



NO TO FASCIST CAMPS

Thatcher rule is transparent... fascist in essence. A despised politician trying it on, whose political support has collapsed. We reject camps and insist on our liberties.

AFTER TWO YEARS of Thatcher the camps have come to Britain. Camps on Salisbury plain or elsewhere where we can be interned to have discipline beaten into us. In 1974 when the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act was introduced we said "... no-one should be fooled by its temporary nature. In truth, it is a further attack upon civil liberties and the right of freedom here." (The Worker December 13, 1974). In the same way the camps are here to stay if we permit it.

New legislation will be provided to fill the camps. No more trial by jury - a cumbersome process which often results in acquittals merely because of lack of evidence. With the experiment of internment and special courts tried in Ireland, the equipment is to come home too. CS gas, armoured cars (to be painted blue), water-cannon, plastic bullets, snatch squads have or will be found on British streets.

This is not to protect us - it is to be used against us. Just as the experiment in Toxteth in the use of CS gas was conducted as people dispersed. We should remember the Worker's eye-witness account "after 2 am the police started to feel confident enough to try and regain some sort of control of the Parliament Street area. . . By now there was little that would keep people in the area and many were drifting away. By three o'clock the numbers on the street had decreased quite substantially. This was when the police used the CS gas,

the first time against the civilian population on the mainland."

The gas was fired at people but in canisters designed to hit concrete to explode. The result was severe injuries from the hard projectiles. Military and police public order theorists say the gas should be used not because it is effective in quelling riots but because it punishes a whole community. The "punishment" is described by a Northern Ireland victim, "a soldier kicked in the door and fired the CS gas bomb into the house. My wife and I were pretty sick and half collapsing trying to get to the back door. My wife was almost at the door when I remembered we still had the children upstairs. I tried to make my way up the stairs. I got as far as five or six steps when I collapsed and almost fell down the stairs."

Deliberate provocations are carried out to provide an excuse to test the weapons. In Brixton homes were raided and television tubes smashed "to find the petrol bombs". Where is the genius who can hide a petrol bomb in a television tube? Needless to say, nothing was found but the whole matter is now subjudice.

Thatcher knows what she wants. She wants fascism in Britain. She is putting into operation the long prepared plans for a police state. In 1970, a Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies seminar reached the following conclusion:

"Londonderry is very relevant to what can happen in London, and if we lose in Belfast we may have to fight



Gas workers picket Watson House Research Station, Fulham. Photo: The Worker

JULY 13, 1981, will remain an important date for the Gas Industry. On that day, gas workers proved to themselves that an all-out stoppage in the industry was not just a pipe dream. In all the 11 regions in Britain the reports show 100 per cent (or more, as in many cases even non-union members came out). Never before have all the unions taken action together in the Gas Industry.

In London, as elsewhere, pickets were posted at all gas showrooms, research stations, depots, warehouses and servicing centres as well as the various offices and workshops. 200 workers at Bromley marched to Stratford where they held a meeting and distributed leaflets - this, in spite of Thatcher's ban on demonstrations in London.

The unions involved - NALGO, GMWU and CSEU - are all getting ready for the next phase of this fight to stop Thatcher's looting of this highly successful nationalised industry.

In Brixton or Birmingham. Just as Spain in the 'thirties was a rehearsal for a wider European conflict, so perhaps what is happening in Northern Ireland is a rehearsal for urban guerrilla war more widely in Europe, and particularly in Great Britain." (p46 The New Technology of Repression - BSSRS, 1974).

We are reminded too late by the angry protests of our youth that we should have thrown Thatcher out. If we do not break her new repressive laws and her introduction of camps in Britain our future is fascism. Each community must shield its own from these camps. Each fight should be turned against the main threat to our survival, Thatcher out. Fascism out.

S. W. Gas

There was 100 per cent support, drawing in the non-members, with pickets out at over 80 different locations including showrooms, offices and depots.

A total of 4500 workers from NALGO, GMWU, TGWU, CSEU, MATSA and other unions took part in the region's action.

Support from fellow trade unionists and the general public was also excellent. Typical of the spirit was the action of local government manual workers at Wansdyke. They handed over their canteen to strikers and made food for pickets.

Impromptu "Save Our Showrooms" petitions appeared on picket lines and the public responded enthusiastically. In just a short period over 800 signed in Taunton and 650 in Weston-super-Mare.

It seems no-one but Thatcher can be found to support the dismantling of the Gas service. A South West Gas spokesman said the plans were "bad news for Gas consumers, workers within the corporation and appliance manufacturers." The South West Gas Consumers' Council said "the plans will seriously affect safety standards and servicing."

