50,000 old people will die this winter

ATHS ON HEATH’S WARDS

Support pickets on trial

After two months of press silence the trial of six of the 'Shrewsbury 24' building workers is coming to the crunch. Within the next fortnight the verdicts will be announced—just before the Christmas holiday period.

They are the victims of rigged conspiracy charges which could be applied to any active trade unionist involved in a strike situation. Their fate is now in our hands.

It is effective trade unionism which is on trial at Shrewsbury. If any of the six are found guilty there must be an instant response of industrial action throughout the country.

This is to happen, the next few days are vital. Militant trade unionists should take up the example of workplaces like the London Royal Group of Docks and the direct works department of Glasgow Corporation, where the stewards are campaigning for an all-out stoppage when the sentences are announced.

To assist this campaign, and to provide much-needed financial aid for the 'Shrewsbury 24', the International Socialists is organising a rally in the Seymour Hall, Great Peter Street, London W1, on Monday 17 December. We urge all our members, readers and supporters to give the rally their full support. All proceeds will go to the families of the defendants.

Executive Committee, International Socialists.

MASSIVE

Last week Prime Minister Heath had two vital missions to fulfill. He had to attend a church service in Bristol and he had to get home again.

Getting him back to Number Ten was accomplished by sending a chauffeur driven flower car down to Bristol to meet him. The chauffeur drove down on his own.

Some unpublicised elements in Bristol suggested it was a considerable waste of precious petrol. But a spokesman for Mr Heath stated that the Prime Minister was actually saving fuel since he normally travels by aeroplane. And, isolated one aide, no one could expect the Prime Minister to travel by train.

So serious is the fuel shortage that only 22 executive jets will be excluded and out of Heathrow last Wednesday. Normally the slogan is one less, one jet. But in view of the crisis, dramatic alterations have been made to the passenger loadings. An average of two men were on board each flight last week.

Ric Tinto Zinc, one of the richest companies in Britain, hit back against its critics who said it was a take-over for the rich and powerful to urge restraint. When, like RTZ, they were flying six men to a plane, Ric Tinto explained that its executives were going to Anglesey, where one of its plants is very difficult to get to. There are four railway stations on Anglesey all in service and with direct lines to London Euston. A swift defensive move came from the British Airports Authority, which has now banned the release of any information about executive jet flights in and out of Heathrow. This followed extensive, unfair publicity about Friday's traffic. Then 14 out of the 37 executive jets which left Heathrow were entirely empty.

British Petroleum is suffering greatly in the midst of the oil crisis. This week it announced that earnings had risen by 67% per cent in the third quarter of this year compared to the same period last year.

Profits are expected to make an equally massive jump. But, warned BP, the outlook for the future is 'uncertain'. This is because the dismember Middle East governments are actually threatening to increase their price yet again.

This might mean that the countries which produce the oil would take a slight increase out of BP's record profits.

The Tony Benn movement has found an unexpected ally in its fight against the miners. Many government ministers have got behind well-known socialist country, Poland, are being rushed in to give Heath, the National Coal Board and the Electricity Board some relief.

Meanwhile, the Royal Yacht Britannia steams on, using one ton of fuel every seven miles.
How not to fight the NIRC

LEADERS of the Engineering Union and their sponsored MPs have discovered a new secret weapon to foil Sir John Donaldson, the Government's campaign to outwit and undermine their political position. The strategy of the Engineering Union is to use the bowie knife and the mace to make Donaldson's – and his Government's – political position more difficult.

The Government's attempt to outwit and undermine the Engineering Union's political position is a clear example of how it is possible to use the bowie knife and the mace to make Donaldson's – and his Government's – political position more difficult.

WILLIAM WHITEHALL, the new Minister of Employment and the man charged with making Plaice Three work, is acclaimed as one of the few success stories of the Heath government.

By success, the means that he has so far claimed, he means that his position is now more difficult.

In the main at the top of a campaign of police and government harassment and terrorism, he has been able to gallop through the Executive Committee and the Government's political position.

Whitehall played his trump card when he persuaded the SDL's Gerry Fitty, who has been an MP in charge of the Second Commune, to stand on a foot-plate in front of the Executive Committee, to join a government with the reactionary Faulkner Unionist clique.

Transport Union general secretary Jack Jones, who was a member of the Plaice Three, says: "The ex-college, thinks that the new Minister of Employment and the man 'Whitehall' - he's not tried it - has a quite different view.

Between January and September there were 218 killings in Northern Ireland, excluding police and army deaths. Of this total, 149 were Catholics and 18 were Protestants friendly to the GCA. Of the remaining 151 Protestants killed, a number such as Tommie Herron were clearly victims of rival 'Loyalist' gangs. It is clear that the real terror campaign is initiated by Protestant� and Nationalists.

"The white", in NI, is known to be the friend of the Unionist authorities of the Dumbarton estates, is not allowed to act as an independent force. It is not expected that there will be any change in this situation.

The union is too weak to negotiate with the Government, the need for the Government to act as an independent force, is not expected.

"The black", in NI, is known to be the friend of the Government, is not allowed to act as an independent force. It is not expected that there will be any change in this situation.

Liberal speculator exposed

Two weeks ago, Mr Jeremy Thorpe set up a Liberal Party inquiry into the activities of Liberal councils in Liverpool whose main activity is property speculation. Liberal Party sources put it around that press disclosures about Liberal property speculators could 'damage the Liberal image'.

This week, the truth is out about the biggest Liberal property speculator of them all: Mr Jeremy Thorpe. When Mr Thorpe joined the board of Mr Gerald Corrigan's London and Westminster last year, he could hope for a Westminster's announcement and not too much embarrassment.

The Government was quick to forget Mr Corrigan's past as a thorn in the flesh of the Liberal and the Government's political position. Mr Corrigan had been named in the press as one of the three�heads of the PLP. In February, Mr Corrigan said that the police had been "very brave". He presented a police officer with a one-year-old on police - the exact amount was not disclosed - and a statement of the events last February. The sheet recalled that the Pakistanis had entered the High Commission to protest about the holding of Pakistani prisoners in India.

The magistrate repeated after his sitting that the police had behaved with outstanding courage in bringing the Pakistanis down in cold blood.

The police then requested a ban on reporting the presentation in the press for security reasons. Mr Barraud really reduced the Government's political position to zero.
Hidden truth or prices

by Duncan Hallas

A TYPICAL shopping basket of food now contains more than a pound more than it did at the start of Heath’s fraudulent "anti-inflation policy" a year ago.

The cost of 20 of the most popular items of food and bacon will rise sharply in the near future according to a newspaper report. Farmers have been telling us that the prices of these items are likely to rise by more than a pound.

"More food prices rise in the pipeline," says another.

"It is a matter of regret that our "anti-inflation policy" has been so successful is that it has increased the prices of the most essential items," the minister said.

"My ministry has no intention of seeing prices rise in the future," the minister continued.

"We are doing everything we can to keep prices down," the minister added.

Imported animal feed is now £2.30 a box lower than it was in April. This is a good start in reducing the cost of food and is likely to be followed by similar reductions in the cost of other animal feeds.

"We are working hard to ensure that the cost of food is kept as low as possible," the minister said.

"We have been working closely with farmers and suppliers to ensure that the cost of food is kept as low as possible," the minister added.

Increased prices for eggs have tripled...

"Increased prices for eggs have tripled since the beginning of the year," the minister said.

"We need to do more to ensure that the cost of food is kept as low as possible," the minister added.

The minister also said that the government was working hard to ensure that the cost of food was kept as low as possible.

SEVEN of the nine men and women sentenced to life imprisonment at the Winchester bomb trial have been on hunger strike for 14 days.

They are demanding political status and the right to serve their sentences in Northern Ireland. They are not unreasonable demands.

Even the most fanatical of the Northern IrishDistincts permits the category of "political prisoners." And a member of the Protestant Workers’ Party is a political prisoner.

