WAGES FOLLOW THE MINERS

HARRY PORTER has worked 25 years on the railways. As a skilled signalman, he has reached one of the highest possible grades. His basic rate of pay is £36.86—of which he takes home just over £26.

Tens of thousands of Harry’s mates on the railways don’t earn anything like as much. Ticket collectors and porters have less than £25 in their pockets for 44 hours work.

Says Harry: ‘My standard of living has fallen tremendously in the past year. I used to have a few quid left over after necessities. Now, I can’t even afford necessities.’

Massive price rises announced this week will drive down his standard of living further still.

Harry and his mates are told every day by the press and the government that the militancy of the workers is the main cause of their plight. The famed chorus shouts: ‘The miners’ huge pay increases will only cause higher prices.’ If you get big wage rises, that too will cause higher prices. So don’t fight for bigger claims.

But Harry’s union hasn’t organised a national strike for 13 years. They’ve tightened their belts, made national sacrifices and been super-loyal to Labour governments. They’re on the poverty line.

Exactly the same happened to the Miners’ Union. They were losing members, dignity and money until they went on strike. Then they started to get something back.

When Sidney Weighell, the railwaymen’s general secretary, says he will fight for similar wages to the miners, his members must hold him to his word. We can’t control price levels until we control the entire society. But we can use our strength to keep our wages up.

Now’s the time to get tough.

Miners shake the Social Contract—but surface men left in the cold—page 14.


Oh no, not that man again!

MARGARET Thatcher, the new leader of the Tory Party, needs men of experience by her side as she strives to create a new Britain fit for workers, not for shirkers.

So she has appointed Reginald Maudling Tory spokesman on Foreign Affairs. He’s a man with first-class knowledge of everything that makes Britain great—the fast buck, the offshore property swindle, the corrupt construction firms, everything we hold so dear.

When Reggie was last Shadow Foreign Secretary he joined up with John Paulson (jailed for corruption), a crooked architect, and Dan Smith (jailed for corruption) to create a crooked council leader. He travelled far and wide for Poulson—arranging for the building of an empty hospital in Malta and a sheikh’s palace in the middle of the Abu Dhabi desert.

A little later, he was persuaded by Jerome Hoffman (jailed for corruption) to become First President of the Real Estate Fund of America, a swindle which went bankrupt and couldn’t even pay Maudling the £30,000 which Hoffman had promised him.

Mrs Thatcher, it is rumoured, is longing for Poulson, Smith and Hoffman to come out of jail so they can take their places in the upper ranks of the Tory Party alongside their fellow-shirkers and defend to the death the insalubrious right of rich and lazy politicians to make money for nothing from other people’s labour.

This scab needs protection. He couldn’t get past the picket line without the help of a police sergeant—and 40 other cops in a van parked nearby—and the agent for Stanley Hugh Leach, building contractors. The agent was described on the picket line as ‘living proof of the theory of evolution’.

Four more scabs keep together for company. Note the polite gesture from the scab in front. More than 20 hired scabs, escorted by specially selected thugs acting as “security officers” (pay: £20 a day) are trying to break an official building strike at a council site in South London. Full story: Back page.

Pics: Chris Davies (Report)
MARCH FOR THE TWO

SUPPORT is growing from trade union bodies for the Wigan Builders March, which is due in London this weekend.

The march had been winning support and publicity for the two jailed Shrewsbury pickeers, Des Warren and Eric Tonkinson.

Backcloth has been added to the march last week when Wigan and Blackpool Trades Council, UCATT members at Ivy Bridge, Alderley, a TGWU branch at Walsall, Luton, Lucas Aerospace night shift joint Shop Stewards Committee, an EEPFU branch at Port Talbot, the Hull Docks, and Huddersfield Polytechnic.

The march reached London last Saturday. All trade unionists should try to support the rally at 5pm in Trafalgar Square, and raise support for the march in their trade union branch.

March details:
FRIDAY: 6.30pm: Shepherds Bush Green: 7.00pm: Hammersmith: 8.30pm: Kensington Town Hall.
SATURDAY: 12.30pm: Hyde Park (Speakers Corner): 1.30pm: West End: 3pm: Trafalgar Square.

The picket outside Newham MP Reg Prentice's surgery on Saturday is at 9.30am and will finish in time for the march to London to welcome the march.

IS national secretary Jim Nicholl tried to defuse the tension between Birmingham and Coventry last week.

At the time, there were 27 people on it. He was immediately asked who was and what he was doing. He was a junior member of IS and was immediately told that under no circumstances would he be allowed to march. If he did, there would be trouble.

The International Socialists regret this contemptible sectarianism on the part of some of the organisers of the march.

We therefore call on all militants and socialists to do everything they can to support and welcome the march as it comes into London.

FREE THE TWO!

Demonstrate against Reg Prentice and for the release of the Shrewsbury Two.

On Saturday, a North East Labour Party Offices (just up from Boleyn Pub, by Upton Park Tube) 87 Barking Rd, E13 7AF 2.30pm - 5pm Saturday 22 February, 9.30 am.

Shrewsbury: Now let's fight together!

AT ITS MEETING last weekend, the Rank and File Organising Committee decided on several important initiatives over the Shrewsbury pickeers.

It agreed to write to the Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions and suggest that the conference called by the LCTDU on 22 March should be a joint conference with all costs and responsibilities by the two committees.

The Organising Committee felt that with the grave problems facing the Labour movement today it was imperative to overcome any divisions whilst at the same time allowing for the greatest possible democratic discussion on all the ideas that came forward. The conference should be clearly seen as a demonstration of trade unionists' feelings on the important issues of Shrewsbury and the Socialist Cause.

The committee also discussed the need for demonstrations outside the factories and Lincoln jigs, where the two pickeers have been moved. Leicester Trades Council are to discuss at their next meeting a resolution calling for such a demonstration. Members for Lincoln will be announced. The Organising Committee call on all trade unionists to support the demonstrations in both Lincoln and Leicester.

The Organising Committee will be holding a meeting of the TUC at Congress House on Wednesday 26 February, where it is hoped that as many trade unionists as possible will join.

It will also be supporting the demo outside the Newham Labour Party HQ on Saturday 22 February, when that well known pickeers' friend Reg Prentice holds his surgery.

Arrangements are being made to organise a Northern and Southern tour of the Shrewsbury film, the demand for which is so great that showings have now to be group ed area by area.

If your shop stewards 'committee/branch/trades council wants to arrange showings in your area please contact the organising committee.

JENKINS SINKS TO NEW DEPTHS...

HOME Secretary Roy Jenkins has plumbed new depths last week in his campaign to low down the law and order brigade and keep the Shrewsbury pickeers in jail.

Jenkins has the power to order the immediate release of the two jailed men. But he has been visited by any number of delegations from the Confederation of British Industry, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the like. And he has agreed to keep them inside.

Nonetheless, he told a Parliamentary Labour party meeting last week that he wanted to see the Two released. But, this, he claimed, was a government position, not for a garage board. This means there is the middle of May and would only release the men on very tough conditions.

But Jenkins' long speech to the Parliamentary Labour party was an even more revealing of the Labour Government's total dedication to the frailty of capitalism and law and order.

He sneered against any Parliamentary debate on the Shrewsbury Trials for fear that it would reveal deep splits in the Labour Party.

In fact, he was trying to ensure that none of the facts about the close involvement of the building employers and the Tory government in setting up the Shrewsbury trials could even be debated in the House of Commons.

And - surprise, surprise - Jenkins' line won the day. Labour MPs voted overwhelmingly not to allow them selves even to debate this crucial matter.

The Scottish Executive of the Miners Union has voted to call on the TUC to call a 24-hour general strike to free the Two. The number Two ministerial council of TASS and a number of other trade union bodies, including the Eilmessore Port Traders Council, have taken the same position.

REMEMBER THE SHREWSBURY TWO

Des Warren, serving three years in Lincoln prison. Ricky Tomlinson, two years in Leicester prison.

The Rank and File Organising Committee has asked that socialists and trade unionists show their support to the two jailed building workers.

Send messages of support direct to them at the prisons.

The families are facing severe pressure and hardship. Financial support is therefore urgently needed. Send to Shrewsbury Dependents Fund, c/o Roger Cox, Lunnon, Park and Field Organising Committee, 244 Roundwood Road, London NW10. Receipts will be issued promptly for all money sent.
Another loophole for the rich

UNDER TRY modern government has opened another big loophole in its new wealth tax on transfers of wealth from one generation to the next, the "gift" tax. They have reduced by more than a third the tax that would be charged when a business is passed from father to son.

On a business valued at up to £250,000 the government originally said the tax rate would be 46 per cent. Now the rate to be charged is 31 per cent—less than standard industrial property rates. This means that an unseasonal residuum in the burden of the tax," was the happy comment of the Confederation of British Industry.
The government has swallowed the Tory argument that an exemption of this sort is necessary to keep family businesses within the family. By this decision the government has severely undermined the effectiveness of the new wealth tax. Any rich person can turn himself into a business for a small fee. So the capital value of all forms of wealth will continue, as at present, to be charged at a lower rate of tax than wages. This will produce another substantial concession to the Tories has been the cancellation of the proposed tax for so-called "discretionary trusts" which, by the way, can be easily formed for tax avoidance.
The Tories, who are leading a "life and death" battle against the gifts tax, were claiming. A detailed concession from the government this week. If the pattern is repeated for the rest of the Finance Bill’s progress, we could end up with no gift tax at all.