Now the workers are flexing their muscles for future action. The success of their strike has shown them who is really powerful and who is weak.

Footnote: Hot on the heels of the Gas Showrooms strike comes news of plans to close 19 showrooms in the South West Electricity Board area. The Gas workers have shown the way to fight these deliberate attacks on our quality of life.

Brent teachers fight for jobs

OVER 100 angry teachers from 9 schools in Brent occupied Brent Education Office in Wembley for 1 hour last Friday. The occupation took Brent Authority completely by surprise and was organised in less than 24 hours as an opening response to the Authority attempting to compulsorily transfer four teachers. The four teachers are all of Sladebrook High School and they are refusing to cooperate, backed by their union the NUT. The Authority unilaterally broke a voluntary redeployment agreement and sent compulsory transfer notices to the teachers just 1 week before the end of term. The decision taken without consultation has been condemned by the Brent Teachers Association.

Mr Roberts, spokesman for the group said: "We stayed in the building for about an hour. We rang Miss Gwen Rickus, the director of education, and asked for an explanation. She refused to speak with us about the policy and said that the officers would do likewise."

"The teachers who took part in the demonstration are from all over the borough and they are very angry because the agreement on redeployment has been broken. Some teachers who have been compulsorily redeployed will be asked to do jobs a grade lower than the ones they are doing at the moment, although their pay has been guaranteed."

"This demonstration is not official union action but I can say that the teachers are not going to take this lying

Thatcher has publicly deplored the looting of shops and certainly much compensation will be paid out. Reagan sympathises with Thatcher's experiences and says he intends to plug away with much the same policies. Property is saved of course. Underlined recently by an announcement from a US Defence spokesman that the previously banished neutron bomb is to make a return, to be stationed in Europe. This is the weapon that destroys people while keeping property intact - the quintessence of capitalism.

The Richard Nixon Museum, in San Clemente, California, opened in January in anticipation of up to 1000 visitors a day has been forced to close down because on some days 6 or 7 people turned up. Its worth wondering what brought them. Among the trivia on display were campaign buttons claiming 'the 1 in Nixon stands for Integrity'. Quite so Mr Nixon.

It seems very hard to believe, but the Vatican claims to be in the red to the tune of £17 million. To add to this embarrassment, two of its leading lay financial advisers have been arrested recently and charged - one with export of capital, the other with conniving in fraudulent bankruptcy.

Thatcher still seems to have an exaggerated idea of the affection which British people feel for her. After five months of industrial action she calls the £30 offer to civil servants a 'loyalty bonus'. What price revolution?

The new armoured police carriers will not be painted 'army grey' as this might alarm the population. They will be painted 'police blue' instead. We can set our minds at rest.

Talking of martial law. William Whitelaw's visit to Moss Side must have been the fastest ever walk-about to meet the people. 50 mph, apparently, with the windows up and two men riding shotgun. He met some real people at traffic lights - they were on a bus, he waved, they looked down.

What a wonderful victory won by Roy Jenkins at Warrington. It was lead story on all the national newspapers. Yes, he'll be taking up his seat any day now. All the news bulletins on TV and radio had Mr Jenkins making his victory speech to the voters of Warrington thanking them for electing him. But it would have been nice if the runner up, Mr Hoyle, had been featured on the same news bulletins.

WHEN WE TALK OF the Peasants' Revolt of 1381, we mention with pride the names of Wat Tyler, Jack Straw and John Ball, but too often we never know about the other men and women who lived, fought and died then. By reading assize rolls of the day, we can put more flesh on the bones. Here we give the stories of several men who led the rebellion at a local level in Cambridgeshire.

RICHARD DE LEYCESTER and JOHN BUK (of Ely)

On the Saturday after Corpus Christi, Richard, who owned a shop, along with John Buk and others, marched through the town of Ely, encouraging everyone to rise in insurrection, and organising them to go and destroy those who they said were disloyal to the King and against the people. On the Sunday, Richard led a group including skimmers, wrights and

After the Peasants' Revolt

other labourers and craftsmen to the monastery, where he spoke from the pulpit and said that they should burn down the houses of traitors and cut off their heads.

On the Monday they broke into the prison and freed some of the prisoners. Then Edmund of Walsingham, one of the king's JPs, was condemned to death by Richard. The lord was taken by John Buk to a place of execution where he was beheaded by John Deye of Willingham. John Buk paid John Deye 12d, with money taken from Lord Edmund's purse.

At the trial Richard told the judge "I cannot make further answer, and hold myself convicted." Both Richard and John Buk were sentenced to be hanged and drawn immediately. All their property was seized by the king.

