WITH the devastating explosion at Flixborough, as with all serious industrial accidents and disasters, hypocrisy is the order of the day.

As usual there has been a flood of expressions of grave concern and grief for the victims. There have been many calls for 'firm action'.

There will even be a public inquiry. The widowed, wounded and homeless will get a few thousand in compensation for the violent disruption of their lives.

Then when the fuss has died down it will be back to business as usual for the profit-makers who made it all happen. Flixborough was no accident. It was the direct and predictable result of the competitive profit making policy.

The Nypro UK plant at Flixborough was designed for one reason alone: to enable Courtaulds and other giant firms to break into the nylon market.

For decades,ICI and Du Pont have dominated the world market with their patents on the hexamethylene diamine based system for producing nylon.

The Nylon 6 Process, perfected by Nypro at Flixborough, gets Courtaulds into the market.

It was completely different to the ICI system, and therefore infringed no patents. It simplified the production process. Best of all, it was much cheaper. It was also much much more dangerous.

Nonetheless, the plant was built, expanded and made even more dangerous still to meet the needs of Courtaulds and the like. Even when things were 'normal', the processes in use at Nypro caned northeast, skin irritation and upsets to the nervous system. But now they have killed 29 workers and smashed the homes of hundreds of others.

Flixborough isn't the only or even the most dangerous plant in the country. There are ICI Wilton, Canvey Island, Flognan Bay and Grangemouth where similar fires and explosions can happen any time. Then of course the same deadly chemicals are ferried up and down the motorways in tankers. Soon one of them will go up in the middle of a town.

Put Kinently, author of the best selling book, The Hazards of Work... How to fight them, told Socialist Worker: 'In a sane, socialist society, the Flixborough plant would never have been built. For the nylon we need — and we do not need as much as the nylon giants make to consume — we would stick with the ICI system.

We would devote all our ingenuity and energy to making that process completely safe. Instead of that we find scientific resources being pumped into the insane task of finding a different and more dangerous way to make nylon just to get round patents.

There's been plenty of warning. There was the Langley oil depot fire last year. ICI Wiltton went up four years ago. There's any number of others.

'For a few weeks after the worst incidents there's an outcry. Then it dies down again. The powerful chemical companies go on exactly as before. It's time trade unionists really organised against this. If they don't they'll go on paying the price.'

ROY Harris Jenkins, Home Secretary, Britain's best-read, most cultivated, most liberal, most humanitarian politician, has claimed his first victim.

Michael Caughan has died because Mr Roy Jenkins, the humanitarian, would not move him from one filthy prison to another.

It is likely that by the end of the month another three young people, Mark Price, Delors Price and Gerald Kelly, will die for the same reason.

They want to be moved from the English prisons where they are now rotting to prisons in their homeland, Northern Ireland.

They have been convicted of crimes for which they are now rotting to prisons there. People have been shifted from English prisoners to Northern Ireland prisoners over the past few years.

Mr Jenkins is not opposed to their being moved to Northern Ireland. He says that it would be 'possible and reasonable for them to serve the bulk of their long sentences near their homes in Northern Ireland.'

So why does he not send them now, and save their lives?

Mr Jenkins replies: 'I could not decide a prison disposal under force.'

In other words, even if he wanted to move them to Northern Ireland, he would refuse to do so because they are on hunger strike.

Blackmailers

When the forces of law and order are 'blackmailed' by a defenceless prisoner's hunger strike, Mr Jenkins throws the full weight of his humanitarianism behind the forces of law and order.

When those same forces of law and order demand that Mr Jenkins' government drop its commitment to legal safeguards for pickets or to legal immunity for the Clay Cross councillors or to a ban on arms to the Chile junta - then Mr Jenkins finds himself four square on the side of the Blackmailers.

He weeps for the weak, but he supports the strong. He pleas for the law. He weeps for the law's weak sisters and others should not expect him to take the simple, habitual attitude, active or passive towards any of the forces of law and order.

He is contemptible. So is his political role.

Gerald Kelly dies. Mr Jenkins, his government, and those 100 per cent responsible.

I'm good to be free. It feels wonderful,' said Des Warren soon after he and Ricky Tomlinson walked out of the High Court in London into the sunshine.

Des and Ricky were bailed by the Court of Appeal on Monday pending their appeal against prison sentences of three and two years respectively imposed after the notorious Shrewsbury pickets trial last Christmas.

Our picture shows Des and his wife Elsa (on the right) and Ricky and Marlene Tomlinson (on the left) just after leaving the court.

Des told Socialist Worker: 'We didn't expect anything at all when we went to the court on Monday. Suddenly the proceedings changed from being about our appeal against sentence to being about ball.

'We were up in front of the Lord Chief Justice, Widgerly. He said: 'This is a unique case.' He contradicted what Mars, the man who put us down, said. Mars said ours was just an ordinary criminal trial.

'We must toughen up the campaign to get the'
For the cost of mending a skip...

by Terry Evans
TGWU Capper Pass

A FAULTY skip used to feed a blast furnace caused the death of a pregnant police constable at Capper Pass Melton Works, near Hull, last week. He was Brian Crawley, 45, a member of the Transport and General Workers Union, who has been working at Capper Pass for seven years. Brian leaves a wife and two teenage daughters. He was doing a routine job, clearing spillage from under the skip's running track, when the skip, which had been switched off, slid silently down the track and crushed him to death.

The fail in the skip which allowed it to slide back had been reported several times by workers on the furnaces.

Only a few weeks ago the Factory Inspector visited the plant and was present at a demonstration of his faulty skip. The management representation present made out an 'alternative job' and gave instructions to find out in which it would cost to correct the fault.

Still no action of any kind was taken. Now they have found out how much it cost to put the skip right—the life of Brian Crawley.

Apathy about the safety of their workers is typical of the management at Capper Pass. They have closed all factories and plants of work. It is not being continued to be until the workers refuse to work with defective equipment.

The wonders of British justice

by Barry Turner, TGWU

BALBIR SINGH was a leading militant in the run-up to the swashbuckling general strike at Art Castings, Nuneaton. He is now working as a Coventry busman and is again experiencing the wonders of British ruling-class justice.

Balbir was found guilty on a trumped-up charge of assault which he was alleged to have committed during picketing on 29 January. Balbir has said he did not guilty to this charge. He was not on the picket line; he was alleged assault took place. He was in the Temporary Labour staff company, his shop steward, Gurmail Singh, talking to one of the officials.

Despite this major misinterpretation the magistrates felt it their duty to fine Balbir Singh, £50 and give him a six-month suspended jail sentence.

You may consider Balbir was just unlucky—it was the exceptional unfair decision perhaps. Well Balbir has found out that these kind of decisions are not just bad luck, but part of a well-organised attack on workers who are not prepared to be trampled on by the employers.

When Balbir arrived for work the

DEMONSTRATION Sunday 16 June PRO-LABOUR SUPPORT TO THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN BOLIVIA Total independence from Portugal NOW Solidarity with the Portuguese people March 2pm, Speakers Corner, march to Westminster, rally with speakers from FREELM, Portugal, and the British labour movement. All IS branches and IS student members and London and Home Counties to support with trade union banners and placards.

IS standing meeting 12 noon B Cottons Garden, London E2

day after his trial, he was politely told that he no longer had a job on the buses. The reason given was that he now had a police record and was "unsuitable for employment".

Balbir has said that he aware of other bus workers with police records who quite rightly have not been sacked as a result of them. Why is Balbir's case so different? The answer is simple. Balbir is now a registered militant in police and local management files.

This case is of great importance to trade unionists, especially because of the Labour government's desire to repeal the Tory anti-picketing law.

More and more workers are going to find themselves the victims of the anti-working class actions of the police and their courts. This and all cases like it must be fought and fought hard.

A MAN sobs after covering with a red banner a comrade murdered by the fascists.

In Brescia, a medium-sized city in Northern Italy, seven demonstrators were murdered last Tuesday by a fascist bomb. A crowd of demonstrators were sheltering from a downpour in a doorway when the bomb, disguised in a rubbish bag, was placed among them. It went off almost at once.

Three cold-blooded murders, which were followed by the usual police apathy, set off the biggest wave of strikes and demonstrations against fascism since the attempted murder by fascists of the Communist Party leader Togliatti in 1960.

Three hundred thousand people demonstrated in Rome, a quarter of a million in Milan. Two days after the murders, a four-hour general strike was declared across the face of Italy. Only after this enormous working-class agitation were the authorities forced to move. On Monday two senior police officers in Brescia were sacked, and some fascist thugs were rounded up.

One of the seven dead in Brescia was Giulio Bertolli, a young teacher who was a member of the Italian revolutionary socialist organisation Avanguardia Operaia.

Tory 'Law and Order' man on crime charge

WILLIAM Rees-Davies is a barrister, Tory MP for Thanet, and one of the Tory Party's chief experts on law and order. When he is not representing the interests of the gambling trade in the law courts, he is shouting for stricter laws and more power to the police.

