Holidays fraud

Part of the package

A HUNDRED THOUSAND people were done out of their holidays—and their money—last week.

Their package tours had a large hole in them. They had been robbed, robbed by directors who had gone on taking money long after they stopped being able to deliver the goods.

Everyone agrees the Court Line affair is a scandal—but who’s to blame?

The press made it clear. It’s Wedgewood Benn, again.

It’s the same story. But did the Labour government behave scandalously?

No, because they “interfered in free enterprise.” They didn’t interfere enough. They interfered enough to make the holidaymakers reckon they were entitled to get their money. But not enough to save their holidays.

Court Line is a scandal—so what did Labour do? Take over the ship-building division while the rest tottered on into bankruptcy. They should have taken over the whole lot, guaranteed the jobs, guaranteed the holidays—and told the directors to forget any ideas of compensation.

But the Tories talk you’d think they’d take the side with the holidaymakers. Instead they took the hotels’ side, for a ride.

FACT: When Heath was Prime Minister his parliamentary private secretary was Timothy Hitchlon, director of a Court Line company—A and P Appledore International.

FACT: Court Line have been regular donors to the Tory Party. Are the Tories going to give this money to those who’ve lost their holiday money?

**Erected**

**FACT:** Lord Boyd Carpenter is head of the Civil Aviation Authority and an ex-Tory minister. He knew about the company’s impending collapse. But he let it go on taking money from holidaymakers.

And for a long time Court Line was a “f中超美企业” to all those Tories. Now they’re trying to cover up their part in this affair and what it says about the house of cards they and their big business friends have erected.

One Edward Posey is running for cover at top speed. He’s a Court Line director. He’s got a four-storey house in Hampstead, complete with a new £3,000,000 extension. The £3,000,000 he’s made from his shareholding probably helped pay for it.

Maybe he won’t be around to appreciate it. He’s gone off to an “unknown destination”. He’s cancelled the milk for the garden of the house.

People like holidays to get away from it all. But you’re got away by the same crooks who rob you the rest of the year round. And they’re in trouble. Court Line has sunk—and it won’t be the last company to go over the horizon this year.

The holiday is over.

For the Tories, for big business—and for the masses of the world, who talk big to us, and pay big to them.
Phoney war over state takeover

A WEEK is a long time in politics, Harold Wilson has discovered. Not long enough, he evidently believes, for all programmes and policies to be forgotten.

The brave promises to take over the banks, to nationalise the steel, have become so routine, so old hat, that even the Labour Parliamentary Party is beginning to tire of them. Yet the Opposition has not yet been able to come up with anything really new.

What now is left of Labour’s nationalisation plans? National Enterprise Board to buy shares in companies, the nationalisation of the bankrupt shipbuilding industry, of the airframe industry which is totally dependent on state orders anyway and promises about building land and North Sea oil. That plus nationalisation of ports, most of which are publicly owned already.

Even if these plans are carried out in full—and it is a very big ‘if’ in view of Labour’s record—‘structural inequality in ownership’ will not be altered by one jot or tittle. Appropriately enough, shipbuilding was one of the industries most in need of nationalization when the government published its plans! The shareholders would have to be bought out too.

Closures

What the plans amount to is a series of state-capitalist measures to prop up the weaker sectors of British industry. The most important proposal is to saddled the National Enterprise Board. About it The Economist (14 April) commented: ‘The real question is what the board’s function is meant to be. There is a lot of talk of it being involved with profitable businesses but its main role will be to buy in unprofitable companies.’

So why all the fuss? Why all the right-wing and left-wing arguments about ‘state grants’? After all, as the Financial Times pointed out: ‘In the United States, a 40 per cent tax on gains from the sale of long-term capital is a godsend for the taxpayer.’

But there is also something much more important and probably more urgent. What we want too much publicity about it. Above all, it is the threat of further state nationalization to catch on with those companies that are committed by closures that could really lead to unwelcome state takeovers. The Economist spells it out clearly.

‘The danger of the National Enterprise Board may come when next year’s slump causes some big firms (perhaps even the whole industry) to issue mass redundancy notices to workers, who will then respond with an unprecedented wave of strikes demanding that their jobs be saved by takeovers by the state.’

‘If the Board obliges, every one of the companies that have one million workers or more who seem likely to be sacked in the winter of 1969-70 will have the idea of a sit-in providing the basis for a wave of workers’ takeovers. The point is important, because social unrest is now so high that what the next election will be really about is indetermined.

Exactly. Nationalisation will then become a real class issue. The Labour government will then be able to launch its nationalisation schemes. This is no threat to capitalism in Britain. But it is a threat of a new, a very real threat to big business. Socialist Worker is 100 per cent in favour of it.

COULD British Leyland follow Court Line down the drain? Are some of the big financial institutions on the verge of collapse? Just how many companies will go bust in the developing slump? And which ones?

Questions like these are behind the jitters that have taken share values down to a new low. The Financial Times share index dipped below 200 on Monday, down 14 points in five days and 50 points over the year, just over two years ago it was at 354.

There has been nothing like this since 1929. This is the reason why the city speculators take such a gloomy view of the future is the differences between then and now.

First inflation. Output is already more or less stagnant all over the world. Yet instead of falling, prices are now rising upwards, it is used to be taken for granted that even a mild recession would stabilise prices, and that a slump would send them plunging sharply down. But they don’t do that now.

BOOM

Not any more. The growth of great monopolies and multinationals, the overwhelming economic weight of the state and the existence of powerful unions have changed the role of the capitalist game.

What is going to happen is that inflation will continue through the slump and the next Nationalisation will be up to the 25 to 35 per cent a year bracket. And that is a principle nobody understands, ‘social contracts’ and the like.

No wonder the big businessmen are gloomy. They can see no easy way out. From inflation through slump to super-inflation to superflation. That is the prospect.

Protest against terror—and the face of terror. Thousands of Cypriots demonstrated outside the Turkish Embassy in London against the Turkish Army’s invasion of Cyprus. As they did so Turkish armed forces moved on across the island, leaving devastation behind them. The smaller photograph shows a victim of Turkish napalm bombing.

There are no ’clean’ military operations. Napalm, supplied by the United States dropped from fighter bombers, also supplied by the United States, does its murderous work—on behalf of the United States . . .

Junta to pay $100m to US copper firm

Toma factory in Concepcion occupied last month to celebrate May Day. The military tried to stop the demonstration but were unsuccessful.

On May Day itself an agreement was reached. The workers were to abandon the factory peacefully—in return for an agreement that the soldiers would not conduct reprimals.

On 2 May the true value of this agreement was revealed. Thirty workers were arrested. The rest of the strikers were allowed back to their jobs which they kept solid until the arrested workers were released the next day.

On 30 May the underground store of the biggest single textile firm in Chile, Toma, was set on fire. This factory was seized by its strikers the previous year. It was in power and the workers there were living in fear of the constant threat of a police raid. In May when the workers went back to their previous owner, Amado Toma, they were allowed to retain their jobs. The firm, like its predecessors, had joined the Chilean ‘socialist’ movement and the Toma workers were allowed to retain their jobs.

Demonstrate for Chile

The American copper bosses was negotiated by the juana’s faithful servant Emilio Philipps, publisher of one of the earliest hymns to juana. The payment of compensation is a basic of being for the generals and their regime. It shows that while butchery and torture be their opponents, they be law-abiding gentlemen. They do not in any way interfere with the inviolability of property owners.

The weekend before the copper deal was announced, the junta’s police again showed their devotion to duty. In Santiago (population three million) more than 10,000 people were arrested in the greatest police swoop in Chilean history.

The police/military authorities indicated that 5874 people were arrested ‘for breaches of the law’, 3259 ‘for drunkenness’, 731 for breaking the curfew and 872 ‘for other offences’.

According to an official junta press statement a whole series of such operations were being carried out ‘to expel a wave of delinquency that the government attributed to a group of extremists and trade unionists who set out to create problems’.

Unfortunately it seems the extremes and delinquents who set out to create problems just will not go away. Indeed it seems they are greatly encouraged by every act of support and solidarity in other countries, including such moves as the International Transport Workers Federation 48-hour blacking all trade with Chile, announced this week.

News of resistance activities earlier this year is beginning to filter through. On the night of 30 April textile workers in the Bellavista neighbourhood occupied the plant to celebrate May Day. The military tried to stop the demonstration but were unsuccessful.

The military junta in Chile has now announced the terms of their agreement to pay $100 million to the American Anaconda Copper Company for the mines nationalised by the Allende government.

Anaconda is to get a total of $235.2 million dollars ($100 million) for its Chuquicamata and El Salvador mines, 65 million dollars ($27.5 million) in cash and the rest in six monthly instalments. This massive amount of money will require a great deal of extra flesh for the Chilean miners to pay it off. The junta hopes to lay this on at the point of a gun.

This magnificent hand-out to the American copper bosses was negotiated by the junta’s faithful servant Emilio Philipps, publisher of one of the earliest hymns to juana.

Solidarity with the Chilean resistance—demonstrates, Sunday 15 September, 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m., Tramway Square, Central London.

