AS THE ECONOMY REELS under the impact of the £298 million October trade deficit, as bank rate rockets to 13 per cent, as the Tories contemplate the ruin of their policies, the miners' action drives them to fresh hysteria.

A 'state of emergency' is declared after just 24 hours of an overtime ban. Home Secretary Robert Carr reveals the existence of a special anti-picketing centre to coordinate police attacks on strikers.

These acts of government are in addition to the hate campaign being worked up against the miners.

But provocations and a lie campaign will not help them at all. The attempt to smear the miners as accomplices of Middle East oil strikes will serve only to intensify the workers' anger.

As Ike Carter, miners' union secretary at Markham Colliery, near Chesterfield—where 19 miners died earlier this year in the pit cage disaster—told Socialist Worker:

"Our claim was made and justified before the Middle East war. It is even more justified now. Our members are determined to win this claim or break the industry."

"Face workers are taking home as little as £25 or £26 after stoppages. It is just not worth the death, the danger, the dirt and discomfort. The overtime ban must be just a prelude to all out strike action."

Government inspired stories of an offered £6 to £10 increases for miners mask the reality. Only 14,000 miners qualify for rises of this character under the 'unsocial hours' provision of Phase Three. There is no guarantee that these payments will continue.

Under the Wibberforce agreement that followed the 1972 strike, the Coal Board has the right to institute a two-shift system, dispensing with the night shift. This provision can reduce those on regular night work to less than 4000 safety men.

The reality is that the offer is firmly set within the Phase Three limits: £2.50 to £2.75. It is just not enough.

As faceworker Terry Bristowe, a committee man at the Dodworth Colliery, Yorkshire, says: 'Out of a standard week's money of £36.80, I take home £31. With a wife and three children to feed, clothes and shelter we have got to have the full claim. Once we used to have steaks occasionally, now it's all hamburger or that bloody mince."

Clothes for the children are impossibly expensive—last week we paid £4 for a half-way decent pair of new shoes for our seven-year-old daughter. With prices going up like they are, pints are a great deal harder to come by than they used to be.

Boost for Phase 3 fight

SOLICITARY WORKER and the International Socialists took a giant step forward last Sunday when 2000 militiants packed Belle Vue, Manchester, for the paper's special industrial conference on the battle against Phase Three.

Miners, farmers, engineers, tenants' leaders, dockers, builders, printworkers and many others related their experience of fighting the employers with a hard and behind their backs because of their spineless union leaders. The conference voted enthusiastically for a resolution that called for a massive effort to build a powerful rank and file movement of militants, linked to a growth in the size and influence of IS and Socialist Worker.

The resolution called also for full support for the conference planned early in 1974 by a number of rank and file industrial groups. FULL REPORT AND PICTURES: PAGES 2 and 3.

AMBULANCE STRIKE: P15/JOURNALISTS' DISPUTE: P14/SHREWSBURY TRIAL BACK PAGE

MINES ROUNDUP: BACK PAGE
Great stride forward as 2800 vote to
BUILD NEW LEADERSHIP

THE TORIES have declared war on the working class through prices, anti-union laws and conspiracy trials," chairman Wally Preston told 2800 delegates at the Socialists Worker Industrial Conference at Belle Vue, Manchester, on Sunday. The TUC and union leaders have taken no action to prevent workers from being blackballed. They refer to talk to the Tories rather than fight them. The union leaders are going to Downing Street so often, they're putting up for auction tickets.

Preston, a leading engineer union militant in Manchester, said the Tories were agents in the real sense of the word—they had stolen the AUEW members' money when they fined them £75,000 over the PACUS case.

"It's no use relying on the union leaders," he stressed. "Freedom will be won by the workers themselves. That is why there is an urgent need to build a rank and file movement concerned to fight. This conference is about people who are engaged in the daily wages battle.

He was opening one of the most impressive meetings of industrial militancy seen in Britain for many a long year—a conference that marked a major breakthrough for the International Socialists. It showed that years of patient, grass-roots work in the working-class movement had paid off. Preston stressed that in May, the delegates had represented many key areas in the battles with the Tories and their system.

The executive committee member Tony O'Malley opened on The Morning Star. He stressed, said workers had lost faith after the 1973 and 1975 losses. The new leader was very different today, he stressed. There was little wage drift. The employers now had to ask the government for permission to increase the cost of living. The factory Inspector was tougher because international companies were suffering from the financial crisis. He had sent to his underlings to demand full support from other factory inspectors.

There was a crisis of leadership in the trade unions. The old leaders had won, notwithstanding the union leaders, left-wing leaders at British Steel, who had tried to raise the issue in the last two years. The bureaucratic leadership stuck to the class interests. They were ready to betray the workers, he said.

"The bureaucratic leaders of the class. The union leaders are neither employers nor workers—and they realize they are not the leaders of the working class and they are trying to keep the balance between classes and the working class will see that balance.

Cliff said that when there was a crisis of leadership the rank and file bears the cost of leadership's failure. It was up to the rank and file to call in the new leaders and to push through a new type of leadership.

"There is no formula to the situation, it can't be worked out on the level of the struggle," he said.

Cliff paid tribute to the 16 workers striking on strike, many of whom had never been in a union before. "We won't go back until we are put in a position to lead the fight," he said.

KINDSEY GOUGH, a South Wales miner, said the miners had entered a period of conflict with the introduction of the overtime ban.

"But," he said, "we will not give up. There is only one way to win: strike action.

He was convinced the miners could defeat the government's ban and that a rank and file movement in the industry will be built in the struggle.

TERRY SEGARS, an Essex foreman, said the ban was a staggerer. "A month ago we were told the overtime ban was going to be lifted. We were told we can have £75. Something has gone wrong. The miners will not accept anything less than the overtime ban." He said the miners would fight for the ban.

MICHAEI PENN from the Royal Group of docks and a member of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union, reminded the conference that the Peninsular Free Trade Agreement was a "great victory" for the working class.

On Saturday evening at the Riverside Club, a rank and file page which now is 15,000 strong. The pace of the meeting was fast and intense, he said.

Street printer BILL FREEMAN, senior, "In the last elections, I was elected to the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union," he said. "I was elected to the dockers board. The paper had helped to build the confidence of rank and file workers in the docks.

"The rank and file movement had been split by productivity deals, but it was not finished. We've put a claim in for a 26 per cent wage increase and we mean to win it. That is why we've got to take on the government."

"We have a tradition of rank and file action," he said. "This is a great meeting here today. And it is leading you a way forward. Over the past months, I've been looking at the political scene and assessing the contributions made by the various organisations. I have found that the IBS has made great strides forward, particularly with the formation of the factory branches."

JOHN FONTALTE, UCATT convener of Melton's Fords Park Union, London, took up the case of the Shrewsbury 24. He stressed that trade unions needed effective struggle to maintain and extend their standard of living.

"With the Conspicy Acts," he said, "the Tories have the government against the workers since Leicester." They did not dare to use the Industrial Relations Act which the dockers had shortened, he argued. So they could not be used against the workers. They had tried to build the bureaucracy which is the worst organised big industry in Britain, is the most corrupt.

This trial is a very political trial," he went on. "There is massive confusion between police, employers and government."

"I think the case was strong and that there was only one response: Rank and file industrial action got the dockers out of Peninsular and as a result, the stoppage will be needed to do what the government has done. Any prisoners sentenced will be handed out at Shrewsbury."

ALTA SINGH, an AUEW member from Ford Lentonking, took up the question of the struggle against racism. He said that there would be no trouble in the work force against it in all forms. He said the dockers' action as the answer to racism, "the ugliest of imperialism, ugly fascist."

"Racism," he said, "is a main weapon of the ruling class who would use any means to split and divide workers. The vast majority of immigrants were contributing to the struggle of the working class and no one should forget the terrible legislation that had now been brought in against them. Jail and deportations are now being threatened if they have been here for more than 10 years. The socialist movement has to fight this."

A COLLECTION at the conference raised £575 which went towards the expenses of the meeting and to workers in dispute who were on strike. 45 IS factory branches were represented.

PICTURES: CHIS DAVIES AND JOHN STURROCK (REPORT) WITH SW REPORTING TEAM
HAMMER HOME LESSON

ROGER ROSEWELL, international Socialist Mersyside organiser, spoke on the strategy of the movement in the union. The many contributions made here today have shown that all the criticisms of trade union leaders by militants and socialists are correct time and time again.

The conference has heard how in struggle, struggle workers had been sold out or the union leaders had failed to ratify enough support. Roger well argued that this was not an isolated case, it was the very character of the trade union movement. The tradition, he said, could not be explained by saying that it was due to retrenchment.