Tory Central Office has published two tracts by Rees-Davies—Crime knows no boundaries (1966) and The Conquest of Crime (1970). In both, Rees-Davies argues for more ruthless savagery towards criminals including capital punishment.

In April 1972, Rees-Davies proposed a new law-enforcement agency along the lines of the American National Guard.

"The police are stretched to the limits. I believe it will be necessary to create some form of local territorial service which will give an opportunity to people to look after law and order in their own country."

he said.

A big crowd is expected at Margate Magistrates Court on Thursday 27 June, when the pressure on the police force will be fully exposed in the case of Joy v Rees-Davies. Trevor Joy is a police constable attached to Margate police station, who stopped a car during the recent general election campaign.

The car was driven by William Rees-Davies MP. According to Constable Joy, it did not stop at a halt sign, and the driver refused to give his name or address or take a breathalyzer test.

Constable Joy alleges that he took Rees-Davies to Margate police station, and the matter was referred to Chief Superintendent Clifford Greenwood, Margate's chief of police.

MORE TORIES FOR THE TROUGHS

THE TRICKLE of top Tories into the City of London is rapidly turning into a Boud. Anthony Barber, the hard-line Tory Chancellor of a few months ago, is to join the board of the lush Standard and Chartered Banking Group, and in September he will become chairman of all three banks associated with the group.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who is Solicitor-General, pioneered the Industrial Relations Act through parliament and then became minister in charge of prices—usually keeping them up—has landed two plush directorships in one week.

He is to become non-executive director of a profitable little outfit called AGB Research. More profitably—for him—he is also to join the board of Sun Alliance.

Finally, a word for Patrick Jenkin, Tory energy spokesman who made a name for himself during the miners' strike by advising the public to save electricity by cleaning their teeth in the dark.

He will have no need to do that anymore, because he no longer has to rely on his parliamentary salary. He has been appointed a non-executive director of Tilbury Contracting Group.
ASBESTOS MURDERS IN HOSPITAL
by Mick Napier

WORKERS and patients at the mass- 
ively damaged hospital have been exposed for weeks on end to the asbestos in the pipes.

In a main corridor in the hospital the asbestos lining on a pipe has been exposed for weeks, and even after they have filled it, it still leaks. In six places the asbestos lining has come off. Air samples have been exposed to several weeks strong wind which blows in through an open door.

The open asbestos lining in one of the pipes

rules and regulations failed.

But what happened in Gloucester could happen anywhere in the coun-

try. The Health Service is the first to suffer from the faltering of the con-

struction industry.

Cut after cut is made in the allowances to each hospital manage-

ment board. Important repair jobs are abandoned, andasers are cut even where the most dangerous mate-

rials involved.

Rank and file trade unionists are the only safeguard against these out-

crops, and when you go to hospital as a patient, worker or visitor, keep your eyes open.

Get in over that threshold
by Steve Jeffreys

DUNLOP, the giant rubber company, are prepared to pay the 
$3.20 a week and 30 cent wage increase, but the 30 cent increase was not to fight rather than pay any more in the way of managerial innovations. Workers were not to be prepared to put up a fight through the summer.

If Dunlop workers in this financial crisis are the only employers interested in 

DEMONSTRATOR from the 

SCOTTISH MASTER PRINTERS,

who have agreed pay the threshold, but not the 30 cent increase, are training 

men, who are mainly women, into the work of the printers' 

unions in order to get advantage of many of their members.

No other union has an agreement, and SOGAT members everywhere should demand immediate increases.

The settlement at FRIDIGARE-

commodity as you, and if you are 

prepared to talk only when the men are ready to negotiate.

A meeting of TGWU opencast 

departed from Regions 4, 5, 7, and 8 has been called for this week on 

Thursday to discuss improving organi-

sation in the opencast industry with 

the aim of taking the industry out of the Engineering National Agree-

ment which covers wages and con-

ditions on sites at the moment.

POWER
A meeting of all Miners Union 

jedgers has been called to see what effective support the deep 

mine at Gresford in Wrexham is likely to receive. The chairman of Rhosych leng Lodge, promised: "We are handling the deep 

mine very carefully. With the help of the 

all about from the bosses' point of view. As seen at Frigidaire have been demanding parity with Vauxhall, which would have brought them wage increases of about $5 a week. But when General Motors offered to pay the $5.20 threshold and all future 40 cent increases, on top of a Phase Three agreement, the TGWU agreed to the meeting voting by three to one to get away with this.

Many employers will try this. That's why the basic fact about thresh-

old needs to be repeated again and again: Threshold increases don't fully compensate for other wage increases.

A married man with two kids who earns $40 a week and gets the $1.20 increase will be OFFSET less than he was a month ago.

Necessary
If it relies only on a 40 cent increase in the retail price index, he will get little increase in the retail price index, be 

amount by itself is not enough to take care of.

Though we have to fight for that 

40 cent increase, it is no substitute for the 30 cent 30 cent wage increases that are needed.

The LABOUR GOVERNMENT are now asking for a threshold in the 

rate of pay, which simply allows all the other 40 cent increases to be applied at any stage and at any time. So they asked the Pay Board to think it over. The Pay Board has answered that the Government may ask for a 40 cent increase in the rate of pay, but any future threshold will be only payable for extra days in the cost of living announced after you've made an agreement with your union.

So unless you sign a threshold agreement by 31st June, when the next 

retail price index is published, your boss cannot refuse to pay any threshold rise over the $1.20 resulting from 

that index. The same could apply to July and August if you haven't signed agreements by then.

There's no time for further solution to this effrontery. Sign an agreement now and get the lot.

30,000 Socialist Worker leaflets on Threshold Payments—How to fight for 

them and why they are not enough have been printed. Available from 

Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS. Phone 01-239 0043/6361/0165

The last resort

So it was with Ireland, the first British colony. Everyone who knows anything at all about Irish history knows that religious sectarianism was deliberately fostered by successive British governments.

And today, Protestant bigotry is encouraged and sustained by the belief that, in the last resort, the British will uphold by force the sectarian statelet of the six counties.

True, the Protestant 'loyalists' are now something of a nuisance to British big business. Its economic interests have changed. Investments in the 26 south of Ireland counties are more important to them than investments in the six counties of the North. Hence the 'power sharing' policy and the 'Council of Ireland' project.

Merrily they go. When the British government, like Dr Frankenstein, finds that the monster it created is no longer under its control. But it is still true that the 'loyalist' illusions of the Protestant workers are fed by the continuing presence of the British Army. And it is still true that the whole weight of British repression is directed against the republicans.

Mr. Callaghan: 'There have been more than 250 sectarian murders, the overwhelming proportion of which were committed by Protestants'. Yet practically all the people now interned without charge or trial are Catholic republicans. That is the sort of 'law and order' Mr. Reynolds is defining. He is fostering the very sectarianism he claims to oppose.

In the end, the bitter sectarian conflicts in Northern Ireland, the increase in the cost of living announced after you've made an agreement with your union.

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Racism: genuine differences into false values

DUNCAN HALLAS' arguments against racism (25 May) were true but insufficient. For instance, his denial of racial differences in intelligence implies that if these existed, the races might have some justification. Behind this point that mankind is a single species is the same implication. But, assuming this is true, then maltreatment of other species (animals) is, according to that argument, OK.

To oppose racism by denying significant racial differences is to agree that racism is a dispute over facts subject to scientific proof. This is because it is agreed that the races have nothing to stand on. Too many anti-racists are desperately dependent on this dodgy argument.

They should look at history. A friend of mine once mentioned a most telling parallel: In the late Middle Ages, the notion that the whole system depended on the Earth being at the centre of the universe. Scientists showing that the universe is as we know it now were censored and persecuted. But time and science roll on, and now such notions seem incredible. How we treat our fellow-creatures cannot possibly depend on particular scientific theories, which history shows us are very temporary things. Even if Euclids were right, it would not justify racism one bit.

We must reject racism for the same reason as exploitation, sexism, cruelty to men and to animals, and desecration of nature. This is, quite simply, a basic premise of socialism: that human beings and their total environment—social, animal, physical and spiritual life is linked to nature means we have a duty to live in harmony, not to harm oneself. And, speaking of communism, he says: "it is the genuine resolution of the conflict between man and nature, and 'society' is the art of being in harmony with the nature... the naturalism of man and the humanism of nature both brought to fulfillment. This is the only permanently revolutionary, because anti-racism does not depend on proving equality according to capitalist values such as IQ, how much you can produce, cultural taste, etc, but on the view that capitalism twists genuine differences into false values.

C SMALL, Holt, Norfolk.

Take over the drug firms

THERE IS only one way to solve the problem of nurses' pay. Nationalise the drug companies. I'm surprised that Socialist Worker hasn't made more of this point.

An increase in nurses pay at present would mean a cutting down in other sections of the Health Service. True, the Hospital Worker Conference has specified that this must not be the case, but can anyone really expect this demand to be fulfilled?

The true evil of the Health Service is that it pays out fantastic sums of money every year to capitalist firms who produce new drugs—usually old ingredients mixed up under a different name.

