BATTLE STATION!

The miners are not a "special case". They are a TEST CASE for all workers. Their fight is our fight. We must win.

WE ARE ALL in this together. If the miners go on strike next week, they will be fighting for all of us.

Engineering workers, car workers, railmen, postmen, dustmen, office workers, hospital workers, printers, shipyard workers—every worker in the country will be involved in the battle.

All the powers of the government and the employers are being used to convince us that this is a private affair between the government and the miners. The Tories say, a "special case".

The government and their class are marshalling all the forces at their command for a united class offensive against the miners. The army and the police have been calculated with special orders about picketing.

Jubilant look on the face of Haydn Matthew, secretary of Mardyke Lodge, South Wales, announcing to a lobby of miners outside their union head office last week that the executive had voted for a ballot on strike action.

His tie carries a special symbol with the words "Satlery 1972", marking the magnificent unity of miners and Birmingham engineers that shut down the giant coke depot during the last miners' strike and forced the case in by the Tory government.

Such unity, on a nationwide basis, can do more than just beat the Tories this time. It can force them right out of office.

Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

BRIEFING

Senior police officers have been briefing special 'picket' squads.

The instructions are clear: Pickets are an offence. Where the pickets are small, and where a small number of 'politically-motivated' sympathisers can be identified, the police have orders to make arrests.

Ten editors of top provincial daily and evening papers outside London were granted to lunch and a tough talk from Employment Secretary William Whitelaw on Monday. He urged them to help the government isolate the miners from other workers.

Press, police, army—the three mighty battering arms of the ruling class—have already been mobilised.

We must now get to our battle stations. If we leave the miners to fight on their own, the battering ram might prove too powerful.

And if the government beats the miners, it beats all of us. As the press is now openly saying, the Tories will move to a total wage freeze, more stringent laws against pickets and unofficial strikes.

We have the power to beat the government, to win the miners' strike not just for the miners but for all of us—but only if we mobilise our whole class as the Tories have mobilised theirs.

All Heath's laws to ban social security payments, all his police, all his armys, all his red-baiting speeches on television can be laughed out if...

"If the miners' pickets are reinforced with workers from other places of work—as at Satlery in 1972—If the ports—registered and unregistered—are picketed by mass turnovers of dockers and miners against the import of foreign coal.

If every trade union shop stewards' committee hold daily collections for the miners.

If jury drivers are instructed by their unions not to deliver coal or oil to power stations, and if the order is backed by trade union officials on the picket line.

If other unions with clams against Phase Three—like the engineers or the print-workers or the Ford workers—press their claims to the limit with industrial action.

That's why Frank Chapple and Max Morris, leaders of the electricians' and teachers' unions, were so wrong to 'settle' inside Phase Three for fear of a wage freeze. They have damaged the miners and damaged their own members.

The miners are not a special case. They are a test case for the whole working class.

Their fight is our fight. Together we can kick out the Tory government that threatens to slash still further our living standards and to strip away our hard-won rights.

It is a fight we must not lose.

What to do now

TRADE UNIONISTS should get ready for the miners' strike NOW by:

Moving immediate support for the miners in union branches, shop stewards' committees and trade councils, calling for maximum solidarity and action to prevent and support the picketing

Such motions should also volunteer for joint picketing with NUM members if requested and, if necessary, sympathetic strike action. Mass pickets are vital to immobilise power stations and to stop the special squads making heavy arrests.

Trade councils should be called on to set up special committees to aid miners' flying pickets when they visit different parts of the country.

NUM, ASLEF and TGWU branches should urge that their executives give official instructions to block the movement of coal. Imports of foreign coal should be blocked, too.

All resolutions carried by union branches should be sent to the NUM.

Liverpool Trades Council RECALL CONFERENCE ON THE BATTLE FOR THE SHREWSBURY TRIALS Saturday 2 February, 2pm, St George's Hall, Lime Street, Liverpool. Delegates required: 10 from Sefton, 10 from Merseyside and 10 from other locals.

Meeting for 10 delegates, 11.30am. The Mike Pub, Dale Street, meeting to discuss the one-year anniversary of the Mersey trials.

All 10 delegates to attend.
On the brink of a national miners’ strike a look at solidarity, 1925, and Tory hypocrisy over the ‘low paid’

by Harry Wicks

JULY 1925. The miners’ national strike notice was about to expire. The miners’ union had called for solidarity and a total blacking of coal mines. An inter-ministerial meeting of representatives of the TGWU, the NUR, ASLEF and the railway workers was held under the auspices of the TGWU.

It agreed on the following instructions which were sent out to all branches of the four unions:

1. Sustaining coal miners must not be attached to any train or to any point on the line between 31 July and 31 August after this time wages of coal must not be supplied to any industrial or commercial concerns or be put on the tipp roads at docks for the coaling of ships.

All coal on route at midnight on 31 July to be worked forward to the next siding suitable for storing it. Any coal either in wagons or stock at a depot may be utilised at that depot for the purpose of coaling engines for passengers and goods trains but must not be moved from that depot to another.

No imports of coal are to be handled from 31 July. Coal export, tipplers and trimmings will cease work at the second shift on 31 July.

As a direct result of this the Tory government of the day retreated and announced on 'Red Friday' a subsidy for the industry and a Royal Commission. The breathing space was used by the employers to start the procedure for charges on the Grout Strike of 1926.

There are two lessons for today. Solidarity can cripple the power of the employers and the government. We must stop the split-leadership instructions this time.

Members of the Transport Union should be pressing for them now. Officially if possible, unofficially if need be, the movement of coal must be stopped dead.

The second lesson is vital, too. Never trust Tory promises. The Royal Commission of 1925 was saved as a smokescreen to gain time and to pick the best moment from the capitalist point of view to smash the miners.

That is what happened in 1926. The talk about the industrial recovery industry today, if only the miners accept the Coal Board offer, has exactly the same purpose.

No miner should allow himself to be fooled.

TORY TINS

IN PAY REPORT

by David Beecham

The PAY BOARD's report on 'Relativities' last week produced nothing for post and hospital workers and others who had been hoping for pitt from the Tors.

Mr Derek Robinson, who also wrote the previous report on 'Anomalies', was careful not to commit his government masters to paying out anything to 'special cases'. In fact the whole report is full of Tory assumptions about what we are paid.

Presumably a relativities is what you earn compared to someone else—i.e. it's the Ted Heath or Harry Hyams, but to the PAY Board relativities are confined to workers: 'On the assumption that the amount available for all wage increases is limited, other groups of employees must bear the cost of any special treatment. So if you are in this group you must bear the cost of your treatment.'

Following the suggestions of the present report, any 'special cases' should be considered. This second round of 'special cases' would be likely to be followed by government 'arbitration'.

Not surprisingly, the CBI has emphasised today's welcome to the report. If Tom Jackson thinks his members should be treated this way, they should be made to feel that it's a matter of the CBI must decide what the basis for it is, not the miners. This they must qualify as the biggest 'special case' of all.

STUNNING

What the report amounts to is a bit of a cwtch to Ted Heath's wage freeze the Tories are planning for the future.

The report is full of empty phrases and strangely points to the existence of industry, and what a good thing job evaluation is for controlling pay.

The PAY Board spent nine months and several thousand pounds investigating this.

The report also contains the stunning information that workers doing the same job often earn different amounts. But the employers' share of what they produce remains the same to reassure the miners that the PAY Board suggests that the low paid might get more if other workers took less.

Employers must fight against this. They have a cam on themselves when the employers can have their cake and eat it.

