

# womens voice

We're women, we're workers, we're fighting

October 1976 No 34 Price 7p

# PRICES OUTRAGE

# WHERE WILL IT END?



**TWO YEARS** ago the price of meat went up and we stretched it with more potatoes and carrots. Last year potatoes went up and we stretched it with carrots and swedes. This year carrots are 12p a pound, and the Daily Mirror says that potatoes will cost 20p-30p a pound after Christmas.

Filling up with a cheese sandwich and a cup of tea isn't on. Bread, milk, cheese and butter have all gone up—butter by nearly half as much again. Now the Government is to end the subsidy on tea. A quarter pound packet of tea will cost 2p more.

For two years the Labour Government and our trade union officials have promised us lower prices if we accepted wage controls. Now Government figures show that prices are rocketing—as if we didn't know. They also promised us more jobs, yet unemployment is higher than at any time since the Second World War.

On top of all that they are hacking the public services to pieces. Our health, our education is in danger—they go to private hospitals and send their kids to private schools. *We pay for their cuts.*

We are all much poorer than last year and this winter we will be poorer still. Already the Government is saying vegetables will be dearer because of the drought—a drought that has been expected for seven years because of constantly falling water levels. And the falling pound will make things much, much dearer.

The only way any of us will be able to cope this winter is with more money. The Government norm of 4½ per cent must be broken. We support all workers fighting for higher wages. We support all workers fighting the cuts. **WE CAN'T AFFORD NOT TO FIGHT!**

**COME TO THE CONFERENCE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE CUTS! see pages 2 and 8.**

**TRICO: 5 MONTHS ON STRIKE AND STILL GOING STRONG. FIGHT FOR EQUAL PAY NOW! see page 8.**

# ABORTION - WE'RE STILL FIGHTING



NAC Rally, Trafalgar Square, earlier this year.

## The Churches' Last Stand?

**THE Roman Catholic Church is in a bad way.**

In France, Archbishop Febre leads a movement to save the old Latin Mass—outlawed by the Pope. He has the support of reactionary, old-guard Catholics around the world. They call the Pope a protestant and a hypocrite. Their action could lead to a split with Rome.

The Church is suffering in other ways. More and more people are rejecting its teachings. Church attendance has declined

drastically over the past few years.

A quarter of the world's nuns have renounced their vows and returned to ordinary life.

Priests are demanding the right to marry. Women are demanding the equal right to be ordained.

Perhaps more serious than any other single rebellion has been the refusal of Catholic women to go on having unwanted children.

All round the world women are disobeying the Pope's orders. They are

tasting the freedom that comes from not being forced to bear a child every year.

Nothing could represent more of a threat to the Pope than this silent subversion of his authority by Catholic women... and men.

So he has dug in his heels. He has repeated that using contraceptives is sinful. And in case you want to seek alternative sexual relief—sorry, masturbation is sinful too.

Like King Canute, the church leaders are trying

desperately to hold back the tide: the tide of freedom from sexual guilt, the tide of liberation for women. And they are using opposition to abortion as their strongest weapon.

Forced to retreat on other fronts, they are determined to make their stand for survival on this issue.

They know they can exploit fear and revulsion. They offer mystical arguments about the human soul. They stoop to the most vile and exploitative propaganda to muster their wayward half-believers.

When the church hierarchy plead for life, what they mean most of all is *their* life.

## MP's Decision-Women Will Suffer

**NO SURPRISES... As expected, the Select Committee on Abortion—the MPs who are supposed to recommend changes in the law on abortion—has come out against women. Their first report, published at the end of July, must have made happy bedtime reading for many a SPUC member.**

**Here is how they plan to make it more difficult for ordinary women to get an abortion if they want one:**

- Refusing to allow profits from nursing homes to be used for running charitable referral agencies—they're trying to bankrupt places like the Pregnancy Advice Service.

- Reducing the time limit from 28 weeks to 20 weeks, while making early abortions harder to get.

- Making the paperwork even more complicated than it is already.

- Allowing the police to look at records at advisory clinics, nursing homes and even pregnancy testing centres.

- Increasing the fine for breaking any of these regulations to £1000, and extending the time limit for prosecutions.

- One of the two doctors giving permission for an abortion to need five years experience—and the two doctors cannot be partners.

- ALL procedures which might end a pregnancy (even things like scrapes) to be reported as an abortion.

- Complete anonymity for anyone who prosecutes a doctor.

## SEVESO MURDER

**ON 10 JULY** the Icmesa chemical factory in Seveso sprung a leak. A whole area was so poisoned that the people who lived there can never return, they can never have a single thing they owned out of that area. They call the area, 'Area A'. Area 'B' the Italian authorities say is less dangerous, and in area 'C' people are still living. But the whole area is covered with sickly animals and dying vegetation. The poison released—dioxin—poisons all living things and that includes foetuses.



In the Seveso area 1000 women are pregnant. Already two of these babies, conceived before the disaster, have been born without brains. But the Catholic Church is determined to protect the 'rights' of such foetuses. A pregnancy counselling service has been set up by the reactionary Christian Democratic Party. It is a 'service' that James White, Jill Knight and 'Lifeline' would approve of. They tell the women not to panic—that dioxin is not so bad. The result is that only 14 women have had abortions out of the 1000. Only 400 women will actually admit to

## Cardinal Blesses Poison Planes



Cardinal Colombo, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Milan, campaigned to try and prevent pregnant women in Seveso having abortions.

The poisons released at Seveso not only cause foetal deformities, lesions of the kidney and brain, severe acne, and cancer. They also cause some pregnant women to miscarry—in other words to abort.

The US airforce sprayed dioxin and trichlorophenol extensively over Vietnam. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Spellman, used to 'bless the US bombers before they set out. There is no record of any protest by Colombo or his anti-abortion, 'pro-life' pals.

being pregnant. The 65 women who have agreed to an abortion have to get through a 'psychiatric' examination—they can actually be refused an abortion! Two women have had to come to London for abortions because their foetuses were over fourteen weeks.

The result is that the women are torn between 'eternal hell' and the horror of deformed children. They can see the dead animals and trees. They know about the chicken born in the safe area 'C' without eyes and with two beaks. They know of the children born without brains.

The Radical Party in Italy is fighting the Christian Democrats and the Catholic Church for the rights of these women. Adele Faccio, the Italian pro-abortion campaigner, is leading the struggle. Their struggle is our struggle. The situation in Italy is what SPUC and their supporters would like to return to here. All over the world a woman's right to an abortion is being challenged—in Italy they never had it. If we can mobilise against SPUC here we can help women in their fight against the Catholic Church in Italy.

Please, doctor, I've missed my monthly.  
Why this is simply great  
If I may put it bluntly  
You're raising our birthrate  
Please, doctor, now we're homeless  
But you'll have a bed somewhere  
So best put your feet up, moan less  
And force yourself to grin and bear  
You'll make a simply splendid mummy  
Producing cannon fodder from your tummy  
That's what your body's for, and you know it, what's more  
And it's laid down by law  
And now get this straight:  
You'll soon be a mother, just wait.  
But, doctor, no job or dwelling,  
My man would find kids the last straw.  
No rather a new compelling  
Objective to work for.  
But, doctor  
Really, Frau Griebel  
I ask myself what this means  
You see, our State needs people  
To operate our machines  
You'll make a simply splendid little mummy  
Producing factory fodder from your tummy  
That's what your body's for, and you know it, what's more  
And it's laid down by law  
And now get this straight:  
You'll soon be a mother, just wait.  
But doctor, there's such unemployment  
I don't follow what you say.  
You're all out for enjoyment  
Then grumble at having to pay  
If we make a prohibition  
You bet we've a purpose in mind.  
Better recognise your condition  
And once you've agreed to put yourselves in our hands, you'll find  
You're a simply splendid little mummy  
Producing cannon fodder from your tummy  
That's what your body's for, and you know it, what's more  
And it's laid down by law  
And now get this straight:  
You'll soon be a mother, just wait.

