GET RID OF THE TORIES

THE TORIES are trying to scare us all with the prospect of a general election on a single issue: WHO RUNS THE COUNTRY?

Edward Heath, merchant banker and yachtsman, asks: Who Runs the Country?

Peter Walker, multi-millionaire share dealer asks: Who Runs the Country?

Lord Carrington, aristocrat and landowner, asks: Who Runs the Country?

William Whitelaw, landowner and part-time property speculator, asks: Who Runs the Country?

Geoffrey Rippon, building contractor and fun-seeker, asks: Who Runs the Country?

Robert Carr, metal manufacturer, export salesman and former director of Securities, asks: Who Runs the Country?

The answer? THEY run the country. They and all the land- lords, speculators and swindlers.

WEAKEN

They run it for themselves and nobody else. They run it to ensure that the rich get richer at the expense of the workers.

That’s why in budget after budget they’ve handed out millions in tax concessions to the rich.

That’s why they’ve tried for 3½ years to weaken the organisations of the workers. That’s why they introduced the Industrial Relations Act. That’s why when the Act failed in its attempt to stop pickets, they prosecuted the builders at Shrewsbury.

That’s why they’ve pushed the rents of council houses up and up while building fewer council houses than in any other period.

Why we say vote Labour:

Editorial page 3

Tony Giff: How far will the bosses go? page 7

The threat to pickets: centre page

Mines: strike demands grow pages 14 & 15

Rail drivers hit out page 15

TUC surrenders: back page

for 20 years.

That’s why they’ve allowed prices to jump higher than ever before in British history. That’s why they’ve created the shilling fish finger and three bob loaf.

That’s why they’ve locked out millions of workers for almost half the week. That’s how they’ve run the country. And that’s why we’re not frightened of an election.

It shows that the workers’ resistance against all these policies, especially the resistance of the miners, has pushed their backs to the wall.

It gives us a marvellous chance to drive the Tories out of office.

If the Tories lose an election, they will be forced, for the moment at any rate, to lay down the truncheons which they are wielding so viciously against workers’ organisations.

But if we are to beat the Tories we have to fight Paint-hearts in the labour movement can already be heard pleading for “restraint” and “moderation” at election time. The miners’ overtime ban, they plead, should be lifted, the railmen’s action called off, other workers’ efforts abandoned.

What rubbish! The fight against the Tories will only be won if the full force of workers’ strength is turned against them.

This means stepping up the miners’ fight, winning the train drivers’ claim, backing socialist argument, and exposure of the Tory record with real fight and militancy.

RESISTANCE

We argue—Vote Labour. Not because we have any faith in Labour politicians and their words. We remember what they did last time.

But Heath has posed the question: The Tories or the unionists? And we know which side we’re on.

A massive vote against the Tories will be a massive vote to continue the struggle which the miners have pioneered.

Rank and file conference: vital call on page 14

£5000 - an urgent appeal to you

Dear Readers,

TWO WEEKS AGO the International Socialists’ executive committee launched a special appeal for £5000 to supplement the monthly Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

The response from IS members and readers of the paper has been excellent. £1410 has been sent so far.

But the demands on the resources of the organisation and our print shop continue to increase.

And the imminent prospect of a general election campaign will stretch these resources to breaking point.

At the same time the possibilities for building IS into a revolutionary party have never been greater than at present.

The £5000 special fund is absolutely essential to enable us to seize these opportunities, and the money is needed NOW.

We appeal to every IS member to make a personal contribution and for branches to organise collections among Socialist Worker readers in the factories and on the housing estates.

Yours fraternally,

The IS Executive Committee

15 January 1974


PENSIONERS SUPPORT WORKERS

Thousands strike over Shrewsbury jailings

OLD AGE PENSIONERS joined London’s 3500-strong march on Tuesday to demand the release of the Shrewsbury Three—the building workers jailed after a frame-up conspiracy trial.

And in Liverpool and Edinburgh as well, trade unionists struck work and joined demonstrations organised by trades councils and Shrewsbury Defence Committee.

Tuesday’s marches and strikies were a great beginning. New efforts must be redoubled to campaign for widespread strike action until the three are released.

Full report: page 2.

We feel we must do all we can to make a personal contribution and for branches to organise collections among Socialist Worker readers in the factories and on the housing estates.

Yours fraternally,

The IS Executive Committee

15 January 1974

3500 march to 'Free the 3'

We need action—
not words

by Margaret Renn

AN IMPRESSIVE demonstration of 3500 trade unionists marched through London on Tuesday to demonstrate against the jailing of three Shrewsbury building workers.

John Carpenter, one of the defendants in the case, addressed the meeting at Trafalgar Square before the march began. He said the jailing of the three was a result of the low pay and hardship in the building industry and the fact that the trial had been conducted in secret.

The march was organized by the London Trades Council and the Shrewsbury 24 Defence Committee.

THE TRIAL of the next eight North Wales building workers being prosecuted for picketing during the 1972 building strike started at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Tuesday.

As prosecution counsel Maurice Drake opened his speech, solidarity pickets from Blackpool Trades Council demonstrated outside. Originally this second trial was to be directed against nine men. But when all remaining 18 defendants surrendered bail yesterday, Dennis Morris, one of the nine charged, had not guilty plea. He pleaded guilty to two charges of unlawful assembly.

The eighth whose trial is now going on is John Clow, John Davies, Derrick Hughes, Alfred James, Arthur Murray, William Piers, Samuel Warburton and Thomas Williams, who are being done on specially selected charges.

The prosecution is proceeding only on the unlawful assembly and affray charges with which they had the maximum instructions for the first trial. These charges have also been narrowed down to relate only to the one site, McLain's Brookie contract at Telford.

This second show trial is expected to last five weeks. Over the next three weeks the prosecution will once again be introducing dozens of charts and slide shows to the jury and small employers to talk about how they formulated the Shrewsbury picketing.

The evidence is that the truth about the Shrewsbury prosecution and about the violence and intimidation of the building employers will be ruled 'irrelevant'.

The nine men charged in the first Shrewsbury trial are now being moved again. Their wives are not being informed.

Evelyn Warren, wife of John Jones who is now serving three years for being an active trade unionist said 'We have had a week of sleep since Friday. When I couldn't see the film, I rang the Home Office to ask them where he was. They refused to tell me.'

Sunday Express published a story in conflict with the Home Office official view, especially as John Jones, the Express's editor, is a close personal friend of Home Secretary Robert Carr.

'Vesels under the bed'-that is Heath's main election slogan. All the signs are that he and his colleagues will be trying to divert attention away from their own class policies with an old-fashioned witch-hunt.

On Saturday, Heath issued a clarion call to Tory constituency party workers. 'We all know', he said, 'that there are forces working in our society to make life difficult and destroy it. These groups rely on a false appeal to the electorate.

The following day, a remarkable article appeared in the Sunday Express. It was headlined: 'CABINET READY TO ACT ON RED LIST WRECKERS.'

The article declared: 'A top secret list of individuals and organizations whose activities would disrupt Britain has been drawn up by government security officials. It contains more than 100 names of people who may attempt to interfere with any government plan to safeguard public services during a major crisis.

'They represent the hard core of industrial and political troublemakers and have left security men in no doubt of their plans to foment industrial strife...'

HomePage Secretary Carr has been fully briefed of the danger. Action against the 'wreckers' would be supervised by a special division in the Home Office police department.

The 'red list' and the 'action' will not be taken without the specific authority of the Home Secretary. In turn will consult with the Prime Minister, Attorney-General and other Cabinet Ministers.'

The Home Office postponed the story. 'The basic fallacy in the Sunday Express story', said a spokesman for the Labour Government, 'is the assumption that the Home Secretary or the police can "take action" against anyone who has not committed a criminal offence.'

But it would be surprising if the
Insurance: your money and your life....
by Brian Vasher

MOST PEOPLE feel insecure. To be rich enough to feel confident is a measure of poverty and hardship. Yet the basic insecurity in our society is also a major contributor to the growth of insurance funds.

Insurance companies controlled assets of up to £20,000 million in 1972. They also provide more than 25 per cent of all industrial investment and 12 per cent of national savings.

People are not far behind, with £11,000 million, and will grow still further under a Labour government. Together they represent the most powerful financial force in British economics.

Who controls this power and how it is used is revealed in the seventh ‘Anti-Report’ published this week by Counter Information Services, called Your Money and Your Life. The insurance industry and funds in 1972 was enough to finance a new IC and the Prudential Insurance Company of Ireland, making £11,000 million to invest every week.

Millions of working people contribute weekly or monthly to these funds.

Challenge

The insurance companies invest the money where profits are biggest and quickest. In 1972, £9 billion, or 18.5 per cent of national income, had been diverted into the property market. To keep property developers working, the government has called it the ‘game called “speculation”’, and the end result is the soaring costs of housing in the cities. You don’t have to be a genius to know which class is hit the most.

CIS reveals the remarkable link between Harry Young’s Oldham Estates and the Co-operative Insurance Society. The old Labour movement challenge to private finance is very real, and the Co-op ‘advanced some £27 million to Oldham Estates, it is said, because Harry Young has made a cool profit of £400 million.’ The most insidious result of this partnership is the empty Centre Point.

Another area where big profits are made is in South Africa. Insurance companies own or have a majority interest in a large number of factories which are owned by South African companies support Vorster’s regime, and the British companies that profit from them.

All this is hardly surprising when you look at the people who sit on the boards of insurance companies. Insurance is still the haven for liberal pacific terrenae, barons and dandies, and the insurance breweries sit on the boards of ‘bakers’ the report says. Experienced, backwoodsmen emerge for the money to pass to their partners in the shadows.

Control

‘General Accident’ has seven peers and two baronets among its directors. The Eagle Star has a marquis, an earl, a viscount, a major-general and three baronets. (The link with the showbiz octopus) and there’s a common thread in the control that controls it.

The most useful part of the report for trade unionists in examining the Tories’ Social Security Act is its conclusion that an insurance policy on which everyone must join to a pension fund, either state or private.

As the report shows, the state schemes are deliberately made unattractive to drive contributions into the private sector. As these funds are invested in manufacturing, higher wages and higher growth in the private sector is therefore a major threat to the private industry.

CIS says this report is a part of a deliberate campaign to undermine, which readers can subscribe to at £2 for six reports.