Marchers remember

Derry dead

MORE THAN 1,500 people marched in London last Sunday in two separate commemorations of the second anniversary of Bloody Sunday on 13 January 1972. A peaceful civil rights march was murdered by British troops in Derry.

Speaking at a Protestant Sinn Féin rally, Sean Callagy, editor or Republican News, called for a campaign to highlight the plight of the Irish people now on hunger strike in British jails. Marian and Dolours Price along with Hugh Feeney and Gerad Kelly were being subjected to torture of forced feeding, he said. A campaign to arouse public opinion on their behalf was the utmost urgency.

Peady Pendraville, of the International Socialists, compared the outcry from British liberals against the forced feeding of Judith Tords in Reading with silence today in the United States in the case of the Price sisters. Marian was not only innocent in Ireland today but was coming nearer and nearer home, he said.

The killing of the Shinewberry building workers and the dockers before them was evidence of the state's determination to smash opposition to Tory policies. British socialists and Irish republicans must stand united.

A march and rally was also organised by Clann na n'Eimear and the Irish Republican Students' Union.

Irish Civil Rights secretary, Margaret O'Brien, showing the barbaric instruments used to force feed prisoners at Hyde Park (Comer on Sunday before a protest march to Brixton jail over the treatment of the Price sisters. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)}

15 members on Sunday's march. Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

FEEDING GOES ON

The HOME OFFICE has given the following assurance: "A procedure must be tried that would not harm the prisoners in any way, and we will take precautions to ensure that this is the case."

The Action Committee, organising the prisoners' transfer to a Northern Ireland prison where relatives and friends can visit them, are holding a meeting at Brixton prison on Tuesday, 2 February from 7pm to 9pm.

On the same day a protest meeting will be held in Conway Hall from 7pm to 10pm. Speakers will include relatives of the prisoners, the NCCU, and the British Medical Association.

MORE THAN 300 delegates attended an International Socialist Students' day school in London last week. The congress was as well as by Tony Clift, who spoke on the present crisis.

Simon Turner, an student organiser, stressed the need to build IS societies and for students to be active in their colleges.

So far, 40 IS societies exist but the need for IS societies to be built into campaigns against issues such as the miners' strike as well as student issues was emphasised.

Last weekend also saw a conference of the Socialist Alternative, the main left wing opposition group to the official leadership of the National Union of Students. The meeting accepted a platform proposed by 15 members which outlined a socialist position on many issues confronting students and agreed that this should be the basis of membership to the Socialist Alternative.

The conference also saw the need to mobilise for the national strike and demonstration on February 6th, for occupations of as many colleges as possible during the Week of Action commencing on March 4.
**Socialist Worker**  
**Adrian Naglarzi**

**Why workers need their `general staff`**

In many ways, the trade union leaders do not live in the 1970s. They are protected by the harsh realities of inflation and Tory viciousness by their high wages and middle-class living standards.

They still behave as if we were in the prosperous 1950s. The economy was at its peak and hands and government, in particular, were committed to keeping production going and confident of the future of the British economy, were prepared to make all kinds of concessions to working people and their organizations.

But for the often spontaneous response of rank and file militancy, the government’s offensive would have been far more effective.

The postmen’s strike is a case in point. In 1971 the TUC was trying to operate a wages policy in the public sector. The idea was that each new settlement on the public sector would be settled for 1 per cent less.

The postmen, with their low pay and their commitment to the TUC, showed the government how ineffective this low-cost strategy was. In the period, the attempt at wage restraint was a failure.

**Inspire**

The general crisis of the British working class is reflected in redundancies and closures. Again the official movement produced no policy or action to support the active workers’ strikes of Upper Clyde to inspire the whole movement.

The working class, on the other hand, has had to act through their own initiatives. The TUC and CBI met, but the cabinet did not.

But a general staff is needed and if the existing one is found wanting a new one needs to be created.

The second problem is that the whole of the working class, including many of its militants, suffers from the same illusions as the trade union leaders. The reality of the crisis of British industry and of the economy as a whole has not yet really sunk in.

**Launched**

Often the militants, the rank and file, of the working class, have lacked the necessary political awareness. They have not been able to take the initiative, get the trade union leadership or the government to do anything.

Their response is based on a consideration of short-term strategy.

But on the working-class side, the trade union leadership and government have not seen the point to explain that they have no strategy, only reaction. They have not been able to take the battle, and each section or form on the battle.

The TUC leaders’ conference in November could have settled the miners’ dispute but the political awareness of the movement with the withdrawal of support from the government more than by promising some complacency with Powell.

But the militants in industry fight each battle as a separate one without relating it to the whole and fighting a much greater determination to win because of their leadership.

This is the second of three articles by the International Socialist’s London Bureau, a contribution to the discussion proceeding the conference on socialist theory and workers and file trade union papers in March to honour the contribution of the Tory-employer-offer.

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The Shah keeps good company

The Shah of Iran, whose old Tory leaners have deserted him for Switzerland, is one of the most repressive rulers in the world. His country's revolutionary government is enforced by a vicious police state. Last summer estimates of the number of people in Tehran were rounded up to 'celebrate' his 48th birthday. In some measures, the celebration ended with the police towing away the crews and shooting 30 people.

Most of these young Iranians, who had been active in the anti-Armenian and anti-imperialist movements, have been condemned to death on trumped-up charges of plotting the Shah's death. Five more have been given heavy prison sentences.

In a recent interview with an Italian journalist, the Shah said that the police were necessary because of the concentrated power of the army. "There must be a strong police force," he said. "Without a police force, you cannot have a strong state."

The Shah has built up his autocratic position in the past 21 years with the help of Britain and the USA. In 1951, when nationalist prime minister Musaq l' tried to make a deal with Britain's Foreign Secretary Harold Macmillan,使劲 got a gun

and a promise to protect British oil interests. In 1953, the American CIA engineered a military coup that overthrew Musaq and brought back the Shah from exile.

Tory minister Barber and Walker with the Shah of Iran in Tehran last week

The strikes are now set for the following weeks, beginning with the people of the West Indian island of Grenada and Prime Minister Eric Gairy.

The latest general strike has lasted since New Year's Day, and there have been daily demonstrations of up to 45,000 people demanding his resignation. The violence in Grenada is 110,000.

The People's Party, opposed by Gairy, began after a congress called by the New Jewel Movement, which is the opposition, and attended by 10,000 people. Intimidation was used against those attending the congress; all routes leading to the racecourse where it was held were lined by police with rifles and guns, and every vehicle searched for weapons.

Early in November the New Jewel Movement, which is the main opposition party in Grenada, launched its manifesto. The Chamber of Commerce, which had been moving almost immediately, because the manifesto referred to taking over the banks and insurance companies and setting up an agricultural co-operative.

Meanwhile Gairy was increasing his security police to 3,000, up from 1,500 and issuing threats such as: "This is the worst invasion since the 1914-18. More than by police bullets." His reply to the West Indian regime was a sign, sharply, "No!"

INJURY

Violence erupted on 18 November when a group of New Labour campaigners tried to address a meeting of businessmen in Grenada. The police, who are based in the building surrounded by secret police armed with sticks, axes and broken bottles, who first turned them away, then beat them up and arrested them. Gairy's police force was estimated at 3,000. The police, station, where there had been several serious clashes in the past, was completely surrounded by riot police, and said that all were owed him to resign.

The People's Urban Front Workers' Union and the Commercial Workers Union reacted by calling out on strike. Organisations of all sorts - churches, the Law Society, the Grenada Medical Association, the civil servants and teachers union and the Grenada Chamber of Commerce - also joined the campaign.

