence, this murder? Not one.

The really scandalous thing about the Shrewsbury frame-up trial has been the silence of the official labour movement. The Tories we know. They are the enemy. The judges are, overwhelmingly, Tories. Judge Mais, who handed out these vicious sentences, is a friend (Labour appointed) Lord Mais, proper company speculator and Lord Mayor of London. We expect no better from him and his kind. But why no campaign of protest from UCATT, from the TUC, from the Labour Party?

The three convicted brothers are appealing against conviction and sentence. The brutal truth is that the prospects of a reversal depends entirely on the development of strike action and a massive protest in the working-class movement. There must be a massive support for the London Trades Council call for strike action on 15 January. There must be resolutions in every shop stewards committee, trade union branch and trades council.

The fight of the Shrewsbury workers is the fight of every worker. 'United we stand, divided we fall' is always true. In this case it is urgently, immediately true. Don't let these militants rot in jail. A powerful movement can free them. It must free them.

CORBRIDGE WORKS, CORBRIDGE CRESCENT, LONDON E2 01-739 9043/0185/6361

BOSSSES SHUT SIT-IN FACTORY

SW Reporter

THE ENTIRE WORKFORCE at Seiko Time, a North West London watch factory, received an unusual Christmas present on 23 December: Through the post they received their cards and a letter telling them that the factory was closing down.

The closure came as a complete surprise. There had not been the slightest hint that the factory was about to close.

Seiko Time was the scene of a strike and occupation last summer over union recognition. That dispute ended in total victory for the workforce.

The present sackings are a clear attempt to break the union. Sean McNeil, a watchmaker from Seiko said: 'So long as Seiko sell watches here they need to have them serviced and repaired. We think that they are going to contract out the work to non-union watch repairers working on their own, or else they intend to reopen other premises some time in the future with non-union labour.'

'The management have really been rattled by the fact we unionised the place. There were four who refused to join the union and the management helped them and encouraged them at every turn to try to break our solidarity, but we stood firm.'

The management waited for the best time for the sackings and found it in the extended Christmas holidays when workers lose regular contact with each other and the union offices



Flashback to last summer's Seiko occupation

close down. They had also delayed decisions about the three-day week and a reply to a substantial wage claim while they planned the sackings.

Unnoticed by the workers, much stronger front and rear doors had recently been fitted to prevent a further occupation.

Local AUEW officials say that little can be done about the sackings and have advised the Seiko workers to find other jobs. Most of the workers want to put up a fight.

They know that if the union organisation is smashed at Seiko it will be impossible to organise any other watch repair factory.

Other trade unionists can help in the Seiko struggle. Sean McNeil said: 'We want trade unionists to boycott the purchase of Seiko watches and we want blacking in the docks and at the airports. We have got some other ideas of how to get our jobs back and we will be meeting this week to discuss them.'

Teachers' leaders move to quash militants

LEADERS of the biggest Scottish teachers union, the Educational Institute of Scotland, have moved to quash preparations by Glasgow teachers to fight against teacher shortage, oversized classes and annual cuts in real wages for the past five years.

Four thousand Glasgow teachers stopped work on 18 December to attend a meeting to discuss the problems of deteriorating conditions and wages and how to fight back.

Massive majorities at the meeting voted for a programme of sporadic strikes and a stringent work-to-rule: no classes of more than 30 in primary

schools or 25 in later years at secondary, and one hour off a day for primary teachers' preparation time. Motions put by supporters of the Rank and File teachers' group for an emergency recall conference on wages and mass meetings during the industrial action won massive majorities. Most teachers left the meeting confident that a real fight back had been launched.

Three days later the EIS executive held an emergency meeting at which it overrode the decisions taken by the biggest-ever meeting of Scottish teachers. The EIS strategy is to call a delegate meeting in Glasgow on 17

January to listen to the executive's case. This meeting will have a built-in conservative majority since in many areas the EIS is still totally dominated by right-wing headmasters. The plan is to use the backwoodsmen to outvote the militants.

The call must go out for teachers to set up an action committee with delegates from the bulk of schools to implement the mass meeting policy and to kick out of office those who refuse to do so. And it is also vital to push to the fore the question of a £10 flat rate wage demand and a militant fight to achieve it.

Phase 3 railroaded in docks

A PAY SETTLEMENT within the government's Phase Three policy has been railroaded through the London docks.

London is the second registered port in the country to settle within Phase Three after dockers' meeting had voted to pursue 20 to 25 per cent increases. Hull settled last month.

The decision to settle in London was taken at a hastily summoned mass meeting last Friday. At the heavily-attended meeting of 6000 of London's 7000 dockers, the 18-man negotiating committee suddenly moved to recommend acceptance of a £2.86 increase on the basic rate.

With extras this is boosted to an average of £4.50 a week, but is still firmly within the Phase Three limit.

The committee's behaviour was nothing short of treacherous. At the first London mass meeting they were mandated to go for an increase of 25 per cent. And numerous branch resolutions from both the Transport Union and the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers insisted that negotiations should proceed free of interference from the Tories' incomes policy.

Agreed

But the committee chose to engage in horsetrading with the employers rather than give any kind of a fighting lead. At their most recent meeting with the employers, the negotiators' demands were turned down. The employers then put their own proposals to the committee, which agreed to endorse them.

Several shop stewards at the mass meeting spoke out against any such deal. They pointed out that while the Transport Union was making statements against Phase Three, it was also recommending settlement after settlement which complied with its terms.

The vote at the mass meeting was exactly fifty-fifty. But the platform ruled the deal had been accepted and no challenge was put up because the militant stewards were unaware just how close the decision had been.

The decision is a serious setback for militant dockers who have been trying to fight for a unified struggle for a 20 per cent increase in all ports. Nonetheless other ports can still carry on the struggle and fight for support in other ports.

Into exile from junta's bloody terror

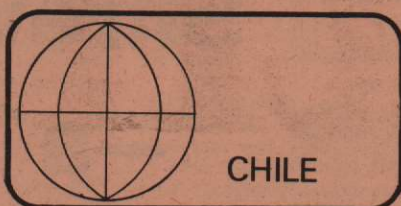
SW Correspondent

FRANKFURT:—After weeks of stalling, the first refugees from Chile are being allowed into West Germany—more than three months after the military takeover in September.

The first small group numbered 26 arrived: 16 adults, three teenagers and seven children. West Germany is one of the last European countries to

allow in Chilean refugees—apart from Britain that is.

After the first tumult at the airport when the Social Democrats of the Frankfurt and Hessen governments made liberal bleats of welcome to this 'land which is still free . . . you need have no fear here'—this to men and women who have spent three months in conditions of terror—the small group were taken to a refugee



CHILE

centre, where we were able to tape-record interviews with many of them.

Some were too fatigued or too overcome to tell us much:

Senora M. 30 years old, four children under seven. Her husband is dead. Murdered by the military after days of torture.

Senora P. With two small children. Her husband was arrested a few days after the coup. Beaten and tortured to death in the football stadium in Santiago.

These are two of the stories from Chile, stories that will be repeated time and time again as the true horror of the regime becomes known.

Fifty thousand murdered by the junta since the coup. 40,000 missing or killed in the concentration camps. Men, women and children shot or beaten to death because they supported Allende.

Juan O. 23 years old. He was studying engineering at the time of the coup. He too landed up in the football stadium for two weeks while his father and brother were 'interrogated' in the cellars of the prison in Santiago.

Juan has two broken ribs, his face is swollen and puffy. He told us a little of what life is like today in Chile.

Prices are rising at an enormous rate. Bread costs four times what it cost in August. A pound of beef costs almost a week's wages for a worker.

'Queues are everywhere, although the junta tell everybody that all is well and that there are no shortages any more. There are more than 300,000 unemployed. You can imagine what chance they have of existing under these conditions.

'Anybody suspected of political sympathies with Allende must sign a letter renouncing their views or be sacked within 24 hours.

The schools and universities are strictly controlled so that no subversive lessons are given. A military officer sits in each class and hears every word. The people are exhorted to denounce anybody whom they suspect of socialist beliefs.

'Half a million Escudos—eight years' wages—are offered for the name of a foreigner who may be an "extremist"—and all foreigners are of course "extremist".

'In Pincoya, a slum area near Santiago, every single man was murdered and in another quarter 10 schoolchildren were shot for "resist-

The 'peace' the Americans left: starvation, misery and Mafia-led unions...

SOUTH VIETNAM is gripped by economic desperation, a country suffering from the most extreme version of American aid.

The country hasn't really got an economy: it has lived on blood transfusions of dollar aid and the fallout from the American presence. Now the aid is cut and the troops gone, and with them the parasite jobs and the blackmarket goods.

Millions of people have been forced out of the countryside into the towns, some moved forcibly in the vain hope of destroying the National Liberation Front's popular base. So instead of being where they could grow food, they are now where they can produce nothing.

Just after the ceasefire, Thieu's government tried to keep refugees under strict control by imprisoning them in the camps. But that broke down because the government did not have the means to feed them.

The villages the refugees come from are nominally under government control, but when they go back they find nothing: nothing to build with, no allowance for seed or tools. So they make their way in despair to a town, usually Saigon or Danang, hoping for work that isn't there.

Survival

If they exercise their right of 'freedom of movement' under the Paris Agreement by making their way to a recognised Provisional Revolutionary Government zone, this means, if they are caught on the way, being shot or joining the 200,000-plus prisoners of the southern regime.

Life in the towns to which the people are driven is running into sheer starvation. Even if you are lucky enough to have a job, the price of rice and all foods is pushing the cost of sheer survival out of the reach of more and more people.

And prices are still stampeding upwards: rice, which is life itself, went up by more than 60 per cent between June and August.

How do people survive? Many don't. I have heard detailed stories of families driven to such despair by the cries of children whom they could not feed that they spent their last few pennies on rat poison so that the whole family could die together.

Could people become desperate enough to take to the streets against the regime instead of killing them-



Digging for the future in an area under liberation forces control

selfes? It doesn't seem impossible, but what chance would they have against a mass of American-supplied tanks and helicopters and in face of the presence everywhere of the American and British-trained secret police?

It doesn't seem realistic to look yet for a new initiative from the undeveloped and unorganised small working class. The trade unions, despite some recent stirrings of rank and file militancy, are basically organisations for convincing the workers that their welfare depends on enlightened government legislation.

They are dominated by a Mafia-style boss, a millionaire called Buu, president of the Vietnamese Confederation of Labour, who controls the various unions on behalf of the government, using his own killer gangs as well as the government machine.

Vietnamese trade unionists have died resisting Buu, and many more have suffered imprisonment.

The word-of-mouth picture of life in the PRG zone created by the liberation forces sounds almost too good to be true: of villages being built, crops stretching away to the horizon, sensible land-to-the-tiller reform that actually happens, the building of peasant co-operatives, no more executions, except for a very few corrupt tyrants. But I believe that quite a lot of it is reality.

