TROOPS OUT OF GLASGOW!

ON TUESDAY, a platoon of Highland Fusiliers bustled past a picket line of striking electricians to light up an incinerator at Dennycroft, in Glasgow's Maryhill district.

It was the first shot in Operation Blackleg, the strike-breaking by soldiers sent in to clear 60,000 tons of rubbish and save the Social Contract.

The troops first move proved that the dustcart drivers' is not the only strike being broken. The strike of Corporation electricians, who light up the incinerators, is also in peril.

Will the leaders of the Electricians union stand by while their official strike is broken by troops?

Unanimous

At a mass meeting on Tuesday morning, the electricians' stewards joined the dustcart drivers' stewards in a unanimous call for sympathy action throughout the city and the West of Scotland. The stewards also demanded that the Glasgow Trades Council, which meets in emergency session on Wednesday, calls a mass meeting of all shop stewards in the West of Scotland to play sympathy action.

The following is the text of a leaflet which has been distributed by the Glasgow International Socialists throughout the city.

The Council and the government claim the rubbish is a health hazard and so they must be forced to do their job. This is a political issue.

Every winter, thousands of old age pensioners die of the cold. That's a health hazard. But do they use the army to distribute blankets to keep the old folk warm?

Of course, huge piles of rubbish are bad for health but the Corporation can quickly solve the problem.

They only have to pay the Corporation drivers the same wages as IGV drivers get in private industry. That's all the strikers are asking.

Suffering

The Corporation are determined to defend the Labour Government's Social Contract. They are more concerned with maintaining low wages for workers suffering weekly increases in the cost of living than they are about public health.

That is why they refuse to settle with the dustmen. That is why they are calling in the troops.

This strike has been made a test case for the whole trade union movement. If they can get away with breaking this strike with troops, who will be next? The troops will be withdrawn and the drivers' claim will be met if there is effective solidarity action. We must organise now for such action.

It is no use waiting for senior trade union officials to give a lead. They, too, are party to the social contract.

Rank and file trade unionists must take strike action when the troops are moved in.

A West of Scotland Shop Stewards' meeting should be called to organise sympathy strikes and mass picketing of the city chambers. All workers called upon to service or supply the strike breaking troops should refuse.

Liverpool: Scabs out!

MEANWHILE, in Liverpool, where dustmen are in the eighth week of their strike, the Council has decided to bring in private contractors to begin clearing rubbish at three main sites.

One Councillor, Liberal Mrs Jones, called for troops to be brought in. But the council prefers to rely on private contractors. The scabs, brought in from Manchester, are being paid the same rate that the Liverpool dustmen are on strike for.

But the Liverpool dustmen are fighting back by preparing pickets against the contractors. On Friday, a delegation from Liverpool went to Glasgow to help co-ordinate tactics.

£4339 KEEPs IT COMING...

AS THE TROOPS moved into Glasgow this week, Socialist Worker reporter Laurie Flynn was on the spot.

He was able to provide the workers with news of events that makes the issue of Socialist Worker the only paper or any size in the Glasgow area to give the strikers' case.

Meanwhile, Glasgow's 15,000 were getting themselves up to this enormously important confrontation. They have ordered 3000 copies of Socialist Worker and will be arguing and organising for sympathy strike action.

The struggle in Liverpool is also vital. Against the response of Socialist Worker will prove important.

But we can only do this work with money. Money to pay our extra newsprint bills, money to enable our reporters to get the facts.

We urge all our members and supporters to double their efforts to raise the cash for us to do the job.

The response to our £10,000 emergency fighting fund is good, but it desperately needs tumbling along. So far we have raised £4339.17.

Rush donations to: Mel Morris, 15 National Treasurer, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 7DN.

PAGE TWO:

Eleven months of revolution!

PAGE THREE:
The day they smashed Spinola's coup

PAGE FOUR:
How long can the balancing act last?

PAGE FIVE:
What the workers are saying

FOUR-PAGE SPECIAL STARTS ON PAGE TWO
ON 25 APRIL last year, Portugal's fascist regime was overthrown by sections of the armed forces. The world's press, including newspaper editors, who happened to be left, spoke in glowing terms of the new order.

The Morning Star, for instance, proclaimed: A united people will never be defeated. The news ignored the conflicting interests behind the scene.

The regime's figurehead was General Spinola. Today, we are told he is a 'liberal' leader. But for many years he was a keen supporter of fascist methods.

He opposed Caetano only when it became clear that Caetano's policies no longer suited those of the Portuguese electorate.

Caetano was out of the war, Spinola and his big business friends concentrated on keeping the workers' movement under control.

That is why in June, then on 28 September and again last week, they tried to change the regime with the help of former supporters of Caetano.

But Caetano's overthrow was organised not by Spinola but by a small group of army officers. Known as the Armed Forces Movement, they were only a fraction of a fraction of 10,000 career officers. But the other officers were prepared to back their initiative in overthrowing Caetano and fighting for an end to the African war.

The new regime was able to establish a high-powered force under their own control, COPEN, headed by Sarario de Carvalho.

Most of the career officers came from sections of the middle class. Their fathers are small businessmen, better-off peasants, schoolteachers, doctors and so on. The officers can, therefore, be quite hostile to the big monopolies, the Rothschilds, capitalists of the myriad of small firms in Portugal.

They did not benefit from the African war as opposed to Caetanans and then Spinola when it seemed as if he might prolong the war. But they also have the chance to see the effects of the growing workers' movement on the property-owning middle class (after all, the worst wages are usually paid by small firms, not big ones) and they have been able to begin to develop a social discipline and rank that provide them with their own privileges.

That is why the officers were prepared to use troops to break the strike of postal workers last summer, to attack a strike at the Portugeuse Arms to take disciplinary measures against 150 cadres who discussed revolutionary politics and to threaten a secondary school closed by a pupils' strike.

That is why the first economic plan they voted for only a month ago did not propose any nationalization at all.

And that is why, in elections to various posts in the Armed Forces Movement, the most radical, a few days before Spinola's second attempt coup, left wing officers were voted out.

In recent months, the more radical views of the leaders of the Armed Forces Movement have become increasingly removed from those of the average officer.

The role of the Communist Party

UNDER CAETANO, the Communist Party was by far the largest of the workers. Once he was overthrown, workers flocked into it. But they soon got a shock.

They had been organized for work in the Lima region. The election of the new political leaders, and the chances of getting a big vote in the elections.

However, many sections of the workers began to turn away from the CP and look to the revolutionary left for leadership. The CP lost out to the revolutionary in two key trade unions.

The strikes and occupations continued despite the University's massacre. The CP was nowhere in the CP.

The leadership of the CP was in a crisis. The CP lost its position as the leader of the workers' movement.

During the autumn, they have moved very much to the right, attracting support from groups who think the workers 'too extreme' and establishing close relations with the right wing Social Democrats and Labour parties of western Europe.

They were identified with a pro-capitalist economic policy and a law which would have allowed right wing split-offs from the union.

The Popular Democratic Party is the middle class party in the government. Its leaders opposed fascism, but wanted a society more like other western capitalist countries.

THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT could be immensely important. But years of isolation from the working class have put their effects on it. There are about 1,000 groups, which are often very confused. Many, for instance, call the CP 'social fascist' not seeing that the CP cannot break completely from its working class base.

Instead of posing one clear, revolutionary working class alternative to the present state of affairs, the groups are competing with one another, as well as with the governments, and are operating in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

Yet, despite this confusion, revolutionary ideas have a wide hold among workers than probably anywhere else in the world. Revolutionary militants are usually forced to work together inside the factories, while denouncing each other outside, and have, as they have, considerable influence in key sections of industry.

THE PARTIES STAND FOR

THE CAN THEY FACE UP TO THE TASK?

They only issued a statement after last week's attempted coup 48 hours after it had been defeated. The former supporters of Caetano are numerous, and quite influential, particularly in the small villages of northern Portugal.

The Popular Democratic Party, the most extreme group, the one that is in control, is very similar in organization and function to the Communist Party. They have a wide hold over the workers than probably anywhere else in the world. Revolutionary militants are usually forced to work together inside the factories, while denouncing each other outside, and have, as they have, considerable influence in key sections of industry.

