CHRYSLER: OCCUPY! NATIONALISE!

Remember Des Warren...

"NO, there are no special visits at Christmas, I saw Des last week, and I've managed to arrange a visit this week, by giving up my January visit. I don't think they do anything special at all at Christmas, and it will be grim for him there. He's been harassed a lot by some of the prison officers.

"We were so sure he would be coming home this time. We'd even talked about what we were going to do at Christmas. It was hard when the parole was turned down. I think the children take it better than me, though they years is a long time in a child's life. No amount of sympathy can repay what they have gone through.

"That was Elsa Warren, talking to Socialist Worker about her husband Des, who will be spending his third successive Christmas in jail—as a political prisoner. His crime was to picket a lamp building site in Shrewsbury during an official dispute. His union leadership and the TUC are right behind him. They do nothing to get him out.

"This Christmas, the jalled Des Warren should be on the conscience of the whole labour movement. The ruthlessness of ruling-class 'law and order', the subservience of the Labour government and the weakness of the trade union leadership are all symbolised in his imprisonment.

"This Christmas, every reader of Socialist Worker should send Des a message of solidarity: a card, letter or telegram. His address is H M Prison, Lincoln. Send a gift to his family through the treasurer of the Shrewsbury Deprandants Fund, Osie Lewis, 25, Park Road, Crewe, who will forward them for him.

THIS isn't lame duckery, it's mass extermination.

On Tuesday the Labour government handed Chrysler boss John 'The Godfather' Riccardo the biggest Christmas present he or any other boss has ever received. £162 million to spend as he likes.

With the present went a request—not an order—that the Godfather give 8000 Chrysler workers a Christmas present too. Kick them on the dole.

Riccardo's present is a disgrace. The sacking of 8000 workers is a scandal. Taken together, they make a package no worker in Britain should tolerate.

For weeks the Tory press has been telling Chrysler workers to expect a rescue plan from Labour. Now we can see this for what it is. No rescue at all.

The Labour government is instead helping the Godfather push under the water more than half the Chrysler workers at Ryton, Coventry, half those at Linwood in Scotland, and a third of those at Stoke, Coventry.

Soon to follow will be thousands of workers from car component firms, steel mills, electrical industries and other factories dependent on Chrysler.

SCRAPHEAP

Does the sacking of 3000 workers in Linwood mean that the other 3000 are safe? Does it hell?

It means they too stand a fair chance of joining their mates on the scrapheap as soon as the Godfather has picked his £162 million away to join the other Chrysler millions in a Swiss company vault.

The surrender to Chrysler means above all that the phoney war is over. It means that this Labour government, with policy after policy collapsing around its ears, is going to fight the working-class movement.

In this situation the working-class movement has only one reply. We must fight with every means at our disposal. Chrysler must become for Labour what UCS was to the Tories.

That means that every petty rivalry between Stoke, Ryton and Linwood workers must be set aside. It means that every Chrysler plant should be immediately occupied and used as a base for a massive campaign inside the working-class movement.

The aim of the struggle must be simple: To take Chrysler out of the hands of John J Riccardo and all those like him. Chrysler must be nationalised without a penny compensation.

Make no mistake, such a campaign can win. Just this week Italian workers fighting Dunlop Pirelli in an almost exactly similar struggle have forced the company to turn tail and protect the very jobs it had earlier announced it was determined to destroy.

The alternative is to watch the dole queues getting longer. The alternative is to sit back, listening to the occasional trade union leader or left-wing MP bleating about growing unemployment, while we do nothing.

The Chrysler crisis demonstrates that if already one and a quarter million are in the dole queues. It would be a crime for our movement to allow even one more worker in Linwood, Coventry or Dunstable to join them.

Now is the time to stand and fight!
CHRISTMAS
365 DAYS
A YEAR

Barbara Castle (on the red Badge of Socialist Courage): she surrendered to the consultants

THE GOVERNMENT has agreed to massive Christmas handouts to 6000 hospital consultants, whose average salary is £13,000 a year.

For years, these parasites have plundered the National Health Service with their 'pay bed' system. Paying patients have jumped the queues in National Health hospitals. Nurses and ancillary workers, paid for by the Health Service, were, and still are, exploited to the full to fill the pockets of the consultants.

ABOLISH

After an explosion of protest last year from hospital workers, the Labour Party promised in its manifesto to abolish pay beds. The government has taken this too next year. So the consultants went on strike.

The strike didn't make much difference—not half as much as did the strike of exploited junior doctors.

FOR THE CONSULTANTS—unless we stand up to them

But Mrs Castle, Minister of Social Security, has conceded almost all the consultants' demands. She has agreed that only 1000 of the 4000 pay beds in the country will be phased out in the six months after the pay bed laws come into effect.

There is no time limit at all as to when the remaining 3000 will go. Even more incredibly, new plans for phasing out these 3000 will be submitted to an 'independent board' of two consultants, a chairman and two members nominated by the Minister!

This means that 3000 pay beds will not be phased out in the foreseeable future. Only one in four will go; and, at present, one in four of the pay beds are empty anyway.

Finally, Castle has agreed to write into law the 'right' of rich doctors to make fortunes out of peoples' sickness, and the 'right' of rich people to get better health treatment than poor people.

DROOLS

Castle drools that the 'maintenance of private practice' is one of the 'two central principles' of her policy. This is revolting. Hospital workers should have no truck with it. They started the anti-paye bed move in the first place.

They can finish it quickly with industrial action which demands the immediate banning of all pay beds.

FOR "HERCULES" HAROLD—a banquet and a sermon on sacrifice

IN THE MIDDLE of last Friday's emergency Cabinet meeting on Chrysler, Harold Wilson, Prime Minister, suddenly summed up and left the room.

His astonished colleagues were told he had an important engagement. Wilson changed his suit and took off in a special coach to the City of London where he was offered its 'freedom'.

Fancy

After some Latin invectives by various boardroom witch-doctors who wore fancy dress, a series of bankers and businessmen made speeches.

Mr John Griggs, the corporation's banker, said: 'The Prime Minister is a man of simple tastes, a serene man, a man of high ideals, a Hercules of modern times. A really great man is a man who makes all men feel great. And that is how we feel today. Hercules replied with a speech about the need for sacrifice.

EXCLUSIVE: WHAT 'THE GREAT MAN' ATE . . .

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No one was sick. Instead, everyone went off to lunch (described by The Times as 'the serious business of the day').

Menu

The menu was one of the best ever seen in the City:
- Clay Cross Councillor Cocktail
- Sacked Chrysler Workers la Ricarda
- Old age pensioners' taste
- National Health Service cutlets
- Shop steward's melba.

This was washed down with some
- Bloody Sunday Burgundy (1972—a very good year for blood), and then everyone sang For He's a Jolly Good Self-Out, and went home.

FOR THE GENERALS—guns before hospitals

THERE HAS been a blazing row in the Labour government over cuts in the £500 million defence bill. Miners' MP Roy Mason led the attack against cuts in the defence bill, which might endanger our glorious British arms.

Antony Crossing, a traditional right-winger, argued for them so as to provide a bit more money for the social services.

In the end, the tun' will be at least £250 million in two years' time. Meanwhile, arms spending went up £40 million this year.

FOR IRISH PRISONERS—the spite of Jenkins

THERE IS one small Christmas concession that Home Secretary Roy Jenkins could make to Irish prisoners in English jails.

He could let them serve the rest of their sentences near their families on the other side of the Irish Sea.

That's nothing more than Home Office policy, after all. And it's a policy applied to Loyalist prisoners who have already been moved from Scottish jails to Northern Ireland.

Six

But after his vicious battle against the hunger striking Peace sisters, Jenkins is still holding out.

Yet last week at least six Irish prisoners went on hunger strike in support of the demand to be moved to Irish prisons for the rest of their long sentences.

Brian McCluskey started his hunger strike at the beginning of the month, he has lost three stone.

He is being supported by Liam McLearson, Gerry Meade and Robert Cunningham, who are also serving long sentences.