The ballad of Paragraph 218  
From The Collected Poems of Berthold Brecht, newly published in English translation.  
Three vols. £1.95 each. Published by Eyre Methuen.  
This poem is from the second volume, Poems of the Crisis Years, 1929-1935.

## Lifelines dirty tricks

The anti-abortion brigade have done it again. Their dirty-tricks department has been working overtime.

'Lifeline', which describes itself as a 'pregnancy counselling service', has produced adverts on railway stations and the London tubes, almost exactly like those of the 'Pregnancy Advisory Service'.

The only difference is that 'Lifeline' won't give you any help with getting an abortion. They'll just tell you you'd regret it, or try to scare you by saying it might make you sterile.

You see, 'Lifeline' is run as a charity by opponents of abortion, and is financially supported by, among others, 'Life', the anti-abortion campaign.

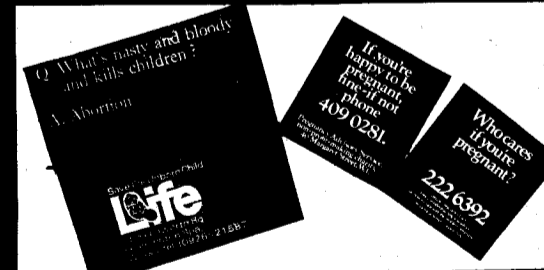
They have deliberately

copied the Pregnancy Advisory Service adverts in order to mislead and trap vulnerable women.

Chairman of 'Lifeline' is Jill Knight, Tory MP for Edgbaston, and fervent friend of Mary Whitehouse.

Recently Jill Knight wrote to the Charities Commission. She demanded that the highly respectable Family Planning Association be denied charitable status on the grounds that it concerns itself with influencing law reforms on contraception and abortion, and is therefore political.

Meanwhile, ghastly Jill Knight and her hypocrite pals continue to campaign on the streets, in the press, in the schools wherever they're given the chance using all the dirty tricks in the book.



A typical example of the emotive, dishonest and distasteful propaganda placed by 'Life' in the national press. Note that they say abortion 'kills children', which is a direct and deliberate lie.

## Picket SPUC

If you don't play the game you can't make the rules.  
Demonstrate against SPUC

Bradford: 1pm, Lister Park, Bradford.  
Chelmsford: 1.30pm, New Writtle Street, Chelmsford City Football Ground.

GLASGOW: Picket outside Kelvin Halls, 2.30pm.  
(Speakers inside include James White).

Before the pickets, Womens Voice supporters will be leafletting Catholic Churches and Schools, writing to local papers, getting onto local radio and organising support from local trade union branches. Be there if you can.

## WHAT WE THINK

Remember the Social Contract? It was supposed to hold down prices, help the lower paid and cut unemployment. But what have we got to show for it?

Higher food prices, higher fares and bigger and bigger gas and electricity bills. Council house rents are going up, and they're slashing hospitals and schools to bits. And still the dole queues grow.

If this was a Tory government we would all be out on strike. But where are the mighty men of the TUC. Where are the fiery socialists of the Labour Party? Where are Tony Benn and Jack Jones—hailed such a short time ago as the scourges of big business?

Some of them have come into their own in a full-time role. Bashing the militants. Horse-trading over social benefits. Holding back those of us who do want to fight for jobs and higher wages.

Len Murray called the Right to Work marchers 'political boot-boys'. The real bullies are these trade union bureaucrats and the Labour government. They put to the boot into the seamen to prevent them fighting for a realistic living wage.

Nowadays if you want to fight for jobs and higher wages, you have to take on not only the bosses, but those Labour ministers and the TUC leaders who love up to them.

Some workers are fighting, they are taking them all on.

But small struggles can be isolated. That's why we need a rank and file movement who will lead the struggle.

And that's why we need a revolutionary socialist party as the only fighting alternative to the sell-out Labour government, and the racialist parties of the far-right.



## RIGHT TO WORK MARCHERS ON TRIAL

DAVID HAYES was arrested on 19 March 1976 and has finally come to trial. Why? He was one of the Manchester to London marchers who were attacked by the police at Hendon and then charged with public assault. The Barnet Trades Council, who cover the Hendon District, enquired into the whole circumstances of the arrests and have called for a Public Enquiry. This demand has already received the backing of the local government workers union (NALGO), the civil servants union (CPSA) and the Fire Brigade's Union (FBU).

David Hayes has now been unemployed for ten months. He is a skilled welder and he explained what the Right to Work movement meant to him.

'In the thirties when the unemployed protested in the streets the police immediately batoned them down. This is what they did to us. All the way from Manchester to London we had a great reception from ordinary workers.

'We had entered factories, stopped overtime working, joined picket lines. We had begun to build the links between the employed and the unemployed and this is what the police were frightened of.

'Our best defence is still to build those links, and to build the campaign against unemployment and the cuts. The London-Bright Right to Work march was another step forward. The lobby of the Trades Union Congress put our case before the public. After we intervened at the 'Tribune' meeting and put our case the trade union leaders had to attack us as 'bully boys'. Because they had sold us out to the Labour government, but we had the support of rank and file trade unionists.

The Right to Work Campaign has now called a conference on 6 November against unemployment and the cuts. This conference can build the links between the employed workers and the unemployed. The bigger the rank and file movement, the bigger our defence.'

# FIGHT THE CUTS

Angela McHugh works at Rawplugs in Glasgow and she has been delegated from the Rawplug Shop Stewards Committee to go to the Right to Work Conference Against the Cuts and Unemployment.

Here she explains why she is going.

I saw what the Right to Work Campaign could do over unemployment. People were frustrated by the 4½ per cent control on wages, they were frustrated by unemployment, but they channelled this frustration through the Right to Work campaign and it brought a lot of people together to fight unemployment.

### FIGHT

Now we are trying to pull everybody

## IT'S UP TO ALL OF US

Maggie Jones works for Cheltenham Borough Council as a technician. She is a member of NALGO, the local government workers union. She spoke to Women's Voice about fighting the cuts.

'At last we can see the beginning of a wider fight against the cuts. There have been many local fights but now NUPE (the public employees union) and the CPSA (the civil service union) have taken the initiative and called for strike action on November 17th. My own union NALGO is calling for a full scale demonstration on the same day.

'Now it is up to all of us in local government and other public services to argue in our union branches and shop stewards committees not only to support the lobby of Parliament on November 17th but also to strike on that day. That way the Government will see that we are not going to be pushed around and we will not accept these cuts. It is only a beginning but it will be what we make it.'

together to fight all the small cuts that are hitting us so hard. In Glasgow they won't give free bus passes to school-children unless they live three miles away. It used to be two miles. Women in my factory have to pay up to six pounds a week to send their children to school. Of course in a high unemployment area they can't afford to. It takes all the women's wages and children are staying off school.

### CLINIC

In Easterhouse they are closing the Family Planning Clinic and the women will have to spend 50p to get to another. They are also closing the swimming pool on Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Women used to leave their children there when they went shopping but now it closes at 1pm.

All over Glasgow youth clubs are being cut back to one or two nights a week. New nursery buildings aren't being opened and plans for more nurseries are being scrapped. Nursery nurses have had their hours cut back, and their wages!

### TOGETHER

People are trying to fight back. A demonstration was organised over the school bus-passes, the Tenants Association in Easterhouse is organising to try and keep the family planning clinic. But these struggles are isolated and the Glasgow corporation is watching to see what it can get away with.