A Strike wave is sweeping the French West Indian island of Martinique. Building workers have been on all-out strike for three weeks after a campaign of partial strikes since the autumn. They are demanding a 25 per cent rise to bring their wages up to 250 francs (€1) a week.

They have been going from site to site and factory to factory calling on all workers to join them in a general struggle for higher wages. Already they have been joined by workers in a paper and cardboard factory and by agricultural workers in the banana plantations. These too are in revolt against the poverty wages which dominate French West Indies.

They have set up a joint strike committee which also includes workers from the newspaper France-Antilles, who have been on strike for almost three months, and from the four high-schools and two technical colleges, which are striking against a 20 per cent increase in residence fees.

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The strikes have received general support from the workers of Martinique and a recent demonstration of support rallied more than 1,000 people—which is considerable for an island of 200,000 people.

As usual the French and foreign press have completely ignored these struggles—information is reaching the workers only through Combat Ouvrier, the French West Indian revolutionary socialist paper.

Forced

The background to these strikes is chronic poverty and colonial oppression. Unemployment in the French West Indies is officially reckoned at more than 25 per cent but this doesn't count the thousands of young people who never even register because they never start a job. The real figure is about 50 per cent. On top of this, thousands of West Indians are forced to emigrate to France where they fill low-paid jobs in service industries.

The two French West Indian islands, Martinique and Guadeloupe, are officially part of France. But the national minimum wage is two-thirds that in France. The 'builders' demand would bring their wages up to the French minimum.

The cost of living is so high. Like every other country there is raging inflation and prices are continually rising.

In practice the islands are a colony. Massive police and army units maintain order—since 1967 they massacred 60 people and injured 200 during many anti-government demonstrations in Guadeloupe. Papers and organisations fighting for socialism and national independence are arbitrarily banned and harassed. Elections to the French parliament are systematically rigged.

During the last elections the high schools have been raided and meetings broken up by police. But the struggles show the working people of Martinique are determined.
Get Carter

THERE were two toasts at the delicious 'foreman's supper' staged a fortnight ago by the Norrwich-based building firm of R G Carter to the Queen, and one to the firm. The second toast to the firm was made by the Reverend Dean of Norwich, the Revd. The reply was made by Mr Carter himself. Mr Carter, who is the biggest building contractor in the midlands, is defending his decision to drop the firm's flag with the Union Jack, and indeed fly the flag of trade unions. He did so on a visit to the Queen, and was dined at the Union Jack. These men are trying to bring the country down, he says.

Sceptical guests at the dinner were surprised at the large number of local authority bigwigs who attended the dinner. Bob Carter, his son, was there with his friend, Arthur Smith, leader of the Norwich Labour Party, who was in the audience, and Arthur, a middle-aged man, who had dared to laugh at his Union Jack.

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THE SCRUPLES of the Liberal Party evaporate daily. They have agreed to take some $2,500,000 from the millionnaire property owner, Tom Keen, whose cellmates claim to thuggery in Barnstaple and outside the TUC in London have got him to trouble with the courts. Keen is at the moment having to answer police inquiries about fire insurance on his industrial estate at Miltonbridge, Huddersfield, where tenants are complaining that their fire insurance payments have been pocketed by Keen without adequate fire cover being provided. Keen is not the only extremist on the right to be attracted by the Liberal Party. I see that Alan Jarrett, of Bromley, who was arrested outside Lambeth Town Hall in 1962 for wearing the uniform of the British Fascist party, who later formed the variety team with which the Liberal Party is supporting their latest recruits to Lambeth Town Hall has appealed. Whereas hopes to stand in this year's borough elections in the Liberal interest, 'Liberal policies are the only ones which can save Britain from disaster,' he says.

Permanent accommodation for the canvassers was out of the question. This type of person would know no how to look after the place, she said.

Finally, good news for the Liberal council of Liverpool District who take control of the council this week.

As Socialist Worker reported yesterday, two weeks ago the new council's housing policies were to be a matter of anything devised, even by the monstrous control. Liverpool Labour and the TUC houses built, bigger, less rent, less damage, more safety and no to rent. The Liberals can expect very reasonable treatment, however, from the regional organiser for Shelter, the housing pressure group which has so ably led both Labour and TUC housing policies in the past. It is David Mason, whose brother, Paul Mason, and the father, Peter Mason, are Liberal councillors in the new district and helped to draw up the new Liberal housing policies.

NOEL JENKINSON, who is in Leicester prison serving 20 years for his part in the Blitz bombings in 1972, gets a copy of Socialist Worker every week. Three weeks ago, he wrote to us:

'The prison authorities promised they would take care of people in prison who are interested in the Labour Party. They failed.'

Wednesday he is giving lunch to Labour MPs who are members of the Parliamentary Labour Party and power group. Special transport is laid on to take MPs all the way from the House of Commons Westminster to where the CEGB head-quarters are in St. Paul's House. A mile or two.

'Discussion' starts at 11, but the party will break early for lunch. Applications for the lunch are still rolling into the Labour whip's office, and I understand that Alex Reid, mining MP for Midlothian, who is chairman of the power and steel group, is looking forward to the lunch very much.
As a Working Miner I don’t often get a chance to see London. Which is just as well. The capital city with its capital prices is a bit much for me—and my £2.2 a week.

My attention was drawn to a steak bar, where a decent meal would cost £2.50. I had egg and chips elsewhere, far better than steak—and price indication.

A Chinese pottery figure of a young lad sitting under an umbrella, fishing, cost 2/100 and a Chinese jade pendant at £1.30 would fit nicely around my wife’s neck—but sorry Sue, not this year anyway.

Perhaps soon the West End will have more customers from British coal mining industry. At least when they’re paid the wages, waiting started there. For at present we’d need a mortgage to shop in the London area—TREVOR BALL, Rugeley, Staffs.

Part of a poem sent to us by Danny Hamsey of Dinnington Main Colliery.

From the top of the hill see the valley below,
There is no sign of life all covered in snow,
All the trees are denuded the skyline is bleak,
We must blame the miners and their five day week.

The economy is crumbling, the pound’s going down,
They are closing down all over the town,
Thousands are emigrating, a new life to seek,
We must blame the miners and their five day week.

They are going up to buy, mortgages sky high,
Any dreams of a holiday we must know are in vain,
We are paying out millions to each Arab Sheik,
We must blame the miners and their five day week.

Why won’t the miners work overtime?
Surely they must enjoy the dust and the grime,
They could stand down early until they drop through fatigue,
Then we couldn’t blame the miners and their five day week.

As a Shopworker, selling men’s clothes in a shop, I should feel grateful for at least being able to continue working a five day week, thus avoiding the long week.

However since the three day week electricity cutbacks, our premises have never been there on time of request, the temperature of 60.6%. Nor have we had any lightings fault of the time.

Compared with the awful effect this order has had on productive workers, this may seem of little importance. But it is having the effect of causing many shop assistants who are blaming the miners for this week.

Yes, for one, realise who is really to blame for the plight and the pain of everybody. This is the price we are paying for standing up for our rights and speaking the truth.

Our wages are our lives, without them we can’t eat. This is our cause, the miners’ cause. We are working for the whole of the working man. –DEAN RICHARDS, Ilford.

Essays on the political economy of Africa, Arriag and Sadlet

Psychiatry and the homosexual, Gay Liberation Front

What is to be done? A novel by N.G. Chisnall

People for the people: radical ideas and personalities in British social history, ed. Rubinstein, £12.00

How they are robbing, Pluto Press reprint in Labour History, 20p

Postal Points

NOT FULMER RUSS! I don’t completely share Chris Fuller’s satisfaction of 112.2 for 112.3. The Socialist coverage of theoretical issues is a bit thin. China and the Soviet bloc are grouped together, and the Soviet Worker Pioneer Struggle For World Socialism, 112.1, may be a capitalist because of capitalist accumulation. I would like a period of “primitive capitalist accumulation” for the similarly undeveloped Soviet economy. I would also like to see a reference to The Class Nature of Israeli Society (Peace News, 112.3). This work explains the unique nature of Israeli capitalism without just citing it as another agent of US imperialism. So please put there more Marxist theory and less over-simplification—ROB BLAIR.

