

# Militant

**NEXT WEEK:**  
**INDIA:**  
**The**  
**Coming**  
**Revolution**  
**Part II**

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH

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12p

# LPYS Conference FIGHT RACIST SCARE

Once again, the Tory press is trying to whip up vile racist hysteria on immigration against Labour.

Now, however, they have been presented with new ammunition in the form of the report of the House of Commons Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration.

This highly "respectable", all-party body has outdone even Mrs Thatcher in its proposals to curb immigration even more.

It is an absolute scandal that five Labour MPs (among them, 'Tribunite' Syd Bidwell) allowed themselves to be stampeded by the Tories and the press into signing this report, which is already being used as another stick to beat Labour.

It is hardly surprising that the report inspired headlines like "Enough is Enough". It accepts without argument the slanderous assertion that immigrants are a "problem" rather than the scapegoats picked on by racials and fascists and cynically used by big business to try to divide and confuse workers.

### Pass Laws

Even 'The Financial Times' (22 March), which tries to provide its City readers with a more "balanced" view of things, condemned "the report's utter illiberality. It has become a matter of course that British immigration laws get tighter and tighter with every review.

"This report, however, carries the doctrine of closing loopholes to new and dangerous lengths, even while at the same time acknowledging that there has been a net outflow of people to the West Indies in recent years and that the rate of inflow from the Indian sub-Continent has been reduced."

The report proposes completely inhuman restrictions on the entry of immigrants' children, saying they should be under 12, and, in the future, even "under school age"!

Even more dangerous for the labour movement is the committee's call for tighter "internal control" of immigrants, proposals that imply either identity cards for everyone, or a pass system for immigrants—like South Africa's!

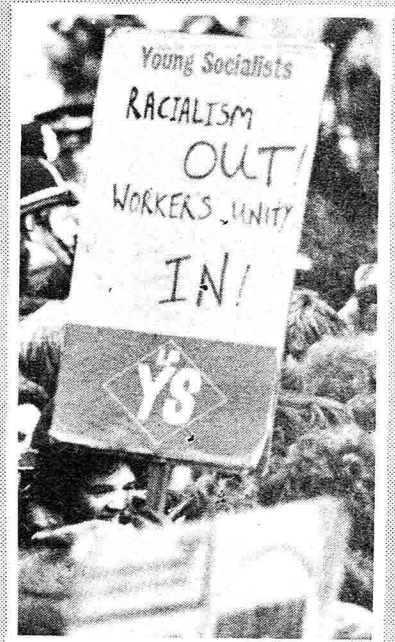
How could Labour MPs put their names to such a dangerous, reactionary document?

We will carry a more detailed analysis of the issues later. Meanwhile, the whole movement must make clear its complete rejection of the ideas floated in this report—and step up the campaign against racialism and fascism!

**Sardul Singh**

(Ladywood Labour Party)

**Llandudno**  
**1978**  
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**4-page**  
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"I would be very happy to be rescued from the Socialists," says Mrs Thatcher.  
The Tories will use any ploy to win votes.

# BIG PROFITS

"Britain faces a severe crisis. We must all make sacrifices so we can pull through. Then things will improve again."

How many times have we heard this "argument" to justify 1½ million unemployed, lower living standards, and slashed social services?

But the latest figures on

the economy, issued by the Central Office of Statistics this week make at least two things quite clear:

[1] The "sacrifices" forced on the workers have been completely in vain.

[2] The "sacrifices" have actually resulted in an enormous increase in the bosses' profits.

"Provisional estimates

of the gross domestic product," reports 'The Times' [21 March], "Show that output at the end of 1977 was marginally lower than at the end of 1976 [hardly a record year itself!] with manufacturing output slightly down."

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# Militant

MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH

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## French Right win by 1%

"The concierge [housekeeper] in our block of flats was in tears this morning when she brought up the mail. 'It is over, Monsieur,' she said: 'We have nothing to look forward to.'" This was how 'The Times' gave a tiny glimpse of the tremendous disappointment of the workers at the defeat of the Left the day after the second round of the French elections—a disappointment that will certainly embitter the industrial struggles which we can now expect to unfold in France.

Workers' great hopes that the capitalist government would be defeated and that they would see a marked improvement in their lives have not been realised. But the elections were not the massive defeat for the Left Union that the press is trying to make out.

While not winning a majority, the Left Union won 49.26% of the vote compared with 46.3% in the 1973 Assembly elections and 49.2% in the 1974 Presidential elections. It is the marked bias of the constituency boundaries which gives the government a 20% lead in the Assembly with only a 1% lead in the votes.

The Left vote rose by over 5 million, in spite of the intense bias of the government-controlled radio and television. The elections have clearly revealed the class polarisation now taking place in France with the virtual extinction of the so-called 'centre' parties.

What the workers are asking, of course, is: Why did the Left not win? In last year's municipal elections it won 52% of the votes, and shortly before the close of this year's campaign, the opinion polls gave it a substantial lead. The capitalist commentators explain the defeat as a result of the split in the Left Union. But this ignores the split between the two major capitalist parties which were also at each other's throats during the election campaign.

The main reason for this election defeat was that the leaders of the Left Union and the Common Programme itself, failed to provide a credible answer to the government's repeated question: how will all these reforms be paid for without causing rampant inflation?

The Common Programme, while proposing to make massive inroads into the power and wealth of French capitalism, did not boldly advocate the taking over of all the largest firms—including the subsidiaries of the big industrial groups—and the implementation of a socialist plan of production to assure a massive development of production and guarantee a permanent advance in workers' conditions.

The capitalist press in Britain are trying to peddle the myth that it was the

'extremism' of the Common Programme which lost the election, obviously hoping in this way to strengthen the hand of Labour's right wing. But the 'Financial Times' let out the truth when it commented that "the Socialists did worst in precisely the areas, like Marseille, where they presented the most Centrist [i.e. moderate] image and where they refused to consummate the Union of the Left."

Fabre, fishing for a minister's seat in Giscard's new government, has announced that his party, the capitalist Left Radicals, have disowned the Common Programme. He blames the defeat on the Communist Party [PCF]. Now he feels free to attack the PCF leaders, but last week he kept his mouth shut—and with good reason. The Left Radicals had hoped to win 13 seats, but for this they needed PCF support in eight of these seats! So much for Fabre's opportunism! But what a comment, too, on the PCF leaders' willingness, for all their 'radical' rhetoric, to support capitalist candidates.

The Left could have achieved victory. It would have been possible, given the situation in French society. But it would have required an alliance of the two workers' parties, the PSF and the PCF, without the built-in capitalist "brake" of the Left Radicals, based squarely on the programme of the socialist transformation of society. This is the only programme that can solve the problems, and the only platform from which the Left could convince the workers that sweeping reforms could be introduced without provoking the same kind of inflation and turmoil which followed the victory of the Popular Front government in 1936.

In no way, however, will the victory of the government parties mean the abeyance of the workers' struggle until the next round of elections. The workers who voted for the Left, in spite of its equivocal programme, had high hopes for the improvements that would follow from a government of the Left. Their hopes have been dashed in the political arena, but their pressing demands remain, and there can be no doubt that these will now be energetically fought for on the industrial front.

The Patronat, the organisation of the French bosses, is gloomy. While they can take some consolation from the survival of the present government majority, they fearfully anticipate that the end of the election campaign will mark the revival, on an even bigger scale, of the strikes and occupations which began last year.

An electoral battle has been lost. But the struggle of the French workers to change society has hardly begun.

## Youth Opportunities Programme

### Never mind the

# WINDOW

# DRESSING...

## who runs the shop?

The government is giving big business large amounts of money [over £20 million a day] with the simple message—please do something useful with it.

Part of the Department of Employment, for instance, (the Manpower Services Commission, MSC) spends a great deal of energy advertising in journals which businessmen read so they can be made aware of the money that is available to them.

A full page advertisement recently placed by the MSC in the 'Financial Times' showed a large picture with the caption "Is this the best future we can offer our school leavers?" The picture was a young school leaver in a dustbin in a back street!

### Appeal

The advertisement began by saying: "There are now more young people out of work than at any time since the war. In some areas that's one in three. And they're not work-shy hooligans, they're victims of the economic facts of life...which makes them teenage rejects. Turned down without trial."

The particular scheme designed to alleviate this situa-

tion is called the Youth Opportunities Programme. The MSC pleads with businessmen reading the advert that: "If you can take in young people for up to 6 months, introducing them to the benefits and disciplines of work, we will pay them £19.50 a week. And there are no National Insurance contributions or tax returns to worry about."

### 'The System'

The only alternative to these proposals, the advert goes on to say, "...is a growing number of young people who feel discarded by 'the system'...and if nothing's done, the inescapable truth is that by the end of the year the situation will be even worse." Readers of 'Militant' would agree that if nothing is done about youth unemployment it certainly will get worse, but we disagree that bribing businessmen, whose system causes it, will have anything but a temporary, very small window-dressing effect.

Last August 'The Times', in its editorial, said that: "The real problem which the country will have to come to terms with is that we have clearly moved into a period where high unemployment is a permanent feature of our economy and society...and the unpalatable truth is that for the disease itself there is no cure in sight." Without some fundamental changes to the system of private "enterprise" this is true, and the

changes proposed by the 'Militant' will certainly be "unpalatable" for the wealthy (most of whom are permanently unemployed!).

### Charter

The millions of pounds of hand-outs to industrialists, the millions of pounds of lost production due to unemployment (£3,000 million a year) and the millions spent supporting the unemployed, all this wealth should be used in a massive programme of public works to permanently employ the jobless. This programme would naturally include the building of hospitals, schools, houses and so on, all of which are being cut to provide money to restore profits and line pockets.

Together with this demand for a useful public works programme must be the demand for large-scale industry to be taken over and planned and run by organised labour, not Colonel Blimps and retired bank managers etc. This is the only way that such a programme could even be started, since the gentlemen who currently own and control the economy will not be persuaded of the merits of the scheme which, it must be said, won't benefit them very much.

Large scale industry, planned and run by elected committees of workers from different parts of the labour movement, from the shop-floor outwards, will be able to produce the necessities of life to satisfy the needs of working people and their families. This is a political demand to be taken up in the trade unions and the Labour Party and is forcibly spelt out in 'A Charter for Young Workers' produced by the Labour Party Young Socialists and, incidentally, recommended by Bob Wright, the main candidate for the AUEW Presidential elections.

### Take Over

The bosses admit they don't know what to do, although they know, if they get their way, that they won't be paying for it. Too many trade union and Labour leaders are unwilling to challenge the power of capital and are therefore forced to reduce effective wages, close hospitals, etc. and feed the wealthy with more money. If you are not prepared to change the system, you will have to prop it up.

The only solution to the failures of capitalism is not to dress up the window but to take over the shop!

Steve Appleton

(Leeds North East LP)



Young school leavers in Manchester go through the morning paper [and the 'A to Z'] looking for jobs. Photo: Ramano Cagnani (Report)

# Scottish conference of Labour party

Last weekend's Scottish Conference of the Labour Party was of historic importance. Labour in Scotland is now committed to a programme for the socialist transformation of society.

By overwhelming majorities, delegates voted to support the policies of the Marxists in the labour movement, policies which they clearly saw as the best weapon with which to defeat the combined attacks of the Tories and the SNP.

In all the main debates speakers produced examples of the devastating effects of the present economic crisis and the policies with which the Labour government has tried to solve it.

Ron Curran (NUPE) pointed to the 500,000 jobs that have been lost in the public sector as the result of spending cuts and the 123 hospitals that have been closed in the last three years.

## Programme

Margaret McGinley (East Kilbride CLP) referred to the 1 million unfit houses which exist while 300,000 building workers are on the dole, and to the fact that Glasgow District Council hands 43% of its entire budget to the money-lenders.

Alex Grant (Central Ayrshire CLP) remarked on the possibility of unemployment reaching 40% in parts of Ayrshire if steel jobs are lost. The large majority of speakers expressed opposition to the government's policies of wage restraint and public expenditure cuts, and expressed the urgency of adopting the kind of policies best expressed in composite 6, which:

★ Called for "a massive programme of useful public works and a 35-hour week with no loss of pay";

★ rejected any form of wage restraint, including a 10% ceiling on annual increases;

★ demanded that the Labour government end the rule of the profiteers and speculators by nationalising the hub of the economy, the banks and insurance companies, and take over the 220 biggest firms which account for 83% of output, under workers' control and management;

★ resolved that compensation and interest paid to former share-holders should be on the basis only of proven need;

★ instructed the executive to mount a campaign to popularise these ideas among the Scottish working class and to pressurise the government to implement conference decisions.

## Practical?

By an overwhelming majority, this composite was passed, with the support of the executive but against the advice of the chairman, George Robertson, who in his chairman's address criticised the composite as "no answer to the arbitrary power of wealth and capital; it is neither an electoral possibility, nor indeed is it a credible or practical policy."

**'It is crucial that the socialist alternative to this failure called capitalism is implemented'**

But have not the "practical" policies of past and present Labour governments, of trying to reform society without challenging "the arbitrary power of wealth and capital," led to the watering-down, abandoning and even reversing the policies on which they were elected—as a result of giving in to the dictates of capitalist bodies like the Bank of England and the IMF? George Robertson himself pointed out that Britain has more giant companies each employing more than 40,000 people than the rest of the EEC countries together. He described the threat posed by these companies "not just to the building of a socialist society, but to democracy itself."

## 'Tribune'

That is precisely why his policy of trying to impose merely "controls and limits" is neither credible nor practicable. The experience of Labour governments has proved that you cannot control and limit what you do not own.

More surprising than George Robertson's criticisms, however, were some of the contributions made at Saturday's 'Tribune' meeting.

Although some of the speakers welcomed the shift to the left shown by the votes for these Marxist resolutions, Sandy Smeaton (AUEW TASS) complained about the type of resolutions passed by conference, claiming "how pointless and daft and impractical" they were: "I think half the conference must have been asleep when passing the composite on public ownership," he declared.

Delegates who took part in the overwhelming vote and heard the executive speaker's recommendations will draw their own conclusion about this novel piece of political analysis.

Norman Buchan MP continued in the same vein, complaining the resolutions were "impractical and irrelevant". He was disturbed, he said, because the cabinet welcomed resolutions like those passed because they can easily ignore them.

This stand taken by these leading figures must have contributed to the results of the elections to the Scottish

Executive Committee, which totally contradicted the voting on policy.

Four left wingers were thrown off the CLP section to be replaced by candidates backed by the right-wing Campaign For a Labour Victory. The votes for these four defeated EC members were only slightly higher than those for 'Militant' supporters with whom they shared a joint slate. They were evidently abandoned by a number of 'Tribune' supporters for the "crime" of joining forces in a principled way with 'Militant' supporters against



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

Dundee, 15 March: Several thousand workers downed tools and marched through the city to protest against Scotland's unemployment, now higher than the 1930s, and still rising.

the CLV slate.

Many 'Tribune' supporters must be very disturbed at the role of some of their leading spokesmen at this conference, especially those who remember when leaders of the party like Hugh Gaitskell complained about 'Tribune' resolutions being "too left wing, unappealing to the voter, and irrelevant."

It is clear from this conference that Marxist ideas now have a firm basis in the Labour Party and represent the only real left-wing alternative to the right wing.

## 'Militant'

Over 200 copies of 'Militant' were sold at the conference. The 'Militant' meeting was attended by 70 delegates and visitors and raised £52 for the fighting fund.

