TO HELL WITH SACRIFICE!

'I SAY with all the seriousness that I can command that the national situation is so grave that drastic and disagreeable measures will have to be taken.'

Who said that? Was it Harold Wilson or Margaret Thatcher or Jeremy Thorpe or, for that matter, any other leading politician?

Well, something like that is said every day by none of them. The precise words were spoken by Philip Snowden, Chancellor of the Exchequer in the Labour government, on 11 February 1931.

Snowden was very disturbed by the level of unemployment, which, he said, was hovering around the two million mark. The way to stop unemployment, he said, was to make sacrifices. The Manchester Guardian described his speech as 'a call for wage cuts'.

The TUC refused to allow these cuts, so Snowden joined a coalition government led by Labour's Ramsay Macdonald which included Tories and Liberals. On 8 September, with unemployment at 2,770,000, 15 per cent cuts were made in unemployment benefit and teachers' salaries.

Unemployment promptly rose to 2,850,000 in January 1932 and to three million in January 1933.

Those British workers who accepted the argument that cuts would 'get the nation going again' and 'save jobs' learnt that they were wrong in ten years of mass unemployment, poverty and near-starrvation.

After the war, we were promised an end to all these 'old-fashioned' theories. A new breed of economists and politicians from all parties promised us measures which would ensure economic growth and social justice. Capitalism would survive, but the rich and the poor would live together in peace and prosperity like the lion and the lamb in the Bible.

Now, after 30 years the same slick politicians and economists are back where they started— with Philip Snowden and Ramsay Macdonald.

CRISIS

Now, it's the same old argument. Now according to Dennis 'Snowdin' Healey, we've got six weeks to agree to cut our standard of living—or the Labour government will do the cutting for us.

This argument should be rejected by every worker. As in the 1930s, acceptance of wage restraint and more cuts can only mean more unemployment.

For crisis is built into the present, capitalist system. Even the most ardent defenders of the present system can offer no more than the prospect of a slight easing of the crisis in two years' time, followed by a sharper downturn than ever.

If we accept 'sacrifices' now we will only strengthen those who run the present system so they can impose even worse 'sacrifices' on us in future.

PRICE INCREASE

We're sorry that Socialist Worker has to go up to 10p this week. It's all to do with newspaper prices and profits (see p.2).
'Moderate' who tortures militants

LORD CHALFONT, ex-Liberal, ex-Socialist, was once a correspondent and red-flag carrier of the International Book-binder for the BBC.

Last week in the first of a series of interviews, Chalfont started with some of his favourite 'moderates', the Shah of Iran and also with Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, who is not only a friend, but also the 'architect of the seven-day war'.

Chalfont's experience certainly has not registered very many self-holds. Strikes are not illegal in Iran, of course, just as impossibilities are being made to socialists. The 100,000-strong students from this year's strikes were tactfully ignored. Trade unions exist but are 'non-political' and 'depend on the government' which is appointed by the Shah.

What of the political prisoners (40,000 according to Amnesty International) and the extensive use of torture by the authorities? The Times recently? Well apparently the Sunday Times is not just a good book to read in Iran, the Shah reassures us as does the old-fashioned method any more. It uses the same one as Britain and the Washington Post, we are told, is now sick with leftists and laziness.

Besotted

At one high point of the interview we are asked not to use oil or to heat our homes. For all we know they burn 700,000 gallons of oil a year and draw from it. Apparently we should either use coal of nothing at all as 'our' energy should be a monopoly.

Chalfont, no doubt besotted with the Shah's charm, failed to take up or push any point that might in the same manner be made against the Shah. The Shah was even allowed to call the Times Times instead of Times Times. In fact last Friday saw the layout of the Iranian's Strait of Hormuz in which the new and only party preserved. This is the first time and those who won't join it will be jailed or exiled.

At the crisis deepens we can expect to see more moderate tooling to this dictator as the Western capitalist states fight each other for a share. In the last Labour's Denis Healey has already been over the board and the French and British houses are also high up the list of those taking a share of the cake. The condition in Iran is bleak.

If one of these will even pretend to notice the Iranian 'social contract' of starvation wages, torture, imprisonment and the rest of the software. We have learned to save ourselves. Such pressures are beyond the nature of modernism' in all things.

A JOURNALIST for the Sunday People, Wendy Henry, who has been working on a series of 'after-lives' stories about the left, has sometimes got access to information that he is associated with the Socialist International. So those of you who are readers should treat her with contempt.

'Who made the Observer broke?'

The Sunday newspaper. The Observer, is broke, according to its editorship. Arthur and editor, David Astor. It lost £750,000 last year, it has lost £2,500,000 in the past five years.

'So he is asking for 30 per cent redundancies in every department. The editor is a danger to his newspaper workers and is responsible for all the redundancies.'

Yet it contains one great omission. The Economist this week points out that The Observer has lost £3 million over the property deal over its premises in London's printing House Square. The paper hopes to make the deal, but bungled it, and lost.

Another reason for the paper's losses is the price of newspapers— the paper has been printing 25%. In 1972 this rose to £15 million. In 1974, on a small increase in sales, these profits jumped to £38.8 million.

The figures for the paper division of Bowaters are even more remarkable. In 1972, profits were a mere £6 million. In 1973 they were £18.7 million. In 1974 they jumped to an increase of £25 million.
I'll tell you what's wrong with this country, too much of anything, too much bateur-feddin', too much liotous rivin'...
Teachers: How to change a union

By the Educational Institute of Scotland

CAN THE members change their union? The union leadership, with their appointed officials, often seem impregnable. Delays and witch-hunts can be combined to frustrate rank and file activity.

But co-ordinated activity can quickly bring huge changes. We rank and file teachers in Scotland found at an annual delegate meeting of our union, the Educational Institute of Scotland, that the atmosphere and policies were created by Rank and File organisation.

Until recently, the EIS, which has more than 70,000 members, was deeply reactive andorientated. We refused to join the Scottish TUC (it was a "professional association" we were told). It accepted, without a fight, low pay and drear classroom conditions for its members.