*Your Money and Your Life—Insurance Companies and Pension Funds* CIS Anti-Report number seven (£200) available from Primary Consumer Service, 52 Shaftesbury Avenue, London W1, Special rates available in batches.

---

**SOCIALIST WORKER**

**WE THINK**

**Why we say Vote Labour**

The Labour Party manifesto, issued last week, contains a proposal for a single supplement so that all socialists who wholeheartedly support the proposals of the Housing Finance Act, repeal of the Industrial Relations Act and the Labour government, can be set up by the Tories, ‘strict price controls on food, fuel, housing and commodities’ and a number of others.

The manifesto is, of course, based on the premise that ‘Britain needs a new government,’ it states, ‘and the Labour Party is ready with the policies essential to rescue the nation from the most serious political and economic crisis since 1945.’

The sooner Labour gets into power the better to save the wounds inflicted upon our society in recent years, and to turn the hopes and expectations of our people in a new direction, ‘the better for the nation as a whole.’

The manifesto is in no sense a socialist programme, not even of the gradual, parliamentarily road variety. After all the excitement and controversy last autumn about monopoly and the 25 biggest companies, all that appears about public ownership is the pledge ‘to ensure not only that North Sea, and National Coal and oil resources are in full public ownership but that the operating and distributing are under full government control with majority public participation.’

That plus the meaningless promise to ‘socialise’ existing nationalised industries, to make the management of state nationalisations more responsible to the workers in the industry and more responsive to their customers’ needs. This is a reformist programme, as the growing crisis of British and world capitalism even these moderate, reformist proposals cannot begin to make the necessary structural reforms into the power of the capitalist class.

Though it will be very good news for a Labour government to refuse to foo 10,000’s of its promises, the repeal of the Industrial Relations Act is an obvious case in point. It is very hard for it to proceed far with its programme.

There will be tremendous pressure from the employers, the employers’ organisations and all the other weapons at the disposal of the ruling classes‘ to force a Labour government to make every possible concession in order not to damage the possibility of “uniting the nation”. The basic fact is that after 1974, a Labour government will get further and further apart in the crisis deepens.

We do not believe that the Labour Party is capable of resolutely capitalist pressure or that many of its leaders even want to. We believe that ‘centrist alternatives’ must be built, part of the process of building it is resistance to any swing to the right, from the working class, in practice, the limits of reformist politics.

Every militant should therefore give unreserved support to the Labour Party, but support without any illusions. The return of a Labour government will create no paradise, but will take the struggle forward. It cannot replace the struggle in any way.

---

**BRIXTON POLICE WEST INDIES**

**Strikers under siege from Tory scab army**

The DEPARTMENT of Employ- ment must be sent a “message of intent” to stop the Licensed Workers Union (LWU) from attacking workers at Perivale Gummere boot factory in Ealing, West Lon- don.

The men were locked out right in the face of mass protests. If H P Vogel, who had deliberately provoked a strike, had not used the bonus system, the whole thing could have been solved.

The LWU members of the factory tribunal at least until the whole of the national security tribunal had set the question of unfair dismissal.

Instructed

But last week, Frank Crowe, the general secretary of the local department officials, that they were sending workers to the factory. They were not allowed to, as they had admittedly, had put up both their list.

Questioned by Crowe, they ad- mitted that they had been instructed by the Regional Committee of the Department of Employment.

This means that the government is deliberately provoking trouble on the picket lines by sending scabs to the factory. It is an action which is barred pass by the factory every 15 minutes in order to keep the factory intact.

But the locked-out workers re- main said. Many of them are be- longing to abandon their former colleagues, the local department officials, who are being mistreated by the police and the local security tribunal, where they are using unfair dismissal under the Blackness Institute.

No case has yet been set down for trial. Any trial of this kind would mean a further part of the white workers’ action to further their aims.
What the workers said author is convicted

by Peter Hitchcock

A YOUNG Hungarian was given an eight-month suspended jail sentence last week for the crime of publicising the fact that workers in Budapest face unbearable conditions no better than those in a Western factory. Miklos Haraszti’s crime was spending a year alongside production workers in the Red Star tractor factory and then writing about it.

His book was called Peace Rate and described in vivid detail the alienation felt by workers in a state enterprise, by an indifferent management and a wage system that was clearly unfair. The Party authorities refused to allow the book to appear and prosecuted Haraszti.

The case is rare for Hungary, which has only four jails for political reasons for almost a decade. But it has brought to public attention the General Strike and military Standing beneath the surface of Hungary’s so-called New Economic System (NES) the NEM began in 1968 and has only made a limited and slow progress. In fact it has produced a system almost as bad as the old.

Hungarian workers have seen differences of income increase, and with the government’s push to push up profits from exports Hungarian plants have set out to form a series of productivity deals on individual contracts to increase wages. But the result was a system almost as bad as the old.

Workers have seen their incomes, which are already very low, decrease as prices have increased. Inflation has averaged 5.4 per cent in 1973. This year the planned increase in real wages is expected to be only 1.7 per cent while that of productivity is 5 per cent. There is a new wave of strikes and a wave of so-called ‘surprises’.

Surplus

The situation reached the point where the Party knew it had to do something. Last year it allowed a special wage increase for workers in the textiles industry which was alleged to restore their position, but which in fact simply this year, the Central Bank has cut the inflation by 5.4 per cent. This year the planned increase in real wages is expected to be only 1.7 per cent while that of productivity is 5 per cent. There is a new wave of strikes and a wave of so-called ‘surprises’.

The problem of this overall picture is the situation in individual factories against the background of the Red Star tractor factory is a case in point. Since Haraszti’s book was written the factories were closed down.

It has fallen victim to bureaucratic planning based on Russia’s ultimate control of the Hungarian economy. Red Star used to make tractors, and sent nearly half its output to Russia. Then the Russians decided they didn’t want the tractor factory and imported their own models at lower cost—impossible words lower wages.

Haraszti was fired for the Red Star works and it was merged last year by the Hungarian Machine Enterprise in Gyor, western Hungary. It has moved out of the莫斯科 for buses, and a quarter of the workforce of 4,000 lost their jobs. According to a report in Nezabradag, the main party paper, last July some of the men in fact felt so bitter that they retired early, a few locally and there similarly.

The fate of this factory is a common one and illustrates just how bad the situation is in Hungary. Workers are rising to such an extent that even the official trade union movement in Hungary is beginning to talk in vague militant terms to workers about the possibility of nationalisation.

This is all far too much activity meant simply as a safety valve, but it is changing the way workers are being controlled. When militants like Haraszti go out and try to publish workers’ views locally, they are repressed.

BRIEFING

Hungary

DURING a 24-hour general strike in the state of Maharashtra, Western India, police today smashed the funeral of late left-wing leader Indira Gandhi, the Indian prime minister, and a large crowd of mourners yesterday night after being prefab with shots.

According to police reports, a large crowd was sitting outside the premises of the Union Bank of India in Chitpur, outside the state capital, when they were attacked by a large crowd of police. At least one person was killed in the incident. The police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the crowd.

A meeting of 900 workers in a church in nearby Delhi who diabled to decide the plant and to judge the situation as a no-go by the management. A photograph of a dead worker was shown as evidence.

The British Royal Police Foundation is sponsoring a second Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, in association with Brazil, Chile, and Latin America in general. In this way, Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation in Brazil, Chile, and Latin America in general, is giving its support to Brazil, which is a country of international people, to deal with Brazil, but its scope has been extended since the military coup in Chile. Its stated aim is not to denounce torture and repression on human rights violations in Brazil, but to analyze the critical role of the regime in maintaining the spread of fascists.

The Foundation has sought and obtained the support of both Christian and Communist party organisations. In Italy, both the Communist and Socialists’ youth sections are supporting it.

The tribunal’s national support com- mittees are aiming at giving moral support to the Foundation’s activities and funding by popular subscription. The first three issues of the Tribunal Bulletin, which contain much useful descriptive material on Brazil, can be obtained from The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, Bertrand Russell House, Gamble St, Nottingham, price 10p.

CRUCIFIX USED AT WORKERS’ FUNERAL

by Norah Carlin

IN TERMS OF baric nuclei and gallons of petrol, Italy’s energy crisis is mild, but the government’s crisis measures are among the harshest in Europe. A 20 per cent increase in petrol prices, early closing for television and restaurants, and oiler public buildings are only the tip of the iceberg.

The government has promised to continue to destroy the consumer price, but those who will pay most for the govern- ment’s policies are the working class.

The energy-crisis measure most severe for the孷eneral population is the sudden and sharp increase in the price of petrol, which has recently doubled the price of petrol over 65p a gallon, and the government is expected to increase the price even more over the next six months. This means that the workers are very far from getting real wages.

The oil crisis is no longer a matter of increased prices, but of increased costs. The means that the soaring petrol prices are not covered on the food budget of every one of the billions of working people.

Already, increased transport costs and the difficulty of obtaining petrol have led to shortages of spices in the shops, sugar and paraffin in Italy’s major cities, with the result that the country’s petrol shortage is being prematurely met by the workmen.

Strangely enough, Italy is not short of oil. It is a major centre of the oil industry, consuming only two million barrels a year, and in the last six months Italy’s production has suffered from the collapse of crude oil at the moment.

But except for 1.2 per cent contro-

lrolled by the state firm ENI, the refining industry is controlled by multinational companies such as Shell and Exxon or by big Italian concerns such as the one dominated by the neo-fascist newspaper, Il Popolo.

Last July the companies had already created an artificial short- age of petrol by reducing supplies to Italian distributors in order to increase prices. By raising the price of petrol, the Italian government is trying to induce the companies to raise prices by higher profits, to sell more Italian-produced petrol.

Politicians’ speeches and the newspapers and television in Italy are those of the right wing, and the right to meet and form political parties, which are based on the same kind ofereal. But the government in this case is not the worst, and the strength of standing up against working-class policies is too good to miss.

SURPLUS

The situation reached the point where the Party knew it had to do something. Last year it allowed a special wage increase for workers in the texts industry which was alleged to restore their position, but which in fact simply.

Surplus

The situation reached the point where the Party knew it had to do something. Last year it allowed a special wage increase for workers in the textiles industry which was alleged to restore their position, but which in fact simply.

The situation reached the point where the Party knew it had to do something. Last year it allowed a special wage increase for workers in the textiles industry which was alleged to restore their position, but which in fact simply.