We pulled together on the Right to Work campaign and turned our frustrations into action. Now we need to pull everybody together to fight the cuts.



Make sure your voice is heard on the 6 November.

□ Get a letter of invitation for your trade union branch—then argue that you should be a delegate.

□ If you know of any disputes—on pay, cuts, redundancy—contact those workers so that they can send delegates.

□ Contact the Trades Council and local union branches—argue why they should support the conference.

□ If you are unemployed, contact your local Right to Work Committee—help to get the message round employed

workers. Make sure they argue your point of view.

The fight for the right to work and against the cuts will only succeed through the strength of employed workers.

Make sure this conference is a success!

**BAN OVERTIME  
BREAK THE 4½ WAGE  
FREEZE**

**FIGHT THE CUTS  
FIGHT FOR EQUAL PAY**

Letters of invitation for your branch, and information about your local Right to Work Committee can be got from: Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.

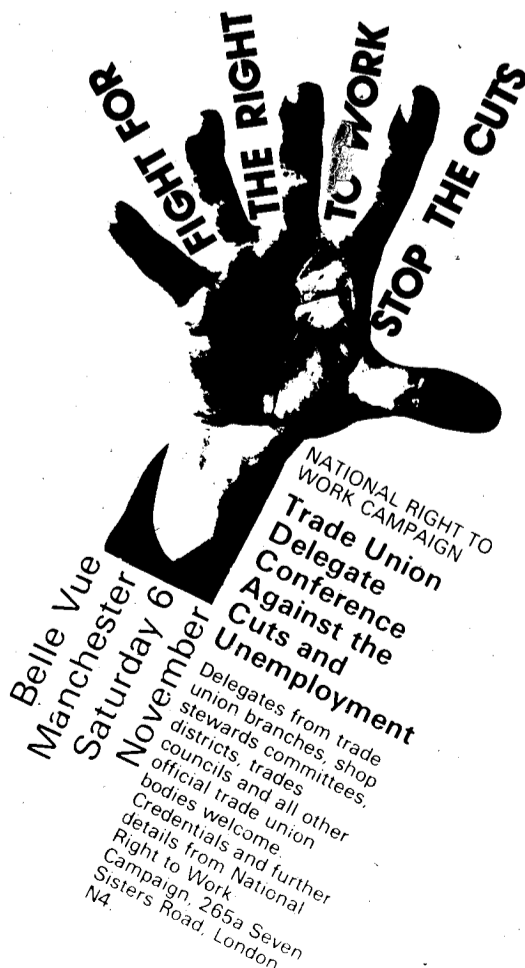
## ...ACTION!

ON THE 17 of November this year, there is going to be a massive protest against the cuts. The Civil servants union, the CPSA, has called for a one-day stoppage of all workers in the public sector on that day. It is also banning all overtime for the month of November.

Other unions are supporting the protest. NUPE, the public

employees union has called for a mass lobby of Parliament on that day, and workers in London are pushing for a half day stoppage. The London district of the local government union, NALGO, is also supporting a half day stoppage.

Women's Voice says: stay organising now. Max November 17th our day of action.



## GREY HAIR, BALD HEADS

GREY hair and bald heads. That's what you saw if you turned on your TV last month to watch the TUC's Brighton conference.

Not only was it packed out by men, and old men at that, but a huge proportion of those who spoke were full-time officials.

### WOMEN?

The shop workers' union, USDAW, for instance, has 153,653 men, and 223,649 women members. Yet its national executive is made up of 16 men and 1 woman, and its delegation to the TUC was 21 men and 5 women. And who spoke on behalf of nearly 400,000 shop workers? None other than Lord Allen. That's

right, LORD Allen. Not the first union boss to climb over the workers' backs into a peerage, and probably not the last.

The General and Municipal Workers Union, with 592,073 men and 290,283 women has not one woman on its national executive. Out of 68 delegates to congress only four were women.

The National Union of Public Employees, where women outnumber men by 2 to 1, sent only four women out of thirty three delegates. It has twenty men on its national executive and four women. And though it has 120 men working as full time officials, it has only two women.

Ordinary families can't afford butter any more. Its price has gone up 40 per cent this year alone.

This means there are piles and piles of unsold butter—the butter mountain—going bad.

Mr Lardinois (excuse the pun) of the Common Market thinks he has the answer. Put the price of margarine up—so they can't afford margarine either! He thinks if they can't afford margarine, they'll buy more butter....

# UNION MAN AMAZES WOMEN!

**IF YOU** make shoes then it is reasonable to join the appropriate union, NUFLAT, the National Union of Footwear, Leatherwear and Allied Trades.

If you make car components then it is equally reasonable to expect to join the appropriate union, the AUEW, the Engineering Union.

But that is not the case if you work for Chamberlain Phipps (Automotive) in Northampton.

Muriel Bamford went to work for Chamberlain Phipps last year. The union was disorganised, and she kept up her membership of the AUEW. With management's approval.

Early this year she started to organise all the women into the AUEW, to try and improve wages and conditions in the factory. 104 out of 147 women joined the AUEW.

That was the signal for the management to change their mind. From nowhere they produced a closed shop agreement with NUFLAT, and insisted that the women tear up their AUEW cards.

Muriel Bamford takes up the story. 'I was the shop steward. I'd taken the forms to the union and everything. And when the management organised this meeting. All the women were there, and Reg Ward the AUEW District Secretary. The management asked him if he recognised anyone in the meeting. And he said no!

'I was amazed. I got the women to hold up their union cards. And he still denied it. That was the day before we lost our jobs. We should be in the AUEW, not NUFLAT; we make car components not shoes. As Irish Abbs said, "You put car doors on your feet and see if you can walk in them."

Four women got the sack on 3 September for not joining NUFLAT. Iris Olivier, Olive Abbs, Dawn Hill and Muriel Bamford. Since then they have been picketing the factory, turning back lorries, trying to organise support for their battle.

The AUEW has sold them out completely. A week later the women received a letter

from Reg Ward washing his hands of the whole affair: 'The District Committee, having considered all the facts of the case and the petition, request you to withdraw all your action outside the above works.'

But Iris, Olive, Muriel and Dawn are not so easily put down. They travelled to London to picket the union head office. And they occupied the local AUEW office to force Reg Ward to do something.

'We just walked in', said Muriel. 'Dawn held the doors open for me and then she took the keys and shoved them down her trousers. He didn't

## GUTS

know what was happening. Eventually he agreed to do something. We'll see what happens this time.

'It makes you wonder how he got that job. He's got no guts and no stamina. But we're not going to be walked over just like that.'

Send messages of support and donations to Muriel Bamford, 14 Spnasdale Road, Billing Brook, Northampton. Telephone: 0604 23 3391.

# AUTOMAT WOMEN SHOW THE WAY

**FOR** eight months workers at Electron Automat, Manchester, have been on strike for union recognition. Half of the workers who are women and it is not surprising they wanted to be in a union. Last January the women were only getting £17 for a 40 hour week, before reductions. The men were getting an average of £33.

Tom Smith, the Convenor of the factory, spent three months of last year signing workers into the Engineers Union, the AUEW. When he

had got a majority of the 120 workers signed up he went to the management to get proper recognition. A week later he and seven others were sacked.

But unfortunately no meeting of the union members was called until a week after the victimisations. Even so, twenty-seven union members decided to strike for the reinstatement of the eight. Half of those were women and they have elected their own shop steward. They have been out on strike since 28 January. The strike could only last

eight months because of the magnificent support of engineers in the Manchester District. After a ballot of all the union branches a district levy was put on to pay the

## LEVY

strikers, and the strike pay has been very important in maintaining this struggle. The Automat strikers have also had great support on the weekly mass picket. On Thursday workers from Manchester and particularly from Gardner, Lawrence Scotts and Stockport AUEW have regularly come and joined them. Two Stockport AUEW members have been arrested on the picket line.