In Scotland a demonstration over the anniversary of the coup in Chile has been called by the Chile Solidarity Campaign based in Edinburgh. In Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and Paisley Trades Councils have also been received from the Scottish TUC. No-sale rinse days round the Scottish area of the TGWU, Dundee, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Paisley and Dalmellingtonbranches for official support.

All friends of the Chilean workers and supporters of the miners should join in this protest, to show solidarity with the miners. Aspart of the demonstration, speakers will demonstrate, with banners. Assembly: 10.30 a.m., Byres Road Square, Glasgow.
Police dispense demonstrators outside the prison, where they were protesting against the soft treatment of Gaddafi’s former secret police torturers.

Portugal’s police kill demonstrator

ONE person was killed and four seriously injured when police fired on demonstrators in Lisbon last Thursday.

The fascist government that used to rule Portugal was overthrown by a military coup at the end of April. In the days which followed, mass demonstrations and political street forces forced the army to arrest members of the notorious secret police, the PIDE, and strikes in the factories drove out the army.

The government now running the country is a combination of representatives of the Armed Forces Movement which overthrew the coup and of the three main political parties—the Communist Party, the Socialist Party and the middle of the road PPD.

But it has become clear that real power remains with army officers who want to maintain capitalism in Portugal. The result has been growing repression. The climax of this was the shooting last week of the demonstrator who was demanding immediate independence for Portugal’s most populous colony, Angola. Their demonstration was banned jointly by the Cabinet, which includes left-wing ministers and the armed forces. When it went ahead, the police and the military police attacked it in the Rossio square, in the centre of Lisbon.

Three days earlier the police had rounded themselves by beating up demonstrators, including young children, outside the prison where the former members of the secret police are held. These ex-thugs had been allowed to take up a section of the prison and demand greater freedom, without any action being taken against them. In anger thousands of people demonstrated against this—and were attacked by police.

Such attacks on demonstrators have been accompanied by attempts to limit the spread of left-wing ideas through the press. Three weeks ago the three main Lisbon evening papers suspended, allegedly for publishing socialist news about the situation in Angola or for mentioning a demonstration for independence for the colonies called by the Maoist organisation, the MRPP.

But newspaper workers and two weekly papers, Expresso and O Fim, demonstrated solidarity with the suspended papers and the only weekly paper published was the Communist Party paper Avante.

Indeed, the whole atmosphere of Lisbon left-wing forces recently lifted and lifted the suspensions.

Strength

But they still insisted that ‘ideological aggression’ against the armed forces was the reason and they banned the MRPP paper, Luta Popular. The Mozambique paper Journal de Beira has been fined nearly £3000 for implying that the head of the military junta, President Spinola, was not sincere in promising independence to the colonists.

The left-wing political parties have attempted to give the impression that they are not fully in favour of all left-wing and liberation policies, but remain in the government with the military and have made no effort to capture the mass of the movement against the power of the police and the officers in the armed forces.

Indeed the Communist Party seems intent on doing the police’s job for them. An MRPP demonstration for press freedom in Oporto last week was attacked by men with iron bars who boasted that they were Communist Party members.

After the coup in April, the Portuguese ruling class found it difficult to use repression measures, such as the strength of popular feeling. But now it seems to be slowly recovering confidence as the left-wing parties sit with its representatives in the government and tell their members to keep things quiet.

The policy followed with such catastrophic results by the left-wing parties in Chile before the coup there last September. Last week the policy has produced its first victim in Portugal.

The CIA moves in

Cyril finally achieved independence in 1960. But the British support for the administration in the island has been marked by indiscriminate violence in ‘pacification’ areas’ and to ensure that British business continued to dominate the economy.

Most recently, support Britain’s rulers down to the ground. But the Americans were not nearly as happy. For although Britain, Greece and Turkey were all part of NATO, Cyprus was not and the US could not control. Britain decided they had to. And so, under the guise of an outlandish that the US intelligence agency, the CIA, then took up the tactic of direct action. They employed Greek and British agents to force a Greek invasion in 1963. Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers and peasants, who had previously lived side by side each other, with some history of common struggle for improved conditions, were now forced into different hostile enclaves.

Meanwhile, Greece and Turkey, the Americans had backed right-wing military regimes that imprisoned and tortured their opponents wholesale—and helped hide their crimes by bouts of sabre-rattling over Cyprus.

But the British and Americans have found they have created monsters they cannot fully control. The Greek Cypriot regime’s inability to solve Greece’s problems, attempted to seize power in Cyprus through the Samsos coup. The Turkish Prime Minster, Bulent Ecevit, decided the solution was the partition of Cyprus. West. Their own fear now is that instead of their manoeuvres leading Cypriot workers to become part of NATO, it is producing pressures for Britain to leave. In Cyprus itself, instead of a partition of the island between similar right-wing nationalistic regimes, there could be a long period of instability with continual quarrelling. This favours the Turkish troops.

The likelihood is that, now that the Turks have conquered most of the island, the British and American governments will now try to present the partition as a ‘solution’ in order to restore stability and get Greece into NATO.

Meanwhile, the advanced in such Greece and Turkey for years, the NATO powers cannot now act to solve the island’s problems. Socialists must continue to call for the unity of Greek and Turkish workers and to resist the partition of Cyprus. We must demand all foreign troops out of Cyprus, including British troops, and that the Labour government give no support to the right-wing rulers of Greece or Turkey.

RETURN OF THE B- SPECIALS

From Eamonn McCann in Derry

Far right-wing Protestant leaders are here going ahead with the formation of a ‘Third Force’ despite Northern Ireland Secretary Melvin Rees’s insistence that no ‘security’ organisation other than the army and the police will be recognised. Already thousands of men have been enrolled and recruiting meetings are continuing in Protestant areas.

Head of the new group is William Craig, chairman of the Ex-B Specials Association, close associate of William Craig and personal friend of the former UUP’s National Office’s chief Lindsey Mason.

Craig and Ian Paisley have made it clear they want nothing less than a return of one-party Unionist rule and the smashing once and for all of the Catholic aspiration towards a united Ireland. They see the Third Force—armed and outside Westminster control—as the instrument for achieving this.

They have been encouraged by the hesitancy of Reece’s reaction, who said he ‘disapproves’ of the recruitment campaign but has refused, even verbally, to condemn it outright. Reece, said one, Protestant leader contemptuously, ‘is only playing with words.

CERTAIN

Part of the motivation for the new force is a desire by middle-class leaders such as Craig to take the initiative away from existing Protestant mass organisations—such as the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Workers’ Council, which led the anti-power sharing strike in June.

Not that there is any deep conflict between Craig’s aims and the stated aims of the UDA and the UWC. But neither is controlled by the established politicians. Craig and Paisley want to be absolutely certain that the Protestant masses are in their grip and if civil war breaks out here.

Meanwhile army harassment of Catholic working-class areas is relentless as ever. The Labour government systematically disarming the Catholics while backing off right the wing threat.

The International Socialists last Friday sent telegrams to trade union revolutionaries in Ireland and revolutionary organisations: ‘Protest at the murder of anti-imperialist demonstrator and offer solidarity to victims of repression.’ IS also took the initiative in calling for a token picket of the Portuguese embassy in London on Tuesday evening.

Weapon supplies

Meanwhile, the ordinary workers and peasants of Cyprus have seen their lives’ hopes crumble. After being terrorised by the Greek-run National Guard, they are now being terrorised by the Turkish army.

But it is not these deaths which worry the British and American governments. They have set back and watched first the Greek junta, then the Turkish army seize control of the island, each using weapons supplied to them through NATO. Despite their crocodile tears, they have never said no to the flow of weapons to their troops.

Their own fear now is that instead of their manoeuvres leading Cypriot workers to become part of NATO, it is producing pressures for Greece to leave. In Cyprus itself, instead of a partition of the island between similar right-wing nationalistic regimes, there could be a long period of instability with continual quarrelling. This favours the Turkish troops.

The likelihood is that, now that the Turks have conquered most of the island, the British and American governments will now try to present the partition as a ‘solution’ in order to restore stability and get Greece into NATO.

The International Socialists last Friday sent telegrams to trade union revolutionaries and revolutionary organisations: ‘Protest at the murder of anti-imperialist demonstrator and offer solidarity to victims of repression.’ IS also took the initiative in calling for a token picket of the Portuguese embassy in London on Tuesday evening.

Next week Eamonn McCann will analyse the support being given to the Third Force by Protestants in Northern Ireland.
Noise report? Sorry we can’t hear you...

KEEP IT! A word of advice for those who’d like to use the end of Women’s Voice, the International Socialist women’s paper. Unless we change the attitude of “Is/was your husband home? No—well I’ll come back another day, could you take my Socialist Worker for him?” it will be impossible for the International Socialist to get to lots of women. Many women see Socialist Worker or Women’s Voice and then never read it. That’s where Women’s Voice comes in. In a few weeks, if you’re not left upstart, we must keep Women’s Voice, urban or rural, as it’s rare.

ROD MacFie, Kirkby.