Of course there is a rotten stream, as said those whose ambition in life is to rise above their class and get a seat on a board. But, he argued, there was a much larger stream who were in favour of shorter hours and more pay. They had to have a base in the rank and file.

But when the decision tests come, all they vacillate and back away. Let me tell you that today's so-called progressive left wingers are some great new development. Some of the left-wing leaders in the past would put them to shame. And show solidarity, class struggle and struggle were the order of the day.

This, he insisted, could not be explained away. The trade union leaders' with different interests are in conflict with those of the rank and file. "We talk about a rank and file movement because the rank and file doesn't have these privileges. And the motive of a rotten rank and file movement must be," said Rosewell. "We support the trade union leaders as far as they support the rank and file. When they do not, we will not support them, but act independently." Rosewell said that these leaders are back again and again.

A key aspect of the rank and file struggle was the fight for democracy in the trade union movement said Rosewell. Officials had to be elected regularly subject to recall and paid the average wages of the members.

At the same time as fighting for democracy they have to go on. At first they put pictures on the gate, but we weren't in that and we walked out. The same time as fighting the bosses they have to do it. The bosses would be left out looking ridiculous, as we decided to go and take over the factory so that we could do it. They would put up a struggle, but we wouldn't be left out looking ridiculous. The bosses would be set up to catch at a local hotel. "We went and picked the hotel. Now they're in hiding," he added to prolonged applause and laughter.

ETHEL SINGLETON, Mersyside branch leader said the tenants had put up a magnificent fight, but one out of the strikes has collapsed. About one area, the Tower Hill estate at Kirkby, and that area is an 18-controlled area. The tenants on Tower Hill now have been joined with their rent-paying days are over. They don't have any holidays. They are used to work and work. And that's why they're prepared to fight. They've got up £25,000 in rents and they still aren't being evicted—would people have believed that was possible?

TONY RICHARDSON, vice-chairman of the IET Combines Committee, detailed the idea that supposedly high-paid workers in IoC could make sacrifices to help the lower-paid. "Any money we sacrifice," he said, "goes in increased dividends to the ruling class."

Mr. Rosewell said there was "too much parsimony in IC," and the share of profits was too low. In many cases, he said, there was no composite committee, and the conference of that although the strike had been lost, a kind of victory had been achieved in that IS in Plymouth had been won. In the case of the IET, the conference said that changing the status of the union could only be done by changing the party leadership itself.

Greetings from the Glasgow firemen

We the undersigned members of the Glasgow Area Committee of the Socialist Worker send fraternal greetings to the Socialist Worker and extend our best wishes to you. We would also like to express our appreciation of the high esteem you hold for the Glasgow firemen, who have carried on as best they could in the face of the strike. You can be assured that the Glasgow firemen were well aware of the support they received from the people of Scotland.

One lesson we learned from this strike was the importance of public sympathy from councillors and MPs. We believe that the struggle should be continued to secure the permanent establishment of a trade union movement and to develop a trade union movement that is capable of fighting for a more just society.

The Glasgow firemen's case is an example of the power of public sympathy and the importance of trade union action. We send you our best wishes and encourage you to continue your struggle for a better world.
**TUC TO THE RESCUE FOR APARtheid**

by Alan Baldwin

As with all such resolutions there is a wide gap between rhetoric and action and the TUC, having voted for the resolution, is awaiting its delegation’s report before deciding what action to take. Given the size of trade between South Africa and this country, the organised action of workers here presents a considerable threat to the regime.

**EXPelled**

That is why this delegation was of vital importance to the white South Africans and it was seen as their potential saviour. Feather, Jack Jones, Dan McGarry and all did their best to get their host down.

They were the guests of the TUC of South Africa, which represents a section of white workers and those Adan and Coloured workers who are in registered unions. Africans are not represented since they are not allowed to form registered unions, and TUSCA expelled them in 1967.

As the power of black workers has begun to assert itself in the past two years, TUSCA once again is planning to organise black workers under its control, to head off their potential strength. TUSCA briefed the delegation and shepherded them around—so managing to prevent the delegation meeting many of their opponents. The delegation was criticized by blacks and radical whites for only spending one day in Durban, the centre for militant black workers.

TUSCA was also able to have the TUC delegation put their line of the need to organise black workers into unions and TUSCA for this reason had the TUC delegation consistently failed to recognise the crucial difference between black workers being incorporated in white-controlled unions and free, independent black trade unions. These are the only way the strength of black workers can be mobilised against racism and exploitation.

**OPPRESSION**

They did apparently see the contradiction involved in black trade unions. As one report indicated: ‘The TUC team appreciated that while a mass African trade union movement could provide a focal point for revolution if it came to be the only effective vehicle for giving vent to political feelings and aspirations, at the same time a lack of collective bargaining rights of collective constituencies could constitute an absolutely revolutionary situation’.

At one point Feather showed a fundamental misunderstanding of the nature of racial oppression by arguing to white miners, that they should realise that the low pay of blacks—roughly one-twentieth of whites’ pay in the mines—held down their own wage levels. On other occasions the delegates expressed shock and were ‘appalled’ and ‘shamed’ by the wages and conditions of blacks—what were they expecting?

In order not to offend their hosts and Prime Minister Vorster, Feather had to forbid other members of the delegation from speaking to the press. He done this and then express his views about working within the apartheid system, about not isolating the whites, about encouraging foreign investment and opposing boycotts.

For this was clearly the message of the visit. The TUC is leading the latest bridge-building exercise against white South Africa. The delegation’s report is going to the ILO in a form which saw no effective action could be taken to nullify their backing for TUSCA’s plans to take in black workers.

In doing so they will delight the internal Black Workers’ Council by taking the steam yet again out of international action against apartheid.

At least black workers in South Africa will have realised that they cannot expect any help from the leadership of the TUC. They have opened the road to struggle for which must be free of white control. It is the duty of workers in Britain to support this struggle by black South African trade and by solidarity action against the multi-national companies eager to reap the profits of apartheid.

**The road to compromise**

The tendency for Communist Parties throughout the world to draw from the Chinese tragedy lessons precisely to the correct conclusion has never been shown more clearly than in Italy.

Far from believing that the ‘Chinese road to socialism’ as a challenge to the ‘Asian China road, the Italian party leadership has concluded that its strategy must be even more particularistic, i.e. Italian, more cautious and compromising than Aldin.

An article by the party’s general secretary, Bertolucci, reporting that even the left wing coalitions in Italy won 51 per cent of the vote and that of parties in parliament with the Christian Democrats. He may be right, but he could not have arrived at this conclusion without the encouragement of the PCI—i.e. the governmentIIDercumentation of the compromise” to the government, “at the request of our Party, the Italian one, to use a different phrase: the effect of the parliamentary faction exceeded most fully by the PCI’s 1972 Congress.

**Clashes**

On 3 June, miners in Italy hurled hand grenades into the taxi of a government official and set fire to a police station in a protest that started as a demonstration which spread into a day-long rioting with the police, who in one district went round with a flamethrower, as the power of the black workers was matched by that of the government, occupying the streets and demonstrating.

The general strike was made against the government’s mass meetings and direct action to black workers and the government, occupying the streets and demonstrating.

The strike lasted eight days—enough for the government to clamp down, as the state had been dismissed by the appointment of trade union leadership—so elections were not taken seriously.

More than 100 delegates attended the meeting with the miners, and took a step unprecedented since the Asturias miners’ strike of 1932. They agreed to negotiate with representatives elected directly by the miners, though they insisted the official shop stewards and factories comités would continue as before. These representatives are elected by the workers, but can be dismissed by the appointed trade union leadership—so elections are not taken seriously.

The employers were soon desperate for capital, and took a step unprecedented since the Asturias miners’ strike of 1932. They agreed to negotiate with representatives elected directly by the miners, though they insisted the official shop stewards and factories comités would continue as before. These representatives are elected by the workers, but can be dismissed by the appointed trade union leadership—so elections are not taken seriously.

The state had been dismissed by the appointment of trade union leadership—so elections were not taken seriously. but a series of strikes was now invincible. The workers of Asturias had been betrayed by some shop stewards, factory managers and police. The workers of Asturias had been betrayed by some shop stewards, factory managers and police.
Poor Uncle Harry

I STAYED up last Thursday night waiting to see some of the big defeats in the by-elections, and saw instead the terrible humiliation of Harry Selby at Govan. Cohen had won an extremely miserable experience.