ADAM CLYMNE (of Ely)

On the Saturday after Corpus Christi, Adam and many other insurgents entered the house of Thomas Somenour and took away various documents and wax used for the seals of the king and the bishop of Ely; they set fire to these.

On Sunday and Monday Adam proclaimed that all law officers who were carrying out their duties should be executed. Adam carried a banner to rally the commoners, and declared on behalf of the Great Fellowship that any one who carried out service for, or obeyed their lord would be executed. In the trial it was said that Adam had taken on Royal powers; this he denied, but was found guilty and hanged and drawn forthwith.

JOHN SHIRLE (of Nottingham)

At his trial, John Shirle was described as a vagabond because he had travelled from county to county during the disturbances. The "crime" he was hanged for was to try and rally the people after the rebellion had ended. He had talked to a crowd in a Cambridge tavern on the day of the proclamation of the so-called King's Peace.

He said that the lords and ministers of the king should have been drawn and hanged instead of John Ball. He said that John Ball was a true and good man, who told of how the king and the lords were oppressing the people and how it was for that he had been killed. John Shirle said that the death of John Ball must be avenged - that the King and his ministers should die. At his trial John Shirle stood his ground and did not deny the charges.

Stop Begin bombing

The people of Israel are as responsible for aggression and murder as the German people were in allowing Hitler to commit the Holocaust from which many of the Jews now in Israel or their parents suffered so much.

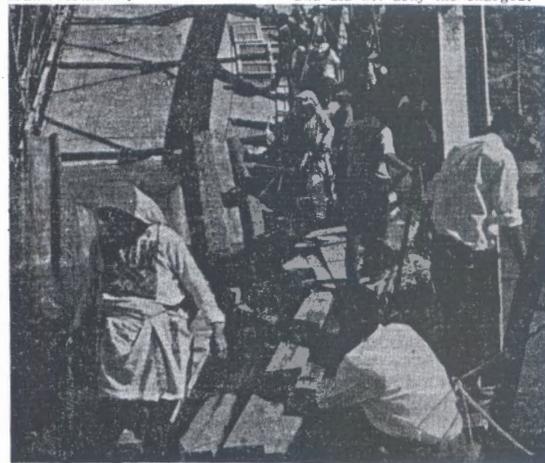
The re-election of Begin is a condemnation of the people of Israel and makes them directly responsible for the present savage attacks on Lebanon. Let no one be misled with talk about Palestinian headquarters. Begin and with him the Israeli people are responsible for premeditated murder of civilians in an act of pure provocation to open the way for an invasion and wholesale annexation of southern Lebanon.

The gallant defence of Bierut by Syrian and Palestinian guns was no match to the US built planes unloading its bombs onto overcrowded apartment blocks killing and injuring thousands of people. And it is in defence that the Arab states are so lacking. Saddam of Iraq unhesitatingly invades neighbouring Iran yet could not provide for the basic

defence of the valuable Atomic installation a year later. The Saudi-US-British-equipped armed forces which cost billions of pounds could not even detect the Israeli planes as they crossed Saudi space on their way to bomb the Atomic power station under construction near Baghdad.

The US, in spite of the public face of straight disapproval is fully backing Israel in its criminal acts. The idea that Reagan can put pressure on Begin to halt his aggression is as absurd as it is illogical, for the two are companions in arms dedicated to the continuation of oppression and reaction in the area.

For the Arab peoples the question of the way forward in the face of Hitlerite aggression is paramount. Rhetoric by Arab states is no substitute for real defence. Arab unity, for decades the central theme of Arab politics, has proved its hollowness - especially since Sadat reneged and joined the US-Begin axis. Arab unity so far considered as the unity of Arab states does not exist. The



Husseln Bridge 1967

Photo: Flouty

only meaningful unity is class unity against US-Israeli imperialism. The leadership cannot come from a king, a sultan or a ruthless president. It must come from the proletariat in every Arab Country. How far some Arab rulers will join the struggle is an open question, but not a crucial one.

Israel stands condemned by the

world. The blood of thousands of civilians stains the hands of Begin the Zionists and every Jew in Israel. Hitler met his end at the hands of the Red Army. US aggression in Vietnam met its end at the hands of the Vietnamese people. Begin's atrocities will surely meet an end at the hands of the proletariat in the Middle East - Arab and Jew.

