

Socialist Challenge

SOLIDARNOSĆ

This week's coverage on Poland see p4, 5 & 6

THE REAL LOADERS

The outrageous attacks on railworkers by the Sun newspaper has helped highlight the disgraceful priorities of Tory Britain. The Sun chose to slander railworkers in the week it was revealed that:

★ 3,070,621 people were officially out of work: one in eight of the workforce

★ Dick Giordano, managing director of BOC International, had his salary raised by more than £200,000 to nearly £1/2m a year. For this he only works 6 months. The rest of the time he spends in the United States. A company spokesperson attempted to justify this income by explaining that poor old Dick had to maintain 2 houses.

★ The Duke of Westminster, without doing a stroke of work, was allowed by some ancient charter to buy back the £20m former site of the St George's Hospital at Hyde Park Corner for the sum of £23,700. This much-needed hospital had been closed down by the Tories. The good Lord has announced that he will put up an office block. The Sun chose to ignore these obscenities, but trumpeted lies about rail workers drinking disco dancing and playing cards in worktime!

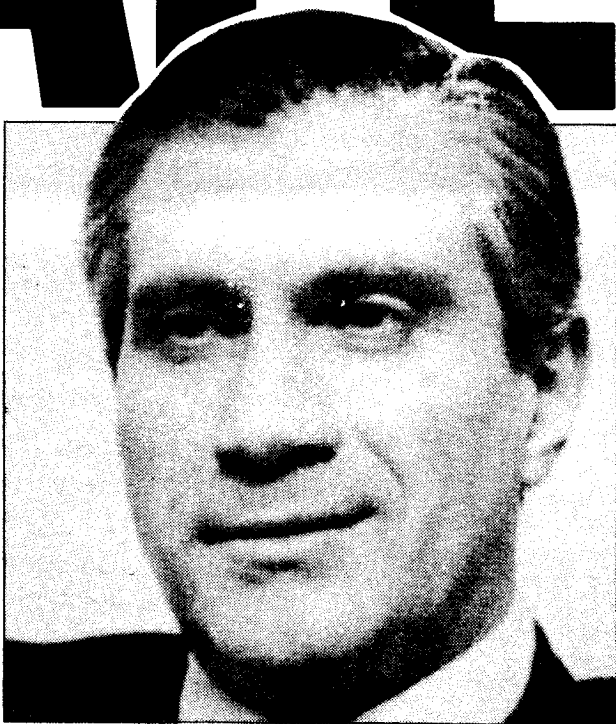
Support for the drivers is growing. So the Sun is attempting to divert attention from the real issues with a technique pioneered by Nazi propagandist Josef Goebbels: the bigger the lie the better. The life of Riley that railworkers are supposed to lead is a far cry from the realities of the job. Most people are in bed sleeping at the unearthly hours when drivers are travelling long distances (even in the coldest spells) to get to work, with no public transport available.

The responsibilities are great, but the job is dangerous and accidents are often fatal. Railworkers work an average of 54½ hours weekly because no one can live on the pathetic amount they get for 40 hours.

The real issues involved in the rail dispute are however coming across despite the Sun and the rest of them.

They are:

- ★ Defence of the eight hour day
- ★ Defence of 38,000 jobs
- ★ Opposition to making the present unsocial hours intolerable
- ★ For a rail industry with adequate investment to produce a decent service for fed-up commuters.



Dick Giordano, boss of BOC gets £200,000 salary increase to £477,100.



Gerald Cavendish Grosvenor, sixth Duke of Westminster. Never done a days work.

Leyland workers out on strike

BL workers at Bathgate and Leyland plants have come out to save their jobs. Up against Michael Edwardes and his plan, they are determined to win. We reprint a letter from the Leyland joint works committee.

After years of allowing management to carve up Leyland Vehicles we must now use industrial muscle and political pressure to fight for our future.

The policies of closures and redundancies have been totally discredited but management have refused to talk to the unions about alternatives and have pressed ahead with implementing their cuts.

This is a policy with no hope and no future — there will be no public British truck manufacturer if we let Edwardes continue with this disastrous course.

Workers have voted for a union policy which will retain jobs at Leyland. Confrontation is inevitable.

We must remain united and not fall for the 'fools gold' of redundancy money. No-one will be able to draw dole until most of this is used up, and very few of those made redundant will ever find new jobs.

We must not be conned into thinking some of us will survive. More large scale redundancies will follow this year, particularly in the foundry section. After that LV's ability to survive at all will be in doubt.

If we all stand together and press our case we will find that management and the government policy it is implementing CAN be defeated. This will be our last chance.

SUPPORT THE RAILWORKERS

Interview with Leyland convener p15

Editorial

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Miners — what went wrong?

THIRTY 5p pieces arrived on Joe Gormley's desk just before the results of the miners' ballot was announced last week. The miners from the Allerton pit in North Nottingham, sent this gift to the retiring president of the mineworkers union with the cryptic note: 'Like Judas, here is your payment for betrayal.'

This gesture summed up the feelings of militants throughout the coal industry. The 55-45 per cent vote against the national executive's recommendation came as a bitter blow. After Scargill's resounding victory in the Presidential context, the left in the NUM were confident of victory. So what went wrong?

Some of the blame must be placed on Gormley's appeal through the *Daily Express*. Colliery managements pasted this up at every pit in the country.

So blatant was Gormley's final act of betrayal that he only managed by a whisker to avoid censure by a normally loyal NEC.

Does the result confirm Gormley's claim to be maestro statesman best able to judge the mood of miners?

It is enough to take a casual glance at the voting returns to see that such an explanation is nonsense. It cannot account for the big differences between Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire — coalfields only a few miles apart.

Gormley probably influenced the voting of the best paid miners and the clerical grades — building on the divisions caused by the industry's bonus schemes.

But the most important factor in the discrepancy is undoubtedly the different roles played by the various local leaderships. In Yorkshire and Scotland a two-to-one majority backed the NEC. The reverse picture in Nottingham stemmed not only from the refusal of the right wing leadership to wage a campaign for the NEC recommendation, but by their successful blocking of the left's attempt to do so.

The first lesson from the ballot defeat therefore is the understanding that the right must be challenged on their own ground. It is not enough to simply campaign in the left wing areas. But more fundamentally, the left needs to provide adequate answers to the arguments of the right.

Gormley and his cronies played up the NCB's refrain that a 'yes' vote was a commitment to strike action. Scargill's reply that the mere threat of strike would be sufficient to make the Board increase its offer, didn't really cut any ice. Few were prepared to take the gamble that the NCB and the Tories would turn tail without a fight.

The right wing rightly charged that a strike would mean confrontation with the Tory government. A response to this needed much greater efforts of political preparation. Blind insistence that this was just another wage claim was a mistake. Mutterings that if the Tories got in the way they would be removed as Ted Heath was in 1974 just added confusion.

In retrospect concentration on the £100 minimum for face workers was too narrow. The Board's threat of further pit closures had to be openly confronted given the general climate where trade union and Labour leaders have not only failed to halt the rise in unemployment but have done their best to stop rank and file militants taking action on their own behalf.

Crossed fingers and prayers that the Tories will cave in won't therefore win the next wage claims. Preparations have to be made now as militants sift through the lessons of this defeat. A massive campaign among the members of the NUM is needed involving a fight for united class action against the Tories. Then the Tories will not be able to pick us off one by one. Solidarity today with the train drivers would provide a firm basis for united action by the unions in the nationalised industries through the building and extension of the Triple Alliance.

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LABOUR LIAISON '82

By Tessa van Gelderen,
Socialist Challenge representative

'THE TASK of the Labour left now is to work flat out for a Labour victory at Hillhead, for Labour gains in the local elections in the spring and for a Labour victory in the general election.'

Tony Benn, speaking at Labour Liaison '82, tried to set the tone for the meeting. He was hoping that the meeting was 'not going to waste time on the deputy leadership question.'

He tried to reassure the delegates at the meeting who represented a whole range of organisations and Broad Lefts in the party and the trade unions, that 'no assurances had been sought or given on any account at Bishop's Stortford — not even on Tatchell and the *Militant*.'

But despite Tony Benn's reassurances, the meeting was divided on whether there was a truce inside the party.

Reg Race, who described himself as 'PLP, lunatic fringe', stated firmly that the first condition for unity in the party was that the right stops its witch-hunt, reinstates Peter Tatchell and doesn't fudge party policy.

'If not, all bets are off as far as the leadership and deputy leadership are concerned.'

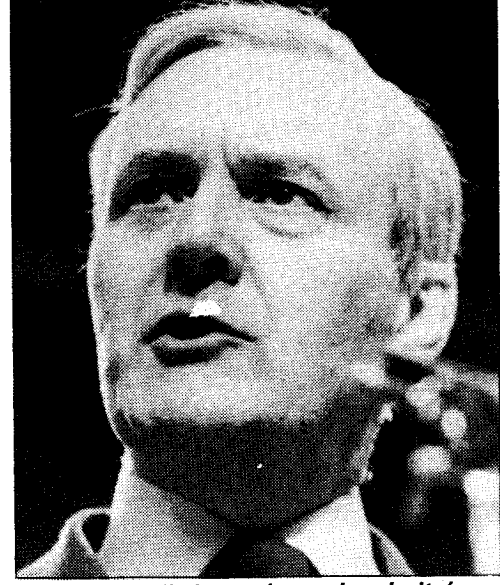
This theme was to be repeated throughout the discussion particularly

from the trade unionists present who were concerned that the fight should continue.

As Colin Talbot, representing the Broad Left of the Post Office Engineering Union, explained: 'Those of us in the unions can't keep our heads down. Our jobs and our wages are on the line, we can't have a truce.'

SDP

He argued that we had to have a Labour government but pointed out that those workers who had voted Tory at the last election would switch their votes to the SDP. Why? Because the trade union leaders were colluding with the bosses and unless the campaign continued to



Tony Benn: 'Labour victory is priority'

The 'monstrous perversions' of Michael Foot

Last week we looked at Michael Foot's two-part article in the *Observer* about his brand of socialism. Here PHIL HEARSE looks at some of the more immediate issues raised by Foot's article.

MICHAEL FOOT'S articles in the *Observer* were the precious and pretentious products of a literary *poseur*. Anyone who has heard Foot speak will know what I mean — all that silly shouting, posture-taking and demagoguery about the 'red flame of socialist courage' when defending incomes policy or the closure of steel plants.

But Foot did in fact put forward a number of very simple arguments to justify his faith. First, he argued, the notion that the 1974-9 Labour government sold out socialism is a 'monstrous perversion' put around by people like Tony Benn.

Second, says Foot, the Bennite left will lose Labour the next election. Third, he argues that Labour MPs are not dominated by the leader, but are freer now than ever to exercise their own consciences.

Sacked

And fourth, he was right to attack Peter Tatchell because of Tatchell's lack of faith in parliament.

The first argument is a crucial one. There is no argument that a Labour government is infinitely preferable to a Tory one. But the 1974-9 Labour government *did* abandon crucial aspects of Labour's election manifesto, and moreover, chose the traditional method of attempting to deal with the economic crisis — attacking the working class.

Labour's manifesto, adopted in 1973, included as a central plank an attempt to regenerate British industry through planning agreements and state investment via the National Enterprise Board. This was abandoned by 1975, when Tony Benn was sacked as Industry Minister.

Callaghan then went on to impose the social

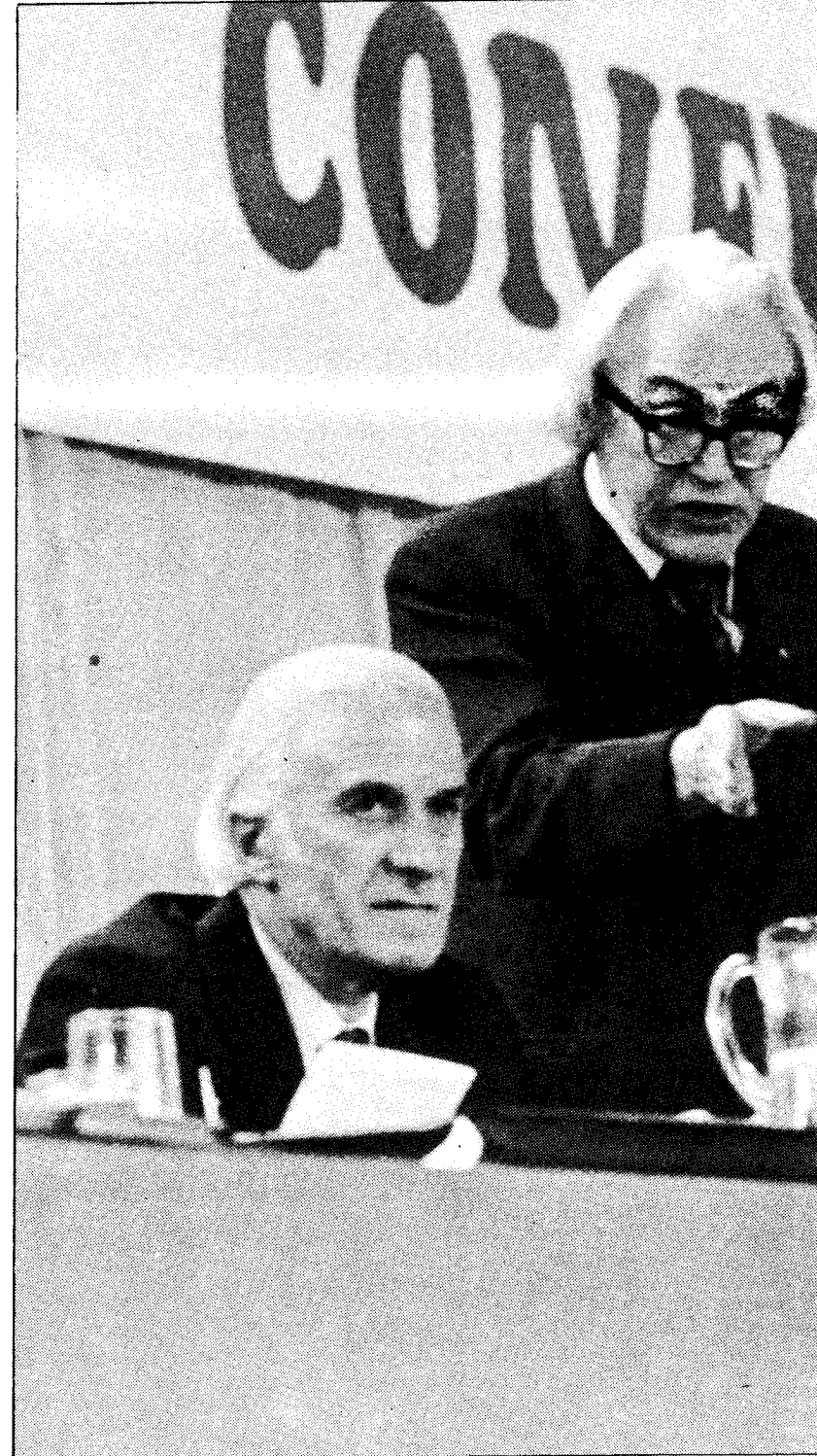
contract, which despite the pretence turned out to be another word for wage restraint. It was because of this that Labour came into conflict with groups like the firefighters, just as the 1964-9 Labour government had clashed with the seafarers.

It was against this depressing background of falling living standards that Labour lost the 1979 general election. There was not one single measure of this government which involved an attack on the bosses in favour of the working class — it is a 'monstrous perversion' for Foot to pretend anything else.

Michael Foot in 1966 was the hero of the Labour conference when he rose to attack the imposition of incomes policy by the Wilson government, pointing to big business, the City and the banks as the real enemies of working people. But ten years later, when he was Callaghan's loyal lieutenant, he had forgotten all that.

Foot's argument that it is the Bennite left which will lose Labour the next election is another monstrous piece of double think. It is the Labour right, with its numerous defections to the SDP, which refuses to accept conference decisions and thus precipitates the conflict inside the party.

But more than that, the problem of Labour winning the next election is pre-



Tony Benn keeps a watchful eye on Michael Foot. Benn said 'Labour victory is impossible without socialist policies and a continued right wing. But delegates from union Broad Lefts insisted on

eminently a political one — will Labour forthrightly campaign for policies which are different to those of the SDP, which attempt to give an answer to the economic crisis in the interests of working people?