Politics represented in the shops and make fantastic profits out of the severely disabled industry. Most of the drugs they peddle are useless and, in some cases, even dangerous. The real influence of the Labour Party is reflected in the fact that it has been over 20 years since a Labour government has nationalised the drug industry.

The only way to get more money into the health service, and to make sure that the drugs are properly treated, is to take over these drug firms now. It is something that could be done—SAM RICHARDS, Tonnes.

Solidarity

SOCIALISTS picketed Paragon Square, Hull, a fortnight ago in protest at the holding of Irish political prisoners.

Leaflets called for an end to forced detention, and a protest against the other 'ear-bom' prisoners, although no longer on the Probation Board.

For political status for the prisoners and their transfer to Northern Ireland, a group of Irish political prisoners formed by the Special Branch including of Leamon, the murdered agent, and for the ending of internment in general.

The picket was organised by Clann na hEimear' and supported by the International Socialists, Communist Party and Irish Marxist Group—MARTIN SHAW, Hull.

Lyons & flowers

I WORKED for J Lyons and Co at the Chelsea Flower Show. I was a porter and my rate of pay was 50p per hour. During the show I worked more than my time, and I was given two three-day weekends.

Of that, 20 hours was at time and a half, which with the £2 travelling expenses I should have been paid something like £49.50.

I was given gratings, but I did not get paid any kickback, and after stamp money and graduated bonuses, I ended up with £39.50.

I have seen the Department of Employment about this and they said they would take the matter up, but I don't think they come out of Employment exchanges now, if anything at all happens.

I think the lies have disappeared, probably into the pocket of the contractor, the Department of Employment won't do anything about it and J Lyons will continue making millions.—MPB, London, SW11.
The Arabs, the IRA... are we wrong?

As regular readers of Socialist Worker, we find that the issues which cause most controversy on the shop floor, consequently leading to the refusal of people to buy Socialist Worker, are the terror tactics of the IRA and its Arab guerrillas and your support of these two groups.

We originally started buying Socialist Worker because it is the only left-wing paper which puts forward the socialist angle of day-to-day politics in an easily readable manner. We felt that there was a connexion between the IRA, the Arab guerrillas and ourselves.

The IRA’s aim of an independent Ireland would lead only to the replacement of English capitalists with Irish capitalists and would not in any way benefit the working people of Ireland. The Arabs are intentionally being allowed to burn the land stolen from them by Israel. The liberation of the Arabs from the land which is still living in exile on that land would in no way improve the success of the IRA.

We feel that the international socialist movement should disassociate itself entirely from these two groups of murderers. To remain silent or to support such a movement is to give succour to the outlaws of one another in the number of innocent people being murdered by the IRA and the Arab guerrillas.

The IRA is not made up of ‘murdhers’ or of ‘fringe groups’. It is the outgrowth of another one of the number of organisations of which the IRA and the Arab guerrillas are the arbitrary followers. The British people have seen that British rule means poor housing, unemployment and poverty for more than a third of the population. It means disease and death. It means the denial of the most elementary civil rights.

International Socialists do not agree with the tactics used by the IRA. But we do agree that the reason is that the Arab guerrilla is not a ‘murdhers’. Rather, the IRA is a national liberation struggle of a people who have been oppressed by British big business. It will force it to change its ways.

That is why it always gives warnings before bombs are planted in Northern Ireland—unlike the Orange, whose aim is to frighten and terrorise the Catholic people.

It is true that the members of the IRA think that British rule, rather than capitalism as the cause of their problems. It is true that many of the Arab guerrillas believe in the theory of socialism and the creation of an independent Ireland, and by fighting it, they are forcing the British and American establishment to change its ways.

When Catholic workers protest at this state of affairs, they found that the police and the army attacked them, that they were beaten up by Protestant thugs while the police did nothing, and that they were dragged away to imprisonment without trial.

It is hardly surprising that many Catholic workers have turned to the IRA, or any other army of their own, as a means of defending themselves. It is hardly surprising that the remaining Catholic workers, and others, are still living in exile on that land in no way improved by the success of the IRA.

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The Arons, the IRA... are we wrong?

I am watching my wages!

I’m one of those workers who is going to get £1.20 a week because the cost of living has gone up three per cent.

I’ll get my money before the end of the month and it looks like whatever the unions are doing (all your articles on this subject will be deducted from the settlement) if we don’t do anything about it we’ll be eating in a room of the Civil Servants) will negotiate this autumn.

People like Robert Carr and Alan Fisher of NUPE are talking about threshold payments as a way to force the government to negotiate this issue. It is a move that some of us feel is not good enough.

Asbestos: words—now deeds?

Readers who’ve followed Laurie Flynn’s series on The Asbestos Monster may be interested in this conclusion, which was overwhelmingly carried at the recent Annual Conference of Trades Unions.

There has been an increase in the number of complaints and further increase in the death-rate among workers in the use of laminates and asbestos in the shipbuilding, ship-repairing and construction industries this conference calls for a complete ban on the use of these materials.

It surprised me to see Communist Party members voting against the resolution calling for a complete ban on the use of these materials. Wasn’t it amazing that these workers would lose their jobs if asbestos wasn’t used. Surely a safe substitute could be found.

The real killer is the system which sacrifices life for profit, and the brothers who put the motion said ‘the only way to treat a killer is to kill it’.

I am (delegated from Harrow and Crowthorne, Bracknell)
MR A J BINNS OF A J Binns Ltd and Binns and Fencing Ltd is a very rich man indeed, although if you saw him you’d think he was giving him 10p for a cup of tea.

The troubles in Ireland have meant boom time for Binns, making loads of money all the prisoners and internment camps out there. He has been buying up the old Black and Tans with new prison jobs.

Binns has worked for him three years ago, I was employed as a telephone in his hardware shop in the West End of London. We had only been there a few months when he sold his shop and we were all moved over to another office in Highbury, North London.

The government department didn’t make as much profit for him as his prison work, so he gave two men the sack and made three others redundant.

While I was employed as his receptionist, I was often made to go up stairs and ask if there were any vacant places, and I had to say no to the customers as to whether the applicant was white or black.

There was a bit of a fuss about this when one of the girls rushed upstairs to tell the manager, and it had made me feel very bad. After straight away, the ‘code word’ no longer meant anything. When I rang upstairs from then on, I was asked politely: ‘Is he black or white?’

Mr Binns employs mainly blacks in his factory. This is because he pays such low wages that white workers aren’t interested.

There is always discontent in the factory, but instead of organising themselves about it, they work off their anger on the machines, and it goes on.

Although Mr Binns employs mostly blacks in his factory, he won’t have one in the office. Last year he applied to an agency for a junior secretary. Along came this young black girl, and I could see by Mr Binns’ face that he was most put out.

He had her interview, and when she came out I asked her how she got on. She told me she wasn’t going to take the job, as she would have to clean floors and make tea for everyone. This was untrue, so Mr Binns already employed two cleaners and a full-time tea lady. They had made the job sound as awful as they could so that she would turn it down herself and it worked.

When Mr Binns’ secretary came into the office, I asked about the girl.

‘Oh no’, she said. ‘We can’t employ her, she didn’t want to do the work.’

That was the end of the matter.

Shoes?

‘Oh yes’, she said with an unburied laugh. ‘But you know what Mr Binns is, and besides that when I saw her shoes, I told him to get a platform, and I thought she would never get up and down the stairs so fast.’

‘So it wasn’t discrimination against her occupation. It was exploitation against her shoes’, I said.

‘No’, she replied, ‘it was definitely her shoes.

The same sort of thing happened when Binns went to the office. Along came this young black guy with all the qualifications.

They were well and truly stuck, and so they arranged for him to start work on Monday. I couldn’t believe it. I thought it was going to be too good to be true.

Just then, I was given a letter to post by Mr Binns. It was to the black guy saying that they couldn’t employ him after all. About two minutes later, the black guy came up to say, that he wouldn’t be starting the job as he had found another job. Better pays.

Binns and Co were all smiles and there was a lot of rushing about to get the letter out before the postman arrived.

When I asked why the letter had been typed to him after they had offered him the job, I was told: ‘Oh we do it in order to give the white people a chance.’

Mr A J Binns can’t stand black people except when he is exploiting them in his factory, or in Montego Bay, Jamaica, where he has business interests and a lot of property and land. Every year he leaves Britain in early December and comes back in time for Nelson Mandela in June. Every year as he prepares to leave for Jamaica, he goes round his staff, saying goodbye. ‘Oh well’, he says, ‘I’m off to the jungle—off to show those bastards how to work.’

Apart from his property in Jamaica, Mr Binns has a house in Chelsea and a small country house with three lakes in the back garden, which he goes to for weekends.

That’s what he got from the larty bastards.

Mary Larner

Rubbish at the works

Rich and poor

THE STATE of California is the richest place on earth. It is the richest people and the poorest people. It is the all-star record holder for economic growth in the USA. Its aircraft, missile and electronics industries have boomed more or less continuously for over 30 years, fuelled by the vast government expenditure on armaments and space programmes.

