Employed and unemployed unite!
For the 35-hour week!
No overtime!

Socialist Worker says

Fight for the right to work

Occupy!
Nationalise!
No compensation to employers!

All out Wednesday 26 Nov

March on parliament. Assemble Euston Square, London N1, at 1pm
MEETINGS of the Labour Cabinet are now taken up almost exclusively with discussion of the future of Chrysler. One faction wants to sack ‘only’ five or six thousand. The other, which won the battle at the last meeting, wants to dump the workers altogether.

They include Prime Minister Harold Wilson and Deputy Prime Minister Ted Short. Short told a meeting of the Engineering Union: ‘Investment, jobs and security can only come out of adequate order of the company like Chrysler.’ His government is now totally committed to profit. If a company doesn’t make profit, the workers can go to the wall. The Times described Short’s speech as ‘a welcome change from government thinking.’ But if Short gets his way, thousands of Chrysler workers will be on the dole in the New Year, as Short need not get their way. The workers can stop them—but only if they take action to do so.

The convener at the Chrysler factory in Linwood are stirring from the apathy which has stifled the atmosphere at Chryslers since the threat of closure, and they have called a West of Scotland Shop Stewards’ Meeting for this Wednesday to discuss the situation.

A meeting of more than 400 Linwood stewards on Tuesday afternoon passed unanimously a resolution proposed by John McIlveen of Linwood ILRC calling for an immediate occupation if any attempt is made to close the factory.

This means occupation and picketing—not just of factories but of the home也同样.

But these actions are futile unless we also have a policy to protect our jobs. It’s futile too to look for another private solution with its logical corollary of shady shareholders which can duck and weave away from responsibility.

No. The government should take over the company, with no redundancies, no compensation. Then we’ll know who’s responsible.

3. END ALL OVERTIME

175,000 workers in manufacturing industries are working short time. At the last count, not one million workers more are working overtime.

In car manufacturing, at the last count, not one million workers more are working overtime. More than 20,000 workers are stranded in each week in short time—compared to 51,000 in the year of 1975. In shipbuilding, where 12 per cent of the workforce are on short time, a massive 37.5 per cent are working overtime.

The plain fact is that all overtime was stopped tomorrow, all short time would be stopped too. And tens of thousands of new jobs would be created.

Give time to the houses. They would rather have a worker working 40 hours a week than to work as a new worker. That way they save on the overheads, they get more “flexibility” in production for profit, and they hand their workforce closer to the companies which are dependent on overtime. Indeed, in some factories, workers have voted to accept the sack for some rather than accept cuts in overtime for all.

UNION

This can and must be fought. Verbal hostility to overtime in trade union offices has to be translated into action against overtime on the shop floor. Workers will be won to a fight against overtime if it is linked to the demand.

No loss of pay. A total ban on overtime for overtime bonuses to take on more workers, and to dispense with short time. It is a crucial demand in the fight for jobs.

5. ALL OUT ON WEDNESDAY 26th!

by Laurie Flynn

YOU get a warm welcome at the occupied Perssona plant on Glasgow’s Hillington industrial estate.

The welcome takes the form of good conversation, tea, and if you’ve come at the right time a dinner that would do credit to any restaurant.

There’s still a lot of good things about the dinner. The homemade soup is made by Engineering Union shop steward Bob Perry, the picket organiser, and the food was appreciated by the workers. They’re proud that Bob and other unions activists of the male sex saw each part of the struggle as the property of all.

The struggle at Perssona is edging towards its ninth week. It’s about an increasingly familiar subject—the right to work.

Just over two months ago the Perssona bosses came along with the scheme for taking back the gains the workers had won over years of struggle. They wanted to sack 30 shop-floor workers and get their work done by pickets, and a heavier workload all round. The result was a united strike.

But the strike met with a disinterested response from the cigarette kings and moguls of Philip Morris, who own this razer plant. So in four weeks of strike, the workers took the plant over. They took the cigarette machines, paper, cigarettes and other supplies through a broken window today. The new workers who were there later were used to send in and dogs and policemen.

The experience of the struggle since then has been important. ‘We’ve got to know one another better than we’ve ever got,’ says one of the occuping women. ‘It’s hard, but we’re rewarding it’s another day.

Rewards

The rewards came this week in official recognition for the strike and the essential strike pay that goes with it, but the Perssona workers didn’t get those things by prayer. They got them through their own action. At last week’s main meeting, they decided to send a delegation to the London head office of the Engineering Union to picket the executive and insist they pay up.

The long journey proved worthwhile. The executive coughed up.

Inside the plant the cantankerous is kept tider and kitchen cleaner than they were before. And the food is of a better standard. There are books to read and discussions to be had.

One discussion has been about abortion. The West London Theatre Workshop were invited to bring their play, the subject to the occupied plant. These women talked to in the occupation were clear that the key issue was abortion was women’s right to choose. They felt that whatever the public morality deployed by the anti-abortion lobby rich women could always get by.

Struggle

Husbands are supporting their struggle to the hilt, because as one woman put it: ‘They know it’s right to do it and they would be next.”

The women at Perssona hope that workers throughout the Philip Morris empire will join in the campaign, and discuss a resolution to ask the for the right to work. Just as Perssona workers have helped their brothers and sisters in the past. If the Perssona workers do get out and make their point, the challenge in the struggle, the tobacco barons will have to face.

Messages of support and donations to Perssona workers’ occupation: C/o Exhibit 27 Bowfield Crescent, Glasgow G22.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK! NO RETURN TO THE THIRTIES!

Public meetings organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee-SOUTH EAST LONDON

Monday 8 December, Charlton House, HornFair Road, SE7.

 Speakers: Pete Liddle, convener, Mollins, Dephord, Dick North, member of the NUM executive, Ray Boney, secretary, Leave Employed Workers’ Action Committee.

Sponsored by Greenwich Trades Council, Thamesmead Building Workers shop stewards’ committee, Mollins (Degford) shop stewards committee, United Glas (New Cross) shop stewards committee, Greenwich 400, Tendring and Steel Confederation, Kentish Times Combined Chapters.

NORTH LONDON

Monday 24 November, 8pm, Edmonton Town Hall, Fore Street.

Speakers: Ricky Totton and local trade unionists. Chairman: Ross Pritchard (INGA executive, Metal Box, Tottenham).
SHARE MARKET FULL OF PEPP' said the Financial Standard headline on Monday, as news of the biggest bonom on the stock exchange since the recession started. The Financial Times Index moved up 10 points, adding about £1.5 million to the values of shares in three hours. The reason: the Government is at last taking a more realistic attitude to industrial relations. What a difference! Shirley Williams' remarks about tough spending can also aiited sentiment.

So unemployment rises, so do share prices.

The people who benefit are the shareholders, AEP's dividends have been increased by four and a half times. The changes in dividends announced for this year give a determination of bed-lighthearting in high places. UDIT, DOWNSH, SAME: 799.

THIS terrible time for property speculators was highlighted last Friday by a birthday party for property shark and ex-musee owner 'Slag' Rupert Dorm. Eighty guests arrived at the £200,000 home of Davina Phillips, ex-wife of another property millionaire, and gorged themselves all night.

The Daily Mail reported: 'As a special surprise for Rupert, his friend, William Pitman-Brown, brought along a stripper from a West End club, who, introduced to everyone as "the lines", showed the proceedings turned up after her entrance, biding out of the birthday cake brandishing two whips.

During the ensuing socials chocolate cake was thrown at various guests, and much of it ended up around the thick legs of the stripper.

Socialist Worker can reveal that there were 'cries of 'Up the Archies!'' and 'Give a Year for Britain!" from on the hunt, Lord Alexander of Tami, a former Tory whip, whose home has its own tennis courts in the House of Lords on the most expensive estate in Britain. The Archies, a British racing stable, have brought tears to the eyes of the few pes who can still stay awake.'

Who Bin, a shop steward from Chrysler Detroit in America speaking at the Rank and File Organising Committee's conference on the shop floor last Saturday. The chairman is Frank Henderson, ship metal workers shop steward at Austin Longbridge, seated next to Willie Lee, AEUW senior steward at Chrysler Linwood.