It isn't the Bennite left of the party which wants a

re-run of Wilson/Callaghan policies, the kind of thing which has lost Labour two general elections.

Foot's third argument — that Labour MPs are now freer than ever of domination by the leaders — is beside the point.

For the left, the in-

dividual 'conscience' MPs is not the crucial question. What matters whether the MPs carry the wishes of the party in parliament — the wishes of the party leader or their own wish.

The doctrine of 'loosening the control the leader' means nothing

NO TRUCE WITH THE RIGHT!

replace those leaders who refused to implement TUC and LP policy, then workers would not take the left seriously.

Unions

Despite the reluctance of many of those at the meeting to come to firm conclusions as to how, if at all, to organise themselves in the future, there was very useful discussion on the importance of winning the trade unions.

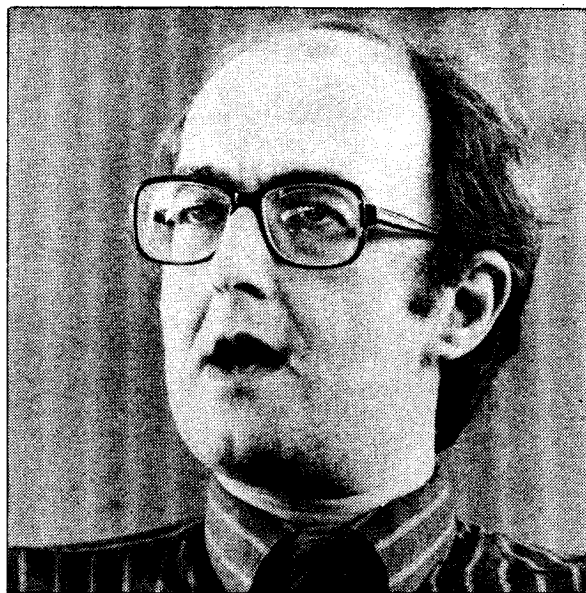
Norman Atkinson, deposed party treasurer, who chaired the meeting, had suggested that what was needed was for the block vote to be overhauled in favour of the constituencies.

This was firmly

squashed by a number of trade union activists. They pointed out that the real fight was to democratise the unions and to fight for policies of the left inside the trade union movement. This was essential if the longer term battles were to be won. There was no avoiding that issue by any manoeuvres.

This point was forcefully brought home to the meeting by the contribution from Laurence Scott deputy convenor, Steve Longshaw. After nine months on strike he was in no mood for conciliation.

'Unless you get rid of the right wing leadership in unions like the engineering union, struggles like Laurence Scott will be pulverised and crucified.'



Reg Race: 'PLP, lunatic fringe'.

'You've all stood by and let it happen to Laurence Scott's. We've lit a torch for you people to keep alight. We've got to break these right wingers. Otherwise it won't be Laurence Scott that gets crucified but the lot of you. Our leaders can surrender. We'll never surrender.'

It was difficult after that intervention for the rest of the meeting to ignore the importance of campaigning in the unions and fighting against the government — and for the left to lead that fight by supporting those workers in struggle.

But despite that, the meeting still managed to get bogged down at the end with minutiae about the reaction of the press to

the meeting, the election of the next National Executive Committee and so on.

Divided

It didn't take up practical suggestions such as proposed by Joan Twelves, representing the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign, that the meeting should decide, alongside how it will organise itself, to declare itself in support of a woman's right to work and choose, for solidarity with Solidarnosc, Leyland and British Rail workers, and to back those forces fighting against the Tebbit and Heseltine proposals.

The meeting broke up still divided on how, if at all, to continue the fight

for left policies, with groups like the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and the leadership of the Labour Coordinating Committee firmly on the side of declaring a truce, while the majority of trade unionists, London Labour Briefing and Socialist Challenge supporters arguing for the need to keep up the campaign.

The follow up meeting planned for the end of February will have to resolve these differences if the left is going to get down to the real tasks of how to fight for a Labour Party and ultimately a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Otherwise, Labour Liaison will be consigned to the proverbial dustbin.



Socialist Society - is there life outside workshops?

By Phil Hearse

LAST weekend over 1300 people met together to form the 'Socialist Society'. The Society, founded by a galaxy of independent socialists, proposes to draw together socialists for the purpose of promoting socialist theory and education.

The founders of the society who are generally to be found within the ambit of *New Left Review*, were obviously inspired by the example of socialist education and publishing in the 1930s — for example the Plebs League and the Left Book Club.

In itself, such a project can only be positive. But it can hardly be suggested that left wing publishing is suffering in Britain from a great dearth of input.

With Pluto, NLB and a host of others, publishing hundreds of books a year, it seems unlikely that the Society will contribute anything particularly novel on this level.

Hostile

Its one already-decided project — a series of books on basic questions of socialism to be published by Penguin — has already been pre-empted by Pluto.

The Society might have more use as a general educational institution, and the conference decided to set up local groups. But there again, who will the local groups aim to educate and discuss with?

Even the educational tasks for socialists pose the problem of political orientation, for surely not even those as determinedly 'non-committed' and 'independent' as the Socialist Society steering committee want education for education's sake?

The one question of practical political orientation discussed by the conference was the Labour Party. The conference decided *not* to allow the steering committee to prepare proposals on affiliation to the Labour Party.

This reflected the overwhelming composition of the conference — independent socialist intellectuals

with often a marginal relationship to the organised labour movement.

Most of them were actively hostile to involvement in the Labour Party, and this was reflected in the booing and hissing of Eric Heffer when he suggested that the Labour Party was the place to fight.

On this occasion Eric Heffer was right. The only way in which the frustrated energies and enthusiasm of most of those participating, even in doing educational work, can be realised is by linking up with the Labour left.

In the wards and con-

stituencies there is a big understanding of the need for political theory and education, but linked with a practical struggle, an attempt at involvement with national politics.

The potential recruited by the socialist society is in danger of being swamped by the large proportion of its first recruits who doubt that there is life outside workshops, and who last attended a conference when they were in Leeds for 'Beyond the Fragments'.

Outside of the Labour Party the Socialist Society could become an obstacle to winning the socialist intelligentsia to the labour movement. A socialist mutual appreciation society will be just a clique, even if a big one.

As the crisis deepens, as the Tories redouble their attacks, more and more socialist intellectuals will want to go beyond 'theoretical practice'. The Labour Party is how to get out of the intellectual ghetto.



Eric Heffer: booed when he urged Socialist Society to join Labour Party

last Saturday's Labour Liaison meeting that a Labour victory was the priority. But a Labour struggle against the right wing. Many at the meeting wanted to cool the fight against the continued fight.

progressive so long as the MPs are free to ignore conference decisions. Foot's argument that he is not a tyrant like Wilson is beside the point here.

Perhaps more surprising in view of the alleged 'truce' decided on at Bishop's Stortford, is Foot's trenchant defence

of his witch-hunt against Peter Tatchell.

His argument is specific. People like Tatchell have to be attacked because they refuse to endorse the superiority of parliament as the decisive mechanism of social change. In other words, it is not a matter of being in

favour of parliamentary activity; you have to venerate it as Foot does as the supreme embodiment of socialist activity.

The logic of this argument is clear. Foot is giving due warning of his intention to pursue the witch-hunt with a vengeance. Anyone who

says that parliamentary activity is not supreme will be open to attack.

Foot's article in the *Observer* should be read and re-read by those who think that he is a mere 'prisoner' of the right wing. They reveal that he has gone over, hook, line and sinker.



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Jaruzelski & Reagan - enemies of the Polish workers

Socialist Challenge Polish school

Two day educational school on Poland and political revolution for Socialist Challenge supporters on 13/14 February in London. If you would like to come see your local SC supporters or write to Socialist Challenge school, PO Box 50, London N1.

Solidarity Committees with Solidarnosc

Birmingham Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Roger Murray, 28 Blackford Road, Birmingham 11. Ring 021-773 5396.

Glasgow Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Ian McCalman, 18 Mossiel Rd, Glasgow, G43. Ring 041-632 1839.

Greater Manchester Polish Solidarity Committee, c/o Jon Silberman, 51 Montrose House, Crete St, Oldham, Lancs. Ring 061-620 2885.

Eastern Europe Solidarity Campaign, 10 Park Drive, London NW11. Ring 01-458 1501.

Labour Focus on Eastern Europe, Box 23, 136 Kingsland High St, London E8.

Polish Solidarity Campaign, 69 Edinburgh Rd, London E13.

Solidarnosc Trade Union Working Group in UK, 64 Philbeach Gardens, Earls Court, London SW5. Ring 01-373 3492.

Labour Poland Solidarity Fund, c/o Co-operative Bank, 110 Leaman St, London E1.

By Davy Jones

GENERAL Jaruzelski and Ronald Reagan have both this week shown their utter contempt for the Polish workers. Jaruzelski told the Polish parliament that martial law would stay until the workers stopped resisting. And Reagan lined up various reactionaries from the worlds of politics and 'entertainment' to sing the praises of peace and freedom in the 'Let Poland be Poland' TV bonanza.



Jaruzelski's speech to parliament grimly warned that there would be no lifting of the draconian martial law regulations until the end of next month at the earliest, and then only if 'acts of illegality' had ceased, ie the workers' resistance has been crushed. He also confirmed that regulations putting workers in key industries under directly military rule would not be lifted at all for the foreseeable future.

resigned in protest over the backing of martial law, and others heckled the General during his speech. Reagan meanwhile was planning the 'sickest show on earth' (make sure you miss it) for this weekend's TV networks. 'Let Poland be Poland' threatens to bring together Frank Sinatra singing 'Ever Homeward' in Polish, Charles Heston, Kirk Douglas and other well-known friends of democracy and freedom.

sick showbiz hypocrisy of the TV show. The treachery of the Reagan administration's choice of this weekend for their extravaganza is made worse because Solidarnosc in Europe appealed for this Saturday to be a solidarity day with the Polish workers.

were being asked to spy on their parents by the security police.

Unconfirmed reports speak of almost half the workers at the Gdansk shipyards having been sacked for refusal to sign the government's loyalty oath; political journals have been purged of all 'unreliable' staff; and the purge of dissidents within the Communist Party goes on. Elsewhere workers are not waiting to be purged. In the Polkolor factory near Warsaw some 740 of the 780 party members threw away their party cards.

leaders still free. The meeting resolved that there could be no co-operation with the government until all internees were released, martial law was lifted and the government had made a commitment to continuing a genuine dialogue with Solidarnosc.

Across the country a new batch of anti-government graffiti has appeared. 'Wrona skona' has been scrawled on walls meaning 'the Crow will die' (WRON are the initials of the Military Council, WRONA is Polish for a crow).

It is not just the workers who are fighting back against the regime. A petition protesting against 'the methods used to intimidate and enslave society' has been signed by 120 intellectuals and artists, including film director Andrzej Wajda of *Man of Iron* and *Man of Marble* fame.

And a leading liberal Stefan Bratkowski, head of the suspended Journalists' Association, has written an open letter from hiding protesting against martial law. He claimed that the military rulers had no popular support. 'Not a single honest man who is respected by the nation has backed the military coup,' he said.

Revolution/Socialist Challenge Solidarity with Solidarnosc

Leicester: Thur 28 Jan, 7.30pm, Socialist Centre, High St, Leicester.

Acton: Fri 29 Jan, 7.30pm Co-op Hall, Acton High St.

Birmingham: Mon 1 Feb, 7.30pm at Other Bookshop, Digbeth.

Hemel: Tues 2 Feb, 7.30pm Friends Meeting House, Hemel.

East London: Wed 3 Feb, 7.30pm at Dalston Library, Dalston Junction.

North London: Fri 5 Feb, 7pm at Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Rd.

Huddersfield: Thur 11 Feb, 8pm at Friendly & Trades Club, Northumberland St.

Martial law was a 'necessary evil' to avoid civil war, he claimed, explaining that the government intended to pursue its application to the International Monetary Fund. The IMF's austerity will now be added to the crackdown on democratic rights as another attack on the Polish workers.

Top of the bill will be various world political leaders like Thatcher and Schmidt. Star of the show will be a representative of the Turkish military junta, who will explain the merits of free trade unions to the Polish people from his long experience of crushing them.

In Poland the repression and the workers' resistance continue. Three workers at the Ursus tractor plant were sentenced last week to between three and three and a half years in jail for 'organising strike activity against martial law'; five militants in Wroclaw were arrested for allegedly producing the underground paper *From Day to Day*; in the same city kindergarten teachers complained that children

Birmingham backs Solidarnosc

By Mick Archer

SATURDAY 6 February, Chamberlain Square at 11 am. That's where Birmingham's first demonstration in support of Solidarnosc will be assembling and Socialist Challenge asks every labour movement activist to support it.

Marek Garztecki from the Solidarnosc trade union working group. Also invited are Paul Mackney president of the Trades Council, and local Polish speakers.

Although this is the first demonstration called by this committee, the BPS has been quite busy since the introduction of martial law in Poland. On Monday 14 December, hours after the military crackdown, the executive committee of Birmingham Trades Council discussed the events. With only 12 of its 20 members present, Communist Party members and supporters managed to pass, by seven votes to five, a resolution that blamed both the hardliners in the Polish Communist Party and the so-called extremists in Solidarnosc for the repression.

The BPS responded with a token picket of the Trades Council offices on the following Saturday. And at the first full meeting of the New Year, on 7 January, we mounted a noisy lobby which helped ensure that the executive position was overturned. Birmingham Trades Council now has a clear policy in support of Solidarnosc and will be supporting the 6 February demonstration.

The BPS meets regularly and anyone interested is asked to contact Roger Murray, at 28 Blackford Road, Birmingham 11. Tel: 021-773 5396. Publicity material for the demonstration is available from Birmingham's Other Bookshop, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham 5 DR. Ring: 021-643 5904 to arrange collection.

South Wales miners oppose martial law

SOUTH Wales area executive of the National Union of Miners has added its condemnation of martial law in Poland. Its declaration was overwhelmingly endorsed at its 5 January conference of lodge officials, which also backed the national strike call against the Coal Board's pay offer.

South Wales NUM vice-president Des Duffield, explained to Socialist Challenge: 'We decided to send a condemnation of martial law and the imprisonment of trade unionists in Poland to the Polish Ambassador in London. We are also seeking a personal meeting with the Ambassador. We will request a visit to Poland itself to investigate the claims about the conditions of trade unionists, particularly the miners, with whom we have previously had contact.'

'Although we don't believe all the news coverage we've seen, there is substance to it. If there is nothing behind these reports then there should be no reason for the Polish authorities to deny our request to see for ourselves. Martial law is a crime anywhere especially when the rights of trade unions are attacked.'

'The defence of trade unions is of great concern to us. Reagan and Thatcher are using Poland to assassinate any way of socialist life in the minds of the people. We don't want to broaden our position so much that it will give them fodder to do this. Some people have made this mistake.'

'Reagan is in no position to criticise what is going on in Poland when his government is backing repression in places like El Salvador. As for Thatcher defending trade union rights we know what that means for us with Teb bit's anti-union laws!'

Solidarity with Solidarnosc Manchester

Thur 28 Jan
6.30pm All Saints Oxford Rd
7.30pm Free Trade Hall



Demonstrators in Geneva, where Haig and Gromyko met this week, protesting against nuclear weapons in Europe, and against US involvement in El Salvador and Soviet interference in Poland



Glasgow rally backs Solidarnosc

By Martin Meteyard



EIGHT hundred people marched through the streets of Glasgow last Saturday to demand an end to martial law in Poland, the release of all those jailed or interned, and full recognition of Solidarnosc.

The march, organised by the Glasgow Polish Solidarity Committee, was the climax of a tour by Solidarnosc activists Piotr Kozlowski and Marek Garztecki. Labour movement support was reflected in the Glasgow Trades Council banner at the front followed by that of Stirling Trades Council. Other unions on the march included the EIS (Scottish teachers union), NALGO and NUPE.

Also represented were a number of Labour parties; there were Socialist Challenge, Socialist Workers Party, and Scottish National Party banners; and, most significantly, there was a contingent from the Communist Party.