FOLLOWING a study of The Hazards of Work, by Pat Kinnersley (Pluto Press), a number of Shop Stewards in the West Works, British Leyland, Longbridge, Birmingham held a meeting with the industrial engineers and management. It was with a view to claiming maximum relaxation allowances because of the extremely high noise levels within their respective area. Management replied that a proper noise survey would have to be carried out before their demands were met. Unbeknown to the stewards, however, a survey had already been carried out, registering noise levels of 110 decibels, and a report had been made.

This piece of news slipped out during the conversation. Upon being, pressed to show this report, management replied that it was confidential and rather technical, and that laymen reading same would jump to the wrong conclusions (shades of Watergate?). In short, the information could prove dangerous. They were assured that they would be allowed to see the future report however. Hastily, management changed the impact tool (the source of the noise) for another, hoping that this would give a lower register.

The survey was then taken, but before the results were made known, the works doctor summoned the stewards to his consulting room, and told them that their fears were groundless. He was evasive, and unable to convince them that no damage to the operator’s ear-drums had been examined. In declaring that a noise policy could not be implemented for some months, he mentioned a time when Austin/Morris were compiling redundancy lists.

West Works management then stated that the latter survey now revealed a decrease from 110 decibels to that of 90 decibels, but refused them access to the report. Once more, they stated that they alone decided what information should be conveyed to the shop-floor.

The section workers are united in pressing for an immediate noise policy to be implemented, and state that this will no longer be deflected by their ‘lords and masters’.

Their chance of success may be severely hampered if other shop stewards throughout the works fail to follow their initiative. Hazardous working conditions must not be accepted as part and parcel of our working life at Longbridge—CAR WORKER (Name and address supplied).

HINTS . . . I wish you would publish more maps with foreign articles. Many of us rely on Socialist Worker to keep up and don’t carry an atlas around . . . You should have more maps and illustrations, and you might stress that capitalism is by its very nature rapacious. You will see that this is not that the Earth’s goodies are nearly exa...-

ROD MacFie, Kirkby.

HELIO PRIETO

CHILE: THE GORILLAS ARE AMONGST US

In this implacable attack on Allende’s government of Popular Unity, Prieto shows clearly the dangers of not preparing the people for successful resistance to counter-revolution.

In bookshops 50p or direct (add 6p post and packing) from

Pluto Press, Unit 1 Spencer Court
Clacton Road, London NW1 8LH

THANKS for the eloquent and frank review of Steven Hicks’s book of poems, The Boxer Speaks (17 August) and the excellent article on him in Socialist Worker. Readers might like to know that Steven is a senior member of a group of East London working class poets called The Basement Writers. We meet in the basement of Poplar Town Hall in Cable Street E1 on Thursday evenings, starting 3 September. We have just published two books of poems by young East Enders. Up The Docks by Alan Gilbery and Never Had It So Good by Tony Minshaw which can be ordered by post from us (price 5s and 1s respectively) at The Basement, Community Art Workshop, Town Hall, Cable Street, E1-CHRIS Searle.

Colonel bitten nurses?

CAN YOU IMAGINE a packet line of nurses, many of whom take home less than £20 a week, being attacked and intimidated by a ‘para-military’ group of wealthy businessmen and retired colonels? This is what General Sir Walter Walker wants to be the ‘solution’ to the strikes in Britain. His Union group is a sign that the wealthy middle-class are afraid—afraid that they will have to share the country’s wealth with those who produce that wealth, in the working class.

It is not a case of trade unionists being hoodwinked by anarchists or bought off with Moscow gold; the fact is that trade unionists are sick of having to go on strike to keep up with the cost of living. It’s no fun when you’re on a few pounds a week strike pay (and you can’t claim Social Security, it’s an absolute joke). Unfortunately we can’t all just grant ourselves a £8 a week rise like The MPs have just done, or make a cool £5 million by wheeling and dealing on the profits of other people’s labour like Sir Denis Floewerdown Lawson has done.

Certainly working people are being used for political ends—but it is for the ends of Sir Walter, Sir Denis and friends who want to keep things just as they are—on top, living off the workers.

JOHN BELL, Newcastle.

A FREE COMMERCIAL . . . I would like to make your readers aware of the existence of the excellent monthly magazine, Labour Research. It’s packed full of information, statistics on company profits and inequalities in Britain, it contains an issue and its address is Labour Research, 78-82 Piccadilly, London SW1 BHP (01-452 3645). If asked: they’ll give you special information on your own firm if you need IL-ALAN BEARD, Grays, Essex.

TOO LONG . . . In my opinion the letter from Dr. John R. M. Jones should not have been printed. It amounted to a criticism of the USSA. It continues that the last page could well have confused some readers . . . Patrick Long would not object to extending the facilities at his disposal (the evening seminars) to provide a platform for revolutionary ideas. It is a waste of space to provide him with an extension to the excessively large platform which currently expires—JOHN PRANCE, Ealing, Green

BETAPROFIT

ANY READERS who purchase their bread cakes and confectionery from Betaprint while shop type vans will (or perhaps will not be aware) that the prices of these commodities tend to be lower on Saturdays, especially at the end of the week.

The mechanism causing this is as follows.

The accounting system used by Betaprint is transparent to the customer. This explains to all the employees except for one simple fact that prices are charged for goods then at the end of the week the total revenue which a salesman earns in the week will be below the desired target total.

That figure comes from head office which has records of all goods put into the van and the price of each. The salesman is paid on the first few weeks will result in a ‘deficit’. Then he is told of the error, accounting. Unfortunately for him if he does not overcharge enough his ‘deficit’ will be deducted from his wages, if he cannot rectify the ‘error’ by making a surplus in the following week.

However, if a shaving mistake in wages occurs the error does not come into operation. The salesman only receives his salary if he makes a surplus on his week’s wages. The rest is swallowed up by guess who.

Betaprint is probably not the only bakery to operate in this manner as it is a division of a company who owns nearly every bakery in the country. How many of you own your own bread. Betaprint made what was described as their biggest ever profit in the last year—ANDREW CULVER, Suffolk.
WHAT WE STAND FOR

THE International Socialists are a revolutionary socialist organisation open to all who accept our main principles and who are willing to work to achieve them. These principles are:

INDEPENDENT WORKING-CLASS ACTION
We believe that socialism can only be achieved by the independent action of the working class.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORMISM
We believe in overthrowing capitalism, not patching it up or gradually trying to change it. We therefore support the struggles of workers against capitalism and fight to break the hold of reformist ideas and leaders.

THE SOCIALIST STATE
The state machine is a weapon of capitalist class rule and therefore must be smashed. The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working-class revolution needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers’ state, based on councils of workplace delegates.

WORK IN THE MASS ORGANISATIONS OF THE WORKING CLASS
We believe in working in the mass organisations of the working class, particularly the trade unions, and fighting for rank and file control of them.

INTERNATIONALISM
We are internationalists. We practise and campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries, oppose racism and imperialism, and fully support the struggles of all oppressed peoples. We are opposed to all immigration controls.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country. Revolution is defeated by isolation. Russia, China and Eastern Europe are not socialist but state capitalist. We support the workers’ struggle in these countries against the bureaucratic ruling class.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY
To change society the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party, and all the activity of the International Socialists is directed to the building of such a party.

WE ARE

For rank and file control of the trade unions and the regular election of all new members. No more tokenism. All settlements to be voted on by members.

For 100 per cent trade unionism. Against all victimisations and blacklisting. Against the trade union laws or courts on the right to strike and on effective picketing.

For genuine democracy or efficiency deals.

Against any form of incomes policy under capitalism.

Against unemployment, redundancies and layoffs. Instead we demand five days work or five days pay, and the 24-hour week. For nationalisation without compensation under workers control.

For a military trade union unity, joint shop stewards committees at plant and combine level.

For the building of a national rank and file movement which will fight for these policies in the trade union movement.

Against racism and joint victimisation of black people. Against all immigration controls. For the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise in their own defence.

For real social, economic and political equality for women.

Against all nuclear weapons and military preparations such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Against Brazilian intervention, including Russian imperialism.

For unconditional support to all genuine national liberation movements.

For the building of a mass workers’ revolutionary party, organised in the class to power, and for the building of a revolutionary socialist international.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

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

The International Socialists, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN

Name:
Address:
Trade Union:

Socialist Worker 24 August 1974

LABOUR... OR FASCISM?

I'M GLAD that Robert Briggs drew attention to the working class in Stocks (1 August) and I think they should not be treated lightly. This ex-Labour peeress has openly called for a mass workers' movement, because, she says, Harold Wilson has put himself too much in the power of the trade unions. That statement has been followed up by Sir Walter Walker, a former chief executive of the Federation of Northern European Europe, who proposed that wages should be raised, that the number of army of storm troopers to keep the working class in order, Don't say it can't happen here—most German ships thought a lot about it in 1933.

So, while I sympathise with those who are disillusioned with the performance of the Labour government that they viewed will do an account of vote. Labour again, I think that decision would be a mistake. A Labour government is more open to working class pressure than a Tory one would be. If the Tories had been returned to full power at the last election they could have taken drastic anti-working class measures.

