

S.B. No. 1 (Films)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

S.D.S.

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

1975

SUBJECT

ATUA

The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

Reference to Papers

V72/246

On Sunday 9th March 1975, from 3 pm to 9 pm, at the City Hall, Sheffield, the 5th National Conference of the All Trades Union Alliance was held under the aegis of the Workers Revolutionary Party. About 1500 persons attended.

1. Due to the late arrival of trains from London and the tedious business of obtaining credentials for the conference, the meeting was not brought to order until 3.30 pm. Jim BEVAN, shop steward at the British Steel Corporation's Port Talbot steel works, chairman for the day, opened the conference. He said that ATUA was hated by the stalinists and other revisionists, who would do everything in their power to prevent the growth of the ATUA, but the stalinists' betrayal of the working class and sellout of comrades WARREN and TOMLINSON, had guaranteed its success. He then called on Alan GADSBY to give the main report for the National Committee of the ATUA.

Privacy

4. GADSBY spoke for at least thirty minutes in a monotonous uninspiring voice and failed to capture the attention of the majority of those present. A series of speakers, representative of a wide cross-section of the industry, then made similar speeches which were basically attacks on the stalinists and other revisionists, i.e. the Communist Party, International Socialists and the International Marxist Group, and an appeal for both the Party and its industrial wing to be strengthened.

A collection, which raised over £200, was followed by a one hour meal break. The second session was opened by Mike FARLEY who spoke about the Higan campaign to secure the release of the two imprisoned Shrewsbury pickets and protest against the new conspiracy laws. He said that it was even more important now that the Stalinist dominated North Wales 2nd Defence Committee had decided to disband. A new phase of the campaign to free the pickets would start on Wednesday 2nd April (previously reported) and the Shrewsbury 2 Action Committee, to which the Higan Building Action Committee

M.P. 73-88376/20M (2)

HOWARD JAMES

is affiliated, had organised a decisive campaign which would commence with a march from Hull to Merseyside.

7. At this point a vote was taken on the main report given by comrade GADSBY. The report was accepted by all but one person.

8. The penultimate item on the agenda was the election of the National Committee of the AFUA, which proceeded quickly and without fuss. The following persons were elected by a simple majority to serve on the National Committee of the All Trades Union Alliance for their respective trades:-

- Jim BEVAN (Steel Workers)
- [Redacted] (Motor Industry Workers (Ford - Merseyside))
- [Redacted] (Building Workers)
- Alan GADSBY (Motor Industry Workers (Vauxhall - Ellesmere Port))
- [Redacted] (Bookbinders)
- [Redacted] (Aircraft Workers)
- [Redacted] (Musicians)
- [Redacted] (Mine Workers)
- [Redacted] (Motor Industry Workers (BLM - Cowley))
- Corin REDGRAVE (Actors)

Three representatives from the Motor Industry were elected instead of two as in previous years. This was brought about because there were four nominees for two positions. [Redacted] clearly received the most votes and [Redacted] received what appeared to be an equal number of votes and rather than delay the conference by the time consuming process of counting hands it was agreed that both should be allowed to serve on the N.C.

9. In his closing speech Gary HEALY, General Secretary of the NRP, said that any attempt by the capitalist class to solve the economic crisis meant an attack on the living standards of the working class. This meant that the working class were brought in to politics and it had to be brought home to the trade union movement that there could be no middle of the road position. The crisis itself and the role of the capitalist state raised the question of power but the trade union leaders refused to fight for the release of the Shrewsbury 2 and failed to recognise it as being part of the fight for power. If the fight to free brothers unjustly imprisoned was lost so was the fight to preserve our living standards.

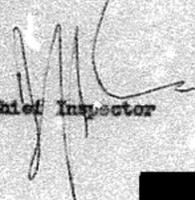
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This created an enormous vacuum of leadership and without that leadership the working class would once again be betrayed. The building of the revolutionary leadership was the central task and that was why the Shrewsbury 2 Action Committee had organised the march from Hull to Merseyside. This would give friend SCARGILL a second chance to show where he stood on this issue. The speech was acknowledged with tremendous applause."

10. References of those persons and organisations mentioned in this report are shown at appendix 'A'.

11. Attached at appendix 'B' is a document distributed outside the conference by the Workers Socialist League, and a leaflet which was distributed to advertise the conference.