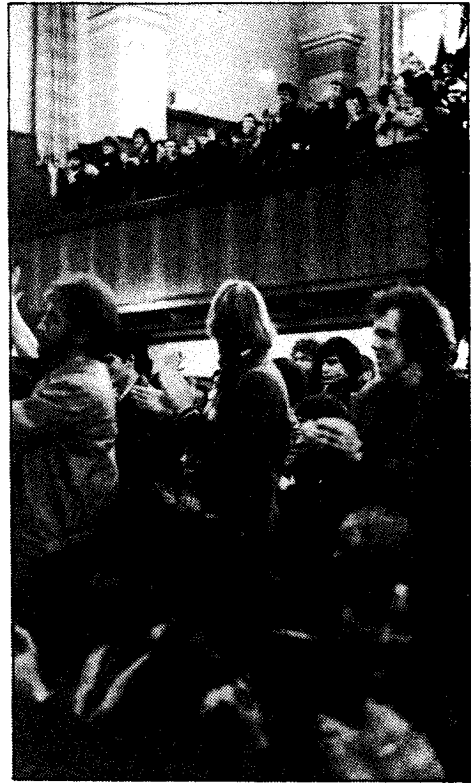
A rally at the end chaired by the prospective Labour candidate in the Hillhead by-election David Wiseman, heard former UCS workers' leader Jimmy Reid begin by denouncing the 'nauseous spectacle' of Reagan's global TV programme on 31 January. This was the murderer of the people of El Salvador, he pointed out; the man who had jailed the leaders of the Air Traffic Controllers Strike in the USA. Our campaign should have nothing to do with such people.

The audience rose to its feet and vigorously applauded when Kozlowski, senior steward from the Ursus tractor plant, took the microphone to explain how Solidarnosc had been a real movement of the working class. That was why it had been suppressed. And that was why he and Garztecki were most anxious to build up contacts with trade unionists in Britain.

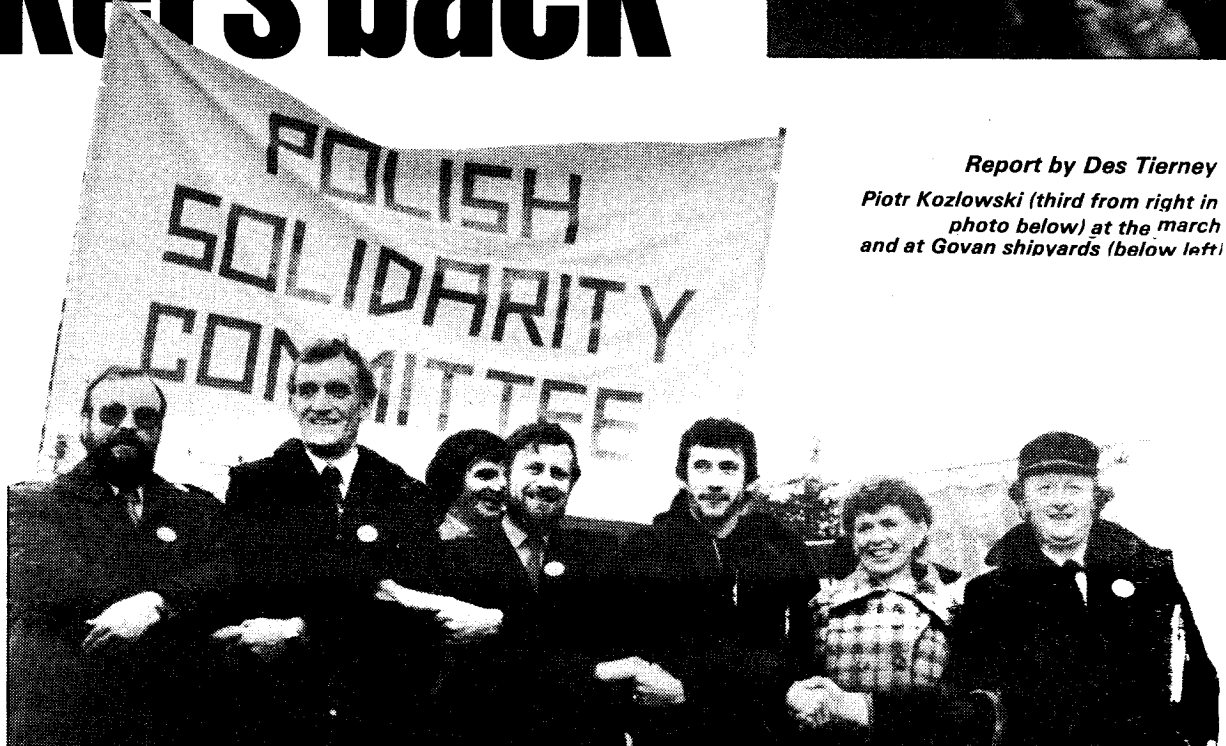
After speeches by Labour MPs,

John Maxton and Dennis Canavan, and Labour MEP Janey Buchan, the final contribution came from Garztecki. They wanted a labour movement campaign, he said, because the experience of their tour was that it was ordinary working people who instinctively understood and supported Solidarnosc's struggle. He added that the same went for people he had met during the week from El Salvador, Chile, Iran and Turkey. Wearing an 'El Salvador will win' badge, he explained that 'we are comrades in the struggle'.

The final collection taken for the campaign raised over £500. This included £20 from the Lee Jeans workers presented by convenor Ellen Monaghan who said it was misleading to compare their struggle with that of Solidarnosc. 'We had it easy', she explained, 'because of the type of support we got from the labour movement. That's what Solidarnosc needs now'.



Scottish workers back Solidarnosc



Report by Des Tierney
Piotr Kozlowski (third from right in photo below) at the march and at Govan shipyards (below left)

THROUGHOUT Scotland support for the Polish independent trade union received an enormous boost after the visit of two Solidarnosc activists, Marek Garztecki and Piotr Kozlowski, senior steward at the Ursus tractor plant outside Warsaw.

During the six days of their tour they spoke at seven public rallies — in Glasgow, Stirling, Falkirk, Bathgate, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. They were given receptions by the Labour-controlled local authorities in Glasgow, Stirling and Edinburgh. They had detailed discussions in workplaces with shop stewards committees and they met numerous trade union officials and Labour MPs in Scotland.

Support

The tour, which was organised by the Glasgow Polish Solidarity Committee, has laid the basis for broad support within the Scottish labour movement and the Solidarnosc representatives have received numerous invitations to tour workplaces, Labour and social clubs on their next visit.

The highlight of the tour was undoubtedly the reception given to Marek and Piotr by a mass meeting of BL shop stewards at Bathgate. The immediate decision after their historic decision to occupy their factory in defence of jobs, gave a very enthusiastic reception when Piotr, who himself works at a tractor plant, was introduced to the meeting by

Jimmy Swan, convenor of shop stewards, as 'someone who could give us great advice about how to run our occupation'.

Piotr wished the workers at Bathgate all success in their fight and assured them all the support of the Polish workers when they regained their free trade union. Marek presented Jimmy Swan with a Solidarnosc badge from the Ursus region as the shop stewards gave them a standing ovation.

Throughout the tour the two speakers made two central points. First, that the Solidarity trade union working group is calling on British trade unionists to actively consider what forms of economic sanctions they can take against the military regime in Poland. In speech after speech they emphasised that the British workers should support such activities despite the hypocritical 'boycott' campaign being sought by Reagan.

They stressed that they were seeking the support of their trade union brothers and sisters in this country to force an end to the Jaruzelski regime and did not wish to be identified in any way with the campaigns of Reagan and Thatcher.

The second main point they put over was the

necessity for a major campaign with the British trade union and Labour movement to protect their trade union Solidarnosc from the military regime to ensure that it is not supplanted by any state-run fake trade unions.

They called for a campaign in British trade unions to break off any remaining links with the state-run trade unions in Poland, for the release of all Solidarnosc activists and the return of all the unions confiscated funds, premises and equipment.

The tour was not without some difficulties. In the leadership of the Scottish labour movement especially among some Communist Party trade union officials their visit

was marked by some hostility. This was also true of some sections of the Labour Party's Scottish executive.

Both the STUC and the Labour Party in Scotland declined to speak at the major rally in Glasgow. Jimmy Milne, general secretary of the STUC and a member of the Communist Party, in declining to be at the rally reiterated that events in Poland were 'a domestic issue. It is up to the Polish people themselves', he declared.

Employers

This view was also reflected when comrade Marek met with leading shop stewards at Rolls Royce, one of the biggest employers in the West of

Scotland. The convenor of shop stewards, George McCormick, a member of the Communist Party, insulted Solidarnosc by accusing it of not being a true representative of the workers in Poland, of making unrealistic demands on the Polish government, repeating slanders against the Soviet Union, and of lining itself up with the Polish community in Britain which he described as 'basically fascist'.

The Solidarnosc comrades were not surprised at this reaction. Many times they have seen the same type of Western trade union leader being whisked around their factories

after days of special preparation, when special overtime payments are made to make the factories clean and tidy, with the canteens specially restocked with cheaply priced goods, and with hand-picked workers 'representatives' invited to the reception.

At the Govan shipyards the welcome was entirely different. The shop stewards committee expressed great interest and solidarity with Solidarnosc and assured comrade Piotr that they would take up Poland in their unions. Govan is one of the British shipyards

where redundancies were prevented by acquiring an order to build Polish ships. The shop stewards convenor Sammy Gilmore, a member of the Labour Party, is also well known in Scotland for advocating that the workers of Britain copy Solidarnosc as a way of getting rid of the Tory government.



All Photos: DES TIERNEY

Massey Ferguson workers black Polish parts

LAST WEEK three thousand workers at Massey Ferguson's Coventry plant voted unanimously to black all supplies of parts shipped from Poland. We asked LES HARTOPP, a Socialist Challenge supporter who works at the factory, to tell us more about this action.

What is the background to the blacking vote?

Before martial law the joint shop stewards committee exchanged letters with the Solidarnosc organisation at the Ursus tractor plant (naer) Warsaw. Piotr Kozłowski, a Solidarnosc leader from Ursus, is a member of the Solidarnosc trade union working group in Britain and spoke to the stewards. He appealed on behalf of Solidarnosc for Massey workers to black parts supplied from Ursus on a £700,000 contract.

Last week Piotr addressed mass meetings on days and nights where the stewards recommended that we should not handle or fit components that come 'at the point of a gun'. In a tremendous display of working class solidarity the meeting wholeheartedly supported the recommendation. All the workers are now wearing Solidarnosc badges.

How will this blacking help the Polish workers?

The Solidarnosc representative urged Massey workers to take this direct action in support of their brothers and sisters in Poland. When work on the Massey's order stops, the Polish workers will know they have support despite the bureaucrats' attempt to isolate them from the international workers' movement.

The first response of the Polish workers to martial law was to occupy and to go on strike. They weren't mistakenly worsening the effects of the bureaucracy's austerity measures on themselves.

They are struggling against the bureaucrats' attempts to reconstruct the economy and strengthen their grip on Polish society under martial law. This is a political struggle. When British workers respond to Solidarnosc's appeals to

black Polish goods they are helping to win this struggle.

Don't you think there is a danger that blacking action will play into the hands of Reagan's anti-communist boycott and further strangle the Polish economy, making things worse for the Polish masses?

I'm surprised at the question. General Jaruzelski accuses Solidarnosc of damaging Poland by striking against the bureaucratic mismanagement of the economy and Polish society. In order to remove the bureaucracy and establish a democratic regime of workers' power, the workers' movement in Poland and internationally will continue to use methods of class struggle including occupations, strikes and solidarity blacking.

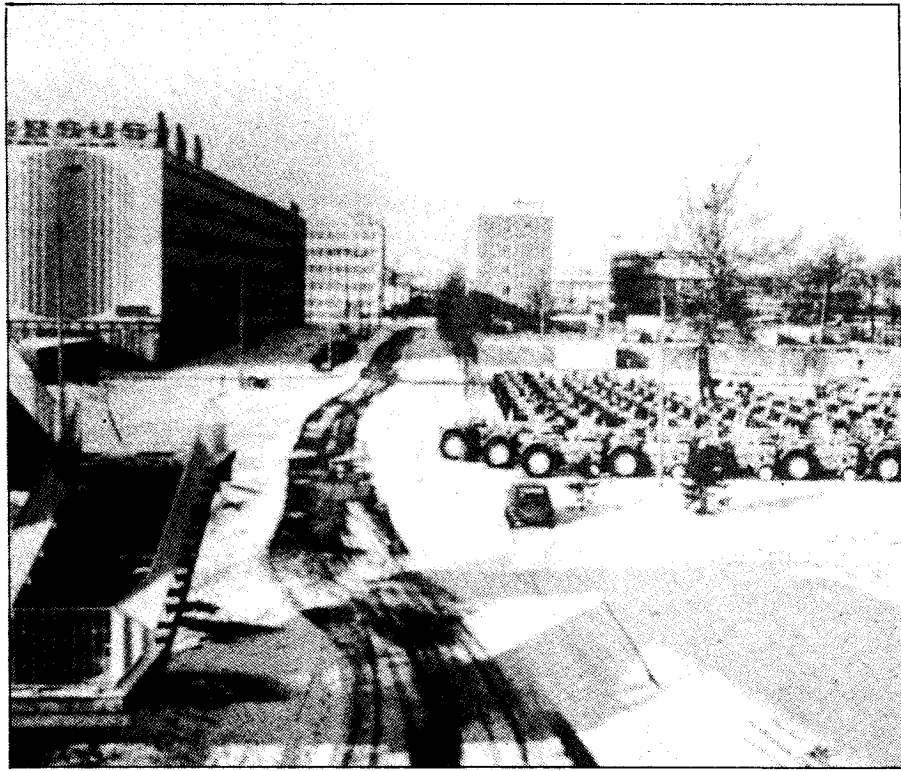
If workers demonstrate outside the Polish embassy do they play into Reagan's hands? If we organise to send material, food and medical aid are we sucked into the manoeuvres of the Vatican? If trade unionists condemn the military repression does this place them on the same side as Thatcher?

As for Reagan's boycott, Socialist Challenge has recently pointed out that this is mainly a hypocritical propaganda campaign. The West is putting little effort into a boycott. This could be solely because their own domestic economies can't stand a boycott. However Chancellor Schmidt for example clearly doesn't see a boycott as the best way to ensure the political survival of the Polish bureaucrats, and with that the long term security of West Germany's interest repayments.

Finally what is the significance of the Massey's blacking action?

It is certainly not inspired by imperialist propaganda, quite the reverse. This blacking action is an inspiration for other workers to follow the lead for independent working class action in support of the Polish workers.

There has been some hesitation throughout the labour movement, fearful that action in solidarity with Solidarnosc will be seen to endorse Reagan's war-mongering hypocrisy. Direct workers' action as at Massey's stands in sharp



Tractors lie idle at the Ursus plant outside Warsaw

contrast to empty reactionary talk of a boycott.

Actions like this will stimulate the building of a powerful campaign in the workers' movement in solidarity with the Polish workers, independent of the Cold War warriors. Already following the Massey's vote a big meeting is planned next week to launch a Polish solidarity campaign in Coventry. The meeting is in room D14, Lanchester Poly at 7.30pm on 5 February.

Build labour movement support for the Polish workers

SUPPORT is growing inside the labour movement for the Polish workers. Solidarnosc activists received a huge boost when they toured Scotland last week. This week they are in Manchester and the North West. Almost everywhere they go they find tremendous enthusiasm for their struggle, argues PENNY DUGGAN, Polish Solidarity organiser for Socialist Challenge.

Despite the pathetic hesitant response of the Labour and union leaders, rank and file workers are prepared to take action in support of Solidarnosc. Socialist Challenge appeals to all its supporters to help establish solidarity committees with the Polish workers, and workplace and labour movement tours with Solidarnosc speakers to develop close links between the British and Polish workers.

There are a number of practical things that the labour movement here can take up. First, to demand that the TUC should be allowed to send its official delegation to Poland to establish the real situation of the labour movement there. Second, to twin workplaces and labour movement bodies with their counterparts in Poland. And to raise money and material aid for Solidarnosc. The Solidarnosc trade union working group in London will help establish such contacts.