LABOUR’S BETRAYALS

A UGANDAN woman, almost dead with various nervous illnesses, was admitted to Britain on a ‘short entry permit’ last month. It was the fourth time she had arrived at London Airport. Each time she had been shipped back to Tanzania, where she camed out on the airport tarmac, terrified of being deported to political persecution in Uganda.

Soon she will be forced to leave Britain again. When Lord Avebury wrote to the Home Office protesting at this ‘inhumanity’ he got a reply from the under-secretary Alcy Lyons. ‘You know very well,’ wrote Mr Lyons, ‘that the woman intends to bring her family with her. Frankly, I see no reason why this country should take them.’

Mary Dines, who works for the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, was recently told that she was the ‘most brutal’ she has ever read. ‘It was even worse than what we expected from the Tories.’

The case proves that immigration controls under Labour are just as savage as ever. Which is not surprising since some of the same controls were brought in by the Labour government last year.

Mary Dines says she receives between 12 and 20 telephone calls a day from black workers in this country who are being frustrated or expelled from their work and homes. Most of the complaints are about immigration controls on their families.

Vast

The last Labour government insisted on this ‘vast bureaucracy of ‘entry certificate officers’ was established in the Embassies and High Commissions of the ‘country of origin’—chiefly Pakistan, India and Ceylon. It was the ‘most brutal’ she has ever read. ‘It was even worse than what we expected from the Tories.’

Millions were horrified last Sunday by a TV programme which depicted the terrors the INS can have on the job. An INS officer in Bradford who applied for his wife and baby daughter to join him here was told that they could not come. He refused to tell him the details of his mother’s treatment under the immigration system—details which had been supplied by her home in Bradford. This, said the immigration officer, was ‘inadmissibility’. It proved that she was not Mohammed Akrans’ wife, he said. She was refused entry. Mohammed Akrans appealed, and eventually got his certificate two and a half years after he appealed for it. But by this time his little girl was dead—of a fever which she would not have caught if she had come to Britain.

In any case Mohammed was lucky. At least his wife joined him last year, 7,173 workers in this country appealed against the refusal of immigration officers abroad. Four out of five appeals were turned down.

Mary Dines says; “The most common complaint we get is about delay. Interviews are being fixed up now for 1977—and every month the gap between interview times seems to grow. ‘A disturbing aspect is the new attitude of the High Commission in Kenya, which is now insisting on the right of the INS to be present at all interview times. Some of these certificates were issued in India as long ago as 1899. Others were not issued at all.

The entry certificate system was an attempt to cut employers’ kept press and TV hammer away day by day on the ‘greedy workers cause inflation’ theme. It is a weapon in the class war, a weapon of the employing class and its Labour agents.

All the talk about ‘what would we do about inflation? What is the answer? The brutal truth is that inflation is now built world capitalism and cannot be halted short of a slump of 1930s proportions, if then. There is no other solution under capitalism.

Inflation will vanish when we have a planned economy designed to abolish inflation. A pay board, for this, for socialism, cannot be separated from the defence of workers’ interests in the here and now. We say fight for 1973 that maintains the improved living standards, fight closures by occupations. There is no other way forward.

Red ‘dog-eat-dog’ races again

THE entire bosses’ class is terrified that the well-known Bolshevik Sir Don Ryden, the boss of TIY and his new National Enterprise Board is going to call a private inactivel and introduce the red revolution by the back door.

The facts are a bit different. ‘Marxism’ has been repeatedly persecuted and enlarged the problems of wage and industrial strikes and industry started in the Tories own Industry Act 1972. Industry Minister Wedgwood Benn argued in the House of Commons.

That’s right. The Bill is a device to channel public money into private hands, to prop up bankrupt firms without nationalisation, to bring big business and the state ever closer together.

The Tory MPs and Tory newspapers are raising the red herring on this issue because they can find nothing to criticise in the government’s right economic policies. It is a pure stunt, to keep people’s attention away from the pro-capitalist policies shared by Labour and Tory front benches alike.

RALLY, Sunday 2 March: NO ENTRY CERTIFICATES, REPEAL THE IMMIGRATION ACT, SPEAKERS’ CORNER RALLY 12.30PM, MARCH TO DOWNTOWN STREET 2PM.

Corbridge, Workes, Corbridge Crossroads, London E2 9DS
Phones 01-739 0185/6301

Socialist Worker

WHAT TO THINK

WHO CAN STOP INFLATION?

WHAT is the point of getting higher wages if it om only means still more price increases? Wouldn’t it be better, if workers accepted ‘Social Contrast instead? That would avoid rising short of cost of living increases when you allow for tax and time-bags. But isn’t that a reasonable sacrifice to make if the result is stable prices? Why are we not willing to use our influence to make it a little less difficult to be accepted that we should be held, yet inflation steadily increased? Now this is an embarrassing fact for the bosses and their propaganda. It is a fact that some Labour politicians—Denis Healey for example—to use to point when they were in opposition. Now they have taken over the management of Great Britain Ltd they are doing their best to make people forget it.

There is no mystery about why prices can soar while wages are held back. Wage costs are only part of the costs of production—in the main, material costs are an even smaller part. Even in a ‘labour intensive’ industry like coal mining wage costs as a proportion of total costs have been falling over the past few years in spite of three allegedly ‘inflationary’ pay rises. In ‘capital intensive’ industries, like oil and chemicals, wage costs are only a small fraction of total costs. Yet their prices go up again.

As to this week’s food price rises, the explanation has nothing whatever to do with wages. As the Guardian noted (11/1) ‘Food prices in British shops will rise by about 2 per cent as a result of the latest European farm price review.’—In other words the Common Market Commis-

Not true

But of course the press blames the workers. Think about it. Agricultural workers are wretchedly paid. Put up go food prices yet again. The argument that inflation is mainly due to ‘greedy workers’ getting big pay rises will not stand a moment’s critical examination. It is simply not true. The real causes of inflation are complicated but they have much more to do with the activities of governments than of workers. The increasing size of pay demands is largely a defensive reaction to the never-ending upward price spiral.

The Economist says that what is needed is a shift of another 10 per cent from ‘consumption’—in other words, wages—to companies. In other words, the pressure which has shifted to the profiteers by Healey’s last budget but big business wants much more. In the 1930s Tory prime minister Stanley Baldwin said: ‘All the time this country has got to toughen up and pass reductions.’ That is exactly what Denis Healey, indeed the whole Labour government, is trying to achieve now. Lower real wages and fewer real profits, a “massive redistribution” away from working people in favour of the rich. That is the reality behind the Social Contract.

The argument against ‘the budget’ this week. The Economist says what that is needed is a shift of another 10 per cent from ‘consumption’—in other words, wages—to companies. In other words, the pressure which has shifted to the profiteers by Healey’s last budget but big business wants much more. In the 1930s Tory prime minister Stanley Baldwin said: ‘All the time this country has got to toughen up and pass reductions.’ That is exactly what Denis Healey, indeed the whole Labour government, is trying to achieve now. Lower real wages and fewer real profits, a “massive redistribution” away from working people in favour of the rich. That is the reality behind the Social Contract.

Mr Shah, pictured here with two of his children, was a Fair trade labourer in Acton, West London, and has lived in Britain all his life. In 1972, his wife, who was pregnant, went for a holiday to Pakistan. Her baby was born premature, London on the way back to Britain, the entry certificate officer in Islamabad refused to accept that the baby was hers. She was accused of trying to smuggle someone else’s baby into Britain. It took two and a half years to convince the authorities that the baby was theirs and they could join her father—which she did last October.

Not true
THE UNIONS
Why the signal men are so angry

WEIGHHELL LINES UP WITH PRESS Hysteria

ABOUT 7000 of Britain's 8000 signalmen are in the National Union of Railwaymen. Only 800 are in the Union of Railway Signalmen, a small declining and largely irrelevant museum piece. Many URS signalmen also hold membership of the NUR.

Why then has the press so eagerly portrayed the dispute as being led by the URS, when its role is minimal? Why, for instance, did the London Evening News last Thursday—the day of the signalmen's latest strike—carry a front-page picture of the uncollected rank and file committee naming them as members of the URS, even though the committee had told the News reporter that most of them were in the NUR?

Why? Because the Press want to hammer the signalmen, as they want to hammer any trade union that takes action to defend their living standards or to demand justice.

And so much easier it is to do it when the blame can be pinned on an organisation which can be presented as a small but transparent bunch of rebels defying all and sundry.

The facts—as usual when the 'Free Press' pokes its nose into strikes—are rather different. The URS has played little part in the dispute. By far the majority of the strikers, and the strike leaders, are in the NUR.

So why then hasn't NUR general secretary Sidney Weighell pointed out this elementary truth to the Press?