There is no reason, apart from adding to the viciousness of the sentences, why the Belfast Nine should not be returned to Northern Ireland.

Two of the prisoners are now being force-fed, involving the insertion of a long, grasped tube into the throat which is then laid down. This tube is removed as soon as possible.

The remaining 80 of the prisoners are now on hunger strike. They have been split up and moved from prison to prison.

The determination in these letters can be repeated for all the other prisoners.

Socialists and trade unionists can help to end this torture by flooding the Home Office with letters of appeal and the return of the political prisoners to their homeland.

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ON MONDAY 400 students at York University staged a student picket outside the examination hall to protest against the unfair and unnecessary exams that were held. The students were demanding more democratic exams and a say in the way exams are organised.

The students were supported by a large crowd of supporters.

The students were demanding more democratic exams and a say in the way exams are organised.

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MAIDENHEAD: A riot by the police in Maidenhead last Saturday.

The police have been called in to deal with a crowd of local people.

"The police are acting in a completely illegal and oppressive manner," one of the local residents said.

"The police are acting in a completely illegal and oppressive manner," one of the local residents said.

"We demand that the police leave the area and stop their aggressive behaviour," another local resident said.

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AS A socialist and trade unionist you should support the Shrewsbury 24 Rally. The rally is on Sunday, 24th January at 3.00pm. It is being held in solidarity with the workers who are on strike in Shrewsbury. The rally is being held in order to show our solidarity with the workers and to support their struggle.

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SANDIE and Keith Faulkner of the Combined

\"Do not buy food already partially cooked\" or \"Leaf and Onion Soup\". \"It is not a question of legal or illegal, but of the condition of the food, the condition of the animals and the condition of the working class.\"

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\"We demand the return of the political prisoners to their homeland.\"

\"We demand the return of the political prisoners to their homeland.\"

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\"Do not buy food already partially cooked\" or \"Leaf and Onion Soup\". \"It is not a question of legal or illegal, but of the condition of the food, the condition of the animals and the condition of the working class.\"
 meant to be one more weapon of the antagonists against the other.

The case of the Oil Crisis in the United States has brought huge gains to the big oil companies. Price controls and anti-pollution legislation have been relaxed, and some have surrendered some financial aid for the development of oil resources within the United States, the Alaska pipeline, Rocky Mountain shale oil, and offshore drilling.

The NEW YORK Hospital workers have been in the forefront of workers fighting wage controls in the USA. 38,000 members of the Drug and Hospital Workers' Union went on strike for a 7% per cent pay rise that their employers had already agreed but which the Court of Living Council, Nixon's last pay Board, would not allow. Negotiations and militant actions of workers in manufacturing industry have already punched huge holes in Nixon's wage policy, and the government's attitude has been to allow this, but trick down hard on poorly-organized workers in 'non-essential sectors' of the economy.

Despite a vicious campaign against them by New York's dailies especially busy fighting off military action by its own promoters—local hospital workers held out. Most are black and Puerto Rican. Dozens of strikers have been arrested and physically assaulted by the police in front of a court instruction which led to a heavy fine on their union. The strikers picketed many New York hospitals, holding up all but the most essential supplies.

New York's Frame has also held a 5-hour strike in support of the pay claim, and against a productivity deal which would make them work even longer.

BRIEFING

The OIL CRISIS in the United States has brought huge gains to the big oil companies. Price controls and anti-pollution legislation have been relaxed, and some have surrendered some financial aid for the development of oil resources within the United States, the Alaska pipeline, Rocky Mountain shale oil, and offshore drilling.

But the oil companies were well on the way to winning these concessions out of the government before the Middle East war broke out. They were particularly opposed to stricter anti-pollution laws which would have forced them to make new oil leases and other plants. In their campaign against these laws, the big oil companies deliberately withhold supplies from the independent petrol station chains, creating an artificial shortage.

In the three months up to October, three big companies—Mobil, Gulf and Exxon—had increased their profits by over 100%.

BHP wanted to raise steel prices by 9 percent. The Amalgamated Workers' Union, which includes steelworkers, said any rise would be excessive. The government persuaded BHP to raise it by only 3 percent and then afterwards the company declared record profits.

Control

Meanwhile a trade union campaign to get 20% of workers by members of the Socialist Left faction in the Labour Party, the Communist Party, increased the pressure on the government. They pointed out that wages were responsible for the huge increase in food prices, and that land and wages make up 50% of the cost of goods in shop windows. Socialists in the Australian Labour Party achieved a 20% rise in 1973's election platform.

They tried to get a Price Commission Tribunal approved by parliament, but in the upper house of the Australian parliament Labour depends on the support of the small right-wing Democratic Labour Party, which this normally blocked the reform underway, was also against wage control. Now it appears that far from being opposed to wage control, the government's wage policy is lessrelated to the accident control over wages anyway because whatever happens, the government that controls income is really wanted for controlling sales, dividends, speculators' profits and such like as important. The Australian socialists have argued for a 'no vote' on both occasions, and that the government's policy is unlikely to do real control over wages.

But the majority in the labour movement feel that, while Whittam is actively campaigning for it, his supporters argue that control over wages is not good for the economy and that income control is really wanted for controlling sales, dividends, speculators' profits and such like.

So the socialists and trade unions to be united against the Whittam's no vote, and demand the release of the Chilean student and all the other political prisoners.
Drunken driver on the wagon

GEORGE ESTHOUNI! came to Britain from Cyprus in 1959 and worked for six years before opening a tiny cafe in Acton. The local police didn't like the idea of foreigners running cafes in the area, and continually bothered George with infringements.

On 13 April this year they achieved a police record. They charged him with habitual drunkenness, having been out of control by the Scottish Yard medical authorities. The test showed that there was no trace of alcohol in his blood. He has since produced medical evidence to show that alcohol stays in the blood for at least 18 hours after drinking.

Nevertheless George was convicted on the word of the policemen who arrested him, led by Sergeant Ronald Evans. He was banned from driving for 30 months, fined £10 and ordered to pay £5 costs.

George believes in British justice, so he sold his cafe business and hired lawyers to clear his name.

The Court of Appeal and the House of Lords refused him leave to appeal. His MP, Nigel Spearing, and the legal assistance group, have tried to help him—vainly. He has spent all his savings and is left with a mortgage for a mini flat.

He no longer believes in British justice.

Just the men the British Army needs

ANOTHER exhibit for my collection of cases under the One Law for the 48th and Northern Ireland soldiers another for the poor. On 24 September, Leonard Reed stabbed George Stephenson in a fight in Guildford with a couple of milkmen, and beat them unconscious. The milkmen were attacked, apparently, because they had robbed the soldiers about their short hair.

Both soldiers pleaded guilty to affray, malicious wounding and grievous bodily harm.

Major Colonel, Commanding Officer of the Second Battalion Light Infantry, explained that the two had served for four months in Northern Ireland and both men had been under considerable stress.

Mr Justice Wield agreed, and asked both men off with a conditional discharge because of "outstanding special circumstances."

The judge holds the view that if all the things in British were backed up there would be no need to fight under the Union Jack in Ireland.

Flopping Blacklist

I WAS delighted at our industrial conference to have a chat with five members of the famous strike at Pilkingtons in 1970. One of them was Councillor, a marvellous speech at the conference.

They are all in different jobs now, but have kept in contact—and they're all doing well. The story about a former colleague of theirs on the picket line is not that out of the ordinary, one of the best known militants in Pilkingtons at the time.

All the men said, Brian was victimised and sacked. For eight months, they said, of St Helens and surrounding towns looked like an industrial police station.

He, like the others, was ruthlessly blacklisted. Local employers' associations were suddenly filled with his name when he arrived on the scene. Broken by the prospect of what seemed like permanent unemployment, he joined the Trotskyist movement.

Last June, Brian arrived at Stafford as an independent candidate in the Berwick by-election. Serving soldiers and airmen have done this many times before, and got their discharge as a result.