Third, labour movement rallies and meetings in support of Solidarnosc should be held in every town with Solidarnosc and labour movement speakers. These can act as a springboard for local solidarity committees to be established, as well as preparing the ground for a national labour movement conference on Poland which sections of the solidarity movement have already called for, for

example in the resolution of the Lancashire Association of Trades Councils.

In the context of such activities being organised Socialist Challenge supports the actions of the Massey Ferguson workers in endorsing the call of the Solidarnosc speaker for blacking parts for the Ursus tractor plant.

We are totally opposed to all the Cold War campaigns for a boycott of Soviet and Eastern European countries organised by Reagan and Thatcher. But rank and file workers responding to appeals from Solidarnosc to take blacking action, as part of a broader campaign of solidarity, is an entirely different matter.

Such blacking action is not the most effective way to help Solidarnosc: sending material aid to Solidarnosc, developing a political campaign of solidarity is more useful in the long term. But there is no doubt that with the campaign of support for the Polish workers daily growing within the workers' movement rank and file blacking will correspond more to international workers' solidarity than Cold War propaganda.

Solidarnosc trade union working group can be contacted at 64 Philbeach Gardens, Earsl Court, London SW5. Ring 01-373 3492.



Lech Walesa addresses the Ursus workers before the December's military crackdown

Lancashire association of trades councils back Solidarnosc

This County Association condemns the sheer deceit of those who claim to defend Solidarnosc whilst simultaneously,

- conspiring to prop up military dictatorships in El Salvador and other Latin American states, justifying the racist South African regime, its military occupation of Namibia and its incursions into Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, and the Seychelles,
- conspiring to escalate the number of nuclear warheads in Europe pointing at the heads of the Polish and other European and Soviet workers as part of their Cold War plans,
- sabotaging the economies and preparing contingency plans for the military invasion of Cuba, Grenada and Nicaragua,
- arresting and jailing striking and picketing workers, while seeking even further legal restrictions to undermine the ability of unions in their own countries to pursue the democratic right to a job, a living wage and sexual and racial equality.

Only the labour and trade union movement internationally can legitimately defend its right to an independent existence. In Poland we therefore call for:

- an end to repression and martial law,
- the release of all political prisoners,
- no intervention in Poland by outside nation states,
- food aid for the Polish workers,
- material aid to Solidarnosc by the TUC,
- trade union delegations to visit Poland,
- labour movement and Solidarnosc speakers under the auspices of the TUC to tour the Lancashire area,
- resolutions and discussion to be encouraged and future trades councils and branch meetings to continue the discussion on the problems facing the Polish workers,
- to sponsor a national labour movement conference to discuss the situation in Poland and solidarity with Solidarnosc.

Passed by executive committee of Lancashire association of trades councils to go to North West TUC quarterly on 23 January.

INTERNATIONAL

January issue out now!

Oliver MacDonald on Poland, interview with Joan Ruddock CND, Britain's South Africa connection, Ernest Mandel on British Economic Disaster and lots more! Just 60p plus postage. Bulk orders available now for supporters groups. Subscription rates: £4.50 Britain and Ireland per year.



Ernest Mandel on British Economic Disaster CND: JOAN RUDDOCK INTERVIEWED

Railworkers: All out for victory

By D. Ellis, NUR.

THIS WEEK things are coming to a crunch on British Rail. The failure to bludgeon ASLEF into submission leaves the Rail Board and their Tory backers with only two options: capitulate or raise the stakes. The Rail Board has withdrawn Sunday working. This is intended to undermine the growing support for the drivers in the NUR. But those who see the unity of the two unions having gone too far are calling for a total closure of the railways and for the Board to slog it out.

Sid Weighell, leader of the NUR, is playing a despicable role. But he is a desperate man. He knows that the longer the drivers continue to fight the more likely it is that the guards will join in. Despite his agreement on the new flexible rostering, most guards are in revolt against them.

Stance

Accordingly, he has stood with the Tories and the Rail Board against ASLEF. Writing in *NUR News* he said that 'the Board's decision not to implement the 39-hour week and not to pay the 3 person increase for Locomotive staff has been brought about entirely by the stance adopted by ASLEF'. But the widespread feeling amongst the ranks has even prompted a move from his national executive to give official backing to the train drivers. At a meeting held

Monday 25 January, Weigell managed to head off the move, but it was stated that many members of the executive including general secretaries feel that the ASLEF case is 'right and just'!

Meanwhile, the revolt is spreading. Many Southern region depots including Cannon St, Slade Green and Plumstead will be out Friday. Meanwhile a meeting of 20 depots in the North West met Tuesday to press for an end to the agreement on flexible rostering.

Despite press reports, the traindrivers action is having a big effect on industry, particularly in relation to delivery of coal and steel. An all-out strike would pose the question of invoking the Triple Alliance of rail, steel and mine workers. In this regard, Scottish miners General Secretary, Eric Clarke said his members

'wholeheartedly support our colleagues in the triple alliance. We are completely behind the decision of

ASLEF to take action to compel BR to carry out the terms of (the) pay agreement'.

'Smash ASLEF' say bosses

IF Sidney Weighell, general secretary of the railworkers' union, is to be believed then only minor issues are involved in the present rail dispute.

But the bosses have other clear goals in mind. Last week's *Economist* magazine, the journal of British capitalists, laid bare the hard, cold facts about what they're after.

'The ideal outcome of the current dispute would be the destruction of ASLEF, in much the same manner as President Reagan ... destroyed the air traffic controllers in America last year.

'An ASLEF in ruins could then be swept up by the larger and more moderate NUR ...' But the article warns, 'To take on ASLEF and lose would be the worst of all possible worlds.'

The Economist places good odds on the knock-out fight with ASLEF. After all, it argues, the drivers' union is small, 'bolshie (a weak leader in the pocket of a ragbag of communists and other left wingers)' with supposedly 'absurd restrictive practices'.

While the journal estimates only modest productivity improvements would result from the new rostering, its introduction would mark 'the critical break with the eight-hour day'. Then the scene would be set for the real kill.

A BR victory would also bring the public sector pay settlements down to the level of those in the private sector.

While working people will be deadly opposed to these goals, few can disagree with the conclusions: if ASLEF is defeated, the real winner will be none other than Margaret Thatcher.



Cannon St Guards Chris Francies (left) and Pete Oakley (right)

Guards locked out

By Brian Grogan

GUARDS from Cannon St and Streatham Hill rail depots in London who took one day strike action last Friday against proposed flexible rostering found themselves locked out on Sunday.

The Cannon St guards received a letter from the Station Master stating that they would not be required for duty nor would they be paid on the Sunday.

When the guards contacted their union, they were told no action would be taken. The spokesperson at Unity House, the union headquarters, even offered the opinion that as they were only a small depot such disciplinary ac-

tion would 'quieten them down' and 'pull them back into line'.

This is a serious omen for all guards. The withdrawal of Sunday working needs a response. In a radio interview last Sunday Sid Weighell commenting on the possibility said: 'That will cause problems but I understand the Boards position'. The one day strike, Friday, by Cannon St guards is the sort of response now needed.

Pete Oakley, LDC representative at Cannon

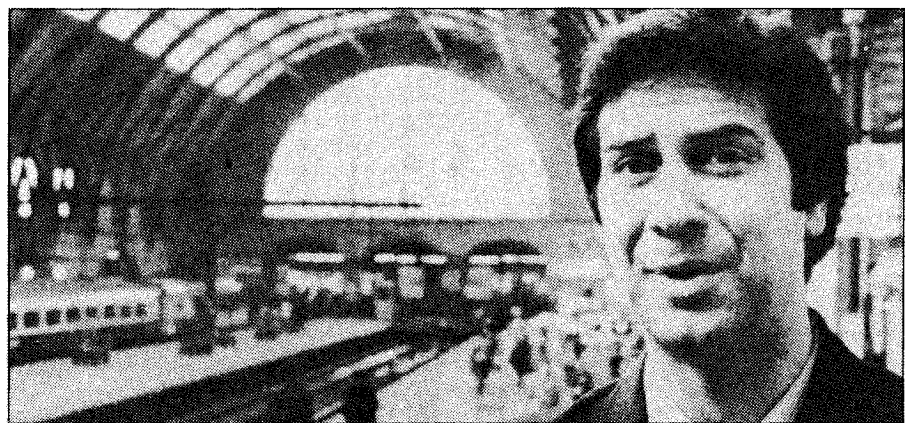
St, explained that he thought the drivers' action was 'a great thing. They are fighting for our case as well. Sid Weighell's role has been disgusting.

'We've prepared a list of questions to which we want an answer.'

'We've fought for years for an 8-hour day and Weighell has signed it away just like that.'

Brian Whitehead from Streatham Hill LDC added: 'All guards are opposed to these new rosters.'

'They will increase unsocial hours', he said. 'create lots of redundancies and keep vacancies unfilled — putting more of a workload on those that remain. Shouldn't unions be in the business of creating jobs, not selling them off?'



Steve Forey — gagged by courts

Railworkers take on Sun

By a Kings Cross Guard (not named to avoid prosecution).

A mass meeting of over 500 Kings Cross drivers and guards overwhelmingly decided to stand by their decision to black the Sun Group newspapers. In accordance with their resolution, blacking would be maintained until such a time as the Sun, on its front page, made a retraction of the scurrilous accusations against train drivers.

The meeting had been demanded by Judge Glidewell who made an order in favour of the Sun requiring the two train-driver officials at Kings Cross, Steve Forey and John Caddywould, to recommend to a mass meeting the ending of the blacking action.

Both guards and drivers were fantastically militant and united. They were outraged at the use of courts not only to gag leading militants, but to force them to say things

with which they did not agree. And all in the name of freedom of speech! Despite his statement, Steve Forey was able to communicate his real feelings when he symbolically tore up a copy of the Sun before he and Caddywould had to leave the meeting.

A debate then ensued. The 'freedom of the press' issue was resolved when it was pointed out that the Sun was not just 'reporting'. It has been firmly suggested that the two scabs had been given

£10,000 to sign their fabrications. The Sun's reporting was political. Murdoch, the Sun's boss, was using his ability to print papers to try to smash ASLEF. Only 5 people voted against continuing the blacking.

The action has spread to other stations and depots, including Waterloo, Victoria and Doncaster.

The unity around this issue has reinforced the fight of railworkers against the new rosterings. As Steve Forey pointed out: 'The drivers are incensed by this legal action. They see it as an attempt to divert us from the real issue which is that we want our 3 per cent, and we will not accept flexible rosterings. The struggle goes on.'

Round the regions

BIRMINGHAM

Fred Orton of ASLEF on the picket line at Salltley, Birmingham said: 'First the eight hour day was fought for in 1919 and has been established since then. Apart from flexible rostering varying signing-on times from day to day, it would also vary the length of the working day. They've talked in the press of seven to nine hours, but in our case it would mean six to ten hours.'

'It would be impossible for drivers to exchange turns of duty, which enable men who live a long way away to get turns that coincide with public transport. A man could be working 15 or 16 consecutive days of different length, there would be no social life left for us.'

'It also brings in the safety question, with drivers taking out trains after working long hours. The pay deal had nothing to do with accepting new rosters.'

'We agreed to discuss productivity, we did not agree to accept management's proposals. The board have refused to honour their agreement.'

'The 39 hour week has been agreed for two years now. They're using it to force us to work unpredictable hours and to shed jobs. In the West Midlands they will expect to 'save' 15 per cent of jobs within certain grades.'

'Engine drivers, guards, yard staff and station staff would all be affected. And yet they would have to increase their administrative staff in order to apply the agreement!'

'We're managing to survive on three days pay at the moment, but we'll have to escalate the dispute if they don't back down by calling on other unions for support — both financially and through the blacking of goods.'

BIRMINGHAM NEW STREET

Walter, a member of New Street No4 branch of the NUR told Socialist Challenge why he had come out on a 24 hour protest strike.

'It's over flexible rostering, which the NUR leadership have agreed to. It affects the eight hour day which Sid Weighell and his father fought for. Now

they are letting it go.

'We've always had set turns of duty and now they turn round and tell us we'll have to work seven or nine hours and only get 39 hours pay. There will be a lot of job losses plus the overall wages will be considerably less.'

'A meeting called last Wednesday voted 85 to 17 in favour of strike action. The management met with the LDC the day after and said that the strike wouldn't do any good and that they'd given instructions to other depots to cover our work. That's why some guards are going in today.'

'Gareth Daniels is the chair of our branch and he went on Birmingham radio to tell people to go to work.'

'He's on the LDC too. He's really committed to the NUR — at the top — and it's more than his job's worth to support us.'

'There are going to be job losses, for a mere three per cent and there's so much unemployment. I think it's wrong especially for young people, and that's why it's mainly young NUR members who are out protesting.'

Socialist Challenge pointed out that Mr Daniels, the branch chair, had said that politics were being brought into the New Street strike. Walter's friend replied: 'Of course its political, everything's political nowadays!'

NOTTINGHAM

A vote for strike action was lost by three votes at the Nottingham NUR branch meeting.

SHEFFIELD

In the first week of the dispute, Sheffield NUR decided to work to rule, ban overtime and Sunday working. At a meeting on 24 January a tied vote led to action being suspended.

LEEDS

Leeds City NUR have passed a resolution of no confidence in the General Secretary and the NEC.

STREATHAM HILL, LONDON

Greg Tucker, Southern Region guard reports that London Bridge, Cannon Street, Coultston and a number of other depots followed the call from Streatham Hill to come out on Friday 22 January.

He said: 'I was part of a delegation of guards from ten depots who lobbied the NUR national executive. We were met by a mixture of threats and empty promises.'

'Unfortunately some of the "left" members of the national executive argue that we should hold our fire at the moment, dragging out local negotiations for as long as possible until the next Annual General Meeting.'

'This strategy will only serve to disarm us. What is needed is a co-ordinated response now.'

PADDINGTON

Paddington No1 NUR has passed a resolution of no confidence in the General Secretary and the NEC. It calls upon the NEC to re-negotiate 'variable' rostering and to call immediate strike action in support of ASLEF. Paddington guards Local Department Committee has a policy which totally opposes variable rostering, and reports from down the line in Reading and Oxford indicate growing anger.

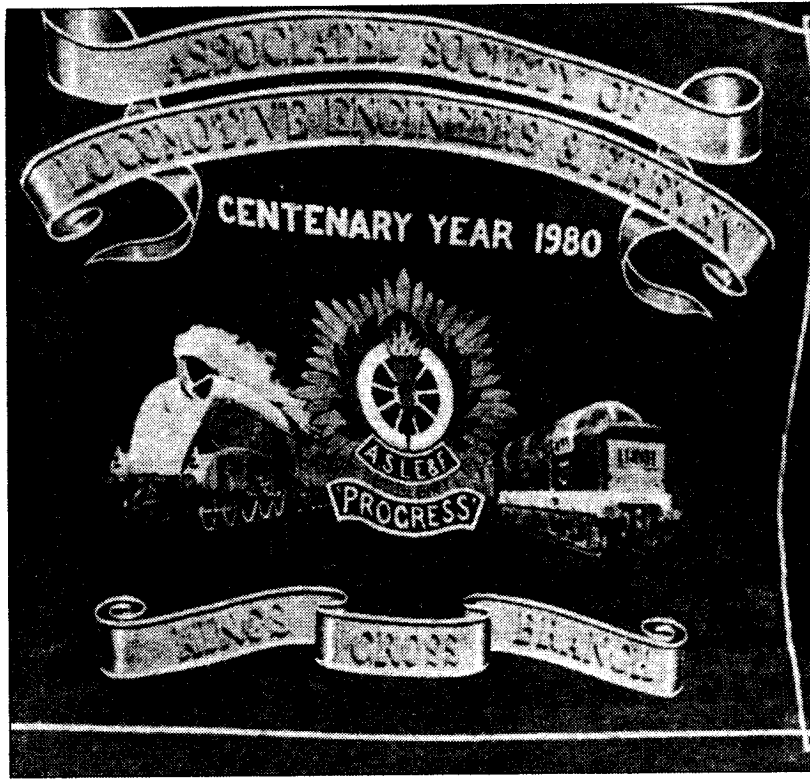
Station staff at Paddington collected £50 for the ASLEF strike fund, including donations from the staff canteen workers.

EALING

Peter Grant, ASLEF spoke to the Ealing area Labour Party on the issues behind the strike and was greeted with applause by the 200 strong audience.