  
Chief Inspector

  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]

S.D.S.

Appendix to SB report dealing with the 5th National Conference of the All Trades Union Alliance, held on 9th March 1975, at Sheffield City Hall.

[REDACTED]

Privacy

BEVAN, Jim

Mentions re WRP

[REDACTED]

Privacy

BARLEY, Mike

RF.402, Privacy

[REDACTED]

Privacy

CALESBI, Alan

Mentions re WRP

[REDACTED]

Privacy

[REDACTED]



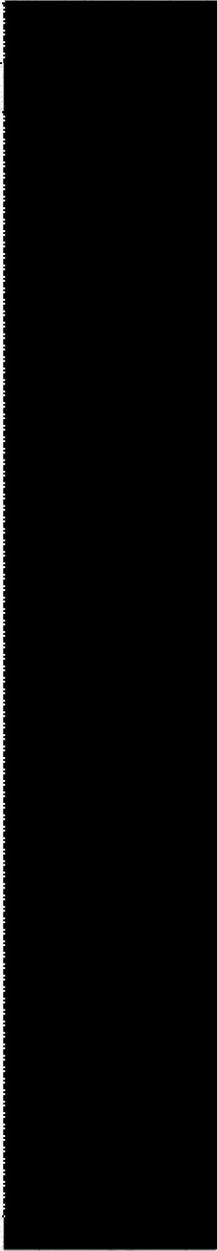
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HEALY, Gerry

RF.102/A1/455A



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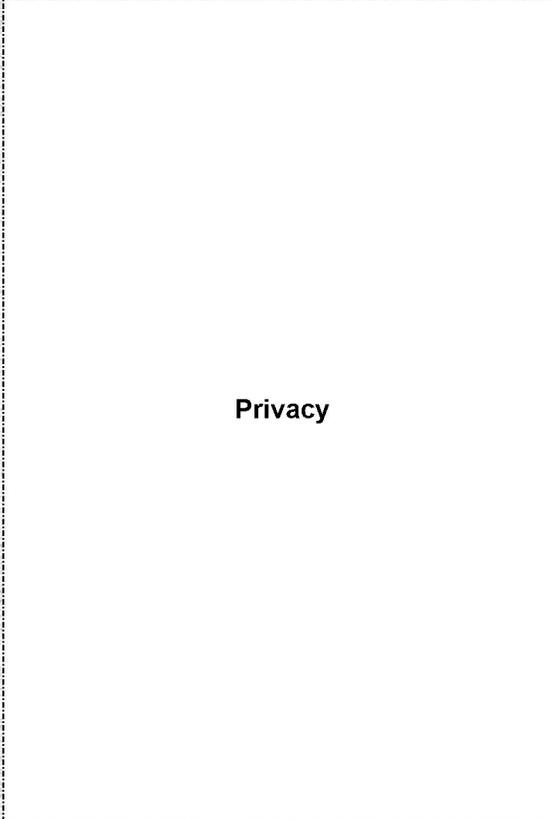


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- 3 -

FEDGRAVE, Corin

SP.405/70/264



Privacy



APPENDIX 'B'

to the Special Branch report dealing with the 5th National Conference  
of the All Trades Union Alliance, held on 27th March 1975, at Sheffield  
City Hall.

THE ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

# 5th NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Sheffield City Hall,  
Sunday March 9, 3 p.m.

**Defend basic democratic rights!**

**Build the revolutionary leadership!**

THE basic democratic rights of trade unionists throughout Britain are being menaced on a scale never seen before. Every reactionary force in the country led by the ultra-reactionaries Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph in the Tory party is organizing and preparing to exploit the growing slump and mass unemployment. They are preparing to launch a frontal attack on the working class, deprive it of its hard won rights and smash its organizations. Their principal targets are the trade unions and political parties of the working class.

They are aided in this struggle by the bankrupt right-wing policies of the Labour government. The jailing of the Shrewsbury pickets, the Anti-Terrorism Act, the social contract and the failure to control hyper-inflation and unemployment by the adoption of socialist policies encourages the right-wing revival in the Tories and opens the door to the gravest dangers for the working class.

