TUC bid to stop big jobs demo

A CAMPAIGN to smash the great November TUC demonstration against unemployment was launched this week. Not by the employers. Not by the government. But by the TUC General Council.

TUC general secretary Len Murray has written to all affiliated organisations and trades councils warning them not to take part in the demonstration even though it has been called by the North West Region of the TUC. Murray writes that the demonstration has been 'isolated by other groups, including the Labour Party, into a rallying cry for lobby and demonstration'.

Worse still, according to Murray, the demonstration 'will undeniably have an anti-government character'. In other words, don't demonstrate in protest against a political group - the Labour government - even though this political group has caused most unemployment among Murray's members. Otherwise you might get mixed up with political groups.

Murray writes on: 'Having such a lobby at such a time would undoubtedly detract from the efforts the general council are making which are being undertaken in close consultation and discussion with the government.'

What has this 'close consultation and discussion' achieved so far?

Higher unemployment. This month the number of long-term unemployed is up again - by 56,000.

WORKPLACE

Roger Cox, secretary of the Rank and File Organising Committee, told Socialist Worker: 'Murray's letter proves once and for all that these trade union leaders would rather see another half million unemployed by Christmas than do anything to offend their pals in the Cabinet.'

'His letter should be treated with contempt. Trade unionists and unemployed workers should fight all the harder to make the 26 November lobby into a massive fighting demonstration which will force the government's hand.'

Where possible shop stewards' committees, union branches and trades councils should press for stoppages on the day. At the very least they should send delegations to the lobby and sponsor coaches so that local unemployed workers can travel there free.'

The following trade union organisations are already supporting the lobby: North West Regional Council of the TUC, Burnley AUEW District Committee, Liverpool Trades Council, Conference on Unemployment, North West Region UCATT, North West Trades Council, Conference on Unemployment, Merseyside GEC and ITI shop stewards, Sheffield Confederation of Engineering Union shop stewards, London No 8 District of the Engineering Confederation, Manchester AUEW District Committee, Manchester Trades Council, Crawford Trades Council, Southern Region UCATT, TUCU No 1 Region (Greater London and South).

SUPPORT THE LOBBY

ALL OUT WEDNESDAY

26 NOVEMBER

Assembly Rooms, Station, London, 1pm for march on parliament

THIS IS THE RICHEST CITY IN ENGLAND...

This is the face of Coventry today. Ten years ago it was known as 'the richest city in England'. Now unemployed workers and old age pensioners queue for second-hand clothes. In the Bingo halls, they are offering tinned food for prizes.

Full story - and how to fight back - centre pages

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)
The jobs of 2500 workers at British Leyland's AEC factory in West London are threatened. This is the conclusion the shop stewards' committee draws in the firm's talk of 'an excess of 3000 man-shifts'.

Said Dick Dixon, AUEW shop steward and chairman of the shop stewards' action committee, 'This is a large part of the point we put across. Our action committee is assuming that this is the first step to total closure'.

But they are determined to fight back and defend the right to work.

We need to arouse the wider community to the threatened closure of AEC. That's why we have planned a demonstration for this Wednesday.

We are to involve as many workers as possible. The AUEW district committee has called on all its members to support and we are approaching the Indian Workers' Association to stress the importance of our campaign to the Indian community. We produced thousands leaflets at all distribution centres and at all the main shopping centres.

Support

'We are more than willing to send workers to local factories and other workplaces to make our case. All the local trades councils are here committed. The British Leyland bus and truck combine committee has pledged support and we hope to see delegations from its constituent plants.'

Following the demonstration there will be a picket of Leyton House in Central London on Friday. The last major factory to close down in the area was Rockware Glass in Greenford. Efforts have been made to solve the problem by the community and a series of public meetings and over-ride on trade union officials and Labour MPs.

'But this time there is a difference', says Roger Butler, newly-elected district secretary of the Southall AUEW' 'There are over 100 bus factories down and there has always been the feeling that at least there is some way out. But now there isn't. AEC is the end of the road.'

WHY BUSES DON'T RUN...

by Bernie Rateman

TGWU secretary, Southall bus group

WHAT a crazy world we live in, to have a direct bus from London to be used only as a slow moving battery charger to keep a bus going. And all down the line there are no buses that do not come because London Transport have got Java, and say they can't get enough buses.

The mechanical problems that led to the service breakdown are a direct result of the basic change in design of the so-called 'labor-saving' concept of one-man operation was adopted. It was this basic design that took London's bus production away from AEC, Southall.

Let's get down to a rational approach to public transport in London, get back to having conductors, and get back to AEC's reliable buses and use the untapped resources of the car industry. I fear that AEC workers are not going to have a tough fight to secure their right to work, and this is a fight that London cannot afford to lose. It's not just the AEC workers' fight anyway, but with the bleak prospects in West London a flight for the very survival of a community.

Collapse

The government's refusal to add additional money to the Scottish Daily Mail (it means the newspaper is on the point of collapse, with 2500 workers at risk. The collapse in public spending mean that staff shortages among local authority white-collar workers will remain unfulfilled, while the jobs of local authority manual workers are put at risk through building programmes being axed.

The prospect for the working class in the Scottish situation is among the worst.

'This area cannot absorb any more unemployment. We are calling on support from the 100 factories where we have members for the demonstration. Afterwards we will fight to involve all the unions in the area in further action. This has to be a town-wide struggle.'

The campaign for the right to work here has to have AEC as its central pivot. But it must involve the energies of the unemployed as well.

Already anger is rising at the Labour exchanges as employed workers turn up with their unemployed sons and daughters and discover to their astonishment the heap of abuse that the unemployed have to suffer when they try to collect their meagre pitance.

Abused

'I took my 16-year-old daughter to the local labour exchange. Neil Hunter, former shop steward at AEC, told Socialist Worker. 'Not only was she abused but when I interrupted I was told to get out.'

The petty officials have no doubt also been practising their nasty little habits among the Indian and West Indian workers who have been among the first to get the chop in the Southall area.

AEC has to lead the fight. Any chance of success depends on the following demands being made clear to the membership now.

For a one-day combine-wide protest stoppage.

For a one-day community-wide protest stoppage in the Southall area.

For full-scale blacking on all goods leaving the factory. We will see as the only ultimate response to part-closure.

No reliance on full-time trade union officials or Labour MPs and councillors. For a rank and file campaign against redundancies in the area led by the AEC and involving all workers in other factories and workers already unemployed.

Scotland: The grim and the militant

THF fight for the right to work was to be discussed by a big delegate conference of trade unions across the West of Scotland on Wednesday.

The conference was called by the UCS co-ordinating committee, the Clyde district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, and the Glasgow Trades Council. It took place against a background of high unemployment, short-time working and the threat of widespread redundancies in the area. Already this year jobs have been lost through redundancies at Hoover Consumer Products Limited in Lanarkshire. This week 500 workers at a Blackpool factory of Alliedatem decided to occupy their factory to fight Management's redundancy plans.

The conference was demanding nearly 3000 redundancies in the local steel industry, including the complete closure of a number of the plants. British Steel are talking in terms of a 10 per cent reduc-

in the number of footplate staff in the Scottish region and additional jobs to be sacrificed on the office side.

The situation in the local car industry is desperate. The Scottish trouble agrees with the national situation of the AEC car plant in Cowdenbeath, all the strikes, the cutbacks in public spending mean that staff shortages among local authority white-collar workers will remain unfulfilled, while the jobs of local authority manual workers are put at risk through building programmes being axed.

The prospect for the working class in the Scottish situation is among the worst.