Could it be that he has an interest—like Joe Plott Street—in portraying them as 'irresponsible dipshits' (his journal's own word) the better able to smash them?

The rank and file strike committee. In the face of mounting abuse from the Press and their own union leadership, they have organised simply and effectively.

WHAT THEY ARE DEMANDING

WHAT ARE the signalmen demanding? Basically, an end to the carve-ups they have been subjected to by years of the NUR leadership.

They want a ten per cent responsibility payment, which was won for all NUR grades last year. Only the signalmen were left out—no reason other than their leaders' traditional indiffrence to them.

They want a signing-on allowance. When one signalman finishes his shift and his mate takes over, he must—by the rules of the Department of the Environment—stay on to explain fully any delays on the line. If, for example, a signalman refused to work this UNPAID overtime and, as a result, there was a fatal accident on the line, he could then face a manslaughter charge.

The men are also seeking a five per cent differential over other NUR grades.

The outrageous neglect of the signalmen by the NUR can be measured by the way they have fallen behind since the early Sixties.

Then the Grailbridge Report put top-grade signalmen on a par with top-grade drivers. Today they are £8 a week worse off. Astonishingly, a new recruit would be £139 worse off.

A clue to the NUR's treatment of the signalmen lies in the way, in 1972, they negotiated the re-classification of signal box grades.

Downgraded

No fewer than 85 per cent of signal boxes were downgraded. Who needs boxes when you've got union leaders like that?

Last week Sidney Weighell made some small emendations for this magnificently piecemeal of negation. Some boxes were re-graded—and a few signal men will now receive up to £5 a week more. But this has cleared up only part of the mess the NUR created in 1972. As one signalman told Socialist Worker last week: 'They realised they dropped a clanger—and it's taken them all this time to do something about it.'

Weighell, however, presented this slight purging of past sins as a victory for the signalmen's demands—when it had nothing to do with those demands.

And so he was able to allow the press to present signalmen as greedy rebels who have all been given a raise and are still not satisfied.

The NUR leadership have for years traded on the signalmen's pride in what is a vital and highly responsible job so as to leave them time and again out in the cold.

Only once before—in 1967—have signalmen struck. It will take more than verbal broadsides and physical manouvring by the likes of Weighell to stop them, once and for all, fighting their way out of the backwater the NUR have been so happy to cast them into.
The Tories go back to Square One

SINCE their savage defeat at the hands of the miners last year the Tories have been unable to mount any serious opposition to Labour. They have been drifting without policy or effective leadership.

This accounts for the viciousness of their attacks on Mr. Callaghan's parliamentary party. Now that it is over and Margaret Thatcher has won such a resounding victory they hope to merge with something resembling a distinctive policy.

It will be a tougher policy than Heath's. The Tory involve attacks on collective bargaining, arsons of the wonders of the welfare state, and calls to stop shopping up by companies. It will involve more attacks, and the more legal, on so-called slackers, scroungers and on blacks. It will mean that the dues of law and order is beaten really loud.

The Thatcher takeover does, in short, represent a significant swing to the Right. The trouble is not surprising given the intensification of the economic and political crisis of the capitalist world.

Every militant and socialist should take serious note of this development. Every militant and socialist should do their homework. They can forcefully reply to the arguments the Thatcher gang will bring to the centre of our political life. But we shouldn't get the wind up. For there are very definite limits to which Mrs Thatcher herself and her crew were actually to get back into office.

One major problem for Thatcher and Co is that while they may rant and rave about companies standing on their own two feet, if they were in office themselves they would have to continue handing out public money to shore up crisis-hit British companies.

British capitalism cannot afford to watch British Leyland or the shipbuilding industry go down the road. They may not like Binn but they need Binn.

This leads to another little problem for the Thatcher gang. They can scream like hell about the miners' pay settlement. But there is only one thing they could not afford to do and that is to take the miners out.

This is, you will recall with joy, the very rock on which the Heath regime faltered. He started out a Thatcherite with all the talk about Lane Docks, Selbom Must and confrontation with the unions. The result was the Heath régime completely alienated the trade union bureaucracy and left them with little option but to go on the offensive.

On the day of the second ballot for the Tory leadership the Economic Development Group of employees' main daily newspaper, spelt this out.

In its editorial 'The choice is Thatcher's' the paper outlined the trimming of sails that would have to take place on both sides. The new Tory leadership would do this.

The London Evening Standard gave a beautiful insight into the workings of the big business mind the other week. 'Business To The Rescue.'

The surgeon is Robert Thornton, late of Marks and Spencer. Last year Debenham, who own a department store, took over the Standard, fell from £12,946,000 to £10,372,000. It's discovered some enormous skid marks. In November Thornton told the Standard, 'it will take another two years to do all that needs doing'.

Clearly these are no ordinary skeletons since — it says 'top off right enough fat' to save the company £12,500,000.

So who are these fatty skeletons? You guessed it. So far the axe has fallen hardest on the staff. One in six of the effectively 30,000 strong payroll is being shed. The 500 who are already leaving are mainly those aloft. Ever restless and ever-part-timers are getting short shrift too.

The last Debenhamss showed the company employed 35,511 full-time employees. But clearly another 500 have got lost on the way to work recently.

The directors haven't suffered any more with their bonus. They sold themselves a total of £222,836 last year. £73 each a week. Mind you, five directors have left and were paid £27,269 each to do so.

To afford their losses have to be made elsewhere. Which explains why the average wage at Debenhams was £10.70 last year. This week the 'Financial Times', with dividends, which Thornton told the Standard, 'holdovers will be maintained. Wonderful thing the Social Democratic Party."

AN EVENING OF ENTERTAINMENT

The Black and White Miners Society presents the World Film from Cinema Action, "The Panseron's Workshop". This is the screening of "The Panseron's Workshop".

Friday 21 February 7.30pm
The Malvern Assembly Rooms, Wharf Lane, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 2JL.
Admission £5.00, £2.50 for full-time students. Proceeds to Socialists Workers Party. Enquiries to Unemployment and avoid disappointment.

POLAND RESTORED

NEWCASTLE-upon-Tyne should organise an exchange arrangement with Sandemansia in Poland. The former mayors of both places are currently on committee.

Sandomierz, a picturesque historical town had £6,500,000 allocated for 'reconstruction'. The catch was that the 'reconstruction' turned out to be the construction of villas for the local officials. The pleasant suburb that sprang up because it was a district of thirves among the rest of the local population.

The Mayor also set up a building enterprise to help with the restoration. Most of the restoration took place on his friends' villas. But not all their time was taken up in this way: the enterprise's vans were also used to dig up home-grown tomatoes. It is rumoured that national and regional Communist Party officials were also involved in the Mayor's ventures. Sounds a great place to retire to after a career in the North East...
BEGINNING OF THE END FOR SPAIN?

by Manuel Fernandez

FRANCO's Spain has been facing its most serious crisis ever in the past few weeks. So precariously is the position of the regime that even the conservative Monarchist daily, ABC, has warned that "the Spanish society is exuding a smell of decomposition.

The regime has been hit by the international economic crisis, which has led to an increase in the cost of living and a decrease in productivity. The situation is not helped by the current government's policies, which are seen as being too lenient and ineffective.

The problem is that the 'liberals' want to exploit the crisis to further their agenda, while the 'authoritarians' see it as an opportunity to strengthen their position. The result is a stalemate, with neither side willing to give an inch.

The civil guard shot at 35 per cent last year, and is growing at a faster rate than that of other ministries such as housing.

The overall effect of the crisis within the government and the ruling class has been to make large numbers of people believe that the regime cannot survive much longer. There are reports of even the most ardent supporters of Franco preparing to survive the overthrow by smuggling money out of the country. Others are trying to insure themselves in a different way, by forming links with the reformist parties of the left, such as the Communist Party, so that whatever happens there will be forces committed to defending their interests.

A recent speech by Communist Party leader Carrillo made it clear that he is set to form a revolutionary overthrow of Franco. If we are moderate, it is because it is the only way for Spain today, he said.

He criticized the Communist Party's former head, Goni, for being too 'extremist' and said that "Cuban has spent too long years in the revolutionary arena.

The result of the struggle between the different forces within the ruling class is undecided. What will finally determine its outcome is not so much the arguments in the corridors of power in Madrid, as the growing radicalization in the factories and streets.

Bilbao--3,300 former Basque naval workers' factory

PAMPLONA--general strike and general strike

BARCELONA--strikes and police have kept the 200,000 car factory SEAT, GM, etc.

MADRID--strikes hit theatres, transport, offices, hospitals

MALAGA--5,000 building workers on strike in support of unemployed, students on strike

FRANCE

BASQUE region--200,000 workers on general strike

December

PAMPLONA--general strike

SPAIN

Asturias--500 miners on strike

Barcelona--Strikes and police have kept the 200,000 SEAT car factory, GM, etc.

And 100,000 strikers against his regime

More than 100,000 Spanish workers defied the police and went on strike against the Chilean-Francoist government. Their action showed how the Spanish working class has overthrown the regime and its ruling class.