Watching Selby being back by David diseased impressed Golda. I couldn't help remembering his meetings way back in the early 1960s in which he fostered the Govan and Gorbals Young Socialists. More than 50 young workers joined that branch within months of the formation of the SYG, and before the branch was made up mostly of that lot to markism and Trotskyism.

He had an enormous store of cheap pamphlets by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin, which he sold to the working class in the hands of almost all the young socialists in the city—not just to Govan and Gorbals. If he thought you had any money (I recall my no-cost you would make a fair profit on the deal, but many of the apprentices in the shipyard could see nothing. The better than his books was his speaking—always crisp, always funny, always enthusiastic. Harry could put the case for revolution against reform more sharply than anyone I have ever listened to.

As the years went on, however, he largely went to Trotskyism, mostly because of his obsession with working in the Labour Party. He believed passionately that revolution would only be achieved through the Labour Party, otherwise known as the "professional class party" and that the working class could not develop any movement for revolution without going somewhere. But the Labour Party was not the Pokemon Party. One by one, the young socialists left him: some into conventional careerism or disillusionment. Here, though, history was not on the side of the Pokemon Party, mostly because of the experience of working in the Labour Party.

Harry clogged to the rotting branch of the Govan Labour Party. I visited him in the summer of 1968 when I was writing an article on the state of the Labour Party.

Harry admitted to me then that the Govan constituency Labour Party general management committee had trouble getting a quorum, and that important decisions were being made. Sometimes, he said, he attended meetings of members' Harry's was a backwater. Behind the jokers. I detected a faint realisation of the absurdity of 'deep entry' into an organisation where you were a deep enterist.

Harry had only been in Govan since, nor how it came about. The thousands of Govan workers were persuaded to vote for the Scottish National party.

Shirley Williams and her 'reac-

THE pompous John Forsyth, Alliance MP and party spokesman on industrial matters, was caught with his pants down by the revelation that he represents in parliament the interests of the National Association of Schoolmasters.

Mr. Forsyth explained in the Commons that he didn't get any money himself for this, but that 'liberal research funds' got £400. Mr. Forsyth did not explain why he considers it right to represent the interests of such an anti-feminist body as the NAS. Nor did he reveal that the NAS also has its spokesman on the Labour side. He is Brian O'Malley, Labour MP for Rotherham, a former branch secretary of the Musicians and WEA lecturers.

Mr. O'Malley, I am told, gets only £100 for this 'natty job.'

FOOTBALL PRINTS

No doubting Thomas

THE only difference between the Govan constituency Labour Party and the one in Greenock last year was that the same man was not a 'left-winger,' I suspect, however, that he lost the seat.

There were moves to select a candidate from the Labour Party. Had it not been for the dismissal Tory record of the last Labour government, of which Mr. Forsyth was a member.

Either way, the result was a grim one and it was at least 30 years devoted to a state formula. Far from moving towards a reorganisation of the Labour Party, the election is more likely to lead to the Labour Party more active in their suspicions about such organisations with indifference and contempt.

At the same time, there are signs everywhere that militants and socialists are prepared to build an independent revolutionary social democratic organisation. I'm prepared to bet that there are more people in this country than in the Labour Party. Our members are deprived of Labour's collapse at Govan, but at least they can point to this as an alternative.

Guardian of the torturers

I EXPECTED a fair amount of trip in the newspapers on 29 October—the 50th anniversary of the Spanish Republic—but the Guardian did itself, even for a liberal newspaper.

A four-page 'special report' was compiled to pull in a lot of Turkish Turks. It was written mainly by David Barchard and Stephen Tonna, who is all about Turkey's "considerable measure of achievement" and the 'benefits of trade' or the locking up of trade unionists and Labour politicians, not a remote reminder that Turkey is one of the most repressive regimes in Europe.

He is Sami Kohane, former editor of the Turkish newspaper paper Militær and use of the regime's most faithful hacks.

The editor Alastair Hetherington while Hetherington was on a recent "sabbatical year" at Nuffield College, Oxford. He was in Turkey for the Guardian where he became so friendly with the regime that he helped to translate its White Papers explaining why there was no tyranny in Turkey, and, if there was, why it was completely justified. The document was such a tissue of lies that it was not even published in the end, though I understand that Barchard got paid for his work.

I also see that Barchard managed to get even more - people in his "Anarabia, Their Special Role in the National Life" in The Financial Times special survey on Turkey. He is right to say that the Turkish army will accept a new role in a pluralist order, and even seem to believe that democracy and the army can go one way.
Apology to print union

We apologize to our readers and to the members of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphers and Machinists (Natsopa) for certain significant misrepresentations of fact in an article on Natsopa's plans to print a newsletter in Spain which have now been drawn to our attention by Natsopa's Solicitors. We cannot publish any letter in full but Laurie Flynn has assuredly made the corrections.

We act on behalf of Natsopa, the individual members of the executive of Natsopa and Mr. Brighswr the general secretary. On 13th September 1973 you published a highly defamatory article under the byline of Laurie Flynn headlined 'Holiday Plan Flies High'. This article contained a number of misrepresentations of fact from which it drew false and libellous conclusions. The facts which you should know are as follows:-

1. The executive has never put forward or even considered a plan to buy land in Spain.
2. The staff union's head office does not own a lease on villas in the Canary Islands or anywhere else in Spain.
3. Mr. Brighswr has written no reply intending to quieten the fears of his members and get them to go an to the union's new Spanish connection.
4. Mr. Brighswr has had no reason to contact any underground trade union leader in Spain and has not done so that he has received any letter from them.

From these misrepresentations of fact you have deduced and printed accuasions of hypocrisy and exploitation of cheap labour and we have no hesitation in advising our clients that these are highly defamatory and in order to rectify the truth that the Natsopa Staff Superannuation Fund, an entirely separate body, carries a feasibility exercise in order to establish whether or not such a scheme would be a suitable investment for some of the provident funds.

This was nothing to do with the union, the union's executive or Mr. Brighswr. The Superannuation Fund Organisation, before coming to any decision at all, canvassed the views of trade union leaders in Spain in order to ascertain whether any such project would be to:-

A. Welcome to them.
B. Unwelcome to them.
C. A matter of indifference.

However, the scheme was subsequently abandoned.

We are sure you will appreciate that these facts are very different from the allegations contained in your article and certainly do not support the allegations brought against the union and its executive and general secretary, nor do we believe that you have any good reason to publish this apology.

Provided that such retractions are made in your next issue, we will withdraw any further action against you or your organization, the Spin faction.

Shocking report on how education in a working-class area is

'MY FRIEND's husband Jim is a computer programmer. He's worked out that if no emergency action is taken and things carry on the way they’ve been going then by 1980, there won’t be any schoolkids in Newham,' groans the disable David D.'s

Pauline Fenn, husband a doctor, two children, Michael, 10, and Daniel, two, is one of the increasing numbers of parents in the solidly working-class London Borough of Newham—made up of East and West Ham—who are banding together to campaign for proper educational provision for their children.

They're having to, For in Newham, perhaps more clearly than anywhere else, you can see that the educational system is falling apart thanks to the neglect and the priorities of successive governments.

In Newham only 10 per cent of children get four O levels before they leave school according to the latest figures (1970). The average for England and Wales is 25 per cent.

In Newham only 9.3 per cent go on to any form of higher education. The England and Wales average is 32.1 per cent.

System

And Newham has another distinction. For kids getting to university, Newham, at 2.5 per cent, is the worst in England and Wales. It's not that kids in Newham are any less intelligent than those up and across the River Thames in plush Richmond where eight times as many youngsters get to university. Far from it. It's just that in Newham children are systematically deprived.

For those who pause and think a little these figures show what the class system does to children in an area where industry is pulling out, depression increasing and the birth rate falling in step only with the interest of the professional politicians. Few days after the battle of Newham parents against this appalling situation caught the national press headlines. Then it came out that there were 150 children in the borough who couldn't go to school at all.

But the day-to-day routine of overcrowded classes, overworked and underpaid teachers, fighting at the rate of 30 per cent a year, children at the pace of compulsory courses who do not the O levels they want, a borough whose education system would collapse at the sight of a chip who stop school doing so, is something that requires more than a passing interest. It requires action.

Pauline Fenn takes up the story.

'Through Newham Education Concern we got up a petition—6000 signatures. We sent it to Margaret Thatcher, Minister of Education. Back came a printed card saying we should get in touch with our local education authority.

'We did. We didn't, of course. But there's not much they can do unless they fight for more government funds. And get them.'

