HOW TO STOP THE BOMBINGS

This is what the £6 deal means

FARMWORKERS got their £6 rise—and a fat lot of good that will do them. In a recent Low Pay Unit survey, two in overt five farmworkers interviewed could not afford breakfast. They couldn’t afford to buy the milk, eggs and bacon they themselves produced.

Farmworkers were lobbying parliament last week against the tied cottage system. Lose your job and you lose your house too. The threat of eviction has kept trade union militancy—and wages—down.

The farmworkers’ union and the Labour Party have been talking about the need to get rid of tied cottages since 1968. Chris Thompson, farmworker in Suffolk, told Socialist Worker:

“We have the right to work and the right to a house. This relic from servitude needs to be smashed now.”

PICTURE
John Sturrock

WHENEVER a bomb goes off in Britain, whenever there is a siege in Balcombe Street or a hijacking, the wise men of Fleet Street reach for the rope.

They believe capital punishment might work where bomb squads, Roy Jenkins’ anti-terror legislation and the secret police have failed.

Always their answer to terrorism is more terrorism—government-sponsored ‘legal’ terrorism, of course.

They make the same response that members of the British establishment have always made over Ireland and over every other country they have ever ruled.

When people demand self-determination, they have only one answer: repression and more repression.

That was the rationale, after all, for introducing internment without trial in 1971. That—and the concentration camps that went with it—didn’t deter violence. They caused it.

EFFECT

Fewer than 50 people died in the three years before internment: 959 have died in the four years since.

No, did Roy Jenkins’ anti-terror Act last year end violence. There have been more incidents, not less.

Socialist Worker has always argued that the only way to solve any problem is to deal with the cause, not the effect.

In the case of Ireland, the cause is crystal clear: British domination.

Every major British political party has spent years shying away from this fact.

They have tried policy after policy, each of which has ended up in ruins, each of which has led to more terrible bombings.

That’s why it is good news this week to see that ordinary working people are not swallowing every line from Fleet Street’s misinformation machine.

On the contrary, according to opinion polls a clear majority of people, 60 per cent, are in favour of the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

Only when that is done will it be possible for Irish people to begin to solve their problems. Only then will the bombing campaigns come to an end.

That’s why Socialist Worker says again:

Troops out of Ireland now!
ENGINEERS: IT'S €6-AND WORSE TO COME

The Moderates of the world are sleeping happier. The defeat of the passporters' rebellion of 25 November was, they claim, a victory over 'dumocracy' in Portugal. Reactionaries like General Eanes and Colonel Neves are once more in the driving seat of the armed forces. Eanes was implicated in the right-wing coup on 11 March and was then removed from his job as head of Portuguese broadcasting.

Neves is the commander of the Almadas commandos who were soon being deployed in the farmers' area being carried out on farms where peasant farmers have seized the land and set up co-operatives.

One such search took place in the Almada last week. Men and children were forced to their beds and fired on as they slept against a wall. Nothing was found.

The exact number jailed under the repression is still not known, but probably exceeds 200. An appeal signed by 453 relatives of imprisoned soldiers said that those counting the prisoners were being denied many basic rights, including contact with their families.

The government has seized the Contra-Parte and the Socialist Party deputies are in jail. It is said to be helping to freeze their bank accounts.

In spite of all this, the revolutionary laws are still in force. The PRP distributed illegally two leaflets into most of the factories in the Lisbon area where this week the strike is still in force.

Since it ended they have produced two editions of Revolucionario explaining the events of 25 November, and last Friday Frad a meeting of 800 workers in the Amadora, a working-class area near the Lisbon shipyard. More than 400,000 in Britain have to show their solidarity with the Portuguese working class. That means raising money to send £1,000 by Christmas.

We received £377.46 this week. Make sure you send in a donation that meets our target. Send donations to SW Portugal Fund, 8 Cottons Garden, London, E2 8DN.

Portugal: Now we need that cash more than ever...

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*Prevention of Terrorism Act*

Meeting of trade union delegations and observers.

Tuesday 16 December, 7pm, Bayswater Hall, Bayswater Road, London, W2.

Speakers: Eamonn McCann (Troops Out Movement), a legal expert who will answer questions on the Act, and trade unionists arrested under the Act. Chairman: Bill Gaddes (NUPE) shop steward, Hammarsham Hostel.

Called by Rank and File Organising Committee, 64 Minnie Georgina Road, London N16. Sponsored by Hammarsham Hospital NUPE shop stewards' committee.

Stewards: Committee and all trade unionists.

Delegations also from 727 TGWU Brummies. All trade union branches invited to send delegates or observers. Portuguese workers available from above address or on door, price 25p. Admission by trade union card only.

Scandalous

The total cost to public funds of that little Christmas bonus to the needy people of Brentwood and Chipping Sodbury was £38 million. Now this week these same people have been handed another Sp share. What is particularly scandalous about this operation is that most of those getting the Sp shares have spent or given away the bonus they have brought up to 5a time.

The total cost of the latest Sp is £32 million. This sum alone would have been enough on its own to settle the junior doctors' dispute. But, instead, the government stands firm, preferring to use public funds to pay off speculators.

A lengthy argument as to whether the government is now going to serve the order of the seven per cent of the population who own 84 per cent of the wealth was also highlighted this week in Brussels. The British government successfully got the EU Commission to exempt British industry from new pollution controls.

This followed intensive pressure from the captains of the chemical industry, who insisted that the controls would be "too expensive".

ANOTHER ACT OF TERROR

*YOUR IRISH accent—that's a good enough reason for me.* That's what Socialist Worker supporter Terry Herron was told by police who seized him and two girls in Hubberton, Alton from the cross-rail to the A416 on 14 May. His car was searched by police for four hours. He was later released without charge. This activity, which is being carried out by the National Committee to adopt a policy that fights to preserve members' living standards.

This will mean rank and file within the committee to influence the decisions of the districts and divisions will now be put on the table by the National Committee.

What is it we need to be doing? £15 across-the-board for all engineers to keep pace with inflation. Jobs and no lay-offs, without the pay to create more jobs.

Off the terraces and into the arena: Page Four.
The privileged position of military spending means still further cuts in health, housing and education. But when forced to take a harder line in public spending, these two prongs of policy are intended to increase the profits of big business and the firms controlled by the rich. The result is increased inequality, strain on the welfare state, and a greater need for militancy.

In other words the government is planning its hopes on the operation of blind market forces. All attempts to plan the economy have been thrown out of the window in favour of the most orthodox capitalist policies.

And it will not work, even in strictly capitalist terms. The state-financed National Institute of Economic and Social Research last month published its forecast for next year, 'perhaps the most depressing,' it said, 'since this forecast was made two years ago.'

Specifically, the Institute predicts one and a quarter million unemployed at the end of 1977—and higher between then and now, a further fall in industrial investment next year, and continuing infation. That is what capitalism has to offer. That is what the Labour government is trying to impose.

The Institute does have one concrete proposal (though—out the permitted rise in pay rate from 6d to 10d an hour) to £1.80 (3 per cent) for 1976-77.) That, of course, goes with the third prong of government policy, cutting real take-home pay to boost profits in yet another way. Again the Government destroy still more jobs in the process by cutting the demand for goods.

Mr. Callaghan may or may anywhere else, should accept 'sacrifices' for such reactionary policies. They must be fought. The Government must be forced to nationalise Chrysler without compensation and without loss of jobs. How is he to go about passing resolutions calling on this right-wing government to 'adopt socialist policies.' You can be sure the Right will call for vegetarianism to tigers.

Stop the plants and hold them till every job is guaranteed.

R resist cuts by defending jobs, reject 'new wages policy'—no 'caving-in'.

The crisis is a crisis of capitalism. It is their system. Let them pay. Not one penny and not one job should be voluntarily given to the profiteers and their 'Labour' frontmen.

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Against unions? The press is with you

"In today's conditions the closed shop can become an instrument of tyranny, a weapon against trade unionism. It must change."

news workers strike over slanted reports

"The fight for press freedom spread to Australia last week when printers working for the Sydney Mirror and Sydney Telegraph newspapers refused to publish editorials calling on people to vote against the proposed tax..."

