Yorkshire miners say: Defend Socialist Worker

THE TRIAL and heavy fines on Socialist Worker are further proof of interference by the law courts and the police into the activities of the Left. It is another link in the chain which includes the prosecution of London dockers for contempt of court in 1972, the prosecution of building workers for conspiracy in 1973, the use of Special Patrol Group police to defend fascist marches in 1974.

We urge every trade unionist in the Barnsley area to support local attempts to raise money for the defence of Socialist Worker.

Signed: A Scargill, President, Yorkshire NUM; T. Bridge, J. Roberts, branch committee, Dodworth; J. Taylor, branch delegate, Manvers Colliery; R. Peace, branch secretary, Clayton West; F. Mountain, branch secretary, Dearne Valley.

We received a copy of that appeal this week, and it lifted us up. As militant Yorkshire miners went into the lockout fight against the Coal Board's 'divide and rule' productivity schemes, they could spare time to appeal for funds for Socialist Worker. Our thanks to them—and our best wishes for the vote this week.

The money for the fund has been pouring in as fast as the lockout has gone on. It is in small amounts from International Socialist branches, trade union branches and individuals. One more week as good as this one, and we'll be home and dry. The lawyers can be paid and we can raise money for building the paper.

Last week we got £36,22, bringing the total to £4,365.

We still need £36,78. Make sure we get it!

Send donations to Socialist Worker Defence Fund, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9D0.

This week's donations:

- £10 from a supporter in the West Midlands
- £3 from a supporter in the North West
- £5 from a supporter in the South West
- £2 from a supporter in the Midlands
- £1 from a supporter in the North East

My Lord Mayor, we've had 5 courses and 3 wines. Now I turn to a subject that concerns us all—national sacrifice!

DENIS HEALEY is Chancellor in a Labour government, but his budget on Tuesday could just as well have been produced by a Tory. It was a businessmen's budget through and through.

In central theme was that the businessmen whose system causes inflation should be protected from it—at the expense of those of us who work for a living.

Healey's main proposals are:
- £1500 million to businessmen in tax deductions and price increases.
- £1000 million in price increases.

And it's not just private enterprise bosses who can raise prices. Controls on nationalised industry prices—gas, electricity, coal, transport—are already 'phased out'. Electricity board chairmen are already talking about 20 per cent increases in prices. Add the increase in the price of petrol—to 70p a gallon by Christmas—and Healey's budget is a price increase budget.

That's not all. Healey also announced restrictions on local government spending. That means cuts in housing and education, in provision for the sick and elderly.

To compensate for these huge price increases and hand-outs to the wealthy, what does Healey propose for the people who elected him?

A family allowance increase of 60p for the second child—the first increase for seven years. And not until April.

An increase of £1.60 on the single person's fuel tax in April.

That means that next April old people will get half the miserable threshold increases available to other workers now. The pension 'increase' means old people will be even worse off in April than now—and this when the census returns show that two-fifths of old people in London can't afford hot water in their houses.

Not content with all this, Healey then warned the workers that if they did not accept the social contract—if they press for wage increases higher than the cost of living increases—he will be 'forced to reduce demand'.

That is blackmail. Put simply, it reads: 'Go easy on wages, or I'll kick you out of your job.'

In spite of the massive sums handed to them, businessmen are churlish about Healey's budget. 'We hoped for more!' they cry. In truth, they can't be sure whether Healey's measures will save their system. In the short run, it might stave off disaster. In the long run, it fear even more drastic inflation.

SATISFY

The capitalists have no alternative to inflation or unemployment.

Workers do.

For wealth is there to solve the economic crisis and improve living standards. Look at the £872 million profit announced by Shell so far this year, the £4966 million handed out in dividends last year, or the £10,000 million by which bank profits have grown since 1969. That wealth could be used to satisfy the needs and wants of the people who produce it.

But first it has to be taken from the parasites who squander it.

David Barnett, head of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, has called it the 'social contract budget'. As a supporter of the social contract he should know. The social contract, like the budget, means tax cuts for those who own industry and price increases for the rest of us.

INSIDE

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Industrial news starts on 13

GALES of applause echoed through London's Guildhall last Monday night as Harold Wilson spoke about the social contract, 'a strong and confident stock market and the need to tighten our belts. The audience—at the Lord Mayor's banquet—had just sacrificed their way through £265 worth of food and wine. That's about £1 more than the weekly take-home pay of the Glasgow sewer workers on an unprofitable strike against the national interest.

Among the social contractors at the banquet were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Ambassador of South Africa, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, the Charge d'Affaires of Paraguay, Lord Chief Justice Widgery, the Marshal of the Royal Air Force, and the Chief of the General Staff.

Invitations were open to anyone with a position of irresponsible power, a fat bank balance and an ability to take a vast quantity of food, drink and hypocrisy.
Why the consultants are revolting

THE reaction of the part-time consultants to the threatened exclusion of private practice from the National Health Service is that of a powerful minority to an attack on its privileges.

Barbara Castle has proposed that from January, a fifth of private beds in hospitals with more than six private beds should immediately be turned over to the NHS—if they have been occupied for less than three-fifths of the time over the last two years. This ludicrous equation makes the proposal almost completely ineffective.

Mrs Castle also wants all patients to join a common waiting list to avoid queue-jumping by the rich. But consultants control these lists. She wants the scrapping of part-time contracts in the future and the end of the merit award system (where consultants hand over £12 million of NHS money to other consultants).

But of course the present part-time consultants could still fleece the NHS, and the next Tory government can be romes, new roads overthrown these decisions.

The proposals are hardly a body blow to private practice. Why then are the consultants so excited? The reason is political. The common pool inside the hospitals is threatened. The private practice has exploded because of the attraction of hospital workers throughout the country.

If consultants gave way to these weak proposals without a fight they would commit the error that the power and importance of nurses, ancillary workers and technicians is greater than that of the "armed" system. BOTH MUST GO!

£30,000 a-year boss pleads: 'We're all in this together'

by Chris Carpenter

'I am speaking on behalf of all Tate and Lyle employees'—that was John Lyle, Tate and Lyle's £30,000 a year chairman, asking the government last week to help solve the sugar shortage.

A public meeting at a Tate and Lyle press conference, entry to which was by invitation only. Questions were not allowed.

Socialist Worker was not invited, but our reporter was there.

Tate and Lyle wants government help to maintain its British refining position only because all its attempts to pull out have failed.

French best refining company. If the original agreement in 1968 were broken, Tate and Lyle could sell the 200,000 tons of sugar which it keeps as a 'sugar stock'.

This year Tate and Lyle's British refining business amounted to £25 million. The sale of that sugar would produce a £20 million profit for Tate and Lyle's shareholders.

Most of Cuba's sugar is grown by 1.2 per cent of the island's population, mostly by the island's 21,000 sugar planters, which last year made a profit of £50,000 and was expected to make £100,000 this year.

The fantastic increase in the world sugar price is the result of a joke. This year, Caroni made a profit of £50 million. If Caroni made a further fantastic £63.5 million profit from selling its sugar stocks.

In other words, whatever happens to the workers at Silvertown and other Tate and Lyle sugar refineries, Mr Cubé will continue to make vast profits for himself and his Tate and Lyle shareholders.

As it is, by refusing to sell its sugar in the Caribbean, Tate and Lyle are completely different to those of Tate and Lyle's other sugar refineries, in Europe and the Caribbean.

For years the company has done all in its power to reduce its dependence on refining cane sugar. It was perfectly prepared to use the profits of its 9000 refining workers in London, Liverpool and Greenock.

But its plans were thwarted, partly by its own incompetence. Now its directors preach, in another mass advertising campaign worth hundreds of thousands of pounds, that they are on the 'same side as the workers'.

They are not. The only way for workers to make any kind of wage levels is to fight against their management—and against the Tate and Lyle 'army' of consultants who were not allowed.

That would wipe the smirk off Mr Cubé's face once and for all.

THE REAL TERRORISTS

By Eamonn McCann

FOUR CATHOLICS were gunned down in Belfast over the weekend as the campaign to terrorise the Catholic community into submission continued—a campaign which is not succeeding, as the mass anti-intervention demonstrations showed over the weekend.

Less publicised was the death of 45-year-old Desmond Healey, although in a shooting incident.

In February last year, Mr Healey's 12-year-old son Kevin was standing outside his house in Newtownabbey, when a British soldier fired into the crowd. Corporal Robert Foxford, bored perhaps by uneventful patrols, aimed up the street and shot him dead.

After much public protest, Corporal Foxford was charged with murder. Eventually he was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to three years. Tony panek, who was wounded, was acquitted and returned to base. Here's a message from his comrades and from all who are working.

In plain English, this amounts to saying that if we do it ourselves, with no restrictions, the system will break down and the last thing we are doing is exactly what Michael Foot wants us to believe it has no intention of doing.