The police used violent methods to try to prevent the strikes, but they were unable to stop the workers from striking. The strikes spread across the country, with workers in Bilbao, Barcelona, Madrid, and other cities joining in.

When the audience in a Madrid theatre was told that there would be no official opening this evening, they stood up and applauded. When the police tried to clear the theatre, they were forced to retreat.

There has been a wave of protests and strikes all over Spain, with workers in Basque country, Catalonia, and other regions joining in.

Splits

The government has responded to the strikes with mass arrests, but at the same time has been forced to recognise the power of the workers by releasing the majority of those arrested and by calling the sentences of the Basque region.

Clearly the military of workers has pushed the government onto the defensive and has opened further the splits within the ruling class. If this militancy is organised and directed on a national scale, it could lead to a new national movement. The government has no choice but to give in.

Certainly the Basque workers are not yet revolutionary socialists and most of the strikes have been for economic, not political reasons. But they do see the need to break the power of the military.

That is why the different sections of the revolutionary left in Spain agree on the need to convert the local strikes into a general strike. The problem is that there is not yet the unified, national organisation that can ensure this.

Crisis--so Bhutto hits opposition

by Nigel Harris

PRESIDENT Bhutto of Pakistan is trying to destroy the leading opposition party, the National Awami Party (NAP). Without any evidence, he accused the party of complicity in the murder of a provincial minister. Then, with a speed that suggests planning, he ordered the arrest of at least 300 of the party's leaders, the seizure of the party's property, press and funds, and the banning of the organisation.

Why? Since Bhutto came to power, the country has been moving towards civil war. Inflation and unemployment are rising, and the government's policies are being rejected by the majority. Any spark could set ablaze such tinder, and one of the provinces has been throwing up a cascade of strikes.

In Baluchistan, a civil war is raging. Bhutto's party did poorly in the 1971 election there, and NAP formed a coalition government.

Bhutto dismissed the government and imposed his own men. He tried to manipulate the tribal friction of the frontier province to secure his own control, while poring in three or four divisions of troops to colonise it for the first time. Rands were even into the remotest areas of Baluchistan, and the security forces were set up.

Swallowed

The more Bhutto invaded, the more civil war was the result. In 1974 Bhutto declared the war was over, and twice he has had to increase his military attacks. Some 4000 guerrillas are now defending the province against Bhutto and his business allies, who are eager to resume control of the provinces and mines of Baluchistan.

Some Pakistani socialists have swallowed the argument that the Baluchis are in the pay of India and Afghanistan, just as in 1973 they proclaimed that the movement for an independent Bangladesh was a US-inspired CIA plot. On the contrary, the right-wing self-determination is at stake.

No one can achieve freedom without opposing a national minority within its own borders. It is now the duty of socialists everywhere to support the right of Baluchis to de
defend their own future, whether this is in collaboration with the other people of Pakistan or not.

For Bhutto, the Baluchi struggle has become the opposition to the increasing strangulation of his government. The result can be seen in its policies. Baluchistan can be financed with the growing dis
centralisation of the province, more in the hands of industrialists and the military.

What ever the policies of NAP, they need all our support now. Defence of the NAP is defence of the Left. More information on the situation in Pakistan can be found in the coming issue of "Democracy". Pakistan is a country of the NAP publication, and the NAP publication is a country of the NAP.
**TWO MONTHS IN PRISON ON MURDER AND CONSPIRACY CHARGES — WITHOUT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE AGAINST THEM**

This is Labour's Terrorist Act

**THREE young workers from North London—Brian Anderson, Sean Mullen and John McGuinness—have just found out how the Prevention of Terrorism Act protects innocent workers.**

They have spent the last two months in prison on charges of murder and conspiracy. They have been bullied by the Special Branch, humiliated by the newspapers.

They have been forced out of their flat and two of them have lost their jobs.

Now the police admit they have committed no offence and have set them free.

The three would never have been touched had it not been for the passing of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. On the morning the Act became law—30 November—they were arrested in their Cockfosters home on the unchecked little battle of a paranoid police informer.

For seven days, they were not allowed to contact family or lawyers. Their parents and friends heard about their arrest on television.

The three were interrogated by the Special Branch about the bombings in Guildford pub several months earlier.

John McGuinness and Brian Anderson were then charged with the main murder of the Guildford pub victims. Sean Mullen was charged with conspiracy to cause explosives.

They were told that another man had made a statement implicating them in the bombings.

Within a few days of the charge the police had established:

- That the explosives were of different origin.
- That the clothes and furniture found in their flat had all been burned.
- That none of the three men had been to Guildford in their lives.

None

- That none of them had ever been a member of a political organisation.
- Yet the three remained in prison for six more weeks.

Last week, the case against them was dismissed. The police admitted they had no evidence.

These shocking events would not have taken place without the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which allows the police to make random arrests on the gossip of malevolent informers.

Already there are stories of policemen being surprised by armed police "following up information received."

The Act intimidates workers of Irish origin. It operates directly against trade unions.

Socialist Worker has information about Irishmen refusing to become shop stewards for fear of being denounced to the Act and its hated exclusion orders.

But there are signs in the trade union movement of a fightback against the Act.

**NATIONAL FRONT in on the act too**

Increasing harassment against Irish trade unionists in the West Country has followed the recent bombings there. The notorious Anti-Terrorism Act is being used to its fullest indiscriminate extent. Numerous instances of "counter-terror" by the forces of law and order have been overlooked by the press—local and national.

The case most interesting to committed trade unionists concerns George Anderson. He is a young member of Chan na hIarmh, the counterparty in this country of the Official Sinn Fein.

George used to work as a £40-a-week press cutter at Spillers Mill, Avoxmore, near Bristol. He lost his job as a result of being seen on a peaceful picket outside Horfield Prison protesting against the detention of Jim Flynn, an executive member of the Chan who has since been deported.

Due to pressure mounted in his factory, George was suspended on full pay pending an inquiry by the local Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Charles Horton, the leading Transport Union Workers shop steward, represented George at the hearing. A statement issued afterwards from all three parties concerned—the TGWU, management, and the Conciliation Board—said they found themselves 'in complete agreement on the individual's right to work.'

Sacked

Three days later George was sacked with a "golden handshake" of £1000.

The next union meeting after George was effectively thrown out of his job, Charles Horton was asked for his resignation as shop steward by half a dozen mill workers. Horton, on hearing this, was afraid that his position as branch chairman of the whole Bristol Mill Branch was being undermined with the continuing floating of basic trade union principles by a minute section of his membership, led by fascist elements within the factory.

But when a full Bristol Mill meeting was held he won back his shop stewardship after a massive vote of confidence. A motion prepared by National Front members of the TGWU was thrown out by a heavy majority.

After this defeat the National Front tried another tack. Peter Saubrey, a former member, has called for a ballot of no confidence in the steward on the grounds that Spillers' right-night shifts were unrepresentative at the last full branch meeting. So the battle for basic trade union principles of the right to work and the right to free speech continues.

**WORKERS AGAINST THE LAW**

The Truth about the Shrewsbury Trials

The pamphlet is indispensable for every trade unionist. It plainly shows that the renamed "Trade Union waterfront" is just a conspiracy which put action to get the men out of jail. A.D. Shea, one of the six trials at Shrewsbury for conspiracy.

A Socialist Worker Pamphlet. Free posting from Sue Bayell, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.
THE STAFF at Automotive Products in Leamington Spa are showing the way in the fight against redundancy and short-time working.

They have rejected management attempts to get rid of 400 indirect workers (300 staff and 100 shop-floor) by forming a joint staff committee of TASS, ASM, and ACTSS, and have extended the fight to all plants in the AP Combine by forming a joint union combine committee.

The joint committee (which includes APEX at the other plants) has brought together staff workers from Liverpool, Manchester, Bolton, Banbury and Birmingham as well as Leamington.

Although redundancies have been threatened only at Leamington so far, all of the plants have agreed to the following policy:

All overtime to be banned.

A Socialist Worker publication

TONY CLIFF
THE CRISIS
SOCIAL CONTRACT OR SOCIALISM

75p plus 7p postage from IS Book, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4. Also available from Photo Press, Unit 10 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1, SBL, and bookshops. Bulk reductions for trade union branches, shop stewards committees, etc.

Automotive Products,
LEAMINGTON

By MURRAY ARMSTRONG

Sub-contract work to be blacked-out.

All agency staff to be removed.

Work to rule and weekly one-day strikes until the company withdraws the redundancy threats.

No covering of jobs for voluntary redundancy, sickness or any other absence.

Occupation of the plants in the event of the company declaring any member redundant.

The committee has been set up on the basis of one delegate from each of the staff unions at each plant. It has told management there will be no negotiations at any plant except through the whole of the committee.

The management, of course, refused at first, but they caved in as the sanctions bit deep at the Leamington and Banbury plants.

The fight began on Wednesday 5 February when the Leamington management announced that 'as a routine exercise' either 400 workers would have to go or the plant would be put on a four-day week.

Meetings

Immediately, a joint office committee meeting was called, and a policy for fighting the redundancy and short-time was hammered out.

On Thursday this policy was agreed at a delegate meeting of all the other plants in Coventry.