We learned letter from the National Union of Teachers' magazine that she treats other people rather differently. When Hillingdon London parents got up a petition against comprehensive (2000 signatures) that was enough for her to step in and wreck the borough's scheme. And if they send a deputation, they're sure to be received.

Newham asked for a £100,000 special grant just to deal with the very worst aspects of the present situation—150 children being prevented from going to school.

Her answer was to suggest that the children be put into already overcrowded classes, which is what has happened.

'There isn't a penny for us, never mind the £100,000 that is needed right away. But she finds herself able to stump up £600,000 to boost the government grants to the poorest grant schools.'

The truth is that she's quite content to see children in Newham as factory fodder for Fords, Cross and Blackwell, Tate and Lyle and that like. After all that's how they look to working people.

Evidence

The spirit of the local left professionals politicians—the council completely dominated by the Labour Party—is not much different. When came out that Newham has the third worst record in England and Wales for children getting O levels, Councilor Keith Haier, Labour education committee chairman, came up with a profound analysis.

Parents in the borough were apathetic, he explained. Evidence to the contrary was coming last month when Newham Council got round to calling its first ever public meeting on the education situation in the borough. 500 parental turned up.

Over the 150 kids who had no
Schools for factory fodder

the paper’s racist ‘theory’ for the schools crisis

Schools places, Labour Councillor Arthur Edwards was the man who came up with the explanation. It was all down to the Ugandan Asians who had come into the borough, screamed Edwards courtesy of front page headlines in the local paper.

Apart from principles, Brother Edwards had of course forgotten that there were 100 children in the same situation the year before the Ugandan Asians came.

As Pauline Fenn put it: “When we first had a demonstration outside the town hall, on this issue, Edwards went mad. ‘You’re a load of jobs’, he screamed out. ‘He’s just in the business of using any excuse to mislead people and cover up the situation.

‘It’s always been tough in this area. For it’s a poor working class area. It is true that things are getting worse. But that’s got nothing to do with immigrants but with being starved of funds and resources.

‘It is true that a new generation of immigrants have come in. They have as much right to an education as anyone else.

‘The real question is why the borough is not given the resources to deal with the problems that we all face. And the answer to that is that Mrs Thatcher and her kind intend people like us to pay for the good times and the good schools in stockbroker Surrey.

‘I’ll give you another example of the councillors’ attitude. At a recent council meeting one of the councillors, Dr Hill, asked about his own daughter’s school, Plashed School. He pointed out that while it was quite a new place it didn’t have a fire escape.”

Carr’s police

TORY Home Secretary Robert Carr, who promised last summer that there would be no ‘witchhunt’ in the black communities, has personally ordered a series of witchhunts to ‘stamp out illegal immigration’.

After nearly a month of shuffling and double-talk, the truth about the raids on London Asians’ homes and shops on 11 October is beginning to emerge.

A spokesman for Scotland Yard summed it up to Socialist Worker as follows: ‘It was a Home Office job.’

On 11 October, vandals of policemen swooped early in the morning on Whitfield Street, Camden, and Hessel Street, Tower Hamlets. Both streets were cordoned off. Police then visited every house and shop in the streets. Wherever they found an Asian, they demanded his passport.

If the passport was not produced, the Asian was seized, bundled into the back of a Black Maria and taken to Leman Street police station in London’s East End.

The police claimed that only 14 Asians were arrested. But Asians from both streets insist that there were more than 50 Asians at the police station.

One Asian from Whitfield Street told the police—correctly—that he had sent his passport to the Home Office for registration. He was arrested and held for seven hours at Leman Street before anyone believed him.

Syedur Rahman was just opening his butcher’s shop in Hessel Street when he was buttonholed by police and asked for his passport. When he replied that it was at home, they arrested him and held him until 4.30 in the afternoon.

The community relations officers for Camden and for Tower Hamlets are still making inquiries in the area. Eric Cary, community relations officer for Camden, says that as far as he knows all the Asians who were arrested have been released without charges.

In Tower Hamlets, community relations officer Joe Hunt says there is only one Asian—Mohammed Ali—not convicted for after the raids. In other words, the operation failed even in its disgusting aim to weed out ‘illegal immigrants.’

Joe Hunt has found out that ‘no police officers from East London’ were engaged in the operation. He suggested that Scotland Yard might have been behind it.

But a Scotland Yard spokesman vehemently denied to Socialist Worker that the raid was promoted from his department. ‘Policemen made the arrests,’ he said. ‘They had to—they’re the only ones with the power to do so. But the whole idea started with the Home Office. It was a Home Office job.’

Alderman Roger Jowell from Camden has written a lengthy letter to Robert Carr, calling for an independent inquiry into the police raids.

‘I must assume,’ wrote Mr. Jowell, that you authorised the raids on the morning of 11 October . . . It seems now that the Home Office (through its immigration officers and the police) are bent on all confrontation rather than co-operation, and on a boorish adherence to the policy that the Inland function of the Immigration Act is to apprehend the guilty at whatever cost to the innocent.’

The truth is that Carr, the architect of the Industrial Relations Act, is now making full use of the decision in the House of Lords earlier this year which ruled ‘illegal immigrant’ clauses in the 1971 Immigration Act ‘unconstitutional’, which means it can only be used against people who came to Britain before the Act became law.

Joe Hunt has unleashed his immigration officers on the Asian communities in London and elsewhere for no other purpose than racist agitation.

The smooth Liberal who promises ‘fair treatment’ to all in the House of Commons is ordering acts of intimidation in the streets which would do justice in any police state.

PAUL FOOT

Workers Against Racism

Roger Rosewell’s THE STRUGGLE FOR WORKERS’ POWER is an outline of the policies on the international Socialists, the development and nature of modern capitalism—and the urgent need for a workers’ party to overthrow it.

Paul Foot’s WORKERS AGAINST RACISM examines and demolishes all the racists’ arguments. Today, when socialists need to be ever more prepared to combat the increasing racism that accompanies the Tories’ side of love against immigrants, it is essential reading for every socialist.

10p each, plus 2p postage (10 or more copies post free) from 13 BOOKS, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
The front man for legal robbery

IRONICALLY RICHARD Milhous Nixon once claimed in an interview that his original reason for entering politics was his "disgust" at the Team Dorni scandal of the Harding administration of the 1920s. Today, he concludes that the disgust came from the fact that Harding got away with it. And in one sense he will. The ritual denunciations which Nixon now receives from all sides in the USA could conceivably be important.

Nixon is not the disease—he is the symptom. The power structure of the world is based on robbery and the United States has developed robbery to an art.

Plots

On one hand are the corporations, laughably regarded as legitimate business. For profit they throw millions out of work, overthrow governments, war against unions, individuals, countries.

These are not idle words. Look at the ITT corporation's operations against Allende's Chilean government. Look at the "nationalization" of the world car industry master-minded from Detroit.

Look at the plots against individuals—like container 'champion' Ralph Nader who General Motors tried to smear as a homosexual because he showed up their cars.

Look at the entire South Nixon (right) sailing with Roboza and Ainalap at Key Biscayne: getting away from Watergate with well-heeled pals.

American continent, dominated by American business—with occasional help from Lord Stowes of British-Leyland.

Side by side with 'legitimate' industry, and now so totally tied in with it as to be indistinguishable, is the underworld. From a few 'self-help' groups of immigrants at the turn of the century grow the gangster franchises. Men who believed in the American dream, but had the wrong accent, shot people in the street, ran brothels and speakeasies instead of doing it nicely through boardrooms and back rooms.

But the Godfather's dead now. The children live on, integrated very successfully into the old system of robbery.

With a yearly revenue of 50 billion dollars, organised crime takes twice as much money as General Motors. It co-operates with the Central Intelligence Agency—the American secret service—in shipping heroin from Southeast Asia.

In the late 1960s Lyndon Johnson set up a commission to report on violence. Commissions are always better than doing something. Nonetheless this one revealed some interesting facts.

Here's what the commission to the commissioner, Donald Cressy, had to say: "The penetration of business and government by organised crime has been so complete that it is no longer possible to differentiate 'under-world' gangsters from the 'under-world' businessmen and government officials."

Bloodbath

One final ingredient needed to be added to the world of Richard Nixon. That is the rivalry which still exists between the people who own the system.

The war in Vietnam has split the rulers of America. Those men who were most enthusiastic in their support for the bloodbath of the early 1960s are now most violent in their denunciation of the man who has continued the traditions of Kennedy and Johnson.

On Wall Street, the centre of American finance, moved against the war in the late 1960s so first Johnson and now Nixon are finding themselves up against the wall.