The right-wing leaders in turn are aided in this conspiracy by the actions and policies of the Stalinist leaders, the centrist 'Left' MPs around 'Tribune' and the revisionists who deliberately seek to confuse workers and divert them from revolutionary political struggles for power into the blind alley of rank-and-file protest and pressure on the bureaucratic leaders.

The All Trades Unions Alliance which is the industrial section of the Workers Revolutionary Party, declares that the menace of Toryism can and must be defeated and the prospect of mass unemployment and wage cutting prevented through the independent mobilization of the working class against the monopoly employers and their state on the basis of socialist policies.

Only the overthrow of the state power of the capitalist class and the establishment of a workers' state based—not on Parliament—but on Workers Councils can realize this programme.

This revolutionary struggle however cannot be conducted in the unions on the basis of spontaneous rank and file militancy. The struggle for power demands that the unions be purged of their reactionary officialdom and be led by revolutionaries skilled in the theory and practice of Marxism.

This means the building of the Workers Revolutionary Party which alone can raise the political consciousness of workers to a revolutionary socialist level. Only such a leadership can successfully combat all those forces—reformist, Stalinist and revisionist—who try to divert and sabotage the struggle for state power in Britain.

The National Committee of the ATUA submits the following policy as a vital part of the struggle for the new leadership:

● **Reject the Social Contract.** Demand a full basic wage increase plus a sliding scale of wages to cover inflationary rises in the cost of living.

● **Resist all redundancies** with a sliding scale of hours with no loss of pay. Answer sackings with factory occupations. Defend the basic right to work. Form factory committees in the occupied work places and carry the fight for jobs throughout industry on a combine-wide basis. These committees must plan production as part of a struggle to establish planned economy.

● **Investigate the company's books.** Investigate the company's books. Investigate the

P.T.O.

state of the company's accounts, its finances, capital structure, assets, loans debts, and order books. End boardroom secrecy. Publish all business secrets as the first step towards effective control of production and integration of planning.

● **Transform** the trade unions through this struggle into schools of planned economy.

● **Nationalize** all industry, banks and land without compensation and under workers' control. Oppose all forms of workers' participation which subordinates the unions to the capitalist state. Compensation in the past has benefited the nationalized industries while and benefited the banks. There must be no repetition of this.

● **Impose** state monopoly of foreign trade. Repudiate the foreign debt.

● **Abolish** VAT and all indirect taxation.

● **Immediate withdrawal** from the Common Market as part of a struggle to expropriate big

business and establish a Socialist Britain within a United Socialist States of Europe.

● **Disband** the army and the police. Establish a workers' militia. **Deport** all CIA personnel. **Withdraw** from NATO. Publish all secret military and diplomatic agreements.

● **Repeat** all anti-working class legislation, such as the Anti-terrorism Act and the conspiracy laws. Release all political prisoners. End internment in Ulster. Support the campaign of the Wigan Builders Action Committee to release the Shrewsbury Pickets.

● **Fight** for the unity of workers of all nationalities in a common struggle to defend basic democratic rights and end capitalism. Oppose all attempts to treat the question of racism as a single issue. Only revolutionary policies and the building of the revolutionary party can smash racism and fascism.

● **Build** the revolutionary alternative to Stalinism, revisionism and reformism in the unions—the All Trades Unions Alliance, industrial section of the Workers Revolutionary Party.

I would like more information about the conference. Please send credentials (25p each) I enclose £.....

Name .....

Address .....

Please send to:

**ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE**

A. Wilkins, 51 The Hiron, Styvechale, Coventry.

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WORKERS SOCIALIST LEAGUE.  
OUR POLICY FOR THIS CONFERENCE.

Every day it becomes clearer that unless a determined struggle is waged now to defend jobs against the offensive of the employers, then no gains - whether wages, working conditions, or free units - can be defended. This fight raises the most basic questions of what kind of leadership is now necessary in the labour movement.

Nobody doubts now that Britain, as part of the world economic crisis of the capitalist system, is gripped in a recession, in which inflation eats away at the employers' profits, undermines the cash liquidity of their firms, and relentlessly cuts the purchasing power of workers wages. Through falling sales employers are driven to cut production, close 'uneconomic' plant, and speed up the efforts of those still in work, in order to maintain a 'viable' (or profitable) business. At the same time weaker sections of industry, unable to compete, close down altogether. The result on a world scale is unemployment and short time.