Hunger

The Home Office says the protest is being supported by another Irish prisoner in Parkhurst prison. And, according to the Prisoners Aid Com- mittee, hunger strikes may be on the increase.

There isn't the slightest reason in the world why their demands should not be met.
Labour's lick of paint on a rotting door

THIS WEEK the government launches its pre-Christmas 'anti-unemployment' measures. Now any measures to reduce unemployment are to be welcomed. But the government's package is not a serious step in this direction at all.

As we predicted last week it is a public relations exercise, not a serious attempt to reverse the growth of the dole queue.

The particular 'public' the government is aiming at is, of course, trade union members. Already ago TUC general secretary Len Murray warned Chancellor Dennis Healey that he and his friends had sold the time in support of the government's £6 limit, cuts in public spending and heavy unemployment this winter, there wouldn't be a Labour government in every year's union conferences if unemployment continued to rise.

The Tories are going on rising. It is going on rising because the main thrust of government policy - cut public spending, reduce public expenditure - destroy jobs, and the real earnings of working people destroys jobs all the time. Every well-informed person knows this. The economic forecasting outfits build into the economic forecast policy into their predictions, and all predict more unemployment. This week, to take the latest example, the Herley Centre for Forecasting predicts one and a half million unemployed at the end of next year in spite of an upturn in the world economy which they also predict, and a rise in British exports. Forty thousand jobs are threatened in the steel industry. Massive cuts in the workforce on the railways will be attempted. In the car and car components industry, British Leyland's plans include a drastic shrinkage of the labour force and the attempted 'rescue' of Chrysler involves a big cut in jobs. And the effects of the public sector cuts will put many thousands more out of work over the next 18 months.

Against this background, the new 'package' is no more than a lick of paint on a rotting door. It is a political job, not an economic one. It is aimed at defusing the growing sentiment of unemployment in the working-class movement.

Gusture

The 26 November demonstration showed Len Murray the warning light. Murray then demanded a government guarantee to help the TUC to sell their reactionary policies and weaken the growing sentiment for the right to work. That is what these measures are, a gesture to help the TUC bosses.

We can learn something from this, and from the Chrysler 'rescue'. The government is vulnerable on the unemployment issue. The TUC leaders are very vulnerable on the unemployment issue. The Chrysler decision, however unsatisfactory, proves that government policy can be checked. What Len Murray fears, an upsurge of working-class resistance to the job-killing, is what we have to do our utmost to promote.

The National Rank and File Organising Committee's 'splendid initiative, the Right to Work Campaign, is exactly what is needed. Every socialist, every militant must support it.

Support this campaign

SOCIALIST WORKER calls on all its supporters to back the Right to Work campaign by:

- Moving resolutions from trade union branches through to districts and national conferences, arguing for the demands of the campaign.
- Fighting to ensure that shop stewards committees and all workplaces take up the defence of jobs and act in solidarity with the unemployed.
- Working for maximum support for the Right to Work march. This support must go to the right to the trade union movement. Socialist Worker supporters should argue in their trade unions and on shop stewards committees for active commitment to the marches.

This could be a supporting a march, raising regular financial support, by collections, levies and donations, helping with food, accommodation, footwear and clothing for the march, and sending delegations on parts of the march or to give the marchers when they arrive in your own town.

Right to Work plan march of unemployed

THE National Right to Work Campaign announced this week that it is to organise a march of unemployed workers from Manchester to London in the first three weeks of March. A car campaign will be run to send all trade union bodies affiliated to the campaign.

Tommys Dasgupta, secretary of the Liverpool Right to Work Campaign, told Socialist Worker: 'We will be passing through every sort of area. We're aiming to organise thousands more and will go to the miners. In 1926 the TUC sold you down the river - let them do the same to the unemployed in 1975. We're going to Coventry where the Chrysler workers' jobs are under attack. The march is a way of raising the issue of unemployment and of winning specific support and commitment from local unions, both to help the march and to fight for our policies. The march can only take place with the active support of trade unionists along the way, from individuals and branches, districts and shop stewards committees. But we'll also need the support of unemployed workers and trade unionists in workplaces all over the country. The march may not get past hospital you work in, but if there's a member of NUPE on it you ought to be fighting for support. This how the march can become a national focus for the whole campaign for the right to work.

We represent workers and every section of workers hit by unemployment on the march. There are already building workers, engineers and

Where the marchers will go

The route to be taken by the march is: MANCHESTER to OLDHAM, Monday 28th; OLDHAM to MANCHESTER, Tuesday 29th; Manchester to HUDDERSFIELD, Tuesday 2nd; HUDDERSFIELD to WAKEFIELD, Wednesday 3rd; Wakefield to RAIKESLEY, Thursday 4th; Bailey to SHEFFIELD, Friday 4th; Sheffield to WAKEFIELD, Saturday 5th; Wakefield to RUGLEY, Sunday 6th; Rugley to

WALSALL, Wednesday 10th; Walsall to BIRMINGHAM on Thursday 11th; Birmingham to SOLIHULL, Friday 12th; Solihull to COVENTRY, Saturday 13th; Coventry to Rugby, Sunday 14th; Rugby to NORTHAMPTON, Monday 15th; Northampton to BEDFORD, Wednesday 17th; Bedford to Hitchin, Thursday 18th; Hitchin to Hatfield, Friday 19th; Hatfield to NORTH WEST LONDON, Saturday 20th; North West London to ALBERT HALL.
PRINCE JACK: DEAL BEFORE STRUGGLE

NOT long ago Socialist Worker was regularly attacked for our repeated criticisms of left-wing union leaders such as Jack Jones.

Despite some limitations, the argument was that Jones was a man of the left who would bring more, much more, democracy to the trade union movement, who would fight and campaign for socialist policies and generally advance the interests of our class.

Socialist Worker by comparison argued that while Jones was not exactly the same kind of democrat as a cold war witch-hunter like Arthur Denskin, trade union activists should never put their trust in princes. If they did, they would be sold short.

In 1972 and 1973 our argument met with fierce resistance, although one great struggle pointed out all the weaknesses of the Transport Union and of its new left-wing leader Jack Jones.

That dispute was Fine Tubes, a strike for union recognition. Today there is another Fine Tubes: the struggle of the Ladbroke's workers in Glasgow for union recognition.

PREOCCUPIED

The same grave weaknesses stand exposed. Again Jones and the union have refused to use—or even consider using—its great strength. Again there is the inability to connect with the struggle rather than bureaucratic routine. But today the back-cloth to the struggle is different.

Nowadays Jack Jones isn't attacking wage restraint and the injustices of the capitalist system. On the contrary he is图纸 employees in power he is praising them. He is the man who left the Transport Union—because if he was going to prevent unemployment it is the direct cause of unemployment.

But where is the link between the failure to help the Ladbroke's strikers and pushing through Tory policies on wages, social service cuts, and unemployment?

And Jones, and increasingly his number two, Harry Carmo, are totally preoccupied with dealing with the Labour government and the CBI, with being statesmen, not union leaders.

What's more, it's in the interests of the TUC if the struggle is fragmented, not united. In a sense the whole apparatus of the Labour government is set up to break it up. Above all the slogan 'Get the strength of Britain's biggest union behind you' is a slogan which must bring tears to the eyes of the men and women of Ladbroke's.

The same slogan was used in the IMFM's successful campaign to stop the closure of Port Talbot steel works.

And each of them separate, one might wonder, who is going to win the battle?

Then there are the regions, the trade groups, each of them separate.

In this way the Ladbroke's struggle becomes a problem for the appointed regional secretaries in Scotland and in the north, for the appointed Glasgow district secretary, that does not matter to the men who are left there. The left of the TUC, the struggle against the betrayal can only be won by spreading concern and organisation.

It's against this background and similar situations in other unions, that Socialist Worker's stand on rank and file action and rank and file organisation are vital. Expecting victory from the bottom up will win Ladbroke's and other such struggles.

