



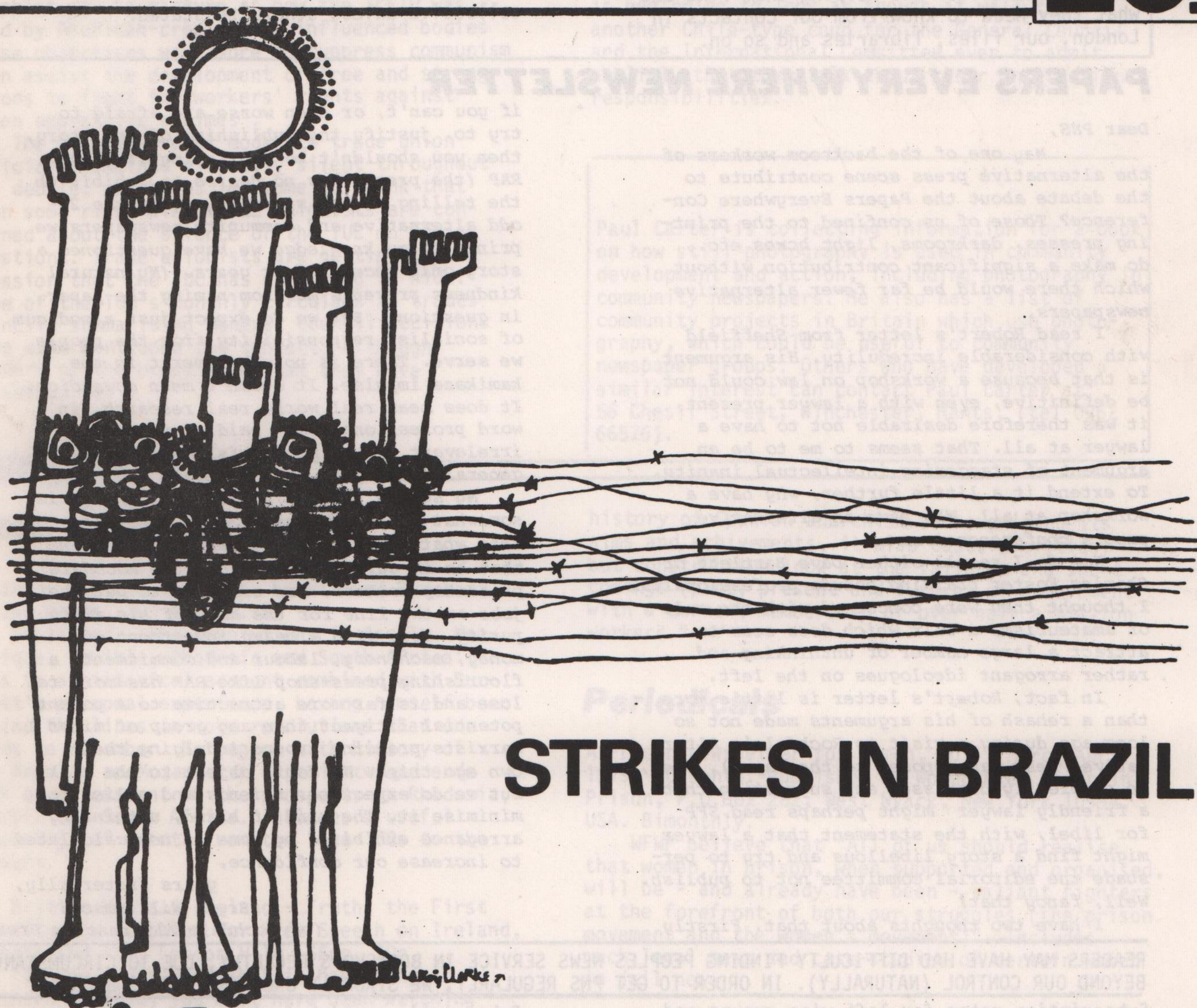
No. 171

May 29, 1979

Peoples News Service

25p

OXFORD HOUSE, DERBYSHIRE ST., LONDON E2. TELEPHONE 01-739 4568



STRIKES IN BRAZIL

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Member Alternative Press Syndicate

What is PNS?

PNS is a left-wing, non-sectarian news service with the aim of providing information that is not readily available in the conventional press. We focus on issues not covered in the national papers, bringing out ignored or distorted details doing background pieces and researching into national and international stories. We invite other papers to reprint stories from PNS and only ask that they credit us as the source.

Apart from the bulletin, PNS also provides special services for community and alternative newspapers. We index all the community and alternative newspapers we receive and this is available to anyone at a small fee to cover printing and mail. We also provide, at a slightly higher subscription rate, special research services, encouraging people to investigate stories themselves and helping them find out what they need to know from our contacts in London, our files, libraries and so on.

PNS is run by a small collective and nobody gets paid for the work they do on the paper. We want to make PNS larger and give readers more, but unless we get more people this is impossible.

We especially need correspondents outside of London, but anyone who can help with writing, layout or distribution is encouraged to contact us at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2, 01-739 4568.

We are holding regular meetings at Oxford House, which are open to anybody, on every other Thursday at 6.00pm (June 7, 21 and so on). The deadline for material for PNS is Wednesday June 12. All copy must reach us by then.

Articles bylined with (PNS/-) mean that the Peoples News Service collective has edited or rewritten them. Responsibility for what is said in the articles is that of the PNS collective unless otherwise stated.

PAPERS EVERYWHERE NEWSLETTER

Dear PNS,

May one of the backroom workers of the alternative press scene contribute to the debate about the Papers Everywhere Conference? Those of us confined to the printing presses, darkrooms, light boxes etc., do make a significant contribution without which there would be far fewer alternative newspapers.

I read Robert's letter from Sheffield with considerable incredulity. His argument is that because a workshop on law could not be definitive, even with a lawyer present, it was therefore desirable not to have a lawyer at all. That seems to me to be an argument of staggering intellectual inanity. To extend it a little further, why have a workshop at all? Why have an alternative papers conference even?

Nor do I recall either Dave Bartlett or Charles Foster praising pseudo-professionalism. I thought they were concerned with the cult of amateurism, a cult which does seem to attract a large number of unthinking and rather arrogant ideologues on the left.

In fact, Robert's letter is little more than a rehash of his arguments made not so long ago during a visit to Rochdale's Alternative Press (as opposed to the Paper). Then, he carelessly dismissed any suggestion that a friendly lawyer might perhaps read SFP for libel, with the statement that a lawyer might find a story libellous and try to persuade the editorial committee not to publish. Well, fancy that!

I have two thoughts about that. Firstly

if you can't, or even worse are afraid to try to, justify the publishing of any story, then you shouldn't be publishing it at all. RAP (the press) has no desire to inhibit the telling of any story in any of the 20-odd alternative and community newspapers we print. To my knowledge we have questioned a story only once in four years. (My natural kindness prevents me from naming the paper in question). But we do expect just a modicum of socialist responsibility from the people we serve. There is no great merit in the kamikaze impulse. It doesn't mean cowardice. It does mean real work, real research, in a word professionalism - paid or unpaid is irrelevant. To my mind this comes under the general heading of solidarity.

My second thought follows on, though is somewhat more personal. I have a feeling that what Robert doesn't make explicit is that he is quite prepared for the Rochdale printshop workers, for example, to put their jobs on the line for the sake of his amateur purity. For, with a heavy investment of money, machinery, labour and commitment, a flourishing press-shop like RAP has more to lose and is far more attractive to a potent potential litigant than any group of minor marxists prancing around indulging their own ego trips. We don't object to the risk, but we do expect our friends and allies to minimise it. The kind of bland, unthinking arrogance exhibited by some is not calculated to increase our confidence,

yours fraternally,
Bryan Williamson.

(of Rochdale Alternative Press)

READERS MAY HAVE HAD DIFFICULTY FINDING PEOPLES NEWS SERVICE IN BOOKSHOPS RECENTLY, DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL (NATURALLY). IN ORDER TO GET PNS REGULARLY, WE STRONGLY URGE THAT YOU SUBSCRIBE.

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LAW PROPOSED ON 'ILLEGITIMACY'

London (PNS Correspondent). With moves afoot to introduce another Illegitimacy Bill in Parliament, the feminist legal workers organisation Rights of Women (ROW) have been working out a strategy to ensure that such a measure will not act against the interests of women with 'illegitimate' children.

An unsuccessful attempt by the well known anti-abortion MPs Leo Abse and James White, to introduce a bill abolishing illegitimacy in the last parliamentary session illuminated the problems involved in such legislation. The bill, formulated under the guise of 'children's rights' would have in fact taken away some of the autonomy which women have now in relation to their 'illegitimate' children. The Law Commission is now taking evidence from interested groups and individuals on the subject, and will then produce a draft report which will be the basis for another bill. At a conference on illegitimacy held by ROW on May 19, it was decided that as many groups as possible should discuss the question of illegitimacy and send evidence to the Commission.

To understand why the subject of illegitimacy is important we have to look at some of the problems. The most pressing is poverty. Thousands of single parents depend on supplementary benefit alone, and the Finer Committee suggestions of 1974, which proposed a state allowance for all single parents have never been put into effect. There are, in fact far fewer legal disabilities to being 'illegitimate' nowadays than there were in the past, and as some lawyers have pointed out, it would only take small reforms to iron the problems out. In view of the rise in 'illegitimate' births (to 10% of live births in 1976), the fact that women are able to have children outside marriage without dependence on any one man, and the emphasis on the family during the general election campaign, there is a danger that the future Bill could attempt to draw the 'illegitimate' children into the net of the nuclear family norm.

White and Abse's Illegitimacy Bill had a grand ring about it; "a child born out of wedlock shall have and enjoy rights, privileges and duties identical in all respects with those of other children." But the Law Society Gazette of January 31, 1979, gave the game away - "If a means can be found of integrating the father into the family unit by providing him with rights (as well as responsibilities) instead of forcing him out of it, then the interests of everyone are better protected, the mother is supported (and may not have to seek state benefits) and society has tamed a few would be Casanovas." In other words, cuts in public spending obviously go hand in hand with moves to strengthen the nuclear family. This completely neglects the fact that women might decide to have children on their own, the use of AID (Artificial Insemination Donor), and the fact that thousands of gay women decide to have children without wanting to be stuck with a man. As the ROW bulletin of March 1979 points out, "the moving force behind the suggested changes is the same force behind 'legitimacy' itself - to link the child with the father and to let the child have its 'rightful name'".