The situation reached the point where the Party knew it had to do something. Last year it allowed a special wage increase for workers in the textiles industry which was alleged to restore their position, but which in fact simply.
A little less than F

FRANK SMITH, 'moderate' secretary of the Leicestershire miners, who has recently expressed his desire to leave the Labour party for speaking in the news lately, believes, above all else, in freedom. Since the savaging he got from the Leicester miners for speaking in support of the Tory government, the freedom he especially cherishes is his right to communicate with the press.

On this matter the Leicester miners have been extremely kind with him. After what he has been told of no confidence at the area council last week, Jack Jones, president of the Leicester miners, stated that Mr Smith would have to be more careful with his public statements. They have 'no intention to interfere with Mr Smith's right of free speech.'

Strange enough this attitude is stark contrast to what Frank Smith and his fellow 'moderate' practiced in the not so distant past when they totally dominated the Leicestershire coalfield.

On 6 July 1960, during the week of the Miners Union national conference, Martin Ryan, a Leicester miner and secretary of the Desford Lodge, wrote a letter in The Guardian. It was headed 'Who speaks for the miners?' and pointed to an appalling situation in the Leicester coalfield where rank and file miners were prevented from playing any part in shaping national policy.

Martin Ryan's letter stated that if any delegates to the national conference claimed the backing of Leicester's 6,000 miners their claims were false. He pointed out that in not one of the previous seven years had the Leicester pit had been permitted even to discuss the national conference.

He added that the situation was virtually the same with the area council. At these delegations were allowed to speak, but they were not permitted to vote. This meant that they could not decide the attitude their own delegations to national conference would take.

At the time Martin wrote his letter to The Guardian, he had been a Leicester miners' secretary for 15 years. He gave up his post four years after he left the Communist Party.

While Smith did not vote at area executive council meetings, he was very influential in all decision-making. He had been a full-time union official for 47 years and was a very well respected leader of the miners. He was unchallenged at the area council meetings.

As soon as Frank Smith and his friends got back from the 1960 conference, action was swiftly taken against Martin Ryan for the dreadful crime of communicating with the press. Martin was charged with bringing the union into disrepute and the executive decided to suspend him from holding offices.

Martin appealed to the area council. But this body decided to uphold the decision. Martin then appealed to the union's national executive. Freedom-loving (moderates in Leicestershire) had their decision to prevent Martin Ryan from communicating with the press overturned. Martin was reinstated as lodge secretary.

Another interesting sidelight on the horror Smith's activities is that while he pretends to deplore the political-motivated activities of left-wing factions in trade unions, he is himself a member of a highly politically motivated right-wing organisation which goes to great lengths to organise in the trade unions.

Smith is a supporter of that virulently anti-Communist and anti-communist outfit called Moral Re-Armament (MRA). On Friday, 1st week of MRA's press officers, Joe Hodgson, admitted to Laurie Flynn. "Frank Smith is a man who has worked with us for many years," he said.

"Moral trade union leaders, from time to time, showed a great interest in our organisation, he added. "It's when bitterness directed against them. But he's in the black now. Our people are moderate in their views and militantly in their conviction."

No blacks please, we're British

The London Accountancy Bureau is an employment agency which supplies book-keepers, cashier, accountants and the like to British firms. On the direct instructions of their clients, the bureau carries out a policy of blatant racial discrimination. When a firm asks for a black worker, a representative puts up the job which is vacated and the type of person he wants to fill it. Almost invariably the phone instructions carry some kind of racial proviso, such as "GB only", which is the most common, or "must be educated in the UK." This means that black people must not apply.

If the bureau does send along any of the highly-qualified black people on its books, then applicants are greeted with abuse, and the agency gets a black mark.

Susan Bruley, who worked at the agency for three months last year, writes me: I refused to put down the racist stuff to start with, and black people were sent along for jobs. They came back openly upset at the treatment, and we always got a phone call from the firm the next day saying 'Stop bothering us with these coloureds!'

"So we had to put the qualifications on the job cards to save embarrassing the black people we sent along. I was really sickening answering all those calls. Lulupho was one of the least companies. One bloke from Lulupho told me he couldn't employ a black person as he suggested it might cause trouble with a Pakistani in the office!" I remember a conversation with a lady from Rowett's after I suggested that she'd get one of our highest-qualified Indian people for a job there. "Oh, you know," she replied, "you know why we can't have him?"

"No," I said, "I don't know," and eventually she admitted that she couldn't take him because he was black."

The cards filled in by London Accountancy Bureau staff after the phone call from employers are quite revealing. The following firms definitely stated that they did not want black people for the job.

Slater Walker, Walker & Woodrow, the Royal Opera House, Total Accounting Service of Wittering, Sussex, SRG Warren Controls of Swindon, Aber of West Drayton, Canal and Waterway Development Company of London W1 (whose card stated: Jewish co. so English only), ICS Integrated Container Service (MUST BE GB), Quality Shoes of Richmond Road, London E5, Mest Motors of Galley Hill, E5, Butler

Footprints

Shrewsbury trial

No ever heard of it!

The London Accountancy Bureau is an employment agency which supplies book-keepers, cashier, accountants, and the like to British firms. On the direct instructions of their clients, the bureau carries out a policy of blatant racial discrimination. When a firm asks for a black worker, a representative puts up the job which is vacated and the type of person he wants to fill it. Almost invariably the phone instructions carry some kind of racial proviso, such as "GB only", which is the most common, or "must be educated in the UK." This means that black people cannot apply.

If the bureau does send along any of the highly-qualified black people on its books, then applicants are greeted with abuse, and the agency gets a black mark.

Susan Bruley, who worked at the agency for three months last year, writes me: I refused to put down the racist stuff to start with, and black people were sent along for jobs. They came back openly upset at the treatment, and we always got a phone call from the firm the next day saying 'Stop bothering us with these coloureds!'

"So we had to put the qualifications on the job cards to save embarrassing the black people we sent along. I was really sickening answering all those calls. Lulupho was one of the least companies. One bloke from Lulupho told me he couldn't employ a black person as he suggested it might cause trouble with a Pakistani in the office!" I remember a conversation with a lady from Rowett's after I suggested that she'd get one of our highest-qualified Indian people for a job there. "Oh, you know," she replied, "you know why we can't have him?"

"No," I said, "I don't know," and eventually she admitted that she couldn't take him because he was black."

The cards filled in by London Accountancy Bureau staff after the phone call from employers are quite revealing. The following firms definitely stated that they did not want black people for the job.

Slater Walker, Walker & Woodrow, the Royal Opera House, Total Accounting Service of Wittering, Sussex, SRC Warren Controls of Swindon, Aber of West Drayton, Canal and Waterway Development Company of London W1 (whose card stated: Jewish co. so English only), ICS Integrated Container Service (MUST BE GB), Quality Shoes of Richmond Road, London E5, Mest Motors of Galley Hill, E5, Butler


I had an interesting experience with the Northwood Mills of Canada company, a company which Martin Ryan said "hires only Jews." They rang asking for a railway book-keeper and went along to see a Mr M Savatesky who worked at the company. He had the FIMA, a very high qualifier's qualification. After a day, they sacked him, and asked for someone who was a girl with no qualifications at all.

Savatechy tells me that the normal procedure is for a girl to come into the agency was to be turned away and then they would fill up a form with particular, promise to get in touch, and then throw the girl's name into the general hopper basket. If highly qualified, they would just tell her to go away.

"I got one black woman a job on a fiddly book-keeping next day. And in all the three months I was there, when the agency was placing people every day, I only remember one black man getting a job and holding it. He made me sick."
Coal: the Torries are kidnaping!

BATTERSEA Power Station is a fine big station and capable of generating 4,500 megawatts if all plant was available. But the fact is it is not.

So we have to make do with 3,320 megawatts rated at winter loading.

Here's a rather big clue as to what happened: Maf at Malby collared me and said: 'Listen to this: a Land's been called. It's a warning to the government. We will not accept their tactics of putting one worker against another.

I'm not sure exactly what we mean by the miners' union will be refused, but I'm afraid I'm not going to work a five-day week in order to get what coal we can for the industrialists to burn. And he is hoping other sections of the working class will respond to this and so direct the blame for the crisis on to the shoulders of the government.

Well I say to Heath, don't be so naive as to underestimate the working class智能. We may not have gone to Eton, Harrow or the like, but I feel better having little formal education and knowing something, than to have had an expensive education and know bugger all.

Some of my comrades working 'in the shaft' have only a hammer and a pick, but in the end of a chain on which to beat out a series of signals to inform the eigtheners they want to go up, down, fast or slow.

I think they're on the way. It's 1974, and the miners have changed...it's time what we are doing is Teed the pay offer, it means the maximum amount of money offered under Phase Three will only (due I say) 'benefit' 15 per cent of the NUM membership.

I can see that even though the oil producing states are raising delivery from 75 per cent up to 83 per cent of the normal delivery quotas, the country must still face a six-month period of higher prices taken by the miners etc. Well let's have a look at the 'depraved' miners are playing.

We have been working a normal five day week and no more. It is worth noting that the NUM members work very little overtime and all overtime is worked at the request of management. Therefore if it was in the interests of management all overtime would be cut, regardless of what the miners wanted. By keeping some workers (mainly in maintenance) in full employment, the miners to work a little extra cash may hope to silence the rest. Well won't it?

Derek Ezra, head of the National Coal Board has said that industrial action may lead to a safety hazard and the closure of some pits. Yet at a Financial Times/Brink Airways world energy supplies conference in London it was claimed that there would be an unaccommodated basis for the industry, with massive investment....

The following books have recently come into stock:

WOMAN'S CONSCIOUSNESS, MAN'S WORLD, Howortham, 60p

REVOLUTIONARY EUROPE, 1783-1815, Ruds, 90p

CONSCIOUSNESS AND ACTION AMONG THE WESTERN WORKING CLASS, Mann, 60p

POLITICS AND WAR: THE WORLD AND US FOREIGN POLICY 1943-65, Kolke, £1.50

Still available: BIG RED DIARY 1974, 75p

çonrary state reserve scheme. It's not even envisaged that membership of the company plus the contribution of employees and hourly paid employees although companies may consider making it a condition of new employment.