That magnificent fighting against the closed shops by barrow boys, Rupert Murdoch—who owns the Sun and News of the World in Britain—was followed later in the week by the journalists Union who called an official stoppage to protest against the election coverage, the first official strike against the blacklisting..."

Unfortunately, in Britain, jouralists' strikes, scabbing executives get more publicity than the fact that Rupert and Co screech about the threat to editorial freedom if a closed shop is allowed to function. It would stick him and his kind scabbing on strike if the public, what he is pleased to call press freedom—his own ability to browbeat people into backing the political policies of militias and..."

That's why they nag away on the issue of the closed shop—although they will of course be only too happy to grant a closed shop if, in election contracting, it helps them police the industry. That's why, while they support the Ferrybridge Cie and the Electrical Supply Union, they provided no such support when the Pitcairn workers broke away from the General and Municipal Workers Union."

Socialist Worker believes in 100 per cent coverage in the industry. The bosses. Not that 100 per cent organisation guarantees good trade union organisation. If it is used bureaucratically by full-time officials, convenors or stewards then it can cause strains and problems which set off Ferrybridge-type situations."

That, in turn, helps the closed shops, or any other shops themselves. They are the first to go for the meetings of the unions for more democracy and better, more united organisation to pit against the employing class.
IF there was anything wrong with the first national conference of the Engineers Charter it was that it didn’t go on long enough.

Good contributions there were plenty. But sadly, time was in short supply. Nevertheless Saturday’s conference in London’s Holborn Library Hall was a considerable success. 120 engineers, workers, men and women, black and white, were there.

By the end of the meeting they had enthusiastically resolved that their rights and fighting ability should be pooled in a more permanent way than by attendance at a conference. They decided in fact to publish a new rank and file Engineers’ Charter paper. If the speeches of those in the hall is anything to go by, the paper should be a fighting publication of the best.

The conference itself was quietly but ably chaired by the Lansdowne Engineering Union militant Len Blood. The first session was opened by the recently elected AUEW national organiser, Laurie Smith, speaking in a personal capacity.

**Lax**

He paid particular attention to the role of the supposedly left-wing union leader Jack Jones and left-wing politicians Michael Foot in forcing Labour’s fantastically reactionary policies.

The problem for the left, said Laurie, was clear. ‘We have been in crisis among the mass of our members, among the mass of our working class periphery, fighting out the issues. That’s the job that we have got to do and do well.

‘We understood that no matter how critical you were of the Broad Left in the Lansdowne Union, the election of the right wing was a grave set back for our movement.

‘To win back the ground we had to fight on several fronts. We have to expose the EEC incomes policy, which would shortly be brought down to £3, he said. For the struggle to be convincing to workers that they too accept the right to work and demand that they do the ‘first rung’ of the working class struggle.

‘It doesn’t make any difference to the unemployed whether Heath or Wilson is in the saddle. You’re still unemployed and your dole money’s still the same.

‘The way to fight was to popularise the demand for a 50-hour week, to take the union’s decided policies for out in their standing orders then it’s easier for the bosses now to ease it to beat you.

On the employment side, he said: ‘We have to ram the message home that the NHS is a natural development. Growing unemployment is the result of the deliberate decisions of this government. Our movement has to face up to this and has to fight without indulging in indulgent displays.

‘Brian Kelly, a steward at international Harvester in Doncaster, stressed that there was absolutely no substitute for hard work at the bottom level. The left Broad Left leadership was absolutely incapable of doing this.

‘The job of the Charter was to get that work going and enlist the assistance of those supporters of the Broad Left who wanted to do that work.

‘In this way we can build a rank and file movement that will bring the AUEW back into the hands of the members’.

In reply to the discussion, Laurie Smith stressed that the involvement of the unemployed in the fight for the right to work was central. People were working overtime when they didn’t want to be, he said, and this had to be organised against.

‘We’ve got to build a movement that is incapable of being resisted,’ he added. ‘We may need to start with a different approach, and a separate organisation, but this does not mean we should in any way be sectarian. We have to relate to the Broad Left. We want a movement that involves masses of workers. And that can’t be done by a tiny nucleus on its own thought that is very often essential for instigating and revitalising things’.

**Appeals**

The first session of the conference closed with two appeals. Angela McHugh eloquently underlined the importance of the occupation of Persona, near Glasgow. ‘It’s said again and again that women won’t fight. Well, here at Persona women engineers are fighting, not against closure, but for the jobs of 40 of their workmates.

‘There was an appeal for workers victimised for seeking union recognition at P J Mirrors in Milton Keynes and for the Charter. The total collection was £64.32 to the Charter, £22.00 to P J Mirrors and £10 to Persona—less because they are receiving a district levy £45 was collected for the Charter at the social.
THE PRESS has been stepping up its campaign against junior doctors. Phrases such as 'holding the country to ransom'—usually reserved for manual workers—are being thrown at them.

The government is being told to stand absolutely firm against the junior doctors, and to make huge concessions to the consultants. Meanwhile, the British Medical Association is trying to give the impression that somehow the two disputes are linked—although junior doctors have no way benefit from the huge fees of the consultants.

To find out what conditions are really like for junior doctors, PAT EDWARDS, Leeds Women's Voice organizer, interviewed a junior doctor at one of the smaller hospitals in Yorkshire.

Because this doctor is of foreign origin and has the added problem of nationalism to cope with, she wishes to remain anonymous.

Most doctors at her hospital are from overseas, they are forced to accept appalling hours and exhausting treatment by senior staff, since they rely entirely on good references from British consultants for future employment. One week out of place can mean no reference at all.

For a 'normal' working week of 110 hours she is paid roughly £800, about 35p an hour. But for the past five weeks she has been working 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Because another doctor took five weeks' accumulated holiday to visit his family in India, she was expected to perform his duties as well as her own which meant that she was permanent on call.

The hospital authorities refused to get a temporary replacement for that period on the grounds they 'couldn't afford it'.

When the doctor threatened to resign, unless a replacement was brought in, a consultant asked why she was objecting, since doctors had performed these marathon feats for years and never objected.

I soon found out why no-one made a fuss, she said. 'When I made inquiries about my next six months registration, I was told they weren't sure whether I would get it. Before this there had been no problems.'

What really sickened me was reading in one of the papers that Barbara Castle had gone for 20 hours without sleep—junior doctors are suffering that for months on end but it never gets printed.

Over weeks the doctor interviewed got four nights' sleep—but I'd made any slip because of it the hospital wouldn't have taken responsibility—I would have been to blame.

WE'LL GET NOTHING FROM PARLIAMENT—IT'S GOT TO BE STRIKE ACTION

And he added: 'Parliament has no useful role. Any change isn't going to come from Parliament. What we need is strike action and pickets when we're in court.'

That's what got the dockers out of Penrith and it's because there hasn't been a proper strike action by the Labour-leadership would be hit over the next few months.

Roy Booker's had a letter saying that the valuers will be coming to see how much his furniture's worth and then I suppose they'll try and take it away.

'He'd be left in his council house with his wife and four kids and no furniture.'

The Percival has been told to give up the keys and log book for his car, he's been told to give it to them, and he could go to jail for two years for that.

'I've been told, I'm being surcharged £400 as one of the second eleven and is appealing in January. If he loses they could take our house, which is in her name.'

WE'LL GET NOTHING FROM PARLIAMENT—IT'S GOT TO BE STRIKE ACTION
**The rights of property**

**Without Comment**

*My sympathies today for Sir Gilbert Long. I'm glad he's just lost his sixth head gardener and is now faced yet again with the chore of finding a replacement in to look after the 80 acres Longmore Garden on his 1,800 acre estate near the sea in Dorset.*

*The old style family gardener is very hard to come by these days.*

—London Evening Standard, 29 November

**Economic miracle, aged 76**

W H Hutt, 76-year-old economics professor, has come up with a final solution to the problems of British industry. In a book published this week by the Institute of Economic Affairs he proposes the re-introduction of the 1799 and 1830 Combination Acts, which are among other things to deport the Toledaddle Muckers, and bar trade unions. He believes the re-introduction of these acts would have 'sensational results' and lead to 'an economic miracle'.

