

WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY ELECTION MANIFESTO

ON JUNE 9 millions of workers in Britain and their families will take part in the most crucial General Election in post-war history.

It will be a bitterly-contested class against class election dominated by the world crisis of the capitalist system.

ON ONE SIDE, the ruling class stampeding the country into the creation of a new Tory government which is desperate for absolute power to crush the trade unions and workers' living standards;

ON THE OTHER, the undefeated working class determined to defend its basic democratic rights but feeling betrayed by the official leaders of the Labour Party and the TUC.

Added to this, there is the stark fact that the General Election will not solve a single problem of the working class no matter which party, or parties, emerge in a parliamentary majority.

On June 10, whoever is in power, the economic and political crisis will not abate. On the contrary, because it is a crisis election, it will be a crisis result.

Because of the rapidly deepening world slump, mass unemployment will grow enormously;

The fall in the rate of profit and the drastic drop in world trade means more closures and bankruptcies;

The vast indebtedness of so-called Third World countries and the multi-nationals means that there is an impending crash of the world banking system;

The collapse of the world oil price means that the pound and the balance of payments cannot be propped up any longer.

The General Election cannot reconcile the class antagonisms raised by this historic and global crisis, nor can a reshuffling of seats in parliament. It has gone way beyond that.

To defend jobs, wages, working conditions, living standards and basic democratic rights, the working class and its middle class allies are impelled into struggle against the outmoded capitalist system and to overthrow it.

In its place must be built a socialist society based on human need and not the profits and privileges of a greedy few. This socialist revolution requires the mobilisation of the working class under the leadership of a new kind of party — a Marxist-trained party which is dedicated to the emancipation of the working class and totally committed to socialist principles.

Such a party is the Workers Revolutionary Party, the British section of the International Committee of the Fourth International.

We call upon trade unionists, professional workers, youth and the unemployed to join the WRP during this election campaign and to become members of its revolution-

ary socialist daily newspaper, the News Line.

Why we contest the General Election

WE CALL upon all workers, trade unionists and youth to vote Workers Revolutionary Party in the 21 constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales where we have a candidate.

By voting for the WRP's revolutionary socialist programme you will be showing your unmistakable class hatred for the Tories and the capitalist system they represent.

More than that, you will also be showing your political contempt for Labour Party reformism and class collaboration. You will be saying that there is only one road for the working class — the road of socialist revolution to workers' power.

Where we don't have candidates we call on the working class and its middle class allies to turn out in their millions to cast their votes against the Tories.

We are forming a united front with the labour and trade union movement to vote Labour to stop the Tories from getting back and to halt their plans to turn Britain into a slave wage economy with six million unemployed and a nuclear base for Reagan's war plans against the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Parliament is an instrument of the capitalist state, used to perpetuate the rule of the bourgeoisie. It can never represent the interests of the working class, or be used for a socialist transformation of society.

The redrawing of the constituencies by the Boundaries Commission gives the Tories a built-in majority, whatever the electorate wants, and confirms that parliament is a ruling-class fraud.

If elected we will use the opportunity to expose it from the inside for those large number of workers who still have illusions in parliament.

Our call to vote Labour does not imply the slightest political confidence in the Foot-Healey leadership of the Labour Party or reformism.

They have capitulated to every attack by the Thatcher government on the working class. Labour's leaders unconditionally support capitalism and its state machine.

History shows that in times of economic crisis or war the Labour leaders will betray the working class and join a 'national government' with capitalist parties. They would do the same after June 9.

A massive anti-Tory vote is the means of uniting the working class against the main class enemy and developing the fight to defend jobs, wages and living standards AFTER the election, whatever the outcome.

Defeat the SDP Liberal Alliance

WE CALL upon the working class and all trade unionists to reject emphatically the SDP of Messrs

Jenkins, Rogers, Owen and Mrs Williams.

The SDP-Liberal Alliance is not an 'alternative' to the Tories, but the Tories in another disguise. They are all capitalists and union-haters.

The Alliance has come into existence for one purpose — to try and destroy the Labour Party and to join with the Tories in attacking the basic democratic rights of the trade unions.

The SDP defectors from the Labour Party represent the most pro-capitalist, pro-NATO, pro-Zionist and pro-American group in the Labour Party.

The crushing defeat of the SDP in this election is part of the struggle to expose and drive out the SDP fifth column which remains inside the Labour leadership: Hattersley, Shore, Healey, Golding etc.