Platt International have sent out a leaflet to employees on the question of pension schemes. It compared the company scheme favourably with the state pension scheme and pointed out that the company scheme automatically go into the state reserve scheme—which is worse. The employees were not told of the existence of any new national government money increases, unless you go into the state scheme and help prop up capitalist enterprises through contribution to the company pension scheme. A pension scheme is to be introduced it should be a government sponsored scheme, a better scheme, and non-contributory. I've already stated my objections to the schemes to the shop steward (who thought the company scheme a good one) and to many other employees. They can now see that it's a real big fiddle by the employers, insurance companies and government to rake in more money from the workers to be invested in 'fame desk' industries.

Socialist Worker should look deeply into these schemes, and give a lead to workers on the matter.

Conway's abuse

We must reply!

I would like to draw the attention of Socialist Worker readers to the disgraceful editorial written by right-wing Jim Conway in the last Engineering Union journal.

The whole article is a sheer abuse aimed at what we informed General Secretary calls 'progressive militants'. Not content with just belittling the work of the left-wing and destructive, Conway also tries to suggest that the emergence of shop stewardship is part of the class struggle and that anything connected with the growth of a collective will do. As if this were not enough we are then told from left-wing and 'progressive' policy of the Labour Party was responsible for the defeat at June.

Enough of Conway's cowardly attack on the left. He is a man who wants to fight for better wages and conditions in everyday struggle on the shop floor. I hope that all AUW Socialist Worker readers will pass resolutions through their branches demanding that Conway be banned from the Executive. From creating any more scurrilous attacks on his own people in this magazine (Treasurer, Sheffield Number 10 AUW)

Strangings on home...

FROM 6 APRIL 1975 every employee must either join a company pension plan which will increase the basic state pension or decide to pay £4 for entry to a new contributory state reserve scheme. It's not envisaged that membership of the company plus the contribution of employees and hourly paid employees although companies may consider making it a condition of new employment.

Platt International have sent out a leaflet to employees on the question of pension schemes. It compared the company scheme favourably with the state pension scheme and pointed out that the company scheme automatically go into the state reserve scheme—which is worse. The employees were not told of the existence of any new national government money increases, unless you go into the state scheme and help prop up capitalist enterprises through contribution to the company pension scheme. A pension scheme is to be introduced it should be a government sponsored scheme, a better scheme, and non-contributory. I've already stated my objections to the schemes to the shop steward (who thought the company scheme a good one) and to many other employees. They can now see that it's a real big fiddle by the employers, insurance companies and government to rake in more money from the workers to be invested in 'fame desk' industries.

Socialist Worker should look deeply into these schemes, and give a lead to workers on the matter.

YOU'RE TOO KIND... Are you still justifying the actions of Arab terrorism even now? I cannot believe your statement that Arab terrorists should be achieved. Right security control is not only a cowardly act, but also doesn't give papers. Armed attacks at airports, synagogues, restaurants, etc. are all anti-social acts and not justified. If you can't stand with the justification for the introduction of terror it is your own fault. Nazi won't have identity card, police registration and fingerprint for all. It is the freedom-loving people who are sets to bring this invasion into personal innocent lives. Don't be fooled—W R JASPETR, LONDON NW3

WHAT ABOUT THE 10 PER CENT?... I read with great interest your first article on the 10 per cent of the adults in this country who are homosexually active. In my two years of reading the paper I've seen very few articles on this subject. It is a fact that in this country there is a large proportion of the population who are gay and it is not necessarily the same people who are gay as in most of the world. I believe that we should be able to accept everyone as they are and give them the same opportunities that everyone else does. I would recommend that we all try—DAVID STONES, London SE4.

You are not alone...
ONE of the inevitable results of the Tory government's policy of a high wage, whatever the cost—our employers will be forced to tamper with Phase Three. The wage-wage increases allowed under Phase Three look like a blow to the employers unless they are unrealistically generous after the enforced production stoppages, as the Financial Times puts it: "The 3½ per cent growth rate on which Stage Three was based is quite irrelevant to our new circumstances." The London evening newspaper, the Economist, in an article entitled "The choice is Stage Four or 20 per cent per year," wrote: "The government is making an issue of defending Stage Three limits to the death against the miners, and it is clear that once the miners have settled the other unions will get less. Stage Four is no more than the indexation of wages there, no longer the growth available to pay both for oil-costing four times what it did last summer, and wage settlements as generous as those of December. Wages will fall at a rate of about 15 per cent per year." And the Financial Times declared that while the government's decision to abandon Stage Three of its prices and incomes policy was "a hard day's work," it was not "a terribly stringent freeze." Even before the miners dispute broke out, the engineers employees had replied to the government's 3½ per cent increase offer with a 20 per cent per year offer more than Phase Three allowed (£2.50 for skilled men, £1.80 for unskilled men and £1 for women workmen). If the Economist says "The choice is Stage Four or 20 per cent per year," we can expect Stage Four and 20 per cent inflation.**

Why the threshold deal will go

WHEN Heath announced Phase Three he tried to sweeten the pill by promising a threshold clause: once the cost of living index has risen by more than 7 per cent for every future increase in earnings, extra workers will get an extra 40p per week. Now, of course, this is not good enough. A 40p per cent increase in wages does not mean a one per cent increase in the money in your pocket because a rise of 4½ per cent in the price of a new car or a television set will not have the same effect on your pocketbook. The proper solution is to have the same increase in the index and the threshold clause used for the miners in order to allow the miners a pay deal of 4½ per cent. It is clear that before wages before workers are compensated.

But even this miserable carrot is going to be taken away by the government. When Phase Three was announced at the beginning of the year, the government expected the 7 per cent threshold to be crossed probably in September 1975. Now the most common forecast is April or May, which will mean that the miners will be asked to accept a 20 per cent increase that price inflation over the first six months of Stage Three is running at 15 per cent a year.

The Economist said on 5 January: "It is not a question of credits. The Threat the Guardian of 17 December informed us: 'HM Treasury and the miners outside it fear that if the pure doctrine of Stage Three continues for more than a few weeks into the New Year the now inevitable rise in prices will trigger off the threshold clause and bring about a further increase in wages—and therefore in the rate of inflation—which will make the whole complicated mess, and the product of government policy, a complete failure.'

This means that the miners have reached in March then inflation will be rising and a complete failure to respond to the miners' increase the threshold clause threshold.

On 3 November I wrote in Socialist Worker: "Stage Three ... is not accidental: the area of operation is a high wage, whatever the government's proposals are. If the government is very narrow and will continue to increase the level of wages at the same time on a time bomb—the increasing balance of payments deficit and the abysmally low level of capital investment. The crisis of British capitalism has been accelerated by the quick decision and has been expected even two months ago. In the same way, the industrial output by some £500 million a week, would be at the same time one have to cut by at least 40 per cent, the employers will try to protect their profits by raising wages and prices—let us not help slow down inflation. And the decline in the standard of living will be a big step towards an industrial recession. The employers' offensive must become harsher and harsher.**

The bosses are raising the stakes

The present lockout is not merely a conflict between the Tory government and the miners. It is a conflict between the government and a section of the working class. It is a conflict with the whole of the working class.

What happens during the lockout and in the following negotiations will decide whether workers will lose or gain, whether their organisations will be strengthened or weakened. Nothing is more vital. A shift in the balance of class forces is the only way that the battles can help or hinder us in winning the final war.

It is necessary for all militants, all socialists to do the most they can for the defeat of the government's present attack. The answer to the lockout must be mass strikes, occupations and mass demonstrations.

The dream of Mr. Ronald Wilson could come true only if the miners accept a low wage, a terrible defeat rather than the other two alternatives: socialism or barbarism. Since Hitler has shown us what capitalism barthmurism means.

British capitalism in its deepening crisis will inevitably lead to the final analysis, to the same choice. That is why the present struggle of workers has not only immediate causes on our lives now but can shape the future.

How far will the Tories go?

"British capitalism in its deepening crisis will inevitably lead to the choice: Socialism or barbarism" by EMMY DELAHAY

THE present lockout is not merely a conflict between the Tory government and the miners. It is a conflict between the government and a section of the working class. It is a conflict with the whole of the working class.

What happens during the lockout and in the following negotiations will decide whether workers will lose or gain, whether their organisations will be strengthened or weakened. Nothing is more vital. A shift in the balance of class forces is the only way that the battles can help or hinder us in winning the final war.

It is necessary for all militants, all socialists to do the most they can for the defeat of the government's present attack. The answer to the lockout must be mass strikes, occupations and mass demonstrations.

The dream of Mr. Ronald Wilson could come true only if the miners accept a low wage, a terrible defeat rather than the other two alternatives: socialism or barbarism. Since Hitler has shown us what capitalism barthmurism means.

British capitalism in its deepening crisis will inevitably lead to the final analysis, to the same choice. That is why the present struggle of workers has not only immediate causes on our lives now but can shape the future.

The crisis of leadership

AS CAPITALISM is in crisis, so is the leadership of the ruling class. The employers are split deeply: some of the biggest employers are for a high wage, whereas Courtaulds and Sir Raymond Brookes of GKN, are squealing about lost profits and demands for a "quick fix.'

The Tories waver and change course from week to week. The number of people who think that Heath has done a deposit of Sir Gerald Nabarro.

But unfortunately the crisis of leadership also faces the working class. I need only mention the 'lead' given by Lealand and Jones over the engineers' wage claim: they decided to 'postpone' any industrial action until 'after the crisis'. Even then they have limited their action to a 24-hour stoppage. An overtime ban after several hours on half-time—and then Lealand and Jones offer to the two million engineers.

In the face of the bankruptcy of the trade union leadership in the present crisis, a new leadership—one for the workers and workers, of United to bring home the message of the resignation of trade union leadership, a rank and file leadership, has a leadership of workers. This is a new leadership of workers. The initiative taken by any large number of rank and file papers—The Collier, Nalgo Action News, Carver, Street, Workers' Briefs and so on—will call a conference in Birmingham on 30 March is the step in the right direction.

Another way to deal with the correct political strategy of the struggle to defend our jobs, to end the selling-out of our picket, our workplace organisation, is to connect our struggle to an end to the removal of the employer and—as above all—against the government.