This obsession with the idea of 'legitimacy', which in fact really means 'made legitimate by a man', is rooted in the history of patriarchal laws. It was only in 1839 that a woman was able to apply for the custody of a child up to seven years of age and it was not until the Guardianship of Infants Act of 1926 that women were given equality of status regarding custody upon the breakdown of a marriage. As women had not been seen as full legal entities before, they were not allowed to give 'legitimacy' to their children. The 'filius nullus' child of no one of past history has to a large extent become the child of the mother



in the 20th Century, but this can create another problem - the pressure brought by society on women to be the sole custodians of the children's welfare. As more feminists try to enjoin more men to take part in childcare they face this paradox. The solution put forward by supporters of the Illegitimacy Bill was to give rights without responsibilities. They favoured automatic paternal rights to custody which could bring about disturbing situations. For instance, a man who fathered a child and then cleared off, leaving the woman to deal with the situation, could come back several years later, claim his paternal rights, put the child's name on his passport and take it out of the country. It is even conceivable that rapists could claim automatic paternal rights over the child of a rape victim.

The ROW conference decided that rights should only be given on proportion to the amount of responsibility a father has shown. If a man has cared for his child and the mother is agreeable, he should be able to have some legal rights over the child, just as a married father would. ROW is proposing that there should be provisions for joint custody between unmarried couples since there are none at present. At the moment a mother cannot share custody of her child at present. She can only appoint a guardian for her child after her death, under the Guardianship of Minors Act 1971. This could be amended so that there could be joint custody during her lifetime with the person she names, which could be the father of the child or any person of her choice. This would allow gay couples or friends to be able to share custody.

Other penalties of illegitimacy which need changing are the rules concerning nationality, whereby a child born abroad to an unmarried woman cannot automatically take the mother's British citizenship. There has always been discrimination against women in nationality questions and the Illegitimacy Bill, which is likely to be the prototype for future Acts, again says nothing on the subject. The Bill was concerned solely with civil law, in which there is much less discrimination against illegitimate children. Even rights of inheritance are almost parallel to those of children born in a marriage.

The other contentious issue is the dilemma presented by registration. When people go to register the birth of a child, many assume that the name of the father has to be given or they will be penalised. The result is that the man's

name is down for life and the fear is that he can come back at any time and apply for access or custody. Others who would like the father to have no more rights and responsibilities are too frightened to put his name down as they are dependent on State benefits and fear it will be cut off. If registration did not carry these risks, then the right of the child to know who its father is could be safeguarded but the woman would not be seen automatically as financially dependent on a man. If not we could reach the same situation as in some parts of the United States where a much more stringent 'search for the putative father' is undertaken and the woman is made a compellable witness - the whole point being

to transfer economic responsibility from the State to individual men, be they willing or not.

As more and more politicians talk about 'safeguarding family life', blaming illegitimacy and broken homes for everything from vandalism to mugging, so we are left with the central question still untackled - that of poverty. If no adequate childcare facilities are provided single women especially are of course forced to depend on State benefits. Shifting the emphasis onto individual responsibility again just shows how little regarded the bringing up of children is.

Anyone with any evidence or opinions on the subject should write into the Law Commission, Conquest House, 37 John St, London WC1.

COUNCIL AXES ADVICE CENTRES

Islington (PNS Correspondent). Despite a rate rise of 32%, authorised last month, Islington council are expected to give the go-ahead, within the next few weeks, to axe four advice centres and severely curtail the activities of at least three other voluntary organisations in the borough. Community workers in the borough believe that the cuts - aimed at saving £30,000 from the council budget - are being used as an excuse to curtail the political activities of the groups and bring the social services that operate in the borough under direct council control.



They point out that recently right-wing party members in the Labour-controlled council have been voted into all key positions. And the councillors have made no attempt to hide their desire to get rid of voluntary organisations. "I don't care how much it costs," screamed Sybil James at a recent discussion on the organisation of the Family Services Unit (formerly an independent body with nation affiliations, "but make them statutory" (i.e. under council control).

Particularly galling to the community workers is the secretive way in which the council have gone ahead with making their plans, in complete contradiction to their avowed policy of open government, a policy which was a key issue in the local elections last year.

The working group, set up to look at ways of implementing the £30,000 cuts, made no attempt to approach the organisations and workers concerned, nor did they try to find out what kind of work these bodies do. They have been operating from a position of "complete ignorance", said one community worker.

Details of the proposals, which have to be put to the Central Review body on June 1 or 4, are supposed to have been kept a secret. But when workers got wind of what was going on they wrote to the Council demanding an opportunity to send a delegation to represent their point of view.

When they got no reply they rang Bill Moroney, chairperson of the working group. He told them that he would throw out anybody who tried to get into the meeting who wasn't on the working group. The two delegates who turned up were, as expected, turned away.

As the draconian proposals were discussed, the more sympathetic Labour councillors appear to have backed out of any confrontation with their fellow members. One claimed she had to leave early because she "couldn't get a baby sitter". The fact that she was on the management committee of one of the groups to be cut was, of course, completely incidental. A worker commented "I'd have baby sitted, she just had to ask. And she knows it."

Apart from axing the four advice centres (and at least 10 jobs), and pushing all their work onto one neighbourhood law centre, the working group have recommended that two others - Holloway Housing Aid and Holloway Law Centre - should be closely looked at to see if any of their work "overlaps" with the North Islington Law Centre. They are also proposing that the two pensioners' organisations - Task Force and Age Concern - should merge, at the cost of two workers (out of a total of 5½). A Task Force spokesperson told PNS that the whole idea of a merger was "ridiculous. We operate in completely different ways. Task Force goes out to pensioners to get them involved in what is happening around them. Age Concern reports on services and gives welfare rights advice. Besides, because pensioners are not so mobile as the rest of the population, it is more important to have at least two offices in different parts of the borough for accessibility alone."

The community workers threatened have now met to work out a plan of action. They will be trying to get a deputation from the various management committees into the council meetings where the proposals will have to be ratified before they get the go-ahead. From the Central Review Body they will have to go through the the Policy Committee on June 11 before coming up in a full council meeting on June 19. Lobbies are planned for the meetings and it is hoped to get the Labour Party wards to move against the council. If the plans get through as they now appear, Islington - one the borough whose community work was the admiration of the rest of the country - will be responsible for implementing cuts far in excess of those in another London council, the Conservative-controlled Wandsworth. One worker put it, "Audrey Bayliss (chairperson of the social services committee) is the least socially conscious Labour councillor I've ever come across."

'HELP THE AGED' PROBE

Reading (PNS Correspondent). The world-wide British-based charity, 'Help The Aged', is facing some questions about its activities from local groups in Reading, where it is just about to launch a fund-raising campaign in schools there. The Community Relations Commission and the Council of Social Service want to raise some points with the charity about its work in South Africa.

Among the questions the groups are expected to ask are, "Does Help the Aged work only within the white part of South African society? Does it inform independent black organisations, such as liberation movements, before it goes there, and ask their advice? Does it work with any black organisations independent of the state there?" Help the Aged is also expected to say whether it works within the bantustans (the so-called homelands in which black workers are given nationality so that they become foreigners where they work) thus legitimising this aspect of apartheid policy.

The outcome of these questions is not known yet, but it is certainly a new departure for local organisations to put pointed questions to charities about their work before they begin fund-raising in their areas. It may become a widespread new trend if the discussions with Help the Aged gain wide publicity.

LIES IN THE 'SUN'

London (PNS/the Leveller). At least one of the many stories in the popular press on the events in Southall on April 23 was a lie, according to an article in the 'Leveller' magazine (No. 27, June). As reported in PNS 169, accounts of the police rampage varied tremendously from paper to paper.

An article in the 'Sun', written by four reporters, included the allegation that a crowd of Asians picketed the local infirmary "screaming abuse at the officers being treated in casualty". But according to an administrator at the Ealing Hospital, the incident did not take place.

The story was first said to have come from the Press Association, but a check with the PA revealed that no such material had been put out. Then the 'Sun' claimed that Scotland Yard had provided the information, but Scotland Yard denied it.

Perhaps the story was cooked up by an individual police officer or a press relations officer, in which case the 'Sun' reporters took it for granted as the honest truth, without any need for verification. And so the lie was "fed by the 'Sun', the biggest-circulation paper in Britain, to five million people for Tuesday breakfast."