Charred

I wish I had myself seen life on 'the other side', as it is practically always called in the South, but one thing I did see was the spirit of certain peasants for whom the PGR is their government, but who live in normally Thieu-

dominated area.

They flew the NLF flag at the ceasefire, but they got so shot up for it that they had to take the flags down. There are people who rebuilt their houses 14 times during the terrible years. I saw charred ruins and bullet-riddled walls done since the ceasefire.

Unlike the hopeless, helpless thousands who fled from the bombing to government 'protection' and now would like to flee from the government and can't, for fear both of the government and of more bombing, these are the ones who refused to run.

They would not be moved. They work their plots between the minefields and rebuilt their houses after the bombardments. They make you realise what it means to meet a free human being, giving hope for something worthwhile for Vietnam's future.



Allende: end of the myth

ing arrest'. In factories where the workers had organised themselves well, whole workforces have been arrested for resisting the regime.

'The tales of torture and police terror are thousandfold. Schoolchildren aged eight or less are often used to draw their parents out of hiding. Workers were recognised as such by their hands and simply shot for "resistance". In Santiago alone 300 new graves are needed every day.

'All people's parties are forbidden. Books are burnt in enormous piles in the streets. The very word *companero*—comrade—is forbidden.

'The opposition is drastically weakened—murdered, tortured, imprisoned or in exile. We are truly grateful for the expressions of solidarity which we have received from all over the world.'

We asked Juan what support the Chilean people needed right now.

'First we need money to help get our friends out of the country. Then all must persuade their governments to put pressure on the junta to prolong the period in which oppositional forces can leave—this is truly a desperate situation for thousands of socialists who are still hoping to get out.

'We want to go back some day to start the struggle against the fascist terror, and then we need active support from everybody who sees the threat of fascism throughout the world.

'When the capitalist forces see that socialism CAN succeed as it did in Chile, then is the time of danger. Even now, the forces of resistance are gathering for the fight back in Chile.

'And next time there will be no Allende to give us the myth of the possibility of working with the reactionaries.'

On-the-spot report by CECILY HASTINGS

Heath's blackmail



BRITISH CAPITALISM is in deep crisis, a crisis that can only get worse.

In October, before the miners' overtime ban, Britain had a balance of trade deficit of more than £350 million. In 1974, it is estimated, Britain's exports will fall short of imports by £2300 million. In addition more capital leaves the country than comes into it. So the annual balance of payments deficit surpasses £3000 million.

The Middle East oil crisis will worsen the balance of payments situation. The price of oil has been raised and is going to be raised further. On present showing, it is estimated, this will add some £2000 million to the balance of payments deficit.

It is obvious that British capitalists could not survive such a large deficit for any length of time.

Another and connected element in the crisis is raging inflation. Prices have risen by more than 10 per cent in the first year of the humourously-called Counter-Inflation Policy. While workers' wages were kept down under Phases One and Two, prices raced ahead, and the speed of inflation is accelerating. This will become more and more intolerable to British capitalism as it will undermine its ability to compete in the world market.

And no less serious is the damaging effect of inflation on the social stability inside the country itself. Growing numbers of workers will not tolerate such inflation and are bound to fight the employers and the government.

The third element in the crisis of British capitalism is this: Capital investment in British industry has been very low. During the last 18 months, while prices were rising and profits booming, the capitalists refused to invest in Britain. They preferred to export their capital abroad.

With 1974 a year of declining rate of growth of world capitalism, the above three factors—a catastrophic balance of payments deficit, roaring inflation and stagnating investment—will push British capitalism into an ever deepening crisis.

There is only one way for British capitalism to overcome its crisis: To slash workers' real wages radically. And as Lenin put it, capitalism always has a way out of every crisis if the workers are ready to pay the price.

Heath's strategy

IN WHAT WAY does the threat of a two-day lockout fit the long-term needs of the employers? The lockout will cost £400 million a week in lost production. Is it not madness to carry out such a lockout when Britain suffers from such a serious balance of payments deficit?

The lockout will worsen this. It is like a doctor ordering a bloodletting for a person suffering from severe anaemia.

As output is cut by at least 40 per cent, the employers will try to protect their profits by raising prices even further. This is certainly not an aid to slow down inflation.

And the decline of production will deliver a further blow to investment.

If the lockout went on for, say, two months, British capitalism will be crippled for many years to come. The loss of industrial production over some two months will alone be some £4000 million.

With Christmas and New Year, a considerable amount of production would have been lost anyway. The lockout measures therefore will only start to bite in the second week of January. Heath hopes that the lockout will not continue for more than



a week or two after that.

The employers assume that this will be the case. In Linwood in Scotland an extra 200 workers were taken on just before Christmas. If management had assumed long-term short-time they would not have hired additional labour. Again, all round the country managements are not sacking workers but are holding on to labour, especially skilled labour.

Heath is gambling on short-term tactics. The gamble is based on the assumption that the threat of a lockout and, if need be, the lockout itself, will make the trade union leaders pliable and accept Phase Three.

Unions and lockout

ON 13 DECEMBER Heath made his speech threatening the three-day working week. Two days later the Financial Times reported, under the title 'Rush to Settle Manual Workers' Pay Deal', that pay deals covering some 1.1 million local government and hospital manual workers were hurriedly signed by leaders of the General and Municipal Workers Union, the National Union of Public Employees and the Transport and General Workers Union.

Ted Heath's aim is to divide the miners from the rest of the trade union movement. If under threats and cajoling he manages to convince the leaders of the trade union movement that the miners are a special case, that concessions to them will not be followed by concessions to other workers, then Heath will have achieved his aim. The total wage claim of the miners is only £100 million, and British capitalism would happily pay this if other workers did not follow suit.

Once the lockout bites and workers lose 40 per cent of their wages—as Heath hopes no serious resistance to wage cuts will take place—Phase Three would look quite attractive to workers. After all a rise of 7 per cent in wages, though certainly less than the rise in the cost of living, is much better than a slashing wage cut of 40 per cent.

The blackmail of Heath will succeed only if he wins quickly. If, as a result of his strategy, the average wage in the country is £2 a week less than it would have been otherwise, the total saving for the employers in a year would be some £2500 million.

In six weeks of lockout the direct loss of industrial production would reach this sum. The indirect damaging effect of such a lockout is immeasurable. So Heath's blackmail will boomerang against him if the union leaders do not surrender after a short time.

An extreme sharpening of the conflict between workers and employers is inherent in such conditions—workers striving to go beyond Phase Three and employers striving to cut even the meagre promises of Phase Three.

by
**Tony
Cliff**

for the IS executive committee

THE THREE-DAY working week will lead to a struggle over the level of pay. Lord Kearton of Courtauld, appearing on television straight after Ted Heath's declaration, stated that the three-day work must mean three days' pay.

A few days later the Financial Times reported: '... the CBI considers that its members cannot afford to pay out guaranteed weekly wages to some 15 million workers covered by such agreements when the three-day week is introduced.'

The AUEW executive insists on preserving the weekly guarantee. But this is not good enough. The national engineering agreement guarantees 40 hours' wages at Consolidated Time Rates—the nationally averaged minimum rate, which for a skilled man now stands at only £25 a week. In many cases it is less than the actual pay for three days' work. And if a worker is paid for three days he is entitled to unemployment benefit for the other two days, while if he gets the guaranteed minimum he is not entitled to the benefit.

The fight should be for not a penny off the previous pay, including bonuses. For working Saturdays or Sundays workers should insist on being paid the prevailing premium rate.

The lockout will create sharp conflicts over conditions at work. As the order books are full, and as short-time will affect profits, employers will do their best to squeeze every minute of the working day out of workers. The pressure for more intensive working will be on. Workers must fight hard on this front, and the odds are on them to win. If a worker is paid for five days he will tolerate worse conditions than if his wages are cut radically. But millions of workers will say that a wage cut plus worse conditions is not on.

Workers should insist that if the temperature in the factory is lower than normal, work should not start. If the canteen does not have hot meals, they should wait in the canteen until it does. Any erosion of conditions under short-time can establish a precedent for the future. We should not tolerate this.

Solidarity

On days off workers should picket the factory and not allow any deliveries into it or out of it. If they don't work the factory is closed.

Above all, the workers should understand that passive reaction to a lockout is hopeless. Workers should resist the lockout by reporting every day to work in an attempt to force the employers to pay them full wages at the end of the week. The struggle against short-time working, even more so against sacking, must be accompanied with factory occupations.

THERE IS HARDLY a union leader who does not declare his solidarity with the miners. But words are not enough. To make solidarity action steps have to be taken by non-miners as well as by miners.

The tactics of the executive of the National Union of Mineworkers is to rely on the overtime ban to win their claim. For many militant miners the overtime ban was a springboard towards a total strike, like 1972. But the executive of the NUM, it seems, wants to limit the struggle to the banning of overtime.

The government tries to put the skids under this policy by short-time working. The three-day week will mean a saving in the use of energy and coal. 100,000 workers out of a labour force of 226,000 employed by the British Steel Corporation are threatened with dismissals in January. Polish and American coal is brought into the country in massive quantities.

It is guesswork whether under such conditions the ban on overtime in the mines by itself will win the miners' claim. Come spring and the effectiveness of an overtime ban will be severely blunted. But even if the NUM strategy will win the miners' claim it is bound to prevent active solidarity of other workers with them.

The passive tactics of the NUM executive plays straight into the hands of those leaders of the TUC who would like an agreement with Heath, including one that accepts the miners as a special case, allowing them to go across Phase Three boundaries while keeping the rest of the working class confined to Phase Three.

The best act of solidarity with the miners that engineers can show is by pressing their own claim with a national engineering strike. The same principle of generalising, expanding the struggle, applies to dockers, to teachers and to all other workers.

As a first step in the right direction, the TUC should make no deal with the Tories. Instead a Trade Union Congress should be convened to launch a mass strike offensive against the employers and their government.

Political struggle

THE STRUGGLE for higher wages is directed not only against the individual employers but—and above all—against the government. Again it was not the individual employer that decided on the lockout. It was a government decision. Workers' struggle against Phase Three as against the lockout is a political struggle.

The present offensive of Heath should be used to help workers to draw clear lessons about capitalism.

First, that planning capitalism as Wilson, the Labour lefts, and even the Communist Party are urging, is a dream. Capitalism is and will remain a chaotic system. No cures such as 'cool it down', 'heat it up', 'join the Common Market', 'withdraw from it', will cure this system of its anarchy.

Capitalism has to be destroyed. The fact that the Tories are ready to shut down half of British industry in order to defend their interests shows to what lengths they will be ready to go to prevent workers overthrowing the system.

The lesson of Chile should be hammered home here. Also the fate of the Shrewsbury Three.

The building of a strong revolutionary Socialist Party is the urgent priority of the day.

...and how to fight it

Shrewsbury frame-

The bosses get vengeance as pickets go behind bars

'THESE ARE deterrent sentences', said Mr Justice Mais, the man who put Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones behind the bars of Shrewsbury prison just before Christmas.