VIOLENCE AND TERROR AGAINST UNION

THOSE who hold up their hands in horror and revulsion at each fresh revelation of Nixonian skullduggery are either innocent abroad or the possessors of very short memories. One of the founding fathers of the republic, Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence was a large slave owner. So dispersing did he find the sight of his slaves that he constructed a double door to his room to avoid actual sight or contact.

For a whole period of American history the gross exploitation of the slaves and the expropriation of the native Indian land played an indispensable part in the development of American economy.

The American Civil War marked the stage when the southern slave-based economy represented a hindrance to the development of capitalism. Deliberately to popular belief the original issue was not slavery but economic depression came long after the beginning of the war—but 'slaves' right', a police word for the unfettered development of the system.

From the war onwards Northern industrial interests were paramount and the long battle against the trade unions and socialism began.

Anarchists, socialist propagandists, and trade union committees were smashed, jailed and often 'legally' murdered. The big city political machines grew up, nurtured on graft and corruption, and the corruption of the American spirit made a profit of profits.

In the 1930s used regularly for the enforcement of the trade unions, the anti-union drive of the corporation. All the state repression to smash the giant mass production plant. The company police were supplemented by strikebreakers who were paid the bargain world.

In the wake of the Russian revolution the violence which was initiated by Attorney General Palmer, a man with personal ambitions and an ex-exponent of the 'Red Menace', thousands of American socialists and radicals were arrested, many through 'paper unemployables' were deported by the thousand.

SMASH

Under President Harding's administration, corruption, never previously so far from the White House, came into and put its monstrous boots on the table. The cabinet were so implicated in corruption that many were forced to resign, and the policy was named the most publicized of a whole series of depredations.

The Vice-President, Lyndon B. Johnson, three years later pushed him into it. The penetration of business and government by organised crime is now complete. Any policy can be carried out if business and government officials.

Ford lap of business

"THE VICE-PRESIDENT, Lyndon B. Johnson, three years later pushed him into it. The penetration of business and government by organised crime is now complete. Any policy can be carried out if business and government officials are behind it."
A GROUP of engineering workers with the power to rock the government to its foundations are moving boldly, towards a major showdown over Phase Three.

They are the engineering and maintenance workers at key airports, the men who keep constant and overseas trade flourishing.

This month they have launched a campaign which will make the mouth water of many a militant for "revolutionary industrial firms".

Across the board increase of $10 a week on basic.

A substantial improvement in the 20-hour week, based on the introduction of a percentage relationship to the federal Formula.

Four weeks holiday.

35 hours a week.

When negotiations opened last week more than 200 airport workers came to the table as full-time officials. Before the talks re-open on 20 November there will be 24-hour stoppage planned to mark the feeling of the rank and file crystal clear.

The three demands are three productivity strings, a commitment on the shift allowance and the possibility that the talks will drift off past Christmas.

Saved

The salvation of the airport is not only a change in the trade union legislation. It is a part formed of an important bargain that was struck between the state-owned airlines and the Toyo government after BEA and BOAC won their strike a couple of years ago.

Last year the British Airways Board announced a five year plan, with a proposed profit of £45 million, representing nearly 100 per cent improvement on previous profits. If it is violated, it would be saved by the government.

The government wanted the savings to be made by redundancies, but the BAR pressed for a new productivity plans to be accepted by the government. Productivity strings are drawn up with the agreement of the productivity plans are drawn up with the agreement of the grant.

A group of workers have also been given the distinct possibility of a compromise over the allowance. However, this is a rare point. In his last report, in which two packed meetings of shiftworkers from the BEA side have successfully insisted that the change in shift allowance be included in the demands as an item to be negotiated separately.

Past experience has proved that shiftworkers are left out of negotiations and a resolution calling for shiftworkers to go it alone and pursue an increased shift allowance by a series of one-day stoppages was turned down in the interests of unity with dayworkers in BOAC.

VICIOUS

The plight of the shiftworkers cannot be neglected. A series of meetings calling for increased pension by March by members of the Internationalists who work for BEA have hammered home the point that the present shift allowance is one of the lowest in the engineering and manufacturing areas. The three-shift-shiftworker gets the equivalent of 25 per cent less than the manufacturing trade's rates whereas the average is outside industry is time and a quarter.

Even the continuous three-shift-shiftworker cannot grasp the continualatsu notifications strike shift. This is the shift system that is most vicious of all, where men actually calendar with them to reind their job if they are working and exactly when they will be able to see their shift.

New from Socialist Worker

Two important pamphlets describing the life and political struggles of two great revolutionaries

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

5p each plus 3p post. 12 copies or more post free: 15 Books 265 Seven Sisters Road London N1.
UNDER THE INFLUENCE—where socialists write about the way they see the world today, and there is not always to write this week by Vic Tamblyn on Willie Gallacher’s Revolt on the Clyde (out of print, though your library may have a copy, so inquire). Louis Crompton and Worrai are planning a re-print.

Vic writes about himself: ‘I am 20 and work in a bookshop, and usually I was in industry with ICI and Forings and Presswork in Birmingham—which nearly killed me! The smoke and the fumes and the heat were too much so I packed it in and got a job in an office.’

‘Most of my interests are political and I enjoy digging out information about opium dens and their doctors’ pay and so on. I think my collection of annual company reports is the biggest in Brum—about 60 all told. I joined the International Socialists in August—1968 and have never been in any other political organisation. For me, IS, is the last word in left-wing politics.’

Seven protesters in Red Square


There was an eighth demonstrator, but she reported her actions during police interrogation and plays no further part in the story. The woman who wrote this book brought along her child in a pram with the placards concealed under the blankets. She had nothing else to leave him.

The demonstration lasted some 10 minutes. ‘Pashaevsky’, who later all turned out to be members of the same unit of the KGB,态势ized the demonstrators verbally and physically although they were met with no resistance. Victor Feforog had all his teeth knocked out and was too badly beaten to appear in court seven months later.

The protesters were then hustled into a police bus and driven to a police station. Throughout the trial that followed this case, a pack of lies and a flood of slanderous reaction of outsiders. Those who took part are still suffering the consequences five years later. Five of them were jailed or exiled—and ‘condemned’ to internment. All intelligence—they have lost their jobs and any hopes of doing the work they were trained for and enjoyed. Two have been ‘psychologically committed’ to ‘special psychiatric hospitals’ which is the modern euphemism for lobotomy. The totalitarian state has yet evolved. One of these was the author of this book, Natalia Gorbatyshka.

Her book tells in obsessive detail what happened on that day in Red Square and during the trial ten months later. It describes only too realistically the totalitarianism that is fading under the pressure of war and vast numbers of people, and is their reaction against Stalinism. Stalinism is based on the state and the belief that the state has a mission to make people the best that they can be. That is why massive human sacrifices were made.

To make their gesture meaningful, do not allow it to be forgotten.

NIGEL THOMAS

What happened to beer?

THE BEER DRINKER’S COMPANION, by Frank Baillie, David and Charles, £2.50.

THIS book is a worthwhile (dare one use the word) investment for the discriminating beer drinker. It tells you everything you ever wanted to know about what beer is, where it comes from and how it’s made. What the authors of so many of these guides—by comparison with this—are are just the guide to one of the big breweries.

It is a fine living and painstakingly researched—he has apparently drunk all beers and has also been a regular customer of pub and beer gardens and from his wrathful knowledge of what makes the beer that customers get their hands on, how to assess the best buy in a strong pub. His enthusiasm is infectious, and this book should encourage people to look further than the nationally advertised top brands.

He is really remarkably restrained, letting his facts speak for their work. The longest section of the book is a comprehensive list of the remaining independent breweries.

It is well to learn that there are still 48 of them, but they are rapidly disappearing. The future of the independent breweries, whose interests extend far beyond brewing, is in serious peril. To the shareholders, who need to see their profits maintained, and the public, who need something in a cynical disregard for the needs of the people.

How many of you have explored the vast areas of the world’s beer, resulting in the conviction that the local brew is either better or equal to the imported beer which the brewery is now able to offer you? They won’t want to admit to me to drink only the new ‘uplifters’, that’s for sure. There may be some enterprising activities mentioned in this book, and one seeks a thorough-going and entertaining account of Social Worker.

And with the Companion, you can at least track down pubs selling real strong. And you can have better.

