VICTORY IN ANGOLA!
MPLA triumph - and now apartheid trembles

Page Seven

Yorkshire miners back the march

THE Yorkshire miners are back from the Right to Work March. Their area council voted unanimously in favour on Monday.

Yorkshire NUM president, Martin Stewart, and general secretary, Owen Price, both speak in favour of supporting the march, which begins in Manchester next Saturday.

The resolution passed by 78 votes to none after only ten minutes discussion, read:

Work

This area council supports any campaign for the Right to Work and for any reductions in its implement. Although we do not necessarily agree with all the aims of the organizing body, we nevertheless call on all our branches to give whatever offer of accommodation and assistance they can when the march passes through this area.

They also voted to send delegates to the Assembly on Unemployment in London on 27 March.

The London joint shop stewards' committee also voted unanimously to support the Rank and File Organization Committee's Right to Work Campaign. The London branch of the miners' Joint Stewards Committee voted to support

Cuts

More than 200 trade union bodies have now written to the National Right to Work Campaign asking to sponsor the campaign.

These include: 18 trade unions, 34 NUM branches, four AUEW branches, 25 GMB branches, 34 shop stewards' committees, 11 TUC branches, 15 hospital branches of NUFPE, four SCGAT joint workers chapels, seven NALGO branches, 10 trade union branches of two NUJ associations, two divers ASMC branches, 11 ASTMS branches, and branch from nearly every other trade union.

The Scottish National Union of Students is supporting the campaign and is urging all its constituent organizations to sponsor marches. Ten women's unions in England have already done so.

Forty-five of the 81 delegates at the TUC Youth Conference last Friday signed a petition supporting the National Right to Work Campaign, the march, the 28 March Rally in the Albert Hall, and the 27 March Assembly.

The platform, organised by the TUC General Council, refused to allow any resolutions from the floor.

MINERS' PRESIDENT Joe Gormley worked overtime this week trying to wring last week's decision of the NUM national executive to ban overtime.

Newspaper editors and television commentators usually with a word of good to say about union leaders are being ruthless in backing them.

They've been praising NUM vice-president Mick McGahy, because he couldn't make up his mind and abandoned last week, leaving a bare majority of one for the ban.

STATUS-QUO

The reason is that the overtime ban would be for the miners right to work.

The miners at Langwith Colliery in Derbyshire, threatened with closure, say that while there's coal in the pit, while there are men to work it, while there's a need for coal — then the right to work is there.

There are two million tons of coal at Langwith, coal that could be keeping pensioners warm. That's why the NCB's 1970-73 development was clear. Langwith was staying open.

Why do they now want it shut?

Because it would cost money to open the way to those two million tons. Why should the NCB spend money when there are easier profits to be made in other pits.

That's why Langwith is a vital lost case for all miners. For the same applies to half the pits in Britain. If Langwith can be closed then so can they.

The miners at Langwith are 'exhausted of fighting' high-level cuts. The TUC has always contradicted the miners don't remain this one.

But there may be a lot more behind the threat to Langwith. The NCB has promised the Langwith miners jobs at other Derbyshire pits — but at a top level meeting in January last year NCB officials questioned whether there should be any extra jobs in Langwith to compensate for Langwith.

This has nothing to do with the cheapness of Derbyshire coal or the efficiency of the working. The NCB, simply, would like to move the jobs to an area where trade union organization is weaker, democracy.

Build

Less chance that way of a repeat of the great struggles of 1972 and 1974. The miners' overtime ban might be giving a lead in the fight for jobs all over the country. That's what frightens Gormley and the newspaper editors. That's why they've been manoeuvring so hard to avoid an overturing — what has been clear union policy for four years.

Make no mistake, the 1972 NUM Conference voted to close all closing pits unless pits were exhausted. This could not be made safe.

The January NCB executive meeting voted overwhelming, 16 to 0, to fight for Langwith.

Whatever the manoeuvring at the top, the miners have made their policy clear. By sticking to it, the miners of North Derbyshire, the miners of North Britain, can help the miners of the whole coal industry resist the closure of all trade union pits.

PIPs: A FIGHT FOR OUR JOBS

Crumbs for the old

THE crumbs of a promise not to cut off pensioners' electricity supplies until June were thrown out by Anthony Wedgewood Benn, Labour's Energy Secretary, on Monday.

Benn insists that there can be no permanent relief of having to pay the bills, which have doubled in the past year. The bills for the present cold weather will arrive in April — which gives pensioners a grand total of eight weeks in which to pay.

"The community expects...