California is also the place where people there—and there are lots of them—are so poor that, when someone gave them free food, they fought like cats and dogs for fear of not getting their share. They were fighting for free cars or colour TV sets. They were fighting for property. The poor of California, however, believe that economic growth will abolish poverty.

No. There is no physical reason why anyone should be poor in California. The capacity of industry and the productivity of labour are so great that, even with a very short working week, there could be abundance for all and lots to spare.

Poverty and vast inequality exist because of the exploitation of the workers, the inevitable products of the growth of capitalist economies. They are not products of the workers’ own doing. They are products of the exploitation of the workers, and are conditioned to the growth of capitalist economies.

The poor of California are the result of the capitalist exploitation of the workers. The workers are the producers of all wealth, and even in a state like California, the wealth they produce is not enjoyed by the workers. They are denied their due share of the fruits of their labour.

The workers are the producers of all wealth, and even in a state like California, the wealth they produce is not enjoyed by the workers. They are denied their due share of the fruits of their labour.

This is the reason for the prevailing inequality in California. The workers are exploited and their wealth is stolen by the capitalists and the state.

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TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM

Decay

True, the trend to increasing inequality which is built into capitalism can be offset, however, by the growth of trade union organisation. But only by mass action, not by small groups. Only when the workers take control of the means of production can there be an end to the exploitation of the workers.

A very large part of the ever-increasing output is waste. Astronomical sums of money, uneconomically great resources, are devoted to the manufacture of unnecessary and cheap trinkets, of expensive and unnecessary luxury luggage for the well-off.

The Fordland project is an example of this in Britain and France. Huge resources and huge sums of money are devoted to the manufacture of an automobile which, as long as it is used, will carry a tiny number of rich people to their pleasures or their profiteering a mile further than if it was not made.

Duncan Hallas

Policewoman Julie Hales cops the lot from happy kids

SHAPLEY policewoman Julie Hales made the shock discovery that her children when she joined Basildon’s new police force two years ago.

Now Julie, 21, is receiving lots of ‘love letters’ and pictures from the happy kids.

She’s had several letters from eight-year-old boys, who said, ‘I love you’.

‘They’re all very flattering and nice to know that the kids like me’, she said.

‘We’ve been coming here for two years.’ ‘The children bring me pictures,’ she said, ‘that they love me, they love me, the very most of them.

Apart from meeting families, her chief concern is to take the problem of vandalism that’s so widespread in Basildon.’

POLICEWOMAN

A PLEASURE

TEACHER

The Basildon local newspaper’s puff for the police scheme

TEACHERS and pupils in Basildon will find policemen in their schools in September. This is a pilot scheme launched under the title ‘Police Community Involvement Project’.

Needless to say there has been a great deal of discussion on teachers, teachers’ unions, pupils or parents—not headmasters.

Already officers are making their introductory visits.

The comprehensive school and its ‘feeder’ junior and infants school will have a school liaison officer whose job will include school visits, talks and shows and teaching. There will be expected to take part in school activities including school or community projects.

And perhaps more important, aspect of his work will be dealing with certain social problems, such as drug nuisance and other incidents referred to him.

The objects of this scheme are clearly defined in police policy, for example, the police will not act as a body for the school and authority will be reformed, rather it will be the repressive role.

Unnoticed

Pupils attempting to form School Unions, those demanding control, those on probation, their activities will be easy for the liaison officer. Indeed, teachers encouraging such activities will be penalised.

The contradictions of the teachers are already face will be aggravated. For years we have fought not to be seen by children as a part of the authority structure, but the converse will be made for us in the minds of the pupils; the police have done that. Unions have not found that police have taught children in the hands of property qualified people. Does a policeman fit into this category?

What is the role of the liaison officer in schools? However, inoffen-
wo little pigs...

Newcastle Road: a fair cop PICTURE: John Starrock (Report)

REMEMBER the story of the three little pigs? One built his house of straw, the other of sticks, the other of bricks. The big bad wolf blew down the first two, and ate the little pigs inside.

But he couldn't blow down the third and tried to get down the chimney, only to land in a bowl of boiling water.

Things happen rather differently in Chester-le-Street, County Durham.

Two very big pigs in that region had their houses built for them. They were Chief Inspector Robert Young, who is in charge of police at Chester-le-Street, and Chief Inspector Albert Bain, who is in charge at Newton Aycliffe, County Durham.

So Vats down the house on the left of the picture, and Mr Bain has the house on the right of the picture.

Mr Young paid £2,350 for his house.

Mr Bain paid £5,255 for his house.

Both the houses were made of bricks. Both had three bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and sitting room.

The third house was bought at the same time by a man called Brian Woodward, who is not a pig at all. He is a security guard.

He paid £9121 for his house, which has three bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and sitting room and is made of exactly the same number of bricks as the houses on either side.

The curious difference between the price paid has been referred to Mr John Hallett, Assistant Chief Constable for Durham, who is becoming known in the area as 'the big bad wolf'.

But some people are saying that nothing will be done about the two big pigs.

They point out that the houses were built by Sid McCoulough, the Chester-le-Street millionaire builder, whose best friend was Andy Cunningham, who also had his house in Chester-le-Street built by McCoulough.

Mr Cunningham is now in prison for corruption, which has caused a lot of misery in the Durham police force.

Because for many, many years Mr Cunningham was the much-respected chairman of the Durham Police Committee.

As Mr Young told The Sun a few days ago: 'I'm the third man of police around here. I did no more than any man would have done. But what will people think?'

Lording it on Chile

DID ANYONE miss this charming story that appeared in the Daily Telegraph last Wednesday:

Chilean Navy

From LORD ALDENHAM

Chester-le-Street

I want to make it quite clear that what we did in the Abbey on the night of the 11th was not a repeat of the events of 1973.

The 1973 event was a military coup by General Pinochet. This night was not a military coup by Lord Aldenham.

Yours truly,

ALDENHAM

St Andrews Abbey, Alnwick

Perhaps because words failed him, Lord Aldenham forgot to mention that he is the chairman of merchant bankers, Anthony Gibbs Ltd, which has financed most of the Chile government's deals with Britain, including the purchase of frigates and submarines.

Lord Aldenham, in short, makes an enormous amount of money out of Chile, and the security of that money has increased a hundred-fold since the Pinochet coup.

Mr Aldenham was Britain's most implacable opponent of the Allende regime, and said on several occasions (always in private) that it ought to be replaced.

There was nothing political about any of that, of course. Just another example of a decent British businessman carrying out his patriotic duty.

RIGHT HUNDRED Transport Union members at the BP refinery in Grangemouth, Scotland, are on strike for increases in overtime rates and shift allowance payments. Management refuse to concede the claim saying it is outside Phase Three. Last year BP made £10 million profit. It can only be presumed this is not outside Phase Three.

Lording it on Concorde

LORD BESwick, a Labour peer who is Minister at the Department of Trade and Industry—and gets £50,000 a year for it—is leading a desperate campaign in the government to save the Concorde.

He is fighting with every weapon at his disposal against the Defence Minister, Denis Healey, who wants to scrap the project.

In a courageous rejection of the 'rules' which silence expert correspondents, Andrew Wilson, aviation correspondent of The Observer, has reported a secret attack on Healey and the anti-Concorde lobby made by Beswick at an 'old pals' briefing meeting with aviation journalists.

Can Beswick discuss the Concorde project with an open mind? As soon as he lost office in the last Labour government, Beswick teamed up with the ultra-reactionary management of the British Aircraft Corporation, manufacturers of the Concorde.

Hysterical

For three years he served as personal advisor to the managing director of BAC, Sir Geoffrey Edwards. Edwards is the world's most hysterical supporter of the Concorde. He sees the project as a useful way of making money out of the taxpayer for British Aircraft Corporation without bothering too much about efficiency. If the Concorde project proves a failure, as seems inevitable, neither Edwards nor BAC will carry the cut.

Now that he is back in government, Beswick is doing his best to commit Labour to still more hundreds of millions of pounds on the luxury airliner. He has already recruited the socialist evangelist Wedgwood Benn, Minister of Industry, to his flag.

The behaviour of Beswick proves once more how closely interconnected are the interests of big business and those of Labour Ministers. With friends like Lord Beswick, who was once a left-wing MP, the Labour movement doesn't need enemies.
Who has the power in Portugal?

LEFT: A car decorated as a tank publicises the demand of workers in Lisbon for higher pay. RIGHT: A soldier and the soldiers... or who?

MANUEL RIBEIRO was forced out of Portugal in 1958 when his father refused to sign a statement dissociating himself from the Gaia independent movement. The family has lived in Britain for 16 years and Manuel has been active in the movement among Portuguese workers here to rid Portugal of its fascist dictatorship.

Two weeks ago Manuel returned to Portugal. He came back to Britain on Monday, and spoke to Socialist Worker.