Professor Hutt also believes that socialism and Marxism are out of date and old-fashioned.

**A class war joke**

**The Shah of Iran was having trouble keeping his workers in line. So he thought he'd look into one or two, improved ways of doing the job. He visited a Coventry arms factory to discuss with its bosses the purchase of several dozen Cheirif Tanaks.**

Suddenly the 'lunchtime' hoover started. To the great horror of the Shah, hundreds of workers immediately downed tools and rushed out of the factory.

"We must escape," cried the Shah. "The workers have made an uprising. We must get inside one of your machines and fake a fire alarm." A slave executive took him by the hand and explained: 'It's nothing unusual, it happens every day. Half an hour later, another hoover sounds and everybody all comes back in.' At this, the Shah smiled and said: 'From now on the tanks—I'll take 4000 hoovers.'

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

It is as absurd for porters and cooks to tell surgeons when and where they may operate, as it would be for doormen and waiters at the Foreign Office to try and dictate our foreign policy.

—Lord Hunt of Fawley, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners, in the House of Lords, 3 December.
Tyranny, Yes

by Laurie Flynn

SOCIALISM equals tyranny. We know that—true, but says every day of the week in the Daily Express.

After all, look what happened in Hungary in 1956 or in Czechoslovakia in 1968. Obvious, isn’t it?

Or is it? The Daily Express, and papers like it, will tell you that the only trouble is that communists are liberals, who, were they living in Britain, would probably be Tories or perhaps Labour ‘moderates’.

And yet the bravest and most consistent fighters against the set-up behind the Iron Curtain are in fact socialists, many of them revolutionaries. This fact is consistently and conveniently ignored by Fleet Street, especially when they are talking about opposition in Eastern Europe, they report the activities of prominent intellectuals and former politicians now in forced retirement.

Rules

Curiously enough this is exactly how the Eastern European press writes about opposition there. As far as they too are concerned opposition is confined to allegedly privilege-deprived intellectuals or old politicians who have lost out in the fight for jobs, in short people with nothing to say about the problems facing working people.

And so editors of our own media are only surprised by the lies of Eastern Europe’s rulers. Lies about socialists such as...

Valaswadi, who has been completely baffled and intimidated since serving a two-year prison sentence for the murder of the clandestine and illegal Revolutionary Socialist Party.

While on army service, he was so many years ago, he was imprisoned for helping the Czechoslovak army in the birth of independent socialist.

Then he was arrested and given another two-year sentence for the same time for ‘conspiring against the government’.

Vojteh Muller, who has served three and a half years of a five and a half year sentence for subversion.

Is he still in isolation, and have we ever lifted a finger to help him? Is he being kept prisoner for a serious eye infection?

Muller is the former chairman of the student worker, co-ordinating committees set up in 1969.

Gustav Husak, the present Czech president, repeatedly insisted, when he came to power, that the agreements to set up these committees had to be renounced.

By doing this, Husak confirmed that the government saw them as the most dangerous threat to the post-1968 regime.

In other words, they were just as frightened of rank and file democracy and independent working class organisation as any devotee of the Daily Telegraph editors column. According to members of the London-based Committee to Defend Czech Socialists (without whose help this article could not have been written), these committees still function to some limited extent.

Edited

One of the most interesting developments on the socialist left in Czechoslovakia is the emergence of the small clandestine Party of the Workers’ Councils. This revolutionary socialist organisation has so far distributed a programme and a manifesto urging workers to set up their own local or factory committees independent of local party and trade union structures. Both publications were edited and distributed by workers. Who’s more, there are small signs that their ideas are being taken up.

Stop-throwing out and opposition ranges from low productivity to outright defiance, involving demands for the removal of particular managers, more money or more control.

Over the past two years, the Czech economy has begun to show serious strains, with sections of the government favouring tough penalties for absenteeism and low productivity. But these measures are increasing tension on the shop floor. This of course is an aspect of opposition, even if totally neglected by the free western press, who have as much liking for strikes as their Eastern European counterparts.

The Czech party bosses go to enormous lengths to suppress information about such events.

A leaflet put out by the clandestine Party of the Workers Councils puts it as follows:

The following are five examples:

CODA workers in Pilzen; OSPPP drivers and drivers’ mates; construction workers in Praha-Vravci; OBRP drivers employed by the Railroad Construction Company in Southern Bohemia; workers at the gigantic East Slovak steelworks.

The young revolution

THERE IS considerable opposition in Czechoslovakia among the young—and it takes interesting forms.

In addition to underground publishing (unzamet), there is a new musical underground called Magnetofon. The group has conducted illegal circulation of progressive music, from ‘Nowody and other progressive Czech and Russian underground rock.’ Simple ‘Magnetofon’ tapes are made at illegal underground concerts, to which people are summoned by word of mouth.

Of course these are regularly smashed, just as the Woburn Pop Festival was here.

But others before the police arrive, a cassette tape recording has been made from which copies can be obtained, and circulated.

The musicians from bands such as the Plastic People of the Universe, are often arrested, joining political puppets and theatre group members and activities in jail.

Collections made at the illegal concerts are used to help their families or circulate details of their cases.

All of this is over and above the thoroughly justified disinterest of historians, writers and purged members of the Communist Party of—whom there are over 400,000.

The socialist opposition do not believe that the answer to the problems of the Czech or Polish or Russian working people lies in substituting the lies of the Daily Express for the lies of Pravda, in the dictatorship of private capital for that of the state.

Like the International Socialists, they believe that the answer lies in workers’ control and workers’ power.

They believe that human freedom, far from being an impossible dream, is something that can indeed be won.

Capitalist crisis, Russian-style

The Western capitalist economies are not the only ones facing crisis. Russian and Eastern Europe are also in trouble.

Hungary, for example, has experienced a spate of price increases—up 55 per cent, building materials up 15 per cent, and 10 per cent next summer by a third.

The figures for the new Russian five-year plan, released last week, reveal that the planned industrial growth rate is down by a third on that for the last five-year period and is the lowest planned rate in 30 years.

The head of the plan, Bakhoubis, revealed that none of the targets for the last five years had been reached and that only 10 per cent were achieved in the first five years.

Five years ago, Russian workers were promised massive increases in their living standards. These promises were not kept. And for the next five years there are not even promises.

Production of consumer goods is down to 6 per cent in 1970, a year after the growth of the working population. Planned figures for consumer goods output have rarely been achieved in the past.

Reports have also come through that this year’s Russian harvest was considerably worse than previously stated. One figure mentioned, 137 million tons, would be the worst in ten years. If true, it would mean hunger in many parts of Russia in the months ahead, even after massive buying of grain from the US.

Injustice

Such revelations of economic crisis in the so-called Communist countries must come as shock to those who believe them to be immune to the crises of western capitalism. Only three weeks ago the Congress of the British Communist Party was extolling this uninterrupted economic progress.

On the other hand, no one should believe the claims in pro-capitalist papers that the crisis in socialism can never work. It isn’t socialism, but state capitalism that is failing in Russia.

The basic reason for the economic crises in the Communist countries is the same as the reason for crises in the West.

Planning is a myth. The driving force of their economies is competition—military competition with the West and China, economic competition with each other and with the western countries.

To keep ahead in this international rat race, the rulers of each country try to expand industry as fast as possible. They pay no regard to the resources that exist for accomplishing this or the needs of their workers.

The result in each factory is chaos, lack of materials, discontent and underpaid workers. The result nationally is neglect of the needs of agriculture and consumer goods industries. The result internationally is a world system plagued by inflation and crises.

The blind drive to expand gives birth to opposite—waste and poverty.

