Nine men burnt to death — for profit

By Jenny Jackson

NINE steelworkers were burnt to death last week in a scene of indescribable agony.

Terror-stricken commentators and steel bosses called the explosion — at the Appleby-Frodingham steel works, Scunthorpe — a terrible exception.

Sir Moaty (£750 a week) Plimpton, chairman of British Steel, said on television that it was "unique."

It was nothing of the sort. Disasters like this have happened before. They will happen as long as the profits matter more than workers' lives.

Only last month, a similar explosion at the Clay Lane site, Cleveland, Teesside, injured 16 steelworkers.

LEAKED

Water had leaked through the roof into an empty furnace. A fireman said: "If the furnace had been full, there would have been no Cleveland Works."

At the Anchor steelworks in Scunthorpe last year, there was another minor explosion of this type.

In the spring of 1973 at the Steel Corporation's Clydebridge Ironworks at Cambuslang in Scotland there was yet another. That explosion, caused by a leak in a water jacket of a 70-tonne mould, killed three men.

In the last two and a half years, explosions have ripped through three different steel plants.

Why? Because the British Steel Corporation won't design the safest possible production processes.

They won't check or re-check the processes when they are installed. Because all that costs money in what British Steel calls "unit costs."

LOWER

And British Steel, in its stampede for profits is constantly searching for lower and lower unit costs.

The BBC safety record at Appleby-Frodingham is an outrage. One man was gassed earlier this year. Another was killed in the Bloom and Bessemer Mill in October 1974.

Following this death British Steel was charged with failing to ensure that machinery was securely fenced. BSC pleaded guilty to two charges and was fined a mere £200.

BSC's own statistics show how bad the situation is. In September, the latest month for which figures are available, 812 out of the 18,500 workforce in the Scunthorpe and Lancashire group had accidents which kept them off work for three days or more — an incredible rate of one man in 22 every month.

The men who work at the

Continued on Page Two

Pass the champagne, the toast is sacrifice

AFTER YEARS of austerity, champagne and turtle soup came back to the Lord Mayor's Banquet on Monday.

Sir Lindsay Ring, the new Lord Mayor and chairman of the city catering firm Ring and Brymer, knows how to lay on a good dinner and this year's feed was by common consent, the best since the war.

After the turtle soup, halibut and scotch beef, there was something called lemon posset and maida of honour. The wines were: Hochheim Riesling (1973) and Chateau Fonbodet (1967), Sweet Champagne Vintage 1969 (LS a bottle) and Quinta da Roval port.

But the best vintage of all came from Harold Wilson, who bathed his way through the toasting to warn of 'bleak months ahead' and to call for 'the spirit of sacrifice' from workers everywhere.

When he spoke about 'our friends in the trade union movement' there were smiles and backslapping all round for Len Murray, TUC general secretary, who sat wreathed in smiles and the smoke of the largest cigar on offer.

As the Rolls Royce and government limousines dropped their white-tied businessmen, police chiefs and judges at the steps of the Guildhall, 80 workers under the banner of the Rank and File Right to Work Campaign shouted ungentlemanly comments about unemployment.

A docker shouted: "Harold Wilson is guilty. OK" and "Give a Bech for Britain". The most common comment, however, was "Get Stuffed!"

In the national interest the lords and ladies duly obliged...

SUPPORT THE LOBBY

ALL OUT WEDNESDAY

26 NOVEMBER

Assemble Euston Station, London, 1pm for march on parliament

The caress we can do
without: Pages 7-9
Battered wives take over the Palm Court

AT DAWN last Saturday, 50 homeless women and children from the Battered Wives Refuge occupied the 100-room Palm Court Hotel in Richmond, Surrey.

The hotel has been empty for ten years. For the last three it has been occupied by Goodnews, the multi-million pound brewery group.

Chiswick Womens Aid set up the Battered Wives Refuge four years ago. They have operated an open-door policy for 45 people, but the refuge has consistently been packed with more than 100 people.

Two months ago, the local Labour-controlled council stopped their £10,000 annual grant because, they said, the refuge had become a fire hazard.

The grant will only be renewed when the numbers are brought down to 36. Mrs Erin Pirrie, founder of Chiswick Womens Aid, told Socialist Worker: 'Police and citizens' advice bureau from all over London send us scores of cases but when it comes to providing money or property, the councils plead lack of cash.'

The women plan to convert the hotel into a community centre, and have already converted the public bar into a makeshift kitchen.

She believes they are in a strong position as they have the support of the community.

The people inside strongly deny this.

Needed

Money and carpets are urgently needed. Send them to Chiswick Aid Centre, 369 Chiswick High Road, London, W4.

Shirley McGregor, editor of Women's Voice, writes: 'The occupiers by the women of Richmond is magnificent. They have had enough of charity and are scaling for the local councils.'

They have taken action themselves, which has got them the accommodation they so desperately need—and also exposes the meanness of a society which allows millionaire hoteliers to leave a huge building empty for years but can't find the money to house the desperate women the newspapers write about.

Women are learning the same lesson all over the country. In Birmingham, postal workers are fighting against demands that they should be sacked first—because they are women.

In Wrexham, Ysbyty men at a Kaysor Bondar factory have camped out at the gates for 14 days. They get the essential materials, but not the finished goods.

This is the fighting spirit we want to organise and develop at the Women's Voice rally in Manchester on 29 November.
WHAT WE THINK

IN SEPTEMBER, 50,000 men and women lost their jobs. The October figure is likely to be much better. The employers’ organisation, the CBI, estimates that 200,000 jobs will be lost during the winter. Most forecasters predict unemployment will be running at one and a half million next autumn.

Against this background, we have Jack Jones and Len Murray appealing, along with the managers of big business, to those paid out of profits and wages who are holding the government’s ‘anti-inflation’ pay-cutting and job-destroying policies.

The TUC leaders, protecting all the while that they are ‘concerned’ about unemployment, are nudging the government’s ‘new industrial strategy’ along with the employers—and then endorse the strategy.

What does this involve? The Business Editor of the Sunday Times notes: ‘Now, even with unemployment nudging 1.2 million and expected to reach 1.5 million … the new strategy is based on maintaining a stable or even a falling level of real government spending.’

This is, there will be no resources put into confronting unemployment. At the same time the government’s pay policy is cutting consumption and so increasing unemployment. The government calls its latest policy ‘backing the winners’. The Tories called the same policy ‘no lame ducks’. Make no mistake, it is the TUC Heath policy that Wilson and Healey have taken up. They would have to let Chrysler go to the wall and they will if there is not massive resistance.

FIGHT FOR THE RANKS! NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES!

Public meetings organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee.

NORTH LONDON

MANCHESTER
Wednesday 25 November, 7.45pm, Newholme Tavern, 184 Oldham Road. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson and Dave Kelly (NUT Emerg. Rank & File Organising Committee).

WEST LONDON

MANCHESTER
Tuesday 24 November, 7.30pm, Oldham Road. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson and Dave Kelly (NUT Emerg. Rank & File Organising Committee).


BRISTOL
Sunday 22 November, 7pm, Newholme Tavern, 184 Oldham Road. Speakers: Ricky Tomlinson and Dave Kelly (NUT Emerg. Rank & File Organising Committee).

YEARS OF frustration and anger at police harassment exploded among black youth in Leeds last week.

What began as a traditional bonfire celebration ended in a running battle between police and crowds in Chapeltown, the main immigrant area.

Police claimed a bonfire in Spencer Place was a hangover. By early evening, they were patrolling the area with a portable carrier, two dog patrol vans, a squad car, a CID car, and at least one pantomime police horse. The CID car, which was stashed earlier, was kept in the back of a house.

Chapeltown itself is a decaying area of slum housing, poverty, and lack of facilities for young people.

The police have done their utmost to create the impression that they were the hapless victims of a carefully planned, unprovoked attack. They claim to have been keeping a ‘low profile’ that night.