Workers' struggle must be a political struggle. To lead to a successful conclusion workers must build—urgently and massively—revolutionary socialist workers' party.
A top-level plot to hit at workers' rights

ASIAN WORKERS on strike at Coventry Art Castings at Nuneaton last week got one of the first doses of a new medicine specially devised by the Tory government in concert with the big employers' federations and the police.

It was a new version of a familiar poison designed to weaken workers' ability to win the struggle focused upon them by the employers.

One of the Art Castings shop stewards was arrested and held on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant. And the police had something extra for the rest of the strikers.

They were told that if more than four workers manned the picket line at any one time then the pickets would be arrested for unlawful assembly.

Pursuit

With this unlawful assembly they play the government and police authorities believe they have fashioned an effective new weapon for weakening the odds still further against organised workers.

Not only are you and your family to go short when you go on strike.

From now on the uniformed guardians of "public peace" are to scrutinise every step you take in pursuit of your demands.

And if your pickets are not in accord with anti-working-class legislation drawn up when people could not cross picket lines by motor car. Since then there were no motor cars, you stand a good chance of being arrested.

The final development of this antidote to pickets was undertaken in the Shrewsbury Crown Court. There, just before Christmas, Des Warren, Ricky Tomlinson and John McKenzie Jones were given full sentences for helping to win the 1972 building workers' strike, by organising and being part of flying pickets.

The three men were each found guilty of conspiracy, a catch-all charge which is wheeled out when those in high places want something stopped. And, in addition, all six defendants at Shrewsbury were prosecuted on charges of affray and unlawful assembly.

The incredible cost of this prosecution, believed to be in the region of £100,000, is not unconnected with the fact that there is nothing the Tories and their friends in the powerful employers' organisations fear more than effective working-class action.

And whatever else 1972 was, it was certainly a year for it. It was the year of the picket.

THE MINERS BLAZED the trail for that. When they launched their strike, the rank and file miners were determined to win.

Their leaders were determined with the specially designed Industrial Relations Act. In the guise of giving workers new rights like the right to see, this legislation was designed to make picketing and other tactics like blocking or sympathy action illegal.

But the dockers did not grovel before the law. They stood and fought it until mass strike forced the government to release the dockers jailed in Pentonville.

The dockers and the miners of workers who supported them laid waste to that particular attempt to cripple working-class organisation. And since then the Tories have been shifting their tack, consulting the history books and taking steps back in time towards a situation where the very existence of independent working-class organisation can be more easily be threatened.

Towards the end of their struggle in 1972, the dockers got the first tastes of the new approach, one that went far beyond even the Industrial Relations Act.

Formal

On picket lines in solidarity with the strikers of Brian Colour in London and at Neep House Wharf they received the attentions of the Special Patrol Group.

This new arm of the police force was set up with mass pickets sometimes in mind. They are armed, militarily-trained snuff squads. The founding of the SPG gave formal recognition to the m-entropy of the army into domestic British affairs.

AND AT SHREWSBURY the state employed the conspiracy charge, the crudest weapon in their legal arsenal. Since this charge allows gouge, hearsay and innuendo as evidence, it is only a polite term to make a frame-up both respectable and certain to succeed.

But this in turn is just one legal dinosaur into which the Tories have breathed new life. There are others.

In their decision in the case of John Broom, a Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians' official arrested in 1973 for obstruction, the Tories spelt it out that there is no legal right to picket in any way that stands even an outside chance of success.

John Broom had been arrested on an obstruction charge after he had dared to spend nine minutes in front of a lorry trying peacefully to persuade the driver not to break the picket line. Stockport magistrates found him not guilty on the grounds that his right to picket was meaningless unless trade unionists could stop lorries or strikebreaking workers to explain their case.

But the House of Commons in 1973, Tory Attorn Peter Rawnsley had right to stop with vehicles from being lawful business.

Top: pickets outside London's Law Courts last week in Shrewsbury. There who were seeking leave to appeal new sentences. Above: the sinister line-up of army and police at the Airport. Next time they could be on your picket line.

Special report by LAURIE FLYNN


**To Pickets**

**Law designed to cripple us**

Derek Watkins is a man highly qualified to speak about the Tory government's attacks on picketing. A National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers acting shop steward based in London's riverside, Derek was one of the five dockers the Tories put in Prison for what was described as the most dramatic act to break effective picketing.

**Struggle**

"The main basis for our struggle in 1972 was the loss of our work that had been going on for so long. We didn't find of all go out and put up effective pickets. We went through all the procedure, the so-called responsible channels. We got absolutely nowhere and frustration crept in. Once the leadership came from the London Port Shop Stewards Committee, we lost our work then. By tradition dockers had done this work since about 1910. Then Bowaters brought in new barges to the quay and put their own men on them at worse pay and conditions. We claimed this work. And the result of the union's, the National Dock Labour Board conducted an investigation. They said it was dock work. They took it to court and won."

"Bowaters appealed and it went to the House of Lords. Once it went there it was a lost cause as far as we were concerned. Bowaters won and 36 of our men lost their jobs."

"This sort of thing had happened to most of the men in London." They were the ones who used the mass, flying picket tactic to hit the economy and hit it hard. We had to become powerful and we had to do it in the shortest possible time.

"We used it to hit the people we wanted to hit and we used it so that it helped others. It is the only tactic which gives you the effectiveness you need as a worker to defeat the schemes of the employers and the government."

**Harassed**

With the current crisis in the big business system the Tory government has led us all straight back into a situation directly comparable to the turn of the century. They hypocritically mouth that trade union organisation, the right to strike is not threatened. Then with the legal machine they do all in their power to ensure that working-class action is harangued, frustrated and harassed. But the law has its weaknesses.

The 1972 miners' strike was the start of it all. The Tories did not dare prosecute the miners' national executive for conspiracy though they had more evidence against them than against Des Warren, John McKinie Jones and Ricky Tomlinson.

And all their scheming with the army and the police force could be halted by the mass action of the miners and other workers. With their newly-sharpened legal weapons they can and will pick off the weaker sections. But they cannot yet beat the strong sections. They certainly cannot beat the weak fortified by the strong. Our time does reach of repression. But fear is not a justified response. The united force of the working-class movement doing battle for its demands, protecting its own weaker sections and continuing to adopt the tactics which bring victory will do the trick.

**Why the weak mustn't go to the wall**

MINERS and dockers are two of the most powerful groups of workers in Britain. But there are many weak sections in the movement who will feel more much threatened by the decisions the Tory government has been coming up with on picketing.

Among these weaker sections are the journalists, 10,000 of whose members were recently involved in industrial action against the millionaire press barons' organisation, the Newspaper Society.

Ron Knowles is a long-standing militant in the National Union of Journalists. He is now an elected full-time official of the union, editing the union's journal.

"With an industry like ours where the members are not all that used to militant industrial action picketing plays a particularly vital role," he said.

**Support**

"The picket line forms a focal point which brings the members involved in action much closer together. It also brings them right into the mainstream of the working-class movement and its traditions. For it's on the picket line you learn about solidarity. But effective picketing is vital to all workers because it is clearly one of the only ways you can relate to fellow workers in any other part of your industry and win some much-needed support to stop production and make your strike effective.

"Our pickets in the Newspaper Society dispute were always peaceful. But no one ever hears about the real intimidation that goes on when the employers get to work. At Middlesbrough one manager asked the van drivers to "rev up and ram the bastards". He's never been charged. I somehow think he never will be."

"Our pickets were effective because they turned away commodities which were vital to the production of the papers. If the laws says that you cannot even tell to lorry drivers, then the law is only designed to break down solidarity and weaken your chances of winning."

"The most concerted and best organised picketing of my generation was undoubtedly the 1972 miners' strike. I believe the miners' tactics scared the wits out of the Tories. 'And I believe that the more anyone thinks about what has happened since than the more like a government conspiracy it becomes.'

---

**Trevor Ball** is a miner at Lea Valley colliery in Yorkshire, one of the many pits which sent coaches of men to Saffrey in the 1972 miners' strike. That mass picket was undoubtedly the turning point of the strike.

"The reasons our men went for Saffrey are interesting," he said. The newspapers were conducting their usual propaganda about how miners were preventing old age pensioners getting coal to keep warm.

"In fact, what was happening with the coal stocks like the one at Saffrey was that they were going to the highest bidder--industry, not the people we wanted them to go to.

"The miners used the mass, flying picket tactic to hit the economy and hit it hard. We had to become powerful and we had to do it in the shortest possible time."

"We used it to hit the people we wanted to hit and we used it so that it helped others. It is the only tactic which gives you the effectiveness you need as a worker to defeat the schemes of the employers and the government."

"Ever since the strike we have seen the Tories going on about picketing. At the Tory Party conference there were plenty of demands for tough new laws against pickets. Robert Carr got it wrong when they didn't need new laws for they'd got them already."

"What the government wants to do is intimidate us all, to make us be our own policemen. We cannot allow this to go unchallenged."
Oil’s troubled waters

Oil is big business and big profits. It is that feverish drive for profits that is threatening wages and union organisation in the far north of Scotland.

And the threat comes courtesy of the last Labour government, which sold the North Sea exploration rights to the private oil giants.

One key firm in the black gold frenzy is the oil rig firm Brown and Root (UK), subsidiary of the massive Halliburton Company of Texas.

Brown and Root chose Nigg Bay on the Cromarty Firth, north of Inverness, to build its rig to start oil exploration. The bay had deep water close to shore and local unemployment of about 600—the same number as Brown and Root claimed it had jobs for. Few specialists would need to be brought into the area and local men and even women would be trained as welders and steel riggers, said the firm.

Brown and Root’s claim that 600 workers were sufficient to build the rig was totally misleading and blinded the local authorities to the dramatic strain on local housing and amenities that was to come.

And the firm knew that if the leaders of the relevant trade unions could be tricked into thinking that the site would employ only local men, then in exchange for a small degree of trade union recognition conceded without a fight, the union leaders might agree considerably worse than on any other major construction site in the country.

That is what happened. In August 1972, when the company was already reckoning on more than 1500 jobs, the ‘White Book’, officially called the ‘Works Handbook of Terms and Conditions of Employment’ was published, with the signatures of Eddie Marden and Lex Dixon of the Construction and Engineering Section of the AUEW, both members of the Communist Party, and Dan McGarvey of the Boilermakers.

