But then came the Russian Revolution. The Russian Revolution was seen as something to bring about the end of the war with many people. And the idea of ending a war, and the people coming on top, caught an awful lot of people. And also right-wing Labour people began now to find their feet a bit and were in favour of some sort of social change. Not in revolution, they all wanted to avoid that, but they flirted with the idea, and many of them gave support to the Bolsheviks. We were able – we were armed a bit better with the Russian Revolution. Some literature that came across, it broadened us all theoretically, particularly *The state and revolution* from Lenin. There was only a handful of people in this country who had taken up the Marxist stand on the state, and that wasn’t the Social Democrats either, that was the Socialist Labour Party who had tried to explain the role of the state inside capitalist society. But the Russian Revolution, the formation of soviets, the taking of power by the soviets, instead of through parliament. And the explosion of Kerensky, which enabled us to see a similar character in Lloyd George, and we were able to point [out] Kerensky was the Lloyd George of Russia, and fortunately for us Lloyd George had praised this young man Kerensky, and when he was overthrown and the Bolsheviks took power, then we felt better, were better armed and became a great deal bolder in our propaganda after 1917.

So how were the ordinary people reacting to the Russian Revolution of February?

Well, I think the ordinary people were interested. I don’t suppose that the ordinary people understood – after all, it was a Marxist thing, they didn’t understand – but there was a sort of sympathetic approach by many people to it, and we found that the response to us was much better after the Russian Revolution. It was a great luck to us, the Russian Revolution. There were some who condemned the Bolsheviks, and old Churchill went stone mad over them, and a lot of tremendous [?scenes] about “these beasts”, and all that sort of thing. But we were able, and our background here, and the kind of fight we’d conducted in the workshops and so on made it much easier for people to understand what was happening in Russia, and the Russian Revolution was a boon to us.