It is no wonder that growing numbers of East European and Russian workers talk of ‘state capitalism’ and the ‘red bourgeoisie’.
Review article by PAUL FOOT

BILL HETHERINGTON is on trial at the Old Bailey for talking politics to a sailor in a railway carriage. He is, according to prosecutor Michael Coombe, a 'threat to democracy'.

'We have seen the threats to democracy in countries not even outside Europe where troops try to run political affairs contrary to the elected representatives of the government,' said Coombe.

He meant Portugal, of course. He meant that leftist sections in the Portuguese military were a disgrace to armies everywhere. He meant that soldiers and sailors must be taught absolute obedience.

Otherwise the elected government can't rely on them. So they are a threat to democracy.

The same argument is being used by the French government, who are prosecuting conscript soldiers in the French army. Last Saturday 13 soldiers were charged by a 'special security court' with 'derogatory insults'. They were accused of arguing for trade unionism in the army.

In Britain, France and Portugal the authorities all claim that the armed forces' unswerving obedience to the elected government is a 'cornerstone of democracy'.

Different

This month a book* is published which tells a rather different story. In May 1974, a strike was called by the Ulster Workers Council in Northern Ireland. Its purpose was to continue Protestant domination of the Catholic community at every level of society.

Elected parliaments in Britain and Northern Ireland opposed the strike. On Monday 20 May, the book's author, Times correspondent Robert Fisk, Protestant extremists turned Belfast into the capital of a country in which a revolutionary army has just staged a coup d'état.

Protestant gangs roamed the streets hijacking cars and lorries and setting fire to them. They set up road-blocks throughout the community and formed human chains outside factories, offices and shops. They bullied and intimidated workers, shopkeepers, passers-by.

Every one of these incidents was watched, sometimes from only a few yards away, by policemen or soldiers, but the people of Belfast found that they did little or nothing to stop such demonstrations of Protestant lawlessness,' writes Fisk.

Preserve

That afternoon, Stan Orme, Member of State for Northern Ireland, told the House of Commons that the necessary steps will be taken to preserve law and order.

Fisk writes: 'Quite clearly, all the necessary steps to preserve law and order were not being taken: the police responsible for the "bullying and intimidation" were the most part being ignored by the army.'

And again: 'Neither the police nor the army made any serious effort to interfere with the Ulster Workers Council's action.'

The Northern Ireland Secretary, Mrs Margaret Maclean, had asked the army to send reinforcements from the Ministry of Defence. The Ministry delayed sending them. The Secretary then asked personally to senior defence civil servants—and even then the reinforcements were held back for two crucial days.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson insisted that the strike must be outlawed. On 25 May, he wrote a letter to the Workers Council.

Fisk writes: 'It rebuked and attempted to bring about the end of the strike.'

Why? Fisk reports: 'It was the army's influence ... that caused Wilson to place a new interpretation on his promise to the executive of action against the Ulster Workers Council.'

The Northern Ireland government wanted military action from the military. The military refused. After a week, the government collapsed and went along with the army.

Confrontation

Fisk quotes an article about the strike by a 'servicing army officer' in the summer 1974 issue of Monday World, the publication of the extreme right-wing Monday Club. He used the name 'Andrew Sefton'.

"The unwillingness of the army to act to bring about the end of the strike ... and the subsequent confrontation between the military and the politicians, must be the most significant event of recent years. For the first time the army decided that it was right and that it knew best and that the politicians had better toe the line.'

Fisk concludes: The army did not play a political role in Ulster in May. ... Why was the army not prepared to face the UWC in the first days of the strike when they witnessed the most blatant intimidation on the streets of Belfast?" Why did the Ministry of Defence deliberately delay sending badly-needed reinforcements to Northern Ireland that first weekend? Why did 39 Brigade choose to work by the book and dawdle wait for the police to initiate their interference on the streets instead of taking the decision themselves as in the past?

The answer is that the army did not trust the political judgement of the British ministers at Stormont. In other words, the officers who control the army are not neutral automatons at the beck and call of the elected government. They are loyal to their government, but to their class.

Defend

As Andrew Sefton's Monday Club article put it: 'For at least two years now it has been a topic of conversation in the messes of the army that sooner or later it would be called upon to act in England itself.'

These army officers will fight to the death to defend their class. To demonstraters they're asked; why are you there? As they proved in winter, when the broke the bastion they would break workers if it consisted of threat to the right.

The army officer's Northern Ireland, to keep Northern Britain, the Press in Britain and then did not. Therefore it's obvious that it's only that and only occasion to call upon the army to act in England itself.

The politicians need the army—and not just in Northern Ireland. For at least two years now it has been a topic of conversation in the messes of the army that sooner or later it would be called upon to act in England itself...

The government has at its disposal an army with an experience in counter urban guerrilla warfare greater than any other comparable force in the world.

The serving army officer writing in Monday World, the publication of the right-wing Monday Club, summer 1974.

*Masked loyalists with iron bars hijack a lorry in East Belfast. Wrote Fisk: 'Every one of these incidents was watched, sometimes from only a few yards away, by policemen or soldiers, but they did little or nothing.'

Northern Ireland Secretary Marilyn Rees—he called for army reinforcements to deal with the UWC strike. The Ministry of Defence deliberately delayed sending them.

Northern Ireland Minister Stanley Orme, who promised 'All necessary steps to preserve law and order.'

Lieutenant Northern Ireland
Labour ready
to sack
railmen in the name of profit

ON Tuesday railway workers from all over Britain will be showing a rare and welcome degree of unity. Members of all three rail unions—NUR, ASLEF and TSSA—will be lobbying parliament in protest at the massive cuts being planned by the Labour government.

For the fact is that Labour, having attacked past Tory governments for curving up the railways, have spoken boldly in its election manifesto about improving public transport, is now about to wield another Bechdel-style axe.

Instead of restoring the services decimated by Beeching in the early 60s, in a state understated and inadequate services now will be cut even further. As many as 8,000 jobs could be destroyed, dozens of stations closed at weekends and, in some areas, left without trains except during peak hours.

This is justified because British Rail are not making a profit, so as profit should decide where people live and work and visit.

Confrontation

Yet even this scandalous excuse for piling still more deaths on to the streets, poisons into the air and profits into the insatiable mouths of the powerful road lobby, is riddled with deceit. Britain’s railways fail to pay, not because of overmanning—consider, the next time you have to kick your heels on slow trains, platform because lack of staff has forced your train to be cancelled, that 258,000 jobs were slashed in the ten years before 1971.

The management, however, have the laudable aim of improving productivity, not even because of some devil called nationalisation, but because of the crazy system they operate in.

It is a system designed to enrich those with power to wreak havoc with our lives. For instance, British Rail is still shelving enormous sums—£57 million in 1973—in interest payments to the train owners bought out by nationalisation nearly 30 years ago.

Whose side is the British army on? Soldiers chat with UDA men on barricade duty during the Ulster Workers’ Council strike. The British colour sergeant on the left is standing next to a UDA ‘sergeant’ whose stripes are clearly visible on his right arm.

Foundations

These interest payments also finance losses made in years when deliberate government policy curbed the railways to the benefit of private industry, that is, to the benefit of the rich.

Sections of British Rail which have been made unprofitable, such as haulage, were handed to the bankers of the Road Haulage Association.

Experts brought in to solve the ever-present problem of profitability advised British Rail in 1966 to invest £400 million in containerisation—an outlay exposed five years later to have been a complete waste of time. These experts had done their sums wrong and British Rail were deeper in debt.

So the bungling and sabotage— all the direct result of the lust for profit—go on. Ironically, the lack of that same profit is now used to justify making its victims. British Rail’s workers and customers, pay the price with the loss of their jobs and services.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the railway unions make no protest at all about compromises with the British Railways Board. Already they have agreed to a 13% reduction in the work week until next May. Instead of standing a now against cuts on the railways, they have opened the back door to them.

But of course, it is not their jobs and working conditions that are disappearing, but their members. And it is those who are going to have to fight their loneliness.

Three weeks ago, the Railway Review, journal of the National Union of Railwaymen, announced: The unions acknowledge that something has to be done. All industries and services are having to be pared and there is no way in which railways can get special dispensation to opt out of country’s present economic troubles.

