How many must die before the government see sense?

FORCE THEM TO PAY THE FIREFMEN

Firemen picketing Kingsland Road fire station in London where local building workers who marched in their support.

A demonstrator in Liverpool on Saturday when firemen's families marched in their support.

THE GOVERNMENT is waiting for people to burn to death.

That is the desperate ploy it is using in an effort to deny firemen a living wage.

The Financial Times reported on Monday: "The government hoped to mobilise the force of public opinion against the strike."

"The view was, apparently, that many deaths which arise from inexperienced and ill-equipped troops being unable to cope would be blamed by the public on the strikers rather than the government."

"The government is still following this inhuman tactic. It knows that the flying Goddenes, the large numbers of inexperienced soldiers, the handful of experienced RAF fire fighters, the wild talk of seizing breathing equipment and turntable ladders from fire stations, cannot deal with any major fire."

It is almost as if the government is waiting for the firefighters themselves to burn to death. They are offering the army to do the job for them. They are offering to the army to do the job for them.

To the firemen's demands for a living wage and an end to the witch-hunt atmosphere around their work.

A week would cost you £43 for his life. Our families run the same risk as you. Support our campaign.

Press ahead

The army took half an hour to get there. It is up to all of us to stop the government's antics.

The more other workers join the firemen's demonstrations, the more we can take a stand in support of the firemen, the more quickly the government will give in to the firemen's demands for a living wage and the fewer will be the number of unnecessary deaths.
THE LEVEL OF ACTION BY THE FIREFIENDS AND SOLIDARITY SHOWN THEM BY OTHER GROUPS OF WORKERS HAS BEEN MAGNIFICENT. IT WOULD TAKE ALL 16 PAGES OF SOCIALIST WORKER IF WE WERE TO PRINT DETAILS OF EVERY MEETING AND COLLECTION, BUT HERE ARE SOME OF THE BEST:

EVERY STRIKE IS A VICTORY. IT GIVES WORKERS THE TIME TO TALK AND TO THINK.

These are the words of a French poet and song writer speaking on a recent visit to Britain. His words might almost have been a tailor made description of the firemen's strike.

The strike has led to an explosion of activity and creativity among rank and file firemen. They have taken the streets by the hunk and are determined to fight to win.

For millions of ex-firemen, the strike has been a source of inspiration. For some, it is the first time in years they have felt a sense of purpose and solidarity.

The strike has been covered extensively in the media. The firemen's struggle is now a national issue.

CHEERED

These same people probably believed the same thing when they heard the news of the mine closures.

They are the people who have been fighting for their jobs and their future for too long. They deserve victory.

They are the people who have been fighting for their lives.

They are the people who have been fighting for their families.

They are the people who have been fighting for their country.

They are the people who have been fighting for their democracy.

They are the people who have been fighting for their rights.

They are the people who have been fighting for their future.

They are the people who have been fighting for their humanity.

They are the people who have been fighting for their life.

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PAY THE FIREFIGHTER!

Why you should support your dad—Lesley Day

MY FATHER is a fully qualified firefighter and is based in the East End of London. After 27 years in the service, he has taken some time out to work on various projects, including London Firekeeping, for a brief time. His dedication to the service and his love for his family is evident in every aspect of his life.

The conditions of work are often challenging, but his commitment to public safety remains unwavering. He has made many sacrifices for his family, always putting their needs first.

I know how hard it is for families to support their loved ones in the face of such challenges. That's why I'm writing to you today. My father has always been there for his family, providing a steady source of income and support. Now, I'm asking you to support him and other firefighters who are facing similar situations.

The firefighters are on strike, and I'm writing to you because I believe it's important to stand with them. The strike is necessary to ensure that the rights and safety of firefighters are protected.

I urge you to consider supporting the firefighters in any way you can. Whether it's by attending a demonstration or by spreading awareness about their cause, every little bit helps.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lesley Day

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Above: The firefighters' vote demonstration in Liverpool on Saturday.

ON THE MARCH

by W. Inches, Tayco Fire

Brigade Officers' Committee

THE DEMONSTRATION was called by the Tayco Fire Brigade Officers' Committee, and supported by Dundee Trades Council, attended by nearly 500 firefighters from all over Scotland.

Despite the freezing temperatures, the firefighters showed their support for the strike and the need for better pay and conditions. They walked the streets of Dundee, chanting and carrying banners to express their solidarity.

The firefighters are striking to demand better pay and conditions, and we must stand with them.

Please help me to help you

by a Daily Newspaper

This is an urgent appeal to all readers to support the firefighters in their strike. The strike is in response to the government's proposed cuts to firefighter pay and conditions. We must stand with the firefighters and demand better pay and conditions for our hardworking firefighters.

The firefighters are on strike to demand better pay and conditions. They are fighting for their livelihood, and we must stand with them.

Our livelihood—Your lives

by a Fireman at Kingsland Road station

After four inquiries and many unsuccessful promises, we have now been forced into a strike action. Our pay is so bad that many of us have to apply for free school meals. We cannot maintain our families, and we must fight for our rights.

Your life could depend on a firefighter whose mind is occupied with such problems. In order to work, we need to be paid.

The firefighters are striking to demand better pay and conditions. They are fighting for their livelihood, and we must stand with them.

We need your support to ensure that our firefighters are treated fairly and paid appropriately. Please stand with us and demand better pay and conditions for our hardworking firefighters.

The firefighters are striking to demand better pay and conditions. They are fighting for their livelihood, and we must stand with them.

Why the press are against us

by W. Inches, Tayco Fire

Brigade Officers' Committee

The meeting and demonstration were organized by the Tayco Fire Brigade Officers' Committee, and supported by Workers Voice.