All last week, mass meetings were held up and down the country to explain the situation to members and build the delegate list. 1,600 members attended the Leamington meeting and gave the joint committee their overwhelming support.

The Leamington committee travelled to Banbury on Monday and addressed a mass meeting, where, again, the policy of resistance was given overwhelming support.

The leading members of the committee see this as being the key behind the success of the fight.

Plessey Interconnect, SWINDON

Plesseys is one of the biggest international companies in the world. Plessey Interconnect at Swindon is one of their smallest factories. Yet in a ten week factory occupation the Swindon workers saved the factory from immediate closure.

Last November, without warning, the company announced the closure and the transfer of work to a similar Plessey factory in Northampton. Thirty jobs were offered to those 128 workers prepared to move 100 miles away.

John Hackett, chairman of the shop stewards' committee, says it is the way the company was breaking all the previous agreements about work that stopped the anger on the shop floor and among the office staff.

'We weren't prepared to be steamrollered just like that after getting guarantees. The company were handing out brochures about Northampton, housing, schools and so on.'

But we wanted jobs for everyone, not just 30.

Succeed

We decided in a mass meeting to conFactory the plant and equipment to protect our jobs.

Strike action alone was not enough. As John Hackett explained, 'A strike is effective for normal day to day events. But when they threaten closure, the most effective thing is to confiscate the area they want, take over the plant.'

That way the equipment, worth between £4 million and £6 million, that Plessey needed to move to Northampton couldn't be touched.

Being on a picket line in a strike causes problems,' says John Hackett. 'The gaffer needed to move to Northampton couldn't be touched.'

Awful

The jobs situation in Swindon, according to shop steward Rodney Case, is 'terrible, just awful. In the last three or four years they've put up offices for Burmah Oil, warehouses, other office blocks... that
THE WEEK IN IRELAND

SATURDAY 5 FEBRUARY: In a statement, the official Sinn Fein claimed that abductions of children in Belfast were being carried out by the British Special Branch.

They referred to an incident that week in which a 14-year-old boy on his way to school was forced into a car by two men, one of them armed. The boy’s screams brought women out of their houses. They attacked the men and freed the boy.

The police at Springfield Road were told of the incident and given the number of the car involved. They asked the men in Special Branch ‘investigating’ to claim the boy back in the 1972 incident.

Grabbed

Two days later, some children were coming home from school when a car drew up and three men got out; one of them armed. They grabbed an 11-year-old girl and forced her into the back of a car.

The police at Springfield Road were told of the incident and given the number of the car involved. The children attacked the men and managed to free the girl.

The car drove off, and the children later saw it stopped by an army check-point in Ballymurphy Road. Its inmates were shouting at soldiers there.

“We can only conclude,” said the Sinn Fein statement, “that these men were engaged in abducting persons for assassination bids.”

MUNDAY 10 FEBRUARY: The Official Unionist candidate for North Down, Mr Neil Oliver, said he was happy to campaign on a basis which could be expected from the Official Unionists by way of compromise in the forthcoming convention.

“We want what is peace through victory—and a return in large measure to the pre-1969 era of peace, progress and prosperity.”

THURSDAY 13 FEBRUARY: Samuel Rogers, a 69-year-old ultra-right-wing Strabane councillor was up on a charge of ‘callous driving’. The court was told how Rogers had driven his car through an anti-internment demonstration, picking up a demonstrator, Ivan Barr, carrying him some way on the bonnet and throwing him off.

Barr suffered a fractured pelvis, a broken collar bone and severe burns on his back. Mr Rogers was given an absolute discharge.

Admitted

The Ministry of Defence admitted responsibility. Higgins was awarded £1250 compensation.

Another Belfast man, Thomas Maguire, claimed he was arrested by British soldiers in February 1972 and taken to the Woodburn Hotel where he was systematically beaten. His injuries were so severe that he needed prolonged treatment in three different hospitals.

The Ministry of Defence admitted responsibility, and Maguire was awarded £700 compensation.

The struggle in Ireland

Chris Hamner

The aim of this pamphlet is to give a brief history of British domination, to show its effects on Ireland today, to show that the problems of the people of Ireland will not be solved until the domination is ended, and to indite the way this can be done.

An International Socialists pamphlet 15p

Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N1.
Is it enough to vote No?

CHRIS HARMAN’s article on the Common Market (February 11) is considered one of the prime arguments against a Yes vote. But his article does nothing to help clear the confusion.

He states that going into the market will strengthen European capitalism, as accepting part of the pro-European case. Socialist Worker finds itself in the position of saying to people—‘we think that going into Europe will strengthen capitalism’. But the No voters are saying that, to build a worker’s anti-capitalist system in Britain.

This is the dilemma that political leaders will have to resolve. The British government is boxed in by the European Community (on the same platform last week).

It is only by saying something radical to the workers that will win the support of those who will challenge this position, that will lead them to a No vote.

The referendum issue is a rathert important issue for the future of capitalism in Britain and its European allies, because we shall be able to get a say in crucial issues. Most important, to be seen to have won for our own major trade union leaders to the campaign to remove the struggle which is being waged by the Socialist International and the World Socialist Movement.

That Socialists did not really affect the outcome of the referendum, but it would be both expose the Labour government’s big con trick, and establish the basis to argue a socialist position and, of course, on Europe. And this, at a time when millions of workers will be listening, no to the yes to Europe. No to the right of the referendum. Yes to internationalism and socialism—BARRA KERR, HUGH KERR, Harrow.

CHRIS HARMAN REPLIES...

OF COURSE, the Communist Party and the Socialist Workers Party are sincere when they argue that an ‘independent’ Britain would be better off outside the Common Market which is part of the Common Market.

That is why Socialists have to wage a strong campaign to keep Britain out of the Common Market on class grounds, pointing out that the real interests of the whole of the British working class, the bond link between workers everywhere in Europe and the British working class, and the working class in the United States of America.

However, we are bound to say that the Common Market is designed to strengthen the European unions and the European states. That is why the whole of the working class must join the referendum.

It knows capitalism will survive a defeat in the referendum, but it also knows it will be weaker and a result, it see its interests more clearly than Mike Kidron and Barbara and Hugh Kerr do.

The referendum is not some clever play to divert attention from more important domestic issues. It was in the first place, in a way designed as a different reason—as to give the Labour Party time to avoid losing on their own ranks over the issue of the Common Market.

The right wing in the party, around Roy Jenkins, understands that the Market is to the interest of the to the future of the British working class. The left wing would like to express the only advantage as a way of giving support to the working class movement, while having to commit ourselves to the same tactics as the Socialist Party.

The government wants the referendum to produce a ‘Yes’ vote, without a split within the party taking place.

For the International Socialists to stay on this issue would not be kept from helping the Labour’s plans to strengthen itself, it would also be to line up with the extreme right within the working class movement.

This would play into the hands of the Tories and the Communist Party leaders, who would be able to say that their own disaffection is an advantage and alliances with Powell were the only alternative to the Jenkinsians and the Market.

That is why the National Committee of the International Socialists unanimously decided in January to campaign for a ‘No’ vote over the slogans No to the Common Market, No to international chauvinism, Yes to the United Socialist States of Europe.

Boycott it!

AN ‘INDEPENDENT’ Britain cannot avoid being a junior partner of US capitalism. A Common Market Britain will be a junior partner of a European capitalism.

There’s no reason for us to favor one configuration of capital as against the other. There’s no reason for us to accept responsibility for one or the other. Nobody’s forcing us to vote. It’s up to us. We can’t understand how Chris Harman’s analysis leads to his conclusion to vote ‘No’ (1 February).

No vote. Boycott the referendum.

MICHAEL KIDRON, London NW3.

DON’T OVERLOOK THE REAL ENEMY

MANY PEOPLE in Britain already dislike the Common Market for good reasons. But this is only a half-truth. Entry into the Common Market with its high food prices gave the capitalist class an excellent excuse to increase prices still further. More significantly, however, it is not the EC which has (directly) caused price rises, but the capitalists that control it. In this sense, it is a diversion to pay too much attention to the Common Market. It will end it with too much importance.

A NO is a vote to defend the interests of British workers, not Britain or ‘the State’. The vote is a No to international capital and in no way must be looked on as a vote to ‘be a British socialist’.

The British capitalist class would sooner dump Britain than its own capitalist and this means dumping British workers. The entry into the market will not end by the system is if it understand the enemy they are fighting. The enemy is capitalism. International capital is in control, national capital is slowly being eaten up. The capitalists already have an international ruling class, so they want a political alliance.

The EEC is the beginning of an international capitalist state and will acquire, without our protest, the necessary paraphernalia of Government, Law, Army and Police. They need an international apparatus to match their already internationalized state capital. For Common Market substitute Common State.

To compete with the USA and USSR requires organization across state boundaries. (necessary must go if European capital is to win) and the EEC is just the beginning.

The motto of the capitalist class at the moment is ‘anti-communism’. We must smash that strength by increasing the struggle for socialism continues.—ROB GOUGHI, London NW10.

Your friendly neighbourhood coppers...