The same article added that ‘the Railways Board and the three unions have worked out guidelines ... to make economies. The warning is there: the bureaucrats of ASLEF, NUR and TSSA have acquiesced in the destruction of jobs—and no amount of whining by them will prevent that destruction becoming a slaughter.

Only the members themselves can stop that. Only the rank and file can restore the forces in half the plans of the British Railways Board and the Labour government.

But they will only be able to do that if they turn their backs on the sectionalism, the divisions by craft and status, that have held them back for so long.

Hands off Portugal

This new pamphlet, written by Jack Robinson, ALEC group member at Macclesfield, Manchester, and Roger Klein, TGWU member at Massey Ferguson, Consett, for workers in Britain, traces the development of the workers’ movement in Portugal over the past 20 years. It has a vital section on solidarity work, packed full oftbody ideas and experiences, in the support of workers’ struggle for workers’ power in Portugal.

10 x copies (plus 60p postage) or 12 copies for £1 post free, from the Rank and File Office, 4 Prince George Road, London N16.

General Sir Frank King, whose 17,500 troops in Ireland stood by as the Loyalists toppled the power executive.
AT an anti-fascist demonstration in Dewsbury two weeks ago 27 protesters were arrested. The police brutality was so blatant that one police car was forced to resign from the force and to agree to be a witness against them.

It was revealed that in the North of England the majority of arrests were not part of the local police force, but a special unit established for use in demonstrations and on picket lines.

The Dewsbury National Front march was their first. They knew they were going to provoke themselves, which is given accounts for the large number of indiscriminate arrests. The rheumatism of the people they arrested was not an excuse. They did not arrest those who were kicking in formation some distance away from them.

So carried away did the police become that when a passer-by intervened in one case they proceeded to kick him as well. Their impartiality was remarkable. By the end of the anti-NF demonstration in Dewsbury, an NF member ran up and punched him while he was being held.

Clobbered

Naturally, no action was taken against this individual, who has表达ed in public statements that he has thought of being beside his predecessor.

I have little faith in British justice and expect to be clobbered when we appear in court. Some of those arrested are unemployed since the closure of Woodhouses' factory in Ossett. So please give a donation, and if you are in financial difficulty, we are anxious that the facts of the case be widely known and that if the National Front appear in the dock, then the reception committee will be even bigger.

We have set up a reception committee to conduct the campaign and to raise a target of £500 to fight the issue and to keep the reception committee going.

Local Labour MPs and other local figures are being asked to sponsor it. A letter is being sent to all the local Labour leaders requesting that we are being asked to donate money.

Send money to: The Defend the 27 Fund, c/o Selwyn Smith, 20 Healey Drive, Ossett, West Yorkshire.

10 SOCIALIST WORKER 13 December 1975

Special police protect front

by Pete Elliott

DECEMBER 19 XMAS DREAMS... A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

PAPERS OVER CHRISTMAS

The arrangements for printing Socialist Worker over the Christmas break will be:

New Year numbers, going to press on 28 December, will be published as usual on Wednesday, 3 January, at 9.30 am, as the normal time,

by 4 January, Christmas week, there will be NO Socialist Worker.

The following New Year, we will print a 2-page paper early on, on 7 January, and all other branches should collect the papers from the stations on Wednesday, 7 January.

London branches will be able to collect their papers on Tuesday evening until 7.30 pm and during the Wednesdays, February, paper will be issued.

On 8 COTTONS GARDENS, S.5 Books will be closed.

Please remember to adjust orders for this period. Please note the Socialist Worker circulation office now office on 2972.

All money for 1975 must be paid out quickly.

Chingford supporters’ group set up

TEN Palmers and Coppelton builders workers met in North London last week to discuss the views of Chingford and how they contribute to and build the Socialist Worker. The meeting had much interest in starting a Chingford issue of the Socialist Worker. It is essential that Coppelton that launching a local rather than a national Socialist Worker. A meeting at the end of the meeting was to be held on 11 December.

There was a strong will that we should have regular discussions dealing with general political, economic and trade union questions. It will be used will be Heldi.

Labourers’ and trade unionists’ meeting on 11 December is the first meeting is down to the consistent trade union and understanding of the socialist programme, from which workers who are in the International Socialists.

Come to Skegness!

F. CROSBIE SW public meeting. The SW office in Skegness on Sunday, 12 January, at 2.30 pm. To discuss the meeting of the SW at Skegness.

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HACKNEY Teachers SW public meeting. A talk by a former teacher who was a member of the Education Department, 58 Boundary Road, Hackney, London, N.16.

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Socialist Worker

ROSELAND, SW public meeting. The meeting to be held at the SW office in Roseland, 105 Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

NEW MEETINGS: SW public meeting. The meeting to be held at the SW office in Netherland, 105 Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

NOISE

STUDENTS, Hand out International edition Available for return from 2 Socialists, 78-80 Streatham High Road, London, SW16.

CRISSIS IN ZIMBABWE: A short pamphlet on the state of the country is to be distributed at the SW office in Streatham.

SHOP-OPENING: The shop will be open from 13.15 on 19 December, at 11.30 on 20 December and 21 December.

WOMEN’S RIGHTS: Christmas postcard to each member of the SW office in Streatham.

FIREMAN: Fireman’s Ball will be held at the South London Fireman’s Hall, Richmond, London, SW11.

Third issue of the of the week. SW office is 200 Old Street, London, E1.

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The National Front passed this way...

chairman and a question and answer time at the end. It was to meet, just an excuse for a pass up. No real politics came out of all this, and it was to be the case at future meetings, was no more than IS - 'a student anarchist party run by Jewish capitalists that go round beating up old men and women.'

It was one of three groups the NF feared most. The other two are the 62 group (a Zionist organisation) and the Association of Assimilation of Jewish Ex-Service Men. At first, the party seemed patriotic, rather than Nazi. This is how ordinary members see the NF. I came into contact with the Nazi clique that runs the NF.

Most of those people had been in the British Movement, a Nazi organisation run by Colin Jordan and backed by Oswald Mosley.

This clique runs most, but not all, NF branches. To split the membership down, you get those who don't like the Parliamentary system, black hats, agro-merchants, and Nazis, in that order.

Most of those in the first group don't last long. Some only attend one or two meetings before quitting the party.

Power

Anyone the Nazis feel to be a 'moderate' is branded a plant. In our branch, Kingsley Road, national chairman of the Front, was thought to be an IS plant, but it is false. I am a Support the State of Israel sticker in his car window.

The NF is split over Israel. The Nazis opine because they are anti-semitic, the others support it because of their general right-wing politics. The Nazis say these 'traitors' will be taken care of when the Front gets to power.

The Front is trying hard to get into power in the unions. It is urging members to put up for shop rep in their factories.

But instead of these shop reps taking the problems of the workers to the management, they would dictate Front politics to both workers and management.

The Front is for private enterprise as long as it is British owned. All foreign firms would be nationalised. To get rid of the international financier is top priority. They say this part of commerce is run by Jews and must be destroyed.

The Front always prides itself with a close association with the Ulster Defence Association, the Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Freedom Fighters. Ayres said to be stock piled for the use of the Front, but I never saw any.

Money is a big problem with the Front. Fighting the last election has put them very deep in debt to head office. Our branch was £500 in debt to head office when I left.

Apart from actual members, support is very small at Front events, like marches and election campaigns. Many members are frightened to go on marches because of violent opposition expected from the left.

I found that a few in one or two branches cause most of the trouble at meetings they don't agree with. They act as a 'flying squad,' going all over the country in members' cars.

This gives the impression that all Front members are thugs, which is not true.

I was involved with vote challenging in the elections, both local and Parliamentary.

I stood and for election, you can appoint polling agents. These people have the right to challenge a person's vote if they think he or she is in the wrong.

Answer

The challenge is given as the person, usually an Asian woman, entering the polling station to vote. They have to stop people voting twice and consists of asking the person's name and address and if they have voted in this election before.