The firefighters were joined by a large crowd of supporters who voiced their support for the strike. They marched through the streets, chanting and carrying banners to express their solidarity.

The firefighters are striking to demand better pay and conditions. They are fighting for their livelihood, and we must stand with them.

We need your support to ensure that our firefighters are treated fairly and paid appropriately. Please stand with us and demand better pay and conditions for our hardworking firefighters.

The firefighters are striking to demand better pay and conditions. They are fighting for their livelihood, and we must stand with them.

Pay the firefighters!

ATTACK

As a result of this witch-hunt, Rank and File Fireman apologizes to all readers and supporters for the fact that articles from the Fireman now have to be anonymous to protect our right to strike.

The Daily Strike News has been able to come out of the names and brigades of the firefighters who were involved in the strike. The result: a massive witch-hunt by the EC against the strikers.

Ronnie Robertson, a Strathclyde delegate to Congress, who was actually refused entry to the EC. He challenged the decision and was suspended from office and received a copy of the decision, which they would not break the rules of the FRB.

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PAY THE FIREMEN!

Why soldiers break the strike

BY A FORMER SOLDIER

IF YOU'VE been watching the BBC News over the past few days you'll have seen pictures of young soldiers stumbling out of smoke-stained buildings, choking their guts up, with tears streaming down their faces, and wondering what the hell they're doing there.

I know exactly what they must feel like. Three years ago my time was spent getting a special treat.

Glasgow, it seemed, was about to become a plague of rats. Kids, possibly of a million, were turned loose, and rats and rabbits spread like wildfire.

The reason?

A group of greedy drivers had decided they wanted more money, and the country could afford and were prepared to create a break estate to get it.

So they formed the Blackfriars Group, took over the Blackfriars estate and burned the buildings.

Every day a week this was the daily routine.

But the government was powerless to do anything, so they had to go.

What happened next shows why so few soldiers attempt to organize as trade unionists inside the army.

I want to take in the politics and military correction of the cities, not only local, but also national, so I will begin by describing why I am being asked to deliver this question to the people.

A group of political leaders had decided they wanted more power, and the country could afford and were prepared to create a break estate to get it.

So they formed the Blackfriars Group, took over the Blackfriars estate and burned the buildings.

They were only too happy to help, and the army was powerless to do anything, so they had to go.

Blackmail

If you talk to the people, they will tell you that in the army, soldiers, usually employed by the army, have been used to protect themselves being used more and more as strike-breakers, preventing ordinary workers from winning a decent standard of living.

Today it's firemen that the soldiers are being used against. Who will it be tomorrow?

WILL A WITCH-HUNT BE THE NEXT WEAPON?

The government has been looking for a scapegoat for the strike.

The government calculated that the public would turn against the strikers and branded them as black-clad wreckers.

Wilson

But the government was wrong. When there were reports of almost unanimous support for the strikers from other workers, the government was shocked.

The government faced two choices: they could either try to get the strike back to work, or they could do something about the public inquiry. The government chose the latter.

In terms of money received, the government was not a failure but a victory. But by the witch-hunt tactics, the government was not only successful in blocking the left but also in winning the hearts and minds of the people. The government had made its point.

Communist Party members were arrested. The contents of taped telephone calls were revealed. The whole campaign was doomed from the start. The government knew it was winning.

A government report was leaked to the press, attacking the Labour government and its policies. The government was pleased with the results.

Salvage

But the government did not let matters rest there. They will seek to salvage from the strike a victory, and in doing so they will face both the public and the workers. The government must be careful not to let the government get the best of the workers.
PAY THE FIREFIERS!

The firemen need their rise,
All workers need a rise,
And the country can afford it

The firemen are not the only group of workers upset by the 10 per cent limit.
Local government manual workers, health service workers, ambulance workers, dockers, miners, seamen, all have pay claims in for much more than 10 per cent.
The government claims the country cannot afford to pay these claims, without forcing up prices and inflation, so creating 'sellers' money'.
But there are at least two ways of satisfying all these claims without pushing up prices at all.

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

THE Royal Commission on the Distribution of Wealth reported last week. It showed that the top 5 per cent of the population share between them nearly 14 per cent of all personal income.

Put it another way, if we really were 'all in the same boat', none of us would be forced to live on the same average income as other people, then enough money would be released to increase the pay of the top 50 per cent of the population who are poorest by 30 per cent each, without prices rising by a single penny.

This is without taking into account the vast amounts of property owned by the rich, often the massive profits they receive from the companies they run—cars, company meals, company houses, underhand, tax-free payments paid into bank accounts in the Cayman Islands.

The government's policy is not one of 'equal sacrifice for all'. It is a defence of the existing inequality of wealth, which is forcing down the living standards of those who work for a living and forcing up the living standards of those who live off directors' fees, property speculation, dividends, and money lending.

THE economic crisis means that less wealth is still being produced in this country than five years ago, or even than during the three-day week imposed by Tony the Treasury Minister Edward Heath at the beginning of 1974.

If the shut-down factories were opened up and the £1 million unemployment were allowed to work, vast amounts of new wealth would be created. A recent estimate by Frank Field of the Child Poverty Action Group is £5,000 million a year.

When you add to this the £2,800 million a year paid out in various benefits to the unemployed, you can see that there should be plenty of wealth available to pay all workers' wage increases big enough to catch up and overtake price rises.

What stops this happening is the present organisation of society, with control over industry lying in the hands of a small group of very rich people, whose only concern is making profits. Because they are not satisfied with the level of profits, they allow factories to shut and force workers on to the dole queues.