'Violence', he added, 'is far too prevalent in this country today. There are far too many people who feel that if they thwarted, they can impose their will on others.'

Mais wasn't referring to the building employers who systematically flout the safety laws and kill and maim building workers. He wasn't referring to the building employers who have introduced the thuggery and gangsterism of the lump on to more than half the building sites in Britain.

He was not referring to the building employers who set the Shrewsbury trial in motion because they had been thwarted by the flying pickets.

He was referring to anyone and everyone like Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKinsie Jones who dares to organise against the employers and, worse, who organise effectively to win a strike.

He was referring to the miners and the engineers at Saltley. He was hitting out at the dockers of Neap House Wharf and Pentonville.

He had millions in mind—those who have struggled in the past, those who will struggle in

the future.

For Mr Justice Mais is not paid to hand out justice. He is paid to dole out discipline—to make examples to deter other workers from fighting off the attacks of government and employers. He and his law are surgeons, paid to cripple and not to cure.

Praise

Mais relished his job. He positively enjoyed sending down John McKinsie Jones, a man almost Christ-like in his innocence.

He enjoyed the fact that John suffers from a chronic fear of enclosed spaces. He set no store by the fact that Mrs Jones was due to have a baby at any time.



Trade unionists and International Socialists picketed the TUC talks at Downing Street, demanding action over Shrewsbury jailings. Picture: Chris Davies

LAURIE FLYNN on the political importance of the pickets' trial

Mr Injustice Mais attacked the defendants' 'wild allegations' that the trial was a put up job. He instructed defence lawyers to withdraw their suggestions that the Tory government had ordered the trial. He lavished praise upon the police.

And Mr Justice Mais is the Tories' judge. He is the first one they have directly and deliberately elevated to the bench for one hundred years.

Dennis Warren was a thousand times right when he spoke out from the dock at Shrewsbury and said the only conspiracy was one of government, employers, police and law against the pickets.

Their conspiracy is determined to inflict as many wounds as possible on working people without actually taking on the strongest sections of the

movement.

With these convictions—got from a jury which was led to believe that only minor penalties would result—and with the barbaric sentences, the government and the employing class have given the working-class movement notice.

We have been told that anyone who gets together with others to plan and organise effective trade union action is liable for criminal

prosecution for cons

Every trade unionist has a responsibility to the struggle to release the Shrewsbury and dozens more who will go to this month.

If that struggle is with the utmost determination then others will be on the railroad, the frame prison cell.

Speeches from dock

Des Warren, 3 years:

I HAVE SPENT a week in prison now. The convicts and others in there told me that a speech from the dock would get me double. But I must speak out.

It has been said in this court that this trial has nothing to do with politics. Among the ten million trade unionists in this country I doubt if you would find one who agreed with this statement.

It is a fact of life that due entirely to Acts of parliament every strike is now regarded as a political act. It therefore follows that every act taken in furtherance of an industrial dispute also becomes a political act.

There are even those who contempt of the laws governing safety regulations, are guilty of causing the deaths and maimings of workers. Yet they are not dealt with by the court.

The building employers, by their contempt of the laws governing safety regulations, are guilty of causing the deaths and maimings of workers. Yet they are not dealt with by the court. The law is quite clearly an instrument of the state to be used in the interests of a tiny minority

against a majority. The law is biased. It is class law and nowhere has this been demonstrated more than in the prosecution case at this trial.

Was there a conspiracy? Yes, there was. But not by the pickets.

The conspiracy was one between the Home Secretary, the employers and the police. It was conceived after pressure from Tory MPs, who demanded changes in the picketing laws.

There is a very good reason why no police witness said here that he had seen any evidence of conspiracy, unlawful assembly or affray. The question was hovering over the case from the very first day—why no arrests on 6 September?

That would have led to even more important questions. When was the decision to proceed taken? Where did it come from? What instructions were issued to the police and by whom?

I am innocent of the charges and I will appeal. But there will be a more important appeal to the entire trade union movement

Nobody here must think they can walk away from this court and forget what has happened here. We are all part of something much bigger than what has taken place here.

The trade union and working class movement cannot accept this verdict.

Ricky Tomlinson, 2 years:

I HAVE SAT here for many weeks and seen my character systematically shredded up. It was said in the last war by Doctor Goebbels that if you repeat a lie often enough it becomes accepted as the truth.

This I have observed in this court and now know it to be true.

So much so that the constant use of the words 'petrified', 'terrified', 'afraid', 'frightened' and 'scared to death' by witness after witness led even myself to think for a moment that I had done the things I had been accused of.

I have heard the judge say that this was not a political trial, just an ordinary criminal case. I refute that with every fibre of my being.

How can anyone say this was just an ordinary trial when 1000 police were on duty outside this very building because building workers were due to appear before the court?

No sentence passed on me by this court, however lenient or however severe, can hurt me more than I have been hurt already. I have been almost totally unemployed since my arrest and this punishes my wife and two infant sons to a far greater extent than it does me.

During the length of this trial my family have been by the very people who are now in the hands of the Parliament.

In the course of this trial I discovered many things about the law of the land and the I express my fear for class movement.

The sentence passed by this court will not only destroy my innocence has been and time again by workers of Wrexham and, indeed, by built from all over the land sent messages of support to my family and my colleagues.

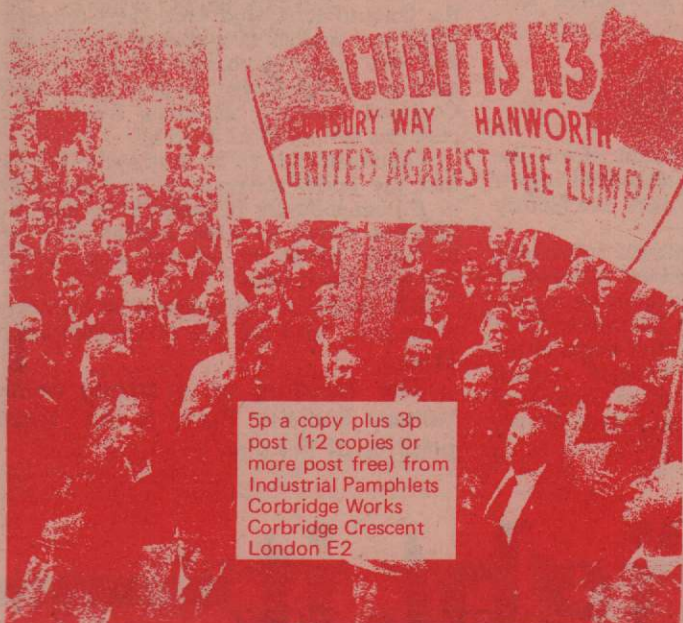
I look forward to the real culprits, the Wimpeys, Laings and all their political puppets at the dock facing charges of conspiracy and intimidation from doing what is their duty.

It is hoped the movement and the workers of this country will act in such a way that another charade will never take place and that the right to picket or strike will be defended even at the personal hardship of freedom.

International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet 5p

Defend the North Wales 24

PICKETS ON TRIAL



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up

Our crime—we hurt bosses' profits

This article was written by John Llywarch, one of the six men on trial. He received a suspended sentence.

Sitting in my prison cell with two days of the trial yet to go, I am thinking back over the two and a half months of it that has already gone by.

It seems now almost like a way of life, that it will never end. It is like a bad dream. But the reality is there. The questions of the prosecution, the answers of the 200 prosecution witnesses whirl in my mind.

I cannot escape from them or from the evidence which has been jumbled up, twisted and distorted out of all recognition.

It will never cease to amaze me how innocent men can be treated in this way. We have been charged with picketing peacefully, persuading men to withdraw from work and join us in a struggle for better pay and conditions—a struggle which took away a very small part of the bosses' very large profits for that year. This is what we have been brought to trial for—helping building workers to get a £5 a week rise.

I was chairman of one of the many strike action committees and recruited over 200 members to the



Llywarch: corrupt justice

union. I tried to stop men doing damage on 6 September.

But the police intended that I should be a prosecution witness in this trial. I refused to go along with that. I refused to tell lies.

And so it seems to me that the prosecution has proved beyond a doubt that I am guilty of these charges. But the charges against us all in the indictment, like most of the evidence, have been twisted and distorted beyond recognition.

And what is it—this new weapon the Tories have found to fight the right to strike and picket?

It is a 100 years-old bomb called conspiracy to intimidate. And just for good measure they throw in unlawful assembly and fighting and causing an affray. But from all the witnesses there was hardly a one who actually said we had done any of these things.

Justice and the police, these are the conspirators to me, conspiring to intimidate me and others like me to abstain from picketing.

My family and the support of my fellow men are the only weapons which I hold against this corruption of justice. It is them who have kept me from cracking up under the pressure of it all.

During a visit to the prison on Saturday our eldest boy asked why they had locked us up in jail. I could not tell him that we had done wrong because we had not.

I could only give him an answer that he would not understand just yet. I answered justice is corrupt, son.

Labour, landlord of the slums

MARGARET COMERFORD has been on Salford's council's housing priority list for three years. She has three children, two of whom have heart conditions, and they all sleep in one bedroom.

Margaret has other lodgers in the house in Sussex Street, Lower Broughton—rats which killed the family budgie and mice which leave droppings everywhere and sometimes get into the beds too. All food has to be kept in the fridge.

Says Margaret: 'Apart from the vermin, it rains in, even though they mended the roof five weeks ago. I can only use one upstairs

It's a living hell in this house. It's just a nightmare.'

Because of the children's heart conditions, the family needs ground-floor accommodation. The council has never offered it them.

Mrs Mary Docherty lives in nearby West Street with her husband and 11 children in a two-up two-down. Their house is so overcrowded that some of the children have to sleep with Mrs Docherty's mother down the street.

In the area there are dozens of houses in dangerous and unhealthy disrepair: seriously bulging walls, loose and rotten window frames, leaking roofs, loose stair rails and cracked and sagging ceilings. They all have the same landlord—not a Rachman-type but the Labour-controlled Salford Corporation.

Demolish

More than 1000 houses in Lower Broughton were bought by the corporation under compulsory purchase orders in 1968 when they were scheduled for slum clearance.

But no houses were demolished. Instead they were declared 'deferred' areas—which meant the corporation intended to demolish the houses but couldn't do it yet. This is still the position five years later, and the 1100 houses seem likely to stand for at least another two years, possibly five.

Perhaps one would expect a Labour-controlled council to be sympathetic landlords, pushed into having to leave slums standing by the inability of Labour policies to force money for housing out of big business and the state.

But no. The corporation are slum landlords in the worst meaning of the word—the houses are crumbling and infested with vermin, the streets and alleys filthy, the open spaces like bomb sites. The corporation started a sweep-up operation only after some local people drew the attention of the local press and Granada television to the area.

Frank Allaun, Labour MP for the area, told a local paper about similar houses in another part of Lower Broughton—two-up, two-down, no bathroom, no

by Russ Haywood

inside WC, 100 years old and due for demolition: 'Tenants of this kind of house, far from paying the landlord, should be paid for living in it.'