It is simply untrue that our

ideas are out of step with the movement or cannot be popular with workers.

## Answer

It was, after all, Gavin Laird (of the AUEW Executive Committee) who demanded that the former ship owners should not get a penny in compensation. It was John McFadyen (convenor at Singers in Clydebank) who called for a 35-hour week without loss of pay; and it was James McCafferty (NUM), replying to the public ownership debate on behalf of the executive, who declared "in 300 years capitalism has failed to provide the basic needs of workers. The producers of goods and services are again forced to pay for the inefficiency and corruption of capitalist society. It is crucial that the socialist alternative to this failure called capitalism is implemented."

Thus conference has rejected totally the old idea of trying to change society without challenging the power of the big monopolies. It has agreed on a programme of demands which, if explained and campaigned for by the leaders of the Labour Party in Scotland, would win mass support for the ideas of socialism and provide the answer to the Tories and the SNP.

## Pressure

So now it is vital for unrelenting pressure to be exerted on the new executive committee to take these policies to every shop floor, union branch and Labour Party meeting and mobilise the strength of the whole labour movement to get them implemented.

**John Fergusson**

(West Stirlingshire CLP)

## YORKSHIRE REGION

# Labour must act as Labour

"The last six regional conferences I've attended have successively marked a swing to the left." So said John Ingham (LPYS National Committee) to a Campaign for Labour Party Democracy fringe meeting at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Labour Party.

It was predominantly left-wing resolutions which were passed, and the majority of speakers, reflecting an anger from the shop floor, were calling for more positive socialist policies. A delegate from Leeds summed up the reasons for last year's council defeats for Labour and Labour's defeat at Ilford, to warm applause. "If Labour councils acted as Labour, they'd get more support."

## Fight Fascism

Perhaps the debate on fascism best summed up the mood of the conference. A resolution from Shipley CLP calling for a mobilisation of the labour movement against the NF, the establishment of anti-fascist committees by the labour movement to co-ordinate this opposition and the banning of fascists from using public meeting places for their activities, was passed with just five votes against. Pat Wall (Shipley CLP) in

moving the resolution, refuted the myth that the police can stop the NF; it was essential for the movement "to organise our own forces for defence and to get rid of the National Front."

## Women

Pete Watson (Bradford West LPYS) pointed out that fascism unites the desperate elements in society against the organisations of the working class.

P Dufont (Rotherham CLP) in an excellent speech, explained: "Capitalism is a system that depends on exploitation for its survival," and thus used fascism to divide worker from worker. If Labour were "to relieve unemployment, then the NF will lose its main source of support."

Yet the Regional Executive recommended opposition to the resolution. But the vote proved that delegates were determined to adopt a serious programme to answer the racials and fascists.

In this debate the ideas of the YCAU, though ruled off the order paper were warmly received by the conference.

Other important debates included industrial democracy where conference rejected the Bullock proposals. On the social contract, conference rejected wage restraint

and called for a return to free collective bargaining, along with a national minimum wage linked to the cost of living.

Resolutions were also passed calling for the nationalisation of the building industry, opposing cuts in the NHS and calling for abortion on demand, and more protection for battered women, as well as an emergency resolution condemning the imprisonment of Chris Royce, a Bradford student, arrested on the picket line at Grunwicks.

P Wall received tumultuous applause in condemning the Labour Home Office for organising police activity at Grunwicks thereby protecting the strike-breaking activities of Georg Ward.

## Executive

Norman Atkinson (National Treasurer) sent fraternal greetings to the conference from the NEC and emphasised the need for Labour to "break with the rules of the free market." If we adopt socialist policies, ministers may resign, he said...then so be it! The unemployed, he explained, can't resign because resigning politicians implemented policies that put them there.

This speech was in contrast

to Ron Hayward (general secretary) who attacked those who pursued "carping criticism" of the government "for cheap applause." The government's performance, he claimed, had "chalked up some considerable successes."

This year's conference saw the continual growth of influence of the 'Militant'. About one third of the delegates bought copies of the paper. The Militant supporters who stood for the Regional Executive were all returned or elected for the first time.

## Support

On the Saturday evening, over 30 people attended the 'Militant' Readers' Meeting where B Ingham and P Gerrard spoke to an attentive audience. The collection afterwards, plus other fund-raising activities during the conference, raised about £50.

The message to come from that meeting and from the conference itself was that socialist ideas are superior in content and debate; let us ensure that they become policy and practice of the British Labour Movement.

**Mike Foster**

(West Hull LPYS)

# Left & Right

## ENTERTAINMENT

*It seems the Tories have given up trying to pretend they are a serious option. After hi-jinks in the House of Commons, stunts with Maggie Thatcher ceremoniously cutting pound notes in half and Ted [three-day week] Heath deciding to 'solve' the problem of youth unemployment, what have we next?*

The Conservative Party will be holding a Political Surgery

*Well, what would you expect to find in the entertainments column of an East End newspaper? But watch out. If their political surgery is anything like their mad-axe job surgery, it won't be very funny.*

## OFF THE FENCE

**Workers at British Leyland are not in any doubt about who is to blame for the threatened redundancies and plant closures. At least, not until they saw the Sunday papers.**

In a half-page advert in the 'Sunday Times', were pictures of Jack Jones and Hugh Scanlon, side by side with Michael Edwardes, Leyland Chairman, over the bold headline: "We're on the same side of this fence." Union leaders and bosses, it claims, have the same interests at heart—the company's workers, suppliers, shareholders and "the country".

Is Edwardes saying he supports the Leyland shop stewards' demand for the nationalisation of the whole motor industry and massive reinvestment as part of a national plan to modernise and develop the industry's resources for the best use? No—he's using union leaders to reassure British bosses that he's succeeding in his plans to lead the Leyland workers like lambs to the slaughter.

For workers on the shop floor, these adverts, paid for out of their sweat, don't offer much reassurance.

Are the union tops on the same side of the fence as Edwardes over his master-plan to slash 12,500 jobs in Leyland?

## REALISTIC?

The capitalists and their hired commentators in the western press are not the only people hoping against hope that Spanish workers will not prove too 'disruptive'.

'Pravda' (official voice of the Russian 'Communist' Party leadership) in its commentator's column said: "At the present stage the political evolution of Spain is characterised by two salient features—the dismantling of the dictatorship's arrangements and the peaceful character of the changes taking place."

The new regime's reaction isn't so 'peaceful' when the old 'arrangements' for locking up political prisoners and trampling on the national minorities are challenged!

'Pravda' goes on to quote Dolores Ibarruri, the chairman of the Spanish Communist Party, saying that the country's emergence on 'the road to democracy' was made possible because "all of working Spain refused to bow their heads to Francoism, and not only endured but prevailed."

The article continues: "Other circles, including in part the ruling circles of the country as well, made a certain contribution to speeding the process of democratisation by displaying realism and an understanding of the irreversible nature of the changes the people demand."

Today the Spanish workers are locked in fierce struggle to resist the demands of the 'understanding' ruling circles for wage cuts and redundancies in the 'Pact of Moncloa', Spain's social contract. How do 'Pravda' and the Communist Party leaders view the bosses' 'realism' and 'understanding' now?

# Profit Breeds Malaria

The World Health Organisation (WHO) believed that malaria eradication could be achieved in a country in 8-10 years. The massive DDT-spraying programme it sponsored over the last 20 years has been one of the largest international collaborative programmes in science and technology.

But in all the countries where malaria had almost been eradicated, there has been a serious resurgence. Two hundred million people now suffer from the disease.

In India the number of cases declined from 100 million in 1952 to 60,000 in 1962. By 1976 the number had multiplied a hundred times to 6 million. Sri Lanka has over two million cases where once it had fewer than 25 a year.

One in every five people in Pakistan has the disease. In Central America incidence has almost doubled and almost every child over one year old in tropical Africa has malaria, with one million of them dying every year.

WHO has come to the conclusion that eradication is no longer possible, at least in the foreseeable future. It now advocates a "flexible" programme: every country should decide what it wants (or rather, can afford) to do.

The main problem is the spread of insecticide resistance in mosquitoes. Forty-three species of malaria-spreading mosquito are resistant to insecticides BHC and dieldrin; 24 to BHC, dieldrin and DDT; and six to an even wider range of insecticides.

### Profitable

The use of insecticides in agriculture as well as disease-control has made the problem worse. Very intensive use, including aerial spraying, is found in cotton-growing areas, for instance: the areas where multiple resistance of mosquitoes to insecticides has been reported.

DDT and some other compounds are not automatically broken down after use and can be spread long distances via drainage and rivers. This resistance is developing even in areas where no spraying has been done.

When DDT and similar compounds were first discovered, as a by-product of research in chemical and biological warfare, it seemed a simple, relatively cheap and very profitable solution to the problem of insects that destroyed crops or spread disease.

The chemical companies made big investments and even bigger profits and had little incentive to look for alternative (non-chemical) methods of pest control.

Criticisms of the chemical approach were first made on environmental grounds in the late 1960's, by which time there was little alternative. Research funds and scientists

had all been concentrated on insecticides.

And, "after all", said Shell, BP, ICI, etc, "these products have prevented the spread of disease." In fact it looks as though they have provided only a temporary respite and the problem is returning, but in much worse form.

### Resistance

India has the third largest scientific manpower in the world, but abandoned all research into malaria and its control when insecticide spraying became almost universal. When problems arose they had no expertise to develop alternative methods of control.

At the same time the resistance of the malaria parasite in the human body to the drugs used to treat the disease is growing.

Resistance to chloroquine, for example, the main drug used to treat malignant malaria (the most dangerous form) is widespread in South East Asia and Latin America.

The big companies are involved here, too. Quinine



Members of the Peace Corps treating a child in Pakistan. But the medical "fix" is not enough.

Photo: Clive Capel (IFL)

manufacture is controlled by a cartel which keeps the price at \$1.50 per 1,000 tablets. If the cartel were broken [never mind the companies nationalised] it would be one fifth of that.

Newer drugs are of no interest to most drug companies because, to make a profit, more would have to be charged than most victims could afford.

According to Anil Agarwal, writing in "New Scientist" (2 Feb 1978), the answer is to view malaria as a social disease.

He quotes the experiences of China and Vietnam, where landlordism and capitalism have been overthrown. Both countries have been very successful in their malaria control programmes involving mass education and participation in undertaking mosquito habitat control measures.

### Swamps

Mosquito breeding grounds have been destroyed. Swamps have been drained and rice fields flooded so that the water flow sweeps away the larvae from the water surface.

In Europe and the USA the eradication of insect-transm-

itted diseases was achieved long before new insecticides and post war drugs became readily available, as a result of social and economic development. With proper drainage, sanitation and water supplies, ideal breeding grounds, such as pits and wells, would disappear.

### Revolution

The eradication of malaria and other insect-borne diseases requires decent housing and living conditions, sanitation, proper water supplies, and the participation of the mass of the population in control programmes.

While the workers and peasants in the poorest countries remain exploited by landlordism and capitalism, none of these things is likely to be achieved.

As Agarwal says: "No medical organisation, however large and complete, can lead the fight against malaria to a successful conclusion if the masses do not adopt its programme. The eradication of malaria is a revolutionary task."

By Vivien Seal

(Lambeth Central CLP)

# LIBRARIES ROBBED

Despite the government 'boast' of single-figure inflation, most of us suspect that prices are increased by those who know we've no alternative but to pay the higher prices.

Libraries are often in this position, as a statement by the Library Association to the Price Commission makes clear ('Bookseller', 25th February, 1978). It points out that over £40 million is spent on books by public, university and college libraries alone.

For many basic works of reference, libraries are very much a captive market—to maintain a worthwhile service they must have the books. However, the statement quotes a random sample of sixteen works of reference, none of which have appeared in new editions since 1970, but which have increased in price by almost 100% from 1970 to 1976! Other examples of backlist prices doubling are quoted, one going from £7.15 to £18.00!

Libraries often place standing orders for series of books. Yet here the Library

Association reports doubling of prices for successive volumes as a common practice! Another little dodge is to offer a low pre-publication price to attract orders and then to supply books at a price often double that being quoted a few months earlier.

When library budgets are already being strained by public spending cuts, the effect is to reduce the number of books purchased and hence to make library waiting lists still longer.

It may, of course, be pure coincidence but on another page in the same issue, the 'Bookseller' mentions that one publishing house (not necessarily the worst offender for the practices mentioned above) has increased its pre-tax profits from £295,000 to £380,000 on a turnover of £5.79 million. Many other publishing houses have reported similar increases.

Once again the bosses profit and the public suffers.

By a Librarian

## Southern Thames Valley

At our 'Greet the 16-page 'Militant' meeting, Labour Party members and Labour Party Young Socialists from Bracknell and Reading heard Ray Apps outline the worldwide crisis of capitalism and its implications on the British economy. He went on to put forward the Marxist alternative to the policies being carried out by the right-wing Labour leaders.

In a lively and wide-ranging discussion from the floor, topics covered included racialism, the role of the new 16-page 'Militant', unemployment and even the question of the Marxist attitude towards religion.

The fact that this meeting was one of three being held in the Thames Valley this month is an indication of the growing influence of the ideas of the 'Militant' in the local labour movement. The number of books sold on the literature stall is further indication that Labour activists in Bracknell are looking towards 'Militant' for a socialist transformation of society.

## Shop-floor

In Bristol, Mike Hulin, Senior Steward at Cadbury-Schweppes, showed how the 'Militant' was a vital weapon for every trade unionist. It had been important for him, giving information of what was happening up and down the country, and a lead in how to tackle shop-floor problems. Every industrial worker needs our paper, he said.

## Brighton

About forty people came to the meeting in Brighton to mark the new bigger 'Militant'. For many it was their first contact with the paper.

Rod Fitch, Convenor of the Brighton Committee against Fascism spoke of the struggle against the fascists and the important role played by 'Militant' both in explaining the nature of fascism and in rallying the only force that could defeat it, the organised working class.

Roger Silverman ['Militant's' International Correspondent] described the birth of the paper as a tiny four-page monthly when the ideas of Marxism were scoffed at in the labour movement as a nineteenth century hang-over. Today these scoffers in the leadership have disappeared from the scene, either linking hands with the enemies of the working class, or scuttling to lush jobs outside politics.

Meanwhile the ideas of 'Militant' had grown in strength to a point where supporters take the lead in the struggle against the betrayals of the present government and for socialist policies.

In his summing up, comrade Silverman pointed out that although the present leadership of the Labour Party could certainly not carry out the programme of social revolution that was needed, the whole struggle for democracy in the party at the moment presaged the day when a leadership would take over which could and would carry out the socialist transformation of society.

# Birmingham greet the 16-page Militant

Stalls all round the meeting hall selling their wares—everything from Indian food to second-hand books—the Clarion Singers performing labour movement songs and three excellent speakers to introduce the political discussion. That was the recipe that made the West Midlands rally the most enthusiastic event ever organised in this area by the 'Militant'.

Over 120 readers heard Bill Mullins [Senior Steward, British Leyland], Ken Cameron [National Executive, Fire Brigades Union] and Roger Silverman ['Militant' International Correspondent] outline the situation prevailing among the active members of the trade unions, the Marxist programme and the strides forward 'Militant' had made from its appearance in 1964 to the launching of a 16-page edition now.

