IT WAS Kevin Gately's first ever demonstration. He went there to protest against one enemy—racism. He found another enemy—the police.

As soon as he and his comrades arrived in London's Red Lion Square, the police launched a murderous attack on the anti-fascist demonstrators. They moved in on horseback with truncheons flailing. After their charge had forced the socialist demonstrators to retreat in fear and confusion Kevin Gately lay dying.

As soon as the news of his death got out, the whitewashing started. According to a police spokesman, there were 'no marks of physical injury'.

But by Monday afternoon it was known that Kevin had died from a blow to the head. By then, however, a 'Scumbum' had conveniently gone off in the Houses of Parliament. The newspapers had another story to divert attention from the murder of Kevin Gately.

There really is no other word for it. It was murder—by policemen who showed that they are not neutral by viciously attacking the socialist demonstrators, inflicting bloody mouths and broken heads. They protected the zones of the far right who were demanding still more persecution of black people. Those same zones are fans of the police and of tough police action against trade unionists and the left.

They have been getting it too. Over recent years those with wealth and power have gone to great lengths to reorganise the police to deal with strikers and pickets.

HIGHLY TRAINED

They handpicked the man who masterminded Saturday's police riot, Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Gerrard, to set up the Special Patrol Group.

The SPG moved against London dockers and printworkers picketing Robert Home's warehouse in July 1972. That August they attacked Bull dockers' pickets at Neasby House Wharf. In February last year they distinguished themselves by killing two Pakistanis at India House in London. The SPG said the two were armed. Their 'arses' toy pistols.

Since then Gerrard has been in charge of intelligence operations against miners' pickets and joint commander of the Heathrow Airport police-army exercise.

He has been highly trained for this work. In 1971 he went to the American Military Police School in Georgia where he and other thugs, mainly from South American dictatorships, learned how to deal with 'civil disturbances' and how to use special batons, water cannon, gas and torture.

The Labour government has changed none of this. After Kevin Gately's murder Home Secretary Roy Jenkins had nothing but praise for the police.

The only way to fight back against these sinister forces is to organise and demonstrate against them. Mass protest can put an end to police brutality and violence and force the dismantling of the Special Squad.

To do nothing has disastrous consequences. As The Guardian put it after the Heathrow operation: 'It is believed that the people involved have been pleasantly surprised by the lack of public protest or shock... We must make sure that they are not pleasantly surprised again.'

*BLOODY SATURDAY*-full report on centre pages.
MR ASBESTOS SPEAKS HIS MIND

RALPH MELTON BATeman, new presi-
dent of the employers' lobby the Con-
federation of British Industry, finally made
his mark last week with a much publicised
speech extolling the virtues of private enterprise and attacking the dreadfully
prospect of more nationalisation.

Bateman is capable of waxing lyrical on this
theme. To take big business out of the hands of
the private profiteers, he insisted, would lead to, "Reduction of the freedom of the indi-
vidual and the wealth-creating capacity of
industry upon which the standard of living of all
of us depends."

Useful evidence on what his notions of personal
freedom mean in practice can be obtained from
a Glasgow man named Willie Hurst.

Willie has never met Ralph Melton Bateman,
though he knows him well enough. Willie has
worked for Turner and Newall, of which Bateman
is chairman, most of his working life.

But Willie doesn't work for Turner and Newall
now.

He got the said in 1970 for declining to work
out of town. His widowed mother had gone
blind and he felt he had to get home each night to
look after her.

...was, of course, an infringement of the
company's freedom to have him work where it
suited them. He clearly had to go.

CONDUCT

Still, Willie was 'free' to go and work elsewhere.
There was just one problem. By 1970, when he
was laid off, he had got asbestos. He contracted
this progressive and incurable industrial disease
as a result of being exposed to the known hazards
of asbestos at Turner and Newall.

For the company to have protected him from
such hazards would have cost money. It would
have happened them in the battle to compete. It
would clearly have been a serious intrusion on their
freedom to conduct their business on the most
economic lines.

The economic system Bateman supports has
also brought rich rewards to the black miners of
Rhondda and to the widows of Turner and Newall's
asbestos.

In September 1972 3000 miners at the firm's
Shibante mine, 250 miles west of Salisbury, went
on strike for an alleged case of intimidation of
their personal liberty when armed police
were called in. They shot one black miner
dead and left another penniless.

The African strikers were also demanding the
vote, another right which Bateman has damaged
in the wealth-creating capacity of industry,
without any check at all on his supports.

The truth of the matter is that Bateman is
keen that every miner and every union
member has his say in running his company.

And for that to happen something a little more
radical than nationalisation and Anthony
Wadsworth's Bill is going to be necessary.

It costs

£50 to kill this man

MATES of Roy Thorpe dug feverishly after a trench collapsed at St John's Road and Roy and his friend Philip Wickham were completely buried.

After 20 minutes digging, the workers found the two men dead.

Last week the contractor resonsi-
ble for the trench—Asbury Trenching at Greenwich—was ordered to pay compensation for allowing the trench to be built too high with asbestos.

District Factory Inspector W A Dolling told the court that even with the best asbestos
needed supports when it got to 15 feet high. This trench, was 20 feet high, and there was no sup-
port.

He conveniently pointed some excuse for the company. They could not cut the trench at an
angle, he said, because this would mean breaking into householders' gardens. Somehow, he forgot to mention that one of the householders, Keith Pretty, had with-drawn his objections to his garden being used two days before the two building workers were killed.

There was never any question of the trench safe, said Mr Dolling, would have been

Counsel for Asbury Watson pleaded the company was ready to be side after the event.

To Midlothian Mr J W Chesman said the highest penalty he could impose was for the 

Offence was £400. Asbury Watson's re-
presentative replied that whether the fine was £100 or £500 made little difference. What mattered to the company was their reputation.

So the magistrate fined the company £100—£50 a life—and they all went off to lunch.

Left victory over grants campaign

"NO AID, No trade, Support the

Chilean workers" is the Communist

tory slogan deployed to ensure where

the Communist Party is the

government.

For the government of Ranma is falling

even to itself to establish a shareholders' board with

the Chilean junta. Last Friday Ranma's

Minister of Commerce and Industry, Trade and

Minister of Mines signed a protocol of

cooperation with the Chilean junta.

This is bound to cause considerable

pain among those who have not received an increase despite

the chaotic economic climate.

Although much of the steam

has been taken out of the bureaucratic

bureaucracy the 

the basic exists for a national campaign in the

Colleges of Education and

Technical Colleges next autumn.

The first was over the future of the

campaign for higher grants, which the government is to push up next year by

50 for most students at universities and

polytechnics.

There will be no increase for

all other students, whose grants will be at the mercy of their local educa-

tional authorities.