Socialist Worker
Portugal
Solidarity Fund

WE SENT £200 to the PRP, the Portuguese revolutionary socialist party, last week. Next week we're going to send another £200, and we're encouraging every worker, every PRP member, from Portugal to address the Portuguese Workers' Voice Rally next Saturday. The PRP have few resources to build the party that can lead the Portuguese working class to victory. They need all the help we can give them. They need every penny you can spare—and solidarity means funding as well as support for their paper, Revolucao, to produce thousands of leaflets and posters, and to finance the crucial work that a revolutionary situation demands.

So keep sending the money— we'll make sure it goes to Portugal.

We have collection sheets for your factory, office, or union. We have bank's order forms so that you can give regularly—and without worry. We could try selling solidarity badges (50p each. PRP posters 50p each and 10p posters 50p each) that we've produced in the PRP colours—red and yellow.

Send your orders and donations to SW Portugal Fund, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2. 8DN.

This week we received £233.60 for the fund. Thanks to Glasgow teachers £25, Shrewsbury £25, Stroud £20, London £20, Newton Heath £20, Hyndburn £10, Wigan £10, Hunslet £10, Manchester £10, Liverpool £5, Huddersfield £5, Harlow £5, Portsmouth £5, Crawley £5, Ealing £5, Bromley £5, Waltham Forest £5, Harrow £5.
THE UNIONS

You’ve heard of the company union—now meet the FAMILY UNION

A FEW weeks ago I watched David Dimbleby on Panorama laying into Hugh Scanlon about the lack of democracy in the Engineers’ Union. What force!

If Dimbleby or anyone else wants to find out about undemocratic unions be sure to start with mine, the General and Municipal Workers’ Union—the third largest in the country with 850,000 members, and one of the most undemocratic.

In the GMWU at least people are appointed, none are elected outright. Two years after being appointed a full-time official has to undergo the indignity of having a union voted to end his life. The general secretary is elected only once.

In 1926 John Clynes, then general secretary, was opposed in re-election. Although he retained his position comfortably with 90 percent vote, re-election was felt to be an indignity. The executive member proposing the new system said that compelling officials to seek election was ‘democracy gone mad.’

by a GMWU shop steward

The GMWU is known as the family union. Most of the top positions are reserved for a few. Lord Cooper, former general secretary, was a nephew of a previous general secretary, Lord Dukes. Cooper’s predecessor was Lord Williamson, whose uncle was Liverpool district secretary.

SCAB

David Basnett, the present general secretary, is the son of a Liverpool district organiser who himself was the son of a Manchester GMWU official. Another GMWU family is the Donnans. Two generations have been associated with officials or members in the GMWU. Charles Donald is national organiser. Alexander Donald is general secretary. And Dundee the GMWU is known as ‘Donnee’s Union.’

The GMWU is also called the ‘shadow union’—a title derived from a list of sell-outs too long to detail.

In 1962, for example, the GMWU signed an agreement with the management of Fords, to replace the power of the shop stewards with that of full-time officials. Gradually track speeds were increased by a third, and in the following year Ford produced 140,000 more vehicles with the same bargaining force. In the Ford strike of March 1969 the GMWU, alone out of ten unions, refused to support the strike official. The exodus from the GMWU was such that the Halesowen branch of the union had to be closed.

Only this year in Hull more than 200 workers who owed fines from shareholders have left the GMWU because union officials have misrepresented them over negotiations and redundancies.

The whole constitution of the GMWU is to weaken shop stewards and keep them under control in the hands of the officials. No stewards are allowed to sign a strike but must get his members back to it before the union can take it to the shop stewards. The GMWU also restricts the bargaining powers of the shop stewards, which is known to exist where the whole structure is ‘unconstitutional action.’

In 1965 it signed an agreement with ICI, the photography firm, which guaranteed the company freedom from unofficial strikes and unofficial wage demands. In return for 100 percent membership, the union would follow the agreement, expelling any troublemakers from the union and factory in one blow. By 1966 the GMWU had signed 315 such agreements.

Can the union be reformed? The rigid control of the bureaucracy often means that union members despond and form to break away from it.

But the temptation to do this must be resisted at all costs. Breakaway unions are always disastrous. They strengthen the bureaucracy in the old, bigger union and, as happened in the docks, they developed their own bureaucracy which can be just as reactionary.

FIGHT

The GMWU bureaucracy can be fought successfully within the union. A series of struggles by union members—from the glassworkers to the Tyne shipyard workers—has proved this. In the past four years the union leadership has been forced to pay out more strike pay than in all the other years since the war put together.

A real fight is needed inside the union to reintroduce the basic principles of trade unionism, to clean up the union. Such a fight for democracy in the union and a militant approach to workers’ problems must be scientific. There is no choice.

All over Britain there are workers fed up with the back bench, back seat role of the GMWU, with the complete lack of concern of the leadership for what the membership wants. They are forced to fight for what they want and can only come together on some agreed basis, a programme for reform.

Consider these proposals:

ONE: Elect all officials.

TWO: Abolish the system of ‘guiding association’ rules.

THREE: Abolish the power of existing officials to determine the eligibility of candidates for office.

FOUR: Set up trade and combine groups of elected representatives from the factories, with annual policy-making conferences.

FIVE: Abolish voting powers for full-time officials on all committees of the union.

Any GMWU member who agrees with all or part of these proposals should get in touch with the Socialist Worker at Ryadon, 107, Victoria Road, London, W.8. Our centre is a free service, wish to work for it.

ROLLS WORKERS call for boycott on cut-price Spanish goods

In a so-called ‘bulletin’ circulated among Rolls Royce and other Derby trade unionists last week our shop stewards—the Rolls-Royce Derby Joint Shop Stewards Committee (Derby)—invited us and our friends to take advantage of an offer by which we can buy a five-piece set of cookware for £25.50 with the price advertised in the Sunday Times on £27.50.

So why do we say that we should boycott this offer and protest to our trade union stewards? Because as Cliff Small, district secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union in Derby, wrote to his members last week: ‘It has been proved that this hardware has been produced by workers working in abnormal conditions and for very poor wages.’

Deal

The first question we have to ask is: ‘What the hell do the shop stewards do when they are not being doing involved in a deal like this, which can only be accepted by荒皮 any set of workers by the local employers, to produce goods for some fly-by-night operator employing non-union labour in disputed circumstances?’ What sort of a trade union is it if it supports such an operation?’

But in fact the situation is much worse than that. The goods being

offered by our shop stewards’ committee were made in Spain and that fact was known to Charlie Hunt, works convenor, when the deal was discussed at the shop stewards’ committee.

In Spain trade unions and strikes as we know them are illegal. Work is carried on by cheap labour in conditions that would be unacceptable anywhere in Derby. Multi-national companies invest in places like Spain exactly because the trade-union movement is strangled by the law to prevent them achieving decent wages and conditions. In that way they can produce cheap goods which undercut workers’ jobs and wages in this country.

Spanish trade unionists have been fighting this for the past 35 years. Many members have been tortured, jailed and murdered. As few weeks ago five Spanish militants from the Basque area where this stuff was made were executed without a proper trial.

The Rolls-Royce shop stewards committee are helping this repression—why?

We are told that the committee will get 20p for every set sold. That is disgusting. It is nothing less than grab-hunting—selling out workers worse off than ourselves and undermining our defence themselves! For 20p. That’s not trade unionism.

STOP THIS OFFER!

All trade unionists should have nothing to do with this shop offer and should protest to their shop stewards and at their branches. Any moissey that might come to the committee should be rejected—it is scab money.

We are organising a picket of the store where these goods are being sold at the Valent Service Station on Mowbray Street/Donington Road. This will be at 5pm tomorrow (19 November). We call on trade unionists who agree with us to join this picket. CALL FOR AN INQUIRY INTO HOW THE DEAL WAS ARRANGED.

As long as an AEWU official warned that the union’s name must not be used in connection with any commercial enterprise. The majority of trade unionists at Ryadon are in the AUEW. We call on the district committee of the AUEW to investigate the behaviour of its members in this matter.