Even a 'moderate' Labour government would give us a chance to close shop, fascism dictatorship would not. I think we are in danger of fascist dictatorship—KATHLEEN JONES, Shrewsbury.
LEICESTER WORKERS TALK ABOUT THEIR TOWN AND ITS PROBLEMS

FRANK SMITH, chairman of the GEC Whetstone branch of TASS, staff convenor of the GEC Whetstone branch of the TASS No 16 Divisional Council, said: ‘A good deal of the responsibility for the situation in Leicester lies with the local paper, the Leicester Mercury, part of the Associated Newspapers group.’

‘Whenever there’s a court case which involved a black person, they really highlight it. And when the Ugandan Asians came, the local paper really led a hue and cry. Now the Ugandan Asians have been here some two years and no one can say their lives are any different than before.’

‘The Mercury has a very select readership page. If you send a letter saying all unofficial strikers should be hanged, they’ll print it. If you argue an opposite case, you’ll find it’s censored. They did a hatchet job on Countesthorpe School. This was a method of anarchy, apparently, because the kids called the teachers by their first names.’

OLLIE MATHER, engineering worker in the Bestley Group, president of Leicester No 16 branch AUEW, there was a housing problem long before the Asians came. And the truth is there would still be one if the National Front and Co had their way and all Asians were expelled from this country.

PRIORITY

‘The reason for this is that it is an immigrant town. They start their family, and the children are all working-class and for long as anyone can remember. And that’s because houses for people like us aren’t profitable enough. So they’re not a priority.’

‘It really makes me laugh sometimes when you hear the nonsense people come out with in support of nationalist ideas. They talk about the Asians being different in terms like “Don’t be the bray learn small funny.” Well maybe they do. But have you ever breathed in a street full of boiling cabbage?’

‘In the present situation we must not lose any opportunity to get among the Asian workers — get to know them and get them to strengthen the trade union movement. This way we can all move forward together.’

BILL PUGH, secretary of the Leicester No 16 branch AUEW: ‘People’s minds get clogged up with all sorts of rubbish. Here in Leicester you get a lot of talk about how this was once the most prosperous city in Europe, though God knows there were poor people aplenty in those supposedly golden days.

‘Over recent years you hear people talk about how Highfields, for example, has been dragged downhill. Highfields used to be a snob area but they got out. They found it more profitable to let their houses as flats to West Indians, Asians and other workers.

‘Then of course the landlords, the people who have sent the place downhill, start talking about how the blacks are driving the property into rack and ruin.

‘This is the sort of rubbish that prejudice feeds on. It feeds because a lot of people never stop, think and ask themselves why anyone should improve a house if it’s restored from some private landlord at an extortionate rent.’

JOE MORGAN, NUPE convenor at Leicester General Hospital: ‘The responsibility for the housing shortage in Leicester and elsewhere rests fairly and squarely on the shoulders of the profiteers and property speculators.

EMPTY

‘There is more than a million square feet of empty office space in this town. Yet the Labour-controlled council has ignored its existence and for all the protestations the system that breeds it. Available from 15 BOOKS.

‘The sympathetic speculative blocks empty than they do from building houses for working-class people.

‘The point is to get rid of a system where the priorities are profits, not people and their needs. The National Front and such like are a deadly menace to those who want to live a decent life and build a decent society. They are out to spread and divide us and must be defeated.’

PAUL ANDERSON AUEW: ‘The thing about racism is that it prevents you getting to know black people. It seals you in and isolates you. It also makes it difficult for anyone to argue with you.

‘One thing I point out when I’m arguing is the terrible path the logic takes you down. The National Front say they want to repatriate Asians AND West Indians. So suppose they get power. There’s no guarantee these people would have anywhere to be sent back to. So what would the National Front do then — build gas chambers?’

TOGETHER

‘I know about racism. About eight years ago I thought that AIDS was the National Front’s predecessor in Leicester, was a great thing. It was thoughtful, but I felt I was rebelling.

‘But when I want to work I got involved in the Labour party to learn that we all have to stand together if we are to get anywhere.’

JIM TOLTON, Economics Stamp Campaigner, said: ‘The National Front’s predecessors in the International Socialists who moved a protest march, the Leicester AUEW District Committee were backing the National Front march in Leicester this Saturday.

‘Everybody should be aware that the National Front is led by ex-NAZIS. They should be aware that they want to divide us, while worker against black worker and get us fighting among ourselves.

‘The best strategy the employers have ever devised is divide and rule. In this the National Front are their allies. Which is why every trade unionist should be organizing against them.

‘Racism is part of the system which gives some massive wealth and gives the many poverty and insecurity. To get rid of racism we are going to have to get rid of the system. And to get rid of the system we are going to have to get rid of racism.’

NEXT WEEK

The story Leicester would rather hide: The Transport Workers Union and the Imperial Typewriters dispute.
The man who talks above the shop

ROAD TO WIGAN BIER

Police make a shot in dark

Hush-hush

IF THERE are any problems I noticed in the toilets, it is of little consequence. The public is accustomed to use such toilets. However, I noticed that the public has been using these toilets improperly. I also noticed that the public has been using these toilets in a very noisy manner. This is not good for the public. I believe that the public should respect the toilets and use them properly.
Their Health

HOSPITAL WORKERS ARE FIGHTING FOR YOUR HEALTH
by Sally Jones NUPE

They say they are defending people's freedom of choice. We know, of course, that there is freedom of choice only for the wealthy who can afford the hefty cheques under the noses of the consultants.

There is evidence that consultants 'tow' for fee-paying patients by deliberately keeping their waiting lists long, then telling people they can get treatment quicker by paying for it.

If the consultants wish to use the 'freedom of choice' argument they should not get so upset when we exercise the same right. We choose NOT to use private facilities and they merely reflect this in their fees. They do not want to be the only one to profit.

In the past few months there have been unprecedented closures for the Health Service. Last year we saw the first major strike by hospital ancillary workers. Then the cagels were taken up again by nurses, by tradition and intent unorganised and non-militant.

Nurses have entered a new era. Never again will their profession be bedevilled with complacency. The nurses' fight inspired other health workers to take similar action—radiotherapists, technicians and physiotherapists, all demanding improved wages and conditions. But they were not only concerned with wages, but also with the crisis in the Health Service. If action is not taken now the NHS will collapse and it is vital that not only health workers but all trade unions fight for its preservation and improvement.

What began as a wages issue has developed into a class issue. Consider the ban on private patients, imposed in hospitals throughout the country.

Nye Bevan created the NHS in 1948 in the face of considerable opposition. It was an attack on the medical profession, who saw it as an attack on their source of income. They refused to co-operate with the scheme. So, to appease the consultants, it was agreed they could be only part-time employees of the NHS, giving them time for their profitable private practice.

Crying

But these cunning characters realised that the Health Service they deplored so much could in fact prove useful. For years they have used the beds, equipment and manpower provided for the NHS out of public funds to get rich quick.

Now the poor, deprived consultants are crying their eyes out and trying to convince us how they couldn't make ends meet if we didn't pay their private patients—they should try living on the average wage of a less privileged hospital worker!

The chief problem of the NHS is that the government spends nowhere near enough money on it to meet people's needs. More money must be put in to improve the pay and conditions of health workers, to build many more hospitals, to improve existing buildings and to improve the service to the public.

One way of raising the money would be to nationalise the drug companies, which make vast and increasing profits off the back of the Health Service. Even the last Tory government was forced to admit the immorality of such a situation—and did nothing to change it.

Tony Barber, when Chancellor of the Exchequer slashed the throat of the Health Service by cutting spending by £1 billion. This was devastating on a service already grossly short of cash.

This penny-pinching attitude shows in the poor pay of health workers, leading to a shortage of workers who in turn leaves too few people to do too much work. So the service to the patient deteriorates and long waiting lists result. 500,000 people in England alone were waiting for hospital beds in December last year.

People have the illusion that when they go into hospital they will receive the best of attention and treatment. Many hospitals are failing to provide even the lowest acceptable level of care. Wards of 50 and 60 patients are common in long-stay chronic sick and geriatric hospitals and hospitals for the mentally subnormal. Often there are only two nurses attending to those 50 or 60 patients.

Florence Nightingale said that 'the hospitals should not harm the patient.' We agree.

Eliminate

Then there's the problem of 'lump' labour. Private agencies are employing nurses and other hospital staff, trained at tax-payers' expense, and hiring them out to hospitals at considerably higher rates of pay than those employed directly and of course at considerable profit to the agencies. We demand the abolition of these agencies and insist that all health workers receive wages enough to eliminate the attraction of high pay the agencies provide.

Alan Fisher, general secretary of NUPE, and other trade union leaders are in danger of losing credibility in the eyes of the members. They have abdicated all responsibility hiding away in their ivory towers and emerging only to pour scorn and criticism on the actions of the rank and file, obviously from ing a minority meal.

But workers no longer have an interest in a government Tory attempting a working class evidently feel it is united labour me.