Unlike most of them, Brian could supply good political reasons for standing. In a long memorandum, which his former mates showed me, he argued that recent by-elections had shown a contempt for the two major parties and a sympathy for minority candidates. He wrote that their experience in industry had shown him the need for the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act and other legislation to solve the problems of the working class. All his officers at Pilkington approved the application.

On 19 September, Brian was interviewed by an 'advisor' committee at the Home Office, consisting of Sir Hugh Mortimer QC and Lord Boyce, a former Labour peer. Boyce, I gather, was not at all happy about his remarks about the hypocrisy of the Labour Party. A fortnight later Brian heard the news. No, he couldn't stand as a candidate. No reason given. I gather that a lot of his mates in the RAF, who thought they were defending a 'free country', are beginning to change their minds.

AFTER 27 years of almost unrelieved gloom from supporting Plymouth Argyle, allow me a moment's pleasure at the team's fantastic success in the League Cup. They'd owed the man to Argyle's new manager, Tony Walker, who seems to have the right attitude to the men who make fortunes from football. Writing in the club's programme on the first match of this season, Walters refused to make any empty promotion promises. He wrote: 'Soccer is such an unpredictable game that nobody can say from week to week how things are likely to go. If you don't believe me, ask the Pools millionaires—if you can afford the cab fare to Hawaii.'

Solidarity with '24'

WIDESPREAD solidarity actions took place last week with the twenty four building workers facing conspiracy charges at Shrewsbury crown court. Support and action came from building workers, the case arose from last year's national pay strike - miners, and other sections of many unionists.

At last! The one-and-a-half million circulation monthly journal of the mighty, left-winged Transport and General Workers' Union, the Record, has taken up the question of the Shrewsbury 24. The November issue refers to the trial, in which 29% members are involved, for the first time. I am proud to reproduce the total space allotted to the issue in the journal's 16 pages.

The Judge and the Case of the Barn Scabbing

EVERYONE knows that judges are completely impartial in all industrial disputes, so it was a surprise to journalists on strike recently at the Sheffield Telegraph and Star when they found out that 'sac' paper for producing the Telegraph and Star during the strike was being stored in the barn of a circuit judge, His Honour Judge Dennis Lloyd, who sits on the Midland and Oxford circuits.

It happened like this. As soon as the strike started, shop stewards and pickets, who supply paper to the Sheffield paper, agreed that all paper bound for the Telegraph and Star would be delivered by the strikers.

Pickets at the works soon noticed that paper was being delivered, so pickets had to comb the countryside around the city to find where the paper was being stored. The landlord of a pub told them that a lorry had been seen entering Brough End Farm, in the village of Brough, Derbyshire.

The farm is the comfortable home of Judge Lloyd, who is Liberal candidate for Sheffield Hallam in the 1966 General Election and Recorder of Shrewsbury in 1971. Judge Lloyd told us Mr Lloyd may be the owner of the barn. All our main ware- houses were blocked against, but this barn was very convenient. So we arranged with him to store the paper. The judge wasn't involved.

By an amazing coincidence, Mrs Lloyd happened to be a personal friend of Mrs Margaret, wife of the newspaper editor.

Mrs Hide, incidentally, writes travel articles for the Sunday Times. I rang Mr Hide to ask if him, as rumoured in Sheffield, he and his wife had sold the Lloyds to store the paper. 'It's a hullabaloo,' he said, 'I've heard of such a suggestion,' said Mr Hide. The editor is not normally involved in handling new print.

Mr Waton explained: 'It was only after we had agreed to hire the barn that we realised that Mrs Lloyd was a friend of the newspaper editor.'

This astonishing coincidence means, of course, that the judge himself had nothing to do with helping employers break the workers' strike by which would have brought a flash of inspiration to the backers of the newspaper. Any suggestion that there was a conspiracy to break a strike between a judge, a newspaper editor and a newspaper man, is impossible, contempt of court and probably treason.
EVEER working man and woman in this country worth their salt should give their wholehearted support to the miners in their fight for better wages.

The miners the world over are the salt of the earth and without them we would still be living in the dark ages.

The British miners have had generations of fighting to maintain their society. Their bones and blood were ground into the coal long before in a struggle to save them from being forced into a pit cage and then hung up as a pittance.

If the miners lose their battle, and it seems, for the time being, that they did, then all the working class of this country would be in a morally worse state.

We cannot have an anti-communist without being an anti-miner for the miners' defeat would mean the defeat of the working class as a whole.

The man who knew too much
LAST APRIL I was called into the front office of my place of work, which is her Majesty's Stationery Office.

I was told that someone wanted to speak to me because of my suitability for confidential work.

I had not been interested in this kind of work even though it seemed a bit 'out of the ordinary' but it might be interesting to see this man. I had heard of this sort of interview from a left-wing colleague in another department, so I consented.

On reflection I think I was wrong to see him, but it did give me some idea of how left-wingers are spied on and what can happen to them.

He then told me who had introducted me to IS, that I was treasure of my IS branch, that I was a member of the various branches of my branch, explained that he had a list of the branch members. Did I want him to read them out?

I said no.

I also noticed that in a file he had a picture of me and my name to the local paper was written on this to him, and he said was well informed.

He replied that since state "security" was under arms I should get a "Trost"- the HMSCO couldn't take any chance and I was being positively retorted.

He continued by asking various questions about my political views generally. He was also concerned about my views on the nationalisation of the gas and electricity industries.

I repeated that I was interested in working on anti-capitalist work and he replied that he would be reporting my findings to the HMSCO.

In June I was called again and was told that it would be better for all concerned if I did not work in the confidential department, but that it would not affect me in any other way. I asked for that in writing and got it.-NAME AND ADDRESS WITHHELD.

Roger Kline's CAN SOCIALISM COME THROUGH PARLIAMENT?

draws the lessons from the antics of the Labour Party, by those government supporters of Communism, as reformers of capitalism, and argues what we can do to bring socialism.

10p plus 3p postage (10 or more copies post free) from IS BOOKS, 267 Sisters Road, London N4.

Wrong on Scots?

YOUR coverage of Scotland has long been a complaint of mine. I would accept this Party 1925-1929 was an example of extreme ideology and reform in its own right. However, I would say that Scotland is similar to many other countries in Europe.

Paul Foot says he doesn't know what he's been happening to IGCC since his last visit and how thousands of voters supported what he calls 'socialist Vietnam'.

If the Scottish International Socialists were not just a small group of political 'chauvinists' then he might have been able to stop his left foot from his right.

The IS have added a rigorous unionist line in supporting English imperialism in Scotland. The Govan ship workers showed their disillusionment by not voting for Selby, leaving apologies to the left to contend, new theories 'proving' that the Scottish working class do not want and cannot have self-government.

Scotland's greatest revolution, John Maclean, had to fight the same imperial forces. He was fighting the same forces and he was forming the Scottish Workers Revolutionary Party. The British Labour Party finallyadropted the revolutionary idea. 

Significantly it was the first year that the Scottish National Party returned an MP.

The SNP, like the Irish and Welsh movements is merely a vehicle for independence containing many elements of a general strike. They all fail to achieve this end and negotiate terms until they can no longer hold out.

Scotland has continuously turned Labour MPs and has been betrayed by the Labour Party. It is now the only Labour party MP that is a Labour MP.

Kodak? try ICICI

I MUST correct your statement about the Indian edition that Kodak is the largest company in Britain not to recognise independent trade unions. I work at Blackley Manchester and anyICI employee will tell you that I accept for monthly paid staff, although not for the production workers. Kodak has a large membership withinICI. Keep up the good work-JOHN W GILLAT, Heywood.

Labour in the 1930's

HARRY WICKS review of Wal Hanneton's book on the struggle of the unemployed in the 1930's (Labour Worker 24 November) stirred many memories.

I am proud to be part of the branch of the grocer who I know was one of the branch organisers of his party.

We asked the leaders of the local branch for help to get the cap money, the unions stopped, and the unemployed man was 4d a week.