JOIN THE FIGHT TO CHANGE THE SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEE.

This is not an isolated incident—it is typical of the sort of trade union leadership we have here and that we need to change. Socialist Worker supporters at Ryadon aim to build a strong opposition to the policies of the present leadership. We ask any who agrees with us to get in touch, buy Socialist Worker each week, and join the fight.

BUT SOCIALIST WORKER 10p every Friday on Gates 1 and 2 or from Derby 15 by writing to: Derby IS 46 41 Matlock Road, Chaddesden, Derby.

Diaries

Want to give Socialist Worker a Christmas present? Then order an extra union diary and send it to the Unions’ Page. Union diaries have a lot of addresses, telephone numbers and other information invaluable to us.
Terror Act used to harass trade unionists

by Frank Conway
TRADE UNIONISTS flung into jail... if not officially accused of terrorism or being well or whereabouts... no charges brought and then hooted out of the country without explanation.

Nigel Greenop in Brussels, who has spent 31 years in France's, Spain's, South Africa, or Russia. It has happened in Britain in 1975. Because under the wide net of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 76 people are accused of terrorism... only 32 have been charged and only one convicted.

One look at the people affected shows that the Act is being used not to prevent terrorism, but to harass the Irish community in Britain in general, and to victimise Irish trade unionists and socialists in particular.

Danny Ryan's only crime was to be an active trade unionist, socialist and republican. He was a leading member of Clann na n'Eireann, a legal republican organisation, as Engineer-

ing Union shop steward in Bristol, a member of the Leicestershire Joint shop stewards' committee, and on the Bristol Trades Council. He was excluded from Brit-

ain.

Police have found that socialists arrested under the Act fraudulently or not, became labelled 'a terrorist' and so they were valued at their workplaces. All the rotten right wing bastards who want to destroy the unions have seized the Act as a way of getting militants kicked out.

Sacked

When republican Jim Flynn was detained, George Anderson, a worker at Smillers Mill, Avonmouth, near Bristol, was sacked. It was a refusal to picket. He was promptly sacked by the management. When shop steward Chris Hughes refused to support George's right to protest, National Front members at Smillers tried to take his stewards' credentials off him. Finally he resigned.

Not all the stories are bad. James O'Keeffe's case is a lesson in how to fight back.

O'Keeffe, a Transport Union member, fought against the exclusion order slapped on him. A week after his suspension, he was sacked by the company. He took his case to the local UCATT branch, after a lot of telephoneasing, forcing the company to rehire him. UCATT took a petition round the country... and threatened to black-list the company, but rather than face the whole of UCATT the management called a Trub and O'Keeffe's reported back.

There is only a long road to travel here, but the point is the Act is being used against the International workers' movement... No wonder the International is not willing.

The management of British Leyland has been operating with the South African police in 'militarising' militant workers in its South African factories.

They have called in the security police against the supporters of the Soconuxx, a militant union committee which is widely known to be the SA branch of the IWW.

We need to see the TRAC committee and get the facts out of the Act and out of the Exclusion Act.

On Thursday 20th November, there is an important conference in Manchester to mobilise against the clampdown movement against the renewal of the Act. Get your trade union branch to send a delegation.

The State, the Law and Ireland Conference is taking place at the 2.30pm, Barns, Partis Building, UMIST, Manchester. Sponsors include Trade Union Council. Prominent speakers include Eamonn McCann, Dave Simone, Ken Aitken, John Arrowmith and Patrick Hackett of the NUT.

Trade Union members, and anyone of conscience, are required. The fact that this is being used, available from: Manchester Metropolitan University, Woodward Road, Withington, Manchester 20.

This week at least one fighter for freedom will be hanged in Rhodesia. By order of the whites-only government in that country, his name will not be published. The execution will take place in secret, in the middle of the night. The man will be taken to the gallows without even a chance to speak to his relations or his friends.

In the first ten months of this year, 22 Rhodesians have been hanged or sentenced to death for political offences. That is almost as many as for the entire ten years from 1965 to the start of 1975.

In December last year the Rhodesian white racist government announced that they would not publish the details of executions. Relatives and friends are not told either. The men themselves are worked in their middle to the gallows and frammoced to the gallows. Every night in jail after their appeal is turned down, the government appeals in Rhodesia inevitably are—they could be the last.

Convicted

On 6 August, two unnamed Africans had their appeals against the death sentence turned down. Their whereabouts were unknown. No one knows who they are, let alone whether they are alive.

No one knows how long John Hlengani, 65, has to live. He was convicted at the end of October for taking boys for guerrilla training to Mozambique. He is expected to appeal. No one knows whether he is on the list for tomorrow's gallows.

On 11 November, Elliot Dube, Rene Nyamurupa and Ignatius Moto were convicted of killing members of the Rhodesian army. The death sentence is mandatory. The appeal is a farce. The hanging will be a farce.

The government is still looking for a "detente" whereby Rhodesian political exiles can return home. Meanwhile the racist South African premiers, Vorster, the black African leaders of Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania, the British government are still searching for a "detente" whereby Rhodesian political exiles can return home. Meanwhile the racist South African premiers, Vorster, the black African leaders of Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi and Tanzania, the British government are still searching for a "detente" whereby Rhodesian political exiles can return home.

The management of British Leyland has been operating with the South African police in 'militarising' militant workers in its South African factories.

They have called in the security police against the supporters of the Soconuxx, a militant union organiser. Leyland has even threatened to move its entire factory to a non-

union area.

This is the answer to all those people who think that nasty multi-

national companies are all foreign. British Leyland South Africa is proving that it can be just as brutal and racist as any other multi-

national.

Black trade union have grown fast in the last year but the South African government refuses them legal recognition and tries to force black workers to accept powerless 'tinsion committees' instead.

How Leyland uses apartheid

The question is an answer to one of those people that think that the white man is always the victim of black workers.

Leyland South Africa, controlled by Leyland Britain, has been in the forefront of support for the South African government's approach. 95 per cent of its workers in its Johannesburg plant near Durban were organised into the newly formed Metal and Allied Workers Union.

Leyland refused to recognise it and during a strike last February, took the advice of the Department of Labour and the British Employers' Federation.

Under South Africa's racist laws, any black without a job for 30 days is forced to leave the country. If he does not, the mine or factory or whatever it is, then leave the city where he lives for the remote countryside.

The assistant head of Leyland South Africa then applied the term 'Ricardo' treatment: he threatened to close the plant and move to another area where the workers were not what he called 'bochers'. The head of Leyland South Africa—None other than our own Lord Stokes—was in the country at the time.

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Police

Leyland was finally forced to reverse his decision and did not stop it victimising militants. It turned to the South African police to stop the union spreading to its other plants.

Security police arrested the secretary of the Union when he was leafleting the Johannesburg plant. The union is convinced Leyland called the police.

The secretary, Francis Mbatsora, was asked when a per-

sonal officer found a union card on him.

In Britain, a number of senior British Leyland directors have had an agreement, with the government's blessing, to pay 'tribute' in Leyland's management. They will be accused of being implicated in the pursuit of profit based upon a denial of workers' rights, upon racialism and upon blackmail.
It was a lovely funeral, but then it had been rehearsed a week before...

JOHN F KENNEDY was assassinated 12 years ago today (22 November), struck down in his peace-loving prime—if you believe what you're expected to believe really important people in the world do. Even if you don't believe that, and if you care to investigate just a few of the uncomfortable facts that have since come to light, a different picture begins to emerge. A picture that says a lot about the monster of violence, oppression and cover-up that is the American state machine, the 'freedom democracy on earth'.

FACt: Oswald is suggested to have shot Kennedy three times and Governor Connally twice, all in less than two seconds. Not bad for a World War One rifle wielded by a man whose military record describes him as a mediocre shot...

FACt: Violent hostility was known to exist in Dallas towards Kennedy: His father had been arrested just a week before he was murdered.

Most of Kennedy's Secret Service escort had been killed by the time he was shot, still 3 mm the night before. Pictures of the assassins were shown, they looking dazed and bewildered.

An investigation was ever carried out into who organized this act and why.