I’M A CHIPPIE. working nights in a high-class establishment in Knightsbridge, London. He never seems to go into work and we have to get in to start work but he never does get it. I’m a man who never comes back and they give him a cup of tea. He comes back and stops outside his door. While getting himself comfortable they unbutton his jackets revealing holsters. We said: ‘Are you crazy?’

They said: ‘Yes, you’re surprised? We have more than enough these days!’

A couple of cops came and gave a hand and took them upstairs and gave them a cup of tea. While getting themselves comfortable they unbutton their jackets revealing holsters. We thought: ‘Are you crazy?’

They said: ‘Yes, you’re surprised? We have more than enough these days!’

Your friendly neighbourhood coppers...

NOT LESS THAN YOU THINK...

Our local Tory rag, the Bristol Evening Post had the following in its ‘That’s Britain’ section: ‘New Jobs For Workers At Europe’s Largest Shoe Factory—Loss of 500 jobs over a three day week as first thought, a four day week will now be introduced.’ No comment... M MILLONG, Bristol.

BRASS BANDED...

The role of the revolutionary socialist press is not to promote a larger circulation. We must protest at meaningless front page headlines like ‘MPs’ In Action at The Rampage’ (19 February). Also increasing costs are threatening the existence of Socialist Worker. So why are funds being raised for the financial backing?—PETE STEVENS, Chatham.

SCANDAL AS BUNNIES ROCK SPRINGS IN MIDDLE CLASS THREATNER... Our paper must have the sort of things in it that working people find funny, honest,IVE, results, scandals, gossip (but this is not enough), strip censor... If you really can’t bring yourself to pot in our letters page, here’s one. But you are just hiding from reality in this. Most men in the world want to see pretty girls and if they don’t they are either lying or delusional with themselves. Furthermore women like being admired by men, so why not put their island in your letters page?... If you are genuinely interested in changing the society around you, this book will give you a good start. It will never succeed in changing the society without a revolution. When it comes to the grass you must have the knowledge that the majority of them will go over to the right, and it will be partly your own fault.—FRANCIS RADICE, London NW3.

SCANDAL AS BUNNIES ROCK SPRINGS IN MIDDLE CLASS THREATNER... Our paper must have the sort of things in it that working people find funny, honest,IVE, results, scandals, gossip (but this is not enough), strip censor... If you really can’t bring yourself to pot in our letters page, here’s one. But you are just hiding from reality in this. Most men in the world want to see pretty girls and if they don’t they are either lying or delusional with themselves. Furthermore women like being admired by men, so why not put their island in your letters page?... If you are genuinely interested in changing the society around you, this book will give you a good start. It will never succeed in changing the society without a revolution. When it comes to the grass you must have the knowledge that the majority of them will go over to the right, and it will be partly your own fault.—FRANCIS RADICE, London NW3.

ABORTION... I can’t understand Margaret Renn (17 February) demanding abortion as a woman’s right cannot harm her own body, and then scrapping abortion as the woman’s right. I’m sure if a woman wanted to carry on with her pregnancy she first place she wouldn’t have ended up pregnant. More education about sex and family planning is what’s needed for abortion is quoted as the reason for the women to become pregnant. This is too stupid to be taxed about ways to avoid unwanted pregnancies—PATTI RYAN, Leeds.

THE short article (15 February) on the tour of the film Ireland Behind The Wire seemed to imply that we, the Screen and Film Collective, believed that the International Socialists were the ‘radical’ on the EEC. If we all undertake such a tour. This could be interpreted that we are 11 members, or that we will work only with 12.

We want to make it clear that although the tour of the film was an important breakthrough, the social distribution and political organisations of the Irish people and for that matter any organisation whose aim is to get rid of the capitalist system. We would like to thank the IS branch for arranging the tour—SEAN BROCK, STREET FILM COLLECTIVE, London.

POSTAL POINTS

AUT IN TUC... As ASMs members in a university branch we oppose Eric Heffer’s loon (28 February) that we should oppose the Association of University Teachers’ petition to the TUC. We must fight side by side with all workers in higher education against government cuts.

A vote by the AUT for TUC affiliation would be a step toward genuine trade unionism... Meanwhile ASMs recruitment among students is a key priority.—JIM KINCAID, PETE DEWICK, Reading.

MORRIS STONE...

In Wolf’s clothing... I’m competing for your support with socialist candidates. You advocate nationalisation which means price rises with socialist capitalists... Only common ownership will bring socialism... The system is a fraud, yet you support Bradford bus drivers seeking rising because elements have overthrown their wages. Only with the mass organisation will we achieve socialism—not by encouraging every strike which comes along... These examples illustrate your views which support the Labour Party despite your acknowledgement that the government is anti-working class. You are merely propagating capitalism.—M JONES, ISLEW.
LENIN died 30 years ago. Yet no socialist living today can operate effectively without an understanding of Lenin's ideas and his life's work. For Lenin was the main builder of the only revolutionary party ever to lead the working-class to take power and hold it for any length of time.

But to those who want to learn the lessons of this achievement faces one immense difficulty. Virtually everyone who has written about Lenin in the past has completely distorted what he did and said. The main exponents—biographers by Leon Trotsky and Isaac Deutscher—were not published and dealt only with the earliest years of his life.

Right-wing writers in the west present Lenin as a power-crazed politician bent on building an organization that would give him and his Stalinist dictatorship power. Books written from the pro-Russian point of view see Lenin as 'good' rather than 'bad', but the message is much the same. Lenin, it is said, was important because he built the party which now enables Brezhnev to rule Russia. 'Eastern' and 'Western' versions agree on one thing: the Bolshevik Party, they say, was simply a machine made up of professional revolutionaries detached from the working class, and in Lenin's hands, ran automatically from on high like the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is today. Suitable qualifications Lenin's writings are torn out of context to back this up.

Argue

Yet neither Lenin nor the Bolshevik Party were like that. Lenin was not an author, whose dictats were always obeyed. He had to argue with hundreds of thousands of his party members. What he did after his return from exile was to organize the party using his political talents to win over the working class to revolution. In the years following the February revolution, the party was defeated and many of its members were disillusioned. Lenin's mistake was that he was not held back in this way. His eyes were fixed firmly on the goal of working-class revolution, and regarding everything else, the internal organization of the party, as subordinate.

This is reflected in all his writings. His articles and books are nearly all concerned with how the party should behave in particular circumstances at a particular time in history. Unlike Marx or Trotsky, Lenin rarely speaks in abstract.

It creates a great problem for people wanting to read Lenin. If you take anything he says out of the context in which he says it, it is all too easy to misunderstand.

That, finally, is why Cliffs book is so valuable. It is a straightforward and honest account of Lenin's writings, making clear the context in which Lenin's ideas were formed. In this historical context. As such, this is not so much a 'biography of Lenin' as a statement of his views from which revolutionaries today can learn.

Impels

As he put it in 1917: 'The workers must organise to become workers of toil and impels. Capitalists build the machines in great cities, and the workers produce, toiling at the machine.

The Cliffs' new biography of Lenin, the first volume of which is to be published by Photo Books next month, provides a readily accessible account of how Lenin accomplished this. That is why it is indispensable reading for all revolutionary socialists.

Three main themes run through the volume:

First, the way Lenin saw the working-class as the key to changing society, and would accept no sub

Second, the theme of the revolution and the party, and the role of the revolutionary party formed from the rest of the class.

But Lenin had recognized that the majority of workers, despite the immense creative role they play in a revolutionary situation, mostly of the time most accept most of the ideas pos

Since this is the first time Cliffs has gone on it, the organisation the insights gained from working-class revolutionaries' fight to overthrow the workers and to an understanding of many of the questions Lenin faced is more valuable in a historical context. As such, this is not so much a 'biography of Lenin' as a statement of his views from which revolutionaries today can learn.

Chris Harman reviews the new biography by Tony Cliff

SPECIAL OFFER

In this first volume of his three-volume study, Cliffs describes Lenin's life as political and the work of the leader of a mass working-class party.

Tom Swift, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH

Cash with order to: AUTOBOOKS 30.2, 18 Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, London NW1 8LH

Tony Cliff: Lenin

Next week's TV programmes include the usual torrent of police propaganda. The Cliffs lead the way with Dixon of Dock Green, Kopki, Barlow and 2 Cars. Granada covers the afternoon shifts with Crown Court's three-day trial this week of an industrial chemist who didn't want his body cremated and ended up on a charge of sabotage. Horizon (Monday, BBC2) is on dogs. Six million are running the country at the moment, with more spent on pet foods than baby foods and the whole damn near extinct to feed the production lines at Boots, Tendel, Morris, the like.

One million unwanted dogs are destroyed each year apparently and dogs carry 40 diseases. Might be worth watching too.

Keith Joseph has asked the BBC to withdraw his interview calling for tough action against non-pedi
gy puppy births. Stay away from Churchill's People (BBC1, Monday) unless you want proof that they're just as good at telling lies about the class struggle a thousand years ago as they are at telling lies about it today.

Magnus Pyke's Food for Thought (ITV all stations, Tuesday) is on food and the average British family. Apparently it's all our fault the balance of payments is up the creek for eating the wrong stuff. Tell that to the old age pensioners.