The world economic and political crisis

THIS election is taking place in the midst of the biggest slump in history and a threatening crash of the banking system.

The post-war 'boom' has gone for good, and the talk of a 'recovery' is a cynical lie used by the Tories. The only people who believe it are the Labour and TUC reformists because they have an abiding faith in the capitalist system.

Four years of Thatcherism has left Britain's industrial economy in ruins. It is the result of the deliberate Tory policy of abolishing all foreign exchange controls and letting billions of pounds drain out of Britain for investment in the fascist-type dictatorships in South Africa and South America.

The other prong of this attack was high interest rates which has slashed investment by more than 35 per cent.

When the Tories came to power in May 1979 there were 1,219,000 workers unemployed. Today that figure has soared (officially) to 3,200,000, while the true figure is nearer four million.

ALTHOUGH the Tories have a commanding majority in parliament, they have been forced into this election one year early because of the mass resistance by the working class to their slump policies.

They want a fresh mandate to intensify their class war whose ruthlessness is determined by the deepening slump and the threat that a major default will precipitate an international banking crash.

Every class-conscious worker knows what the Tories have in store. There is the Serpell Report which proposes the axing of half the jobs in British Rail; the 70 pits on the Tory 'hit list' which Mr Ian McGregor has been chosen to close; the dismissal of 9,000 workers at British Shipbuilders; an increase in the rate of closures and redundancies in the steel industry.

The Tories are only waiting for the go-ahead to privatise British Telecoms and British Airways, and they have also adopted a plan to break up BL by shutting some

sections of the combine and selling off the rest.

It means that unemployment will soar to six or eight million under the next round of Thatcherism.

State conspiracy

THE TORIES and the secret 'state within the state' have used the last four years to build up the framework for police-military dictatorship in Britain.

It can be seen in the passage of the Nationality Act, the extension of the sweeping powers of the so-called 'anti-terrorism' laws, the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill (which will be re-tabled if the Tories are returned), the anti-union laws and the widespread arming of the police.

Having outlawed secondary and mass picketing and banned solidarity strikes with overseas workers, the Tories have also opened the way for High Court actions against the unions for unlimited damages for strikes that are deemed 'illegal'.

The next Tory legal attack on the unions will impose strike ballots and undermine the union levy paid to the Labour Party so that it is starved of finance.

The unions are the main target because they represent the organised strength of the working class and its historical gains in terms of working conditions, living standards and basic democratic rights.

To impose the slump on the backs of the working class the Tories must try to crush the trade unions. In some countries this goal is pursued by bringing in military juntas and fascism. Thatcher wants to achieve it through the absolute power of the state executive — the Cabinet, Whitehall, the Privy Council and the judiciary — with parliament acting as a rubber-stamp.

If this fails, the Tories have laid plans to bring in the Ulster-trained military and the para-military police under the declaration of a 'National Emergency'.

Her dictatorial intentions were spelled out in the first decision of her May 1979 government and in its last action — to give a massive boost to the salaries of the generals and the military top brass.

The offer of big salary increases to the general staff of the capitalist state on the eve of the election shows the police state intentions of the ruling class. The fabulous increases will be paid whether the Tories or Labour win the election.

Struggle for jobs

WE call upon workers to occupy factories, shipyards, collieries and steelworks threatened with closure and to form Occupation Committees.

The working class has a responsibility and a right to take over factories, plant and equipment which the ruling class wants to destroy and turn into scrap.

We demand workers' control and management

of industries which the ruling class and the banks want to smash up. This must be coupled with the call for the nationalisation of basic industry, the banks and the land without compensation.

Experience has taught that occupations must get full backing from the local community and the struggle for jobs and decent living standards must be carried beyond the trade unions.

For this reason we call for the building of Community Councils which will comprise all those from local industry, the occupation committees, as well as representatives from the unemployed, cuts committees, the elderly, youth, tenants, the black and Asian communities and all those involved in anti-Tory struggles.

The Community Councils will be the British equivalent of Soviets to enable the occupations to continue, to defend essential social services, house the homeless and protect the community from police and fascist attacks.

They will become the organs of workers' power and the foundation of a Workers Revolutionary Government based upon the overthrow of the capitalist state by the working class under the leadership of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

No wage controls

WE reject all forms of wage restraint. This is a blatant attempt by the ruling class to make workers pay for the capitalist crisis for which they bear not the slightest responsibility.