Dirty money

Three years ago a group of socialist teachers met to organise open rank and file opposition within the union—not, as had previously been fashionable among union oppositionists, in dead-end breakaway unions and change-by-stealth. Organised opposition along rank and file lines was triumphantly indiciated at ADM.

1. We voted overwhelmingly for a single salary scale for all day-school teachers—and all teachers to have equal representation on this scale. This ended years of divisions between teachers by different scales which depended on paper qualifications.

2. We rejected a bonus scheme in which payments were to be based on the amount of kids you could cram into your classroom. This proposal, referred to in the conference as 'dirty money', was moved by a former President of the union.

3. On the government spending cuts, we called for a 'pact campaign with other unions', 'to bring public pressure to bear to tack educational expenditure increased' and 'to alert the general public to the facts of a kind of political motion, concentrating on unity with other unions, would have been unthinkable in the EIS until recently.

4. The conference called for all future salary negotiations to be conducted on the basis of free collective bargaining, three months ago, a special conference voted to accept the Social Contract! Teachers have come to learn that the Social Contract means wages restraint.

Most of the old reactionary flavour is still there, of course. A motion calling for pregnancy leave wasn't voted on because of the usual patronising jokes by both sides—and was defeated even by a small majority.

Floated

More than three-fifths of our members are women, yet not one national organiser is secretar-y in the union is a woman! As long as people go on thinking that femininity is just a funny joke, things won't improve.

But, as Kenny Maclellan, a former sheet metal worker who is chairman of Glasgow branch EIS, put it: 'This ADM marked the greatest ever change in the consciousness of Scottish teachers.'

There is no doubt that the activity and organisation that the ADIs are chiefly responsible for this. Perhaps the single most encouraging aspect of ADM was the way in which ideas that had been generated by Rank and File were brought forward from the grass-roots, which previously had no connection with Rank and File.

That, too, is the indirect effect of rank and file organisation.

Edwin Hirst, Strathclyde EIS executive member, says: 'It's not just at conference that EIS is changing. Things are really moving at local level, too.'

This month, Glasgow's EIS branch has invited the SCM to come to the city to help us approach Strath-clyde Education Authority to employ Chinese teachers who are in the jungle's death camp at Dawson Island in the Antarctic.

AUEW: A SCANDAL, SCANLON

LAST AUTUMN, Engineering Union president Hugh Scanlon bitterly attacked the strike by white-collar trade unionists at the union's London head-quarters.

He threatened AUEW members employed at the offices with the loss of their jobs and union membership if they did not cross the picket lines. When the picket proved too strong, he called in the police to break it.

But the attacks on the strikers, members of APEX, did not end with the strike.

Soon after the return to work, the AUEW made a concerted attempt to undermine APEX organisation by recruiting APEX members to the AUEW.

In all, 11 APEX members were poached in this way, and the poaching would have continued had APEX not taken action, and requested by the APEX IS fraction the TUC to place the case before a Disputes Committee under the Bridlington Agreement.

Needless to say, nothing has been heard from Len Murray since February.

Membership was proposed and seconded by AUEW executive members and an Assistant General Secretary. The details are:

KEITH J. WALSH (non-salaried staff, clerks Recording Department). Proposed: John Boyd (AUEW Member Div 1, now Gen Sec). Seconded: Les Edmondson (AUEW Member Div 3).


Ken Gill has followed this up. In recent months at the TASS Head Office in Richmond, at least seven AUEW members on the salaried staff have been taken into TASS membership.

All these people, as APEX members, refused to cross the picket lines in the last strike. In the event of another strike they will be much more vulnerable.

WHAT WE THINK

The question of disputes and union membership in the offices of trade unions is a delicate one. Obviously, if a trade union were in deep financial trouble and the strength of the organisation was in jeopardy, there might be a case for sacrifice by the clerical staff.

But this would only be the case if the union officials were broke too. They're not. Last autumn the AUEW officials gave themselves wage increases of between £18 and £30 a week. The office workers who went on strike asked for £13.

It's clear that no principled trade unionist or official can justify paying a secretary less than the official himself.

The only basis for any call for sacrifice among union staff is if and when union officials get the average wage of the membership they represent—and the same applies to the staff.

This does not apply at the AUEW head office—or any other union for that matter. There are gross inequalities in rates of pay. So the office workers are quite right to form an independent trade union and campaign for better conditions.

The effective dismantling of that union organisation by entailing individual secretaries out of independent trade union districts is disgraceful.

There are not many books of Trotsky can be truly said that they are indispensable handbooks. This is one of those fine.

—Duncan Hallas, in International Socialism Journal

E3 from IS Books, 205 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (add 15p for post and packing).

The Fleshborough TGWU shop stewards' committee is one of the sponsors of this pamphlet which points out the faults and dangers in the new Health and Safety at Work Act—and suggests some remedies.

Copies 5p each (plus postage) from Rank and File Organising Committee, 274 Redhouse Road, London NW10.
40,000 on a mighty march to fight the Back Street Abortion Bill—now we need hundreds of thousands of workers to defeat it

WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

SATURDAY'S demonstration against the proposed changes to the Abortion Act was an absolute success. 40,000 women and men from all over the country showed how we can organise to defeat the Bill. But the fight isn't over yet. James White and Leo Abse on television on Friday were back-tracked on some parts of the Bill, but are just as convinced as ever that they want to change the law. The reason why we want to alter the Act is because it has been interpreted to give abortion on demand, abortion on request or whim.

The Bill needs to be kicked out. The list of trade unions represented on the demonstration is impressive but we have to campaign against the Bill to all the unions, not just the unions with women members or for office and hospital workers. The list has to grow to include the ATGWU, the dockers and the miners, builders and car workers.

The campaign

THE Bradford ATGWU shop stewards' quarterly meeting passed overwhelmingly a resolution to oppose the Abortion (Amendment) Bill on the grounds that it restricts the right to abortion of all women, women workers, trade unionists etc., and called on all members to take action against this dangerous measure.

If it was also agreed to send copies of the resolution to the district committee, to Health Minister Barbara Castle, the local MP and the local paper.