Pyke hasn't too much to say about the crap that the food companies are pouring down our throats. Anyway, ITV has its advertisers to think about. The line is that Britain should cut itself off from the world and make itself self-sufficient. Unlikely won't like that when they see what it is like; they're just a little bit more influential than Dr Pyke. Some good points however.

The Artisan (BBC2, Wednesday) is by John Prebble who wrote an interesting if superficial book on the Highland Clearances. His play is about ITV's involvement in Scotland, and he describes it as if it will be Willie the romantic again, rather than the man who was Part of the story: the revolutionary socialism.

The repeats of the fine series, Country Matters, continue late on Sunday nights. This week it's H E Bates' The Mill. Looks interesting.

WHEN TO SWITCH ON

NEXT week's TV programmes include the usual torrent of police propaganda. The Cliffs lead the way with Dixon of Dock Green, Kopki, Barlow and 2 Cars. Granada covers the afternoon shifts with Crown Court's three-day trial this week of an industrial chemist who didn't want to break a strike and ended up on a charge of sabotage. Horizon (Monday, BBC2) is on dogs. Six million are running the country at the moment, with more spent on pet foods than baby foods and the whole damn near extinct to feed the production lines at Boots, Tendel, Morris, the like.

One million unwanted dogs are destroyed each year apparently and dogs carry 40 diseases. Might be worth watching, too.
THE CRISIS—SOCIAL CONTRACT OR SOCIALISM Public meetings around the new book by Tony Cliff

YORK: Friday 21 February, 8pm, On Grey Rooms, Exhibition Square, Speaker: Tony Cliff

AVONMOUTH: Wednesday 27 February, 7.30pm, Shirehampton Public Hall, Station Road, Speaker: Wally Preedy (NAEU) and local trade unionists

WOKING: Wednesday 26 February, Sowerter Community Centre, Speaker: Nigel Harris

HARLOW: Thursday 27 February, 8pm, Ite Grey Community Association, Booth Fair, Speaker: Ian Gibson (former member of ASTMS national executive)

Entries for this column must be posted to: New Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the "first class" post takes two days at the most. Due to amount of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries must be free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

CORSHAM: Thursday 27 February, 8pm, Seafield Hall, Speaker: Granville Williams (IS Birmingham)

ISPHIR: Friday 7 March, Room 3, Town Hall, Speaker: Nigel Harris

ST ALBANS: Tuesday 4 March, 8pm, St Albans Town Hall, Victoria Street, Speaker: to be announced

LEEDS: Thursday 13 March, 8pm, Leeds Polytechnic, Shakespeare Street, Speaker: under discussion

MERSEY: Wednesday 27 February, 8pm, All Hallows, Liverpool, Speaker: Tony Cliff

MERSEY: Wednesday 27 February, 8pm, All Hallows, Liverpool, Speaker: Tony Cliff

Oxford: Monday 3 March, 7.30pm, Blackfriars, St Giles, Speaker: Tony Cliff

The political perspectives put to the last IS Conference in September had tempted many of us to believe that the IS National Committee on Saturday, opening the discussion on the crisis of the trade unions for the next annual conference.

Our economic analysis had been by large and correct, although unemployment had risen slightly more slowly than we had predicted, he said. Our real mistake had been political—in thinking that political consciousness among workers would rise completely in time with the economic downturn.

He had not recognised sufficiently that the workers would have to be educated at the hands of the miners last February to 1981 to make it give the way through the thought of many workers, despite the economic situation.

There had been a rising trend of fragmented economic struggles with far more strikes than in 1973. At the same time there had been no policy to force workers to become political out of economic struggles.

Although the impact of IS within broader working movements had not been able to grow there had been the core and the centre of the revolutionary lift that we had predicted.

Dangers

There are two dangers for IS members, said Mr. Smith. One is to blame our comrades for IS’s lack of influence. The second is to make course we have made mistakes, but the strength of the movement. Both mistake the situation.

The main feature of the political situation was its volatility. Voluntary, democratic and localised struggles can change at a country at different times. On the one hand there is a devaluation of the worker’s struggle, and on the other, there is a devaluation of the worker’s struggle, and on the one hand there is a devaluation of the worker’s struggle.

The political situation increases the importance of IS’s intermediate role. In the wages fight, and more importantly, the fight for industrial organisation, the situation is crucial. The existence of one IS organisation is vital. The political situation can be made the difference between defence and victory, IS branches have to recognise these possibilities.

The political perspectives put to the last IS Conference in September had tempted many of us to believe that the IS National Committee on Saturday, opening the discussion on the crisis of the trade unions for the next annual conference.

Our economic analysis had been by large and correct, although unemployment had risen slightly more slowly than we had predicted, he said. Our real mistake had been political—in thinking that political consciousness among workers would rise completely in time with the economic downturn.

He had not recognised sufficiently that the workers would have to be educated at the hands of the miners last February to 1981 to make it give the way through the thought of many workers, despite the economic situation.

There had been a rising trend of fragmented economic struggles with far more strikes than in 1973. At the same time there had been no policy to force workers to become political out of economic struggles.

Although the impact of IS within broader working movements had not been able to grow there had been the core and the centre of the revolutionary lift that we had predicted.

Dangers

There are two dangers for IS members, said Mr. Smith. One is to blame our comrades for IS’s lack of influence. The second is to make course we have made mistakes, but the strength of the movement. Both mistake the situation.

The main feature of the political situation was its volatility. Voluntary, democratic and localised struggles can change at a country at different times. On the one hand there is a devaluation of the worker’s struggle, and on the other, there is a devaluation of the worker’s struggle, and on the one hand there is a devaluation of the worker’s struggle.

The political situation increases the importance of IS’s intermediate role. In the wages fight, and more importantly, the fight for industrial organisation, the situation is crucial. The existence of one IS organisation is vital. The political situation can be made the difference between defence and victory, IS branches have to recognise these possibilities.
I AGREE with the idea of socialism but we will never get it. People are too greedy to let it work. I think the world views are frequently put forward by even the most militant and active trade unionists.

You can’t change human nature, they say, but socialists believe the opinion of human nature is influenced and moulded by the circumstances in which people find themselves in different circumstances will think and act in different ways.

For most of us, would recommend cancer and unnatural or going against human nature, yet only recently that a change in the social structure of human society can change the basic attitudes of behavior.

This is the materialistic view of history – the material conditions in which men live will in general determine their attitudes and behavior.

Changed nature of work.

Society’s attitudes towards women, religion, slavery and a million other things have changed as circumstances have changed. For instance, the changes in the position of women have been described as going against human nature.

In the past, it is said, there was no place for a woman in the social hierarchy. No one is arguing that this is so any more. Women now work outside the home, have their own careers, and are considered equal to men.

Socialist Worker, by Roger Cooper

Basic attitudes.

Our attitude towards socialism in the past has been influenced by our own personal experiences. But the world has changed, and we need to think about how our attitudes should change as well.

Socialist Worker Crossword no13

8 Across: Socialists fight to end capitalism (11)

10 Across: Socialists fight for a better world (9)

15 Across: Socialists fight for international unity (10)

17 Across: Socialists fight for peace and freedom (8)

2 Down: Socialists fight for workers’ rights (8)

3 Down: Socialists fight for justice and equality (11)

6 Down: Socialists fight for freedom of speech (7)

9 Down: Socialists fight against fascism and war (7)

12 Down: Socialists fight for human rights (6)

14 Down: Socialists fight for a better future (5)

16 Down: Socialists fight for solidarity (4)

Across.

A: Socialists fight to end capitalism

B: Socialists fight for a better world

C: Socialists fight for international unity

D: Socialists fight for peace and freedom

E: Socialists fight for workers’ rights

F: Socialists fight for justice and equality

G: Socialists fight for freedom of speech

H: Socialists fight against fascism and war

I: Socialists fight for human rights

J: Socialists fight for a better future

K: Socialists fight for solidarity

L: Socialists fight to end sexism

M: Socialists fight for democracy

N: Socialists fight for equality

O: Socialists fight for a better society

P: Socialists fight for a world without exploitation

Q: Socialists fight for a world without poverty

R: Socialists fight for a world without war

S: Socialists fight for a world without hunger

T: Socialists fight for a world without disease

U: Socialists fight for a world without suffering

V: Socialists fight for a world without oppression

W: Socialists fight for a world without discrimination

X: Socialists fight for a world without exploitation

Y: Socialists fight for a world without poverty

Z: Socialists fight for a world without war

Time to liaise again.

It is a long time since much has been heard from the US Congress. For many months, the US has been involved in a bitter dispute with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) over the role of trade unions in the global economy. This dispute has had a serious impact on the ability of workers to organize and fight for their rights.

It is important that we continue to support the ITUC and solidarity with working people around the world. Socialists should be active in this struggle, and work to build a strong movement that can fight for a better world. We must continue to fight against the bosses and for the rights of workers everywhere.
MINERS SHAKE THE CONTRACT

— but surface men are left in the cold

AFTER a month of silence this year's miners' wage negotiations have suddenly exploded into a violent spat as they were scheduled to be broken off within a week. Until a fortnight ago the talks seemed a battle of nerves, with neither side willing to talk. But the miners now say that the talks have been broken off and the contract negotiated. They blame the TUC for not being able to reach a settlement with the NUM. The profits from the negotiations are seen as being far worse for the miners than they had hoped.