We condemn the Labour Party-TUC proposal, which is fully supported by the Communist Party Stalinists, for a corporatist National Economic Assessment between the Treasury, the CBI and the TUC to fix annual wage levels.

It will introduce the indefinite abolition of free collective bargaining and render the trade unions an impotent force in the face of the ruling-class onslaught on workers' living standards and basic democratic rights.

Restore all Tory cuts

THE PRIMARY target of the banks and the ruling class after this election will be the social services, education and health.

The Tory 'think tank' has proposed a return to 'Victorian traditions' of 'self-help' and 'self-reliance'. This is nothing more than the law of the jungle and the ultra-reactionary view of the survival of the fittest.

Generations of trade unionists and socialists have fought and given their lives to try and abolish this social barbarism.

We call on the labour and trade union movement to fight against Tory plans for the abolition of the Greater London Council, the Inner London Education Authority and the Metropolitan Counties.

In its place the Tories want a Whitehall dictatorship to further slash local government spending and to deprive millions of people of lifeline

community services.

We demand the restoration of all Tory cuts and the expansion of the social services to care for the elderly, the disabled and the young.

This can only be carried out by the masses led by the WRP overthrowing the capitalist system, nationalising the banks and the land without compensation and allocating resources under a socialist planned economy.

Call to youth

YOUNG people have borne the brunt of Thatcherism. Forty per cent of the unemployed — more than 1,400,000 — are under the age of 25.

In the inner-city areas, 53 per cent of black and Asian teenagers are unemployed and without hope of a job, a career or a future.

The ruling class wants to use this army of unemployed youth to introduce a slave wage economy. The instrument for this is the Manpower Services Commission (MSC), a corporatist labour front which has the full backing of the TUC bureaucrats.

The MSC schemes directly undermine wages, working conditions and basic democratic rights which the unions have achieved in generations of struggle.

We demand that the TUC breaks from the MSC and establishes its own labour-financed training schemes for young people.

We call upon all young people on MSC schemes to join the trade unions and the Young Socialists. They will be the future leaders of the working class and will play a decisive role in the struggle for revolutionary socialism.

We oppose all education cuts in the schools, colleges, polytechnics and universities.

We support every campaign of the National Union of Teachers, the National Union of Students and other education unions to fight for the defence of the free education system and the resources to expand and develop it.

We oppose Sir Keith Joseph's reactionary and discriminatory plan to replace student grants with loans. Every student has the right to a full grant based on a living wage.

Halt nuclear war

WE TOTALLY oppose the Tory nuclear war plans and the fake protests of the Labour Party leaders.

The Labour and TUC leaders don't have the slightest intention of fighting the NATO-Reagan plans for the deployment of US Cruise nuclear missiles in Britain and for increasing the nuclear arsenal of the armed forces.

Their loyal and enthusiastic support for imperialism was established in World War I and II, the Korean war, the colonial wars and one year ago when they cravenly backed Thatcher's imperialist attack on Argentina's right of self-determination over the Malvinas (Falklands).

The struggle against imperialist war is a class question which is inseparable from the struggle for

jobs and the defence of basic democratic rights. It cannot be defeated by pacifism or protest.

War, militarism and mass unemployment are products of the capitalist system. Only its overthrow by the working class and the establishment of world socialism will bring peace.

We pledge our unconditional defence of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and the People's Republic of China from imperialist military aggression.

NATO is a nuclear armed military conspiracy whose purpose is to make war on the Soviet and Eastern European masses and to destroy the nationalised property relations established there.

For this reason we defend the right of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries to have nuclear and conventional weapons to defend themselves from the imperialist warmongers.

Quit the EEC

WE CALL for immediate withdrawal from the capitalist Common Market.

It is a reactionary bloc controlled by the multi-nationals to impose the slump onto the backs of the West European working class and to plunder living standards through high food prices.

Our call is not for 'Great Britain Limited' which is the chauvinist line of the Labour right and 'lefts'.

It is to intensify the struggle to overthrow the decadent capitalist class and their outmoded system of wage slavery and exploitation, and to build the Socialist United States of Europe.

OUR revolutionary socialist programme for Britain

● Reject the cowardly reformist and Stalinist bureaucrats in the trade unions!

● Fight redundancies with occupations, occupation committees along with workers' control and management!