In the weeks ahead we will return to the case of Jack Jones. It's a battle certainly can be fought and can be won. It's against this background we are publishing this week.

You never heard about the blackballing at Grillion's club...

YOU NEVER HEARD ABOUT THE BLACKBALLING AT GRILLIONS CLUB...

The biggest closed shop in the world

The line comes down from head office and that's that.

'What's more, the workers at Grillion's can be blamed on 'greedy workers' or 'red agitators'.

The situation in the CBI is just as bad. It is rather similar to the way unions are used which all a lot a lovely girl Mr Asbestos really is.

There's a culture more than an interesting point. Can anyone who reads Socialist Worker ever recall at any time seeing any reports whatever that cover the decisions of the CBI executive?

There's a page after page about the Engineering Employers' Association. There's an article after article. There's a column after column on the TUC General Council. But there's never a word about the decisions of the most powerful and entirely unrepresentative group in this far land—the captains of industry.

The strange, simple truth is that there is a vast agreement between the newspaper executive and the CBI bosses that the CBI bosses are never questioned. And of course they never are.

You never hear a word about elections to the CBI council. Although in theory they take place, you can be sure they are never held from beginning to end. And there is no blood-pulsing ballot when the CBI want to order a back-out or provoke a strike.

under the name of trade unions. What's more, they are backed by the help by the people who own and control the press, who of course are members of the same Masonic lodges, professional associations and Royal Colleges which those with privilege and wealth have created to defend their spoils.

Hypocrites

I've always been one of the bosses union. Sir Ralph 'Call me Mr Asbestos' Bateman turned round and sobbed on the spot one of the members of the Confederation of British Industry Council, the CBI executive.

The audacious gentleman, William Poetson, was one of the small company representatives on the CBI council. His enforced departure was greeted with complete and total silence by our freedom-sounding press, which continued their important work of talking in all that a lovely girl Mr Asbestos really is.

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Chief bass Ralph Bateman, who has just sacked a CBI Council member amid a desultory silence from the press...
Why Whitlam was crushed

by Phil Griffiths, of the Australian International Socialists (formerly the Socialist Workers Action Group)

The wages of workers they were threatening to sack. Even the famous loans scandal over finance for all pipelines and the like was an attempt to borrow money for massive development projects that would have provided jobs. But none of Labour's solutions challenged the real cause of unemployment and economic stagnation.
The last time Whitlam responded to union-bashing by promising to bail out the unions. But this time Whitlam and Labour government could maintain the wage freeze programme by imposing redundancies.
The more they argued, the more the Liberals benefited. All the height of the working-class response to Whitlam's sacking, at the height of the movement for a general strike, when 400,000 workers in Melbourne alone were out, it looked as if Labour might win the election.

By Lee Kane

JAMAICA COURT THREAT

A recent advert in Jamaica's Daily Gleaner—paid for by Concerned Citizens—read: 'Have you heard of them? Well, they came up all over South America and they're otherwise known as the CTA.'

You are Cordially Invited to the Opening of the First International Socialism Conference

The New York Times also disclosed that the CTA had been brought in off the streets and unemployed workers and employers engaging on a wide scale by threats and, in many cases, to end the strike and win the support of the government. As the advert reproduced above shows, they are working overtime to spread fear. The usual guff about 'Lance, Order and Progress' and the menace of Commintern is low down, of course.

Failure

The members of the international court agree that whatever the deficiencies of the Manley government (the Industrial Relations Act, the Cane Court, the failure to expatriate fully the banana economy) it must be defended at all costs.

The Revolutionary Marxist Group, the organisation to which SW and IPS are closest, explained the situation in one of their leaflets:

"In no way does Manley represent the real hope of the working class and the oppressed. But if Manley is killed then it is us, the workers and the oppressed, who are next.""}

ANGOLA: US BLOOD MONEY POURS IN

HARD INFORMATION on American involvement with stooge liberation organisations in Angola is now beginning to leak out. According to various American newspapers last week, the White House has set aside funds totaling $5 million dollars for covert interventions in Angola. This figure includes $2 million dollars already sent with another shipment expected to follow.

The New York Times reports that the first significant move by the White House was made in the spring with an announcement of $300,000 in aid to Dr Jonas Savimbi, leader of UNITA. Further, the top-level Forty Committee resolved to send more millions of dollars in aid to both UNITA and the FNLA. The organisation led by Holden Roberto, the FNLA, has been funded and assisting FNLA for more than ten years.

According to the 6 December issue of the Johannesburg Star newspaper, America is even more directly involved. Quoting UNITA and FNLA sources, the Star reports that scores of American mercenaries are fighting with these organisations.

The highly-paid killers are recruited through a US Special Services officer who is, in all probability, acting on the direct instructions of the White House and restore business confidence.' But in Australia the Tories won.

The Australian economy is in a mess. Through 1975, unemployment has continued at record levels. More than 250,000 workers are out of work and by Christmas school year it will swell the figure to 400,000... equivalent to more than 1 million in Britain.

In power, the Labour Party mucked around with all kinds of gimmicks and stunts to try to save jobs. They tried to bail out British Leyland when they went broke, but it was too late. They tried giving cash grants to companies to pay the workers' movement is fighting back hard, with, for instance, the occupation of the White House last weekend by Go Boy and the strike of bus workers in defiance of Jamaica's Industrial Relations Act.

Ninety seven of the bus workers now face fines for defying the instruction of the Industrial Tribunal to abandon their pay struggle.

The local bus businessmen and their friends in the international business community who control the Jamaican economy don't like any of this.

The think the Manley government is too soft, even though the Manley government's socialism is nothing more than capitalism with a fancy face. But capitalism in crisis has no room for pretty faces. Instead it prefers attacks on the working class and repression.

What has this involved is a confrontation on West Kingston, the main working class area, and the use of the army to make widespread arrests, apparently without the sanction of the government.

During the teachers' strike at the university in November, an army detachment—complete with tanks—moved onto the campus. This move was made without the Prime Minister even knowing about it and against his subsequently expressed wishes.

Such is Manley's support that the Jamaican Tory Party, which under the name of the Labour Party, realises it hasn't any chance of winning an election in the foreseeable future.

Three weeks ago, the JLP were decisively beaten in two marginal elections which they thought they had a chance of winning.

And in a third election they didn't put up a candidate, claiming corrupt electoral practices by the Peoples National Party as their excuse.

Behind the scenes, the JLP and its friends are engaged in corrupt and sinister practices. With the aid of the CIA, they have been buying off army officers and employing gunmen on a wide scale to harass and, in many cases, kill PNP activists and militant workers.

As the advert reproduced above shows, they are working overtime to spread fear. The usual guff about 'Lance, Order and Progress' and the menace of Commintern is low down, of course.

These events led two weeks ago to the formation of a united front involving 20 left-wing groups including several PNP groups and all the revolutionary groups in Jamaica. International Socialism 84

REVOLUTIONARY POLITICS TODAY

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

A DEBATE

Plus: Marxist economics, Notes of the Month

Available, price 30p (inc postage) from ISJ, 8 Coltons, Gardens, London E2
TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM
Duncan Hallas

First some facts, as given by Stalin's successor as general secretary of the Russian Communist Party, Nikita Khrushchev at the twentieth Party Congress in 1956.

"Stalin acted not through persuasion, explanation and patient cooperation with people but by imposing his concepts and demanding absolute submission to his opinion. Whoever opposed was doomed to removal from the leading collective and to subsequent moral and physical annihilation..."

98 shot

"Of the 139 members and candidates of the Party's Central Committee who were elected at the 17th Party Congress in 1934, 98 persons, 70 per cent, were arrested and shot, mostly in 1937-1938..."

"The same fate met not only central committee members but also the majority of the delegates to the 17th Party Congress. Of the 196 delegates with either voting or advisory rights, 108 were arrested on charges of counter-revolutionary crimes, decidedly more than a majority..."