The miners claim that the talks broke down because of the miners' demands for an increase in their wages. The TUC, on the other hand, has rejected the miners' claims, saying that they are being unrealistic. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

Plumbers will back up strikes

The miners' calls for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.

The miners' demands for a 10% increase in their wages have been met with stiff resistance from the TUC, who claim that the miners are being unrealistic. The miners' union, the NUM, has called for a more realistic approach to the negotiations, but the TUC has rejected this. The situation has led to widespread strikes across the country, with many miners refusing to work.
As unemployment soars, the fight against redundancies steps up...

WE Fought TOGETHER
- AND WE WON!

The CRISIS AND REDUNDANCIES
Speakers: Gerry Davidson (EEPTU steward, Ward and Goldstone) in a campaign called "The Peasants' Revolt," and Peter Bain (Chrysler Liverton), Friday 26 February 8pm, The Carders Arms, Tyldesley Road, Atherton.

All workers welcome. Organised by Manchester District IS.

journalists' occupation
now official

N. LONDON-Official backing is being given to members of the National Union of Journalists at Educational Audio Visual who are occupying their office to prevent closedown.

The union's National Executive made the decision after the chapel office had promised a vigorous campaign to avoid the closure of the office, with a target of 200 members and 75 days of strike action.

On 11 February, management told the EEPTU they were not willing to negotiate to avoid job losses for any period of strike action.

The union is claiming: jobs saved, and workers in the EAV have been told to strike, with the threat of lockouts.

Despite being told this four days earlier, one national officer, who departs for the executive between now and the strike, said "We still have no idea what the programme is, and that's the situation.""We're not sure about the date," he added.

='Sit-in our only answer'

N.LONDON-Lincoln Dale got justified in its 500 workers three weeks last notice but only the union, the British Audio Visual, on behalf of workers and the union's education group, is now seeking to negotiate a settlement.

In January, 30 part-time workers were sacked for refusing to accept a settlement, which they said they would not accept until they were reemployed.

On Monday, a report will be presented to the education group, which is due to meet on the same day, which is due to meet on the same day.

The union says it will not attempt to negotiate a settlement, which it believes would be the result of the 500 workers' action.

The union has already stated that it will not accept any settlement unless the workers are reemployed.

The union will decide on the date for the next round of negotiations on the basis of what it believes is the best offer it can make to the workers.

TONY STONE

Sackings-to keep workers in line
WALTHAMSTOW-London Rubber Industries, who have a virtual monopoly in steel core conveyors and have recently been told to reduce their prices by 40 per cent by the Monopolies Commission, have sacked 12 workers in their Walthamstow factory.

The workers, all members of the EEPTU, were sacked last Thursday after refusing to accept a 50p-a-week pay cut.

The reason for the sacking was given as "reorganization". But the workers, who are in a CWU shop stewards' branch, have been told that the price of the sacking is a result of their decision to refuse to accept the price cut.

The company has offered the workers a pay rise of 50p-a-week and the workers, who are members of the CWU, have been told to accept the offer.

The strike, which the company has officially backed, was called to protest against the sacking of the workers, who are said to be a bad management, the workers are fed up with them and if they don't improve their terms of service, the strike is being continued.

COVENTRY: Plans for more than 100 redundancies at Jaguar (Leys- land) were announced by the car company on Tuesday night. The announcement comes two days after a meeting with the workers, who were told the redundancies were inevitable.

The redundancies were announced by the management, who said they were due to "economic reasons" and that the workers were "uncooperative".

The company said it would offer the workers redundancy pay, but would only offer it if they agreed to leave the company voluntarily.

The company offered the workers redundancy pay, which is based on their length of service, and the workers, who are members of the CWU, have been told to accept the offer.

The strike, which the company has officially backed, was called to protest against the sacking of the workers, who are said to be a bad management, the workers are fed up with them and if they don't improve their terms of service, the strike is being continued.

To force such demands we must organise a mass demonstration, the management said.

The anger was expressed in a meeting between the two Jaguar plants and the management, which was attended by the workers, who were told the redundancies were inevitable.

The company said it would offer the workers redundancy pay, but would only offer it if they agreed to leave the company voluntarily.

The company offered the workers redundancy pay, which is based on their length of service, and the workers, who are members of the CWU, have been told to accept the offer.

The strike, which the company has officially backed, was called to protest against the sacking of the workers, who are said to be a bad management, the workers are fed up with them and if they don't improve their terms of service, the strike is being continued.

To force such demands we must organise a mass demonstration, the management said.

The anger was expressed in a meeting between the two Jaguar plants and the management, which was attended by the workers, who were told the redundancies were inevitable.
FIGHTING FUND: THE MONEY YOU GIVE HELPS WIN STRIKES

LAST WEEK you, our readers, sent £366.74 to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund. This week we want you to do likewise.

Because the money you send us each week works directly to help us in the crucial task of bringing socialist ideas and arguments to a million ears.

It also, in a modest but important way, helps workers when they need it most. Take an example. For 15 weeks, scaffolders on the Eldon Square site in Newcastle have been striking against McAlpine, the building industry's most ruthless employer. It may be an enormous step forward for every building worker.

To the NFU through their »Scaffolders' Charter«, bringing this in the face of thousands of workers. Throughout the country, there have been similar scaffolders from Newcastle to the site after site, in city after city, collecting cash and winning support for their case.

That is vital work—and, hopefully, it will help the lads to victory. But it all costs money.

Money we can only get from you.

That is why we make no excuses for asking you to do that. Send your donations to M Morris, National Treasurer, B Ottosons Gardens, London E2.

Our thanks this week to:
Middlesbrough £5, CA Parsons SW Readers Group £1.50 and £1.40, Worsbrook £1, Colne £5.50, Longford £4.50.

Here are some recent contributions:
Dedham £5, North Shields £2.50, Reading £1.50, Battle £1.50, Lowestoft £1.50, Ainsworth £3.25, Redditch £1.50, Cupar £1.50.

We are grateful for them all.

That is why we make no excuses for asking you to do that. Send your donations to M Morris, National Treasurer, B Ottosons Gardens, London E2.

' Capitals have accepted by 200 scaffolders

NEWCASTLE upon Tyne—The 15-week strike by 200 scaffolders at Eldon Square is solid. At a mass meeting last week, the other workers on the site voted unanimously to carry out until the dispute is settled.

The strikers are out in support of 14 scaffolders victimised by t.t. builders McAlpine in November. The strike committee told Socialist Worker: 'The dispute has been declared a scandal. Our employers, the TGWU officials refused to give any support last week. Last week, we issued a joint statement with McAlpine condemning the strikers and making accusations of intimidation. McAlpine have said they will not re-integrate the 14 under any circumstances. The Newcastle Council Eldon Square Development Committee met the TUC, the builders, the employers, on Monday. They have also issued a joint statement giving full backing to McAlpine.

Steve Davie, member of the strike committee, told Socialist Worker: 'We intend to stay out until the 14 are reinstated. This is a fight for all building workers and trade unionists. If McAlpine get away with this here they'll do the same all across the country.'

The Shibwesbury lads were sent down and McAlpine played a large part in that. We intend to make sure that none of our ten arrested pickets goes to jail and ask all trade unionists to give as much support. An amount of donations and messages of support are being sent from all over the country. They have many donations from individuals including pensioners and other Socialist Worker readers. The list of contributors includes: Clive Uren (Spelke), Sean Hunter Shiyamur, Chris Chapman, Churchill Gap, Patebury Trade Council, East Wood Green, Wednesham, Nuneaton £10, Coventry £20, Luton £20, Newcastle £15, Norwich £10, Bury £5, Welshpool £5, Shefford £5.

Mass picket at site

SOUTH LONDON—The employers are using the reoccupation of our industry to smash trade unionism on the site. That's why we can't afford to lose this dispute. So Terry Heath, from the London Regional Committee of UCATT, summed up the importance of the dispute at the council house site. Mitcham, speaking at a meeting of more than 100 pickets last Monday morning, said: 'Pickets have been out in force since the strike was called last week. In protest at the local council's use of lump labour.

Since the strike started, scabs have been employed by the employers. They do work for high pay. The police, who are always present in large numbers, have told pickets that some of the hired scabs are known to be on the take.

At least one has been seen with a number of bags, and the site is covered with " Smash the Landlord," slogans. The site contractors, Carl Cooper and the strikers, have told that he will be "done" after the strike is over. Sand is being thrown at scabs.

Shortly before the strike started another union official was viciously assaulted by a site manager. He had to go to hospital for three stitches in his lip.

The UCATT Regional Council have called for the maximum support for morning picketing. Leaders from the site have called on all members to support the strike.

Donations and messages of support to: M Taylor, UCATT Co-ordinating Secretary, 86 Pendennis Road, London SE1.