Abortion charade

Six MPs have resigned from the House of Commons Committee on Abortion. They told the press they resigned because the committee is set up only for one thing: to make it difficult for women to get abortions legally.

It is time for women to take action on the streets again. It is time to ensure that the trade unions last year's passed resolutions in favour of the woman's right to choose, turn these into realities.

With friends like that, who needs enemies? — Full story, page 2

ON THE RIGHT, Marcelino Camacho, a leader of the Spanish workers' movements. On the left, Michael Foot, declaring his international solidarity.

Fool and Jones is the knitting of Spanish and other foreign workers in the back.

Fool's department has been urging East London hospitals not to rework new permits. And Jones' Transport Workers Union has been campaigning against the employment of foreign workers in the hotel and catering trades.

With friends like that, who needs enemies? — Full story, page 2

PICTURE CHRIS DAVIES (REPORT)

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NOW ON: TURNS TO RACIST DEMANDS

The TUC leaders, who have allowed unemployment to rise by 500,000 in the past 15 months, are now trying to shift the blame for this on to a mere 14,500 workers from overseas.

The latest issue of the TUC’s British trade union magazine, The Socialist Worker, has revealed that it was in talks with employers about the possibility of deporting workers who had not been able to find work in the UK.

The magazine reported that the TUC had been working with employers to try to find ways to deport workers who had not found work in the UK.

The TUC leaders said that they were not trying to deport workers, but were simply trying to help employers find ways to deal with the growing number of unemployed workers.

The magazine quoted one TUC leader as saying: “We’re not trying to deport workers. We’re just trying to help employers find ways to deal with the growing number of unemployed workers.”

However, the magazine also reported that some employers had been using the threat of deportation as a way to put pressure on workers to accept lower wages or worse working conditions.

The TUC leaders have been accused of trying to shift the blame for the growing number of unemployed workers onto immigrants.

The magazine quoted one union leader as saying: “We’re not trying to shift the blame onto immigrants. We’re just trying to help employers find ways to deal with the growing number of unemployed workers.”

However, many workers have been critical of the TUC’s stance, saying that it was only helping employers to avoid paying them.

The magazine quoted one worker as saying: “The TUC is only helping employers to avoid paying us. They’re not trying to help workers.”

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Ireland's toll: Who is to blame?

AS WE GO to press no one has been killed by British troops in London. We hope this will still be the situation when you read this paper.

The bullet could feel otherwise, faced with the prospect of the tube stations, pubs or flats where workers gather on their way to work. But if there have been no victims, it won't be any thanks to Home Secretary Roy Jenkins or to any of his friends in our so-called Labour government.

Last week, Jenkins deliberately caused the death of Frank Stagg, a busman from Coventry. Stagg was imprisoned for "conspiring to murder" any bombs he had actually gone off in Britain. He turned up the hammer, as the only weapon any prisoner has to fight for his rights.

Jenkins was only making a modest demand—that he be allowed to serve his prison sentence in his home town. He was born, close to his friends and relatives in County Mayo.

The notorious Collan, the mercenary murder in Angola, was given that concession when imprisoned for armed robbery in Northern Ireland. He was allowed to serve his sentence in Britain.

Blind Hate

But no such concession was available for Stagg. Instead Jenkins allowed him to starve to death. Jenkins did not know that his inhumanity was bound to provoke a horrifying response from some sections of the government, so blinded by their hatred of English politicians that they take a very vengeful approach to workers in England.

But Jenkins is not a lone figure. His policies in the Stagg case are matched by the general responsibility of the whole Labour government for the rising death toll in Ireland.

The root cause of the present horror in Ireland is the British demands that for centuries British governments have insisted on ruling all or part of Ireland.

Party broken up by fifty police

Lloyd Stephenson

angered. The shock of their arrest hasn't died quickly. Mrs. Stephenson, with her two children, has not been able to sleep for weeks. She has been taken to hospital on at least two occasions.

The police are using force. They have used a gun, and the children have been threatened with violence.

Intimidation

The police made no arrests, but they took Lloyd's passport, and his children's passports, and his children's school records.

Lloyd told us he had to leave the house. He hasn't been able to return to it. He didn't even know what drugs were being examined.
WHERE THE MARCH GOES

THE MARCH FOR THE Right to Work will start in Manchester next Saturday. For 50 unemployed women, workers from all over the country are marching all the way to London to demand the right to work. The women are members of the National Right to Work Campaign, which is organizing the march.