"Thus Stalin sanctioned the most brutal isolation of socialist legality, torture and oppression, which led, as we have seen, to the slaughter of millions of innocent people..."

"But how was all this possible? According to Khrushchev's explanation, all was well until about 1934, when the wicked Joseph Stalin started to have his enemies accused or sent to labour camps and made himself into a new Tsar..."

This is a fairy tale for children. The dictatorship of the bureaucracy over the working class and the peasants had been established years earlier. Labour camps were established from 1935-1936, the beginning of the forced collectivization of agriculture. The despotic rule of a handful of top leaders over the party and the state was older still.

"What about home, how about, had the working class lost power? The fact is that the working class that made the revolutions of 1905 and 1917 and largely swallowed up again by the peasants—and to some extent by the new state machinery—by the ruin of the Russian economy by civil war, allied blockade and armed intervention..."

A giveaway?

DOES your loved one earn more than £20,000 a year? Is the 'Irreverent Mail's' page worth a few pennies? The Socialist Worker has the answer. Get hold of the Christmas edition. Present any one of these cards and get a free subscription. No conditions apply. Free subscription is limited to a maximum of 12 issues per household.

TAX FREE

CATYAN ISLANDS, B.W.I.

Lively home behind reef and surrounded by coconut palms on Cayman Brac. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, Rac. Rooms, Pool, Tennis Courts, fully furnished, complete with cars and motor cycles. 6000 ft. sandy beach. This week only $125.00. Write Box 4724J, Financial Times, 30, Cannon Street, EC4A 4BY.

Financial Times, 29 November

"We want to turn our workers into Germans or Japanese. Russian official quoted in The Guardian last week, discussing the possibility of 'creating' uninnocent Russian workers..."

"Economic crisis..."

"...So I've clipped all my money cheques..."

"I've been here almost two months, I'm beginning to fret..."

"I've haven't clung to the old Malta, and I've put up with South African gold..."

"It all helps to keep out the cold..."

"My only interest is music..."
Why the car firms are in a mess

THE CAR INDUSTRY is facing its greatest crisis. The Labour government says its choice over Chrysler is between a massive financial outlay and sack a third of the labour force, or taking the whole labour force.

In Leyland, there are threats that there will be no public money until workers accept a virtual ban on strikes and agree to 'voluntary' redundancies. To press the point home, investment has been stopped for four months on an unemployment in the machine tool and construction industries.

In every car factory, management are telling the workers that the only way to save jobs is to work harder, so that unemployment is borne by workers in other factories. Some contributors and senior stewards accepted this, and are now in defence of all jobs, but far grabbing the few jobs that remain for one lot of workers rather than another.

Yet the crisis in Britain's biggest industry is not the fault of the workers. And no amount of 'sacrifice' by the workers is going to solve it.

SOME of the machinery in Chrysler's Stoke plant in Coventry was in use in 1943.

But no national newspaper tells you that some Chrysler workers have to make do with antiquated equipment.

Instead there is a barrage of abuse and denunciation about 'greedy and stupid' carworkers who, by constantly striking for more money, have driven Chrysler and British Leyland into the ground.

Such attacks are even up for those really responsible for the chaos of the British car industry, for the threat to the jobs of tens of thousands of workers.

According to the Ryder Report, car firms across the world replace all machinery on average every eight to 12 years. In Britain, more than half the equipment is more than 15 years old.

The value of the equipment available to each Chrysler UK worker is £1,121. In 1943, it was £4,481, and it could well be that any other car firm in Europe, except for Vauxhall and British Leyland. The argument that foreign carworkers work harder is a lie. They simply have far better equipment.

'Work harder'

In Italy, British Leyland has told workers in their subsidiary factory that they don't work hard enough and will have to be sacked. In this way, the 1943 level of this sort of thing is reached, that European carworkers work twice as hard...

Three weeks ago, the director of the British Leyland Cowley north works, Mr. D. N. Scott, told 5,000 workers that production was too low. He said: 'work harder, work harder.'

A few days later, a joint management-union meeting was told that 'management efficiency' and 'management efforts to suppress it' were the key problems. The key problem was 'illegitimate pressure' of workers 'unwillingly supplying parts and unilaterally formation supplies to the suppliers of the parts of the car, which is also a very unique problem.'

Far from the workers being responsible, the report said that numerous complaints by production workers about the working conditions were ignored.

The enormous loss in production each year has to be done out of the strike-ruined workforce the Daily Express and The Sun talk about.

LOST

In 1969, according to a government press release, half of the production lost in 1969 was caused by breakdowns of equipment, supplies failures, repairs and maintenance.

That is, half of production lost was management's fault and had nothing to do with the workers.

In 1972, the wages of Chrysler workers were lower than those of any other group of carworkers in Europe.

So much for the greedy, powerful unions forcing the car manufacturers out of business.

But incompetence is not the only explanation of Chrysler's crisis. As a report prepared by workers in the Ford Whitley Research Department shows, Chrysler have for five years been deliberately running down their British operation.

In 1974, Chrysler invested in Britain in new machinery and equipment. £15 for each worker. At Ford, the figure was £450. Even at British Leyland it was £258.

The GOVERNMENT and the press are hinting that too many workers are producing too many cars.

Only when the problem of overproduction is ended, they say, will the problems be solved. The government's 'Think Tank' report says there is room for two, or at most three, car firms and the rest will have to go.

But there are millions of workers throughout Britain and the rest of the world who would like a car if only they could afford one. Among them are many carworkers themselves. They have been unable to afford cars over the last year because of lay-offs and redundancies.

And there are a vast number of other desperately needed things that the car industry could be used to produce. Steelwood used to produce panels for railways trains, in the days before Tors and Labour governments decided to cut down on public transport.

The half million disabled people in this country have been told 'the country can't afford' to give them a car. Instead they have to make do with the trashes which everyone admits are dangerous.

The workers who could produce the cars for the disabled are being put on the dole queue. The millions that could be used to reorganise the industry and manufacturing capacities along rational lines are being offered to multinational gangsters like J.D. Ricardor, without even preserving many of the jobs.

RAISE FUNDS WHERE YOU WORK FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Everyone who supports the Right to Work Campaign can raise money by taking a football card around your workmates every week.

Raise £1 a week—cards on request from local committees or directly from: Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

RIVAL

This Labour government believes in firms as its Tory predecessor in competition between rival giant firms as a way of satisfying people's needs. Yet it has been this system that has produced the present crisis.

In the 1950s and 1960s successive governments encouraged the fantastic growth of the road network and of private cars. Public transport was cut back and back. Firms like Chrysler and Ford were subsidised so as to open up depressed regions in Scotland and Monmouth.

Now that workers who were put into the car industry at that time are being threatened with the sack. Competition is wearing as defenders of 'free enterprise' insist that there is only room for two, or at most three car firms.

The plants will only stay in business if the government gives them still bigger subsidies to employ still fewer workers.

The fewer workers, of course, will be able to buy still fewer goods, so that there will be still more poverty and still more unemployment.

The one thing the government, the press and the television have not considered is the obvious answer—nationalisation without compensation of the whole industry, so as to fit the productive efforts of its workers to the desperate human needs of vast numbers of people.

With the minimum amount of real planning, the present chaos in the industry just could not exist. Instead of discussing just how many workers in what city are to be thrown out of the dole queue, trade unionists should be discussing how to fight for the nationalisation that alone can make this planning a reality.

So much for those 'low profits'

THE LOW level of investment by the car firms certainly hasn't been a result of the profits. British Leyland have distributed their profits, made out of the sweat and effort of the workers, to their shareholders.

THE SAVINGS IN LEYLAND'S A MESS 1962-1974
Pre-tax profits £200,147,000 Paid out in dividends £180,883,000 Paid out in interest to persons £13,232,000

Paid out in interest to banks £118,699,000

Retained profits for investment £14,090,000

And in case you think the shareholders are worked for all that lost, remember that before the Ryder Report was made, Chrysler shareholders were worth £20 each.

Now the government is offering to give a share—a 66 cent profit per share.