Although trade union officials and local MPs have spoken for the workers we can have no illusions that they will win the strike. It is the continuing and extended support of local rank and file workers that can win this fight for union recognition those who come to the pickets, and who pay the levy.

## RECOGNITION

This struggle is not an isolated one. All the small employers of Manchester are waiting to see if the Automat workers win union recognition. And it is not just the small employers who are interested. Manchester has traditionally been one of the most militant engineering workers districts—every employer wants to know if the AUEW can be beaten there. If Automat is lost we will all be set back. Even at this late stage it is not too late to mobilise the full weight of the AUEW in Manchester.



Right to Work Marchers supporting Trico women

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

VOLUNTEERS wanted for the Socialist Worker prospective parliamentary candidates Ken Appleby (Birmingham Stechford) and Jimmy McCallum (Walsall North)

Both candidates are in urgent need of volunteers to help the campaign. Especially welcome are typists, workers with motorcars and motorbikes. We will be campaigning throughout October and early November.

If you have an autumn week's holiday, why not spend it in the Midlands? Individuals who can spend a weekend, a day or an evening are urged to help.

Readers and supporters of Socialist Worker are asked to give time to the campaign.

When I can help  
Send to Jim Nichol, Socialist Worker, 6 Cottons Gardens, London E2.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Candidates Stand For Women's Rights

**WOMENS VOICE** has always said Vote Labour at election time. Now we think the time has come to say something different—VOTE SOCIALIST WORKER.

It's time to stand up to the Labour government. For women workers in particular the government has reneged on every promise it ever made.

The International Socialists are not standing in the election just to win votes—that changes nothing. But we are standing to show that there are a lot of women and men, who won't go on loyally voting Labour for ever when they know that a fighting organisation is there to be built.

Jimmy McCallum, Socialist Worker candidate for Walsall North, spoke to Womens Voice.

'Over the past year when the trade union movement, particularly the trade union leadership, have been reluctant to take on any serious wage fight, one area of struggle has stood out. Women workers, in many cases freshly recruited to trade unionism, having been fighting for equal pay.

In every case they have had to fight because the employers were not ready to give equal pay just for the asking.

And the attitude of the trade union leadership has helped the women involved to see what they have to

confront in present society. Many of them have seen how their own fight can be strengthened by linking their struggle to the general fight for change inside the British society and inside the trade union movement.

## LIBERATION

I think that the change in women's struggles from general issues to specific class issues like Equal Pay, has shown some of the weaknesses of the case put forward by the Womens Liberation Movement. It is now quite clear that the idea that women can achieve equality or personal liberation from capitalism is a dream. The way in which women will

organise and fight back—and not only on equal pay, but on child benefits and a woman's right to an abortion, on the particular oppressions of women in everyday life—has to be linked to the struggle on the factory floor and inside the trade union movement.

Women are poised to play a more massive role in the Socialist movement than ever before and their work will transform and develop the growth of socialist consciousness throughout British society. Ken Appleby and I are standing for parliament to voice the protest of all sections of the working class movement—including this year's fighters, the women.

# School Cleaners Take On Council

**ALL** over Scotland local Councils are preparing next year's budget. In their attempts to cut millions off social services they decided to pick on one of the weakest groups—school cleaners.

The cleaners have very little tradition of union organisation. The majority are part-time women workers, many are widows and the low wages they earn are their sole means of support. They are in one of the least well organised unions in the country, National Union of Public Employees (NUPE), with few elected officials.

school-cleaners would be easy meat but they were wrong. In the Borders when they attempted to cut the cleaners hours and their wages, the cleaners launched an all out strike with well-organised pickets. The Borders cleaners won and the Council will have to look elsewhere for their cuts.

The victory of the Borders cleaners have inspired others. In the Highlands over 500 school-leavers are on strike. The Council was proposing to save £130,000 on school-cleaning alone and cut back the hours by 15 per cent and

the wages by £4-5.

The victory of the Borders cleaners has done much more than inspire the Highlands however. In the Strathclyde region, which covers Glasgow and the West of Scotland, the Regional Council was proposing to sack 9000 of the 11,000 school-cleaners. Mass meetings of the cleaning staff in the Strathclyde region have forced the Council to back down. They don't want another Borders dispute! Now the cleaning staff are getting ready for a long series of small battles to preserve their working conditions.

The school-cleaners in Scotland are showing the way for all public service employees. Although the Highlands tried to cut £182,000 off teachers, the response was not the same. Now teachers all over Scotland, and all over England must take the opportunities that the school-cleaners strikes gives us to spread the case against the cuts. Teachers should approach the cleaners in their schools and together organise joint union meetings against the cuts. Cleaners should be prepared to go round school in other localities and force their unions to act.

# EQUAL PAY, CHILD BENEFITS... LABOUR SELLOUT

Ken Appleby will be standing in Stechford, Birmingham.

'No-one can be in any doubt the lengths to which our so-called "Socialist" Government will go to appease the ruling class, and to protect profits. Women in particular have been on the receiving end of Callaghan and Co's hatchet work.

Women are the first to be made unemployed, and they usually don't even appear in the government statistics. 'Officially' they aren't unemployed at all.

Women bear the brunt of inflation. They are usually in charge of the family belt tightening and it is their own belt they tighten first.

The cuts—with lack of services, longer queues in hospitals—are an added burden to women. Not to mention problems with ageing relatives when the little help they get is slash-

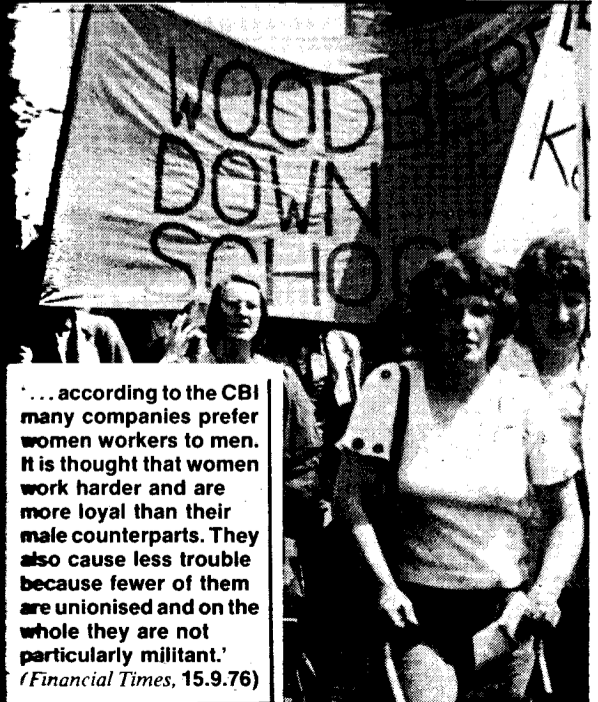
ed. But worst of all is the way in which equal pay has been avoided by employers, and avoided with the direct help of 'our' Government.

But how there is a fight back and women are playing a leading part in it. Our sisters at Trico, the many women on the Right to Work march and those involved in the campaign against the Cuts, are all helping to show the way.

## Rotting

But this is not enough. In the Walsall and Stechford by-elections Jimmy and I are running for parliament. Not because we believe in parliament, but because we are hoping to show we can build a socialist alternative. United we can fight the Labour Government's Tory Policies. All the women who read Women's Voice should support us in the elections.'