The house in question was owned by a private landlord. Allaun has said nothing about the policies of the Labour council.

There are laws laying down the duties of a local authority concerning vermin and overcrowding, and others about the duties of landlords to keep their properties in safe repair. But it seems the corporation, which put up rents under the Housing Finance Act saying 'it had to obey the law,' will ignore the law when it suits.

There are many empty houses in Lower Broughton. Because of the critical shortage of housing in Salford, squatters have taken some over and made them habitable.

The corporation's attitude to them varies. Sometimes it gives them a rent book, which, although it means they are no longer squatters, will have SQUATTER written right across it.

Protest

But some have been evicted. Mr and Mrs Lindsay were evicted from a house in Dalley Street after they had spent more than £50 on making it habitable and despite their offers to pay rent. The corporation said it had people waiting for the house and for others in the area.

Yet when the residents of 2 Roland Street were evicted the front door was left open and the house vandalised. So much for the pressing need for houses.

Some have tried to fight these appalling conditions alone. Mr Bunting, of West Street, went on rent strike as a protest against the corporation's refusal to do repairs. He, his wife and two children were thrown out into the street by bailiffs of the Labour council.



The kids may think it a playground, but they don't know the dangers

The family was later moved back into the house by members of the Lower Broughton Action Group and Shelter. Shelter has housed several homeless families in the area—for which Les Hough, leader of the council, has called them 'stirrers'.

The action group, formed several months ago, can pressurise the corporation to clean up the area and repair houses, but what is really needed is quick rehousing.

But there are 14,000 houses to be cleared and an unknown number of people on the housing waiting list—and the corporation will hand over only 308 new houses this year.

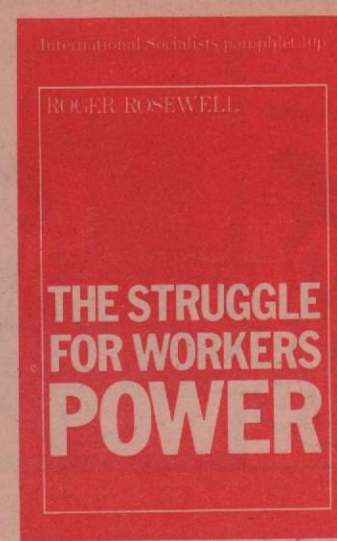
Quick rehousing is only possible if the state puts more money into housing—and the Tories have not only cut council house building to the bone but have passed the Housing Finance Act, which will eventually end

council house subsidies.

Recent history shows that simple lobbying has achieved nothing. Whether Labour or Tories are in power, the state always reflects the interests of big business and the bosses. Labour's 1965 housing programme was abandoned in 'the national interest' and the Tories have made no attempt to stop the increase in house prices and soaring profits of the building firms and property companies.

The only way to get more resources into housing is through united working-class action to gain control of industry to make sure it works to fulfil our needs and not to satisfy the endless appetite for luxury and power of the few who own it at present.

Workers' power—that is the only real guarantee of a life free from misery for Margaret Comerford and all the tenants of Lower Broughton.



This important pamphlet is an outline of the policies of the International Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers' party to overthrow it. Its 40 pages are essential reading for Socialist Worker readers and all IS branches.

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Mighty alliance that

rattled on the miners



Robert Smillie (standing), Scottish miners' leader, was the driving force behind the setting-up of the Triple Alliance.

THE MINERS, the mighty heartbeat of the working class, are once again locked in battle with the government.

And once again, their victory or defeat will have a vital influence on all other workers' struggles in the months ahead.

It is a situation that has powerful echoes with the years after the First World War.

From 1919 to 1922 Britain, as today, had a government apparently in control but weak and virtually powerless in the face of the workers' strength. Not just the economy but society as a whole was in deep crisis.

In 1919 there were army mutinies, police strikes and general strikes in Glasgow and Dublin for the 40-hour week.

The first great wave of struggle was for the shorter working week.

The miners were at the core of this massive pressure for improved conditions. More than one million men worked in the pits.

The long traditions of bitter struggle, the solidarity of the miners' life in the community and at work, and in particular the extreme greed and class arrogance of the mine owners fused the miners into the vanguard of the trade union struggle.

In 1919 the miners' union took

by Harry
Wicks
and Jim
Higgins

the struggle on to a higher, political level. In January the miners' conference drew up a programme of demands for shorter hours, increased pay and nationalisation of the mines. The demands were linked to a threat of strike action from 27 February.

The miners' claims met with considerable support from other sections of the movement, in particular from the railwaymen and transport workers, the miners' partners in the Triple Alliance.

The Triple Alliance, formed out of a massive strike wave in 1912, was a potentially powerful but untested weapon. The government viewed it with horror. Desperate to avoid a strike during the post-war period the government played for time.

A commission was set up under the chairmanship of Lord Sankey.

The miners were allowed to nominate half the members. The government pledged itself to honour the findings 'in the spirit and the letter'.

The strike notices were withdrawn. On 20 March the commission reported, conceding the miners' claim for higher pay and shorter hours and that 'the existing system of ownership and working in the industry stood condemned and that some system of public ownership or unification ought to take its place'.

The coal commission went on to work out the best method of control. In August they reported with a majority in favour of nationalisation. Lloyd George, the prime minister, rejected this recommendation, without a backward glance at the promises of six months before.

Worked

The miners were outraged at this double dealing and called on the TUC to take action. Two special congresses were held in December 1919 and March 1920. At both a proposal for direct action was rejected in favour of a totally ineffective educational 'Mines for the Nation' campaign. The TUC was shelving the issue.

Throughout 1920 inflation forced up prices, including coal. The miners' conference worked up a claim for a wage increase of two shillings per



Lloyd George: broken promises

shift and a reduction of 14 shillings per ton in the price of domestic coal. Strike notices were set for 25 September 1920. The conference demanded the support of the Triple Alliance.

But the right wing in the alliance was rapidly retreating from any confrontation with government. Heading the retreat was J H Thomas, general secretary of the railwaymen.

Thomas was vehemently opposed to any strike action that would challenge 'law and order'. Arguing that there was still room for negotiation, he persuaded the other members of the Triple Alliance to withhold support from the miners.

The miners withdrew their strike notices and resumed negotiations. The offer was a payment by results system that was rejected by a three to one majority in a miners' ballot.

One million miners struck but their impressive numbers could not hide the fact that they were fighting alone. At the NUR conference, rank and file solidarity with the miners overcame the Thomas policy and the railwaymen pledged strike support.

Massive

It was too late. The miners had to settle for a temporary agreement to run until the following March. The Triple Alliance had failed its first test.

In October the government rushed through the Emergency Powers Act, giving the government dictatorial powers, courts of summary jurisdiction and regulations made by Order in Council. The capitalist class were steadily going over to the offensive.

In 1921 the postwar economic bubble burst. Germany, forced to pay massive reparations for the war, undermined the British mines with cheap coal.

The coal owners took immediate advantage of the situation. They demanded immediate cuts in wages, in some cases up to 50 per cent. Even worse they demanded the end of national bargaining and a return to the hated district agreements.

At the end of March the owners locked out all the miners. Once again the miners called on the Triple Alliance. The government declared a State of Emergency, reservists were called up and troops in battle order sent to working-class districts.

At the collieries, machine guns were mounted at the pithead. The 'neutral, democratic' state mobilised all its resources on the side of the employers.

Under massive rank and file pressure, the Triple Alliance called a strike for 12 April. But the leaders were frightened by the government's aggressive preparations. They knew that once started the strike movement would be in direct confrontation with the state power. They searched frantically for an excuse, any excuse, to allow them to retreat.

The excuse was provided by Frank Hodges, general secretary of the Miners Federation. He was invited to speak to a private meeting of Tory MPs. In an off-the-cuff statement he said that a modified scheme of district agreements might provide the basis for renewed negotiations.

The speech was contrary to union policy and entirely without authority but it was enough. The miners' executive repudiated Hodges, but J H Thomas said this proved the miners were refusing to negotiate.

Settled

The transport workers' leaders agreed. The strike notices were withdrawn.

That day, Friday 15 April 1921, was 'Black Friday'. Once again the miners had to fight alone. At the end of June, their resources exhausted, the miners settled on terms that led to vicious wage cuts.

Twice within six months the Triple Alliance leaders had betrayed the cause. The consequences were catastrophic.

One after another, sections of the working class were taken on and defeated. Britain was once again a safe home for profiteers. The Triple Alliance was dead, renamed by many the 'Cripple Alliance'.

The lessons of the tragedy of the Triple Alliance are worthy of notice today.

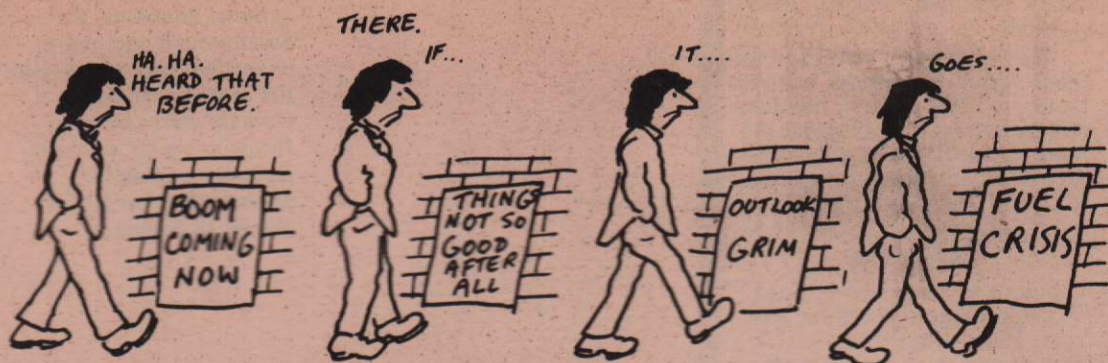
The time to fight the employers and their government is when they are weakest. When the fight is joined the maximum force has to be deployed. Workers' strength is in their numbers, their solidarity.

Without a powerful rank and file political leadership, all the alliances and combinations, whatever their strength, are at the mercy of the right-wing trade union leaders.

The tragedy of Black Friday was two-fold. The class that could have won was defeated from within. There was no socialist party capable of giving a clear political lead and drawing the conclusions of the defeat.

Most important of all, the lessons were not learned. The stage was set for the working class rout in the 1926 General Strike.

OUR NORMAN



This article is based on a chapter of a forthcoming book on the 1926 General Strike.

Shrewsbury: it's against all of us!

I HOPE that all readers of Socialist Worker will appreciate that the trial and conviction of the Shrewsbury 'Flying Pickets' is a direct attack on the right of trade unionists to picket effectively.

I expected the Daily Mirror to support the conviction and the attack on this basic right with hysteria, and I did not expect the paper to go out of its way to show the defendants in a favourable light. But I was unprepared for the viciousness of the attack by Ted Macauley, who spoke of the flying picket, (which was in reality composed of building workers who had been involved little in politics before) as 'a force of radical students and Communists hellbent on wrecking industry'.