In spite of all that’s happened, the major capitalist concerns are still operating in Portugal. They are still the management almost everywhere, and they’ve got their men in the new government. So Camacho, the Prime Minister, it connected with Chavimaulnas, Portugal’s biggest monopolies.

These capitalist wants time to re-establish stable capital along more modern lines. They want to keep control of the raw materials of Mozambique and Angola—especially Angola—without having to spend two fifths of their budget on maintaining armies there. They want to give up political control, but hold on to economic control.

That’s the sort of world Spinola wants.

Strongest

What about the Communists and socialists in the government? Yes, the Communists have been appointed to the Ministry of Labour and to the Ministry without Portfolio. They are far from the strongest working-class party. They have a much better organised claim that there is a danger of a counter-coup and that former agents of the state support the coup.

The Communists are planning demonstrations and protests outside the state, but the excuse is to impose order.

Police

We’re not much more than police agents. Very few of us are the same. We are there to make sure the state is not been invaded. But generally, in most cases we’ve gone on strike without even mandates. In a white workers’ found that strike before thismand made on the floor. Is it true, as the is other papers say?

Imperialism and Revolution in South Asia, by Edward Gleaner and Sharna. Eighteen essays on development, underdevelopment, and revolution in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. (£2.05)

Workers and Peasants in Revolution, by Tedboro Shaw. Compare some of the views of the ‘third worldists’ (that is the key to the introduction of imperialism lies outside the western world) and those of the ‘futurists’ who place the focus of truly revolutionary activity in the fully industrialised countries.) Interesting. (10p)

Shrewsbury:

The Shrewsbury Three is a book that describes the recent trials of builders workers who took part in the 1972 building workers’ strike and who had the audacity to organise the successful picketing which led to their victory.

Since this victory came on top of the miners’ challenge to the Tories and the release of the five dockers from Penwill Jail, the Tories and the building employers completed their victory from the depts of their industrial policy. They tried to make it look like a weakness of the workers by holding up the wages and not paying for the services.

A shadow of a doubt that they are innocent and is therefore useless. But the book is also weak, very weak in several ways.

It is written by Jim Amison, Communist Party member and journalist working on the Morning Star and published by the Communist Party press, so has to be judged as representing the view of the Communist Party.

When a communist writes a book and think some attempt would be made to offer explanation and criticism of the mistakes made in the unsuccessful campaign to free the jailed men. You would expect some suggestion about what can be done about them.

The Shrewsbury Three, by Jim Amison, Lawrence and Jim. A collection of the accused picketers march demanding the release of the workers (carrying the banner) and John Carpenter (10p)

Strike

We read a lot in the papers about strikes and occupations.

Yes, there are a lot. They followed the strike of the Lisboa underground railway workers who struck just after the coup for a month and month and were granted all their demands.

Hardly a Big Firm in Lisboa, the Socialists are trying to organise a strike of the railway workers. They believe that the Socialists are a good focal point for the workers to organise.

The strike that the Socialists were a big success, but they were not there for violence. They were there for to organise to strike, and there was no violence.

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How ‘down under’ helped the dockers win their tanner

The Great Dock Strike of August and September 1974 is one of the landmarks of the British labour movement. In one mighty upheaval, the London dock labourers, possibly the most degenerate of all the city’s workers, erupted in revolt.

For six bitter weeks, more than 100,000 dockers and river workers held firm in a huge strike which eventually won from the employers the dockers’ charter of rights. The struggle ended at the beginning of the new year, in which dockers lined up every morning like slaves to be picked for jobs.

The solidarity of their colleagues during those two months was one of the reasons that we were able to hold the line. The strike ended without the help of the Labour movement of Australia.

There were two moments of critical strain in the strike. On 29 August, 17 days after the strike had started, it seemed the men would lose for money. The minute book of the strike committee for that day reads: “Intimation received that at present there are no funds in the kitty.”

It was resolved that a notice should be posted outside the shop that no further relief could be given by this day.

The notice caused a wave of disimpression through the docks. No news at all! The funds had dried up! How could the strikers survive?

Ben Tillett, one of the strike leaders, read the notice with tears in his eyes. He turned and walked into the Wades Arms, the traditional ‘corners’ of the East End, and asked for a glass of wine as used as the strike headquarters.

As he went in the door, a telegraph messenger called out: “Mr. Tillett! Mr. Tillett!”

Ben Tillett took the telegram. It was from Australia. It read: “A new strike in progress. Brisbane branch, Wharf Labourers met today to consider your strike. So did Seamans union and firemen’s union, and Sydney Wharf Labourers’ Union.

‘Two hundred and fifty pounds telegraphed immediately. Very substantial sums to follow.’

The news rippled through East London. Next day relief was paid to it was every day to the end of the strike.

But £250 was not enough to offset the gloom of the following week. The employers offered a ‘final compromise’, granting the dockers’ charter, but only from the following January. The strike leaders, and especially the strikers, abruptly rejected the compromise on ‘Black Monday’.

It looked as though there was nothing for it but a long and bitter struggle, with possible defeat at the end.

But no sooner had the moring

The third article in a series

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But no sooner had the morning

Dismay

in COMMEMORATION OF THE GREAT STRIKE SEP: 1659-84

In the picture: Chris Davies (reporter)

Anyhow, the dockers had won.

It was also an opportunity for all those who had been behind the strike to try to get their money in. It was a time for those who had been involved in the strike to get together and plan for the future.

It was also a time for the dockers to think about the future. They had won, but there was still work to be done.

The dockers had to think about the future. They had won, but there was still work to be done.
Grabbed by the council

ROSA BAPTISTE comes from Grenada in the West Indies. She works as a part-time ward orderly in the labour ward of the Mile End Hospital. She lives with her husband and five children in Montcalm House, Millwall, on the Isle of Dogs in the East End of London. And she doesn't like it.

"It's terrible, down here—we've been living here for six years—everything is bad, living, transport, the shopping facilities, there's no room for the kids to play about and to give them a bit of fresh air. The place is very depressing, the state of the whole area is terrible, it makes you feel you just want to leave and go somewhere else..."

Rosa works mainly on the weekends when her husband, who is a car mechanic, can look after the children. Every other weekend Rosa's eldest son Michael comes for a visit.

Michael is one of the many West Indian children who land in educationally sub-normal schools or schools for maladjusted children. Rosa has been trying to get Michael out of his so-called boarding school for some months now. This is how it all began.

At first Michael was going to the local school—but I was getting complaints that he was always fighting, that he was hard to manage and they could not control him. They took him out of that school and sent him to Medley Street School (a special day school) but complaints were still coming in that he was fighting so much.

Rosa Baptiste and her five children—Michael is second from the left. RIGHT: Montcalm House—the family live on the third floor.

Interview by Katya Frischauer

"I said to them: "It's not my fault if you are sending him to a school where he can't please anyone. If you get me the right school I'll send him again."

"It was from then on that people started coming round from County Hall to tell us about Barrow Hill School (an ESN boarding school) which was supposed to be a better place for Michael. A number of welfare officers came round to make us sign the papers—in the end they even sent two coloured officers.

"We thought about it and came to the conclusion that they sent the white people first and when we did not seem to make up our minds they sent the black ones to make us sign. My husband was away in the West Indies at the time and I told them I would not let Michael go without him being here.

"Well, on the day my husband returned, half an hour after his arrival, the welfare officers came and made him sign the papers. They were in such a hurry.

"My husband had no time to think it over and he signed the papers without knowing what it was all about. My husband asked them if it was a school for kids who have been thrown out of their homes.

"No", they replied, "it is a boarding school."

We were told that Michael would be a better child by going to Barrow Hill School. When we look at it all now, the whole thing was forced upon us, because we did not know better, we did not know what to do, what help we can get, who to ask for help. In the end we signed the papers.

"Three years ago, on the day Michael had to go to the school in Farnley, Surrey, they would not even let me come with him. He was crying his eyes out all the way to County Hall... Michael has been in this school for three years now. The school is full of black children from all over England."

Rosa's criticisms and the reasons for wanting to take Michael out of that school are that he was supposed to come home for visits every weekend, but he only comes so often apart from the holidays.

"The school was supposed to be free, but after they took a means test we were made to pay £4.65 per term. On top of that we have to send him £1 pocket money per week and pay for travelling expenses."

Action

"Michael often came home with cuts and bruises and he looked terrible. I rang the local welfare office time and time again, but nobody replied to my complaints or took any action. When we tried to get Michael to come home for a wedding, we were told we could not just send him for him whenever we wanted to.

"It is really like a jail. My husband is so angry about the whole situation, he refuses to pay the school fees. I also wrote a letter to Barrow Hill School to ask them to send Michael home, for good. I've had no reply so far."

"I am determined to get Michael out of there. His brothers and little sister miss him, and cry every time he has to go back there. I am frightened that Michael will grow up with an ill-feeling about it all—thinking that he has parents who don't stand by him. After all, children should grow up with their family."

Rosa and a group of other women have decided to take action against the discrimination that black children experience in schools. Many of the other mothers in the area have complaints about how their children are being treated.