# WOMEN MORE 'LOYAL'



... according to the CBI many companies prefer women workers to men. It is thought that women work harder and are more loyal than their male counterparts. They also cause less trouble because fewer of them are unionised and on the whole they are not particularly militant.' (Financial Times, 15.9.76)

# THE FAMILY: HAVEN

## WHY MARRY?

*Most married women at home commit suicide either on Monday morning or Friday afternoon. More murders are committed within the family than anywhere else—they 'normally' take place at Christmas. Every year the divorce rate goes up—and yet every year even more people get married. Why?*

**WHEN you are a girl it seems a nice idea to get married and have your own place to live. No parents on your back, no need to spend every Saturday night down the local disco waiting for some bloke to chat you up. No need to make love in a back street or in a house where mum and dad might come in any minute. No more competing with other girls or worrying about how attractive you are—the poster of Clint Eastwood can now go in the bathroom.**

You can see yourself building some sort of life with someone you respect out of the wreckage of the world we live in.

Every young bloke knows it's great having a

drink with the boys every night and thumbing through the girly magazines, but then you get pissed and go home, the old man lays into you and the old lady wonders why you don't calm down—it's nag nag nag and the neighbours complain about the motorbike. You kick the tortoise and yell at the whippet, but it doesn't help.

Despite everything you feel lonely and it seems the only way you can really get through to anyone is to find that one person and make a separate world of your own together, shutting out all the emptiness.

When you meet someone special life seems better. Someone clicks with you—you can talk about things other people don't want to hear... there's some sort of purpose to it all.



## So what would you put in its place?

*Who will do the housework under socialism? How will children be cared for, how will we live together once we can decide how to organise our lives?*

*This is the first in a series of articles about alternatives to the family as we know it. We'd like to have your thoughts and ideas.*

WHATEVER is the alternative to the family? Personally I don't much fancy the idea of living in a middle class commune growing my own cabbages and feeding chickens.

My answer to living would be more in the line of the weekend holiday organised by IS at Skegness last Easter. Before you all start rolling up laughing, think of it...

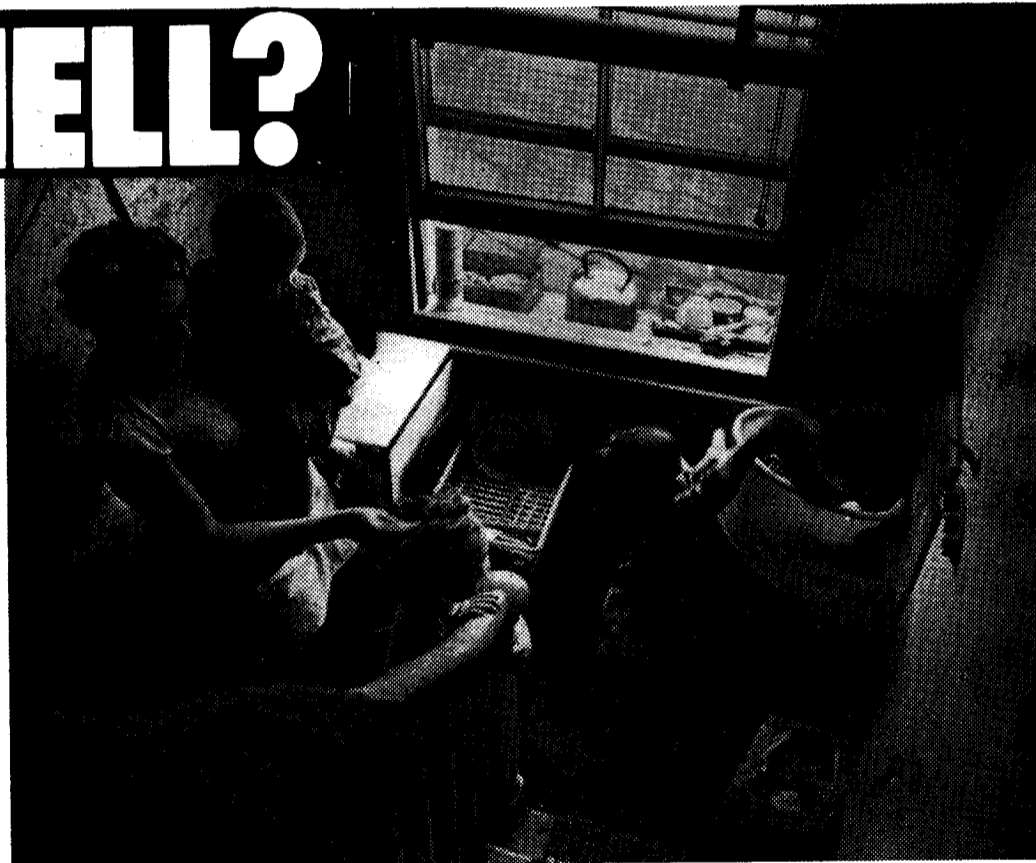
What could be simpler than communal laundries; huge restaurants where we all take it in turns to cook the food and everyone gets on with it together; entertainment made by the people for the people; pubs where the kids can come in as well; dormitories where they can sleep with lots of other kids instead of shut off in their own rooms; a community where to be single isn't seen as a stigma; where just because you're married it doesn't mean you can't have other friends; where you don't have to be married to have a child because you won't be economically dependant on one man; hostels where people can live together naturally without fear of moral retribution; where sex becomes a mutual pleasure and not a further means of exploitation and fear.

If this seems too simple just think—I'll bet there's a few people reading this article who'd love to go out tonight but can't get a babysitter. They can send men to the moon, but you can't get out to the pictures. But if your kid was sleeping in a communal neighbourhood dormitory being looked after by a qualified nurse... (one of the unstigmatised single people I suppose?)

If the capitalist class can provide Pontins, Butlins and Skeggy—I'm damned sure we can provide something a thousand times better, and not just for a couple of weeks a year.

Sure, relationships will still have their ups and downs and there will be many things to fight for—one of the hardest struggles will be to change the basic attitudes of men towards women—but there is no doubt in my mind that once we don't have to worry about where our next slice of bread is coming from, when all the boring routine jobs are socialised and children are cared for by the community, when we no longer have to invest our whole future in one person—then we can look around at our friends of both sexes and marvel that there is so much in each person to love, respect and admire.

# ... OR HELL?



## FAMILY LIFE

**Well... first of all you might have to live with your mum and dad for a bit, just 'till you've scraped enough money together for a flat. Trouble is the place is a bit overcrowded and tempers flare easily—and it's not much fun in a two bedroomed place where the walls are thin and you can hear every creak and gasp.**

Then you might be lucky and get your own place with your first three piece suite—two orange boxes and a tea chest. Both of you are working—both determined to have a go—in fact the hard times seem to pull you closer together. That fantasy land on the telly seems to come nearer and nearer. Then the old man comes home and tells you he's redundant, he's been victimised, he's on short-time working. Suddenly the newspaper headlines apply to you and you feel like kicking that bloody telly into the middle of next week.

The first baby is coming and now you're worried so much about the future that there doesn't seem to be much time to talk any more or to have a good laugh.

On top of all this, motherhood is not all its cracked up to be. A favorite method of torture, beloved by inquisitors, is to keep a person awake for long hours on end—your nervous system is torn to shreds and you crack up. But nobody thinks that for months and months mothers are up with kids in the middle of the night, and after three hours sleep have to be up

again at six. If you have a child that refuses to sleep during the first two years of its life the chances are that you will crack up. Your husband is working and he can't get up night after night, and your mum lives miles away, so the doctor gives you a little yellow pill to make everything seem o.k.