WHAT THEY ARE MARCHING FOR

1. Opposition to all forms of political activity against women and men.
2. Nationalisation of trade unions and control of their activities.
3. The right to work for all unemployed workers.
4. The right to work for all unemployed workers.
5. The right to work for all unemployed workers.
6. The right to work for all unemployed workers.
7. The right to work for all unemployed workers.
8. The right to work for all unemployed workers.
9. The right to work for all unemployed workers.
10. The right to work for all unemployed workers.

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

The Right to Work March is a peaceful protest against the government's policies which have led to the current unemployment crisis. The March will start in Manchester and finish in London, where we will demand the right to work for all unemployed workers.

Support the Right to Work Campaign!

We are raising money for the Right to Work Campaign to support the March for the Right to Work. We will be collecting donations on the march route and at the march site in London. Please support us, as we believe that the right to work is a fundamental human right.

Right to Work March
SPONSORSHIP FORM

I/WE WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR

(Name of marcher)

FOR

[Length of time sponsored]

NAME OF SPONSOR

And/or TRADE UNION ORGANISATION

National Rank & File Organising Committee

TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS

SUPPORT AND SPONSOR THE National

RIGHT TO WORK CAMPAIGN

Sponsorship details at

Enquiries to

Right to Work pamphlet available now from Right to Work Campaign, 4th Prince George Road, London N16. Price 10p a copy for orders of ten or more.

Bernard Laroche, Federal Father of the Chapel, Kindish Times, Sidcup, secures jobs for the unemployed.

Bernard Laroche, a member of the National Right to Work Campaign, has written an open letter to the government, calling for the right to work for all unemployed workers.

The government, which has been responsible for the current unemployment crisis, must take action now to ensure that all unemployed workers have the right to work.

In the 1930s, the government's policies led to mass unemployment, and the right to work was a fundamental human right. Today, we must demand the same right for all unemployed workers.

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Electricians back campaign

A BIG meeting of rank and file members of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union gave its support to the Campaign for the Right to Work at the weekend.

Bobby Bird, an unemployed plumber and secretary of the Manchester Right to Work Committee, told the meeting in Birmingham last weekend: 'Our trade union officials agree to mass redundancies. They're the ones who get hammered.'

'We've got to get the unemployed off the dole queues to fight for themselves. The Right to Work Campaign can do it.'

'There is aathlon, but it's because there's no leadership. The leaderships for united in year ago. Unemployed workers should pocket factory gates where they're working overtime.

'There's a mass of people who are just not on the electricity. We have cases of unemployed electricians being offered employment at 12 months by employers. These are the people who are being threatened.'

'It's up to us to stop the redundancies. We'll have to build up the EETPU members. We can do it. We can put more people in this country.'

'The meeting was called to support the Campaign for the Right to Work.'

Corduff EETPU No 2 branch have already sponsored the Right to Work Campaign. Other branches can do the same. All unemployed EETPU members will be told to support the Campaign for the Right to Work. 

The message that is coming over is: 'We're going to fight for the Union's democracy.'

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By MIKE FETZPATRICK, AUEW shop steward at Hallsworth and Ackroyd.

Challenge on overtime wins 16 jobs

A CHALLENGE on overtime has forced the management at Hallsworth and Ackroyd to advertise 16 new jobs.

One factor at Morris, near Leeds, has a long tradition of working overtime due to a slow-down in the local textile market. The workers have been promised a bonus if they agreed to work longer hours.

This week's overtime was being unofficial, saying: 'This is the second time.'

The workers arrived on the shop floor about 11am and were met by the managers. They were given lunch and were told to work. The workers refused to sign a contract which they said was unfair.

The management decided to refuse to sign the contract which they said was unfair.

The workers continued to work and were told that they would be laid off if they did not move. The management decided to refuse to sign the contract which they said was unfair.

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In the meantime, workers have been told to accept the new jobs or face the sack.

Civic reception

DERBY: A big reception has been held in Derby on Saturday 14th June for the first time in the history of the town.

The leaders of the city's Labour government and the MPs of the city council will welcome the members of the Trade Union.

The meeting will be held in the city's Town Hall, which holds 100 people. It has been booked for a special event. 

Two weeks ago, the major event of the week was the meeting of the Electricians' and Plumbers' Union. 

The management decided to refuse to sign the contract which they said was unfair.

The message that is coming over is: 'We're going to fight for the Union's democracy.'
The workers’ state

I SAID last week that IS believes that a workers’ state (the dictatorship of the proletariat) is an indispensable step on the road to socialism.