The government occasionally claims to be socialist. But instead of taking measures to deal with the power of these parasites, it is attacking the living standards of workers in the house, using the troops to reinforce its wage controls and killing the lives of hundreds of people.
The only possible reply to the wage controls of such a government is for other groups of workers to follow the firemen's lead, to demand wage increases that will overtake prices, and to strike in support of these claims.

COMING TO THIS CONFERENCE
-FIREFIERS' LETTER

An appeal from Fire Brigades Union brigade and branch officers:

Dear brother/sister,

We are firemen on strike to win a living wage. Rank and file support from other trade unionists is vital if we are going to win. Our is a fight against the government's 10 per cent pay limit.

This is why we urge you to make certain that your union organisation is represented this coming Saturday, 26th November, at the National Rank and File Delegate Conference in Manchester.

RANK AND FILE DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Support the firemen
Smash the 10 per cent limit
Saturday 26th November, 11.30am, New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester.

CITATE CREDENTIALS: Delegates with letters of authorisation from their branch/shop stewards committee secretaries will be able to get credentials at the door of the conference.

Transport to the conference:

LONDON: Taxis to Newcomen House, St. James', £5 return. Tickets to the Rank and File Centre, 204a Beverly Street, W11. T. 01-723 4790. £1 return.

SHFORD, 5th: Home Ford, near Road, £5 return, £1 return.

GLASGOW: George Square, 750, £5 return.

BIRMINGHAM: 750, £5 return.

NOTTINGHAM: 8th, 5th return, 750, £5 return.

STOCKPORT: 750, £5 return.

YORK: 750, 750, £5 return, 750, £5 return.

LEICESTER: 750, £5 return.

WHERE THERE'S FLAMES THERE'S BUSINESS

The Royal Insurance Company announced its results last week for the first nine months of this year, showing a profit of £50.8 million on the same basis. The board said this was an improvement on the previous year's £40.7 million profit. But it was still an improvement because of the success of the company in putting out fires in industrial properties.
ONE OF the most ludicrous arguments you hear is that things can be different to the way they are now. Yet things were different. And not on some distant part of the globe, but in this country, not so long ago.

A mere 150 years ago people would have regarded you as a lunatic if you had described to them the world we live in now, with its huge conglomerations, its great factories, its planes, its space expeditions, even its railways.

For they lived in a society which was essentially rural, in which most people never travelled outside their local village, in which the pattern of life was determined, as it had been for thousands of years, by the rhythm of the seasons.

Go back a few hundred years further, and little of what we take for granted today existed. Life was not only poor, but also hard. Yet people were also happy, for they had to live in the village where they were born.

This simple fact was virtually incomprehensible to people who lived in today’s cities. They certainly did not feel they belonged to the same community. The local church, the local schools, the local hospitals, the local factories, the local sports clubs, the local pubs were all where people were born.

Non-Christians

It is only through its services and charities that many of the most powerful forces in the world, as we know it today, exist. Yet only a very few large cities are filled with smaller villages, where people are born, where they live, where they die. And in addition to this, there is the reality of the world where people are born, where they live, where they die.

There was no legal system as we know it, with courts, judges, policemen, prisons. The lord of the manor was also the lord of the manor, and could not be done in the village.

If there was a problem, the lord of the manor would refer it to the parish meeting, and if necessary, the lord of the manor would refer it to the lord of the manor in the next village.

Disaster

Two South London detectives were eventually exonerated in 1986 after a series of _Daily Express_ reports had suggested that they had been involved in a series of crimes.

The inquiry into the matter, which was conducted by the Independent Commission on Police Misconduct, failed to find any evidence of wrongdoing, and the two detectives were cleared of all charges.

The commission was set up in 1985 after the death of a police officer who had been shot dead in a precinct.

**We know, we know**

by Murray Armstrong

COMMISSIONER Murray Armstrong, the new chief constable of Hampshire, has been charged with 37 counts of corruption after a landmark report into corruption in Hampshire was published yesterday.

Parr was suspended and brought before a disciplinary tribunal last month. The report into the charges of corruption in Hampshire has been widely condemned as a direct result of Parr’s experiences in London.

**Respect**

But don’t worry, two senior officers from Nottinghamshire have been called in to conduct the investigation.

The inquiry into corruption in Hampshire is now in its second year, and the report into the charges of corruption in the force is due to be published later this year.

**The closed shop they don’t want to ban.**

FAIRER... In this year’s poll, a health study in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. A summons was brought against a doctor who had treated a patient with a 14-year-old girl.

When it appeared in court, the charge was dropped and the doctor refused to comment on the case. He was cleared of any wrongdoing.

The Chronicle reports that the doctor, Mr J. H. Smith, had been cleared in a similar case earlier this year. He is to be given a formal warning.

**CONFIDENCE OF BRITISH CONGRESS**

**In RHODESIA the white people are so keen to look after the blacks that they even do their housework for them.** — from Sunday Mirror letters page, 20 November.
PAY THE FIREFIEMEN!

A FIREFIEMEN SPEAKS OUT:

Why I am a socialist

TERRY SEGARS is regional chairman of the East Anglia Fire Brigades Union representing 2,500 firefighters. He has been a member of the union for thirty years. Last Thursday he took time off from the firemen's strike headquarters in Chelmsford to talk about his life and why he became a socialist:

I am the oldest son in a family of three living in North London from the age of about eleven my mother had to bring the three of us up by herself.

I suppose one of my earliest political recollections is how I came to see the welfare state.

My father had to rely on it. She worked occasionally in the local factories. But she couldn't work and see us at the same time.