The main parties and the radio and television have been run by committees of journalists since last April. This means that openly capitalist arguments are rarely put out.
SMASHED SPINOLA'S COUP

TWO T-6 FIAT jet fighters flew over Lisbon in a wide circle, showering thousands of white leaflets into the crowded streets of the capital, and then sped southwards. Minutes later, soldiers in the barracks of the First Light Artillery Regiment on the outskirts of Lisbon were under heavy air attack, backed up by paratroops who surrounded the barracks.

That was Tuesday 11 March, at 11:30am. The extreme right, ousted from all positions close to the government since last September, were attempting a come-back. They expected their attack to be received with acclamation by the majority of officers in the armed forces, many of whom had been muttering for weeks about the need to control the left.

But the coup backfired. Throughout the country it led to a huge upsurge of hostility against the right wing and the big business interests behind them.

At 1:30pm, workers in Radio Renascença, which had been silent since they occupied it 20 days before, began broadcasting the news.

In Lisbon, workers closed down the banks and set up pickets to stop anyone entering. Hundreds of shops and offices stayed shut after lunch and the phones went out of order as workers rushed to join the demonstrations and barricade.

ARMED

In Barreiro, a centre of industry south of Lisbon, factory and fire engine sirens shrieked continuously and workers formed pickets and barricades, which kept stopped and searched all vehicles.

In Sacavem, near the bombarded barracks, workers formed a defence barricade across the main road, backed up with thousands of bricks of cement.

Representatives from the workers committee at a local construction firm were sent to the barricades and asked that the workers be armed, so that they could join in the fight.

At Tarcico, the barricade was built from lorries from the occupied brewery works of SCC, but was quickly joined by hundreds of workers from other factories, armed with clubs, spades or anything else that was at hand.

Revolutionary organisations joined in the struggle. They put up barricades in Alvarado-Mem Martins, after attacking a post of the National Guards (a force that identifies with the extreme right) and forcing them to join the barricades.

BLOCKED

In Baxa de Banheiros, they seized the weapons of the National Guards and, in Molina, those of the police.

They took control of the bridge and the ferries which connect Lisbon to the industrial areas to its west, and searched cars suspected of bringing weapons into the city.

In the Liberdade shipyards, the workers stopped work, joined the barricades and were picked up to protect the children in the local school.

The frontier roads to Spain were blocked off and all over the country, groups of workers blocked the main roads. In Cemilhe, the third biggest city, cars were driven onto the airport runway after a plane had been seen flying low over the city.

Huge demonstrations were jamming the streets of Lisbon, Oporto and the other towns. All papers were sold out, many printed second editions or special brochures as did the workers' commission of the big Lisbon daily O Seculo—and thousands of leaflets were handed out by the trade union and workers' commissions denouncing the attempted coup.

By 5pm, the Armed Forces Movement was in control of all radio stations and calling on the people to leave the barricades so the military could take them over, but to remain vigilant and united.

But that was by no means the end of the popular movement.

SHOTGUNS

That evening left-wing demonstrators reoccupied the headquarters of the National Guard, Spinola's house and the headquarters of the extreme right wing CDS and Christian Democrat parties.

Workers' pickets remained on the post offices, the telephone exchanges, in government buildings, cutting off the means of communication to the right wing. The roads in the centre and south of the country continued to be blocked by barricades, with workers belonging to the CP and the revolutionary left wearing red armbands and armed with shotguns, waving down and searching all vehicles.

The bank clerks refused to open the banks in case the rich tried to move their money out of the country. Their action forced the authorities to nationalise the banks and insurance companies.

Now the bank clerks see the question as one of workers' control—of ensuring that the nationalised banks work for the mass of the population.

The role of the workers in smashing the coup has produced a wave of hysteria in the press in this country. It sees Portugal 'slipping out of the hands of the moderates'—those who back the capitalist system—and into the hands of those who actually create the wealth.

Unfortunately, however, that process is not yet complete. The banks have been nationalised, but Portugal remains in NATO.

The Communist Party played an important role in defeating the coup but is now involved in friendly discussions with the Socialist Party, which was very slow in reacting and which is more and more adopting a pro-capitalist stance.

At the same time, the Communist leaders have not stopped their denunciation of the revolutionary left, of those who 'irresponsibly occupy the residences' of the rich, and of those workers who threaten strike action in an effort to keep up with rising prices.

Portugal's workers have shown the enormous power that they can wield. But they still have to use that power to recruit society in its entirety.
THE COMPLEX situation thrown up in Portugal in the last two weeks has been seen by some as a victory. Yet there is another way to read it. It is often called ‘dual power’. A government exists which officially rules the country, but which is usually powerless. In the localities and often in the barracks, effective power lies with the workers and rank and file soldiers.

Powerless

Most army officers could not have supported Spinola last week even if they had wanted to (and many secretly did want to). They feared their own career and would turn their guns on them. In the factories, the workers’ committees are often in control, with the managers more or less powerless. In the localities, the workers have taken physical control of the factories. The upper classes and the majority of the officers see in it the leaders of the Armed Forces Movement the only impetus to an ever-rising wave of militancy.

Most workers, on the other hand, are conscious of the government’s helplessness against factory occupations and ‘left-wing extremism’. The liberal government wanted to win the war against fascism, but above all it wanted to stop the workers seizing the wealth. So the government, supported by the Church and most workers, started to disarm the workers’ committees.

THE VITAL LESSONS WE MUST ALL LEARN

THE FRANCO REBELLION

On 17 July, 1936, General Franco issued a manifesto calling on the army and the nation to overthrow Spain’s left-wing Popular Front government and set up a military dictatorship.

This was a clear call to revolt. Its object was to defend the interests of landlords and capitalists against the advance of the workers and power of the workers.

On 19 July, the workers rose in towns throughout Spain. In town after town, the workers were defeated by their employers and workers’ committees were replaced by workers’ councils. Right-wing ‘democratic’ governments were set up in towns and were only to give way in 1933, to the most brutal government in history.

GERMANY, 1920: The Kapp Putsch

GERMANY, 1920: The Kapp putsch

GERMANY’S DEFEAT in the First World War was followed by revolution. But the new Labour government dealt a deal with the army officers, businessmen and senior civil servants.

In exchange for the resignation of Kapp and Luftwitz, they won guarantees that their power would not be tampered with.

No one was punished for the violence against trade unionists and workers. The call went out for consolidating the gains of the revolution by mass action from the workers. The new government held elections and, as before, all for conservatives.

A special force of the German army was sent to Potsdam. The new right-wing government was dismissed and replaced by a ‘worker-government’, the Kapp Putsch.

THE KORNILOV COUP

RUSSIA, 1917: The Kornilov coup

IN THE LATE summer of 1917, Kornilov, commander-in-chief of the Russian army, led a desperate revolt against the liberal government of Kerensky.

That government would have fallen but for the organisation of the Bolshevik Party, who threw all their weight against the uprising. The coup collapsed with hardly a struggle.

In that moment, the Bolshevik leaders, notably Lenin and Trotsky, urged their supporters not to compromise with Kerensky’s temporary demands for ‘national unity’ and ‘consolidation of gains’.

They called for revolutionary activity against the government and the capitalists and landlords re-established.

In a week, the Bolsheviks had a majority on the workers’ councils of Petrograd and Moscow. In a month they recruited more than 100,000 new members.

In six weeks, they led the Russian workers into a revolution which overthrew the capitalists and landowners and replaced them with a government of workers and peasants councils.
Workers in Portugal

REVELATION

The revolution in Portugal is the most exciting development in Europe since the war. What are the lessons for socialists in Britain?

We are organising public meetings all over the country to explain the issues at stake. We will be preparing in trade union bodies for solidarity—both resolutions and action—with the Portuguese workers in their struggle.

No illusions

Workers at the SCS brewery have occupied its installations, demanding that the government nationalise because of management excesses. Workers at the Nautipol supermarket chain are running the firm, as are workers in the Nelli furniture factory. A spokesman for the Nelli workers pointed out: "We do not have any illusions in workers' management under capitalism. We are using it as a real focus for all the struggles of the workers."