The joint shop stewards' committee in Hammersmith Hospital and West London National Abortion Campaign are organising a picket at the anti-abortion policy of the hospital. The policy is a direct result of the chief gynaecologist, Professor McLean-Brown, being a member of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child. They are also demanding an outpatient abortion unit for the hospital. The committee is not just fighting the government cuts, it wants to improve the hospital service as well.

Local trade union branches and women's groups should support the picket on Tuesday 2 July, 4pm to 7pm.

Why trade unions must fight the Anti-Terror Act

IT is now eight months since the Labour Government rushed the Prevention of Terrorism Act through parliament. In that time 459 Irish people in Britain have been picked up by the police and held without trial. Fifty-five-one of them have been thrown out of the country, torn away from their families, their homes and their jobs, without even being told why.

The aim of the Act, it was said, was to prevent 'Acts of Terror' in Britain. But those held under this Act have been overwhelmingly trade unionists and political activists.

For example the Act has repeatedly been used against the INLA or Sinn Fein organisation. The national secretary and other active members have been deported. Paper sellers have been picked up and interrogated. Other members have lost their jobs after a word from the Special Branch to their employers. Yet the INLA has publicly opposed bombings and supported the Official Republican movement's truce since 1972.

Deported

Militant Irish building workers have been subject to similar legal kidnaping. They simply disappeared from their sites. Days later fellow workers have discovered that they have been thrown in prison without a word of explanation, and then deported.

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Pay cuts: more jobs? Don't be daft!

To go further afield, in the USA unemployment is well over double the British rate—it now stands at nearly 9 per cent (over 6 million workers). But the USA has a low rate of inflation (a third of the British rate) and an even lower rate of pay rises.

The facts demonstrate, beyond the possibility of dispute, that the 'wages fund' theory, the 'only so much available to be paid out in wages' argument, is one that is simply not true to the simple trade-off relationship between pay and prices. The real rate of unemployments has gone up over £700,000 (plus over 200,000 on short time) and is clearly going to get worse in the autumn. But even if Harey's wages policy were to be successful this cannot be directly connected with pay. How could it? The too much available for wages must refer to real wages, and to goods corresponding to these wages, and real wages have definitely not risen. Something else is causing the rise in unemployment.

This possibility is transparently clear when we look outside Britain. Even countries who are on the unemployment figures, like France, are now over the last twelve months and annual earnings by less than 30.5 per cent. But real earnings have not risen because of the combined effects of price rises and unemployment. The unemployment has gone up to £700,000 (plus over 200,000 on short time) and is clearly going to get worse in the autumn. But even if Harey's wages policy were to be successful this cannot be directly connected with pay. How could it? The too much available for wages must refer to real wages, and to goods corresponding to these wages, and real wages have definitely not risen. Something else is causing the rise in unemployment.

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ONE of the most hypocritical campaigns in the British press for months has been the Portoguese newspaper Republica whose editor Raul Rego is everywhere praised for defending freedom.

The arguments are one or two rather large flows in the Republica campaign. So large in fact that it could be fairly described as a fraud from start to finish.

The Republica affair started earlier this year when the printers who brought out the paper's declining sales, they feared redundancy and asked for discussions about safeguarding their jobs.

They were used for information on the overall situation and asked for discussions on whether or not the recent changes in the paper's line might not be connected with the paper's editor. Raul Rego refused any such discussions and got ready to fight. In response, the printers obtained some of his orders and stated that they would not put up with Raul Rego's editorship. This was the only way they could see to defend their jobs and improve the paper.

Raul Rego, the paper's editor, noted that he was not a member of the Socialist Party.

Socialist Party personalities have been built up in the papers. Front pages have more and more promoted the front pages of the Socialist Party. This is full and frank to the exclusion of important news or other crucial political stories. Statements from other political organizations have been given little space or kept out of the paper altogether. Raul Rego, the paper's editor, noted that he was not a member of the Socialist Party.

Raul Rego's editorial policy is not in accord with the editors of the Socialist Party. Indeed, there is little information in the Spinola government.

As Minister of Information he suspended publication of four newspapers which had committed the crime of publishing offensive criticism of an official demonstration and publishing information which could disrupt the social and political life of the country.

One of the four newspapers was suspended by Raul Rego, an editor of the Socialist Party. Indeed, there is little information in the Spinola government.

Italy: What the Communist vote means

THE streets of this city were filled with tens of thousands of people waving red flags, singing the songs of the resistance and the triumphant last Monday. They were celebrating the victory of the left-wing electoral victory.

Italy's local elections have produced a swing towards the left which is not the most optimistic left-wing vote in the country. The Christian Democrats, the most popular party, scored only 45.8 per cent of the vote.

In the north, the centre had a spontaneous demonstration of joy. In the south, a whole series of Communist, Socialist and other parties' rallies were organized. The rallies were protected by the police (Socialists' Rally) similarly to the result of the Christian Democratic Party. It turned out that the left had won.

But its strategy is deeply and dangerously reformist. Its leaders believe despite Chile, despite everything, that they can gain power by peaceful means and that the way forward lies in a government alliance with the Christian Democrats. In broad terms, they point to Chile as an example of how the left failed to seize real power when it had the chance. But when Allende failed to reach an agreement with the Christian Democratic Party, thus

Right: A Socialist Party member holds aloft a burning copy of Republica in the first Socialist Party demonstration and the alleged Communist takeover last month.

Republica has become the focal point of a bitter campaign in support of the Socialist Party and editor Raul Rego. No such campaign has been launched in support of Raul Rego, the left-wing editor of Rome's leading newspaper Il Manifesto; Pietro还 has been forced out by Eugenio Cirillo, boss of the multinational giant Montecatini, which has a controlling interest in the paper. Cops demanded support for his friend Fausto, the Italian Communist Party. Pietro refused and had to resign.

The same struggle as at Republica is being played out at Radio France, where the government is trying to prevent workers' living standards and extracting a high price for the crisis.

Part domestic and foreign, the struggle against the left is a very dangerous development. "Unilateral" wage demands are to be attacked by the government. With inflation running at 30 per cent a year this means that the government is going to start reducing workers' living standards and extracting a high price for the crisis.