In America, the world's most powerful capitalist country, there are now well over 8 million unemployed. 20.8% of teenagers are unemployed, and 13.4% of black workers. In the car city of Detroit alone 26% are officially out of work, with a real figure almost certainly double this. Black workers, half the population of Detroit, suffer most. 96% of all black youth are officially out of work.

Company supplements, which maintain 95% of wages for workers laid off begin to run out in two weeks time, and with this goes many medical and dental schemes. As John Pilger in the Daily Mirror reported: (28/2/75) "In the last three months since the layoffs began in earnest the Detroit Health Department has reported 150,000 cases of malnutrition mostly amongst women and children..." (in a city of only 1.6 million). His article was headed with the words: "The ending of the great American dream in Detroit shows what tomorrow's nightmare could be like for Coventry and Cowley, Luton and Longbridge..."

The car industry, construction and textiles are the main focus of the recession in Europe also. Unemployment in the Common Market countries is 4.2 million - an increase of 1.2 million over last year. In Britain itself there are now 800,000 unemployed and a further 250,000 on short time according to latest estimates.

Here as in France, some of the big employers have tended to back away from the prospect of bitter resistance including factory occupations, and with the passive acquiescence of the Trade Union leaders have opted for short time rather than outright redundancies. Already every motor manufacturer has moved to introduce short time - Chryslers have had it since December 31st. But it extends into other industries - the textile trade, ICI fibres, GKN, Lucas and Dunlop are among the largest firms involved.

Other employers move straight to redundancies and closures. Pilkingtons have announced a planned 3,000 redundancies largely in St Helens, BLMC's Jaguar works with 1,000 redundancies, and the closure of Imperial Typewriters throwing up 3,200 jobs are among them. These are just some of the biggest - countless small firms are laying off labour all over the country. This is in addition to large scale hidden redundancies throughout industry from unreplaced 'natural wastage'.

Under these conditions the big test question facing the working class is leadership. The reformist trade union leaders are incapable of defending jobs in this period because their political position starts from the acceptance of capitalism. This means acceptance of the right of the employer to private property, to have a profitable and 'viable' business, and accepting that workers should be subject to market conditions. If these 'rights' come in to conflict with the right of workers to jobs then, for these leaders, the 'rights' of the employers must prevail.

This is clear just from the example of Ford. On Feb 19th, Ford arrogantly announced without consultation that 8,000 Dagenham workers were to go on short time from March 3rd. The shop floor was incensed, and stewards threatened 'disruptive' protest action. Moss Evans, T&GWU automotive group national organiser, however, opposed all action with the statement: "Destructive

action will not persuade people to buy cars". In other words, don't challenge capitalist property relations - accept the dictates of the employer and the rule of their market.

If workers now oppose speed up the employer will say 'it is necessary' for the survival of his company - and to reject it means the sack (in ELCO Cowley management threatened to send the new ADC 71 model to Longbridge). If a worker is victimised fighting speed up the employer will threaten to close the plant if victimisation and speed up are not accepted - and the trade union leaders will say 'it is not the time to fight'. In Renault in Paris, where workers have been fighting in precisely these circumstances against victimisation linked to speed up, the management has intimidated workers by putting all 35,000 on indefinite short time.

Everywhere the weakness and collaboration of the union leaders opens the working class to attack beyond the immediate issue involved. Following Mosses Evans' acceptance of short time Fords immediately seized on this retreat and a week later announced Dagenham workers would have only 11 days work in April. Next day they followed this by leaking to the press that: "without the agreement of the unions the company will increase the work force as opposed to two shift working from next week in a bid to make the (Dagenham) plant more efficient and reduce excessive overtime being worked." (F.T. 28/2/75)

Fords therefore increase efficiency without consultation with the assistance of Moss Evans. To fight on any issue today means to defend jobs, and for this reason all threats of short time with loss of wages or redundancies must be fought by factory occupations. This is the only way the initiative can be taken from the employer and the class strength of the workers mobilised to defend jobs.

Yet it is one thing to occupy - but with no perspective this can be the point of greatest danger leading to confusion and demoralisation. (as at Norton Villiers at Meriden where only 250 of the original 1750 workers remain in occupation or Plessey Interconnect at Swindon where a six month 'stay of execution' has been accepted.)