There is a lesson to be learnt: it was the concentration of the organ of power that gave the fascists an opportunity to reconquise. From the postal workers' unions:

The move by the reactivators was only possible because the process of purging had not been completed, so that many PIDEs, members of the former secret police, legionaries and other reactivators who had not only in our industry but also in many others. And all this with the benefit of being able to count on government bodies, despite the many workers strikes and demonstrations aimed at expelling the workplaces industrial union from the factories.

The most significant resolutions have come from within the army. For the first time mass meetings of rank and file officers have been held. The regiment under attack last week, RAL 1, issued a communiqué from all the soldiers, sergeants and officers: "Why the attack on RAL 1? Because the soldiers of RAL 1 know that our enemies are the capitalists and fascists that have oppressed us and that we have a role to play whether the generals like it or not: to defend the workers and to fight all reactionists.

For those who started to cause bloodshed between us it only remains to demand their immediate shooting. Comrades, armoured people will never be defeated. Death to fascism. Death to capitalism!"

THE revolution in Portugal is the most exciting development in Europe since the war. What are the lessons for socialists in Britain?

The coup last week, which exposed the myth that the outcome of decisive class struggles are decided by parliamentary elections. Spinola, the right-wing generals and the heads of Portugal's biggest firms were not prepared to wait for the elections due in three weeks time. They recognised that real control of a country does not depend on the number of crosses written on pieces of paper, but on who gives the orders in the barracks, the factories, the newspaper offices and the radio stations.

Portugal's workers and rank and file soldiers showed the same understanding. After months of struggle, they held power in many factories, banks, newspapers, and on the streets. That direct, physical power was never available to those who look to electoral politics for political advance.

Portuguese workers are beginning to discover that there are two quite opposed forms of democracy—that which would have people passively marking ballot papers every four years while being subject to the rest of the time of the orders of the bosses in the factory and the media at home. The other is the active, participatory democracy of those who are fighting to control their own lives where it matters most, struggling to make production satisfy their needs rather than the interests of profit and competition.

Old allies

But the struggle is far from over. There are powerful interests that would do almost anything to crush the young shoots of workers' democracy that are growing in Portugal. The bosses have already created a closely linked international business organisation, the British big business big business, particularly in the British big business big business.

Some of the biggest factories in Portugal are run by firms such as Plessy, ICI, British Leyland, Timex, STC, BICC, BP, Trust Houses Forte. The talk of Portugal being 'Britain's oldest ally' covers up the fact that for a long time it was virtually a colony of British capitalism.

That is no doubt why the British press was so sympathetic to Spinola and his band of 'moderate' former fascists.

Such people have failed for the present in their direct attack. They will resort to other methods, hoping to break the resistance of Portuguese workers by withdrawing investments, moving work abroad and creating unemployment.

Workers in Brazil know that this country must show solidarity with their Portuguese brothers by watching out for such manoeuvres and attempting to build resistance to them.

But further direct attack is tried. And it is possible that the Portuguese right will hope for help from its NATO allies.

Solidarity

Certainly, NATO has a powerful array of weapons against Portugal that could be used to intimidate that country's workers. There is the US Second Fleet, with four aircraft carriers and 71 ships in the Atlantic. There is the Sixth Fleet, with two aircraft carriers and 17 ships in the Mediterranean. There is the US 16th Airforce in Spain. There are RAF fighters based in Gibraltar. Here in Britain, within easy reach of Portugal, there is the British Army, the RAF and the USAF.

It is the duty of every socialist in this country to campaign for solidarity with the Portuguese revolution and against any attempt to use this war to try to drown the Portuguese revolution in blood.

In the weeks ahead, the International Socialists will be organising public meetings all over the country to explain the issues at stake. We will be preparing in trade union bodies for solidarity—both resolutions and action—with the Portuguese workers in their struggle.
What an argument for opposition!

"YORKSHIRE" businessman James Towler refused claims made by the CBI that virtually all British industry wished Britain to remain in the EEC, reported the Morning Star recently. Within the CBI itself there were deep divisions on the subject, divisions that seldom come to the surface because the CBI, like the Conservative Party of old, tried to make sure that opinions that didn’t use the Toshil Street line were not heard, he said.

Towler said that as an argument against the Common Market without a word of criticism by the Star, is a perfect picture of the depths to which the Communist Party has sunk in its Common Market campaign. "Trinity, on the other hand, claims: ‘We were simply invited to express the Common Market on national grounds, and we were not asked to argue for the socialist approach. Certainly, Trinity has not resorted to such arguments as alleged, and quite imaginary, splits in the CBI as reasons for voting No."

But its case against the Common Market most fully stated in a special issue dated 7 March and still available does amount to a kind of left-wing nationalism because it is both reformed and utopian.

After correctly stating that the EEC is designed to maintain the working of the capitalist system… it goes on to argue: "The difficulties facing an attempt to switch all the EEC countries in a socialist direction are much greater than those facing an attempt to switch Britain in that direction."

This is because "the present European Parliament is generally regarded as a force, having no powers... and because the possibility of changing this Right-Centre orientation of the various EEC governments would depend, moreover, on simultaneous general elections taking place in several of the main countries."

Hopes: While, certainly, if you live in the cloud-cuckoo land where socialism is achieved because of the election victories of such parties as the German Social-Democratic Party, which is now in power, then such matters as the simultaneity of elections are very weighty. Practical folk will not lose much sleep over them though.

But after getting on for 60 years of experience of elected social democratic governments in various European countries, of different times, hopes (or fears) of socialism by that road are utopian indeed. And one of those countries is Britain. It is not at all the case that we have right-wing social democratic parties in Europe and a left-wing one in Britain. We have had both Labour governments, the first more than 50 years ago, and, as Trinity itself tells us, Britain is still a capitalist country.

Of course it is true that if a worker’s state was established in any of the Common Market countries, it would have to take some of the steps Trinity recommends—control of imports and capital movements etc. And such measures are indeed contrary to the Treaty of Rome. Such a state would certainly be thrown out of the Common Market.

"But a worker’s state—which will certainly not come through elections in a common and social democratic way—of necessity aims at assisting the workers of other countries to come to power too."

"The ‘social economy’ economic measures that Tribune favours are necessarily short-term. In the longer term the problems of economics are those of socialism absolutely demand, as the 1974 Labour election showed, in the working classes of several advanced countries."

The real socialist case for opposition to the EEC in the Common Market does not depend in any case on the alleged ‘superiority’ of our own party, or the alleged superiority of socialism on the other hands, nor on the alleged greater ‘democratic’ character of socialism in a socialistic direction’.

It is, however, that the fight against the Common Market is part of the fight against British big business and the right-wing of the Labour movement, of the fight for a real socialist movement— a revolutionary socialist movement.

DUNCAN BAILLIE

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THE NIGHT DICK DYNESE DINE...!

Dick Dyنس, the leader of the Labour group on Glasgow Corporation, who called on the Government to send in troops to break the dockyard drivers strike, has been involved in another rather amusing little business.

It seems he and Councillor Gordon Kane, another Glasgow dignitary, were dining at the Vesuvio, one of the city’s most expensive restaurants, when he got involved in a row with the management. The two Councillors complained apparently, that they were not being treated in the manner to which leading citizens were entitled.

The restaurant management made a complaint to the police, which resulted in a police report outlining possible corruption charges.

The report went to the Crown Court, where a decision was taken not to press charges.

The affair caused some anxiety in the Glasgow Labour Party, and an inquiry was instigated by Peter Alliss, full-time Scottish secretary of the Labour Party, who reported his findings to a meeting of the executive of the Glasgow Corporation Labour Group.

The chairman of the meeting was... Dick Dyнс.

Worsened

The meeting decided to do nothing but not the executive of the Scottish Labour Party have decided that the matter is "closed", and have demanded that the Glasgow Party produce their own report.

One aspect of the affair is said to have increased those members of the Glasgow Labour Party who have anything left to income.

The bill for the Vesuvio meal is believed to have been considerably greater than the £1440 bill of a Glasgow Corporation dockyard drivers.