Yet despite the losses of jobs, despite the threats of further sackings, the local trade union leadership has continued to rally to the rescue until now has got away with this.

For instance, when Alex Ferry, the Glasgow divisional organiser of the AUEW, was asked about the conference, he said: 'The government will be strongly critised for its lack of urgency in dealing with the problem. Scotland is slipping into a situation which could be worse than the 1930s. We can't stand back and watch this happen.' But he had nothing to say about fighting back.

By contrast Willie Lee, AUEW shop steward at Chrysler Linwood and the Engineering Charter candidate for the post of AUEW national organiser, stressed that the conference should be a springboard for action, not just a talking shop.

'I am a member of the AUEW, a union that is noted for its verbal militancy. Yet despite all the shouting, there has been no official campaign to fight closures, redundancies and sackings. Rank and file militants have their work cut out to ensure that the conference starts to act on the West of Scotland basis to fight closures, redundancies and short time.'

Willo is right. Only organisation can save jobs now. That action must be framed around the following demands.

Ship-floor control of hiring, firing and mass layoffs.

An official ban on overtime to save more jobs.

A 15-hour week.

Break the 16 freeze—across-the-board wage increases to offset inflation and compensate for the shorter week.

Five days' work and five days'.

Nationalisation without compensations for all the people who cannot guarantee the right to work.
LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 1

Pat arrested over 'Troops Out' leaflet

PAT ARROWSMITH, the anti-war campaigner, was arrested in Aldershot last week for handing out leaflets calling for Troops Out of Ireland. The leaflets were being pushed through the letter-boxes of civilians.

After an hour and a half of leafletting, Pat was arrested on suspicion of the Prevention of Terrorism Act. She was strip-searched for weapons and explosives. The leaflets were sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Pat has been allowed bail to appear at Aldershot police station on 1 December—though she has not been charged.

She told Socialist Worker: ‘If they get away with this, it means that anyone giving out any leaflets against the troops in Ireland can be arrested.’

Supporters of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign will be travelling to Aldershot this Sunday to distribute some of the same leaflets. Readers of Socialist Worker who would like to further illustrate their solidarity with Pat are urged to go along. Leafletters will be convening outside Aldershot railway station at 3pm.

LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 2

Boost for investment in apartheid

by Garry Bushall

Allied Steel in Chry Cru, Chile and Northern Ireland, the Labour Party Conference has once again got around to discussing the government's investment in apartheid.

The British Steel Corporation's plans for £2 million investment in a South African ferrochrome plant completely against Labour's 1976 policy. The matter will be 'clarified' at a Labour Party International committee meeting next year.

But the government has already made up its mind. The Labour government has already decided to increase investment and trade with the South African ruling class, whose power and wealth rest on the ruthless suppression of millions of black workers.

At a press conference last Friday, Fred Hooley, Labour MP for Shortwood, said that the government had no intention of doing anything to stop the investment.

The moral of this disgusting story is clear. You can join the Labour Party and change its policy—but conference decisions will always be overlooked, overruled and overturned by Labour MPs in a hurry for the sake of 'realism', the needs of the profit system.

LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 3

Backroom deal for Chile

GOVERNMENT officials have come to an ‘amicable’ agreement with the Chilean Junta over debt, according to the respected British newspaper, The Times. The deal involves yet another re-valuation of Labour Party policy.

Until now the Wilson government has refused to renegotiate the British share of Chile's foreign debt. This is a dream of putting pressure on the barbaric regime. This boycott of The Club of Paris' credit union talks was followed up with a refusal to participate in any 'bilaterial' talks. But now the Chilean Junta and its top officials have come up with an agreement which the Junta has on order.

They have never intended to allow any of their fellow capitalists' assets to be seized. Again they have been true to their word.

This deal makes trade union blackballing of the butchers of Chile even more important. It is to be hoped that the Chile Solidarity Campaign will hold a union conference this Saturday to discuss.

LABOUR'S BETRAYAL 4

LEFT: Demonstrators jeered and escorted outside South Africa House last Monday. The South African 'chiefs' are a world tour operated by the racist government of South Africa, which controls Namibia, and represent the power of a South Africa that wants to set up in Namibia in answer to international protest.

The oppressed Africans and islanders oppose these 'chiefs' root and branch.

Yet the Labour government has welcomed them to Britain. Wednesday they were treated to an official audience with David Ennals, Labour's Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

EVERY trade unionist ought to support the junior hospital doctors in the dispute, which will have grave doubts about doing so. Some will think that doctors are well enough paid anyway. Many will point to the scandalously underpaid nurses and other hospital workers. Surely they should get whatever money is going? And others will be convinced by the right-wing propaganda about the entirely separate issue of pay-beds and the Junior Doctors' Association.

Now, as a matter of fact, junior hospital doctors do not get particularly well paid. Under the present agreement the basic grade, house officers, get £55 for an 80-hour week, rising to £65.50 after three years. Hourly rates are princely.

True, a small minority get substantially more, up to £110 for the highest grade, senior registrar, with full service increments. And certainly the mass of hospital workers are much worse off. But are other hospital workers not less better off? Is it a decent increase in junior hospital doctors' pay? Everyone ought to have learned by now that every 'successful' incomes policy hits the lowest paid workers hardest of all. The junior hospital doctors are fighting government incomes policy and, whether they know it or not, they are fighting in the interests of all hospital workers. If they become the better off, others have to follow suit. If they are beaten, it is a defeat for everyone. The government's pay-cutting policy would be reinforced.

Clap trap

But the real issue in the dispute is not the doctors' pay. It is the government's determination, on top of its pay policy, to cut Health Service spending in real terms, an aim that is shared by the Labour government.

We are going to see and hear more and more of the ‘nation can't afford it’ clap trap in the coming months. Two things need to be kept firmly in mind.

First, according to the government's own figures, the NHS is spending more now than a decade ago, even after allowing for price rises. This is the NHS figures.

Nor are we talking about 'nurses' pay'; we are talking about the pay of all the people who work in the NHS (21 October).

WHAT WE THINK

Health Service under attack

Second, Britain is a far richer country now—far more is produced even in this recession—than it was in 1948 when a communist Labour government was in office. There is money in the country, after all, without any prescription or other charges. All these arguments about 'what we can afford' are really arguments about the distribution of income, about who gets what, about benefits to the middle classes and the rich as opposed to benefits to the workers.

The point about the pay-beds argument and the whole business of 'private medicine' is the attempt to cut spending on the health of working people while giving a massively subsidised service to the well-off. Run down the NHS and cream off its resources for the wealthy and the well-insured. That is what this well-orchestrated campaign is all about.

We need an expanded, comprehensive health service without charges, a service based on the principle of treatment according to need, not ability to pay, and a service that pays decent wages to its personnel. It is so important that the junior hospital doctors resist all cuts in government spending as the essential first step.

PRESS GANG ON RAMPAGE

It looks as though, thanks to the valiant efforts of Local Gordon, our free press will be saved from the red menace of the National Union of Journalists. The NUJ are, after all, going to remain free from the terrible burden of union membership and will be able to use nonunion journalists.

Who is Local Gordon? He is the well-paid morning courier at the Daily Telegraph. He is well-paid, we don't know, but when Alfred, Lord Robens was being considered for the job, New Labour's Lord Granville, head of the Newspaper Proprietors Association, asked for £25,000 a year, a free London flat, chauffeur-driven car and a 'generous pension'.

Who are the newspaper proprietors? Six men control the Fleet Street press. They are Sir Max Aitken, Lord Harwell, Alex Jarratt, Rupert Murdoch, Lord Rothermere and Lord Thomson. These six defenders of 'press freedom' hire the 'free' editors—and fire them if they step out of line.