A long-standing Labour Party member from the Rover factory, the Chairman of the Birmingham Labour Party Young Socialists and the Vice-Chairman of the Birmingham District Labour Party were among the speakers from the floor. A West Indian shop steward from the Longbridge Works even read out a poem as part of his contribution about how he and the workers he represented were going to deal with the interference of the National Front in their place of work.

All the speakers welcomed the enlargement of their paper. Roger Silverman explained that 'Militant' put forward a clear alternative to the ideas of both the right and the left within the labour movement, and that rank and file members were beginning to seriously question all the old leaders.

A growing number of these 'leaders' had brazenly deserted the Labour Party recently. They seem to cross from one party to the other as easily as they cross the road, Roger said. In the case of George Brown [last heard of stumbling out of the Palace of Westminster], he said, apparently even easier than crossing the road.

The singing of the 'Red Flag' and the 'International' rounded off the meeting in resounding spirit. And just to prove the confidence that those present have in the 'Militant' the financial appeal raised £105 and the proceeds from the stalls and the sale of tickets for the rally brought in a further £100.

Jeremy Birch (Birmingham LP)

# Northern

In Manchester, Gerry Lerner (Regional Paper Manager) declared that from the first 4-page monthly 14 years ago, we could look back on every copy of the 'Militant' without embarrassment or apology. We could be proud of our record.

Eddie Newman (Regional LPYS Chairman) described the growth in the membership and activity of Labour's youth, armed with the programme of 'Militant' and a Marxist leadership. With a fighting programme and leaders prepared to implement it, the Labour Party would not be faced with falling membership.

"Workers are really thirsting to understand what's going on around them," said the convenor at the local Chloride factory, Ian Stowell, in the lively discussion. From his own experience, he knew there were thousands of extra potential sales in the factories—sellers and supporters just needed to make that extra push.

## First Ever

Ted Grant spoke at the biggest 'Militant' meeting ever held in Preston. For over two-thirds of the audience, it was their first ever Readers' meeting!

In Wigan, over thirty people heard Bill Connor, the President of Skelmersdale Trades Council, Gerry Lerner and Ted Grant [Militant Editorial Board].

For years, Bill Connor said, he had been active in the labour movement, searching for the right answer to the problems working people face.

It wasn't until he found the 'Militant' that he found the way to fight. It translates into words and action the instinctive feeling of the working class to change society.

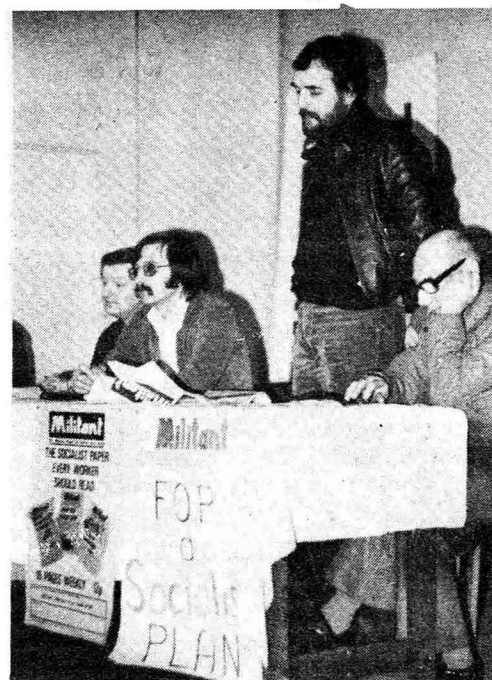
## Programme

In Bradford, an audience of Labour Party members and trade unionists, including members of the Trades Council Executive, heard Bob Labi welcome the enormous step forward in expanding the 'Militant'.

"It's not just a question of increasing the size; we're not only interested in being successful paper sellers," he said. "The most important thing is building support for our programme and ideas."

Suggestions were put forward for the bigger paper to include regular features on housing and tenants' organisations, sport and the economy.

# Tyneside Rally 'Marxism is part of the Labour Party'



Tom Sawyer [Divisional Officer, NUPE] speaking at the Tyneside rally.

The growth in support for the ideas of Marxism was shown in Newcastle when nearly a hundred people gathered in the Durant Hall. On the Platform were Ted Grant, Militant Editorial Board; Tom Sawyer, Divisional Organiser of NUPE; Ken Skethaway, Tyne and Wear County Councillor; Kevin Roddy, NEC of CPSA; and John Flynn, Regional Committee of the LPYS.

Tom Sawyer stressed the importance of Marxist ideas in the labour movement. "Marxism has been a part of the Labour Party since its birth." Ken Skethaway continued: "We must dispell this myth of entrists. I have been in the Labour Party over 30 years and I've always been a Marxist. It is the right wing who subvert the party."

John Flynn, in a fiery speech, showed the Labour Party Young Socialists' support for 'Militant'. He spoke of the problems of unemployment, especially for youth, and how the government was doing nothing to solve the problem.

"Youth is the future of the Labour Party but we would betray the working class if we were to wait 30 years until we are the leaders of the party before we struggled for socialism. We want socialism and we will work for it now!"

Ted Grant showed how the present policies were paving the way for a possible victory for the most right wing Tory party in years. Workers were increasingly looking to socialist answers.

This is shown by the growth of 'Militant'. On display were various old copies of the 'Militant' at various "stages of growth", from a 4-page monthly to a 16-page weekly. That is a growth of 16 times or an extra 60 pages a month. The meeting's confidence in the future was shown by the nearly £120 put in the collection towards a further growth in Marxism.

Bill Hopwood

(Newcastle North CLP)

# A Workers' Paper

Report by Gary Horne

In Merseyside over 150 people heard Terry Fields give the fraternal greetings of the FBU.

He stressed the need for political education for older as well as young workers. True socialism could only eradicate the evils of capitalism such as unemployment. We must get rid of the driftwood from our movement

and get out on to the streets to explain socialism.

"Militant" is brimming with confidence, and in the epoch of turbulence to come we have every faith in the force of the working class to change society," said Dave San (CPSA National Official). He stressed the importance of a workers' paper as an alternative to the lies and distortions of the capitalist

press.

Ray Williams (NGA Official) took up this point. We are in business to gain support for socialism, not to make a profit, he said. He outlined how the press is controlled in Britain by three major consortiums—IPC, Thompson and Westminster Press, and stressed the need for an independent workers' paper.



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Over 40 people in Edinburgh heard: [left to right] Bob Craig [Fire Brigades Union]; speaking: Keith Dickinson ['Militant' Editorial Board]; Kenny Bryan [ASTMS]—Chairman; Ron Brown [Convenor, Parsons Peebles]

# Young Offenders

The prospects for the next few months didn't bear thinking about. I'd just need to screw the nut, do my time and forget the place. The screws wouldn't bother me if I kept my nose clean.

A piece of writing on the dove box door cheered me up. "Due to lack of demand, tomorrow will not now take place." Keep a stiff upper lip Mick. It's no the end of the world.

My thoughts were eclipsed by the sound of footsteps echoing harshly and coming closer. The screw unlocked the door smoothly and efficiently with practised ease. I stood to attention the way I had learned in the Army Cadets.

It was the same screw who stuck one on me previously so I waited with bated breath. He produced a clip-board and forms from under his arm and stared at me coldly.

"Name?" he asked, for the second time.

"Michael Watson, Sir."

"Age?"

"Eighteen, Sir."

He looked at me with disgust and said sarcastically, "Yer nothing but a weed boy, what are you?"

"Nothing but a weed, Sir."

I was very self conscious about my size and that remark hurt. After his, and bureaucracy's insatiable appetite for forms had for the time being been satisfied with the relevant particulars about me he duly packed away the clip board under his arm, the pen into his sports jacket pocket and smiled again. Smug bastard.

## Screws

Standing to the right of the door he yelled, "Right then let's be having you outside! Double." I moved as quick as possible to go past him, only to be stopped by a vice-like grip on my throat.

"What do you say?" he screamed and threw me backwards, my shoulder blades hitting hard against the dove box wall.

What have I done wrong now? I tried to guess, as the tears began to form. It's not so bad getting it for something you know you have done wrong.

In the background I could hear the two policemen sniggering away. I eyed the screw hatefully, knowing there was nothing I could do but fight back the tears and take it.

"You are supposed to say excuse me when you pass by an officer, okay."

"Yes Sir."

"Right then let's try it again shall we. Outside."

He didn't have to tell me again. After being pushed and shoved at breakneck speed through strange new corridors I was halted outside an office door. The officer went inside and left the door partially open. Long seconds dragged by.

The officer came out again. "Now then, when I tell you, you will march into that office as fast as you can, stand to attention in front of the desk and tell the officer who you are. Do you understand?"

"Yes Sir."

Before I knew what was happening the screw shoved me right through the office

# INSIDE

door. I tripped over the carpet and came to rest sitting on the floor staring up once again into a screw's face. Rising quickly to my feet I roared out, "Michael Watson Sir."

With emphasis on the Sir.

This next screw turned out to be a Medical Officer. After an eye test and all the rest he began to ask me if I'd ever suffered such and such a disease.

"Have you ever tried to commit suicide?"

"No Sir."

"Have you ever taken drugs before?"

"Well yes, Sir, I did try acid once, but only..."

"What!" Once more my throat was grabbed in a vice-like grip and I was held against the wall. This was getting to be bloody ridiculous.

"Have you ever seen a drug addict?"

"No Sir," I gasped.

"Well they look like vegetables...weeds! Get out of my sight."

I was glad to get out of his sight.

Next I was marched through the maze of corridors to a large room. Inside the large room stood a desk like an old school desk. To one side of the room were rows of showers and cubicles. Another wall was filled with boxes holding shoes and neat bundles of clothing.

## New Boy

Two inmates appeared from the showers where they must have been cleaning and at the orders of an officer proceeded to set up one of those ancient army tables. Then they went back to the sprays and turned one on.

"Empty your pockets."

One box of matches, one badly chewed comb, three dog ends, dole card and various papers. The screw carefully placed my precious possessions in brown envelopes and asked me if I had any money. I replied, "Not a bean...I mean...No Sir."

He then went through my pockets and found nothing. He yawned widely. The water was still rattling away in the shower.

"Strip."

I began to get undressed. "Not here you fool. In the cubicle."

"Yes Sir. Excuse me Sir."

The screw followed me over. I started to take off my boots.

"Have you no got your trousers off yet?"

"No Sir."

"Well?"

So I dropped my trousers. Suddenly the screw produced an electric torch and proceeded to explore between my legs. Finally he seemed satisfied with what he found or

## Part II of our account of one young person's experiences in a detention centre.



The writer has been sentenced to three months in Glenochil Detention Centre. He is learning fast the harsh realities of life 'inside'.

didn't find and told me to get a spray. A few minutes later I was ordered to come out and dry myself.

Then he made me sign for my possessions, including clothing. One of the inmates handed me a bundle of clothing and footwear. Then I was ushered back into the cubicle to get dressed.

## Lesson

While I was getting dressed one of the inmates, a wee curly headed guy moved toward me pretending to sweep the floor.

"Hurry up and get ready," shouted the screw. So I hurried.

"Hae Jimmy, where dae ye come frae?" whispered the furtive sweeper.

"Dunfermline," I whispered back, my attention divided between him and a struggle with underpants three times too big. My reply seemed to amuse him.

"Dun-fer-ma-line and whereabouts is Dun-fer-ma-line?"

"Are you trying to come wide pal?"

"Naw, that awright, Jim. What are you in fer?"

"Screwing a ub."

The screw suddenly ended the secret conversation. "Are you ready Watson?"

"Just about Sir."

"Come on then. Hurry up."

I felt good with my strange prison garb on. It was all freshly laundered. After being weighed down with an awkward load of gear, boots, slippers, gaiters, blankets, pillow slip, jackets and overalls, another screw came and collected me.

He took me to a small corridor and told me to march smartly along to the end, turn left and climb a flight of steps. Once there I was to stand to attention and wait. It was easier said than done, the bundle of gear proving very difficult.

A voice bellowed behind me. "New admission. 'A' wing."

And another in front. "Righto Mr Sutherland."

On my way through the corridor I passed several inmates on their knees scrubbing the floor. No-one looked up. At last I came out of the corridor and turned left managing not to drop any of the gear. I made to go up the steps. Without much success. A vicious punch on the ear caught me just as I ascended the second step and sent me and the gear spinning to the floor.

Shoes, boots, gaiters, blanket and clothing were scattered crazily here, there and everywhere. One shoe landed in a bucket of water. A guy stopped his scrubbing to fish it out.

Hastily I collected up the various articles. All the time two mad screws were beaming their heads off half way up the steps.

"You bastard. What's the idea? Get up those bloody steps."

Ah well, once more into the breach and again I hurried up the steps. Again I was halted in exactly the same fashion. There I was sitting at the bottom of the steps feeling very sorry for myself and just a bit puzzled. Suddenly it dawned on me.

I picked up the gear, dashed up the steps and yelled, "Excuse me, Sir," in passing, halting as ordered when I got to the top.

"That's better," declared the two screws simultaneously.

## Safe?

I was later escorted to my 'room'. To just about everybody it was a 'peter' or 'cell' but the prison authorities insist we call it a room so who am I to argue.

It's very hard to re-create in writing just how I felt when they locked the peter door. Miserable, lonely, scared and cut off. Yes, all of that and more.

In a later article we will take up the Tories' "shock treatment" policies.

# DAILY Mirror

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DAILY SALE 7p Wednesday, March 15, 1978

## 'Socialism is good for Business'

"The Politics of HATE"

proclaimed the *Daily Mirror's* headline shortly before the Ilford North by-election. Unlike the *Express*, the *Mail*, the *Sun* and the rest of the gutter press, the *Mirror* came out against the Tories and the National Front.

On the front page, Joe Haines denounced Margaret Thatcher for introducing racist hysteria into the campaign.

Why does the *Mirror* incline to the left? On strikes, it can attack workers as viciously as its rivals. But it generally adopts a "pro-Labour" line.

In the 1930s it was a different story. "Give the Blackshirts a Helping Hand," exhorted one front-page headline in January, 1934. The year after Hitler had seized power! Lord Rothermere, the press-baron who then controlled the *Mirror* was calling on its readers to support Mosley's fascists.

The back-room boys, however, were worried. The mood in the country was changing, moving to the left. Besides, circulation was falling—the *Mirror* was losing money!

Cecil King, the *Mirror's* boss-to-be, had plans to boost sales. How? By "matching the politics to the commercial aim." In his brash autobiography, "Walking on the Water", Hugh Cudlipp tells how it was done.

One of [King's] conclusions was: 'If we were to move the *Mirror* into a new market it would have to be the working-class market.' Exactly. 'Our best hope was therefore to appeal to young working-class men and women, and in general the least educated part of the population.' Precisely. 'If this was the aim, the politics had to be made to match.' Socialism was good for business? The *Mirror* never went as far as embracing the materialist concept of history, but never has a more materialist motive been vouchsafed for what it eventually did advocate. King in his ivory tower was playing chess, but the boys in the backroom were playing ludo and shove-halfpenny; they were building a platform from which they could express their thoughts, not calculating thoughts that would build a platform.

For a crude end (profit) there were crude commercial

means.

In his brief time on the *Mirror* Basil Nicholson [features editor] made a major contribution, encouraging strip-cartoons and advertising techniques, reminding me and others that we shouldn't think our potential readers were as clever as he was.... He had been schooled in the advertising world to appeal to the greed and envy and fears of the lowest common denominator and cared little about the wider responsibilities of journalism.