EDINBURGH AND NOTTINGHAM

NUR branches have called for Sid Weighell and the National Executive Committee to resign.



ASLEF STANDS FIRM

By Pete Grant, ASLEF

OUR DISPUTE took a new course on Friday 22 January when drivers picked up their morning papers to find *The Sun* — a well-known defender of the working class — carrying an inflammatory article headlined 'Taken for a Ride! ASLEF men paid as they drink, sleep and disco'.

The article alleged that drivers, drivers' assistants and guards were engaged in such fiddling that it's a wonder the railways run at all. Drivers were said to report for work, to then go on drinking sessions or to discos, coming back to sleep it all off in the back cab of their engine while young drivers' assistants, some as young as 17, drive the trains unsupervised.

The two young scabs from Waterloo who 'blew the whistle', are being portrayed as heroes. Yet the press is silent on the fact that they both have disciplinary records as long as their arms, and were in the process of facing yet more charges under British Rail's disciplinary machinery.

The drivers' anger boiled over at Waterloo and a 24-hour stoppage resulted. Press reporters were told to keep away by BR management and police after a *Sun* reporter, hovering around the outside of the drivers' mess room, nearly ended up on the electrified track after being 'rumbled'.

Other London depots also took protest action. My depot stopped for 1½ hours and drivers resolved to black *The Sun* and associated newspapers until they won the right of

reply.

One interesting side line was the solidarity shown with the drivers by BR management with their statements denying any wide-spread fiddling and praising the drivers for their responsibility. A far cry from earlier days.

At the branch meeting of Willesden ASLEF, a motion was passed unanimously praising the executive committee and Ray Buckton for their handling of the dispute and their determined stand of not falling into the easy options and get-outs proposed by ACAS, Len Murray and Sid Weighell. Most unions would have caved in under the pressure. Duffy, Boyd, Gormley and co take note!

The insistence of ASLEF to get nothing less than a complete backdown by management has angered both the BR Board and the NUR leadership. When the latest ACAS talks broke down, both put up a united front against ASLEF, accusing the union of not having any confidence in their case — all because ASLEF would not go to arbitration!

The NUR executive are more frightened of their own members than of the Tory government and the BR Board. And Sid is rumoured to be after a seat in the Lords.

The NUR's disgraceful behaviour, outshining even the 'whistle blowers' was proved once again when they bludgeoned the guards at Kings Cross and other depots to call off their solidarity action. It's about time the NUR rank and file began to organise and kick these excuses for trade union leaders into the sidings where they belong.

1919 — WHEN ASLEF

THE RIGHT to an eight-hour work day is at the heart of the train drivers' dispute. There is a firm determination that the clock won't be turned back over 60 years. But what happened in the 1919 strike? There are astonishing parallels and lessons to be learned. HAZEL MACPHERSON and AILEAN O'CALLAGHAN investigate.



JH Thomas, secretary of the NUR in 1919. He was one of the most notorious bureaucratic scabs in the whole history of the Labour movement. There are many similarities between him and Sid Weighell.

THE 1919 railway strike was the inevitable collision of two fundamentally opposed principles: the capitalist class was out to get maximum profit and the working class needed to defend a basic standard of living. The rise of working class struggles in 1919 was interrupted by the First World War. Then the trade union bureaucrats even signed formal truces with the bosses making that much easier the drive to get workers in uniform, to kill German workers and die for capitalist profit.

The Labour Party entered the war-time coalition government, joining with capitalist parties to resist the demands of the workers. Just three days after the armistice popular pressure forced the Labour Party to resign from the coalition.

Soon after, the unions ended the truce. An astonishing 20 million working days were lost per year in strikes between 1911 and 1913. This peak figure went up further to 20 million in 1919. Every day that year at least 100,000 workers were on strike!

And there were other trouble spots for the capitalists. In January 1919 conscript soldiers mutinied as rumours spread that they were to be sent to Ireland or Russia, rather than go home. One year after the victory over British imperialism in the war, its tire system was in crisis.

The war years were especially hard for railworkers. JH Thomas, a Labour MP who became general secretary of the NUR in 1916, was determined to get railworkers into services that 184,000 joined up, leaving fewer workers to deal with a massive increase in tonnage. Almost 19,000 railworkers never returned from the war.

Those that remained behind faced intolerable work conditions. The T. Vale Company, for example, had train drivers on 20 hour shifts with only nine hours rest in between. As thanks to the truce between the rail bosses, the government and the union leaders, there were no rises in basic rates. Yet the price of eggs went up 60 per cent in the first six months alone.

During the war, while the railways were under state control a system of 'war bonuses' was introduced to partly compensate for inflation. It was nothing less than a series of unofficial actions and threatened national strikes towards the end of the war brought the bonuses even closer to rise in the cost of living.

Towards the end of 1917, feeling the pressure of its base, the ASLEF leadership threatened immediate action unless the government agreed to the eight hour day and implemented it immediately after the war. The date finally agreed to was February 1919 — 15 years after it had first been raised by the rail unions.

At the beginning of 1919 the NUR membership pressed for the realisation of its full National Programme and forced the leadership to renew the Triple Industrial Alliance with the miners' federation and the transport workers' federation. This alliance had been forged in the wave of sympathy strikes surrounding the national strikes in the mines, docks and railways between 1911 and 1913. It was seen by most industrial workers as their chief weapon in the class struggle.

The capitalists, fearing the revolutionary mood prevalent among the workers, played for time while they sought to divide the unions. It took an unofficial strike action by London tubeworkers and the threat of a national stoppage by the NUR to cut the strings the rail companies wanted to attach to the eight hour day. Three months of drawn out negotiations followed.

In March 1919 a special general meeting of the NUR called on the Triple Alliance to support them in strike action. Anxious to avoid a general class against class conflict, the Pr...

National Broad Left for Railway Workers

London Rally

**Solidarity with ASLEF!
Defend conditions and jobs!
Build a real federation of Rail Unions!**

Friends House, Euston Road,
London NW1, 7pm

Wednesday 27 January

Speakers: Dennis Skinner MP,
Mike Cleverley NUR, plus ASLEF
speaker.

ASLEF AND NUR JOINED HANDS

Minister, Lloyd George, and his coalition cabinet persuaded a delegation of the Alliance's leaders to call off the strike by making a few minor concessions mixed with some vague promises.

At the time the government was already negotiating with the miners, and so was stalling. In fact the ruling class had already decided that they would counter-attack the unions in the rail industry. They believed trade unionism was weaker in rail and that they could count on the hostility between the NUR and the ASLEF leaderships to divide the membership on a sectional basis.

Lloyd George had the miners bogged down with the Sankey Commission — an inquiry into the state of the industry. Then he went for the throats of the railworkers. In August the final manoeuvre was accomplished.

The principle of 'standardisation upward' of grading and pay was granted to the train drivers. In September the final offer was made to the other grades: a massive pay-cut.

In the last minute talks, Lloyd George, on public record for describing the railworkers as 'disgracefully paid', told the union negotiators: 'Whatever we lay down in regard to railwaymen, you may depend upon it, it is going to be claimed throughout the country and therefore we have to consider not merely your case but the cases of all other trades in the Kingdom'.

Even in the face of this blatant threat the NUR leaders offered to get the strike called off for a 'special case' deal for the lowest grades. Not even this was forthcoming. The NUR struck at midnight on 26 September.

The train drivers deal failed to buy them off. In response to the mood of their members the ASLEF leadership telegraphed Unity House saying: 'If you want help we are standing by'. ASLEF members struck simultaneously with their NUR brothers and sisters in joint defence of the rail unions and the entire British working class. For the first time ever, the joint executives of ASLEF and NUR met every day during the strike.

As soon as the battle was joined the class lines were sharply drawn. Although Lloyd George denounced the action as an 'anarchist conspiracy', the support was solid. Edinburgh reported: 'All men and women out'. Glasgow and the west of Scotland claimed: 'All out to a man'.

Exeter declared the stoppage 'complete'; Carlisle announced an 'unprecedented stoppage'. Cambridge was '100 per cent'; Birmingham and District were solid. Gravesend reported only three men at work.

A telegram to Unity House from the Isle of Wight read: 'Three blacklegs, remainder out'. At Southampton only the inspectors were on duty and the railworkers at Bedford telegraphed JH Thomas: 'Jimmy — go to bed for a week. All well here'.

Three of Derby's 130 trains ran on day one. Only two went from Victoria. Nothing at all moved on the South Eastern lines. Industry began to shut down almost immediately in the North West and in South Wales. An express which left Aberdeen at 18.35 on Friday 26 September reached Kings Cross at 18.25 on Monday 29 September.

In face of the 'conspiracy', the ruling class rallied to its own. At Paddington the scroll of scabs included Lord Cholmondeley as a porter; the Earl of Arlington who milked stranded goats; the Duke of Manchester, Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest and Lord Drogheda who moved goods and collected tickets.

At Kings Cross, Admiral Sir Drury Wake, Lord Grimthorpe and Sir Frederick Banbury found a new vocation in life. Lord Montague of Beaulieu and Lord Louis Mountbatten drove engines elsewhere on the network.

After the strike the non-conformist *British Journal* urged that the opportunity be seized. The editor appealed to the country to 'get hold of these dukes and earls who helped us with the railways and set them to work in some other manner'. But most of them never did another day's work in the rest of their lives.

Winston Churchill, the Minister for War, mobilised the armed forces to protect his illustrious blacklegs. Woking station was surrounded by barbed wire entanglements and a Lewis gun was mounted. Units of the Royal Fusiliers and Cameron Highlanders were sent to Paddington, and naval ratings occupied the stations in Glasgow.

The Cabinet turned down Churchill's request to place machine gun nests at the entrances of tunnels, but agreed to set up radio communications. The 1919 railway strike was the first ever in which the radio was used as a strike-breaking weapon.

Twenty-five thousand lorries were commandeered for strike-breaking and more were brought in from France. Units of the fleet transported goods along the coast. This was war!

The millionaires' press waded in with their usual 'objective' views. The *Times* called the strike 'an attack on the community, an attempt to starve them into surrender...like the war with Germany it must be a fight to the finish'. The *Morning Post* claimed that 'never was a strike more wanton or gratuitous', the *Daily News* declared that there was 'no shadow or semblance of an excuse for a strike'.

The *Daily Mail* agreed, saying that 'public opinion'... (by which was meant its own editor) was 'dead against the strike'. The *Daily Express* carefully explained to the world that Britain was the victim of 'a little band of conspirators who forced their duped followers into a strike against the whole nation'.

But for nine days the strikers stood solid. The only apparent divisions between rank and file drivers and the rest were at two football matches when the Locomotive men played the Permanent Way. The scores weren't even recorded!

Hundreds of strike bulletins and local trade union and socialist journals sprang up to explain the issues. The government began to lose the propaganda war. On 3 October, when the Exchequer had already lost £10m the *Daily Express* did a *volte-face* and headlined: 'The Railworkers have a Case'.

In desperation on that same day the government announced that wages earned by railworkers the week preceding the strike would not be paid. Even in the Tory press there was an uproar. This new move only stiffened the resolve of the rank and file and further isolated the government.

At this point the cavalry came over the hill to save the coalition government — and the rescuers all had trade union cards! The trade union bureaucracy saved the day for capitalism. Replying to charges that the NUR was 'attacking the community', JH Thomas went on cinema newsreel to point out that he had 'always held back strikes'. He was still doing so.

The NUR leadership never once turned to the Triple Alliance and even turned down offers of sympathy action from other unions. The pressure from the ranks was enormous.

Fearing sympathy strikes from London bus, tramway and dock workers, Ernest Bevin of the Transport Workers Federation organised a conference of over seventy bureaucrats from the Labour Party, TUC Parliamentary Committee, Amalgamated Society of Engineers, National Union of General Workers, the Railway Clerks Association, the National Federation of Women Workers and many other trade unions.

What was posed was a general strike in support of the railworkers to

bring down the coalition government. Instead, after speeches by Thomas and Bromley, the ASLEF general secretary, the conference unanimously adopted a motion declaring it was 'a purely trade union fight for wages and conditions'.

They then dispatched eleven top bureaucrats — including Arthur Henderson, Harry Gosling, Ernest Bevin and JR Clynes to wait upon Lloyd George at Downing Street.

As the reply was unsatisfactory, a national trade union conference was called for the following Tuesday 7 October to determine 'what form of moral and sympathetic support' could be given to the embattled railworkers. Three days before the conference, the 11 'tops' who had visited the Prime Minister sent him a signed statement, warning that unless 'a more reasonable attitude' was adopted by the Cabinet, 'it would be impossible to avert a widespread, extension of the strike with all its consequences'.

By then the ruling class was convinced that although the trade union bureaucracy was equally eager to avert a general strike, the pressure mounting from below was rapidly get-

ting out of hand. The Cabinet and the bureaucrats met and reached a rapid settlement.

While the conference delegation and Lloyd George were cooking up a deal in one room at Number 10, the NUR executive met separately in another. Believing a favourable settlement had been reached, left-wingers burst into singing the 'Red Flag' and 'The Internationale'. At which point Winston Churchill poked his head round the door and remarked: 'Harmony at last, gentlemen'.

Thomas telegraphed his branches: 'Strike settled, return to work'. Railworkers did so not knowing the terms. When they found out, it was clear that they had fought nine days to stand still. The wage cuts were driven back, but pay was to be 'stabilised for a full year'. Standardisation was to be subject to future negotiations.

It's true the guaranteed eight hour day — conceded originally only as a carrot, probably to be withdrawn later — was established by the 1919 strike. But the rest of the National Programme was shelved although victory had been within reach.

The trade union bureaucracy realised that further advance needed a

general strike, inevitably posing the question of state power. Here was the question they had wished to avoid all along.

In March the NUR Annual General Meeting had called for strike action by the Triple Alliance, and got a delegation to Downing St instead. In July the conference of the Triple Alliance voted for political strike action against military intervention in Russia, only for this to be diffused by a proposal to ballot the memberships. The ballot never occurred. And during the strike itself, the conference organised by Bevin prevaricated.

The bureaucracy knew that they could not hold the line after 7 October when the national trade union conference was due. So they thrust a shabby deal on the railworkers with only two days to go.

In 1926, Thomas, Bevin, Clynes and the others who misled the 1919 railway strike were unfortunately given a second and greater opportunity to betray. They took it with both hands and the general strike of 1926, unbowed before the ruling class, went down to a defeat inflicted by its own leaders.



Scabs maintaining tracks in the 1926 General Strike.

Beyond barbarism

By Tom Marlowe

THE movement against nuclear weapons owes a very large debt to EP Thompson. It was an indication of how dangerous the ruling class in this country see him that an invitation to him to give last year's Dimpleby lecture was withdrawn. He is very powerful with words.

It was his writing, in particular *Protest and Survive*, which launched the movement against Cruise and Trident in this country, and the BBC, the sponsors of the Dimpleby lecture, had no wish to give him the chance to make a similar impact through full colour television screens.

That's why *Beyond the Cold War* was published last week with the sub-title *Not the Dimpleby Lecture*, being an extended transcript of the message Thompson would have given to TV viewers had the censors of the BBC not stepped in.

With it, Thompson confirms his reputation as the most effective radical pamphleteer that it has been a pleasure to read for a long, long time. As with *Protest and Survive*, *Beyond the Cold War* can shake up the most complacent and drive them onto the streets.

Thompson's success is due to his style and writing technique more than it is due to the details of his argument. Despite the horrific nature of his subject — what he described as the 'probable' 'auto-destruct' of the world — he never gets too emotional, he seems above all,

contestable. Despite the sub-title, Thompson does not 'lecture', he talks and persuades.

So, should we all praise EP Thompson and walk with him or behind him without ever a forward or sideward glance? Not

quite. Because the grand sweep of Thompson's argument does, at times, tend to simplify and to mystify, and it can lead to places whose vagueness can be dangerous.