FACt: Two seconds after the shooting, the main police radio channel was jammed for three minutes by an unknown source. Again, no investigation was carried out. Meanwhile, police rushed to a grassy knoll ahead of the presidential car and to the nearby Texas School book Depository building encountered men with Secret Service credentials in both areas. However, no body was found of Secret Service men in the area at that time.

FACt: Two interesting early suspects were swiftly and quickly released: 'a man called Powell, who proved to be an agent for Army Intelligence, arrested in the TSBD building from which Oswald was later alleged to have fired the fatal shots'; and Eugene Bradle, now known to be a former member of the OSS, who had been seen at the TSBD building a few minutes before Kennedy was shot.

FACt: Eight minutes after Kennedy had been pronounced dead, a police car carrying Secretary of War, Robert McNamara, and a scenario of almost mechanical precision emerged, as the TSBD building was ransacked and covered up, the scene of Tippett's death, police who had beenNono, that looks like a most unusual thing to call a rifle, a rifle tracable to Oswald. Another half-hour and Oswald was arrested for shooting Tippett, a few more minutes and the news was flashing around the world, along with a tip that this was the president's assassin.

Nono, the police were being told how Oswald's lodgings were stocked with Marxist literature, how he had once defected to Russia, how he had been subsequently part taken in pro-Castro activities. Meanwhile, while in police custody. Both men, it is now known, were FBI informers.

FACt: Two days after his arrest, Oswald was shot dead by Jack Ruby, a class war joke in the 12th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination.

Prop

Normally they are, in large part, an essential pen for the ruling class and a broad political base on which conserva-

But under conditions of acute social crisis these layers move—either left or right, to socialism or to fascism. For the social revolution without the proletarian revolution, wrote Trotsky in 1926, it is necessary that, besides other conditions, a decisive shift of the petty-bourgeoisie classes occur in the direction of the proletariat.

The opportunity to hope embraces the whole proletarian mass, it inevitably points to a situation in which considerable and growing sections of the petty-bourgeoisie.

The opposition can, and did, in Germany. If there is no revolutionary cadre, then the petty-bourgeoisie classes may still be squeezed with considerable success.

The outcome depends, first and foremost, on the struggle for revolution and its politics inside the working class.
by Paul Foot

THE tantrum system on the Sydney stock exchange belellowed: 'Attention everyone! Great news: Whitlam's been sacked!'

Several hundred black-suited speculators went berserk. They jumped on chairs and tables, and hugged one another. They cheered. They seized for joy.

That afternoon, Monday 10 November, share prices rose higher and more fortunes were made than ever before in the history of Australian capitalism.

No wonder. Without an election, without breaking the strength of the workers, keeping wages in place, the companies were granted absolute freedom to plunder.

Fierce opposition to this grew up in the Labour movement. It was based on the main in nationalism—Buy Back the Farm for Australia—but it grew into Labour policy a demand for 51 per cent government control of all mining, oil, minerals, etc., as a percentage of the corporations.

As soon as Labour was elected in 1972, these companies in which the public were to give a minimum of 25 per cent control of the companies as the nation, decided they could not carry out the nationalisation policies on which they had been elected.

Whitlam, with the support of the union leaders, decided to prevent the workers' fury. 'Deal with the reactionary coalition at the ballot box,' he advises. 'Save parliamentary democracy!'

Yet the central lesson from all these astonishing events is that parliamentary democracy has no power to protect working class interests.

Workers' action is the only guarantee that the Labour government will continue. It is the only guarantee that the workers will continue to make gains at the expense of the employers in the multinational boardrooms.

The Australian events fall into a grim pattern. In Chile in 1973, a Labour government was shot down. In Cyprus in 1974, a Labour government was toppled by a fascist coup. In Australia in 1975, a Labour government has been ousted by decrees of a union-baiting Governor-General.

In Britain, a Labour government has been paralysed by the flight of sterling. This month, the centrepiece of its legislation programme, its Trade Union Act, has been postponed by an act of parliamentary and placard-bearing barons, dukes and marquesses.

The techniques of reaction differ, but the organisation behind them is the organisation of private property all over the world.
We're women, we're workers!

EQUAL PAY

WHAT WE WERE PROMISED...

After 28 December 1975 all women workers are entitled to equal pay —by law. In theory, the employers can no longer pay women less for doing the same work.

...AND WHAT WE GET...

But the employers have used the wording of the Act and the five years given to implement it to find every conceivable way of wriggling out of their commitment.

In August, the Department of Employment reported that of the wage agreements they had monitored, two-fifths had still made no firm commitment to equal pay. Only a quarter had removed discrimination in pay.

Actual earnings show the real difference: on average, women earn 62 per cent of men's earnings, including overtime.

Women earn £30.30, men earn £48.60. If you discount overtime, women earn 68 per cent of what men earn.

How do the employers do it? In the baking industry, men and women's rates were abolished to be replaced by a new series of grades, the top grades replacing the previous male grades and the bottom grades producing the old female grades.

Within the grades there are two classifications—one for men, one for women. So, women bakery operatives get 80 per cent of the men's rates for the same work.

MATERNITY LEAVE

WHAT WE WERE PROMISED...

The Government promised that arrangements for maternity leave would be introduced for all women at work for more than one year.

...AND WHAT WE GET...

The Employment Protection Bill says women who have worked for the same employer for two years are entitled to six weeks' maternity leave with pay.

A third of women between the ages of 20 and 40 leave their jobs within one year. Two out of five working women are married.

DISCRIMINATION

WHAT WE WERE PROMISED...

The Sex Discrimination Act also becomes law this year. It promises the same access to jobs, the same opportunities for promotion and training, the same educational opportunities for promotion and training, the same educational opportunities.

It is intended to cover all the fringe benefits that the Equal Pay Act leaves out. It promises everything, but guarantees nothing.

PROMISES WE CAN DO WITHOUT...

ABORTION

Women's rights took the biggest hammering with James White's back-street abortion bill. The 1967 Abortion Act gave women some legal rights to abortion.

The Labour government finally gave into the anti-abortion lobby when Barbara Castle announced in the Commons in October that the government was implementing all the recommendations of the parliamentary Select Committee looking into the bill.

The government will allow another debate to reappoint the Select Committee.

The only way to stop the private market making money out of abortions is to put them out of business.

The only way to do that is to make abortion free on the national health.

JACK JONES, of the Transport and General Workers Union, says: 'It's not only have to make sure who is to protect these women. We have to fight for the women against that sex in our society.'

In January, the 130,000 registered as unemployed in October there is a trend to a deepening recession.'
WHAT WE THINK

THE WOMEN in Persona are fighting for their jobs. At Kayser Bondor they need a £5 increase to live on. At Ladbrokes, the fight is for union recognition.

Everywhere, women are fighting for their rights to abortion, for nursery facilities, against the cuts in education and the hospitals, against rising prices.

There is one common factor to all these disputes and campaigns: Working women want to be able to control their lives.

They want to be able to decide when to have children, when to go out to work, what job to do, where their children go to school. But our society is not run in the interests of working women. It is organised to produce profit for a minority of parasites.

That minority depend on workers accepting low wages, unequal pay, high prices. They depend too, on dictating to us when women have children, when we go out to work.

So they try to impose a pattern of ideas—about the family, about morality, about a woman’s role in society—all of which helps them to make the decisions, not us.

There is plenty of evidence on these pages that women are fighting back against all this. But too often the fight back is carried on in separate sections, each isolated from one another.

We need to unite those separate battles into one, strong, offensive which hits those who run society where it hurts most.

Women resisting every attempt to return to the days of backstreet abortion need the industrial strength of the women in the factories.

It’s not enough to say: Fight in the trade unions, join with other socialists.

Women are isolated in the trade union movement, they can’t get to union meetings, they have pressures on their time from home, they lack confidence and experience.

So women get left behind again and again. Trade union leaders and dignitaries become word perfect in patronising statements about equality—but they never feel the pressure to do anything about it.

That’s why we’ve organised the Women’s Voice Rally in Manchester on 29 November—to bring together the fighting spirit of working women all over the country in an atmosphere where we can develop our own confidence and our own ability to organise.