Reinforced by patrols, they proceeded to arrest the young people and by morning had 100 people in the remand cells. 150 people were arrested.

Police brutality had to be faced in an organised way. A start has been made in London and Birmingham, but all black people must organise. The other speaker, Comrade Mahon, went on to explain how police harassment and brutality can be fought.

80 AT FLAME MEETING

EIGHTY people attended a meeting on police harassment organised by Socialist Worker, Flame and Chingh in Wolverhampton last Friday. The audience, mainly West Indians, heard a fine speech from Dave Butcher, an unemployed engineering union member, on the realities of life in Britain compared to the expectations which West Indians have when they arrive in this country.

Police brutality had to be faced in an organised way. A start has been made in London and Birmingham, but all black people must organise.

The task now facing supporters of Socialist Worker and our sister paper Flame is to organise an郭rganised struggle against the root of the oppression and exploitation of black people—the capitalist system itself.

Anger

Last Wednesday’s explosion of anger was a sign that black youth have at last enough of being society’s football.

The task now facing supporters of Socialist Worker and our sister paper Flame is to organise an organised struggle against the root of the oppression and exploitation of black people—the capitalist system itself.

A significant pointer to what we can expect is the government’s recourse to a loan from the International Monetary Fund.

You cannot go on in hand to hand with the central bankers and maintain your freedom of action, whether on policies maintaining full employment here in Britain or the movement’s policies.

Harold Wilson said (in 1964) and, for once, he was speaking the truth. He went on:

Bankers will before long be demanding that Britain puts her house in order and their ideal of an orderly house usually comes to mean vicious inroads into the Welfare State and a one-sided pay pause. The government would then launch savage cuts.

This time the Labour Ministers have not waited for the IMF to turn the screw. They are already pursuing economic policies so right-wing that even central bankers can hardly demand more.

Now the TUC bosses know all this very well. Situated as they are, only mental defects could fail to see that the government is deliberately allowing unemployment to rise, intensifying it up, and the TUC bosses are not mental defectives.

Their pretence that they are ‘pressing’ the government on unemployment can only be described as fraudulent.

You cannot support government policy and at the same time fight unemployment.

In this situation, the Right to Work campaign is of central importance. The TUC is not going to change anything. Indeed, Murray even allowed the 26 November march on parliament

Trade unionists and unemployed workers will have to reject TUC advice, against attempts at sabotage by the TUC bosses.

Every Socialist Worker reader should support the march on 26 November and the initiatives of the Rank and File Organising Committee and should work to commit working class organisations to support them too.

Don’t expect any help from the top, we have to do it ourselves.

Young blacks’ anger explodes

Fire hoses were turned on West Indian youths and five were arrested in ensuing clashes.

Since then, police, using dogs, have made raids on a number of parties and clubs in the area.

Chapeltown itself is a decaying area of slum housing, poverty, and lack of facilities for young people other than the efforts of local community organisations. There are more than 1400 unemployed in Leeds, many of them black school leavers.

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The other speaker, Comrade Mahon, went on to explain how police harassment and brutality can be fought.

Following spirited contributions, many black people contacted the organisers to fix another meeting in different parts of the country.

"Whip, Been a black chief shop steward at the Chrysler US engine plant in Detroit is speaking in Wolverhampton, at the Three Crowns Hotel, 7.30pm, on Friday.

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I want to be a SocialistWorker supporter

We will take extra copies of Socialist Worker for you.

We will expect you to pay for them unless you actually sell them.

Please send me

extra copies of Socialist Worker each week

(If your name and address do not fit in the box)

extra copies of Socialist Worker each week

(If your name and address do not fit in the box)
The gravy train rolls again

Britain’s Industrial Future
Meet The People
Who Help Shape It

The NATIONAL Union of Bank Employees, worried that a more militant trade union could win the battle, is resorting to desperate measures.

It issued a press statement last week to expand a new theory for saving bank jobs: Keep foreign-born workers in the bank.

The statement goes on: ‘It is not clear if the staff drafted in from abroad and given managerial posts have as much expertise as some of the UK staff under foreign management.

The union has sent delegations to the Department of Employment to make sure, as they put it, ‘that the requirements of the immigration legislation are being stringently observed’; that is, that foreign-born workers are kept out of the country.

This statement really takes some beating. British banks have spent the last 15 years almost every corner of the globe.

Those senior staff have been poached from the airline companies and junior staff threatened by reorganisation and merger plans. Dozens of them to save the government in the face of a new immigration Act.

The answer lies in the banks to get all bank workers into the union, to ensure the colour of their skin, and to fight the banks for every job with the only alliance they understand to get them under the safety net of one of the largest in the nation.

Reactionary

These tactics, however, are in no place to dealing with the Trade Unions of the 21st Century. It is an active campaign against reactionary policies in the trade union movement.

It gave one of the inaugurations of the TUC, Education Centre for Democratic Socialism, which is financed by the extreme Right-wing organisation, Common Cause.

GET THE TROOPS OUT CALL

The Council voted heavily to condemn the presence of the troops in Northern Ireland. The three have been banned from being GLAT delegates. Hayden Trade Council is also seeking other councils to protest against the removal of credentials from its own duly elected delegate, Michael Knowles. The three ‘dismissed’ members of the delegation have produced a majority report on the trip.

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Are you fighting unemployment? Join the campaign!

Fiasco they call the Safety Act

A TRADE union member has been fined £15 at Redditch court on a charge of possessing a power drill. The action of the factory inspectors is a great reform in the Health and Safety at Work Act. An academic notice of a prohibition order on 12 massive radial drilling machines in its Dartford plant. Such was in such a unsafe condition that they could easily have killed one of the workers.

The huge engineering company, BS Chapman was appealing against a Factory Inspector’s decision to put a prohibition order on 12 massive radial drilling machines in its Dartford plant. Each was in such a unsafe condition that they could easily have killed one of the workers.

Michael Foot as a great reform, the Health and Safety at Work Act. Another scandal was the fact that the inspectors on the machines at Dartford. It generously gave them one month to sort the matter out.

Killer

But this wasn’t enough for Clarke Chapman. They wanted still more time, and then when the inspectors were not satisfied, they killed a man at Clarke Chapman’s Gateshead factory in 1973. What had this to do with Clarke Chapman? This was a clear case of the inspectors acting in a desperate attempt to save their own skin.

The inspectors had been warned of the dangers of the machines at Gateshead, but they still insisted on working the machines. The inspectors were not satisfied, so they killed a man at Clarke Chapman’s Gateshead factory in 1973.

Right to Work, Campaign, and File Organising Committee

46 Prince George Road, London N16.
Angola: The West's vultures gather

TUESDAY was to be a day of celebration in Angola. The last Portuguese colony was to receive its independence. But instead of joy and independence and unity, the country is being torn apart by the vultures.

The American, the French, the South Africans and probably the British government are working together through various organisations and missionés to seize the country's immense wealth. They are supplying arms to the South African forces, European mercenaries and former Portuguese fascists with the army to destroy the independence of Angola.

The British press claims that there are three liberation movements in Angola. But only one of them, the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), stands for real independence.

To the west against Portuguese colonialism the MPLA built up its strength on the basis of popular support in the rural areas of the country and in the cities of the coast, particularly among the poorer people of the capital, Luanda. It received a few arms and a little training from other African states and from East Africa. But its main feature was self-reliance.

The MPLA leaders are not revolutionaries. They say: 'We are not Marxists.' They welcome foreign investment. But at least they insist that political power must be in black Angolan hands. This is why they are supported by all the left in Portugal and by the governments of the recently-liberated Portuguese colonies of Mozambique and Guinea Bissau.

The other movements in Angola are completely different. The so-called National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) has its origins in a tribal uprising in the north east of the country 15 years ago, which led to clashes between members of other tribes, and attacks on roads and villages. Its leaders then fled into exile in neighbouring Zaire, where they were defeated in battle. Then in 1975 they were invited to return by a government in Luanda which is now Henry Kinshasa's chosen puppet government. FNLA leader Jonas Savimbi decided to change his aims into attacking the MPLA.