The lowpoint of Macauley's 'article' was reached when he says that although Dennis Warren (jailed for three years) had no income, he and his wife 'lived well, ran a colour television, and had a car'.

If Macauley didn't know it perfectly well already, Warren's 'colour TV' is a monochrome in an orange case, and the car hasn't run for several years.

Of course, we should only attack the Mirror hack for theft, rather than for being a liar, because the piece was lifted straight from the 'People'.

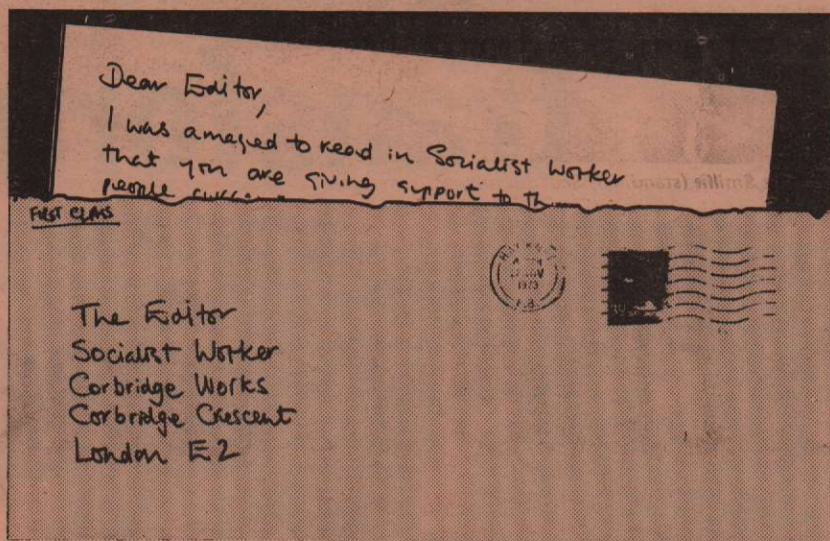
I thought that the 'Moscow Gold' scare story was well and truly dead by now, but it appears that it won't lie down. But on the other hand, it is rumoured that North Wales publicans have been cashing an unusual number of Rouble notes recently. — ROGER CROSSLEY, London.

The 'crisis' - Tory invention

THE REALLY telling point, of your front page (Socialist Worker 22 December) was the one that showed that the crisis is the employers and their government not the workers. Heath and his pals engineered the whole thing to deny the miners and railwaymen public sympathy and to put the wind up the union bosses.

The high paid wastes in the press, television and parliament who keep telling us to pull out belts in and get our noses to their grindstone are barking up the wrong tree. Our sacrifice will maintain their privileges. Far from slacking our pressure we should increase our demands.

When things go wrong for the Tories they always place the blame on the workers and start moaning about the 'national interest'. But Britain is still two nations and it is



the interest of theirs they are concerned about.

The Tories, Labour Party and the trade union leaders all get their money and their power from us. In 1974 we should make certain that our power is used for our benefit. If that means getting rid of the lot of them, then nobody would be happier than JACK BRUMMER, Kendal.

More work of the big spenders

CONGRATULATIONS on your excellent article on the big Christmas spenders of the West End. Your readers might be interested to hear that the big spenders also include the National Graphical Association, one of the printers' unions, which held its Christmas 'do' at the exclusive West End Cafe Royal.

The main course, I am told, was Boeuff Stroganoff, and large quantities of liquid refreshments were taken. Guests included top dignitaries of the bosses' organisation, the British Federation of Master Printers, and

Labour MPs Joan Lester and Wedgwood Benn: TOM BENSON, London SE15.

JOURNALISTS

THE LUCRATIVE wages of Fleet Street are mere dreams for most provincial journalists—the people who write and produce your local paper.

A recent meeting of the NUJ's West Sussex branch was appalled to learn that one of its members, with a young family to support was forced to do spare time work as a builder's labourer.

More often than not journalists are forced to present the right-wing views of their management by writing or slanting stories against the unions. If we put down what we really believe we would be slung out of our jobs straight away.

Critics like B J Lynch should be supporting in our struggle with the bosses. Without other worker's support we will not be able to win our ultimate goal—a truly free socialist press.

Journalists are workers, like miners. We shouldn't be bickering among ourselves when the real enemy is laughing all the way to the capitalist bank:—STEVEN CHILDS, (Sheffield journalist)

Postal Points: Mirrors, suns, CPB (ML), help!

CRACKED MIRROR, CLOUDED SUN... the 'crisis' has shown clearly where the national newspapers and their editors stand—fairly and squarely behind the capitalist system... Even dailies like the Sun and Mirror from which one expects a mite of support for the working class have shown nothing but scorn and contempt where the struggle becomes intense like it is now.

Working people are kidded from womb to tomb by the media and they should wake up to the fact. They have only each other in time of struggle, and should stick like glue together. It's only that which we take for ourselves which is any good—never what we are given by the ruling class.—THOMAS MORRIS, Sunderland.

HELP!... We have been fighting Bradford Council for three years over repairs. In desperation we took our sink and left it at the rent office.

We've been four months on rent strike, we are supposed to be evicted, we've been four months without a sink—and we're offered an old one from a slum clearance house which we've refused.

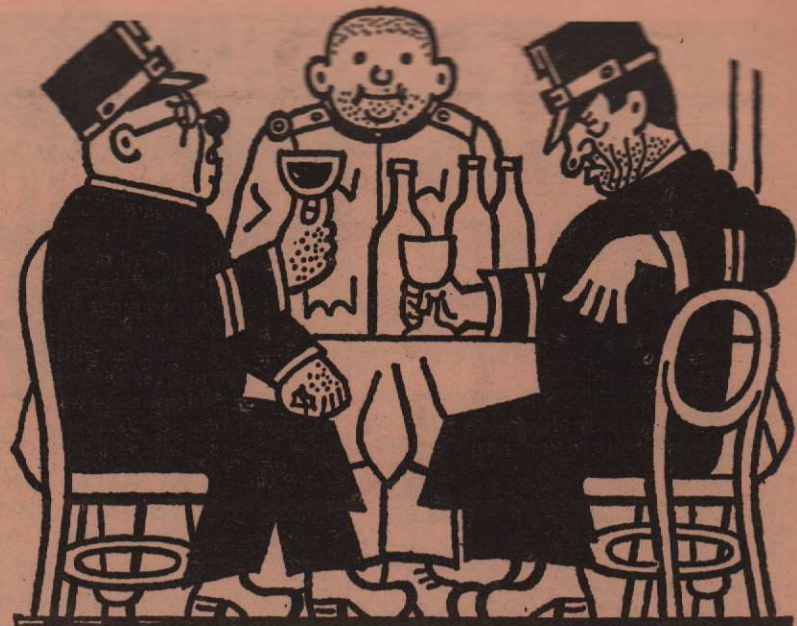
The social service director tried to remove our kids because we picketed the council offices and homes of councillors. We were told we weren't looking after our kids by demonstrating! We are barricading our house and preparing for battle.—E FLYMAS, Bradford 2.

HARRY SELBY (PART 745)... Harry Selby's analysis of the Govan Scottish National Party victor is summed up in one sentence as 'only one step removed from fascism.' Really Harry? Such an analysis is as brilliant as your decision to parade the streets of Govan with a shopping basket on your arm, explaining Harold Wilson's incomes policy. The charge that the move for Scottish self-determination can in any way be equated with fascism is a cheap Labour jibe showing that Selby at least is one victim of his own propaganda... —DONALD ANDERSON, Glasgow.

WHO? WHO?... I would like to congratulate you on the International Socialist pamphlet Struggle for Workers Power. It is a very readable, comprehensive piece of excellent work. If only a few million more people would read and digest this pamphlet, I'm sure that our troubles would soon be over!

I want to ask you a few questions. I've read a paper produced by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninists) which calls Trotskyists 'pseudo-lefts'. What is it about Trotsky which so repels the CPB-(ML)? Is it the old argument about socialism in one country? You seem to agree on many things, why are you separate?—SAMI SAMSON, Berinsfield.

If you want to know the truth about Trotsky, then start off with the Socialist Worker pamphlet on him, by Duncan Hallas (IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4). It costs 5p.



SUBVERSIVE SOLDIER

THE GOOD SOLDIER SVEJK, by Jaroslav Hasek, Heinemann, £2.50.

I HAVE been reading different editions of The Good Soldier since I was 10 years old, from the original slim Penguin, costing six old pennies, to the expanded, but still expurgated, post-war Penguin. Now we are permitted a new translation by Cecil Parrott, which claims to be the definitive edition.

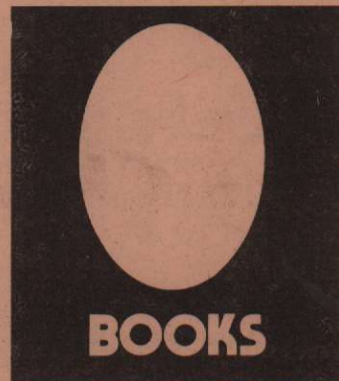
The names have been changed to accord more closely to the original Czech, and Schweik becomes Svejk, which grates slightly on those familiar with earlier translations.

The author, Jaroslav Hasek, was a noted joker, boozier, roustabout, subversive journalist, anarchist and thorn in the flesh of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy in the years before the First World War. During the war he was captured on the Russian front.

After the October Bolshevik revolution, Hasek joined the Red Army and later the Russian Communist Party. Under the name Gashek he became Commisar of the town of Bugulma.

In 1920 he returned to Czechoslovakia and quickly became active in the left wing of the Czech Socialist Party. Early in the next year he began his only full-length book: The Good Soldier. By January 1923 booze, poverty, overwork and irregular hours had killed him.

The book, is, on the surface, a comic—very comic—account of the adventures of Svejk, a salesman of mongrel dogs—for whom he forged pedigrees—in Emperor Franz Joseph's army. At every other level it is a joyously, and profoundly, subversive work.



The idiocy of the Austrian bureaucracy and bureaucrats is well documented, the futility and misery of the war exposed, the pretensions of patriotism and religion held up to scathing ridicule.

All this is done through accounts of Svejk's brushes with authority. Svejk, who never tires of telling sundry officials of his discharge from the army some years before on the grounds of mental deficiency, moves through the bureaucratic jungle with a seraphic smile on his face, quietly driving officialdom daft with long, irrelevant, circumstantial stories from his past.

As batman for the drunken military chaplain Katz, he helps pawn the landlord's sofa and the field altar to buy booze. The chaplain loses him at cards to a Lieutenant Lukas, who Svejk manages, with an air of patient adoration, to drop into every conceivable trouble.

Svejk then gets lost and wanders cheerfully around Hungary leaving a trail of demented policemen and officers in his wake.

Cecil Parrott, the new translator, is an ex-Ambassador to Czechoslovakia and in his poker-faced introduction displays all the prejudices of his calling. Nevertheless the book remains excellent. If you have not read it it is well worth sporting £2.50 for the hardback edition. You will want to keep it for a long time.