At the centre of every occupation has to be a clear perspective. Occupations must centre on the demand that the books of the company claiming financial problems be opened to elected trade union committees, who would then have the task of exposing the concealed workings of capitalism to the workers whose jobs were threatened. Any employer who threatens the livelihoods of workers has no right to 'business secrets' or indeed to remain an employer. Once it is proved that indeed a firm with its full labour force is 'non-viable' under capitalism, then it must be taken out of the 'free market'.

The case will thus be proved to back the demand that the Labour government nationalise the company, not under a state manager, but under the management of the workers, through their elected committees that already control the factory under occupation. Compensation must be paid only to small savers.

A firm nationalised in this way must be integrated with the beginnings of a planned economy through state contracts, in order to guarantee the job of every worker. The sliding scale of hours - dividing the work available amongst the whole labour force at no loss of pay - must be introduced. This is the socialist alternative to the capitalist policy of short time on cut wages.

Clearly, until the capitalist economy can be replaced by a planned socialist economy inflation will continue at a rampant pace. Government contracts will add to this. The way to fight inflation is to struggle for the sliding scale of wages, linked to the rising cost of living (as established by trade union committees).

Without such a programme to defend jobs and wages the working class faces an onslaught from the employers with no leadership whatsoever. The TUC and Labour leaders who allow the Shrewsbury Two to rot in jail and support the class collaboration of the social contract will not challenge the right of the employers to exploit.

That task must be undertaken by the undefeated strength of the working class, under a new leadership, which starts from the defence of the rights of the working class.

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WORKERS SOCIAL LEAGUE  
THE SHREWSBURY CAMPAIGN

The call by the TUC Executive for the TUC to call a one-day general strike must be supported. The TUC must go ahead and organise this strike but it will only be possible to force the release of Warren and Tomlinson if this action is extended into a full indefinite general strike.

This should have been called by the TUC the moment these workers were imprisoned, but even as recently as last Wednesday calls for action were referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and even then only to be discussed after a further appeal to Jenkins.

The TUC are doing everything they can to avoid a confrontation with the Labour government. They support the social contract, unemployment, and the continued imprisonment of Warren and Tomlinson is part of this social contract, which includes continuation of the 1875 Conspiracy Laws, the implementation of the so-called 'Anti-Terrorism' Act, the proposed legislation to make the laws of trespass into criminal law and now the usage of section 42 of the Immigration Act against immigrant workers.

This is treachery on the part of the TUC, - this Labour government is acting on behalf of capitalism. When Roy Jenkins says "The rule of law must prevail" he is speaking the same language as Denis Healey who says: "It is far better that more people should be at work, even if that means accepting lower wages than on average, than that those lucky enough to keep their jobs scoop the pool whilst millions are living on the dole. That is what the social contract is all about." Or Jack Jones who, at a time when workers are facing struggles in defence of their jobs, tells them it is no good pressing for wage increases at the expense of bankrupting the firm you work for. Or Alan Fisher 'left' leader of NUPW who says "If all this money is paid out in large wage settlements, we are going to see in the next budget a heavy increase in taxes. This is going to dampen down the home market and consequently we are going to see a large increase in unemployment".

These statements, at a time when the working class face mass struggles over wages and jobs, strengthen the right wing of the Tory party, who, behind Thatcher, are preparing to take on the working class when they return to power. They also strengthen the employers who threaten redundancy in every round of wage negotiations - like at Vauxhalls where the company sack a man or jobs. The statements also defend the 'right' of the employer to a viable and profitable business which means they must stand with the employers against the rights of workers to a job and a decent standard of living. From this position the trade union leaders cannot challenge the body of law built up by the ruling class to defend their rights to private property - under which Warren and Tomlinson were jailed.

It is no chance that the law is used first in the building industry where lump labour is used for blacklogging, and which contains the highest unemployment of any industry. The capitalist class want to stop building workers fighting against these conditions. The fight to defend the right to picket must therefore be tied in with the defence of jobs through the demand for a sliding scale of working hours without loss of pay, and for the implementation by the Labour government of a programme of public works. It must be tied also to the fight to defend living standards through a sliding scale of wages clause in addition to basic wage increases in every agreement. If the employer says that he cannot afford to keep workers on or pay them a living wage, the books must be opened to committees of trade unionists, and if the case is proved, the company should be nationalised without compensation.