The Brotherhood Monopolies and Meers of 1962 gives a monotonous as being a company holding more than one-third of something production. It is far from the case that we might end up with the same giants beer drinkers—largely imported is the impressive point which the brewery is now able to buy. This, you may admit to me, is a highly satisfying prospect for the shareholder, who needs to see his profits maintained, and the public, who needs something better in a cynical disregard for the needs of the people.

The story of the monopoly beers has been told. It is not an easy one, but it is a necessary one. It is not an easy one, but it is a necessary one. It is not an easy one, but it is a necessary one. It is not an easy one, but it is a necessary one. It is not an easy one, but it is a necessary one.
AT LAST

A SOCIALIST DIARY

MONDAY 4 November: Received copy of Pluto Press’s 1974 Big Red Diary. It’s entry for today reads: 1974 Big Red Diary by Pat Garrett and the Kid. It stars James Coburn, Kris Kristofferson and Bob Dylan, and is directed by Sidney Pollack. It is a fine Western by the man who is probably one of the finest directors in the world. It is about the tragedy of Pat Garrett (James Coburn), who is forced by changes in the Wild West, and particularly by the big cattlemen and railroads companies, to murder his friend Billy (Kristoferson). The old West, of course, life had been murder, robbery and lawlessness. It had been a kind of freedom, dignity and compassion. The new order of the corporations was murder, robbery and lawlessness—but under a respectable dinner-jacketed cover.

Why the thrills are vanishing

When I was a boy at school, I remember that the best thrill of all was to go into the cinema. I would stand on the balcony and watch the film that was being shown. The sound of the projector was like a siren, and the smell of the popcorn was like a perfume. The thrill was not just watching the film, but also anticipating the scene that would come next. I would try to imagine what would happen next, and I would imagine that I was the one who was going to do it. I would think about the characters and their motives, and I would try to guess what they were going to do. I would imagine that I was going to be the hero, and I would imagine that I was going to save the day. I would think about the music and the lighting, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be in the middle of the action. I would think about the special effects and the stunt work, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of it. I would think about the story and the plot, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the narrative. I would think about the characters and their relationships, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the story. I would think about the setting and the atmosphere, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the environment. I would think about the emotions and the feelings, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the action. I would think about the dialogue and the speeches, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the conversation. I would think about the music and the sound effects, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the experience. I would think about the editing and the pacing, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the rhythm. I would think about the direction and the cinematography, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the visual. I would think about the acting and the performances, and I would try to imagine how it would feel to be a part of the acting.

Why the thrill is vanishing

I think that the main reason why the thrill is vanishing is because of the change in the nature of films. The films that were once thrilling are now predictable and formulaic. The thrill has been replaced by the predictability. The thrill has been replaced by the formula. The thrill has been replaced by the routine. The thrill has been replaced by the expected. The thrill has been replaced by the anticipated. The thrill has been replaced by the conditioned.

Why the thrill is vanishing

I think that the change in the nature of films is due to the change in the audience. The audience has changed. The audience has become more demanding. The audience has become more selective. The audience has become more sophisticated. The audience has become more critical. The audience has become more jaded. The audience has become more detached. The audience has become more disinterested. The audience has become more alienated. The audience has become more disconnected.

Why the thrill is vanishing

I think that the change in the nature of films is due to the change in the technology. The technology has changed. The technology has become more advanced. The technology has become more efficient. The technology has become more powerful. The technology has become more ubiquitous. The technology has become more intrusive. The technology has become more invasive. The technology has become more pervasive. The technology has become more omnipresent.

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WHAT WE STAND FOR

The International Socialists is a democratic organisation whose membership is open to all who accept its main principles and who are willing to pay the necessary contributions to the work of one of its organisations.

We believe in independent working-class action for the defeat of capitalism and its replacement by a classless society with production for use and not for profit.

We work in the mass organisations of the working class and are firmly committed to a policy of internationalism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and even no elgencies except to themselves and the economic systems they maintain.

In Europe, the Common Market has been formed for the sole purpose of increasing the trade and profits of these multinational firms. The international power of capitalism can only be overcome by international action of the working class.

A single socialist state cannot in any way survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution. In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organisation in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international independent of either Washington or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organisations throughout the world.

We believe in the necessity to unite socialist theory with the day-to-day struggle of working people and therefore support all genuine demands that tend to improve the position and self-confidence of the working class.

We fight:

- For and file control of the trade Unions and the right to strike
- Against secret negotiations. We believe that all settlements should be agreed to or rejected at mass meetings.
- For 100 per cent trade unionism and the defence of shop stewards.
- Against trade union laws and any curbs on the right to strike, whether the strikes are 'official' or ' unofficial'.
- For equal pay and a better deal for young workers.
- Against bureaucracy and its job evacuation and for militant trade union unity and joint shop stewards committees both within and among the plants and on a national basis.
- For a minimum wage of at least 235 a week.
- Against unemployment, redundancy and lay offs.
- We support the demand: Fight for 20 hour's work or 25 hour's pay.
- For all workers in struggle. We seek to build militant groups within industry.
- Against racism and police victimisation of black workers.
- Against All forms of internationalism.
- For the right of coloured people and all oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.
- For real social, economic and political equality for women.
- Against all nuclear weapons and military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.
- Against secret diplomacy.
- For an end to patronage. We unconditionally give support to and solidarity with all genuine liberation movements.
- For the nationalisation of the land, banks and major industries without compensation to the employers' control.
- We are opposed to all ruling class politicians and organisations. We work to build a revolutionary workers' party in Britain and to this end support the activity of all revolutionary groups.
- The struggle for socialism is the central struggle of our time. Workers' power and world-wide human solidarity, on the increasing of men's power over nature, with the abolition of the power of men over man, is certainly worth fighting for.

It goes without saying that the struggle is not only about work, it is much more than that. It is a struggle about things that we care very deeply about.

THERE ARE BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

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THERE ARE BRANCHES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS

The latest union to be brunt of the Transport Union's new and reactionary policy on blacking and picketing is the AUEW--which co-operated with the Transport Union in enforcing their policy throughout the Chrysler electricians' strike.

After the struggle in the docks last year the TGWU leaders decided that picket lines would not automatically be respected, nor sympathetic blacking automatically applied. All such Decrees were now referred to the union executive who with the Industrial Relations Act very much in mind--deliberate whether support can be given.

The AUEW has fallen foul of this new system in its struggle against the Chrysler management. A strike was called to uphold a £75,000 a week strike fund by the NICR. The engineers wanted help to block the picket-busting lorry of Robert Dilley and his Con-Mech company in support of their battle to win a pay rise.

Con-Mech has been forced to switch export orders--the biggest of which is for Cuba-away from the London docks since the dispute. They have been running into heavy losses. The Engineering Union naturally wanted to get the job in on both by lorry drivers and dockers in Ipswich.

An approach was made to Ipswich full-time officials of the Transport Union. The reply came back that the two T.U. officials would not even consider blocking of the goods unless they had a signed letter of request from Hush Scolnion, Engineering Union president. Fortunately rank and file Ipswich dockers intervened and the picket line at the Chrysler dock was still getting its steel products out.

FORD MEN ANGRY OVER CHECK-OFF BATTLE

TOP Engineering and Transport Union leaders are determined to push through at Ford the "check-off" system, the deduction of union dues before pay packets are made up against the wishes of the unions' Joint Works Committees and without any ballot or consultation.

This serious development came at the Ford Joint Works Committee meeting last week. Following a vote of the Transport Union's automotive section showing the need for increased democratic consultation with members, shop stewards were invited to the shop floor.

Mr. L. Sheehy, the Joint Works Committee chairman, and Mr. G. W. Badcock, the secretary, explained the need for increased democratic consultation with the shop floor.

Mr. Sheehy outlined how the Joint Works Committee were the "bureaucrats" of shop floor opinion in the Motor Industry and stated that agreements with Ford would only be made after consultation with them. Then he dropped his bombshell.

He announced that the top Works Committee negotiating body, the Ford National Joint Works Committee, had decided to bring in the check-off system. A ballpapet would be automatically put in all workers' pay packets. If 60 per cent voted in support then the system would be implemented at once.

MoS Evans understood that this had been decided at union executive level. The Joint Works Committees would have had no say in the matter, he said, misleadingly suggesting that there was no full consultation.

He then instructed the delegates who equipped in anger against the top table.

