

S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE S.D.S.

COPY

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

1 day of August 1977

SUBJECT

'Socialist Worker'

Reference to Papers

347/74/11

1. Submitted herewith are copies of a circular issued by 'Socialist Worker', concerning its financial affairs, which has been obtained from a reliable source.

2. Addressed to SW organisers, Branch/District secretaries and all full-time organisers; it is signed by the following:-

Chris HARMAN (Editor)

RF 4C5/63/6

Privacy

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G.T.M. Craft

Chief Inspector

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

TO [redacted] 5 AUG 1977 PA. IN

Socialist Worker Organisers
To all Branch/District Secretaries
Fulltime Organisers

26 July 1977.

Socialist Worker - selling price

Dear Comrade

The current selling price of Socialist Worker, 10p, was fixed over two years ago. Consider just some of the increased costs which have had to be borne by our paper:

1 Newsprint

Cost 1975	£125 per ton
Cost 1977	£292 per ton

Each edition uses just less than two tons of newsprint, which has resulted in increased costs of £280 each week.

2 Postage

In 1975, second class post cost 5½p; today it is 7p. The cost, for example, of posting six Socialist Workers on a sale or return basis, has risen from 13p to 22p.

3 Telephone

Despite the fact that, in order to save costs, we have reduced the number of telephone lines at Cottons Gardens by two, a quarter's bills have risen from £1,353 in 1975 to £1,873 now.

4 Freight - British Rail

Each week, the bulk of Socialist Workers are despatched by British Rail. The quarterly charge has increased from £1,587 two years ago to £2,164 today.

5 Wages

In two years, for the majority of staff, wages have risen by only £5 per week. Last year, when we tried to increase wages, a significant number of journalists and other workers declined to accept, knowing that this would only increase the financial burden.

At Conference this year, it was stated that the paid sale averages only 52-53 per cent. This general figure hides a multitude of discrepancies between the branches. There are branches with paid sales of some 70-80 per cent, and, at the other end of the scale, those with only 40 per cent paid sale. Discussions with Socialist Worker Organisers, secretaries and fulltime organisers show that the low paid sale is not a result of a low sale, but a combination of a number of factors.

- 1 Rotten Socialist Worker Organisers
- 2 Poor organisation within large, growing districts
- 3 No deputy for SW Organisers during their holidays or sickness
- 4 Lousy collection of money and poor organisation; eg if a member is not seen

for five weeks, he pays off his debt with whatever money he has available at that time.

- 5 Use of Socialist Worker money for other purposes: it is often 'borrowed' for the hire of a bus, a room etc.

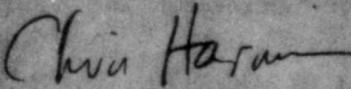
Conclusion

If we are to avoid a substantial price rise in the selling price of Socialist Worker, then the overall paid sale from each and every branch and district must rise to 65 per cent. This is not asking for the sky - if your branch's current paid sale is 55 per cent and the order 250 copies, it means paying each week for another 25 copies. This would give an additional national income of £390 for each edition of Socialist Worker.

We suggest that the contents of this letter are discussed by every branch/district committee, and that you consider the effect of putting up the price of Socialist Worker compared with increasing the paid sale to 65 per cent.

We urge you to act before it is too late. The paid sale will be reviewed again in October.

Yours fraternally



Chris Harman
Editor



Privacy

Business Manager



Privacy

National Secretary