The only question is—how long before they do it?
IT'S VITAL—
IT'S URGENT

WITH two weeks to go to the Second Rank and File Conference in London on 30 November, Bill Walker, chairman of the NUME shop stewards at Hammermill Hospital, London, told Socialist Worker why they will be supporting its resolution to campaign for a Second National Rank and File Conference:

WE HAVE no illusions about the full-time officials of the union. From past experience we have learnt that it is a disastrous mistake to believe that a bureaucrat like Alan 'unfinished business' Fisher will lead a determined struggle to get hospital workers off the breadline.

Our branch is sending five delegates to the Rank and File conference. We are now also one of the sponsoring bodies. Hospital ancillary workers will have the first national claim to challenge the Social Contract. So our delegates at the conference will be appealing for solidarity and support.

We were left to fight alone last time. This must not happen again.

The miners in South Wales showed the way forward during the nurses' dispute. Their 24-hour strike was a historic step forward for rank and file action. We recognise the urgent need for a national rank and file organisation and are giving this conference our full support.

Applications for delegates' credentials for the conference are already being sent out to 22 shop stewards' committees and 98 trade union branches. More than 200 delegates.

Among the new delegating bodies are the Transport and General Union (workplace) branch, the NUME shop stewards committee at Staveley Machine Shop in Sheffield and the SOGAT branch at Maidstone.

There is still time to get credentials from the Second National Rank and File Conference. Don't pass up the opportunity. Fill in the form below and come to Birmingham.

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FIGHT WAGE RESTRAINT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Support the Second National Rank and File Conference

Saturday 30 November, Digbeth Hall, Birmingham

Make sure your shop stewards committee, union branch or district committee is supporting this important conference. Delegates' credentials 50p

The Rank and File Conference Organising Committee has compiled verifiable lists of imprisoned Chilean trade unionists in all the main industrial and service sectors for adoption by British trade union bodies. Copies of these and a covering letter can be obtained from the secretary.

The DEMOCRATICTrade Unionists for Socialism

If you want credentials, get your trade union branch or shop stewards' committee to fill in this form and send it to the Secretary, Rank and File Conference Organising Committee, 214 Roundwood Road, London NW3 1HJ.

Send us credentials for delegates to the Rank and File Conference on November 30.

NAME OF TRADE UNION BODY

ADDRESS

TRADE UNION STAMP

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Left-wing bullets for socialists

From Jim Raftery in Lisbon

The Portuguese Security Police fired on a crowd of left-wing demonstrators, killing one man in the stomach, and followed this with tear gas and baton charges, injuring 30 others.

The demonstrators were outside a rally being held by the Portugal's main right-wing party, the CSU, sponsored by its youth section, the Jornalidade Centralista. The left groups, to the left of the Communist Party, were prevented from entering the meeting and police opened fire after scuffles.

DICTATOR

Prime Minister Brasilia Vasco Goncalves apologised to the CSU leaders the following day—they included General de Ameijo, a close collaborator of the previous dictator Cunzio—and gave security guarantees for future meetings.

The police suppressed any expression of the government—including the Communist Party, which recently deleted the phrase 'dictatorship of the proletariat' from its programme—is to establish absolute dominance. To this end they want the CSU to become a respectable right-wing party. To achieve this they seem prepared to shoot left-wing objects.

Although 'semanario', the page- ing of fascists, is official policy, the police forces remain the same and one of the main political parties has ever demanded they be disarmed. The coming elections promise more repression for the revolutionary left.

THE ROW which flared up over Clay Cross last week seems, on the face of it, a storm in a tea cup. The Tory government introduced rent increases under the Housing Finance Act two years ago. The Labour government has left those rises in force everywhere, including Clay Cross.

The Clay Cross councillors were ordered to make up from their own pockets the amount of rent which would have been collected new evidence put out by a tenants' committee. The Labour government is still instructing them to pay out this money—although there is talk of the Labour Party organising a nationwide collection to pay off the rates bill.

The bone of contention between Labour and the Tories is that Labour is introducing a Bill which, if passed, would end the debarment of the former Clay Cross councillors from standing in local elections.

Hardly, you would have thought, the occasion for screaming headlines in the Tory press and talk by Lord Hailsham of 'grave constitution' of 'imperishable'.

Yet it looks as if the Tories may even carry the issue so far as to make an inbuilt majority in the non-elected House of Lords to throw over the government's 'impeccable' Bill.

The reason is not the issue of Clay Cross itself, but something far more fundamental—what the Tories and the press like to term the 'law of the jungle'.

By this they mean that if judges or auditors make decisions, then it is wrong for the parliamentary majority in the House of Commons to overturn the 'judges' law. And they argue, 'is unconstitutional'. And they refer not only to Clay Cross but also to Shrewsbury.

It is worth looking more closely at what this implies. Judges in Britain are not elected by any sort of democratic process. Nor are they in any sense a representative cross-section of the population. To become a judge you have first to be a successful barrister. And it is virtually impossible for people without lots of money behind them to become barristers. And if you are not particularly close in this minority of people who own the vast majority of the wealth.

Wealthy minority

And if a majority in the House of Commons tries to cancel sentences arrived at in this way, another group of representatives of the same wealth ownership, Lord Jenkins, the Lords, have the power to stop implementation of its decision—for 12 months at least.

It should be fairly obvious, if ever policies really beneficial to workers were going to take effect, that this veto would have to be ignored. Yet over the really important issue, Shrewsbury, Labour ministers are accepting it.

As Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary told the Parliamentary Labour Party on 30 October: 'The party is committed to the rule of law and judicial decisions could not be overturned unless evidence emerged which was overwhelming.'

Jenkins is on the extreme right of the Labour Party. But Michael Foot, of the 'left', has indicated that he stands by Jenkins on this matter. He told the House of Commons five days later that Shrewsbury was 'a matter for my Right Honourable Friend, the Home Secretary.'

In other words, if representatives of the ruling class like Lord Widgery decide that Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson must go to jail for mailing pimpets, then there is nothing that Labour ministers, 'left' or right, are prepared to do about it.

All the real victories workers have gained in recent years have been by-passed the official, 'constitutional' channels. It is direct, strike action that forces up wages. It was direct action that forced the Monopolies Commission to reverse the order compelling dockers to Portoville in 1972.

Only the threat of similar direct action will force Labour ministers to respect their subject's rights to the ruling class over the issue of the Shrewsbury pimps.

If we are ever going to see real socialist change, direct action will be needed in a much wider sense. It will then be necessary not only to overcome the resistance of the judges and the House of Lords, it will be necessary to do away with their role altogether—and pay off with that, the power of their friends and relatives who run the civil service and the armed forces.

And this is not something which is ever going to be achieved through the 'constitutional' channels which sanctify their power.
THE FIRST elections in Greece for ten years took place on December 9th. They have been called by the veteran conservative politician Constantine Karamanlis, who returned from exile after the military junta stepped down in August.

Karamanlis' main aim was to preserve under the "catch-all" electoral system the structure of power which the junta had built up. As a result the political composition of Greek workers has been getting worse every day.

Prices on the state owned industries and for the public services have been virtually stagnant. At the top of the unions, fascist officials have been replaced by right-wing politicians, but the old apparatus remains intact and opponents of the right have problems in getting support to organise.

There are four parties in the election. The right-wing New Democracy, which has been cooperation with the old fascist party, the Golden Dawn, attacking every much of the old, corrupt police state he did so much to install in the Fifties and Sixties.

The Centre Union Party calls for a pro-European policy combined with a mild programme of reform and some punishment for the members of the Junta.

"COMMUNISM did not abolish class", runs a typical Polish joke, "We still have three classes—those who are in prison, those who are in prison, and those who will be." It is black humour, but it is an accurate comment on a grim reality, The Eastern European States, the so-called "communist" countries of Europe, have survived through systematic repression of every social class.

After the war, the powers of the police were directed mainly against those who had traditionally opposed workers demands.

But after 1948, the apparatus of terror was directed at the rating stratum itself. Leading Communists in Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia were imprisoned, tortured and in some cases executed.

In 1913, unarmed East German workers who took to the streets in defence of wages and conditions were shot down. The uprising was suppressed, only short-lived.

In Poland and Hungary in 1956, in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and in Poland in 1970, workers again took to the streets, initially over economic issues. Soon they began also to demand freedom and control of the factories. They were brutally put down.

Different

Some were killed, others imprisoned. Bureaucrats toppled and others rose to take their place. Some concessions were made to the workers, but the system continued.

Apologists for Stalinitism argue that those purged and executed were right wing, CIA provocateurs or anti-communists. The facts are rather different.

Many were Communist Party members. Some rose to prominence during the post-war period, others had been active in the Party before the war.

It is impossible that there are all corrupted away from socialist ideas by CIA propaganda! Or is it the case that even those who are not directly wrong with the "socialism" of Eastern Europe and USSR are wrong?