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OH, LUCKY BOYES! A NICE NEW JAGUAR...

A LUCKY man is Robert Boys, North Yorkshire’s chief constable. He’s been driving a boring old Rover for years. But now the North Yorkshire Police are buying him a £4100 Jaguar XJ 6.

Some county councillors were unhappy about the purchase, and appealed to the County Councillor, William Ward and Mr Boys did their best to set the matter right.

Ward pointed out that the car would have to be used for royal visits and the area was grazed no less than 14 times by royalty last year. Mr Boys said that the Rover was no longer popular among Boys (which will come as a shock to the workers who’ve been making them recently).

Boyes, clearly unhappy that his new toy was going to be taken away from him, told the grumblers that it was to be fitted with a ten-channel radio.

This would enable him to talk to every police force in the country—and, perhaps, a bit about which royal visors were sitting in which.

Don’t get the wrong idea, though, Boys works for his money. He told the committee how he, personally, had dealt with a speeding motorist in the town.

Rumours that he was referring to Princess Anne have been discounted.

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AUSCHWITZ: MODERATES IN 'FINAL SOLUTION' DREAM

AUSCHWITZ: Moderates in ‘final solution’ drama

Last week’s failure to bomb Portugal back to fascism this classic headline in the London Evening Standard:

MODERATES ATTEMPT UPRISING IN PORTUGAL

As an aid to Fierost Street, Fifth Column offers these less extreme variants on Great Scoops of the Past:

HITLER SUGGESTS MODERATE SOLUTION TO JEWISH PROBLEM

JESUS CHRIST PROMISES RE-NEGOTIATIONS AFTER THREE-DAY COOLING-OFF PERIOD

TOLPUDDLE STRikers WIN AUSTRALIAN HOLIDAY

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HORSES FOR COURSES?

GETTING swept off her feet by the boys in blue is young Tricia Wynter of Blestow. It’s good to know that the police have such warm relations with aspiring young politicians such as Mr Wynter. She is secretary of the local National Front and girl friend of Phil Harman, the NF’s ex-parlia-

tmentary candidate for Woolwich East. The horse is believed to be impartial about the issue.

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Meanwhile, the Two... rot in jail

A FORTNIGHT ago, 1500 trade unionists demonstrated outside Leicester jail for the release of the Shrewsbury Two.

A week before, the Leicester Trades Council got a reply from the Trades Council asking them to request for support and publicity for the Shrewsbury workers.

The Trades Council did not answer to initiate action on national issues—such as calling a national demonstration over a particular issue.

The TUC General Council is at present considering what further action should be taken stimulated by the demonstration on the Shrewsbury workers and the use of conspiracy charges in industrial disputes.

Unless Trades Councils are asked to undertake action on a national issue involving this could only be decided by the EEC. TRADE Councils should then be able to offer their support to the other Trades Councils on national issues.

The reason for the outlined above line of action is to circulate Trades Councils with information about any demonstration or provide you with a speaker.

Leicester Trades Council is suitable for the purpose of this indication of the TUC’s devotion to the cause decreed by the ‘Two’.
THE FETISH of the Transport Workers' union bureaucracy for more and more members could hardly be further from the thinking behind the union's creation.

Right from the start in 1913, Ernest Bevin, though no revolutionary, had no desire for a large union to maintain itself with the practical strength of union organisation, just to keep itself in the struggle and win tough industrial battles. He felt that to comply with the virtues of amalgamation. He urged that a reformative years be put in by 1925, that the road was necessary because it brought victories where otherwise there would be defeats.

Organised

It brought all the dockers together into one body, and it was of value to the dockers and the community. It was the only way to do something for the working class and to do something for themselves.

So the career, he was concerned to build a stable organisation. By that he meant a national organisation which he and other full-time officials held decisive power.

In the union structure that he shaped we are striving to the present day. The dockers of the Glasgow docks are still not included.

Right

They had come into the one big union. They had the right to elect each year their eight full-time officials.

But interior his ground carefully, insisting that the authority of the national union was at stake. Anarchism was a menace, he argued, and the union had to be organized and not compromise. He would not tolerate the direct election and re-election of officials.

If he allowed it in one case, it might follow in others.

This battle took other forms. At the union's special rules conference in 1921 Bevin moved for a delegate conference every two years. He was defeated by an overwhelming vote for an annual conference.

In 1923, he moved a conference every two years. His amendment was accepted.

At the congress, he also fought and helped narrowly defeat a delegate conference every three years. The circulation of executive committee minutes. And at delegate conference after delegate conference Bevin fought like a lion against any notion of the election and recall of officials.

He had the post of union general president. He

CONTRARY to the assertions of Jack Jones and the national press, the feelings of dockers about the Transport and General Workers' Union are not usually expressed in snubs.

But many decent trade unionists inside and outside the TGWU are of the view that union leaders have not been through in recent years. And so they don't protest to ask why the union has called thousands of dockers to circle the large and tough industrial battles. They feel that the union leaders could perhaps have been better advised.

The reasons are political. The TGWU leadership, like so many others, are trying to make do with what they have. They are trying to negotiate with employers who seem to be decent men and who are not, could perhaps be better advised.

By working together, improved efficiency and standards have been achieved. And then, only then, there might be a little more time to go around

Attitudes such as make the union leaders vul-

nerable to cheap talk about progress, increasing output, reducing unit costs.

Not that the dockers are just as important and they help explain why, throughout the struggle over containerisation, the leaders of the TGWU have behaved the way they have.

Dockers, once the base and the heart of the Transport Union, now make up only about 10,000 members. There are little or no promises for new recruitment.

With commercial road transport, the situation is entirely different. It is of the biggest single groups in the union with more than 200,000 members. Potential recruitment is huge.

All this makes the head-counters in the TGWU acutely wary of upsetting road transport trade unionists and of doing too much to upset the existing membership.

The TGWU, along with every other union, has fallen further and further into the mirage of the control of members, often irrespective not of the principle of but of industrial strength. Numbers alone do not indicate strength. Far more important are organisation, independence and willingness to fight, qualities the dockers have in no short supply.

It is clear that the heads-counters are certain to make for obvious reasons.

How can the TGWU be changed?

How CAN THE TGWU set-up be changed? You might think the elected executive could do it, but it meets only quarterly and has little real power.

In the union as a whole, controversy is suppressed. Arguement is sacrificed on the altar of a unity that must never be tested for fear that it might collapse.

Over recent years, the dockers have fought a great deal about the union. Successful attempts to get the union's BDC conference to hammer out a policy on containers have been thwarted. At the 1972 conference their motion suggesting a definite policy was simply swept under the carpet.

Not that the dockers are done for. They still possess considerable strength far beyond their numbers, because of the strategic nature of their industry and their own high level of organisation. But, on their own, they will never force the kind of change they want.

Fortunately, they aren't the only organised group in the union. Far from it. The Glasgow lagers have had a similar tragic course in union history. In 1921 Bevin moved for a delegate conference every two years. He was defeated by an overwhelming vote for an annual conference.

In 1923, he moved a conference every two years. His amendment was accepted.

At the congress, he also fought the delegate conference every three years. The circulation of executive committee minutes. And at delegate conference after delegate conference Bevin fought like a lion against any notion of the election and recall of officials.

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"Our Fight is Every Trade Union"

BRIGADIER DAVID RIDDLE-WEBSER, officer com-
mmanding the International Seafarers' Union, which was blacklegging on the official Canadian seamen's union. On 27 May troops unloaded a banana ship, following which cane drivers refused to work with troops; on 2 June troops began to unload all ships, following which British seamen struck against troops used on lock-gates, etc. Later, troops moved into the London docks, where seamen worked in hawking firms and in Soho Road refused to handle goods unloaded by troops.

15 September 1948: Belfast power station strike: troops drafted in immediately.

12 December 1948: 1,000 troops at three London power stations. Troops were sent in, whereupon a further 1,600 at Barking power station came out in protest.

19 April 1950: London dock strike against expulsion of leaders from TGWU for solidarity with Canadian seamen: 9,000 came out. On 24 April troops were moved in and a further 4,500 promptly came out.