When we’ve built that confidence and organising ability, we’ll be able to force the pace in the trade unions and on the factory floor.

Then we’ll be able to shove the whole labour movement towards a real battle for equal pay and women’s rights.

By Margaret Reen

UNION RECOGNITION

Ladbrokes workers in Glasgow have been out on strike for six months. Rene Brown, from the strike committee, said: ‘If we get support from other trade unionists in the scale we deserve then we can still beat Ladbrokes.

I can’t understand why the official movement hasn’t taken it further, because the Transport Union is the biggest in the country, and if that support had been organised on the picket lines then we would have won by now’. The TGWU’s recruiting leaflet says ‘Put the strength of the TGWU Britain’s biggest union, around you’.

Pictures: John Spruce (Page 11)
THREE LEADING LABOUR ACTIVISTS QUIT TO JOIN IS

THREE leading Labour activists in Harlow, Essex have quit to join the International Socialists.

Sue and Terry Mackay and Barbara Williams, all members of the local Party’s general management committee, told Socialist Worker this week of their decision to leave Harlow and of their hopes of building a real socialist party.

The Essex county school nurse and a member of NAPO, I originally started quiting for the right to work, said Sue. For the abolition of free milk in schools under the Tories.

Many Harlow Labour councillors voted against paying for the milk from the 1980s, and when Harlow regained office the government refused to renounce the school milk subsidy.

And then there was the Tesco Fair Rent. At Harlow’s 100 per cent Labour council meeting, the officers explained that the case was the result of a fierce battle.

Terry, a Labour ward secretary and member of NAPO, said: ‘We were just as tough. They should have taken the stand with Clay Cross. That would have got a grass-roots Labour campaign against the Tories to the fore.

We have also seen a terrible split in the Harlow Labour council. They have adopted Tory policies and lost the support of workers and supporters into any kind of action.

TRIVIA

What have these three words in common?

The solution, and realize that the only way to achieve social democracy is to spread our idea of socialism everywhere. The Labour Party is a small, up-to-date, progressive body that can mobilize its members and supporters into any kind of action.

Black and white, unite and fight!

By Maggie Dunne, Cricklowell 13 THREE of the most important activists in the campaign to end nuclear weapons in the UK, and one of the most important activists in the UK in any campaign, are leaving the Labour Party. The three activists are now working for the International Socialists, a new group formed in the UK to build a socialist alternative to the Labour Party.

By Maggie Dunne, Cricklowell 13

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Sue and Terry MacKay and Barbara Williams: ‘Get out and join us’

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Women’s Voice rally coaches

GLASGOW: The Information Bureau, Gartmore House, 7th Floor, 103-105 Linlithgow Road, Glasgow G4 0QX, 0141-244 1046.

CHESTERFIELD: Town Hall, 8.30am ROTHERHAM: Bus station, 8.30am

SHEFFIELD: Pond Road, 8.30am, contact Lesley Klein (0742 56510)

BURLINGTON: Esplanade, Bmn, contact 9.1am, 9.45am 46. Tickets must be paid for in advance. Contact Write to Women’s Voice 8 Compton Gardens, E2.

COVENTRY: Pool Meadow, Bmn, contact Ginny Taylor at 15 Bisques, 0203 210622.

LIVERPOOL: Mann Island Pierhead, Bmn, calling at Garden Eagle, Kirkby, 9.30am, Contact Teresa, 051-236 8383.

BIRMINGHAM: 8.30am, E5 Books, HULL: YBE offices, Sevenwells, Bmn.

IS notices

SW AFRICA GROUP weekend school: Six days of exciting Marxist education. Registration closes Saturday 12th November. Further details from SW Africa Group, 95 Thorpe St. NW5 2BJ. Phone 01-935 8104.

WOMEN’S VOICE: Joint workshop with Women’s Voice on the topic of ‘Women and the Family’. Details to be advertised in an upcoming issue.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION: For details contact the Science, Technology and Education Group on 01-739 0111 or write to 30 George Street, London WC1, London WC1.

CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE, a short pamphlet from the Zimbabwe People’s Movement. Available from SW Africa Group, 95 Thorpe St. NW5 2BJ.

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I was a ‘soccer hooligan’

By STEVE FOREY

ABOUT three years ago, on a nice sunny day, we all set off for Southamton. The occasion? A ‘friendly’ football match between the Saints and our team, QPR.

We hoped there would be some action (we called it ‘aggro’) and some kids were tossed up.

All the week, we were stuck in dead-end jobs, being pushed about by the boss. But Saturday was our day.

Sohoting

The team lost 3-1 (robbled again, but we’d had a good time after a few pints and 90 minutes of singing and shouting.

The high point of the day came at 4.45 p.m. The Southampton mob had gathered outside, while we were busy gathering empty beer cans.

We met in V.C. who worked in a hatters near Smithfield market. He was followed by Gary from Not

ington.

Sooner the others were running and I took great pleasure in kicking one block in the back and rapping my knuckles on another’s hand.

A FILM NO SOCIALIST SHOULD MISS

I RECENTLY saw Spain: Dream and Nightmare, the film which is to be taken on the Socialist Worker film tour next week. It is really worth seeing.

It shows the events leading up to the civil war in the 1930s, when the workers of Spain and socialists in the International Brigades fought to prevent the fascist Franco – backed by troops from Nazi Germany and Mussolini’s Italy – taking control.

The film shows the hypocrisy of the American, British and French governments in signing a non-aggression pact with the fascist regime in Spain while they were helping the workers.

By Michael Fenn, NASD

Food for thought

Perhaps one or two of your older readers, and certainly most Tory councillors, will remember the support I helped organise in that year for Mr. Bumble, a non-nonsense chap and a first-rate beadle, a sort of Victorian Reg Prentice, who had the guts to stand up and say ‘No’ to any over-demanding demands for more grief from young Oliver Twist.

As I argued at the time, he had acted like a true moderate, mindful of the national interest. More good work was needed, so sick, as the working classes aren’t used to secondhelpings.

Small bands of nacionalists are on the move. In particular, he was viciously pilloried by some radical novelists — Dickens, Dicken or something the bounder’s name was what, and given no right of reply whatsoever. (The left-wing monopols of new潜 isn’t.

And so, in 1974 as in 1837, the children are not only little help to the old countryside on her feet.

Hungry

It was good to know that once again in hard times for each and every one of us the spirit of Mr Bumble walked on high and we had men and women of affairs prepared to keep us prophets of the fires of children go hungry.

Back in 1837 this spirit has died and it seems that the state schools of Oxfordshire will go on doing out food in the classroom instead of feeding the children on nourishing scums of plastic and vegetable, suitably processed of course.

I gather the same thing is in for too many places up and down the land. It is a policy that trod on the people like people who like myself are seriously considering emigrating.

I said the same thing only a few years ago on the day to some of these shop steward people of Labour, Liberal and Lib Dem we did not have the right to automatic respect from their workfolk?

Collapse

Personally, I put this complete collapse of national morale down to too many of the blokes in the past — deersures, orange juice and the like.

So any government can come up with £300 million aid for my company, which is no more than £500,000 less than the cost of a round of Burmah Oil last year, I’m off abroad where I don’t doubt my able and better-recompensed.

Yours faithfully,

Patriot

(A direct to Paul O’Flinn)

ON THE BOX

FRIAY

THITY TALES (BBC2, 10.15pm) by Alan Peter are a modern day version of the old fairy tales. Read by Alex Glasgow. Could be good.

TONEY TALEY (BBC1, 10.50pm) by Peter Jones. Many Russians were forced into Ger

many since the last war. But when they left they left after being forced to leave Germany and many were treated as criminals and rounded up in Siberia. They died of disease in 1937. This is a good history of the relationship of the Soviet Union and Germany.

GOPEN DOOR (BBC2, 11.30pm) features

SUNDAY

MUSICALS. THE FRIENDLY INVASION (BBC1, 10.15pm) is on the influence of the musicals of the 1960s. Hosted by Simon Dee on BBC1 from 9.45pm on a reorganisation of work. A great opportunity for the music lovers, but also a way to see some of the best of the musicals of the 1960s.