Could anything show greater contempt for the working-class readers these hack journalists were trying to appeal to? And the *Mirror* is by no means the worst of the tabloids! They set out to produce, Cudlipp admits, "a daily drug."

During the two years in the front line at the *Mirror* when the tabloid revolution got into its stride my principal contribution was to humanise the features pages and enjoy myself thinking up the wacky and controversial ideas. I amassed a team of psychologists, soothsayers, doctors, pet experts and scribbling priests whose services were at my command by merely picking up a phone and later despatching a cheque.... Cassandra called the whole thing 'Cudlipp's Circus.'

Has anything changed? After the war, with the return of the Labour government, the King-Cudlipp "Tabloid Revolution" certainly paid off!

But King himself became crusty. In 1968 he turned against the Wilson government. According to Cudlipp, he even tried to plot a military coup! Premature, Cecil! And bad for circulation!

So, a palace revolution. King is dead, long live Cudlipp. The circus goes on. Unlike the blatantly reactionary papers, the *Mirror* inclines to the left, "supports" Labour, even agitates in brilliant style against one or two capitalist scandals.

Why do these profit-motivated cynics do it? Why, to keep up their sales, to maintain credibility with working class readers. Above all, to build up the influence [they hope] to deceive and divert the workers when it really matters!

Lynn Walsh



Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

# LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS 17<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## BUILD A MASS LPYS

The National Conference at Easter is when we all look back and assess just exactly what the achievements, successes and even mistakes of the LPYS have been during the past year.

Every member would agree that it's been an unprecedented year in the campaigning work of Labour's youth movement. Our most notable achievement is unquestionably our work in the struggle against youth unemployment. Hundreds of trade union branches, shop stewards' committees, CLPs, thousands of working class people and even our MPs in Parliament, have seen that the LPYS is not prepared to stand back and wait till someone else takes up the struggle, but on the contrary, have been at the fore of this struggle.

The National Assembly on 29 January last year and the National Lobby against youth unemployment on 16 November, where over 1,500 people attended, is a vindication of our ideas and our activity.

Last month the Southern, Eastern and London regions of the LPYS held an excellent meeting at the House of Commons on youth unemployment where 200 young people attended. Every Labour MP in those three regions was informed of the meeting, well in advance, yet only 6 out of 60 Labour MPs saw the scandal of youth unemployment as important enough to attend the meeting! Nevertheless, the meeting was a great success irrespective of this disgraceful attitude.

Another shining example of the LPYS taking a leading role has been in the struggle against racialism and fascism. The LPYS has seen its prime role as alerting the trade union and labour movement to the danger posed by this disease.

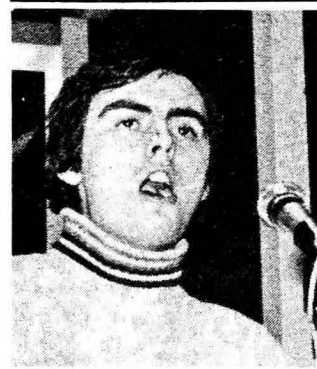
Every time the NF has attempted publicly to spread its poison the LPYS has always been there in full

strength, helping to demoralise and shatter the confidence of the fascists. Last August coach loads of LPYS members from all over the country came to Lewisham to join the counter-demonstration against the NF, and in fact stewards from the LPYS took a leading position which several organisations present followed. This was repeated again on 18 February when the so-called Young National Front attempted to hold its first national rally in Birmingham. The LPYS, with less than a week's notice, mobilised to smash the fascists.

### LPYS Lead

On that day, hundreds of young people, black and white, joined the counter-demonstration against the young fascists. These young kids, most of whom had never been involved in a demonstration of this kind before, followed the LPYS lead.

The decision of the NF to launch a YNF section was well publicised in the national gutter press and TV. The LPYS National Committee has written to the Chairman of the BBC and ITV demand-



By Tony  
Saunois  
(LPYS  
Vice-  
Chairman)

ing that equal coverage be given to the racialism debate at LPYS Conference.

LPYS branches have taken up the challenge by mass leafletting of schools with the LPYS racialism and school student leaflets, which has been an enormous success. This has caused considerable concern in ruling circles, voiced by Rhodes Boyson, Tory education spokesman.

He said in a recent article in the 'Telegraph' that the LPYS is 'subverting children' by calling for "elected school councils in every school; abolition of school uniform and petty rules; abolition of religious indoctrination and corporal punishment;" i.e. the LPYS is supposedly "subverting children" by demanding democracy in schools!

### TV Broadcast

At Regional Labour Party Conferences throughout the country the LPYS has made its mark. Many LPYS members managed to get to the rostrum and as a result many resolutions on LPYS policy were passed.

There are exciting and

optimistic times ahead for the LPYS. We have secured a youth Party Political Broadcast to be screened on 7 June which will be coupled with a National Week of Action around that date.

LPYS branches should get their CLPs to send in resolutions calling on the National Executive to give the LPYS complete autonomy in deciding the content of the broadcast. Every region should be starting to prepare for the Week of Action, which together with the broadcast, should really boost the size of the LPYS "at a stroke!"

Since last June the LPYS has grown from 341 branches to 383. We count our active membership as a minimum of 5,000, though many more support us less actively and look to the LPYS for a lead. The NEC Youth Committee has recently set us a target of building Labour's youth to 500 branches by the end of next year, with an active membership of 7,500. That target is entirely possible and we should aim to reach it even sooner.

After the Conference, take out our ideas to working class youth—BUILD A MASS YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

The Youth Campaign Against Unemployment started by Labour's youth has become the widest campaign on this issue within the labour movement. Organisations representing hundreds of thousands of workers in hundreds of factories, mines, hospitals and offices all over Britain have supported the Campaign both politically and financially.

1,100 delegates and over 350 visitors from trade unions, shop stewards' committees, Labour Parties and Young Socialist branches as well as unemployed workers filled the Seymour Hall in London in January 1977 to agree on a programme of action to fight the ever increasing numbers of the unemployed.

Activity organised around the YCAU campaign recruited many young people to the LPYS. Days of action with street meetings, leafletting and mass estate sales were organised throughout the country.

The build up of activities culminated in a lobby of Parliament on Wednesday November 16th 1977. 1,500 trade unionists, LP members, LPYS members and unemployed came along to that weekday meeting—one of the best events the LPYS had ever organised.

After LPYS conference the Campaign must again be pushed out onto the streets, getting the LPYS known and talked about. The LPYS National Committee has agreed that a week of activity in June could be a focal point for the Campaign to work up to. The NC envisage car calvacades, street meetings, estate sales and leafletting with local and regional demonstrations.

Every LPYS branch should now be laying plans so that after returning keyed up by our National Conference all our energies should be turned outwards to the young people on the dole, in schools and factories making sure they get to hear about the YCAU and the LPYS.

## MILITANT PUBLIC MEETING

### LPYS Conference:

HEAR:  
Ted Grant (Editorial Board)  
Jim Brookshaw (AUEW)  
Bob Lee (National Secretary, PNP Youth UK)

Astra Theatre  
Gloddaeth Street,  
Llandudno  
Saturday 25th March  
7.30-9.30 pm  
All Welcome!

# LABOUR'S YOUTH

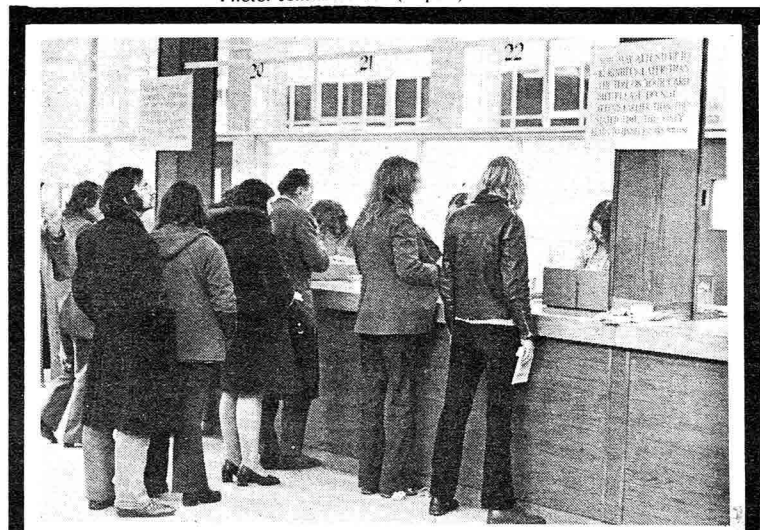


1977 LPYS Conference, Blackpool

Photo: Laurence Sparham (IFL)

# JOIN

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)



## Democratic debate

By John Cantwell  
(National Committee,  
Southern Region)

All the major issues and problems confronting young people are reflected in the very full agenda for this weekend's Labour Party Young Socialists Conference.

As is seen in the National Committee's report, the LPYS is beginning to grow rapidly. The number of branches has increased by 12% in just seven months. Tremendous opportunities are opening up, giving the potential of a mass socialist youth organisation.

The LPYS is now preparing to meet the challenge of reactionary Toryism, and to build ourselves in the process. This must be the keynote of the Conference.

In a likely election year, resolutions point to the threat the Tories present to the living standards and democratic rights which the working class has acquired through long struggle. The Leeds NE resolution pledges the LPYS to mobilise young people against the Tories at the next election.

But it stresses that Labour has only lost support because of the pro-capitalist policies of the government. A bold socialist campaign by the labour movement is needed to sweep away reactionary ideas, and push aside the crisis-

ridden capitalist system. Much of the rest of the Conference agenda makes this a concrete theme with definite aims.

No less than 22 resolutions are concerned with racialism and fascism. This in itself is an indication of the work the LPYS has done in this field during the past year. The call for a drive against the National Front in schools in resolution 48 from Dagenham LPYS is particularly relevant. This calls for an active stand against racialism by the teachers' unions, along with a campaign amongst school students.

The Conference expresses the anger of young workers at the way the crisis has affected them. Resolution 78 from Harlow LPYS begins: "with 300 applications for 8 electrical apprenticeships, with

wages as little as £18 per week, with students unable to use their qualifications to the full, all society can say is that youth unemployment is now a fact of life."

Related to this, hordes of young people have to roam the streets with nothing to do. Many LPYS branches have campaigned to make local council facilities free to unemployed youth. The Oldham resolution, 104, demands that school and other public facilities be made freely available to young workers.

Apart from our campaigning work, the LPYS has been proud of the democratic running of our organisation. At the Conference there will be an opportunity for all viewpoints to be expressed. In the past the Irish debate has always been one of the most heated.

The consistent position of the overwhelming majority of the LPYS on Ireland, of the need for united working class action to push aside sectarianism and defeat imperialism, has been borne out by events. The sectarian groups have collapsed into demoralised and tiny right-wing rumps.

As resolution 127 from Birkenhead LPYS comments, they have been "enormously reduced by the active solidarity of the trade union ranks during and since May, 1977." The need is now for the convening of a genuine Labour Party out of the workers' organisations, to take this process further, and to develop a fight for a socialist united Ireland.

Aside from our own internal democracy, the LPYS and 'Militant' supporters have been at the forefront of the struggle for democracy in the Labour Party as a whole. This is reflected in the co-option of 'Militant' supporter Ray Apps on the NEC sub-committee on reselection of MPs. However, that the committee has been set up at all, will make the debate on party democracy an urgent one. As the amendments to resolution 114 suggest, there is no need for a committee, just a simple rule change guaranteeing automatic reselection, at the next party conference.

This year promises to be the biggest and best LPYS Conference ever. The discussions will enthuse all members for the work and activity that lie ahead.

## International Union of Socialist Youth

# WORKERS OF THE WORLD

By Dave Cotterill  
(LPYS National  
Chairman)

For socialists, internationalism should not be an idealistic view of society. Nor should it be viewed as an issue which is only spoken about on holiday occasions.

International solidarity is an absolutely vital element within the labour movement, something which should occupy the thoughts and actions of the activists every day.

The need for international solidarity and action flows from the very nature of capitalism. The development of trade, commerce and production, together with the division of labour on a world scale, has led to enormous dependence between the capitalist economies. Thus a crisis in one country has its repercussions throughout the world market.

It is in this way that the interests of the working class of all countries coincide. The fight is against the same enemy—the capitalist class. Recognition of this is found in the existence of the international organisations of the labour movement, many of

which were formed a century ago. The problem is, however, that most of these organisations have fallen into a state of disrepair—both from a political and organisational point of view.

The International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) is one such example. For many years it has tended to act as a cheap travel club for its leading officials. However, with the crisis of capitalism and the reawakening of youth there has developed a current of change. The demands now coming to the forefront are for a democratic fighting organisation which will strengthen the international solidarity of socialist youth.

To begin with this has

found its initial reflection around the organisational issues within IUSY. For far too long simple monetary questions have determined its activities. This has meant that too much attention has been paid to extracting subsidies from government funded bodies.

### Perspectives

Also those youth organisations which have had greater financial resources at their disposal have tended to dominate the whole structure, from a political and organisational point of view. No-one would deny that money is an absolutely necessary element in any organisation.

However, if money dominates the whole life of an organisation then it will rapidly lose sight of its political objectives.

Political perspectives must form the basis of IUSY's whole approach—from these will flow the organisational and monetary tasks.

This approach, supported by the LPYS, has found increasing support over the past years in IUSY. From the smaller sections the demands have been for greater discussion and action on the political issues which face the working class internationally. Linked to this have been steps to democratise IUSY and give a greater role to the smaller sections.

These changes have met

with certain opposition. Over the years the lack of political discussion and any strategy has led to the dominance of nationalist considerations. The most obvious symptom is the idea that IUSY should not interfere in the affairs of each section.

This approach completely contradicts the whole approach of internationalism. It is the duty of socialists to consider all the problems and successes of the working class internationally, and if necessary to offer fraternal advice and even criticism. It is in this way, pooling the experiences and generalising upon these experiences, that the struggle of the international can go forward.

# IN THE FOR SOC



# IN CONFERENCE

# US

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) II



# FIGHT SOCIALISM!

## The Socialist way forward

The National Committee document, 'The Socialist Way Forward', could best be described as the LPYS manifesto.

It is more than just a document to debate at Conference this year. It is a campaigning pamphlet arming Young Socialists with many invaluable facts, figures and arguments that we can use on the streets, the doorsteps and in the labour movement itself.

### Monopoly Power

For example, did you know that you can go down to your local supermarket, fill up a trolley and buy everything from ice-cream, soap, perfume, oysters, cheese, baked beans, detergent, salmon, hairdye, razor blades, peas, sausages...etc., etc.—and they are all products of the same company—Unilever?

Such is the monopoly power of big business today. The scope of Unilever is such that the majority of people in the West use at least one of its products every day of their lives—and add to its profits.

However, nowadays not everyone can afford to go to the supermarket and fill up their basket with such delightful goodies. The document quotes a woman who wrote to 'The Sun' last year:

*"Two weeks ago my husband took me to the supermarket and told me to get anything I wanted. I had a ball buying things I love but could no longer afford, like coffee, cream and hairspray. And he paid for them all. Afterwards he told me he had saved his overtime money to give me a good time."*

The document spells out the reality of Britain today: "We live in a divided society." A society divided not by colour, age or creed, but by class.