The first Labour mayor of the town refused to answer letters, but got 20 gallons of milk and twice the vote for the Tory mayor, for Scottish and Lanarkshire hunger marches.

The Labour MP at that time voted for the Anomalies Act which contained the clauses of members of his own trade union getting employment payment, only two working nights a week.

Your points are all good. I am sure I was one of the branch members of his party.

WOMEN ARE MASTERS TOO...

The Footnote (Socialist Worker 17 November) of Theresa O'Donovan, the National Association of Schoolmasters was left to most of us about another feminist body. The NIAS is the women's branch of the NASUWT Teaching's delegation to this year's conference. The women's membership includes 13,412 women members, which is a remarkable achievement of feminist action within education. The men's section of teachers' delegation to this year's conference has a member of the NIAS in this year's conference. The NIAS is the women's branch of the NASUWT Teaching's delegation to this year's conference.

GLAND, EDEN

FROM THE KIDS, the young British Army. No, Russia has its fair share of modern kids, as the young British Army also happens to have the most modern kids in the world. However, kids in the world are generally anti-authoritarian, as the young British Army operates in a way that is quite different from any kind of adult authority. One of the most important aspects of being a kid is the ability to express oneself freely without any kind of adult interference.

CHILEAN DIVERSION

Neil Howard, Letters to Socialist Worker 24 November. The Chilean Solidarity Committee's demand for democratic elections is an attempt to divert attention from the real issue, which is the role of the Chilean junta in supporting and fostering right-wing movements in the region. The Chilean junta is protecting and fostering right-wing movements in the region.

The Chilean junta is protecting and fostering right-wing movements in the region.

ANGER ISN'T ENOUGH...

Your editorial on Angela Peele was excellent. The way drugs destroy the young and cause suffering was well described.

It is true that many of the young people taking drugs do not know the consequences of their actions. However, the young people should be able to understand the consequences of their actions.

Some young people might be more interested in right-wing movements in the region.

WLKD, 17 November. The young British Army is not only the most modern kids in the world, but also the most significant for the future of humanity.

But we are all like the young British Army. We are all like the young British Army. We are all like the young British Army.
The basic question of every revolution," wrote Lenin in April 1917, "is that of road to power. . . . The highly revolutionary feature of our revolution is that it has brought about a dual power..."

What is this dual power? Alongside the Provisional Government, the government of the bourgeoisie (capitalist class), another government has arisen... the Soviets of Workers’ and Soldiers’ Deputies... a power directly on a workers’ basis and on a socialist basis. In the long run that must mean the end of the Soviets.

The Bolsheviks stood for, in Lenin’s words, ‘Not a parliamentary republic to return to a parliamentary republic would be a retrograde step—but a republic of Soviets of Workers’, Agricultural Labourers’ and Peasants’ Deputies throughout the country, from top to bottom. The great problem was to win a majority in the Soviets for a Soviet Republic. The class conflict no violence is used against the people there is no other power...’ Lenin said.

We are not Blanquists, we do not stand for the seizure of power by a minority.” (Blanqui was a nineteenth century French revolutionary who advocated the capture of power by a small group of armed conspirators.)

The government was its ‘socialist’ backers were determined to carry the war that was bleeding the country to death. The economic situation went from bad to worse. The American socialist journalist John Reed, described what he saw: On the railway stations, armies continued to stave and die without enthusiasm. The railways were breaking down, factories closing. The desperate masses cried out that the bourgeoisie was sabotaging the life of the people... The large section of the proletariat classes preferred the Germans to the Provisional Government... The soldiers took advantage of the universal disorganisation to pilfer up fortunes, foodstuffs and food, to be eaten or secretly taken out of the country... This was the way the socialist food became scarce.

A prominent Ukrainian capitalist, Liapovetz, told Reed: Starvation and defeat may bring the Russian people to their senses. And if not? Revolution is a sickness. Scarcity or later the foreign powers must intervene here as one would intervene to cure a sick child. Naturally the Liapovetz were foremost in denouncing the Bolsheviks as revolutionary and Lenin as a German agent."

The Bolshevik slogans were ‘Peace, Land and Bread’ and ‘All Power to the Soviets’. On 18 April the Provisional Government sent a note to the governments of Britain and France, assuring them that Russia would enter no new war. They agreed. The bolsheviks arrived in Petrograd, supported by soldiers of the garrison and sailors of the Baltic Fleet. That army of 25,000 to 30,000 soldiers, which had come into the streets for a struggle with the prolongers of war, was quite strong enough to do away with a feeble government than that of Prince Lvov... In the fact the government was required to persuade the demonstrators to disperse.

The April days had unequivocally placed the question of the Provisional Government, showing that it had no serious power. Trotsky noted. Terrified, the ministers begged the Menshevik and SR leaders to join the cabinet, to provide it with some credibility amongst the workers, soldiers and peasants. They did. The revolutionists lent their influence, earned in some cases by long years of service under the Tsar, to bolster up a government whose aim was to stop the revolution."

Gradually they lost support. At the beginning of June, at the Second Congress of Soviets, the Menshevik-SR bloc still had a big majority and was able to set up a Central Executive Committee composed of its reliable supporters. But that same month saw a massive anti-war demonstration in Petrograd carrying predominantly Bolshevik support.

Early in July much more formidable demonstrations demanding ‘All power to the Soviets!’ led to bloody clashes and a near insurrection in Petrograd. The Bolshevik leaders tried to control and check the movement. Petrograd, they knew, was ready for the overthrow of the government but Russia was not yet ready. This line was badly received by many Bolshevik supporters. Necessary as it was, it produced a certain degree of demoralization and a growth in support for anarchist groups. The Provisional government saw the chance and struck back. In what Trotsky called ‘the month of the great slander’, a torrent of fabricated ‘evidence’ was produced to show that the Bolsheviks were agents of the German Kaiser, sustained by German gold. The government had never been more isolated..."

The effect was short-lived. Soldiers continued to desert. Peasants were seizing the land. The economic situation continued to deteriorate.

Commander-in-Chief Kerensky planned a military coup. Late in August his troops began to march on Petrograd. Some, at least, of the ministers were in league with him.

The persecuted Bolsheviks threw all their weight into a temporary defence of the Kerensky government against Kornilov. At a meeting of the military organization of the Bolsheviks, participated in by delegates of numerous army detachments, it was decided to demand the arrest of all conspirators, to arm the workers and supply them with soldier instructors and to guarantee the defence of the capitalist power...

The threat of a Bolshevik coup had been broken. A tremendous swing to the right followed. The Bolsheviks gained a majority in the Petrograd Soviet.

Moscow followed. Then city after city. Early in October the Bolshevik central committee decided that the time was now ripe. An armed insurrection was planned, to be carried out under the auspices of the Petrograd Soviet. Amid rumors of another, right wing attempt at a coup, detachments of soldiers and armed workers took over Petrograd on 25 October in the name of the Soviet power. There was practically no resistance. Only the Winter Palace was defended for the Bolsheviks in the second Soviet Congress—‘The most democratic congress in the world’s history’—assembled at the Smolny Institute.

The Bolsheviks and their allies were a large majority. The first workers’ state on a national scale had been born.

THE GREAT REVOLUTIONS will appear as a pamphlet next year.
In the dock: six men who fight for our rights

by LAURIE FLYNN

If his client pleaded guilty to conspiracy, the police would, in return, drop the other charges. The package was refused.

The prosecution case is as varied as it is remarkable. It alleges that either the defendants initiated strikebreakers at Shrewsbury and Telford or that if they did not do that then they did not defraud the other strikers, thereby condoning what went on.

This is the wonderful attraction of the conspiracy charge. It is framed so that the most dubious material, hearsay and what other people did, becomes sound evidence.

The prosecution case against the six can be summed up in two words. John Llywarch was chairman of the Oswestry Action Committee. He was at the Chester strike action committee meeting which decided to picket in Shrewsbury.

He went to Shrewsbury by bus and picketed there. Last minute evidence was also advanced to suggest that more serious crimes had been committed. A journalist was hurriedly brought to court to swear that John had called a site manager "f****** bsted".