Asian women who can't speak English cannot answer these questions, so they are refused a vote. Only English can be used in the polling station, so the questions cannot be translated. This puts Asians off voting and is clearly racial.

While I was a member of the Front, a friend of mine, Dave Rhodes, joined a factory cell of IS. This shattered my illusions of IS as a student anarchist party.

I began to ask him about IS policy. Then I asked the same questions at NF meetings to compare answers.

I was soon regarded as a trouble-maker. As I had started to ask embarrassing questions about Front policies on industry and unions.

I soon learned that democracy in the Front was non-existent. You were only a good member if you did as you were told. It was then I really started to think about what the Front was really doing.

It says it is not Nazi, yet members of the Horsley Wellington and play records of the Nuremberg rallies of the Thirty. Some even go to the Horsley Rally in Belgium every year, wearing black shirts and swastikas. The Front says it is a union, when in reality it really wants to destroy them. It says it is for the British people, when is actually works people are too stupid to govern themselves.

This is not for free speech, when it doesn't allow it in its own branches. I left the Front last March. My contact with IS increased and I joined six months later.

I have only met one member of the Front since then. He said, 'You are a traitor and we are going to hang you.' This didn't surprise me, as the NF plan to hang all of us, if they don't shoot us first.

Since joining IS, I have learned where the real problem of our society lies. The only solution to our problem is revolution, not the dictatorship which would be the Front's way of doing it.

It is clear to me that the Front would enslave workers and not get them a better deal, as they claim.
LETTERS

Write to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2

VIOLENCE: YOU CAN'T JUST IGNORE IT

WHY IS it that pacificists like K Anderson (Letters, 29 November) always accuse socialists of seeking violence?

I was brought up a pacifist and taught to accept passively society's violence.

From their self-righteous ivory towers, they pretend to see the blind eye of violence of capitalism and believe that passive resistance and the growth of the National Front, defend the revolution in Portugal, prevent genocide in Angola and achieve world socialism.

The spirit of pacifism contributed to the bloodbath in Chile.

It is not socialists but the ruling class who use violence. They use any means to defend their wealth and power.

K Anderson's dream that "no man will inflict violence on another" is the dream of all socialists—but it will never be achieved under capitalism, for violence is capitalism's essence. To achieve peace we must destroy capitalism and be prepared to defend ourselves if the capitalist class does not hand over power peacefully. Only since leaving the pacifist movement have I had to face up to the fact that I have contributed anything positive to the struggle for a non-violent society.—JENNY WISTREICH, Partington.

POSTAL POINTS

I HAVE RECENTLY READ Bureaucracy and Machismo in Chile by Chris Hartman and Workers Against the Monopoly by Ian Birchall—and what an eye-opener they were.

If the book had been available in the late 1950s when I first entered the Communist Party, I imagine that the whole party would have been reformed. It is possible that some of these ideas would have made a difference then. Even in these books the issue of class struggle is not fully developed. Both books are available, £1.65 each (including postage) from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

AS a revolutionary feminist and mother, I must take issue with the current derogatory cartoon of the Johnson administration by Phil Evans (29 November) portraying a grinning mother preparing at home to feed her baby a bottle of clothons and toys.

Reactionaries who argue that a woman's place is in the home need to be met with the same goals, tools and ideas used to support the black mothers who have more than enough to do, and have the right to use alternative means if they wish. —NORMA CARLTON, N.W.

THE PUBLICITY for the Easter weekend at Skelligs has portrayed the Socialist Worker as a hooligan family on the putting green and a gormless masochist making a very sad joke in the pub. Such an image is only seen through the eyes of the class enemy to distort her miserable base to the leg-iron carrying brother of the trade unionist. What could be more patronising than my party's response to the trade unionists: "ANDY WISTREICH, Partington."

THE NATIONAL. Frost attack on the National Council for Civil Liberties' meeting in Manchester (Reported in last week's SW) is a warning to us all. If we don't stand up for free speech in the streets, and in political meetings we retreat from the fight against racism and violence, then we are lost.

What fascists have are the ignorance and prejudice. They attract the worst elements of society and are filled with criminal inclinations and a sadistic lust for violence.

Fascism is the poisonous fruit of a deranged and decaying capitalism. It needs to be understood. A unified left must unite in the struggle against fascism. It has paved the way. Remember the gas chambers. —RED LINE, London.

WORKERS at Commonwealth Smelting in Bristol have been on strike for control of manning levels since 1 October.

The strike concerns management's refusal to guarantee the employment of non-white workers under the terms of the nationalised agreement procedures.

Trade unions have heard many of the companies' complaints bitterly when they are unwilling to take disputes through jointly agreed procedures but were more inclined to strike before the various stages had exhausted themselves.

Our is an exception which proves the rule. It is our belief, as of other nationalised industries, that the Bristol company has the right and the ruthless intent to win. The strike is the only way the workers can gain their rights. We therefore ask for the support of all Socialist Worker readers both morally and financially to defray the costs of the campaign to win control of manning levels at Bristol. We pledge the support of all our nationalised industries' groups.

DUNCAN HALLAS (Talking About Socialism last week is much too kind to the Socialist Communist Party. Far from attracting "tea, tobacco and other" of the National Front militants in 29367, it how to the no books etc.) - T-COXS, Erith.

A group of workers in a small shop worked to bring the book back in stock. We joined the slogan Save Spain ZAP! and Calleja. National Front Communist.

DAVE BURGON, York.

THE MAYOR of Illignton and his friends, Labour councillors, sat down to a banquet at the Illington Town Hall a week ago on Friday. This at the ratespayers' expense—when the borough is facing some of the worst cuts in the country.

Members of the public employees union, NUPE, stopped work and picketed the town hall all day to protest against the cuts.—ANUPE member, Illington.

ASIAN: IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, SW!

ASIAN: IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH, SW!

THE EXCELLENT coverage in SW of the Asian workers' strike over the last 18 months is more than the result of trade union defeat. It is the result of the struggle led by black comrade leaders and black workers and students who vote for and actively influence the editors.

Socialist Worker cannot become a paper genuinely representing the views and problems of the black community. It needs black workers and students who write for it and actively influence it.

But you cannot hope to attract such contribution as you can continue to exhibit insensitivity and indifference to matters that affect the black community. This is not easily available.

For example, almost every newspaper in Britain carried the report allowing National Front racial discrimination in the allocation of local government housing. (The report was quoted from the government's White Paper on Race Relations but, as far as I know, no comment was made by the local government.)

Then the Department of Employment published figures on black unemployment—70 per cent higher than for the country as a whole.—yet no comment from SW.

In the fight against racism, SW's prime line should be the education of its white readership. We cannot afford to miss out on events such as the anti-

National Front demonstration in Dwight a fortnight ago, where out of the 400 protesters present, 300 were Pakistan.) SW reported everything except this important fact!

Similarly, last week's report on the Women's Voice Rally was more a public relations job than a serious attempt at reporting the concerns of the women present.

Worse still, was the non-reporting of the discussion on the struggle of black women. The women's attention was drawn to the Immigration Act, which discriminates against women whose marriages took place in Pakistan; and against unmarried West Indian women who do not have the right, like white unmarried mothers, to be considered solely responsible for their children.

Unless the problems of black workers are given full coverage, SW will not only remain with a pure white readership, but also an ignorant one. —MISS NERGIS KHAN, W London.

Scunthorpe

AFTER the recent explosion at the Scunthorpe ironworks, the burned men were taken 40 miles to Sheffield.

They came to a hastily converted ward at an old, poorly equipped hospital with staff hurried in from other Sheffield hospitals.

Although Sheffield is one of the largest steel areas in the country, we have no special burn unit. The government has just cancelled the building of a burns unit along with many other urgently needed modernisations and extensions at Sheffield General Northern Hospital.

It is there that these men and the many like them in the past should have been treated.—ROSEMARY WITHERSPOON, Sheffield nurse.

Letter from a dope queue

I GET SO depressed on the dope, constantly amping like a monkey. It's easy to feel cut off.