Our hand in your pocket... I have just bought your paper for the first time. I must say I am impressed by your policies and your coverage. I endorse your statements in this week’s issue to No. 15, for your appeal... I realise that there is a lot more to working people up to Jacky Guy by parading communist and socialist elements in the labour movement, but your main enemies are surely the capitalists. In which case, I would suggest your criticism is probably a little off target.

It’s All Right, Albert! I understand the are socialists of this world... the free world, the socialist world of the Mid-East, an open forum with a range of points of view presented to the public enough for voters of approximately 2 million to buy your paper. There are enough of us, to carry what weight they have. I have been interested in the work of the socialist parliament of the Hatahrak (TUC), which has voter membership of all workers including capitalists. This has almost democratised influence in civil society. The library folk, who are not approached in a frenzy of it will, might find sacred ground in the everyday, be reckoned with in an important economic sector... it may be wonderful, Israeli democracy, and I’ll admit that I don’t see the way of life; for space considerations—so you can devote more to the home front, in which you are so good. But it’s not bad conditions for the work of the TUC, and the language that those quotes mark if the word “democracy” is the right one. –GEORGE BLAYZIE, Brighton.

London racism - South African connection

I read Paul Foot’s interesting item on the employment agency in London (19 January). You may be interested in the following facts about some of the companies who do not want to employ Africans, Indians or anyone else who has the wrong pigmentation of the skin.

Clayhills have subsidiaries in the following countries—Argentina, Marbella, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand—several of them. Slater Walker has offices in Singapore, Hong Kong and in holdings in South Africa, Greece, Kenya and Netherfields have a 20% interest in Borong Resource. The chairman of GN is the managing director of Breck’s of Breckenridge. The company has given them £4 million (US$10 million) to Aims of Industry. Brookes is a member of the United Nations Trade Association.

Clayhills and Security Union also have interests in South Africa. If you can find a home for these black man abroad, but at the same time, we have no intention of the owner of the black worker to be divided.

Vic TAMBURG, Birmingham.

Oil’s troubled waters

Flashback to Dave Jeffery’s Yipp Bay Story on 9 January.

It should come as no great surprise that Brown and Root (UK) Ltd should, up in the north of Scotland, be involved with the private oil giants’ exploitation of North Sea oil and gas. In the US, attempts to organise for decent pay and conditions, with its world-wide profits from making human misery this American multinational is so easily to be easily persuaded to ensure its own employees’ health and safety.

For in the US this firm is part of the giant joint venture construction conglomerate which made hundreds of millions of dollars on Vietnam contracts in Vietnam between 1964 and 1972. Raymond, Morrison-Kasdon, Brown and Root (EM) BRIT, on 9 January, 1971, a US Navy contract for 400,000 dollars to construct 384 ‘induction cells’, or ‘tiger cages’, for Con Sol island prison off the coast of South Vietnam—two square feet smaller than the old French-built cages.

Time magazine, last year, described a number of former Con Sol ‘tiger cage’ occupants. ‘It is not really pleasant to call them ‘tiger cages’. It is a better word—grottoes of scoured flesh and gaunt limbs’, wrote the Time reporter. They were tall, with their heads being shackled in the tiger cages have forced them into a permanent period of chronicity. They move like crows, skittering across the floor on buttocks and palms.

In January, 1974, one year after the signing of the Paris Peace Agreement, prisoners are still living and dying in these cages—some of the 300,000 political prisoners held by the Saigon regime at present (the Provisional Revolutionary Government believe the figure to be nearer 10,000). Living conditions are strictly inhuman and will continue to rake.—PHILIP BRAITHWAITE, Birmingham 14.
Car city:
new slums for old

Damp

In a survey conducted for the writing of this report, 63 per cent of tenants on the three estates covered said their houses were damp.

Mrs. Byfield's letter: "My bedroom ceiling is pulling away, there are stealers under the ceiling which are holding up the ceiling. My daughter has a rash on her head and it's getting worse."

"We're always talking about dampness and mould, but we don't see anything done.

A solution—Franco-style

Some optimistic people thought that this year's Lord Mayor, Councillor G. W. Sherriff, might bring a good practical approach to the city's housing problem. After all, he is a carpenter and joiner by trade, a member of UCATT.

Just this week, the Lord Mayor did come up with an idea. He had just been back from a visit to Spain, sponsored by the National Federation of Building Trade Employers.

He said: 'We went to a building site where 700 new flats were under construction, and not a pass of glass was broken. Vandals cost us so much in this country, and it is most upsetting to do a good job and then turn up for work next day and find it has been wrecked. If the lack of vandalism in Spain is because the police are heavy-handed, then perhaps we need something like that in this country.'"
Lenin. Turned into a peepshow and a god by Stalin and the gravediggers of the Russian Revolution. Painted as a tyrant and dictator in the west by the capitalist opponents of socialism.

He was neither of these parodies. He dedicated his life to the emancipation of working people, not only in Russia but throughout the world. He fought to build a tough party of revolutionaries to organise the struggle for power.

Above all, Lenin placed his belief in the ability of working people to throw off the chains of their oppressors. To mark the 50th anniversary of Lenin's death, TONY CLIFF rescues the revolutionary leader from his enemies on both sides of the 'Iron Curtain'.

FIFTY YEARS AGO THE great revolutionary socialist leader Vladimir Ilyich Lenin died.

At the anniversary of his death, Moscow and its friends on the one hand and Western opponents of Communism on the other, did their best to distort the real historical role of this great man.

The legend was cultivated over a long period that Lenin was the father of Stalinism, a man that believed in totalitarian dictatorship. Nothing can be further from the truth.

What happened to Lenin was prophetic. His ideas, his work, State and Revolution, when he described the fate of revolutionary leaders in his post.

"During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the opposing classes constantly hounded them, received their theories with the most savage malice, the most furious hatred and the most unscrupulous campaigns of lies and slander. After their death, attempts are made to convert them into harmless icons, to canonize them, so to say ... while at the same time robbing the revolutionary theory of its substance, blunting its revolutionary edge and vulgarizing it." - Lenin

Progress


Above all, Lenin had supreme confidence in the creative abilities of the masses. Thus, for instance, he wrote in June 1915:

"Revolutions are festivals of the oppressed and the exploited. At no other time are the mass of the people in a position to come forward so actively as creators of a new social order, at a time of revolution. At such times the people are capable of performing miracles, if judged by the limited, phallic standards of gradualist progress.

Workers learn in the struggle. They learn from their own experience in battle. The role of a really consistent revolutionary socialist worker is not to lecture to the workers but to learn from the workers in struggle and teach them in struggle.

When bourgeois gentility and their uncritical echoes, the social reformists, talk about the "education of the masses", they usually mean something schoolmasterly, pedantic, something that de-moralizes the masses and instills in them bourgeois prejudices.

The real education of the masses can never be separated from their independent political, and especially revolutionary, struggle. Only struggle educates the exploited class. Only struggle discloses to it the magnitude of its own power, widens its horizon, enhances its abilities, clarifies its mind, forges its will."

Talent

The aim of the revolutionary socialist party is to tap the natural potential resources of energy and ingenuity hidden in the masses. The party has to learn from the workers in struggle.