This is bound to cause considerable

pain among those who have not received an increase despite

the chaotic economic climate.

Some universities, caught in

Labour's rent freeze, are trying to

push up food prices by the maximum

permitted increase in their

budget.
Desperate

NHS: fight for it
—or die without it!

WHEN NURSES in the trade unions talk about the collapse of the National Health Service, they are not talking about the growth of mushrooming nurses agencies and private patient facilities outside the National Health Service. Look at the ever increasing waiting lists, even for major operations. Like the Liverpool girl who was told recently that she would have to wait for three years for a leg operation. Look at the massive cuts in all social budgets undertaken by the government. The staff shortages in every hospital in the country, the ever decreasing number of nurses starting their training, and the ever increasing number of nurses who leave as soon as they can. This is just not what we are fighting for.

The sort of support which freed the Pontenon Six has been lost to the trade union movement. It is only by the co-operation of nurses and civil servants fighting alone against the Labour government's anti-trade union legislation that the phase of Phase Three is a reflection on the ability of the leadership of the more traditional unions to temporally dam up power. Labour's social compact, the continuance of Phase Three, penalties preventing wage increases, the important sections of workers such as the members of the police force from the National Fidelity. They deserve the right of their basic human rights, to join the labour movement that do have the economic power to smash Phase Three. This long-term struggle will not be confined out of the political arena. It will have to be fostered by genuine rank and file unity in action. Nurses and all workers who are manual workers should welcome the militancy of their fellow workers in the state bureaucracy and we can fight too—JOHN DEASON, Wigan.

Militant? who are you kidding?

WE WERE amazed to see (5 June) the report in your Letters page about the alleged survey by the National Poultry Products strike for the nurses, and in particular, the survey from your office, for the nurses. It is not the first time that we have noticed the survey from your office, and it is not the first time that we have considered your report.

It is our experience that every half an hour, not an hour as you report, Bennett, and the chairman of the NURSES' Action Committee, J. Nicholson, realized that quite a few of us were not prepared to be part of a state army for them, and in fact wanted to get some real support by being marched with them.

In the speeches, they said nothing of the demands of the nurses, nor why they need our support. Instead, they told us in a couple of lines how marvellous we were for coming out, and then spent the next few minutes pleading with us to be quiet, to fight the government's work as soon as the nurses had marched off.

We are not even told that by doing this we would be showing the solidarity that APF workers are known for.

ASTMS out? not yet!

YOU incorrectly stated (15 June) that North East radiographers had called for an immediate national strike. In fact the main meeting asked the ASTMS civil executive to support an all-out strike with emergency work to start the day after the deadline of 4 July by which time management had not offered any satisfactory offer.

Our members also backed the action and the ASTMS delegates in rejecting an enquiry. We feel that this is a time-wasting device—THE radiographers claim was put in over four years ago.

You may be interested to know that a resolution to support the backing of the NSA 9 Industrial Council of ASTMS in whose name it will run was defeated by your Executive.

Our members will be going to demonstrate in London on 6 July, together with our colleagues in the International Society. It has decided to back this national demonstration as a busy day in Wimpole Street, London W1—ADRIAN SUGAR, Middlesex.

The Fascists

HAVING just returned from the annual conference of the Fascist organization which ended in the fracas at Red Lion Square, we merely want to say that the International Socialists made a powerful display of solidarity with its demonstrations.

When it concerns the march of fascism, that's our line which must be touched.

Some Fascists, in industry, are being controlled by a union, as well as out of the trade union movement, agitating and defaming their leader's arguments are quite real. But the battle of the streets of Red Lion Square was not left by International Socialists but by a student revolutionary affair.

We are sure that the support of police and the mounted ones, leaves us in no doubt we did a very good job to help against fascism—NEIL DAVIES, London.

In defence of Russian state capitalism

I GET the impression that some of the International Socialists are motivated by an anti-socialism stance towards the state capitalism in the 20th April issue of Socialist Worker makes me wonder if you are not interested in making sure that whether you are not really interested in achieving a socialist Britain.

Whatever elites, strata, bureaucrats, are the same with the society is to be in the Soviet Union today, the same fact that the Soviet Union are for co-operatively owned and exploited ended means the society by being owned by the 1%.

Perhaps you may have heard of the workers' product—money that would go into private share holders' pockets inside capital society and that type of society but used in the Soviet Union to provide a genuinely free health service and free education for workers in the world.

I am one of the many articles in Socialist Worker are playing a useful role in the struggle, but the final analysis, if the basic motivations of the state's staff are not more anti-capitalism than more anti-communist than more anti-socialist capitalism then the long term effect will be that the capitalist press—P. PEARCE, Birmingham 30.
NURSES: OUR LEADER'S ON HOLIDAY—NOT US!

CONGRATULATIONS on the excellent article (8 June) you printed on the "leaders" of the nurses struggle last week.

As an ancillary worker in the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) for the last three years I have been trying to recruit nurses into unions. The support of our "leaders" has been minimal, as has the preparation for a national strike to recruit nurses in February and May, so we're still waiting for it to start.

Your points on the Confederation of Health Service Employees getting down to a serious joint campaign to unionise nurses. Meanwhile the NUPE officer responsible for South Yorkshire hospital branch, who I was told (this crucial point in the nurses campaign to go on holiday) In NUPE at least we have an opportunity to witness a recruitment campaign to be decided at a conference next year.

Our full time officers see this as a chance to improve their own position and we are trying to prevent the involvement of rank and file union members.

NUPE has not been very helpful in recruiting local authority workers, nurses, ancillary workers and ambulance staff and last week to discuss these points we have met theHospital Worker Can co-ordinate a national campaign for a sympathetic reception of its members, not its officials—T. SOUTHW, Leeds.

Rank and file: spread the word

As DELEGATES to the Rank and File conferencing in Birmingham we were wondering how could we achieve more publicity for the conference and its aims. We drew up a short press release and handed it over to our branch discussion and giving a list of delegate present and the sponsoring rank and file movements.

We had this report endorsed by several union branch representatives and asked to apprecation letters to AUWP branches in the Enfield District.

However, any branch union interested in this will get in touch and we can spread the word.—KEITH REIDRORST (Edmonton 1 AUWP branch), ALAN WATTS (Ponders End 5 AUWP branch), E. Mardan, Buxton, Manchester, ES.

Where's your High St gone?

SOME OF US in Cardiff have been fighting hard against the town centre redevelopment. This is because the new building boom and the property boys have carved up our towns and roads in their own fortunes.

One feature is the way they link up with local councils. The council is crucial in getting the town centre plan through. It's a private sector instrument.

It would be useful to get a picture of what the property boys have been doing. Has your local council been involved in helping them?” Socialists Worker readers send us details of local examples they know about.