Thatcher - executioner of the Maze

THE DEATH of Martin Hurson brings to six the number of Irish men condemned to die by the intransigence of the British Government with a spiteful Thatcher at the helm. Six, however, it seems are not enough and grave concern must be felt over the fate of the eight prisoners still continuing the protest, especially Kiernan Doherty, member of the Southern parliament for Cavan-Monaghan, whose fast is approaching 60 days.

Martin Hurson, who with over 4000 first preference votes at the recent general election only narrowly missed being returned as TD for Longford-Westmeath constituency, never denied his part in the growing resistance to British oppression in Ireland, never shied away from political responsibility for the action of the Provisional IRA. Yet he always maintained his innocence of the charges that have lead directly to his death.

In 1977 he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment after being convicted of conspiring to kill crown forces, causing explosions and possessing explosives. At his trial he said that he had been tortured while he was held in custody for interrogation in November, 1976 at Omagh and

Cookstown RUC stations and that despite torturing had never made the alleged confessions which helped convict him.

Arrested and interrogated with him was James Joseph Rafferty, the Co Tyrone teacher whose complaints against the RUC about torture led to a public inquiry this year. No report has ever been published of the results of the inquiry and detectives involved refused to give evidence. Yet four policemen who were stationed at Omagh at the time have been charged with assault and are awaiting trial.

Following his initial conviction Hurson appealed on the grounds that the presiding judge, Rowland, had ignored the very obvious medical evidence of ill-treatment. The appeal was dismissed yet such was the concern that a retrial was ordered and the case appeared again in September, 1979.

In the second trial, it was ruled that some of the alleged statements of Hurson's were inadmissible as evidence but that other could be accepted as they had not been extracted by ill-treatment! No forensic evidence was produced by the police in corroboration of Hurson's statements and as before the statements, now devalued, were the sole basis of the police case.

As before Hurson was convicted and sentenced to serve twenty years - years which his death after refusing food for 45 days have cut tragically short.

Such is British justice in northern Ireland, such are the operation of the Diplock Courts primed to produce convictions despite of rather than because of the evidence involved.

Hurson's death has had a profound effect on the people of Ireland. Anger seems for a time dissipated, replaced by a profound shock that things could have gone this far. When Bobby Sands died people were angry that his death should have been necessary but felt that it would have been sufficient to change the situation. Now, with six deaths and more imminent with the failure of the initiative of the European Government and the Irish Commission for Justice and Peace comes the realisation that Thatcher could not care less if all the prisoners in the H-Blocks were killed by plastic bullets and CS gas. When this shock has been fully absorbed resistance to her dictat on a new level will claim new heights.

The government in the Irish republic are now fully conscious

of this profound shock. The fact that Kiernan Doherty, scheduled next to die, is a duly elected member of Dail Eireann has created a situation that will be difficult to control. It could well result in their loss of office as seething bitterness gives way to open resentment. Thus their appeal to Reagan, who despite his protestations of non-interference in internal British affairs is sufficiently aware of how the whole H-Block issue is affecting American consciousness to press the British to accept the intervention which had been previously rejected three times.

Increasingly, Thatcher stands alone. Isolated in her cabinet she has lost the good wishes of the Irish Government and seems in danger of losing the moral support of her buddy Reagan. The prisoners, justifiably remain sceptical. They have seen it all before, have heard all the promises over and over again. Rightly, they now rely on nothing but their own strengths and the support of the Irish people. The pressure is building up, we in Britain must do everything possible to ensure that Thatcher is allowed no room to manoeuvre, no escape from the impasse of her own stupidity.

Editorial

Manchester action

THE FIGHTS at King Henry Bakery and Royal Pride Furniture in Manchester are examples of employers pushing where they believe the class is weak. But this fight is not one-sided. There is a significant fight back. The successful occupation at Gardners of Eccles and the present occupation at Lawrence Scott of Openshaw are ways of fighting redundancy. NALGO in Manchester and the Mother's Pride Bakery have been out in defence of those 'working to rule' because of cut-backs. Busmen at Hyde Road have struck successfully to defend threatened services and the NUR stopped the closure of the Woodhead Goods Line. Lecturers at North Trafford by threatening action, backed by NATFHE both locally and nationally forced the Local Authority to think again about compulsory redundancy. The action of fighting cut-back and closure is now being joined by the ICL computer workers in the area. These actions, apparently defensive in character, are at the present time attacks. They make the whole policy of destruction harder and harder to implement.

Policy for Britain

AS WE MOVE toward the next annual meeting of the TUC, trade unions are expressing in many of their resolutions the recognition that Britain must be saved by we workers from capitalist destruction at home and abroad.

TGWU branch 3/17 has submitted a resolution to the Bristol TUC calling without qualification for "British troops to get out of northern Ireland now" and this was overwhelmingly passed.