The White Book is a classic of its kind drawn up before any workers, engineers or boilermakers were working on the site. When they agreed that Nigg was ‘a new industrial development which is outside the confines of traditionally unionised industry in the United Kingdom’ and that the terms of employment should be drawn up ‘with special reference to requirements of this new industry’, the union leaders knew they would not have to work under the conditions they had agreed to.

The basic agreement is nothing new. High productivity at any cost, iron discipline and low pay rates. The only innovation is the inclusion of the scab charter—the Industrial Relations Act requirement that each worker ‘has the right to join a trade union and the right to be a member of no trade union’.

Shop stewards on the site are still having trouble in the first half of the year and a half later, to win 100 per cent trade union membership.

The very first page of the 28-page handbook shows what it’s all about. ‘All men employed at Nigg Works’, it states, ‘are engaged on the understanding that they will co-operate to the full in achieving the high levels of productivity upon which the continued existence of Nigg Works all depends, including the adoption of all measures necessary to achieve maximum efficiency.’

Brown and Root’s disregard for the men’s health is even more scandalous. Only when experienced travelling men—steel construction men from the lowlands of Scotland, Liverpool, and South Wales—began to be recruited from February last year were even minimum health safeguards taken. At first the locally-trained welders worked inside a 30 foot diameter flotation chamber without breaks, and without any masks or face protectors.

A ban on the vital but dangerous process of arc-gouging on the site had to last a week before minimum measures like working half an hour in, half an hour out, rubber masks and air ventilation were brought in. The pressures of the men, as more experienced trade unionists started work at Nigg, forced Brown and Root to bring in the Scottish Occupational Health Laboratory Service from Dundee.

Their report, described as ‘highly confidential to client’, was published in June. It referred to a survey carried out in 21 and 22 May.

Excessive

One conclusion was: ‘Arc-air gouging in the locations tested present a possible risk of excessive accumulation of iron oxide in the lungs; tungsten damage from oxides of nitrogen; metal fume fever from copper; excessive exposure to carbon oxide.

‘Acute irritation of the eyes and upper respiratory tracts would also be caused by oxides of nitrogen at the concentration found. Personal working in close proximity, working in confined spaces welding or otherwise engaged would also be at risk.

Brown and Root only partly satisfied the specific recommendations made, pleading shortages of equipment and technical problems as excuses. The general recommendations for biological tests involving blood and urine samples and medical examinations have been totally ignored. The report’s proposal that the welders be X-rayed was only acted upon four days before Christmas—a delay of four months.

Paul Stafford said: ‘The union could have settled for £1 an hour or more when the job started but because they didn’t know where the place was let alone what it looked like. So Brown and Root got away with paying skilled men 76p an hour, only about 8p more than the local skilled rate at the time.’

Wages today are: for skilled workers 91p, semi-skilled 69p and unskilled 57p an hour.

Forced

From the start Brown and Root knew that building an oil rig ‘jacket’ several 600 feet would involve a big labour force. Last month more than 2000 men were employed—rather more than the original 600.

Local housing and accommodation is incapable of dealing with more than half this number but Brown and Root was not at all concerned about the consequences for the men they employ or for the local area.

Seven hundred men are forced to stay on board two old ships that Brown and Root has moored next to the site. The conditions are deplorable.

Most of the toilets do not flush. The men stay in tiny cabins, six feet square with two bunks separated by a narrow alleyway. There is only one public telephone on each ship and no privacy for the calls, with a queue of 15 men to use it. Two policemen are permanently stationed on one ship, the Highland Queen.

150 Socialist Workers are now being sold on site. Shop stewards are pressing for an Invergordon Trades Council to be set up to involve stewards at British Aluminium Smelter and other new local industries. Slowly the workers are starting the long haul at building an organisation to challenge the bosses.

Nigg Bay is a glaring example of the total irresponsibility of such uncontrolled giants as Brown and Root—and the even greater irresponsibility of a left wing government that gave it a blank cheque to chase profits regardless of social consequences.

Report by Steve Jefferys
Rough ride on lonesome road.

Crisis? Better get the wind up...

THE ROUGH CORK LIFEBELT was biting into my naked flesh. I vowed that I would never again watch my boat, or the river, or all I cared about in the world fade away.

Pretty hot stuff eh? The words come from Children of the Cape, written by a Mrs Rosie Swagg.

"Meet the Swales Family, they made sailing history by rounding Cape Horn in a 30 ft Cutout II. The greatest family adventure of all time." So said the advertising in front of a stall selling two Mrs Swales reminiscences of life on the high seas at the entrance to the Boat Show.

Implicitly by all the electricity that isn't available for football, dogs and human beings, the Daily Express sponsored Boat Show was back at Earls Court last week.

It is a commonly-held illusion, particularly among the rich, and Daily Express readers that you 'can get away from it all' by getting in a boat, plane, dining boots, hovercraft, space capsule and sailing away from the nastiness of unpleasant strikes, petrol queues, sordid political manoeuvres and red weddings.

In fact the world of make-believe peddled by the show, the boating industry, and the totally barren Express is very political. The dream world is one of happy families on blue seas, storm tossed waters, sailing round Cape Horn, or down the Norfolk Broads or into a tasteful new yachting marina.

"Sail away those winter blues"-Brighton Marina News.

"Be the captain of your own Holiday Cruise Ship. Crew your boat through grand old father Thames. See new, meet new people. Explore your way into a new life."-Thames Explorer Boats.

To do so you are going to need some of the money that it, according to the Express, in such short supply at the moment.

Nigel Fountain wades in at the Boat Show

£8000 should see you into a motor boat. For an odd £3000-£4000, you can pick up a small sailboat going yacht. So if you are getting bored by that coal mine, kitchen sink or car factory you may have to save your small change for some time before you get to where men are Men and Mrs Swales writes her memoirs.

The illusion of sailing away from your troubles is a common one. We would all be happy to do it, and the rich can afford to try. A 700 ft yacht which you can lead a natural life away from the sordidness of making money.

The consequence of turning escapist fantasies into reality is to create a world even more unreal. The theme of the show this year was the Bahamas. "Not just out of the way. Just out of this world." So runs the publicity brochure. "700 friendly tropical islands, which the people are friendly and unpolluted."

"Translation:The people are poor, live in rotten huts and can't go on strike. They haven't got a job and have never, unlike the people who flock out to take photographs of them and allow them to caddie on one of the 15 golf courses featured in the brochure, had the chance to get 'spoil'.

A real Bahama yacht at the Show was expressed through the universal language of the public relations agent. Around a unpolished plastic boat unspotted £30,000, boats stuffed full of bored salesmen and photographic models, floated by plastic palm trees.

The tropical southern Genius bar did a roaring trade.

In the middle of the pool was an idyllic tropical island constructed of plastic and tar-paulins. An authentic Bahamian bongo-drummer in a leopard skin shirt was poised in front of splendidly waving the instructions of a photographer and another authentic PR man, as they moved a model to take another "BRITAIN CAN TAKE IT" picture for the Express.

Round them two sailors floated in an inflatable dingy. Join the navy and see Earls Court.

Through the air wafted the vague sound of a 1930s sailing 'They Try To Tell Us We're Too Young'. It gave one the feeling that there must be some kind of party going off on a plastic coral strand on some distant shore of the Errol Flynn era.

The people in attendance were composed partly of the many who claim to 'normal' human beings, who, like me would never hear the show with little save a stack of press handouts. The rest were an assortment of potential extras from Italian Westerns, over for the show, upper class girls who seemed to be awating the chance to deny they were engaged to Prince Charles, salty dogs left over from 1950s British naval war films and people dressed in full nautical rig. This last group, with their anoraks and heavy-knit seamen's sweaters seemed to be waiting for a force nine gale and assorted tidal waves to sweep over the exhibition.

The entire show stank of phoniness. The only genuine thing was the price tags on the yachts and motor boats. People want freedom, they want to change their lives, they want to be happy. Since the Daily Express and the industry in the show phenomenon can't provide this they provide their own predictable alternatives.

Fake patriotism, advertising agents, plastic palm trees and the GAI shows which has a large blob on the side saying AREA OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY A SHARE.

I was only surprised that the shark wasn't sitting at a nearby stall signing autographs...

Today's pirates live on dry land and the £50,000 boats above are just for holidays ...

Joseph Strick's outstanding film Janice is about why, in our society, such a generation has not lived and why such a 'real love' is almost impossible to imagine.

The story is a love story, and the woman he loves is once a beautician. Now she's a truck girl who lives by selling her sex. The film shows the ride she takes with two non-union truckers through the sprawling factories, loading being on more ways of industrial America.

To start with, their relationship is simple: she wants $100 dollars, the driver gives her $100 dollars, then she goes with him in the rest cabin that American truckers have behind the cab. One guy beats her up a little, "to get her excited" he says. She excites the other with home-made dirty pictures of herself done in a passport photo booth.

The young drivers have saved for their own lives to make the payment on their truck and are now desperately hustling for loads. The truck girl never tells them to join the union—that's a mug's game, all she wants is money and loneliness and people looking after her.

Janice's act of rebellion is deeper and even more hopeless. Her freedom is simply having nothing to lose, nothing but her own pride left to believe in. If asked why she did not become an honest woman, she would answer to the last old guy who tells them to join the union—that's a mug's game. Janice finds the man in the knot which twines together sex and money and capitalism and tightens it till it cuts. In brief, she is an utterment essence of the film which makes the years hurt and distorted by the re-

Nigel Fountain

Membership more than Janice herself. As Engels says: "Prostitution demoralises men far more than women. Among women prostitution degrades only the unfortunate ones who become its victims. But it degrades the entire male world." Escape from the situation is not possible. Not for love or tenderness. All these are so bruised by the system that there is no surface left to feel with. The men will not even acknowledge Janice's existence much less her ghosts.

"You're shapping up well," one of the drivers eventually says. "I don't need to be shapped up," she snaps back.

Finally she lets herself be taken in turn by two traffic cops to save the drivers an £8000 dolly. With a twisted double morality the truckers whose lives she destroys has saved with her body just insult her. "You get all the gravy, she says... and the film ends.

The film is about war and rife against monady dollar bills. At present this film is only showing in London's Bloomsbury Cinema, but socialists should do something about a general release. Most radical films are about how workers become socialists. This is a film that shows how they do not and is much more disturbing...