"There is an enormous amount of organizing talent among the "people", in among the workers and the peasants who do not exploit the labour of others. Capital crushed these talented people in thousands; it killed their talent and threw them on to the scrap-heap.

We are not yet able to find them, encourage them, put them on their feet, promote them. But we shall learn to do so if we set about it with an all-out revolutionary enthusiasm, without which there can be no victorious revolutions."

TO LEARN FROM THE MASSES the party must also be able and ready to learn from its own mistakes, to be very self-critical. As Lenin put it:

"A political party's attitude towards its own mistakes is one of the most important and surest ways of judging how earnest the party is and how it fulfills its obligations towards its class, and the working people.

Frankly acknowledge the mistakes committed in analysing the conditions leading up to it, and means of its realization. The hallmark of that is the party's duties, how and how it trains its officials and how it organizes the masses."

The open defense of vital and essential direct revolution. Lenin wrote in April 1910:

"The party of revolutionaries is a party of action. Only action can teach us to think, to judge correctly a critical and constructive sense of the situation."

"We have to be ready to make mistakes, to correct them. We must have the courage to be wrong, to make mistakes, to learn from them, to become the victors, to do good.

The party must be able to constantly discuss the mistakes of its own class, and to develop a discipline in the party which is to be an expression of the party's honesty and its respect for unity in action, well put.

The party must be able to discuss its mistakes and the mistakes of the workers in struggle.

The party must develop a sense of freedom to discuss mistakes and errors. There can be no party of a revolutionary party which is not a party of a party of criticism and discussion. There must be an open forum to discuss mistakes and errors."

Two important pamphlets describing the life and political struggles of two great revolutionaries—Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky.

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

Available from 15 Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, N4.
Socialism

It consolidated itself after the mass murder of Lenin's old comrades in arms during the 1930s. One-man management in the factories where managers earn 100 times more than workers, where workers have no right to strike and are deprived of all freedoms, became the hallmark of the Stalinist regime.

But the future belongs to the ideas of Marx and Lenin. The basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism:

- That the working class is the agent of socialism.
- That the working class needs a vanguard party to lead it, to raise its combative ability, consciousness and organization.
- The need to smash the bureaucratic military police state machine of capitalism and replace it with democratic workers' councils, where all officials get the same wages as the workers they represent, with regular elections of all officials and the right to recall them.

These ideas are of vital importance to workers everywhere, whether in Britain or Russia, the United States, China or India.

The future belongs to the ideas of Marx and Lenin.
Bosses get away with murder

IN WORKPLACES all over the country employers are using the crisis to attack working conditions. The hardest hit are the worst organised, in particular the 8½ million working women in this country.

In factories, offices and shops, the bosses are getting away with murder. The Factories Act, which gives a limited amount of protection to working women, is being broken without a word.

Thousands of women are having to work regularly on Saturday afternoons—something which is against the law.

Unfenced Office and shopworkers are having to spend a large part of the working week in semi-darkness and feeling cold. Some employers have cut out heating altogether.

And in attempts to speed-up production, to cram five days’ work into three, many women are being made to work on dangerous, unfenced machinery.

In the less well-organised factories, sectional agreements are being thrown out of the window as production is reorganised for the crisis. Women are working in conditions which strain their nervous system, which catch the light from small windows and screens.

Office workers are being made to cut out their lunch break and lead a hand on the shoefloor. Dinner breaks—women need for their shopping—are being forfeited, with tea and sandwiches snatched alongside the work bench.

But it is the completely non-unionised workplaces that are hardest hit.

One woman in an East London undertaker’s has been working on a small undertaking during the crisis for two days a week. She was eating her lunch in a piece-work system with no basic wage, no time waiting and no extra money for overtime.

In order to attract extra women, management is giving them all the most profitable work to do on the rough stuff. The regular women are having to do the least paid jobs with the rough stuff.

After washing their money whittled down by pounds every week, the women staged a walkout last week.

Many firms, especially in textiles and leather, have expanded work during the week by ‘tide-ing’ machines to run the whole week by making women work to increase the machine hours so that the work can cover the extra costs.

Not only does this keep production going and profit up but it also makes union control over the boss impossible. In some cases women are even having to pay for the electricity they use.

Leicester is one city where ‘out work’ in the home has had a real boom. A new organisation called Local Chamber of Commerce has been running a Leicester Will Make It Campaign.

How the Tory lockout is hitting working mother

Beryl Riley works at Wright’s Furniture store. She lives in Harrow and has three children aged 13, 11 and 7.

‘I’m quite lucky. I’m on a good money and take home £5 for the three-day working. It’s bad enough for me—I hate to think what it’s like for people who only take that much home for a whole week.’

I just don’t know how families manage to live when the women isn’t working. Everything’s going up all the time—gas and electricity and food and rent and everything. It’s wearing them down.

Nobody wants to look after somebody else’s kids at the weekend. I’m taking Saturday afternoon off in future, even though I’ll lose money over it. This is the only day I’ve got for the group. I remember we used to get paid for our group work.

The crisis is a load of bunkum. It’s coming out now that the power stations are full of coal. It’s just an excuse for a wage cut, just an excuse to have a go at the working class.

I think the miners should go on strike. The only way they’ll win is if they push out this lot we’ve got in power now. I think there should be a general strike call for all the unions. Stop everything working, then the Tories will have to resign.

There’s no power shortage but there’s an economic crisis. There’s too many people wanting too big a slice of the cake. People like the property developers and the ones with stocks and shares.

They showed a conference on the TV the other night about world crises and world shortages. The menu cost £13 a head. Yet there’s a lot of blakes in this country who can only give their wives and families £1 a week to live on.

All the talk about greedy trade unions just doesn’t make sense when these people have money rolling in all the week—not on three days for the lot of us. And then the try to tell us we’re all in it together with this crisis.

There should be an equal distribution of wealth and a minimum wage of £50 a week. Get rid of this ‘them and us’. The rich should be taxed heavily and all the land taken off the property speculators so that houses can be built for homeless people.

You can turn Buckingham Palace into a block of flats and let it out to start with. There’s no justice in this country: it’s one law for the rich and another for the poor. Someone stole £40 out of my meter but the police weren’t bothered. Now if it had been Richard Burton and thousands had been stolen it’d have been a different story.

Equal

Look at the schools as well—my kids are being sent home at 3 o’clock because in some cases they haven’t got enough money to pay teachers decent wages. If it was a public school this would never happen.

It’s a sort of race now and things are going to get worse. I think socialism is the only answer— a society where everyone is equal.

I used to think we were going to get it through the Labour Party. But Labour haven’t done anything for people. They started this incomes policy lark and the Tories only promised to end it. I think we’re going to have to change the system altogether.

People are always calling me a utopian but they say I’ll never change human nature. But going to work and being shut up like a prisoner for eight hours is not the natural way to live. People have had to be conditioned into it.

Once all the selfish and greedy grabbers were out of the way you could have an equal society. But when you know you’re being conned all the time you grab hold of everything you can get.

If the Tories had a different country—say South America—there’d have been a revolution long ago. They’re always trying to keep socialist ideas out of the papers because socialism is becoming a real threat to them.

Socialism is marvellous. And I wish more people would read it.

by Dave Lambert and Kath Ennis

Me an’ all me mates in a book

The best of the first two years

The adventures of OUR NORMAN by Evans

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

Money orders only please

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

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

ASK YOUR SW SELLER TO GET YOU A COPY

Kath Ennis

Co-operate

Businessmen have bought 100,000 stickers with Union Jacks and the campaign slogan on them. And the paper and television ads are giving great publicity to workers—mainly public sector workers—under the ‘bosses’ schemes to dodge the power regulations.