The South African movement, UNITA, has a record as bad as the FNLA. It is documented evidence that three years ago its leader, Jonas Savimbi, was in negotiations with then-fascist Portuguese government concerning a counter-insurgency campaign against the liberation forces.

In the west of Angola the FNLA is now operating openly with members of the Portuguese colonial organisation ELP. According to the influential right-wing Portuguese newspaper Expresso last week ELP members had broadcast on FNLA radio.

South West Africa

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Part of the 30th-anniversary Anti-apartheid demonstration in London last Sunday, the day while South Africa celebrated the tenth anniversary of DDI. Many of the marches carried placards produced by Flame, Socialist Worker's sister paper. The paper was sold on the demonstration. Crisis in Zimbabwe, the new Socialist Worker Africa Group pamphlet, also sold well.

PLAME, 5p plus postage. CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, 5p plus postage. both from 15 Books. 263 Seven Sisters Road, London N1.
Wages under socialism

WHAT IS the justification for not paying a person with educational qualifications, who is a manager, far more than a labourer? The answer is that socialism involves the abolition of social classes, the alienation of the wages system, and replacement by the principle of 'from each according to his ability to each according to his needs'. In a socialist society, therefore, the question does not arise.

Twists

Incidentally, the Constitution of the USSR cleverly twists this socialist principle into its opposite to justify the big inequalities that exist there. It says (Article XII):

'The principle applied in the USSR is that of socialism: 'From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs. (My emphasis.)

That is to say, it justifies the very wages system which Marx regarded as a special characteristic of capitalism, and whose abolition was, for him, an indispensable feature of the socialist reconstruction of society.

Of course, no marxist has ever supposed that the wages system (and the hierarchy of unequal payments that it involves) can be abolished overnight by a worker's state. The achievement of workers' power, the establishment of a workers' state, is the essential first step.

Lengthy

The transition to socialism which requires the dissolution of all classes—including the working class, the class of wage-earners—is bound to be a more or less lengthy process. Why? Partly because a society which operates on the principle of 'each according to his need' is inconceivable except on the basis of a high productivity of labour and this, in turn, depends in part on international cooperation between workers of different nations. Capitalism created a world economic system. It is not possible to go backwards to 'national' or local self-sufficiency without destroying part of economic advances, made under capitalism, which are a necessary foundation for socialism. You cannot have socialism in one country, although you can take the first steps. The wages system cannot be abolished without international socialism. But there is another reason why some inequalities of payments (unrelated to need) cannot simply be abolished by decree, but have to be eroded over time. It is that some of the very highly paid 'middle class' experts have a vital scarcity value.

Not all, by a long chalk. Part, and a large part, of the top and pyramid of wealth and salaries is created deliberately to make a 'buffer' between the working class and the rich, a substantial layer of people with no need to work.

That can be swept away quite quickly. But not all disparities are of this kind.

Suppose you have a cruise ship captain. You give him a salary, quite a simple one I am told, but, simple or not, you can't get rid of him.

The surgeons band together to demand a high pay. You give him more because the alternative is worse.

Something like this happened after the Russian Revolution. It was necessary, the bourgeois experts said, to retain the services of the surgeons.

This had nothing to do with Stalinism. It was introduced in Lenin's day, when, he said, it was 'clear that (what you paid) was allowed to earn by far more than a skilled worker's pay. Why not force the experts to serve? Because this is a most in effective way of securing their cooperation and is simply impracticable in any socialist state, except by way of rare exceptions. The longer the process of wage-reduction takes and the more expansion in the production of the required skills, a process that takes more than a generation.

Of course a modern capitalist society like Britain requires a produce a much bigger range of skills than the USSR of 1917. The problem will be less for us, but it is still a problem.

Easily

The case of 'differentialists' most easily achieved indirectly. In a capitalist state a host of services are provided without direct pay: education, water supply, public order, etc. And so on.

A worker's state will progressively expand the range of goods and services. For example, housing and public transport are likely to be converted to "social" ownership. The "experts" will have to be paid by the community at large.

The problem is more serious in the field of education. The national education of today has been mainly financed by national taxes. What is to be the position when the national education is under national control? The problem will be less for us, but it is still a problem.

Guardian of the people?

A CHAIN of push restaurants with a difference is springing up around London. You get a hamburger and a newspaper for 2/6 in pleasant surroundings—thick red carpets, mahogany chairs. The difference is that the restaurants, called "Sneaky Treks", are based on the theme: "How they suffered in the Twenties and from 1939 to 1945 in the General Strike! How appalling…"

THE THURROCK Guardian, a small-circulation newspaper in Grays, Essex, is about to receive an annual subscription from the Trades Union Congress.

According to its front page of 27 October, it is ... the only local paper worth is solicited by the TUC when it gives evidence to the Royal Commission on the press. Which is not bad for a paper with no proprietors, its officers, and possessed of remarkably responsible editors.

Editor Frank Sheen's latest editorial, an attack on the government's £3-a-week subsidy to employers for taking on unemployed school leavers, rates amongst 'youngsters making themselves literally unemployed by the under-35s that think the world is a comic come until middle-aged'. It goes on:

Present

'Then they present themselves to the employer who, seeing on his VAT returns until midnight every night, is not going to work. The clock stops Saturday and Sunday and has to find an answer which makes sense to his wife when she hands over all he has been able to cut from this week's take—taxis is an amount equivalent to little more than half the amount he is contracted to pay his workers'.

Sheen is a close friend of Thurrock trades union Council secretary Doug Thompson, who is also chairman of the Labour Party in nearby Tilbury and a director of the company which publishes the paper.

For years, Sheen has reported to the council meetings, sitting next to Thompson on the top table. Since 1951, no bad transport was adequate to the need.

When, recently, Trades Council chairmen were asked without discussion, to order a subcommittee to look into the cuts, Sheen obliged his Labour colleagues by publishing a writer who can smear members of the subcommittee.

One article implied that they should be thrown off the Trades Council for "right-wing" activities.

Meanwhile, the TUC holds up the Guardian to the Commons in the same example of how important an "avowed" local paper is.

Sacrifice Corner

NORMAND (Mayfair) Ltd are about to deliver a Mercedes 600 LWB car to a top civil servant. The car is fitted with a partition, bar, air conditioning, fitted suitcases, television set and stereo radio, chauffeur, intercom, curtains to all rear windows, telephone apparatus in the container.

The cost? £32,850.

The pensions of top civil servants were increased last week—75 pensioners broke through the £8,000-a-year barrier.

SHAREHOLDERS of Alfred Herbert are to get a free gift from the government of £1,179,000. The government's take-over plan pays out £2 a share.

Had the firm been left to go into liquidation, the shareholders would have got nothing at all.

125 MPs moved into their new offices this week in the old Sontant House, the offices cost £2.4 million—£20,000 per MP.

Brass number plates on the landings cost £200. Plans for further conversions are going ahead—insuring spending £2,000,000,000 on a porch where MPs can wait for their taxis.

Carve-up? You can bet on it...

SAM DEWAR couldn't believe his luck. This bet, placed last March, accurately forecast the first four in the Grand National—and, as a 71-year-old pensioner, Sam more than looked forward to the winnings of nearly £800. There was, however, a small problem. The bookies, Ladbrokes, refused to give him more than £42. The manager at the shop near Central Station in Glasgow claimed the bet was against their rules.

They only accepted bets forecasting the first three. But, protested Sam, they had accepted his bet after he had carefully pointed out to them that it was a forecast on the first four, not the first three.

Before the 1971 Grand National, Sam had won £200 with a small bet (but it was a small bet)

Ladbrokes' local and then national head office put him no further. So Sam went to a lawyer, only to be told that 'as the betting law stands, they don't have to pay you'.