JIM HIGGINS

TEACH-IN

CIVIL RIGHTS OF TEACHERS by Louis Fischer and David Schimmel, and SEXISM IN SCHOOL AND SOCIETY, by Nancy Frazier and Myra Sadker, Harper and Row, £1.40 each.

TEACHERS sacked by school boards in the US are frequently reinstated by the courts—because they can refer to written constitutional rights, unlike in Britain. The first book gives examples of how teachers in conflict with their employers have fought and won freedoms through the courts.

It also analyses how the notorious Arkansas 'Monkey Law', which banned the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution, was set aside in 1968. It's an interesting book.

Sexism in School and Society is one of those infuriating books that tells you lots that everyone already takes for granted—but it does show where sex discrimination lies. It may interest the Women's Lib Movement, but several female acquaintances of mine found it boring.

PETE SMITH



FROM SOCIALIST WORKER

Two important pamphlets describing the life and political struggles of two great revolutionaries—Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

Written by Jim Higgins and Duncan Hallas, the pamphlets rescue Lenin and Trotsky from their political enemies and false friends and underscore the modern relevance of what they fought for: workers' revolution.

5p each plus 3p post. 12 copies or more post free: IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road London N4.



Shrewsbury: A flurry of inactivity

IN ANY self-respecting trade union movement the imprisonment of three trade unionists for conspiracy would have led official leaders into a flurry of activity. With the Shrewsbury Three, so far at least, this has hardly been the case.

As soon as the jail sentences were announced on the Wednesday before Christmas, a number of building sites in London sent delegates down to the TUC offices to lobby the new general secretary, Len Murray.

Murray gave the men an extremely friendly reception and even expressed his profound disquiet at this turn of events. But, he hastened to point out, there was nothing he could actually do until the matter had been raised before the TUC General Council.

George Smith, general secretary of the Union of Construction and Allied Trades Technicians of which Des Warren—who was jailed for three years—is a member, also moved speedily into action. He decided to see what could be done to help get bail for the men pending their appeal.

While this is a helpful gesture, it is hardly the sort of thing needed when the government has just turned the clock back more than 100 years.

Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport Union, two of whose members, John McKinsie Jones and Ricky Tomlinson, were jailed for nine months and two years, has also taken his stand. He has indicated that he will try to bring the matter up at the General Council when it meets this month.

Meanwhile John, Des and Ricky are in Shrewsbury prison. It will need a little more than the combined endeavours of Brothers Murray, Smith and Jones to get them out. It will need a lot of pressure on the various general secretaries to get them to give any worthwhile sort of a lead.

Union betray farm strikers

THE Transport and General Workers Union has sold out the cause of the brutally exploited American United Farm Workers Union just two months after the TGWU executive passed a resolution calling for 'all practical support in their bitter and violent struggle'.

Solidarity blacking of scab Californian fruit was imposed in almost all United States and most West European ports. This international policy had the support of the TGWU.

Two weeks ago the policy was put to the test. The ship Nippon Reefer pulled into London's West India dock with a cargo of scab grapes. UFW leader Cesar Chavez had wired Jack Jones informing the TGWU that the cargo was coming. Chavez had the utmost confidence that the ship would be officially blacked.

But Jack Jones and Co declined to give any instruction to black the ship. The reason for scuttling their own executive policy was fear of infringing the terms of the Industrial Relations Act.

Despite intensive pressure from rank and file militants in other London docks, the West India stewards voted to finish working the Nippon Reefer. They did say they would not handle any further ships loaded with scab Californian grapes. But the crunch will come again.

On 6 January another shipment is due into the West India.

Together—and it's official

MILITANT miners in Staffordshire are reporting extremely strange goings-on when anyone telephones Jack Lallie, the Midlands area secretary of the Miners Union, and his deputy, Arthur Pratt.

Lallie and Pratt are probably the closest team on the right wing of any union. They have devised a method of operating together which goes even beyond the term 'working hand-in-hand'.

When you ring up to speak to either one of them, say miners, you get the reply: 'This is Jack Lallie and Arthur Pratt speaking.' Miners even believe they plug their telephone calls through to each other so both can hear.

Advancing on all fronts: that was '73 for transformed IS

IN HIS KEYNOTE speech to the International Socialists' conference in London last March, Tony Cliff from the executive said: '1973 will be the most important year in the history of our organisation.'

He was right. In the nine months since the conference, the organisation has been transformed. It is simply not that we are much bigger, that more than 1000 new members joined IS since March.

More importantly, the texture of IS has changed from top to bottom.

The March conference pledged the organisation to concentrate its recruitment and its activity at the point of production: to build factory branches at the place of work by bringing together the socialists and militants into fully-fledged units of the organisation.

Optimistically, we set a target of 10 factory branches by next conference. In early September, we held a factory branch school to discuss the IS pamphlet on factory branches.

Nine months later, we have 39 such branches, most of them in factory units, some in industrial units, like busmen in York or builders in Edinburgh.

Andreas Nagliati, IS industrial organiser, says that the factory branches have shown 'a remarkable stability'.

In several cases the bosses' attempts to victimise IS members and other militants have been thwarted by the existence of strong IS factory branches which have mobilised the factories into strike action against victimisation.

The use of regular bulletins about conditions in the factory, and regular meetings to discuss strategy have helped to pressure—and in some cases remove—existing right-wing trade union leadership in the factory. The stronger factory branches have also managed to involve large numbers of people in the immediate environment—tenants, old people, housewives and so on.

Defeat

During the year, 20 TRADE UNION FRACTIONS have been built up from almost nothing. There is now IS organisation in all the country's main unions.

In the while collar unions, there have been some outstanding successes.

The fight for London teachers against the education authorities, the government and the entrenched reaction of the NUT leadership.

The successes in the technical teachers' union (ATTI) in which rank and file activity forced a special summer conference and a stinging defeat for the union leadership.

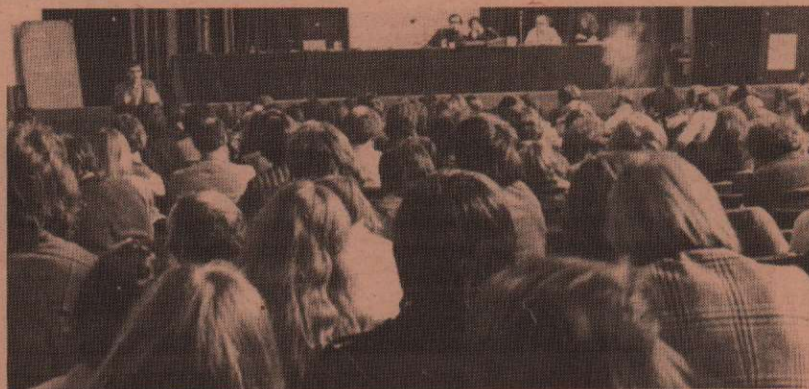
The fight in the local government officers' union, NALGO, for the London weighting allowance.

All these have been due in considerable part to the activity and organisation of IS members in the unions.

We cannot claim the same sort of successes in the large manual unions, where the immediate difficulties of organisation are more serious.

But IS members up and down the country have thrown themselves enthusiastically into the effort to build the influence of genuine rank and file papers—the Collier, the Printworker, the Carworker, the Hospital Worker, the Dockworker, the Building Worker, Nalco Action News, Rank and File Teacher and so on.

The IS Industrial Department has produced three pamphlets to fit in with current workers' struggle: the Miners' Pay Claim, which sold 6000 copies, the Engineers' Pay Claim and Pickets on Trial, an



Last year's IS conference in session

account of and a call for action over the trial of the six pickets at Shrewsbury which sold 10,000.

IS members have been involved in every major industrial dispute this year. Our support for the Glasgow firemen drew a special letter of thanks, and a £25 donation to the IS fighting fund.

Similarly, the leaders of striking ambulancemen in Durham last October publicly thanked IS for support and assistance.

When Des Warren was walking down the stairs to start his three-year prison sentence after his conviction last month at Shrewsbury, he turned to the well of the court and said: 'I'd like to thank the comrades in the Communist Party and the International Socialists who gave us so much support during the trial.'

IS AREA BRANCHES have grown in number, size and influence in 1973. In the last six months alone, new branches have been established at High Peak, Cray Valley, Brixton, Camborne, Hunslet (Leeds), Clydebank, Partington (Manchester), Leigh, East Kilbride, Grays, Harworth, Accrington, Morley, Gateshead, Earlstown, Gloucester, Stafford and Keighley.

In many areas, the branches have realised that they cannot maintain momentum without permanent links with neighbouring branches. This has led to the formation of influential district committees—in Leeds, Yorkshire, Manchester, Birmingham and Glasgow—which have been able to concentrate and co-ordinate activity.

The texture of the membership in the branches has changed sharply from last year. In branch after branch, the committee places are being filled by newly-recruited young workers, who have attended some of the many schools organised by IS over the year.

These young workers are rapidly turning our area branches away

from introverted debate into active intervention in local struggles.

When the call has come for national mobilisation of our members for demonstrations, the branches have responded magnificently. More than 1500 IS members rallied for the demonstration last January in memory of the 13 shot at Derry by the British Army—and for the march in Clay Cross last April in support of the councillors' fight against the Rent Act.

But perhaps the most impressive turn-out for a demonstration in the year was after the House of Lords' decision on illegal immigration last July. IS's contribution to that demonstration was enormous.

An estimated 2000 people came to the march under IS auspices, and greatly strengthened the impression of working-class solidarity with the hounded black communities.

The House of Lords' decision marked a burst in IS activity among black workers. In the same month, the first issue of Chingari (Spark), a socialist paper written in Urdu and Punjabi, appeared, and two further issues have since been published.

Although recruitment of black workers outside London has been sporadic, the formation of the predominantly-black Brixton branch and some dedicated work in North London has boosted IS black membership in London to 80. The Brixton school for black members in November was attended by more than 50 black workers and led to one of the best discussions on imperialism ever initiated by the organisation.

As Nigel Harris, executive member in charge of anti-racist work puts it: 'We need to build a real black leadership in the organisation before we can hope to make a dent on racialism or imperialism.'

Particularly in the last term when more than 20 IS Societies were formed in universities, the influence

of IS politics in the universities has grown greatly.

At the NUS conference last spring, two IS members were elected to the executive.

SOCIALIST WORKER has steadily increased in circulation over the year. The print order reached a peak of 32,000 just before the November industrial conference and has held at more than 31,000 ever since.

In Christmas week, it was 30 per cent more than in Christmas week last year, and all the signs are that it will spurt beyond all records early in the New Year. We've been lucky to get the services of the picture agency, Report, and their excellent photographs have greatly improved the paper.

All these papers, pamphlets and activities culminated in what was undoubtedly the high-spot of the year—the Industrial Conference in November. Weeks of serious work by IS comrades all over the country resulted in a packed hall at Belle Vue with 2800 people present, almost all of them workers. The conference was inspired by a series of speeches from workers from 12 different industries.