The Socialists, which has decided in principle to move against the revolution, has been badly defeated. At the same time, it announced that non-socialist parties would be guaranteed freedom of activity. The Socialists, which has decided in principle to move against the revolution, has been badly defeated. At the same time, it announced that non-socialist parties would be guaranteed freedom of activity. The Socialists, which has decided in principle to move against the revolution, has been badly defeated. At the same time, it announced that non-socialist parties would be guaranteed freedom of activity. The Socialists, which has decided in principle to move against the revolution, has been badly defeated. At the same time, it announced that non-socialist parties would be guaranteed freedom of activity. The Socialists, which has decided in principle to move against the revolution, has been badly defeated. At the same time, it announced that non-socialist parties would be guaranteed freedom of activity.

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THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS

One in the eye for Harold—but nothing in the pocket for the engineers

WAS it worth bearing the ban on Socialist Worker journalists attending conferences of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers? Several delegates suggested at the annual AWU conference in Hastings last week that Socialist Worker would lose all interest in the conference, now we were not admitted to it.

On the contrary, The conference was the policy-making body of one of the strongest and most democratic unions in the country. It is a serious, sincere and disciplined. Its proceedings are crucial to the great battles which British workers will be fighting in the months ahead.

Which is why I found myself asking myself whether this question again and again throughout last week's conference. Are there 69 men capable of withholding the strength of which they are capable to be plundered?

The conference rejected the Social Contract and wage restraint by a large majority, despite the pleas of the union’s president, Hugh Scantlebury.

His line was echoed by John Wakeley, who, even though he is taking the union to court, remained committed to the wage contracts from the right. He was worried about the country’s economic well-being, while general secretary John Boyd insisted all that Labour had done was to increase the social wage. All this was easily dismissed with a series of speeches from the left.

Jimmy Reid from Clydeside pointed out that the appeals for working-class sacrifice were being made by governments and capitalists all over the world. How can we all export less and export more at the same time? he asked.

Ken Gill, general secretary of the white-collar section of the union (TASS), showed how the capital starvation which had caused the current crisis was not the fault of the workers, that the government had not increased the social wage, that it was moving slowly to the right and opening the door to other Tory governments.

At this level, the left were easy winners. But there was another argument, nagging away throughout the day, which was not answered at all. It was put most forcefully by Jim Griffin, the deeply right-wing delegate from Coventry.

Griffin taunted the left for being ‘culturalists’ who talked big at conferences but couldn’t do anything. In his view, a single specific fight against John Major’s and their members. He said he had been the only man of the engineering section’s national committee to oppose last year’s engineering pay settlement. Fifty-one of you agreed only two months ago to go along with a settlement which was £1.5 per hour less than the Social Contract. Two years in a row you’ve made national deals which are far lower than what we’re now allowed through the Social Contract.

The highest

Not one left-wing delegate could cope with this argument. Not one could point to his own experience and say: Look how we broke the Contract with our industrial strength.

Not one delegate referred to the fact that the union’s engineering section wasn’t even submitted a national wage claim. The conference debated redundancy on the_VALUE_ during the highest June unemployment figures since records began. The left was howled down.

None of the 11 speakers in the debate. Not one mentioned the single specific wage claim in their factory or their locality. Not a single occupation was referred to. Most delegates complained fitfully about the ‘cancer’ of voluntary redundancy. John Byars, from Rolls-Royce East Kilbride, said: ‘We’ve got to find some way of stopping the slaughter of voluntary redundancy’. He couldn’t think of a way, and neither could anyone else. Indeed, some delegates from the right even seemed to favour voluntary redundancy.

The same failure to connect with shop-floor struggle was shown in every other debate. The delegates behaved less like shopfloor representatives than trade unionists. The AUEW’s fighting record was not debated. They seemed not to exist. They were rather ignorant of the very real pressure on someone else to do something.

Disasters

So both left and right, although disagreeing on almost everything, allowed the bulk of resolutions to pass unopposed, while ignoring the stage fight for the future of the television cameras.

This suits the right wing. They do not want to change anything. But for the left it is disastrous. It lines up them up with the right as people who argue and intrigue at the top of the union. It exposes them in witch-hunts and enmities. It leads to revolutionary ‘triumphs’, which are not reflected in the activity or the conditions of the membership.

If this continues, it could be disastrous for the union’s members. Engineering workers will only be protected from the ravages of the depression by the new Social Contract. Left-sounding delegates are the leadership will not make a fighting union. What matters is the policies and strategies of the union to have to be based on the right on the shop floor.

When engineering workers vote in future union elections they must look for more than rhetoric. From the Left candidates. They must ask themselves whether the policies proposed will bring needs and the fighting spirit of the shop floor into these conferences. Last week’s Socialist Worker put forward a series of policies in an Engineers’ Charter. The Charter called for national agreements across the board wage increases to keep ahead of inflation on top of £500 minimum wage. It also called for official campaigning and propaganda in the membership for such claims.

On jobs, it called for official occupations to force nationalisations without compensation of threatened with closure, and for control of jobs by the union’s district committees. These policies link the programme with the rank and file battle. If delegates representing such policies are elected to office, they would bind the union into a powerful fighting force.

PAUL FOOT
failure of the Broad Left

by Mick Brightman (AUEW)

The failure of the Broad Left to unite in its struggle nationally over the 1973 claim, which resulted in Manchester being left to fight virtually alone, while the rest of the workers stood back. Arguments such as these among the members are not willing to take up the struggle nationally for better wages and conditions and job security—don’t hold water. The evidence all points the other way. For at least half a million engineering workers stopped work at a few hours notice after the executive’s call for an all-out national stoppage on 8 May 1973 in defence of the union against the Industrial Relations Court.

I would urge all AUEW rank and file militants to read John Deacon’s article.

Loving up

He repeated again that now was the time for a definite commitment to majority rule. It might well be the conceivable time before the commitment and actual majority rule came off, but that after the commitment, again, it would evolute naturally. He repeated several times that the people of Zambia did not understand well all that was happening in Zambia. He was definitely thinking in terms of a common roll with a qualified franchise.
The AUEW lift their ban, thanks to you!