David Wdigesty
**The picketers 'terror squad' that never was**

ONE member of the Transport and General Workers' Union who must be feeling pretty sick about the union's roughly worded official statement last week condemning the Shrewsbury trials and demanding the immediate release of the Three is Ted Hughes, full-time Wrexham district officer of the union.

Hughes was one of only two trade unionists in the whole country publicly quoted in support of newspaper demensions of Des Warren, who is now doing three years in prison for conspiracy to picket.

His statement appeared in that well-known working-class paper the Daily Mirror on Thursday 20 December last. It appeared under the entirely impartial headline 'Godfather behind the campaign of violence'.

The article was illustrated with a picture of Des Hughes told the Mirror that his office had been targetted by the Wrexham Warren's pickets. This had 'terrorised' the staff.

He was then quoted:

_He added: "They were the Flying Pickets, a small private army. We were destroyed, understanding what they did. No real union men could understand the trouble they went to. The pickets were not union men. In fact, they frightened good union men."_

Mr. Hughes went on: "It all started when pickets were used at a last to fight the Government and the Government lost."_

**Political**

_The business has driven men out of the union, caused fear, and what we're destroying, understanding the Government and the Government lost._

_The business has driven men out of the union, caused fear, and what we're destroying, understanding the Government and the Government lost._

After this report John Carpenter, one of the three men who got suspended sentences in the Shrewsbury conspiracy trial and who is chairman of the Wrexham TGWU branch, wrote to the Daily Mirror editor, Brother Hughes. He was unhappy Hughes stated that he had the interview with the Daily Mirror reporter in October—an interview he said Hughes had dressed up the statement to look as if it was the Mirror's own statement and sentences.

The Guildford People's Union indicated that he had been misquoted by the Mirror. But when it was suggested that he contact the Mirror office and set the record straight he said he could see no reason to contact the Mirror office or himself.

**UNION OFFICIALS' TALE TO NEWSMAN**

The Mirror office and set the record straight he said he could see no reason to contact the Mirror office or himself.

In fact there are many reasons why someone would be afraid of laboratory officials or might accept that the action committee had an official standing in the union.

Then one of the action committee members himself to telephone the union's regional office in Cardiff so he could ask for a summary of the official position.

This statement referred remarkably in both offices with the pickets to the .

They then arranged a meeting of the workers, who then withdrew their picketing.

**Ransom**

So much for Hughes' Daily Mirror statement about the union office being destroyed and the staff terrorised.

One other aspect of this statement is equally interesting.

The Mirror article refers throughout to 'Warren's gang of pickets' holding the nation to ransom and terrorising the TGWU staff. In fact Des Warren was one of the lads who lobbed their pugilistic confidence that day.

About four weeks back Hughes was interviewed with the Mirror reporter. He made a signed statement to defence lawyers for the six men on conviction, that he was concerned the running of the strike, the action committee and the conduct of John Carpenter.

It is a great pity Ted Hughes didn't simply hand the Daily Mirror reporter a copy of this statement.

The sort of message trade union activists in and around Wrexham are sending out to Ted Hughes (and others besides) reads:

_Fear the time when you come down off your fence and stood the union, you could turn the men that stood in the dock at Shrewsbury are and as we should have represented, led and assisted._

But they tried to do the job for you, an agreement to help you. We didn't have the message as you did has only one role—acting as an official of the trade union movement._

**What's on**

**Theirs crisis our answer**

**KINGS LYN Social Worker public meeting:** The crisis in the care and education of the socially deprived. Monday 21 January, 8pm, Kings Lynn Workers Club, Church Street. All trade unionists welcome.

**GUILDFORD public meeting:** Wigan, Prestice E. Crale, member of the TUC national secretary, Tuesday 22 January, 8pm, Phoenix House, Avenue, Westbourne Etone, Guildford.

**CHELFIELD public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. Five speakers, Saturday 26 January, 8pm, The Cowes, Market Place, Cheadle. All welcome.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON I public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. The TUC, 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON I public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. The TUC, 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**DARTFORD and Plateau public meeting:** The TUC. 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**CHELFIELD National Union of Socialists meeting:** The crisis—our answer. Five speakers, Saturday 26 January, 8pm, The Cowes, Market Place, Cheadle. All welcome.

**SOUTH EAST LONDON I public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. The TUC, 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**DARTFORD and Plateau public meeting:** The TUC. 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**CHELFIELD National Union of Socialists meeting:** The crisis—our answer. Five speakers, Saturday 26 January, 8pm, The Cowes, Market Place, Cheadle. All welcome.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON I public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. The TUC, 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**DARTFORD and Plateau public meeting:** The TUC. 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**CHELFIELD National Union of Socialists meeting:** The crisis—our answer. Five speakers, Saturday 26 January, 8pm, The Cowes, Market Place, Cheadle. All welcome.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON I public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. The TUC, 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**DARTFORD and Plateau public meeting:** The TUC. 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.

**CHELFIELD National Union of Socialists meeting:** The crisis—our answer. Five speakers, Saturday 26 January, 8pm, The Cowes, Market Place, Cheadle. All welcome.

**SOUTH WEST LONDON I public meeting:** Their crisis—our answer. The TUC, 502 Union House, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall (floor hall) near Brentford tunnel. All welcome.
A UNANIMOUS, urgent call to build the International Socialists and IS influence in the working class movement went out from the IS National Committee last Saturday.

A new membership campaign has been launched at a central part of IS response to the crisis.

The discussion about the general political situation of the IS in Britain and the jailing of the Shrewsbury Three lasted for more than an hour. Everyone emphasised the unprecedented oppor- tunities for growth of IS, and the desperate need for a socialist organisation of the working class to participate in the political life of the country.

Tony Cliff put it: "There is little time for messing about with the class enemies of the working class. The working class is moving in the direction of the socialist revolution. It is up to IS to respond to this challenge."

The conference call to IS members about the political situation of the IS in Britain and the jailing of the Shrewsbury Three was well attended.

This conference is vital

THE conference held by Liverpool Trades Council in November on the trials of building workers' pickets at Shrewsbury has been recalled for Saturday, January 28. All members of the International Socialists should call as soon as possible for their union branches and any other trade union bodies to send delegates to this conference. The IS National Committee of the Liverpool Trades Council decided this regard as "top priority".

Delegates' credentials are obtainable from Simon Fraser, secretary, Liverpool Trades Council, 33 Harrington Garden, Liverpool 8. All those attending this conference should also attend an IS meeting that morning in Liverpool - details next week.

IN BRIEF

The IS Industrial Department is arranging day schools for members on three-day working. So far schools have been arranged in Birkenhead on January 3 and 4 and in Birmingham for Tuesday 29 January. Speaking at such schools will be Tony Cliff and Andreas Nagelid.

Please ring the industrial department - 01-735 5721 before Friday evening. For more information, please ask to speak to the IS national secretary. Tony Cliff.

The IS national secretary. Tony Cliff.

This conference is vital...
I firmly believe the Shrewsbury trial was designed as a 'gutless right-winger' and a 'woolly-back'.

by Bob Light

LONDON - The final meeting of the Royal Dockers at the Shrewsbury trial was held last Saturday to discuss the tactics of Frank Smith, the local NUM executive.

Smith, whose call a week ago for a return to normal working was met by strike action in five Leicestershire pits, apologised for misrepresenting the members' views but maintained his view that the action should be called off. After miner at the meeting condemned his action and he was variously described as a 'gutless right-winger' and a 'woolly-back'.

The chairman, Jack Jones, banned any resolution of no confidence. Leicestershire NUM branches and the local Miners Council are considering a ballot to remove Smith.

COALVILLE - The main meeting of Leicester miners since the 1976 General Strike was held last Saturday to discuss the tactics of Frank Smith, the local NUM executive.

Smith, whose call a week ago for a return to normal working was met by strike action in five Leicestershire pits, apologised for misrepresenting the members' views but maintained his view that the action should be called off. After miner at the meeting condemned his action and he was variously described as a 'gutless right-winger' and a 'woolly-back'.

Feeling strong among the 3000 members that Smith should be removed. The only argument heard last Saturday in his favour was that his tactics would mean the union would have to pay his wages for the two weeks until he reached 60. A small price, others said, for getting rid of a man who has consistently proved his unsuitability to represent miners anywhere.

About 5000 spectators attended the public meeting which was held in the International Socialists at which Tony Smith, the local Miners Council, and the need to build a socialist alternative.

Miners at the Coalville mass meeting, first since the 1976 General Strike, PICTURE: Christopher Davies (Report)

A CALL was made this week for support for a rank and file conference of trade unionists to co-ordinate action against the government-employer offensive.

A press release from the organizing committee of the conference set up by 12 rank and file trade union meetings, includes the letter of a text being sent to trade union branches, shop stewards' committees, trade unions' and other union bodies. Signed by Roger Cox, the conference director, the letter states that the committee agrees with the 'General Strike'. They must be defeated.

If the traditional union is to be saved and the government not only would many of these attacks have never been made, but the Tories themselves would never have been in office. Sadly the TUH, which could have led such a united movement, has proved unwilling to fight.

It was the rank and file trade union movement that took the initiative against the Industrial Relations Act and forced the release of the five Boscombe miners. It was the rank and file miners who led the way in 1973 with their flying pickets. It was the rank and file that adopted factory occupations and sit-ins to save jobs.

The rank and file movement that could have saved the unions is now fighting for its existence.
NUM leader hits out at show trial

JACK COLLINS, Miners Union national executive member for the Kent coalfield, told Socialist Worker last week:

"I do not believe that the timing of this case was just an accident. It came just as our own war was beginning to heat up, firmly believe that the Shrewsbury trial was designed in the first instance for intimidating miners with regard to the action we might take.

"The people in the government might look like a load of clowns, particularly the front men. But that's all they are—front men for the backroom boys who do not move without careful calculations.

"I think their desire for such a prosecution and such a conviction arose out of the miners' strikes in 1972. The government had to move against our men. But they decided to back down and drop the proceedings. Their reasons are not very closely knitted. We have a very special sort of solidarity which is not so high-developed in other sections of the working class.

"It is for this reason that they picked on the lads at Shrewsbury. The government was not afraid of one man in a weak area of a badly organised section of the working class. But I have been in the mining movement for 30 odd years and I can see how weak they were. You just have to remember that these men were arrested as a result of trying to organise other workers.