All editors are going to remain perfectly free to agree with the views of the monopolists—or get out. The Fleet Street press is going to continue as the spokesman of a handful of billionaires. This is called freedom of the press.
the executive on 's left wing ticket', only to go down and become involved up in compromises and bureaucratising the movement.

Last March, the London Docks were on strike for five weeks to protect their livelihoods. The TGWU executive actually passed a motion condemning us as right.

What kind of union is it which stabs its own members in the back when they are on strike and fighting for their jobs? What happened to the so-called left-wingers on the executive committee, who had been telling them to be in the strike?

Only the two London dockers on the executive (who had since been reprimanded) had the principles to vote to support our strike.

The main point in standing is as a contribution to the wider fight to defend the wages and conditions of our members and make it a democratic and a fighting union. I would only want people to vote for me if they agree with the platform I'm standing on.

Favour

I am standing as a working docker in favour of the extension of Dock Labour Scheme to all ports and container bases, as a militant trade unionist fighting for democracy within the TGWU and, especially for the election of full-time officials.

And, most important of all, I am standing as a member of the union who believes that in the period when the current leadership is failing at the unions' strength of the TGWU must be used to defend the jobs, conditions and wages of our members.

We will be carrying a more detailed outline of the platform Eddie is standing on in the next few weeks.

Any branch within the No 1 Region can nominate up to two members for this post. Nominations close on 9 November. We urge all SW supporters in the Region to raise the Eddie's nomination in their branch.

Depends on your Viewpoint

WORKERS on the Roberts site in Lambeth, South London are on strike demanding the sacking of a foreman who assaulted a shop steward and another worker with a pick-handle.

The industrial relations officer on the site is Don Spokesman. He's not sure which side he's on. Perhaps that's because he is a former official for UCATT, the building workers' union and editor of the union's journal, Viewpoint.

However, he came out of the UCATT job after being squeezed between right and left on the Sheehan issue.

ASTMS: Head office strike fails to save officials' jobs

JUDY COTTER, whose sacking from her job as full-time official of ASTMS last August provoked a strike by her colleagues, has finally lost her job.

After a call from the Communist Party to all Party officials in the union not to support Judy (who is a Party member), the strike committee agreed to accept arbitration by the professional arbitrator, William McCarthy.

The officials' committee, in a long document at the time of the sacking, referred every one of the complaints made about Judy Cotter by Clive Jenkins, the then general secretary of the union, to the union's deputy chairman, Terry Comerford.

In particular, they objected to the use against Judy Cotter of the fact that she had had an abortion without telling her superiors.

McCarthy brushes aside all these allegations and finds uniquely for Jenkins.

He accuses her of an 'over-causal approach to certain aspects of her job' and of 'adhering to an inaccurate and misleading version of events which favours her case'. In other words, he claims she was lazy and a liar.

Just for good measure, McCarthy also says she should have told her superiors about her abortion. The next time McCarthy has an abortion perhaps he will tell the Master of Nuffield College, Oxford, where he is in kept in healthy style.

Lessons

The main lessons of this sad business for the union are:

Professional arbitrators always find against the management, especially when the management is in the leadership.

Communist Party members who are union officials can rely on sacked on their own backing support the dismissal.
A LONG TIME AGO Karl Marx said that the revolution from time to time needs the whip of counter-revolution. The two attempted coups by the right-wing in Portugal on 28 September 1974 and 11 March 1975 gave a fillip to the revolution. The Sixth Provisional Government, established in the middle of September, gave a further fillip.

The army is escaping from the control of the government. Every day, the government issues formidable statements saying authority has to be restored, and in Lisbon soldiers are called out to stop brigands. The front extends to new areas.

Portugal: The Great Danger

The workers will rise to the level of the revolutionary soldiers, there is a great danger that the作弊者’ level of consciousness and action will go down to the level of the workers.

By TONY CLIFF

Read PORTUGAL AT THE CROSSROADS

The most important publication from Socialist Worker or the International Socialists in years. A full analysis of the situation in Portugal and a study in revolution and class struggle vital for socialists everywhere. A 48-page pamphlet, already being translated into Greek, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

50p including postage from ISJ, 8 Cottonts Gardens, London E7 8TN.
Archbishop, arch-moron

IN THE FOLLOW-UP to his ‘drift towards chaos’ speech, the Archbishop of Canterbury [sic] sought to lay the common ground between the parties which at least consists of a moral approach to life and that there is an absolute difference between them."

Best

He also tells us that ‘my appeal is non-political’ and goes on to illustrate, unintentionally no doubt, what he means by that by referring to ‘a great man of serious-minded people in Britain who want the best for Britain’. The trouble is they feel impotent. No one seems to speak up for them. All too frequently the extremists receive the publicity and appear to win the last round. It might be thought a little uncharitable for a Prince of the Church to refer disparagingly to extremists. After all, the religion he professes and in the name of which he lives in a palace on a not unprofitably income surrounded by extremists.

Sword

Its nominal founder, Jesus, is on record as saying: ‘Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance with his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.’ He also proclaimed the coming destruction of ‘this world’ (ie, the society of his time) promised for sinners on the poor and rich, declared: ‘He that is not with me is against me: and whoever shall give the least of these who believe in my name, shall receive an hundredfold.’

Reversal

For modern Christians, Catholics included, interest and profit are the foundations of a ‘free society’. Why the complete reverse in conscience? Obviously because the conditions of life, the type of society, its values — and therefore its morality — are very different in the Europe of the twentieth century to that of the tenth. But these very different societies have at least one thing in common. They are both examples of class society; societies divided into a hierarchy of classes, with rules and duties.

Ilusion

The apparent agreement is an illusion. What is murder? It is legally unacceptable killing. Catholic Church teaching that leading money at interest or making profit generally is immoral. There are no, and cannot be, any absolute moral rules. Morality, like every other human product, is the product of men living in societies. Societies have different moralities. The ancient Hebrews thought it a highly moral thing for Abraham to have many wives. Later Christians thought it highly immoral for anyone to do so and made it a criminal offence. However, modern Church teaching that lending money at interest or making profit generally is immoral is just as false and just as widely called frauds.

Without comment... 1&2

The distinctive feature of British government during most of its 30 years of decline has been its decision that has been more secretive than that in any other industrial country save the equally unsuccessful Kremlin. The Economist, 11 October.

Without comment... 3

Doris Lindner is one of the world’s best known sculptors of animals. Among her very important commissions is a model of the Queen. From the Athenian art catalogue.

CHILE, WOMEN AND A RAG CALLED THE SUN

MANY PEOPLE who call themselves socialists are not aware we will only have a revolution in this country if we get fascist first. They ought to take a long, close look at fascism in action. They ought to find out about Chile.

A United Nations team have done just that. Their report, published last week, expressed "profound disgust" at the Junta's torture of political prisoners.

The report, for instance, describes how almost unbelievably — the Junta are now training dogs to rape women prisoners. The victims also suffer the indescribable degradation of having live insects forced into their vaginas. Other prisoners are forced to swallow excrement.

The UN investigation was reported by only one national newspaper in Britain. 'Pressure of space' prevented The Sun and the Daily Mirror giving it even one column inch. 'Pressure on space did not, however, prevent The Sun, on the same day, giving 67 column inches to a picture feature headlined Fatty Bun Bun, and the Mirror giving 47 column inches to a bare-breasted woman 'slinging the Motor Show'.

An interesting comment on capitalism's view of women. Degraded in Britain, dehumanised in Chile...
Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate!