It is the duty of the union to defend the right to a job and the right to a political election which is vital for the Labour party to get into office.

The trade unionists at the recent demonstration organised worthy they brought down government.

Health Service long relevant to the cause of the nation, the rest they have been forced under the existence of things it is improvements we.

The whole labor union to bring in the cost of the and the crease society.
NATURE has played the final cruel joke on mankind's most miserable nation.

Already in poverty-stricken Asia, Bangladesh is in the pumper. But for the past month even the flat-panned and rickety houses of the most waterlogged country in the world have been swept away in the worst summer monsoon in memory.

The fields and the towns are flooded, the earth dykes over-whelmed. Crowded cattle are tormented by the roofs of submerged huts and in towns the streets have been burst open by the sheer force of the rising water. The sudden bodies of people or cattle who could not reach dry land are found trapped in the branches of half-submerged trees. Cholera and starvation stalk behind the water.

Concrete and steel can sur vive the deluge, but 800,000 straw and bamboo huts have been simply swept away by 23,000 cattle drowned. Bridges, railways and roads have been engulfed and the Bangla
desh Relief Minister estimates 2000 people have died.

The summer rains are nor mal but are uncontrolled and unimpeded by the peasant farmers. But this deluge has totally destroyed the summer rice crop, washed away rich soil and burst the few irrigation schemes built in an attempt to retain and control the monsoon runoff.

Victim

Nearly a fifth of Bangladesh's rice crop is lost. In good years the country still has to buy food on the world market to feed its people. This year, when the wheat harvest in North America is threatened by drought, the Bangladesh govern ment will need to buy replace ment grain costing more than £450 million. Bangladesh has just £16 million in foreign currency reserves to spend. For centuries Bengal has been the victim of spring floods. But this year the Himalayan snows melted, cyclones crashed in from the Bay of Bengal and of summer monsoons. But its defences against disaster have been made.

Its rivers could be tamed, its rains could be forecast, the cyclones anticipated and prepared for. Most of the damage is not from the cyclones but from the water. With the collapse of its immense population it could not be allowed to go to work. In Australia, after the terrifying 1916 floods in New South Wales, a system of mountain dams and reservoirs were speedily built which could contain a flood of 100,000 Old Testament proportions. The cyclones that strike across Florida from the Gulf of Mexico are plotted by weather satellites and prepared for by coastguard, radio and civil authorities. Rainfall is in almost a formality by the time the whirlwind arrives.

Slump

But there are no precautions or warnings in Bangladesh. The country pillaged by Britain is instead experiencing the econom ical slump of Western capitalism in a terrifyingly extreme form.

Bangladesh has been one of the big winners in the independence struggles of 1971 in the teeth of cyclones which killed 200,000, pillaging and mass转移 for the Pakistan army and mass flight of refugees into India. By a sad at least won its right to nationhood. Since then it has experienced one of the most rapid development and slumps...plastically magnified.

Stagflation is now a fact of life. Chalambari, the local newspaper, has jumped between one and four times since the war. Cholera and hunger. Starvation is now a fact of life. Children are literally born with malnutrition, starved of protein even in the womb.

Cholera has been pictures of despair are the new reality for Asia in a world where Western capitalism has ceased to grow. In a rational, that is social, world the foods and the famine and the disease could be controlled. In a world dominated by a declining Western capitalism and the uninterested state capitalism of Russia, China and Eastern Europe, the nations which possess the wealth and the knowledge to save the eight million people of Bangladesh are instead pulling up the ladder. For now that Western capi
talism is scarcely bothered to exploit Bengal any longer it has become an embarrassment on the international accounts sheet, a nation that is redundant.

In the stark words of the Financial Times: 'Bangladesh is too poor to be able to attract private funds.'

The chance of feeding the population is far off, of building dams non-existent. When the world is richer and more knowl
dedgeable than ever in history we are set for the starvation of an international recession which we can watch on colour TV but not hate.

This kind of concern is well reflected in the Labour government's relief after three weeks warning, Aid and Develop ment Minister Judith Hart spent most of last week trying to give the impression of activity by holding conferences but whether to panic or not. Even
tually a wretched £10,000 worth of cholera vaccine and a selec tion of army blankets were dis
datched on a charter plane which proceeded to sit on a tarmac in Luxenburg for the next 48 hours.

Donors

In the circumstances it is rather like contributing a sea
dsate to the collapse of the sinking Titanic. But it enabled Judith Hart to make several radio appearances gleaning with con cern.

In the voluntary organisations that provide the vast majority of disaster aid are a good deal more political about the problem than the Labour Left, Don Thompson of the War on Want, says, 'It's a question of dollars, Thank you very much. We'd endeavour to use your money responsibly. But have you ever thought about how our country has profited from Asian poverty?'

It's all very well to profess concern about medical needs and to send cholera vaccines but Britain still has a typical exploitative relationship with Asian medicine. We take 2000 of their doctors a year—that's a fifth of the registered practitioners. And household names like BP and Shell have squeezed the jute and textile industries out of existence with synthetics.

We would be misleading public sympathy if we implied that a bit of intermittent compassion will alter the international structures which cause poverty.

The fact is not the companion-on-the-cheap of Judith Hart or the more sub stantial but equally wrong-headed concern of the humanitarianations. Both substitute the appear ance of doing something for an explanation of why, in reality, nothing is being done. Both fail to understand the world capitalist system, to see how slow down in the world economy will lead to a drop in Asia, that shortages here mean starvation there.

But an answer does lie with the working-class movement, which must again take up the cause of the workers and peasants of Bengal. That means seeing the flood victims not as helpless objects of pity but active allies.
SOME women are happy because their husbands work in non-militant factories and are never on strike. They may not have to deal with strikes but they have to put up with low wages instead. If you live on £12 per week then you might as well be on strike anyway.

My initiation to strikes came seven or eight years ago when my husband worked at Ford's. It was our first strike and a complete disaster as far as I was concerned. I had no idea how to manage.

I was absolutely terrified when the strike broke out and I was very frightened. I tried to carry on paying my bills as usual, which left me no money for food. Then I had to buy meat with my limited purse around my neck getting food on tick.

One day I went into a shop and had to sign the book, then I found out that Ford workers were overpaid, earning £50-£60 a week. She said they were getting £30 a week. I was struggling to make ends meet and the conversation made me very angry. We had a blazing row about it, which surprised them as I was a very quiet person at the time.

But my second strike was a lot better and I still had no idea how to manage the money. I cleared the debts afterwards with a maternity grant.

PROBLEMS

Then my husband left Ford's and went to work in a heavy engineering factory. A strike broke out, I was extremely depressed but determined to find a way of coping. I decided to try a different approach to the mounting debts and the money problems.

So I paid the rent and then cancelled my insurance. I assumed that if we were not to deal with them. I managed to survive that strike not badly.

THE REST

WORKSHOPS are among the most prevalent methods of the working class. I am a hairdresser. Last week the lady who calculated that we made enough in the week's two slack days, Monday and Tuesday, for the company to pay our wages. The rest of the week, the three busy days, we worked for the company for nothing.

No wonder that they have been able to exploit us, 11 salons in the past few years.

Conditions for us, as for many other shopworkers, have not improved for 50 years. The salon where I did my apprenticeship boasted a staffroom about the size of four telephone boxes for 18 staff.

It contained an airing cupboard which was constantly full of steaming towels. Sandwiches left in the room in the morning were unedible by lunchtime.

Conditions in the shop itself were little better. There were no windows and the artificial lighting was so bad that a good number of the girls found their eyesight had deteriorated so much they needed glasses.

We have to work a four and a half day week. The half day off in usual. It is a four and a half day week in very little comfort. In Wigan, where I work, there is a day off Tuesday. The Wednesday is closed on Wednesday.

Wages for all shopworkers are appalling. Many of the big stores pay their workers poor wages, but because most are part-time there is little organised opposition.

In hairdressing we have so-called 'apprenticeships' which are really a way of getting cheap labour. I was earning only £4 a week until I was 18.

PROCESS

Hairdressing continues to attract women workers in particular because it is one of the few trades that provides apprenticeships for women. The glamour of hairdressing often blinds you to just how exploited you are.

Management attitudes have a strong influence. Workers in hairdressing are more likely to work with management, often on first name terms. This makes it easy for management to impose a 'let's all pull together' attitude.

This process was inflicted on me before I learned to avoid certain trade unions or even know what a shop stewarded was. Many of my fellow workers still have no idea about unions.

The reason is that we work in small isolated workplaces. A hairdresser often won't speak to another hairdresser from the shop across the road because they see them as management see them as competitors, not as fellow workers with the same problems.

Shopworkers have to learn their potential strength and unity. Already things are changing. The largest store in Wigan was recently dragged screaming into the 20th century when some of its workers joined the Transport Workers Union.

But much has yet to be done. I would like to see a network of contact between other shopworkers with a view to getting together at a regular workplace meeting where they can pool the experiences and successes of shopworkers, and begin to get shop stewards and union delegates into the bigger picture of the working class as a whole.