FORTITUDE (BBC1, 9.15pm) features a version of Verissimo’s Don Juan, a character that is in love with the church and is in a relationship with a female soldier. The result is a great musical in a way.

MILESTONES IN WORKING CLASS HISTORY (BBC2, 6.30pm) shows how the docks of 1869 won their honour and built up a great strength. THE BOOS PROGRAMME (BBC2, 7.60pm) inter

views Peter Benchley, author of Jaws.
Two letters from Portugal

You can help us!

I HAVE JUST read your paper for the first time and I like your principles and the almost same as those of my group, the Parti of the Revolutionary Proletariat.

I most like the columns you dedicated to deal with the problems of socialist in Portugal. Things are reaching a climax that will be crucial for the victory of socialism in the next few years.

So far, conditions for a rising of fascist are being fulfilled by the ambiguous police of the state machine, the Armed Forces Movement and the reformist revisionist parties.

The situation is tragic because of the two facts: the fascist and the revolutionary movement (including myself) and the 300,000 refugees from Angola.

To understand what this really means, I must say we are the poorest country in all Europe (by capitalisation standards) and have only nine million inhabitants.

You are trying to get workers to leave Portugal. Well I think this is a good help. I'm an ex-student and worker, 26, and very internationalist (though my English is not so strong as my will) — CARLOS, Lisbon, (full available from Socialist Worker)

I BOUGHT Socialist Worker last week and was impressed. I work in iron foundry in Póvoa de Ouro, but my company has an office in Bedford, England, where I am now for a couple of weeks.

I do not like what your TV and newspapers are telling about my country. They seem very worried about the left and extreme left wing, but they never mention anything about centre and right wing, which we know a big number of fascists have joined, pretending to be democrats.

They are always insisting that a civil war will blow in Portugal in any minute, but what they do not tell is that if we have a civil war it will only be because of fascist parties.

The fascist are not so strong, but the left are in a big strong position. Only Oporto is giving a strong resistance. The Catholic Church, with its strong people in villages and even suggests that political party they should not permit to our people in the coming elections.

The last election was a big fraud, people were not educated and had only one solution to vote for the fascist parties.

I do not believe in the government. They are not the left anymore. The others were no good at all.

I only believe in one thing and hope that will happen soon, only the workers power, and I believe together we will save my country from fascists which is showing in its face in every single movement.

I appeal for all workers of this country to help us. Most of the foreign companies that has left my country after the coup did not come back because of communism, as they say, but because they could not find any more the same profits.

They could not exploit our workers as they did, paying low salaries.

I would like to subscribe your paper but I am concerned about means of payment. Your House are not interested in escudos, they do not accept your paper.

Please send me with great pleasure to a capitalist and imperialist Portugal — MARGARIDA COSTA, Porto, Portugal.

WE WERE DISCUSSED by the slogan 'The New World', which stood out on the Women's Voice Bellie Vee Rally poster. Does Women's Voice support the £10 wage limit and thus a cut in workers' standards of living? The slogan should read 'Smash the £10 wage limit' - MAUREEN TOMLINSON, BRIAN WILLMAN, Exeter.

How many are really out of work?

In my school, we usually have a sixth-form of about 50 or 60 staying on for A-levels. But this year, school students ready to leave faced the dole queue. How many more are still on, increasingly in despair?

At the same time the Labour ' Tory government is slashing millions of pounds off education, so they are not educating anyway. How could they be with the cuts causing inadequate buildings, books, paper and teachers. No official unemployment figures are just above the million mark. But with the school students and unemployed who does not sign on just how big is the real figure? - LESLIE LANG, NUS, Norwich.
The Congress that gave no lead...

by Chris Harman

The Congress of the Communist Party, held last weekend, heard a lot about the crisis of capitalism but very little about the struggle to fight it.

Many speakers stressed that the key to combating the crisis would be to win the support of the masses. There were repeated calls to work for a “new deal” but no mention of anything except what should be done afterwards.

Nothing.

There was no discussion on the tactics of resisting rearmaments, or on the relative merits of trade unions and workers’ occupations. And, as far as I can recall, the speeches focussed on the role of reformists and those who supported the government against its policies.

The lack of ideas or initiatives was as clear as the fact that the Congress was a campaign against everything.

Even nationalising the banks would not get a passing reference — without the demand for compensation. It would seem to be a sine qua non of any anti-government action.

The CCOHendum’s of the Left would have to be seen as a clear danger to the ‘system’. But the Left would have to be willing to risk even this.

Nor were there any references to trade union action against the government. The leadership had been promised that the trade unions would play a major role in any anti-government action, but this promise was not fulfilled.

There were some criticisms of the Labour government for its failure to take decisive action against the government, but these were too mild to be effective.

Confusion.

The confusion ran through the whole campaign on rearmament, which was the result of the government’s campaign of positives developments and actions within the trade unions, as well as the government’s own policies. The government had failed to make any real progress in this direction.

But even if the government were to make some progress, it would not be enough. The government’s policies were in fact designed to prevent any real progress.

There is no need to talk about how black workers can fight to break the Sun or the Daily Mail. The working class movement desperately needs an organisation within it where members of the local branch of the National Union of Public Employers, recruiting members and collecting their subscriptions.

We DEMAND trade union rates of pay for all workers. We must pay our own keep and maintain our members. And, as an end to the wars of expansion, we must abolish the compulsory military service.

We DEMAND an end to all violations of human rights and the protection of all civil rights. We DEMAND the freedom of speech and expression, the right to association and the right to strike. We DEMAND a just and lasting peace.

What we stand for

Socialist Worker is a revolutionary socialist newspaper that sets itself around the following principles:

Independent working-class organisation

We believe that socialism can only be achieved as an independent organisation of the working class.

Revolution not reformism

We believe that the working class must achieve socialism, not patch up the capitalist system gradually.

The smashing of the capitalist state

The central weapon of the capitalist state is the army, a weapon of capitalist rule and oppression which must be destroyed.

The present parliament, army, police and judges cannot simply be taken over and used by the working class. There is, therefore, no parliamentary road to socialism. The working class, no revolution, no socialism.

The task of organisation

We believe that the working class must organise itself from the bottom up, through an organisation of its own making.

Socialist Worker is an organisation of the working class. We believe that the working class must organise itself from the bottom up, through an organisation of its own making.

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What we stand for

Socialist Worker in the Struggle for Socialism

Become a Socialist Worker supporter — fill in the form on page three.
LADBROKE: YOU CAN HELP US WIN!

By Dave Sherry

DO YOU bet with Ladbroke? If so, you are helping a rich betting empire to stay afloat.

Six months ago, Ladbroke's sacked those workers for trying to organise for trade union rights in the betting shops throughout the West of Scotland.

The tragedy is that the battle is about the basic right of workers to organise, yet the official leadership of the Trades Union Congress, the biggest in the country, has left the workers to fight on their own.

Two weeks ago, Ladbroke's refused to reinstate the workers despite the recommendation of an industrial tribunal, which in a 3 to 2 decision, that the workers had not been unfairly dismissed.

Ladbroke's, along with the other betting giants are determined to keep the trade unions out of their shops. In a period of mass unemployment, it is a challenge that the trade unionist cannot afford to ignore.

The workers are forced with only the help of the trade unionists across the country. Don't bet with Ladbroke's... tell your friends and have your bets placed at other bookies. The post office engineers and postmen should all back black to all communities to Ladbroke's betting shops.

They were approached as long ago as August to assist in this struggle and not turn back now.

The TGWU should block all supplies to Livingston Park, the former bookies, and should call for mass picketing of Ladbroke's betting shops in every major city. Ladbroke's, if one is forced, should be one in a million.

STOP PRESS

TGWU officials throughout have done their utmost to turn the battle into a demand for compensation for unfair dismissal, are now threatening to cut off strike pay.

NOTICES AND MEETINGS

Adverts for this column must arrive by first class at least 10 days prior to publication date. We cannot, unfortunately, take them over the phone. We cannot guarantee inclusion in our next issue, or space availability.


ACTORS AND CONDUCTORS' RALLY: Council public meeting to protest against recent G-M hat and coat factory closures and the threat to the Clyde.