SOCIALLY ORGANIZED workers have last been ad-
mitt ed to the meetings of the Engineering Union. Last week Paul Foye was admitted into the AUEU conference in Hastings. Mr. Foye is the first white worker to be ad-
mitt ed in his mind but for the number of resolutions sent to them from branches and elsewhere. We would like to thank the following branches:

Thornbury, Shipley, New Southgate, and two others.

The first meeting of the newly formed Social Club was held at the Kingsley TASS, Pickerington Rd, Shipley. Mr. Foye, who was one of the members of the AUEU conference, now resides in the new club house.

The following district committee: Brooklands, Walthamstow, Walthamstow.

Socialist Worker is always willing to provide spaces for other groups to explain the need for a socialist press, and we arrange to send copies of Socialist Worker district to the branch.

Write to us at: Socialist Worker, 108 Station Rd, Corbridge Crescent, London E2, (tel: 01-739 6381).

WHAT'S ON

IS public meetings

POOLE: IS public meeting women and Socialist, Speaker: Dave Mason and visit to the Territorial Army. time: 8.00 p.m. UCM, Lower Road, Bournemouth.


INNER EAST LONDON District IS Public Meeting - Speakers: Eddie Keeling expect to come to the region. time: 8.30 p.m. UCM, Bethnal Green.

EAST LONDON District IS Public Meeting - Speakers: Iskender Uzun, Speaker, Iskender Uzun, and Mrs. J. L. Cross. time: 8.30 p.m. UCM, Bethnal Green.

AFTERNOON MEETING - Speakers: Iskender Uzun,Speaker, Iskender Uzun, and Mrs. J. L. Cross. time: 1.30 p.m. UCM, Bethnal Green.

APPROX 18, 19, 20, 21 - Four meetings of the SPG. Speakers: Iskender Uzun, Speaker, Iskender Uzun, and Mrs. J. L. Cross. time: 8.30 p.m. UCM, Bethnal Green.

NORTH LONDON District IS Public Meeting - Speakers: Iskender Uzun, Speaker, Iskender Uzun, and Mrs. J. L. Cross. time: 8.30 p.m. UCM, Brixton, London.

South London District IS Public Meeting - Speakers: Iskender Uzun, Speaker, Iskender Uzun, and Mrs. J. L. Cross. time: 8.30 p.m. UCM, Brixton, London.

IS notices

FOUR GERMAN COMMUNES are serving a series of reports for a month. The aim is to show the success of the IS's work in the four German communities.

THE TROOPS Out Movement is calling a demonstration against the proposal to withdraw from the United Nations. The demonstration is planned for Sunday 26th March and will assemble at Tube Station, 2.30pm, Saturday 6th July.

THE INTERNATIONAL Socialist Young Workers' Club Committee is holding a meeting on Sunday 26th March, at 11am, at 6 Comrades Road, London E2. District branches per district, one delegate per district.

The committee has asked West and North West districts to attend in London. No. 1 Tube Station.

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REVOLUTIONS, we are told in school, happen in other countries. It is all very well for excitable politicians to talk of civil war and revolution everywhere else, but we British have always been protected by a great body of law. That is the ruling-class party line on history.

It is a convenient myth for them. It is also completely untrue. The law, the House of Commons and the tame Monarchy, did not evolve peacefully. They were the result of a bloody revolution and civil war which smashed the old ruling class.

The revolution was fought out between the King and his court of great nobles and a Parliament consisting of rich merchants and their allies.

To defeat the King, the Parliamentarians forced to win support outside their own ranks. They had no option but to mobilize the small farmers and the artisans in the towns.

Many of the middle class Parliamentarians shrank from unleashing the power of the lower orders. Once set in motion, it might well be directed, not only against the nobility, but against all great men of property, including Parliamentarians.

In the heat of the Civil War, a grouping emerged, the "Independent" led by Fairfax, Ireton and Cromwell, which was prepared to take the risk and come to power.

CROMWELL: He used the Levellers in the struggle against the king, then turned against them.

So as to defeat the King, they mobilized the masses to build a New Model Army.

But, as the struggle developed, the rank and file began to put forward demands which went far beyond those of the generals.

The ordinary soldiers linked up with the London artisans and apprentices in the Leveller party.

Some of their demands - for the abolition of the Monarchy and the House of Lords, the election of sheriffs and magistrates - were as radical even today, in the England of 1647, they were political dynamite.

Cromwell needed the Levellers in the struggle against the King and he was forced to bow under their pressure. In every crisis, when some of the Parliamentarians looked for a compromise with the King, it was the Levellers and the rank and file who pushed the revolution forward.

In June 1647, there was just such a crisis. A compromise was attempted. Cromwell, Joyce, took the initiative by personally going to the King's camp.

When Joyce came face to face with Charles Stuart, who still claimed to rule England by Divine Right, the King asked him what commissions he held.

"Here is my commission," Joyce replied. "What do you mean by the King 'Behind me'," said Joyce, pointing to the tall bayonets at his back.

The tempo of the soldiers was such that the generals were forced to allow a "General Council of the Army" to be formed.

This consisted of "agitators" - representatives elected by the soldiers and officers who claimed the right to discuss all political matters. It was a remarkable body, even in the early days of the Civil War.

It was not to be repeated until the Russian revolution of 1917 and the revolution of 1848. The Levellers were the forerunners of all such developments.

But the power of the generals was not broken. At every hill in the battle of Naseby they turned against the Levellers and the generals were able to use their power and the masses in their fight for power, they were able to forget the interests of their class.

Irish: We won't slay

The King had been executed, the Royalists smashed and the aim of the middle class achieved, the general history books tell us. But the Levellers fought back, calling for further democratisation, opposing the suppression of press freedom and suggesting the founding of a new monarchy.

All these demands were being made by the people, and if they were to be made, they could not be made by the people of England. The English people were afraid of the people of Ireland, and the people of Ireland were afraid of what the people of London might do.

The Levellers were the enemy of the English people and the enemy of the English people was the enemy of the English class.