As Marx himself wrote in his critique of the first programme of the German Social Democratic Party: “Between capitalist and communist societies lies the period of revolutionary transformation of the one into the other.”

Corresponding to this is also a political transition period in which the state can be nothing but the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat (Marx’s emphasis).

I write Marx, not because I think that arguments can be settled simply by quotations from the master, but rather because Marx’s ideas have been so profoundly transformed that they are no longer relevant. In practice, Marx himself would have been completely out of place.

Not at all! Authorities need to be studied critically. But they need to be studied.

Foundations

We do not start from scratch in each generation. Not in the political sciences and their practical applications nor in revolutionary Marxism.

We build on the foundations laid by others and modify only what subsequent experience shows should be modified.

The workers’ state

The workers’ state is born with the victory of the revolution. Wherever the workers’ state is not born, there is only a dictatorship of the bourgeoisie.

The workers’ state is born in the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie for the abolition of capitalism. It is the result of the struggle of the working class against the bourgeoisie for the abolition of capitalism.

The workers’ state is born with the victory of the revolution.

Corvee

In the context of the discussion on the role of the workers’ state, we need to consider the question of corvee.

Corvee is a form of compulsory labor that is imposed on the people by the state.

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THE WHITE racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia now face their biggest challenge.

That is the significance of the MPLA victory in Angola.

South Africa has been the first time in more than 40 years that white troops have been defeated by blacks in battle in Southern Africa.

The presence of the liberation forces in Angola has placed the prospects of the South African regime in a state of flux. The MPLA forces are now firmly established on the independence front and their victory is a major blow to the prospects of South African intervention in Rhodesia.

Failed fraud

In preparation for the South African forces to be involved in the Angolan fight, the ANC has sent its forces to Angola to prepare for the battle. The ANC forces are expected to play a significant role in the victory.

Callaghan defends racist regimes

JAMES Callaghan, British Foreign Minister, has long been a proponent of the racist regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia. He has been a strong supporter of the apartheid regime, and his government has provided significant support to the South African regime.

Illegal

The ANC and other liberation movements have been targeted by the South African regime, and their activities are considered illegal.

Join us in Skegness!

There is still time to join us for the Socialist Worker rally in Skegness on Saturday, March 5th. It will be a full day of talks, discussions, films and food. All events are free, and we need your support to make it happen.

Visit our website for more details.

Portugal bosses rampage

THE OFFENSIVE of the bosses in Portugal is intensifying.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of workers who went out on strike in Portugal are facing repression from the police. The strikes were a response to the government's austerity measures.

New law

A new law has been proposed in Portugal, which would criminalize the striking of bosses. The law would criminalize the strikers, not the bosses.

Rich

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Fields in the background

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Money

A new law has been proposed in Portugal, which would criminalize the striking of bosses. The law would criminalize the strikers, not the bosses.
Think what we could do if the union was run by the rank and file...

"JUDAS! You've sold us out!"
The shouts echoed through the huge Top Rank ballroom where workers from the transmission plant at Ford's Halewood, on Merseyside, had gathered to listen to their union officials.

It was the eleventh week of the great Ford strike of 1971. Moss Evans, Transport Workers Union official for the car industry had just given details of a settlement for £3 a week rise - £7 a week less than the men's demands.

The information came from a small, fair-haired steward in the front row.

Evans,戴上 and shi looks startled. But just think how much money I've won for you, he replied.

You've never won anything for us, replied the steward. We've had every penny by striking and stewards. And you sell us for £3, when we could have got at £15. Moss Evans almost broke into tears.

Len Blood, the negotiator, had been a steward at Halewood for some years and was impressed by the strike leaders' habit of doing things first, consulting his membership.

That Ford's strike was mass-staged, he continued. The membership knew that the £15 could be won if the mill's were hard and militant.

The meeting was still going on. Jones and Scandal went out to the back of the negotiating committee to talk to the stewards. And we sold you for £3, what could we have got?

Lost £7

When Hugh Scandal, the Engineering Union (AUEW) president, came to an AUEW function in Liverpool a few weeks later, Len Blood refused to shake hands with him. "You've sold us out," he said. "You sold us out for a few quid for your membership card."

Len Blood, angrily?

"No. And I've never sold you £7 a week either."

In union elections this March, Len Blood is standing for assistant general secretary of the AUEW as the Engineering Candidate.

He is a man of undying hatred of the employer and his system, confidence that the workers have the power to beat both, and contempt for union officials who put their own interests ahead of those who represent and depend on the workers.

"I don't know where I got the hatred from, he says.