Chris Harman's new book, "The Panhellenic Socialist Movement of Andreas Papandreou" uses lots of Marxist language and purports to establish the socialism of the Greek worker. It also claims Greece will gain from entering the Common Market.

Finally there are the Communist Parties, which have combined for the election as the United Left. They are putting forward a feasible programme of social reforms so as not to antagonise the right and to appear 'acceptable'. They have "responded to Karamanlis' bluff" (for either me or the talkies) by calling for calm and by boycotting demonstrations organised by the revolutionary left, even though these have won mass support.

Part of the United Left has even gone so far as to criticise Papandreou for advocating the establishment of socialist power and is now "the victory of democracy," they say.

COMpromise

The revolutionary left does not have any illusion that the mass movement can achieve its objectives through elections. But it does see that every vote cast for the traditional parties of the left, the Communist Parties, will be a vote of protest against the compensation between the right and the Junta, against the attempt of the ruling class to establish its rule under a different guise.

For this reason a strong left vote will give greater scope to revolutionaries to push their demands of social change, and it will matter—in the streets and in the factories.

"And they call this socialism!"

by Anna Paczuska

"To "milk" the countries under its control, Russia built rockets and submarines—and workers and peasants in Eastern Europe paid the price.

In 1933 Stalin died. The struggle for power in the ruling parties was mirrored by uprisings among workers seeking to replace those of Stalin's era. But the crises and violence continued.

Chris Harman has brought together material from workers' leaflets and individual testimonies as well as official summaries to relate periods of the various uprisings. They shouted in chorus "We are not slaves." They were not anarchists, but they were fighting against communist states that were not the national interest of communism.

In 1968, workers in countries under Russian domination took to the streets. But could not beat the Russian armies which put down the rising in Poland. Were the revolutionaries doomed from the outset? Can workers gain better conditions in Eastern Europe or must protest always end in a bloodbath? Can the bureaucratic states survive? Chris Harman answers these questions in his concluding chapter in which he examines the continuing economic crisis of the state capitalist countries.

Official schemes for economic reform are just "pie in the sky". The only hope of improvement for the workers lies in revolution, but this must not be confined to one country alone.

Isolation stopped the revolutions of Eastern Europe in their tracks. Since then the Russian Army has been relatively stable. But it can never be used. "The new Constitutions are just so many prescriptions on history.

It is an optimistic ending to a book which examines the events and failures of the past. It is a book we can all learn a great deal from. It is one that no serious socialist should omit from his or her reading list.

"Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe by Chris Harman ( Pluto Press) £1.60.

PRAGUE, 1968: a 'workers' state'—so where does the tank fit in?

buddaFEST, 1966: workers who fought for freedom were labelled 'aristocrats' or 'fascists'
WHEN TO TURN ON...

FRIDAY
BBC 2: 6.40pm. THE BLACK MAN IN ENGLAND (3 parts, in 2 parts). New series in the tradition of 'Zambezi', 'The Liverbird', 'Jamaica Inn'.

SATURDAY
BBC 2: 9.15pm. 2ND HOUSE features on 'The Ballad of John-Lee, John, Paul, George... Ringo...'

SUNDAY
BBC 2: 10.15pm. PLAIN TALES FROM THE RAJ is a new series based on the short stories of the British Raj about the British Empire in India. On BBC 1 at 8.15pm, a new series on the development of TV. On BBC 2 at 10.15pm is THE FIGHT FOR SHERLOCK HOLVE.

TUESDAY
BBC 2: 8.35pm. THE MIGHTY CONTINENT. The story of how the 20th Century came to Europe.

WEDNESDAY
BBC 2: 8.35pm. THE WEATHER MACHINE. A two-hour documentary on the changes in the world climate and its implications for humanity. Same time on ITV THE MECHANICUS in ITV'S DISAPPEARING WORLD series is on "The Weathers" life-threatening climate of the 1980s. By the coming of the century. Nowadays it's time to tell the story of the fate of the North American Indians, now living in what years were once their own in South America, where the process of global warming is full progress, is keen concern.

THURSDAY
BBC 2: 8.35pm. Roddy McDowall stars in the first attempt to bring a life story of a glossy, THE BEVELLERS. The dependence of American men on the story of a man as he becomes one of the army of women, one way or another, in AMERICA THE BEVELLERS. UK. The show is produced by the US beauty contest at 7.7pm on Bbc 2.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

"RIOT" was the word the police spokesman used to describe the latest week's battle on the streets of Holyhead Dock, by the National Farmers Union. It is worth comparing the coverage it got in the national press with that given the building workers' pickets at Sheerness.

During the farmers' flying picket, a railway sleeper was placed on the rails in front of a Freightliner train going at 40 miles per hour. What a "riots," etc.

Ten policemen were put in hospital during the confrontation. All railway lines out of Holyhead were blocked with tractors and cars. Yet the Daily Telegraph described the riot as a "show of strength by police and farmers," a "good temper." Not a word was there in its editorial. Only a few reports of violence, hooligans or mob.

And by bitter coincidence, the police forces that were called in to deal with the "riots"... one of our reporters who was there said it was "a foreign agitator" who stirred up the pickets on the railway crossing, to be charged in nine months time under the 1973 Conspiracy Act, to be tried and to join Warren and Townsend in the nick.

I doubt it. After all, the National Farmers Union isn't a trade union. It's an employers' association.

Not so fast!

I WAS pleased to read that Senator Albert Villers was voted an honorary week. For 30 years Villers was a terrorist for the Argentinean ruling class. His own version of Brigadier Frank Fitos, he organised the brigades of police motorcycle that specialized in charged full-speed at left-wing demonstrations and battering demonstrators with long truncheons. He was the man behind the wave of police terror that has swept Argentina since Peron fell in July. At least 1200ventionalists have been murdered. Although I do hate one parting regret about Senator Villers' death, being blown up is a very quick way to die.

Robert W. 1974

KEEPING THE WORLD SAFE FOR HYPOCRISY

ON Sunday you may have watched the Remembrance Day pageant at Trafalgar. Her Majesty dressed in black, looking mournful. Phillips stood up looking like an admiral in the Chilean Navy, and the Duke of Kent looked like the village idiot as usual.

Large wreaths are laid, a volley of guns fired and for two minutes we remember the dead of two World Wars, the symbol of Remembrance is the plastic poppy.

And in the middle of all those poppies is a black centre with the words 'Haig Fund'. There could be no more fitting tribute to the man.

The Haig in question was the man who ordered a million men to their deaths in the First World War, who was Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, from 1916 Commander-in-Chief in Europe. He had the brain of a four-years-old boy (who was gauged to 98.6 if not 191.1 in the first pageant). He failed the entrance exam to the Army. But later he was a friend to the Duke of Cambridge, who had the right to get Haig in by the back door, and he was waved.

SHOOTING

At the age of 36, Haig was still a captain, spending most of his time shooting grouse. Then in 1903 he married the Hon Dorothy Vivian, who just happened to be Maid of Honour of Queen Alexandra. Haig was appointed ADC to King George V.

With the King's help, Haig rose from captain to command in chief in 10 years. His greatest contribution to modern civilization is the phrase: "The machine gun is an over-rated weapon." To prove his point, in battle after battle he ordered his men on the "regardless of loss". The Germans cut them down like blades of grass as they went over the top across open ground.

The machine gun can kill a man at the range of two feet. On a clear day, as conditions are worse, putting them into a machine gun. In one machine gun, and more, in any army in the history of the world. If you like, it was mass murder.

Now, on every poppy sold in memory of the dead generations of 1914-18, there is the name of a man. A mass murder. On our early death. And in Whitehall, there is a plaque commemorating the man who was Haig and his class murder. Nothing, not all is all to this system, not even the memory of the man it sends to their deaths to keep the world safe for hypocrisy.