Until then, however, we have to take our bread, butter and other basics from £3 to £9 for using two ounces on your hair.

Did women EVER live like this?

ONE of the worst aspects of discrimination against women is the way they are used in films. Any self-respecting woman who has endured watching the films now doing the rounds of local cinemas will experience a sensation similar to the endless drops of Chinese water torture. Each soggising some causes pain.

Today's box office hits churn out a sick version of male fantasies. It is bad enough to have to endure the dumb beauties of previous decades. But when your average liberated lady is faced with the same stereotypes in today's slick, cutthroat efforts, she may be forgiven for suggesting that perhaps the movie is still behind the times in its attitudes to women.

As your modern miss sits cringing in front of the carfree flapper in The Great Gatsby you could be bound to comment that women were actually like that in those days. Do they really expect us to believe that women lived like that in those days? While we can appreciate that in a film like The Sting the main action will always centre around two men, and that any actress cast alongside the combined ego of Paul Newman and Robert Redford will have a hard time, we can only wonder at a script that places women on a scale rating less important than breakfast, cars, films and card games.

OFFSHOTS

Paper Moon is another nostalgic film doing the rounds. It portrays the depression. The female lead is played by Tatum O'Neal, but you cannot help speculating whether the script really called for anything more than a well-trained dog.

Females as people are hard to find on film. Even American Graffiti, probably the most enjoyable film now on release, portrays the girls as offshoots of the boys. The boys do all the thinking and at times you can almost hear their brains ticking above the melodious sounds of 'Flash Gordon and the Cadillac'. They deal with the weighty decision-making, while the girls sit by dumbly musing about what pop they resemble.

Women as human beings do not exist for the movie moguls. Given that the formula for financial success today posse 'nostalgia plus stereotype equals jackpot', it is hardly surprising they continue to peddle the same mind-rotting dribble. Profit, after all, is much more important than principles.

The film to cap the lot, however, and one not to be missed by aspiring male chauvinistic piglets is The Outfit. It is the perfect example of how to treat your wife/ girlfriend as target practice for nifty left uppercuts and stylistic sniffs of 'Shudder'.

Funny, perhaps, but all these films insult women. We should be organising against the morality that allows women to be degraded in this way.
Do you adore South Africa? Then read this

BANDIT* is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South African jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, w ho had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

* BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South African jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, w ho had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South African jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, who had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South African jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, who had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South African jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, who had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South Africa jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, who had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South Afric jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, who had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South Africa jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, who had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.

BANDIT is a survival story, a survival story of a political prisoner in a South Africa jail. For many, it is an eye-opener, a revelation of the reality of life in this country. For others, it is a confirmation of what they already know. But for all, it is a call to action.

The author, Hugh Lewis, had a great advantage over many of his fellow prisoners—his white skin. He was a member of the sabotage group, the National Committee for Liberation, later re-named African Resistance Movement, who had two black members. The group was under a great deal of pressure, and the danger was the same as for all opposition groups: police raids, store-owners and shopkeepers, union leaders. All were against them.

He was arrested after a series of police raids on the offices of the group. The arrest was a shock to the other prisoners, but it was no surprise. They had expected it, and they were not surprised. They knew that the authorities were watching them, and they were always prepared for trouble.
ARE YOU ANY MORE EQUAL THAN BEFORE?

THE last Labour government introduced the Equal Pay Act with a fanfare of self-congratulation. They promised that something would be done to ensure that women get what they were promised. Last October women were told by the then Minister of Employment, Michael Foot, that this was the case.

But in June, after a meeting between Mr. Foot and Miners of Employment Michael Foot, it was announced that the government would probably not be introducing a Bill to enforce the Equal Pay Act. The government, it said, "would be looking into other ways" to ensure "orderly progress" towards equal pay.

It's hard to see what other steps they can take. For the big employers have systematically refused to bring in equal pay. This statement really means that the government isn't going to do a thing about equal pay. The employers have won yet again.

So again the ball is firmly in the unions' court. But what are the unions doing about it?

In engineering, apparently, nothing. Even though equal pay has always been a demand, women have not been able to get organized and take the initiative.

The challenge of middle-class unionisation: opportunities and tactics

An "Afternoon" seminar for Industrial Relations. Personnel and General Management (Numbers will be limited)

An Off-the-Record Personal Report and Exchange of Views

Led by

CLIVE JENKINS

Central Secretary, ASTMS

2.15pm to 6pm Wednesday, 13th October, 1974, Quigleys, London, S.W.1

IN THE INTERESTS OF

Clive Jenkins

IAN GIBSON, ASTMS executive member was barred from office for three years last month after a trial by the executive which ruled that he had acted contrary to the interests of the union by pursuing his own legal representative.

General secretary Clive Jenkins, as a mark of his devotion to the union and its interests, insisted that Ian be kicked off the executive immediately even though an appeal was pending.

The same Clive Jenkins hasn't hesitated for a moment in agreeing to give a lucrative offer. The record personal representative and the view of the white-collar trade unionists—top company executives.

The executives pay £17.50 (VAT and court costs included) for the two and three-quarter hours of so-called seminar at Quigleys, in the plush surroundings of the exclusive London restaurant Quigleys.

The afternoon is rounded off with "cocktails: an opportunity to meet Mr Jenkins socially."

Business Studies Consultants, the firm which has laid on the course of lectures of which Jenkins is the first, declined to disclose the identity of how much Clive was getting for his afternoon's endeavours. But the fee is hardly likely to be less than £200.

As Clive Jenkins will actually be advising the executives, who in all probability will include executives from companies where ASTMS has members, or is recruiting, this is an interesting operation.

Robin Stevens

Tactics

As the brochure puts it: "Faced with increasing pressures from inflation a wide variety of middle-class groups are now displaying a new militancy. (At 20 per cent inflation, a man on £3000 a year needs a £600 rise to stand still.) As Britain's economic viability shrinks the middle-class is more aware of its own trade unionism, and its own divided trade unionism.

How should company managers plan to meet this challenge? What are their opportunities and what should their tactics be?"

Clive is one of the star-studded cast in this series of afternoon seminars. The radical demagogue, Enoch Powell is on Quigleys' just one month after Clive. He is to take the role of political-economic adviser to your company. Perhaps he will advise on how to drool down trade unionism white or black, in his favourite vogue of blood.

Clive, a relatively young man, is a lesser-known gentleman, Dr. K.W. Watkins of Sheffield University. This communist has spent the past five years moving rapidly to the right and getting himself out of the obscurity to which he belongs on the to the lucrative "business lecture circuitry."

He is to lecture on "Industrial Disputation"—that is, how to smash militant trade unionists and deal with people who campaign for a better deal. On Tuesday, Enoch Powell, Watkins and Jenkins couldn't earn £600 an afternoon for advice rich parasites how to hang on to their spoils.

BY LAURIE FLYNN

Our Norman

An often used phrase in the Labour Party is "Well, it's a step forward". This is step is usually a step back. A step forward.

He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right. He's taken all right. He's given us a step up. He's not right.
Defend Social Worker

by PAUL FOOT, Editor

Criminal libel is a very old offence in English law. It began in the early 1820s and 1830s and was against the police, and the law anything can be classified as a criminal libel.

It is for instance a "seditious libel" (as defined in S 10 of Criminal Law Act 1968) to publish anything which sets one class against another. Or libel to write "anything defamatory of any group of people held in public high esteem."

It is fair to say that almost every news item has been written in Social Worker in the past six years could be constructed as a criminal libel.

CONSTRUCTED

When we wrote "Murders" across the front page focusing the shooting by the army of 13 young men in Derry in January 1972, it was plainly of the army–a body of men who, at any judge will tell you, are held in high esteem. No action was taken.

But when we wrote murder about the death of Kevin Gately at the Red Lion Square demonstration in June, and the trial of Public Prosecutions, and Jim Crowly and Jack Booth, it was construed by the police that the headline (and the poster which copied it) was a criminal libel.

Contempt of court, too, is a familiar way of shaping up publishers. In the early 1930s, the publishers of a provincial newspaper were thrown into prison—one of them for three years—over an article which described a judge as a bewigged old fool, and the publisher appeared before Daily Telegraph, everyone would have laughed. But they gave in to the authorities to crack down on a paper which looked like me.
SOCIALIST WORKER urges readers to raise the maximum support possible for these disputes. The recent increase in isolated strikes of black workers which have lacked realistic support either from the official trade unions or from sections of white rank and file workers is alarming.

No one should underestimate the effect of employers increasingly taking the offensive against the more justified militancy of black workers. The employers' confidence will only be increased by spurious unity among the unions.

The fact that black buses striking in Barnley for the reinstatement of one of their brothers to have their local TGWU office in order to get things moving is an indication of how far the rot has set in.

Racialism can never be defeated by ignoring the problem and hoping it will go away. A thoroughgoing campaign against racist ideas within the trade unions should be given full and continuous backing by the TGWU.

Black workers are giving notice that far from being cheap labour, they are prepared to fight and fight hard, against the employers.