"At the factory works where I got my first job, the foreman was a bloody bully, and you had to call him Sir. I've always detested that sort of thing, he says. "I've always hated stewards, and officials." I've always hated stewards, and officials."

Len Blood was on the strike committee in two big disputes at Ruston, Parnam's factory in Vulcan Village.

The militant workforce at the Vulcan led the engineers to design for the 35-hour week.

"Tone it down"

I remember the report back from the final negotiations at Knebworth, says Len. "They were led from side to side by John Tobche, the union's Manchester divisional organiser. Tobche was one of my bastions. I had him down as a left-wing, and a fighter.

"Our local district secretary, Jim Caffrey, he's really a good official - was standing away at the bosses, when Tobche suddenly stopped the talks and took us out of there. He said to Caffrey: "Look, you're a union official - you're not looking after the interests of the union."

So when we look over Ruson Parnam, we occupied the boardroom. Some of us sat round the table pretending to be directors. Others would knock on the door and creep in cap in hand. 'We're sorry, Sir,' we'd mumble. 'We're frightfully sorry, but we can't go on with it. Sir.' Why not? To keep them on, Sir, and we couldn't stop laughing.

'There is no such thing as an industrial relations system, I say. 'You've got to do it that way.' This was one of the most effective meetings we've had.

Sat back

We could run a real campaign, a national strike campaign for the 35-hour week - just like we should have done in 1973. We could win the 35-hour week.

'It's not a dream. It's a real possibility. And that would put a stop to this unemployment nonsense once and for all.

'I think Bob Wright's performance at Chrysler was dreadful, I can't understand why they are still there. I think they are still in the job.

'There's no reason on earth why we should give 1,700 million to some crook in a bonnet shop.

"The boys would have been convinced if they were at Ford's, and the government would have been convinced in a flash.

'The policy of the Labour Party is the same as it was two years ago, and instead of the International Socialists, he was working at the time that the
SADIE'S MOTTO: You get nothing out of society unless you fight for it — so FIGHT!

(On 17 Feb 1973, Sadie Blood won a large bottle of whisky in a Co-op raffle. Len, her husband, wanted to raffle it for muscular dystrophy. Sadie had another idea: "Let's take it to the Miners' Welfare and raffle it for the pickets," she said.)

PHILIP was always slow at walking. We took him to an orthopaedic surgeon who prescribed built-up shoes. We bought the shoes—they were very expensive—but they didn't make the slightest difference. He was three years old before we insured him. We put him in a boot and he stood up. The doctor said this meant we were being tricked by the shoes. He was six and we had made the mistakes. Then he was too old for the raffle.

"When I heard the news, I was very shocked," Sadie said. "I don't know what to do now."

But the senior citizens' council came to the house. "We will take care of the children," they said.

"You can only do things with the help of the church," Sadie said. "I don't know what to do now."

Len Blood and his workmates are making a fight for them.

If people like Len Blood, with the strength of rank and file organizations behind them, are elected to control our trade unions, those unions can become dynamic instruments of workers' power.

The engineers' Charter group has started a new journal, written and edited by rank and file members of the AUEW. For a copy of the first issue, which includes articles on the postal ballot, equal pay, the Right to Work Campaign, and the AUEW right wing, send 17p (including postage) to ENGINEERS CHARTER, 46 Prince George Road, London N16.

SADIE and Philip Blood think the wheelchair left them to be used.

SADIE'S MOTTOS: You get nothing out of society unless you fight for it — so FIGHT!
The struggle that is ahead

CONNECT the fight against unemployment with the coming resistance to the next round of Labour’s wage freeze. That’s the key for revolutionary socialists in the months ahead, Tony Cliff told the International Socialists’ National Council.

He stressed that the main task for revolutionaries is to build an on-going rank and file movement of trade unionists around the Right to Work Campaign.

The next date after the Right to Work Rally on 20 March and the Assembly against Unemployment on 27 March will be 31 July, the day the next round of the incomes policy should come into effect.

The government will have more difficulties selling the next round than the last. Because there will be more “non-voluntary” redundancies than during the last six months. This means that real unemployment and those who want a proper future will force their demands.

We will have to argue in each and every workplace, in each union conference. We have to fight the trend to regulations that link unemployment to the operation of wages policy, that demand a new round of redundancies.

We have to fight for the building of the rank and file organisations in each union and each factory.

TONY CLIFF: it’s difficult to build.

Our success is a threat to the Community Party, but it has not even begun to win itself support among those who deplore Red’s leaving a syndicate. So, in order to build for us, we have to build.