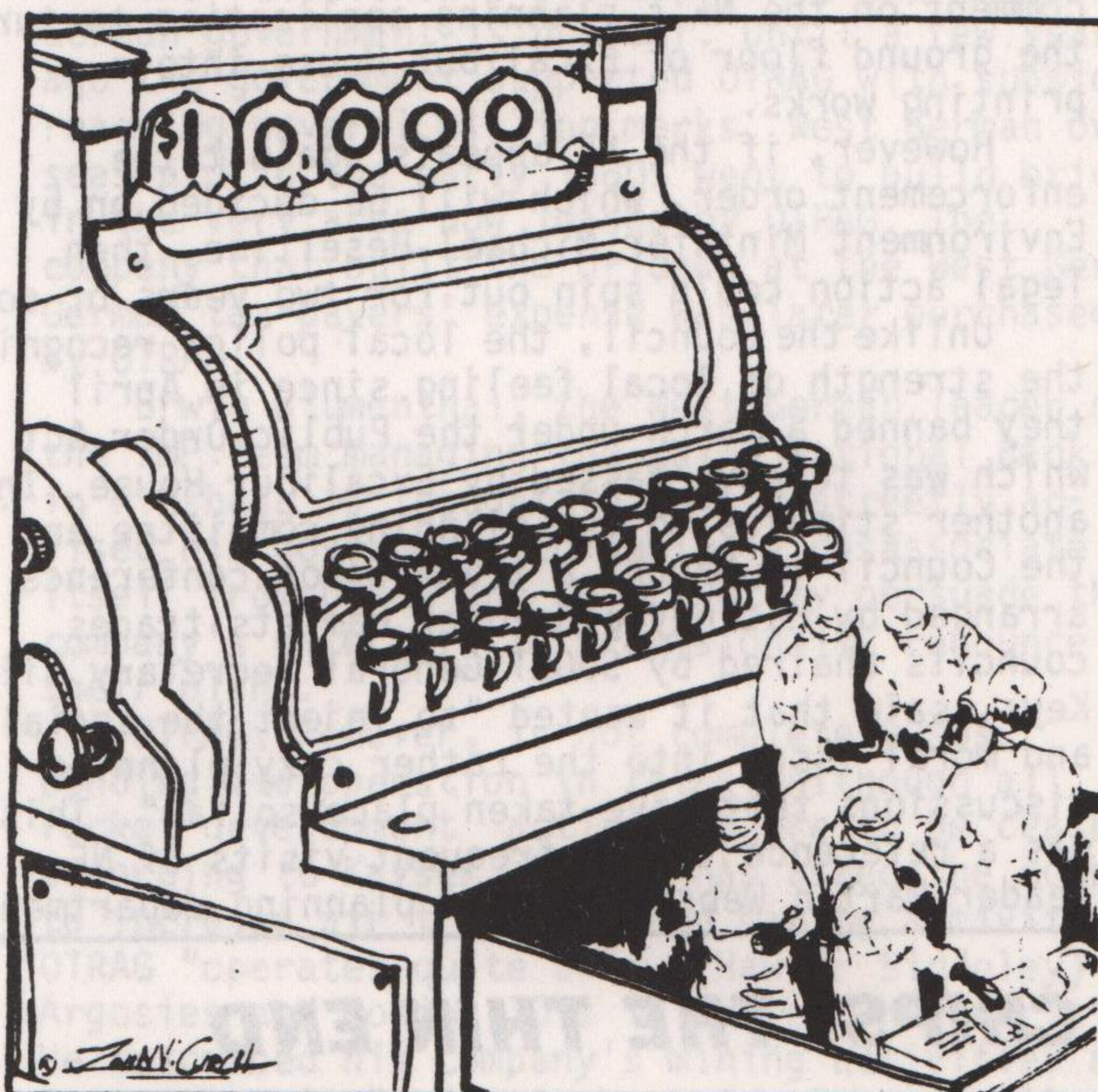
EGA: FAKE REPRIEVE

London (PNS Correspondent). As the Tory government announced its plans to 'save' the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital, the national press has suddenly come alive to the issue. But while the emphasis has been laid entirely on the positive aspects of the proposals, scant attention has been paid to the less than enthusiastic welcome given the plans by the hospital staff and the Save the EGA Campaign.

Although promising that the hospital will stay on site - one of the major demands of the campaigners - the Tories are trying to change the nature of the hospital almost beyond recognition. They have offered £2 million capital to improve and update the buildings on the understanding that this money will go towards setting

up a 40-bed gynaecological unit. They are not prepared to finance any of the other important facilities offered by the hospital and so, in effect, they will be cutting 60 of the 100 beds, as well as destroying the principal of providing general medical care for women by women.

It is not clear either, who will be paying the running costs - estimated to be at least three quarters of a million pounds a year for the 40-bed unit alone. With the government demanding that any extra facilities will have to be funded by private charities and the regional health authority, it is quite likely that if large sums of money are available from these sources then the government will try to back out of any long-term commitment to keep the EGA running - even in its truncated form.



Opponents of the Tory plans point out that the EGA is much more than just a gynaecological hospital - and it should stay that way. They are also critical of the pressure to find money from charities - surely the first step towards the introduction of private medicine. And if the health authority is persuaded to put more resources into the hospital then it can only mean the reduction of health services elsewhere.

It looks like the long-running campaign still has a lot of fighting to do.

EXCALIBUR SINKING

London (PNS/HPP). Hackney Council has finally taken some action about removing the National Front from its headquarters at 'Excalibur House' in Great Eastern Street in Shoreditch. But it has ducked the political issues and the eviction of the NF from the East End may yet take some time. The Council planning committee voted unanimously at a meeting in early May to serve an enforcement order on the occupants of Excalibur House, requiring that the users cease to use it as a publications and distribution centre and as offices of the NF.

When the Front arrived in the East End last autumn, the Council said that it would do everything in its power to remove them. Since the special Council meeting last October when they said that "the Council will give all necessary support to the people of Hackney and to the trade union movement in their opposition to the operations of the National Front", their attitude has somewhat moderated. Planning committee chair-

person Bob Masters said that the committee's decision would have been the same for the Mothers Union as for the National Front, in a statement that typified the council leadership's present position.

Since the Council's original brave words it has kept people in the dark about the progress of the legal case against the NF. Frustration at the Council's attitude crystallised at a meeting in April, prompted by the events at Southall and the death of Hackney teacher Blair Peach, when the Council refused to allow an emergency motion instructing the Council's officers to take out a legal injunction against the NF. The hyper-cautious planning committee report which resulted in this latest decision does not require the NF to leave the building, which is what the 20,000 people who signed a petition really wanted. Nor did the committee comment on the NF's planning application to turn the ground floor of Excalibur House into a printing works.

However, if the NF appeals against the enforcement order, which will be decided on by Environment Minister Michael Heseltine, then legal action could spin out for two years or so.

Unlike the Council, the local police recognise the strength of local feeling since in April they banned a march under the Public Order Act which was to have passed by Excalibur House. In another stimulus to the planning committee and the Council in March, a trade union conference arranged by Hackney and Tower Hamlets trades councils chaired by SOGAT General Secretary Bill Keys, said that it wanted "to inject the social and moral issue into the rather cozy planning discussions that have taken place so far". This was a reference to the frequent visits of NF leader Martin Webster to the planning department.

CHIPS- THE THIN END

Nottingham (PNS/NB). The government likes chips, and to press the point further, it is spending millions to make sure everyone else has no choice but to like them too.

The National Enterprise Board has invested £50 million in INMOS, who make high quality silicon chips at present in the USA but who hope to make 4000 jobs in four British factories available. The NEB has also established NEXOS, an office equipment subsidiary with an investment of £40 million. Also, INSAC, who market the Post Office's Prestel information service in the USA, has a state commitment of £20 million.

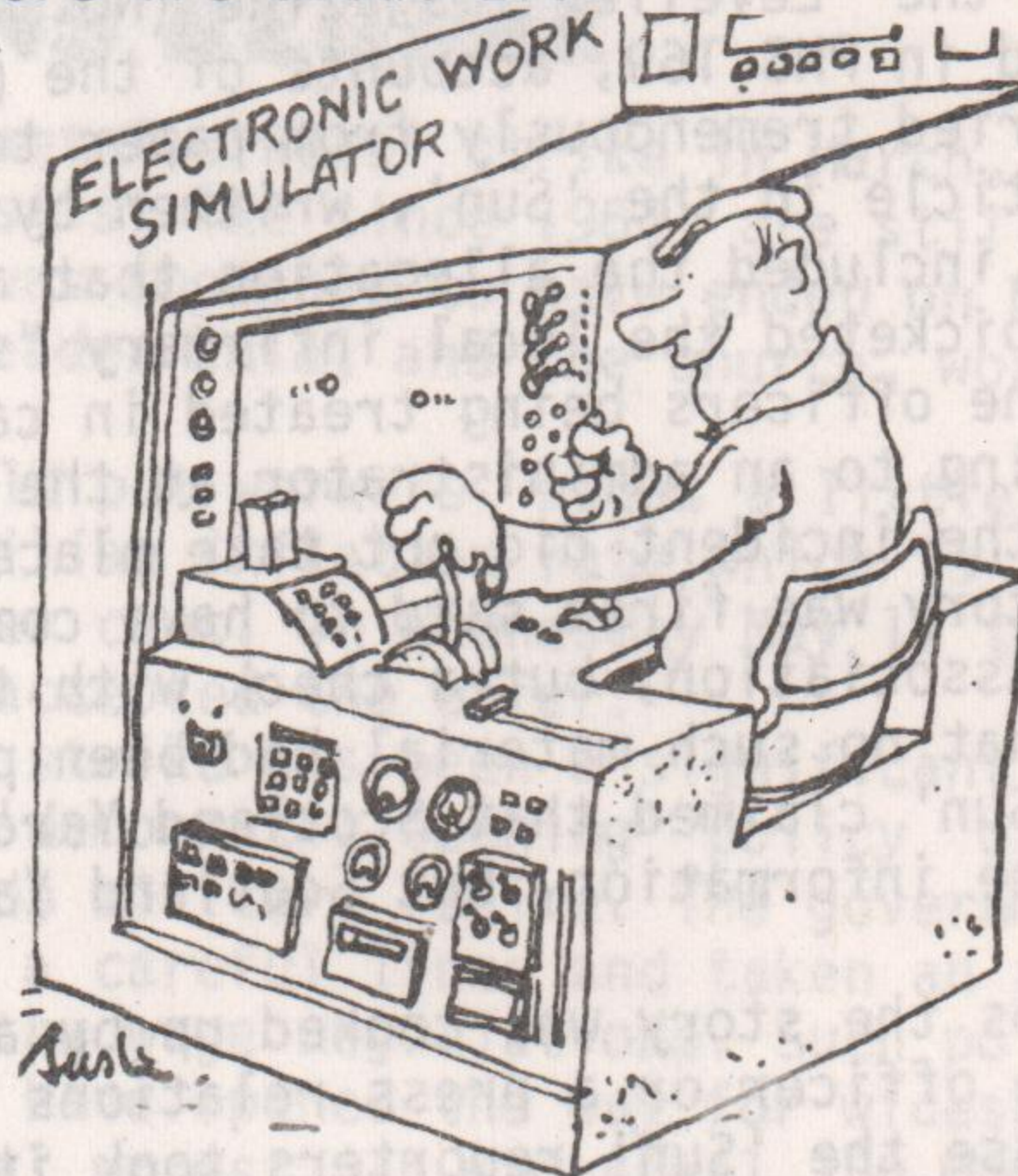
Private enterprise is encouraged to make use of chips by the practice of offering incentive payments through the Microprocessor Applications Project (MAP). MAP offers companies a grant of 25 per cent of the cost to install this new technology, or a grant of 50 per cent with a levy on profits made. Also, a maximum of £2000 for each feasibility study carried out and have set aside £3 million for training and 'awareness'.