On one side are the millions of ordinary people for whom coffee is now a luxury. On the other the handful of rich dilettantes for whom money is no object. The likes of Lady Jane Grosvenor who recently got married: *"We did not want a big wedding. We wanted to get married with as little fuss as possible."*

This 'fussless' wedding included a wedding breakfast for 900 guests,

with a five course buffet and 100 cases of champagne, served by 12 chefs, 100 waiters and 40 wine stewards, plus a coach and four and a helicopter to whisk them off on honeymoon.

Yet when it comes to the crisis in the economy the Tories, their gutter press and the TV are all united. "It's the workers to blame—they're too greedy, strike too much, don't work hard enough. No wonder Swan Hunter and British Leyland are in a mess!"

This is the hoary lie that is being put forward day in, day out. The facts speak otherwise, as the document shows: "The British bosses' richer and more successful brothers in West Germany were recently asked their views on Britain's problems by the magazine 'Der Spiegel'. Their answers were revealing.

*"I don't believe the German worker is better than the English,"* said the boss of Klippen Electricals. *"The biggest problem is the terribly inadequate capital investment—it's unbelievable the old 'bacon' that is still being used for production."* (Director, Osram lamps). "An important peculiarity of British bosses," comments 'Der Spiegel', "is that they regard their firms above all as sources of personal income and concentrate on the maximisation of their short-term profit."

*"For most bosses in Britain,"* says the head of Osram lamps, *"it is still a long way from the golf course to the factory."*

So we have it from the horse's mouth! The real people who are wrecking the economy with crippling strikes are the bosses themselves. But with a strike of capital!

They are the real 'politically motivated extremists' elected by no-one but wielding colossal power. Power to throw millions out of work, power to force millions to live in poverty.

The bosses are determined to make ordinary working people pay for the crisis they have caused. If their party, the Tories, gets into office, they would unleash the most vicious attack on working class living standards since the 1930s. Whole industries would be allowed to go to the wall, fares, prices and rents would be jacked up.

There would be attacks on workers' basic rights, on the closed

shop and on immigrants. The Tories' tactics would be 'divide and rule'. As the document points out, "Every job, every wage packet, every public service would be threatened."

When the much-hated Heath government was chased out of office by the miners and other trade unionists in 1974, who would have believed they could again threaten to topple Labour after a full four years' opportunity to implement its Manifesto? Yet it is the very failure of the Labour government to carry out its promise of making a 'fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power to working people' that has lost its majority in Parliament.

During the October, 1974, General Election, when the LPYS played a vital role in winning Labour its majority by swinging the 20 crucial marginal seats, we warned that a Labour government could only resist the pressure from big business to cut living standards by making a clean break with capitalism, taking over the commanding heights of the economy. Its failure to do this has put it on a disaster course, as seen by its dependence on the second party of big business, the Liberals.

This document shows how Labour can defeat the Tory threat and win the next election: by exposing the real criminals and saboteurs in society—the profiteers and speculators hiding behind the Tory and Liberal Parties—and by effecting a bold socialist programme that would enthuse the working class.

The document reiterates the programme that the LPYS has been consistently fighting for, for the past seven years. The nationalisation of the top 220 monopolies, the banks and insurance companies, the abolition of the monarchy and House of Lords, a 35-hour week and much higher wages for working people.

Already the 'Daily Telegraph' has launched a vicious attack on the document, describing it as a 'Bevan blueprint'. In no way is this document a blueprint, but it can be more likened to a weapon, a weapon to be used in the fight against this 'divided society' under which we live.

**John Bulaitis**  
(National Committee,  
London Region)

# UNITE

Increasingly, therefore, IUSY is being forced to pay more attention to the involvement of all sections and to the formulation of a broad political strategy. This is the vital ingredient if IUSY is to mount effective campaigns around the major problems which face the working class.

That is why the LPYS is proposing to IUSY that a campaign be launched throughout Europe against the horror of mass unemployment and in particular against youth unemployment. Involved in this campaign, would be the organisation of a *European demonstration*, which would then be followed up by co-ordinated national demonstrations.

The political basis for the campaign would be around the demands for (i) A 35-hour week; (ii) a guaranteed job for all school leavers; (iii) the introduction of a massive programme of useful public works; (iv) nationalisation under workers' control of any firm threatening redundancy; (v) an international socialist plan of production to end unemployment.

If IUSY is to develop and to be seen to be a fighting socialist youth organisation that is prepared to take up the problems of young workers, then this is the type of campaign which must be taken up.



Joint contingent of the LPYS and the German 'Die Falken' on a demonstration of international solidarity, IUSY camp 1977

# Deafeat Racism

**"The fight against racialism has to be linked to the fight in the mass organisations of the working class—the trade unions and the Labour Party—for a real socialist alternative to the chaos of capitalism."**

The production of the LPYS Conference Document, 'The Battle Against Racialism and Fascism', comes at a time when attack after attack occurs on immigrant youth; when, in many cases, black youth cannot walk the streets at night without being picked up by the police; when the National Front hold provocative marches through immigrant areas and carry out a systematic campaign of violence. The document outlines why these attacks happen, who's behind them, and how we fight them.

In Britain the historical roots of racialism lie with the development of British imperialism a century ago. In an attempt to justify colonial oppression, the colonial people were cast in the role of racial inferiors.

## Pillaged

Armies were sent out to suppress the millions in the colonial world at the wish of Western capitalist companies who pillaged these areas of raw materials and used the local populations as cheap labour. One of the main reasons for immigration is the scandalous poverty which exists in the colonial world as a legacy of British imperialism's past. Immigrants left their homes to seek better living conditions.

But not content with eating the heart out of the colonies, Western capitalism enticed millions of workers to Europe during the post-war years when there were booming order books and cheap labour was needed. British companies sent representatives out to the Caribbean and to the Indian sub-continent to recruit workers to "the home country," to work for low wages.

With the most repulsive cheek and hypocrisy, the British ruling class now calls for immigration controls. Immigration controls solve not one of the problems we face—they foster racialism and turn immigrants into second class citizens—and we must oppose them.

British capitalism, the most skilled user of the tactic of "divide and rule", uses its experience now on its own pitch, in Britain. Racialism is used in an attempt to divide the working class. While we are fighting each other, the ruling class sits on top, the master.

What are the hysterical cries of racists? The blacks are taking the jobs, the houses, the school places and so on. But, as the document shows, problems such as unemployment, lack of decent housing and crowded schools existed long before immigrants ever came to Britain.

It is capitalism in crisis which has caused all the problems. It's the bosses who have laid people off. Councils cannot build houses because

they are hamstrung by the financiers who demand high interest rates for loans.

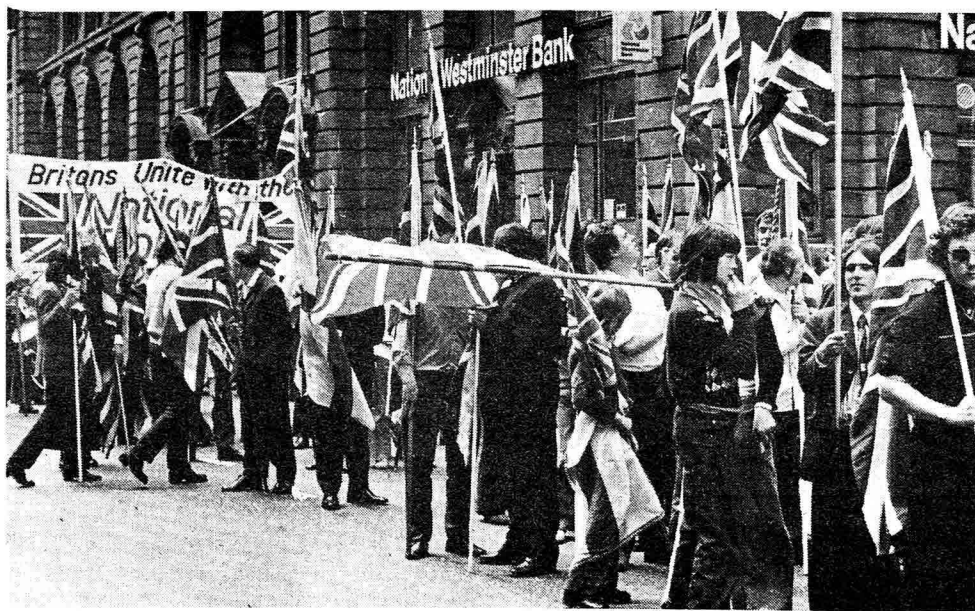
That is why the fight against the racists has to be linked to a fight for a socialist society. We have to **effectively answer** the lies of the racists and say how the problems can be solved.

We have to point out that society's ills are caused by capitalism, and that it needs to be ended to solve problems such as unemployment. Liberals and pious vicars cannot give this answer. We cannot go to people living in abject poverty and demand brotherly love. It's a class question.

## Tory Racialists

Certainly, those who advocated that we join in with the Tories to fight racism, have received their answer straight from Thatcher's mouth, with her ideas of immigrants "swamping" the country, which were cynically calculated to stir up racial hatred. No, we cannot align ourselves with Tories. Only committees based on the labour movement, composed of trades councils, shop stewards' committees, Labour Parties, and trade union branches could really take up the fight against racialism, and really link up with and show their worth to the immigrant organisations.

During the '50s and early '60s racist propaganda was not at as high a level as today. Industry was booming, and immigrants, who were needed by capitalism at that time, were spared any great on-slaught from the media. The fascist grouplets consisted only of a handful of perverts and eccentrics who indulged in their fantasies by parading in front of mirrors in swastikas and jackboots. But now they've attracted a certain hearing because of the crisis,



Mobilise the labour movement to sweep fascists off the streets

Photo: Peter Harrap (Report)

and because people are looking for an answer to their problems.

As the document shows, fascism is an extension of the rule of the capitalist class, but in a more reactionary form. It was used at a time of crisis, when they saw that parliamentary democracy was no longer of any use to them.

A fascist movement is used as a battering ram against the mass organisations of the working class, and therefore has to have a mass base itself. Fascism's recruits came from the crazed middle class, ruined by the monopolies, from demoralised youth on the dole, and from gangs of thugs, perverts and criminals.

In Germany and Italy, this battering ram smashed workers' demonstrations and meetings, assassinated workers' leaders and burnt down trade union offices. It was not combatted effectively and was given time to smash the workers' movement and take away all the rights the German and Italian workers ever had.

**That is why we must oppose any right of speech to the fascists. We must prevent them from building a force strong enough to destroy the labour movement. But how?**

The events at Cable Street in 1936 showed the way forward—there must be a mass mobilisation to oppose the fascists. There needs to be a political campaign on the shop floor, on the housing estates and in the local areas, to point out what the fascists

really stand for, and why we must act against them.

But we cannot stand by and wait till millions of workers join in the fight. The battle of Cable Street was not an isolated event—it was the culmination of a series of smaller anti-fascist mobilisations. History has shown that it is the immigrant workers, and the active militants of the labour movement who first enter the arena, and we must join in that fight.

## Workers' Unity

Inevitably, in the aftermath of attacks, immigrant workers will spontaneously form ad-hoc groups of various kinds to defend themselves, and we should support them in their defence. But it is not enough to prattle on about "black self-defence", and to contemptuously concede to immigrants their "right" to defend themselves. Immigrant workers will defend themselves no matter what any self-appointed tutor says from his pulpit.

The task of those in the labour movement is not to tell immigrant workers what to do, but to act themselves. Members of the labour movement should fight where they are, and see to it that the labour movement carries out its duty to protect immigrant and all working class communities from attack. If resolutions about aiding the immigrant workers are really acted on, then this immediately raises the question of workers' self-defence, of workers' unity against the racist and fascist attacks.

**The LPYS document contains both the ideas and the practical measures with which to arm the labour movement in the fight against racialism and fascism. It arms us with a programme to win black and white working class youth to our banner, to build workers' unity and sweep away the horrors of unemployment, slump and racialism along with the capitalist system itself.**

**Kevin Fernandes**  
(LPYS and PNP Youth)

# WIN TRADE UNION YOUTH

**The LPYS has made many advances in organising young workers into the trade unions and winning them to socialism in the past year, as well as holding joint activities with the unions.**

We are now being represented every year at the AUEW Youth Conference and the NSMM Youth Conference, the LPYS giving a lead in the establishment of the latter.

Also in the TUC youth conference there were many LPYS members as delegates who are playing a major role in the democratisation of that body. In the TUC youth award, out of the seven finalists, three were LPYS members, and since then the winner of the award has joined the LPYS.

Joint weekend schools of LPYS members and individual trade unions have been a very successful new venture this year. The Nottingham miners, the Derbyshire miners and the Yorkshire miners, as well as NUPE in the Northern region, have held such schools and now we are arranging one with the TGWU in Eastern Region.

The LPYS authority in the trade unions has grown over the past year, mainly as a result of our campaigns. The way in which the LPYS helped the Fire Brigades Union in their struggle for a decent wage has been recognised by that union and other unions which we were able to involve. In individual disputes

such as Grunwick's, Rolls Royce, Desoutters etc. the LPYS have played a valuable role in helping out on the picket line and raising money and support.

We must turn out the LPYS to the trade unions so that every trade unionist, especially the youth, knows about and joins in the activities of the LPYS. It is now obvious that far from scaring away trade union youth with our Marxist programme (as our critics tell us) the opposite is true: because of our clear ideas and policies young workers are attracted to the banner of the LPYS.

At this year's conference again we will have many trade union sponsored visitors, but more unions would send official delegations if these delegates had the right to vote. We must campaign to change the rules on representation at the Conference so the LPYS can become not only a voice of trade union youth but the official voice of the labour movement on political problems affecting youth. The summer camps will also be an opportunity to involve trade union youth in the LPYS and this should be worked for after LPYS Conference.

This has been a year of great advance but 1978-9 should be the year that the LPYS is seen as the only political youth organisation that young workers can join to fight for a better future.

**Steve Glennon**  
(National Committee, Eastern Region)

# GREETINGS FROM THE PNP YOUTH

Greetings to the 17th National Conference of the LPYS from the PNP Youth Movement [UK]. Our movement would never have started without the tremendous initiative of the LPYS in inviting the chairman of the PNP Youth Movement, Jamaica, to last year's conference.

Since our formation in July last year, the PNP Youth Movement [UK] has grown from strength to strength. We now have branches in several key areas of the country.

Our future objective must be to strengthen the bond between our two organisations for the vital struggles ahead. Both black and white youth must join together to combat the threat of the National Front and prepare ourselves for the fight for socialism in Britain.

We wish the LPYS every success at this conference, to which several PNP members are ourselves delegates.

**Bob Lee**  
National Secretary PNP Youth [UK]  
and delegate from Hammersmith LPYS



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

## INTERNATIONAL

## U.S. Miners stick to their guns

President Carter's attempt to force the American miners back to work by using the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act has failed.

Estimates of how many of the 160,000 strikers went back range from 100 to 3,000. Typical was Westmoreland Coal which reported that only three of its 4,000 workers had turned up for work.

There is no doubt that the mineworkers are remaining completely solid in their determination not to have their conditions worsened. Their resistance has forced the bosses to offer yet another new deal in the hope of securing a return to work.

This states that miners and their families would have to pay the first \$200 of their spending each year on health care instead of the first \$700 proposed in the last offer. (But at present all miners' health care costs are paid by the bosses.) Also unofficial

strikes would not be subject to immediate retaliation by the bosses; their cases would go, as at present, to arbitration.