Socialist Worker Crossword No 2

ACROSS
1. Surname of film actor who played Humbert Humbert in the film adaptation of Lolita (5)
2. 3975 miles away from Disneyland (9)
3. Noodle pictures (6)
4. Ancient seaport in the Bay of Nantes popular with Roman tourists (9)
5. 99 AD (3)
6. When the Earl of Carnarvon found his mummy (8)
7. For instance (4)
8. Of Paris. 1914 Henley Regatta was the first race in which the French Navy competed (8)
9. Method of secret voting compulsory for local and general elections in Britain since 1970 and opposed by trade unions for reversing decisions taken at mass meetings (6)
10. They may be made from oak galls, iron galls, gum arabic, carbolic acid and phenoxy (8)
11. Misnomer for Mansa, a poverty ridden city in Guinea (8)
12. It can make you feel... (7)
13. Country over which Victoria was proclaimed 'Empire' in 1877 (9)
14. Russian author of 'in the Depths', a sensational novel of sea life, who became a Stalinist hack in old age (5)
15. The 22nd made Yossarian fly (8)
16. Solution to last week's: 8: Rain, steam and... (6)
17. Treacherous labour leader deprived of pension rights by his union for his part in the 1931 'National Government' (6)
18. Where I'm going to in my mind (8)
19. Large-joelied ex-leaving Tribute row on Labour Party National Executive (7)
20. In a country churchyard (9)
21. A discoverer under water—not over (5)
22. Airflash centenary (8)

DOWN
1. Takes part-per-cent bond (5)
2. I'm on your conscience (5)
3. Condition of thousands of workers who preferred casual football to union sanctioned soccer matches (8)
4. Sean Connery film set in the east on a Hitler army punishment camp (3, 4)
5. Chaplin classic about horrors of automated production (5, 6)
6. Famous Tamar painter (8)
7. Large-joelied ex-leaving Tribute row on Labour Party National Executive (7)
8. Written in a country churchyard (9)
9. Indolent by poison or sexual morality (6)
10. A discoverer under water—not over (5)
11. Airflash centenary (8)

SOLVED: 8: Rain, steam and... (6)
9: Treacherous labour leader deprived of pension rights by his union for his part in the 1931 'National Government' (6)
14: Where I'm going to in my mind (8)
16: Large-jointed ex-leaving Tribute row on Labour Party National Executive (7)
18: … written in a country churchyard (9)
19: Indolent by poison or sexual morality (6)
21: A discoverer under water—not over (5)
22: Airflash centenary (8)

A Few Fair Cop

LAST Saturday two small reports appeared on the same page of the Daily Telegraph, the first was about the unrepentant rebels of</p>
SEAN TREACY ON HOW SOCIALISM WOULD DEAL WITH THE CRISIS

YOU INSIST that this crisis is not an act of God or nature but of capitalism, that it would be solved by problems of inflation and the rest disappear if we had a real workers' government?

Certainly not. But a workers' government could make a start to solve some of them. The crisis is world wide and that means until we have working-class power over a major part of the international economy we cannot travel far on the road to socialism.

But how much could be done about prices for instance? After all, we would still have to buy many things from abroad, such as food?

That is true. The first need would be for a workers' government to take control of foreign trade. That means the nationalisation of the banks and major companies. Some imports we do not need, luxuries such as jewellery and the like, available only to a few. But when it comes to foods, much would still have to be imported.

At present many basic foods are so expensive they are in effect rationed. A workers' government would substitute honest rationing—on the one hand the ability to pay but on the other, the need to pay. As a result the prices of many goods could be kept down.

What else can be done about freezing prices?

A workers' government would straitway close the private markets in commodities. These have been the speculators' paradise and the past speculation during times of shortages has forced up prices of basic materials and foods to astronomical heights.

CURED

A workers' state would also take over the major storing groups—not the small corner shops, which are more simply against the system when it comes to profiteering. That would help, too, to control the distribution of materials during times of shortages and would make it possible to fix prices.

But could all inflation be cured in this way?

It would take some years of economic planning. This would involve the elimination of all the ways capitalism simply wasters the wealth that workers produce, such as on arms, the millions spent on insurance advertising, the need for red tape and bureaucracy of the state. This would help to cure inflation now.

Above all it would be possible to organise production more efficiently and that would go a long way to make up for the bad memory.

How do you mean that? Surely advertising is unavoidable?

Yes, to get the health or information or advertising. But it cannot be right that the detergent industry, making a range of almost identical products, spends more on glossy advertising than the Health Service has for medical research. Under capitalism the possibility of creating false needs and avoiding satisfying real ones.

What about arms? Surely a workers' state would need to defend itself?

It would. But its best defence would be its political support from the working class throughout the world. A workers' government in Britain would have every interest in pursuing a policy of internationalism—to banth out the day when workers in other lands come to power.

Some arms would no doubt be needed, but no workers' state could have any use for weapons of indiscriminate mass destruction such as the H-bomb, nuclear missiles, germ warfare and the like. They cost the taxpayer untold millions of pounds a year. It goes without saying that a workers' government would withdraw from all military alliances such as NATO and withdraw all its troops from abroad— including Ireland.

BOOM

The talk about efficient organisation of production sounds like the language of the bosses now. You will be suggesting the need for higher profits and an incomes policy next.

Let's get this in context. Under capitalism the blind forces of the market obstruct efficient production. The collapse from boom to slump, from surplus to shortage without anyone—not even the capitalists—being able to control things. That is unbelievably wasteful.

It has been calculated that the stop-go cycle (now the boom-stump cycle) in Britain since 1945 has cost at least £50,000,000,000,000 (five hundred thousand million pounds) in lost production of wealth. That would have been enough to solve entirely the housing problem and transform the Health Service and education.

Under workers' control we could start economic planning with production for use, that means, as we have already said, that the major industries—the so-called top 200 firms at least—must be nationalised under workers’ control without compensation. The state will look after any widows or orphans who depend on funds in these firms.

But will there be a need for profits and wages policy under such a system?

There would certainly be need to be a surplus produced over and above what we use up as individuals or as a society. That is vital to pay for more efficient and labour-saving machines and production methods.

Socialist objection to profits is that they are the surplus created by workers but are taken from them by capitalists.

Equally, incomes policy under capitalism is a way of transferring wealth from wage earners to capitalists. Working people would have every reason, in a system which they controlled and planned, to take wages out of the competitive jungle. The funny thing is that already workers are often quite agreed about who should benefit more in the scale of relative pay—nurses, the lower-paid, and so on. At present this cannot be achieved. Under workers’ planning it would.

Equally a workers’ government would take over the huge private fortunes of the rich. It would use their mansions for hospitals, schools, and to house the homeless.

You mean that in a workers’ state we would be working for our own good and that of society?

Right. And for that reason we would have an interest in increasing investment. Because we would all benefit—not just a few. Mistakes would be made, of course. But that is different to the deliberate waste of wealth and the unfairness involved in the chaos of capitalism.

WOMEN'S VOICE

Issue number 13 now out

Articles on Night work, equal pay, SEL price, 50p (plus 4p postage) from WOMEN'S VOICE, 85 Maltings, Harlow, Essex

BUCKINGHAM WORKERS REST HOME

NEED

But does socialist planning work? It does not seem very successful in Russia?

Of course planning and workers' democracy must go hand in hand. In Russia the bureaucrats own and control the means of production through their control of the state—their planning is blind to the needs of the people. It is designed for competition with the Western capitalists. That is why we need a revolution in those countries too.

But even a genuine workers' state would still be part of the world. Could we avoid balance of payments crises and having to pay our way?

As long as a workers' state is isolated it is vulnerable. In the end workers' power has to spread or the isolated workers' state is crushed. That was certainly the experience in Russia.

But is it unlikely that the working class could exist as a separate social group apart from capitalism as is supposed to happen in the West? You are forgetting the international character of the working class.

Until that happens a workers' government has to do what it can—make maximum use of the power it does have, encourage workers to take over factories and to grow into new social relations, to develop a new society which can take the place of the old.

In the end the building of socialism will depend on spreading workers' power. That would give us the possibility of truly international economic planning, which could liberate mankind from starvation and disease and dramatically raise living standards. It would also make possible a society that was so productive it would liberate men and women from much unredeemed labour. Liberate us for living.

But we are a long way from that now.

True. But the crisis of the system is getting so severe that working people here and in other countries will more and more obviously face a choice: replace this rotten set-up from top to bottom and start to build socialism, or slide into dictator- ship, mass unemployment and maybe war. We can see the dangers around us at the moment.

That is why the International Socialists fight not only in defence of workers' jobs and pay packets but also for the creation of a movement which can take power and put mankind on the road to freedom.
THE UNIONS

How can I not get a pay rise?

THREE days in the life of a trade union official:

DAY 1: At the National Committee of his union he speaks against industrial action over a 10% wage claim to get £1,000 a year.

DAY 2: He gets a massive wage rise of 40 per cent or £1,500 a year.

DAY 3: He instructs his committee to cross the picket line and to sack their fellow workers.

A few years many would have thought that was the right move for a left-winger. Sounds like Frank Chapple or David Bassett, doesn’t it? But no, it’s Mr Lewis Bassett. Mr Bassett is the chairman of the Communist party. Mr Lewis Bassett is the chairman of the AM. Mr Lewis Bassett is the chairman of the AM.

But Monday at the AUEW National Committee, the left wing put forward a resolution for a wage claim of 15% and called for the executive to use industrial action to achieve the claim.

The right wing at the meeting used the Social Contract to defeat the resolution and modified it to a meaningless claim ‘for substantial increase’.

The vote only got through by 27-25. The interesting point with Labour and the AM is that if anyone had been absent for the 26-26, then Bassett would have undoubtedly voted with the left, making it 26-26, and Scanlon would have had to use his casting vote. From his opposition to the resolution it is clear that he would have voted with the right wing.

The next day the committee agreed unanimously to give its 200 full-time officials a 30% wage increase.