● Build Community Councils in every area comprising all anti-Tory forces. Bring the Community Councils into the fight for jobs and the defence of basic democratic rights as the Soviets of the Workers Revolutionary Government!

● Expose the financial manipulations of big business and the Tory government by demanding the opening of the books of private companies and state-owned industries for trade union inspection!

● Make out the case for the nationalisation of the basic industries, the banks and the land without compensation and placing them under workers' control!

● Smash the outmoded capitalist system, its anarchy, violence and parasitism, and establish a socialist planned economy!

TO THE trade unionists, professional workers and youth who want to fight Thatcher and Reagan's

WHERE WRP CANDIDATES ARE STANDING

JUNE 9

nuclear war plans, we say:

● No collaboration with Tory war plans. Unite against the Tory witch-hunters. Hands off CND!

● Oppose British imperialist intervention in Ireland. Withdraw all troops from the north of Ireland. Self-determination for the Irish people.

● Withdraw British troops from the Malvinas (Falklands) and recognise Argentina's right of sovereignty over the islands!

● Bring back British troops from West Germany, Cyprus, Lebanon, Sinai, Oman, Hong Kong, Gibraltar and all other overseas bases!

● Disband the standing army, the SAS and the ultra-reactionary spying services MI5 and MI6 and for their replacement by a workers' militia responsible to the trade unions and the working class!

● Down with NATO and the capitalist Common Market. No to protectionism and reactionary import controls. For the Socialist United States of Europe!

● Unconditionally defend the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China from imperialist aggression and defend their right to arm with nuclear and conventional weapons!

OUR foreign policy will be based upon the self-determination of all oppressed peoples and unity with the national liberation movements and the national revolutionary movements until imperialism, Zionism, racism and fascism are defeated in every corner of the globe.

● Victory to the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Demand that the British government gives full recognition to the PLO and its just struggle for a Palestinian homeland!

● Defend the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Syria and the Iranian revolution in their struggle against US imperialism and Zionist aggression!

● Victory to the liberation fighters of Nicaragua and El Salvador who are struggling against Reagan's planned bloodbath in Central America!

● Down with US and Chinese Stalinist complicity in Kampuchea. Full support for the Socialist People's Republic of Vietnam!

● Down with summit diplomacy and Stalinist peaceful co-existence with imperialism!

● Support Solidarity — release all jailed trade unionists in Poland. Hands off KOR!

TO THE working class and their middle class allies in this election we say:

● Fight the capitalist slump under the banner of the revolutionary socialism of Karl Marx!

● Vote WRP in the constituencies where we are standing and join the Workers Revolutionary Party!

● In constituencies where we are not standing we call for a massive turn-out by the labour and trade union movement to vote against the Tories by casting a critical vote for Labour!

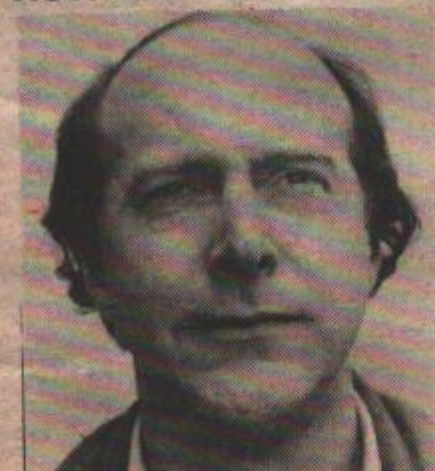
WRP Central Committee, May 13, 1983

GREENOCK & PORT GLASGOW



GEORGE MCKINLAY, 24, is a fitter at Albion Motors (Leyland) on Clydeside and an AUEW shop steward. He joined the WRP and the Young Socialists in 1977 after seeing the Labour government sending in troops against the striking firemen. He represented Scotland on the Young Socialists National Committee for three years and is now on the WRP Central Committee. Agent: Mike Andrews