The first step in the campaign is a public meeting to be held on the Isle of Dogs. Information from Claudia Mendy, ? Kedge House, Tiller Road, London E14.

PICTURES: Chris Davies (Report)
IN January I was fortunately or unfortunately enough, employed as a salesgirl in F & G Minter's. The contract is right in the heart of Nottingham, a huge indoor shopping complex which when completed would have taken roughly four years to build. Three years have already gone.

My first shock was the squall little canteen where the men were expected to eat and I must add that some of the men were barely doing just that. Others preferred to go to various cafes in the town.

The site management agreed to let me arrange the canteen, because they know it is impossible to get a meal at any of the canteens entitled to use it, without blatantly killing a few of us. Needless to say that there is no trade unionism on this job.

Some things I strongly believe in.

One is an organised workforce through the proper and only channel of the trade union movement.

So one morning off to work I went loaded up with union application forms, with no doubt in my mind that all that was wanted was completely disgruntled and playing right into management's hands and the management exploiting it to the full. Apart from a grubby canteen, and bon oil that are an insult to the weaker sections of the workforce, eg labourers, I could not see any factory acts or building regulations displayed anywhere.

Dainty

On enquiring with the site safety office about this I was told they were pinned up in the main office block. This block is like the management's own little canteen for them and their appointed 'yes' men, who jump to inflect management's wishes on to us like prima donnas. The men themselves have no reason to go there, they are even paid out in the canteen.

And there were no bog rolls.

In their place were little squares of the daily papers, meticulously ripped into dainty pieces by the workers. A lot of people might think that we should be grateful for being given the opportunity of getting true value out of the daily, but to us pampered ones it is a very uncomfortable, more so with the warm weather here. I enquired about this and the answer was that there was a shortage of paper.

My wife had very generously remarked on this, saying that the Co-op was rationing it to two rolls per person due to the shortage. It immediately sprang to my mind that if she was having a job getting it, then what chance had a huge firm like Minter got?

I decided to leave the matter in abeyance to see what the men's reaction would be. Time passed and still the site that you on existing the toilets was little squares of newspaper scattered all over the place like an advert for a paper chase. I approached the others to seek out their views.

Those who were bothered, including the safety and welfare men were bringing the toilet paper from home regularly.

It seemed laughable to me that those wires were probably shaking after their mentals in the mornings, getting their toilet paper, as one paper wrote, 'Your Top secret in it so they wouldn't forget'

I asked again and this time the true answer came back. The management replied that to provide bog roll at 14p a roll is too expensive so you'll have to go without'. I made an appointment with the project manager. He wouldn't see me.

It is surprising how 'management alter and toilet paper appears with a visit from the factory inspector. For asking for basic decency I have been branded a communist, an agitator and a troublemaker, even by a few workmates.

But a point has been proven—no one has complained about the disappearance of the little squares of newspaper. I have mentioned the word intimidate. I also use the word conspiracy. The management of this firm have openly conspired between them to exploit and degrade men to the limit, to reap capital gains.

Six building workers have been in jail for fighting against these two words, the charges against them? Intimidation and conspiracy.

Robert Burns was born in 1759 and died 37 years later. He was the son of a poor tenant farmer and was to be Scotland's, and one of the world's greatest poets. Often he is buried under sentiment, the writer of Auld Lang's Syne—but he was a supporter of the French Revolution, and as the following poem, Why Should We Idle Waste Our Prime, shows, a fighter against a system which has outlived him, but not his work.

A WORD IN OUR EAR

Why should we idle waste our prime
Repeating our oppression?

Come arise to arms! 'Tis now the time
To punish past transgressions.

Their murderous deeds defy it.

And, since from us their power is sprung.

We have no right to try
Now each true patriot's song shall be:

"Welcome Death or Liberty!"

Proud priests and Bishops we'll translate

And banish 'em as martyrs.

The guillotine on Peers shall wait;

And knights shall hang in garters.

Those despots long have trod us down,

And judges are their engines;

Repeatedly we are within

The wretched minions of a Crown

Demand the people's vengeance!

Today 'tis theirs, tomorrow we

Will take the rebel's standing seat.

The Golden Age we'll then revive:

Each man shall be a brother;

In harmony we shall all live, and share the earth together:

In virtue trained, enlightened Youth

Will love each fellow creature.

That Man is good by nature:

Then let us toast with three times three

The reign of Peace and Liberty.
THE UNIONS

Here's where the cure must start

NURSES are doubly unfortunate. Not only are they subject to the pressures of constant and lawless working hours, but they feel the worst type of leadership.

Twelve organisations make up the staff side of the nurses' and midwives' Whitley Council—the body which determines pay and conditions. Before an issue is agreed both management and staff sides must reach agreement separately from one another. The staff side ishopelessly divided.

Three organisations dominate it—the Royal College of Nursing, the Confederation of Health Service Employees and the Union of National Union of Public Employees.

The Royal College of Nursing is a professional body which has nothing in common with trade unionism. It is not affiliated to the Trades Union Congress and until recently excluded from the Whitley Council. Nurses below the status of state registered nurse. The Royal College was eventually forced to allow for the lower deck, such as enrolled nurses, to bolster up its increasing numbers at the cost of the face of the recruiting being done by trade unions.

The RCN also has a bad record of encouraging nurses to go when hospital ancillary workers have been engaged in industrial action. In common with other sectional associations the RCN representatives are almost entirely middle-aged senior nurses at the top end of the salary scale.

Automatic

The evidence that self-interest is at work is clear. The recent decision by the RCN of the Nurses' wage legislation. Then when the 4.5 per cent was disgracefully cut away, even the RCN were willing to let the 4 per cent of the wage go. The pay for the enrolled nurses—but not the professional bodies.

With their automatic voting machines, on the one hand, they are most to the senior nurses and matrons already on high salaries. They got almost 95 per cent of the staff. Under these conditions young staff nurses got a bare £1.20 an hour.

The latest absurdity suggested by the RCN leaders is that all nurses should resign and be re-employed through an agency rather than continue their struggle. As a result, their pay has been cut in half. The RCN leaders have told them that they will not support the strike at all. The majority of COHS nurses are psychiatric nurses, many of whom have no outside experience in industry. Much against their will the COHS leaders have been forced to support the basic ideas of an organic self-management. The tail has wagged the dog!

The majority of COHS nurses are psychiatric nurses, many of whom have no outside experience in industry. Much against their will the COHS leaders have been forced to support the basic ideas of an organic self-management. The tail has wagged the dog!

Scrabble

NUPE's role has been unforgivable. Enormous grass-roots activity is the biggest union in the Health Service, capable of mobilizing ancillary staff as well as nurses, has met with a nil response from general secretary Alan Fisher. Indeed Fisher's main preoccupation seems to have been with the scrabble to grab members from the RCN and COHSE.

The biggest union with most potential has done least—so far as the leadership is concerned anyway. But shop stewards committees are providing their own leaders at local level and more demonstrations and rallies are sprouting up all over the country.

The rotteness of leadership in all the unions is unquestionably responsible for the poverty among all groups of hospital workers. NUPE, COHSE and the RCN are all run like smart business concerns rather than trade unions.

NUPE in particular has a policy of recruiting whine-kids from Ruskin College, Oxford, and universities as full-time organisers. This has paid off in 'plastic efficacy' and has helped make NUPE the fastest-growing union in Britain. But it has done nothing for internal democracy.

COHSE and the RCN both appoint exclusively from among members who are state registered nurses and not one organisation has a single elected full-time official operating in the field.

NUPE, with its 500,000 members and COHSE, with its 120,000, should put aside the personal career interests of their top full-time officials. They should amalgamate and put an end to the disgusting scabbard to poach each other's members. Together they could break the negotiating stranglehold of the RCN bureaucracy.

As it is nurses must accept that they are in a struggle that must be fought and won by the grass roots and by solidarity from other sections of the labour movement.

Time to lose the white collar

The annual conference of the government officers' union, NALGO, at Brighton next week meets at a critical time for the union. NALGO officers are said to be at loggerheads over the future action. As the largest white-collar union in Europe, its members range from council clerks and nurses earning £20 a week, to chief officers earning £500 a year.

The strikes now going on have moved NALGO on to a new plane, and the employers' refusal to negotiate this year's national local government pay claim has spread action across the labour movement. The union's London district has changed dramatically from a backward area ruled by the old guard to the most militant. It is no coincidence that the rank and file NALGO Action Group is strongest in London. The executive has been forced to amend the procedure, allowing more flexibility but this could still mean rank and file demands for action will be delayed or refused. The executive are opposing a conference motion from Camden, North London, which would make it easier to call action short of strike.

The new mood in NALGO is having financial implications. Traditionally the union has been in the black. In recent weeks, however, the union has been running a large surplus, which it has begun to use to pay off debts. The new mood has led to a decision to invest £1 million of the strike fund in the new headquarters building which has not gone unnoticed by the trade union movement. The new building will have cost more than an effective all-out strike has been fought.