"The Shrewsbury 24 and the other building workers' pickets were doing a job which the rest of the trade union movement should be doing. So the movement must support them.

"These spurious legal decisions must be coupled with other events, like the show of force at Heathrow. In my view this had nothing to do with Arab guerrillas or the IRA. It was designed to intimidate another brand of so-called terrorists, to deal with our kind of militancy.

"You can see it again with the latest hearing this week at Tory constituency parties this week. He's on about people who want to 'undermine society,' who make 'false appeals to class loyalties.' He's saying that these people must be exposed to the public.

"Clearly, the Tories are attempting to disarm the working-class movement and isolate the fighting leadership. They want to do that to shore up their system of society.

"On Shrewsbury, what I'd say in conclusion is that if they had dared to arrest me or any other miner, then there is no doubt about what would happen. If any proof of the solidarity and loyalty of minersworkers is needed, the events of the past week provide it. The big thing is to get that solidarity extended to assist other sections of the working class."

Blackmail with British Rail

LEADERS of the train drivers' union ASLEF were due to meet on Thursday to consider suspending industrial action in return for more talks with British Rail.

"Our drivers have been taking action, British Rail has continually stated that they will not pay restructuring until the action is suspended. As early as possible, Ray Backing was hinting that he would go back to the table and help get the action suspended," said the union.

"The key to this is the blackmail. As long as the British Rail blackmail is strengthening without weakening the members' resolve, this was demonstrated by the 100 per cent vote to continue the action on Thursday. It is a well known fact that the workforce, the workers, the directors worked to see that the action was carried out. The money can be seen, but the law of the land." The letter added: 'The situation is very bad and can be changed only by the miners, and we can see that clearly that management is keen on stopping the action. I don’t think we have had enough fighting. We’re outside the gate till they pay.'

Tony West: 'We will win'

"We need a proper restructuring because over the past four years the trains we drive have got a lot better. We drove much faster and there are 15 different forms of trains. For all this we have received no extra pay in recognition of additional work and responsibilities. We have had promises of many improvements which have not been fulfilled. And this time we’re going to win, because we’re backing the trade union Torsc crease. It only affects working January, never the people with money. It’s always the working class that suffers."

"We have every reason to believe that there should be a 'no-work-no-pay' should be applied to management. Then half of them would be on the dole."

"We have no faith in the politics of any of the major parties. Recently Harold Wilson admitted that Labour started the run-down of the railways and the mines that caused all the problems now. We have no alternative but to fight to maintain our jobs and conditions."

Train drivers in York have started calling for strike action to justify their campaign. Arthur Brown, a Yorkshire ASLEF member interviewed by Socialist Worker, said: 'It will have to be an all-out strike to win.'

His doubts that non-cooperation was enough to win were echoed by socialist Brian Aird from the Yorkshire branch of the Torsc. The three-week deal was used as an excuse for sackings without notice or redundancy pay.

Many of the sacked men are near retirement age. 64-year-old Howie said: 'I've worked for this firm for 36 years and if I'm sacked I'll be done for life. I've been tossed away like a piece of old rubbish.'

I would like to join the International Socialists

NAME

ADDRESS

TRADE UNION

SEND TO: IS, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

ITT sit-in goes on

GLASGOW—The occupation of ITT's Motherwell Control division by 350 workers, mainly women, is in its fifth week. Despite the length of the dispute few have despaired of the struggle. The strikers will discuss their struggle with shop stewards of other factories in the ITT group at the first national ITT Shop Stewards' Combined meeting in Manchester on Saturday 26 January.

Further details of this meeting can be obtained from ASLEF, 21-15 Victoria Street, London SW1. The convenor, Madron Crotty, 01-81/83 Carlton Place, Glasgow.
Scramble in bid to do deal with Tories

THE TRADES UNION CONGRESS's top-level negotiating team surrendered totally to the Tory government on Monday. They offered Heath and Whitelaw an 'unprecedented' deal. If only the miners were allowed to get a little more than Phase Three, the TUC leaders whined, then no other unions would use a miners' victory to advance their own claims.

And so the TUC lamb has finally lain down with the TUC lamb. One little problem is that the tiger is insisting on rolling the other terms for such a deal.

Yet there is no danger of the top TUC leaders changing track and putting up a fight against the government. They are willing to sign and twist and turn in yet further attempts to strike a deal with the Tories.

The TUC leaders' main complaint about the Tories' policy of locking out all workers for two days a week in order to attack the miners is their usual response to a savage attack: 'It was done without any consultation' is their pathetic cry.

The trade union leaders are perfectly willing for the miners to fight on alone. Indeed they would probably use the miners not to be fighting at all.

GROVEL

After all, there's a general election on the horizon and if the working-class movement doesn't keep its head down, they reason, the Tories might actually win. Anything by anything, to avoid a struggle.

So, in the course of building the TUC leaders are greatly encouraging the Tories to hold out for more concessions.

This was exactly Employment Secretary Hone's intention when he went to Monday's meeting with the TUC leaders. He was of the opinion that the government was hoping to get the TUC leaders to settle all other wage claims within Phase Three.

In return for any such shamed agreement, the TUC would get their hands on the miners' wages, thus ending the strike.

WHERE THE OIL GOES

OIL. For Britain's power stations is in short supply and the situation given as one of the main reasons for the government's decision to tax oil.

That the oil companies are not supplying sufficient oil is a matter of public record. The TUC leaders are planning to stop doing what it started doing three weeks ago - with the government's aid - any movement's head against the wall

Engineers' leader Hugh Scannon addressing No 10 Downing Street

Hugh Scannon, president of the giant Engineering Union, has betrayed the £150-awe week engineering pay claim and abandoned what little remains of his 'left-wing' image.

Speaking on the television programme Weekend World, on Sunday he stated that his position as a national settlement leader is 'in advance of his membership'. He asked them what their attitude would be to the TUC's 'hard-line' policy.

Adopt to his astonishing disclaimer, Scannon made a 'political settlement' which which he said he had accepted executive was not sanctioned to break through Phase Three. He added only one phrase qualification: that shop stewards should be free to supplement any national deal at local level.

And at the front, leading the stampede, are two old friends - Hugh Scannon and Jack Jones. Just how 'left wing' they are can be seen from the end product of the operation. The TUC will be co-operating in wages cuts, boosting unemployment and wholesale reductions of working-class living standards. For that is the real meaning of all the chaff about national unity.

There is another way. Thousands of miners in Leicestershire have shown what a militant, well-organized and determined group of workers can do. Other workers in every industry in the country will have to follow those miners' inspiration and build the beginnings of a rank and file movement which will fight and which will refuse to pay the price for the system's crisis.

Hone's handbook

In 1970 of every barrel of crude oil imported the price was paid for fuel oil. Today only 40 per cent is left for the consumer. The remainder goes for the more highly profitable light fuels, unattainable for the generation of electricity. The difference between 1970 and 1974 rates of fuel oil extraction is the difference between the three day week and the four day week. The government does nothing to compel the oil companies to produce all the power stations can use. To do so would be to interfere with the sacred right to make a quick profit and further expose the national blackout as the fraud most people are beginning to recognize it is.

Scannen's three-day week is beginning to bite. While workers in well-organized firms, fighting through with lays-off agreements and heavy overtime rates are signs that large numbers of unorganized and poorly organized workers are being more heavily exploited than ever before.

The 'managing director of a West Bromwich firm' quoted—no names in the Sunday Times as saying: 'The good old British workman is certainly coming up trumps and achieving fantastic results.

The Confederation of British Industry is considering an anti-union law and congratulating British workers on their response to the crisis.

The TUC have been collecting reports from hundreds of small businesses throughout the country, where the workers are producing four days' normal production, sometimes even four and a half, for only three days' work and pay.

The clothing, hosiery and textile trade is, as often, the quickest to fleece its workers. In North East Lancashire, 3000 members of the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union have been forced to strike against their employers' attempt to make them work Saturdays without overtime pay.

All over the country workers are accepting conditions in the factories which they would not normally contemplate.

Overtime

At Albion Motors, Glasgow, for instance, where high rates of overtime have been negotiated, compulsory overtime is worked in the gloom without any form of heating. Similarly, workers at Scott Lithgow, Bishopbriggs, have accepted compulsory overtime.

By contrast, at Chrysler Linwood, Scotland, the shop stewards have refused a management demand for compulsory overtime. The workers are being 'punished' for this decision with wage cuts of up to 40 per cent. Organised workers, who have been inclined to treat the three-day week as an enforced holiday, will be severely challenged over the next two weeks as the Heath government insists that its class war against the miners.

The miners' fight, like all fights, is only going to be brought more and more trouble and misery in the future.

The trick in all this is to put together a plan which means what the workers can do in one place, and when the crisis is over, the boss will demand the same rate of effort.

The example set at the Austin factory of British Leyland, Birmingham, where workers have threatened to occupy the factory if they are not paid for the overtime they may be followed by workers all over the country.

Lockout begins to bite

by SW reporter

Indeed they seemed to relish it. Scannon, who actually appealed to the media businessmen for help in his struggle to preserve national bargaining in engineering, asked them what their attitude would be to the TUC's 'hard-line' policy.

A tactic of national penetration by the union's policy of opposition to any pay increase. The executive then struck a deal over a national settlement through Phase Three.

The TUC press officer was unable to answer any facts or information which would establish the truth about this at all.

Scannon's performance and the manipulation of the power structure must under no circumstances increase the growing disquiet in the union concerned about the behaviour of its supposedly left leadership.

It has been alleged that an example of the TUC's pressure groups have been spearheaded by the left wing of the union's leadership, and this is a major reason why the miners' support for the union's delegates remains high.

Scannon's recent performance is a stark reminder of the union's weaknesses.

Hatch-patch

"Right from the beginning of the national claim, everyone knew that it was a patch-up job, negligible compared with the scale of 1974; everything was to be done by negotiation and it was going to be difficult to unite the miners on it. We have got to think of other tactics like the miners.

Scannon has been working like mad throughout. And there has been no campaign—just two letters.

What is clear is that Scannon is prepared to negotiate with the government. The miners' need to do is get through to the government as to the reasons why they claim to be able to negotiate for a new national settlement.

"Our trade union is different from any other," he said.

"It has its own programme for the government. There is no question of us making any negative statements about the government. We want to be able to negotiate for a new national settlement."

"Our trade union is different from any other," he said.