At one firm, Tailor Maid, the managing director has been boasting that there have been giving tea and meal breaks to help the firm avoid fines. Last week there was a three-day week. Knitting machines have been reduced by 13 days a week from the recommended rate of 24 a minute.

Last week the woman in the rag trade in Leeds found themselves taking home as little as £5 when management subtracted three days’ overtime from their wages and held them over the Christmas break. And some of them had tax deducted from this paltry sum.

Worst hit of all women are those who have been giving in to the pressure of being asked to work overtime by their employers.

Even with five-day working, most women do not earn a living wage. With no union these days, survival becomes a real struggle.

As the state of emergency continues, women workers are living with their feet against Saturday working. Employers are reporting greater rates of absenteeism every week.

Difficult

And schools and nurseries closed, women have no one to look after their children. Shopping for the week end is made difficult. Household chores have to be done on Sunday and instead of having a rest...

And family life is completely disrupted. Women are complaining bitterly about how tired they are.

Having Monday off just doesn’t make it up for it.

But there are many places where the bosses have not been able to have their own way. At Blakelaw’s in Newcastle, women have successfully fought to finish work at 2.30pm on Saturdays while being paid up to 4.30pm.

At Armstrong Patons in Beverley, Yorkshire, workers are on strike in support of Coventry Jean Jepson, sacked for fighting against management's suspension of the guaranteed weekly wage. These are the examples to follow if women are successfully to claim their wages and conditions as the Tories take tougher action.
TELEVISION

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE LUCIFER LADS? BBC-1, Tuesdays, 8.30pm.

The original Lucifer Lads reflected working-class lives of the youth of the late sixties. The re-staging of these often violent lives is likely not much wider and perhaps, more importantly, not much more likely to find sympathy or frustrate those of their youth.

Bob Ferris (Rodney Bewes) has a slippery grasp on the guilt and class responsibility to the world of semi-detached working-class life. And he usually finds himself in frequent continental restaurants, observing the denizens of that world, accompanied by a wife who provides him with his uncomplicated and necessary and necessary parley of the social club.

Bob Ferris (Rodney Bewes) reflects the failure of perpetuating those days—he isn’t the dole, he has a break. A break from the odd bit of working-class life. Life has no direction with the exceptions of a moral interest in the past.

The almost rejects Ferris’s code of living but maintains a curious respect for it on occasion, as if it were a set of hard-won performances with life which has prevented him from being a part of the odd bit of working-class life. Ferris’s function is to be a constant reminder of that.

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JEANNE WOODCOCK

Tagg’s lines

If you live in or near London and can’t get to London, Trevor Griffiths’ film, The Party (The Old Vic) is a stimulating two hours.

Set in the flat of a trendy television producer during the May uprising in Paris, 1968, it is a well-written debate on the nature of the new left in Britain.

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JULIAN HARBER

THE FIRST SHOP STEWARDS MOVEMENT by Jamie Macdonald and Frank Cumberbatch

FUSION is the subject of Panorama on BBC-1 at 8.30pm.

TUESDAY: BBC-2, Second House deal with the Russian writer Anton Chekhov, with a dramatisation of one of his stories and a radio discussion including John Serger the market writer and critic. The London area, with a new and interesting film of the market is presented on RUSSELL HARDY FROM 6.30pm.

SARDUCC: BBC-2, Arthur Holley has written a whole string of rubbish about American Airlines. The formula is a lot of talking by a man who is not sure in fact plus sex. The result is a very rich meal. Arthur Holley is interviewed on the line.

THURSDAY: BBC-1, The Play for Today is EASY GO, which might be interesting. It is a story of a man and a small child who is found in the street.


Time not known at time of going to press.

NIGEL FOUNTAIN

The birth of a movement and the war were still fighting

WHEN WAS socialist revolution likely in Britain?

A lot of sociologists would say 1926. But James Hinton shows in his new book The First Strikers, published a year ago, that there is a significant likelihood of that. J.R.

Surprisingly, for skilled engineers had been an ‘antique elite’ amongst the working class. Their jobs, the Analytical Society, were almost exclusively limited to those who had served a five year apprenticeship, and was unpopular, and often hostile to attempts to unionise anyone else in engineering factories. ‘A craftman is on no account to be confused with a labourer’ they used to say.

The ‘great labour unrest’ just before 1914 had radicalised a few. The Great War radicalised many.

War speeds up economic change that might otherwise take years to develop. The Great War saw a change from a situation where the classes were free to exploit their workers without interference, to a situation where the state intervened on the sides behind.

As the assembly line took over so working conditions got worse. Bomb shells and guns were needed—so the government ‘looked the other way’ (not the profits) of a vast section of the production system.

Cells Deacon pointed out last week how the ‘machines man’ had found his job, the ‘craftsman’ the engineers this meant their old skilled jobs being lost under a tide of unskilled labour.

Strikers were illegal, and attempts were made to prevent men in the advantage of the labour shortage by moving from job to job.

Working class resistance was spread. The war was shut off. They turned to their union. But the union had gone over to the government.

So they invented a new form of organisation, the workers committees, democratically elected rank and file meetings of working class from various factories in each area. They met together regularly and worked and coordinated action against both employers and government.

When the war was over, all the men who really worked for the men who worked for them in Salford, and more successfully forced the government to return to a con- scripted ASE men Leonard Hargreaves to claim.

But though this caused the government great concern (the prime minister himself went up the Hindenburg airship and a celebration of German Art!)

At harvest festivals and Christmas celebrations, bloated children were paraded on the head by a family of the Adult.

Young German women with Swastika armbands are caught against a background of motorcars and flowers, and boys are trained in the art of capturing on the field their forthcoming military role.

Rigorous doses which followed the collapse of the German working class are well known and documented. Unfortunately, Swastika is not so. Concentrating on personalities, rather than how they got there, does little to provide us with an understanding of the lurid doings in Potsdam.

The planned strike never took place. At the time of the giving of the revolutionary matters for the rank and file with them and the movement degenerated as an unorganised dispute over the disadvantages of craftsman.

Had food shortages been worse and the doctrine of the war, it might have been a stronger thing might have been different.

Within months peace had been signed, the armaments factories were being run down and the millions were being forced out of the gates.

The ASE regained control. The last flight of the Workers Committee was essayed during the 14-hour strike of 1919 but whatever Gallacher may have said about it afterwards it contained no class meaning.

The committee remained until 1921 but no longer represented anyone. But their experience of the wartime struggle gave the revolutionaries new insights into the process of revolution.

They saw that in the right circumstances workers committees could become soviets.

It was this belief in the necessity of soviets that attracted many of these revolutionary committees to the Third International and resulted in their becoming full members of the British Communist Party.

Unfortunately in the period of working class retreat that set in after 1919 soviets were not on the agenda. And so tragically, these men never had the chance to implement their ideas. Therefore, the only way to really understand Lenin’s theory of the Party was to show the easy way to Stalin.

It was not a matter of understanding the line of the Party, it was a matter of learning to fill in the gaps of the argument.

JULIAN HARBER

THE FIRST SHOP STEWARDS MOVEMENT by Jamie Macdonald and Frank Cumberbatch

AN in-depth study of Hitler’s private life, based on new and unique background—based on a collection of home movies and a unique background.

As the camera focuses on Germany, 1939-43, we are given a brief overview of Hitler’s rise to power and the working class life at the time of Hitler’s rise to power. The work is caught up in the heavy round of propaganda and demonstrations of loyalty to the Reichsfuehrer.