Sack

As a last resort, he's going to challenge the renewal of Ladbrokes' licence.

Meanwhile, Ladbrokes have just handed out a £119 million deal to the shareholders . . . and the sack to 300 of the Glasgow workers seeking to join a trade union.

Carve-up? You can bet on it...

Without comment

It is beyond the bounds of reality to expect a Western version of the Communist system. — Enrico Berlinguer, Italian Communist Party leader, 30 October

From the Daily Telegraph 28 October.

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GOVERNMENT ministers last week described the threat of Chrysler to close down its plant in Britain as 'the most serious industrial problem the government has ever had to face'. Harold Wilson complained of a 'pistol at the government's head' after Chrysler had demanded £100 million of government money as the price for keeping the plant open. Yet Wilson shows no intention of taking the pistol out of Chrysler's hand by nationalising the company, without compensation, if he has to save the jobs.

The car industry is the biggest employer of people in this country. One person in 20 works in it. Already over the past year 200,000 jobs have been lost as workers have been driven out of the industry by the effects of short-time working. If Chrysler closes, at least another 100,000 jobs of workers dependent directly or indirectly on the company will go.

And let's be clear about what Chrysler and the government have been discussing—not whether there should be sackings or not, but how many thousands of people are to get the sack. That is why the fight in Chrysler is a central part of the fight of all workers for the right to work.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

- YOU'VE NOTHING BUT YOUR PLACE IN THE DOLE QUEUE

JOHN went to Chrysler Ryton from a job in a timber yard in 1972. I remember it as clear as a bell. It was going to be great. We'd made it. Now the good life was going to be ours. Or so we thought.

The way it hit now makes me bitter, angry. We've been cheated. At least in a timber yard you got your wages every week. The good life in the car industry doesn't even give you that. You don't know where you are with the short time and the threat to destroy thousands of jobs.

And there aren't jobs in timber yards any more. There's hardly any jobs anywhere.

LIZ McSORLEY knows exactly where the ideas that the good life was on the horizon came from.

"Like everyone else I'd heard an awful lot about the high wages. The Coventry Evening Telegraph and all the other papers were telling how that car workers got a lot for doing very little.

They were so successful at spreading this talk that people who didn't work in a car factory thought that those who did were lazy, idle folk, getting money for nothing, on short-time, just living it up because they were "in the know". And they were right, of course."

...long story short, we're on short-time and jobs being axed everywhere in the car industry....

Liz's husband, John, works at Chrysler, and the local newspaper, the Coventry Evening Telegraph, has covered the story extensively. The paper has reported that Chrysler is seeking to reduce wages and working conditions in order to compete with foreign producers. Liz is concerned that these changes will affect her family's financial security.

CRISIS IN THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

National Rank and File Meeting Saturday 15 November, Digbeth Civic Hall, Birmingham

11.30am: The Crisis—introduced by Wifii Lai, AUEW senior shop steward, Chrysler Linwood, and 'Trade Mark', UAW chief steward, Chrysler Mounds Road engine plant, Detroit, USA.

2.30pm: Shop stewards' discussions—introduced by Frank Harewood, NUM shop steward, Leyland Linghams.

3.30pm: Rank-and-File Resistance—introduced by Barry Collins, ACTIE, ACGT
depoly devcon, 'The Hill' Coventry, National meeting ends: 6:30pm.

4:30-5:30pm: Leyland Worker and Chrysler Worker meetings.

Cred: 50p at door for trade unionists working in the industry.

Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

£90 A WEEK? I WISH IT WAS TRUE...

Eileen Parker's husband Bob has worked at Chrysler's Stoke plant for 13 years. Eileen herself works as a nurse at Tabby Investment's Coventry matrix plant. With short time, her wages are the family's life line.

...The situation in Chrysler and the other newspapers and papers contribute to blame Chrysler workers for it are deeply offensive to Eileen. That's why she's adamant that neither the company nor the government should be allowed to destroy any more jobs at Chrysler or elsewhere.

...You're always coming up against the idea that car workers have the good life. I think that's beginning to change. But only yesterday I heard someone say that everyone at Chrysler was on £90 a week even now. I wish it was true.

...It's been clear for some time what was going to happen at Chrysler. They've been deprived of a new model for six years. I believe the company has been working towards this, taking resources out of putting them in.

...We're having to adjust to the prospect that Chrysler will try to shut down its major operations altogether. I don't believe they should be allowed to get away with this for one moment.

...Surely when they can get men to the moon and back we can do better than this. We must compel them to protect our men's jobs.

THE CHRYSLER CARES — centre pages
WHERE THE PICKINGS ARE BIGGER

CHRYSLER’S drive for profits is pushing it to concentrate production in its French and Spanish plants. The company’s Simca plant at Poissy in France isn’t unionised. Better still, the whole country that surrounds the company’s facilities in Spain is run on the sort of authoritarian lines that all car manufacturers seek to impose inside the factories.

The minutes of the May 1973 meeting of the international trade union body the Chrysler World Auto Council make this clear. At the meeting, Andre Peri, a French trade union leader, described the situation at the Simca plant. “A so-called independent company union there is supported by the management. There is extreme discrimination and even intimidation. The company, he added, ruthlessly exploited immigrant workers.” There are armed company police in the plant too, and in the case of Spanish workers employed there the Spanish secret police operate freely inside the plant.

A delegate to the meeting from an underground Spanish union outlined the equally appalling situation at Chrysler’s plant in Madrid.

There was, he explained, the usual round of complaints of new personnel coming into the plant, the cited 19 papers that had to be presented in order to get a job and that workers apparently have to get a personal OK from the police. “Under these circumstances,” he said, “it is difficult to get any organisation in the plant.”

Dispute

Chrysler workers in Coventry themselves got some of the Poissy workers’ type of treatment during the so-called ‘shoddy work’ dispute in 1973, a dispute which called into question the company unexceptionably provoked.

The dispute called in a team of known criminals and thugs to Coventry, and there was a sit-down at the Skafe engine plant through an Alleyn-based backer, Tony Hartley. Socialist Worker described the operation at the time: “On Monday 19 June, at 3am, six lorries crashed through the picket lines at the Chrysler strike factory in Coventry. They were loaded with 150 men for the Chrysler plant at Dunstable. Men in the lorries hurled bottles and bricks at the pickets. A millwright in the factory, Mr John Docherty, was whipped by his co-workers and beaten up with a spanner.

Three of the lorries crashed shortly after leaving the factory. The other two continued for miles along the A45, picking up police and demonstrators who had been blocked by the thugs and beaten up with a spanner.”

Suddenly, the lorry accelerated as it crossed the A45 gatways. The driver of the lorry smashed Mr Docherty’s head with his pipe house. He is now in hospital with a broken nose.

Route

The public funds put in would therefore follow a well-travelled route. They’d be used to buy parts from other companies of the same group, so that public funds were also in the pocket of another part of the same group.

Then, when the operation is completed, there will be another Chrysler crisis every bit as big as the present one.

The last thing the Labour government wants to do is to nationalise the company and project costs. But Chrysler—and Harold Wilson, who’d be only too happy if the pistol was directed solely against Chrysler workers—face one problem. No matter how hard they’re trying to tap the will of Chrysler and other workers, growing numbers are not willing to resign themselves to the sacrifice of redundancy and unemployment. What’s more, they no longer believe half the promises of nationalisation.

We’ve done it before.

Rank and file action CAN beat Chrysler’s threats

COMPA NIES like Chrysler thrive on division. They love to play off factory against factory. They rejoice when they can set production workers against staff or female divisions between workers in one grade, trade or country against workers in another.

They are adept at exploiting divisions that it sometimes seems they are all powerful. In reality that’s far from the case. When rank and file workers are united and determined to match blow for blow, even multinational like Chrysler can be defeated.

In a small way that happened at Litwood last Friday when management tried to split up a militant shift in the press shop. The men, realising that they were being tested out for other battles in the future, refused to have any of it. So Chrysler climbed down.