Victory

1973 has not been a great year for the workers in Britain. It started with a wage freeze, accepted by the trade union leadership. Phase Two saw the defeat of the hospital ancillary workers and the gas workers.

No substantial group of workers managed to break through Phase Two. Throughout the autumn and summer wages were held down while prices and rents soared.

Only at the year's end, with the firemen's victory in Glasgow and the miners and train drivers' ban on overtime have we caught a glimpse of the massive militancy of 1972.

In spite of all this, IS has made gigantic strides in 1973. In a period of class retrenchment, we have expanded our resources, membership, papers, pamphlets, working-class politics.

But we are still far too small. The crisis which we have been predicting for the last 20 years is now on us. We must intervene decisively over the next few months.

Every single area of the organisation needs to be strengthened if we are to reply to Heath, Wilson and the union leaders with real socialist answers to their crisis.

We are proud of our record in 1973. But pride is worthless unless we can beat it in 1974.

Ernie Offen—life of struggle

I REGRET to inform readers of the sad death of Comrade Ernie Offen, who died from leukaemia three weeks ago.

I have been asked by Fulham branch to compose a short obituary on Ernie, since I am a new recruit.

Some 2½ years ago Ernie left the Hammersmith branch of the Communist Party, after the collapse of the branch, and joined the Fulham branch of the International Socialists.

He was always the life and soul of branch meetings, always interrogating speakers and at demonstrations, having as much stamina as our younger members.

He was a hard Bolshevik, who always made sure he was heard, writing many letters to Socialist Worker.

While I was acquainted with him it became clear to me that revolution was not a trendy student interest that dies away as one 'matures', but a life-long ambition, something to aim towards every day, and the cause of which to commit one's life to.

I know that when I am fighting to overthrow capitalism, not only will the greats like Marx, Lenin and Trotsky pass through my mind, but also all the Ernie Offens, who committed their lives to the struggle for socialism.—ANDY KUTTER, Fulham branch.

Whats on

Their crisis

—our answer

WALTHAM FOREST IS public meeting: Whose crisis? Workers v government. Speakers: A member of NUM and Bob Light (TGWU). Thursday 10 January, 8pm, Rose and Crown, Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17.

WALTHAM FOREST IS demonstration: 3 days work for 5 days pay. Saturday 12 January, assemble Leyton Green, 2.30pm. Rally and speakers.

SOUTHAMPTON IS public meeting: The capitalist crisis and the way forward. Speaker Tony Cliff. Wednesday 9 January, 8pm, UCATT Hall, Henstead Road.

LEEDS IS public meeting: Their crisis—make them pay. Speakers: militant miners and engineers. Wednesday 9 January, 8pm, Trades Club, Upper Fountain Street.

PETERBOROUGH IS public meeting: The Tories' crisis. Speakers: Wally Preston and a Yorkshire miner. Wednesday 16 January, 8pm, The Locomotive, New England, Peterborough.

LAMBETH IS public meeting: Whose crisis? Speaker John Bell (UCATT). Wed 9 January, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton. All welcome.

ILFORD AND DAGENHAM IS public meeting: Whose crisis? Support the railwaymen and miners. Thursday 10 January, 8pm, Barking Town Hall (small hall), near Barking station.

TOWER HAMLETS IS public meeting: Crisis—the working class answer. Speaker Tony Cliff (IS executive committee member). Thursday 10 January, 8pm, Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road, London E3.

COVENTRY District IS public meeting: The Tory crisis—and the socialist alternative. Speaker Bob Light (TGWU steward, London docks). Friday 11 January, 8pm, Arts Lecture Hall, Lanchester Polytechnic (opposite Odeon Cinema in Jordan Well).

WALTHAM FOREST IS party day: Saturday 26 January. Watch this space for details.

CENTRAL LONDON IS public meeting: The labour movement under the hammer—the three-day week and the Shrewsbury jailings. Speakers: Keith Dobie (UCATT) and Laurie Flynn. Wednesday 9 January, 8pm, The General Picton, Wharfedale Road, N1 (near Kings Cross Station). All welcome.

LONDON IS Building Workers' meeting: Thursday 10 January, 8pm, The General Picton, Wharfedale Road, London N1 (near Kings Cross Station).

BURNLEY, ACCRINGTON and BLACKBURN IS public meeting: Trade unionists unite and fight! Speakers: Wally Preston and AUEW, NUM and TGWU trade unionists. Monday 7 January, 8pm, Burnley Miners Club, Yorkshire Street.

NORTH LONDON IS Demonstration in support of the miners and the Shrewsbury Three. Saturday 5 January. Assemble at Wood Green Station, 11am, for rally and speakers at Ducketts Common.

NORTH LONDON IS public meeting: Solidarity with the miners and the Shrewsbury Three! Wednesday 9 January, 8pm, Edmonton Town Hall.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE IS district meeting (Wigan, Earlestown, Leigh and St Helens): Wednesday 9 January, 8pm, The Wheatsheaf, Wallgate, Wigan. All IS members must attend for re-registration of membership and discussion of perspectives.

BIRMINGHAM Socialist Worker Rally: Sunday 20 January, 7.30pm, Assembly Room, Digbeth Civic Hall. Speakers include Paul Foot and two of the Shrewsbury defendants. Tickets 10p each from Socialist Worker sellers, or contact 25 Selbourne Road, Birmingham 20 (phone 021-544 1193).

LONDON IS EEPTU Fraction School: Duncan Hallas on the history of the union. Sunday 13 January, 12 noon, at 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. All IS EEPTU members invited.

NORTH LONDON IS New Year Social: Saturday 5 January, 7pm-1am, The Nightingale, 349 High Road, Wood Green (Wood Green tube) 123 and 29 buses). Admission 50p.

EDINBURGH IS social and dance: Friday 11 January, 8pm, Cairn Hotel, Windsor Street. Discotheque, late licence to midnight, tickets 45p.

NOTICES

1974 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

All IS members should re-register their membership as of 1 January. Contact branch secretaries for details and 1974 membership cards.

SW (LITHO) PRINTERS need studio assistants. Neat, clean working essential, and some experience of printing and/or graphics an advantage. Please apply in writing to Jim Nichol, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

WORKERS' FIGHT public meeting

THE LEFT OPPOSITION AND TROTSKYISM TODAY. Speaker Sean Matgamma. Sunday 6 January, 8pm, The Golden Lion, Kings Cross Road, London N1.

HARD TIMES (Brent people's paper) readers' meeting: Wednesday 9 January, 7.30pm, Willesden Junction Hotel.

POWER MEN SMASH THROUGH PHASE 3

by Socialist Worker reporter

SIXTEEN THOUSAND power engineers have smashed through Phase Three by taking militant industrial action.

The 16,000 members of the Electrical Power Engineers Association have won 'stand-by' payments which have been ruled out by the government time and again over the past nine months.

Last November, just before Phase One of the freeze, the power engineers and their bosses, the Electricity Council, agreed big increases in the 'stand-by' and overtime payments for emergency work. These were then

frozen. When Phase Two started in April, the engineers signed a £1 plus 4 per cent pay deal, but were refused the stand-by payments.

In September the EPEA general secretary John Lyons warned of possible industrial action by his members—for the first time in the union's 60 years' history. After his speech, Department of Employment officials 'tipped off' industrial correspondents that the EPEA couldn't be taken seriously. They were 'all talk and no

action,' said the officials.

In November the Electricity Council offered what it described as the 'maximum possible' under Phase Three. It was half what the union had originally claimed, and was instantly rejected.

Then the power engineers started their ban on overtime and emergency working. At first the government pretended not to notice—although about a fifth of all the power in the country was lost as a result.

Then as the miners' overtime ban started, the government and the Pay Board began to take an interest in the power engineers. The magical Clause 144 of the Pay Code, which allows the working week to be brought down to 40 hours, was suddenly discovered—although power engineers work a 38-hour week.

Long negotiations seemed likely. Then the EPEA announced that they would be 'stepping up' their industrial action from January. Suddenly, miraculously, the money was there.

The engineers had claimed a £5 weekly call-out fee, compared with £2.50. They got the lot, backdated to April 1973.

They had claimed a retainer for every week on stand-by of £13, compared to £5. They got the lot, backdated to April.

They had claimed a call-out payment of £9 for weekends. They got the lot, backdated to April.

They had claimed a 'routine work' allowance if called out for more than one week in any month of £8.50 a week. They got the lot, backdated to April.

They had claimed 'incidental overtime' for all engineers of £90 a year. They settled for £84 this year and £90 from February. This concession works out at a lump sum of about £19 per engineer.

In other words, with one minor exception, every single payment which was described by the government as 'impossible' under Phases Two and Three will be paid out in full for all the period of Phases Two and Three.

The overtime ban and the agreement have made an incalculable difference to the EPEA, which has been notorious in the trade union movement for its anti-union, blacklegging activities and its suspicion of strike action. One EPEA militant told Socialist Worker: 'Things will never be the same again. I don't think you'll find us selling out other people on strike any more.'

'We've not only changed our entire attitude to these things. We've followed the Glasgow firemen right through Phase Three.'



FREE THE THREE

GLASGOW: Despite short notice, cold drizzle, and the fact that it was the last Saturday before Christmas, 100 trade unionists and socialists marched on the offices of the Scottish Building Employers Association demanding the freeing of the three building workers jailed at Shrewsbury. It was sponsored by 17 trade unionists, including members of the Boilermakers, Engineers, Foundry workers, Electricians and Printworkers' Unions.

Slogans demanded 'Jail Heath and McAlpine—not trade unionists' and 'Free, free the Shrewsbury Three' and donations were given to the marchers by passers-by. With money collected outside that morning's AUEW shop stewards' quarterly, £16 was sent to the North Wales 24 Defence Committee.

Glasgow Trades Council's Shrewsbury appeal two weeks earlier had raised £80, college and university collections by International Socialists a further £20.

At a brief meeting Jimmy McCallum, AUEW TASS convenor at John Brown Engineering, read out a letter to the employers: 'We pledge ourselves to fight until out three brother trade unionists are free and we have restored our right to picket,' it said.

Tories out for scapegoats

THE millionaire press is out to make the train drivers and the miners scapegoats for the Tories' problems, Dave Bush, train drivers' union (ASLEF) branch secretary at the big Slade Green rail depot, near London, told Socialist Worker this week.

'We are particularly appalled at the press treatment of the drivers' work-to-rule and the miners' overtime ban. The truth is they have just looked around for a scapegoat and determined to make the miners and the train drivers fit the bill,' he said.

Dave is married with two children. His basic weekly wage before tax and deductions is £33. Take-home pay for a flat week is £27—and the flat week includes working Saturday afternoon and evenings and regularly having to get up at three or four in the morning.

What Dave and his mates find particularly infuriating is the Daily Express-style propaganda about £60-a-week train drivers. Dave says that he has to work every other Sunday and one in three rest

comes into these people's minds.'