The camera then returns to the Oberstdorf alternate with the Berlin Olympics, the exploration of the Hindenburg airship and a celebration of German Art! At harvest festivals and Christmas celebrations, bloated children were paraded on the head by a family of the Adult.

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JULIAN HARBER
Yes’ likely in NALGO action vote

ARE you prepared to take part in a total ban on all overtime; a refusal to work with agency staff, a one-day strike without pay; selective strikes on Association instruments, with pay held back for part pay? This is the text of the ballot form to be sent to thousands of NALGO, the government’s white-collar union, in London. The NALGO executive recommends a ‘Yes’ vote. The next ballot for this action vote, which received 50 per cent to increase the London weighting on wages, was held recently and also authorized another three ballots for industrial action. The other NALGO regions will also be holding ballot for increases in the North East, and on the other sides of Britain for 10 per cent. This is a very serious time for the workers who are up against the employers.

Another difficulty is that their collective wage procedure is failing to meet the demands of the increasing costs of living. The previous period of pay awarding, and the new one too, is only 5 per cent, which is not enough.

The Daily Telegraph backed the Tory claim that the present increase is 2.5 per cent but this is the increase the council workers have ever received. They have a three-year plan and £2.50 in 1970 and £2.40 last time.

Million

The hospital workers have also been making their demands for a 9 per cent increase. These are being rejected by the management. The FGTEA, the hospital managers’ association is in agreement and is being rejected.

A single socialist state cannot indefinitely survive unless workers of other countries are organized to come to its aid, as this is impossible. This is a real socialist revolution and cannot be fought through the normal means of the TUC.

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**Hundreds support Shrewsbury rallies**

SHREWSBURY builders' pickets John Llywarch and John Carpenter have continued their round of massive rallies organised by IS throughout the country to support the picketing of the Shrewsbury Three. In EDINBURGH at the largest rally so far, more than 400 people filled Leith Hall. John Llywarch and Paul Foot. Dumfriesshire Trade Council sponsored a bus to the meeting. It was paid for by the NUM lodges at Contact Clun. John Llywarch was giving a standing ovation after his speech, and the enthusiasm of the meeting was sustained by speakers from the floor. James Bower, a NUM member from Comonhale Filey, said that the government were asking us to unite. Yes, we must unite, but only in one way. Speaking as a miner, I'm going to be the first to get to the ballot paper and vote for a ballot for all-out strike.

**Booed**

He announced that the NUM in the area had donated £190 to the Shrewsbury Defence Committee, and his own pit—Comrie—has given £23. Alice Murray, Edinburgh IS organiser, who was the first to gain a 45% vote at this rally, had been booed. After an appeal from Archie Webb, conveyer at McIntosh St James Centre, for a collection to be split evenly between the North Wales miners' strike and the socialists' Workers Fighting Fund. Just over £100 was collected as 12 people joined in.

In GLASGOW the previous night John Llywarch and Paul Foot spoke at another mass rally of more than 300 people at the North Hall. It was chaired by George Kelly, Electricians' Union. It was a Glasgow Corporation's direct labour building department. In between the rallies, John Llywarch addressed 22 meetings in Glasgow and Edinburgh at building sites, railway workshops, pits and engineering factories. At one Saturday's miners' rally in Edinburgh he was on the platform to hear vice-president Mick McGahye say: 'We cannot sleep easily at night while these lads are still in prison.'

Meanwhile John Carpenter, another of the Shrewsbury Six defendants, was speaking at large rallies of 200 people in EDINBURGH and 100 in WEST MIDDLESSEX.

At the West Midlands meeting a delegation of building workers from the multi-million pound King Edward Memorial Hospital site in Basingstoke, through their stewards Bob Hamill and Pat Quinlin, pledged £100 to help release the three.

Asian workers in dispute at Perivale Ganderstones were particularly interested to hear John Carpenter describe how the Shrewsbury movement was affecting the dispute at Art and they are acting on the information. As to what the Asian workers have been on strike for seven days, John Carpenter reported that a police activity against picketing at the factory had been aggressive than usual. He was told of the more aggressive form of a picket at the factory gate co-tailed by the police. They were out as illegal—given the law of the land.

For a collection for the wives and families of the jailed building workers' trade

**Armed**

Willie Black, a young shop steward in the Electricians' Union, urged the meeting to think and talk politics in the factories and work places. On one side you've got the scabs, he said. On the other side you've got the militants. In the middle you've got the conservative mass. The draws have got the Tories and their press. We've got the socialist Worker and the rest of the left green. We've got also factory branches, collections of workers in the factories who are armed with the politics of socialism.

We are putting bulletins and newsletters into these factories to educate the workers. They are circulating rank and file papers written by the people in the plants to link up struggles in different industries.

**Support the miners’ call to AVIEW**

MEMBERS of the Engineering Union who are also members of IS travelled from all over the country last weekend to discuss the national engineering wages claim and the struggle in the industry in the light of the three-day week and the coming miners' strike.

It was emphasised that the national leaders of the union had refused to take this important claim seriously. From the beginning they had allowed boxes to use delaying tactics. They have done nothing to prepare the members for a militant fight on the claim and have never moved beyond the vague threat of an ineffective overtime ban.

Several delegations stressed that IS members must tell the whole truth, however unpleasant, about Scawston's shameful betrayal of the claim. Said one speaker: Scawston has cheated three million engineering workers by putting in a large claim and announcing to the world, without consulting the membership, that he would accept a Stage Three.

Reports from many areas showed that the crisis has meant the claim has lost even the limited momentum it had in the minds of most engineers. Engineers engineers earning often below their basic rates through the guaranteed week agreement it is vital that IS members continue to push for the £35 basic wage and the 35-hour week.

It is equally important that miners' and engineering workers' representatives take part in joint meetings with both engineering and engineering engineers. The meeting agreed that maximum pressure would be exerted through district committees and the Confederation of Engineering Union to get emergency mass meetings of shop stewards to discuss this latest move by the miners' fight against Phase Three with the miners' fight.
LEADERS-700 marched last Saturday under the banner "Kick out the Tories, Free the Shareworkers' Three, Support the Yorks. International Socialist banners were those of Leeds Trades Council and shop stewards' committee's from West Yorkshire Federation led by branches of Leyland, Batley, and Jackdaw Bollers GmbH. After the demonstration 300 people clumped into the Leeds Trade Club to hear John Carptenter, one of the Shareworkers' prisoners. Arthur Serrou, president of the Yorkshire miners and a member of the NUM executive, and Peter Balfe, convener of the West Yorkshire Federation Runnymede Branch, also addressed the meeting. John Carpenter was given a standing ovation. The meeting was addressed by more than 500 people.
Pickets trial judge
gives police the OK

SHREWSBURY—The judge in the second pickets trial, Mr Justice Cheshire Talbot, has now ruled that it is perfectly all right for the police to enter the port site. This happened just before they go into the witness box.

He decided that the police were at liberty to enter the port site and photograph the previous trials of several similar matters where the officer was so tired he had to be reappointed. The judge said the police were not being used as a barrier to the port site.

Mrs Dorothy Drake, who claimed the judge had given a biased ruling, said she was so tired she had to be reappointed. The judge said he was not being used as a barrier to the port site.

Mr Justice Cheshire Talbot, after a full day's trial, said he was so tired he had to be reappointed. The judge said the police were not being used as a barrier to the port site.

The trial of the eight North Wales building workers on charges of unlawful and unlawful assembly is now in its third week. The police have been accused of being too harsh on the right, John Clee, John Davis, Eric Coles, William Parry, Samuel Warburton and Thomas Williams.