What with lack of sleep, money worries and sheer exhaustion its no wonder that you look for a scapegoat—someone to blame for what has happened to you. The wife blames the husband, the husband blames the wife. Perhaps it wasn't so bad going out with the lads—perhaps all your unmarried girlfriends weren't so fed up after all. The genuine friendship and warmth you felt for that one person has, despite everything you've done, been turned into something completely the opposite.

You fell helpless in the face of an increasingly lower living standard, cutbacks in the social services which directly affect you and your children, the threat of redundancy and the dole queue. Why should all the vitality and life which you thought would be spent so creatively suddenly be channelled into nothing but making ends meet?

It is not our failure—we are not superhumans. We try to escape from society through marriage, but it only drags us further down. No personal relationship can survive one hundred per cent against such odds.

**BUT WHAT IS THE ANSWER?**



WRITE TO WOMENS VOICE



at  
6 Cottons Gardens  
London E2 8DN

NUPE  
OFFICIAL  
STRIKE

WRITE TO WOMENS VOICE

Star Column? Darlington Diary from Canada

To sell Women's Voice, I suggest we should make the paper more simple and direct. A few good housing stories; about slums; such headlines as 'Why Mrs Jones had to wait a year for the operation that could have saved her life'—and, 'Daddy said we couldn't afford to go on holiday', would reach out to women and help sell the paper.

I realise all this sounds a bit 'Women's Own-ish'. I'd even have a housing, education, employment, health and agony column, even the 'Stars'. I hope I don't sound presumptuous. Womens Voice must be for women. Not just an elitist trade union magazine, but what the women really care about most. The way I see it, this is mainly school and jobs for their children, housing the health service, and old age pensioners.

The Rea St Nursery, for instance, impressed me more than the Trico strike. I see Women's Voice as the practical and lively magazine for women of all ages, races and levels of awareness.

Mrs Vivian Poole, Redcliffe, Bristol.

ED: We don't agree with all you say. What do other readers think?

WRITE TO WOMENS VOICE

Telly Twisters

By Eunice Sharples

YOU MUST have seen the recent safety adverts on telly. The 14 hour a day mum doing the washing, whilst two or three children play round her feet. It starts off full of sympathy. 'This woman works a 14 hour day.'—and your

It was a big step forward for Darlington when we collected nearly 200 signatures in 2½ hours for the Right to Work March at the gates of the Darlington Show. Darlington has never been noted for its militancy and the reply of one person was 'I've got a job mate.'

However, many people *did* sign which shows how even in places not so badly affected by unemployment, concern over the situation is growing.

It was interesting that many women signed the petition and expressed further interest. We also had six people say they were interested in marching.

This may not seem much, but for Darlington, it is a step towards further involvement from people hitherto cushioned and therefore unconcerned about the crisis.

Yours fraternally,  
Eunice Sharples,  
Darlington.

Thank you very much for amazing shipment air-mail of 20 copies of Womens Voice. Unfortunately (or fortunately) I sold them in about 20 minutes. For the up and coming issues could you please send 40 copies, air-mail?

Fraternally,  
Linda Briskin,  
Toronto, Canada.

Wages for Housework

Those Womens Voice supporters who have had discussions with our sisters from the Wages for Housework campaign will be interested to know that in Germany the right-wing Tory CDU party is offering wages for housework as one of its election promises!

Fraternally,  
Sandra Cook,  
London, E2.

WRITE TO WOMENS VOICE

attention is caught. At last! You think they're showing what women really have to put up with at home... But are they? Not a bit of it.

After explaining that mum is working 14 hours a day do they explain why we need nurseries free laundries, adequate home help? Not at all. What they DO say is that 'poor mum' no matter how tired must still find time to supervise ALL her children.

Well, supposing mum does decide that instead of washing, ironing, vacuuming, shopping and cooking she will spend the time with the kids. What then? Will the state organise a service to get these jobs done for her? *Not on your life!* They'll still be there for her to do.

So presumably mum is supposed to look after the kids all day and wash, iron, vacuum and cook at night? Double Shifts. Yes that must be it. They want to turn our 14 hour day into a 24 hour one.



Leah Wilcox circulated this petition. She got nearly 150 signatures.

We condemn the recent attempts by politicians and the press and television to blame such social evils as

Their future depends on us

homelessness and unemployment on black people, thus causing racist attacks and murders such as those in Southall and East London.

Condemn

We condemn the activities of the National Front and National Party and believe that black people should be able to come to this country without the special restrictions that apply only to them.

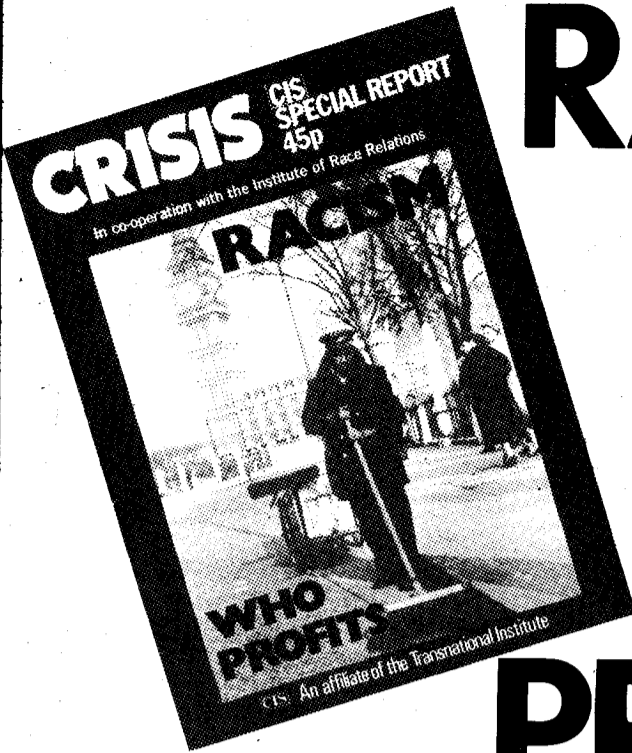
We stand for a united front of all working people

The Mary Whitehouse of Buckingham Palace

for the first time ever the Queen has made a political statement. It wasn't about Prince Bernhard, friend of Prince Philip and Lockheed. It wasn't about mass unemployment.

She has shown her true-blue colours. One of her

aides has announced that she too is against the film on the sex-life of Christ being made. She too, along with the 'majority' of her subjects, thinks the film is obscene. And she has received 150 letters from the 'majority' of her subjects to prove it.



WITHOUT MORALISING or becoming unreadable this new CIS report works on the sound base that racism is a symptom of that well-known disease, capitalism, and that the fight to eliminate racism is an integral part of the working class struggle and not an isolated one.

It outlines the immigration policies of successive governments, exposing how at times of relative boom immigrants are useful for the dirtiest and most dangerous industrial work. Now, at a time of economic recession, it suits employers, multinational companies and the Labour Government to lay off their immigrant labour and force through policies restricting UK passport holders and dependants of families settled here from

entering the country.

The racist propaganda put out by the press and the fascists of the National Party and National Front is annihilated with some well researched statistics.

For example:

□ In 1970-75, 1,215,600 people entered the country. 1,509,400 left. In five years 293 thousand more people left than entered. So much for Enoch Powell's hordes mobs and oceans. The largest number of immigrants to this country in 1975 were Australians, over twice the number of Asians.

□ Did you know that dependants who wish to join their families are given bone X-rays, and women

RACISM- WHO PROFITS?

are given vaginal inspections to check whether they are really unmarried or not, or to determine whether they have given birth to the children they claim as their dependents?

□ Did you know that one man who has been here for 15 years did not give the same evidence as his wife concerning the number of bushes in his village in Pakistan, and so his wife was denied entry?