The NUR has voted for immediate withdrawal from the Common Market - without a referendum. They also voted for a rejection of military alliances such as NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

The NUT has voted overwhelmingly for peace and disarmament and for struggle against warmongering.

And on the domestic front the TGWU in conference has reaffirm-

ed its commitment to free collective bargaining and opposition to incomes policy "including the use of cash limits or guidelines, formal or otherwise."

The National Committee of the AUEW have demanded the imposition of import controls on a whole range of goods to prevent "the de-industrialisation of Britain and the imminent collapse of British industry unless protective measures are taken on a selective basis.

The AUEW National Committee proposes the following measures "to counteract the present class war being perpetrated by the most vicious and reactionary Government of all time": free collective bargaining, lowering of retirement age with full pension rights, reduction and elimination of systematic overtime working and so forth.

Devon ambulance workers

DEVON ambulancemen told the Worker that there are already massive cuts intended for the NHS from March '82. Against this, what could be more sensible than to stand in defence of jobs? What future is there otherwise?

NUPE ambulancemen in Devon are now on indefinite work-to-rule as part of the national campaign for

improved pay and emergency status. Public support through a widely distributed questionnaire has been good.

Problems of coordination between unions must be worked out, however, if ambulancemen are to build on the national stoppages of last month. This dispute the whole service must fight.

Equal Pay - ten years on

FIVE YEARS after the Sex Discrimination Act and ten years after the Equal Pay Act, the stark reality is that women in full-time employment still earn on average only 72 per cent of male wages. In 1980, 10 per cent of full-time working women earned less than £50 per week compared with 1 per cent of male workers. After an initial closing of the gap between male and female earnings immediately after the Equal Pay Act came into operation, it is beginning to widen again. 2 out of every 5 working women work part-time. By the hour, part-time women workers earn on average around 60 per cent as much as full-time men, and 80 per cent as much as full-time women.

But even such figures as these understate the true extent of employers' exploitation of women in the labour market. Even the Department of Employment admits that "the real savings to employers through part-time work lie in the areas of fringe benefits and security of employment." In straightforward terms, part-timers have been a cheap, manipulable form of labour for employers to hire and fire at will.

The Employment Protection Act (1974) was restricted to those working at least 21 hours a week thus excluding over half the adult female working population. From 1977, protection was extended to those working at least 16 hours, with a two-years continuous service requirement for redundancy pay and to those with five years continuous service. This still excludes over 1 million workers, as well as those who cannot acquire 'continuous service' because they have time off in the school holidays.

Part-timers are not only easily expendable, they are also cheap. Excluded from such benefits as pensions, sick pay and holiday pay, they are often expected to work unsocial hours as a matter of course. By employing two part time workers for 4 hours each a day, for example, the need for a

rest break is dispensed with as in some cases is the need to pay national insurance contributions when employees are paid less than threshold wages. Is it any wonder that although part-timers have been the first to lose their jobs, employers are replacing full-time workers with part-time to such an extent that the only employment figure which is rising is the proportion of part-time workers in the labour force. The only way to stop this form of super exploitation is to win truly equal pay and conditions for all part-time workers.

Every time unemployment, as officially counted, rises by 100, over 200 fewer people are actually employed. Some of the 'lost' workers are men past retiring age, but most are women. Two out of every three married women are not entitled to unemployment benefits, so many do not bother to go to the trouble of registering as unemployed. Part-timers are not even allowed to register.

Over half of all married women, and 70 per cent of married women aged 35-54 go out to work. Figures from the New Earnings Survey indicate that many families would fall into the poverty trap if it were not for the wife working. Yet the reason given for not including them in the unemployment figures is the slur that they are not really workers at all.

Beveridge was firm in his belief that a woman's place was in the home. "The attitude of the housewife to gainful employment is not and should not be the same as that of a single woman", he said after the war when millions of women had been actively drawn into the labour market to replace the men fighting abroad. At least he was honest. Today it seems that the 'correct' attitude amongst women should be "I'll go to work when the Capitalist wants to profit from me, be happy to stay at home when he can't." This is certainly the pattern of women's employment since the days of women down the mines in the early

years of the industrial revolution, through the war years as replacement labour and the boom years of candy-floss industry to the inevitable shake-out of capitalism in decline. Women have truly been a reserve army of labour.