The journalist, usually a thorough man, had not seen fit to write this down in his notebook. Despite this he clearly recalled events that had taken place 15 months earlier. John Llywarch denies that he ever went near the office.

Des Warren saw the distinction of being the only one of the six who was well known as a trade union activist before last year's strike. He is alleged to have thrown stones and hidden tools on one site.

He also spoke at meetings after the strike and was undesirably a strike leader. A lot of prosecution evidence has focused on his "general attitude" which is said to have been "threatening".

Eric Tonkinson, chairman of the Oswestry Action Committee, was active from an early stage in the strike. He is alleged to have been present when damage was done at a site in Shrewsbury.

Me an’ all me mates in a book

The best of the first two years

The adventures of OUR NORMAN by Evans

40p each plus 50p postage and packing. Orders of 5 or more post free. 30p each on orders of 20 or more.

Money with orders only please

Rush orders to IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

All IS branches should take bulk orders and tell copies to Socialist Worker readers at work, on the estates, friends and relatives.

ASK YOUR SW SELLER TO GET YOU A COPY

Anguish of the wife who waits...

Effective

This is one of those cases in which the public is given to the dockers last year which allowed every trade unionist to know their fate, their views and their case. The state at stake in the Industrial Relations Act is perhaps another.

His case would be weak, his case would be strong in a court of conscience to disgrace other workers from ever going near the firm. For that is why Des Warren, Criccieth, and John Llywarch, John Gunter, John Llywarch, and John Gunter are in court.

The prosecution is in deadly earnest. For the collapse of the Industrial Relations Act, the law has been changed to obtain convictions against some pickets, show them up as the conspiracy charges.

This anxiety led them to offer one defence counsel a deal early in the trial.

Incensed

John Gunter, secretary of the Wrexham Committee, is alleged to have shouted "Come on lad, give it up" on one site. The prosecution admit that there is a possibility he said "Break it up" which might cause injury or damage, but only in his interpretation.

Another key part of the prosecution case is that the men might have actually resorted to provocation, to show them what went on. They were repeatedly met with mason stones.

Last week the judge Mr Justice Maitland was a model of questions. Wrexham was on what was at stake. In his evidence on Friday Des Warren explained that the picket was always more effective and less likely to lead to trouble than a small one.

Mr Justice Maitland found this difficult to comprehend. He pressed. "What were your feelings?" Des said that the men were more likely to stay he would shock them by wearing a prison jumpsuit.

They were ordered to stand and were told to keep calm. "You have been accused of committing a crime. Do you want to deny it?" Mr Warren said "I have no choice."

No one at Taylor Woodrow and no one at Phillips Consultants has even been charged with anything connected with Roman Point.

On 11 November, just a newly built block of council flats in London’s East End, collapsed, killing five, injuring many others and throwing 360 people out of their homes.

The building collapsed because one of the concrete blocks which served as the wall of a flat on the 15th floor, was blown out of the building by a tiny gas explosion of a kind which can take place in any building at any time.

A court of inquiry found that there was nothing to link the four-storey block with the walls, and recommended the immediate and drastic strengthening of steel links in the boxes in the same way. In other words, they found that the design and construction of Roman Point were extremely dangerous.

Roman Point was built by Taylor Woodrow Anglian, a subsidiary of Taylor Woodrow, Britain’s second biggest building firm. There was no bidder for the job. The consulting engineers were Phillips Consultants, which is wholly owned by Taylor Woodrow.

ON 19 MAY 1969, Roman Point, a 22-storey block of council flats in London’s East End, collapsed, killing five, injuring many others and throwing 360 people out of their homes.

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The first day of the trial I was still in hospital in Shrewsbury. I came out of the anaesthetic in the late afternoon and I was due to have John visit me after I woke up from the operation. He didn’t come. He couldn’t. At the end of the first day’s proceedings the judge told all six defendants that they shouldn’t hang about in Shrewsbury. They were to go straight home from the court.

He implied that if anyone saw them around the town, they’d lose their bail. So John had to go. He went without visiting me in hospital. That’s when this whole business really hit me.

These are the words of Margaret Llywach, a young woman with a husband and two young sons, Charles and Clive. For the past nine weeks Margaret’s husband John has been on trial at Shrewsbury Crown Court facing conspiracy and other charges because he is an active trade unionist who helped to organise picketing during the official building worker’s strike 16 months ago.

Right now the Llywachs are living in a cottage in the hills above Oswestry in North Wales. Margaret, John and the kids moved there only recently. Margaret explains:

‘It was a difficult move. Before we lived in Whitchurch with my parents. But some of the people are a bit funny down there. They just smacked you because they knew that your man was going to go on trial. It’s much better up here. The people are nice and know what you are going through for what you are.

‘It was bad after John was first arrested. I was working in the telephone exchange. Some of my workmates stopped talking to me and there was a lot of backchat and snide remarks. They were telling me that I was a fool to have anything to do with John.’

Then at the time of the second court appearance my son Charles was in hospital. I took a week off work to be with him. The supervisor phoned me at the hospital to say that I couldn’t have any more time off. So I had to go back to work, to more shift work I may say.

‘Some of them kept going on about how they should be locked up. One of the defendants in particular was always at it. The big demonstration strike outside the court on the first day of the trial made her sort of a target for jokes. She was very upset by it all. She said that the whole lot should be put away for ten years. But she was silenced when I reminded her of when the telephone workers were on strike and how they marched through the town. Eventually I told them what they could do with the job.

‘We’re without a wage of course with John on trial. I went to the Social Security. I had a bit of trouble with one girl there to start with. They couldn’t make up their mind which district I came under. So I got stung around between Wrexham and Shrewsbury three or four times. It’s all right now though.

‘You feel it most of all with the children’s clothes, and the bills for coal and electricity. Day-to-day living is not so bad but we can’t plan ahead at all.

‘I wouldn’t be telling the truth if I said that the whole business was not a constant source of worry for us. It’s in your mind all the time, taking it out of you.’

‘It’s a strange thing though, the trial has brought John and me much closer. I never knew anything about the people who have before all this. I know about it now.

‘With the coming of the trial, you worry more and more. You wonder what the outcome’s going to be and what will they do to the man. I think it affects the children too, the tired and irritable with you and they don’t play with them the same.

‘They know something big is going on. But they don’t know what it is or what’s about. There’s a lot of people don’t know what’s going on. They should understand.

George Kelt: Defend them

‘At the corporation’s workshops we have kept our men informed about the work we are doing at every step, our ponderous. We’ve sold a good number of our pamphlets explaining the background and we’ve collected money.

‘We’re a bit disappointed at the lack of initiative among some trade unionists who really should be stepping in. To this end we are offering a series of seminars to trade unionists on the subject: local and national appearances.

‘In comes to it and we must all prepare for this responsibility—we’re going to have to organise stoppages to defend these men. For democracy they must be our struggle.’

Lennie Alexander, Transport and General Workers Union member in the Royal Dock, London: ‘As far as we’re concerned the Tories have moved against the North Wales building workers because they failed to keep our men in Penicuick last year. So now they are resorting to outdated laws to do the same.

‘They’ve picked on this 1875 join— the Conspiracy and Promotion of Property Act. And if that didn’t fit the bill they’d have dug up something from 1795.

‘All dockers should be seriously concerned with this serious attack on trade unionism. And there’s no need for us to think of the building workers at all. For if they get away with it this sort of attack will continue with all sorts of other targets. As a trade unionist I stand on the fact that the men in Shrewsbury are released just as the movement did with our trade last year.

John Fontaine, UCATT organizer, Denbigh County, Mancunian, Firebrick Park, London: ‘I don’t know enough about the case to say any more. I am told that the police are really through with this sort of thing in the building industry. It’s given an example about our own job which will tell you what this industry’s really like.

‘When we came on a picket line against Liverpool, did with the lump. We had to go on strike for all of us so that they wouldn’t sack us for being trade union members.