For inspiration for who can defeat the drive to nuclear destruction Thompson looks back to the popular resistance movements in the second world war, and in particular to the anti-fascist movement in Yugoslavia. There, what Thompson describes as 'the alliance of liberals, Communists, agrarians, social-democrats, Conservatives' secured a notable victory, and it is such togetherness to which Thompson looks as a way of stopping the bomb today. He called it, 'a general revolt of reason and conscience... a lived perception, informing human multitudes, of the

True, Thompson, in discussing the origins of the Cold War does not offer a simple equation of the Soviet Union and the United States as equally responsible; he tends to be more sympathetic to the Soviets. It is also the case that he agrees there are 'historical reasons' for the Cold War. But he still tends to see it as almost an accident, or 'at an even deeper level, there is a further explanation — which I will describe by the ugly word "psycho-ideological".'

Missing

With such an analysis it becomes logical to see the nuclear arsenal being destroyed by an apolitical alliance, by people waving banners which ultimately will say nothing more than 'we want to live'.

What is missing, and this is where the dangerous over-simplification occurs, is a consideration of the question of class. Thompson see the baddies — the military and security establishments' — as classless and those who will destroy them, just as in Yugoslavia, as classless too.

Military

For Thompson such rationalism is no more than a return to common sense. He argues thus because he sees the Cold War, the godfather of the bomb, as a mere 'habit, an addiction', albeit one that is 'supported by very powerful material interests'. Such interests he defines as 'the military-industrial and research establishment of both sides' or 'the military and security establishments'.

Is it really that simple?

But in Yugoslavia the alliance was not classless. All manner of people may have been represented in the resistance, but it was firmly led and it was under the direction of communists. And those whom they were fighting were not classless either, for fascism is and always will be capitalism at its most ruthless. The resistance in Yugoslavia was class war.

Class

And that is also how the contemporary horrors will be stopped. For it is not true that for capitalism the Cold War is illogical or reasonless. It is necessary for its own survival, not just the survival of a military establishment, but the survival of the whole capitalist system.

Empire

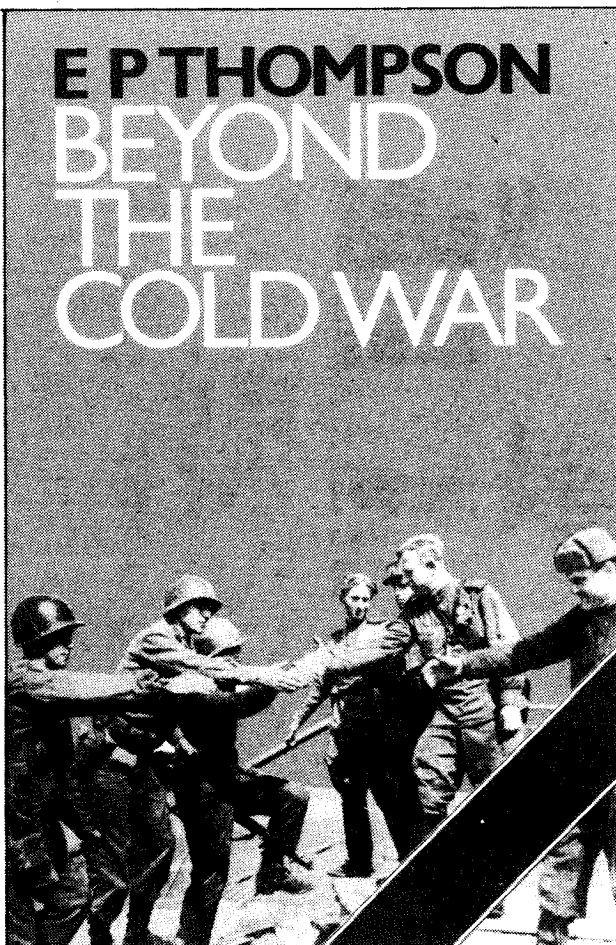
This is so because the only way capitalism can survive on an international scale is to terrorise, especially those in Africa, Asia and Latin America where popular revolts threaten the destruction of the US Empire.

Nuclear weapons are vital for such terrorism, not least by threatening the Soviet Union that any material assistance they might give to fighters for national liberation could end with the destruction of Moscow as well.'

Thompson fudges over such issues, and that is the crucial weakness of what is otherwise a brilliant pamphlet. That does not mean he is wrong to campaign for nuclear disarmament from Poland to Portugal, it does not mean that it is wrong to see defence of Solidarnosc as part of the campaign of the international peace movement. He is correct to insist on both.

But he also overlooks that the best way Solidarnosc can survive, indeed the only way, END can win, is through working people coming to the aid of working people, against those who, internationally, oppress them.

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ARGUMENTS for SOCIALISM

DIVIDE AND RULE

By Jude Arkwright

In the current crisis, women are being thrown out of work at twice the rate of men and the old adage of 'a woman's place is in the home' is being wheeled out to curb any opposition.

The problem is that women's right to work has never been recognised. As part time and largely unskilled workers and as those employed in the most vulnerable industries, they are a front line target.

Job segregation, which means separating women into these types of jobs and denying them the right to enter skilled jobs, is a key weapon for the bosses who can use women as a reserve army of labour.

Take the case of the women workers at Hoover in Merthyr Tydfil. The union leadership sold them down the river by negotiating a redundancy agreement which allows their jobs to go first.

Unfortunately, some of the male workers in the plant are under the illusion that this is to their advantage. In fact, the male workers have no guarantee that the redundancies will stop there.

The women have brought in the Equal Opportunities Commission to take up their case of sex

discrimination. A similar case was won recently by women workers in Birmingham who claimed that concentrating redundancies among part-time workers discriminated against women who were mainly employed in these jobs.

The way the law on positive action in the United States works means that fixed quotas of women have to be employed in skilled jobs, in certain industries and so on. The two cases described above raise the question of whether a similar principle should also be applied in relation to job loss.

Demand

In other words, should redundancy agreements include a mechanism for retaining a proportionate number of women, even if this meant, as in the case of Hoover, moving those women into skilled areas to avoid redundancy?

Many socialists would argue that such a demand for non-discriminatory lay-offs is wrong. Surely as

socialists we should have nothing to do with discussing any redundancy? We should be arguing that the way to overcome discrimination is not to send men out in preference to women but to fight all redundancies?

But, as they stated in a recent interview with Socialist Challenge, the Hoover women wanted their union to make a real fight against any redundancies. When union leaders sabotaged this policy, they had no option but to fight the discrimination that was being used against them.

At least this way they have the opportunity of once again arguing the need to fight all job losses.

The only way to prevent this sort of sell out and dividing of the workforce in the future is to try and tie the hands of management and union leaders. In any union policy against redundancies it should be specified that discriminatory lay-offs are unacceptable.

Some socialists say that this means fighting for women's jobs at the expense of men. This is a false argument.

The real threat at the moment is that women are being made scapegoats by the bosses and union leaderships alike. They are trying to make male workers swallow the story that the lack of jobs is the fault of women workers who are taking work which really belongs to men.

By arguing for anti-unemployment policies in the unions which include opposition to discriminatory lay-offs, women can establish the principle that they have an equal right to jobs.

Management and union leaders will be less able, under such conditions, to use 'divide and rule' tactics against workers.

Women workers: should they be the first to be made redundant?



One Sunday afternoon ten years ago

TEN years ago this weekend, the 1st Battalion of the Parachute Regiment of the British Army opened fire on a demonstration in Derry on what became known as Bloody Sunday. Within a couple of hours 13 people had died and another was to die later from injuries received. GEOFF BELL recalls what happened.

To understand Bloody Sunday, to explain why it happened, it is necessary to appreciate the political circumstances in which it occurred.

The previous August the Unionist government led by Brian Faulkner had introduced internment without trial of suspected Republicans and socialists. From the point of view of the Unionists and the Tory government at Westminster who backed them, the exercise was a disaster.

The use of such naked force justified the anti-imperialist movement in Ireland in the eyes of tens of thousands of Catholics. Internment failed to net all but a few of the anti-imperialist activists and produced a massive counter-offensive by the IRA.

Such failures produced sharp criticism from Faulkner's own right and the growing Democratic Unionist Party led by Ian Paisley. By January 1972 Faulkner's premiership was in danger and the British Army was under heavy pressure to 'get results'.

Derry was a symbol of the authorities' failures. The Bogside and Creggan districts were 'no go areas' for the British Army in which a popular mass resistance had kept out the forces of their repression ever since internment.

The anti-internment march planned for Sunday 30 January was a further act of defiance by the Catholic population of Derry, for Faulkner had banned all demonstrations.

For all these reasons the Unionists, the Tories and the Army were in desperate need of a 'victory' over the rebellious Catholics.

Just before Bloody Sunday a series of top level meetings took place between Faulkner, the British government and the Army chiefs.

The outcome was a joint statement on 29 January issued by the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the British Army: 'Experience this year has already shown that attempted marches often end in violence.... Clearly, the responsibility for this violence and the consequences of it must rest fairly and squarely on the shoulders of those who encourage people to break the law... The security forces have a duty to take action against those who set out to break the law.'

Force

The same day, Ian Paisley, announcing the cancellation of a counter-demonstration to the one in Derry, explained, 'We have been assured that the Civil Rights march will be halted by force if necessary.'

Peter McMullan, a member of the Parachute Regiment, was later to recall a conversation he heard in the officers' mess, three days before Bloody Sunday, the day he deserted:

'There was an O-Group that morning. An O-Group is a brigade confab, where all the officers in the brigade come in and have a big powwow. They were saying they wanted a confrontation with the IRA, and the

only way they seemed to be able to get a confrontation was to shoot.

'The conversation went round to the fact that they were going to shoot innocent people down to get a confrontation with the IRA.'

The march began in the Creggan district just before 3pm. By the time it reached the Bogside it was 20,000 strong. A couple of hundred of the marchers had swarmed in front of the lorry which was officially leading the demonstration.

At the edge of the Bogside there were Army barricades. As the march ended and the meeting began there was the usual interchange of missiles between the soldiers and a hundred or

so Derry youth. The Army fired plastic bullets and CS gas, the youth replied with stones. It was an everyday encounter in Derry that winter.

Then, at 3.55pm, the first shots were fired. They were fired by the Army and hit 15-year-old Damien Donaghy and 57-year-old John Johnston.

Few in the crowd realised what had happened, and the two were only wounded.

It was more than 15 minutes before the 'assault' began in earnest. By then, it has since been assumed, the army had hoped that the IRA would appear to 'defend' the people. But the IRA were nowhere to be seen, having dumped their guns in the Creggan to take part, peacefully, in the march.

The first two to be shot in the second round of shooting were 17-year-old Jack Duddy and 37-year-old Peggy Drew. Duddy was killed and a BBC television camera recorded his body being carried away by a priest waving a handkerchief soaked in the victim's blood.

Italian journalist Fulvio Grimaldi was later to record what happened next:

'The saracens careered into the square and stopped, 20 yards from each other. Perhaps three or four of them. There were loud bangs as their backdoors opened and clashed against the metal. Crouching figures leaped out with thin weapons in their hands. They ran, left and right, mostly forward towards the fleeing crowd.'

'I followed one of the leaping figures from the saracens. He jumped out, ran a few yards to the right, turned, ran towards a courtyard and lifted the carbine to his shoulder.

'He looked for a split second to another paratrooper, ten yards to his left, in an identical position. He fired, his head swinging slightly back. Then he fired again, then another shake of his head then he fired again.'

Grimaldi ran back behind the rest of the soldiers:

'I saw the back of the paratroopers. The firing was getting hectic. Some of the soldiers were kneeling and aiming, others were standing and aiming, others were darting towards the street in an effort to cut off the escape route.

'I saw a young man running, then slowing down and looking over to where an old grey-haired man was limping frantically away. The youth leaped over, put his arm under the old man, pulled him on.

Five yards to his right, a little further on, a boy with short, dark hair lifted his hands to his face as he raced past the soldiers. One of them let the boy go past, glanced down at his weapon, settled something on it with

his hand, moved a few steps forward, calmly lifted his carbine to his shoulder, pointed the black barrel at the back of the boy and calmly shot.'

One of those shot was 22-year-old Michael Bradley. He had seen his friend, Jack Duddy killed and ran out towards the body.

'The first thing that came to my mind was just mad anger', he said later. 'Though I was carrying nothing at the time, I had neither brick, stone or anything in my hand, I turned round and started using a lot of swearwords at the soldiers.'

'They were in the car park facing me. The soldiers had come out from inside their saracens and had taken up positions and firing points. Now I don't know which of these soldiers shot me. Just at the moment everything was just a flash to me.'

Whitewash

'The bullet came through my left arm, into my chest, and out through my right arm. I screamed, I saw the blood running down my fingers.'

Michael Bradley was one of the lucky ones. He didn't die. But 14 others did.

Afterwards, there was the inevitable attempt at a whitewash. But compared to the usual standards of British propaganda in Ireland it was a total failure.

The Army and British government minister Lord Balniel claimed that an unspecified number of nail bombs were thrown before soldiers opened fire. Nail bombs make a loud explosion. Other than soldiers, not one witness, including the hundreds of journalists who were present, ever came forward to testify to hearing such explosions.

The Army and Balniel claimed that more than 200 shots were fired by the IRA at the soldiers. None of these 'bullets' were ever produced. Not one soldier received a bullet wound, none of the saracens were marked by bullets.

The Army also said that four of the dead were on their 'wanted' list. When it was later proved that all of the victims either worked outside the Bogside, or frequently went outside it, and thus could be easily picked up by the Army, the 'wanted' claim was withdrawn.

Thorough forensic tests were carried out on the dead. No conclusive proof was ever offered that anyone of them had fired a gun or thrown a nail bomb.

The truth of Bloody Sunday was summed up in the words of the Derry coroner, Hubert O'Neill, a former major in the British Army: 'This was murder. The streets of our city ran red with the blood of young men.'

Bernadette

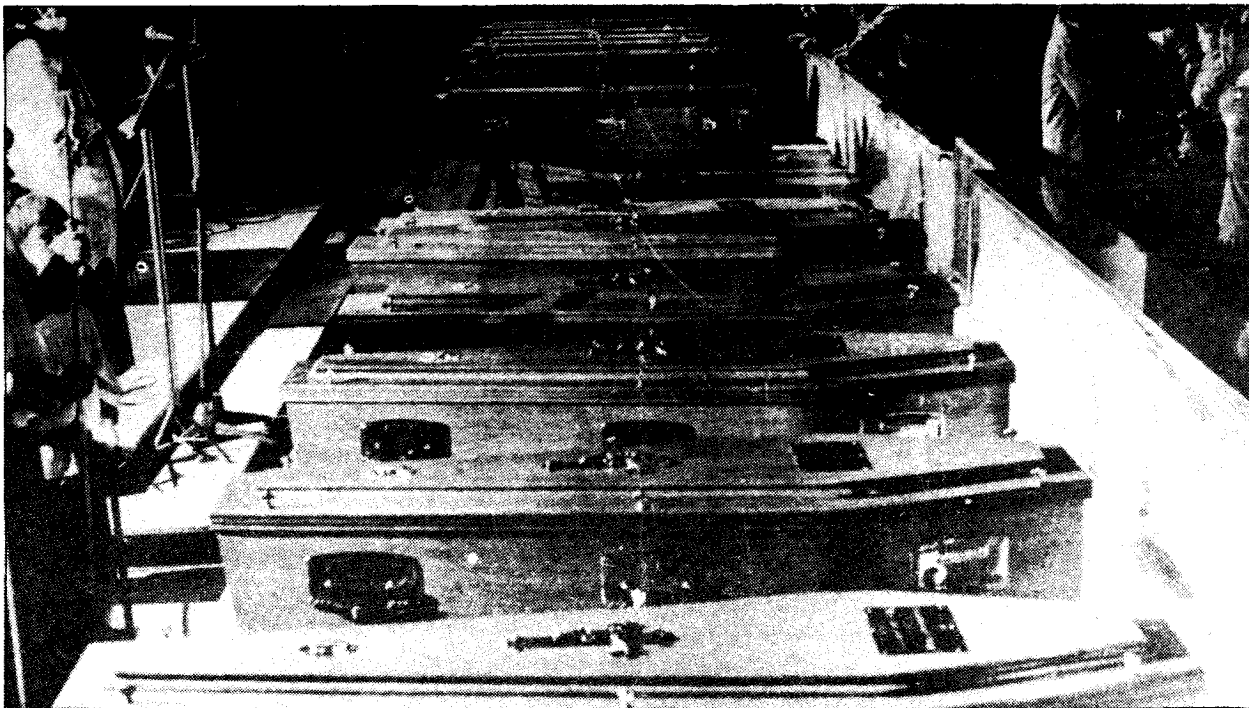
That was ten years ago. It may seem that this sort of thing could never happen again. Perhaps, in the exact form it took on 30 January in Derry 1972, it could not. But last week, two British soldiers were charged in a Belfast court with the murder of two Derry youths who had been run down by saracens six months ago.