Cromwell's army was made up of officers and gentlemen. While they were paying, Cromwell's troops were paid off. They were the Levellers and the army for which they fought was the army of the people.

The Levellers made a fatal mistake. They tried to make the army of the people and the army of the people was defeated.

The Levellers escaped. Their resistance was smashed.

ON THE BOX

SUNDAY: 7.25pm. The World About Us. CYCLONE looks at the North Australian town of Darwin at the start of the Christmas 1974 cyclone. Radio-1 follows up its "Story of an Oil" series with INSIGHT on the "people and influence which have played a part in the evolution of today's oil industry. Begins with a look at Lagoir and Stiller who have written for Preston, Ben E King, The Drifters and The Coasters. On BBC1's WIMBUSH a look at the author Joan Didion (10.10pm).

MONDAY: 9.25pm. Abraham Polonsky was blacklisted for many years thanks to the Hollywood Red

WEDNESDAY: 8.10pm. The ASCENT OF MAN: MUSIC OF THE SPHERES is on the evolution of music. Begins with a look at London's T associating and Steven who have written for Preston, Ben E King, The Drifters and The Coasters. On BBC1's WIMBUSH a look at the author Joan Didion (10.10pm).

THURSDAY: 8.10pm. One of the victories in the battle against our rulers was the Barrenjoey v. The JUARY. GOOD MEANING and TRUE AND TRUE upstairs looks suspiciously similar to the French and German up process for scrapping juries. FRIDAY: 8.10pm. Remember 1900 is the first of two programmes on Ireland, and deals with the establishment of the Northern Ireland regime in 1920.
Rail: We need real planning...

RAILWAYMEN don’t want to see rail users being driven away from this vital public service because of ever-increasing fares and a decline in service. But the present state of affairs is by no means the fault of the railwayman. No more than railwaymen, and cities from the jiggerwars menace. No more chased up and pulled towns, and repair bills for roads reduced. More space on existing roads for other traffic, without the need to build yet more motorways.

A railway freight system carrying this traffic would also provide employment at the town and city terminals for the ex-jiggerwars drivers, with the added social bonus of working near home instead of disrupting family life by being away from home for most of the week.

All this would be possible with a planned socialist economy. A system that operates in the interests of the working class in place of the present crazy chaotic muddle of capitalist grand.

In the meantime, there will be a hard struggle ahead of railwaymen to obtain a decent standard of living. To do this it is essential to organise the rank and file to fight for their rights.

In this society we don’t get what is fair, only what we are prepared to fight for.—LAURENCE KIMM, NUR, Dunmurry.

The following was recently reported in The Guardian:

The case of an 82-year-old man who waited for hours on the floor without being able to call for help will be examined at a meeting in Chesterfield.

It will decide how long widows at Chesterfield’s houses should be employed. The former Clay Cross rebel put the widows on full-time duty but were criticised by the district auditor. The North East Derbyshire District Council took over, and the 70 Clay Cross widows on part-time duty.

The workers now have to switch off their intercoms to the bungalows during the day, and that when the elderly man fell on the floor in his Clay Cross home.

The Labour Party disowns the Clay Cross rebels while implementing and promising massive social service cuts.

Who are the criminals? Is the avoidable suffering of an old man part of the Socialist Contract?—GEORGE COLLINS, Kirkby.

There are 36,744 people in prison. Many are members of trade unions, which once locked out, cease to defend their rights.

Prisoners are a grossly exploited and neglected minority. Employing over 15,500 people, Prisons, the prison industries, profit a profit of more than £500,000 in 1971. Prison workers earned a maximum of 79p for a 24-hour week.

Should prisoners take any form of industrial action? Ruling which is the right to strike.

In 1973, the official number of prisoners committed to prison was 3,782.

Most prisoners (70 per cent) are inside for property of property. Yet the real criminals go unchecked. Opportunities, wealth and status are unequally distributed, but also so is the likelihood of being picked-up.

Child prostitution

One problem never mentioned by the mass media is child prostitution.

This despicable trade flourishes because of the hypocritical attitudes of the authorities and the ignorance of the public.

These girls earn well above £10 a day. They are hardly left with the bare £1 or £2 pocket money.

The plugs are generically with drugs (mostly ‘speeds’) an additional way of creating dependence, and helping to boost the allied trade of drug trafficking.

Most of this goes on with the quiet acceptance if not connivance of the authorities. The young girls become human chameleons, changing the streets to earn more and more.

By the age of 26, they are drug-addicted delinquents, thrown on to the scrapheap. This is the blackwall of a society that cares for everybody, the commodity—GERALD ZAHORSKY, London N1.

Portugal: Explain!

The PFP has been calling for the liquidation of all parties. What it has been actually calling for is the liquidation of all political parties and workers' organisations. If the PFP is engaged in winning over the Armed Forces for the taking of power by the working class-ideal, if so, does this necessitate the liquidation of all political parties and workers' organisations? Why should it be the PFP (and the trade unions) for the establishment of a state-capitulatory military dictatorship?—PATRICK CONNOLLY, Slannan.

The PFP is not a socialist party. It is a Fascist party. It is not a party of the working class. It is a party of the bourgeoisie. It is a party of reaction. It is a party of the exploiters. It is a party of the oppressors.

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Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, 200 Great Eastern Street, London E2 9DS. Let us have them in by 5 pm, and make sure they are written in English, or specify if you don’t want your name published. Please try to keep letters to not more than 200 words.

RAPE—WAS HE WRONG ON FAMILY?

I READ with approval (21 May) the heading and first part of the article by Chris Harman, The Hypocrisy Behind the Law Lord’s Ruling on Rape. To my astonishment, Harman then becomes the family of the rape victim.

He seems to be suggesting that, to establish socialism, the family must be destroyed. What would replace the family with?

Capitalism exploits the family—ask any married woman forced to work at a factory, who has to help house, feed and clothe the children. They are a burden.

What sort of a response does she get? Does she get the offer to take time off work if her children are ill? No, the family is not part of capitalism, but a social unit under socialism.

Attacking capitalism for making women work is a red herring. Women work simply because they have to in order to maintain their standards of living. As a woman, I work. But I work as a woman. I work because I have to. I don’t work because I want to. I don’t work because I am part of the family. I work because I want to work. I want to work because I want to be female.