But women, it seems, are not prepared to be shunted into and out of work at the behest of capitalism. Nearly one-third of Britain's trade unionists are now women. Over the last decade, NUPE, for example, increased its female membership by 266 per cent, ASTMS by 721 per cent and the AUEW has seen a 52 per cent increase. Women are active in their workplaces. At the Meccano plant on Merseyside, for example, more than 700 of the 940 workers were women and many of them were part-timers. When the parent company, Airfix, decided to close the plant, giving workers just twenty minutes notice, their response was to occupy the building taking possession of both the plant and over £2 million worth of stock. Earlier this year, when the American company, VF Corporation, decided to close Lee Jeans in Glasgow, the response of the 240 strong workforce was to occupy. "These women are fighting for all of us", said a shop steward from the Talbot Linwood plant, itself facing closure.

Since Thatcher took over Downing Street, the number of registered unemployed women alone has risen by 200,000, a comment on the fact that the fundamental battle to win is that of class exploitation. It has been women's paid labour which has been the cornerstone of what improvements there have been in living standards in recent years. It is an insult to claim that women work only for pin-money, indicative of the ignorance of people who have never had to work at all. The attack on women's employment is not only an attack on women's right to work, but an affront to the dignity of the whole working class.

WHEN, in the first week of office, Thatcher gave large pay rises to the police and armed forces, there were some people who did not understand. Such confusion, by now, will be dispelled. The policies of this Government are such as to require a strong state machine committed to their defence. Put another way and spelt out: the state is on the offensive. It's called "Law'n'Order": there's a lot of it about. It was in Brixton last week, wrecking 10 houses while it was there. It defends life and liberty like the Kray Brothers provided 'protection'. The police are a nuisance but they are not the problem.

The problem for us is Thatcherism, the climate within which aggressive policing is sanctioned 'at the highest level'. Deal with that problem and the 'little Hitlers', for all their self-importance can be pushed back into line as servants of society, not masters of it. That main problem is some way from being resolved. Thatcherism, shorthand for policies of mass unemployment, inflation, industrial rundown, and, if we are not careful, a police state, cannot be allowed three more years of destruction.

Young people, in particular, have had enough of Thatcher because for them it means a bleak future, either jobless or low-paid. They are anything but resigned to such a fate. They refuse to lie down and die: good for them. Their actions this last fortnight have caught the attention of the world's press, and in addition to the 'propaganda war' which the British government now engages in over its occupation of Ireland, it must now fight a similar action with regard to the rule of Britain itself. Thatcher, so opinionated about the internal affairs of other countries is made to look a fool. Now the crackdown and the threat to civil liberties.

The preparation of army camps for 'offenders', para-military police, CR gas (ten times more powerful than CS), plastic bullets and draconian legislation in the shape of a new 'riot act', are all under way. All this from a government whose Warrington candidate got the lowest vote proportionately for a Tory in almost 150 years of standing in that constituency. He stood on law'n'order and his vote collapsed, but it will not prevent these measures. The Tory vote also collapsed in recent county elections, but Heseltine continues legally, though not democratically, to overrule the electorate.

Opposition

The Parliamentary Labour Party has come out as solidly in support of law'n'order as the Tories. Foot agreed in the House that illegality had to be stamped out but insisted that the Government's draconian measures should be "fair". There was more anger among Labour MPs about the fact that Thatcher and Whitelaw declared their intention to use water cannon and plastic bullets at a private meeting of backbench Tory MPs before making an announcement in the House. It is all right to shoot teenagers in the streets as long as the right procedure is followed.

What must have thrown Thatcher and her minions into such a flurry of fascist measures to impose law'n'order is precisely that young people have not been demoralised nor rendered desperate by unemployment and the destruction of our major cities. The energy of the upsurge and its wide extent, breaking out in city after city, show that a whole generation of youth has taken to heart that political observation of Mao Tsetung's: It is right to rebel.

It is not a question of youth having been treated so shabbily that they know no better now, of "the devil having work for idle hands". Therefore, it is not a question of bringing about reforms so that the bad dream of youth in revolt will go away. It is not a question of giving young people some crumbs of more youth opportunity places, as Prior proposes - if they will stop rioting - nor is it a question of establishing more youth centres in towns as the TUC has suggested.

What these young people have been telling us in the labour movement is that we must not stand by while Thatcher solves the problem of rebellion with fascism. The situation of the country under capitalist destruction is way beyond the possibility of reform. There is no future for youth and, therefore, no future for Britain itself, except in revolution.

Nurses and midwives

THE NURSES' and midwives negotiators accepted the pay offer of 6 per cent on July 13. They said that they had reached the decision "reluctantly" - a typical hospital description like "as well as can be expected". No amount of qualification can escape the fact that it was a boost for Thatcher.