WHAT YOUR FRIENDS ARE DOING: 26th November, Sunday lunchtime. St. Stephen's Church, Rye Hill, Liverpool. Fellowship meeting.


DEMONSTRATE: Free Diamond Tender appeared in London. The same day, a similar demonstration took place in Manchester.

FOR JUSTICE! No more police State violence in England.

TOMORROW: WHERE WILL they be? Day reunion of the Friends of the New Left. 25th November, 7pm. 460-b York Street. Glasgow.

WANTED: 1200 women 16-19 for a contact center.

THE CRISIS IN AUSRA: Open forum organized by the Australian People's Party. 25th November, The National, New South Wales. 7.30 pm.

THE OTHER CINEMAS: looking for a new films. 26th November.

RADICAL EDUCATION: 26th November. 9pm. University of Westminster, Deptford. 700 Club.


BIKINI BAY: London's first nudist restaurant. 26th November, 10.30pm. 15-20 Cambridge Circus, London.

DENNIS 9699877 + 2578561.


END THE NORTH: Stop the war! End the state. 27th November, 12noon. National Student Union Of The Arts.

PICKEY LINES

By Ray Stormer (GMWU), Secretary, Unemployed Workers Action Committee.

S E LONDON: Workers on the Thames Barrier site, now on a 12 hour shifts. Unemployed workers refused to work on the site. The job has picked up for the last two months. We need the urgent support of unemployed workers on other jobs, and in the Barrier, on other jobs, and in the Barrier.

The Barrier should stop on 26 November for the hard day. Employed unions and trade unions rejected an offer from organised site picketing, in their interests.

We ask for your support on a sit at 2pm to 6pm, and noon to 4pm.

Copies of resolutions passed or requests for support should be sent to Ray Stormer, 76 Floyde Road, London SE 15.

S E LONDON: Greenwich has lost 35,000 industrial jobs since 1965. We're bombed and out of work. Secretary of Greenwich Traders Council, S E LONDON: Workers at Fleamarket in support of TGWU Traders' plant on Tuesday.

CENTRAL LONDON: 80 men at Lawrence building site. Lower Thames Street, are still on strike. Not a single employer has accepted a 20p an hour wage increase. Strike closed off first position of no newbination. They have a legal rights tribunal and a right to refuse arbitration of the claims. They are not regarded as having a right to refuse arbitration of the claims.

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STOP PRESS

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COMING IN ANA JOIN US! Right to Work pickets appealing for support on Tuesday outside the occupied Hertford unemployment exchange.

And they got a good idea of what's wrong. Thirty unemployed workers and school students joined the occupation, which was organized by the North West London Right to Work Committee.

One-out-of-work black worker, Lenny Anderson, said, "It's just a good idea to me—people take notice. We need more people to support this sort of thing, to spread the campaign out more.

The occupation, the first of any jobs centre in London, follows recent occupations in Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester.

Avonmouth: No wage cuts here!

BRISTOL: 638 members of the Unite Union are on strike in their third week of an official strike at Comonwealth Smelting, Avonmouth.

Around-the-clock picketing has forced management to start making concessions.

In less than a month, redundancies and wage cuts, 150 jobs are at stake. The company is under tremendous pressure to reduce its costs, with losses of £250m per week.

Management are being reduced, the result that more overtime will be worked. The picketing will continue as the extreme dangers of lead poisoning.

By a large majority, the 18 months old, has welded this week into a Solidarity Contract. Eight times they have taken management procedure and agreed to cut staffing and work without doing it.

A major breakthrough has been made in the past few months. Because the men are so solid and militant, they have built up a support with a rather beausinic association of out of the trade. They did not agree to any of the handling of the claims. This result in 22 managerial settlements, both CPSA and Civil Service Association, as they were unable to cope with the situation.

Fight NRTs carve-up!

MEN'S PEOPLE won't need telling that there is a crisis in the Health Service. But the existing system of national conferences to cut have yet to sink.

Hospital management are laying in the line—services are to be reduced regardless of patients health. All major capital spending has been chopped. This will mean no new hospitals.

Meanwhile existing services are being cut down. The Highlands and Islands are cut in even East End's East. A surn a" under 12.

In many areas, overtime working has been forced on some workers who are not even employed. This ensures a reduced service to patients.

In some hospitals, workers who leave or refuse overtime are punished and sacked. So, by voluntary redundancies, in Leeds, there are already 500 more.

The prospect is ever-worse for ever more of these. Unless, of course, you can afford to jump the queue.

Battle

Rank and file trade unions are in the Health Service. Realise the problems that are getting going. The National Joint Council of Hospital Workers recently demonstrated, but the second edition packed with information on the cuts and how to fight them.

Hospital workers won't be able to fight the cuts in the long walk without industrial power. The whole labour move-ment has to stand up to the cuts.

But it's our vote for a lead from the TUC. It is time for the TUC, including the TGWU, to start making its usual militant remarks about the cuts. The TGWU has to make plans for fighting campaigns at NUPE head office.

A meeting for all International Socialists is planned to be held called "a meeting for December to work out a genuine strategy" at the TUC head office, 10-11, Peter Street, Birmingham, 11am-5pm. Further information can be obtained from the NUPE head office.

ONE LAW FOR US, ANOTHER FOR THEM

By Rob Silvestro, NUPE steward, Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

THE KITCHEN porter at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital left work last week and walked down the road carrying a bag. Not a strange thing to do, you might think, but the catering officer thought otherwise.

He took it back to head that the bag contained stolen goods, and called the police. They arrested and bailed him off into a police van. We immediately came on strike until the porter was returned to the hospital. The porter has not, for the time being, at least, decided to bring no charges.

The catering officer tried to persuade him to call off the strike. He did not stay long, but before quitting we had fixed the following:

"If you walked down the road carrying bag, we wouldn't send to have you arrested."

"Fine. No, but even if I did, do you really think I would arrest me?"

As one of the cooks said, "This was a case of standing up for one's rights. We're a militant bunch of ancillary workers, you may be surprised to learn, and if you're the wrong side of this, we're not going to let you get away with it."

And the higher you go up society, the more people are affected by the forces of the law, until at the top, they can make fantastic fortunes out of legalized stealing."
SAFETY CONSCIOUS British Steel Corporation are replacing pipes and plugs on the water cooling system at the Victoria furnace. Scunthorpe—three weeks after ten iron workers were killed and three seriously injured in an explosion there.

Black iron plugs and pipes in the copper tuyeres (part of the cooling system) are now being replaced by brass and stainless steel. The iron should never have been used—it corrodes when placed next to copper with water, a basic chemical reaction. British Steel knew the danger, but iron is cheaper than brass or stainless steel.

Meanwhile, the three other furnaces—Arme, Besse, and Lizzie—are still working. As a pipefitter at Appleby-Frodingham told Socialist Worker: ‘The other furnaces are just the same. One of them could go up now while I’m talking to you. BSC should start saving lives before they start saving money.’

The people of Scunthorpe have not been told of the cause of the explosion. The inquiry by the Health and Safety Commission should have been public, but is not.

OSSETT: Job can be learned from black death

By Colin Moore, AEU Convenor, Jonas Woodhead Springs

OSSETT: 150 jobs have been chopped at Woodheads. With luck, our defeat will be a lesson for others.

In 1972 we occupied the factory for six weeks and won a £7.50 increase. Last December, management locked us out for six weeks so as to introduce a work study.

They failed miserably to beat an Ossett but they did manage to break the combine commuter, so up to date the 1972 occupation.

Last June, we were put on short time. In retaliation, the lad put production on a one day week. Management went on the back (a day week and led the workers to a take-back of shift information about shift changes. The situation was very much improved.

They could not foresee any short time working in the near future. They failed to tell us that there was no future.

At the beginning of October, we got word that something was about—and we immediately occupied the factory and the offices, pinning the director and plant manager in their offices.

Then we made our first contacts with our national organisers, we agreed to give the plant back to the management pending a meeting calling for the national AEU assistance.

When this became known, resistance took form. The workers were being led into difficult as to argue for a fight being thrown through the door. And in the last week, we have a man negotiating a prize for the fight. They say the occupation is illegal and are metropolitanally accepted by a mass meeting.