Need training?

Join the army...

ALONG with a group of other student teachers, we were shown around an Army apprentices college in Liverpool.

We saw coaching magazines with words of encouragement, such as Gunnar’s, the Royal Artillery magazine—and had a few revealing insights into the priorities of our rulers.

The college trains its apprentices in all the Army’s technical trades. Classes are never bigger than 20, usually only ten to 12. It is worth comparing the size of these classes with those in secondary schools.

In the engine fitter shop, each pair of apprentices had an engine to train on as a team for the future. It was not uncommon for three of the world to pay for the training of three apprentices in its insatiable thirst for profit.

Compare this with the facilities in Government retraining centres! As one student teacher said, 'If we were given the chance, we would not work for that pay. ’—AUGUSTE WINTON, Radical Alternatives to Prison.

SUMMER WEEKEND SCHOOLS

For IS members

Sessions on:

- Revolutionary prospects in Portugal, Italy, Spain and Greece
- What is happening to the Labour Party
- The Capitalist Crisis—where to next?

Building the International Socialist

NORTH EAST (Newcastle): 5-6 July

NORTH WEST (Manchester): 12-13 July

NORTH SOUTH (London): 19-20 July

YORKSHIRE (Leeds): 20-21 August

Wales (Cardiff): 2-3 August

IS Books, 285 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (01-802 6145)
NUT: More militant bashing...

by Janice Holbrook, Record

THIS Week in The Teacher, the official newsletter of the National Union of Teachers, there was an article that appeared on page two and a half, entitled "The Troubles with the Classroom." The article was written by a member of the NUT's national executive committee and was critical of the government's education policy.

The author of the article, John Smith, argued that the government's education policy was failing and that the NUT was right to take a more confrontational approach to the issue. He also accused the government of being out of touch with the needs of teachers and schoolchildren.

The article was well-written and provided a compelling case for why the NUT was right to take a more militant approach to the issue. It was a welcome change from the usual bland, uncommittal statements from the union leadership.

I would recommend that all teachers read the article and consider the arguments put forward by Mr. Smith. It is time that the NUT stood up for the rights of teachers and schoolchildren and fought against the government's education policy.
TEESIDE – “Whatever happens now, things will never be the same again. People used to kid themselves that IC was some special kind of company, that they weren’t like Fords or GEC,” said WILTON WORKER as the strike at the local plants continues.

“We are finding out that IC are just like the rest. Nobody is talking about ‘your’ company any more. It’s their ‘company’.”

‘Their’ company told representatives of the 4000 striking workers on Monday that the company ‘couldn’t afford’ to pay the £16.50 on the basic that they are demanding.

The craftsmen hit back by tightening picketing—which has already paralysed the giant William plant. They are solid—and determined.

Wilson Management’s reply was to order Transport Union drivers to go through the craftsmen’s pickets.

They refused. Four drivers were suspended, and the rest of the 7000 TGWU men on the site promptly came out in support. The whole Wilson workforce—up to 3500 more—joined in.

With picketing in place, craftsmen were effectively locked out, as no one would go through the gates. The picketing caused the strike to spread quickly across the country.

The WLON—management is said to have instructed Billington drivers to go through the pickets.

The Wilson men remain in a strong position. The company needs millions of pounds every day, as costly plant stands idle. If the men continue to strike and organise it is hard to see how the strike can be broken.

Victory will mean, as every trade unionist knows, that the only way to beat Wilsons is by a yardstick, will be putting in claims.

Meanwhile, as national talks continue between the union officials and the management at St. Helens, Local Government and Police Association strong pressure is being brought to bear on the striking workers in support of the 1800 production workers who have been laid off.

If there is no improvement on the demands of the striking workers, the strike could escalate yet again. More and more employers skilled and, as the picture of the strike’s tradition of manpower...
WEST WALES: With increased rank and file liaison between the iron founders disputes, full-time officials have been attempting to regain control. They even attempted to resurrect with management co-operation the discrated Welsh Engineers and Founders Conciliation Board. They have also been instructing strikers to return to work and end all sanctions. Meanwhile several management had been attempting under-the-table settlements, partly to undermine the full-timers and partly in fear of increased rank and file link-up between different plants.

Organised movements have not been idle. Representatives from 15 plants met last week and agreed to continue the struggle. As a result, the Tom Smith and Clark, and Neville Drube plants are still out on strike while other plants are maintaining sanctions. The meeting also agreed to continue liaison, sharply censored the officials' manoeuvres, and demanded a meeting of the full union side before the coming talks with the employers to prevent any agreements being arrived at by the full-time officials. They are determined to win the full union with no surrender.

Similarly the AUEW stewards' quarterly meeting and four AUEW branches (Swansea 3, 4, 6 and 10) have held one meeting expressing full-timers' feelings and demanding that any proposed settlement be referred to the rank and file for approval.

Below two local AUEW members give their sides of the story.

Swansea: Wages stand still but nothing else does

Watch out, there's a road block about

YOU KNOW PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WORKS...

PETERBOROUGH—Sharnham, the Peterborough Standard printing works, is in dispute with 57 NUPE members over the introduction of new printing techniques designed to oust jobs. Sharnham is trying to force a free advertising sheet, but it has recently been stopped by pickets who followed the horticultural and the sheet at the depot.

Last week the try-out came at a small and was badly met. A man took the job by wearing an early morning coat past the police station, suddenly a great cry went up, then a man was lying on the road with his head against a car. The police caught him, got out there and the bastards ran.

Occasional cases of car next to the picture said they had been seen on the road radio a police message from inside the car which said to go on. The 'turner' lay down to get out there and stop the bastards.

Though there is a police on the site, the employees follow the system of methodically ordering the lot. They then have a party with a music and the police are always present in the lot. The police are always present in the lot.

The matter was raised at a meeting of the SGA, who are acceptable to the tots and jobs by new techniques. Yet they have been told to move in defence of the Blodwen strike. Their new overhead plans for a mass solidarity SGA picket.