## Not Enough

In return for these concessions the bosses are asking the workers to accept local productivity deals and to let the companies take over the running of the pension funds for the UMW. But while the UMW Bargaining Council accepted this latest offer by 22 votes to 17 it is highly possible that it

will be rejected in the ballot due to be held on March 24. The previous proposed deal (accepted by the Council by 26 to 13), was thrown out by UMW members in a ballot at the beginning of the month.

The previous vote showed how determined the mineworkers were to safeguard the concessions they have won through years of struggle and improve their wages, in spite of a leadership which has held back, rather than given a clear direction to their battle.

## Poor countries, where the rich are very rich

The dictatorial rulers of a number of "independent" African states—all, in fact, clients of western imperialism in one way or another—seem to have little confidence in their independent future.

Both President Mobutu of Zaire [shaken by an internal revolt last year] and President Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast have palacious and expensive residences in safe, capitalist Switzerland.

But few African rulers could out-do the Emperor Bokassa, absolute ruler of the Central African Empire, one of the poorest countries in the world. He has recently bought a £530,000 villa in the Swiss capital of Berne.

The 13-room villa, which is surrounded by a ¼-acre garden and includes an indoor swimming pool, will serve as a home for Bokassa's children visiting French schools and for his ambassador.

The Central African Empire is the only one among the world's 29 least-developed nations to have an embassy in Switzerland, one of the wealthiest and most expensive countries.

At Bokassa's coronation last year [he seized power by a coup in 1966], a private group of wealthy citizens from Switzerland and Liechtenstein presented him with a £50,000 train for his coronation robe.

The coronation itself was typical of Bokassa's extravagant life-style.

The £12 million spectacular accounted for half the annual income of a country where the average wage is not much more than £100 a year.

Bokassa's latest purchase will



The Emperor Bokassa

be added to an already impressive list of property—a chateau in the Loire, a 50-room house in Paris and an apartment in Switzerland.

Could there be a more grotesque disparity between rich and poor? Could anything show more graphically that Africa is rotten ripe for socialist change?

## West Germany

## METAL WORKERS OUT TOO

In reply to strikes against five newspaper groups the German Newspaper owners, the BDZV, have locked out all the members of the printworkers' union, IG Druck, on March 12.

This is their reply to IG Druck's demand that the jobs and conditions of its members must be safeguarded in the face of the bosses' determination to use the new computer printing technology to reduce manning instead of reducing the working week.

The bosses have said that they will maintain the

lockout until IG Druck calls off the five original strikes.

But it is not only the printers who have shattered the myth that the German workers are 'conservative' and not like their class brothers in the rest of Europe. Last week the largest union in the world, the IG Metall (engineering workers), began selective official strikes against 64 companies employing 80,000 workers. The action is at present centered on Stuttgart, though the employers in the rest of that region of West Germany are threatening to lock out those union

members who have not yet been called out.

## 90% For Action

The strike, in support of the union demand for a 8% increase against the bosses' 3.5% offer, may soon spread to the Ruhr where over one million IG Metall members work. Under German law an official strike must be approved by 75% of the workers in a secret ballot, yet such was the workers' anger that in both regions a poll involving 60% of the IG Metall members produced a majority of nearly 90% for strike action.

At the present time the Social Democratic government is not intervening in the strikes. At the beginning of this year the government set a limit for increases in earnings of 5.5% but already the press are saying that, whatever settlement the engineering workers agree on, it will mean breaking the government's limit.

These strikes, following quickly on the heels of the dockers' strike, are a clear sign of the steady re-awakening of the German working class as the capitalist crisis bites deeper.

## Dear Comrades of 'Militant':

A paper is always a collective organiser of extreme importance. A Marxist paper, like 'Militant', represents always a weapon for explanation, for propaganda, for the fight towards socialist revolution and workers' democracy.

At the moment that, internationally, capitalism desperately wants, with the complicity of the social democrats and the bureaucrats to save itself from its own deadly crisis, the strengthening of 'Militant' is a great step for its consolidation as a Marxist paper, for the fight of the youth and the workers. Language cannot represent a fetter for the international propagation of 'Militant'. What is of interest for all socialists, be it in Portugal, be it in Britain, or be it in any other place of the world, is the political programme of 'Militant': a socialist programme.

Socialists in Portugal will do everything for the propagation of 'Militant'. As in Britain, there is a necessity for socialist policies in Portugal. The reformists try not to know the necessity of socialism, because it's their role, whether in Portugal or in Britain. All this goes to prove that the capitalist crisis is international, that we can only build socialism with a great internationalist fight.

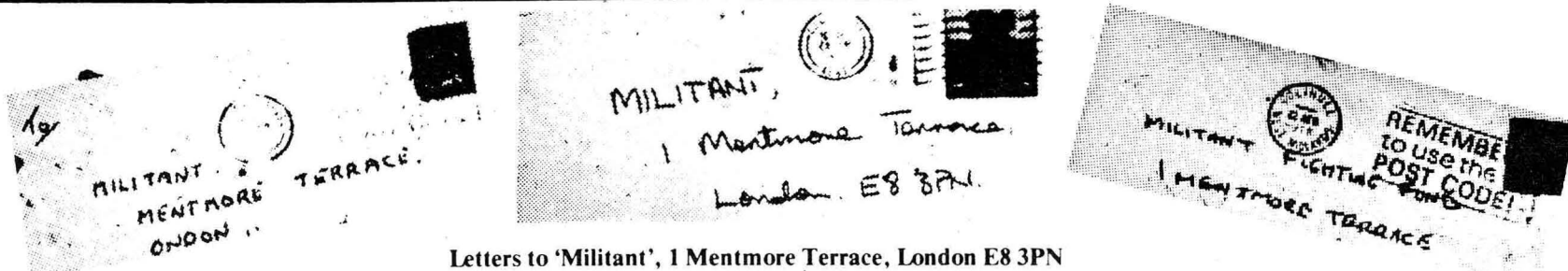
The Marxists in Portugal salute you and send best wishes to the 16-page 'Militant'. We salute the militant work of the comrades who write the paper. We salute all the youth and the workers in Britain because, from this moment, they have one more strengthened weapon—'Militant'—for their daily fight towards socialist democracy.

## Greetings to 'Militant' from Portuguese Marxists

From João Pedro Freire and other militants of the UEDS  
[Left Union for Socialist Democracy.]



# LETTERS



Letters to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## What Price a Child's Health?

Dear Comrades

My small daughter has a 'cold'—so what? Well she's had it for almost three years, and in that time I've been fobbed off innumerable times with yet another bottle of penicillin, or "She'll grow out of it."

She has grown, but not out of it, and now at 3 3/4 years weighs only 5lbs more than our 18 month old baby.

I did eventually pester the GP into getting her an appointment with the specialist, and in November 1977 we received the appointment for July 1978. Since then, after more insisting, her hearing has been tested, and we have been told that "it is well below what we consider reasonable." Apparently her taste buds and stomach are affected too so she must see the specialist immediately.

Unfortunately, the clinic didn't reckon on her seeing him till 1980, and were surprised to hear I'd already

secured a July, 1978, meeting with him. However, July is still not soon enough and I've been advised to pay—then he'll see her "within a few days." Her case is urgent you see.

What iniquitous blackmail to inflict on parents caught in a situation like this—need I say more about private medicine and the greedy, cruel capitalist system in which it operates?

We are lucky. We have managed to get an appointment for her this month—March, 1978, and on the NHS too! I know that our experience will make us even more determined to fight for socialism as advocated by 'Militant' when money will not buy a child's health.

PS Congratulations on the new 16-pager. May 'Militant' go on to even greater things.

Yours comradely  
C James  
Braintree CLP

## SLOW TRAIN

Dear Comrades

The other day I was listening to the radio programme 'World Today', and I was rather interested to hear that the American Capitalists have now dismissed their "locomotion theory" in which America, Japan and W Germany are to prop up the rest of the weak economies such as Britain, France and Italy.

They have now come up with the "convoy theory" where each of the capitalist countries is supposed to prop each other up and that

way all move forward.

It is interesting to note that a convoy moves at the speed of the slowest vehicle.

This shows the complete and utter bankruptcy of capitalism.

Surely, the only way forward for Britain, Europe and the world, is a socialist planned economy caring for the needs of working people not in the interests of big business.

Yours fraternally  
Brian Lewis  
Swansea LPYS

## Scottish Labour Students' Conference

Dear Comrades

I wish to make three simple points in relation to Mark Morton's allegations about SOLS in 'Militant' [394].

At no point did the SOLS secretary receive written notification from Strathclyde University Labour Club of their delegation to 1978 SOLS conference, either before the last date for notification of delegates, or at the conference itself.

Some such notification is essential to ensure proper democratic representation of clubs at SOLS conference.

If the four Strathclyde delegates who turned up had been accepted, this would have made no difference to the elections, which the 'Militant' tendency lost 10-17.

The then SOLS vice-chairman suggested at Conference that if the delegates from Strathclyde cared to pursue the matter, the Regional Youth Officer should telephone an office bearer in Strathclyde University Labour Club to find out exactly what had happened. The Strathclyde delegates did not take up this offer.

Yours fraternally  
David Smith  
Chairperson, SOLS

## A Strathclyde Reply:

Dear Comrades

The Scottish Organisation of Labour Students has always had a proud record of democratic debate and discussion. All the more reason why the undemocratic manoeuvres at the SOLS conference 1978 should be repudiated by every member of our movement.

The only point of agreement we can find with Comrade Smith's letter is that Strathclyde University Labour Club were in fact excluded from the Conference. But how can Comrade Smith argue that we were excluded for non-notification of delegates? One Strathclyde delegate, Comrade McCardle, who arrived early (before the political balance of the conference was clear) was given delegates' rights by the secretary—only to have them removed later!

Despite the utter confusion in the SOLS organisation over closing dates for delegates' notification, it has always been the practice in SOLS that delegations would be accepted up to the day of conference itself.

After the SOLS vice-chairman suggested that a Strathclyde official should be 'phoned, David Palmer, the SOLS secretary, claimed he had already spoken to the club secretary, who, he

claimed told him that 'Strathclyde would not be sending any delegates.' Strathclyde delegates were then excluded by a conference vote of 16-13.

But Ian Ferand, the Secretary of Strathclyde ULC, who was himself an elected delegate, denies having any such conversation with David Palmer.

If the 'Clause 4' comrades had such a comfortable majority, why were these undemocratic manoeuvres necessary? David Smith had to use his casting vote on a number of occasions to defeat resolutions moved by 'Militant' supporters.

We are confident that the majority of clubs in the Scottish Organisation of Labour Students support the policies of 'Militant'. These undemocratic manoeuvres cannot hide the fact.

We demand an immediate recall conference, under the democratic check of the labour movement. If these comrades are in the majority they will have no fear of proving it, without the aid of methods which so besmirch the name of NOLS.

Fraternally  
William King  
Strathclyde University  
Labour Club

## No Post Office

Dear Comrades

The Post Office are demanding £2,730 to keep a village sub-post office open at Dunnington near Rotherham.

Despite petitions and protests by local MPs the Post Office are determined to close the office unless the village Parish Council pay the salary of a post master to run the office.

This means that the PO are asking the people to pay the salary of a post master, while they are capitalising on the profits. If this situation escalates, the day will come when the only post offices available to the public will be the ones in the towns and the cities.

Fraternally yours  
G Hawes  
Chairman,  
Rother Valley LPYS

## Scofisco Strike

Dear Editor

In issue 396 W Griffin reported on the sit-in taking place in Scofisco Ltd Glasgow. Last weekend I went down to meet some of the staff and was shocked by some of the points made.

They had up till then little or no press coverage (BBC Scotland were to run part of their Current Account programme on the sit-in).

I was told that the 'Glasgow Herald' had contacted the Scottish Development Agency and on the basis of being told

by them that the dispute had been resolved and the sit-in ended had not run any articles on the subject. This to me showed either bad journalism or a deliberate attempt to hush up this particular action on behalf of the SDA and the newspaper.

Another point was that the SNP were to raise the issue in Parliament. When you consider that the local Labour MP has been conspicuous by his absence as have Scottish Tribune MPs it is no wonder that voters are turning to the SNP.

These workers have been betrayed by people they relied upon. If £80,000 of SDA (taxpayers') money can be squandered and the workers have nothing, not even redundancy money, to show for it then the firm's accounts must be laid open for examination by the workers. It is the responsibility of the Labour government to nationalise that firm in order to secure the workers' jobs.

Yours fraternally  
Eddie Phillips  
Provan CLP

## Free Labour—

Dear Comrades,

Just to correct an error in a recent letter from Comrade Smith of Swansea. He was writing about the Work Experience Programme for young unemployed.

He claimed that these lads were being paid £18 a week—£10 from the government and only £8 from the employer and that therefore they were being used as cheap labour.

He's got it wrong. The government, through the Manpower Services Commission, pays the whole measly £18. The employer pays absolutely nothing. They don't get cheap labour, they get free labour!

Another point that needs mentioning about this so-called Work Experience Programme is this—what employer thinking about taking on new, young labour is going to bother recruiting people and start paying them a wage when he can ring up the MSC and get them to send a couple of lads down for six months at a time for sweet FA?

So then you get the ridiculous situation of a lad, coming off the dole, starting at a firm but drawing no wages! Instead, he gets this lousy £18 from MSC.

It's a brilliant way of shortening the dole queues—if you're a capitalist.

Total, utter lunacy.  
Yours fraternally  
P Hopkins  
Dewsbury Labour Party

## —State Financed

Dear Comrades

The Work Experience Programme is only one of the many government schemes to "help unemployed school leavers" (not to mention subsidising industry) which I come across in my work as a careers officer.

One enormous loophole which has only recently come to light is that young people on WEP are not regarded as unemployed for the purposes of the unemployment figures (surprise, surprise!) but are regarded as unemployed for the purposes of the Youth Employment Subsidy.

This means that an employer can take on a young unemployed person for six months under WEP and not have to pay him a penny and then keep him on for a further six months, under TES, during which period the government will pay the employer £10 per week for employing that young person.

Another example of how employers exploit workers was highlighted in 'World in Action'. The handicapped, mentally ill and the elderly in Adult Training Centres and hospitals are being paid ludicrous sums of the order of £1 or £2 for a 30-hour week of subcontracted, routine packing and assembly work.

One of the firms—'Grip-tight'—which makes babies' feeding bottles, was quoted as having made profits of £207,000 in the previous year using slave labour for much of their production.

These are just a few examples of how workers, and in particular the disadvantaged (unemployed, handicapped and elderly) are exploited under capitalism. Only socialism can offer workers and their families a decent world to live in and a decent future to look forward to.

Yours fraternally  
Moirra McIntosh  
Pollock LPYS

## Who's Fooled?

Dear Comrades

That little item in 'Question Time' in 'Militant' [Issue 395] rather interested me.

Just think, £678 million subsidies to private industry. Perhaps 'Aims of Freedom and Enterprise' should change their name. The only 'enterprise' these days seems to be for firms to see how much they can screw out of the government.

'Maybe 'Aims of Parasitism' would be a better name? While they're at it, they could always change 'Free Enterprise Day' from July 1st [or whenever] to April 1st. Far more truthful at least!