'Our quarrel is not an inter-union one. Some of the other grades are getting a lot more for extra responsibilities than the drivers. We feel that we are being victimised because we have been militant in the past.'

'There's a lot of talk in the press about how this offer is going to give us £6 extra. What is conveniently forgotten in such talk is that half of the money being offered is just consolidation of what we already get in bonus and mileage payments.'

'We are determined to win our demands and get this offer substantially improved. The feeling is high among the lads—on the Southern Region in particular where pay is comparatively low.'

'There's talk about British Rail getting tough. Well if they do and send anyone home then there'll be a strike, straight and simple.'

days to get a take-home pay of £34—just about enough to keep the family's head above water.

But not only these generally poor levels of pay have been aggravating the train drivers. What led to the work to rule was frustration and anger over British Rail's pay restructuring exercise.

British Rail has long promised to re-organise pay scales so that the increasing responsibilities of railway workers' jobs are recognised and paid for.

Said Dave Bush: 'We've been waiting nearly two years. We've had promises after promises. After our last bout of industrial action in March British Rail said the matter would be dealt with urgently. But when we went back to work all the so-called urgency disappeared.'

'After all, as soon as you go back to work all the pressure is off and nothing is done. We find that it's only when you take action that any sense of urgency

Classified

COVENTRY TRADES COUNCIL SENDS NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS

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HOSPITAL WORKER Conference: Sat 12 January, 2pm onwards, University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1 (five minutes walk from Euston Station). Sessions on the lessons of the past year and on building the Hospital Worker paper. Nursery and overnight accommodation laid on. Mammoth social and bar in the evening. All welcome. Details from 'Conference', 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2 (phone 01-274 2405).

SOCIALIST WOMAN FORUM: Women in the miners' struggle. Wednesday 9 January, 8pm, Room 3a, University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1 (nearest tubes Warren Street, Goodge Street, Euston Square). Speakers: two women who were involved in the 1972 miners' strike, one from Kersley, a mining village near Coventry, and the other from Kent.

WHY WE MUST STRIKE TO WIN

Militant speech by Yorks NUM president

IN MY PIT we have made the overtime ban bite deep, and the same is true of most pits in South Wales.

But it's no good thinking we are going to win just by using the overtime ban. There is no doubt in my mind that an all-out strike is the only answer, and the sooner the better.

When we began the ban, a lot of men thought it was a good idea. Some even thought it might be an easy alternative to coming out completely. Most of us now realise that, as a weapon, the overtime ban has got serious weaknesses.

What we are doing, when you come to think of it, is to give the Tories a bit of a breathing space.

They are taking full advantage of it to manoeuvre. Every minute we delay is used to turn public opinion against us. They have hotbed up the propaganda war, hoping that when we do strike we won't get the kind of solidarity from other workers we got in 1972.

The latest move, the three-day week, is a form of electricity rationing so as to spin out coal stocks. But it is also designed to divide the unions and to create bad feeling

by Kinsey Gough

CAERAU COLLIERY SOUTH WALES



between us and other workers. The engineering workers and the steelworkers who are now on a three-day week are the men we'll need with us in the strike.

We have got to keep in mind that in dealing with Heath and his government we are not dealing with reasonable men. All recent history shows that there isn't anything in between: either you beat them or they beat you. The hospital workers and before them the post office workers showed one way. In 1972 we showed the other way.

They have to be taken by the throat. And that means being on the streets and at the power stations stopping the coal from moving.

In our pit we are applying the overtime ban in an aggressive form. Faceworkers are on a work-to-rule, and not a single week has passed since the ban started without one face or another coming out for one, two or three-day stoppages.

Feeling is running high, and the men want to see the battle fought and won. But there is a real danger that, if the ban

continues, this aggression will squander itself in isolated and local strikes.

This brings me to what I think is one of the most important reasons for getting the strike off the ground without further delay.

I know what is going on in my pit and in some of the neighbouring collieries in this area, but I don't know much of what is happening in, for example, Scotland and the Midlands. Everyone else must be in just about the same position. A strike is won by solidarity and confidence. To get this solidarity and confidence we need to put the show on the road.

If we stay in our own pits, hearing only what the bosses tell us through their television and newspapers, we'll probably end up believing the lies they're telling about us. The time has come to stop pussyfooting and to prevent the coal from moving. There is no other way, however much some of our leaders might like to think there is.

What we want from our leaders is leadership. This doesn't mean wishy-washing hesitation about whether to hold a ballot. It means a firm recommendation from the executive for strike action and a vigorous campaign to carry this policy.

Above all, there must be no more delay. Now is the time to strike. Now is the time to win.

IF NO headway is made soon in the miners' dispute, the time will be right to step up the action, and this could mean striking, said Arthur Scargill, Yorkshire miners' president, last week. His speech is the first reaction of a national miners' leader in the growing feeling for strike action among militants in the pits.

The success of the overtime ban is measured in the coal stocks, particularly at the power stations. The government is attempting to conceal the level of stocks, but the figures that seem to be most used suggest that the ban has reduced output by four million tons, while two million tons has been saved by power cuts and electricity saving.

Before the ban some 37.5 million tons of coal were available at power stations. A little simple arithmetic shows that the overall depletion of coal is only two million tons and that stocks are higher than at the same time last year. Beside being a commentary on the government's national lock-out for a miserable two million tons, it is also a measure of how slowly the ban is taking effect.

Rotten

The fuel crisis is an invention of Tory politics, but the miners could make this a real crisis and win their claim, in short order, by strike action.

The longer the claim drags on the more time the Tories and the NUM right-wing have to reach a rotten compromise. Already Frank Smith, Leicestershire member of the NUM executive, has started to sing the government's tune, accusing the left of misleading the rank and file miners and the public. 'It grieves me that thousands will be out of work because of the fuel shortage,' he said.

Frank Smith attempted to sell the 1972 miners' strike short and for this Desford Colliery, Leicestershire, passed a unanimous vote of no confidence in him.

While coal is still mined and moved the Tories have room for manoeuvre. Quick and certain victory lies in the rapid development of the struggle into full scale strike action.

Call for link-up with engineers

SHEFFIELD: Neepsend Co-ordinating Committee has called on the Yorkshire NUM and the Sheffield AUEW District Committee to organise joint action between the two unions.

This call followed a lobby by militant miners of the Sheffield Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions in early December. After the lobby rank and file miners Jim Deakin and Terry Bristowe were invited to address the Neepsend committee.

Terry Bristowe told the meeting: 'The miners' leaders are doing nothing to build links with other workers. It is up to the rank and file in both industries to take the initiative. "United we stand" must be more than just a slogan on union banners.' Mark Ward, chairman of the committee, said that engineers were not fooled by short-time working. They knew the miners were not to blame and were keen to link up with them.

Brennan Bates, committee secretary told the packed meeting: 'After Christmas we must fight to extend this link to every engineering factory and pit in South Yorkshire.'

The cost of winding time—18 lives

A GRIM reminder of the actual cost of winding time in the pits was made by Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, when he handed over the last of the contributions to the Markham Colliery Disaster Fund last weekend.

Commenting on the fact that miners are not paid for the time it takes them to get to the coalface, he said: 'At Markham, swinging from the end of a rope, 18 men died on their own unpaid time.'

Workers rally behind Shrewsbury Three

LAWYERS for John McKinsie Jones, one of the three building workers' pickets jailed at Shrewsbury just before Christmas, were seeking bail and leave to appeal on Friday. And applications for bail for Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson are due to be heard on Thursday or Friday next week.

This means that the working-class movement has to get up enough steam to force the government and its legal authorities to grant bail and speedy appeal hearings.

Already, organised building workers are campaigning for industrial action to Free the Three. Dockers in Liverpool, London and Hull are due to meet this weekend to decide what action they will take. As soon as the sentences were announced, several factories in North Wales, including Courtaulds Holywell, went on strike.

But the verdicts were carefully timed to coincide with the Christmas holiday and it is only now that any real movement can be built up to defend the three and to organise against the trial of the rest of the Shrewsbury 24 which starts in two weeks.

Edinburgh building workers have also shown the way. Myton's site struck on the

Friday before Christmas and McAlpines and Laings sites in the city supported demonstrations. The Edinburgh Defence Committee has called an all-industry shop stewards meeting next Saturday to organise action.

In York the builders branch of the International Socialists held a successful public meeting to defend the three. Building and bus workers spoke of the need to mobilise for industrial action against the Tories' vicious attacks on workers.

Liverpool Trades Council called a meeting of all shop stewards for Thursday this week to discuss action. The North Wales 24 Defence Committee has now issued its call for national co-ordinated action to free the three.

The London Shrewsbury Defence Committee has also put out a call for strike action on 15 January. Support for this is made even more imperative by the total inactivity of Transport and Construction Union executives whose members are in jail.

Prison regulations forbid John McKinsie Jones, Eric Tomlinson and Des Warren to receive more than one letter a week. But there is no such restriction on telegrams of solidarity. These should be sent to Shrewsbury Prison.

BIG SITE ROW OVER SCABS

NORTH LONDON: More than 300 building workers on McAlpine's Brent Cross site, Hendon, have been on work-to-rule and overtime ban for eight weeks over the continued employment of two men who worked during a recent three-day strike and who have a long anti-union record.

The only way McAlpines can keep the two men, Jim Kerr and Tim Doyle, on the site is to have them come in late and sit in the stores all day. McAlpines tried to transfer them to their site in Hammer-smith, but the union wasn't having them anywhere near the place.

All the men on the Hendon site, even those on the lump, are in the union, and are unanimous that they want the two men off McAlpines sites and out of the industry altogether.

The works committee has pledged that the site will not get back to normal until the two men leave—which is worrying McAlpines as they are already well behind on the job.

Before Christmas Danny Buckley, one of the stewards who played a significant part in organising the site, was harassed and moved from job to job. When he spoke his mind he got the sack.

This blatant victimisation was in breach of agreement—after more than three years with McAlpines he was given just one and a half hours notice. The case is to go before the industry's tribunal.

Work or full pay—car men

GLASGOW:—400 press shop workers at Chrysler's Linwood plant, told by management that they were laid off for a week from 7 January, have decided to report for work and sit-in until Chrysler gives them work or agrees to pay them their full week's wages for being laid off. The AUEW shop stewards at Linwood gave the press shop workers their full support.

Chrysler are exempted from three-day working but have been told to cut electricity consumption by a third. The company had planned to achieve this by laying off sections not essential to immediate production. Meanwhile assembly lines would be working non-stop so in the short term there would be no loss of car

production.

Under Chrysler's lay-off agreement the workers would be entitled to 65 per cent of the production operators' day shift rate. The demand for work or full pay echoes what some shop stewards said at the AUEW Glasgow district quarterly meeting two weeks ago—though most full-time officials on Clydeside have argued that workers should demand full pay, they have done little to organise the fight to get it.

When the Clyde district committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions met the employers after Christmas they dropped their demand for full average earnings and agreed to local bargaining instead.

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