GLASGOW RUTHERGLEN



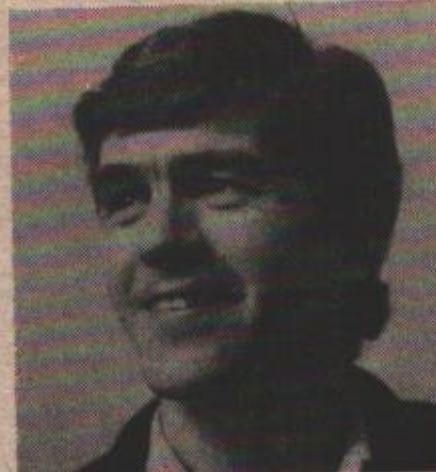
CHRIS CORRIGAN, 36, was born in Cardiff. He has been a member of the WRP for ten years and is a member of its Central Committee. Chris worked at Guest Keen Steelworks, Cardiff, on leaving school before becoming a news reporter on the local paper. He later became a journalist for the Press Association news agency, London, for four years before joining 'Workers Press' during the struggle against Heath's Tory government in the winter of 1973-1974. He is a member of the National Union of Journalists and has lived in Glasgow for four years as a journalist for News Line. Agent: Patricia Muldoon

MIDDLESBROUGH



MICHAEL SIMPSON, 28, works in BSC Redcar complex in the coke ovens. He is a member of the Boilermakers' Society and is the union's deputy shop steward for the coke ovens. Born in Cleveland, he moved to Middlesbrough seven years ago. He has been a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party and its forerunner, the Socialist Labour League, for the last 11 years. He stood as a WRP candidate in the 1979 General Election. Agent: Graeme Williams

KNOWSLEY NORTH



JOHN SIMONS, 39, is married with four children and has been a member of the WRP for

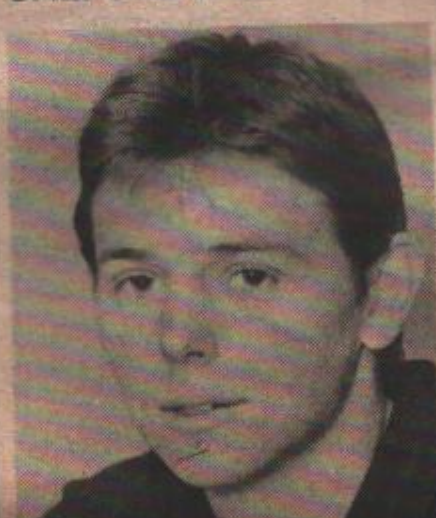
seven years. He has been unemployed since the Thorn closure except for one year on a CEP scheme where he organised those attending the scheme into NUPE and was elected as the shop steward. He is a delegate to the West Lancs Trades Council. Agent: Hugh Sandison

LIVERPOOL, RIVERSIDE



DAVE LATCHFORD, 27, is an unemployed wood machinist. He is a member of Liverpool T&GWU Unemployed Branch (6-612). He lives in the constituency in Dingle, Liverpool 8. Dave has been unemployed for nearly two years. He joined the WRP 18 months ago and is a member of its Central Committee. Agent: Phyllis Starkey, 97 Whitechapel, Liverpool 1

SALFORD EAST



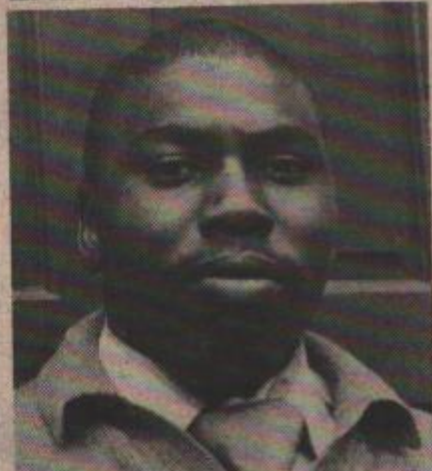
STUART CARTER, 26, was born in Salford, the son of a mining engineer. He worked as a hospital kitchen porter before going to Manchester University. Disgusted by the treachery of the Labour leaders — particularly during the firemen's strike — he joined the Workers Revolutionary Party when Vanessa Redgrave stood as candidate in a Moss Side by-election. He was a member of the Young Socialists National Committee for two years. He is now a member of the Central Committee of the WRP. Agent: Jean McCabe