As you can imagine, they know about the tricks of the trade to look out for. What profits do the developers make? Are they taxed as a profit or a loss? Has it all been fixed up before the developers? What do you think about the planning or the financial deal? Have people ever successfully changed plans?

Is there any difference between Labour and Tory councils when it comes to dealing with developers? How can local councils be made to stop the open-ended redevelopment? What happens if the people are put off? By the developer or by the council?

This kind of information would be helpful, as we have been let down by developers in the past where the council has taken over the development. (And, I gather, were left with a small repayment to tradesmen to do the work.)

Where's your High St gone?

Jenkins liberalism

I MIGHT AS WELL BE HONEST that the Maastricht amnesia and abdication of the British MPs to their master in Brussels is the biggest mistake in British politics since Labour abandoned its anti-racist tradition and joined the imperialist trend. We oppose New Labour's policy of appeasing the forces of reaction in Europe, in the UK and the world. This liberalisation is nothing but a sell-out to the forces of reaction in Europe and the world. The British government is a tool of the European Union, which is a tool of imperialism.

There is no such thing as a "welfare state". The so-called welfare state is a tool of imperialism, which is a tool of reaction. We oppose the so-called "welfare state" and we support the struggle of the people of the world for a world without imperialism.

Jenkins liberalism

Readers can comment on the letter by Tom Jackson in the 'Letters to the Editor' section on page 114.
It's a dirty business

They do get taken, of course, usually after some disaster or great scandal. English is published this book in 1982 and in his new introduction he noted that 11 per cent of the standards he had described. He also noted the reasons for them. Again, the repeated violations of chokes, syringes, smallpox and other epidemics have shown the British government the urgent need for sanitation in his towns and cities, if he wishes to serve himself and his family from falling victims to such diseases.

In 1831 there was a cholera epidemic in 1831 and its threatened return in 1848 that produced the first Public Health Act (1848), a fairly half-hearted measure that was nonetheless described by a leading Liberal as a great improvement on the liberty of individuals!

Abuse

Today, technology makes possible new pollution problems every year. It makes them possible but it does not cause them.

The men who dump cyanide in the Great Lakes into the public water supply are not the innocent victims of technological advance. They know perfectly well that they are dumping it! So do the Japanese capitalists who dump organic mercury compounds into the sea.

But profits come first. And as each abuse is eventually suppressed, new ones spring up.

What needs to be grasped by the numerous people who are rightly concerned about these "ecological" problems is that there is no long-term solution without a planned economy and the suppression of both private profiteering and competitive state accumulation of capital.

The attack on technology as such, which many fall into, is reactionary. We certainly do not want to go back to a more "natural" economy where the majority are condemned to a life of back-breaking toil.

Duncan Hallas

The two members of Avanguardia Operaia killed by the fascist bomb, Luigi Pinto (top) and Giulietta Banzì

The politics of Lenin

Paul Ginsborg

An introduction to the political arguments used by Lenin in his work in the Russian and international revolutionary movements, his ideas on workers' state, building the party, internationalism, workers' democracy, 20p plus 4p postage (more than 10 copies post free) from 15 BOOKS, 205 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

The life and times of Lenin

The life of Lenin in his own words and those of Krupskaya, Trotsky, Sorge and others on tape with more than 60 greetings, plus the last will and all you need are a cassette recorder, slide projector, a dark room... and an audience. £3 hire (book of at least two weeks in advance) from Dept D, Camden Works, CamdenCreative, London E2.

Andre Nagliati will write two articles for Socialist Worker which will analyse further the present turmoil in Italy.

CONTROL

The fascist links with the army, police and secret service are considerable. But after the Breznev killings, the wave of popular indication, demands for the outlawing of the MSI and militant anti-fascist actions have taken their toll. The government has been forced to take tougher anti-fascist action. A few small fish have been arrested, the press has been conducting a campaign against the black squad. The Italian Communist Party has been winning since 1948 to enter a coalition government. It has three million members, gets more than a quarter of the votes and controls the largest of Italy's three union federations. But it cannot afford to join the government now. That government would have to take open, repressive measures against the Italian workers and this would lead to a loss of members for the Party and a massive decrease in its support.

In the short run, the crisis is not capable of any new solution. Italy will still be ruled by an uneasy and unstable alliance of members of the Socialist and Christian Democratic Parties. But this is only buying time. It can offer no solutions to the basic crisis.

The most reactionary capitalists are clearly looking for a fascist solution. The fascist party, the Italian Social Movement (MSI), collects about 10 per cent of the national vote. Under a recently passed law for the state finance of political parties it stands to collect about £4 million a year. Linked to it actively are the action squads: the SAM (Musolinis Azione Squadra) and Ordine Nuovo, now disbanded and reformed as the same Ordere Nero (Black Cross).

Residue

'But besides this, the stream itself is checked even in remote high valleys, behind which slimes and refuse accumulate and rot in thick masses. Although mountains are inhabited by mining, mills and gas-works, from which all drains quite refuse to enter the Ikr, which receives further the contents of all the neighbouring sewers and privies. It may be easily imagined, therefore, what kind of residue the stream deposits. This was in the very heart of what was then the greatest industrial city in the 19th century - the city of Leeds or Manchester in the 1840s.'
FOR THE COUPLE WHO KEEP BUYING TWO LOTS OF SPUDS

THE advice parents usually give their children is... to get married and settle down. Two months ago Shan and I got married. The pressure of getting married hasn’t gone so smoothly.

Firstly, we couldn’t afford a normal honeymoon because we had to pay for the wedding first. So we’ve been pushed into the arms of the private landlord.

We did think of taking over the Crews Point, Stockport. Europe House, which cost £2 million and is still lying empty after a year. The spokesman for Simon Engineering, the firm who built it, told us: “We honestly cannot say we have an immediate prospect of getting someone to move in.”

Anyway, we finally got a “flat” at the top of a terraced house, converted bathroom with two others, at £95.30 a week. Very reasonable.

The rent takes half my take-home pay on a flat week as a guard for the British Railways Board, or, if you look at it another way, practically all Shan’s monthly wage as a third-year student nurse. So you can’t complain can you?

Shan and I both work shit work. Shan’s working a shift week. The first week, we did consider divorce on the grounds of non-communism-what we call marital charity. I got into bed and Shan got out.

Shan’s shifts have some sort of order, but as anyone who works for BR Train crews will know, you’re on any time, day or night.

When we got married, my shifts started each week at 2.35am, 9.11pm, 6.41am, 1.11pm. Shan’s started in the same weeks at 8am, 9pm, 11am and 9pm. So many times Project of Stockport. I hope we do, the conversation usually goes like this: “Why aren’t you home yet?”

“I have.”

“You’ve got some veg and eggs.”