A recent motion in the Parliamentary Labour Party calling for the Shrewsbury 2 to be debated in Parliament was defeated by 61 votes to 25.

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Where the 77 Tribune MPs who could on this issue have voted down the right wing? Labour MPs would not be drawing £4,500 p.a. plus expenses if trade unionists had not fought to form the Labour party. The 'left' MPs must not accept the imprisonment of trade unionists. It is no good then simply saying that these men have been wrongly imprisoned. The 'lefts' must put down a resolution in the P.L.P. for the removal of Jenkins, and his replacement by someone who will release Warren and Tomlinson. They must take this campaign into the whole Labour party.

The Communist party fights against these policies. They have opposed resolutions calling for a general strike to free the Shrewsbury 2. They never fought to mobilise for the re-call Liverpool Trades Council conference and restricted their demands to a one day strike, now they have disbanded the North Wales 24 Charter Defence Committee. One of the 2 is a ... CP has the capability of initiating action in the building industry and in the trade union movement, but they refuse to mobilise this. Their role therefore protects the right wing.

The International Marxist Group, the International Socialists and the Workers Revolutionary Party see the answer in terms of more 'rank and file' movements - such as the Wigan march - which reflected the determination of sections of the working class to fight but channelled this away from the real fight confronting the working class. This is the fight to drive out the right wing leaders of the official trade union movement who stand aside while trade unionists are jailed.

It was the Workers Socialist League alone on the January 14th TUC lobby of parliament who leafletted and shouted slogans calling on the 'left' MPs to fight to remove Jenkins and for a general strike to release the 2.

The policy of the Workers Socialist League is for:

- Full support for the one-day strike call.
- A general strike to force the release of Warren and Tomlinson, for the repeal of the 1875 Conspiracy Acts and their replacement by laws defending the trade unions, for the repeal of the Anti-Terrorism Acts, and all other anti-working class legislation.
- For the 'left' MPs to put down a resolution in the PLP for the removal of Jenkins, and his replacement with someone prepared to release these workers and defend the working class. For a campaign on this throughout the labour movement.
- End the Social Contract. Defend jobs and living standards.

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If you are interested in knowing more about the Workers Socialist League, which has been formed by members of the Workers Revolutionary Party who were expelled for fighting against that party's sectarian positions, and far Trotsky's Transitional Programme, or if you wish to take out a subscription to our fortnightly paper, Socialist Press, write to:

W.S.L., II, Lower Basildon, Near Reading, Berks.

WORKERS SOCIALIST LEAGUE

DEFEND THE SHREWSBURY TWO !

The ATUA statement calling this conference says that the ATUA and the Wigan Builders Action Committee "will not allow the case of Des Warren and Eric Tomlinson to be buried by the treacherous inaction of the trade union bureaucracy and the 'left' talk and diversionary protest of the Stalinists and revisionists."

We agree! But where was the ATUA, the WRP or the Wigan Committee yesterday, when the Leicester Trades Council called for a march to Leicester jail where Tomlinson is held?

The WSL participated in the march under its own banners and fighting for its own policy of general strike action, but the only WRP representation we could find was one reporter and two Workers Press members. No delegation.

The most incredible spectacle was at the end of the march. We could not find Mike Farley on the march, but when the meeting assembled he appeared close to the platform, spoke a few words at Marlene Tomlinson - wife of the imprisoned picket - and was photographed doing this by the Workers Press. We hope it was not the intention of the WRP to use this photograph to suggest WRP support for the march.

This demonstration was a limited act in itself, but a correct decision by Leicester Trades Council, being the Trades Council with a jailed worker in its area. It was a matter of principle to support it. If the state capitalists were the group most in evidence then that is entirely by the default of the WRP.

Perhaps in Workers Press the WRP could explain to the workers movement what possible reason they could have for not supporting a march called by a Trades Council in support of the Shrewsbury Two.

The leaflet the WSL distributed yesterday is attached.

THE PAST RECORD OF THE ATUA ON SHREWSBURY

The record of any kind of campaign by the ATUA or WRP on the Shrewsbury issue only dates back to the split in the WRP resulting in mass expulsions in December, after which the leadership needed a platform to try to revive its crippled forces in the unions.

But the Shrewsbury pickets were arrested a year and a half before this during which the WRP did not a single thing apart from holding one joint meeting with the IMG. There is much evidence for this, but we will only make one point in this leaflet.