All Scanlon’s manoeuvres are to be seen against the background of a strike in his own union headquarters. Members of the APEX there are striking for an increase in the London weighting from £1.50 to £4.00, as recommended in the Pay Board report.

When 30 members of Scanlon’s own union honoured the picket line, he retaliated by telling them that if they did not leave, they would be sacked, and that when they went in they were to do any work they were told. This means forcing union members to go to work to keep the unions and the national government in business. What’s the point of having a trade union if it is not to protect its members from such attacks? Further to this, the Prime Minister is to give a pay rise of 15% for all trade union members in Britain, though the pay rise will apply only to workers employed by large employers. This is a clear attempt to divide the workers, and to prevent the workers from uniting to fight for a better deal.

How can the management boys want...for the union

DURING the next week, members of the shop stewards and managers union, the EFTU, will be receiving ballot papers and a recommendation from the executive council to accept a management consultant’s report. This will propose changes in the union rules to abolish the elected position of general president and create five new appointed officials.

The four executive council members who opposed this report will not be allowed to state their case on the ballot paper.

While members are appalled at the idea of employers interfering in union affairs, the managing director of the consultancy firm is James Dobson, chairman of JHB for electrical contracting and long-standing acquaintance of Frank Chapple, general secretary—general president of the union.

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The committee, made up of Engineers’ and Electricians’ shop stewards, consulted with the men at Westhoughton and decided to follow their lead in going for a 40% increase. They adopted the same tactics, a book on personal rights, all in the other factories.

And they started their pay of £1 a week per men, collected by all the craftsmen in the combine, and a total black on all Westhoughton work.

In a multinational company like Metal Box which produces packaging in factories all over the world, blanking is vital to the company. It is not to defeat every struggle by shifting work from one factory to another, or closing the factories down. The combine committee was set up five years ago and has official union backing. Over the past year a great deal of work has been done to get every factory represented. It meets every six months in London to discuss policy for the combine, although wage negotiations are conducted at a local level. The chairman and secretary hope to organise further participation to the local factory to increase participation in the committee.

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The one drawback to the committee is that it is limited to the craft unions and does not cover the production side at all. At Westhoughton, with Transport Union members crossing picket lines and only one UTLW steward supporting the occupation and razing money for it, the importance of extending the committee to include the production side is obvious. It is hoped that through the dispute and through the solidarity shown by the craftsmen at the other Metal Box factories, the production workers and their strikers will see the necessity for such combine organisation.

SHEILA MCGREGOR and PAUL KENNEDY.

What they’re costing you

What’s the point of having a trade union if it is not to protect its members from such attacks? Further to this, the Prime Minister is to give a pay rise of 15% for all trade union members in Britain, though the pay rise will apply only to workers employed by large employers. This is a clear attempt to divide the workers, and to prevent the workers from uniting to fight for a better deal.

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Manchester's 'New Moss Side Centre' is nearly four years old. Its first tenant died barely a week after moving in when the battle began against appalling conditions and council indifference.

That battle, which has included protests, demonstrations and an occupation of an unfinished council house on a neighbour's site, is still going on.

And it came to a head yesterday when many of the 1,000 tenants staged their latest protest: a 24-hour walk-out.

It brought what could be a major victory for the families of Linoleum Crescent, Grenville Walk and Albert Walk. The council housing committee has promised them new houses as a result.

But this has to be ratified by the full council. And much is to be decided by the social services officials.

The tenants, at least, have found a way to get their housing problems solved.

The council, meanwhile, will have to explain how hundreds of thousands of pounds of our money was spent on three-storey blocks while sitting board appointments are already in competition, if not for demolition.

It's not easy to tell about life in Moss Side. The difficulties we face and the degradation we suffer are almost unbelievable.

The interior walls, made mainly of compressed straw, are riddled with holes and spots before they are installed. The central heating system encourages them to breed.

You finally find out about them when they drop off the ceiling or when the kids are covered in bites. Some people have had their mattresses or stripped the wallpaper to find a seething mass of bugs. A number of families had to abandon two lots of furniture.

The council says we brought them with us. But in some cases where 'flats without bugs' have been furnished, loads of them have appeared afterwards.

Some flats have actually been furnished 12 or 13 times, but it's made no difference. The only thing that will shift them is fire.

The trouble is that fire shifts everything. There's a modern fire station not 40 yards from our block, but in the five minutes it took them to get to one fire, the place was completely gutted.

There was nothing left of the 'fireproof' straw walls.

There are also rats, mice and beetles. One woman caught 12 mice in one day. Another found two rats in the cot of her four-month-old baby.

A housing official said recently that there wasn't a plague of rats. It was one or two running between all the flats in the whole block.

These officials treat us with haughtiness and condescension. A lady of 82 couldn't open the door as it would have come off.

Lucky

Her grandchildren's favourite game is to write letters to each other, from bedroom to living room, underneath the lights. All the letters were taken running between the walls all around the flats.

We took a list of all the repairs down to the office. Jones, who's known as the superintendent because he's in charge of the caretakers, went up to see her and said:

"You're lucky to have a house at your age, you shouldn't be in the workhouse". She died not long after that.

Another woman complained for fourteen months that each time she used her toilet she suffered an electric shock. They advised her and her family to wear Wellington boots.

All the flats suffer from sticking windows, sinking floors, leaky roofs and damp, failing doors, warped cupboards, broken boilers and an enormous number of cracks.

Circuit

There is dampness and flooding from upstairs ceilings, caused by rain water seeping through cracks in the outside landing of the floors above. It collects between the concrete beams and periodically overflows.

In many cases, this water short circuits the electrical system, which results in either a fire or no electricity.

To get any fault repaired can take two years or more. I've been waiting two years and nine months for a heating return valve and a replacement bath.

A friend has never had a lighting fixture in her bathroom since it was installed two years ago. Rubbish is collected if the lifts happen to be working when the dustmen call.

Once, when the lifts weren't working for six weeks, the landlord was woken by a dog with a note, saying a tenant had been found in a flat.

IN BRITAIN'S big cities, twice as many people are homeless as in the number of houses built to 193,000.

The Tories' traditional boast of a property-owning democracy—in which every family would own its own home—has been a bit hollow over the last few years.

The houses are, in fact, owned by the banks, building societies and mortgage companies—and they are able to extract even greater amounts.

By John Miller

A Moss Side tenant

They were due one morning at ten o'clock. At half past eight, 300 workmen appeared with 40 corporation wages. They threw all the bags of rubbish over the landings into the wagons. They swept the place spottless just in time for the officials.

The strain of living under these conditions has a terrific effect on many families. Quite a few marriages have broken up, many women are on tranquillizers and some people have turned to alcoholism.

Your sex life is ruined because the walls are so thin that neighbours can hear everything.

When I come home after work and see the flats, my stomach knots and I get a feeling of utter depression and despair.

No amount of alterations will change my feelings—only our rehousing and their demolition will do that.
How best to rid us of our vermin

At last the people in a body
To the Town Hall came flocking.
*Tis clear they cried
Our mayor's a Noddy
And as for the Corporation—shocking.
To think we buy gowns lined with
vermin.
For dots that can't or won't determine
How best to rid us of our vermin.
Rouse up sirs, set your brains a racking
To find the remedy we're lacking
Or, sure as fate, we'll send you packing
At this the Mayor and Corporation
Gazed with a mighty consternation.

The Pied Piper of Hamelin, Robert Browning

The Moss Side blocks were built in Mathews and
Munby and, in later stages, by Concrete Ltd in
1970 and 1971. The tendered cost was £1,966,263.
The actual cost is still being worked out.
A spokesman for Manchester Corporation said this
week: "The Housing Committee's policy is not to
demolish these flats. Instead, it will, over a period,
rehouse all families with children. The Committee
doesn't believe the flats are suitable for children,
though the flats will be occupied—by adults."

These rats were killed by a dog: one woman found two in the cot of her
four-month-old baby

What we think

The rising number of empty in
no-one can
system holds
in its grasp
any other part
organisation and strike action.
But the working class
made possible by the re-
action of the working class
Workers long ago
learnt that merely voting for
the 'left-wing' candidate in
elections does not protect
your wage packet. You need
to apply continual, direct
pressure, through shop floor

TOP: A motorist tries to drive through the protest march, narrowly missing a pram. He is answered with a placard
through his windscreen. ABOVE: Police arrest Liam Smyth,
breaking his arm in the process. He had tried to restrain his
wife from attacking a constable who had thrown over their
little boy. He was charged with assaulting the police.
LET US FORGET - WHAT WE LOST

ABOUT A YEARago police swooped on my house, searched it, took away political literature, my address book and arrested my wife and me. We were held for six days and then, without any charge, were released. It was a difficult time. We had to pay the costs of our own defence, and we couldn't work because of the loss of income. We were left with a large debt.

I pointed this out to the police officer who later arrested me. He told me the information he had indeed come from a source 'I can't discuss', but he couldn't explain how it was traced to my house. We could prove nothing, and the matter was dropped.