‘Then later in the summer we struck to clear the lump off the job. Just after and was that, one a friend of mine got in touch with me.

‘He said he had been in a factory, a pottery one night and he got talking with this fellow who was a bit of a front and he said about the men, about the men and the management. He started talking about McAlpine’s job. He must have known the stuff. He suggested that people like should be released. My friend said that he wouldn’t do it himself but he had been quite willing to pay someone else.

‘Well after this we had a word with him about the job, we told him that there was a fellow going around pre- tending to be him and using his name. It was a week or two after that he went to hold of this fellow and tell him to lay off and don’t come near us or the job. The job still would be to trouble. He’s a decent man now.

‘As far as I can see, he was a hard core lower-than— not one of the first to go to it, but one of the men who will stop at nothing to get his way.

‘It’s obvious why the government and the building workers are going. They know that there’s a North Wales building workers movement around and they have been at this for the better part of the way. I’ve been somewhere out of the way for the government and the building workers and the job will go on.

‘The most important matter is the very existence of the movement itself. If that’s eliminated then all the rest will go as well. If that is there, everyone will know it.’

International Socialists Industrial Pamphlet 5

Defend the North Wales 24 Pickets on Trial

The Wreatham by-pass site stretches over 100 acres of land near Ipswich where McAlpine’s provided a contract for the building of a new industrial estate. Ten manual workers were expected to carry out the work. In the site offices at the site or under the contract was a Wreatham worker who was sacked and safety left. This was not surprising given the history of the factory. This was one of the factories under the chief of law and order for the country, the High Board for Denbighshire. It was one of the few that was given a contract. This is the sort of thing that we have to live with.

John Tinsley, Tinsley said that the workers were able to reduce the contract costs.

Even if some body worked and managed to complete construction, the workers would have collapsed under the weight of this pretty face.

The Wreatham by-pass is designed so that no one can take a ride on the Wreatham by-pass for free.

The workers were exposed to the site today for little different to what they were at the time of the workers’ strike. Their McAlpine employer the site and the strike mainly because of the unfitness of the site, the lack of basic amenities, the unfitness of the employers are supposed to provide by law.

Another fairly typical example of McAlpine’s concern to uphold standard was given on the heavily site at Kellingholms alp refinery near Grimsby in 1967. In August of that year 2000 men on the site went on strike to end the death of a worker on the job.

It took 20 minutes after his injury that the site ambulance left the site. There was no emergency telephone system at the site. This was the first and only case in the site.

No charges were brought and a very small fine was recorded on the dead man.

Defend the North Wales 24
UNDER THE INFLUENCE

This week London docker Bob Light writes on the novel SPARTACUS, by Howard Fast.

For the first time the common people step out of the shadows

I FIRST read Howard Fast's novel Spartacus just recently. Before looking at it, I was not a particularly great book. There's no feeling of answering the question that is being asked. But for all that, it's the book I feel has had the most influence on my outlook on the world.

Christopher Lucas wrote the novel of the book, so the basic story is well known. The key point on which the novel is based is the story of Spartacus in Capua, near Naples, who broke out in revolt. This sparked a rising among slaves, first in the Naples area and then throughout southern Italy, and this growth up to 100,000 men and women had thrown off their 100,000 men and women who could throw off their

bonds of slavery. The slaves and the free for the first time were what it was to live in some kind of dignity and freedom. The slaves born on their freedom for three days until they were killed by the big army of the nation in the ancient world.

And this, of course, was the idea. It was a good film in the best Saturday-morning cartoon tradition. But there's no one who has an idea that history is really about all.:

In school, right from the first grade, we've been told stories, but not so much about the might and the glory of the Romans. There is some truth to this.

Like all empires, the Roman 'influence' was on the blood and bones of slavery. Without slaves, Rome would have died. Despite the glories of the Roman Republic, the history of the Roman Republic, the history of the Roman Empire, was written in the bones of the slaves.

Spartacus himself was the third-generation son of a freed slave. His mother had been a slave and his father had freed her and his family's status had improved. But despite being a free man, he was still a slave and his family was still in debt.

But more than anything else, the slave revolution was a war of distraction. At the time, he hung up the notion that violence could never be justified. Reading about the brutality of slavery and the suffering of the slaves and the brutality of the slave owners, and how the book made it clear that the group of people who were fighting against slavery were not going to be able to overcome the system. But the revolution would arise and those with no hope or fighting for their freedom, the idea that the world was always going to be what it was to live in some kind of dignity and freedom. The slaves born on their freedom for three days until they were killed by the big army of the nation in the ancient world.

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BEYOND MICKEY MOUSE

THE ILLUSTRATIONS come from two cartoon books, Mickey Mouse and Barbaric History of the Enlightened States of America (Quartet £1.25) featured below, and the Underhanded History of the USA published as a Radio America (on the left).

Hughes was born in the United States but now lives in Scandinavia. He came to Europe in 1944 with the US Army and never went back. 'I did the book because I wanted to read a history of the USA and I couldn't find a good one.' The book covers the period from the Spanish colonisation to Watergate, and is funny and interesting. 'It's the sort of book that makes you laugh at the American rulers, Which isn't true of the Underhanded History which is amusing and factual.

The Underhanded History is published by Radical America at 5 Upland Road, Cambridge, Mass.02140, USA and 25p should cover its cost. Jim Hughes' book will be available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

by Judith Condon

Jimmy Young: 'I discovered I liked the going home to the little woman after work at the camp...'

JIMMY YOUNG, the unseen 11 o'clock friend who tells you to leave off ironing and make yourself a cup of coffee, all alone. Jimmy Young, chattery and chuckling over the clatter of the teapot at work. Even the foreman quotes his jokes.

Nice enough chap that Jimmy Young. Just a bit off. Genuine though. Go into Radio One. Jolly off criff we go Jim-type Rat. Stupid enough to write an autobiography and gawp at all away.

Jimmy Young has two main kinds of people in his book. First the batch of unfortunate women he steg with or married; every one a 'super person'. except wife number one, a nurse, was a 'very super person indeed'.

His first taste of 'super person' home comforts was when he was in the army in India. With husbands away the camp-bound wives took to lovers, and Jimmy struck lucky. 'Well it saved that drag home across the ridge to China I did.'

'I discovered I liked the life, going home to the little woman after work at the camp, slippers and supper to follow. I know I'm writing falsely, but in all seriousness it was a wonderful experience.'

You bet your khaki pants it was.

And our Jim has been making his living from the airwaves ever since. As he says about himself: 'Even if he's not any good shakes at marriage or settling down, Jim's always good for a shoulder to cry on.' He often calls himself by his name, as if he were really someone else.

So if you're at your wits ends about where the next tin of baked beans is coming from, or if your old man just came in fagged out after nights and only cares for you, or if your army wife stuck in married quarters over the Rhine... then tune in to Jim. He won't solve your jolly old worries, but he may fill your beard with such a load of recipes and rubbish that you lose the ability to think anyway.

Jimmy Young, baker's son, first-class crawler. He still remembers that he came second in the village in the eleven-plus, he marks off in detail which singers he overlook in the hit parade and how he has saved every sugary review written about him, from the Western Mail to the Daily Express.

But of all the remembers those Very Important People—the ones who take up most space in the story of himself. The ones who once turned him away, but now invite him to dinner. And the ones who helped his career—especially the ones who helped his career.

He was even first attracted to his second wife because she could call 'a lot of famous people by their first names.' So, week by week, Jimmy Young invested a share of his earnings in buying drinks for people who could advance his ambitions. As Jim-philosophy has it, 'You get what you pay for!'

Jimmy Young has never had any mates or comedies. He has always fought his own way alone, watching those who went under around him, struggling to be among the Top People. Consequently, he is reactionary through and through. Listen to his description of his first sight of Africa from a troopship.

'From the ship it looked steamed and smelly and rather undesirable, although there was some fascination about seeing for the first time native boys diving for pennies tossed overhead from the ship...'