WOMEN'S VOICE, the sister paper to Socialist Worker, was the loudest voice at the anti-abortion Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) marched silently through London in their thousands last Sunday.

However small we were, the picket organised by Women's Voice and Socialist Worker was the only protest against the right-wing ideas of the SPUC and its supporters.

And we were heard, as we shouted in Whitehall: 'Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate!'

There is only one way to challenge SPUC's ideas—head on. It's no good hoping they will simply go away.

WOMEN'S VOICE supporters went to the National Abortion Conference on Saturday full of ideas on how to build a mass movement.

We were convinced that a mass movement of working-class women could take on the anti-abortion campaign, defeat any attempt to restrict abortion by law, and win free abortion on demand.

We went with resolutions to argue that the main opposition to abortion should be drawn women workers into the campaign and that we needed to fight for abortion on demand if we were ever going to win 'A women's right to choose'.

As Sara Carver, a picket union member from The Times, argued, as we demand the right to work, the right to equal pay, the right to decent housing, so we demand the right to free abortion. Conference agreed.

We argued for a steering committee to be elected by the conference which could build the campaigning spirit in the campaign. We argued for two-monthly meetings of delegates from all the NAC groups which would make policy decisions.

In opposition, we were told that 'every meeting must be open to everyone' so that no one is ever elected and no one ever responsible. The resolution for an elected steering committee was lost by 350 votes to 137, and for the delegate meeting by 238 to 316 after three recounts.

Whole

The final blow to any notion of democracy came when conference voted to allow meetings to contest postal telephone votes. Anyone can now come to the meetings, and anyone can now vote—even if they don't come.

Many women at the conference saw—saw their struggle for women's liberation as completely separated from the working-class movement.

They see the struggle against restrictive legislation divorced from the present crisis. They don't realise that we are now having to fight the Church, the government, Tory and Labour MPs, the whole right wing.

They fail to see that ultimately women will only be free when the working-class movement takes full power from that ruling class and can then direct resources into providing nurseries, housing and so on.

The delusion that women can win on their own and that class and class struggle don't matter is leading to the partition of NAC.

NAC is becoming more and more like a sponge. It soaks up everything and becomes too heavy to move.

Women's Voice will continue to argue within NAC for a clear working-class perspective and a democratically elected leadership. But the conference made it abundantly clear that we now have to take on the task of building a revolutionary socialist women's movement which will fight for women's liberation as part of the overall struggle for socialism.

Rena Morris, a Women's Voice supporter, who travelled from Glasgow for the conference, said: 'I personally felt it was a waste of time. No open discussion was allowed—meaning that any delegates from trade unions were not able to voice their opinion.'

On Sunday the first resolution on the agenda congratulated the anti-SPUC demonstration. The argument against the demonstration was, No, they are not going to destroy our conference. The argument for was simpler: Unless we take the campaign into the trade union movement and out in the streets, it cannot win.

Important

That's why the rally being organised by Women's Voice is so important. For all working-class women wanting to take action and fight for their rights, whether it be on housing estates or at work. It is being held to discuss these problems and to learn how to fight back. It's a chance to build a real women's movement in the working class. Take this chance, be there in Manchester on 29 November.

The Women's Voice Rally is to fight for our rights:

Our right to a job, equal pay and £6 now

Our right to a home, free nurseries and a national health service

Our right to free abortion and contraception

Our right to decent schools for our kids.

We are against all wage restrictions and cuts in welfare spending.

Portugal workers need our help now!

The working class of Portugal need the help of workers in Britain if they are to build socialism. That's why it is so important to build the solidarity movement here, now.

The multinational companies have set up the economic blockade of Portugal by stopping the delivery of the key components to their subsidiaries. At Plessey, at General Motors, in the submarines and at the General Motors plant the story is the same—the shortage of parts is bringing production to a halt and throwing people out of a job.

At Setubal there is a series of meetings and messages from the country's unemployed and the workers in Portugal. They are asking for help. The Solidarity movement is sending help.

But it is at this basic level that trade unions in this country can help the trade unions in Portugal.

Help

Trade unions in this country must make sure that we give all the help we can to break the economic blockade in Portugal.

What can be done:

1. Unlocking the boycott is the most central task. A small firm does not have branches in Portugal it cannot cut off the trading links. Find out and make the connections with workers in Portugal.

2. Send a delegation from your workplace to Portugal on a fact-finding mission. The Hands Off Portugal and Portuguese committee is arranging for a Delegation to visit Portugal in November. Contact them at the address below.

3. Support the worker-controlled newspaper Ralca.

Send donations to Republicans, Rankine-Sciaroni 116, Lisbon 2, Portugal.

If you are an employer who has no direct links with Portugal, adopt a factory, hospital or neighbourhood committee and send donations to their workers' committee. Contact through OG.

POTUGAL FUND

TWO new amendments at the pannal in Portugal at the Crossroads were typewritten this week—Spanish and French. They are appealing for support at the meetings in Spain and Greece. All this is made possible by the Socialist Worker Portugal Solidarity Fund. So, bring some of your spare cash to the meeting and roll in.

Total this week £305.45. Our thanks to:

Moses Coates, E3, Portobello Road, London; 
D. J. Turner, 121, Warren St, London; 
R. E. Reynolds, 19, Great Portland Street, London; 
D. J. Turner and the members of the Workers International Network.

To orders: Communist Party, 17, Crossways, Manchester, M1 7AL. P.O. Box 170, Manchester. 

Sold in post offices, cinemas, football clubs, etc., at the Crossroads in Fane St. E1. 

All contributions addressed to Socialist Worker Portugal Fund; 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.
REPORT: Paul Foot
PICTURES: John Sturrock

that they will have to reduce production from 350 machines a year to 250.
This has come as no surprise to the stewards.
Dick Burdett, AUEW convenor at Wickmans, explained "Since 1965, when we were the highest in the industry. Obviously, it cut
production. The employers were terri-
fied of the escalation of wages.
Now, in the country demanded an end to piecework. They preferred to cut production than let the workers' wages
rise. We actually they have
more than about what he produces."
"In 1973, I warned Wickmans
that production was falling and that
if they persisted with this job evaluation nonsense they
would be in deep trouble. I urged
them to change course. They didn't. Well, they
had to live with the increases
and mistakes with our jobs."
At Wickmans, the employers have
started their attack on the
staff, where they have already
won a few voluntary redun-
dancies, though compulsory redun-
dancies are being resisted.
At Alfred Herbert, the other
Coventry main company tool
company, 1400 redundancies
have been announced, nearly
1000 of them affecting staff.

Furious
The staff workers are furious and ready to fight, Ralph Lucas, chairman of the ACTS branch, says.
We've never had a strike here. We're not especially proud
of that. Mind. But they can't blame us for anything. Any
action we take--and we will take
the most drastic action if they insist on sacks--will
be their responsibility. And if the
worker comes in, well, he
wouldn't be worse than those
busards.
Like Dick Burdett, Ralph
Lucas is aiming for a maximum
strike across the union bound-
aries. We want to be repre-
sented on a committee with the

In a few weeks time, a
huge workers' meeting will
be held in Coventry. It could be the most
important meeting in that city
since the war.
It has been called the
Coventry district of the Con-
 federation of Shipbuilding and
Engineering Union and is open
to almost all the city's 2000
shop stewards.
There will be one subject on
the agenda: unemployment.
Coventry, which was described
only a few years ago as the
richest city in England is now hit by unemployment worse than any other city in the Midlands.
In Coventry, the cry 'No return to the Thirties' comes
too late. The city is back in the
Thirties already. In September
1935 there were 7000 people
in the city unemployed--9.7
per cent of the population. In
September this year there were
17460 out of work--that's 7.8
per cent.
The three great props of the
city's industrial boom--cars,
telephones and engineering--in the
1930s and 1940s are being kicked away by the employers. The employers' killer weapon has been
in engineering. Already this year
Coventry engineering employers
have announced 2000 sack-

At Wickmans machine tool
factory the employers told the
shop stewards a few weeks ago

...AND THIS IS THE WAY...
THE RAPE OF CYPRUS

THE VIEW FROM BOTH SIDES

- left, by Kadir Peker, who is Turkish, and right, by Andrew Strouthous, a Greek

FILMS ON the Second World War almost always concentrate on the nastiness of Japanese and Germans. They tell us how patriotic and brave the British and Americans were. They scarcely ever tell us what life was like during the war or, even more important, how it was that the war started.