I remember the welfare worker coming round from what was then called the Assistance Board. I can still recall her coming in and showing my mother something for smoking cigarettes.

She said: "Are you a pauper?" She demanded to know.

The welfare worker didn't know that smoking was the only thing keeping my mother sane. She didn't know that and she didn't care. It was horrible.

Dressed

My family was very proud of me. I'd got myself to the local grammar school. Only my mother couldn't possibly afford to keep me dressed in the same way as all the middle-class kids.

Things haven't changed, by the way. My daughter is at comprehensive school—there are more reactions about the colour of her gym slip.

Every Tuesday morning I always arrived late for school. The other kids and the other teachers knew the reason. I had to go and collect the family allowance from the Post Office.

Some teachers, others were not so about it. Maybe a few years later I had to go for a job interview. I lasted my interview. I didn't really know where I was. There were no deals in the job market.

I told my interviewers. I didn't really know where I was. There were no deals in the job market. I had to go and collect the family allowance from the Post Office.

So I left school. I just got a job in one of the local factories. I graduated towards the Labour Party that had become a socialist at school. The Labour Party seemed to be the place to be.

The International Socialism (now the SWP) had won the local election. One of them arranged a series of lectures on Marxism on Tony Cliff speaking. These made a real big impression on me.

I began to understand world problems and how they could be solved. I felt that I had part to play in solving them. That is what struck me most. Me and all the others writing things out.

I soon got fed up with bumping glass around in the glass factory. I was working in.

Interview by

John Rose

Terry Segars talking to fellow firemen picketing the fire station at Brentwood in Essex.

I looked around for something more interesting.

THF service caught my eye. It seemed more worthwhile. I liked the idea of helping people. So I joined.

I quickly worked out that I didn't want to become an officer. Even though such a prospect would be held out to me in an engineering union they took me on. I didn't like the tight hierarchy. I could see it as a waste of the class system.

Active

That sounds good. But that's why I have it.

In 1978 my wife and I moved out of North London and came to East Anglia. I became more active in the union and in the International Socialists.

There is one great advantage of being a firefighter. The job itself may be tough, but there is plenty of time in the new town. People want to talk.

That's what struck me most. Me and all the others writing things out.

I soon got fed up with bumping glass around in the glass factory. I was working in.

We're all the bodems out of the crashed cars—while the police get the credit.

Women cause lively arguments in the mess room too and not in the way that you would imagine. The page 3 of the Sun attitude leads naturally to the view that women are the weaker sex and therefore not strong enough to be firemen.

The only group I can't understand are the men over 40. They just don't want to be firemen.

Of course very few agree with my point of view. But they will listen. Your point of view is much more effective if you are union activist and have worn real pain for the men.

I think that's true. The men are more likely to be employed. That's because of the legal position—though I don't know of any improvements.

Of course for most people it seems like a "MAN's Job". Yet firemen have to be the first people on the station that are thought of as "women's work". We buy our food and cook it and we wash up.

But one subject above all others has dominated discussions in the mess room over the past months. Pay and pensions.

The vote on pensions just passed out. A pension by an industrial union is a pension by an industrial union is a pension by an industrial union is a pension by an industrial union is a pension by an industrial union.

We're all the bodems out of the crashed cars—while the police get the credit.

Women cause lively arguments in the mess room too and not in the way that you would imagine. The page 3 of the Sun attitude leads naturally to the view that women are the weaker sex and therefore not strong enough to be firemen.

Of course very few agree with my point of view. But they will listen. Your point of view is much more effective if you are union activist and have worn real pain for the men.

I think that's true. The men are more likely to be employed. That's because of the legal position—though I don't know of any improvements.

Of course for most people it seems like a "MAN's Job". Yet firemen have to be the first people on the station that are thought of as "women's work". We buy our food and cook it and we wash up.
WE'RE THERE! BUT...

WE'LL, we burst through the magic £10,000 this week. Your contributions brought it up to £10,152.

But the eviction from our headquarters at Cottons Gardens was something we hadn't expected. Several London branches (and one in Sheffield) have had to close as a result of the Nazi bombing. It is still being paid for until we can find another headquarters.

What we need is to make it £12,000 by Christmas. All over the country SWP members have responded to the fireman's strike call with leaflets, posters, demonstrations. These things cost money. And you are the only source of it. Send us your donation. Let's make that £12,000 by Christmas.

Donations to SWF, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

THANKS THIS WEEK TO:

- Manchester
- Gosport
- Southend
- London
- Adstock
- Bury St Edmunds
- Gloucester
- Swindon
- Bradford
- Edinburgh
- London
- Shrewsbury

PARAFFIN HEATER: The heating in this tower block flat is centrally heated, but bills are rising so fast that many working-class people use paraffin stoves and Vole heater to save money. A paraffin heater, easily kicked over by children, is the quickest way to an appalling death.
They profit from your loss

CEILING TILES: Made of highly profitable polyurethane foam to keep the room warmer. In a household fire they burn to give off poisonous gas. They also melt and drip from the ceiling on to anyone below who is attempting to escape the fire. The result is very much like napalm.

FURNITURE: When set alight, this combusts into deadly gases which choke you and blind you and kill you. For years, the Furniture Workers Union and the Fire Brigades Union have been campaigning against this deadly foam—but getting nowhere. The big petro-chemical companies like Shell and BP have been making vast fortunes out of the stuff.

ELECTRICITY: Foreign critics of the British electrical system say they don’t understand why such a high-powered current is used for domestic purposes, increasing the chances of being electrocuted and the risk of fire.