But there was always a welcome from the South African whites, to make up for the defects of the natives. They were extremely patriotic. 'They met all the troopships and played the perfect host during the few days allowed ashore.'

In India, there was the dhobi wallah to look after your laundry and a fascinating shaving wallah. He actually barbered you while you were asleep!... but because of the phantom barber's lack of hygiene, one could wake up in the morning with barber's rash.

In 1972, Jimmy Young took his show to Scotland. On television you may have seen him talking to an old man on the quayside at Aberdeen, getting fish. 'What are you doing, getting fish?' That's absolutely super.

He did one show from the home of an Upper Clyde shipyard worker—listen to him now. 'I was much impressed with the manner of the shop stewards' convenor, Jimmy Reid, the forthright Communist who went on to be Rector of Glasgow University.'

Note that 'went on to become.' Forlornh may be, but a good deal more sensible, logical and moderate in his views than. I suspect, the majority of his Communist colleagues—who seem bent on anarchy and destruction of our civilised society.

'To be replaced by what, one assumes? A Russian government? It should be fun watching them use their flying pickets against that. Their next job would be picketing the Siberian salt mines.'

Jimmy Reid, the former Communist, got the feeling, was decidedly not their type of Communist. It may not be difficult to make criticism of Jimmy Reid but anyone who's got this treatment from Young deserves some sympathy.

Jimmy Young's harmless, sounds harmless, tastes poisonous.

A very super crawler, indeed!
Daylight robbery's new name

A GREAT deal of noise has been made about the withdrawal of the 'flexibility' from the Tory government's Phase Three swindle. This offers a mouth-watering 3% per cent above the 7 per cent phase Three benefit as you get all certain conditions.

- You must increase productivity without payment for three months to get the Pay Board time to check that you're really flexible and to increase the rate of pay for all.
- You must accept that if your scheme doesn't mean up to the rules you don't get a penny.
- You must accept that you cannot increase your productivity by at least 7 per cent in return for a 3% rise.

After all, you have to increase your productivity by enough to pay for the introduction of the scheme. And to get the management to introduce it, before you get around to paying for your pay increase.

Among militant unions who are supposed to be filled with wonder at the delights of 'flexibility' the National Union of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease has written to the Pay Board to be 'screwing the workers'.

What's this all about?

The International Socialists is a democratic organization whose membership is open to all who accept in principle and who are willing to pay the cost of running the organization.

We believe in independent working-class action for the abolition of capitalism and war, by a classless society, with production for use and not for profit. We work in the mass organizations of the working class and are firmly committed to the realization of socialism.

Capitalism is international. The giant firms have investments throughout the world and their delegates except to themselves and the economic system they maintain.

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

A single political state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries actively come to its aid by extending the socialist revolution. In addition to building a revolutionary socialist organization in this country we also believe in the necessity of forming a world revolutionary socialist international out of the workers over Western Europe or Moscow. To this end we have close relationships with a number of other socialist organizations throughout the world.

We fight for rank and file control of the trade unions, the right to strike, the abolition of all forms of unemployment, and to support all genuine demands that are made for the end of the wage system and the establishment of a self-managed and decentralized working-class society.

We fight for a socialist revolution that will lead to the abolition of all forms of exploitation and oppression, and to the creation of a society in which all people will have equal rights and be free to develop their full potential.

We believe in the need for world-wide solidarity and that the struggles of workers in one country are linked to the struggles of workers in other countries.

We believe that the struggle for socialist society is not only a struggle for rights and freedoms, but also involves a struggle against oppression and exploitation.

We fight for the rights of all people, including those who are marginalized or oppressed by capitalist or imperialist systems.

We believe in the need for a world where all people can live in peace, freedom, and prosperity without the threat of war or exploitation.
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST NEWS

NALGO members move over claim

by Geoff Wolfe

THE NALGO fraction of IS is calling on all its members to involve themselves in the build up to industrial action over the £400 London Weighting claims. The union's stance is that the miners' struggle with the government's wages policy.

The Yorkshire Regional Committee of IS is calling for increased action to stop the Yorkshire coalfields. Already members from Barnsley, Pontefract, Doncaster, Leeds, Bradford, Sheffield, York, Dewsbury, Rotherham and Wakefield branches are started parting in support for the miners.

The miners also concluded a week-long strike this year.

Solidarity

Last week more than 150 miners who were sold at welfare clubs and a second hand shop in the area.

More than 150 attend IS weekend industrial schools

THREE industrial schools were held by IS over the weekend. London, Coventry and York. They were attended by more than 150 people.

LONDON last Saturday 60 workers from the National Coal Board in central London. The workshop was organized by the IS London Regional Committee.

The group decided to discuss the development of IS over the past 5 years and the current state of the miners' struggle.

NORTH HERTS: industrial school last weekend was attended by more than 100 people.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Industrial school last Saturday was attended by more than 100 people.

NOTICES

LATEST ISSUE OF Building Worker, paper of IS building workers, is out. Articles include a report from the IS congress, and an interview with the leader of the miners strike, Tony Cliff. Copies are available at 80 pence each.

POSTERS AVAILABLE FOR IS Tents: Out of Office, by Tony Cliff. London E2 8QN.

THE SOCIALIST WORKER 8 December 1973

WHAT'S ON

BIRMINGHAM district is calling on all its members to involve themselves in the build up to industrial action over the £400 London Weighting claims. The union's stance is that the miners' struggle with the government's wages policy.

SOUTH LANCASHIRE: industrial school last weekend was attended by more than 100 people.

GLASGOW IS public meeting: Women and the miners' struggle last Sunday 12 December, 8pm, in the Globe Bar, 109 Shawlands Avenue, Glasgow.

BARNET: IS public meeting: 1st Tuesday of each month, 8pm, in the Royal Oak, 25 Church Road, Barnet.

HACKNEY: IS public meeting: Thursday 12 December, 8pm, in the Co-op, 162 London Road, London E2.

NEWHAM: IS public meeting: Thursday 12 December, 8pm, in the Co-op, 487 Greenford Road, Greenford.

WOLVERHAMPTON: IS public meeting: Thursday 12 December, 8pm, in the Co-op, 665 Wolverhampton Street, Wolverhampton.

BRIGHTON: IS public meeting: Thursday 12 December, 8pm, in the Co-op, 23 Embankment Road, Brightow, East Sussex.

THAMES DISTRICT: IS public meeting: Thursday 12 December, 8pm, in the Co-op, 665 Wolverhampton Street, Wolverhampton.

POSTERS AVAILABLE FOR IS Tents: Out of Office, by Tony Cliff. London E2 8QN.
Blacklist bites... CON-MEC jobs... Builders’ strike... Emergency occupations... Mac saves lives... Action... Bonus — work not money... Classified... Empire... SW Reporter...
PIRATE OF PENZANCE SUNK IN DRY DOCK

CORNWALL—By prompt militant action, the West of Cornwall District Committee of the ASLEF has won a significant victory at Holman Dry Dock, Penzance.

Its boss, Edgar Holman, has sacked 22 workers after an overtime ban had been imposed after pay talks broke down. In an urgent statement, Holman threatened to sack 20 workers every week until the ban was lifted.

At one of the district committee called for a ban on overtime throughout the country. "We demand that all mistreatment against us is terminated," the union said.

The action of the district committee is an action known how to deal with rogue employers. Similar action at Fine Tides, Plymouth, last year, a major strike of 1,000 workers at the Holmans shipyard in Penzance.

100 OPPONENTS CANTERBURY—About 100 people formed a human wall in a National Union for an hour yesterday to block the delivery of goods to the Holmans Dry Dock. The anti-fascist picket included many trade union members of the International Socialists, the Communist Party and the International Marxist Group.

BAC SUSPENDS 300 STAFF

BRISTOL—More than 300 staff at the British Aircraft Corporation have been suspended after a six-week over-time ban and work-to-rule over a proposed new pension scheme.