Attila '74 is a film made by the Greek director Michael Cacoyannis, who also produced fantastic films like Zorba the Greek and Trojan Women. This is an authentic film, showing life for the thousands of refugees in Cyprus.

What is happening in Cyprus is appalling. It is the equivalent of hundreds of thousands dead and literally millions homeless in a country like Britain. The scenes in the refugee camps are terrifying and make you very angry.

Cyprus is not just an island. It is a permanent aircraft carrier in a strategically important part of the Mediterranean. This is the main reason for the invasion of the island.

The film unfolds the story of real people faced with the harsh episode in this story. There is the captain of the army loyal to Makarios.

He is arrested by an officer at the Samson coup begins. The officer insists he is a traitor to Enosis, the cause of union with Greece, so he is loved of the fascists and the Colonels.

By the time the police arrive, he has two bullets in his leg and he is a cripple. You hear his story in the film.

Then there is a bus driver from Morphou. He and his wife and five children escape from the invading Turkish army to a refugee camp near Limassol.

Victim

He escapes from one army of reaction but becomes the victim of another. During its "Return Makarios" rally in Limassol, he is shot dead by EOKA-B thugs.

In Cyprus for centuries, until the age of imperialism, in fact in the early 19th century, Greeks and Turks lived side by side. Imperialism changed all that, using every conceivable division to win its way.

But in the 1930s they did not entirely succeed. Greeks and Turks fought side by side against British imperialism.

Today, in practice, Cyprus is divided into two separate states. The Greek people in the refugee camps are aware of the role of imperialism, the Greek Junta and Nikos Sampson and the CIA in creating the situation.

...in fact, one Greek Cypriot woman says it is EOKA B more than anything else which caused the Turkish army invasion.

But still there is the belief that Makarios is the saviour. Makarios, of course, is a supporter of Enosis, union with Greece.

One serious fault with the film, understandable but unforgivable, is the confusion of the Turkish army with the Turkish people.

The same army is gunning down workers in Turkey. The same army has brought havoc to some Turkish Cypriot people.

ATTILA '74 traces step by step the events leading up to the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and shows the百货 of that divided island. The film is a clear warning of the result of allowing fascists to organize.

It is a great pity that the film maker, Cacoyannis, does not make the point. He condemns the Makarios government for allowing the Turkish army to invade but he does not condemn the system that allows the fascists to breed.

Cacoyannis interviews the fascists, scums of EOKA-B. The film is worth seeing for this alone. You don't know whether to laugh or cry at their ridiculous ravings, such as 'I did it for the good of Cyprus and events have not changed my mind.'

The horror of it is that these sons are still at liberty, unlike the father of five who were murdered at the 'Return Makarios' rally.

A good feature of the film is that it lets the people tell their own story. It is the honesty and frankness of the people that is a striking contrast to the duplicity of Makarios.

One old peasant woman lays the blame at EOKA's door. We see a captain who was shot in the leg by members of the Greek Guard.

Soft

Cacoyannis is soft on Makarios, Makarios refuses to drop Enosis, union with Greece. He admits that American imperialism is going over his head.

He boasts how innocent he is with the fascists of EOKA (they're all still at liberty) as if they were petty criminals instead of the cause of mass murders and perhaps the pretended division of the island on which Turks and Greeks had lived peacefully for centuries.

We see mass rallies of hundreds of thousands calling for the return of Makarios - a position supported unconditionally by the Communist Party, AKEL.

AKEL get 40 per cent of the votes on Cyprus, a fact which the film neither mentions nor analyses. In fact, all the AKEL do is support the Makarios. They don't even vote against the fascists. They just repeat again the mistakes they made before the coup.

In spite of these weaknesses, the film is a powerful, compact and is a must for all socialists.
SOCIAL WORKER is holding a rally for 1500 members and supporters next Easter at the Ministers' Holiday Camp in Skegness on the East Coast. If you are a reader of Socialist Worker then you and your family are invited.

It will be a tremendous occasion for political, trade union and social life, and finding out what Socialist Worker is all about.

Everyone is assured of visitors from fraternal organisations in Portugal, Spain, and many other countries, to participate in discussion. The challenge will be sent out to Left Labour MPs to debate their Common Market policies with us. There will be no better opportunity for our trade union sections to get together and thrash out the way ahead.

Entertainment will be the best. In addition to many political films, current popular films will also be shown. Dances, cabaret, folk music and poetry will all be part of the four-day rally.

Although there is a limit on children, we welcome visitors of any age, with a kids' club planned for the afternoons. And a permanent and qualified staff will be on hand during the day and in the evenings. We want to encourage family holidays, not just those of a five-year-old age, but of all ages, will be entirely free.

The numbers are limited—1200 adults, 380 children—so make sure that you book early. Write to Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DS or call your local Socialist Worker seller for details.

The cost: adults £16.25, children free. This excludes transport and food (pay £2 deposit and the balance can be paid directly to your Socialist Worker seller.

Accommodation: In 2/3 bed chalets, all centrally heated. Children over four will be accommodated in modern dormitories.

ASSIST

FOOD: The cost includes a cooked breakfast and three-course meal at lunch and dinner.

CHILDREN: A qualified staff will be available to look after the children during the day and the evening babysitting will be provided in the evenings. The cost of baby food, SMA milk and orange juice are also provided.

TIME AND PLACE: Easter Week, Saturday, 16th April—23rd April, 1977, at the Darbyshire Ministers' Holiday Camp, Skegness, Lincolnshire.

SPORTING FACILITIES: include bowls, tennis, swimming pool, putting green, table tennis and darts.

SOCIAL FACILITIES: Fire bars, discos, snooker, hall, cinema, and two TV rooms.

The heated swimming pool at the camp. Other facilities for children will include a full-time qualified nurse so that parents can take full part in the political activities.

And children will be free!

IN ten weeks sales of Socialist Worker in Bristol have nearly trebled, from 150 a week to 425. The committee has made people realise the need for revolutionary ideas.

Magie Reas of Socialist Worker, who took part at the full meeting of the International Socialist branch and praised the good discussion about how to sell the paper. Any branch that has not had a speaker and a meeting on this should do so.

Following this, two of our unemployed members went round all the paper shops in two areas of the city and we now have 15 shops taking 55 copies of Socialist Worker each week. We dug up some Socialist Worker sold here stickers, which are very useful. Two shops are also taking copies of SW's sister paper for Asian workers, Chiswick, and a third shop round is planned.

We have a pub round selling 5-25 copies, two factory gate sales and street sales are going up too. Our main problem is transport and shop work.

We have found that printed forms for sales are useful, with a space for donations for the fighting fund and another for names and addresses of people interested in our ideas. Financially this has meant that we've sent in money each week, totalling £67 in nine weeks.