BRADFORD WEST



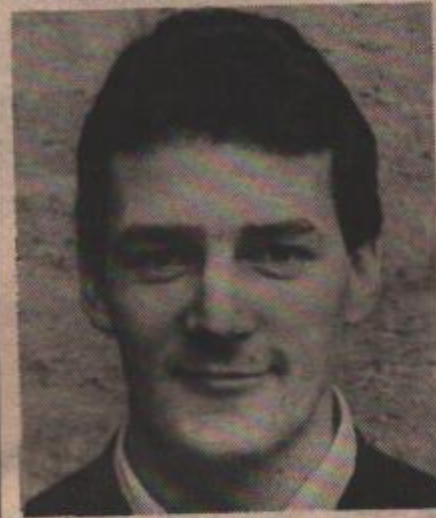
BARBARA SLAUGHTER, 55, has lived in the East Leeds constituency since early childhood. She has been a teacher at Temple Newsam Halton School for 22 years and before that worked as a social worker. She is well known in the area as an active trade unionist and has served on the committee of the local National Union of Teachers. She was a founder member of the Socialist Labour League, predecessor of the Workers Revolutionary Party, in 1959. She stood as a WRP candidate in the 1979 General Election. Agent: Colleen Smith, 123 Gratton Road, Bradford

BIRMINGHAM, LADYWOOD



RODNEY ATKINSON, 23, has been a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party for nearly two years and last year was a member of the Young Socialists National Committee. He has lived in the Handsworth Winslow Green area all his life, and recently completed the Marx Centenary Euro-March. His interests include martial arts and playing the flute. Agent: Gail Golding

COVENTRY NORTH EAST



BOB PRINCE, 29, is married with three children. He has worked for ten years in the fire service and is a member of the Fire Brigades Union. He joined the Workers Revolutionary Party in 1982. Agent: Mick Blakey

LEICESTER WEST



BRIAN PRANGLE, 33, is married with two children. He is a laboratory technician at Leicester Polytechnic and a member of NALGO. Brian is also secretary of Leicester and District Trades Council and an executive member of the East Midlands Regional TUC. He joined the Socialist Labour League, forerunner of the WRP, when he was a student at Southampton University. He has lived in Leicester for five years. Agent: Paul Henderson, 25 Braunstone Gate, Leicester

PETERBOROUGH



DAVID HYLAND, is 36 years old. Born in Stretford, Manchester, he is married with four children. He was an ACTT shop steward at Kodak, Harrow, where he lived for three years, but following victimisation he moved to Thetford. He joined the Socialist Labour League, forerunner of the WRP, in May 1973. He now

lives with his family in Peterborough and is a member of the Central Committee of the WRP.

Agent: Kate Hunt, 73 Cromwell Road, Peterborough

NORWICH NORTH



ANN FIONA CAIRNS, 29, is a founder member of the WRP and works at the Norwich City College as a cook. She is a NUPE shop steward and a delegate for this year's NUPE national conference. She has also been elected to the EC of the Norwich Trades Council. She has lived in East Anglia most of her life and attended the Norwich City College on a day-release catering course. Agent: Ray Athow

BRISTOL SOUTH



LINDA BYRNE, 30, is married with two sons. She has previously worked as a teacher in London and was a member of the National Union of Teachers. She also worked for two years in West Germany. Born and brought up in south Bristol, she now lives in central Bristol. Her father is chairman of the local Transport and General Workers' Union busmen's branch. She has been a Workers Revolutionary Party member for five years and stood as its candidate in the 1979 General Election. Agent: A. Robertson

MERTHYR TYDFIL



TRAVIS GOULD, 33, a member of the WRP for eight years, was a machine tool setter but is now unemployed. He has been an AUEW member for nine years, is on the Merthyr 2-3 MW branch committee and a delegate to the trades council. Travis has lived in Cefn Coed all his life. He is married and has a daughter aged eight. He stood as WRP candidate in the 1979 General Election. Agent: Mike Harris, Wesley Hall, Pontmorlais, Merthyr Tydfil

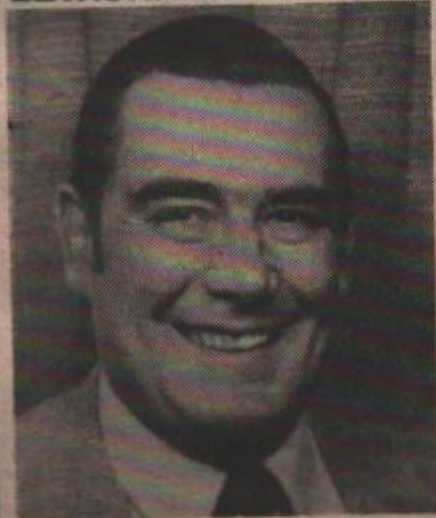
TOOTING

CORIN REDGRAVE, 43, lives with his wife and son as a resident of the constituency. He joined the Socialist Labour League, forerunner of the Workers Revolutionary Party, in 1971. He is a member of the