It’s some time since Chrysler was treated to a large dose of this kind of medicine, the kind of centralised machine that enabled them to do in again and again. But they got such a dose in 1973 during the ‘shoddy work’ dispute at Ryton.

Then the company’s carelessly laid scheme to provoke a strike backfired. They lost the reason some of the workers met with, with the result that the union has become more unified in their battle to stop them from being broken.

Workers have stuck back ever since. When the News and Star, which they control, tried to print a story that the company had won, they went on strike.

They’ve put their money where their mouths are. Wherever there’s a problem, they’re there in strength. That’s why their pickets were so resolute last Friday. The management are not going to be so lucky in the future. They’re going to have to pick a battle in their war on the Litwood press shop workers that they lose.

If a strike breaks out, it will be hard to tell the Litwood strikers back then to Lowesmoor if they’re similar to
THE CHRYSLER CARESS 1973: Terry Walker-Speirs, a security guard at Chrysler Dunstable, being visited in hospital by David and John Walker, two known criminals with convictions for violence who had been hired by Chrysler to break a strike at the Ryton plant. They drove lorries at high speed through the Ryton picket lines and in crashing the gates at Dunstable, pinned Terry against a wall, leaving him with a smashed pelvis.

THE Communist Party holds its 34th national congress this coming weekend. The event is not the most important in the British working-class movement, but it is of some significance. Many of the best militants in industry continue to look to the party for leadership and guidance.

If the resolutions prepared for the congress by the Party’s executive are anything to go by, the lead they will get over the next year will be abysmal. The first and most notable thing about the resolutions is that they avoid mentioning any of the key points that the leadership have talked about in recent months. The £15 limit and the fight against it gets a half sentence. The use of crooks to break the strikers’ strike is mentioned in a word. The conversion of former James, to defenders of wage restraint is greeted with complete silence.

Instead, we are told ‘the right-wing leaders, though still dominant, are being challenged in all the decisive organisations.’ There is not a hint of the development which has led the TUC leadership to condemn the 26 November demonstration against unemployment, to the threatened use of the police against Ricky Tomlinson at Blackpool Congress and to last week’s emasculating discussions on ‘planning’ with a government that has pushed unemployment up to 1.4 million mark.

Nor is there any mention of the growth of the right-wing unions such as the AEW.

Need

The same omissions are to be found when it comes to international politics also.

Instead of focusing theatrically on millitants on the rising need for solidarity with the struggle for workers and with the authentic liberation movement in Angola, the MPLA, there are merely the statements that ‘Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau have won their liberation through struggle combining national and democratic forces in Portugal aided by the Portuguese Armed Forces Movement.’

You would hardly believe from reading this that the official leadership of the Armed Forces Movement in Portugal, the Council of the Revolution, is sabotaging the efforts of the MPLA to liberate Angola from Portuguese and South African storm troopers. Nor would you recognize that Portugal itself is heading for the highest form of class struggle; that is, under the leadership of the MFA on one side and the workers and rank and file workers on the other.

Perhaps that is why the executive committee of the Communist Party has not, according to its report to congress, discussed Portugal once in the past two years—although it had time to cover ‘ultra-left’ issues.

Told

When it comes to the Middle East, we are told that the ‘progressive Arab states have consolidated their position in the recent period’—that Sadat’s Egypt has moved back firmly into the American camp and abandoned the Palestinian people.

Finally, of course, ‘in contrast to the soaring economic crisis in the capitalist world, the Soviet Union and other socialist countries continue their steady advance’—without a mention of the rising prices in Poland and Hungary or of the dependence of the Russians on American grain.

On Ireland, we are told (correctly) that British troops have been combating the Irish people for 600 years. Then it

Chris Harman on the coming Communist Party Congress

are told that the solution to the ‘democratisation of Northern Ireland’ is a Bill of Rights. Who will enforce it? Apparently the same British troops who have been opposing Ireland for 600 years.

What lends together all these different aspects of the Party’s leadership policy is one thing: illusions in people who hold power in one place or another, a support to their rule and the only hope for progress anywhere is through the independent struggle of the working class at every level.

There the conclusion is always support for the ‘progressive leaders’. The party’s relations with the trade union official, the ‘labor Tribune group’ of MPs, the right-wing ‘socialist’ countries.

The most significant of the documents for the congress are the references to the Party membership and the sales of Party paper.

We are told that the membership has fallen by 120,000 in the past two years, to a figure of 38,519.

If the figures for subscriptions in the financial report mean anything, the real membership must be much less. To this ‘For the National Office from dues is 94c. well under 2p a week for every claimant member.

Fell

The circulation of the Morning Star has ‘declined’. No figure is given, but the Socialist Worker has received indications that the print order of the Star fell from 53,000 in September last year to 42,000 thin August, with 15,000 of the copies going to Eastern Europe. That makes the current number of papers distributed in Britain, 27,000 with an unknown number not sold.

The decline in the fortunes of the Communist Party cannot be separated from its politics.

Five years ago it seemed ‘reasonable’ to many militants to support the Party, whether it was the pro-Arabite line or the line of Andrew Minchinton. People such as Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon. They had much more influence than small groups of revolutionaries.

But those who depend on working within capitalist society for their own pre-eminence and privileges naturally try to prop it up to keep it going. To the Jack Joneses of this world rash to defend the anti-working-class policies of the government.

The only organisations that can resist this trend are those that judge union leaders and their actions, not their speeches, placing their emphasis on the activity of the rank and file, not the conference speeches of the high and mighty.

The Party is somewhat subdued
IRELAND: HOW WE CAN HELP

The problem for revolutionary socialists, and which the Irish Committee of the Third International is concerned with, is how best we can maintain active solidarity. The Communist regime in Ireland is as bad for British capitalism as Angola is for Portugal.

The apparent downturn in support is often due to the return of the British government, now experts in buying in, to the ruling party in reality. The St Valentine's Order is, it is feared, aid by the British Army.

The alertness to support is often due to the Irish Government's lack of publicity, which has enabled British organizations to work alone. The St Valentine's Order is, it is feared, aid by the British Army.

The alertness to support is often due to the Irish Government's lack of publicity, which has enabled British organizations to work alone. The St Valentine's Order is, it is feared, aid by the British Army.

Of the many lessons we have learned and are still learning from Portugal, one stands out. We were slow, too slow, in giving practical and financial help to revolutionary organizations. We were too far too slow in the fight for revolutionary political ideas in a country where Communist Party and Socialist ideas prevail.

There is no excuse for letting this happen again. The British Army continues to interfere. British workers and peasants are on trial for their lives. We must stand. And in Ireland the Socialist Workers' Movement, our fraternal secretariat, is carrying out the fight. The one problem—no finances and few resources—we can help. That is why the Irish Committee of the Third International has raised a fund for £1 a month. This fund should be devoted exclusively to Irish political and solidarity work.

Banker's orders are being sent out this week, and should be returned by 30 November.

BULLETIN: available now. Includes important documents for the forthcoming national conference on the Right to Work. Further details from the National Executive Committee.

NATIONAL COUNCIL: registration forms will be sent out this week. All delegates from our national committees should be returned to the National Executive Committee by 15 November. Further details from the National Executive Committee.

Fotina national conference will be held on 14-15 January and 2-4 April.

CLAY CROSS: 100 people heard Paul Foot speak last Thursday on the struggle at Clay Cross and the road to revolution. He said that every failing in the ‘socialist movement’ is demonstrated by the story of the Clay Cross 11: The mechanism and fighting spirit of the working class make the vanguard of the people of Greater Britain.

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They argued that a revolutionary socialist organization was the only way to organize and inform a real fight back against unemployment and the cuts. The Labour Party organized and informed no one, except at voting times.

Thirty people, most of them from Clay Cross and the surrounding villages, signed a list asking for more information about IS.