Particularly within the TGWU, members and sympathizers are urged to:

1. Move resolutions of support
2. Demand the strikers be made official and raised to the level to add to official strike pay
3. Demand that the executive officials mobilize all TGWU members in support of the strikers. (Potentially the TGWU, more than any other union, can blast any fear of the present existence, if determined action is taken.)
4. Mobilize picket support. The importance of white workers, because of their numbers, joining black strikers on the picket line cannot be overstated.
5. Call for a full TGWU inquiry of elected lay-members at least half black to investigate the racialism, incitement and joint union with the TGWU, the inquiry must make its findings available to all union members.

What the inspector didn't see

BURNEY-The 58 Asian bus men who struck over the sacking of Mohammed Bhatti for refusing to do overtime have returned to work.

The men took the decision, pending a National Joint Industrial Council which was in session on Sunday. Meanwhile, Mohammed Bhatti has been suspended on full pay.

The strikers occupied the London Transport and General Workers Union's offices last Thursday and stayed there until Sunday's meeting in an attempt to get the strikers made official and get their white fellow workers to unite with them against the victimisation.

The suggestions for the management and the Joint Transport Committee were discussed last week.

OCCUPATION

White busses, which make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking up temporarily, sweeping the buses running on overtime and striking work. The strikers' position would have been improved by the return of local kids back to schools and the need for more buses on the road. But there is no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

SPEAKERS

White busses, which make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking up temporarily, sweeping the buses running on overtime and striking work. The strikers' position would have been improved by the return of local kids back to schools and the need for more buses on the road. But there is no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

SPEAKERS

White busses, which make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking up temporarily, sweeping the buses running on overtime and striking work. The strikers' position would have been improved by the return of local kids back to schools and the need for more buses on the road. But there is no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

Fascists The battle steps up

The fight against fascism and racism is stepping up in the West Midlands. A conference of Black Country trade union organisations was held on Saturday 19th August.

Among the speakers was Mr. John Shipton, Assistant General Secretary of the British Transport & Railways Union.

The fascist movement is gaining strength. We must all increase our efforts to defeat them.

RACIST

"If an Asian says, 'I don't want to work an evening', they won't give him an early but will have to take his day off instead."

Sahab and the other Asians soon found themselves fighting more than just a racist management. The TGWU branch secretary, Clifford Platt, a Labour Councillor, is fantastically hostile to the Blacks.

Four other Labour Party councillors make up the Transport Sub-Committee which turned down Bhatti's appeal and accused the Asians of being insufficient to damage the international reputation of the US.

All along the Action Committee have had to rely on their own organisation and initiative in the face of poisonous racism and noises.

As the strikers return to work, they clearly understand the need to continue arguing for support for Bhatti from their white brothers and sisters.

At a time when the racists have been clamouring out from under their stones in Lester and elsewhere, the Asian bussie's immense solidarity and fighting spirit in Barnley will be an inspiration to other black workers in the fight against the deadliest weapon of the employment class.

What the inspector didn't see

BURNEY-The 58 Asian bus men who struck over the sacking of Mohammed Bhatti for refusing to do overtime have returned to work.

The men took the decision, pending a National Joint Industrial Council which was in session on Sunday. Meanwhile, Mohammed Bhatti has been suspended on full pay.

The strikers occupied the London Transport and General Workers Union's offices last Thursday and stayed there until Sunday's meeting in an attempt to get the strikers made official and get their white fellow workers to unite with them against the victimisation.

The suggestions for the management and the Joint Transport Committee were discussed last week.

OCCUPATION

White busses, which make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking up temporarily, sweeping the buses running on overtime and striking work. The strikers' position would have been improved by the return of local kids back to schools and the need for more buses on the road. But there is no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

SPEAKERS

White busses, which make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking up temporarily, sweeping the buses running on overtime and striking work. The strikers' position would have been improved by the return of local kids back to schools and the need for more buses on the road. But there is no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

Fascists The battle steps up

The fight against fascism and racism is stepping up in the West Midlands. A conference of Black Country trade union organisations was held on Saturday 19th August.

Among the speakers was Mr. John Shipton, Assistant General Secretary of the British Transport & Railways Union.

The fascist movement is gaining strength. We must all increase our efforts to defeat them.

RACIST

"If an Asian says, 'I don't want to work an evening', they won't give him an early but will have to take his day off instead."

Sahab and the other Asians soon found themselves fighting more than just a racist management. The TGWU branch secretary, Clifford Platt, a Labour Councillor, is fantastically hostile to the Blacks.

Four other Labour Party councillors make up the Transport Sub-Committee which turned down Bhatti's appeal and accused the Asians of being insufficient to damage the international reputation of the US.

All along the Action Committee have had to rely on their own organisation and initiative in the face of poisonous racism and noises.

As the strikers return to work, they clearly understand the need to continue arguing for support for Bhatti from their white brothers and sisters.

At a time when the racists have been clamouring out from under their stones in Lester and elsewhere, the Asian bussie's immense solidarity and fighting spirit in Barnley will be an inspiration to other black workers in the fight against the deadliest weapon of the employment class.

RACIST

"If an Asian says, 'I don't want to work an evening', they won't give him an early but will have to take his day off instead."

Sahab and the other Asians soon found themselves fighting more than just a racist management. The TGWU branch secretary, Clifford Platt, a Labour Councillor, is fantastically hostile to the Blacks.

Four other Labour Party councillors make up the Transport Sub-Committee which turned down Bhatti's appeal and accused the Asians of being insufficient to damage the international reputation of the US.

All along the Action Committee have had to rely on their own organisation and initiative in the face of poisonous racism and noises.

As the strikers return to work, they clearly understand the need to continue arguing for support for Bhatti from their white brothers and sisters.

At a time when the racists have been clamouring out from under their stones in Lester and elsewhere, the Asian bussie's immense solidarity and fighting spirit in Barnley will be an inspiration to other black workers in the fight against the deadliest weapon of the employment class.

What the inspector didn't see

BURNEY-The 58 Asian bus men who struck over the sacking of Mohammed Bhatti for refusing to do overtime have returned to work.

The men took the decision, pending a National Joint Industrial Council which was in session on Sunday. Meanwhile, Mohammed Bhatti has been suspended on full pay.

The strikers occupied the London Transport and General Workers Union's offices last Thursday and stayed there until Sunday's meeting in an attempt to get the strikers made official and get their white fellow workers to unite with them against the victimisation.

The suggestions for the management and the Joint Transport Committee were discussed last week.

OCCUPATION

White busses, which make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking up temporarily, sweeping the buses running on overtime and striking work. The strikers' position would have been improved by the return of local kids back to schools and the need for more buses on the road. But there is no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

SPEAKERS

White busses, which make up four-fifths of the workforce, were breaking up temporarily, sweeping the buses running on overtime and striking work. The strikers' position would have been improved by the return of local kids back to schools and the need for more buses on the road. But there is no doubt that the Asians' strike and occupation forced the management to act.

Fascists The battle steps up

The fight against fascism and racism is stepping up in the West Midlands. A conference of Black Country trade union organisations was held on Saturday 19th August.

Among the speakers was Mr. John Shipton, Assistant General Secretary of the British Transport & Railways Union.

The fascist movement is gaining strength. We must all increase our efforts to defeat them.

RACIST

"If an Asian says, 'I don't want to work an evening', they won't give him an early but will have to take his day off instead."

Sahab and the other Asians soon found themselves fighting more than just a racist management. The TGWU branch secretary, Clifford Platt, a Labour Councillor, is fantastically hostile to the Blacks.

Four other Labour Party councillors make up the Transport Sub-Committee which turned down Bhatti's appeal and accused the Asians of being insufficient to damage the international reputation of the US.

All along the Action Committee have had to rely on their own organisation and initiative in the face of poisonous racism and noises.

As the strikers return to work, they clearly understand the need to continue arguing for support for Bhatti from their white brothers and sisters.

At a time when the racists have been clamouring out from under their stones in Lester and elsewhere, the Asian bussie's immense solidarity and fighting spirit in Barnley will be an inspiration to other black workers in the fight against the deadliest weapon of the employment class.
Workers on the move against the car bosses

COVENTRY—Workers at two Chrysler subsidiaries are on strike for parity after three years of promises from Auto Machinery (140 workers) and Hills Precision (450) struck last week in a pay-over-serve fight to force Chrysler to keep their promise to pay.

Already at the Chrysler Ryton Works, which has been laid off because of the shortage of plastic components, the rank and file has started to strike and will strike. All average production workers are turned into a halt, and the coordination between workers from Austin will soon have an effect on American workers.

The company wants Hills shop stewards to talk to the members in a meeting. The company would not make an increased offer at the final talks.

Now it's British Lie-land

LEYLAND, Lancs—260 workers at British Leyland's Butec factory are now on strike in the second week of the strike. The strikers, mainly women employees of the General Motors Sheetmetal Workers, are demanding parity with the new BSA's and Leyland. To get this they have occupied the factory for a week.

Butec make starter motors and are the sole suppliers of 100 motors to the new BSA bikes. They said they would work for a different system. They were on strike at the weekend, and have also been on strike for the past six months.