Not contented, a number of Leyland shareholders have set up an organisation to demand more.
A STRONG delegation arranged by the Rank and File Organising Committee visited Portugal last week. It included two convenors, two secretaries of shop stewards' committees, and four shop stewards, who spent five full days in Lisbon, though two of them had to go home.

Despite the short-time working and the repression following the 25 November events, the delegation of 12 visited a wide cross-section of Portuguese workers' commissions and tenants' co-operatives.

Among the firms visited were Plesseys, the Pimenta building company, the hospital at Barreiro, the Luar Clinic, Omis—a subsidiary of Metal Box, the two big shipyards at Seteave and Lissave, Manuel Lopes Henriques textiles, Luso Italiano engineering, the large state brewery and the newspaper Republica. The delegation also had talks with civil service union representatives at the Ministry of Information and with three tenants' commissions in Lisbon.

The delegation returned in a mood of excitement and determination: excitement at the strength and confidence of the working class in Portugal, determination to do all in their power to support the workers against the attacks mounted against them.

Every day there is a new story of repression. At least 200 officers, including the entire staff of COPCON, the former controlling body of the army, are in prison in the north. They are denied visits or contact with their relatives.

At the same time there have been attacks on farming cooperatives by tractors looking for workers. Farm workers have been bullied and humiliated. There have been several arrests of South American and German workers in these farms, and in some cases these have been followed by deportations.

The editors of most Lisbon daily newspapers have been sacked and replaced with puppets of the government. At the same time, Melo Antunes, spokesman for the Revolutionary Council, has launched a campaign denouncing 'foreigners who come here and subsidise health clinics and farm occupations'.

The repression has not yet touched the workers' movement. Few, if any, workers' leaders have been arrested. The delegation felt that a right-wing offensive was not yet under way, and that the trade unions were strengthening their position.

THE OLD WOMAN SELLING REPUBLICA

UNEMPLOYED worker John Murphy, secretary of the Birningham Right to Work Committee, in Armada we talked to a very old woman who was selling the newspaper Republica on the street. We asked her why she sold Republica. She said she would sell only Republica because the other newspapers don't represent the workers' interests. Almost all the people around her were Republica.

In the Republica office we saw the state of the printing works, which was archaic. Everything was very old. The journalism explained to us that this is what the social democratic owner had left to the public.

By Jack Robertson, AUEW shop steward, Massey Ferguson, Manchester.

In Lisbon the newspaper Republica is a symbol of the most advanced section of workers, tenants and soldiers, who fought to rid themselves of their bosses, landlords and officers. The workers at Republica fought a long battle to prevent being sacked by the editor and chief shareholder Paul Braga. Paul Braga is leader of the Socialist Party and was Minister of Information during the Spinola regime, when he suspended production of the paper and imposed fines on it.

I bought Republica every day I was in Lisbon in September. Republica is not an easy paper to read. Not only because I don't understand a word of Portuguese, but also because the articles are extremely long, the print is small, there are few pictures, no football, no racing page and no made up.

It has headlines like 'The ideal political position of the IPC workers'. Nevertheless, Republica is a popular paper. You'll find workers of all ages reading it in the cafes, on the buses and on the ferry. Reading it line by line, column by column.

Recently an English version of Republica has appeared. It can help to get across to workers here some idea of what Portuguese workers have won and what they are still fighting for. What is more, the 25p you pay for it will help keep Republica going.

Copies available from IS Books or from the Portuguese Workers Co-ordinating Committee, 12 Little Newport Street, London WC2, for 30p, inc post.
IF THERE'S THE NEED, IT'S DONE
BRIAN PARKIN, TASS representative at Sofia, Laos.

The most impressive example of what workers could achieve came out in a visit we made to a small clinic next to the Lusaka shipyard. The clinic had been built after the workers of an enormous public health house which had belonged to an official of the Angolan Foreign Office.

They set this clinic up in a matter of hours. It had the doctors, the cleaners and building work was done in their spare time by workers in the Lusaka shipyard. It demonstrated how much we can do when we put our minds to it.

Workers have shown that we can start to build the foundations of a socialist society, the power of their ideas is fantastic.

The clinic's been open since July. So far they've got 1,000 patients there, and more than 10,000 consultations. Workers also have provided schools in the area and support the local police in all sorts of ways, in which they hope to house many of the women who live around the shipyard.

These are examples of the imagination and confidence of the workers. It also points to the inadequacy of the Sixth Provisional Government in providing any kind of social base for alleviating these economic miseries.

The workers have no illusions in the government. If the government were to look after its workers, then the workers are going to do it for themselves.

I managed to get the address of a worker who is a member of a factory which is part of the同一 company as the shipyard. I managed to get him writing to them and hope to start contact and joint visits between them and British workers.

that became a creche

The military police helped them to occupy the villa. The military police fitted it up with electricity, provided a stove and furniture. Then the police provided toys and other things for the creche.

The creche is run by a democratically-elected residents' committee.

When the creche was first set up, the priest gave a sermon about the creche, saying what a bad thing it was and how it would poison peoples' minds, and worked hard it was that they had family planning meetings after hours and even advised people on abortion.

Well, Marie went down to the creche on the next Sunday and demanded that she speak from the pulpit.

The priest refused at first, obviously, then she said she would leaflet the community on the rumours that were going round about him and the household. With that he immediately changed his mind.

So she gave a talk on education in the creche. She said she was there now they were trying to change society, that had to provide facilities for children, give them proper education. She also spoke about the need to educate people about abortion and contraception in a backwood country like this.

Well, after Marie had spoken in the creche on the same day, the creche was registered and raised 800 escudos.

The typical of the spirit of these workers: everywhere we went we were amazed at their organisational abilities in the factories and in communities. It just shows you when it starts to happen just how much our class has got: it gives you a lot of confidence in the workers' movement and the ability of the workers to organise.

This is workers' control

LINDSAY GREGG, TGWU shop steward at a transport firm in Hammers, Surrey.

In a brewery which we visited one department was going to be shut down by the management. The workers' committee decided that there was overproduction in that area, but that the plant could be switched to a new product which was needed – I think it was soft drinks.

This sophistication, this direct way of solving things is the first thing that strikes you when talking to workers in Portugal.

Again, we went to a meeting of the Consumption Commission in Setubal. The commission was set up to buy food from the farmers' co-operatives in the area and sell it at cost price to the workers of the same area. It was obvious that they were applying themselves to solving the lots of problems at the same time.

Everyone is clear that however much control they've got in individual factories or areas, they still won't have the control necessary to direct enough resources to solve the workers' problems. Many spoke openly about the need for a socialist society.

The political discussion was so natural, that was the thing.

Before coming out here I'd seen the events of November 5 as an attempt to keep the Portuguese trade union movement alive. I know now that it wasn't an attempt, but a trade union movement which have only lost a battle.

Hands off Portugal campaign

This new pamphlet, written by Jack Robertson, Paul Searby, Andrew Farquharson, Manchester, and Roger Kline, TGWU, Cambridge.

Ferguson, Coventry, for workers in Britain, claims the struggle of the workers' movement in Portugal over the past year has been a section on solidarity work, packed full of examples of how the struggle for workers' power in Portugal.

10a copy (plus £1 postage) or 12 subscriptions.

This slide and tape show is now completed for use in the campaign. It lasts 30 minutes, including 200 slides from Portugal, many from inside workers' controlled factories and communities. It is a detailed look at the Portuguese revolutionary struggle. It is ideal for starting off solidarity meetings.

Contact the Rank and File Organising Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London N16. Phone 01-249 1207.

OUTING

In France what appears to have tipped the balance towards organisation and workers' committees was a factory occupation. Soldiers, barricaded at Boucques during the operation of the LIP watch on factory were deeply influenced by events there and formed a committee with the help of trade unionists involved in the struggle.

The trial was another outing—one that took place under a handover of government—for the infamous Charlie conspiracy, which was a free gift to the prosecution. This is an added reason for celebrating the workers' movement.