The highest sale of Socialist Worker in Bristol was 600 some years ago during the fight against the Tories. We are going to beat that figure.

For every contact a paper. For every paper a contact.

On the old West End, South Bank, London, S.E.1.

Due to the small size of this leaflet we can not give any addresses to this issue. For more information contact:

INTERNATIONAL SOCIA LISTS

Address: 30-31 South Street, Westminster, London, W.C.2.

SOCIALIST WORKER

Phone: 01-836 4231

CHI RISTMAS CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALISM

The Socialist Workers Party, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DS. Phone 01-836 4231.

Christmas is coming and the SWP is holding a Christmas campaign for socialism. We are encouraging people to make a donation, however small, to help us in our ever-pressing struggle for socialism.

Donate by cheques to the Socialist Workers Party, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DS. ForFurther information contact the SWP, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DS.

Thursday, 23rd November

Meetings at 7.30 p.m. in the Green Room, ICW, 258 St Martin's Lane, London, W.C.2.

1. A history of socialist ideas.

2. The case for socialism.

3. The remainders, the road to socialism.

DARLINGTON WORKERS VOICE public meeting: The social service cutbacks, by: Bob. P. and Pauline (London). Meeting at 7.45 p.m. in the Public Library, Ampleforth Road, Darlington.

NORTHERN LIMIT On Saturday, 25th November, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at 17 South Street, Darlington, Darlington District International Socialists.

EAST LONDON SWP meeting: Friday, 24th November, at 7.30 p.m. in the local hall in the Wood Green estate (see address). In East London, London E2.

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Two armed men threatened to kill us, but were then deterred when we learnt they were not armed. We are appealing for help from the local community for our safety and that of the whole area. Write to: Film Dept., Socialist Worker, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 8DS.

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The bullet that went astray

REG GROVES has presented a well-written story of a man who, for a number of years, brought hope to many thousands of men and women looking for an escape from the conditions imposed on them by capitalism.

He was a man who, like myself, lived in the period when Reg Groves writes about this book restores the urge to do that little bit more to further the only cause that gave promise of a future for mankind.

The ability of the author to picture for his readers the political atmosphere that prevailed before the First World War—years before his own involvement in the movement—provides a pleasant surprise.

Groves was active before 1914, so the author must have carried out a great deal of research. On top, we are given the remarkable story of Groves’s mysterious disappearance.

Defiance

The description of Groves’s open defiance of the Establishment, amid the shocked and indignant protests of the House of Commons, makes interesting reading.

For that, Groves incurred the hatred of Snowden, MacDonald and Harle, the triumvirate that rules the roost in the Independent Labour Party.

Here was this young man, only 25 years old, stealing the headlines by bringing the spirit of revolt into Parliament.

What he did caused many workers to realize that there was more to politics than sending Labour members to the House of Commons, particularly if they were tied to the coat-tails of the Liberal Party.

Revolutionary

He did more than that; he caused workers to think of other forms of political activity. Groves launched the sending of men into the ‘camp of the enemy’ to put pressure on the imperialistic need for revolutionary mass action.

That approach came to me from Victor Grayson and I have never lost it.

When Grayson, in 1910, called on me to join the executive of a British Socialist Party I was a true believer in the old Labour Party.

In a letter to a friend, Greyson explained how he was influenced by the work of the Socialist Party.

He said: ‘I express the hope that Groves’s views may have an influence dominating the Party, Hyndman was tough and, although we didn’t know it, the official organ, Justice, was his personal property.

Grayson was not involved in the internal disputes that took place in the British Socialist Party.

I listened to Grayson when he was in top form. I was in the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, when he turned up, bewildled by having had too much to drink.’

The organizers of the Clarion Scouts had to get him off the stage. It was a sad affair which was partly made up for by Tom Kerr, later Lord Provost of Glasgow, who brought on a piano and told us about artists, poets, and other men and women of genius who were victims of the attacks.

I hope that Groves’s lapse would not stop his useful work for socialism. It was his personal property.

The bullet that went astray

The 1911 Dock Strike—and the police move in: meanwhile, Groves was campaigning for the formation of the British Socialist Party.

ON THE BOX

FRIDAY

After years of standing idle in the cupboard of the well-to-do, bank managers are giving a public airing on the MONEY PROGRAMME (BBC 2, 8.15pm). This is followed at 9pm by the latest in the very funny series, FORTY TOWERS, whose loss is almost compensated for by the return of FORRIDGE, 9pm (BBC 1).

SUNDAY

WEEKEND WORLD (LWT, Noon) continues to present intelligent and easy-to-follow current affairs commentary. COMPANY (ITV, 10.25pm) celebrates the centenary of German socialist playwright, Fritz Mehr’s birth, and is built around one of his short stories, Maria and the Magician.

MONDAY

BBC TV’s TONIGHT programme, (10.55pm) begins a National Health Week which will examine different aspects of the health service.

By Barry Fantoni

The rage of instrumentation across these ten tracks is staggering—original, using 70 or so different kinds of percussion and strings.

UNIVERSAL

I speak only a little Spanish, but the words, beautifully sung, have a meaningful music in the sound along. Then one talks of folk music, one means the music of the people—common people.

Because working men and women the world over share a universal lot, the music they create these springs from a common source. This is why authentic folk music resonates through such similar sounding structures.

The violin music of the Irish jig is often unassailable from violin music from the Ukraine.

Of the folk music I have heard, none has impressed me more than that of Qualapayun. The title track ‘El Pueblo Unido’, Janes Sera Venecido (A United people will never be beaten) has the simple strength of an anthem.

If I ever do a party song, they need look no further than this one.

*QUALAPAYUN, El Pueblo Unido, J&J Records, Transatlantic Record XTRA 1155 (£1.25)
Labour: Why I quit after 24 years...

I have been reading SW for nearly a year now, and I have amassed a number of its views, I cannot join at present for a number of reasons.

I joined the Labour Party in 1975. I left two months ago. I do not want to make that mistake again.

I also feel one must be committed wholeheartedly and I am not sure I am yet.

One thing I can do is to become a Socialist Worker supporter and I am glad you have decided to have the campaign. I am sure there are many people who feel like me.

Every Thursday I know I will receive a newspaper that is always open to speak its mind about situations near and far and with this I agree. Definitely of view. - ANN MARIE MCKINLEY, Abingdon, Oxen.

I won't make that mistake again.

Abortion: We need your support

THE Abortion Law Reform Association/A Woman's Right To Choose (ALRA/ARTC) has worked closely with the National Abortion Campaign acting somewhat as a service machine, with little recognition.

Its activities have included coordinating the petitioning (more than 200,000 signatures have so far been collected), and publishing three national demands pamphlets. It also continues to compile and publish other facts and statistics relevant to the abortion scene.

ARTC is now in serious financial straits. One of the two overworked full-time workers may have to leave. It may also be unable to publish new pamphlets and posters crucial to the campaign.

I was surprised at the article on the Cliff McDonald case (11 October) which proclaimed it a victory because the police prosecution against him had been dropped.

Although that's the good, it's wrong to stop police harassment of black people. The article implies that fighting his case and putting up resistance against his harassment is wrong.

I think Cliff McDonald was probably held for 28 days by the Appeal Court. Brothers and sisters involved in it are a load of black people over the last few years have still been harassed after winning their cases. Can you name one.

You won't stop the harassment of black people until you've built a political movement ready to fight against all forms of police and state harassment. - MIKE DIXON, Forest Gate, East London.