Reports from last weekend’s National Council of the International Socialists.

northern UP

GLASGOW: Socialists on the General Motors picket line outside the North Kelvin site of the factory. This was a picket against the sackings of strikers from the factory last year.

AFRICA FORUM: Socialists on the picket line outside the Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh. This was a picket against the sackings of striking black workers.

Southampton teachers win

The Socialist Worker reports from the Southampton Teachers strike in February.

The strike lasted three weeks and saw the teachers win major gains.

In the community that racism strikes, so it’s in the community that it must be[wed]

Kam Goods, an ian trade unionist who writes for the Socialist Worker, kicked off the discussion on the International Socialists’ work among black workers.

The problem is to build a rank and file organisation that is not dominated by the Labour Party. But the possibilities now are better than ever.

Cuts

Iain White pointed out that neither the Right to Work Campaign nor the National Union of State Employers are interested in the cuts.

Sheffield Local London unemployed were the only workers to have a press conference on the cuts.

Jack Robertson, a Manchester organiser, told us that he had to work to avoid redundancies.

Just around the corner from the employers, you can see people fighting for their jobs.

CHINGARI ALI

FLAME: successes we must build on

"It’s in the community that racism strikes, so it’s in the community that it must be wedded to the struggle." Kam Goods, an ian trade unionist who writes for the Socialist Worker, kicked off the discussion on the International Socialists’ work among black workers.

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WORLD STRUGGLE: INTERNATIONAL vs MULTINATIONAL

CHRIS HARMAN, introducing the discussion on the role of the International Socialists in the International Struggle, said that the International Socialists’ solidarity work is focused on the central strategies and events that do not have the emphasis of our work.

Until 25 November, Portugal was still in the middle of a national referendum on its new constitution. We have to start by looking at how the working class has responded.

City

The central struggle is in Angola. Victory for the Popular Movement, the MPLA, over the movement of the Angolan workers in the demand for decent pay and trade protection. We have to start by looking at how the working class has responded.

The Bank and File Committee is the main organisation that organises the socialist and communist parties in Portugal. As STC, STS, and MAS workers have begun to organise, the experience and tactics of the workers there can be useful to Portuguese workers.

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Who said politics and theatre don’t mix?

The BRITISH, they told us at school, were famous all over the world for their love of the un

This may well be true of certain sections of the British population. However, for the sake of argument, let's assume that we are talking about the British government. The British government has a long history of interfering in the arts, particularly in the theatre. This has been a source of controversy and criticism for many years. 

The Thatcher government, for example, cut funding for the arts in the 1980s, leading to a backlash from artists and the public. More recently, the government has been criticized for its cuts to arts funding and its policies towards the creative industries, such as the Creative Industries cupboard. 

However, the government is not the only actor in this drama. The British theatre scene is also home to a number of political figures, such as Tony Blair, who was a member of the Labour Party and served as Prime Minister from 1997 to 2007. 

Blair was known for his interest in the arts and his efforts to boost the creative industries. He was a strong supporter of the Tate Modern museum, and was a frequent visitor to the London Theatre. 

This is not to say that politics and theatre cannot coexist peacefully. Many successful productions have been staged in the UK, and have been well-received by both politicians and the general public. 

But it is clear that the relationship between the two is complex, and that both sides must be careful not to let politics and theatre interfere with each other. 

The ultimate goal should be to create a rich and diverse cultural landscape, where both politics and theatre can flourish.
Postal Points

I WAS appalled to read last week’s article on homelessness in the UK.

What the hell do the British Government think they’re playing at?

It’s like a sort of sickness in the Dark Ages, especially in the housing crisis. People are living in slums, in small rooms, in shared flats. Some are even living out on the streets. The government is not doing enough to tackle this issue.

JILL CARTER, Leeds SE13.

Now I want to help

I HAVE only just come to realise the impact of homelessness in the UK.

I have been working in the area for only two years, but I have always been involved in helping those in need. I have seen firsthand the horrors of homelessness and the ways in which the government is failing them.

I want to help in any way I can to support those struggling with homelessness.

LONDON W1.

Devolution: But...

PERHAPS it was because I haven’t seen SW for the last few weeks, that my brain went into overdrive when I saw it last Thursday.

Especially magnificent was the phrase of shock showing the people are in dire need of homes and the lack of provision for private sector investment. This is a real threat to the future of the city.

LONDON SW1.

LISBON LETTER

IT seemed to me that the changes on the streets of Lisbon were significant. The city is different now, more modern.