Just last week a friend phoned me and said he thought that the phone was being tapped. A little later we could both hear voices in the background and they didn't sound like the police, they were more like the background noise of a radio station.

Then one of my friends was arrested for 'espionage'. He was accused of being a spy for the 'Catholic Church'. The charges were filed in a secret court and it was only after my friend had been in jail for several months that I was able to find out what had happened.

I then phoned the National Council for Civil Liberties. They told me the only person with authority to order the tapping of phones is the Home Secretary, and that his office wouldn't talk about individual cases so nothing could be proved.

The next day I phoned the GPO. Eventually I was put through to a 'Traffic' officer. A spokesman's read out a statement to me that there were no engineers on the line, he could offer no explanation. The engineer had checked the lines and could find no tapping devices. What had happened was that there had been a 'false alarm'...

STEVE DRAKE, Cohoe.

BOMBINGS - WHY THEY HAPPEN

The bomb in Woolwich far from hurting the people it was meant to hurt is a blow against those socialists and workers who support the Irish struggle. After the continuous arguments we have in our workplaces on Ireland, pointing out the implications of the overthrow of the British government and the dangers to our class, we have been left in no doubt that the bomb was to scare people into submission.

In 1967 in Aden the point was driven home, in the Army camp a prisoner was brought in for questioning and when he refused to talk his head was shot with a shot gun behind his back to make the point. In 1967 Aldermaston, the camp where the nuclear power plants are located, was attacked by irish exiles. The bomb was a message to the British government and workers in the nuclear industry. The bomb in Woolwich is a message to the British government and workers in the nuclear industry.

One society we live in the rule is get back at those that hurt you, we are all as bad as the people we are learning to hate in Northern Ireland, we are all as bad as the people who gave the bomb to Woolwich. It would have been a small reflection of what is happening there.

The bomb must rest with our rulers, in greed they are prepared to buy. We have the police for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland. Free determination for irish people, Trade union federations have to demand for trade union rights for irish people. The British Army, NEIL DAVIES, N London.

Strike to get them out

SO NORTH WEST London District of the CWI is calling for a strike to get Northern Ireland MP's picked up by London MPs demand for the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland. Two, Ricky Tomlinson and Dan Warren. They will of course get a full pay packet for the strike. The promise from Left Labour and liberals on law and order is that the police will not get an action.

One thing will make the Labour government change the change the law and stop release the two jailing pickets. The striking of the spreads of the striking which London, West Hampstead buildings workers have started. The militant rank and file action will succeed. Spread the strikes to release the Two-Bob WOOD, London, W7.

We are the greatest!

MUHAMMAD ALLI always was the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion to oppressed people around the world. He has been an expression to those people in struggle. Boxing is one of the few things that black people were allowed to succeed. But we were always competed to say how fine the system was when they made it. All is different--he has spoken out against oppression.

He refused to join the army and go to Vietnam. The Vietcong have done me no wrong, he said. For this he was threatened with jail, tapped his phone, and wouldn't let him box.

A few years later he let him fight again--against Joe Frazier. Frazier won and President Nixon personally congratulated him. But not for long. A few years later has beaten George Foreman.

Now Ali no socialist, he's probably never heard of it. But he's a fighter, a man who won't quit. He is a fighting spirit that black and white workers are feeling. He has the strength that won't be beaten. The message is clear. We are the greatest--RON SENCHAK, N London.
COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIALIST WORKER DEFENCE FUND

To: Socialist Worker, 124 Upper Street, Islington, London, N1 3DS.

I WAS SHOCKED but not surprised at the savage sentence Paul Foot received. I knew they would make it as severe as possible. This is a chance to kiss back at those who would like to destroy socialism. I have great pleasure in endorsing a donation of five shillings to the legal aid fund. B. Wilson, Hants.

GOD I'M NOT a member of the International Socialist, but the bastards must be able to do this. Even people in this breeding is a good thing—Shirley Williams, in Catharine Oxford.

THE ENCLOSED represents the amount raised by the sale of our second hand bookshop—JEAN & PAUL WHITFORD, Hoddesdon.

WE HOPE the money from a collection we had at our company from readers and sympathisers will help towards the disfiguring costs and fines imposed on you and your paper, and this will not be the end of a paper that has become part of our lives—D. R. PADTLEY, Wiltshire.

I AM A fairly regular reader of your paper and as such I find myself totally with you on this and every other issue for peace. I think your decision to name the persons in the "sequences" is absolutely right—J. FINNWIDGE, Islington.

IT WAS a verdict that arguments about law and order, which Lord Justice Widger's judgement showed was unsound, now my view which the question showed was unsound in morality. It seems to be a delusion that the justviced is a deliberate attempt by the Government to stir up fear and not openly tries its pretensions with delusion and command—P. CASSIDY, Chester.

WE WERE appealed by the nailing. As regular readers we will be very angry if as a result of pressure is forced to close—JOHN & GLEN HODGGE, Norwich.

THE ACTION of the courts towards Paul Foot does not surprise me but confuses my belief that justice and freedom are as clear as black and white and our support your paper as one of the few mowers in the country that dare to voice class consciousness. It is essential that you continue, so that the class domination that does not spring directly from the ideas of the people will be able to pass by—IAN M. PARR, Plymouth.

BEST WISHES to the writers and publishers of the best left-wing newspaper of the left—BILK HILL, Norwich.

I AM SENDING a postal order. I sincerely hope that it will help to alleviate the massive pressures put on Paul Foot and Socialist Worker. Let us hope the injustice is reflected in the pressure on the paper. HELEN REES, Cardif.

I'M NOT SURPRISED by the excessive fines and costs awarded against Socialist Worker, nor am I over the injustice of the actions of the building workers. We must learn about the pressure on Paul Foot and Socialist Worker and that there is a concerted effort to silence the movement. The answer is to stand up, organise and attack—R. HOWLETT, Sittingbourne.

ALTHOUGH short on facts I feel a quick reflection and a second thought might have made that paper could call on an effective defence. There is an urgent need for a second look at the situation before it is too late—SUPPORTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, Ipswich.

PLEASE FIND enclosed a donation... I will do so as far as possible in the future. I deeply regret that the law seems to have taken a revenge against the political worker and the Socialist Worker—W. H. JENKERS, FLIMMER, Willenham.

WE DON'T NECESSARILY agree with everything your paper says, but it is necessary to support all papers of the left which are prepared to take a stand against the attacks of the Establishment—TERRY & JUDY O'HALLORAN, Colchester.

COMPANERO

THE film Companero is part of Joan Darc's project to argue again classic Chile to tell the story of her husband's murder. My ballad, Victor Jara of Chile, is another attempt. It is written to the tune of Woody Guthrie's Dear Mr Roosevelt, which can be heard on the Woody Guthrie Memorial Concert album, sung by Arlo Guthrie—who has sung the Jara songs at several concerts.

Joan and I are not trying to turn Victor into a legend. We speak of him as one of the thousands of victims of fascism in Chile, one of the few whose life and death we know to detail, one of the few whose voice, through his "yes of real and powerful" songs, still speaks on records, tapes and in the songs of Companero.

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There are many excellent films that tell the story of Chile before, during and after the coup, the socialists who narrated the words to the film Companero, an account of the torture and death of the Chilean singer Victor Jara, writes about the film and we review in brief others.

Three of the newest and most moving, Chile September, The Tiger Pounced and Chile—The Reckoning, are being shown at the Colgate Theatre, 15 Gordon Street, London WC1, on Sunday November 17th, and should be seen by anyone interested in showing the films locally.

Below is Adrian Mitchell's ballad about Victor Jara.

THE TIGER POUNCED AND KILLED, BUT HE'LL DIE, HE'LL DIE

This is another obituary for Jara produced by the Cuban film maker Alberto Arias. It lasts eight minutes and costs £5 to hire from the Other Cinema, Littletown, London N1, (phone 01-734 8509/8).}

CHILE SEPTEMBER

This film was made in the first two weeks after the coup by two French socialists—Laurent and Marais—who were operating secretly. It has interviews with trade union leaders as well as with Chilean and foreign visitors set against the official tours of the President and the Junta version of things.

It is not a call for mourning. The film shows the hughelessness, defiance and the handfuls in Pablo Neruda's funeral procession singing the International along a road lined with burning cars.

The makers offer to specific analysts an account of the collapse of the regime, the brutality and torture and the possibility of a military coup is anxiously felt and strategies for defence are discussed. It takes the political position of the MIR: 'Let us say to the imperialists, the middle classes and those who wave, that we're not weeping the failure of socialism, but what we're suffering is the failure of communism.'

60 mins, rental £12 from the Other Cinema.