The Microelectronics Industry Support Programme (MISP) helps with the manufacture of chips, and GEC-Fairchild has got £7 million towards a chip factory in Chester. They offer 25 to 50 per cent grants on research and development projects and 25 per cent towards equipment and building, all this on top of aid from the 1972 Industry Act and procurement policies. With promises to buy at fixed prices for fixed periods of the time, the government is almost begging firms to investigate the use of microprocessors. Local councils are ready to offer cheap, sometimes rent-free sites, as advertised by the Location of Offices Bureau.

Examples of the government's investment to create new jobs in order to cut more jobs later on is apparent at the Post Office with its use of the System X telephone exchanges. This system needs no maintenance and has the added advantage of being one thousand times smaller than the existing exchanges.

The National Coal Board has plans for computerised mining at its Vale of Belvoir coal seam in Bretby. The trend can only continue.

It has been estimated that 2,326,000 local authority jobs are at risk if the new technology is introduced at the present rate. In 1970 there were 103 major administrative computers, and today there are about 200.



..... TRADE UNION NEWS

TU Official Backs SA

Southampton (PNS Correspondent): No matter how many resolutions are passed in the trade union movement and elsewhere against apartheid in South Africa, they won't affect the handling of South African cargoes and shipping in the port of Southampton. That's the message from Denny Harryman, the Docks Officer of the Transport and General Workers Union in Southampton.

This was the jubilant tone of the 'Johannesburg Star' in late April in one of those typical reports of the South African press which says that not everyone is opposed to their racist policies. But it is startling that the racists' manna from heaven should come from a very important official of the biggest trade union in Britain, a union which has on many occasions made its views against apartheid explicit.

The 'Star's journalist interviewed Mr. Harryman on the subject of South African shipping and Southampton, which is the major port of entry for South African imported goods. Harryman, whose members consist of the majority of the 1800 workers there, said, "We take a very pragmatic line here in spite of what ever resolutions may be passed at the TUC and elsewhere". He explained that the mailboat service to South Africa had helped provide 700 jobs. Redundancies threatened by the ending of the service were offset, Harryman claimed, by the arrival of the South African container ships which helped provide 150 jobs.

South African businesses must have been overjoyed to read the 'Star's assertion that South African shipping lines need never fear blocking at Southampton, and delighted at exposing an inconsistency in the position of their opponents. What the TGWU and the TUC intend to do about it remains to be seen.

Dunlop Jobs gain

Speke (PNS Correspondent). Dunlop has reinstated 154 of the 2300 workers it dismissed when it closed its tyre factory at Speke last month (see PNS 169), and they've agreed to set up a working party to look at ways of introducing new products at Dunlop's remaining factories on Merseyside.

The reinstated men, who had refused to accept redundancy payments when they were dismissed, started work on May 21 despite some initial problems with their contract. At present, they are being employed tidying up the closed tyre factory, but their position is to be reviewed in six months. It is thought that by then they will be able to fill vacancies caused by natural wastage at Dunlop factories on Merseyside.

"It is a victory, though not a brilliant one", said Tony Lane, a Liverpool University lecturer who has been closely involved with the fight against redundancy. "We didn't expect to get anything". He pointed out that reinstatement meant that the men did not lose their pension rights and other long service entitlements. The company had wanted to re-employ the men as new workers.

Dunlop were forced to take the men on again because they disrupted the company's British tyre production by picketing Fort Dunlop in Birmingham, the centre of Dunlop's tyre operation in this country. "We effectively stopped Fort Dunlop with twenty men and the official backing of the TGWU", said Tony Lane.

The joint committee is to discuss the prospects of introducing alternative products on Merseyside. It's said that the company wants to look very seriously at ways of helping Merseyside by developing new products, and the committee, which consists of five company and five union representatives, is to report in ninety days. "We're very pleased", said John Miller of the Transport & General. "We'd been pressing the company to set up such a committee". Now the union and the reinstated workers are trying to ensure that it does not just become a public relations facade.

"With 2300 men we could have got everything we wanted", said Tony Lane. "I think people took the redundancy money because of the long history of redundancies in the area. There's been no successful resistance to closures on Merseyside before".

Foul Play At N.Theatre

London (PNS Correspondent). The strike at the National Theatre on London's South Bank collapsed early in May, and it is unlikely that all the 78 strikers will get their jobs back. The strike, by workers in the theatre's technical departments, was largely over the management's refusal to negotiate working arrangements for the National's three stages. These had been at issue since the theatre opened two years previously.

Some fifteen staff, including some 'casuals' taken on during the dispute and some strikers who went back to work before the end of the strike, are working in the technical departments. The theatre will be able to continue with so few staff because scheduled productions are to be staged on simple box sets.

The theatre will have to re-employ some of those involved in the strike because it needs their experience, and they have issued application forms to the strikers. But it intends to recoup part of the money it lost

during the strike - estimated at £250,000 - by cutting back on the number of staff, and it is quite clear that some of the strikers will not be re-employed. "All they're interested in is the names on the application forms. They won't be interviewing", said one source inside the theatre. Press Officer John Goddwin, said, "We're going to take people back as and when we can". But he made it clear that theatre would not need to take on more staff until August. The dismissed workers are applying for jobs in the other large subsidised theatres (Coliseum, Royal Opera House, and RSC Aldwych) to try and find out if they have been blacklisted.

In the meantime, ACAS, the arbitration service, has advised them to appeal to an industrial tribunal on grounds of unfair dismissal. DHSS branches, with the exception of Brixton, are still being unhelpful about their claims for unemployment benefit.

General administrator Michael Elliott, who came to the theatre from Kimberley Clark, the paper manufacturers, in February, is using the strike as an excuse to hold down wages. When Heads of Departments went to negotiate an increase, after the strike ended, they were told what they would get and shown out again. Mr. Elliott once told a meeting in the theatre that "the right to organise labour is a privilege".

The strike collapsed because the union, NATTKE, refused to back it properly. It did not nothing about the five 'casuals' - all NATTKE members - taken on during the strike to work in the technical departments, and John Wilson, the General Secretary, was unhelpful throughout. He has a reputation in the union as a 'cocktail negotiator'. Richard Lewis, NT Branch Secretary, says that the strikers' biggest mistake was not to get other unionists involved early enough in the dispute.

He predicts that the dispute at the National will be the first of several in theatre. The management of the Covent Garden are already complaining that their technical staff only work a three-day week. The nine-week strike at the National was the longest in theatre history, and the first official theatre strike since 1891.

TUC Rapped Again

London (PNS Correspondent). The booklet put out by War on Want on trade union imperialism last summer, 'Where Were You Brother?', by Don Thomson and Rodney Larson, continues to infuriate the TUC while concern grows in the trade union movement about the TUC's refusal to say anything at all in response to the charges (see PNS 169). More and more trade union branches have been submitting motions requiring that the TUC answer the allegations about the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, namely that it was used by the CIA to help overthrow Salvador Allende in Chile and also that the TUC did not know how its contributions to the ICFTU were being used. They were joined on May 5 by the South-West Regional Council of the TUC in demanding an explanation.

At its meeting in Taunton, Somerset, the Council considered the following motion. "This Council is concerned at the allegations of trade union imperialism as outlined in 'Where Were You Brother' published by War on Want. In particular it notes the following serious charges:

-1 that the ICFTU and thus the TUC unwittingly assisted the anti-Allende coup in Chile and subsequent killings and torture,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

HOW CIA/MOSSAD/MI6 PUT AMIN INTO POWER — PART TWO

London (PNS Correspondent). In PNS 170 we told of the involvement of the CIA and Israeli intelligence in the coup which brought General Amin to power. Here we shall go into the British role in the coup, and the plans to remove Dr. Milton Obote, the thorn in Britain's side in East Africa.

Trained by the Israelis, in charge of a huge part of the army and the presidential body-guard, General Amin was in an excellent position to take power in early 1971. The Israeli troops in Uganda (who had actually been used by Obote against the Baganda tribe in 1966) and the British had been cultivating Amin for some time.

Amin originated from a tribe straddling the northern border of Uganda with the Sudan which provided the core of the Israeli-sponsored Anya-Nya secessionist movement. Although it was said as early as 1966 that Amin was being groomed for supreme power, the plotting involving British intelligence took part mainly in 1969, in southern Sudan.

A noted German mercenary, Rolf Steiner, had been actively helping the Anya-Nya at that time when the British came in with their plans to oust Obote. The plans relied on the support of the Anya-Nya who would promote Amin as their leader and resist the forces loyal to Obote.

A veteran of several wars, including the Nigerian civil war on the side of Biafra, Steiner said he had been introduced to representatives of the giant Roman Catholic Church charity, Caritas International, and referred by them to two men who would help him provide assistance to the southern Sudanese - Beverley Barnard, a 'former British diplomat' and Mr. Anthony Deval. They also suggested that Steiner keep in touch with a British mercenary called Alexander Gay.

Gay had been on the Biafran side in the Nigerian civil war too, where Steiner made his acquaintance. A former bank official, Gay fought as a mercenary in the Congo from 1965 to 1968, and then in Nigeria where he met the famous novelist, then a war correspondent, Frederic Forsyth. Gay was one of the key figures in the mercenary operation which Forsyth organised to provide material for his book 'The Dogs of War'. After Gay had been sentenced in late 1973 on charges of making a false statement to obtain a passport, and for possession of a hand gun, ammunition, and gelignite (he only got a suspended sentence and a fine), another of the mercenaries in Forsyth's abortive venture alleged that Gay was working for MI6. The man, Alan Murphy, was later shot dead in East London in suspicious circumstances. At Gay's trial, the Special Branch praised him and said that he had provided "information which was great and considerable help to Western powers".