I have been buying SW for some time now. I am just one of many who are concerned about things that will not change the system. I see that as being achieved through organisations such as SW. That's why I am going to join.

NICOLO, Wood Green, London.
UNITY, NOT SCOTS NATS

WE WERE SADDENED to read Ian McGregor’s letter (4 October). The name is not English, it is Nigerian or any other type of national affiliation, but world-wide capitalism. For as long as the plan to stop laying off thousands of English and overseas workers continues, the call to unite will become stronger. The British national fighters are not alone in this battle. Manpower workers will be treated as second-class citizens by the British government.

Ian McGregor says there are committed socialists within the Scottish National Party. But the SNP is committed to parliamentary democracy within a separate Scotland and will, at best, merely deliver workers from British capitalism, not Scottish capitalism.

Tartan

The Tartan Army’s stance has been made clear. Its aims are to show that the government cannot be trusted to fight for revolution, and to demonstrate the struggle.

What we need is unity among all workers against the SNP’s petty nationalistic, or rather, prejudice against the working people, wholeheartedly against the working people. We need a mass movement of anti-apartheid workers to fight for revolution.

Each of you should call on your friends and family to join the movement for the overthrow of the British capitalist system and the establishment of a socialist society.

THE HULL docks strike was a huge victory for dockers and their allies. The dockers walked the picket lines and the workers backed them up.

The boycott was a massive victory for the workers, and the struggle continues.

By A Kirby (NASD)

La Huerre, Bill Brown, Glenrothes.

THE OUTLAWING of the Ultras Volunteer Force, because they are the only group to fight violence, makes me feel sick. Surely, our legal system is the most accessible for all, and all who may have any claim should be made by the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Dundalk, since they have the claim for compensation.

People must be made to see the danger of the so-called loyalist paramilitaries and the occupying Army. We all know that the loyalist paramilitaries and the occupying Army were started by the British government to support the republic, and it has been suggested that this is a murder of Protestants. - P. E. F. Dotts, Engle

HOW MUCH does it cost to get government overthrown, 40,000 trade unionists and socialists murdered, and tens of thousands of others tortured and locked up in concentration camps?

Answer: about a million dollars. That’s how much the giant multinational company ITT contributed to President Nixon’s election expenses to make sure his hold in Chile.

Sabotage

Even without Nicos and the CIA, ITT organized its own campaign of economic sabotage to ensure President Allende’s victory. ITT’s success in the giant multinational corporate campaign was due to the collective efforts of its many cuts and erasing markets at the expense of sales. It is important to note that the campaign was organized by the Allende government, not by the military, and it was successful because of the support of the workers, not because of the military’s support.

The campaign was not only successful, but it was successful because of the solidarity of workers around the world. In Europe and in the United States, workers organized strikes and rallies to support the Allende government. In Africa and the Middle East, workers organized protests and demonstrations to support the Allende government. In Chile, the Allende government was supported by a majority of workers, who were determined to fight for a better future.

The Allende government was popular because it was democratic, and it was supported by a majority of workers. It was important to support the Allende government, and it was important to support the workers who were fighting for a better future.

The Allende government was not only popular, but it was also successful. It was able to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the workers, and it was able to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the military. It was able to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the United States, and it was able to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the other countries around the world.

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Morecambe victory
MORECAMBE: Members of the Transport and General Workers Union at Keaenny Supermarket, Westgate, have won a strike for union recognition and against management refusal to abide by safety regulations.
Inside the supermarket the fire door was forced open by the workers and it blocked other gangways were also blocked.
The only windows in the shop are at the rear. On Monday, when the shop was closed and staff were at work stacking, they were boxed in the shop while the strikers went to the door.
Now they have won, the strikers are prepared to spread their victory to all the rest of the region and the rest of the trade unionism. We’ve been treated like blood animals for too long—now we’ve taught them a lesson they won’t forget.

Students occupy
THE FIGHT back against the cuts in education is beginning. And it has started in London and also in other cities for its student militancy. Two and a quarter occupation victories have already been won. And in Cambridge there is a steady campaign for support of the lobby for the return of the West Cambridge Region to the UGC and the NUS.

At KIRKING III PRINCETON college, students have taken over the college and the students, who have been unable to attend their usual lectures for a week, are expected to stay there until the college is run for them.
And at THAMES POLYTECHNIC: an extensionist strike is about to begin. The college is being run for the benefit of the UGC by the management.

Classified
Fire Alarm: A Woman’s Right To Choose: The Prudential Insurance Company, 17 Upper St, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9AP (Backed by Manchester Trades Council).

FIGHT SEXISM: Saturday 1 November, 10am to 5pm, Russell Square, London WC1. A conference in support of all women in the workplace and for the decriminalisation of abortion. (Backed by the Trades Union Congress).

PICKET: TRAVEL ON DEAD FIELDS: Monday 20 October 11am, outside Westgate Train Station in west London, against the cuts in the National Rail Network. (Backed by the National Union of Railwaymen).

ANSELLS WORKERS FIGHT BACK
BIRMINGHAM: A battle is brewing at the giant Allied Beverages’ plant. Ansell’s, Little Cofton, near Telford, is one of the biggest of the company’s plants. The workers have voted on an strike balloting that 93% of those who voted were in favour of the strike announcement.

The first order to just one Corona depot in the Midlands was for 2600 cases of the £1.75 a case. The workers at Ansell’s are fighting for a living wage.

At the main meeting alone one vote was cast against a resolution giving the shop stewards the authority to call any action by the workers.

Blackstone and others have been threatened with the loss of their jobs or violence. So the black on orders for Skol and JD, and the white on orders for Carlsberg is more than just a question of pay. As the workers at Ansell’s put it: ‘In 90% of the cases we have a contract with the company, that’s the way the business is run. And that’s why we’re fighting back.

TAKEN FOR A RYDER
BOLTON: The workers at Manager Ryde can no longer take the strain. Last week, after many months of efforts to find all the chain in the shop have been endless.

At first, they put it down to vandalism. But it turned out that it was actually a fake manager. So when the time came for their wages to be cut, the manager didn’t show up.

The next day, two days after this this happened, the manager locked the canteen. The men down tools and refused to work. As they say, “it’s better to be done than to be done.”

More than 300 workers stood out for this strike. But the management was not prepared to recognise the canteen and as a result, the workers walked out on strike.

The 300 who also paid the finer fare for the time lost. It’s difficult to imagine how the management will be able to get back on the rails without the workers in place.
CHRYSLER LAUNCH NEW ATTACK

By Peter Bain, TGWU Shop steward, Chrysler Linwood

CHRYSLER have announced further production cutbacks at their Linwood plant. Although the 5,000 manual workers will be on a three-day-week until the end of the year. For the worldwide Chrysler Assembly, this brings their lay-off days this year to 75, or working weeks.

Huge cuts in the workforce seem to be on management's minds. In Ford of Britain, a million, combined with company-provided strikes, would provide them with an excuse to slash their workforce.

Against the huge fuel deal toning down, the company may be out to make effective trade union action before the order in the British plants.

The company's 'censure' policy has already resulted in anti-trade-union tactics being the factory in the last year. And its so-called 'workers' participation scheme' (a purely attack on the TGWU's 'stewards' organisations is)

still operating around.

And now, according to Chrysler offers as a constant battle to protect our standard of living. It's time we started campaigning against Chrysler without compromising and undershop those fronts.

British Leyland lock out 600

BIRMINGHAM: The latest attack at Chrysler comes at the same time as British Leyland's decision to lock out 600 men at Walsall Heath. The second phase of the attack on jobs and conditions in the motor industry is now under way.