Every witness at the trial testified as to how the saracen ran, at high speed, towards the two youths. The soldiers were found not guilty. A Loyalist majority on the jury helped them.

In that context, the following words, written by Bernadette McAlisear just after Bloody Sunday will bear repeating: 'The ruling class respects and recognises only its own power. In defence of "democracy" and "peace" they will break every democratic right, every law, every concept of peace and justice they themselves ever set up.'

'In Northern Ireland we have been batoned and beaten on the streets. We have been intimidated, interrogated, interned. We have had our Bloody Sunday. It has not been the first Bloody Sunday. It may be the last.'

'What happened in Derry on 30 January was done in the name of the British people, in the interests of the British ruling class. Condone it or fight it. You cannot stand in the middle.'



Guatemala: the next revolution

By Paul Lawson

LAST WEEKEND left wing guerrillas occupied three radio stations in Guatemala City and forced them to broadcast propaganda against the dictatorial regime of Lucas Garcia. The success of the operation, which made fools of the security forces was further evidence of the growing strength of the guerrilla movement in that country. Last year more than 3,000 people died, victims of the army and the death squads. A situation of open civil war is approaching, on the same scale as in El Salvador.

In 1954, the United States, through the CIA, engineered the overthrow of the reformist president Col. Jacobo Arbenz.

Arbenz began legal proceedings to expropriate the 178,000 acres owned by the American United Fruit Company, offering to pay generous compensation. The United Fruit Company, whose president was Alan Dulles, brother of the US secretary of state John Foster Dulles, began a big propaganda operation against Arbenz, of the same type as that waged by ITT against Chile's Allende.

The result was a CIA-

led exile invasion which overthrew Arbenz. It was the proto-type of the kind of operation which the US attempted to carry out at the Bay of Pigs in 1962.

Reforms

Arbenz's CIA-picked successor, Carlos Castillo Armas stamped out every reform that Arbenz had attempted to institute. The labour movement was crushed; all land reform measures were reversed; the literacy campaign and the peasant co-operatives were closed down.

Since that time Guatemala has been con-

any other Central American nation. With a population of around seven million it is the largest and most economically developed country in the whole region. US investment is twice that in El Salvador. Guatemala has assumed even greater importance since the discovery of oil on its borders with Mexico.

The very strong economic ties between Guatemala and the US mean that there is a 14,000-strong ex-patriate business community in Guatemala City. This community has very strong links with business interests in the south west of the US, from where most of the investment in Guatemala comes. Among this community are two right wing associations which support the Lucas Garcia regime.

Coca-Cola

The *Asociacion de los Amigos del Pais* (Friends of the Country Association) is led by Roberto Ale-

jos Arzu, a wealthy landowner whose ranch was used as a training camp for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

Alejos Arzu is also a member of the *Fundacion Guatemalteca por la Libertad* (Guatemalan Freedom Foundation) an organisation with links with the extreme right wing *Movement of National Liberation (MLN)*. Another *Fundacion* member is John Trotter, a Texan lawyer who used to run the Coca Cola bottling plant. Trotter gained notoriety when a number of workers and union leaders at the plant were murdered by right-wing death squads — finally, Coca-Cola were forced to remove the franchise from his plant. But Trotter maintains his friendly links with the supporters of Ronald Reagan in the Republican Party.

Guerrilla struggle started in the 1960s, under the leadership of the legendary Yon Sosa, but that struggle was soon defeated by brutal repression. But new guerrilla groups emerged in the 1970s, which decided that no ad-

vance would be possible without gaining support in the Indian population.

The Indians make up something like 53 per cent of the population and a large proportion of them are peasant farmers. For a long time they have been under pressure with their land being seized by oil, nickel and forestry interests.

In its hunt for 'subversives', the army tortured, kidnapped and murdered Indian peasant leaders. Every year half a million Indians are forced to migrate to the cotton, sugar and coffee plantations along the Pacific coast where they often work for about £1 a day.

Both the Guerrilla Army of the Poor and the Organisation of the People in Arms have large following among the Indians, who continue to be the victims of the most brutal army repression.

The Lucas Garcia government, in an attempt to give itself a facade of 'democracy', is holding elections early next year. Just as in El Salvador, the guerrilla organisations will

be barred from participating, and there will be large areas in the countryside in which the elections will just not happen. In any case, electoral fraud is the stock in trade of the Guatemalan rightists.

Support

As the civil war approaches the same proportions as the struggle in El Salvador, the prospect is opened up of a regional revolutionary war. But the guerrilla movement in Guatemala will be very hard to destroy.

Their firm support among the Indians, the mountainous nature of the terrain and the narrow social base of the oligarchy mean that a prolonged struggle is inevitable.

For the United States, the 'loss' of Guatemala to revolutionary forces is unthinkable. American military intervention would almost certainly be embarked on to prevent it. The fate of whole regions will almost certainly be decided in the mountains and valleys of Guatemala.



Guerrilla struggle in Guatemala challenges regime

Ghandi's police kill strikers

By K. Sen

STRIKERS were shot dead last Tuesday, and thousands of trade unionists arrested during a one-day general strike organised by eight major Indian unions. The strikers were protesting against the economic policies and anti-labour legislation of the Ghandi government.

After Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) party won the general election in January 1980, emergency laws reminiscent of the emergency period were introduced. The National Security Act (NSA) gave the government a free hand to imprison and detain opponents. The Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance (EMSO) in July 1981 gave the government the power to ban all strikes by workers in the 'essential services' sector.

This repressive legislation, which attempts to break the organised strength of the working class, coincides with negotiations of the Indian government with the International Monetary Fund for India's highest ever loan of 50 billion rupees. The conditions for the loan are stringent, and are thought to include measures to limit wages and attract foreign investment, so that India's foreign debts can be paid off.

In response to the repressive legislation and sharply rising prices the eight major trade unions formed a national strike organisation committee: but the Indian Trades Union Congress (INTUC), which backs Gandhi, refused to support the strike.

Despite attempts by the government to pre-empt the strike by mass arrests on the evening before it was due to take place, and despite the massing of troops and police in the major towns, the strike was successful in nearly all the major industrial centres.

In the two states where there are Communist governments — Kerala and Bengal — the work stoppage was almost total. In Bombay the second largest industrial city virtually every shop, factory, office and school was shut. All banks and government-owned insurance companies and newspapers were shut.

During the strike itself major demonstrations occurred in most of the industrial centres, during which clashes with the police and army took place. It is believed that the death toll was around twelve. The Indian workers are in urgent need of support. Resolutions and letters condemning the killing of workers should be sent to: High Commissioner, India House, Aldwych, London WC2.



Gandhi and her troops

Laurence Scott - a witch-hunt that must be defeated

By Pete Clifford

MOUNTING evidence is coming before Laurence Scott strikers of a witch-hunt being conducted against them by engineering union leaders.

The latest move by Sir John Boyd, AUEW general secretary, has been to send a threatening letter to the local district secretary whose committee has been consistent in its backing for LSE strikers.

In the letter (see box) Boyd makes no bones about it. His word goes.

Scott's senior steward, Billy Partlan, sees this as a serious threat to all engineers.

'He is trying to overrule the decisions of the district and the branches.'

'He wants to take all the authority away from them.'

'As Boyd would have it, every decision is going to be made by the executive, what we feel is considered irrelevant.'

Having failed to break the determination of Scott's strikers, Boyd is now adopting the same witch-hunt tactics as the right wing use in the Labour Party.

'He wants to isolate and bureaucratically defeat those who fight back.'

Billy Partlan told Socialist Challenge: 'I feel there's a connection between our problem and what is going on in the Labour Party'.

The Scott's workers are not going to be easy prey for Boyd. Their campaign in the engineering union branches to use the union's Rule 14 against the executive is gathering steam.

According to the Rule if ten per cent of branches demand a ballot for re-election of the Executive Council, this must take place.

In the last week strikers have visited over 150 factories in the North West to enlist their backing.

'The response has been fantastic,' says TASS steward, Phil Penning. 'In the coming weeks we will be going out further afield to other parts of the country.'

In addition a meeting is being arranged with Labour MPs in early February to call for their active support.

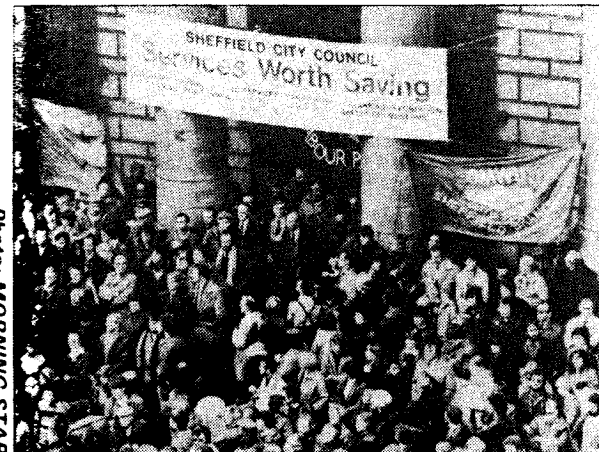
Laurence Scott workers tour Huddersfield

Last Thursday workers from Laurence Scott engineering toured Huddersfield speaking at two large factories in the town. The first meeting took place at the ICI works, where a mass meeting of the workforce called over shorter working week heard Phil Penning put the Scott's case.

Earlier the delegation from Scott's visited D. Brown's tractor factory at Methan, where they met AUEW convenor bro. Thompson and plant

senior stewards to discuss their dispute. Peter Robinson, a senior AUEW steward from Hopkinsons Valves, accompanied the Scott's delegation on the tour.

Huddersfield Socialist Challenge public meeting - Support LSE workers' fight for jobs now. Monday 1 February 8pm. Friendly and Trades Club, Northumberland St (opp. Railway station). Speakers: LSE workers, Jeremy Cuss. Chair: Terr Swinbank, AUEW convenor Holset Engineering.



Thousands of South Yorkshire workers went on strike on 25 Jan and 3000 people marched to City Hall to protest at Tory policies. The buses stopped and the steelmills came to a standstill. A call was made on the TUC to organise a national lobby of parliament on 26 April.

D Daniels, District Secretary, Manchester North AUEW

From John Boyd, General Secretary

...Having regard to the resolution passed by our National Committee and Executive Council's decisions, you, as a full-time official under the control of the Executive Council, are hereby instructed that you must not send out any further correspondence on the Laurence Scott Electro Motors Co Ltd dispute.

As far as our union is concerned, the dispute is completely terminated and you must not, in any way, continue to be involved in any residual activities without prior approval of the EC.

Additionally, you, the District Committee and our shop stewards must discontinue any involvement or support of the picketing of Mining Supplies, Doncaster.

We trust that you appreciate the seriousness and importance of this instruction which must be obeyed.

Laurence Scott House of Commons meeting

Wednesday 3 February 6pm

Organised by Charles Morris, MP for Openshaw

Contact your own MP to be there

agreed already to attend: Tony Benn, Les Huckfield, Norman Atkinson, Reg Race, Ernie Roberts.



Nurses protesting pay offer in Trafalgar Square Sunday 24 January

Invergordon - workers stand firm

By Ralph Blake

THE Invergordon Smelter in North Scotland officially closed on Sunday 24 January. But the workforce turned up as usual for work, more determined than ever to stop the closures.

At a mass meeting the previous day the 900 strong workforce voted unanimously to throw out a new redundancy package. The rejected deal would have meant British Aluminium paying out an extra £1m in redundancy payments.

The workforce also refused the offer of a week's extension for the redundancy deadline because of the strings attached.

Working class solidarity with Invergordon needs to be stepped up otherwise the workers will be forced to make a compromise deal.

The present talks with the Tories and the Highland and Islands Development Board will not guarantee that the plant will be kept open.

A campaign of blacking by the whole labour movement such as carried out by National Union of Railwaymen members at



Photo: SOCIALIST WORKER

Free Newton Rose

By Toni Gorton

BETWEEN two and three hundred people marched in Hackney, East London on Saturday 16 January demanding that Newton Rose be freed.

This, and a public meeting the night before, launched a national campaign with John La Rose as chairperson.

La Rose is well known as chairperson of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee which is campaigning to get out the truth about the 13 black youth who died in a fire a year ago in Deptford, South London.

Newton Rose is a 20 year old black youth who is serving a life sentence in Wormwood Scrubs for a crime he didn't commit.

He was convicted at the beginning of December at the Old Bailey for the murder of a white youth, Tony Donnelly, a supporter of the National Front Constitutional Move-

ment.

On Friday 8 May Donnelly should have been at County Hall acting as a scrutineer for the NF. Instead he went to a black club and walked home with a young black woman, Sandra Alexander.

He was found stabbed to death the following morning near her house. The police, after initially threatening Sandra with a murder charge, then picked up Newton Rose who is a former friend.

They could produce no evidence, but got 'confessions' from three of his friends who are now serving prison sentences for 'conspiring to pervert the course of justice'.

These confessions were subsequently withdrawn in court after the youths testified that they had been intimidated into them.

Indeed another witness, Roxanne Walden, said that she had seen Donnelly after he'd left Sandra Alexander.

He was fighting with three white men - men who'd shouted 'nigger lover' at him.

She saw him collapse and dragged back onto Glyn Street where he was found dead.

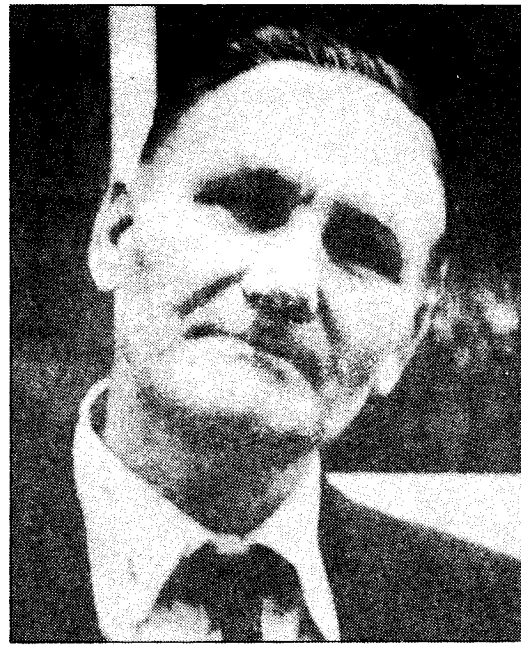
If anyone had a motive for killing Tony Donnelly it was the local fascists who found out that Donnelly was leading a 'double life'.

The parents of Newton Rose and the other youths made very moving statements at the meeting.

Ordinary working people, they seemed stunned by the enormity of the situation.

But they are right in front of this campaign to get out the truth, to free Newton Rose and to find the real killers of Tony Donnelly. They are asking for your support.

Contact the Newton Rose campaign with support and donations c/o 76 Stroud Green Road, London N4. Tel 01-272 4889.



John Walsh

Socialist Challenge readers will be greatly saddened by the death last week of JOHN WALSH, from cancer. A long time trade union militant he had just been medically retired before Christmas after 25 years at British Oxygen, Hackney - 15 of them as convenor.

John, along with the other stewards and convenors made the Hackney plant into one of the best organised in the country. In 1977 Hackney BOC played the leading role in the national BOC strike which smashed through the Labour government's pay policy.

Under John's guidance, a national combine has been established which has strengthened BOC workers and pushed them to the top of the wages league.

A life long supporter for the struggle of the Irish people for freedom, John's last wish was to be buried in his native Ireland. John was a committed socialist and supporter of Socialist Challenge.

As someone who always took up the struggles of those fighting against oppression and exploitation he will be sadly missed throughout the labour movement, particularly in East London.

Messages of condolences can be sent to Mrs B Walsh, 48B Cassland Rd, Hackney, London E9.

BRITISH LEYLAND

Edwardes' plan = mass redundancies

MICK COYNE, Works Convenor and Chair of the Leyland Bus, Truck and Parts Strike Committee, Lancashire, talked to Patrick Sikorski about the strike at Leyland.