But that the trial took place at all reveals the workers' movement. Despite the clearly Tories in the means that our movement cannot relax.

The government believes totally in using the law and order machine which must of property and wealth have since been turned over to the workers: that means there will be more than trade unionists to hunt down dissidents and more attacks on the workers' movement.
WE MUST GIVE RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN OUR MAXIMUM SUPPORT

RIGHT

But, "continue, this is an in-between time for revolution. Whole parts of the left are trade union bureaucracies, and the Communist Party is a gentleman," he said. This is the "real work for our future."

But, according to Mr. Johnson's research, the most in-between time for revolution, whole parts of the left are trade union bureaucracies, and the Communist Party is a gentleman," he said. This is the "real work for our future."

The argument about unemployment was central to the discussion in the coming months. We are not arguing in complete isolation. There is a massive argument to fight on unemployment, which Mr. Johnson points out. In November, the topic of unemployment is the main discussion that followed, JIMMY.

Backining for Right to Work march

DELEGATES voted overwhelmingly to support the call for a march from Manchester to London by unemployed workers.

The march, argued JOHN JASON, was an ominous signal for the future of the campaign. It meant the Right to Work campaign was the only way to deal with this massive crisis in the trade union movement and our way through the movement.

RIGHT: KEVIN from Coventry did not agree. The march of the 1930s were the acts of the trade union movement and our way through the movement. They were not in general opposed to unification

We must harness the anger

Peter CLARK reports from last weekend's I.S. Party Council

30's

Support North West
Call
All Out
Nov 26th
March on Parliament Assemble Euston Station 1pm

Job Centre - at least £3.50 per shift' side by side with the militant alternative, unemployment is part of Labour's strategy...

Notes for What's On should be posted to: Socialist Worker, 54-56 Old Kent Road, London SE1 1LB. For local meetings, write to: What's On, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 OJH. All important dates should be put in our care of cancellations.


MAIDENHEAD 60th anniversary meeting every Thursday at the flat 4 High Street, Maidenhead. MAIDENHEAD 60th anniversary meeting every Thursday at the flat 4 High Street, Maidenhead. 6.30pm. 6.30pm. 4 High Street, Maidenhead. 6.30pm. 4 High Street, Maidenhead.

WHAT'S ON

SW LOTTERY

All stubs and money must reach 840 Cottages Gardens, London, E2 by Friday morning, 19 December. Don't rely on the post. Bring them in yourself if necessary.
A SPANISH friend of mine wrote a bad-tempered article on soccer last month and headlined it: 'Football: The Opium of the People.'

You could understand his frustration. Five Basques had just been judicially murdered, the old sod himself was dying at last and there was a war in deep crisis. Yet, for a while in the national capital, half the men seemed to be interested only that Real Madrid had wiped up Derby County 5-1 and so qualified for the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

Soccer, it could be argued, is dope. It's one of capitalism's main entertainment industries, and it's sometimes hard to remember when you're standing on wet terraces in February and Peter Storey's kicking high and left, Bob Latchfield as Everest and Arsenal struggle to score as much as they can.

Certainly the fortunes of soccer and capitalism in Britain have often run closely together. The kickabout pastime to an organised activity with rules and governing bodies which have been set up by the government to control the game, and the modern cup-tie democratic solution to the old-fashioned enmity of the working classes versus the property-owning classes.

Early Labour leader George Lansbury in the East End—

FROM THE AUTHOR'S PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION

CAPITALISM truncates its respect for the individual under the weight of management, since the individual cannot develop.

George Best, for example, stopped being George Best and became George Best Enterprises, with a biography written by Michael Parkinson Enterprises and his name, identity, sold to a company for £125,000.

Best's reaction was normal. First wanton, then muddled rebellion.

'I remember seeing that film Charlie Bubbles where Albert Finney sat in a conference and shouted all the sound from his speakers so that he could see what was moving without but he wasn't listening.'

'I used to do that, when I went to business conferences and they talked about exploiting my commercial potential and all that bollocks.'

'That's it. It's what made me say what I didn't have a word I'd say. Reading that, you get a glimpse of something important about football. It's a game, it's play, and as such it is the opposite of the sheer dreariness of most work.'

The author of 'The Slaughter Club,' which combined socialist action with running the same, says, and I have added it himself.

'The game changed during the war, and out of which he was a member. It started at 2:30 pm.'

BOLTS

At its best it nourishes, in however diminished a way, the imagination and creativity, the thrill and excitement that capitalism denies. All over Britain there are kids in factories making flange nuts on the main hearth.

But that's not what they're really doing in their minds. They're running to a perfect thoroughfare, and picking the ball up in the top left-hand corner just past the teachers' car. That's it. We can all say, and I'm going to stop daydreaming and get back to work.'

Those dreams are important. They keep part of a humanity alive.

'So I'll let it fly.'

'EVEN with the huge amount of books in the market, particularly papers, back, it's still difficult to recommend unreservedly a book to Socialist Worker readers. But Fontenara is a book that presents no problems.

Ignacio Silone's book is easy to read, exciting, humorous, and packs a political punch.

The novel is set in a southern mountain village in Mussolini's Italy. It tells the story of a peasant from the deep depressed by lack of direction, superimposed by government officials and landowners. They then try to fight back, they are brutally put down by the Fascist police.

The book shows the real face of fascism—fear and brutality—with government corruption and fear bewailing the peasants.

Although in one way a tragic story, with violent death, race, and suicide, it has a certain humour.

The political message, although present throughout the book, takes real form when Berardo, one of the peasants' likely leaders, soon to be

must be fought. The main weapon in the fight is unity, working class.

GEORGE KELLY

FROMENTARA, by Ignacio Silone, Jonathan Cape Ltd. 6s. Available from IS Books. 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, 8ip including postage.

There's something for everyone at your local IS Bookshop.
CREATING THE HEALTH MARKET

WHENEVER Socialist Worker writes about the Health Service or the cuts, one fundamental feature of its structure is always overlooked—the sheer numbers we deal with when we understand that we can uphold that, for instance, millions are spent on the NHS each year with little or no sign of improvement in the population’s health.

Last week’s SW carried an excellent letter showing an advertisement for a drug to “cure the strains of redundanc y.” September’s Wom ens Voice showed another advert for a drug which would keep women docile while they live in appalling conditions. So it’s surprising how we can come to such different conclusions.

Under capitalism and most forms of state capitalism (China is a notable exception) we labour under the illusion that health is a commodity that is administered by a group of highly specialised technicians, that our bodies are somehow entirely separate from our minds and that they require servicing like motor cars, that our health is not our concern, but the concern of doctors.

People obtain from these peddlers and the system huge ranges of medical procedures and packages which we must find the money to pay for, over 50 per cent of money spent on the health “industry” being spent trying to cure people suffering from the maladministration of other medical products.

IMPOLE

Health is not a commodity to be obtained from some group of specialists, any more than socialism can be obtained by electing a group of political specialists.

As someone who joined the International Socialists because of its emphasis on the self-activity of the working class as the only way to socialism, I implore you to give more intelligent analysis of the current situation in the future.

Someone’s health is something that can only be decided by that person, and at least four-fifths of our health is decided by the way people organise their lives. Our medical fraction is dependent upon the administration of specialist products by a group of specialists.

Under socialism the budget for the Health Service would be determined by the JAMES MADGE, West London.

Long arm of the ‘anti-terror’ Act

THE reality of life in Northern Ireland was alarmingly plain to see at a large audience of Sheffield trade unionists who attended the meeting of the local Troops Out Movement.

They arrived to find that the two speakers, Fionnuala Main and Pat Arrowsmith, had been met off the train not by the bobbies, but by a police of police who removed them to cells “on suspicion of possessing seditious documents” or alternatively “on suspicion of having committed an offence”.

They weren’t released for a hour and a half. Their wires were to be mounted at the police station.

The police claim that they were met at the station by a bobby who “arrested” someone who left the train at Leicester and subsequently “confessed seditiously about Ireland”.