24 June 1950: 1,200 Smithfield meat drivers struck in protest at delay in settling claim. Troops drafted in, and 900 meat porters struck in protest.

1 September 1950: strike of London gas maintenance workers started and spread to 15 gasworks in the North Thames Gas Board area on 3 October, 100 naval ratings left Chatham Barracks to start taking over the maintenance work at gas works.

By

PAUL FOOT

John keenan (left) AEUW member and Senior Steward at Rolls Royce, East Kilbride: We had already intended to have a collection for the dustmen's strike before we heard the troops were being moved in. I hope the trade union movement in Scotland takes the appropriate action. As far as I am concerned, that must mean strike action on a wide scale. The health hazard argument is not on.

Top right: move in to strikers by London police in 1953—the action of Brigadier Riddeled-Webber is now plans Glasgow.
The Corporation must find some way to settle with these men and their union.

JOHN CARTY (left), convenor of Chrysler Linwood: I am absolutely opposed to the use of troops in any industrial dispute. The Corporation must find some way to settle with these men and their union.

GEORGE KELLY (left), convener, Glasgow Corporation electricians: We must be ready to put mass pickets on the cleaning depots when the troops arrive. It's essential to go to the Trades Council and call for West of Scotland shop stewards' meeting, which can co-ordinate action.

FRIDAY 7 March: 200 demonstrators held an hour-long meeting outside the Springfield Road police station to express their determination not to allow the Royal Ulster Constabulary to return into the Springfield and Falls Road of Belfast.

It's not surprising that the Catholic minority in Northern Ireland are hostile to the RUC, which is no ordinary police force.

Representing almost entirely Protestants, it has for 50 years been the main means of upholding the Protestant ascendancy.

The RUC has its own peculiar way of enforcing law and order. In 1969, it openly collaborated with Protestant mobs who had burnt Catholic homes. Its Shortland armoured cars mounted with heavy machine guns fired on the Derry Flats.

Driven

In all the RUC has allowed 60,000 Catholics to be driven from their homes since 1969. No RUC men have been charged in connection with it.

There have been more than 400 documented cases of RUC brutality to prisoners since 1971. No charges have been brought.

Members of the RUC Special Branch were involved in the torture of internees in Holywood and Greystones barracks in 1971-72.

It is as well to remember that when the police named 'policing row' flares in Northern Ireland, the real issue is whether a sectarian army should be allowed to act in an area where they are police and enforce and the state they represent, are detestable.

TWELVE teenage members of the Ulster Volunteer Force who petrol-bombed Catholic homes in Antrim were fined up to £100. The eldest, aged 17 and 18, were also given suspended prison sentences.

Three days earlier, the same Belfast city court had sentenced an 18-year-old Catholic to 12 years for possessing a stun gun.

Released

WEDNESDAY 12 March: In the Commons, Marilyn Rees announced that since the beginning of the first Provisional ceasefire in early December, 122 internees have been released—that is, slightly more than one a day.

There are still 470 men held without trial, so the present rate of interment will still be with us in the summer of 1976.

Anti-interment marches are planned for the next few weeks by the Peoples Democracy and the Sinn Fein, both of which are agreed that the internees, guilty of no crime, should be released unconditionally, not held as hostages for the 'good behaviour' of relatives. Two men, Kevin Hannaway and Phil McCafferty, have been in Long Kesh since 9 August, 1971.

THURSDAY 13 March: The right-wing Ulster Volunteer Force, which has an overlapping...
Common Market: How we argued it out

WHY BENNETT WORKERS’ SUPPORT

LATE WEEK’S Socialist Worker deserves congratulations for its much improved political balance. For some time, there has been a feeling that we don’t need to take up the arguments of the Labour left, CP and so on. As Paul Foot notes, there is sympathy for Benn who has started a dialogue with shop stewards committees that cuts both out the Labour and the trade union bureaucracy.

We must devote more space to the ideas that men such as those hold. But one of the arguments was misleading.

The editorial attacked left-wing ministers for going back on beliefs that the government should own industry. Paul Foot attacked the government for not taking control of industry to guarantee investment where it matters most.

It is one thing to point out the sheer cynicism of the private employers who prefer to make a fast buck than look after their long-term investment interests. It is quite another to argue that the government should be looking after long-term investment interests.

We do not see a massive state control as a step towards socialism. This is one of the main arguments that distinguishes us from the Communist Party. The only time we argue for state intervention is as a short-term expedient to defend workers’ interests—for example, nationalisation of a bankrupt company (we argued the same under the Tories).

Our arguments hinge on the self-activity of the workers without reference to the government. We see the state as an obstacle to change, never as the agency of change. An obstacle which, as the crisis deepens, will be used blantly to resist workers’ demands—JOHN ROSE, W London.

twofootnotes to Socialist Worker’s exposure (8 March) of Wedgwood Benn’s Industry Bill and his abstention from the Commons vote on debating the Shrewsbury picks.

ONE: The Independent Chronicle of 27 February said of the Bill: ’Some sordy Tory parliamentarians are holding off the attack because they read the bill as a necessary sop to the Labour left that will not amount in the end to a row of beans. This is not an isolated view. Some civil servants, in talks with industry about the probable working of the bill, have been as cynical.’

TWO: Benn railed against ‘Tony Benn’s opportunism in workers in a speech in Chelmsford 18 months ago. At a social after the meeting, I organised a picket around the Shrewsbury picks, who were then on trial and feeling the full weight of that repression. Of those asked to donate, there was one notable refusal: Anthony Wedgwood Ben. SW reader, Chelmsford.

A distressing refusal to understand

‘T’ HA s always been a basic tenet of marxism, that the working class, by itself, can never attain its objectives. (It is particularly true of the international department of the Communist Party, Morning Star, 28 February, quoted in SW, 8 March.) The Communists, therefore, are often on the one hand, practically, the most advanced and revolutionary section of the working-class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all others; on the other hand, theoretically, they have over the great mass of the proletariat the advantage of clearly understanding the line of march, the conditions, and the ultimate general results of the proletariat movement.’ (Communist Manifesto).

This elucidates, I think, what Cde Woddis meant, as a moment’s reflection would have made clear. Quoting out of context is always a hit-hazard. It is damaging to left unity when used to attack another organisation in an unconstructive, sectarian way. I read and enjoy SW, occasionally give it money, and take constructively criticisms of the CP seriously.

But that little paragraph in Fifth Column was not an analysis, not a constructive criticism, and displayed a distressing refusal to understand—HOWARD JONES, Lampeter Branch CP.

NO TO THE COMMON MARKET

Posters and leaflets available for local propaganda. Send orders to Sue Bayell, 8 Cottars Garlands, London E2 6DN. Leaves—25p per 100, posters—75p per 100. Money with orders please.

Postal Points

ON ABORTION

THE LAW enables many unscrupulous doctors to provide abortion on demand—whether necessary or not. Many pregnant women, whose only wish was better housing, financial help, and afterbirth care, have been made to seek illegal and dangerous abortion... The real right of choice is between preparation and readiness—between prudence and irresponsibility. Contraception can and must be compensated by killing the unborn.—PHILIP CONSTANTINE flaxer of thrive, Warrick.

WHY DO we seek the apparent paradox of abortion on the right to control our own bodies? Dr Dawson suggests it is because we're both duped by the 'dignity of motherhood'... Failing to believe in the dignity of womanhood, rather than abortion having been around as long as pregnancy. So now more concern with theTokyo abortionists, rather than to escape from the prison that is accumulated. Their task is that of an illegal.—AMANDA BIRNE, Linlithgow.

WHY IS it that women promote the legal abortion law?... Mystification regarding the 'right to choose' hides the truth that until then the baby is no more than an experiment in the laboratory... Ignoring the fact of the existence of a human being, disregards all the medical evidence... Giving the patient 'the choice' means... To be able to escape from the prison that is accumulated. Their task is that of an illegal.—AMANDA BIRNE, Linlithgow.