LEAD LEVELS KEEPT SECRET

BERMINGHAM — A complaint at the Musgrove Hospital, which has been in dispute with the British Steel Corporation for several years, has shown that the workers are being paid more than the National Health Service.

The muscle of this is that the workers believe that their pay is less than the rate of pay that they should receive. This has been repeated in a number of other cases.

The police have been called in on a number of occasions to control the crowds.

LA LETTER FROM THE FUTURE

LANALLE: The British Leyland plant here has the best record of 'industrial relations' in the country. The management and other employees have been working together to keep the lowest wages in the combine, it has never had a strike over wages. Never, that is until last week.

The combine since the plant opened 13 years ago has been clearly the right thing to do, but a new deal for the workers is being rushed through by the government with the backing of the TUC, the AUEW through the High Court in opposition to the return to balanced working.

The management have said that they will give any members for a completion of 20 per cent across the board deal under negotiation since last March. The workers have already received 14.6 per cent and as part of this Social Contract deal.

The first strike over wages in 13 years started last Friday while John Wobley was at the annual industrial congress at Hastings. Apparently the strikers can do without him.
Hills workers get the Chrysler caress

THE Chrysler Company has deliberately provoked the dispute at Hills Precision in Coventry to give them an excuse to lay off all their assembly workers at Vanon in Coventry and Linwood in Scotland.

This is part of Chrysler's attempt to force acceptance of their new plans for the combine.

The blow Chrysler Linwood TGWU shop steward, wrote: "Chrysler have offered £50 to each worker if we accept their 'employee participation' scheme by 12 July. The lay-offs have come at a very convenient time for the company."

SOME of the thousand building workers marched through the centre of Birmingham to protest about the rise in unemployment in the town and to demand that the lump be kept off the bills. The demonstration was called by the UCATT region and a leading member of Building Workers Charter, addressed the marchers.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)

3000 halt Port Talbot steelworks

3000 halt Port Talbot steelworks
From Colwyn Williamson, Swansea, 24 June
STEELMAKING at the massive Port Talbot works halted last week. 3000 members of the Iron and Steel Workers union walked out in protest against management plans to introduce drastic cutbacks in working. The scheme, which would completely abolish weekend working for men in the BOS plant, the staggering and hot mills and the traffic department, would mean a wage cut of about £50 a month.

Within three or four days the number of strikers rose to more than 5000. But the union fixed a deal with management for a return to work on Tuesday. The strike came against a background of growing resentment over what seen as a deliberate delay in laying out a "lead in" (work measures) program of about £5.75 an hour agreed last week.

Many of the men felt that the strike was provoked by a management that would like to prove as soon as possible that is the way to cut the coming conflict over cutbacks and the current 30 per cent wage demand.

The scheme proposed at Port Talbot follows the pattern those got out at Llanwern, East Moors, Tredegar and Pontardawe. There has been an intensive strike action at East Moors and Llanwern.

At the Tredegar and Pontardawe, the steelworkers 5000 men accepted a union agreement to be modified over wages. Twelveoured stopping from 10am Friday to 11am yesterday morning shifting strike workers by the day men. Even this modified scheme will presumably mean the loss of £1000 a month.

Steelworkers in South Wales are in the International Socialists and are calling for a coordinated centre of resistance and organisation on all steel plants. In a series of influential leaflets we have argued in favour of lockouts and strike action as a weapon of occupation in situations where management seem to be deliberately provoking a strike.

Iron

"We've got a cost iron guarantee in our agreement. It says that if we have to work three days overtime we've got guaranteed full time working for at least the six weeks that follow. There are no qualifications on this section of the agreement. But although Hills workers had been working overtime before the strike, it led Chrysler to lay them off. That was a trick," said Bob McGrady, TGWU shop steward. After Harold Wilson tried to get the steelworkers back we were laid off as a bit of extra pressure. But we were on the big order of Chrysler cars for Ford. Stope doesn't affect us one little bit."

Jim Seymour: "The whole performance of the company has been terrible. The steelworkers were told they wouldn't be laid off, but they were. Last year the workers asked for 40p a week extra. But they were laid off and there were no discussions.

This Christmas holiday Chrysler went further and locked the Hills workers out. They are trying a work-to-rule to get payment for overtime that has proved worthless. They have not had a penny from it for four years.

Lost

The stewards are now demanding full payment for all the days lost, including those lost during the current Christmas time. "One fight is quite simply about whether the company has to recognise our agreement or not. If they can get away with it with us then they can try it with others too," said Jim Seymour.

"Chrysler have been assisted by the TGWU, especially the Coventry Evening Telegraph, which twists things around. They don't know that the whole rubbish the company wants them to. They've presented us in the paper as a bunch ofConventionists. We know what the record straight through Socialist Worker is to so many people in Coventry and Coventry as possible.

Chrysler's tactics on the shop floor are noted. They are the company that provoked the bloody shop dispute by calling the men to work with defective tools. In the same week they hired convicted criminals from the Warwickshire GPO to clean off the pickets. Two trade unionists were beaten up by those thugs.

Their latest attempt to evade the trade union resistance, wages, jobs and working conditions, may only be met by the organised resistance of the whole workforce.

FIGHTING FUND

The last weather seems to have done much to the hundreds of our readers that our Fighting Fund has stopped completely from their mails. Last week we had over £1000, but after two weeks we have seen the flow fall to an all-time low of £60.

Unfortunately, the prices charged by the manuscript dealers and bills for increased electricity and phone calls are too high for us to meet our current weekly output of £60. This week, bringing us to £16. We need to raise £20 to reach our target of £60 a week. We would be much happier if more readers would follow the example of a subscriber in Westcliff-on-Sea who sent us £7, or another in Blackpool who sent £4, or who send us the £2. We need more money to publish Socialist Worker. It is Your money that keeps the Worker going. Every penny counts. We are appealing for a £5 contribution, or even £2, towards our £60 weekly subscription fee. Your donation is greatly appreciated, and will be strictly in confidence.

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The subscription rates for Socialist Worker go up this week to our usual price of the paper from 70p to £1.00. Increased production costs make this inevitable.

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