WHEN THE PEOPLE AWAKE

This film was made, from a revolutionary perspective, before the coup and in the first weeks of November. It shows the problems that faced Chilen workers and peasants in 1972, the possibility of a military coup is anxiously felt and strategies for defence are discussed. It takes the political position of the MIR: 'Let us say to the imperialists, the middle classes and those who wave, that we're not weeping the failure of socialism, but what we're suffering is the failure of communism.'

60 mins, rental £12 from the Other Cinema.

CHILE—THE RECKONING

This is a film version of the TV programme made by World in Action in the first three weeks of November 1973. The director, Mike Beckingham, says: 'We found an extraordinary situation—there was very little resistance to the massive terror which was created in a very open way by the army—and they admitted to torture. The film is about terror, one part concerns torture, the other the individual's resistance to terror and the impact of myths and other persecution.'

It is a terrifying catalogue of repression against the Chilean workers' movement, though its analysis is still incomplete.

Cuba, 27 mins, £5 from the Other Cinema.

Adrian Mitchell
We need you to defend Socialist Worker...

Public meetings:

LAMBIETH: Wednesday 20 November, 8pm
Speakers: John Bell (chairman, Brifton No 1 branch), UCATT, in personal capacity and Ken Appleby (IS industrial organisser), Brifton Training Centre (near Bell Inn, Rotherhithe, SE16 4PT, 020 7407 8000).

NEWHAM: Wednesday 27 November, 7.45pm
Film: Blow for Blow (how a group of workers occupy and defend their factory), Princess Alice, Romford Road, Forest Gate, London E7

LEEDS: Thursday 21 November, 8pm
Trades Council Hall, Saville Mt, Chapelton.
Speaker: Andreas Tagliati
KEELE UNIVERSITY: Monday 18 November, 8pm
Students Union. Speaker: Laurie Flynn

COVENTRY: Friday 16 November, 8pm
Speaker: Duncan Hallas
NOTTINGHAM: Thursday 21 November, 7.45pm, TU Centre, Piccadilly Place
SHEFFIELD: Sunday 17 November, 8pm
Speakers: Bob Light (TGWU) and Greg Douglas (CEU) The Royal, Abbeydale Road
MANCHESTER: Friday 15 November, 7.30pm
Speakers include Neil Davies, Bella Fullard (SEI), Heywood and John Stevenson (URT). Milton Hall, Deansgate.

SALING, WEST LONDON: Thursday 14 November, 8pm

Defence fund finale:

An evening of socialist entertainment, with theatre from the General Willie and The Combine, poetry from Adrian Mitchell, Chris Sears and Two Fingers, and Stephen Hicks (ex-boxer). Revolutionary music from Chile, Portugal, Ireland and the West Indies, Africa, etc.

Sunday 8 December, St Pancras Town Hall (King Cross tube) 7.30-10.30pm
Tickets 40p in advance, 50p on the door.

WHAT’S ON

Meetings for members only

WEST YORKSHIRE district appeals for all 15 members interested in this week’s national meetings to contact Josh Kinsella, 11 Wood Street, Bradford, BD1 1JH (circ 93543) and current perspectives for all members interested in the Western region, 24 Warwick Rd, Exeter, EX4 3HS (circ 93543) and current perspectives for all members interested in the Eastern region, Great Horton Road, Bradford, BD1 4SH

LONDON NALGO fringe meeting: 14h 12th December at 72 South Newton St, EC4

POLITICAL ECONOMY GROUP: Tuesday 12 December, 7pm, Kings Inn, 92 Victoria St, SW1

ECUADOR: Tuesday 12 December, 8pm, 30, Park 4, Clapham, London S.W.

LUCAS WORKERS: Wednesday 13 December, 7pm, The Doncaster, 20 High St, Billingham

CROWDFUNDING MEETING: Labour canal workers. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Meeting starts on 14 December, 7pm, 10 Park 4, Clapham, London S.W.

NOTTS: National Organisation of Sozialistische Friedens- und Weltbevollmächtigte (SFW) meeting. Sunday 10 December, 11am, The Shoemaker, 19, Canal St, Newark, Notts

TRENORUM & District public meeting: Social contract or what’s next? speakers: Paul Frost, and meeting North East Trade Union Congress (NE TUC) Welfare State is dead. Who’s to blame? Speaker: Mick Whelan. 14 Southfield Road, Middlesbrough.

CROYDON: Wednesday 13th December, 8pm, The Black Bull in Sydenham Street, Catford.

ADVANCE NOTICE: North West London IS meeting on Mithrandir, Saturday 15 December, 7pm, Wood Green, London N22

WHAT WE’RE DOING OVER PORTUGAL

The situation in Portugal is of vital importance for revolutionary socialism. Portuguese workers are facing sharp struggles and the strength of the right wing is growing. The coming months could see a resurgence of fascism, as in Chile, or a socialist situation in which the IS could assume a leading role in the struggle. The IS International Sub-Committee has now established a Portugal group, which will have the job of collecting and co-ordinating information on Portugal and developing our contacts with Portuguese organisations. The group will attempt to supply comrades—especially those employed in factories and trade unions—with information on Portugal and contact details for the group.

WHAT ARE WE DOING OVER PORTUGAL?

The international section of the IS has been active in Portugal for several years. In 1983, an IS group was formed in Portugal, and in 1985, the group established a Solidarity movement in Portugal. The group has been active in various campaigns, including the anti-Nuclear campaign, and has organised various events, such as meetings and workshops. The group has also provided support to Portuguese workers and students in their struggle.

Reports from Portugal have been compiled and distributed by the group, and the group has distributed leaflets and posters in various languages. The group has also organised various events, such as meetings and workshops, to inform Portuguese workers about their struggle.

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SOLICITORS 16 November 1974 13

DUSTMAN TAKE ON MILLIONAIRES

W LONDON: After two mass meetings last Monday, Kensington and Chelsea’s 300 Dustmen are now on unofficial strike.

Their strike is against victimisation and harassment by the police and the owners of the homes they clean, including two shop owners, who have been charged with blackmail, demanding money with menaces and embezzling council property - black dollar stocks.

According to the local press the arrest followed ‘a gang robbing pattern’. It is most interesting that the subjects of a gang robbing operation in Kensington and Chelsea should be the local dustmen. For the area has more rich and respectable thieves than almost any other part of the country.

The council’s response to the police inquiry was exactly what you’d expect from a bunch of millionaires. They launched their own attack on the ruined men, who were all suspended on half pay until the court hearing in four months’ time. Union officials pointed out that it was tantamount to judging the men guilty before the hearing. But Sir Malcy Connolly, a Tory, still refused to reinstate them in their own jobs, offering only unsatisfactory employment instead.

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**Freightliner deal 'a paltry sum'**

**THE settlement of the Freightliners' national pay claim this week was described by the influential Adludon Garston strike committee as a 'less than adequate' deal.**

"We have only been given £3.44 a week, or 48p a day, which is not enough to make ends meet," said one worker. "This is a paltry sum of money, and we will be left with no more than a few pounds each week." The strike committee pointed out that they had not been granted an adequate increase in their pay since the last round of negotiations.

The idea of a worker's cooperative looks attractive to many workers facing redundancy, but the strike committee emphasises it is a large scale plan. "We only want to save the jobs of our friends and colleagues, but we need a national solution to ensure that all workers are protected," they said.

The back-to-work movement has drawn support from other groups, including the National Union of Railmen and Transport Workers (NUTRWT). However, many workers feel that the strike committee has not done enough to bring forward a more comprehensive plan.

The men went on strike in support of the Freightliners' national pay claim and their demand for a fair settlement. They are calling on the government to negotiate a more just deal and to take the necessary steps to ensure that all workers are protected.

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**VICTORY FOR BRS men**

**GLASGOW—The BRS factory workers have won a significant victory with the announcement of a £1.2 million pay increase.**

"This is a hard-fought victory, and we are delighted to have achieved it," said a spokesperson for the striking workers. "We have been fighting for fair treatment and this is a significant step forward."

The SPIU, the trade union representing the BRS workers, has praised the workers' determination and organisation. "This is a great victory for the workers and we hope that it will set a precedent for future negotiations."

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**TURBINS on again**

**LEEDS—The dispute over the Oskar Scharm variant has been resolved.**

"Thanks to the efforts of the Shipley workers and the support of the wider union, we have achieved a win for the workers," said a spokesperson for the NUTRWT. "We hope that this will set a precedent for future negotiations."
Hoovers: How they moved Sergeant X31

NEXT LONDON: A police sergeant has been removed from a picket line after hoovering himself into a jam.

For the past ten days, pickets have been unable to move due to the presence of a hoover, which has been set up on the picket line to prevent passing traffic.

When the picket line started, production workers were told to sign a document saying that they would not accept the conditions laid down by the unions.

As angry workers turned on a man who was trying to talk them out of their decision, they noticed that he was holding a Hoover.

It was revealed that the man was a retired sales executive from the Hoover Company, who had been willing to help the workers out of a jam.