CARPET: Probably foam-backed, again producing poisonous fumes when on fire.

Asbestos: What’s your fire door covered with? Asbestos sheeting probably—which may be fireproof, but is deadly if dust from it is inhaled. Your ceiling tiles may be asbestos too. Like fire, asbestos kills.

ALTERNATIVE

There’s profit to be made from both. In a society run under workers’ control we would do away with this obvious stupidity. If the priority was human need not private greed, houses would be ten times better designed using solar heating for a start. Nor would power stations blow off massive amounts of heat into thin air—it would be conducted to heat local housing.
Public meetings and events organised by the Socialist Workers' Party and its fraternal organisations.

Send details of meetings and notices to reach us by first post Monday at the latest, to Whats On, Socialist Worker, PO Box 82, London E9 0DS.

**JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS**
**DON’T NEED WHAT JUDGES SAY**
**WERE NOT GOING BACK TO WORK**
**TILL WE GET EQUAL PAY**

Right to Work Christmas cards: six designs—postcard-type—two colours, 8p each or £1 for 20 plus 10p postage. Rush your money and orders to CARDS, 365a Seven Sisters Road, London, N1.

**BOOKS ARE A WEAPON IN THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM...**

...and this is where to get your ammunition:

**BRITISH**
London: 526a Seven Sisters Road, London, N1. Tel: 612 4755.

**SCOTLAND**
ALL GLASGOW Socialist Workers Party branches, 10 George Street, Glasgow, G1 3UX. Tel: 225 2164.

**ENGLAND & WALES**
LONDON: 526a Seven Sisters Road, London, N1. Tel: 612 4755.
BIRMINGHAM: 117 Wainwright Road, Birmingham, B30 2He.
MANCHESTER: 34 Westmoreland Road, Manchester, M40 7TH.
CARDIFF: 13 Westmoreland Road, Cardiff, CF10 5HR.
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**NOTICES AND MEETINGS**

- **BUILD THE SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE!**
- **Scotland**
- **Yorkshire**
- **North East**
- **North West**
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- **South West**
- **Wales**
- **Southern Africa**

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**WAREHOUSE**
Socialist Workers Party public meeting. The 66th anniversary of the Congress of Internationale Socialiste meeting in London. 3.30pm. **BRITISH**

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Reclaiming the night

by ANGELA PHILLIPS

THE NUMBER of times I've walked through London's Soho and been whistled at, commented on, leered at by those little creeps who haunt the doors of strip joints, you wouldn't believe it. But this time they were scared, scared of us, scared of women. It was great.

There were hundreds of us, all women, charging through the late-night streets of Soho. Some were dressed as witches and vampires, some bagged tin tins, leering, with streamers, eyeliner, whispered, whooped. We cut through the alleyways proclaiming the fact that women were reclaiming the Night, demanding the right to walk alone without fear, demanding our right to rage and to the exploitation of our sexuality.

Damage

At last, with the safety of numbers, we were able to proceed to put stickers on sex-shop windows, throw stalk bombs through sex-shop spray-paint displays. There was instant retaliation. A strip-club bouncer, astonished and alarmed at the devastating 'property', lunged out, striking women as they passed.

For an instant they drew back, in fear of violence and fear of failure, but then realisation dawnsed: this time there were more of us, this time we were stronger than him. He disappeared behind a crowd of angry, looking, fighting women. A feeling of sheer exhilaration took hold.

Sexuality

The Women's Movement isn't interested in her tight-arsed attitude to sexuality. We don't want to ban sex, we want to enjoy it, on our own terms and without exploitation. We were marching not to get laws changed or to punish porn peddlers, but to show that we recognise the connection between the sexual, social and economic exploitation of women and violence against women.

Women provide material for porn and pin-ups because the opportunities for earning good money, with flexible hours to accommodate child care, are few and far between. Women are always taught that the best way to please a man is by pleasing our bodies... models, strippers, doms, secretaries, receptionists, prostitutes, wives, our faces are our fortune and we, the fastest way out of poverty.

On the other hand, the existence of porn and pin-ups serves to reinforce the idea that bodies are objects, bits of flesh with convenient holes in them. While men keep on buying Tit and Bum magazines, keep on supporting the industry, they are contributing to the exploitation and degradation of female workers - the models - and all women.

Conspire

It isn't only that the existence of pornography is degrading to women, it is also dangerous. Television, films, records, books and magazines all conspire to tell us that women are sexually passive and men are sexually aggressive.

The sight of nude female bodies in attitudes of totally passive receptivity is so common in pornography that it is not surprising that real women are also treated as passive objects or that rape and battering are seen as extensions of red-blooded virility.

The demonstration, organised without publicity (people wanted to be outnumbered by the police), by word of mouth, meetings and discreet announcements in the women's liberation press, brought together hundreds of feminists in nearly a dozen British cities.

It was an expression of anger, and a demonstration of strength, it didn't give us answers but certainly gave us more courage to confront the questions.

HUGO DEWAR

THE PUBLIC

The Public is not people - it has no fixed abode and yet you'll never see it out tramping on the road.

It shifts around from place to place, and still you will not spot it in the dwellings where homeless people squat.

The Public is not people - it's not your next door neighbour or any other person who has to sell his labour. The Public's not a miner or a fireman, doesn't work upon the land - when ships are loading and unloading it doesn't drive a tractor or a train, lay a brick, dig a roof, clean a sewer, dig a drain.

The Public's not a teacher, not a scumman, not any kind of clerk - in short, you'll never find where the common people work.

For the family of millions always fighting just to get a living wage, will always be excluded from this phony Public's stage - where its self-appointed spokesmen, with sob and tearful eyes, for the divide and triumph, tell their half-truths and their lies.