Back in East Africa, Barnard, Gay, Deval and Steiner established themselves in the southern Sudan with a radio link to their other base in Kampala. But Steiner, in his written account of the time, said he did not know of the true designs of his British colleagues until he heard that Gay had been casting aspersions on him to the Anya-Nya leadership. In a confrontation over this, Steiner forced Gay to tell him what his real task was - to overthrow or assassinate Obote. The British government had no interest in supporting a southern Sudanese secession and were only using the Anya-Nya as cover for their plans for the future of Uganda.

Steiner said that he wanted to know more, so he made Gay come with him to Kampala to search Barnard's room at the Apollo hotel. They came away with a mass of coded reports that detailed the British plot which had been transmitted to London via the British embassy in Kampala. According to Steiner's account, Gay explained to him why Obote's successor had been chosen saying, "Blunden (the pseudonym Steiner uses

for Barnard) told me that the British knew Idi Amin well and he was their first choice because he was the stupidest and the easiest to manipulate". As Steiner remarks, "Events were later to prove who was the most stupid." Little more is known about this episode except that Steiner claims that Barnard, who was running at this time an airline called Southern Air Motive, planned the December 1969 assassination attempt on Obote. There is also independent confirmation of Steiner's conviction that Barnard and Gay were acting for British intelligence, and that MI6 code books were found by Steiner at the Apollo hotel.

Troops back-up

That it was the Israelis who were providing so much help to the Anya-Nya while the Britons plotted against Obote lends support to the allegations of former CIA officials in March 1978 that Amin's coup was planned by British intelligence in co-operation with Mossad. Amin himself was known to have visited southern Sudan at least twice in 1970, once in disguise, and was in constant touch with the Anya-Nya. As said in part 1 of this article Israeli troops provided important support and advice to Amin in the coup itself, and subsequently, large sections of the Anya-Nya forces joined the Ugandan army as mercenaries.

In what could also have been a coincidence, seven hundred British troops arrived in Kenya just a few days before the coup. Although they were apparently scheduled to arrive long before, the 'Sunday Express' speculated that they would be used to put down anti-British riots following the decision of the British government to sell weapons to South Africa, remarking that the presence of the troops "- seemingly coincidental - could prove to be providential". It added that they could be used "if trouble for Britons and British interests starts..." The report was followed two days later, still before the coup, by strenuous denials.

While the British Conservative government felt the threat of unrest in Africa, African heads of state were piling on the pressure at the Commonwealth conference in Singapore. Kaunda of Zambia, Nyerere of Tanzania and Obote were presenting a united front to Ted Heath and threatening to leave the Commonwealth if Britain did not rescind the South African arms decision. At a tempestuous meeting with these heads of state Ted Heath was reported to say, "I wonder how many of you will be allowed to return to your own countries from this conference". Other reports have stated that Heath's foreknowledge of the coup was the result of information passed to him by MI6 who wanted Heath to inform Obote of the moves against him. In view of the outright hostility between Obote and the British government, the previous Labour administration included, this seems very unlikely.

But after the coup Amin defied all the British official characterisations of his behaviour as a head of state. Having won the help of the British government (which was the first to recognise him) on his visit to London and lunch with the Queen, Amin was annoyed at how they handled him. While Lord Carrington (then Minister of Defence, now Foreign Secretary) and Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas-Home promised him armoured cars to help put down resistance by Obote supporters, training for the army and £10 million in British-administered economic

aid, they stopped short of giving him jet fighters and other sophisticated equipment. As said in the last issue of PNS, Amin then approached the Israelis with similar demands. The Israelis, whose consent would have required American permission, refused. Amin began to look elsewhere, particularly for the support he needed in mounting an invasion of Tanzania, a brainchild of his which was becoming an obsession. The refusal of the British and Israelis to give him the military strength required for the invasion was probably the decisive factor in his disaffection with the two countries. His retaliations in 1972 included expelling the British, the Israelis and the Ugandan Asians.

More expert advice.

But prior to this, Amin turned to another collaborator of British intelligence in Africa, Major Ian Walsworth-Bell, for help in planning the invasion of Tanzania. Walsworth-Bell jokingly remarked that when he was acting as one of Amin's internal security advisers, Amin would fly in to meet him at his home on the Kagera river, on the border with Tanzania, in a helicopter.

The former officer in the Seaforth Highlanders had been a member in 1968 of the International Commission of Observers sent to the Nigerian

civil war to investigate allegations of genocide, but was sacked amid allegations that he had offered his services to the Federal government as a mercenary. But at a National Insurance tribunal in England where he protested his dismissal and demanded compensation, Walsworth-Bell explained that his real role in Nigeria was to collect intelligence for the British government and offer strategic military advice to the Federal forces. In spite of strenuous denials from the Foreign Office, the tribunal accepted his story and the chairman of the tribunal referred to him as a "frank and honest witness".

Walsworth-Bell took the Tanzania invasion plan very seriously and on Amin's behalf undertook spying missions to Tanzania to reconnoitre the defences and terrain in secret. Amin desperately wanted an east coast port independent of Kenya and Tanzania, and the Major supplied him with a logistical and strategic plan for carrying it out. Lack of resources meant Amin was never able to fully implement his pet project, but he never gave up the idea, and in fact it was his latest attempt to do it that prompted the Tanzanian and Ugandan anti-Amin forces to mount the invasion which toppled him.

Walsworth-Bell, as in Nigeria, did not maintain total discretion and attempted to get his story of how he helped Amin published in the Daily Express. But that was scotched by an interesting government move, namely a 'D-notice' banning the story on national security grounds. According to one intelligence agency, Walsworth-Bell was seen at Entebbe airport at the time of the recent invasion, although this is impossible to verify.

But Walsworth-Bell was not the only associate of British intelligence from whom Amin received succour. Another was the main contact in Africa for all western intelligence agencies, the ex-RAF pilot and long-serving adviser to President Kenyatta of Kenya, Bruce Mackenzie. Mackenzie died almost exactly twelve months ago when a bomb planted in his plane by Amin's police blew up, killing him and his business partner. The 'Daily Express' famous writer on intelligence, Chapman Pincher, said that he met at Mackenzie's home senior officials in MI6, Israeli intelligence, the CIA and the Iranian SAVAK, adding that Mackenzie had "built up a joint intelligence network with Israel which had sensational consequences." Mackenzie was, apparently, involved in the planning of the Entebbe raid, after Britain had fallen from Amin's favour, and on one occasion was responsible for the arrest in Kenya of Palestinians who were secretly turned over to the Israeli authorities.

Until Amin had him killed, Mackenzie was of invaluable assistance to him, especially in his capacity as East African agent for the giant telecommunications firm, Pye. As revealed in the 'New Scientist' recently, trade in radio transmitters and other electronic security equipment continued right up until Amin's fall from power, uninterrupted even by the death of Mackenzie.

As the tally of Amin's victims, former friends, members of the clergy, soldiers, and mostly ordinary people mounts in increasing proportions, stock should also be taken of those who helped him stay where he was and turned a blind eye to the amply-documented brutality of his regime. As many British companies flock to Uganda with claims for compensation and offers of multi-million pound deals, the present Ugandan regime could do worse than ask the British government to account for its activities there over the past nine years.

Britain supports Amin

British Arms for Amin

UGANDA OFFICERS

TRAINED BY

BRITISH TROOPS

Uganda police

'help from Britain'

Amin's Terror Chamber

Amin's troops kill hundreds of civilians in drunken rampage

Britain still aids Uganda

UK hopefuls queue for

compensation... and new business

TRIAL OVER ABORTION FILM

Lisbon (PNS Correspondent). A Portuguese journalist, Maria Antonia Palla, is on trial in Lisbon, accused of an 'attack on public morals' for the text of a film shown in February 1976 on Portuguese television. The film, entitled "Abortion is not a crime" was part of a series called "Name, Woman", produced by the Cinequipa team. But only the author of the text was charged.

The film called attention to the serious situation in which about 180,000 clandestine abortions are carried out each year, resulting in some 2000 deaths, not counting the women crippled or mutilated by the use of such crude methods as the knitting needle, duck feathers, hot mustard baths, etc. The 'crime' carries a penalty of 2 to 8 years in prison.

The film publicised the proposal of a group of women, including doctors, nurses and social workers who, during the revolution, set up a popular clinic in Lisbon to help pregnant women. Their solution was put in the context of a debate concerning the reasons why women want abortions. The performance of an abortion using the Karmen method (aspiration) illustrated the film, and a family planning class filled the second part of the film.

This was one of the first occasions in Portugal when the question of abortion was publicly raised. The debate aroused by the film continued for about three months. The TV programme was suspended and the team which made the film and the women's group which appeared in it received an order to appear in court.

The trial began on May 7, more than three years later. On May 15, Portuguese protesters handed a petition to the Assembly of the Republic, demanding legal abortion and defending Maria Antonia Palla for her part in the film. They are preparing a tribunal on Abortion in Portugal, to be held June 8-10, which they expect will be attended by international representatives.

In Britain, as part of solidarity actions around Europe, the International Campaign for Abortion Rights is organising a picket protesting the trial and the continuing illegality of abortion in Portugal. It will be held at the Portuguese Tourist Office, 1 New Bond Street, London W.1, on Thursday June 7 at 5pm.

For more information contact ICAR, c/o the National Abortion Campaign, 374 Gray's Inn Road, WC1 (tel. 278 0153).

WEST GERMAN SUPERGRASSES

West Germany (PNS Correspondent). The lengths to which the German state has gone in its efforts to convict Red Army Fraction members over the past few years have been revealed in the latest issue of 'Der Spiegel'. As in criminal cases informers were used, and the two principal ones in this case, Gerhard Mueller and Dierk Hoff, provided startling evidence which resulted in life-sentences for the accused. Mueller went free and Hoff received a four and a half year stretch for bomb-making. But 'Spiegel' says that their involvement with the RAF was more central than they or the State Prosecutor's Office have cared to admit in evidence.