MoS Evans was told that the Joint

IS Bookshop

607 Seven Sisters Road

Finsbury Park, London N4

Stocks of the following have recently been delivered:

WORKING FOR FORD by J. H. Ward

HOW THE MINERS WERE ROBBED by J. McNeill in The Labour History Review series, 20th

1974 BIG RED DIARY Pluto Press (special bulk rates for IS branches or for details, 7p

IF THEY COME IN THE MORNING by Angela Davis, 4s 6d

JAMES CONNOLLY, Labour, Nationality and Religion, 10p

MINERS: THE RIGHT Wing Organises Counter-attack

Miners have been the target of the right-wing wing of the Yorkshire coalfield. Right-wing officials such as Sam Babich and Sid Skeldon are dead or retired. Their role in sabotaging the strikes of 1969 and 1970 has been identified in the eyes of thousands of Yorkshire miners. In the 1972 strike they played a main role.

It has been no surprise to see a new leadership emerge up mainly of left Labour Party members.

All those Yorkshire members of the national executive are now left wingers. Labour has declined previously in the Yorkshire Area with an overwhelming majority of its members. The Area's executive members are now identified in the eyes of thousands of Yorkshire miners. It has been no surprise to see a new leadership emerge up mainly of left Labour Party members.

 Miners have been the target of the right-wing wing of the Yorkshire coalfield. Right-wing officials such as Sam Babich and Sid Skeldon are dead or retired. Their role in sabotaging the strikes of 1969 and 1970 has been identified in the eyes of thousands of Yorkshire miners. In the 1972 strike they played a main role.

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THE interview with Elaine Ibbet (Socialist Worker 10 November) has started me thinking, have there been any who want a workers' union? There is a very great need for people to organise and unionise in the cities as well as in peripheral areas. There is a need for the working class to bring down prices in the supermarkets. If we boycott certain products, the prices are sure to go down.

And that's not all. We also make it clear that we will prevent the hospital workers' strike. With a housewives' union behind them, the housewives will be in a better position to fight for the living conditions of the working class.

Many women will shrug their shoulders and say, I'm not one for unions really. They should be reminded, however, that we can get a fair deal?—LESLEY GREEN, Darlington.

Will my son be punished even more?

I WISH to bring to your attention the treatment of my son in jail. He was charged with belonging to the Workers Party of Scotland who was jailed last year for 24 years for his part in a series of bank robberies.

The case occurs at the point where Mat has been held under top security since he escaped from his cell earlier last month looking for a camera supposed to have been smashed into the prison. They didn't find anything but in the course of their search they wrecked Mat's mattress and tore up two of his paintings.

This action was carried out vigorously although non-violently about this persuasion he was put into solitary confinement for four days. At Perth this means being stripped of all your clothes, sitting on the floor, left with just two blankets and a wooden table and accompanied cells.

Immediately after he came out of solitary he was transferred to Perth Prison near Aberdeen.

This makes it very difficult for my wife and I to visit him. Furthermore, it is also the prison which housed William McPherson who was jacked for 24 years at the same time as Mat and who has since had several years added to his term because of an act of participation in prison protests.

Up until now ex-WP workers of Scotland have been kept apart by the authorities so this is the first time that Mat has been in a cell with my wife and I at the prison. This is an attempt to avoid us ever visiting him again.

JOHN LYGATE, Glasgow S1.

The point is to change it!

In his letter (Socialist Worker, 3 November) David Green claimed that the members of the Popular Unity and its members and the International Socialists have been unimportant. He writes that in judging Alliance Marxists should first establish whether the balance of class forces in Chile made socialism possible or not, and do so on the basis of the facts and not of 'revolutionary demands'.

You can't separate the question of the balance of class forces from the actions of the political organisations of these classes. It is through these organisations that classes become aware of political forces and become conscious of their class.

The policies pursued by the Popular Unity over a long period of time decisively influenced the situation which made both sides at a cross road. When the curfew came and even Allende realised the need for extra-parliamentary mobilisation of the working class, no adequate preparation for it had been made.

If we accepted Green's idea that Alliance Marxists want to define the class situation in Chile without mentioning the influence of the Popular Unity's tenacious policies, he still wouldn't have proved his point. Because such a purely objective situation still leaves two possibilities for the Alliance Marxists: either socialism on the basis of it, or it was not.

In the first case, Alliance failed to make good the possibilities of the situation, and we want to know why. In the second, the Popular Unity government acted with gross irresponsibility in trying to push through a totally non-revolutionary situation and within the limits of the policies that were unacceptable to the old order.

David Green may interpret the world in any way he chooses, but in my opinion his efforts are aimed at changing it.—BRUCE YOUNG, Oxford.

Liberals

IT IS not surprising to anyone who has looked at the Liberal Party that they should win the Berwick by-election by 57 votes. It fits in ideally with a number of varieties of politics you get from them.

I liked the stuff in Socialist Worker (3 November) about the Merseyside Liberals and their property connections. The sooner those people who stick their crores next to Liberal candidates realise which part of the community they come from then the sooner the joke of 'communism is just' will be exposed.—B. BONIFACE, London S4.

Shrewsbury

AT a meeting of the University Labour Club on 8 November, members decided to lend their full support to the Shrewsbury 24 building workers.

It is the view of our members that these workers have been shown by agents of the British ruling class that they might be made an example of and serve as an example to potential strikers who intend to set up and operate effective pickets, such as those operated by the building workers last year.

As the 24 workers are involved and will be engaged in a 'trial' until Christmas they are relying on their right to earn a living and help defend themselves, our Labour Club will do all it possibly can to raise money for the 24.

T Crockett, R Knight, D Michael, Labour Club of the New University of Ulster, Coleraine.

Postal points: Ireland, Clough, humility, youth...

IRELAND...Socialist Worker publishes an excellent analysis of the Irish situation. It is essential that troops should be withdrawn from Ireland. This is the position taken by the Workers Party of Scotland who has been in prison since last year. It is ridiculous to suggest that an Army can possibly act as a peacekeeper. The only guns that can act are the guns of the workers who can never act in such a way, and can never be repressed as long as there are few, both Catholic and Protestant to revert to sectarian violence.

The great majority of those who are demonstrably IRA members have committed no violent acts, and in the absence of the army would form a union of the working class into an army of revolution against the change in the 32 counties—JOAN MARTIN, London E8.

WANTED: RESPECT, HUMILITY ETC... Paul Foot did not succeed in seriously questioning Professor Campbell's impartiality (Socialist Worker 27 October). He has looked for in the Chairman of a Committee of enquiry is a man of integrity, Professor Campbell is such a man...he is worthy of a little respect and a little benevolence from Mr Foot, who as far as I know has made no such self-sacrifices for the common good...the professor does present an impartial economics course which is not swayed by any ideology, whether right or left. Many international Socialists should take such a course before opening their mouths on a subject about which they know little or nothing at all—ROBERT G KIDDIE, Dundee.

MORE YOUTH POWER... I WAS pleased to see the letter from Elaine Ibbet (Socialist Worker 10 October). It's about time that people realised kids aren't just there to 'be seen and not heard'. I know for a fact that Ted Heath and his cronies are just out to screw the working man into the floorboards and we need the socialist movement to fight back.—MARGARET McLAUGHLIN (aged 12) York.

ENOUGH OF CLOUGH... and what all the articles about Brian Clough both in the First Street press and now in Socialist Worker fail to point out is that those people who want to pay out money to watch 22 trainee-business men chasing a piece of leather around a field are barmy. As Socialist Worker points out, when not dealing with 'management crises' in football clubs, there are important things for us to do—D JORLE, London SE.

BETTER IN JUG?... What J Preen doesn't seem to realise that is that Socialist Worker 10 November) when he talks about the working class in the social security if the country 'throws people on the scrapheap' like the public have to realise that social security is just one thing the country is high. The money is ours in the first place, our 'ruins' and let's say it, and then we're supposed to feel grateful when we can get it back, if we're lucky, at the dollop . The public should realise what money is really squandered on. The same issue's feature on the Royal Family dealt with the tip of an iceberg—SUSAN WILKORD, Bristol.

Socialist Worker 17 November 1973

SORRY WE WERE WRONG
ABOUT BRUCE

WHO THE REAL SPLITTERS ARE

IN VIEW of the recent Chrysalis dispute, our own recent strike at Rubery Owen should serve as a lesson in unity and to the trade unions.

In the case of Rubery Owen the two main trade unions, the Amalgamated Engineering Union (AUEW) and the Transport & General Workers' Union, joined in a strike at one time, but the electrical trade union, led by their right wing convenor, proposed a separate ballot and did so using back-door tactics, which were unnecessary for the outcome.

In spite of weak leadership, strikers fought hard to get the job done.

The situation now in Rubery Owen is that due to the EPTU's (小时前) action on the vast majority of the work force they have no support whatsoever. This was shown in their recent work to rule, where other sections were prepared to do the electricals' jobs without any management support.