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NATIONAL UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE BRANCHES

NURSES on the march. PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

London, which would make it easier to call action short of strike. The new mood in NALGO is having financial implications. Traditionally the union has been in the black. In recent weeks, however, the union has been running a large surplus, which it has begun to use to pay off debts. The new mood has led to a decision to invest £1 million of the strike fund in the new headquarters building which has not gone unnoticed by the trade union movement. The new building will have cost more than an effective all-out strike has been fought.
The Chile issue is at the factory gate

by Mick Napier

GLASGOW area IS political committee organised lunch-time factory gate meetings last week to put the Chile issue directly to the men concerned—at yards where work was being carried out on armaments for the fascist junta.

We had done a series of factory gate agitation meetings during the miners’ strike and the run-up to the election, which had been reasonably successful. We thought there might be an issue where many workers did not really know the facts about what has been going on there and where a direct appeal from a Chilen socialist might have extra weight.

So far we have held two of these meetings at the Scott-Lithgow yard on the lower Clyde where two sail-motors are being built for Chile, and at Barr and Strouds which is making six periscopes for the sub.

Both workplaces were leafleted as the workers entered in the morning, announcing the meeting at the dinner break.

At Scotts about 200-300 came out to listen during a break in the rain, and listened while 15 member and an anonymous Chilen explained their history and background, and the basis of the Chilean unionists and socialists. Most listened intently to what the speakers had to say but a minority gave them a rough reception.

For them, unfortunately, solidarity with the workers of Chile was weighed up against the fear of the Enemy. The idea of ‘the right to work’ on something other than weapons for fascists cannot be got home to everybody in a half-hour.

During the break for tea delegates from various industries will get together to discuss the setting up of industrial unions. In the evening there will be a bar buffet and music.

All trade unionists and socialists will be welcome. Tickets 10p from SEVENTY-ONE office. Secretary Bob Devereux, 3 Pleasant Place, Ecclesfield, Sheffield (Phone 0902 713933).

Barr and Strouds was a smaller meeting, about 70-80 on a windy day. The Chilen branch listened intently and sympathetically to the speaker. However, there was a slight feeling in Chile today and the other asking for solidarity action from the factory—the blinding of the periscopes. Several stews were out at the meeting and one, in addition to the IS steward in the factory, said he would raise the matter on the shop stewards committee and urge blackouts.

The IS members who spoke at the meetings felt that they were certainly worthwhile and should be continued. The Chile issue is critically important to IS development internationally in the working-class movement.

The Socialist Worker four-page leaflet on Chile and the blacking of firms that trade with this country that executes trade unionists has now been printed. It is for firms that trade with Chile and puts the arguments why the blacking is so necessary.

All IS branches should have copies of this leaflet for meetings on Chile. We give two weeks notice for ordering trade unionists there. Send for copies now.

They cost 2p each (postage 5p to any number of copies) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Going West Indian

A WEST INDIES day school was held at Teesside’s IS Bookshop last Saturday. A lively discussion took place on West Indians in Britain and Malcolm Cumberbatch spoke on the situation in the West Indies. Both are members of the IS anti-racist sub-committee.

The school was attended by 16 West Indians, most of them IS members. There was a vigorous discussion on the West Indies and on police victimisation—a subject close to Teesside. All in all the school was a great success.

Classified

Entries for this column must be posted so as to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning. All entries should post take two days as often as possible. Due to previous problems orders not received from 3 or 4 countries over the phone. Entries here are for IS Branches and other IS organisations.

IS public meetings

SOCIAlIST WORKER EAST ANGLIAN RALLY. Hythe Market, Norwich. Discussion starts 7.30 p.m., meeting at 8.30 p.m., Holmwood Hotel, Bury St Edmunds. 14 June, 7.30 p.m., Patrick Burt Hall, Cambridge.

EDINBURGH IS public meeting: The International Librarian, W H Small, speaks on the IS history of Edinburgh. 14 June, 8 p.m., Edinburgh Polytechnic, North College Road, Edinburgh. 15 June, 7.30 p.m., Scottish History Society, Edinburgh.

ILFORD AND DAGENHAM IS: Public meeting-‘The Stockport RAF War’. Certificate hall, 1 Pancras Road, Stockport. 13 June, 8 p.m., Barry Davies. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

CARDIFF IS public meeting. The history of IS in Cardiff. Dennis Street Club, 22 Fiji Place, Cardiff. 13 June, 8 p.m., Barry Davies. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

HAC Middlesbrough Meeting. Support the home, National Day of Action:1.13.13, 8 p.m., Middlesbrough Theatre, Middlesbrough. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

SHEFFIELD IS public meeting: Towards the 100 anniversary of the Socialist Workers Party in Sheffield. Sheffield Social Club, Sivonga Road, 15 June, 8 p.m., Barry Davies.

BRISTOL IS training meeting No 3. The IS history of Bristol. 15 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 16 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 17 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 18 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 19 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 20 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 21 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 22 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 23 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 24 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 25 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 26 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 27 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 28 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 29 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 30 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB. 31 June, 6 p.m., scooter meeting, 15 Clifton Park, BS 8 2PB.

PARTINGTON IS public meeting: The Socialist History Society. St. James Hotel, Warrington. 15 June, 8 p.m., Barry Davies.

BIRMINGHAM IS district public meeting: ‘The 100th anniversary of the Socialist Workers Party’. Fullers Hotel, 146-152 Heath Street, Birmingham. 15 June, 10 a.m., Barry Davies.

BIRMINGHAM IS Lucas workmen public meeting. The Socialist Workers Party, 1550 Massey Road, Salford M5 4JQ. 15 June, 9 p.m., Barry Davies.

EDMONTON and ENFIELD IS public meeting. The Socialist History Society. The Enfield质量安全 Hotel (West), Enfield. 15 June, 8 p.m., Barry Davies.

KIRKBY IS public meeting: The development of IS in Rawmarsh. 15 June, 8 p.m., Barry Davies.

HOUNLAW IS public meeting: Immigration and Racism. St. James Church, 15 June, 8.30 p.m., Barry Davies.

Meetings for IS members only

IS GEC members: meeting with Industrial Organisers. The Socialist Workers Press, 15 May, 8 p.m., Barry Davies.

EDINBURGH AREA 3: Day School and AGM. 15 industrial perspectives, 11am. GEC, 157 Little France Road, Edinburgh. 15 June, 9 a.m., Rod Parsley.

AVRO TRADING CLUB meeting. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

LUTON: Day school meeting. Support the home, National Day of Action: 1.13.13, 8 p.m., Main Hall, Luton Polytechnic. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

BARROW IS public meeting on ‘The Portuguese workers’争取concessions in Portugal’. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

Coventry District IS: Day schools on East Coast, 15 June, 10 a.m., Barry Davies.

SOUTH EAST LONDON District IS benefit social. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

SWANSEA and District IS public meeting. Support the home, National Day of Action: 1.13.13, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

NEWHAM IS public meeting: The Socialist History Society. The Newham Institute, The Newhamway, East Ham. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

HARROW: IS public meeting. The development of IS in Harrow. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

BIRMINGHAM IS Lucas workmen public meeting. The Socialist History Society. The Enfield质量安全 Hotel (West), Enfield. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

ENGELHALL IS public meeting. The development of IS in Rawmarsh. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

IS Training and Publications Committee meeting for 15 members interested in political economy in Leeds, 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

SCOTTISH IS members will have the opportunity to discuss the situation in Scotland. 15 June, 8 p.m., Rod Parsley.

IS notices

International Socialists, Swansea Graphic designer: experience preferred but training would be given with knowledge from art college etc.

The executive of the National Union of Teachers has sold out the demands for action over the £323 London weighting claim. More than 500 schools in London had indicated their willingness to be called out on strike over the issue.

As a result, a Commissar Party member on the Executive called for some—though thoroughly inadequate—action at last week's Executive meeting because a whole section of the Executive walked out.

The meeting could not continue since fewer than the constitutional minimum number remained. Such was the responsible leadership the Executive offered.

New rank and file members of the Executive have made it clear they will not take part in the crazy, self-defeating 'call to action' of the boardroom, but will act as the representatives of the membership who elected them.

They have also stressed that they are accountable to the membership and not to other individual members of the Executive.

This attitude is new to anyone who believes in the elementary principles of democracy and the cat among pigeons at union headquarters, Hamilton House.

Faced with a refusal to 'respect' the confidential, Executive business the Executive has refused to accept the confidential material available to Beth Stone, the newly elected member for the Outer London area.

The officers of the union are alsoetuining the extent to which they can use the matter.

The hypocrisy of this manoeuvre is exposed by the fact that practically everybody in the Executive has had at some time 'guilty' of breaching confidentiality. No action has been contemplated in the past.

The attempt to protect these bureaucratic procedures is being led, not by the right wing, but by a lead ing member of the Communist Party, Max Morris, Beth Stone said: 'We see this as an attempt to stifle discussion and as a direct attack on the rights of members of the union to have control over union policy.'

All members concerned about democracy within the union must take this matter into their schools and their local associations and argue for their right to a full knowledge and control over the decisions of those who they elect to represent them.