What is the strike about?

Redundancies have sparked off this strike with the threatened loss of 1,850 jobs during 1982.

It is the Edwardes Plan that has caused the redundancies. So we are totally opposed to the plan. If we can change the plan then we believe that we can stop redundancies.

What has been the aim of the Edwardes Plan for Leyland Bus and Truck?

The aim of the plan is to completely remove the manufacturing base from the Leyland site.

They want to outsource all engine production to companies like Cummins and International Harvesters — the American multi-nationals — to name but two. Leyland would be reduced to assembly only, with a maximum of 2,000 hourly paid workers remaining.

The present number of hourly paid workers is 7,000 — in total over 10,000 work at Leyland. This is the penultimate stage of the implementation of the plan. Having removed the possibility of viably producing engines at the Leyland site by pushing through these redundancies and transfer work they will then turn round to us and say that

we can't produce the remaining T11 engine viably either and that will be the end of engine manufacture.

The company's document 'Leyland in the '80s' made it clear that they were not going to continue with the production of certain manufacturing processes.

How has the Leyland management explained the need for redundancies?

They're saying the same thing as they have said for the last 3 years under Edwardes. When his plan for Leyland came out he stated that his aim was to make the company profitable and public opinion as a whole thought that this was a good thing.

He said he'd do it by reducing overmanning; reducing fixed costs and getting unit costs down to the level of competitors. But they were never honest with us or the public. Their intention has been to close the only publicly owned vehicle manufacturer and assembler in the country.

Do you think they plan to sell off the company?

The Leyland Assembly Plant was only built in 1978 and cost £32m of public money.

I think it would be quite possible for them to keep that part of the com-

pany in public hands while all the manufacturing processes would be hived off and the private sector would be making profits out of the publicly owned assembly factory whose products would still carry the Leyland badge.

What is your alternative?

We believe that we can produce engines at a quality and cost that would be comparable with any manufacturer in this country or anywhere in the world.

Our intention is to bring about big changes in the running of Leyland Bus and Truck. We want centralised organisation of the whole combine so that

we will be producing and manufacturing our own units and parts and assembling them in our own wago is.

We told the company that we weren't seeking a confrontation and that we wanted an immediate deferment of the corporate plan and the ensuing redundancies for 6 months in order to give the trade unions the democratic right to present their economic and trading alternative.

Management refused and last week we therefore began to operate sanctions in line with the Combine

All donations and messages of support to LVL Joint Strike Committee, Austin Senior, 240 Leyland Rd, Leyland, Lancs. (Tel/ Leyland 34600).

and mass meeting decisions. The company's response to the continuation of sanctions was to take 620 members off the clock.

The mass meeting was very well attended by over 6,000 hourly paid workers. The Works Committee recommended full support for the trade union alternatives, and total withdrawal as of lunch-time Thursday was accepted with 95 per cent in favour.

How are you going to continue the fight?

We are now involved in an all out fight together with Bathgate which has occupied.

Our union officials at national conference pledged that opposition to the plan would receive official backing from day one. We are expecting formal endorsement of this at the first opportunity.

Senior stewards will be in contact across all the plants in the group. We'll be looking for support from the whole of the trade union and labour movement across the board. We will be expecting blacking of all Leyland Vehicle products.

We're saying that the membership in Leyland Vehicles have no confidence in the policies that management has pursued over the last 3 years.

Labour MPs like Stan Thorne, Tony Benn and Les Huckfield have made a clear commitment to organising support for our cause as they showed in October last year when they addressed a mass



Mick Coyne: 'British Leyland have never been honest with us'

meeting and fully supported the trade union alternatives.

In the immediate area the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, the Lancashire Association of

Trades Councils and Preston, South Ribble and Chorley trades councils have already declared their full support. We are looking for a groundswell of national support.

We now have a strike

committee representing all the unions which will be meeting daily and we are having another mass meeting next Thursday which I would expect to continue on a weekly basis.



All Photos: PATRICK SIKORSKI (Socialist Challenge)

Bathgate occupied

A MASS meeting of shop stewards at the British Leyland plant in Bathgate decided on Friday morning to occupy their plant in support of other workers sacked throughout Britain and to protect their jobs.

The workers want assurances from management of no further redundancies at Bathgate, and that tractor production facilities, which were to be sold off, should be retained.

The stewards' decisions were met with enthusiastic reception by the workforce. They spontaneously demonstrated outside management office block as a symbolic procession of tractors were driven back into the plant where they will remain until jobs are assured.

A mass meeting of shop stewards in the region is being organised to discuss how the occupation can be supported.

Over the past 10 years, some 100,000 manufacturing jobs have been lost in Central Scotland. Mostly, these have been in areas where the Scottish working class was traditionally strong — shipbuilding, mining and heavy engineering.

Last year, the Scottish working class suffered a serious defeat when Linwood plant was allowed to close without a fightback.

BL Bathgate remains one of the biggest and best organised factories in the Central Belt of Scotland. Its closure would represent a crushing blow. But a victory for the Bathgate workers would be a victory for all Scottish workers.

Solidarnosc solidarity with Leyland!

A MEMBER of Solidarnosc in Britain who is in the North West area to build support in factories and workplaces for the Manchester solidarity demonstration this Saturday has been invited to address the Leyland Vehicles Strike Committee on Thursday.

Leyland workers feel strongly that the way they have been treated by Edwardes and successive governments has parallels with the struggle in Poland for jobs, trade union and democratic rights.

JOHN PARKINSON, Socialist Challenge supporter and Secretary of the Lancashire Association of Trades Councils writes:

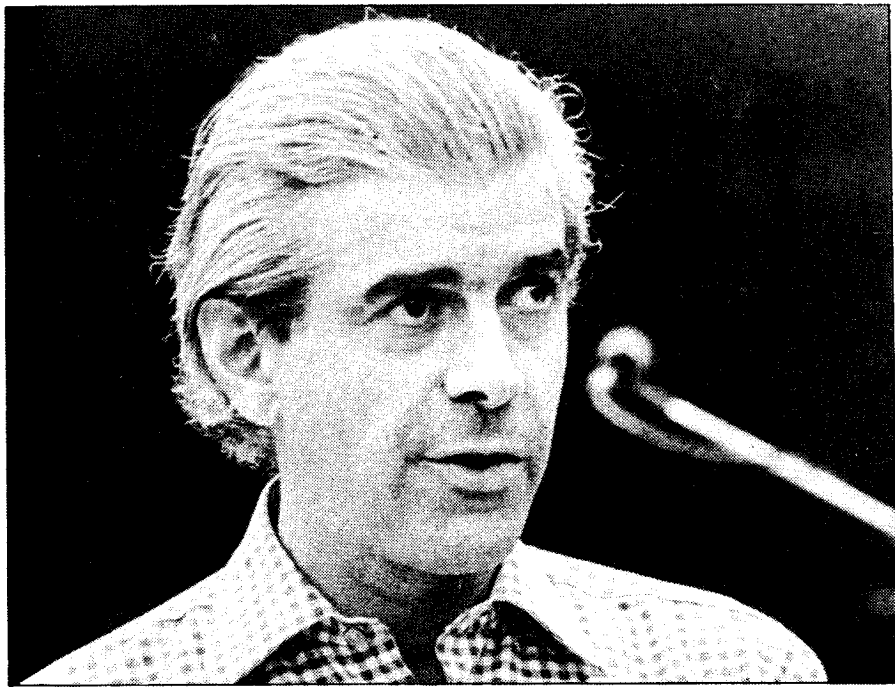
An emergency solidarity resolution was put by the LATC to last Saturday's meeting of the North West TUC and after a thorough discussion was passed unanimously. The resolution called for full support throughout the region for the industrial action now being taken and attacks the role of Edwardes and the Tories.

It calls for co-operation with the North West group of Labour MPs and for the matter to be raised in the House of Commons as soon as possible. The resolution also committed the North West TUC to circulate the official collection sheets throughout the area and backed the demonstration to be held in Leyland on Saturday 27 February.

Through a co-ordinating committee based on the three local Trades Councils, measures are being taken to protect those in dispute from financial hardship and to mobilise mass support throughout the area. These are just some of the measures agreed last Sunday:

- the Trades Council will be approaching local authorities and the gas and electricity boards not to cut off Leyland workers or press legal proceedings for arrears. Workers in these sectors will be approached directly if replies are unsatisfactory.
- the trades council will organise a series of mass factory gate meetings in the area plus mass leafleting.
- levies and calls for national support are being organised through all the unions.
- the strike committee has asked the trades council to take out weekly adverts in the local press calling for general financial and other support and a direct appeal for support on the picket lines.

Socialist Challenge



Peter Huntingford under attack for defending women's rights

Defend pro-abortion doctors

'PROSECUTE and be damned'. These were the words of Professor Peter Huntingford last week in defying the Department of Health and Social Security over the new abortion notification form.

Professor Huntingford and another doctor are being referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions because they have refused to fill in the new form, which does not allow for social and environmental factors to be taken into account in giving women abortions.

Under the 1967 Abortion Act, they argue, provision is made for non-medical factors to be taken into account in granting abortions. But the new form only asks for medical

reasons to be entered, implying that other factors are not sufficient in law.

Professor Huntingford believes that the new forms would deter some doctors from performing abortions and would give anti-abortion doctors an excuse for not providing the service.

This could affect some 80 per cent of women seeking abortions on the NHS who do so on non-medical grounds.

The right to choose whether and when to have

a child is fundamental to women's free and equal participation in society. The social and personal reasons for a woman taking the decision to have an abortion have huge implications for her and must be taken into account.

The new forms were introduced last March by dint of an obscure parliamentary procedure called a statutory instrument. This means that unless a sufficient number of MPs object to a proposal, no discussion takes place. This particular one just slipped through.

Where Corrie, White and Benyon failed to restrict the law by anti-abortion bills, the DHSS have succeeded through the back door. Effectively, they have changed the grounds whereby abortion can be obtained.

Professor Huntingford and other doctors have

shown that they are prepared to defy the new form. It is up to the labour movement as a whole to defend them by fighting the statutory instrument and reversing his decision to change the forms.

What you can do:

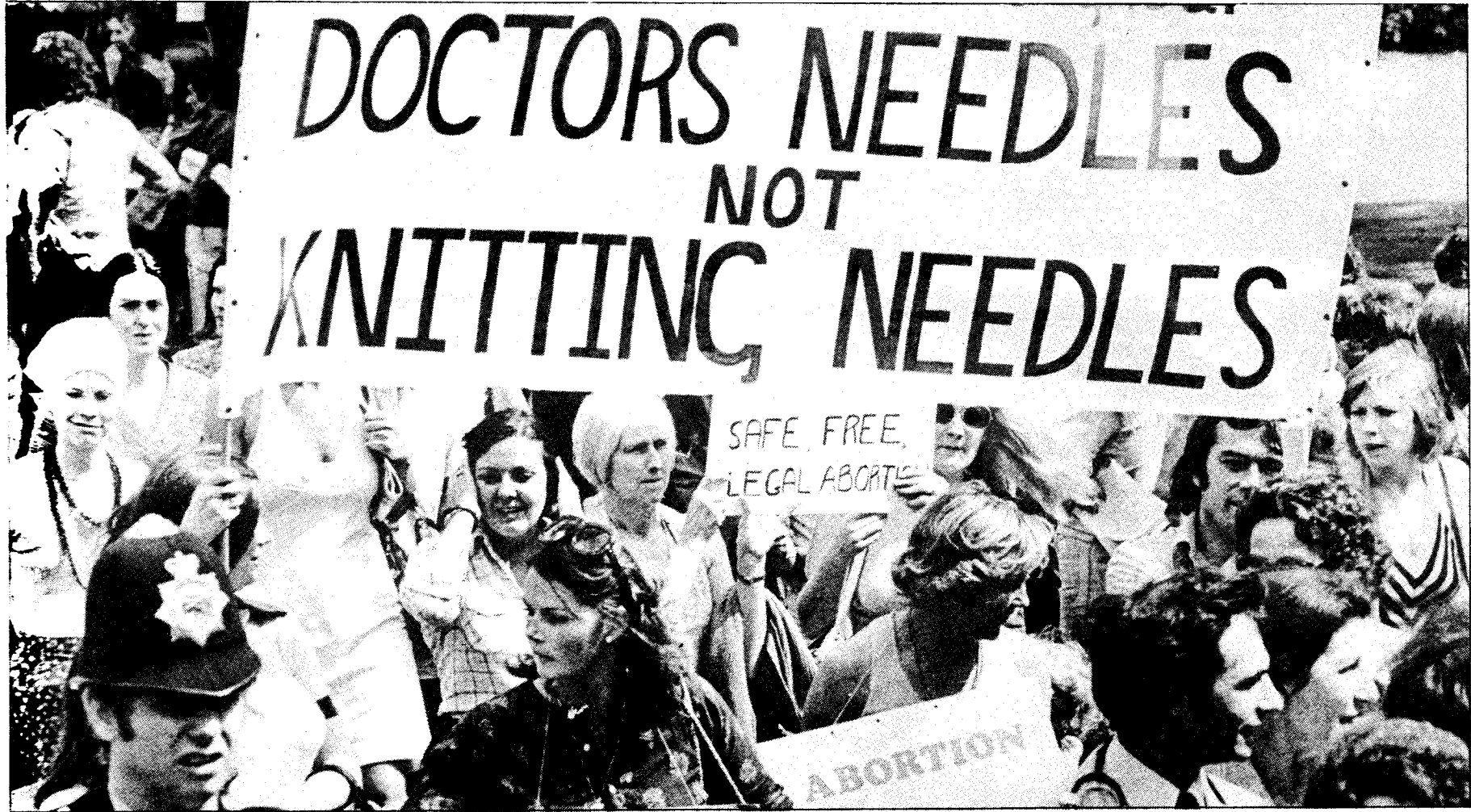
- Write to Dr G Vaughan, the Minister of Health, opposing the changes and supporting social grounds for abortion. Demand that the charges against the two doctors are dropped.
- Write to your MP and get your union to write to their sponsored MP, demanding that s/he raise this issue in parliament.
- Organise local meetings to publicise what is happening. Get local health workers, doctors and trade unions involved.

The Labour Abortion Rights Campaign has produced the following model resolution which they will be taking to the Greater London Labour Women's Conference on 29 January. Take it to your Labour Party ward or trade union branch.

This body deplors the threatened prosecution of doctors who don't accept the DHSS's restriction of the grounds whereby a woman may get an abortion under the 1967 Abortion Act by the introduction of a new abortion notification form.

It notes that this form was introduced by statutory instrument without proper consultation or parliamentary debate and believes this represents an attempt to undemocratically undermine the terms and spirit of existing legislation.

It calls on the Parliamentary Labour Party (or General Council of the TUC) to urge the minister to drop all charges and to amend the abortion notification form so that doctors may once more be made aware of and take into account the fact that the 1967 Act allows for a woman's actual and reasonably foreseeable environment to be a factor when considering termination.



Socialist Challenge pamphlets on rail and Poland go like hot cakes

OUR two most recent pamphlets — on the fighting against productivity in rail and Solidarity with Solidarnosc — were sold out within days.

Gratifying though the response has been, it put a stretch on our resources to fork out money, which we didn't immediately have, to reprint these pamphlets quickly.

We were very pleased to get over £900 this week towards our £68,000 annual fund drive but we need more than this to meet the unexpected demands that are made on us as happened with these two pamphlets.

If we're to be able to respond to the national rail strikes, or to the military takeover in Poland we need money and lots of it. Won't you help?

This week's donors are:

- Haringey supporters £ 70.00
- Hackney supporters 200.00
- Various 71.00
- Edinburgh supporters 67.50
- Hemel supporters 32.20
- Huddersfield supporters 5.00
- Glasgow supporters 30.00
- Lambeth supporters 200.00
- East London supporters 15.50
- North London supporters 64.90
- Sheffield supporters 102.00
- B. Wilkins/H. Slyonovics 10.00
- Birmingham Revu Youth 1.00
- D Rich 2.00
- Haringey supporters 25.00
- Anon. 25.00

Total £921.10
Previous Total £1868.00
Grand Total £2789.10

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