The workers are not in the least bit certain nor are they themselves. The rest are not certain of course, but they are not at all illegal.

Don’t allow the price of the action to be driven down. Take the initiative and keep it. Even if you don’t keep the place open, it’s half a threat against it to talk about a prize if you are on the bank wait...

In our case, they haven’t lost. They couldn’t have lost. We have won and there are no profits only. That’s what we have to fight. Those people have to be used to provide jobs.

But if the workers’ spirit is one of resistance, the leadership is different. They

In Coventry GEC workers have come out for the Right to Work. A stoppage and demo last Wednesday from all the firm’s plants in the city ended with a mass meeting in the precinct.

GEC owns 1200 redundancies in Coventry, including one closure, Carl Barton. At a GEC Deputy Convenor, told SWP, GEC’s profits are rising all the time. Last year they rose £100 million, and yet they are not under any obligation.

By Murray Armstrong

Profits

One manager summed up their attitude when he said: ‘In no way will we carry on with the business without a profit only. That’s what we have to fight. Those people have to be used to provide jobs.

But if the workers’ spirit is one of resistance, the leadership is different. They

In Southwark: Women’s strike spreads

WOMEN textile workers are out on strike at Siemens, in Clapham, at Westdor, at Woodside, Eastdor, the Northgate group, and the Louis Edwards factory.

Pay cuts and targets throughout the industry and the women are fighting back against them.

The Northgate group, at Clapham, all the women are out, with 24-hour picketing. KRAFTWIN WINS JOB BACK

JOSÉ CABA, the Transport Workers Union branch secretary victimised at Manor House hospital last week has been reinstated. Management were forced to back down after almost all the branch members threatened to strike. José told Socialist Worker: ‘It shows what when workers stick together, the bosses get scared.’

Black hole they call Sunlight...

By Sam Trushwick, TGWU packer

BRIGHTON: Sunlight Laundry is a sweatshop. There are about 280 workers on the shop floor. Most are women and black.

Everyone is paid different wages. The women do not get equal pay. The average rate for women works at £4.51 take home pay for 48 hours. For that, we work extra hard. Some work all day starting after dirty laundry. Others stand all day over a steaming presser. Life as the assembly line consists of batches of washing one after the other without a break. So you work constantly with little time to stop. You only rest for 15 minutes every four hours of work. If you talk to the person next to you, you get in trouble. As one woman said: ‘It’s like being in a bloody prison’.

Management are so concerned about the bloody time, they even stick up a big clock on the wall which promptly falls down and hits a woman’s head, while she is working.

With comrades to sit and nowhere to talk, it’s impossible to plan the work, so that no one stays long enough to get organised.

Week’s notice

After six months of trying to organise a union I was given a week’s notice. One of the drivers who had made me organise was instantly dismissed, and paid off to keep his mouth shut. After that, they sacked another six drivers.

The drivers are just as isolated as the people inside the factory. They all work different hours and barely know each other’s names. Management are cutting back on their drivers and doubling their rounds. Our union has divided: it’s about time they did something to change it.

Even when we do organise, the drivers know that they will need the support from the women and from other workers at the hospital and Sunlight who sent the petition to the laundry to Sunlight. If this was blacked, it would hit management where it really hurts.

GEC workers demand the Right to Work

By Murray Armstrong

The one shaft of light from the platform line came from George Blox, TASS Electrical Wholesaler, who said: ‘I don’t agree the answer to the problem lies in parliament. The answer lies in the workers at GEC. He argued for nationalization, on compensation and no lockouts, and finished by saying: Our concern should be the right to work, the right to work at GEC.

Hughes Way, TGWU’s national officer at the Stoke plant, disagreed with the platform line. He explained: ‘The GEC case is a classic example of the government’s policy because the Period of Notice is in force: that’s not the main problem. The company is carrying out a massive retraining programme.

Picket lines

NEARLY 800 lubricators at Manchester Polytene works had a half day stoppage on Wednesday. The lubricators lobbed a meeting of the City Council with a letter from the Young Socialists and the Students Union within the Poly. 200 jobs could be lost in the next five years through mergers in Feather and Higher Education.

Mick Fan, TASS Edwick site, writes: TASS 1500 workers or the government will withdraw its aid. This was the message from Lord Ryder to a three day meeting at the Frain Alexander Report on Monday. The TASS action being held at the Red Lane site, which is threatened with closure, and the AUEW’s action at Edwick and Wythenshawe are strong.

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Using

Even if the Post Office contracts were put back, the company say they would in any case be looking for redundancies. We know it’s just a way of working extra staff to buy time to buy the redundancies till the last minute in the nationalisation process.

‘We’ve been pushed into a corner ourselves. We need our voluntary redundancies in a bigger way. It’s not enough. Our concern should be the right to work. We have no one to help us get any help from the government. We have to fight for the right to work.’

To save our jobs we have to fight for the right to work.

COUNTER INFORMATION SERVICES

THE right wing has taken over the executive of Britain’s second biggest union, the Engineering Union (AUEW).

This is a serious setback for all trade unionists. It means an end to the policies which, however half-heartedly, brought resistance to the Industrial Relations Act and to Labour’s wage cut policies.

The key question for every militant in the union is how to turn the right-wing tide. Already some people are drawing the conclusion that the left lost by being militant.

Not so. The majority, on the old AUEW left, can quickly turn their left-wing speeches into actions. So they could not counter the red-baiting of the press and the right wing with concrete achievements in wages and conditions.

Bob Wright, who was beaten in the Midlands and North-West region, ordered his members at Chrysler

South African troops march against MFLA in Angola

The newly-independent African state of Angola is threatened by a South African-led takeover. That is the reality from which the press districts attention with reports of “Russians” in the capital, Luanda.

Over the past fortnight, a column of troops, led by British-made armoured cars and with many British-made arms, have been advancing North into Angola from the border with South Africa.

Much of the press has given the impression that this column, which threatens Luanda, is made up of members of the “Vital African liberation movement.”

Le Kinshasa has been confirmed by the Daily Telegraph that the column has reached the border with South Africans and Namibians.

The British government has been trying to prevent the column from advancing further.

A black national liberation army, UNITA, and the FNL, the support the column. But they have long been divided in their opposition to the invasion.

Angola is a rich nation. The U.S. and Britain arm the Argentinian pro-Angola forces. They are united in the determination to keep the blacks on their hands on that wealth. A secret meeting five years ago in Havana, Castro wrote that the “biggest US interest in Africa is Angola.”

The Portuguese government saw that the MFLA was the only authentic left movement, and was going to hand over power to it. But President Costa Gomes told a group of Angolans that this had been “revised” by the US.

The British Labour government is not being used in this process. By refusing to recognize the MPLA liberation government, it is giving tacit support to the South African troops.

Mao

Even worse is the behaviour of the Chinese government, which for a long time has been a leader of the struggle of the people of the Third World. Now China is giving arms and technical training to the troops that are threatening the liberation government. One Chinese delegate to the party congress himself sent a message approving of the Angolans’ opposition to the MPLA.

Trade unionists, socialists and black people in Britain must fight this aggression. We must support every means at our disposal the fight of the MPLA against white racism, the US government and their puppet’s.

Portuguese government powerless

from Robin Ellis in Lisbon

WORKERS came from all over Portugal for the huge demonstration on Sunday against the Sixth Provisional Government. It is impossible to convey the sense of power and confidence expressed by this workers and peasants demonstration.

The streets were ablaze with red flags and banners. For one and a half hours the workers and marchers sang patriotic songs,颂 and chanted in full voice. The workers of the great Avenida de Liberdade, was fall from end to end with people as the demonstration filled past, accompanied by hundreds of farmers, thousands of youths and children.

The demonstration showed beyond any doubt the immense power of a united working class. It was being fed up with the traitors of parliament.

The Communist Party must use its influence to maintain its just to work on a new government.

Portuguese government powerless

from Robin Ellis in Lisbon

AMF refused to break the strike, and the government moved to invoke in effect an all-out “sympathy strike from the Portuguese government.”

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