While Mueller recounted several examples of seeing RAF members drive away to plant bombs, he said this was through intimate knowledge of the people concerned and not through direct involvement.

At one trial Mueller testified that a man called 'Pfirsich' was one of those who planted

bombs, but that he had never met him. In another trial the other informer Hoff testified that on one of those he had seen preparing bombs, stealing the gas bottles they packed the explosives in, and loading them into the cars which were driven to where the bombs were detonated, was called 'Harry' but that he could no longer recognise the man. Yet, according to documents of the Verfassungsschutz (the West German MI5) in the possession of 'Spiegel', Mueller's nom de guerre in the RAF was 'Harry' and that of Hoff, the principal bomb-maker, was 'Pfirsich'.

Both knew each others as members of the RAF, but hid their identities from the trial proceedings in collusion with the State Prosecutor's Office in order to ensure their safety from prison and so as not to damage the value of their evidence for the state. This evidence would have been far less influential if the courts had known that the two knew each other and that they downplayed to a massive extent their own involvement in the RAF's actions.

Although both were as much a part of the RAF as those in the dock, Hoff, for instance, while admitting the construction of several bombs, was not charged with several of the offences he had taken part in.

At the time of the trials, the defence lawyers went to great lengths to get State Prosecutor's Office officials to appear, and in the end, the head of the office, Buback, actually testified, denying utterly that any evidence had been cooked, or stories made up to tally with the prosecution case.

However, of the original defendants in the various trials, three have died in prison, supposedly at their own hands, and one of the original prosecutors, Siegfried Buback, was shot dead in a machine-gun attack. To these four the current furore in West Germany of the state's manipulation of the courts will make no difference.

ITALY: TROOPS MOVE IN

Rome (PNS/Liberation). The decision of the Italian government on May 9 that the army will take part in the campaign against terrorists, has been met with a new phase of attacks by the Red Brigades (BR). On Sunday May 13 a BR group broke into the garages of the Milan daily newspaper 'Corriere della Sera' (the Italian equivalent of what the "Times" used to be in Britain) and destroyed 10 distribution vans.

A few hours later, in Bologna, two masked men set fire to a business supplying goods to a prison. In a Milan suburb, a clandestine group shot at and bombed a carabinieri barracks.

Attacks were also carried out on a real estate agency in Pisa, and on the car of a company director in Naples. Finally, at 1.30 on Monday morning a car charged with explosives blew up in front of a Roman prison. The prison gate was destroyed and 15 cars damaged by flying debris. At the time, none of the targets was being protected by the army. On Saturday the Ministry of Defence issued a statement detailing the plans for army involvement in the anti-terrorist campaign.

"Triangular barricades will be erected around possible targets of attacks. Anyone passing these barricades will do so at their own risk. A sentry will give three warnings. On the second he will load his rifle, on the third will call out "Halt or I fire", after which he will order the opening of fire on the intruders."

The arms carried by the soldiers will vary according to the places they are protecting. At

present 10,000 soldiers will be placed on surveillance at some 500 locations (dams, airports, post offices, electricity stations, telephone exchanges etc.) In all, more than 60,000 soldiers will be mobilised, as has been the case during each election since 1946.

Freed from the surveillance of suspected targets the Italian police will step up its activities. Around 30 people were interrogated in Rome on Monday morning after a series of arrests of people from the "autonomia" area of political opinion.

Meanwhile the autonomist theoretician, Toni Negri, accused of having taken part in the Moro kidnap, has refused to answer magistrates questions in court.

OTRAG FIZZLES OUT

London (PNS Correspondent/Afrique-Asie). Since the announcement on April 27 that the Zaire government has requested the West German firm OTRAG to cease all rocket developments in Zaire, there has been widespread discussion of the forces prompting this unexpected decision.

In late 1975 OTRAG signed a contract with President Mobutu for the purchase of 100,000 square kilometres of Zaire's territory to be used for the development of commercial satellites. Under the contract OTRAG was to pay Zaire \$50 million per year or 10 per cent of gross revenues, whichever was greater, for the lease of the launch site and test range plus five per cent of the revenue earned by the company for launching satellites.



OTRAG's activities in Zaire were not only a source of concern to neighbouring African countries, but a severe embarrassment to the West. There were persistent allegations that OTRAG was to develop nuclear 'cruise' missiles (some of OTRAG's directors, like Lutz Kayser, invented the V-1 and V-2 rockets for Hitler) to circumvent the ban on nuclear re-armament in West Germany. Whilst many reports say that President Mobutu's decision to oust OTRAG was designed to ease Zaire's relations with Angola, some commentators see the West as having taken the initiative.

During Mobutu's recent visit to France, it is thought that President Giscard d'Estaing strongly advised him to annul the contract with OTRAG. France has tended to view OTRAG's activities as contravening the Treaty of Potsdam of 1945 which forbids any nuclear re-armament by West Germany.

According to the Paris daily 'Le Matin' concern mounted to such an extent that the French secret service SDECE, at the end of 1978, "organised a reconnaissance mission by a pilot of a French airline. Aerial photographs were taken of the region controlled by OTRAG and transmitted to the French espionage services."

OTRAG's operations in Zaire have jeopardised relations between the West German government and African states. The West Germans have been unsuccessfully trying to establish diplomatic

and commercial relations with Angola for some time. West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt was told by Zambian and Nigerian officials during a trip to Africa last June that they feared OTRAG was developing military weapons in Zaire. Prompted by these comments, Schmidt stated after the trip "I have to say, at this moment, these activities are jeopardising our foreign policy and we want to find out more about them". Lutz T. Kayser, OTRAG Company President, charged that the Soviet premier Leonid Brezhnev personally put pressure on Schmidt to organise the withdrawal of OTRAG from Zaire. "Zaire was then under strong pressure from the Bonn government which said it would not give development aid", unless the Zaire government forced a halt to OTRAG's space launcher activities, Kayser claimed.

The relationship between OTRAG and the West German government is unclear. Until a few years ago the government supported OTRAG with subsidies reaching several million marks. West German overseas aid in the early 1960s went to build bridges in the very area now leased by OTRAG. The company that built the bridges at the West German tax-payers' expense was later purchased by OTRAG.

Erwin Blumenthal, the West German leader of the IMF team managing the Zaire National Bank in Kinshasa is thought to have discreetly advised his government to publicly disassociate itself from OTRAG and to privately persuade the company's directors to provisionally renounce their plans.

OTRAG, however, is not completely suspending its operation in Zaire. Although all rocket development activities are to be ceased, according to Kayser, Mobutu has asked the company to increase air transport and mining activities. OTRAG "operates quite a few (Hawker Siddeley) Argosies and Boeing 707s in Zaire," Kayser said. He described his company's mining activities as "not extensive". "But", he said, "these will increase under the Zaire government request". He noted that Zaire produces 60 per cent of the world's supply of cobalt, "which is crucial to" the aerospace industry.

Under the terms of the contract between OTRAG and the Zaire government, the cancellation of rocket launching activities will result in a loss to Zaire of an estimated \$6.2 billion over the next 25 years (the contract was scheduled to run up to the year 2000). Meanwhile, OTRAG, according to a company spokesperson, will lose \$1.6 - 2.1 million because of the need to find a new launch site.

While Kayser states that OTRAG still expects to launch its first commercial satellite at the end of 1981, the search for new launch sites goes on. The company has previously had negotiations with Brazil and Indonesia, and contacts have recently been made with Egypt and the Sudan. The record of OTRAG's activities in Zaire, however, is likely to dampen any Third World countries' enthusiasm for such a project.

PARAS SPEAK ON ZAIRE

Brussels (PNS/Pour). The nature of the political and economic crisis in Zaire and the role of the Belgian military force played in propping up the Mobutu regime have been clarified in the personal account of some of the paratroopers who recently returned from Zaire.

"The official function of the paratroopers was to help train the Zaire armed forces who were stationed at Kitona. When we arrived the population at first believed that we had come to save them from the Zaire army, which they

look on as an army of occupation. Army patrols regularly ransack villages. All because they are so badly paid. In the Zaire army, food is distributed according to rank. The officers start by taking as much as they like. When it's the turn of the soldiers, there's nothing left, so they pillage the population.

"The people live in terrible conditions of misery. At Kitona, there isn't any drinkable water. All the pumping and filtering equipment was out of order due to lack of spare parts. The Kitona region was suffering from a severe drought. Women travelled several kilometres on foot in the hope of finding water. People offered to sell us anything in order to get hold of water.

"At the hospital we saw some horrible sights. New-born babies are washed in muddy water because there's nothing else and the mortality level is frightful. Wards and corridors are packed with sick people. Most of those who go in don't come out alive. Also, corruption is the law there and the money and medicines are diverted before they get there.

"We saw some very odd things. In the villages they have abundant electricity, even in the poorest huts - this is because of the nearby hydro-electric power station. They have electricity but they are starving to death.

"At the Kitona base we commenced by putting the installations in order. We didn't really think that our mission was to impress the Zaire army. It's clear that was a pretext to justify our mission there. But now that the base is in order and we know the place, any future military intervention in Shaba will be much quicker than the last one."

BRAZILIAN STRIKE WAVE THREATENS REGIME

Sao Paulo (PNS/Liberation). The repercussions of the Brazilian metalworkers' strike in March, when 220,000 workers paralysed production for two weeks in the biggest strike since 1964, are still being felt throughout the country (see PNS 167). Although the strike was supposed to have ended on March 27, following discussions between the government, the trade union leader Lula, and the church, workers in fact only voted to adjourn strike activity for 45 days.

The negotiations resulted in an offer by employers to increase wage rates by 11 per cent instead of the 68 per cent demanded by workers. During the adjournment factory gates remained closed. However, as the 45-day period came to a close and mass meetings of workers were held, the employers partially acceded to the strikers' demands by offering them a 63 per cent increase.