Or I’ll come home with something and find Shan’s already been and done a lot of work. We’ve got 20 pounds of spuds.

It’s hard to see our situation’s not uncommon, but at least you can understand. We’ve got 20 pounds of spuds. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got 20 pounds of spuds. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed.

We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed.

We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed. We’ve got three kids to feed.

Newman Smith

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How Mr Healey plans to turn us into clockwork workers...

There is no room in the Britain we are trying to build for the ethic of the Clockwork Orange,' said Dennis Healey, Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, recently.

His reference to that particularly violent film was a comment on the growing industrial struggle. The government had done everything any government could do to hold back prices and profits, he claimed, now wage-earners would have to exercise restraint.

Last Thursday Healey found a fan in Mr Ashton, the head of Turner and Newall and president of the Confederation of British Industry. Ralph Baterman, who quoted Healey's remarks at the CBI annual dinner, 'We want a private sector which is vigorous, alert, imaginative and profitable,' he said.

Far from fighting the grab-all capitalist ethics of the Clockwork Orange, Healey and the CBI both want the same thing — clockwork workers who can be woken up to do exactly as big business wants.

Drop

The capitalist economic and social system is facing a worldwide crisis. International trade is expected to decrease, governments follow each other in cutting public spending and holding down wages. Economists are warning of a world recession.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research reckons that Mr. Gaunt's standard of living will drop by 4 per cent this year. Workers' living standards will drop even further.

The employers and government share one aim in face of this crisis — to keep profits up. They have no choice. Either millions of workers and their families make do with less of everything or the employers resort to the face of mass industrial action.

Our rulers are clear about it, and they're pinning their hopes on stopping us using any means necessary to get their way.

Enforce

The most talked-about solution to the inflation crisis in Britain is a two-year freeze on wage rises — with the government controlling the cost-of-living index. The only dues you'd get would be one per cent every time the retail price index went up.

It wouldn't pay for increased prices because you'd have to pay tax on it. In other words, a controlled cost of living in your wages.

The Labour government is with the scheme. The employers couldn't enforce a total wage freeze right now, and this is the next best thing. The employers would go on getting big profits.

They'd invest these in new plant and machinery, export more goods and so keep their necks above the troubled international economic waters until the North Sea oil rains down on Britain's problems.

Lies, the same old story. If only workers stopped fighting back, accepted wage cuts and worked harder, then the Labour Party could start to introduce socialism.

But Labour still has to win over the trade union movement. This is why left Labour Ministers have been hitting the headlines with promises of more nationalisation, action on the boardroom, a welfare tax, price controls.

Labour will show its 'left' face until it has won a working majority at the general election — probably in September. Then, as the past, the promises will be shelved and Labour will again offer its scepticism to international big business.

Not that the trade union leaders need much persuading.

Last week the TUC Economic Committee drew up its side of the social contract. The top union leaders who attend this committee all earn more than £30,000 a week. To agree to ask union negotiators to take account of the government's policies, they proposed that 'in general' they won't go for new wage deals — for their members, you understand — until a year after the last ones were signed, although many workers are entitled to new rises as soon as Phase Three ends.

To make it absolutely clear what was meant, the economic committee then rejected a fully weak proposal to include a statement that 'where reasonable real incomes should be increased over the next year. Instead the full TUC General Council was to be asked to endorse threshold rises for higher-paid workers to maintain their real incomes, while special treatment is given to the lower-paid and women workers.

Reject

The main difference between the TUC now and under the Tories is that today both the right-wing and the left's are cut out selling the social contract to their members. Under the Tory government they just organised it.

Socialists must reject the appeals from the Labour government and the TUC. For the National Interest. Don't rock the boat.

We have only one 'interest' worth bothering about: the needs of the vast majority of the workers. These are not served by accepting wage cuts.

Our demands should be raised on the shop floor and in trade union branches:

Reject the TUC Social Contract Guidelines. Win the full threshold rises now.

Fight for a new deal when Phase Three ends.

Fight for substantially across-the-board rises, for equal pay for women, for a 35-hour week and against unemployment, no time limit on any agreements — this is the way to fight inflation.

Steve Jefferys

Hands Across The Sea

Our Series On International Solidarity Action Will Continue Next Week...
Saturday

by Neil Hazell

Y NATIONAL FRONT MUST BE BEATEN

The National Front is on the defensive. The attempt to march in Birmingham was thwarted by police, and the three-day police attack on Assistant Policing has left the National Front reeling. The National Front can build up its strength in which its flagpole had been167, 168 and its leaders were.

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Catch behind that ‘4p off’

"A BUMPER shopping basket boost for Britain’s housewives was announced in the Commons yesterday by Prices Minister Stanley Williams. That was the Sun last week."

Prices of basic foods are to be kept down in many shops and stores. The latest move to help shoppers, particularly lower paid families and pensioners, was announced in a cheering Commons last night. "That

was the Daily Mirror.

"Doing something about prices is always at the fore of Labour and Tory party propaganda. The housewife always, remains in nagging. The prices don’t—they keep going up.

Last year with prices going through the roof there was a lot ofコレクション. The housewives’ protests. The retailers

saw about the situation and said how much they cared.

"How much they do care comes out nicely in a confidential document on pricing policy from Dewhurst’s. 52p. It is quite likely, says the document, that during this year, there will be publicity which accuses the retailers of making exorbitant profits. This always happens when the farmer fails to make a satisfactory profit. Last year we had to face the housewife blaming the

butcher because her purse was light. As a result of the farmer criticizing the butcher because he is being hit.

"It is more serious when the farmer complains because the housewives only weapon is to cut back, her buying and we can overcome that as we did last year, by tempting her with special promotions."

The farmers’ weapon is to cease buying calves or store cattle with the result that there will be a short

age of meat and another jump in prices with all the attendant discomfit and difficulties.

Organise

So wives, now you know. As far as Dewhursts are concerned you can be won back from for fourpence off a tin of baked beans. But when it comes to those farmers, well that is quite another matter.

One way of fighting is to organise against prices. Both as trade unionists and as consumers. Another is getting a job to supplement the family income. After all there is going to be equal pay now, isn’t there?

Yes - Well Dewhursts have an answer to that one too. Later on in the document, Colin Callum, the General Manager of the company, explains that the company has too little staff.

The management are spending a great deal of money on a campaign to recruit additional labour. The campaign will only be successful and continue as long as the company recruits another 450 full-time males and 400 part-time females.

So there is no misunderstanding over equal pay - I should perhaps talk to the other 4500000 of retail workers and the 4000000 more who are engaged as butchers and part-time general assistants.

So wives, as far as Dewhursts is concerned the solution is simple. You want fair prices and equal pay? Change sex - or take up farming.

The Hazards of Work: How to Fight Them.