The streets are cleaner, the buildings are taller, the shops are more diverse.

It is a remarkable transformation. The changes are a testimony to the progress of the country.

PORTUGAL.

The North Memorandum Committee of the National Union of Civil Service Employees has passed a resolution condemning the campaign against the National Union of Civil Service Employees.

We have also instructed our delegates on the West of England Prevention of Terrorism Bill to use any means necessary to ensure that the campaign is halted.

The aims of both are to protect the employee in white-collar and blue-collar jobs, and against attacks by those who seek to undermine the unions and their dedication to their work.

If you want to find more about Socialist Worker and the International Socialists, fill in the form on page 15.
Students take on the Right—and win

By Lindsey German

RIGHT-WINGERS in the student movement got a shock last week. There was a move to smash the power of the National Union of Students by getting local student unions to leave it. They seemed all set to gain some more ground among the universities, following a wave for disaffiliation from the Student Union of Scotland in Scotland.

But then Manchester University, where the right is quite strong, threw out their call by a massive majority. Even more surprising for the right was that they were defeated in a secret ballot. And this after a large union meeting had decided by yes votes. The right had expected that a secret ballot would give them overwhelming support.

But the right wing had been defeated without the Manchester University Students Union (MUSU), the nation’s largest Students’ Union. By the opportunity, young people spoke out in favour of the MUSU and against disaffiliation.

"We definitely saw the MUSU as wonderful, being the only union of how we stay in NUS and change it so it’s more democratic."

Bars

On the day the vote was announced, the MUSU was cleared of posters and students left messages of solidarity and support to the student union. The students in Manchester showed they were angry about the issues and against political domination by the right wing. They made this known by breaking out of claquishness and talking to students who don’t necessarily go to union meetings.

And out at Plymouth Polytechnic there was an even bigger betrayal of the students’ movement. The call for disaffiliation was lost by a majority of the NUS.

Clique

But the lesson of the Manchester vote is that the Central Labour Party and the Labour Party, student organisations, is that the Central Labour Party and the Labour Party, student organisations, is lost.

At the end of the weekend over the weekend, the Broad Left editorial board of the Conservatives, Students’ Federation and the Union of the Liberal Students calling on student unions to play a full and active part in the NUS.

By their actions, they are providing a cover for Tony, whose policies are ideologically roused to take over the union and to win.

MEETING FOR INS 1st Joint Organisations on Sunday, 5th February, 8.30pm, International Institute of Proto-Stram.

ABORTION: MP’S VOTE IS A THREAT TO EVERY WOMAN

Now the TUC must be forced to act...

JAMES WHITE’S Bill had one intention. To change the 1967 Abortion Act which had for the first time, given women some legal right to abortion.

The Act’s main clause says that if there is a risk to the physical or mental health of the woman, or her family, then she has a right to an abortion, if she so chooses.

But White wanted to change to that risk.

But it isn’t just a matter of one woman. Every woman who has been unwanted would have to prove that she was at risk.

The bill should be rejected and stopped. For those who were, done, were done, and should be made it right, not made worse.

Delay is the world’s undoing after women who want abortion. The 1967 Act was full of requirements which would delay abortion even for those who needed it.

Against

And then, as a final blow, he proposed reducing the legal limit for abortion to ten weeks.

That’s why we’re at the act. Why our members want an abortion. The 1967 Act was full of requirements which would delay abortion even for those who needed it.

That’s why we’re against the Ramillies’ Act. We demand that it be scrapped.

But we are concerned that the members of the TUC are not aware of the dangers of abortion. The TUC agreed to campaign actively against the White Bill. The TUC is up to its make-

SPEAKERS: Speakers are from the Broad Left. Speakers include, among others, the NUS, the National Abortion Campaign, and local and national unions.

Free abortion on demand!
A woman’s right to choose

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NALGO members locked out in gas battle

The British Gas Corporation have now locked out members of NALGO in a series of training centres throughout the country. This move follows previous warnings from NALGO that they would not accede to a package of concessions including a 10% reduction in the gas workers' wages.

The Office of Pay and Prices has already issued its statement that it would use the threat of lockouts to enforce the 10% pay cut. This has been welcomed by the Gas Corporation as a means of restoring its profits after years of losses.

NALGO members (including engineers) are currently engaged in a four-day lockout at the Gas Corporation's training centre in Great Yarmouth. The employers claim that the lockout is necessary to protect the company from further losses.

The Gas Corporation has already started to use contractors to run the training centres during the lockout period. However, NALGO has vowed to continue the strike until all of its demands are met.