However, the negotiators were looking for a word which would explain that behind that decision all is not set fair for Thatcher. The negotiators themselves were divided, 13 for acceptance, 10 against, NUPE, COHSE and NALGO voted against. COHSE had already balloted their membership on industrial action. COHSE nurses from London demonstrated their disgust at the offer

outside the council meeting itself.

In many instances though, the initial response to the insult of 6 per cent has been slow in coming. Many nurses waited to see if the doctors or the ambulancemen might do the hard work for them. They should have known better - in an emergency wait for no-one. ACT.

Life under Thatcher having the nature of a continual emergency, action is necessary now. The Royal College of Nursing has now to take steps to throw off its strait-jacket policy of no industrial action. This pay settlement should have been paid in April - all the unions gave Thatcher time to come forward. Nurses need to cast off their self-inflicted handicaps and move into an attacking position.

LSE workers still defiant

IN THE LAST WEEK events have moved swiftly at Laurence Scott and Electromotors, part of the Mining Supplies Group based at Doncaster. President of the NUM, Joe Gormley, has said the National Coal Board should not be dealing with employers like Snipe, managing director of Mining Supplies and the Yorkshire miners have promised full support once the other factories in the group have been brought to a halt. Pickets are now travelling daily to the Doncaster plant. Already there has been some intimidation of pickets by Snipe's side-kicks and even Snipe himself mounted the pavement in his Rolls Royce. Such acts only exemplify the sort of character this man is and the system that gives him credence.

The pressure has obviously begun to bite with Snipe and he has now issued proposals to the National officials for a settlement of the dispute. These proposals have the proviso that the unions must recognise the need for redundancy at the factory and that a review would take place in three months time.

National Officials recommended acceptance of Snipe's proposals and stated that a victory had been won. The workers at LSE voted overwhelmingly to reject the proposals mainly because they fear that Snipe will clear the factory of its incompletely motors, which are worth in the region of £2½ million and then close it.

The fight continues but progress has been made. It is only the second time in the history of the AUEW that a levy has been put on AUEW members outside the district. The dispute has taken on vast national implications with occupation in the face of a High Court Writ, and so called secondary picketing and secondary blacking throwing out a challenge to the Employment Act.

* IN BRIEF

STATE INDUSTRIES continue to set the pace in sackings notably in the most skilled sections of our class. British Rail has closed its Ashford engineering works with a loss of 950 jobs, 1,115 are threatened.

Teachers contd.

down. There will be more action next term if this sort of thing continues."

The collective disputes procedure has been invoked by the union and the teachers concerned have been advised not to cooperate with the Authority until the collective disputes procedure has been applied.

Teachers at Sladebrook have been very active in fighting against staff cuts and have opposed redeployment as meaning job loss. The school union representative and other outspoken members have been selected for redeployment in an obvious attempt to victimise activists and crush resistance to job loss. Unfortunately for the Authority, it backfired.

It is for the rest of the NUT to extend the sort of action taking place in Brent. As jobs in teaching are threatened by redeployment, redundancy and short-term contracts each school, each NUT association must make its stand.

Turning point for engineers?

THE CLASS struggle for the "Right to Work" takes many forms. At a West London factory, Evershed and Vignoles of Acton Green, workers have tried to ensure that there would be no sackings by the employer. Since last October, talks have taken place with the Trade Unions, AUEW, ASTMS and TASS.

Arrangements for short time working were made and volunteers found to meet the employer's needs. Some workers agreed to retirement to ensure other workers

would not be sacked.

In March the employer gave notice of 60 workers being redundant, with the Trade Unions stating that no enforced redundancy would be tolerated. The 60 was reduced to a list of 4 workers; one was an elected Trade Union representative. In the same department a worker was prepared to volunteer as redundant in the place of the Union representative. This was refused by the company, the volunteer having had 34 years' service with Evershed and Vignoles. The demands of this employer continued until the organised workers said enough.

At a mass meeting of the workers a decision was taken to withdraw labour from the 2nd July 1981, in pursuance of the retention of jobs and defence of their organisation.

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This employer, who is part of the Thorn Empire and member of the London Association of Engineering Employers, is now facing the anger of workers who for far too long a period of time, accepted the demands made on them.

Throughout the Thorn chain of companies, workers will no doubt be examining ways and means of assisting this particular struggle against sackings. Engineers in London recognise the importance of this struggle which many see as a turning point in London where closures and redundancies have decimated the skilled workforce with such a lack of protest or action.