The union's Engineering Union shop steward Peter Peck told Socialist Worker: 'After that piggy thing happened, a lot of people told us how the Hoover was a big help.'

The picket line has been cleared, and the pickets are now able to move as normal.

Original

A mass meeting of AEC workers last Thursday split the middle after a dispute between the workers and their management.

A fresh offer of £8 on the A grade, £7 on the B grade, and £6 on the C grade was made, plus average overseas for holidays. The original offer was £7.50.

Another meeting on Sunday voted to return to work after a majority of shop stewards switched sides and accepted the offer.

The picket line had been a great deal of bother about the dispute. Many workers felt that the workers were not being paid a proper level of wages and a general lack of involvement of the rank and file. One of the few shop stewards to vote against accepting the offer, AEC member Bob Black, put it bluntly when he told Socialist Worker: 'We have a situation where the union is sold out.'

The AEC Production Workers Union shop steward for the delivery drivers, Eddie Blackley, added that he had been 'disillusioned' by the talks: 'We have an outstanding complaint that we don't have anything to show for the journeys we take the journey back after a truck strike. Unions have to look after their membership as well as almost as soon as we get back to work.'

Socialist Worker defence fund public meeting: 31st May. For details: Alice Murray (Socialist Worker), Bob Black. 16 Fitzalan Square, Sheffield. 22nd May. Alan Piggot (GPMU shop steward), 103 Upper Parliament St, Sheffield.

Eating Town Hall, this Thursday 11th May, 8pm. Entrance 50p.

Special national issue of the ban's rank and file paper.

The national claim: how is it being met?

The report shows that 25% of all workers are on strike or on the verge of striking.

On both sides of the border, the situation is worse than ever. In Ulster, the average wage for a worker is £11 per week, compared to £20 in the Republic.

R.R. Hoovers: Why strikes are unofficial

by Jimmy McCallum

JOHN BOYD, executive councillor of the AUEW and unofficial leader of the 'get back to work' policy in the trade union movement, has been on the picket line at AEC, telling them to end their 11-week strike and get back to work. Boyd is the same man who was in charge of the picket line at the Ford plant at Dagenham. BOYD has been accused of breaking the picket line, which is illegal, and of refusing to stop the picketing.

The labour council in Birmingham has been forced to demand that the AEC management halt the picketing and stop breaking the rules.

McAllister, who is allegedly leading the unofficial picket line, denied the charges. He said: 'I am a law-abiding citizen and I will abide by the law.'

But the Labour council has been forced to appeal to the government for help.

McAllister has been accused of being a 'strawberry picker' and of trying to undermine the official picketing line.

'I am not a picketer,' said McAllister. 'I am a trade unionist and I will not be bullied into doing anything I don't believe in.'

Scottish teachers: Force claim up

by Wally Hart

Grass roots management committee

Grass roots action in Scotland has forced the teachers' union, the Education Institute of Scotland, to up its claim from 11 per cent to 20 per cent.

This is a move to undermine union membership in Scotland.

EIS leaders are continuing their campaign for independence.

Among the new members are three former teachers who were expelled from the union for supporting the strike.

Steel, sweets, drugs: out for more

The struggle to win wage increases to keep pace with the cost of living is going on all over the country.

LAMNERN, South Wales. The 1600 striking craftsmen at the BBE Spencer steel works have accepted a revised offer making the basic offer of £11.40, which includes the cost of living and a bonus paid for work measurement.

The men have returned to work. They voted not to cross the picket line, after being assured that the union would ensure that the workers were not forced to work.

At HALIFAX, Masntroh management have successfully introduced a scheme of job evaluation under which they can 'grade' workers and ensure that they are paid for work measured by a time and motion study system.

At KEIGHLEY, workers have been refused permission to continue their unofficial picketing.

KENDAL, Barnard Castle, Cambi, and Nelson as well as Ulverston. All of these are now on a full strike for their demands.

The case by management of direct supply port firms and the refusal of the police to the companies to move when shouldered threats coming from dangerous chemicals are brought in.

Tommy Myers, who has worked at the mill for 20 years, told workers last week that he had been arrested at the strike site. 'I thought I would talk to management for the inside, but I even changed my mind when I saw how they were treated,' he said.

Now I am determined to stick it out until we win.

Messages of support and thanks from many trade unions. ADEE Mooney, AUEW Office, Duke St, Barrow-in-Furness.

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Prod deal hysteresia rebounds on NCB

THE hysteresia of the National Coal Board, both in terms of output and productivity, is already evident, and this should be rejected by the public. The National Coal Board (NCB) has been instructed to tear down NUM posters, which may result in the introduction of the productivity deal being more widespread in Britain.

The Coal Board has been helped by the treachery of Len Clark, Nottingham NUM Area President and a member of the National Executive. He has refused to abide by the Executive recommendation to vote against the deal. 'Time for the NUM President to be nominated for outside the Nottingham area. A least four branches in Nottinghamshire have rebelled and decided to vote against the deal,' said a NUM official.

The right wing was dealt a further blow on Monday when North Western delegates voted, against the NUM official, to oppose the deal by 2,400 votes to 400.

If, as is expected, the vote goes against the NUM, it will leave the board without a new wage agreement, and the NUM President will be left in a position of having to choose between joining the board and being re-elected, or standing down.

NUM President Joe Gormley said the board would have to face the reality that they do not want a new wage agreement, as the NUM executive was split on the issue.

There have been hints of a possible interim coal board to be formed.

Gormley and the NUM would be best served by settling for a couple of pounds less in the current round of negotiations, to help cut the deficit and delays in the board's financial position.

Metal Box warned against job cuts

Metal Box, the metal box manufacturers, are facing a difficult year. Metal Box engineers are in occupation. Management and NUM officials are refusing to negotiate because of the strike.

One thing that has stopped management from making any offer is the strikes. Strikes by the print union earlier this year have made things difficult.

The union is demanding a 20% increase in wages, which would mean automatic NGA membership. The union has made several attempts to get a deal, but the company has refused.

The management has decided to cut wages by 20% after the strikes. The directors of Metal Box have been advised to make the cuts.

Bakery strikes spread

By Edie Hudson

MɟRSEYSHIRE—A strike by bakery workers spread throughout the North West this week and flying pickets are out to make it a national stoppage. By Tuesday 4500 workers were out at Scott’s, Taylor’s, Rathbone’s, mothers Pride and Warburtons. They have been angered by their union hierarchy and an insulting pay offer.

The action followed a meeting at Central Hall, Liverpool two weeks ago when shop stewards reported unsatisfactory conditions at the main bakery.

For a recall conference they demanded a new pay claim for £40 per week. The factory pay claim was for £70 per week, equal pay for women, full pay at 18, abolition of Sunday work and four weeks’ paid holiday.

Ken Hughes, a shop steward at Scott’s Bakery in Bootle, followed a minibus of scabs to their lodgings—£5 a night Adelphi Hotel. They were greeted by their union hierarchy and an insulting pay offer.

Scott’s workers were already on strike over a separate matter. A bomb warning was received last Wednesday night. After 15 minutes the workers were told to go back into the factory, where they found one policeman searching the place.

The management had decided the factory was ‘safe’ after phoning the director, Peter Scott, at his luxury home 30 miles away.

The workers were infuriated when they discovered that there had been four such phone calls in the past and no precautions had been taken. They refused to go back to work.

A picket was lined up by the gates, and a policeman was assigned to the factory.

The management has decided to cut wages by 20% after the strikes. The directors of Metal Box have been advised to make the cuts.

WEXTON, Leic.—The struggle of 600 workers against IEC Gas Turbines for an across-the-board £2 increase is in its third week. The IEC Gas Turbines plant in Wexton has a workforce of 600, and negotiations with the management have been tough.

One of the workers said, ‘The management’s attitude has been horrible.’

A picket was lined up by the gates, and a policeman was assigned to the factory. The management has decided to cut wages by 20% after the strikes. The directors of Metal Box have been advised to make the cuts.

HEDDONSHOUGHT, Leic.—The workers at IEC Gas Turbines have reported that the management has decided to cut wages by 20% after the strikes. The directors of Metal Box have been advised to make the cuts.

600 BATTLE ON FOR 8

Members of the TGWU, striking in sympathy with the workers, have been joined by over 50 pickets outside the ‘Ichabod’ engineering works. The picketing was reported by the TGWU, striking in sympathy with the workers, to be carrying on for a second day.

DEAN, Leic.—I.EC frontline workers have reported that the management has decided to cut wages by 20% after the strikes. The directors of Metal Box have been advised to make the cuts.

In 18 months, about 250,000 members of the TGWU, striking in sympathy with the workers, have been joined by 20 pickets outside the ‘Ichabod’ engineering works. The picketing was reported by the TGWU to be continuing for a second day.

The possibility of an occupation at the factory was threatened by the TGWU, striking in sympathy with the workers, who have pledged full union support for any action by management to refuse to defend its jobs.