Job hunting gets more and more dehumanising. Each time I've gone for a job (usually with 20 or so others) it seems to be the same old 'Well let you know'.

Some employers enjoy seeing people cry.

My body aches while watching TV, which refers to lay-offs and sackings in such a callous way, completely ignoring the human suffering. You'd think they were announcing football scores, not talking about people's lives.

Then there's the horrors of signing on at the dose. Last time I went the supervisor asked me for a specimen signature. When I hesitated and looked at the stamped forms, he shrieked, 'they're nothing to do with you'.

As it was my claim, I told him in no uncertain terms it was very much by business.

I now see why the strong need to talk to drugs with unemployment workers. We have to organise, channel our anger into something that we can use for our right to work.

It becomes painfully obvious that we only have ourselves to rely on. And even if I'm fluffing up a big career at the Labour party, I'm not the same as—CB, Peterborough.

OK, but what about the patient?

THERE APPEARS to have been a fortunate follow-up to the case of John Brazil who killed his wife in a jealous passion and was turned down by the staff of three 'open' mental hospitals after Judge Maga had tried him for murder (Letters, 29 November). Dr John Brazil will receive hospital treatment, but in Cornwall, far from possible violent reactions if he is relapsing.

While it's well known that the psychiatric nurses are displaying the confidence and energy to defy a Judicial Authority's decision, Dave Bridge's letter (15 November) speaks words about the distance some of us have to travel before all mental patients can have confidence in them. Dr John Brazil is just an example of how apparently all will be sent for a period of assessment in a 'secure unit' first. Because there is no such secure unit here and others like him must be shunted around prison or sent to Broadmoor (Dave Bridge's alternative).

Perhaps Dave would tell us why, in prison, a person who has killed in a crime of passion is to be considered dangerous to the health Service—but why should this particular minority take the form of pressure for bigger and better wards?

One unfortunate consequence of this is the persistence of custodial and punitive attitudes in mental health care.

To proclaim these attitudes under the banner of 'treatment' is to repeat the experience of those health service unions in the US which opposed the idea of a downgrading of the staff in the name of job security.

I would like to thank SW (and all the others) for the help in putting the staff of Grendon Psychiatric Prison, Leicestershire.

C� CURATIONS ON THE major events of the week's work. But when you go to compete in the world of sports and music?—R NORTON, Bradford.
THEM: And about time, too.
I was delighted to read the article (22 November) on the General Manager of Mobile and Wireless Communication South Asia. It is about time SW income tax in the price of phone calls to the country.
One of the bigger problems facing GMWS is what to do about the call charges, and as there is no district structure to link the two countries, the board is blacking out.
The rule book gives officials complete dominance and procedure is the only way forward is to build a return to the line and file against the likes of the phone companies. In fact, the general fight for a democratic union controlled by the members for the country.
This won’t be easy—but it’s time we made a start—T. KELLY, Huelin and Co.

Bankworkers’ official replies

THE ARTICLE (15 November). NUBE How low can they get. They have been brought to the brink of a member of NUBE employed by a foreign bank. As a paid official of NUBE with direct responsibility for negotiating in the financial and overseas banks, I wish to make one or two points on the policy your article so usefully castigates.
The Union has become increasingly concerned at the policy of some of these banks—some of their latest (and not exclusively) those with Head Office in India and Pakistan, who are recruiting large numbers of junior staff to work in the UK from their country of origin by means of special arrangements.
These overseas-based offices enjoy lower wage rates and conditions set by the Head Office, and in addition most lucrative fringe benefits (even accepting that a certain period of service in London for training may form a part of the career development of the overseas officials in question).
NUBE has endeavoured to pursue the matter directly with some of the banks on question, but has been unable to gain sufficient information to control the increasing abuse of the situation.
The matter was therefore taken up with the Overseas Labour Section of the DE through informal talks. Obviously, NUBE’s legitimate and central desire is to protect the job interests of bank officials in this period of rising unemployment, although we are not inviting the UN’s involvement, it is apparent upon the employment opportunities open to school leavers and others by the banks in the country.
In view of this you may belatedly consider writing another article. The Union requires a negotiated agreement in this respect. Worker immediately; we are putting your article. The Union requires a category agreement developing the issues and the worker’s official. This is the Solicitor, no doubt you will be hearing from us upon the

YOU WON’T TRENCH with the Alcos bosses this year.

Their attempt to break union organisation have been rekindled at their rolling mill construction site near Swansea has been met with a seven-week-old strike by the 500 workers.

IDLE

Thousands of pounds’ worth of equipment due to move on to new contracts is sitting idle, blocked by a daily picket of at least 50 men day—

Not that it’s easy for the men. The strike has not been made without social and security money, which has often only

been forthcoming on the showing of the workers’ threatening action—and only then enough to pay the rent.

In response, no less than EI £500 has been collected from other sites in the area, on top of a substantial amount from construction workers—a magnificent demonstration of solidarity that’s showing no signs of dying up.

From this, pickets are paid a pound a day expenses. The hardship has only made the men more determined to stay out till they win.

As Harry Leonard, an AUEW construction steward told Socialist Worker: ‘It’s all up to Alcoa now. They can throw the keys away, or they can take the men back. We’ll make no more compromises.’

SAFETY

The origins of the dispute stretch back to the workers’ determination to build a joint shop stewards committee, embracing all the site unions. The electricians had won a 35p an hour increase. The JSSC had forced Alcoa to recognise them on safety but not on industrial matters. The site organisation won a couple of minor victories.

To quote one picket: ‘It was the biggest效果 to the local officials and the biggest threat ever to Alcoa.

To hit back, Holiday Hall, an electrical contractor, and his local officials, led by Thomas, a fellow member, including Steve Stevenson, the secretary of the JSSC, has put up an hour’s notice’

Alcoa denied involvement, but as Chris Noble put it, ‘There was no question about it, he was behind it, in that he could scare the wak.’

The 500 workers were back on site for reinstallation.

Lunch’s generous offer, to take the men back and sack them again in three days, was rightly turned down.

RELAX

Alcoa’s plan was to run the site by awarding contracts in piece-meal phases. They could thus replace any contract workers as force was organised. With this in mind they replaced Electricians with another contractor N G Bailey, making another one of Holiday Hall’s workers, N G Bailey, out for the reinstatement.

On the picket line at Alcoa: even with the chief of police protecting them, non-union labourers wouldn’t cross the line.

SOUTHALL—Elections to the executive of the local Indian Workers Association have been arbitrarily suspended by their leadership, which is supported by the Congress Party in India, under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi, has declared a state of emergency, suspended elections and arrested thousands of people.

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"They raised subscriptions to the IWA, he continued, and now the membership has halved from 10,800 to 1800. The leadership has given no real assistance to the Indian worker, in this period of rising unemployment, which is only to be expected when the Congress Party in India, under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi, has declared a state of emergency, suspended elections and arrested thousands of people.

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Waste

"Instead they waste a lot of our money arranging entertainments and parties for the Indian ministers that visit Southall at least five or six times a year. They spend a lot on defending Mrs Gandhi’s representation."

Jagdip Kaur: ‘They’re like pythons.

It was a way of trying to convince people of the legality of the Congress Party’s suspension of elections in Southall."

The elections have been postponed for the last 18 months. One of the few members of press executive in favour of holding them is Jagdish Singh Vaid. He says: ‘They say they were once elected by the public so they know what the public wants. And in this case, they say they know the public don’t want elections.’

Jagdish Vaid said: ‘The election will be held when the Congress Party in India, under the leadership of Mrs Gandhi, has declared a state of emergency, suspended elections and arrested thousands of people. While the IWA is unable to lead the area, another problem is growing: unemployment. As long as the IWA is concerned to create a better class in the immigrant community, it is not going to do anything about unemployment.

Dolo

They did not mobilise for mobile service for the 26 November lobby. Indian youngsters on the day who have been brought up in Britain are not going to get excited about the politics of India.

But they undoubtedly would respond to an IWA leadership that had a militant socialist policy on unemployment and experimented against it.