Bulletin D'information Bresilien, LNS

DEMOCRACY FRENCH STYLE

New Caledonia (PNS/Tribune). Although France has always prided itself on the peaceful incorporation of its remaining colonies into the French parliament through the representation of deputies from overseas 'departements' and territories - known as the DOM and TOM - recent pro-independence moves have been met with acts of colonial tyranny.

When pro-independence groups gained a majority in the Government Council of New Caledonia, a French possession in the South Pacific, the French sacked the Council and suspended its function for two months.



The Council, limited to legislating on the internal economy, was placed under rule by a Paris-appointed high commissioner. The French government has rushed through laws to restructure the Council to stop pro-independence forces getting the upper hand again. It also announced an extensive development plan drawn up by colonial 'troubleshooter' Dijoud in a bid to placate the growing independence movement. In a interview broadcast in Noumea, Overseas Territories secretary Dijoud declared, "New Caledonia is French and it will remain completely French. It will be a society of justice, brotherhood and liberty just like French society itself." The New Caledonian pro-independence groups, known as the 'Kanaks', know otherwise and want the United Nations Decolonisation Committee to send a mission to investigate French repression.

This would put workers' wages a little above the Brazilian inflation rate which is running at 46 per cent. On Wednesday May 17 the metalworkers accepted the offer.

The strike has been a significant test for the 'democratic opening' policy of the Figueiredo military regime. The government has followed a careful line and taken an active part in the wage negotiations. Such policies, however, have opened the way for widespread industrial unrest. In mid-April 150,000 teachers stopped work following on the strike action of civil servants in the state of Sao Paulo a week before. The civil servants had been demanding a wage increase of 70 per cent but were only offered 35 per cent by the Sao Paulo governor. When 600 of them began strike action the governor refused to give any wage increase at all. Now the strikers' ranks have swelled to 220,000 and their action is paralysing the whole state. With the metalworkers off its hands, the Federal government in Brasilia is expected to come down heavily on the civil servants.

This new-found militancy of workers culminated in a Mayday march of 200,000 through the streets of Sao Paulo. An event unheard of for fifteen years.

The rally also reconfirmed the position of Luis Inacio Da Silva, known as Lula, as Brazil's most powerful trade union leaders. Lula's position is rather ambiguous. On the one hand he is viewed by the government and employers as a person to cultivate in the role of a negotiator.

By entering into negotiations they hope to avoid the continuing industrial action which could paralyse the economy.

Although Lula's leadership of the metal-workers strike showed that it was possible to subvert the official government-sponsored unions, there are fears that the weight of the old state apparatus will prove too much for any real advances to be made. These fears are not without foundation. Factory councils have been multiplying but are not yet sufficiently strong to provide a structure for opposition to be based on. Thus, Lula, while backed by the majority of workers, is still acting on his own initiative and not in response to collective decisions.

While worker militancy grows the organised political power of the left is still almost totally non-existent. The extreme-left has gathered force with the new wave of strikes,

but its main form of expression is still through a number of left-wing newspapers. The strongest political force operating in the factory councils is the socialist movement, which has a predominantly Trotskyist current. The influence of this movement among workers has caused the Minister of Labour to see it as the political root of worker agitation.

The Brazilian communist parties - one pro-Russia and the other pro-China - are still banned and are so clandestine that it is difficult to estimate their influence.

Now there are plans, backed by Lula and other leading trade unionists, for the formation of a Labour Party. These plans are intended to harness worker activity and political movements on the extreme left into a coherent political group with which to force government reforms.

PORTUGAL TRIES TO CLING ON TO MOZAMBIQUE

Maputo (PNS/AIM). Negotiations between the governments of Portugal and Mozambique relating to the restructuring of the Mozambican banking system, broke down in April. Articles published in the Mozambican newspaper 'Noticias' show how the Portuguese regime, under increasingly right-wing governments, and under its own economic pressures, has sabotaged developments towards what many had hoped would be friendly relations between Portugal and its ex-colony.

According to 'Noticias', the Portuguese government had tried to saddle the Mozambican state bank with the liabilities of the Mozambican branches of two Portuguese banks which had ceased their activities in 1977 since they were technically insolvent. The Mozambican branches of the Banco de Fomento Nacional and the Banco Pinto e Sotto Mayor, both belonging to the Portuguese state as a result of nationalisation in 1977, had been lending millions of 'contos' (one 'conto' = 1000 Escudos = about £20) to firms which they knew could not repay. These firms were financially linked to the banks, having the same parent companies. The factories' financial problems are rooted in the strategy for exploitation in the colonial era.

Some, like the Maragra sugar refinery, were set up with a view to providing produce for the Portuguese market without spending foreign exchange - which was needed to buy weaponry for the wars in the colonies. Financial liability was not the immediate concern, and by 1973 Maragra had accumulated losses totalling £3.3 million.

When the banks which were pouring money into such firms could no longer honour their depositors' accounts, the banks' head offices in Portugal ought to have sent money from Portugal to pay their depositors. Instead, as soon as the talks began in February 1978, the Portuguese delegation tried to pass responsibility for paying the depositors on to the Bank of Mozambique. The irrecoverable debts incurred by firms which had gone bankrupt or were in serious financial difficulties were also 'offered' to Mozambique.

The Portuguese failure to transfer the money was apparently based on the difficult economic situation in Portugal. As a concession, the Mozambican side suggested that Portugal should pay the depositors with money left in Mozambique by the Portuguese airline 'TAP' and funds deposited in the Portuguese consulates by departing settlers.

'TAP' had made enormous profits during the colonial era due to its monopoly rights on international flights to and from Mozambique. Some of this money remained in Mozambique, in the hands of the Portuguese consulates. Portuguese settlers had also deposited large sums of money, much of which ought to have been used to repay debts to the banks before leaving the country. In other cases, the settlers preferred to leave their money with the consulates because

rumours had been spread that the Mozambican government would nationalise bank accounts. After independence, the Portuguese government began to pay embassy and consular running costs, including staff salaries, with this money instead of importing the cash as is normal practice.

Last year the Portuguese delegation at the talks agreed in principle that this money and the 'TAP' funds could be used for paying the depositors of the two insolvent banks. But despite this acceptance, said 'Noticias', the Portuguese side continued to try to pass responsibility for paying these debts on to the Bank of Mozambique, with the aim of using the 'TAP' and consular funds as little as possible.

Another part of the ultimatum the Portuguese made this April dealt with their demand for special diplomatic protection for Portuguese living in Mozambique, instead of the present rights which they share with all other foreigners. The Portuguese side at the talks in Maputo cited the case of a Portuguese mercenary, Rui da Silva, who had been captured, gun in hand, while on a Rhodesian-sponsored military attack on Mozambique. Da Silva was executed after being tried by Mozambique's Revolutionary Military Tribunal.

The head of the Portuguese delegation at the talks, Industry and Technology Minister Alvaro Barreto, said afterwards, "We told the Mozambican delegation that if Mozambique was not ready to accept the principles which Portugal considers essential, it was not worthwhile wasting time."

Mozambique rejected the ultimatum.

Portuguese who want to come to work in Mozambique face a variety of obstructions from the Portuguese authorities in spite of a co-operation agreement signed by the governments. Contracts for technical assistance and co-operation between enterprises of the two countries have been blocked for many months in Portugal.

"Portuguese public and private enterprises which want to sell their products or services in Mozambique find it impossible to fulfill their commitments because the Portuguese state delays, without justification, the authorisation for financing which has already been requested and promised," said the newspaper.

It added that on March 6 this year, the Portuguese Commission for Credits and Credit Guarantees had decided not to guarantee any

operation in Mozambique nor to extend any guarantee commitments. As a result of this, said 'Noticias', the Portuguese firm 'Sorefame' had been prevented from making a £6 million contract with Mozambique's National Water Board at a time when European firms like 'Sorefame' were struggling to get orders. This type of action could not, said the newspaper, be viewed separately from the walk-out by the Portuguese delegation (in response to Mozambique's refusal of the Portuguese ultimatum). "Their rudeness clearly shows their refusal to take part in dialogue."

MIGRANT WORKERS PAWNS IN EUROPEAN CRISIS

Geneva (PNS/Tout Va Bien). The economic crisis in Western Europe has had a paradoxical effect on the movements of immigrant labour. While northern Europe repatriates its migrant labour from mediterranean Europe, southern Europe is importing African labour.

Anticipating an economic crisis, the industrial countries of Europe commenced in 1970 to put a break on the entry of migrant labour. In Switzerland, the country with the highest proportion of migrant workers, a systematic plan to repatriate migrant workers began with the first signs of unemployment in 1973. This has resulted in a greater number of workers returning to Italy than those leaving. The labour importing countries of northern Europe have, since 1975, succeeded in reducing the overall level of migrants in their countries. The workers who have resided in the country the longest have tended to benefit the most from such measures.

Workers who have been assimilated into the population and have the best professional qualifications have been given new possibilities to fully integrate themselves into the "host" country. At the heart of these measures has been a policy of regrouping families. In France, West Germany and Switzerland, since 1976, the majority of new residence visas have been issued to the wives and children of immigrant workers already in the country.

During this time the population of Italy, which is the main source of migrant labour, has not only increased through returning workers, but through the arrival of thousands of African workers. Most of these workers, whose number is estimated at about 300,000, entered the country clandestinely and work without permits. Working in fisheries or agriculture, as servants, in hotels and on building sites, these workers are doing the jobs in Italy that the Italians have done in Switzerland and Germany.

While Italy, Spain and Portugal have benefitted economically from the large outflow of workers, African workers coming to these countries play a different economic and political role.

They take on the jobs refused by well-educated young people. At the same time, overseas migration to Italy has "put a seal on plans for social services, by reducing the strong contradiction between the job aspirations of young people and the labour market.

Of Italy's 1.5 million unemployed, 1.2 million are young people, and four-fifths of this figure are people looking for their first jobs. Although youth unemployment is a feature of all Western countries, Italy is unique in having had to wait for the advent of an economic crisis to cause its dependence on foreign labour.