Armed

This is because of the nature of the changes. Unlawful assembly simply means an assembly of more than forty persons, which could turn into a breach of the peace. The judge said he was so tired he had to be reappointed. He said there was no suggestion that the men were engaged in any kind of violence.

Affray

In this case, as in the previous trial, the police were accused of being too harsh on the right.

The judge said the police had been accused of being too harsh on the right. He said there was no suggestion that the men were engaged in any kind of violence.

On the picket line at Con-Mech Engineering, Woking, Surrey, where workers have been on strike for four months, an attempt was made to put union discipline. Operators and management spoke to pickets at Lindsay Craye, Cox Hill House, Chobham, Surrey.

The Magnificent Seven

PRESTON—Some picket leaders have been arrested at the four North Lancashire depots of the ITT. The police have threatened to make searching arrests at the depots of the seven pickets and警告 not to enter the depots.

More than 100 picket leaders have been arrested at the depots of the seven pickets and warned not to enter the depots.

The pickets have been arrested following a series of meetings in the area.

The Magnificent Seven were the name of the pickets who went on strike at the Spen Valley Co-op in Wigan.

Now rain, more action, plus on the Social Section

The engine drivers’ union ASLEF has called a region-by-region one-day strike over the next three weeks.

The first will start on Tuesday, Eastern London){}, 12 February, London Midland on 14 February, and in Scotland on 19 February.

The pickets were caught up in a heavy rain storm last Tuesday, March on 14 February, and in Scotland on 19 February.

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**BIG BACKING FOR BALLOT**

by Jim Higgins

"ABSOLUTELY SOLID"—that is the verdict of Kent miners' leaders after last weekend's pit branch meetings.

It is the same story in every coalfield. In Scotland, South Wales, Nottingham, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Durham, in area after area, the local executives are returning unanimous recommendations for a yes vote in this week's strike ballot.

Jack Collins, Kent member of the NUM executive, speaking at Rethehanger colliery last Sunday, put the issues before the miners with stark clarity. "The miners have only two alternatives—to go forward through struggle or to go back to an era of a pitman for wages and demoralisation for company. The meeting voted unanimously for strike action.

Arthur Davies, member of Cwm NUM Lodge Committee, South Wales, told Socialist Worker: "Capitalism is in another crisis. This isn't an unfamiliar situation to the miners. From nationalisation to the present day there have been closures, mass closures and enormous financial cuts, he went on. "The miners are ready to hit the private contractors working in and above the colliery."

**GRASP**

"Whatever happens miners must fight on the principles of 'tomorrow'. The full case is here for the grasping, we must take hold of it now, the 'tomorrow' will never come."

In Derbyshire, pithead and branch meetings have been reaching unanimous and enthusiastic support for the strike.

In the Scottish area the movement is far more advanced than in the other coalfields. Every shift in every mine is holding pithead meetings to get maximum support for the strike ballot.

Preparations have been made for a meeting with the Scottish NUM, ASLIF and Transport Workers to prepare solidarity action during the strike.

At the recent Scottish area delegate meeting a strong feeling developed that the deputies union, NACODS, should be brought out with the miners. During the 1972 strike, the deputies maintained the safety and emergency precautions in the pits. If they are drawn into the strike it will be only a short time before most pits would become unworkable.

A miner at Kellinghay pit told Socialist Worker: "We are not an isolated case, and we will not be boxed off with anything less than the claim. The Pay Board's relativity report is no good to us. We want cash and now. We are ready and eager to fight for that money."

Every area of the NUM should be making the sort of preparations for the strike that are being pioneered in Scotland.

Hold links with other key unions to stop the movement of coal.

Keep flying pickets out to shut down power stations. Set up effective strike committees in every area.

Call on trades councils to form special action committees to back the miners and organise solidarity action.

Unity is the key to victory.

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**Labour aids Tory witchhunt**

The Labour Party officially joined the Tory witchhunt against the miners' leaders this week.

Bob Cryer told statements by vice-president Mick McGahay—who correctly sought the need to appeal to troops not to be used for strike-breaking—might affect Labour's chances at the polls, Jim Callaghan issued a statement on Tuesday condemning the Communist Party members on the NUM executive.

It is appropriate that Callaghan should be the man to attempt to sabotage the miners' cause. It was during the Labour government of 1945–51 that during which he was a leading member, that 200,000 miners' jobs were lost.

** espaço entre os textos**

**Poland won't stop that blackleg coal**

TO DATE, 27,000 tons of Polish coal has entered Britain during the miners' overtime ban. By the end of March the Polish government has signed a contract to send 500,000 tons altogether. This tasty little addition to Lord Carrington's coal stocks will be arriving almost certainly during an all-out miners' strike.

In a letter to the Polish United Worker's Party, Bert Ramelson, the British Communist Party's industrial organiser, asked the Polish party to use its influence "to ensure that coal was not shipped during the miners' dispute."

He later told Socialist Worker: "The Polish government contrtracted to deliver the coal before the end of March long before the miners' action started. The sanction of commercial contracts with capitalist governments is, according to Ramelson, a legitimate point of view for the Polish state. They have got to honour their contracts, he said."

According to the Morning Star, the Polish party "had not responded favourably to the British Communist Party's representations. It is obvious that the Poles are a lot less understanding of the relationship between the party and the state in a 'communist' country."

The Polish state, staffed almost exclusively by members of the Polish party, has a long history of helping out reactionary regimes with timely deliveries of coal. Only a few years ago they helped Franco break the Spanish miners' strike. In the next few weeks they will be doing the same for Mr Heath.

Polish coal is entering Britain through Illumington. It is up to British workers—miners, docks and transport workers—to ensure that such a piece of this coal reaches its destination. They can expect no help from the Polish state strikebreakers.

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**Defends**

Whatever the truth of that statement, it is also equally the case that if Callaghan and Hamilton were also in Ruislip this week they might be signing the death sentence.

Socialist Worker unconditionally defends Mick McGahay against the attacks of the Tories and their Labour Party colleagues. Labour's road to a victory at the polls will not be over the body of a defeated trade union movement.

Mick McGahay is right. The miners' struggle is a political one.

And if the Tories should win in elections, they will be the duty of every trade unionist to appeal to workers in uniform to refuse to carry out strikebreaking orders.

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**Thanks—but keep digging**

THANKS! Last week we needed £1400 to get our April £500 target—and we got £1725.44. You made it! The grand total for the month stands at £2737.17.

Here are just a few of the donations. Hamilton E club £105, Cunliffe £100, Burslem £100, Horns £90, Great Northern £90, Llangollen £86, Addington £80, Edmonds £72, Chester £72, Court £66, Ashfield £64, Chester £60, Crewe £55, Tewkesbury £50, Gorton £52, Altrincham £42, Wigan £38, Liverpool £36, Morecambe £30, Wrexham £25, Euston £24, Oxford £21, Altrincham £12, Crumlin £9, Doncaster £6, etc.

So that's it? Sorry, it's not! The working class is fighting back, but so are the Tories. If every penny we get the Tories get 33 1/3% more. But there aren't many Tories—and they've got plenty of money.

When you give to the Fighting Fund you're giving directly to fight this government and this system—a system that needs £10000 a month but has a war chest of £500000.

If you would like to be part of the struggle against the government, the bosses, the rich, the landlords, the banks, the Tories...then you are welcome at 19-21 Station St, Crewe.

"The bosses want the money to continue to dig."

We want the money to help you dig it out.

So please, send your money to the Fighting Fund at 19-21 Station St, Crewe. And if you're in London send it to Jim Mallalieu—"Hospitals & Communities" 11C Great Portland St, London, W1.