□ Did you know that West Indian children are arrested for 'loitering' when they are, as is the wont of children, merely walking about?

□ Did you know that twice as many black workers work shifts as white? That 60 per cent of blacks are out of work in

many areas?

One's first instinct when arguing with racists is usually to smash them in the face. This pamphlet provides some indispensable ammunition with which to destroy the arguments of any racist, even the most bitter NF supporter drawn into prejudice by despair caused by the economic recession in which we are living.

Available from, CIS, 9 Poland Street, London, W1.

Costs 45p plus 15p post and packing. Reductions for bulk orders. Still available: 'Women Under Attack'.

The response was good.

While everyone who signed was against the National Front, few wanted to believe that the media are deliberately sensationalising events involving black people—events which would only make the small print if they involved anyone else. All were appalled at the wave of racism which followed the 4 star hotel story, but seemed reluctant to relate the two.

Campaign

I feel it is these people who must be convinced that

there is a deliberate campaign being waged towards racial conflict by very influential people (Enoch being only one). Also that the National Front, although an evil in itself, is being used along with the media towards this end.

It must be shown that black people are being made scapegoats for many social evils which are not their doing—and that any retaliation by them is an inevitable reaction.

Notices and meetings

FOLLOWING the successful IS women's schools in London and Manchester, there is to be a third school in Glasgow. Dates: 23 and 24 October. For details and registration contact Glasgow IS Bookshop. Tel: 041-221 3426.

This month WOMENS VOICE is forced to put up its price to 7p, because of increased costs.

Please make sure that sales don't suffer. The struggles being waged by working class women up and down the country, as well as the new term in the colleges, give us a great opportunity to reach more women than ever before.

Recently 50 copies of Womens Voice were sold on a housing estate in Witham, Essex, by four people in a single evening. Please write to tell us your successes and we will publish them. Can anyone beat Witham?

Woman performer/Singer wanted to join tour of the 'Cuts Show', a musical review attacking Labour's cutbacks in public spending. Socialist politics essential, ability to drive and play an instrument preferable. COUNTERACT 01-267 6059, 175a Kentish Town Road, London, NW1.

ABORTION LAW REFORM ASSOCIATION/A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Folk Concert. Friday October 22, 7.30pm.

Old Theatre, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London, WC2. Tickets 80p available from ALRA/AWRTC, 88a Islington High Street, London, N1 8EG. Please enclose SAE ...or £1 at the door.

A SERIES of discussion meetings on sexual politics, organised by Central London International Socialists.

14 Oct: Lesbians—the double oppression—Sandy Kondos and Sybil Cock.

28 Oct: Personal Life in Capitalism—Joy Leman

11 Nov: The Abortion Campaign, Which Way Now? Gerry Matthews.

25 Nov: Working Women Under Attack—Irene Bruegal.

9 Dec: Socialists and Housework—Elana Dallas.

All the meetings are on Thursdays at the Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London, WC1 at 7pm. Speakers' notes linked to this series available next month from Sybil Cock, 6 Cottons Gardens, London, E2 8DN.

NORTH LONDON Womens Voice Group. We hold monthly public meetings in The Beehive pub, Stoneleigh Road, Tottenham, N167 (just off Tottenham High Road), on a Monday at 8pm on topical and educational issues. If you live in North London and would like to come along but have babysitting problems, we can arrange a sitter for you. Ring Mandy 607 8067 for details.

Monday 11 Oct: Abortion—What happens now? Speaker: Gerry Matthews and a film The Chicken and the Egg.

Monday 8 Nov: Personal Life and Capitalism—Speaker Joy Leman.

Monday 5 Dec: Women and the Trade Unions—Speaker: Anna Paz-zuska.

RIGHT TO WORK marchers are appearing in court at Hendon throughout this month. They need support. Come to the court, bring your banners. Send money for their defence fund. Use the trade union enquiry report to gather support in your trade union organisations. Don't waste a minute. All details from National Right to Work Campaign, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

I would like to know more about the International Socialists

Name .....

Address .....

Please post to:  
Womens Voice  
6 Cottons Gardens  
London E2 8DN



# Womens Voice says



## THE FIRST STEP TO PEACE

# GET THE TROOPS OUT NOW

A MASS MOVEMENT OF WOMEN has come onto the streets of Northern Ireland to march for peace. Now they are spreading their marches to British cities and Eire.

The women who have formed this movement are weary. Many would have supported the civil rights movement, opposed internment, even been strong republicans in the past.

Now all they feel is the need for peace. Working class women have seen their men

murdered and interned, their communities destroyed, their homes ripped apart by troops. The following is an extract from the 'Womens Voice

leaflet distributed in Liverpool: 'How can it all end? We all want peace. But a peace with guns on one side is no peace at all. The army must go and the Protestant police force must be disarmed. Troops out now is the first most important step towards peace in Northern Ireland. Only then could

Catholic and Protestant workers unite to fight against unemployment, low wages, and slum housing.

But peace cannot come to Northern Ireland through appeals to Christian charity and brotherly love, however well-intentioned. Peace will come when the cause of the violence is removed—and that cause is rooted in the sectarian anti-Catholic nature of the

### Defend

Northern state, which Britain continues to defend.' On Saturday 18 September,

60 Womens Voice supporters from London and Lancashire went to Liverpool to lobby the Womens Peace March.

The assembly, largely made up of people of Irish descent, sang gentle hymns about love and peace. We gave out leaflets and sold some papers, and our Womens Voice banner provoked many arguments. Unlike us, the marchers hope peace will be delivered by goodwill and the Almighty. Our leaflet tried to explain why the first step to peace is to get the troops out. **DI WATTS**

## Pregnancy Plunges Promotion Prospects



Left holding the baby

A TEACHER in an East Hertfordshire primary school was shocked and surprised recently when, having previously been assured by the head that she could expect a rosy future in his school, she was overlooked for promotion in favour of a man far less qualified.

However all became clearer when the head revealed that he

had not promoted her because she is pregnant. He said that pregnant women are not reliable teachers, women with small children have many problems and that anyway, she would be away for a large part of the next academic year. In fact she will be returning after the statutory maternity leave of three months.

She says that her work was

good enough in the past, so why not now?

We must be on our guard even more vigilantly in the current situation against this kind of 'jobs for the boys'. Five people were eligible for this post and only one was a man.

We must be totally opposed to discrimination against women because they are, or may become pregnant.

## in brief...in brief...in brief...in brief...in brief...i

AN ADULT literacy class in Bethnal Green, East London, has two students with social problems because of illiteracy.

One has applied for a job as a cleaner in the Post Office—but has to fill in a complicated form in a room by himself.

The other is involved in difficult proceedings.

But the Inner London Education Authority has decided to make their tutor redundant. They regard that job as a luxury...

THROUGHOUT THE country there are 20,000 unemployed teachers. But now, in Oxfordshire, 500 more face the sack before the end of the year. The National Union of Teachers responded by calling a local

half-day strike on 21 September. 5000 teachers took part.

IN HACKNEY, East London, massive cuts have been announced in the health service. 400 jobs are to go, one of three emergency units is to close, overtime, essential to an understaffed service is to be halved; blood tests and X-rays are to be restricted; absent doctors and surgeons will not be replaced.

One of the poorest and most densely-populated areas of London, its services are already bad—with long waits and journeys for emergency treatment, high infant and adult death rates, and

cases of death by poisoning contracted in hospitals. The cuts will make matters much worse.

Hackney hospital workers' answer was a one-day strike on 23 September.

IT'S BAD ENOUGH being a long-stay patient: crammed wards, understaffed hospitals, privacy almost non-existent. But 400 patients in the Garlands mental hospital in Carlisle have suffered the final humiliation of having to share their underclothes. The reason given is that the patients are incontinent, and the hospital does not have enough funds to provide proper supplies.