Every time you walk into your factory, your site, your office-you’re in danger—danger of injury or death.

The reason? Employers are more scared of injury to profits than injury to you.

Pat Hughes's book is a weapon, a weapon to keep you alive.

...Should be read and kept for reference by everyone who trade union represents who values the interest of his union members, and I congratulate Pat, Kimmery, on producing a very useful weapon for the worker and his representatives. DAI DAVIS, Social Security Inspector, South Wales National Union of Mineworkers.

...from 15 Books, 265 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1; 224, Dentfield High Street, Birmingham; 14 Orange Street, Mi
tinborough; and the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 64 Queen Street, Coventry.

MAIL ORDER FROM: 15 Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow C1; 224 Dentfield High Street, Birmingham; 14 Orange Street, Mittenbr
ough; and the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 64 Queen Street, Coventry.
A WORD IN YOUR EAR

LEARN, WIFE IN THE KITCHEN!

Learn the simplest things. For you whose time has already come it is in vain to try.
Learn your A B C's, it is not enough, but learn them! Do not let it discourage you, beg! You must know everything!
You must take over the leadership

Learn, man in the asylum
Learn, man in prison
Learn, wife in the kitchen
Learn, man of sixty
Seek out the school, you who are homeless!
Harpen your wife, you who shiver!
Hungry man, reach for the book; it is a weapon.
You must take over the leadership

Don't be afraid of asking, brother!
Don't be won over, see for yourself!
What you don't know yourself, you don't know.
Add up the reckoning
Put your finger on each item, ask, how did this get here?
You must take over the leadership

PART 47
INTERNATIONAL
WEAKNESSES
OF
CAPITALIST ECONOMY

BERLITZ BRECHT, writer of this poem was perhaps the greatest dramatist of the Twentieth Century. Born in 1898 in Augsburg, Germany he ran away at 16 to become a socialist playwright and was exiled in 1933 with the

YOU'RE A SOCIALIST?
YOU MUST BE MAD!

You are sitting at home early one Friday evening. Without warning your front door is broken down by four policemen. Two doctors follow them in and tell you that they believe you to be mad. After a struggle you are dragged off to a lunatic asylum.

A scene from Monty Python? Not at all. This really happened to Zhores Medvedev, a perfectly sane man, in April 1970.

Zhores Medvedev was a scientist working in the Soviet Union. Some of his work had opened up the way for the atomic bomb the world. But his crime was that he dared to criticize the Russian regime.

In two books he had criticized the way science had been developed under Stalin and the lack of contact Russian scientists have with the outside world. He also spoke out against the opening of letters by the "special department" of the Soviet post office.

For this he was sacked, arrested, and locked up in a mental hospital. The doctors diagnosed his illness as "paranoid delusions of reforming society."

Zhores Medvedev is a typical case. Increasingly the Soviet bureaucrats are avoiding the embarrassment of political trials by locking up their opponents and

ON THE BOX

SATURDAY: ITV (London area only) 10.30pm. Clifford Odets was blacklisted during the anti-left-wing witchhunt in the Hollywood of the 1940s and early 1950s. His first break after this was accepting an early Elvis Presley movie but it was THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS which got him back on the road. This film about a newspaper columnist/crook (Burt Lancaster) and his pathetic hanger-on (Tony Curtis) is worth seeing.

SUNDAY: BBC1. 7.25pm. This week's episode of AMERICA. Alistair Cooke's liberal guide to the history of the USA deals with MAKING A REVOLUTION, the drafting of the Declaration of Independence by a small group of politically motivated men bent on overthrowing the forces of British law and order. They even shot at British soldiers.

MONDAY: BBC1. 8.10pm. PANORAMA ON NIXON, is a survey of Nixon's career featuring the aptly named Mr and Mrs Brown who've been friends of his since 35 years before Watergate. They've agreed to talk to Panorama because of the ties they now feel are being spread about Mr Nixon... He's a good funny they say. Well that's what the BBC say. And tell that to the Vietnamese...

WEDNESDAY: BBC2. 9.30pm. MAN ALIVE WHAT ABOUT OUR RIGHTS? looking at the role of women in the Irish Republic. Which is oppression by the Roman Catholic Church, and men, and exploitation by Irish, British, Japanese German and American employers.

written leaflet in protest. This was taken as a clear sign of mental illness.

These are typical 'crimes'. We must ask how many more 'mental patients' like these are there? How many Russian workers who demand better conditions, better safety or argued about piece rates, have been locked up for 'paranoid delusions'?

The Soviet dissident movement is often very right in its political ideas. The Medvedev brothers are on the left wing of this movement. They are socialists who believe that the Russian state can be gradually changed back into a workers democracy. They are wrong. The bureaucrats will never give up without a bitter struggle. Czecho-Slovakia proves this.

Roy Medvedev ends this book by saying that "the lists and criminals, one day will be brought to justice. And their victims if we succeed in saving them, will bear witness in court."

The Soviet oppressors often display great personal bravery. But if their aim is to succeed, the most turns to the Russian working class. Only the class which overthrows the Tsar can upset the bureaucrats and bring the 'lists' and criminals to justice.

John Telfair

CANT SEE THE TREES FOR THE WOOD

A MAN goes into hospital for a minor operation for an ulcer and is examined thoroughly.

Some 200 years later.
The same surgeon's grand daughter, the new Woody Allen comedy currently on general release. It is a very funny film.

It is a pretty horrible world he wakes up in each morning. A job he hates which gives the people what they want them to want. So they send a usual writing terrible poems, getting stoned, growing giant vegetables and being served by meat robots in dinner jackets.

All men are important and all women frigid. No matter, in a sitting room provided with a sofa at the press of a button.

There is an addition, an under-ground, dedicated to overthrowing the regime. This is made up of the peeping tom, the peeping as a type of peace-bubble they are trying to overthrow.

WRONG

Allen uses the science fiction format to do what he usually does. Make a film about a neurotic little guy who is always talking about his life, his wife, his little kids, his little friends. He has very little idea how any- body else is getting on, but has the illusion that they are all getting on a lot better than him.

He doesn't trust the government, he doesn't trust anyone else. He believes, he says in death and sex. He wants to be left alone.

It is an appealing position but totally wrong. The position of a man who has seen a stream of money flowing past him all day and a stream of revolutionary talk, and no organisation or action flowing the other way.

Neither mean very much. Money as we all know, doesn't buy happiness. The revolutionaries don't buy anything other than an occasional pair of new jeans.

Much of the revolutionary talk in the 1960s in America was just that talk. After 20 years of world domination and expansion the USA started cracking, but what filled the gap wasn't a challenge to the ruling class but hot air and dramatic gestures, from the Woodstock pop festival to the kidnapping of Patty Hearst.