The chairman of the local Troops Out Movement and to the trade council that it had to close an emergency meeting of the council and that the TV news story appeared against the backdrop of MIKE SIMPSON defied.

WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?

IT seems to me, as a sympathiser, that there is an important contradiction between the principles outlined in weekly Socialist Worker—there is no mention of the ultimate goal of IS activity.

“SOCIALISM, you fool!” is the obvious answer that might be thrown back at me in reply. But obviously socialism means different things to different people—and Marx and H Wilson undoubtedly have totally different interpretations.

Socialist Worker in the struggle for socialism, but now in the IS principles in a hint of what socialism actually entails. The principles themselves are transhistorical and demand leading to the preconditions for socialism being established.

I’m not asking for a blueprint, which is obviously impossible, but there seems a need to outline at least some distinguishing features of a socialist society. Marx himself gave a number of hints: emphasis upon an abundance of material goods, the ultimate liberation of human beings, the great reduction of the working day, and particularly important—abolition of the market economy. It would seem a step forward to define the IS in terms of that such-a-such term, socialism, and include it in the “What we stand for” section.—JAMES WATSON, Edinburgh.

Craftsmen lashing ‘sexist’ charge critics

A cartoonist and the mother of two wonderful goldfishes I was horrified to read the 1st of 10 caricatures in this week’s S.W. by my drawings advertising the coming Skegness Weekend! I would like to think that this is not a joke and will not really be leg-transformed to the wall. (The authorities would have to think of a new joke, for one thing).

Real about time they realised that hundreds of perfectly ordinary people have been spending their lives in their legs ironed—I mean pulled by cartoonists. I am sorry to report that these jokes (as they are) are far from uncommon.

I am also sorry that the lady in the other offending cartoon—why does Andy Warhol assume she is a mother—looks goddess and enlightened. Over centuries as artist- Leonardo, Titian, Rembrandt, Cezanne, Picasso—and most of us have had to put up with this sort of stupid criticism. It is really not worth worth nothing—PHI. EVANS, North London.

Send Des a Christmas card—and jam their post

DESWARREN has been in prison for a long time now.

This will be his third Christmas inside. He has been sent to prison three times over the last three years when he's been virtually ignored by the official law and no one has bothered with him during which the efforts of the rest of us to get him out have been unsuccessful.

So remember Des on your Christmas card list and send him a card at Lincoln Prison to say, ‘We’re behind you mate’.

Ten thousand cards will cheer him up and will certainly kick their post room up for a week (two—TROY HODGES, Cambridge).

Who should run nurseries?

IS the report in Socialist Worker on the Engineers’ Charter Conference, the point I was trying to make was misunderstood. I was arguing against a brother who said that one of our demands should be for workplace nurseries under union control. I was putting out that this was a bad demand, not because as you reported—I didn’t want my kids nursered at the factory, but because the management can use this to intimidate women workers.

Ask for higher wages, or do anything about your working conditions and not only could you lose your job but your nursery facilities as well. It does not matter where the nurseries are sited, if it’s convenient so long as they are run by the right people—the socialist services department of the local council.

Of course white-collar workers in colleges can make the demand for workplace nurseries, because many are employed by the local authority, but even then they should be run by social services and controlled by the people who use them.

Nurseries should be universally available for pre-school children just as schooling is provided for those over five. Women AUEW members who want to fight for this demand and discuss all other aspects of their activity in the union should contact their local AUEW Charter Women’s meeting, in East Greenwich Satellite at Lambeth College. Full details are available from the National Executive Committee, 46 Prince George Road, London, N16.

On the rest of your report on last week’s conference was very good. The Engineers’ Charter is making a real start in getting a rank and file movement organized. AUEW. It’s now up to us to follow it up with a good turn-out in January, BERNADETTE DUNNE, London, NW2
MAKING FASCISTS LOOK STUPID

NATURALLY, as a pacifist I don't believe in violence or vandalism—
it attacks me whenever we possibly can by argument. But many will not always be easy or possible to do this, but I believe it is in our own interests in campaigns against this baneful and dangerous philosophy to try to do it.

What I said at the meeting in Manchester last Sunday was that in the past I had observed fascist crushed at meetings by being offered the chance to put their case. They were so taken aback they did not know what to say. They were left completely speechless by themselves as, if we do, we are more likely to lose public support than to gain it.

The best way to demolish fascists is to expose its emptiness and evasions—
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BRITISH STEEL: SIX PRINCIPLES FOR DISASTER

THIS STATEMENT (right) from Bill Sirs, our General Secretary of the Iron and Steel Confederation, has been prominently displayed in our local papers for the last two weeks. He heralded one of the most worrying Christmas steelworkers have had to face since the war.

While our leaders were calling for peace and prosperity for the sake of investment, Sir Monty Finlayson, Bob Scoble and their cronies have been busily sharpening their knives.

They plan to reduce the wages bill by £170 million.

This means 40,000 jobs could be lost, 1,300 redundancies.

Workers now face compulsory retraining.

The guaranteed working week is to be switched from 40 to 48 hours, from 7 to 8, in Torre's, Wednesfield and Port Talbot.

This will mean the effort will be put up by 350.

Once again they will be switching production from the older to newer plants.

Fair, yes, but the question we must ask is: are they going to make another promise that in the face of this massive effort, in the face of the pressures, that a threat to industrial relations will result?

We, steelworkers, who are a week away, are very aware we are not being pushed around at the same time as the threat to the steel industry.

Management are using their age-old tactic of playing one section of steelworkers off against another.

BY IS steelworkers' branch, Swansea

BRITISH STEEL is now trying to squeeze every last drop of profit out of the last remaining steel plant when steel was nationalised in 1967.

It inherited a "tag bag of over-capitalised capacity" from the old private sector, but now is trying to rid itself of the Berrington Committee on Nationalised Industries,

In plain English, the old steel bosses were expecting a huge windfall for their shares.

Overpaid by £120 million — BSC's own figure.

Those bonus were too good to be hid for the sake of their private steel plant. Maintenance had been skimmed.

Deficit soon showed when production was pushed up causing high maintenance costs as well as high operating costs.

Two-thirds of the plant was old-fashioned.

In short, the government paid too much for worn out equipment. That made another mistake, typical of nationalised industries. They left the most profitable section in the private sector — refined steel.

That section accounts for about one-third of steel produced. It earns up to half of the profits. Two private firms, Dunkirk, France, and Johnson and Fisher have faced the threat of mass redundancies.

This time steelworkers are taking the threats far more seriously. The winds for this latest attack were seen last May when our union leaders, paralysed by their own fear, refused to stand up to Finlayson. Last May, Wedgwood Benn stepped in to save the industry. But, as always, the saving was not in cost. Then, just as now, the government, the press and our own officials told that we should accept wage cuts to prevent unemployment. But we didn't.

In the last six months, jobs have gone by the board, conditions have worsened, short-time working has been introduced and our pay packet has fallen miles behind prices.

Once again Finlayson and Science are using the big guns: a threat. In their fight, our "representatives" will again compromise and lose sight of the real issues.

But we are sick and tired of this alternative.

We don't need any scheme for putting up wages, and we are not going to argue wages even further.

What we need is a revolution and action to all schemes.

The officials have shown they have not the feeling to take a stand. We have seen them constantly in our battles, we have been forced into the hunt and gone down the road of the unions and the industry.

We must fight a fighting policy that can direct the force and anger of all steelworkers against the bosses. We do not want that crisis in steel and there is no reason why we should shrink from the blame for it. We must demand a new and convincing policy for us.

THE RIGHT TO WORK...

THE RIGHT TO WORK... 40,000 TIMES OVER

SIX PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

SIX PRINCIPLES FOR SUCCESS

Steel News' recipe for success — cut 40,000-50,000 jobs

Sparks: Why the right swept in

A local political party robber by-election has resulted in a sweeping victory for the right wing candidates.