BRAINTREE, Essex: 45 people heard a fine speech last Friday from David Branden. He was optimistic about the Labour Party’s ability to take advantage of its recent failure.

The Party had had lots of Keir Hardie in the past, but the rest of the group had not been used to the group’s ability to take advantage of the Party’s failure.

Dave Skinner, another of the 11, who was a member of the Labour Party, said that the Clay Cross 11 should consider taking advantage of the Party’s failure.

Dave said that if the efforts of the rush order, CLP members who had been involved in the strike, the Labour Party, and all second-class who had to carry on the fight for the 11.

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**DAYS OF HOPE**

You've seen the plays, now read the book (it's even better)

**DAYS OF ROPE**

Jim Allen's brilliant series of television plays has now been printed as a novel. The TV series was good, but the book is better. The politics sometimes get nagged by the articulacy pretensions of the director. But in the end, the book is much sharper and cleaner.

The criticism of both is that, when dealing with the General Strike, the writer concentrates too much on the deals done at the top, without giving the real flavour.

**Energy**

Jim Allen's politics, though close to those of Socialist Worker, are a bit too one-dimensional. But a great deal of detail is in place.

It is a good little book. Buy it and read it. Give it to your friends as a Christmas present. It is the best novel a socialist has written this year.

*Days of Hope* by Jim Allen (Putilo Wip [inc. postage] from IS Books, 21 Seven Sisters Road, London N1)

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**GARRY BUSHELL on Milestones in Working Class History**

In Yorkshire, more groups were drafted in to crush the Luddites than were used in the whole Peninsula War.

**Sacrifice**

Luddism was the half-way point in the process of the working class developing its own organisations for its own defence. The unharassed growth of modern capitalism had built up productive capacity enormously, but at a cost of enormous human sacrifice.

Real human history challenges the apathy of many socialists in Britain despite desperate situations and extreme alterability and militancy.

The apathy of which so many socialists in Britain despair does exist then—but it can be broken now.

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**BOOK OF THE WEEK**

**DEAR MADAME**

Please can you help me. My husband is given to violent rapsms and my arms at times have been black and blue through his punches. He bit me on the arm two weeks ago... one right he tried to strangle me...

Women's Aid, new in the headlines in our area, might be able to help, but I am not sure.

Pizy, has told some of the right-wing neighbours of her being in this moving book.

60th including postage from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

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**SCREAM QUIETLY, THE NEIGHBOURS WILL HEAR**

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**TAKE IT AS RED**

**WHY ARE MOST JOKES RIGHT-WING?**

It was a question provoked for me this week when I came across something George Orwell wrote over 30 years ago.

*Every joke is a tiny revolution. If you had to define humour in a single phrase, you might define it as dignity sitting on a tin tack. Whatever destroys dignity, and brings down mighty from their seats, preferably with a bump, may be funny.* And the bigger the fall, the bigger the joke.

It would be better fun to throw a custard pie at a Labour MP's bus, at the pub, for a start, rather than the first dozen jokes you will hear, half will probably be racist. (There's this Margaret Thatcher, see, and then be... and three will be sexist.

The rest will be about the amazing stupidity of the TV show *Monty Python*.

**WHY IS MOST COMEDY SO REACTIONARY?**

Perhaps you agree with Orwell, especially if you've seen the North American Right Group lately, or can call to mind some of those brilliantly unfunny jokes that tackkled out of Eastern Europe (sample: Commissar to Party member: 'Why did the capitalist comrade man explode, but men in the Soviet Union it's the other way round').

But the sad is that the overwhelming mass of comedy produced in our own society is depressingly reactionary. I think of what many policemen see funny in the way of British comedians, such as Rikki Shard, Jethro, and Private Eye—*and* my mind says at all that genteel uppersophisticated smugness, all that snobbery passing itself off as wit.

**Racist**

Serves you right, you may say, if you go looking for humour in all that ruling class rubbish. New generation. NAACP, NVRA, etc.

OK, so pin your ears back at work, on the bus, for a start, rather than the first dozen jokes you will hear, half will probably be racist. (There's this Margaret Thatcher, see, and then be... and three will be sexist.

The rest will be about the amazing stupidity of the TV show *Monty Python*.

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**ON THE BOX**

**SUNDAY**

John Cusack stars in the SELLING LINE (BBC, 7.45pm) a programme for 'innocent girls only'. This week they're taught to sell something to someone who doesn't want it. It's the sort of thing you wouldn't buy if you were asked to build a six-inch tomato-peeker-cum-moonshine-maker to sell to the nearest male partner in the office.

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**TUESDAY**

Milestones in Working Class History: *A People's History of the World* (BBC1, 11.15pm), features modern dockers revisiting the 1899 strike for the dockers' union. In the NEARLY MAN MT (NTV, 5pm), local party workers decide to confront their district 'modem' parliamentary representative.
Postal Points

WE IN THE NATIONAL Abortion Campaign are supposed to be fighting James Whitaker's Bill now under discussion by the Select Committee. Why the hell, then, does the NAC strategic committee propose a national demonstration next March?

The two letters below are nothing to do with what is actually happening NOW. By March, the 1987 Abortion Act may have been at best drastically amended, at worst it may have disappeared, due to the long standing committee and the inability of the Labour government to pass the bill.

If David Flett (Letters, last week) thinks the parliamentary pressure will 'quash the Bill, let us remind him of the behaviour of our pro-abortive MPs in the Select Committee: they recently produced a misleading report 'Socialist' Barbara Castle endorsed their findings, and instead of ending the fiasco of the Select Committee there and then (as could have been done) they have exploited the anti-abortionists by announcing a vote in the Commons on the future of the committee.

Make no mistake, it's up to US at grass-roots level to defeat this Bill. We in Chelmsford have urged the NAC to be raised on the pressure on the government to discard the committee and throw out the Bill. We could have turned our resolution into real reality by having a massive demonstration as the new Parliamentary session began. Instead, another chance slipped by.

This has made us bitterly disillusioned with the antics of the steering committee. Instead of re-appraising their own tactics they seek to make up for their failings by people who seek meaningful activity: Women's Voice.

But for Women's Voice and the International Socialist, there would have been no organised counter-demonstration against SPUC. And if members of our steering committee did as we as members of the NAC did, a lot more people would turn out.

Our best hope now is to make the rally in Trafalgar Square on 22 November, a show of strength that will demonstrate the extent of the new movement.

—ELAINE ELLEN, ROGER WELCH, MARGARET WILK, JORDAN BEARD, DAVE HEDGECOCK (locally Chelmsford Trades Council, Chelmsford NAC)

SHOULD DO WITH MORE ARTICLES LIKE Duncan Halle's And This Is The News It's obvious that the mass media is manipulated to the advantage of big business.

The Maypole press is trying to demonstrate this and to show how to counteract the propaganda. Tony Housing Finance Act, by printing a copy of it, would be a good start.

The number of people growing, at last, is rising. It seems to me that the feeling has grown.

In the north-east, we can achieve some results with our own initiative. The Maypole press is trying to demonstrate this and to show how to counteract the propaganda. Tony Housing Finance Act, if brought to light, would be a good start.

HOW ABOUT Socialist Worker arranging to make a film on Portugal? SW's article on Forment at York was excellent. A spirit of the revolution would surely be better propagated by film than by articles or pamphlets.

—DICKIE DAVIES, UPHCUP, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

NOTICE TO SW LOTTERY ORGANISERS

All the money for tickets sold must be sent in now. It doesn't matter how little—don't hold onto it.

Money should be sent in regularly as invoices are sent out. Get into the habit of sending it by return when you receive the invoice.

Return the stubs in the same envelope as the money.

When you branch or district needs more tickets phone 01-739 1878 or write to SW Lotteries, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Send your letters to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Please try to keep them to not more than 250 words. Let us have your name and address or specify if you don't want your name published.

LABOUR: GET YOUR FACTS RIGHT!