The scheme is far worse than the present one. BAC is even demanding the right to pick the staff representatives who would negotiate on their behalf. As a result, one member of the Joint Officers Committee, told Social Worker: "Really it's a battle about the right to negotiate." BAC has failed to have national negotiation over the scheme.

The union declared the suspensions by putting the 318 members of TASS, ATSE, APLA, FEPTU, ASLEF and TGWU—on picket duty inside the factory, thus causing tremendous disruption. Though the pensions scheme has been accepted by the main unions—the shop floor didn’t have one at the moment, so for them it is an advance—there’s much sympathy for the staff.

The shop floor have a lay off agreement which guarantees no loss of earnings, so some workers have taken home more pay

LIGHTNING STRIKES PUNCH SISTERS

THE SERIES of lightning strikes organised by the National Union of Journalists against provincial newspapers has drawn blood.

Last week the Newspaper Society, the bosses’ organisation, approached the NUJ and asked to withdraw the threat of a strike. The two agreements—both agreements’—local agreements about wages and conditions negotiated over a number of years, and one national agreement. The NUJ was asked to withdraw the threat of a national strike.

The bosses have insisted on a “dispute procedure” in provincial newspapers to protect them from what they call “lightning action.” This is only a cover-up for a substantial concession. Talks on the crucial issue of journalists’ pay start next week.

While the union progresses slowly with national negotiations, it is dragging its feet dangerously in local disputes, which could have serious consequences. There are NUJ members at Holmans, who are locked out by a management.

Refuse the union’s “work-to-rule” code, which has been implemented throughout the country. In order to “soften up” the Newspaper Society, was 100% in support of the workers. The NUJ has now called on all journalists to withdraw their support for the strike. At home, the NUJ has called on all journalists to withdraw their support for the strike.

Scallon says no to joint action with the miners

LUTON—Engineering Union President Richard Scallon rejected any appeal of his union’s executive to the NUM for joint action against the miners’ wage claim. In a letter to the NUM’s national executive, Scallon wrote: “I have been asked to tell the NUM that your claim is being considered by the NUM’s national executive. In the meantime, the NUJ will continue to work.”

Power engineers cut the volts

ELECTRICITY suppliers are down by more than 4,000 megawatts, about 1.5 per cent of total power generation, because of the strike. Last Monday’s load cutout sold out of voltage reductions of about six per cent—the maximum permitted before power cuts were ordered throughout the country. The load cutout has been announced. The power is still not likely at any time.

The cuts this morning are at least a month earlier than expected by the employers a year ago. The situation is very serious, and no one is sure if the power cuts will be continued.

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I would like to join the International Socialists

Send to: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN
THROUGHOUT Britain’s coalfields miners are growing more determined to break through the government’s ‘Ring Three’ restrictions to win their claim. From every region reports are coming in that the Tory campaign to blame the miners for the ‘energy crisis’ is backfiring.

From Staffordshire, miners say that opinion for strike action as recently as a week ago would have been evenly divided. Today they detect an overwhelming majority for action at the beginning of January.

From Scotland, NUM executive member Eric Clark told Socialist Worker yesterday: “The whole of the miners is in no doubt whatsoever. The people in the coalfields feel that if they don’t act now they will be branded as troublemakers.”

The people in the coalfields are acting. The executive are from the General and district secretaries to the NUM and the district managers. The only mines setting for the first time in 29 years since 2000 miners.

Last Saturday more than 5000 South Wales miners concentrated and marched to Cardiff. Not only miners were on the march – the General Secondary Workers’ Party and International Socialist Alliance were much in evidence. The rally included Ex-Booth (ASLEF) executives and ASLEF members Francis Roberts, who said “Not just the miners but the whole working class too”.

A resolution was passed unanimously demanding the withdrawal of the law and a meeting was called for next week. The NUM statement said: “Let there be no division between us but all stand together and fight the battle of our livelihood”. The NUM later that day issued the wage fight, everything else is secondary.

The NUM has been at the coalface since last week when Emily Williams went on to say: “As a mining family I appeal to the national president [Joe Gormley]: ‘We are united as a family with your workers, your Taxpayers, your Loyalists. The day of cheap coal for industry has been passed we demand a fair deal for the men. The same game. They issued letters to local councils warning them they had national authority for altering the laws. Before leaving the council, the letter was drafted and rushed to the NUM officials. They supported the NCB, calling for the power men to work to ensure that the miners was called by Roy Gratley, national president of the NUM.

A report that the NUM officials had received the miners’ advice by a misunderstanding.

On the same day the miners were in vesting in Yorkeshire this week, miners arising on shift found a note that read: “This is the picture: the NCB is operating a price policy to reduce the mine output. The miners are more determined and ready to strike action in the New Year.”

Other workers are increasingly recognising that the miners’ fight is their fight and they do not feel isolated by the miners alone.

There is growing suspicion of the mine’s cost structure in the NCB. The key campaign now is to deepen and widen the miners back to develop the preparations for a strike in January and to draw in other groups of workers into joint struggle.

The NUM officials of the miners chose the right wing leadership would be less and less able to tell them what to do.

The railwaymen are in a powerful position as they have the power to strike with pretty good assurance that the scheme will work in the event of any wage. But in recent weeks it has become clear that the NCB would not allow the 18.30 from Kilmarnock to the Royal Station in Edinburgh. The strike is only National Union of Railways and Railwaymen which will make it clear that it will go through.

The whole of the miners miners. Their right wing leadership will be less and less able to tell them what to do.

The railwaymen are in a powerful position as the energy crisis and the workers stop. All workers depend heavily on overtime earnings to get any thing near a living wage. ASLEF promises to obtain a £40 bonus for drivers, particularly in the Southern Region where short distance journeys remain that no significant mileage payments are made.

ASLEF members on London Transport are pressing hard to be included in the non-ASLEF members. They too have a claim in this. They generally get what the miners drivers who feel they must strike to support the miners.

The battle on London Transport would also be an interesting one since the ASLEF members would be pushing the Labour-controlled Greater London Council to introduce to combat inflation.

BRITAIN’s 27,000 train drivers will join the pay battle against the Tory government on Wednesday.

The footplatemen’s union executive (ASLEF) meeting decided on Monday to give seven days’ notice of a ban on overtime, rest day and Sunday working and to impose a general policy of non-co-operation.

This move followed intense pressure from rank and file drivers, particularly on Southern Region. On the passenger drivers voted to reject the fast line to the Thames when they refused point blank to accept the pay restructuring package.

Discussions about restructuring began in the wake of last year’s pay dispute on the Eastern Region when the government ordered the miners back to work with a wage increase tax was put into the hands of the miners, according to the extra responsibility of driving high-speed trains and to pay them extra to travel faster.

The train drivers are particularly angry at the slow pace in getting the schemes through and the pilfering of new miners who are intended to support the miners.

On the Sunday the miners started a five-hour overtime ban which will take effect from next week. The miners had been under pressure to take action in order to get the miners back to work. ASLEF has made it clear that it will not strike.

The railwaymen are in a powerful position. When the miners strike they will be able to stop the trains from getting through London. Railways workers are still very much among the miners. The miners have been under pressure to win the miners back to work. They have won the miners back to work.

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9000 South Wales NUM secretary Dai Dunn, and a member of the Communist Party, showed the technicians the effects of the cuts and the miners when he said the overtime ban. "It is no longer a question of fighting for the "victories".

In the South Wales coalfield the rank and file are already organising for the pay dispute. In South Wales and West Pits have formed a joint strike, with all the coke workers joining to form their own.

At the Woolston RC near Stoke on Trent, miners were on the march. They wanted to work at an earlier hour to cut the effects of the overtime ban. One miner said: “Our sales are down and the coke workers”.

The NUM has received miners in Yorkeshire this week, miners arising on shift found a note that read: “This is the picture: the NCB is operating a price policy to reduce the mine output. The miners are more determined and ready to strike action in the New Year.”

The NUM officials are more determined and ready for strike action.

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