Right-wing candidates were returned with considerable gains in the campaign.

There were two notable exceptions: Bill Gannon, elected Labour's first English plumber, and Hector Boul, again victorious candidate for the Scottish plumber.

Boul had won before only to have the result invalidated on a technicality. The executive continued to postpone the election and organise a second campaign after discovering any more technicalities, all members most generously re-elected the same candidates.

The main reason for the big right wing movement is the underfunding of the local postal ballot and the union machine.

The ballot got a great deal of support from all five districts, more because of a vendetta against the right wing than to support the left.

Access

Executive councillors and appointed full-time officials, fearful for their jobs, used their office time to organise a nationwide campaign for the sitting member. This would be fine if the new were far but far from the truth.

But getting access is difficult for rank and file members.

Branches are forbidden to communicate. Councillors don't send the two votes that shop stewards or area committees. Any rank and file member organising a campaign is being invalidated under rule 96. Membership meetings have not been allowed, members get massive support from the press.

The Union always dreads the election again the violation of the invalidation of rule 96. This is the open season on propaganda to build the rank and file movement and to encourage electioning elections the Communist Party leadership of the party's electioneering open involvement of the members which alone can deliver the election.

Prove

The struggle for a democratic union cannot be restricted to a secret battle between left and right. The left has the lead to reach the rank and file on all matters.

The question is how the union leadership's failure to fight unemployment and lack of democratic control of the board of the same kind. Delegates to the 1973 rules reviews, that they are not concerned to serve the branches, and that they are concerned to vote for the election of officials, annual Inducements and industrial contacts that make the leadership.

The fight is only a beginning, and we must go in hand in hand with this struggle. That's why our job and our branch will stick with the local Right to Work Committee, affiliated to the national Rank and Movement campaign. That's why we have to redouble our efforts.

Alacra: 40 occupy

SHELMERSALL: Just a few days after completing a £170,000 campaign, the bosses of the Southport branch of the SMGAT union again put their election campaign on their stall.

A Smogat workshop of the Christian Workers' Union has left the union with a string of elections.

A man for the union leadership's failure to fight unemployment and lack of democracy on the same kind. Delegates to the 1973 rules reviews, that they are not concerned to serve the branches, and that they are concerned to vote for the election of officials, annual Inducements and industrial contacts that make the leadership.

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Nazi's run into trouble

NORTH LONDON: Pickets by local trade unions and Socialist Workers' Party have made National Front public meetings impossible... attended only by front members.

A Highbridge War electronics centre called in a patriotic handful of non-front members beyond the point, the pickets should protect Front stewards with dogs.

Such a meeting was held last night. But the black-shirt Salinger suffered a fatal blow. Widespread mobilisation for the meeting had been organised, but some time before the meeting was due to begin, 100 trade stewards met a visit.

The visitors took considerable pleasure in the news that the meeting was called off. The pickets placed banners and literature. The front members were banned from the ground.

The bosses of the Southport branch have now announced they are going out to organise a front meeting. The bosses has already beenand the meeting was called off. The front members were banned from the ground.

The bosses of the Southport branch have now announced they are going out to organise a front meeting. The bosses has already been and were barred from the ground.

STOP PRESS: Elections in the Highbridge area were sparked by a 25 per cent poll. The front candidate received a staggering 60 votes.
This will be a hard Christmas for most workers. For those on strike it will be particularly grim. This is the third time this year that workers are striking, and they have been reported regularly on these pages. In Glasgow the Ladbroke strikers are entering their seventh month. In Shrewsbury, supporters of the Alcoa strikers are planning to sit in for Christmas. In Derby, women at the factory are entering their eighth week on strike, as are strikers at the smelter in Avonmouth. Eight weeks too late for the 500 out at the Alcoa site near Swansea.

Many of these workers are facing little or no strike pay, and the social security system barely covers even the most basic essentials. Make a special collection in your workplace and send to the addresses given at the end of each report.

GLASGOW: The Ladbroke strike is now seven months old. 160 workers in the West of Scotland are still fighting for trade union recognition. Given the importance of the Ladbroke strike for all workers in the building industry, it is a scandal that the strikers, mainly women, have received no financial support. The biggest scandal is that the leadership of the union, the Transport and General Workers' Union, have done so little to organise for that support. Only one man wasn’t so happy. That was Hugh Wyp, TGWU organiser in Glasgow. When he saw Socialism & Culture he asked the strikers if they knew who the people calling the picket were. "About ten before they got on the ground," he added. "They’re this high in the trade union movement." At least two feet higher than the TGWU, came the reply from the strike committee.

At Preston, one picket steward said he would tell people at work not to bet with Ladbroke, and in SOUTHAMPTON a TGWU shop steward went into the shop to collect his wages and put half of it into the collection.

In BIRMINGHAM, pickets collected roughly £3, and in NEWCASTLE £2.88. In DUMFRIES and Galloway, KATE LONDON, reported that business was down on Wednesday.

betting

One picket gave 20p to EDINBURGH, explaining what it was, and she had won the bet. The picket turned away half of the money to want to go into the shop, and put the other half in the collection.

Pickets were also held in BRAINTREE, CHESTER, Welling, Manchester, Brighton, Hull, Bedford, Chelmsford, Walthamstow, Warkfield, Bolton, Runcorn, Liverpool, London, and more that have not yet in this.

Every trade unionist can help by making sure that they themselves don’t bet with Ladbroke, by having collections at work, by building solidarity with picketing Ladbroke betting shops on Saturdays or at other times.

TGWU members, wherever they work, should give their support to the strikers who are fighting for the right to join their unions. Tony Jackson, TGWU Shop Stewards, and his executive take effective action to support the strikers. Any picket of the TGWU should be carried.

The money is no longer paying strike pay. Money and messages of support from TGWU members should be sent to the strikers in Glasgow, 214 West Regent Street, Glasgow.
LINWOOD:

NOW LET'S OCCUPY

By Peter Bain

TGWU Steward, Chrysler Linwood

OCCUPATION IS THE ONLY ANSWER AT LINWOOD.

Thousands face the sack. What real guarantee have the rest got that the other jobs won't go as well?

Four weeks ago, a mass meeting overwhelmingly endorsed the shop stewards' call for nationalisation and occupation of the plant if Chrysler tried to pull out.

Now we have to make it clear that this applies to the Labour government's attempt to implement our jobs.

ONLY WAY

Occupation of the plant is the only way to save jobs. Otherwise, thousands will be down the road this week, before Christmas, and the rest will face a massive onslaught on working conditions and shop floor rights.

In the last few months, the plant leadership in all the Chrysler plants have wavered and hesitated. The leaders of our unions, the Transport Union and the Engineering Union, have done nothing so far. This is why the government has dared to go so far.

Now we have to make it completely clear that we will not accept any redundancies. We must confiscate the machinery and the plant and keep it under our control.

We must stop the movement of all goods and machinery. Pickers must be sent out to all Chrysler plants and local depots and showrooms to paralyse Chrysler throughout Britain.

We must appeal to all trade unions to black everything connected with Chrysler. We must not sit passively in the plant and let the government wait it out. Instead we must use the occupation as a base to fight Chrysler and the government.

The occupation will need support from a massive campaign throughout the car industry, throughout the west of Scotland, and throughout the trade union movement.

Already 1000 shop stewards in the local area have pledged their support for whatever action we take to defend jobs.

The government has put Linwood in the front line of the fight to save jobs.

We must say loud and clear—we will accept no redundancies.

We must occupy and force the government to nationalise Chrysler without compensation.

PART of Tuesday's 4000 strongly march of railway workers bound for the House of Commons to lobby MPs in protest against the carve-up of British Rail.

The lobby, organised by the three rail unions, comes after the leaking of reports that the Labour government plans to cut 80,000 rail jobs.

The plans will mean a savage attack on British Rail on top of the cuts that have been eating away at services for months.

In the short-term, nearly a third of the 11,500-mile system will be scrapped. And, by 1981, only 4000 miles of track will be left without.