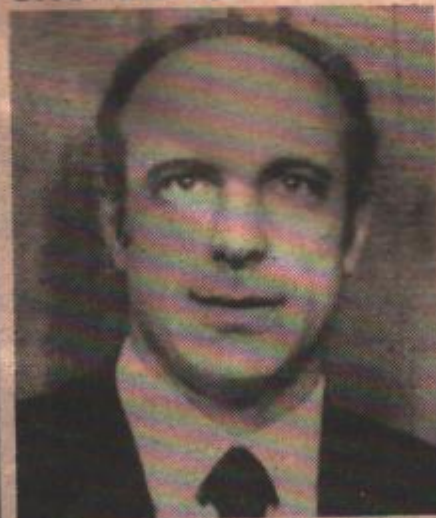
party's Central Committee. An actor, he has appeared in many films and television plays. After an Honours degree at Cambridge University he joined the English Stage Company in 1961 as an actor and assistant director and began his active membership of Equity, the actors' union. Agent: Yvonne Pirani

LEWISHAM EAST



PETER GIBSON, 51, has been an active delegate to the Croydon Trades Council for the last 20 years and has served as secretary and treasurer. He is a bus conductor at Thornton Heath bus garage and represents the Wandsworth (South London) District on the T&GWU London Bus Committee of which he is chairman. Married with three sons, he is a founder member of the Workers Revolutionary Party and a member of its Central Committee. Agent: Pam Rodell

HACKNEY S & SHOREDITCH



RICHARD GOLDSTEIN, 41, is the convenor at Gestetners, Tottenham. He has been a shop steward for 15 years. He is a delegate to the AUEW Enfield district committee and is secretary of Tottenham No.5 AUEW branch. Richard has been a member of the WRP for 18 years. He is married with three children and lives in Stoke Newington. He is a founder member of the Workers Revolutionary Party and on the London District Committee. Agent: Peter Curtis

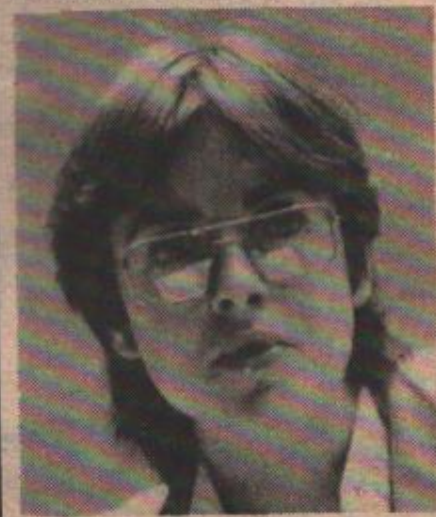
HOLBORN & ST PANCRAS



RICHARD PRICE, 28, has lived in London for ten years. He studied history at University College, London. He now works as a statistics officer at

the University College Hospital. He is branch secretary of NALGO, Bloomsbury Health Branch, assistant secretary of Bloomsbury Joint Trade Union Committee, and a delegate to Camden Trades Council. Richard played an active role in the hospital workers' dispute in 1982. He has been a member of the WRP since 1977 and is the secretary of the London District Committee. Agent: Peter Farrell

HAMMERSMITH



CLAIRE DIXON, 24, was National Secretary of the Young Socialists from 1978 to 1982. She has been in the leadership of the campaign for the Young Socialists Youth Training Centres in the fight against youth unemployment and government cheap labour schemes like YOPs and Work Experience. She joined the Young Socialists and the WRP in 1977 and is now a member of its Central Committee. She was a member of the NUS at college and is now a member of the shopworkers' union USDAW. She has been a delegate to the USDAW annual conference three times.

BOW & POPLAR



KEITH SCOTCHER, 36, has been an assembly line worker at Fords Engine Plant, Dagenham, for 12 years and an AUEW member for 14 years. He is an ex-shop steward on both Escort and V6 engine lines. He joined the Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League in 1965 and is a founding member of the Workers Revolutionary Party. He has one daughter aged four. Agent: Brigitte Leach

BRENT EAST



GERALD DOWNING, 32, works as a builders' labourer and is a member of the builders' union UCATT. He is a shop steward and a member of Brent Trades Council. Born in Cork in Ireland, he worked in Dublin before coming to England in 1973. He has been a member of the Workers Revolutionary Party for six years and has stood as a WRP candidate in local elections and in the 1979 General Election. Agent: Liam McCann