THE TRIAL AND DEATH OF A POLITICAL AGITATOR

THIS true story is of a little Jewish boy from London's East End who, confronted by a Christian laddie claiming 'your people killed our Saviour', asked: Why?

On being told Jesus Christ had died, the lad said: 'I've never heard of the body'.

The lad must have received a shock if he ever did. School children are taught that the New Testament story was an ancient one; that the Jewish nation had been destroyed by the Romans and that the story of the crucifixion was an invention of the church to change the blame from the Romans on to the Jews themselves.

Yet the laddie was quite correct. The story of the crucifixion was invented by the Emperor Constantine the Great who the Church was keen to make of Christianity the Roman religion. The Emperor did this by having the Roman church leaders and the Roman people all believe that Jesus was the Son of God. The Church was then able to maintain the Roman religion and to control the Empire.

The Catholic Church has always been able to maintain its position in the world and to control the people by means of the Roman church leaders and the Roman people. The Church has always been able to maintain its position in the world and to control the people by means of the Roman church leaders and the Roman people. The Church has always been able to maintain its position in the world and to control the people by means of the Roman church leaders and the Roman people. The Church has always been able to maintain its position in the world and to control the people by means of the Roman church leaders and the Roman people. The Church has always been able to maintain its position in the world and to control the people by means of the Roman church leaders and the Roman people. The Church has always been able to maintain its position in the world and to control the people by means of the Roman church leaders and the Roman people.
LET'S HAVE A BIT MORE CARE TOWARDS EPILEPTICS

WHY DOES Alan Gibbons have to spoil an otherwise witty column? Socialists Workers Talk- ing, by referring to some newspaper throwing splinter of anti-semitism. Epi-lepsy was being done to death with ideology and I'm amused Socialist worker allowed such rubbish to go unedited. Epi-lepsy costs money for many reasons. They're connected with stimulation of the brain's electrical nervous systems. Many suffer very much like me can now be controlled by anti-convulsant drugs.

Given the fear and sensitivity of epileptics, however, even among normal people, it was no wonder most of us hide it from other people. When Manchester.

I was first diagnosed the condition at 10:12am reading. Writing. History. The lives of thousands of ordinary people are literally mutilated and propelled this illness.

PENNY KAB, Manchester

LISTENING to the radio recently had someone on about how necessary the present cuts in public expenditure were, how further cuts might be necessary and how important it was to stick together for the good of the country. Is this true? Is this how our country is to be saved? Does it mean that, if a mass explosion occurs, the whole of the world is saved? How was it that we in the 1930's were saved from the depredations of fascism.

DORK, UNBECK, Heidelberg, Germany.

You recently reported some layoffs at Wを持つ factory here in the North of Scotland. The firm owns a lot of factories in this area. Could you provide more information on the layoffs and the impact on the local community?

D.J. MONTGOMERY, Selkirk

I'VE BEEN on some of the demonstrations against the fascists in Britain. We don't have any similar active Nazi movement in Germany. The NSP is fascist but they don't yet

Chairman of the Salvation Army, 11am. All my sympathy with you.

DORK, UNBECK, Heidelberg, Germany.

POSTAL NOTES

dear to the point. All my sympathy with you.

D.R. STEINBERGER.

THE long-term interests of mankind and the short-term interests of big business open new frontiers. If the Nuclear Winter project goes ahead there will be no end to nuclear proliferation.

C.R. CHUNG, Edinburgh

I recently listened to a programme on the radio about the recent cuts in public expenditure. The speaker suggested that further cuts might be necessary and that it was important for the country to stick together. Do you think this is true? Is the future of our country really in the hands of the few?

DORK, UNBECK, Heidelberg, Germany.

When the social contract merchants come to town,

"Give your liberty to the County Administration. And to the houses that you occupy, the farms, the farms, the farms, the farms."

Ludus Committee, Ulster.

The secret of happiness lies in the simple pleasures of life. Our ancestors knew this and lived in harmony with nature.

WILLIE BENNET, Glasgow.

Choose two or more books from the following list:

State Capitalism in Russia, by Trotsky, Otis B. (p. 568-640);

Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe, by Chris Hitchens, p. 158-180;

Workers against the Monolith, by Ian Birchall, p. 158-180;

Communist Politics in Britain, by Hugo Dever, p. 158-180;

The Balham Group, by Reg Green, p. 158-180;

Capitalism and Theory, by Michael Heseler, p. 158-180;

Sixty years later, by Paul Fosh, p. 158-180;

Lenin's Last Struggle, by Max Wise, p. 158-180;

Socialism in the Spanish Civil War, by John Bowler, p. 158-180;

International Socialists, p. 158-180;

Chile, The Gollels are amongst us, by Helene Pinto, p. 158-180;

Lenin's Moscow, by Alfred Rosmer, p. 158-180;

The Emancipation of Women, by Eugene Thomsen, p. 158-180;

The Occupation of the Factories, by Sipriani, p. 158-180;

The Bolsheviks and the October Revolution, p. 158-180;

I ENJOY Marxian made, in 1984.

J.WILLIAMS, Middlebrough

A PARTY with the communist and revolutionary parties of the SWP must be more than an electoral tool to attract anti-communist members. To this we say resoundingly and publicly.

ILOESE, book Homage to Catalonia.

We are not joining the Spanish Civil War and think we need a new and honest way to do the work of the internationalist. We have completely been turned over to the official leadership. A new and hopeful way to do the work of the internationalist.

ILOESE, book Homage to Catalonia.