For the first 9 months after the arrests, Alan Thornett was a member of the Regional Committee of the T&GWU, Deputy Convener of the Assembly Plant at Cowley, Chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee - covering all 9,000 manual workers, chairman of the T&GWU 5/55 Branch with 7,000 members, and a CC member of the WRP.

Yet he was never at any time asked to raise a single resolution, or propose a single action in defence of the Shrewsbury Builders.

Nor were any of the other WRP members in leading positions in the plant. If you doubt this, then ask the remaining member (who should be here today), who has held a leading trade union position throughout the last 18 months why he never moved a single resolution prior to the Wigan March. Since Cowley was throughout most of this period the predominant industrial base of the WRP it would reflect entirely the WRP leadership position.

These points must be raised within the ATUA and the WRP because the long period during which there was no intervention in defence of the pickets has strengthened the hold of the IS, IMG and CP over any movements that do take place, and made the fight for general strike action much harder.

Privacy OPENS DOOR TO WITCH-HUNT

The decision of Privacy, a Political Committee member of the WRP, to take Privacy to the High Court for the return of £4,000 lent to him last May became by last Monday the basis of a witch-hunt against the Trotskyist movement in the capitalist press.

Most of the press slanders, in one way or another, seek to connect Comrade Privacy with corruption, suggesting that at the time workers were on strike in support of him last year, Privacy was receiving large sums of money. Any such insinuation under the atmosphere of witch hunt prevailing in British Leyland, is highly damaging and endangers not only Comrade Privacy and the WSL but the trade union movement in the Conley Plant.

Because of this, Comrade Privacy issued a written statement on Tuesday which was deliberately confined to an explanation of the circumstances and purpose of the loan and specifically excluded any political material in order to prevent this being used against the WRP or the WSL under witch hunt conditions. The full text of the statement was as follows:

"I am making this statement to clear up the distortions and inferences which have appeared in the press over the past two days concerning the writ served on me regarding the £4,000 loan made to me by Privacy last May.

Following my divorce, I was left with the choice of either selling my house at a loss of half its value (£4,000), as a settlement. The loan from Privacy was a personal arrangement to deal with this problem and was considered only after it had proven impossible for me to raise the money through any of the building societies. Having received the loan, it never remained in my hands, but was passed on immediately to my ex-wife.

The loan was made on the basis that repayment would be made in the normal way once the details were agreed. In June the solicitor acting for me wrote to Privacy pressing for a final arrangement to be concluded. A reply was received six months later demanding repayment in full by February 11th 1975. I replied to this through my solicitor proposing a reasonable monthly figure for repayment. This was rejected by Privacy.

The loan therefore was received in good faith and with Privacy's full knowledge that I would only have the resources to repay it on an instalment basis. In these circumstances it is regrettable that this entirely unnecessary action has been brought."

No other statement has been issued by Comrade Privacy or any other member of the WSL on this matter. Newspapers such as last Wednesday's Telegraph which give the impression that other statements have been made, or that Comrade Privacy had spoken to them, are guilty of fabrication.

The WRP Political Committee statement of Wednesday March 5th, made during this witch hunt (attacking the WSL publicly) is gross political irresponsibility.

The statement accuses Comrade Privacy of instigating the witch hunt when it is entirely precipitated by Privacy's completely unnecessary High Court action, pressed under conditions where she knew full well the consequences. An action which was pressed after a reasonable arrangement for the return of the money had been offered, and the details of which were still negotiable.

The most incredible claims made in the WRP statement are that Privacy, who is being witch hunted by the capitalist press, the employers and the right wing in the T&GWU as a continuation of a previous victimisation is "the darling of Fleet Street", that he has had a "great receipt in Fleet St circles." It goes on to say that "the same papers that vilified him are encouraging him.", and that he is "feted in the capitalist press."

The most obvious lies contained in the statement are the expulsion figures - put in to lend credibility to the argument. The statement says that, for example, "there were 26 expulsions in Oxford and one in Yorkshire." Yet there were previously 109 registered members in Oxford. In Yorkshire the WSL has 5 branches, made up almost entirely of members expelled from the WRP. The WRP statement directs away from politics, claiming a 'personal' spite. In reality the expulsions were to silence critics by organisational methods.