R PIGOTT (Letters, I November) seems to have a mind like a computer. Press the button and the pre-determined Pavlov-like response comes out.

In my letter, I merely pointed out that since the collapse of the Labour party constituency and union voting at the 1975 Labour Party conference, Corbridge Pigott and then automatically believed that I am a believer in transforming the Labour Party to build Socialism.

In fact, as I pointed out, it is not in the Labour Party's interest to build Socialism.

The Labour Party is an old-fashioned electoral party and I believe that the Labour Party and the whole of British capitalism is the most effective means of building Socialism.

If the Labour Party is the most effective means of building Socialism, what is the point of the Labour Party and the whole of British capitalism?

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The Labour Party is an old-fashioned electoral party and I believe that the Labour Party and the whole of British capitalism is the most effective means of building Socialism.

THOUSANDS

While I do not believe that CLPs can be converted wholesale into revolutionary units I do believe that the thousands of active socialists in the constituencies cannot be ignored.

However, the fact that the local parties are the most effective means of building Socialism is not the only thing to be considered.

The point is that the thousands of active socialists in the constituencies cannot be ignored.

The point is that the thousands of active socialists in the constituencies cannot be ignored.

THE TRUTH ABOUT GLENIDE

EARLY POST NURSES RAPPED IN WIFE KILLER CASE

BECAUSE of poor facilities in the National Health Service, a Bristol nurse has been in a life sentence for manslaughter.

John Brazil pleaded guilty to killing his wife on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He said that she had been under the influence of atropine at the hospital for the treatment of a mental illness.

The court heard that the nurses, who were the only defence for whom he had been allowed to control their own education, might grow up without wanting to control their own education, might even be even by society. And that would never do.

- TONY DEAN, Hull

ALTERNATIVE

The nurse's action meant that Judge Mills (the man who judged the Shrewsbury pickets) was forced to reconsider. Instead of sending the picking to Broadmoor, which was one alternative possibility, Mills jalled him for life.

As one of those nurses, I'd like to see a nurse's strike in Britain, which has been called professional, cowardly, illegal and black-mailing.

We have accepted such cases in the past, but always after a period of assurance in a secure unit. Normal practice is to assess the potential risks involved before transferring the patient for further treatment and rehabilitation in an open hospital.

There is not a secure unit at Glenride because we have a 'locked door' policy to create a therapeutic environment.

Our action is not blackmail and it is not illegal. We are trying to maintain a service and we have had to threaten industrial action to save the jobs of 12 nurses.

If we were to secession and make capital out of Mr. Brazil's tragic circumstances, we were really concerned they would be campaigning for the implementation of the Butler Report, which recommends the setting up of Regional Secure Units to treat such patients.

Of course, this would involve a new building programme, the paying of £1,300 a year extra to nurses and providing them with free housing. In line with the conditions of names at State Hospitals like Broadmoor.

If those who are attacking us were as free with their cash as they are with their words, things would look a lot brighter for Mr. Brazil.

What really concerns the likes of Judge Mills and the consultants is that their apparent God-given right to decide things has been challenged and overruled by a group of well-organised trade unionists.

We are all concerned about Mr. Brazil's situation. We wouldn't be doing this job if we weren't concerned people.

But like every other group of workers, we must have the right to control our working conditions.

—DAVE BRIDGE, Bristol
WOODEHEADS: ‘IT’LL BE THE BLOODY ALAMO’

PAUL FOOT reports from Ossett, Yorkshire.

Don’t let them deport these two students!

by Martin Chambers

FEROJE ALI had been held in Bartimbe Prison, Glasgow for two weeks. He is awaiting deportation.

Feroje’s problem began some time ago with the revolution in Bangladesh. The new government refused to continue

subsidising him as a student at Glasgow University. So far he has been refused

for most of the time since he has been unable to find a job.

Two weeks ago, he was picked up under the immigration laws. For a few days, his wife, Raha, knew nothing of his whereabouts.

Now she also faces deportation. She

married him in England and was planning to return home after completing his studies at the university. Because of his

immigration laws, this is not to be.

Their two children are back in Bangladesh with their grandparents.

They are giving their backing to the National Union of Students, who are calling for a mass demonstration.

The Thế gấp đọt They are giving their backing to the National Union of Students, who are calling for a mass demonstration.

The prayer is that the threat of deportation will always be a factor in their lives—especially if they stay out of line in any way.

STUDENTS at Bradford College have occupied their principal office in protest at a cut in their education funds.

They say this as part of the public sector in general and have already started to

support the demands of the lecturers into their own.

A further emergency meeting of the students’ union was held last night on the occupation of the college to support the

against the union executive to the action. We urge all 1500 students to try to support

the resolutions of their support in their general

meetings.

At Leicester University, the executive

called for an occupation in protest at the

education cuts. A union general meeting

voted in favour of this by a margin of 98%.

Further, several students have

occupied their own classrooms to demand an end to the occupation. The

was unoccupied by any students.

Students at Harrow

Harrow has been occupied for the last week by a group of students who have

back the National Union of Students, who are calling for a mass demonstration.

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back the National Union of Students, who are calling for a mass demonstration.

led by a group of students who have

occupied their own classrooms to demand an end to the occupation. The

was unoccupied by any students.
ALCOA SCABS FAIL TO BREAK PICKETS

by Stevie Stevenson, EEGU shop steward and secretary, Alcoa Site Joint Shop Stewards Committee

SOUTH WALES.—The unofficial strike at Alcoa rolling mill site near Swansea is in its third week, with the men more determined than ever. Scab labour has twice failed to break the pickets.

Five hundred workers are on strike against 29 redundancies. The redundancies come when the company is employing electricity, not sacking them, and are being used to smash the recent organisation drives.

Alcoa's construction department tries to run the site by avoiding contracts in 'premature phasing'. They hope by this to replace any contractor whose labour happens to be organized, instead of increasing the cost of skilled labour due to the unemployment situation.

This is an admission to our local union officials, who should have secured a proper strike agreement before construction work began.

The history of the site has been one long struggle for the 500 workers involved. Even recognition of our joint shop stewards' commitment to matters of safety was a major achievement, while Alcoa has emphasized that they give no recognition on industrial matters as they won't have the right to run the site if they choose challenged by middlemen shop stewards?

Five years ago the National Economic Development Office issued a report on large industrial sites, suggesting some form of change in practices designed to improve job security for construction workers. If the Alcoa site is any yardstick then the only significant change has been to strengthen Fall 1972.

Donations and messages of support to S Stevenson, secretary, Alcoa JSC, 4 Carlton Terrace, Swansea.

Call for support

THE INTERNATIONAL Socialists in the EEGU are calling all electrical and constructional workers to give a coordinated one-day's strike support for the Alcoa strikers at their jobs and branches.

The power of rank and file unity is pushing aside the divisions and tendencies towards the establishment of an organization of industrial workers. One of the concrete facts emerging from the EEGU today is that the power of the rank and file is being strengthened.

Top

The basic principle is the right to work. Most of the electrical work will be finished by the end of the week and a new agreement that will be signed by the top leadership of the organization.

If the electrical contractors get their way they will go to company officers who are conflict-ridden and they will not allow any bargaining to go on in union offices for a start. The whole point is that the ranks of the workers and the power of the rank and file is being strengthened.

The trouble on the 90s last week ended and to paid a back-to-work vote. The workers didn't have any kind of vote after the other 90s, they were being kept building they stood up and walked out.

TRADE UNION HOSPITAL VICTIMISES MILITANT

NORTH LONDON: A trade unionists' hospital, is now accused of a military hospital. The Alcoa site is a victims of the General Workers Union.

Joe Cash, TGWU branch secretary at Alcoa Hospital, Golders Green, has been given two weeks notice by Dr S. D. B. Johnson, the hospital's assistant secretary.

The hospital is maintained almost entirely by trade union funds. Its vice- president is a member of the TGWU shop stewards' committee. The methods of Taylors, who demand a seven-day working week. 200 building workers are also on the site.