In Italy the phenomenon has been explained through the development of a model of migrant "stocks". During the years of growth, northern European countries accumulated "stocks" of foreign labour. Now the crisis has permitted them to decrease their "stocks" to an optimal level. Hence in three years West Germany repatriated 460,000 foreigners, and Switzerland 150,000. It was the advent of the economic crisis, however, which led to the building up of "stocks" in



southern Europe. Between 1974 and 1977, 420,000 workers are estimated to have arrived in Italy.

Such a theory is used to explain the existence of coexistence of unemployment and migration into Italy, at the same time that northern Europe is repatriating workers, in the sense that the migrants forestall the development of contradiction in the country's economy.

Meanwhile in Switzerland, demonstrations have been organised to support the migrant workers in their predicament. The Committee for non-discriminatory politics towards foreigners in Geneva stated:

"Contrary to the impressions given by official propaganda, the elimination of 350,000 jobs, of which two-thirds are held by foreigners, will not resolve the important social problems of unemployment and housing.... The migrant workers should not be used to provide an economic conjuncture, but should have their political rights recognised by the state. While respecting their identity, they should have the right to stay in Switzerland."

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-2 that the ICFTU and by association the TUC have helped destroy genuine workers movements in Latin America, Africa and Asia,

-3 that they are divorced from the real needs of workers in the developing countries,

-4 that they helped the CIA of the USA perform its distabilisation policies.

This Council calls on the TUC General Council to conduct an in-depth investigation into these allegations and publish its findings for the benefit of the regional council and other interested bodies". It might shake the TUC to know that the motion was passed without opposition.

Tony Ayland, representing the county association of Trades Councils of Gloucestershire, proposed the motion describing the War on Want pamphlet as, "a picture of how the ICFTU was used by American-created and influenced bodies whose objectives were more to suppress communism than assist the development of free and strong unions to fight for workers' rights against often oppressive regimes".

The normally vocal moderate trade union officials remained virtually silent throughout the debate, which has led some to think that even some right-wing trade unionists are concerned about the silence of the TUC on these questions. Trade unionists are getting the impression that the TUC has something to hide. None of the TUC's monthly circulars to trades councils summarising General Council decisions have even mentioned the subject, although readers of the press know that they have discussed it.

There have been acrimonious debates at Congress House, and a wall of silence around them that the General Council has no intention of breaching. When PNS phoned the TUC Press Department we were told that the reason why no announcements had been made was because the General Council had decided that the allegations did not merit answering. However, they did not deign to inform trade unionists that they had made this decision, but left it to readers of various publications, like the New Statesman and PNS, to find out for themselves.

Tony Ayland told PNS that the object of putting the motion to the South-West Regional Council of the TUC was to try and make more trade unionists aware of the issues and he said "We hope that much more discussion will take place on these questions". Having ducked their responsibilities to trade unionists so far, it is beginning to look as though it will take another Chile-type coup for the General Council and the International Committee even to admit publicly that they talk about their international responsibilities.

Paul Carter is collecting information for a book on how still photography is used in community development and action, including photography in community newspapers. He also has a list of community projects in Britain which use photography, which could be useful to community newspaper groups. Others who have developed a similar interest can contact Paul Carter at: 56 Chesil Street, Winchester, Hants; (tel 0962 66576).

PUBLICATIONS

Books, Pamphlets etc.

Southern Africa Stands Up, by Wilfred Burchett. Urizen Books, 303 pp. £2.95.

Subtitled, 'The revolutions in Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Rhodesia and South Africa', this is a historical account combined with Burchett's personal experience, having himself been behind the lines in more revolutions than one cares to remember. He begins with history of the Angolan and Mozambican experiences and ends with an assessment of the prospects in Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa. Includes a useful chronology of events from the late '50s to the present.

The British Media & Ireland - Truth, the First Casualty, by Campaign for Free Speech on Ireland, 1 North End Rd., London W.14. 56pp. 50p.

"If you don't know what is happening in Northern Ireland, you must have been watching British television, listening to British radio and reading the British press". If you have this and the Belfast Workers Research Unit pamphlet on the same subject, you have a very comprehensive account of distortion, propaganda and covert action in the last British colony. Deals with the methodology of censorship, several specific cases, the attitude of the National Union of Journalists, several cartoons and much else besides. A very good buy.

A New World In Our Hearts - The Faces of Spanish Anarchism, edited by Albert Meltzer. Published by Cienfuegos Press. 100pp. £1.75.

"In addition to offering the reader a brief

history of Spanish anarchism and examining its aims and achievements, it also casts a critical but constructive look at the failures and shortcomings (past, present and future) of a movement with a current membership of over half a million workers."

Periodicals

As Prison Newsletter for Women, No 1. March/April 1979. 50 cents. Published by Women Free Women in Prison, P.O.Box 282, West Nyack, New York 10994, USA. Bimonthly.

WFWP believe that "All of us should realise that women in prison, when supported and organised, will be - and already have been - valiant fighters at the forefront of both our struggles (the prison movement and the women's movement)". Includes much legal news and case-studies of certain women in jail now.

Greater London Arts Association Annual Report, 1977/8. Free, from GLAA, 25-31 Tavistock Place, London W.C.1.

Details grants, schedules, accounts, committees etc. and raps the GLC for not contributing enough to GLAA's work. Only 7.5 per cent of its budget was provided by the GLC. They say, "Nor should the GLC be allowed to escape thier obligations by pointing to their expenditure on the South Bank. Even including this and their grants to London's prestige arts centres, the GLC spends less per head on the arts than other metropolitan counties like Merseyside and Tyne & Wear". The GLC per capita contribution is 68 p while the minimum elsewhere is £2.00.

May

- Thurs 24 London. 'Freedom of Information' public meeting. Speakers include Crispin Aubrey and Clement Freud. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. Evening. Organisers, National Secular Society, tel. 01-272-1266.
- Manchester. Manchester Area Resources Centre (also publishes MARC Times) AGM, 7.30 pm, 61 Bloom street, Manchester 1.
- Fri 25 - Mon 28 Leicestershire. Power; a conference to reflect on personal and institutional power and our own experience of its use. Contact 54 Leicester Rd., Shepshead, Leicester, or David Dale, 201 Abbeyfield Rd., Sheffield S4 7AZ.
- Fri 25 London. Peace News Benefit with Crass and supporting band, Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, N.5.
- Sat 26 - Mon 28 Hampshire. Self-help group weekend organised by International Voluntary Service at Minstead Lodge, New Forest, nr. Southampton. Further info from Sara Elkers, Projects officer, IVS, 50 Regent Rd., Leicester.
- Sat 26 Blackburn. Peace meeting. Speakers include Lucas shop steward Phil Asquith. Free. Friends Meeting House, Paradise Lane, 7.30 pm. Details: Dorothy Bailey, 225 Cornelian St., Tel. 49592.
- Birmingham. Gay Music Night with Barbie Norden and Mark Bunyan. Gay Community Centres, 9-10 Bordesley Street: 8 pm. Non-earner 40p, others 60p.

June

- Fri 1 - Mon 4 Leeds. Symposium on Alternative Education. Ian Lister, Education Otherwise, AS Neill Trust and many other free schools. At Beechwood Hall, Elmete Lane, Roundhay, Leeds 8. Bookable only from Dan Daum. Beechwood Hall for details, agenda and application form.
- Fri 1 - Wed 6 North Wales. Ruthin Free Festival. Legal site near Cynwyd. Contact Third Stone, 39-41 Manestys Lane, Liverpool 1.
- Fri 1 London. Buskers Against Muzak concert. Meanwhile Gardens, Westbourne Park.
- Sat 2 Faslane. National CND demo against Polaris. Assemble at Pier Head, Helensburgh (near Glasgow). 12.30 pm march to Faslane base. Social event in Glasgow in evening. Transport is arranged from many areas on Friday, returning Sunday morning. Details: CND, 29 Great James St., London W.C.1. Tel. 01-242-0362.
- London. Anti-Apartheid Conference for Trade Unionists. Speakers include Jack Jones and Ken Gill. Contact Chris Child at AAM, Tel. 01-580-5311.
- Sun 3 Liverpool. 'The Ox-bow Incident', Liberty Hall Film Society, Everyman Bistro, Hope St. 8pm. Members 25p. Non-members 40p.
- Wed 6 London. Launching of Zimbabwe Emergency Campaign Committee at Central Hall Westminster in a meeting of organisations. Committee "will be organised on the same basis as the Campaign Committee which successfully mobilised opposition to the attempts by the Conservative Government in 1971-2 to recognise the illegal regime in Rhodesia". Details from Mike Terry, Tel. 580-5311.
- Thurs 7 London. Picket in support of abortion rights in Portugal, at the Portuguese Tourist Office, 1 New Bond Street, London W.1, 5pm. Contact the International Abortion Rights Campaign, c/o 374 Gray's Inn Road, WC 1 (tel. 278 0153).
- London. Discussion meeting around the Open Door programme by Campaign Against Racism in the Media. The programme will be shown at the meeting and discussion led by Stuart Hall, Director of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at Birmingham University. Institute of Race Relations, 6.30pm.
- Fri 8 - Sun 17 London. Women's Festival '79. Theatre, films, workshops, video, music, poetry etc. Women's Arts Alliance, 10 Cambridge Terrace Mews, N.W.1. Details: Tel. 01-935-1841.
- Sat 9 - Sun 10 Manchester. National Abortion Campaign National Conference. Should the campaign remain single issue? and other questions. Papers for the conference, on Gestetner A-4 stencil, to be sent to NAC, 374 Grays Inn Rd., London W.C.1. Details from same address. Tel. 01-278-0153.
- Sat 9 Salisbury. March and other action against expansion of Boscombe Down nuclear bomber base. Assemble in Greencroft, St. Edmunds Church St: 10.30 am. March via Porton to Boscombe Down construction site. Details: Southampton Greenpeace. c/o Michael Waugh, 32 Khartoum Rd., Southampton 2.
- Chester. Stop URENCO Alliance. National meeting to plan July events. Friends Meeting House, Frodsham St., 11 am. Details: Stop URENCO Workgroup, c/o Manchester FoE, 95 Oxford Rd., Manchester 1 (Tel. 061-273-2044).