Rank and File, the socialist teachers' organisation, has called an all London meeting for this Friday, 7 June, to consider the situation over the London weighting claim. The meeting will be the starting point for a national action to win this desperately needed wage increase.

The meeting is at 7.30pm at the Old Isla, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2. Speakers are Beth Stone and Dick North.

**NALGO: IS THE SAME STORY**

by Geoff Woofe

Lawsham NALGO

The union negotiators for white collar local government workers have backed out of a fight over their year's national 20 per cent pay claim.

At the same time, they have stalled the local government workers' strike and the national overtime has had a devastating effect on councils who close down in bankruptcy because they are unable to pay to do so.

Despite the success of action in London, the Joint Council staff able last week decided to back off from the fight to 6/7.

The terms of the deal were negotiated over the Christmas Bank Holiday by an interbranch settlement and backdating the 20 per cent national claim negotiations on the national pay claim.

This deal gives everyone a pay rise regardless of union membership. It means that the national and London claims are called off.

The deal gives everyone a pay rise that is not a self-defeating settlement anywhere near the claims of a 20 per cent increase and the 1400 London weighting.

**Anger**

In effect the union negotiators have squeezed out the NALGO mark of Three off offer and whatever the Pay Board offers, it is still less than the deal.

This is nothing less than a massive reduction in terms of the deal proposed by NALGO on the last offer last week. The NALGO deal on the staff side was a modest 20 per cent and ten years to the deal.

The other side would not agree to the main settlement on the side to an agreement to settle a settlement, a settlement anywhere near the claims of a 20 per cent increase and the 1400 London weighting.

**Teachers' leaders run away**

by Ian Morris (AUEW)

London's airport engineering workers have joined the teachers and town hall workers by demanding more money for living in London.

Last Friday they voted to accept the joint executive committee's recommendation to the London Weighting association to accept a further further meeting will be called on 1 July to indicate strike action. This may look like strong leadership but it is not.

The resolution was constructed by the ballot 50 of the two divisions (BEE and RO). This committee is dominated by a majority of airport stewards who do not have union full time. It is then imposed on the other parties to give evidence, the trade union and strikes committee for endorsement. The manoeuvre prevented any debate on the matter.

The recent wage claim was fought in the same way. Stage-managed mass meetings called action for some time in the future. After four months of 'bashing and paddling with no action, the national officials signed five years to the deal. It is now up to NALGO's executive to decide that the 50 of the two divisions have fought a fight for their lives.

The joint council has decided to meet on Sunday, the day before the national conference starting at Ealing. It may now be that the national conference will be postponed if the conference is in Ealing.

The joint council's plan this week was a statement calling on members to fight the National Council for the national conference and the London weighting agreement to continue. A bigger bill is to be made to be used to vote against the deal at next week's conference.
CHRYSLER BOSSES have finally succeeded in victimising John Worth, the former deputy convenor, after an 18-month campaign.
A mass meeting called by the Joint Shop Stewards Committee voted to reject a recommendation to put in seven days strike notice to force Chrysler to concede arbitration on the issue. As a result, the section was forced to return to work after a fortnight's strike.
John Worth was sacked 18 months ago not long after he withdrew his support of the AUTU's deputy convenor. But a week-long nationwide wide strike ensured his reinstatement. The Engineering and Allied Workers' Union District dismissed the company's allegations. They removed his credentials at the union's 18-month strike.
Chrysler were still determined. They moved John from the Engine Test to a much smaller section. They made sure the section's bargaining power was reduced considerably by building up stock.
The company moved nearly three weeks ago. They called John Worth to his office, where they issued a statement which talked about an "alleged incident" and that he had been "permitted major role" the day before.
It was to have the factory on pay and report to the industrial relations section for handling the matter.
Our section struck immediately, followed by the strikes. The section demanded an end to his victimisation and harassment.

BLATANT LIES
The strike was only days old when they put out a statement (which were done at a non-union firm) found themselves on the shop floor. They continued to work for them, the DMU for seven weeks before the incident took place. This confirmed our belief that there was a well-placed plan behind the action.
Brother Worth, suspended on full pay, was not allowed to work in the company's apartments to carry out other acts of intimidation.
Brother Worth, as reported by a witness, was threatened by another employee witnessed this.
These were blatant lies. The day shift.

Seamen scuttle ‘moderation’

STRAWBERRY.-The 250 seamen who have been divided into a number of units, all or part, if necessary, and are paid a daily wage of £250
We are asking for more pay, and for a four-page leaflet to be distributed to all members of the union. We are also requesting that the strike be brought to an end, if necessary.

CHAPPELLE'S BIG FEAR—DEMOCRACY! FEAR—DEMOCRACY!

If you agree with the views expressed in this paper and would like more information, or would like to start a branch, please contact the International Socialists, then send this form to:

The International Socialists
8 Cottons Gardens
London E2 8DN
MILITANT nurses met in Manchester last weekend for a national conference called at short notice by the health workers’ rank and file paper Hospital Worker and the National Rank and File Conference Organising Committee.

They told of their working conditions and how they wanted a clear set of demands to continue fighting under. The present claim launched by the union and the RCN was unfavourable nurses high up the pay scale rather than those on the bottom rungs.

The discussion produced a list of demands. The nurses called for: a £30 basic for the lowest paid, with the same cash increase for all grades. A 35-hour week with double time at nights and weekends. Canteen prices fixed to pre-April levels. Rents the same for all grades, related to the overall level of salary. Wards should not go unclenched and if junior nurses ran wards they should be paid for it.

A ban should be fought for on both agency nurses and private placements. Delegates were determined that the fund for the claim should come from outside the already bunched Social Services and National Health budgets. Wages should increase with the cost of living at a rate determined by the trade unions.

A final demand was that any offer decided at the Whitley Council should be referred to mass meetings of nurses for their approval. The meeting was determined by the trade unions.

The National Co-ordinating Committee can be contacted through Pam Denard, 51 Prince George Road, London N16.

NOTHING can stop the nurses. Labour government inquiries, appeals to ‘professionalism’ by the Royal College of Nursing, declarations of restraint by trade union leaders, growing disapproval in the press—all have been to no avail.

The nurses’ revolt is rolling through the country. Only a substantial pay award will stop it.

The most exciting news for the nurses this week has been the response from rank and file workers. On Monday, the docks in Manchester were silent. The Manchester dockers were on strike for the nurses last Wednesday.

Local stewards’ shop steward I Barley told Socialist Worker: ‘The nurses deserve every penny they can get and more besides. We support the nurses to the hilt. We began with a 24-hour stoppage of the docks involving 1000 dockers. It spread throughout the country. Everybody should be out.

In Doncaster last Wednesday, no Corporation buses ran for four hours. Branch Chairman, Mr. Stokoe, explained that Doncaster’s buses were right behind the nurses. He drove Mr. Evans told Socialist Worker: ‘The ultimate aim of the unions should be solidarity, this is a start.’

Large numbers of busmen has struck with Brodworth NUM and workers from various local industries and the International Socialists, joined over 500 nurses in a march through the town.

At a rally later, Rodney Bickerstaff, a NUPE official, revealed that 700 workers at British Regional were on strike in an industrial action in support of the nurses.

The same support was also shown by other NUM works, where many workers took the day off to back the nurses.

Harry Riley, secretary of Brodworth NUM, told Socialist Worker that the miners were unanimous in their support for all hospital workers. If the nurses’ demands were not granted soon, miners would have to up their support and take industrial action.

In Teesside, the general branch of NUPE had called a two-day strike. The Saturday market in Darlington, taking profit-making enterprise for local trade boards, was closed as a result. Local and regional union officials stayed full—‘as the dustmen stayed out for a day.

This week, the engineering union in the area meets to discuss a motion demanding a district-wide stoppage.

At Leamington, workers at Automotive Products stopped work for an hour when local nurses picketed the factory gates. Factory convenor Ivor Bennett told the gathering of nurses and AP workers: ‘Our nurses have the rightful support of workers everywhere in the country.’

A similar march to the Ford Foundry in Leamington is planned this week.

In Bromford, Essex, 700 nurses marched through the shopping centre last Saturday. Harry Packham, a member of the COHSE NEC, said: ‘Sympathy has been laddied out like syrup, but industrial action, prolonged if necessary, will be the only thing that will win nurses a decent living wage.’

Several hospitals including Goodmayes, George VI and Old Church have already held two-hour stoppages. The last Monday King George’s was only a week away.

In Norwich, several hundred nurses marched through the city last Thursday.

Spread the action

IT’S not only the nurses . . . it’s physiotherapists. Like the demonstrators above, who marched in London last week in protest against their current pay levels—£26 a week after three years’ training. And it’s radiographers, who are joining ASTMS in thousands every week, and are staging strikes and sit-ins about their pay. And it’s medical technicians, without whom kidney machines and heart/lung machines couldn’t work. And it’s junior hospital doctors, who work 88 hours a week. PICTURE: Peter Hurrah (Report)