Policy

So now the company says Butec isn't on the cut back. Apparently, when Butec put in for 500 additional, the GM's management wanted the suppliers to have them because they were part of the community. And it was combined policy not to give them these new suppliers.

They have been told that an increase of 265 to 1000 will be given to these workers, which are the workers who are going on strike. They will raise the level of their wages.

The response to a mass meeting called by the NUPE (National Union of Public Employees) and the NUPE (National Union of Public Employees) on any resolution, was one of the most significant.

A meeting of directors the next day, Monday, heard the suggestion that the over-unionism etc should be implemented with other measures were adopted.

PAY DEAL HITS THE LOW - PAID

THE RECENT BBC pay offer, accepted by the unions representing all sections of the industry, will mean a break in the pay-off plan, consisting of 21 to 28 per cent across the board. The British Steel Workers Union has rejected the pay-off plan between the highest and lowest paid.

This was the result of negotiations between the union, Association of British Steelworkers (A.B.S.) and the Steelworkers' Federation (S.W.F.) on the issue of the pay-off plan between the highest and lowest paid.

At the Ford Press Conference yesterday, the Ford management announced that the 1975 pay-off plan would be 5 per cent for all workers. This amounts to £200 for an average worker on the 1975 pay-off plan.

COLDITZ' WOMEN GO OVER THE WALL

HEYWOOD, Lancs—Workers at Salford Electrical Instrument Works, Times Mill, are involved in the third major confrontation at the factory in just over 12 months.

This time 400 AFDU women members are on an overtime strike. The strike, which affected some 60 per cent of the workforce, comes after two previous strikes in the factory.

After a week's strike, the management announced a return to the previous working arrangement. Failure to adhere to this instruction will result in a disciplinary action in the management 'lock-out' of one of the workers.

After all, we're only asking what we're entitled to. We've never had a dignity like this, the women have woken up and realised it's time for us to stop being chaps slaves.'

Negotiations on bonus have been going on for over a year. But patience can only last so long and things started to come to a head after the recent annual holidays. The workers decided to reject working under the previous arrangement, and take the strike out of the system. They demanded 'day work.'

ACTION

The management allowed a ten minute break every hour, but the women, led with the 'bonus' attitude, decided to reverse the procedures— they worked only ten minutes in every hour.

For 20 weeks of this action, management demanded a return to the previous working arrangement. Failure to adhere to this instruction will result in a disciplinary action being taken. The women, however, said, 'As long as we don't work, we won't be disciplined.'

When Brian White, Managing Director of SEIU, arrived he was bounced and backed by the pickets. The man is, however, of a liquids, other than that. All strikes held within SEIU will win the dissection and better 'hard-boiled Brian.'
Film-in wins support

LONDON: The Soho film-in opposite the Dean Street rooms Karl Marx once occupied grew in strength this week.

The film production workers from De Lane Lea studios, who are guarding £130,000 worth of sound equipment to prevent the studio’s closure, marched last night to the Piccadilly HQ of British Electric Traction, the corporation threatening the closure.

The film workers are trying to put the squeeze on other subsidiaries of BET, who have their finger in commercial television, property and North Sea oil. Support has come from workers at Hamphries film process, also owned by BET.

And the General Council of the Association of Cinematograph Television Technicians has asked members in Thames TV to black out commercial TV programmes to force BET to give a cast iron guarantee that De Lane Lea stays open.

Support has also come from the Coliseum Opera House, where makeup girls have staged lightning strikes.

Messages of support to The Joint Trade Union Committee, the De Lane Lea Studios, 15 Dean Street, London W1.

TRADE UNIONISTS at Hammersmith Hospital in West London, Britain’s top postgraduate centre, emphatically confirmed on Tuesday their determination to withdraw services from the hospital’s private beds.

The hospital workers, who began the ban on Monday, have already been under terrific pressure from the hospital administration, the press, and, most treacherously, the full-time officials of NUPE, who took the credit for the Cheshunt Cross Hospital action against private patients but have since instructed their members to drop direct action ‘pending an inquiry’.

But the Hammersmith workers have refused to bend. They declined to admit to their mass meeting a District Hospital administrator who wanted to talk to the branch and they also elected a Fleet Street reporter who smuggled himself in. His notebook was confiscated.

The full-time officials who had invited themselves to the meeting either failed to turn up or supported the action.

The hospital workers have always been anxious to direct their campaign against part-time consultants. Chris Longworth, acting branch secretary, who is a porter from the Nurses Home, stressed that the union had repeatedly asked the hospital administration for serious talks on moving the private patients and for information which would enable them to operate a selective ban against the patients of the part-timers.

The authorities have refused to negotiate. ‘The administration’s obstructive attitude has got up people’s noses,’ said another NUPE member.

‘They still can’t bring themselves to take us seriously. They don’t mind talking to us, as long as they get their way. Well, it’s not on.

The meeting overwhelmingly voted for an immediate meeting to call on all Hammersmith’s private patients. The hospital workers are now concerned to make the ban watertight and will be using information gleaned from the switchboard, the kitchens, nurses and junior doctors to spot the private patients which the consultants smuggle in.

PRIVATE WORK

A listlet to all NHS patients will explain the action and ask them to join in. A meeting to date private patients, Jon Godfrey, a CMWU steward from the Whittington Hospital in North London, where a private patient has been successfully operating for two months, told the meeting.

‘We now have a new chance that the ban will catch on over the rest of the London hospitals. And London is where most private work is located.‘

Bill Geddes, the absent branch secretary at Hammersmith, had been keen to say before he went on holiday that trade unionsist all over Britain would look with admiration at the Hammersmith hospital workers’ courage in taking up the London private patient gauntlet once again.

Their health service . . . and ours: See Centre Pages.

Some of the 400 trade unionists at the factory gate meeting in support of the nurses.

Nurses get big backing

By Lynn Pedley, TASS, Tractors Transmissions, Birmingham

NURSES from Highcroft hospital, North Birmingham have now forged links with local trade unionists. Following a 24-hour unofficial strike, they were determined to keep up the aggression in their campaign for decent wages and conditions.

A recent meeting of leading local shop stewards heard NUPE and COHSE speakers from Highcroft. The call was made by the nurses for fellow trade unionists to support their claim.

Peter Holmes, a NUPE branch secretary from Solihull hospital, stressed the importance of linking militants in different hospitals together and the role that the paper Hospital Worker could play in organizing rank and file feeling.

The meeting enthusiastically backed the call to take the nurses case back into the factories and trade union to win active support.

The first factory gate meeting was held two days later on 16 August at British Leyland Tractors and Transmission plant in North Birmingham. More than 400 trade unionists supported the meeting.

Convenor Arthur Harper opened the meeting by saying the health service was important to every worker. He quoted the fact that 540 workers from Tractors had spent some time in hospital in the last year.

Action

Gerry Phillips, a COHSE shop steward explained how nurses, after three years’ training, got £20 a week. If the Halsbury inquiry failed to come up with a substantial increase, further action would have to be taken.

John McAlister, a NUPE shop steward, said: ‘Everyone here today will need attention in hospital at some time – it’s up to all trade unionists to take action to get a decent health service.’

Several other nurses spoke and Gordon Vaughan, AUEW convenor at Leyland’s body plant in South Birmingham pledged support.

The message from the meeting was clear: The nurses are tired of waiting for their pay offer. Workers from Tractors unanimously accepted the motion of full support for the nurses.

As a result, several factories and trade union branches will be holding meetings in the next few weeks with nurses speaking.

SHOCK FOR THE SPARKS

THE electricians and plumbers who keep the power flowing in hospitals are in for a shock.

After a two-year battle for parity with the contracting industry—a battle which has included two national unofficial one-day stoppages, a 400 strong lobby of Hays Court, the EEPTU HQ, and an invasion of the Department of Health HQ—they have finally had their rates brought into line.

Only the settlement, concluded in secrecy by the EEPTU and AUEW, and accepted by the T&G and G&M, has been done on the cheap and without even the pretence of consultation with the men who have been doing the fighting.

‘Party’ has been achieved by incorporating the £4.40 won as a threshold payment into the new basic rate. The craftsmen thereby forfeit all further threshold payments, which other ancillary staff grades will continue to pick up.

Differentials between craftsmen and labourers actually widen by £1 and the apprenticeship rates have gone up to the presently grime of £4.12.

WE’VE RECEIVED £246 for the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund this week. That pushes the total to £1,102. But, as always, we need more, much more, so please keep it coming.

Our thanks, among others, to: Socialist Worker supporters Hsd Ltd, Bolton E5, Northampton E4, High Wycombe E30, Oxford E19.30, Heine Factory Branch £7.50, Wigan £10.50, Newcastle £2. Twickman £15, SW supporters Cannon Industries Birmingham E5, SW readers British Rail Services Coventry £1, SW readers Ferrier Estate £12, two SW supporters at a Scots Shipyard £10, a pensioner £5, a Scout £1 from a Scout Leader, a private £1, and a private £25.

Send your contribution or collection to Jim Nichol, National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DN.