## Voice from the past

MEMORIES of the 1930s are bitter. They were years of poverty, of betrayal and of hard struggle. Thousands of working class women and men took up the fight against unemployment and cuts in government spending which hit the families of the unemployed. These women were demanding the end of the Means Test—the most hated cut of all.



The 'good' old days

It was a way of cutting unemployment benefit. Means Test officers visited the homes of the unemployed and slashed dole money if:

□ THE FAMILY had 'luxury' furniture such as a wardrobe, a sideboard, a sofa or an old piano. Furniture would have to be sold, and the money accounted for, before benefit would be paid.

□ A SON or a daughter was earning. This led many to wander the country in a desperate search for work. Married women, meanwhile, lost all unemployment benefits, even if they'd paid insurance contributions.

More than a million registered unemployed had been immediately affected by the test when it was first

introduced by the coalition Labour-Tory government in 1931.

### Benefit

Cases where benefit was withdrawn altogether soon numbered hundreds of thousands. In the first year of the Means Test, half those visited had their benefit cut.

Working-class resistance was organised and built up by the rank and file. The TUC did little. They even refused to meet women who had march-

ed all the way to London demanding the abolition of the Means Test.

Labour Party leaders stood bleating in the background, embarrassed that they had started the cuts when in government in 1929-31.

Unemployed women workers joined housewives in the demonstrations and campaigns.

Contingents of women joined the nationally organised hunger marches.

Local organisations were formed which kept a watch for Means Test Officers. If one

was sighted, furniture would be passed over back garden walls and hidden.

Today, unemployment is again savaging the working class. A Labour government cuts our welfare and the TUC does nothing.

### Potential

Our potential is far greater than in the Thirties. But we will win nothing unless we, too, can organise masses of working class women to our struggles.

FORTY years ago, on 5 October 1936, the Jarrow Hunger Marchers left Tyneside to trek to London.

To mark the anniversary, Right to Work Committees throughout the country are calling demonstrations and marches. But this is not just a commemoration—it is part of our struggle. NO MORE JARROWS.

# TRICO-MAJORITY VOTE TO STAY OUT

Blue skies and sunshine have turned into down-pour outside the gates of Trico, but still the biggest equal pay strike this country has seen goes on.

400 strikers are demanding equal pay for women who work alongside men doing the same job, but get paid on average £6 a week less. During the last month the women at Trico have kept up the fight.

### Fund

□ They travelled to Brighton to lobby for support outside the Trades Union Congress.

□ They have continued to visit factories up and down the country, explaining their case, and collecting money for the strike fund.

□ They have seen the management lay off all the hourly-paid workers at Hecvico factories in Brentford and Northampton so that production is at a stand-still.

□ They have voted solidly to reject the company's offer of 50p a week on top of the government's 4½ per cent wage norm—a contemptuous offer that would still have left the women £6 behind the men's rates.

And meanwhile, things have begun to move in the car plants where Trico's windscreen wipers are used. Many firms have switched to using other brands of wiper. But the Trico women rightly demand that not only Trico blades, but all blades should be blacked. Only this way will car production be affected, so that the car industry bosses will start to put pressure on the Trico management to give in.

From Scotland comes good news. The Joint Representative Committee at Chrysler, Linwood—a committee that represents all unions in the factory—are calling for wiper blades made in South Africa to be blacked.

It is up to the women's union, the AUEW, to see that all car workers take similar action to break the deadlock in this strike.

After four hard months of magnificent courage and solidarity the women workers at Trico are still singing their song—to the



tune of the Red Flag. The chorus line goes.

*Though poor we are, and starve we may, We'll see it through til equal pay!*

Don't let them be starved out. Don't forget them. Their fight is for all of us.



Trico have three factories in Buffalo, USA. They don't have much trouble with the union there, because they have a company union... the Trico Workers Union... the way the bosses like it. Last year, Trico USA made profits of \$4,337,000, after tax. R J O'Shei, Trico president, isn't exactly short of a bob or two. All round the world the name of the game is exploitation.

## WHAT WE CAN DO

**THE 400 women at Trico are fighting for equal pay. Since the beginning of this year the law has said they are entitled to it. Since 1970 Governments have promised every woman equal pay. It's even allowed outside the 4½ per cent pay limit.**

**So why have the women at Trico been standing outside the gates for five long months?**

Because, whatever the law says, the employers don't want to pay up. It's not just Trico management that don't want to pay, it's all the employers. Equal pay will cost them money. If the Trico women win, other women will know how to fight.

The reputation of the Industrial Tribunals will also be damaged beyond repair if the Trico women win. The Tribunal said the women had no case, just as they have told hundreds of other women they have no case. The Tribunals are weighted in favour of the employers, they are not impartial.

With the employers lined up against them, the Tribunals against them, what chance have the women got of winning?

Every chance, if they get the support they deserve.

Their union the AUEW, has been slow to call on other worker to help the women, but that is the only way the strike can be won now.

### Fought

Car workers have blacked Trico blades, but now Trico are supplying alternative blades from South Africa, America, Germany. These supplies must be blacked too. That could mean lay-offs in the car industry, and makes it harder to persuade the men who fit the blades to do it.

The Right to Work

Campaign, is organising leafletting and picketing of the car plants to persuade the workers on the line that they have to support the women at Trico. This strike needs to be on their conscience until it is won.

The AUEW has one and a quarter million members. They could help win the strike too. It means more than paper resolutions. Active support—like a one day strike of all engineering workers—would raise such a stink the owners would have to tell Trico to settle.

**If all the women engineers who don't get equal pay put in a claim now the employers would be forced to find a settlement.**

The Engineers Charter is starting just such a campaign, for solidarity action

and for equal pay. Visit all the engineering factories and shop stewards' committees in your area with the leaflet. Commit every AUEW branch and shop stewards' committee to support industrial action. Don't wait for someone else to do it.

### Handful

This strike isn't a local strike anymore. It's a strike over a principle, and that makes it everyone's strike. If you're a teacher in local government, in a factory or office, organise a collection or help on the picket line; find out who doesn't have equal pay in your area and get these women to fight too.

But will every woman who fights for equal pay have to fight for so long? Not if we organise proper-

ly, and don't rely on the rules and regulations, politeness and procedures of union officials. That's what clogs up so many strikes. That's why we need a strong rank and file organisation, which involves all the fighters, women and men.

**The 6 November Conference is about just that. We need to get all the women who fought this year for equal pay along to that conference, as well as those who are going to have to fight. Then we will know our own strength. And we won't have to wait for five months to win the next Trico.**

\* Electro stencils of both leaflets are available, for £1, from the Right to Work Centre, 265a Seven Sisters Road, London, N4.

## Poison in the pages of Women's Own

**DO YOU read Women's Own as well as Womens Voice?**

If you do, you will have seen a sickening article in that nasty rag about Ian Smith and his wife Janet, about their begonias and their blue china tea-set, and about what jolly nice people they are. It covered several pages, with a charming 'at home' photo captioned 'Ian and Janet, living on a tight-rope'.

Not a mention of the vast majority of the population who have no vote, because they are black; the thousands locked in Rhodesia's prison camps;

or of the freedom fighters and village dwellers murdered by Smith's troops.

So on Monday September 20th supporters of the Africa Solidarity Campaign occupied the cosy office of the editor of Woman's Own. Eventually she agreed to let them put their case to the editorial board meeting. But she was outraged. She doesn't like politics to ruffle the smooth surface of the fictional world depicted in Woman's Own... unless it's the politics of an illegal, racist bastard like Smith or course.



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