G. BEAM, Sutton.

IT WASN'T THAT GRIM

You'll find that the story of Granville, "The Grim Remaking", was a bit of an anti-climax as far as supporting a revolutionary line is concerned. The story should have been written as a continuation of the previous one, not a rehash of the same old propaganda.

Send your letters to: Letters Pages, Socialist Worker, PO Box 92, London E2 9DS

THINK!

I was disappointed at the back page headline in last week's Worker. The headline suggested that there was a lack of revolutionary enthusiasm among some people. I don't think this is true. I believe that most people have many criticisms of the capitalist system.

In this case people who buy the paper said that they didn't feel that they took it very seriously. However, the ability to criticize the article itself but it seemed to me that the headline was totally unnecessary.

JOE PREVOST, Liverpool

Is this a police shortage?

SOMETHING like that has been an issue for a long time. In the 1920s, when the Soviet Union was founded, there were very few police in the country.

JACKSON on Rank and File

TOM JACKSON, general secretary of the amap, the Union of Postal Workers, has just given a good reason for going to the Rank and File Conference. His speech was a call for unity, not just within the union, but among all those who work in the postal service.

I believe that e is not only for the benefit of postal workers but also for all workers in similar situations. We need to develop a strong movement that can unite workers across different industries.

G. BEAM, Sutton.

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G. BEAM, Sutton.

DON'T DO IT ANYMORE!

Some of the criticisms of the SWP are valid. They have been doing a good job of organizing and educating people about the importance of the struggle. However, I believe that the SWP has become too bureaucratic and authoritarian.

WILLIAM HURST, London.

I have been following the debate on the role of the SWP in the Spanish Civil War. I think that the SWP has been too interventionist and has not taken the needs of the workers and farmers into account.

WILLIAM HURST, London.

IT ISN'T AS BAD AS IT SEEMS

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Terrorism: Yes, a dead-end

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G. BEAM, Sutton.
IN THE NAME OF peace and brotherhood, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt has addressed the Knesset—the parliament of Israel.

Two thousand journalists were there to trumpet clichés across the world, and to pretend that his visit brought a ‘glimpse of hope’ to the Middle East.

For millions of Palestinian and Arab people in all Middle Eastern countries, it has brought exactly the opposite.

A week earlier, the Israeli government had shown what it meant by peace. It unleashed its bombers to pulverize refugee camps in neighbouring Lebanon.

Whole camps were destroyed by the bombs. Thousands were made homeless, and 500 people killed. Begin, prime minister of Israel, went on television to justify the slaughter. ‘We have taught them a lesson they will never forget,’ he said.

For both ‘brotherhood’ and ‘love’, all the actions of the Begin government have been directed to two aims:

1. To tighten the discrimination against hundreds of thousands of Arab people who live in Israel and in the occupied territories of the West Bank of Jordan, the Gaza strip and Sinai.

This is one of the most brutal occupations in the world. Any sign of resistance is met with a standard punishment: the blowing up of the安居 houses, and later enforced removal to the nearest refugee camp.

SUBSIDISE

In the face of even the American government’s pressure, Begin has authorised a huge government grant to subsidise more harsh settlements in the occupied territories, requisitioning more land.

2. To continue harassment of the Arab people in Israel and Palestinians in the occupied territories. Hundreds of prisoners, almost all of them ‘suspected’, are held in a concentration camp near the village of Elah near the West Bank of Jordan.

These prisoners are held for no reason other than their being Arab:

- There is not even a process of appeal.

All the Arab people in the occupied territories know that the only way of protest is by continued resistance.

A single protest against the 1967 war and the occupation of land, from the Nile to the Jordan, would bring a new war: ‘accidental’ or on purpose.

Why he went to Israel

by PHIL MARLETT

SADAT’s visit to Israel was a long awaited breakthrough on a path of desperation. It was not, as the press wants us to believe, a heroic act of courage to open a new path in Middle Eastern political life.

SADAT is the man of a man who knows that his time is limited, before his assassination from the memoirs of President Nasser 25 years ago.

‘If one day a few of my words are not of interest, they will have been almost hysterically anti-Christian and anti-American. From the beginning he threw Egypt into the western camp.

Display

He brought in American advisers and was assisted by President Nixon who he did not want to offend, or the children’s Egyptian economy on the 18th floor. Nixon promised $200 million dollars investment, by sadat, but did not succeed.

The price of the US policy is now among the world’s highest, with the debts of $16 billion, inflation at over 50 percent a year, a huge military build-up, social and economic depression and dreadful poverty.

SADAT’s wealthy Arab ‘friends’ in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf have done little to help him out. They are more interested in profitable investments in London’s ‘Maid of Orleans’ Park Lane.

But the warning Egyptian workers gave Sadat last January has not been forgotten. When, then, he tried to raise food prices, they rose throughout Egypt in huge demonstrations of anger.

More

Sadat backed down, while the army watched closely, undecided whether they would support him.

Sadat survived, just.

The initiative was a desperate attempt to win over Israeli support, to convince his ‘friends’ that he was not a man to reach a deal with ‘external’ powers, the Middle East conflict, and attract to Egypt the cash Sadat desperately needs.

The peace talks in the Gulf, he said, might be a way to make more money. It will create only more unemployment among Egyptian workers.
Reading school students drive out the Nazis

by COLIN COLDMAN

WHEN THE National Front were banned from meeting in Reading after a public outcry, they tried in desperation to recruit members from local schools.

A small group of school students had already got together to oppose the Nazis infiltrating our schools. We called ourselves Reading Schools Against Nazis and we leftfaced schools about the dangerous policies of the NF and how they affected school children.