THE ABORTION Act was not much of a step forward from our laws, but at least it meant an attempt to provide ESDO in the second trimester. Now we have the law that is a cruel sadness. But that is an argument for the abortion law... We need everybody to be able to use effective contraception, and not just to have 'day nursery'... We read all these things as we are growing up. It's a big step, first why not find out what your own policy is on abortion...—DAVE BLAKE, Chesterfield Hospital, London.

ITALY... Through its weekly magazine, the Espresso, the Socialist Party is raising the question of the need to have abortion legal. Most people certainly favour the move, but the majority of the Socialist Party would certainly be against it. The main problem is the efficiency of the present coalition government... One of the more important issues is... It is a pity to think that all those who were for abortion are now put into the same category as the fatty gums in a game of power.—J MARCHAND, Italy.

SAVING JOBS... When the Admiralty sold the Cowes Hovercraft, they immediately removed a vital part of the work, without any removal of the work by the owners. . We could use the place of archeology to save some jobs. Production workers help maintenance engineers and save jobs by dismantling machinery end, as a last resort, making parts of machinery together... A DAVENPORT, Wirral.

IF WORKERS IN a large demonstration against foreign imports, because of their very nature, we have an argument that this will solve their problems, should we nevertheless consider ourselves as an attack on our own lives? Or should we stand up to it...—DAVID FAENSON, Iford.

No, we shouldn’t ignore it—we should tell them to save our jobs. We can’t convince workers they are wrong if we are on one side.
ADOLF YOFFE, an old Bolshevik, committed suicide in 1927. Had he lived he would—like so many of his comrades—ultimately have fallen in Stalin's purges a decade later. Yoffe, a life-long friend of Trotsky, showed how a liquidate the Left Opposition was reaching its peak. Trotsky's speech at the funeral was to be his last public appearance in Russia.

In a farewell note, Yoffe had told him: 'Politically you have always been right, but now more right than ever. Some day the party will realise it, and history will not fail to afford recognition.'

Now Yoffe's widow Maria, at the age of 76, and after 20 years in Russian labour camps, has been allowed to emigrate to Israel, where she plans to put pen to paper.

Meanwhile, HARRY WICKS, a founder-member of both the British Communist Party and the Left Opposition in this country, here affords recognition to Yoffe.

FROM his student youth, Yoffe chose the path of a revolutionary activity.

During the First World War, when the German revolutionary movement declined, he served in the service of rival imperialists, he was an active member of the international communist group in Petrograd, the Nashe Slovo that Trotsky, his life-long friend, edited.

With the outbreak of the February revolution in Russia in 1917, Yoffe was arrested from his Anzubian exile and stationed to Petrograd. There he played a significant part in the organisation of the Nashe Slovo supporters who were negotiating with the Bolsheviks for unification.

Elected

Only a few months separated the revolutionary forces from the conquest of power. They were months of intense activity for Yoffe. He measured up to the tasks of the time. At the seventh congress of the Russian Communist Party held in July 1917, Yoffe was one of the candidate members of Lenin's Central Committee.

Two months later, he shared a place in the Bolshevik faction on the Petrograd Military Revolutionary Committee. Short, tubby, neat in appearance, a good speaker, Yoffe was distinguished by his tireless activity.

In the early, desperate days of the October offensive, when the German army was driving remorselessly south Petrograd, Yoffe was sent with Krylenko, the head of the armed forces, to sue for an armistice.

Poignant

The crucial thing was to win the war. The war was both an aim and an instrument of the February Revolution, the aim and an instrument of the February Revolution, the instrument of the February Revolution.

The Bolsheviks, who had come to power in November, were to maintain the war to the beat of the German cannon. The defeat of the German army was to be the only way to guarantee the new regime.

Yoffe, who had no doubt of the defeat of the German army in the West, was determined to win the war and ready to sacrifice the revolution in order to do so.

In November 1918, the soviets were in power in Germany. The revolution had spread to the whole of Europe. The German middle class was preparing to make a revolution.

Yoffe and his colleagues were determined to prevent the revolution from spreading to Germany. They were determined to win the war.

Yoffe was in charge of the military situation in the West. He was in charge of the war effort. He was in charge of the army. He was in charge of the revolution.

The Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party in 1917

The Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party in 1917

The 1923 poster that says so much about 'Soviet Russia'.

Beneath the surface of German society rumbled a widespread discontent with the war. The message of Karl Liebknecht and the agitation of the Spartakusbund were finding a ready echo in the streets of Berlin. Some of these days were of hope—and Yoffe excelled himself. The Russian Embassy became the centre of social work for all those, either Spartakus or socialist independents, who were anxious to drive the movement forward.

The 30th anniversary of the October Revolution

On his return from missions abroad, Yoffe expressed disquiet with political developments within the party.

Discussing the party's position, the Communist Academy and higher party institutions were giving way to the ban and bantering of the old party leaders.

Apex

At the Foreign Office, new faces were coming to the front. Yesterday's Mensheviks and opponents of the October Revolution, men such as Maisky and Trotskis, with the ink barely dry on their party cards, were joining in the campaign.

The years 1926-27 saw the campaign against the Left Opposition in the party reach its apex. Party debate was forbidden for the hoarding breaking up meetings wherever Trotsky, Rakovsky, Ehrenburg or others tried to address party workers.

Grovily ill, harassed by the party leadership, refused permission to travel abroad for medical treatment and conscious that his illness and physical incapacity prevented him from standing shoulder to shoulder with his old comrade Trotsky and fighting back, Yoffe took his life.

That act was no act of unbalanced mind, as the letter that he left for Trotsky pointed out. The party leadership first tried to suppress his last words, then publicised them with the help of the one Stalinist Yaroslavsky.

Public opinion in Moscow was shocked. In the working-class districts, the tragic end of this member of Lenin's Central Committee was talked about in hushed voices.

Defying the censorship of the party press and in the face of all the columnists and the Left Opposition, 16,000 workers assembled in a funeral to pay their homage to the solder of the revolution.

Trotskis, speaking at the grave-side, declared: 'Let us take leave of him in the same spirit that he lived and fought. He took his stand under the banner of Marx and Lenin, under that banner he died.'

"And we vow to you, Adolf Ammosovich, we will carry your banner through to the end.'

For all the self-righteous talk of morality, there is not one word of real sympathy for the one who chose to die as he actually did.

But the book's main weakness is its obsession with abstract matters of the party, the book's main weakness is its obsession with abstract matters of the party, the book's main weakness is its obsession with abstract matters of the party.
Ireland: This day is vital

The Executive has called for a full national mobilisation of IS members and all those workers within the labour movement. The call is part of a campaign under way to get British troops out of Ireland.

Make sure that coaches are organised from all areas. Paillice the mass-action in factories and offices and especially in colleges before they break for Easter. Posters should be circulated by IS worker sellers.

A leaflet is available at €1.50 per thousand from IS Books, 263 St Stephen’s Street, London N4. Copies of the leaflet will be sent to every part of the country this week for local reprinting or duplicating.

Take the campaign into the trade unions, in particular to try to get treble levy money put to work. To show that many trade unionists are not swayed by the anti-Irish prejudice of the TUC. Use your local IS branches, leafletting pubs and churches in Irish immigrant areas.

IS members will find the arguments for getting the treble levy money printed in the IS pamphlet, Ireland—An Alternative White Paper, also available from IS Books, price 15p.

Confront the racist and fascists at every step of the way. The treble levy money could be used to finance the following and other measures that would be decided by the Congress of the Irish Workers’ Confederation:

- Workers branches to be formed in every factory and workplace.
- Public meetings and discussions to be held in every city and town.
- Leafleting and distributing of leaflets in every working-class area.
- Leafleting and distributing of leaflets in every Irish immigrant area.
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**Women's TUC calls for abortion on demand**

The Women's TUC meeting in Hastings, last Friday, called overwhelmingly a resolution setting up a working party on abortion on demand on the National Inner-Hall.

The TUC was asked to suspend a campaign for this, although the TUC itself has no policy on abortion. Its new charter, Twelve Aims for Women at Work, contains no demand for abortion as an option because, as Ethel Cobbold, secretary of the TUC's women's committee, said, Socialists believe that 'Not all trade unionists are agreed about the need to change the law'.