SAVE ICE STOP THE CUTS: Rally, Saturday 31st January, 11am meeting at the Mermaid Theatre, County Hall, London. All papers on the house.

First National Engineers Charter public meeting, Saturday 6th December, 1pm, English Hall, 8th Floor, 300 Great George St, London SW1.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE ELECTION: James Watson, former director of the Fabian Society, will carry out a lecture on unemployment and the election. The meeting will be held at the Camberwell Arts Centre, South London.

SOUTH LONDON: Labour Conference, 9th Feb, 8pm, English Hall, 8th Floor, 300 Great George St, London SW1. The conference will decide the tactics and strategy for the South London.
GLASGOW: "We were picketing outside in the rain—and the management were prepared to sit it out—so we thought why hang about outside and freeze when we could be sitting inside, organising the thing properly and keeping ourselves warm at the same time."

That's what Bob Perry, Engineering Union shop steward at Pepys, told Socialist Worker.

So after a week on the picket line, the 360 AUEW and TASS workers took over the factory. They have been occupying it for another four weeks against managerial threats of redundancies and a massive increase in productivity.

Bob Perry and McK McKenna explained their reasons for joining the occupation and other activities in support for the occupation.

"We've sent support committees to the local factories appealing for support and where possible regular factory ladies to keep on picketing. We've spoken to quite a few in the area. We sent spokesmen to the big trade union rally two weeks ago, to Fontannoch College and at the Glasgow Right to Work Committee's meeting."

SUPPORT

They halved their collection with us and we appreciated that because unemployed youngsters can't afford to give.

Also being inside means that we can receive delegations from other workplaces and allow other trade unionists to see our occupation first hand. Already AUEW engineering maintenance engineers at one of the local barge yards have brought us some food and are arranging support at other depots.

Many of those workers from the AEEU who have been over to give us cash and have provided us as any help we need. Having this personal contact means that we can explain our case to other workers—and we will welcome delegations from any factory to the occupation.

Entertainment has been organised inside the factory. Folk and pop groups have given concerts. The workers now run the canteen so the food is much cheaper.

Secret plans were discovered which revealed just how thoughtfully the management prepared their attack on the work-force. "Finding these documents really opened our eyes," said Bob Perry. The

by SW reporter

plans are now pinned up on the wall for everyone to read.

The aim of the occupation inside the plant has helped everyone stay united, Joan Brown, the vice-convener, told us about one day: "It was such a struggle that we had to fight and win. As a result all the men and women are united."

But the workers are doing far more than recognising the occupation effectively in the factory. They have decided to centre an appeal for support for the whole right to work.

On Monday 90 shop stewards from the factories they are associated with attended a central meeting at the factory and backed convenor Phil McPike's explanation why they had decided to occupy. The meeting agreed to return to their factories and organise collections and publicity for the occupation. The meeting felt it was important to get cash in straight away and that it was necessary to set up a delegate committee from local workforces which could organise public action in defence of jobs and organise a central fund to help all factories in the battle ahead.

"We support the Right to Work Committee in their work in the factory," said Phil McPike, following the meeting: "It's been really useful. Now we can begin a broader campaign approach, if we can get the cash in from local factories, then we can really begin to move further afield for support."

Support and donations to Bob Dunsmuir, Penicuik AUEW Strike Fund Treasurer, 27 Bowfield Street, Glasgow.

Build the Right to Work Campaign!

by John Deason

Better building site—are these all the kind of initiatives that not only advertise the Right to Work Campaign, but can provide the impetus for a local committee. That committee must then campaign for more support from trade union bods, both to the local committee by sending delegates, and is part of the national campaign by affiliation. Local shop stewards committees, trade union branches, trades unions and unions district committees must all be backed. But if we are successful in being employed and unemployed together we must not become blinkered by structures. Last week John Belfield, full-time organiser of Glasgow Trade Council, held off the Glasgow Right to Work Committee's suggestions that the council provide free transport for the unemployed to the 16 November march in London. Instead he suggested that affiliated unions should provide transport for their own unemployed members.

More, but what about unemployed school leavers, sacked part-time women workers, discriminated against workers who are not formal members of trade unionists? They're not members, or more community, they're laid members, because of that lack of recognition.

On this occasion the Glasgow Right to Work Committee is considering this problem by supplying their own coach, financed by collections from rank and file trade unionists, shop stewards committee, trade unions and local councils.

The trade union movement is the only force that will provide the hope and fight for their political aims to come to the workplace, the jobs and the battle. The trade union movement is a necessity, there is no need, well-sailed ships to kick it out.

Affiliations to the National Right to Work Committee, 24 Prince George Street, London WC2B 2QD... E1... E3... individuals... 20p, trade union executives... £1.

No to Leyland ‘participation’

The newly-elected workers' participation proposals at British Leyland are now coming into force.

The senior shop stewards in the combine, including Eddie McGarry of Standard Plant, Eric Bryan (of Longbridge) and Ronnys and Bob Douglas, Birmingham, signed the document without referring it back to their shop floor. It is understood that the shop floor at Triumph Cars, Coventry, refused to sign out of the whole 53-man committee.

Any delegate to the factory that was elected to represent my members and not myself. According to the rules of my union I must vote for the committee. The British Leyland NEC, unfortunately, have gone beyond that and, therefore, the council, Grrrr, ignoring the leading writer's advice.

No one employer of the 140,000 had sent us the document so we had not prepared to sign when it was passed round the table.

The British Leyland workers' own plant at Triumph Cars have rejected the proposals the senior stewards were so anxious to accept on their behalf.
Democrats at Work...

Australia: A wave of anger...

The most important political polarisation in Australian politics for 50 years. That's how the Socialist Workers Action Group described the 'incridible, unpredictable' situation Down Under this week.

A speaker in Melbourne phoned Socialist Worker on Tuesday to explain how people never involved in political life are taking action. He added: 'Already the waves are on strike, the storm is coming. The workers have stopped. Strikes can be expected through the whole year. The whole country is polarized.

A few hours before, Labour Prime Minister Gough Whitlam was removed from office by the Governor General, who enjoys the same powers in Australia as the Queen does in Britain.

Yet Labour has a majority in the House of Representatives and has won the last two elections in the last three years. The excuse was that Labour did not enjoy a majority in the Senate -- a less democratic body than the House of Representatives (each state has the same number of seats in it, regardless of the number of voters.)

Whitlam's place has been taken by Fraser, leader of the right wing opposition and the politician most-hated by Australian workers.

The removal of Whitlam's government is the climax of a long campaign by all the newspapers, and big business. When the government was first elected it engaged in a certain amount of left-wing-sounding manipulation.

Whitlam soon showed that his words did not mean more than a marginal change in governmental policies. But big business still did not trust him.

They seized upon the actions of some of his ministers to force him onto the defensive. There was talk of 'corruption' by ministers who tried to bypass the Australian financial establishment by setting up direct links with the holders of Middle Eastern oil wealth.

Whitlam gave in and reshuffled his government to the right. But big business and the press were still dissatisfied. They moved in for the kill.

Many workers were disillusioned with Labour's inability to deal with inflation and unemployment. But they were not prepared to see them, their traditional enemies triumphant. Mass meetings, strikes, demonstrations, were called.

Strike

The head of the Australian TUC, Bob Hawke, even talked of a general strike. The right-wing held back for a number of weeks.

Then, last Tuesday, they used the government's forgotten power to stop their coup.

Rank and file workers remember their leaders' recent words. The strikes and demonstrations show that. But, frightened of the whirlwind they could be engulfing, many of those leaders are already backing down.

Workers must show restraint and keep off the streets,' said Hawke after the coup. 'A sharp contrast to the call from many rank and file bodies (including SWAGE) for a general strike and the only way to defeat the right wing and to protect the temper of the

The only thing which will ever stop them is rank and file organisation, organised independently of parliamentary party games.