Another side was Watergate, murder in Vietnam and repression.

And in the case of Woody Allen, communist attacks on the hot air of very amusingly. But not doing anything about it, or suggesting others can.
THE UNIONs
Watch out, there's
a scab about

THREE WEEKS ago Socialist Worker was approached by a gentleman named Adrian Carmel, an official with the giant International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the American transport drivers' union.

Carmel has been in Britain for the past two months touring himself round the upper levels of the trade union movement and trying to enlist support for his union's cause.

He has asked for permission to address the Transport Workers' and Shopworkers' union executives. He has had one long conversation with the TGWU national docks officer Tim O'Reary. Permission to address was refused, which greatly set back Carmel's hopes of success with his 'mission'.

That mission is to get British dockers and shopworkers to stop backing Californian grape growers in support of the United Farmworkers of America.

The Teamsters are desperate to break this boycott campaign. For it is the United Farmworkers' greatest weapon in their bitter fight to bring independent trade unionism to California's fabulously profitable agricultural industry.

The Teamsters were brought in by the employers in 1967 after they realised they could no longer hold out against trade unionism altogether. They needed a sweetheart deal with a union that was powerful, would police the rank and file and would keep out the UFW.

Sweetheart

Since then there has been a bitter struggle between the UFW and the hired hands and heavies of the United Brotherhood of Teamsters.

This year the Farmworkers are again on the offensive. They are determined to compel the employers to abandon their sweetheart contracts with the Teamsters and recognise the UFW. Which is why Adrian Carmel is in town, all expenses paid.

He's been on to the Port of London Authority for help in nobbling some docks shop stewards to explain why they should stop Mexican American farmworkers in the back.

His line is that since American dockers are loading the grapes and declining to make sacrifices in support of the UFW the British dockers should not be expected to make sacrifices.

Carmel expanded on this unerving argument when he tried to enlist Socialist Worker's help in getting a lead into the docks. He reasoned that since leading recalcitrants in the American trade union movement, such as George Meany, support the UFW then every socialist should oppose them. Naturally he claimed to be a socialist.

In case you should receive the attentations of Mr. Carmel or someone like him, Socialist Worker arranged for an interview with Elizabeth Medina, a member of the United Farmworkers' executive. Medina began work as a farmworker when he arrived in the United States from Mexico ten years old. For eight years now he has worked for the union and is renowned for his boycott in Ohio. He was interviewed by Cal Williams, a member of the American Socialists.

One of the Teamsters Union thugs called in to see the grape growers to remove the Farmworkers' Union.

Blacking in Britain vital if we are to win, says US union leader

Cal Williams, of the US International Socialists, interviewed Farmworkers' Union leader Eliseo Medina.

THE Teamsters never talk to the workers. They never bother to ask one single worker what they want. They have a system of organising where they go directly to the bosses and sign a contract. Then they come back and use the superiors of the company to tell the workers that they must join the Teamsters or else you'll be fired.

This was illustrated clearly in the lettuce industry when the California Supreme Court ruled that the growers and the Teamsters signed phoney contracts without the Teamsters representing one single farmworker. When the workers were told a contract had been signed, they all refused to ratify or join the Teamsters and went on strike.

This was in 1970 in the lettuce fields in the Salinas Valley in California. In grapes they did the exact same thing. When the workers found out they went on strike. There were about 8,000 people out on strike in April 1973. There were thousands of people jailed because they were protesting against these phoney contracts.

The workers have shown time again that they do not want the Teamsters.

The Teamsters are good at organising growers, organising businesses. We organise workers. If you're talking about providing representation, they represent the growers, we represent the workers.

In grapes the contracts they signed in 1973, a five-year contract today calls for $2.41 dollars an hour and the UFW provides for 2.51 dollars an hour. That 10 cents an hour right now means about $26 a month to the average worker.

The Teamster contract has no work week protection, they pay a very low hourly rate, no paid holidays. They have no camp housing by the employer, no protection from the mines of the UFW.

The Teamsters themselves have admitted they have no interest in the farmworkers, that their interest stems primarily from representing unions and truck drivers and that they want to control from the fields to the supermarkets. William Gramm, director of organisation for the Teamsters, admitted this in 1972 in a deposition to the California Supreme Court.

I think the Teamsters not only see the Farmworkers as a way they can have more dues-paying members without having to do anything for them but also they're seeing it as a strong independent union in the fields.

The Teamsters put a lot of resources into public relations men like the one who's now in Britain. Well, we have a saying in Mexico: "With money you can make a dog dance" and that's precisely what's going on in California.

In Britain you have public relations firm being paid 100,000 dollars a year to go out and put forth all these lies about what's going on in California.

I would support the use in Britain is the same. He's not doing it because he's convinced he's helping workers, he's doing it because he's been paid well by the Teamsters.

I have heard of that one of the things being put forth by the Teamsters representatives is why should British workers become involved in a struggle taking place in California. I think the reason is the same as why workers in New York, which is right on the other extreme of the United States from where the battle is taking place, are involved. As long as there are working men and women being exploited in one part of the world or another, all of us are weaker.

I think one thing we have learned in the trade union solidarity that has been displayed by workers in Europe, particularly the workers in Britain, and we hope that they continue to display this kind of solidarity because it's important to our winning out struggle in California and if the Farmworkers win in California and throughout this country then some day we'll be in a position to help somebody else.

Anger as bid to oust miners’ MP dropped

AN ATTEMPT to end the National Union of Mineworkers' sponsorship of Labour MP Alfred Roberts at the NUM's annual conference in London last Monday failed because of the refusal of the delegate from Kellinghury, the Pits Post, to push a resolution from his party.

Roberts received nearly £12,000 and associated goodies for peddling Pitsow's wares across the world, especially to the fascist government of Portugal. His association with Pitsow is being investigated by three separate police inquiries. Yes Roberts is still sponsored by the NUM— and paid £250 a year.

The Kellinghury motion demanded an end to this sponsorship and attacked Roberts for his association with the fascist regime in Spain. Roberts is also an officer of the Anglo-Spanish Parliamentary Committee.

But when the council met, the Kellinghury delegate, a member of the Labour Party, refused to push the motion and it was dropped.

This action has not been well received at Kellinghury. There is talk of moving the motion again and of sending it around other miners in Yorkshire who are somewhat disturbed at the revelations about the union leadership in the Pitsow affair.

The arrest of Tom Roebeck, a NUM secretary at Mexborough, has not helped ease the dispute.
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST-NEWS

Dont hang back on nurses!