The TUC Charter can only express the views of congress and the women's committee. The TUC Charter can only express the views of congress and the women's committee. The TUC Charter can only express the views of congress and the women's committee. The TUC Charter can only express the views of congress and the women's committee.

The Women's TUC meeting also adopted an amendment to the Abortion Act becoming law. The following resolution was moved through trade union branches and trade unions:

- The amendment to the Abortion Act is to provide a safe and legal abortion service.
- The amendment to the Abortion Act is to provide effective contraception.
- The amendment to the Abortion Act is to ensure women's rights.

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UNITY NEEDS TO BEAT COURT ROUNDS

DERBY—Despite Courtauld’s ruthless exploitation of immigrant labour, its playing off of non-union against union labour, and the problems of a workforce where unions are disorganised, passive and divided, some workers are fighting the giant company.

At its British Celanese Works, Spalding, members of UCATT, AUEW, and the IEPTU are on strike in support of an £8 wage demand. Recent increases far above the 8% basic rate paid to the Celanese workers make the strike angry at the company’s offer of 5% now and 3% in January. Jack Eyre, chairman of the stop work committee, told Socialist Worker: "The Celanese workers are not interested in the Strike which means different things to different people. It is the government that has made them do it. They are the same old conditions but we have betrayed all trade unionists below them."

There has been some criticism on the picket line of the negotiating committee’s decision to reduce the claim from £15 to £8, and if the strike goes on the claim will be cut back further. Courtauld’s 1974 profit worked out at £8 million, a 20% increase on the company claim that they have £10 million to plough back into the company. If they refused to cross the picket line they would be out of work, they are now demanding an increase.

But they agreed to black all machines repaired by management—similar to stop work. They have not been allowed to use the yard to load and unload. No one is allowed to cross the picket line to get the goods out of the company, except for a few who are doing that and if the strikers are forced back on management terms, what hope have we of getting our demands met?

No wage cuts here—say hosier
y women

by Pete and Teresa Webster (Hosiers Workers)

LEICESTER—60 women at the Otley’s, Camera and 88 at the Courtaulds, are on strike against management proposals to introduce minimum wage payments.

Otley’s employees in this large chain store firm were called into the office last week and told that from Monday they should be on the 101 plan—on system—and that this would cut out the Christmas bonus, the Christmas party and even the party for women's earnings for some girls, and at least as £10 less per week. On Monday morning the women, all members of AUEW, met and resolved not to be blacked and to go on strike immediately and made it official. The women in Otley’s are against the management's plan to close the factory and get the women to leave without having to pay redundancy money.

So far the girls are well organised, and the picket is involving most of the strikers, who have decided to go on a complete use of the works' canteen. The only van that has been allowed through the picket line was the wages van.

"We are not asking for higher wages, but I am damned sure we are not going to take a reduction," was a typical comment from the strikers. "If other girls beggars want to be blacked, I don’t blame them, but we not," another woman said. The women are in a fighting mood. Panther walks into town to picket, and if the strikers are forced back, we still stand a chance of getting our demands met.

GUTLESS

"I personally feel absolutely disgusted at the attitude of the management on the TGWU and the Courtaulds committee, that this never happened in the previous stewards' meeting, yet the convenor has been called to the TGWU office to discuss the new agreement."

It all started when the TGWU district secretary, Reg Harris, was at the TGWU office in Leek, and when asked if he had been to the company, they refused to cross the picket line. He then asked why they would not do so, and if they couldn’t afford to more because of poor trading figures. The latest half-yearly profit figures show a further 90 per cent cut on what was paid to the workers.

When the management were called in the TGWU district secretary, Reg Harris, was at the TGWU office in Leek, and when asked if he had been to the company, they refused to cross the picket line. He then asked why they would not do so, and if they couldn’t afford to more because of poor trading figures. The latest half-yearly profit figures show a further 90 per cent cut on what was paid to the workers.

They were given a good round of up late and turned down. The TGWU district secretary, Reg Harris, was at the TGWU office in Leek, and when asked if he had been to the company, they refused to cross the picket line. He then asked why they would not do so, and if they couldn’t afford to more because of poor trading figures. The latest half-yearly profit figures show a further 90 per cent cut on what was paid to the workers.

But he did say members should plan all machines repaired by management—similar to stop work. He has now warned them against crossing the picket line in the event of a person refusing to operate the machine, and that the next move is a decision to stop work, and as a result anyone who will not be able to be employed on unemployment benefits. Exactly the same as in the previous stewards' meeting, yet the convenor has been called to the TGWU office to discuss the new agreement.

The convenor of the TGWU shop stewards committee has been called. It is a bad day for the trade union movement at Celanese, and a complete affront to the TGWU since the last negotiations over a major issue of wages. We ourselves are against the system, and if the strikers are forced back on management terms, what hope have we of getting our demands met?

Police throw out student occupation

AT LANCASHIRE University the police are using against students who are in occupation of the education committee of the college administration.

In the high court last week an application for possession of the college was heard. The police were served with a writ in the High Court of Justice on the University of Liverpool as the owner of the college.

It is an ominous warning to all students and trade unionists involved in fighting to defend jobs and conditions. For the police to use clear Evidence to clear occupation than they have been used to in a factory occupation.

The decision was to start a student and were refused a hand on the ground that we have no strike. The vice-chancellor, Charles Caron, then took over and that the college senate warning all that the occupation would be expelled from the campus. Immediately there was a petition stating that they were in the possession of the college.

This fails to impress the vice-chancellor of the college's decision, which was taken by the University of Liverpool, as the owner of the college.

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500 strikers show what they think of parliamentary privilege

WHEN you're dealing with the government there's always someone else the buck's going to get passed to. We've waited too bloody long and we're not going to take it any more.

Monty Attwood was standing outside the House of Commons yesterday, speaking on behalf of the Department of Environment Ministers who are striking for a pay award which was the last month.

The strike involves 500 workers from the unions and they are being backed by the 500 who are employed by the Department of Environment.

Attwood said that the Department and central strike the picketing the UNISON and IDOC in a series of activities to demonstrate against the last settlement which was due in January, but hasn't appeared.

"The comparability study has gone on for months and we've been told they're going to put into a new car frame. Yet they can't afford to pay us. If they find it difficult the unions can push it to together for them in three days for a year," he said.

From Trafford Square, down Whitehall to Westminster, the strike is well under way. It is organized by the National Union of Public Employees which has yet made it official and the strikers have been ensured by the picketing banished by union leaders such as Tom Hiscox of the Post Office workers.

"Support and financial assistance has come from all London districts," the committee announced. "The DoE in Norstead has indeed sent money and they wanted to join us on the strike," claimed one of the pickets.

Complaints

"We've all got from the Tory MPs has been that they're going to stick it out. The Tribunals have said they support us, and that the Tories are only playing a game. But that's not the case," said one picket.

Within Parliament the bills are rolling up, with the opposition benches in the front rows, and the food is down to sandwiches. But conditions for the workers have at least one good thing, as another picket pointed. "What's good about the MPs is there are no disasters. MPs are sitting down at the table in their seats, they're not going to press the buttons and make it difficult for us."

"It's not that they mind shilling out, but they don't want to do it."

Pay beds: Workers oppose consultants

LONDON: The battle at Westminster Hospital has made the headlines this week.

The 400-strong National Union of Public Employees branch has been fighting against the introduction of pay beds in the hospital. The hospital authorities insist that for the staff holidays only National Health Service beds should be closed.

But the battle—and the anger at the heart of the NHS—is not confined to the workers, there are also the patients who are fighting against the introduction of pay beds but with the highest-paid consultants.

"The consultants' contract is wrecking the NHS," commented the secretary of a London NUPE branch.

Now members of the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association, the hospital boys of the NHS, are trying to close hospital beds down, and to stop consultants, the hospital doctors, boycott NUPE consultants and bring in the NUS. They are fighting for their contracts.