**NOTICES AND MEETINGS**

**Anger**

At a meeting last night, a foreman from the local NALGO branch said: "We have had enough of this! We will fight back and we will win!"

The Gas Corporation has been accused of using aggressive tactics against its workers, including threats and violence. The company denies these allegations.

The Gas Corporation has also been accused of using foreign workers to replace the striking workers. However, NALGO has vowed to continue the strike until all of its demands are met.

**Civil servants fight for jobs**

A new proposed policy on pay and conditions for civil servants has been met with resistance by NALGO. The union has warned that the proposed changes will lead to a decrease in the standard of service provided to the public.

NALGO has already started to negotiate with the government on the proposed changes. However, the union has warned that it will continue to fight for the rights of its members.

**Clanson's still solid**

SOUTH AFRICA: A new proposal by SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation) has been met with opposition by NALGO. The union has warned that the proposed changes will lead to a decrease in the quality of service provided to the public.

NALGO has already started to negotiate with the government on the proposed changes. However, the union has warned that it will continue to fight for the rights of its members.

**PRESTIGE VICTORY**

NORTH WALES: Building workers at a new Holiday Centre site have won a strike. The workers were due to begin work on the site next month, but they have threatened to walk out in an attempt to secure better pay and conditions.

The building workers have been fighting for better pay and conditions for several years. However, they have been met with resistance from the building industry.

NALGO has announced that it will continue to fight for the rights of its members.

**Redesign**

A new design for the gas pipes is being developed by NALGO. The new design aims to improve the safety of the gas supply and reduce the risk of accidents.

NALGO has already started to negotiate with the government on the proposed changes. However, the union has warned that it will continue to fight for the rights of its members.

**Carrot**

There would be problems in the future. The government has been accused of using aggressive tactics against its workers, including threats and violence. The government denies these allegations.

The government has also been accused of using foreign workers to replace the striking workers. However, NALGO has vowed to continue the strike until all of its demands are met.

**Laurie Flynn**

Laurie Flynn is a freelance journalist and writer. She has written extensively on the topic of the gas industry and its workers. She has also written on the topic of civil servants and their rights.

NALGO has announced that it will continue to fight for the rights of its members.
**GREENEWS: NO SACKINGS:**

**WARRINGTON:** Management's attempts to make 75 per cent of workers redundant at Greenhouses has been defeated.

When they called a meeting to discuss layoffs, management grinned as the local Congress of Overseers' Union. The meeting lasted for three hours, and the decision was put to a vote. The vote was unanimous against the layoffs.

**SOUTH WALES:** 200 workers at Sageways, Aberconwy, have been occuping the factory for two weeks in defiance of their bosses.

John Harris, who has worked there for 20 years, said: "They told us to divide and go. We won't go."

**Fiesta workers:**

SHEFFIELD: The 50 strikers at the Fiesta plant in Sheffield have gone back to work after winning a reinstatement battle.

"The strikers were not satisfied with the final settlement," said a spokesperson. "We will not go back until we are fully reinstated, with our previous job conditions."
IF YOU VALUE YOUR JOB SUPPORT THIS STRIKE

Jack Smith, leader of the Basildon Bus drivers, is leading the strike.

Thousands of workers are expected to strike tomorrow against the cuts proposed by the National Bus Company. The strike is expected to be the largest in the sector's history, with up to 70,000 workers expected to join the picket lines.

The National Bus Company has announced plans to cut 1,000 jobs and reduce services in areas that are not profitable. Bus drivers and their unions have responded with anger, with many suggesting that the cuts will lead to reduced standards of service and a decrease in the quality of public transport.

The strike comes as part of a broader campaign by workers across the country to oppose cuts and defend their jobs. Unions have called for widespread action to show solidarity with the striking bus drivers.

The cuts announced by the National Bus Company are part of a government drive to reduce public spending and cut costs. However, many workers and unions suggest that the cuts are unnecessary and will only lead to further hardship for those who rely on public transport.

The strike is expected to cause significant disruption to public transport services across the country, with many people urged to plan ahead and use alternative forms of transport if possible.

The strike is set to start at 6am tomorrow and is expected to last for 24 hours. Workers are expected to join picket lines in large numbers, with union leaders predicting that the strike could be the biggest in the sector's history.

The National Bus Company has said that it will operate a limited service during the strike, but many workers and unions suggest that this will not be enough to meet the needs of passengers.

The strike is a clear signal of the anger and frustration felt by workers across the country, with many suggesting that the cuts are not only unnecessary but also unjustified.

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