ITALIAN SOCIALIST NEWS

THE IS Executive last Friday discussed at length the organisation's role in the nurses' dispute. Several members expressed the view that many International Socialists have been out of the running in the nurses' dispute, for fear of duplicating the work of the Hospital Workers' group and the Rank and File Movement are doing. The Executive agreed to urge members and branches everywhere of the importance of giving a full service to IS members of the organisation. A circular will therefore be sent to all branches stressing the need for intervention on behalf of IS members. The IS will continue to champion the cause of the nurses with the nurses' case and their struggle. The problem is something that can be long-term and must not be excluded. The need to defend the nurses' rights is urgent and the IS will be there to support them.

Fighting the class struggle

A MONTHLY and SUNDAY MEMBERS and supporters were among the 15,000 people who attended the First International Rally of the Working Class. The rally was a remarkable and important event, both in terms of its size and its significance. It was a demonstration of the strength of the working class and its determination to fight for its rights. The rally was attended by members of the IS, the Socialist Workers Party, the Communist Party, and other socialist organisations. It was a united front against the capitalist class and its policies.

BARBARITY... ON FILM

SOME IDEAS of the real nature of life for black people in South Africa are contained in a film which has just had its first showing. Shot largely in South Africa, the film is superbly designed to highlight the conditions of work and the exploitation of black workers. It shows not only the conditions of workers but the institutions and structures that sustain them. The film Last Grave in Dinuba, can be hired for meetings. It ends: While the government has been looking for a solution to the crisis, the black people have been fighting for their rights. The film is a powerful reminder of the need for a socialist revolution to bring about a world where all people are free and equal.

Entries for this column must be received by Monday 14 December. The IS, 81-83 Whitehall, London SW1A 2BJ.

WHAT'S ON

The Root Movement will be hosting a meeting on Saturday 14 December at 7 pm in Putney Town Hall, Putney, London SW15. The meeting will be chaired by Kevin Southall and will be attended by David Hume, Executive Director of the Root Movement, and other guest speakers.

Meetings for IS members

COVENTRY DISTRICT: 1st Meeting at the Old Hall, 15-17 Market Street, Coventry on 4 December, at 7.30 pm. The meeting will be chaired by Kevin Southall and will be attended by David Hume, Executive Director of the Root Movement, and other guest speakers.

BIRMINGHAM: A meeting will be held on Saturday 14 December at 7 pm in Putney Town Hall, Putney, London SW15. The meeting will be chaired by Kevin Southall and will be attended by David Hume, Executive Director of the Root Movement, and other guest speakers.

LONDON: A meeting will be held on Saturday 14 December at 7 pm in Putney Town Hall, Putney, London SW15. The meeting will be chaired by Kevin Southall and will be attended by David Hume, Executive Director of the Root Movement, and other guest speakers.

WHAT'S ON

THE STRIKE AT INVERNESS-TIMBER TERR: The full story of the workers' struggle for better conditions and a voice at work will be told at the meeting on Saturday 14 December at 7 pm in Putney Town Hall, Putney, London SW15. The meeting will be chaired by Kevin Southall and will be attended by David Hume, Executive Director of the Root Movement, and other guest speakers.
Get that deal...and fight on!

by Mick Tew, TASS, Alfred Herbert's

Threshold deals were first pro-
posed by right-wing trade unionists and
employers who saw them as a way of
securing long-term wage agreements.

They undermined big across-the-
board wage claims, since bosses could
dismiss a threshold that had already com-
mitted for the increased cost of living.

That's why the more militant
unions opposed the deals, insisting that
they were unnecessary. Those who were
swallowed the idea that there was a wages fund
that the working class had a fixed share of
the 'national cake'.

Threshold deals became part of the
Tory government's Phase Three
package and, last autumn, were
dashed in front of workers.

But in May this year, the threshold
triggered three times over. And new
figures were due this Friday. All of a
sudden, the employers' enthusiasm
waned.

Since then the employers' response
in our area, Coventry, has been far
from uniform. Keith Royce (1977)
conceded the threshold in full to
their 3,100 workers. So did
Cromwells, Webster and
Bennett machine tools, Massey Ferguson and
some other firms.

Others are offering a part-
threshold on a ceiling basis. GEC,
for instance, are insisting on £1.60
maximums. Or there is the month
by month review, such as Wickman's
offered.

But Coventry's major employers,
the car bosses, have taken a much
more aggressive line. Neither Chrysler nor
British Leyland has offered any
payment at all.

Inflation having done its trick,
many employers are now refusing to
pay part of the wage to which we are
entitled, while others are offering
part-payments which can only be
called as insults to the workers who produce their profits.

The simple truth is that every
worker needs this present threshold
and more besides. We have even a legal
right to it, within Phase Three.

This is not a claim affecting just
one group of workers at one factory,
but a claim for all workers, white or
blue collar, on all sites, and in all
companies.

The immediate demand must be
to get the threshold paid. But having
achieved this, we must bear in mind the
crucial point that Phase Three
leaves us with until 15 November. After this, the payment can go right back out of sight.

In November, workers will not be able to press for the threshold
being eroded still further by inflation, but with actual cuts in the cash they are
receiving.

It will need a massive, unified
struggle to prevent this taking place.
The links must be established NOW
across union and between factories.

Bosss' ploy...

GLOUCESTER—Workers at Breyer
Burgan, part of the Joseph Lucas group,
struck last Thursday over management's
refusal to pay the £1.20 threshold in full
to workers under 21.

A shop stewards meeting decided not to
work until mid morning next day, when the
workmen would vote on management's
refusal to pay the £1.20.

They continued to refuse
work, and the stewards came back with
a recommendation to ban overtime and
sub contract work. But a motion from the
floor for a one day strike was passed
almost unanimously.

Workers at Babcock and Wilcox in
Gateshead have also started action
three days before to get the threshold
paid. Further action at Breyer Burgan
is expected in the near future.

Bosss' ploy...

GATESHEAD—Boilersmiths at Clarke
Chapman are now on strike over the
threshold payment. This followed management's
attempt to tack a productivity clause on
to a threshold payment.

AEW members in the plant got
the threshold without strings. But management
tried to claw back a 9½p a week payment
for boilermakers working a new automatic
packing machine, which cuts welding
times by half.

The last straw

SOUTHALL—London—About 400
craftsmen at AEC struck last Wednesday—
even though the APM branch has only
300 members. This was in response to the
refusal of the company to pay a one-day strike
throughout British Leyland's threshold payments.

The UEF struck again around
Leyland over the few last shifting,
grading appeals and working
conditions.

They said they would pay any
threshold money the last straw.

The strike experience
was a useful lesson but we
were able to achieve a great deal.
We struck in the Major Gates
last day and have now sent
out another...

The battle over the threshold

A new Socialist Worker leaflet
on the threshold fight after Friday's
Retail Price Index rise is available
from Corbridge Works, Corbridge
Crescent, London E.2. Price £1.50
per 1000, this leaflet will be of
countless use in the struggle.
It explains the various con-
tricks the employers and the Pay
Board get up to and how to win.