Miners win again

THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD, has withdrawn proposals to close the Wakefield Manor and Sheffield Orgreave pits. Orgreave has been under threat of closure since 1972, only now in the face of industrial action to defend the industry has the threat been lifted. Not only lifted but the NCB is to sink a new mine to extract the coal reserves at the Calder Drift, involving a new mine and a larger workforce.

Manor and Orgreave are the first fruits of Thatcher's retreat in February. Promises made then are to be pursued by the miners and turned into a concrete reality. A mining industry with a future.

Following from these victories, the Yorkshire NUM is to pursue policies to plug 'the back door haemorrhage' of not replacing miners who leave the industry due to retirement, ill-health, and so on, 5000 jobs have been lost in this way in the last 18 months. The Yorkshire NUM wants a named replacement in all early retirement schemes and for all vacancies that arise within the industry. This will bring youth into the industry and off the dole queues.



Picket outside Exeter gas showroom

photo: THE WORKER

OXFORD NURSES FIGHT

THE OXFORDSHIRE Education Authority, having already in 1976 taken decisions to make its primary and secondary schools amongst the worst staffed in the country, is now planning to worsen staffing standards in its few nursery schools and classes so that Oxfordshire can descend to the bottom of the nursery league table as well. What is more it is planning to close some purpose-built nursery schools, one opened as recently as 1976. The staffing cuts will mean redundancies for nursery nurses and assistants.

Nursery nurses, who are members of NALGO, took strike action for the first time in the history of their profession on Thursday 9 July in order to demonstrate their

abhorrence at these proposals. Using the imagination that is typical of their profession they took over a piece of land outside County Hall where they set up a lively nursery class and invited Councilors to emulate their skills.

The strike was virtually solid: 41 out of 43 ballots returned indicated a wish to strike. Teachers in the NUT were not on this occasion able to join them in action, but did all they could to ensure that their action was effective in closing schools and classes. Plans are now being made between NALGO and NUT for a co-ordinated strategy of action from September should the Council approve its Education Committee's proposals at its meeting at the end of July.

REJECT PAY OFFER SAY CIVIL SERVANTS

THATCHER HAS offered the Civil Servants a settlement which they should reject decisively. There is nothing substantial in the offer, made because of mounting pressure on the Government. Time is on our side for the first time in the dispute.

After 20 weeks of strike action by Civil Servants, they are to consider an offer from the Government. As more benefit offices close, suddenly there is haste from Thatcher whereas before there was a feigned indifference. But even with the prospect of thousands of unemployed without money two weeks after the riots in Toxteth, she is trying to talk tough. Obstacles and preconditions abounded before the offer was formally put. The offer itself represents the barest of improvements - £30 (before tax) over the 7 per cent, for this year only and the promise of independent access to arbitration next year, without any guarantee that any award would be implemented.

The executive of the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS) has declared against the insulting offer and will recommend its members to reject. All other eight unions will put the offer with no recommendation. It is a sudden and dangerous time to abdicate leadership. All are agreed that the alternative to acceptance is an all-out strike from August 3rd. The speed with which the Government now wants to move has raised suspicions that the action is biting harder and harder. The leadership have not resisted this pressure; the membership must show that their nerve is stronger than Thatcher's.

The latest stage of the dispute was reached after some

selective strikers (notably in the Passport Office and the Ministry of Defence) went back to work to pave the way for action at DHSS computer centres. As girocheques for local emergency payments were running out in several areas, scab managers crossed picket lines at Watford to bring out van loads of fresh stocks. These were blocked at local benefit offices. The management, acting on Government orders to stir things up, refused offers of making cash payments and threatened suspensions. Those under threat have been brought out on strike and now number over 500. The management tactic had backfired. Not only were benefit offices closed in parts of London, Liverpool, Yorkshire and Glasgow, but also local DHSS offices have refused to add to their excessive workload and some are now also closed.

The prospect of unemployed workers without money in areas still sweeping up broken glass from recent riots would have brought at least a humane response from most people. Not so Thatcher.

She made a party political broadcast. In Hackney, east London the local council made a positive move to alleviate hardship by making cash payments on 17 July. The press could find none to criticise the strikers, only bitterness against the Government.

The developments over the payment of unemployment benefit have added a sharp edge to the pressure already on Thatcher. The latest Government bond flopped on the stock exchange nearly taking the BP rights issue with it. Industrialists are complaining about the cost of their loyalty to Thatcher.

Bookshops

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Three pamphlets by James Connolly on Ireland now in stock at Bellman Bookshop.

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Public Meetings

EXETER
 "Turn Anger into Action - Thatcher Out Now"
 29th July 8:00pm Odd Fellows Arms, New North Road

The Worker

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