Fraternally  
A NALGO Member

£20,000 NEEDED BY APRIL 1st

FIGHTING FUND CHART £70,000

Area	Target 12 wks	Target 52 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	1,260	4,400		391.29
Hants & IOW	600	2,100		300.39
Humber-side	630	2,200		323.52
Lancashire	430	1,500		91.27
London: North	2,200	7,700		859.30
London: South	1,080	3,800		457.18
Manchester & District	830	2,900		216.54
Merseyside & District	1,280	4,500		588.36
Midlands East	1,260	4,400		208.62
Midlands West	2,120	7,400		827.61
Northern	1,400	4,900		506.63
Scotland East	710	2,500		276.68
Scotland West	830	2,900		205.76
South East	660	2,300		349.64
South West	660	2,300		343.35
Thames Valley	480	1,700		203.90
Wales East	570	2,000		233.82
Wales West	660	2,300		217.59
Yorkshire	1,480	5,200		568.00
Others	860	3,000		64.73
<b>£ 20,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>			<b>7,234.18</b>

Progress Towards year's target Towards April 1st target

# Aim for £2000 at Conference!

THIS WEEK' TOTAL: £829.58

The 16-page paper has proved an enormous success among the readers, as the £829.58 sent in this week shows. Letters with the donations have expressed enthusiasm over the sales and the raising of money, like this one:

Dear Comrades

Please find enclosed DM 10 for the fighting fund. This was prompted by receiving the first copy of the 16-page Militant today—a real boost to morale! It marks a fantastic achievement on the part of the British comrades in the labour movement and a great step forward internationally.

It certainly keeps me well-informed about the British movement which is very important, as many German workers and Young Socialists look with great interest towards the events in Britain. The cartoon alone is worth DM 10!

All the best for the socialist future!  
F Bull [Cologne SPD]

From what other letters say more money has been collected which hasn't been sent down yet. Perhaps these comrades are waiting to give it in the collection at the Militant Readers' Meeting at LPYS Conference. If so the collection will be very good.

At last year's MRM we raised £1,200. This year we aim for £2,000. We have only two weeks left in which to raise £13,000. This may seem an impossible task but it is achievable if every area sees the need to raise this money.

Nearly every region sent in money this week (the only exception being West Scotland) and thanks go to everyone who contributed. Some of those were: A St Neots reader, £16; T Martin (Birmingham Northfield) £17; K Chapman (a reader in Canada) \$10; and S Wicken from East London £5. H Bell (North Tyne) sent £5; J Bull (Edinburgh) £1.40, and from "students in Reading" we received £10.

£2 was sent by each of the following: E Saunders (Portsmouth); R Denison (Newcastle) and P Elliot (Llanelli).

and these are some of the £1 donations we received: H Langley (North Wirral), J Watson (South Tyne), N Clarkson and K O'Connor (both from Woolwich) and E McLauchlan (Edinburgh).

Over £87 was sent in by Isle of Wight supporters, raised in a variety of ways: expenses for re-wiring a house £59; hire of a room £6.60; and a Militant Readers' Meeting £4.75. Collections at other MRMs this week include Thanet £7.56; Gosport £9.02; and Brighton £12.11.

A rally for the 16-page paper in Hull raised £38.50, one in Wigan raised £14.50 and in Preston Poly £4.50. More rallies are being held up and down the country which must mean there is still a lot more money to come in.

Some areas have been working extremely hard over the past few weeks. Jumble sales take quite a lot of time to organise but the money made out of them is good as the one in Peterborough, which raised £38.49, and in Hull, which made £16.90, shows.

"Banner making" in Steven-

age has so far made £15 with the promise of more to come. An Italian evening in the West London area raised £33.05; a social in Cardiff collected £17.

Supporters in the Gloucester area have a beer levy and every week we receive some money from it (this week £3.45). 'Bed and breakfast' in Salford raised £5 and the sale of Latin America pamphlets in Camden/Paddington area made £12.75.

Other fund raising ideas sent in this week include 'spot the ball', sale of badges and posters from Amman Valley which in total amounted to £14, pontoon tickets (Stevenage £4.26 and Nottingham £3.50), fares, making tea etc.

Since the price of the paper went up to 12p it is much easier to raise the extras when selling it. The total for extras this week is £9.31 including 50p for the paper from Llanelli—making 38p for the fighting fund. Also included in this money was a note stating that "extras from sales in the Cynheide Colliery are already mounting up since the price rise." We look forward to receiving this money.

Miscellaneous amounts sent in this week include £17.30 from Birmingham, £11 from Rotherham and £2 from Port Talbot. Many thanks once again to every comrade who donated this week, and for the effort put in by the comrades in the fund-raising schemes. **Keep it up, and let's see every area contribute next week.**

Alison Rudd

## MILITANT NOTICES

### Militant Meetings

**COVENTRY**  
Militant Readers' Meetings are now on the second Monday of each month, beginning at 7.30pm at the 'Elastic Inn', Lower Ford Street, Coventry (opposite Theatre One).  
**'The National Health Service—How it was built and how it's being cut'**. Monday April 10th.  
Speaker: Ian Burge (Secretary, London Hospital JSSC).

**LEICESTER**  
**Militant Readers' Meeting**  
**'The Menace of Toryism'**  
Speakers:  
Pete Soulsby (Parliamentary Candidate for Harborough)  
Roy Flint (Chairman, Leicester West CLP)  
Tony Saunio (LPYS National Committee)  
7.45 pm, Friday 14th April  
Richard III Pub,  
Highcross Street, Leicester

**Marxist Discussion Group**  
Thursday 6 April, 7.30 pm  
at 8 Church Street,  
Cramlington Village  
Subject:  
**'The Communist Manifesto'**

**NEATH VALLEY**  
**Militant Discussion Groups**  
**Resolven:** further details: Peter Harris, 95 John Street, Resolven  
**Glyneath:** further details: Derek James, 21 Avon Street, Glyneath

**SUNDERLAND**  
Militant Discussion Group.  
Every other Friday at 8.00 pm.  
March 31st—Devolution and Socialism.  
April 14th—The Paris Commune.  
April 28th—Franch 1968 and 1978.  
May 12th—Italian Politics and Perspectives.  
Phone Gateshead 774948 for further details.

**SOUTH WALES**  
**Militant Summer Camp**  
Horton, Gower Coast,  
Near Swansea  
**Political Programme**  
1. The Marxist Method  
2. The Class Nature of the Soviet Union.  
3. What is Fascism?  
4. World War—Future Prospects  
5. Marxism and the Trade Unions.  
**Book Now!**  
**Cost £6.50 per person**  
(Cheques payable to R Sewell)  
Further Details:  
R Sewell, 99 Penderry Road,  
Penlan, Swansea. Tel: 33542

### NEWCASTLE EAST

**Public Meeting**  
**'What is the 'Militant'?'**  
—Reply to Mike Thomas MP  
Speaker: Donald MacDonald  
Chairman: Ken Skethaway  
(County Councillor)  
Lord Clyde Hotel, Shields Road  
Wednesday 22 March 7.30 pm

### Publications

#### NEW POSTER!

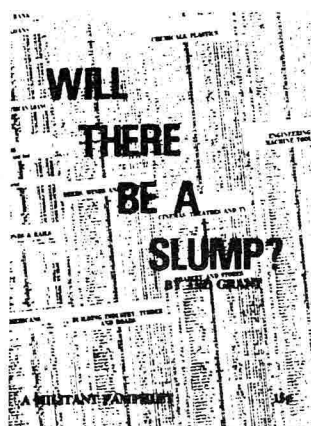
New posters now available for advertising new 16-page paper, one with a blank space for meetings and slogans, plus advertising broadsheets out now. Send for details to Militant.

**Hastings Militant Supporters**  
new 'Militant' Index. Issues 268-372. 20p + p&p single copy. Bulk orders welcome, 20p each + 20% p&p. Available from G Clyde, 61 St Georges Road, Hastings TN34 3NH

**Cardiff North** supporters are producing a new issue of Militant badges. Further details available soon.

#### Other MILITANT publications available from World Books

Bureaucratism or Workers' Power?—Roger Silverman and Ted Grant. . . . . 30p  
Marxism Opposes Individual Terrorism—Leon Trotsky and Peter Taaffe. . . . . 15p  
Spanish Revolution 1931-37—Ted Grant. . . . . 30p  
General Strike 1926—Leon Trotsky, Ted Grant and Peter Taaffe. . . . . 30p  
Lenin and Trotsky: what they really stood for—Alan Woods and Ted Grant. . . . . £1.50



#### NEW REPRINT:

'Will There Be a Slump?' Article written in 1961 by Ted Grant. Price 15p plus 5p postage. Order now from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## TROTSKY



A MILITANT PAMPHLET 20p

#### JUST OUT!

Leon Trotsky—'Against the Stream' (with an introduction by Bob McKee). Price 20p plus 5p postage.

## MAY DAY...MAY DAY

Send your greetings to the International Labour Movement through the pages of 'Militant'

#### RATES:

**Semi-Display—£2 per two column centimetres**  
**Sixteenth of a page—£9; eighth of a page—£17**  
**Closing date—Tuesday 18th April**

Send copy with cash to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Cheques and Postal Orders made payable to 'Militant'.

## ADVERT

**RATES**  
**CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum 10 words**  
**SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.**  
**All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.**

**PAYMENTS must be sent with advertisements. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to 'Militant'.**

**LPYS Conference.** Islington has 10 places available in a b&b near conference hall. £3.75 with bar. Anyone interested please ring Dave Cartwright. Day: 01-353 7474, ext. 3357; Night: 01-607 8613.

#### TRADE UNION DISCUSSION GROUPS

**NEATH:** Full Moon Pub, The Parade, Neath. Every Tuesday, 7.30 pm.

**PORT TALBOT:** The Progressive Club, Station Road, Port Talbot. Every Thursday, 7.30 pm.

**PONTARDULAIS:** Kings Public Bar. Every Tuesday, 7.30 pm.

**AMMANFORD:** The Welfare Club. Every Monday, 8.00 pm.

**GWENDREATH VALLEY:** Upper Tumble Social Club. Every Thursday, 7.30 pm. For further details contact: A Thomas, 29 Maes-Yr-Haf, Cross Hands

**New Pamphlet: 'Militant' on Ireland.** Six articles on: August 1969; Internment; Bloody Sunday; UWC Stoppage; 'Better Life For All'; UUAC Stoppage. Produced by Belfast 'Militant' supporters. 30p each + p&p. Available from: L&TUCG, 18 Donegall Street, Belfast.

**NEW PAMPHLET 'Marxist Economics'.** Four articles on: Marxism In Our Time; Crisis of World Capitalism; Decline of British Industry; Inflation. Produced by Blyth LPYS. Price 20p. Order from I Mearns, 8 Church Street, Cramlington Village, Northumberland.

**What did you do in World War II, Comrade?** Read 'Resistance and Revolution in Europe in World War II' by Lesley Thompson. Published by Brighton 'Militant' Supporters, price 20p + 7p postage; ten copies or over, post free. From J Walsh, 252 Freshfield Road, Brighton.



Bob Wright

## NALGO CHALLENGES CUTS

Local government workers in Yorkshire are taking an uncompromising stance against public spending cuts. A resolution passed recently demands not only an end to the erosion of public welfare services but a reversal of the disastrous cuts already made.

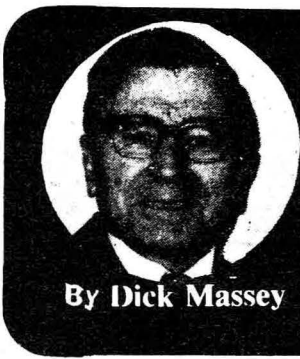
The resolution, passed by the Yorkshire and Humberside District Council of NALGO, the local government workers' union, sees the interests of town hall workers and the public they serve as being linked together. Calling for a socialist economic programme to fight the cuts, the motion has now been submitted for debate at NALGO's national conference.

"This conference calls on the National Executive Council to carry on its campaign against public expenditure cuts in conjunction with other public sector unions, along the following lines:

- i) For a reversal of all the cuts, except defence, made by the Labour Government.
- ii) For an increase in expenditure on the welfare state to compensate for the rise in costs caused by inflation.
- iii) A refusal to accept voluntary redundancy and 'natural wastage' as a back-door method of implementing the cuts.

iv) For a programme of useful public works, such as building schools, hospitals and other much-needed facilities to employ many of those languishing on the dole.

However, Conference realised that within the confines of the existing economic system such a programme is utopian. Therefore, as conference is serious in its attempt to restore and improve the public services, it is of the opinion that in order to implement this resolution it is necessary to reconstruct society along socialist lines."



By Dick Massey

## working in the union

At our first works committee meeting with Duplex (London Aircraft Production) management, we demanded and obtained permission to hold one meeting per week in the works canteen during our lunch break.

Knowing that the management would make an effort to remove the ringleaders among us, we duplicated our committee, paying particular attention to women comrades to fill the role of shop stewards. At that time army call-up, transfer of labour etc. could very quickly wreak havoc with any workers' organisation.

We held two successful meetings in the works canteen, where we were able to report back to the workers all that had taken place and to obtain a mandate upon other issues. It is of the utmost importance that report back meetings take place as a lack of communication leaves workers in the dark, without them rumours arise which quickly sow confusion and despondency.

To our great dismay the management decided that no more meetings could be held in the canteen and on the day our meeting should have taken place the microphone had been removed and about four of the factory police were patrolling the canteen.

Under the circumstances a meeting was out of the question. A works committee

meeting was called and after some discussion we adopted a plan of action.

At lunch break on the following day, I sat at a table with one or two of the committee. At the far end of the canteen sat other members of the committee.

At the appointed time there was a loud piercing whistle which had the effect of stunning everyone into silence. Then one of the committee shouted and asked where I was sitting. I stood up to reply and there then followed a "conversation" between us which followed a well-prepared line of questions and answers about what the works committee was doing.

The managing director was hastily summoned to the canteen and seemed at a loss what to do. When we finished our "conversation" there was a great cheer and a round of applause.

The Managing Director approached me and said he "thought I was above that sort of thing", and why could I not sit alongside of the person I was talking to. But he realised only too well that by the method we had adopted a lot more could be said and they restored our report-back meetings. Necessity is the mother of invention.

SERIES CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

# 35 hour week now! - demands Bob Wright

Bob Wright, Assistant General Secretary of the AUEW, is currently standing for election as President of the engineering union. While Militant would not entirely agree with all of Bob Wright's policies we urge all readers who are members of the AUEW to vote for him in this crucial election as the left wing candidate. Here Bob Wright gives his views.

## Young Socialists are today critical of the development of unemployment and poverty in our society.

They are urging a new and radical approach to eradicate the causes by the adoption of policies to ensure a planned economy based on the right to work and the redistribution of wealth.

This challenges the present policies being carried out by the government and trade unions, which have been clearly based on economic measures and actions related to a crisis of capitalism. I am critical of such policies which reflect an avoidance of the real challenge of the economic crisis in Britain.

When Labour was in opposition we faced the challenge of Tory policies, the Industrial Relations Act, aimed at undermining trade union freedom, industrial decline and over 30 years of failure to invest and a clear crisis which Labour would need to tackle when re-elected.

## Social Contract

Much of the work done in creating the "Alternative Strategy" has been ignored because we abandoned the challenge of expediencies which transferred the crisis to working people with the

'Social Contract'—wage control and deflationary policies which have created a non-growth economy and unemployment, both diseases of capitalism.