"We have a lot of consultants who are not happy with the introduction of pay beds," said one consultant. "They think it's going to be a disaster for the NHS and for the patients." By Nigel Fountain

Powermen and railmen out to break Social Contract

Negotiations over claims by railway workers will determine the survival of the Social Contract. Electrician Stan Wright picketing outside parliament

The average supply workers are demanding an offer that would raise their lowest pay of £2.92 to the present workers' £14.31 minimum. This would leave another large hole in the Social Contract. The inclusion of social worker's conditions, which could mean increasing of around 34 per cent.

The 106,000 electricity supply workers are being asked in making communities. Their value would help the 50,000 power engineers and 50,000 office staff in the power industry. Both have demanded substantial increases.

The pay rise would also cost the NUR 200,000 workers for the NUR is committed to matching their increase. Negotiations began on Friday over a 33 per cent offer.

After letting the miners through the government is preparing to fight. Michael Foot, the Employment Secretary, now says it's pay or no deal, which the miners are fighting. He means that it was special because of what industrial action might do to the economy. But the power workers have met a different response. On Monday night negotiations broke down in deadlock. The government has been pressuring the Electricity Council to resist and try to keep the Social Contract going.

The National Coal Board is following the government's decision to resist further pay claims by refusing to pay rail workers' claims by raising the basic cost of living in the council's restructuring. It's the same old game, in the Social Contract.

The pay rises are not just on the Coal Board or the Electricity Council. The levels of the four unions involved with the power workers—the TGWU, NUM, AESU, most important the EETPU—are under pressure from the government to preserve the Social Contract.

"They must be put under even more pressure from rank and file members to fight the whole way. Any deal of less than £2.35 per cent will be a failure in Social standards."

The power workers are not put on negative for each individual group to resist and strike. They're being offered a 27 per cent pay rise across the whole public sector. We've been considering different groups in particular areas, Proper representative delegations committees are needed, to spread action nationally and to campaign among other trade unions for public sector workers to take industrial action.

by Nigel Fountain

Scaffolders reject plan to go to tribunal

NEWCASTLE-U-TYNE: Scaffolders at McAlpine's Eldon Square site are still on strike against the victimisation of 14 men.

Dave Shenton, Transport and General Workers' Union regional secretary, recently sent a ballot paper to each scaffolder asking if they wished to go to an independent tribunal. When all the ballot papers showed unanimous rejection of the tribunal he said that he would go ahead with it anyway.

The 10 pickets who were arrested accused of crimes such as wearing threatening behaviour, are being sent to the crown court. When the date of the trial is announced the strike committee is calling for a national public demonstration to protest against trade unionists being victimised by the scaffolders.

Information regarding the pickets can be obtained from E. Batty, 87 Berwell Lane, Newcastle. Or to Anderson, 13 Bamborough House, Newcastle.

Socialist Worker May Day greetings

Socialist Worker is including a special four-page supplement for the many trade unionists, industrial workers, and other labour organisations who wish to send May Day greetings. The following conditions will apply:

* Special classification insert (up to 30 words)
  * 5pp
  * Small-print, per single column inch (size 11x8.25)
  * Display, per single column inch

Advanced copy must be received by telephone, 01-739 2669. All copy or copy material must be received by Friday, 14 April.

Send to: Socialist Worker, May Day, 8 cottages Gardens, London E2 8DN.

Message:

Name and address of Organisation:

Size and Style of Advertisement:

Payment Enclosed:
London dockers stand firm

LONDON: The strike of 10,000 dockers which has completely shut the docks for three weeks is to continue. A mass meeting of 5000 men at the Royal Docks on Monday was joined by about four to one on the fight.

This vote showed that the dockers realize the importance of this fight for the future of their jobs and that of the whole docks industry. The vote has added significance: the men now know they are fighting alone in London, but still stayed out.

The assistance the London dockers have received from dockers in other ports has been symbolic, say the least, pitiful. The men in other ports will suffer if London is beaten.

Forty-five ships have been diverted from Tilbury Docks alone. They have just disappeared into thin air, they've been worked somewhere.

In 1972 the strength of the dockers was the National Port Shop Stewards Committee. In this fight it has moved away from the London Dockers' Union. London isn't on strike simply over blackberries, or being put back on pay or to win one or two containers. But, we got on strike, we had the whole principle of defending our jobs, and extending the Dock Labour Scheme. Every more than 100 police are out of work and don't have work to do.

Yet all sorts of excuses have been put up why the fight isn't supported.

London can only go back to work if we agree to call off our campaign of picketing and blacking. The employers have said that on the line. If we do go back on those terms, no docker in any port in the country will ever again be able to claim work that is rightfully theirs.

If London loses, all dockers lose. If London wins, all dockers win. It's time the whole of dockland will be strengthened, so every docker will gain.

Yet so far, not one single port has called a meeting to discuss the London dockers' case. Not one port committee has had the courage to ask their men what they want.

The London Port Employers, in collaboration with the Royal Docks Association, thought they could break the determination of the London dockers. They calculated that they could beat the London dockers in a show of strength. They completely miscalculated the determination of the men on the line.

The Port of London still handles 20 per cent of the export trade of the country. Tilbury is the largest container port in Britain. London is strong enough to win this fight on its own, but the threat will now be stronger and the northern employers will have to deal with this new situation.

London dockers have got a proud record of a long battle of picketing and blacking. Dockers in London are now owed some of that money that is owed.

Tuesday: All out against the National Front

LONDON: The National Front is holding a demonstration outside Islington Town Hall next Tuesday to protest over the council's refusal to ban the use of the town hall for a meeting.

The Front's internal bulletin: 'Like last year's Red Lion Square activity this could be one of those rare special events when some members who do not attend will curse themselves for missing it.

Red Lion Square was where anti-fascist demonstrator Kevin Gately was stoned to death.'

THE Rank and File Organising Committee has called on all trade unionists to organize now for independent action on May Day to free the two jailed Shrewsbury pickets, Nicky Tomlinson and Dave Warren.

Ken Appleby, the committee's organiser, told Socialist Worker: 'We obviously give full support for all attempts to get official TUC or union action on May 1st to Free the Two. But we also think that this is not enough. If trade unionists start to organise now for strike action on the first, it will help push the trade union leaders along, and, if they are not pushed, will provide at least some focal point for action.'

Onis Lewis, a member of the CPUSA executive and treasurer of the Shrewsbury Dependents' Fund, writes: 'The disgrace of the North Wales Charter Defence Committee in issuing their last bulletin at revealed by Laurie Flynn in last week's Socialist Worker—contrasts sharply with the fighting spirit shown by Elisa Warren and Marlene Tomlinson. These wives of the two jailed Shrewsbury pickets are showing tremendous courage. At times boun
d by newshawks of the capitalist press or press of street thugs of the bosses who regard them as the wives of "violent criminals", they remain uncowed and dignified.

Both of them keep up a steady stream of letters bombarding Labour ministers over the victimization of the pickets and their husbands. Often at short notice, they have to make arrangements to have their children looked after while they travel many miles to attend meetings and rallies where they play their part in the campaign to secure the early release of their husbands.

Having recently visited them, I can confirm that despite their traumatic experiences and the heart-breaking disappointments of recent months, they are still managing to keep up a steady stream of letters to the Shrewsbury Dependants Fund for the support of the strike.

EDC BRITISH MILITARY COllaboration with APARtheid

Support the Liberation Struggle in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.

Demonstrate on Sunday 23 March 11am outside Conservative Club, North End, Brighton.

We resolutely oppose the racist policies of the British government. We want an end to British imperialism and apartheid, in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

The demonstration is to protest against the presence of British soldiers and to show solidarity with the struggle of the peoples of South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe against racist apartheid and colonialism.

Picket Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, Islington N1, 5.30pm, Tuesday 25 March. Meet at North London tubes: Holloway or Islington, Angel.

POLICE EVICT STUDENTS

LANCASTER:—At 9am on Tuesday, 25th March, the Lancaster University Students' Union will begin a mass picketing of the University to protest against the government's policy of cutting student grants.

The picketing will begin at 9am, when the students will block the main gates to the University and form a human chain.

The police have been notified of the picketing and are expected to arrive at the University at 9am.

The students are calling for the withdrawal of the government's cuts to student grants and an increase in student grants to meet the cost of living.

The picketing will continue until the police leave the University.

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