This makes the behaviour of Eddy McGarry at Triumph all the more scandalous. He is attacking Britain's first major car plant, because he is determined to keep the Car of the year model.

The actor of the industry vehicle industry hundreds been affected so far by the crisis, he'll be going to the meeting to learn from the other vehicle industry workers about building effective constructional committees and root and file papers.

Collapse

That organisation has been shown to collapse. It is the first of many that the TGWU has to confront.

Now the Rank and File Organising Committee is attempting to rebuild national links across the whole industry. But Rolf Clunies, a shop steward in the TGWU at Massey-Ferguson in Coventry, told Socialist Worker: 'The tractor sector of the vehicle industry hundreds being affected so far by the crisis, but we'll be going to the meeting to learn from the other vehicle industry workers about building effective constructional committees and root and file papers.'

Power jobs threatened

IT'S THE MINES all over again. That was the reaction of Peter Kates, Transport National Union, yesterday, as a new Government's decision to close 46 pit villages, affecting 5,000 jobs.

They have cut the valleys and when they wanted coal urgently, there was no coal to be had. If the difference is you cannot import coal, you cannot import electricity. We have lost 5,000 jobs.

The miners have announced they will fight for their jobs.

Produce

'What we want to know is where the men and machines will be provided to the power stations and the power companies. We cannot buy a fantastic dream in the labour force, all that it needs is for every one thousand workers to start to knock down and there will be no backup facilities for the mines. The miners are making a brave attempt to save the situation let alone a boom. It's mad.

HILLINGDON, Scotland: 280 engi

Next week an attack on the work of the Persson razor blade factory at the weekend. They have chained and padlocked the entrance and are refusing to allow management into the plant.

Billsworthy's 'Pawley's' Ursula: 'We are fighting for the right to work. There have been three batches of redundancies this year, and each time we were promised it would only be the problem for a month, but we have to make an effort to deal with the redundancies and settle the remaining workforce with a more realistic level of engagement.

The management of the variety store at the AUW Paulton District Committee. Our steward's committee is organizing a meeting for all shop stewards in the Pawley's District, and we will be organizing some appearances at nearby factories to win further support.

PERSONAL OCCUPATION TO SAVE JOBS

HILLSIDE, Scotland: 280 engi

A solidarity picket is supporting a walk-out over the Persson razor blade factory at the weekend. They have chained and padlocked the entrance and are refusing to allow management into the plant.

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NEEDED

There have been more than 100 jobs lost since March. If these new redundancies have not been accepted it would mean that over the past eight months 25% of the workforce would have been made redundant.

The dispute has the support of the TUC and the EPPA.

Support Balfour picket!

SEFIELD: A solidarity picket to support Balfour workers occupying the Bal- borgar winding engine works is to be staged on Friday. Shop stewards are asking all Engineering Union members in the city to support the picket outside the colliery village at the Grangemouth Road Works, 6.30pm.

The picket is planned as a gesture of solidarity with the miners who have a meeting in Sheffield, and is part of a growing campaign to back the 500 Balfour workers in support of the miners.

Effective

The occupation of a warehouse and office is now its sixth week. The factory is part of the Edgar Allen Balfour Combine, and shop stewards meeting this week are likely to vote for a one-day combine strike. One union for all.

MAIDSTONE: A free-year-long bonus deposit at the Whiterad-Fornings brewery on Monday when the men refused to work any more stealing drinks business. As a result, the management suspended two men and provoked the first strike at the brewery for 120 years.

The strike has spread to other Whiterad breweries in Kent, at Aylesham and Walthamstow, where drivers are refusing to deliver to Whitbread's pubs. The men on the picket line have expressed their surprise at the sudden change in the management's campaign against us.

Any messages of support from other breweries should be sent to Alan Bevan, 16 High Road, Maidstone, Kent, who will pass them on to the picket line.

EASTBROOK ALLARD STRIKE

SEFIELD: 600 workers at Easterbrook Allard went on strike on Monday on the threat of management to re-instate a sacked steward. Management say he was sacked for misconduct and dishonesty. Three years ago he was successful in re-instate the trustee canteen for alleged bad time-reporting.

CONVERST: 'He's a management tool!' The management have won the support of the ACTSS strike committee at Triumph. TGWU convener, Eddie McGarry.

Thanks to McGarry, three pickets have been injured by scab lorries this week. And last Friday, a picket had two toes broken by a lorry which smashed through the picket line.

McGarry has ordered his stewards to escort lorries away from the factory. He has told them to put their pickets on every single plant, and has given the company the chance to 'see' them. They have to divert their supplies to their packing plant at Honey:-

But at Harpers Transport in Liverpool, the TGWU have managed to secure a one-day strike. Since Pat Harkin, TGWU convener, has been elected in Liverpool by McGarry he is bitterly resenting that his men would not be part of the campaign.

Harkin has since visited the Coventry picket line, and asked his men to keep on breaking the pickets' lines. That man is in debt, and we will be giving the workers a chance to make breakthroughs by the pickets.

Harkin and the TGWU strike committee chairman, asked that the following statement be read out:

At a transport drivers' stewards' meeting today, said to them, keep on breaking the pickets' lines. That man is in debt, and we will be giving the workers a chance to make breakthroughs by the pickets. As soon as he gets there, he'll go for a company to the Faversham plant, and we can't sit back and wait for it.

The pickets will have to be reordered and reorganized to ensure that we are sure of victory.

Messages to support Ian Wills, ACTSS strike committee chairman, Triumph Coventry. Other messages to E McGarry, TGWU convener, at the same address.

70 out after police attack

MANCHESTER: 70 workers at Almond Avenue Ltd, who were sacked last week after police dragged off a member of the right-wing union, URTU, for interrogation.

The management of the bakery group, described as holding a '14 pound hammer over our heads', had already warned the workers not to attend.

Jimmy Davis, the URTU shop steward, described the tactics as ruthless. All the unionists in the yard had received threats of violence. They also want us to promise not to black the factory's despatch post or work the picket line.

'Then we can't sit back and wait for it. Our pickets will have to be reordered and reorganized to ensure that we are sure of victory.'

Messages of support to: Stan Wills, ACTSS strike committee chairman, Triumph Coventry. Other messages to E McGarry, TGWU convener, at the same address.

SOCIALIST WORKER 16 October 1975 15
Portugal: The uneasy lull

From Jimmy McCallum and Robin Ellis, Tuesday

The soldiers' committee of struggle, increasingly influenced by the Communist Party, accepted the only way to find out if their action would be deprecatingly adopted by the authorities within seven days, on face imprisonment. The government does not have the means of enforcing this ruling, but is preparing the ground for the future. It has also built up a new military force, under its own control, The intervention group AMI. This is being recruited through the recommendations of the Communist Party in Lisbon and the promise of more than £100 a month paid compared to the normal pay of £4 a month.

And this week the government will announce cuts in the armed forces, almost certainly aimed at cutting back the numbers in the land guard and the air force.

The marines, heavily influenced by the Communist Party, have decided to join AMI, although it is being boycotted by virtually all the regiments in the Lisbon area. The marines claim that they are out to transform AMI for the inside. But all they are doing is giving it a boost and, while the time comes, right wing will just kick them out.

Agreed

On Wednesday of last week, an important meeting of delegates from 28 military units in the Lisbon area agreed to form a joint committee, in which all soldiers’ committees, in which only privates take part, as they do everywhere, would be relegated to observers. And the government will announce cuts in the armed forces, almost certainly aimed at cutting back the numbers in the land guard and the air force.

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