The reaction of the school authorities was predictable. Some members were threatened with expulsion and teachers were banned.

But we refused to be intimidated. Support grew in schools, we went to the local press. When we heard the Nazis were trying to recruit from the schools, we decided to call a meeting for all school students opposed to the Nazis.

We produced another leaflet again and this time got publicity in the press. We printed 10,000 copies of a young people's leaflet and circulated it to schools with a subscription of 10p. We put a full front on the meeting so we expected it to be a good one. But the response surprised everyone. About 25 school students came along and most of them joined the call. In addition five other people joined since the meeting and the present membership is about 35, representing five schools in the area.

There was tremendous enthusiasm at the meeting. As well as fighting the Nazis everyone decided to fight against the weighting of school uniform, corporal punishment and other oppressive measures used in schools.

We all left the meeting feeling more confident about fighting the Nazism in our schools. The National Front, on the other hand, have been completely isolated. We have no doubt that there are any Nazis in our schools but they are isolated and feared and want to stay out in the open.

The reason Reading Schools Against Nazis has been so successful is because it has united all anti-fascists in the schools. This is why the Anti-Nazi League has been banned. What we have done in Reading should be taken up all over the country.

The Anti-Nazi League has produced tens of thousands of leaflets for distribution in schools.

Chris Frisby, from Reading Schools Against Nazis said: "These leaflets are bloody great. They are just the thing we need to bring home to school students exactly what the Nazi National Front stands for."

Never Again!

The Miners' Answer

by BILL MESSAGE

FROM THEM that do to them..." That was the message that accompanied three shovels delivered in 1977 to the National Union of Mineworkers at Blackley.

The shovels, one each for the three NUM national officers, were delivered to Secretary General Joe Grimley, Daily Mirror and Media Executive and Carr McLean of the Daily Mirror by Mr. A. M. Turner, press officer to the NUM.

The terms of the letter, which were dictated to NCB chairman Sir Derek Ezra by EAM Michael J. Flores, were written:

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One page of a document with visible text and some handwritten notes. The text appears to be a mix of English and another language, possibly Spanish. The handwriting is difficult to read, and the context is unclear. The document seems to be a personal or informal note rather than a formal report or letter.
Shock at palace as commoner is born

The nation was plunged into mourning last week as the news came through that Princess Anne was delivered in hospital of a commoner. This is the first time for 500 years—and the first time ever in the Hanoverian dynasty—that so dreadful a deformity has been born to a royal person. Doctors and midwives gasped as the appalling spectacle reached from the royal womb. It had two arms, two legs, a head and body. There's no cure for it, pronounced the Queen's Doctor through sobs. Not was there any sign of a tail! The creature was entirely naked! No arms or legs rested its small body! The worst shock came when the tiny being started to cry. There was no sign of any royal accent in the cry. Said a statement from the Royal College of Physicians: 'It might for all the world have been the cry of a servant girl's child.' The Queen and Prince Philip cancelled all engagements and spent the day in an effort to recover from the shock.

Shape
Every possible effort is being made by the royal family to cope in the most suitable and royal manner. The commoners are to be sent in batches to the Royal Hospital. None of the commoners' relatives are allowed to be near. They are to be kept away, as far as possible, from the royal family. The royal family have arranged for the commoners to be given names and titles. They are to be dressed in the finest clothes and taken to the finest rooms in the palace. The commoners are to be treated as members of the royal family. The Queen has arranged for a special trust to be set up to look after the commoners. The trust will make sure that the commoners are looked after properly.

Comish workers occupy!

by Jimmy Rule
CORNWALL: Over 200 workers at the Grunwick TV film-makers in the Sound Industries Group. Their strike began in protest against the company's refusal to negotiate with the workers over their demands for better pay and conditions. The company is run by a series of top executives from the film industry, including one who was a former member of the board of the company. The strike is supported by the Workers' Union and is backed by the local council. The workers are demanding better pay and conditions and the end of the use of blacklisting.

Area
Management's response to the workers' action was to attempt to bribe the workers. This move led to the workers' rejection of the offer. The workers, who are the most recent to be blacklisted, are also the first to support the Workers' Union in their actions. The company is refusing to negotiate with the workers and is still using blacklisting.

London Airport: Hundreds out against racism

A white supervisor gets into an argument with an Asian employee. He orders him up a spiral staircase on to the roof of the building. He challenges the Asian worker to a fight. The Asian worker asks if the supervisor wants to kill him.

This incident happened at London's Heathrow Airport. Asian workers in the catering units at Heathrow have been putting up with this sort of harassment for months. But on Friday last week they'd had enough. 400 workers stormed out of the gates after two shop stewards had been told to 'bugger off' by a laundry supervisor called Shephard.

Stick
Shephard had arbitrarily changed the shift of a laundry worker who had been sick. When two shop stewards, Gurubhaj Shekhan and Anwik Ral, complained, he just abused them. If the bosses take the same attitude throughout the airport, nearly a thousand Asian workers could be on strike in the biggest Asian strike ever.

This is the first such strike. Three years ago when Asian workers struck at the Southside catering unit over appalling working conditions and racist treatment, the Race Relations Board referred the case to the Race Relations Complainants Committee of the National Joint Council for Civil Air Transport. The catering unit shop stewards submitted a document to be examined by the union leaders.

Transport
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Threat
They describe unbelievable incidents of constant harassment of the Asian employees by the white supervisors. Rudehness to the women workers, threats of physical assault on men employees are the norm.

The airport committee rejected the workers' demands and declared there was no racial discrimination at the airport. The committee has promised to look into the matter, but the workers are not convinced.