PLESSEY SIT-IN GOES ON

NOTTINGHAM—Plessey, Beeston con-
ventor Brian Crostall speaking to last Friday's mass
meeting which voted overwhelmingly to
continue their sit-in strike.

The workers launched the strike in support
of a full threshold payment. Management was
trying to impose a £1.60 ceiling which would
have given no more after the initial payment.

This week 9000 more Plessey workers
in Liverpool and the North East joined the
struggle by striking. This followed a meeting of the national combine which decided on
company-wide action.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

NOW THRESHOLD BATTLE EXPLODES

THE BATTLE for the threshold
exploded in the Midlands this week
with the strike of all 5000
manual workers at GEC's three
Coventry plants.

All AUEW and Transport Union
members at the Stoke, Spon Street
and Raglan Street plants are now on
strike for an open-ended threshold
agreement.

The GEC management, in its usual
nasty fashion, are trying—just like
the threshold bosses—so that they can get away with a
once-for-ever payment.

At Standard Triumph, Coventry, part
of the giant British Leyland empire which
flaunt inflates to make any payments, 540
Association of Clerical, Technical
and Supervisory Staff members struck on
Monday, causing 9000 workers to be laid
off in Coventry. There were also extensive
lay-offs in Liverpool.

‘Clarification’

The ACTSS members are to continue
their campaign with lightning strikes, de-
signed to hit as hard as possible.

At Standard Triumph in Liverpool the
stewards' committee voted in support of
a manoeuvre to delay their decision on
future negotiations.

They are also waiting on 'clarification'
of the threshold position. This might be
forthcoming at the meeting of the Leyland
combine executive.

The Society of Graphical and Allied
Trades, the 200,000-strong paper and
printworkers' union, threatened an all
industry strike of its 100,000 members employed
by the Newspaper Society and British
Printing Industries Federation if the
threshold is not paid in full.

The employers have been trying to
blackmail SOGAT into letting the
employers' terms in return for a threshold deal.

At Chrysler, Whitley, 17 TASS mem-
bers had been suspended by Tuesday for
fighting for the threshold, TASS members
said they would hand in notice to go to
Chrysler to pay up.

Following a meeting of the combine
committee at Herbert's, Coventry, the
company upped its offer. They are still trying to keep a
threshold of 9½p a week in the face of suggestions of
13 per cent. The unions, who are now in the payback
struggle, are still demanding a no-cutting deal.

The strike that must spread

THE STRIKE deadline is now
approaching. A special meeting
was held yesterday at the
Royal Manchester Hotel, Stockport.

It was attended by members of the
AUEW, BCTU and TASS.

The meeting agreed to fight the
threshold battle to a finish, and to
open up the 27 places in Stockport.

Members of the three unions are
encouraged to join the battle.

The battle must be won by the
workers!
THE LABOUR government got a slap in the face today over its failure to win the confidence of the National Union of Mineworkers. It rejected any notion of a social contract.

Mr. James Chichester-Clark, the Scottish Secretary, has refused to meet the NUM’s conference of 700 delegates in Edinburgh tomorrow. The NUM has already given notice that if the government does not meet with them in a social contract meeting by August 1st, it will call a 24-hour strike.

The NUM has also threatened to impose a 24-hour national strike if the government does not meet with them in a social contract meeting by August 1st. The NUM has already given notice that if the government does not meet with them in a social contract meeting by August 1st, it will call a 24-hour strike.

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Monday 8 July. That's the day you can do something to get more pay for the nurses and to save the National Health Service.

The National Coordinating Committee has called a stoppage for Monday on doctors for support of the nurses' pay claim. 

van Denard, chairman of the committee, told Socialist Worker. "The action we are calling for includes 24-hour stoppages with emergency cover by other trade union members. We are also calling for a ban in all areas on private practice in the Health Service and for non-co-operation with all agency staff.

"So let's get working and make this day a holocaust for Health Minister Barbara Castle, the beginning of a programme of action that will end when we win our full demands."

Rank and file fights on as the unions squabble

by Fiona Ross (NUPE)

Edinburgh on Friday a 500-strong demonstration of nurses and other workers sang and chanted through the centre of the city. The demonstration was called and organised by the rank and file nurses action group.

As the nurses, NUPE and COHSE, continued to assembled the nurses took the initiative and mobilised the nurses by leafleting hospitals and other workers at factories gates and national gates. Calls for union support brought together a co-operation from COHSE but none from NUPE.

Rank and file support came from workers at Parson's Ethylene works, Bath and Glass Monastery Rail Colliery and Myrons building site, where workers had walked out in the morning. The Robb Caledon shipyard sent a delegation.

Other groups represented, electricians, junior hospital doctors and teachers, some of whom brought their classes to the rally for a lesson in protest.

The rally was addressed by Sue Simmonds (NUPE), a student nurse who spoke about the need to keep the pressure on, to fight for an improvement which must not be conned by vague promises from the dubious Redfern Inquiry. Other speakers were a rank and file teacher, a shop steward from Parson, the treasurer of Monkiss Hill NUM, who is also on the executive of Edinburgh Trades Council, and a commune from Robb Caledon.

Roger Cox (AUEW) secretary of the National Rank and File Conference Organising Committee, said: "No trade union must fail to fight for its share of this day's action in its place of work. The organising committee are making every effort to make 8 July a success.

"We will be producing a briefing for all nurses Coordinating Committees for all trade unionists and will be discussing with our major support the best ways to ensure file most support."

Class solidarity by Celia Deacon (NUT)

London: More than 200 teachers, parents and children from 18 schools marched last Thursday in support of Britain's first-ever unofficial strike of teachers based on school sections.

The strike is the climax of nearly three years frustration among teachers who are claiming a substantial allowance to compensate for the soaring costs of living in London. Last month more than 500 schools voted with a two-thirds majority for strike action, but the executive of the National Union of Teachers, desperate to maintain the relations with the Labour government, refused to call a strike.

Teachers in some schools struck for one day — others from Tuesday to Friday. A strike committee elected from the schools where action has been taken decided to continue with one-day unofficial stoppages to keep the NUT executive and the Pay Board in no doubt about our feelings. During the strike, we visited many schools all over London and talked to teachers. Although we had a friendly welcome and collected a lot of money for the strike fund, we found that many teachers still believe that they will get a good offer from the Pay Board at the end of the month, so were not prepared to support our action by striking.

But it is likely the Pay Board will produce vague recommendations which will then have to be argued about over the summer holidays. This could be disastrous for London teachers.

That's why the strike committee is urging teachers to prepare for strike action if the board doesn't produce an immediate £350 offer.