The IWA would then emerge as an absolutely essential force in the local working class movement.

The agony of Chile, by a man who escaped.

PEDRO CORNEJO, the Chilean trade union leader brought to Britain by the Rank and File Organising Committee.

He told of his experiences and the need for solidarity with Chile at a well-attended meeting of the Hamstreet Hospital branch of NUBE.

Branch chairman Bill Godfrey pointed out that the meeting showed the branch was right to organise on the issues of Chile and Portugal, and against the fascists in this country.

During a Chile evening organised by the Rank and File Organising Committee and the East London Chile Solidarity Campaign, 50 to 60 people attended.

The meeting was addressed by the importance of trade unionists adopting the same attitude as he himself had been advised.

The Rank and File Organising Committee was invited to address trade union bodies to support building meetings on Chile, with Pedro Cornejo as a speaker.

The circular also includes a copy of the statement made by the Chilean trade union leaders, supported by the Dockers Fund, supported by the N U G leaders, the N T S leaders and the N U G leaders.

Further information on the pamphlet and on arranging meetings at the Rank and File Organising Committee at 46 Prince of Wales Road, London N16 (phone 01-249 1207).
COVENTRY Corporation held a public relations representation advertisement as a public meeting on the cuts—last Saturday. Fifty trade unionists picked the meeting.

Since the cuts are inevitable, the argument went, we are giving you the opportunity to express your views on how we can carry out the surgery with minimum pain.

The council attempted to control the meeting by allowing only vetted questions on specific points, while members of the relevant committee chairman. So any attempt to oppose the cuts would be headed off—or so they thought.

Speaker after speaker expressed frustration at the Labour-controlled council previding over the running of the social services. Most people found it difficult to believe that their council was doing such a thing.

By Lindsay German

A DECISIVE defeat for the politics of the right — that was the National Union of Students annual conference at Scarborough last weekend. Conference clearly rejected the £6 pay limit and the government’s economic policy.

Tory and Liberal students who mounted a well-financed campaign for a national secret ballot for elections to the NUS executive were heavily defeated. In this they got support from the national press who would have no doubt loved to run the sort of campaign for right-wing candidates that they won in the AUEW.

But the real argument over NUS democracy was not between right and left but between the Broad Left—Communist Party and the Labour Left—and their largest challenges, the National Organisation of International Socialist Societies (NOSS).

The argument was over a NOSS amendment which called for democratic election of delegates from general meetings and for the setting up of an executive at conference. It also called for full-time elected officers to receive the same salary as the student grant.

If the present executive were to maintain their present basic wage of £3200, they ought to fight for a grant of the same figure.

UPROAR

This amendment was carried by conference as it became the main motion. It was then that the trouble started. All sorts of bureaucratic manoeuvres resulted in time wasting—so the motion could not be put to the vote. The Broad Left representatives switched off the microphones against sprouting from the floor.

In an attempt to get support for their amendment, the Broad Left executive members, including representatives from Brussels, insisted that socialists and trade unionists were impoverished. Instead of building solidarity with the workers and students of Chile, it organised an expensive seminar jointly with the Russian-run International Union of Students, from which Chilean revolutionaries were excluded but which the puppet Czech Students Union was allowed to attend.

FAILRE

Yet NUS conferences have repeatedly made clear that they are opposed to Russian imperialism in Czechoslovakia as to American imperialism. Because of the disregard of these decisions by secretary Sue Steggem, conference backed a NOSS motion removing her responsibility for international affairs.

The motion was carried without a vote. The other most contentious debate concerned the activities of the executive on international work. NUS conferences invariably vote against the reactionary policies of western governments. They did not again this year by voting against the motion for the support of the struggle of the MPA against South Africa and the CIA in Angola.

But the executive has rarely transformed its grip into real campaign of solidarity. It has instead devoted most of its efforts at international work to living up to the bureaucrats who run Russia and European Europe.

So it refused to condemn the Indian Trade of the Tories. This enabled them to get a bit more majority for their position when the debate was resumed next morning.

But their manoeuvring meant that although the right were clearly defeated, the union ended up with no policy on the ballot. The right will use this to circulate an executive campaign for the secret ballot.

The conference was held at the local. The Fringe dinner was a great success.

undoing of Marxism today in western Europe.

The speakers were well supported. The main speaker, the Left, was the speaker, and the speakers, the Right, were not.

The speakers reached a conclusion that the main speaker, the Left, was the speaker, and the speakers, the Right, were not.

RUSSIA-AD: a rebellious student organization, was a group of radical students, including the chair of the Left. It was well supported by the students from Belgium, who joined the speakers in support of the Left.

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LABOUR DELAYING TACTIC ON ChRYSLER

NEWSPAPER reports this week said the government was split on the future of Chrysler. But they seem agreed on one thing: thousands of jobs in Chrysler are to disappear in the next few weeks.

A resolution calling an end to all assembly work — except for the participation work which Chrysler is already doing — has been passed by the National Union of GPO, clerical and kindred workers. The resolution was carried by 17 votes to 14. It was moved by Mr. P. J. R. Keating and seconded by Mr. J. J. O’Neill.

The union has also agreed to suspend all talks with Chrysler until the resolution is carried out.

The resolution calls for the immediate closure of the Chrysler plant and the payment of all outstanding wages and benefits to all workers employed by Chrysler.

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Picket union-breakers this Saturday

IT'S A STRIKE every trade unionist will want to support. And this Saturday, 13 December, it's a strike every trade unionist CAN support—by joining the picket of Ladbroke's betting shops throughout Britain.

As we went to press, plans were being drawn up to picket shops in dozens of towns and cities. They included Cambridge, Bath, Colchester, Brighton, Liverpool, Newcastle, Leeds, Bolton, Burnley, Hitchin, Hull, Southampton, Blackburn, Stockport, Bradford, Huddersfield, Darlington, Bristol, Birmingham, Reading, Oxford, Sheffield, Aberdeen and London.

If your town isn't among them, organise your own picket. It's up to every supporter of Socialist Worker and Womens Voice—and every member of the Transport Workers Union—to stand up to Ladbroke's.

Every picket should make sure a message of support is sent immediately to the strike committee, along with collections and donations.

Write to: Ladbroke's Strike Committee, 214 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

Pickets sponsored by National Rank and File Organising Committee.

FOR NEARLY seven months, the workers of the Ladbroke's betting empire in the West of Scotland have been fighting for union recognition.

Now, just before Christmas, Ladbroke's are hoping that empty pockets will dispirit the workers that they will end their long and bitter fight.

They are offering a paltry sum in return for lost jobs and an end to union organisation. And the Transport and General Workers Union are ready to sell their members out.

There are 160 workers left out of the 280 who came out on strike last spring. The issue is simple: do workers in the betting industry have the right to join a union just like other workers?

Union officials obviously think not. Having done nothing to campaign on their behalf, they now threaten to cut off their strike pay, and go out of their way to remind the strike committee that they have bills to pay that the TGWU won't meet.

The union are rather more accommodating with management. Hugh Wyper, their Glasgow district organiser, has accepted settlement terms of £610 for each of the 15 managers, £300 for the settlers, and £205 to £245 for the woman counterparts.

140 out of the 160 workers left are women. The total claim for Ladbroke's could be £45,000. A cheap price—for smashing the union.

Many organisations have made verbal commitments. Some have given money, but very, very few trade unionists including our own union, the Transport and General Workers Union, have given us the sort of support that is necessary.

We need a real fight and you, the rank and file, can give us that fight. Your strength can have the right to belong to a trade union. We appeal to you: Give your full support to our strike now.

—LADY'S STREET COMMITTEE, GLASGOW

WOMEN'S VOICE December issue 12 pages—including a special report on the Women's Voice Rally. Articles on Ladbroke's why women should support the pickets. Pick up from the stations or 1S Books this Saturday, 13 December.

On the picket line in Glasgow: we need pickets outside every Ladbroke's betting shop this Saturday.

Heads they win, tails you lose ...