Scallon, Jones, Chappell and company are fond of accusing the 'non-left' element of undermining any thereby splitting the trade union organisation. Two disputes illustrate that when trade union officials stick to their guns divide among union principles they are the group that splits the trade union ranks and file up—RUBERY OWEN INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS.
MEETINGS
HALF-DAY SCHOOL: For all black mem-
ber of the CND. Fee: £1.00. Two meet-
ings on the sessions in the India, Pakistan, Afghani-
stan and Eastern Europe areas, held in November,
Phone: 01-719 0799.
HARMONY CITY: Women's History Month.
Phone: 01-719 0799.
CONFERENCE: Women's History Month.
Phone: 01-719 0799.
EDINBURGH 15 public meeting: Chin-ese-
ians in the UK. Friday November 5, 9pm, St Columba's,
Chalmers, Tuesday 20, November, 8pm.
LUTON public meeting: Workers against
racism. Speaker George Haack (Wom-
ian former prisoner in South Africa and
in the UK). November, 20, 8pm, Old Bedford Road Com-
munism in the UK. A discussion. Tuesday 14, Nov-
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Rent strikers face court jail threat

KIRKBY - 36 of the 400 rent strikers on the Tower Hill estate, have received orders to appear in court Wednesday for comittal to prison. The bailiffs are said to be in full retreat as this week's grand offensive against the Tower Hill rent strikers began.

Governor's court, St Helens, 21 November 1972

‘TWENTY-THREE quid— you can’t keep a bloody pet on it—never mind a family,’ says Mike Mulrooney, a small workshop union member, of the British Aluminium, union for rent strikers and local government employees.

The local aluminum get (before stoppages) for a 40-hour work week, work, over constantly changing shifts, many of them at night.

When only two tenants turned up at the council court on Monday, the court was filled with a roar of laughter.

‘When you have a decent job and you have something, you get something,’ the union representative said.

The case was due to be heard Wednesday.

‘The trade unions have received orders to appear in court Wednesday for comittal to prison.

The bailiffs are said to be in full retreat as this week's grand offensive against the Tower Hill rent strikers began.

Governor's court, St Helens, 21 November 1972

‘The union has given tacit support to the strikers and the supporting work to rule, but they have not been in to the Durham men.

The union urges caution until November 29 when a national conference of aluminium workers' delegates will decide on future action. Alex Saunders has no doubt as to the union's position.

‘We'll have to make this ridiculous government aware of the possibility of a total strike he says. ‘Every one of us has a responsibility to the people of our union to do nothing more than what is coming to us."

Builders down tools over sailing

LONDON - 150 building workers down tools at the 27-storey, £7 million Melnechur contract at Finchley Road, west London. The action was called by carpenter Bill Badger and labourer John Keith, both men, who had been employed 24 hours previously, worked at MacAlpine where the strike is due to begin. The strike is expected to last for one week and will be called in support for other Melnechur strikers.

Chrysler: Now to repair the damage

By Jim Higgins

THE British Communist Party ducked the implications of the military overthrow of President Allende in Chile when it held its 10th Party Conference, North London, last week.

The conference was approached by the party on the New Left, and to the general secretary John Collin's report, which included the general secretary’s call for a Labour Party, the lesser party, the party of Jack Jones, at a recent CND demonstration. The conference also stated that the Marxist Group was apparently not significant for the party.

AS before, Left Activists are seen as joint political and socialists, the party's share of the governing of this country is the general secretary of the Labour Party, Jack Jones, the general secretary of the Workers' Movement.

The conference also stressed the need for a new party, the Communist Party,

The conference also stressed the need for a new party, the Communist Party, the Stalinist, as the revolution continues.

Chileans unite!

The battle was for the state, the party of the Communist Party, the struggle through the fight for Communist MPs, MPs who have been fighting against the Eurocrats and the General Secretary, John Collin, the BBC’s report, which included the fund-raising questions raised for British Communists by the party, and, as in the previous case, the need to blow the credibility of the parliamentary road to socialism with little more than a whisper.

The delegates complained only by a silence 

(The article continues)

I would like to join the International Socialists

Name

Address

Trade Union

Send to: IS, 6 Cornards Gardens, London E2 8DN
THE prosecution in the Shrewsbury case of building workers' pickets has now brought the builders' unions into the case.

On Monday, UCATT general secretary George Smith, regional secretaries Eric Hughes and Ken Barlow, and Transport Union construction section secretary Leslie Kemp appeared in court on a prosecution order.

The move is primarily to obtain all official union documents relating to last year's official building workers' strike. But it also means that both unions are now—against their leaders' wishes—going to have much more pressure on them to come to the defence of the Shrewsbury men.

The union leaders were ordered to appear after one of the most remarkable incidents of the six-week case.

On Friday, Laurence Mansbridge, a journalist on the Shrewsbury County Advertiser, appeared for the prosecution. John Platt Mills, for the defence, asked about a meeting on 27 September 1972, just after the strike, where senior police officers met journalists and asked for help in their investigation.

By Socialist Worker reporter

Platts Mills asked if any police officers might have mentioned anything to journalists. Such an instruction, he said, was against the evidence. Mr Mansbridge replied that he couldn't remember.

At this point the judge, Mr Justice McManus, interrupted and asked Mr Mills why he had not been told "outside" pressure to launch the police investigation. Platt Mills in his opening statement had not mentioned this detail.

After a lengthy wrangle the instruction was withdrawn, and the exchange was read back. Platt Mills was correct. He then indicated that the defence case would focus on questions such as: Who collected the evidence? Who authorised the prosecution? And the instruction was moderated. Immediately after this the prosecution moved against the official unions.

In the court last week it came out that the charges had been threatened with a shop steward on a second site. Mr Rawson, a building censor, described how he had tried to take photographs of pickets who had come in close contact at Shrewsbury, North Wales. Not surprisingly the pickets took the camera off him. He then entered the house and charged out, armed with a shot gun. This was taken off him and he was actually punched, he told the court.

Another prosecution witness, Patrick O'Connor, told the court that when he saw a picket with a brick in his hand he threatened to despatch him with a shot gun. He also described how pickets and stewards had been at it in his house and how stewards had been devices such as "being ready for them" and "because they planned to take six coachloads."

Scotlands—About 6,500 engineering workers are out on strike to protest against the National Freight Carriers Association's refusal to sign a new line on the AECU.

In a separate development, a group of about 100 strikers marched through Glasgow to a field meeting in a closed-off car park in a South Side street. Dozens by many people for a meeting in the main square were rejected by the organiser. Several factories which hadn't taken part in earlier strikes and demonstrations turned out this time. One non-union section that responded was the local Trades Council call for a meeting. On Saturday afternoon a man was arrested by police for making a nuisance of himself.

In the early hours on Monday a protest letter signed by 600 was delivered to the offices of the Daily Record, saying: "We demand an end to the policy of the Daily Record and its Daily Express."

The Glasgow Advertiser was also the victim of an attack. The NFRCA were said to have been planning their campaign to defeat the International Joint Action. The Advertiser was the same.

Standstill

The Dundee area was paralysed as a result of the dispute. The picketing workers of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the T&GWU, and the Transport and Communication Workers' Union, the T&CWU, were on strike in support of railways pensions for the T&GWU, and the introduction of a new health and safety scheme for the T&CWU.

Companies affected by the strike included the Central Electricity Board, the Central Electricity Generation Board, and the Central Electricity Generating Board. The strike was due to continue this week.

In support of the strike, the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) and the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) were due to hold a meeting in the town centre. The meeting was called to discuss the proposed strike and to express solidarity with the workers.

100 strike over vicitation

West Bromwich—100 workers are on strike at George Tafftian's engineering factory for a pay rise. The Transport and General Workers' Union (T&GWU) was called by Mrs Lisa Wilcox to make a "redoubt" last Thursday. Mrs Wilcox had been prevented from meeting the workers by the company, who were said to be "beyond reason".

At West Bromwich, the strikers' sitting is returned to work last Monday after accepting an offer of £2.25 for a two-day strike rate. The company had been accused of making a "blacklist" of workers.

At Drayton Green, the Blickling and the Gloucester, the company had refused to meet the workers and had been accused of making a "blacklist" of workers.

At Bicester the company agreed to a £2.50 a week rate before the strike and had been accused of "blacklisting" workers.

At Stourbridge the strikers accepted $2.50 less than full and immediate re-instatement.

Motorcyle inside the occupied Triumph factory. Picture: John Starr (Report)