The alternative requires government action to harness the national wealth to a programme of economic priorities, not the 'free market' economy which has failed. It requires ownership and control of industry with a massive programme of development of municipal, co-operative and publicly owned factories being constructed to challenge the private sector. In construction we need the development of a national construction industry which the construction unions have been demanding for twenty years.

Industrial Planning Agreements must be made compulsory. The National Enterprise Board must have power to intervene to invest and develop industries which are failing to respond, not just in cases of collapsing companies.

Employment and training must be planned with powers to require implementation of Training Board policies. We cannot accept the present policy which is creating a shortage of skills in our industries and commerce.

We must pursue a campaign for a universal movement to achieve:

(a) 35-hour week without loss of pay;

(b) improved holidays and early retirement;

(c) a massive redistribution of wealth in favour of working people;

(d) a programme of development of health, education and social services, coupled with a massive housing programme to be established.

The disastrous strategy of the last three years can only be reversed by pressure from our movement and we need to engage ourselves in a massive campaign to re-establish credibility. Every trade union is vitally important in such a campaign.

## Interference

On the outside interference of bosses and their agents in union elections, assisted through the postal ballot system, Bob Wright had this to say:

"It is inevitable that in a union with such influence as the AUEW, forces who represent varying interests, many of them contrary to those of the workers in the union, will seek to establish a form of leadership who they regard as acceptable to themselves, ignoring the democratic nature of such elections. Therefore, the press and to some degree the television and radio introduce biased reporting in order to influence the members.

Organisations such as

IRIS, TRUEMID and other employer-based and financed organisations have introduced a new form of circulation of vicious literature aimed at supporting so-called 'moderate' trade union leadership.

## 'Moderates'

I can only describe this intervention as destructive of the internal democracy of the union and the fact that the candidates' election addresses are not circulated to members with the ballot papers requires our active members, shop stewards, branch officers and officials to explain the issues involved and give guidance to our members in an attempt to counter such propaganda.

Much of it is based on the desire to foist on the union a tame leadership that will respond to those forces which provide the sustenance. I can only comment that this undermines our democracy and we must be concerned to ensure that our members understand the challenges involved because I have always believed that 'he who pays the piper calls the tune' and I don't want the support of organisations whose policies conflict with the very interests of organised labour and particularly our own membership."

## Black Universal grinding wheels

We stood on the picket line talking to the strikers. The growl of a diesel engine was heard, the cab appeared over the rise of the hill. 32 tons of oil tanker charged down the hill and over the picket line at over 40 mph. This incident angered the pickets, as any worker and his family crossing from one footpath to the other would have been seriously injured or even killed!

This was the culmination of a series of provocations by management, aimed at destroying the determination and morale of the engineers and electricians on strike since 9th February at Universal Grinding Wheels, Stafford ('Militant' 393).

On 3rd March the Engineering Manager drove at the picket line, escorting a maverick oil tanker through the factory gates. Taking the way out through a different gate (specially opened to stretch

the pickets) the unmarked blackleg oil tanker was escorted in a similar manner towards the M6 motorway.

The senior shop steward, navigated by Tom Matthews, gave chase in a dormobile van. On the link road to the M6, the manager, discovering the dynamic duo on his trail, dropped behind the black oil tanker and attempted to run them off the road! The tanker was tracked down at Lancashire Jar Distillers, Swinton, Manchester.

## Cowboys

Next, the management hired owner-drivers, carrying the agency plates of Norstore Ltd, loading at Philips oil depot, Ellesmere Port.

In a further attempt to demoralise the strikers, the management called a meeting through the Engineering Employers Federation in Bir-

mingham. The bosses insisted that the union had called the meeting to negotiate a settlement inside the covers of 10%!

These events, however, have only strengthened their determination to win the strike. The strike will bite deeper when all oil supplies (outside normal deliveries from oil depots in the country) are blacked by all TGWU branches. AUEW engineers should refuse to operate machines using Universal Grinding Wheels or Universal Abrasives.

The bitter battle is entering its fifth week. Messages of support and donations to the strike fund are urgently required and should be sent to Brian Reynolds, 17 Sheridan Street, Stafford.

## David Mole

(Stafford & Stone LPYS)



Miners at the end of a shift—how long will their jobs last?

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

# NCB THREATEN CLOSURES

## More coal means less jobs

Teversal colliery in Nottinghamshire is threatened with closure by the NCB—even though it makes a profit! This year it is in the black and since nationalisation it has only made a loss one year. That was of £78.

### New Seam

Rather than invest £4 million in a seam that could keep the pit open another 10 years, the NCB says it wants miners to go to nearby Silverhill colliery. But how long will Silverhill stay open?

As even the local paper, 'CHAD', says "...the incentive deal under which Teversal men are totting up high bonuses with high productivity, could also mean they are working themselves out of their jobs more quickly... there is concern at Silverhill that a proposed four-shift working system there, with

the help perhaps, of Teversal men, could mean their coal running out ahead of time."

Notts. Area NUM unanimously backed the Teversal branch in demanding the pit stays open. A meeting has been arranged with the Energy Minister, Tony Benn. With Langwith closing in 1976 and the prospect of new 'super-pits' in the Vale of Belvoir, Teversal is unlikely to be the last pit closure, even in 'rich' Notts. With the NCB showing its usual complete unconcern about the livelihoods of the miners, a fight to keep Teversal open is vital.

### Politicians

One puzzling point in the campaign so far has been the demand from the new Notts area secretary, Communist Party member Joe Whelan, that "politicians keep their noses out", if the local press

and radio have reported it accurately. True enough Tory MP for Ashfield, Tim Smith, has hypocritically tried to show some interest in keeping the jobs open.

But surely the answer to that is to demand that all Labour MPs and the local Labour movement take up a real fighting stand on this issue. After all the NUM are seeing Tony Benn about it, and Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover, and the Ashfield Labour prospective candidate have declared their support.

It is vital that the local labour movement should support the fight for Teversal to remain open and to take a stand against all pit closures in the area, when a whole number of pits will be threatened in the near future.

**Tony Cross**

(Nottingham West LPYS)

### TRADES COUNCIL CONFERENCE

by Mike Smith  
(ASTMS Plessey  
Telecomms Liverpool)

Amid an atmosphere of what seems to be almost daily redundancy announcements for the labour movement on Merseyside, the Liverpool Trades Council is to hold a conference for the "retention of employment on Merseyside". This is to be held on April 9th at the Everyman Theatre.

It was in the light of 90,000 unemployed, a figure of 11.5%, almost twice the national average, that the Trades Council held its AGM. Brother Ted Mooney of the AUEW, Birds Eye, addressed the meeting on the recent events at Birds Eye where the management proposed sacking the whole workforce.

Brother Mooney's remarks on the Birds Eye situation, coupled with the increasingly sickening unemployment situation on Merseyside, proved to be a real spark for the delegates present. Demands for action were made by some delegates while others demanded that the conference should be brought forward.

Although it was impossible to bring the conference forward due to commitments of MPs who wish to attend, a meeting of the movement was called for Thursday 23rd March at which the format and resolutions for the conference will be thrashed out. One action mentioned by some delegates was a one day total strike on Merseyside.

For the Conference on April 9th invitations will be going out to shop stewards' combines up and down the country, such as the Rover Solihull plant, who have expressed clear support for their colleagues in Leyland No 2 plant at Speke Liverpool. If a clear policy to combat unemployment is thrashed out at the conference, then April 9th should see a real mobilisation of the movement taking up the fight against unemployment.

# Merseyside - Disaster area

Merseyside is fast becoming a disaster area, having the heart of its industries torn out. One scouse in nine is on the dole.

Since the beginning of this year alone, 8,000 jobs have been lost or threatened.

Already in March the working class people here have heard that the Liverpool based Ocean Shipping Group are threatening to withdraw ten ships by the end of the year with a loss of 300 jobs. Courtalds announced they were to close two factories which employ more than 500 workers.

Birds Eye threatened their 1,200 workers with the sack, GEC revealed cutbacks which entail 670 redundancies.

### LEYLAND:

## Defend shop-floor rights

In Region 5 of the Transport and General Workers' Union, the right of members to elect stewards of their choice is under attack. Nine members of the Cowley Assembly Plant face victimisation by the union's local right wing following spurious charges, such as: "...campaigning against elected and unelected officials"(!)

These include the newly-elected Assembly Plant Convenor, Bob Fryer, and three newly-elected deputy convenors, Frank Corti, Tom White and Alan Thornett. They have already been the subjects of an inquiry by the Oxford District Finance and General Purposes Committee and at present they are under the scrutiny of a T&GWU Region 5 inquiry.

Recommendations have been made that Thornett be expelled from the union and that Corti and White be removed from all offices for life.

Booth Concrete closed down their Merseyside operation which had put paid to 100 jobs and Cammel Laird are cutting back on 160 jobs.

As well as this redundancies and closures have been threatened at Otis Elevators, Golden Wonder, and Massey Ferguson, as well as Speke, and the threat of the loss of 400 jobs is being held over the heads of the Tate and Lyle workers! The closure of Shotton steel works in Wales will be a serious threat to Birkenhead and Liverpool docks as iron ore is the biggest single commodity handled there.

The latest shock is the proposed closures of the Lucas CAV and the Lucas Aerospace Victor works with 1,200 jobs being transferred from Merseyside to Birmingham.

The workers learned of this proposal on the lunch-time news! This shows the complete disregard and contempt big business have for their workers.

●●●  
"All unions on this site formally reject the company's restructuring proposals, and totally oppose any run-down of Victor Works."

Joint Shop Stewards' Committee,  
Lucas, Victor Works,

●●●  
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action, in fact the only major strike in 27 years was a two week national strike and the workers are absolutely stunned by the proposed redundancies.

Management's proposals of transferring people to Birmingham has been recognised by many as a ploy to avoid giving high redundancy payments. Not that Lucas Industry can't afford it—Britain's Aerospace Industries have just announced record exports of £410 million. In 1976-77 the 549 largest industrial companies had average increased profits of 31.8%.

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### Democracy

Only a show of solid support will ensure that the right wing are defeated.

The maximum number of delegations possible should be sent to the public meeting in Oxford on April 8th and to the picket of the Region 5 head office on April 12th.

Defend trade union democracy!

Support the right of workers to elect stewards of their own choice!

On Merseyside there are 90,000 unemployed at the moment, and major companies in the leading capitalist countries are swarming like sharks with the smell of blood. Attracted by the cheapest labour in Europe and the huge grants, they are clamouring to exploit the situation in Merseyside. The jobs they are offering will hardly make a dent in the unemployment figures, and they will be quick to withdraw once they have extracted the maximum profit from the workers.

**Pauline Dunlop**

(Liverpool Labour Party)

### Courtalds Job Threat

The following statement was issued to the Militant by the shop stewards at Courtalds Aintree.

"At the branch meeting held at Courtalds Aintree on Monday March 6th, attended by a body of approximately 1,000 T&G members, the question of Furzebrook redundancies and the Temporary Employment Subsidy application was discussed with the full time officials and the National Officer.

"Regarding Furzebrook, the National Officer was mandated to convene a senior level meeting between the company and shop stewards to negotiate the full implementation of the closure.

"Concerning the TES application for the rest of the site the situation remains the same as before that the workforce will not sign until they are guaranteed a 40 hour week for the duration of the subsidy."

Courtalds have closed in the past year their plant in Skelmersdale and in 1976 300 jobs went in the Aintree plant. The present closure plan also includes the plant in Wrexham where 240 jobs are threatened.

**Richard Knights**

# Militant

## TEACHERS DEMAND PAYMENT

The disruption of school meals over the last few weeks has received more publicity than the effects of millions of pounds cut from the education bill or the plight of thousands of teachers on the dole.

The press, Shirley Williams and Jim Callaghan have all slammed the teachers for their "bullying", "irresponsible" behaviour. Yet all the teachers have done is withdraw from voluntary, unpaid extra work.

### Outcry

Once again no-one is crying out against the loss of extra lessons, special help, clubs, games or societies. The outcry is directed solely against teachers' refusal to child-mind at lunchtime.

Teachers asked the employers for a 12½% increase in wages. They were offered 9½%. The employers refused to negotiate further but claimed that the extra money some teachers receive in increments should be included in the total sum, plus an allowance for the total increase in wages caused by all promotion payments.

Other groups, they admitted, had received more than 10% but they had been involved in productivity deals while teachers were not.

Adding insult to injury they



NUT Conference

rejected a token step towards the restoration of the 1974 recognition award which established internal and external relativities (or where teachers should stand in a mythical wages league). They replied, in so many words, that recognition had been established in a time of teacher shortage and that now there were teachers available it was irrelevant.

The genuine anger sparked by this offer has been reflected in the wide take up of the sanctions—which because of union rules are technically "voluntary". Many schools have for the first time in many years been involved in action. The unity and action of the two big unions, NUT/NAS/UWT shows that there is a strong basis for one union for

teachers.

Many teachers have been astonished to discover how many tedious parts of the job are in fact "voluntary". In a small school under a powerful head teacher "voluntary" duties often become basically compulsory without union backing. School union meetings have assumed new importance and should so continue to take the union to the grass roots.

### Class Sizes

But this action is for a very small claim. If 1974 standards are to be restored the teachers' unions must demand at least a £1,000 increase for all teachers.

Having shown their potential the unions should go onto

the offensive and demand an immediate improvement in class size and the provision of adequate preparation time in schools. This could link the fight for better wages and conditions for teachers with the educational interests of those we teach, winning the support of other trade unionists and parents.

### Full Claim Now

We must fight for the full 12½% claim now, £1,000 claim in 1978.

For action to restore the cuts.

No class of over 30 pupils. All teachers to have a minimum of five protected preparation periods.

Felicity Dowling  
(Liverpool NUT)

## SCHOOL STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

All over the West Midlands, school students are on the move!

The ferment in schools has produced unprecedented mass action on a national scale, with pupils staging spontaneous strikes, sit-ins and walk-outs.

### Sit-in

At the Highgate School in Birmingham, there was a sit-in. At Waverley School, sixty pupils walked out, and seizing on the traditions of workers' demonstrations, tried to encourage others to come out and join them, chanting "strike now", "out, out, out," "don't blackleg on us."

They were protesting over

the disruption of school meals, but told us that they supported the teachers; "they have a fair case."

There has been a hysterical reaction to the LPYS leafletting schools. The Birmingham Post decried us for "corrupting young minds and offering a utopia of guaranteed jobs to children."

The local evening paper tried to suggest that all the unrest in schools had been fermented by Labour's youth: "Andy Bevan is the man behind pupil power drive."

### Right Wing

Scandalously, even some right-wing figures in the Labour Party have joined in the campaign. Northfield Labour Party's so-called 'moderates', who previously

closed their LPYS branch for not being big enough, has now suspended any members who leaflet schools and try to build support and membership!

In a statement sent to the 'Birmingham Post' (which they have not as yet, published), we have answered these attacks.

### Union

We stated that full employment is not utopian—it is a basic right. If the economy was put to work with a socialist plan to reduce hours and use all the spare capacity, it could easily be achieved.

School students need to join a union. There is no democratic control in the running of schools or over headmasters. Overcrowding,

lack of facilities and petty discipline are rife.

Schools should be democratically organised, with boards of governors made up of pupils, teachers, and local trade unionists, instead of the cliques of Tories and local bosses who run them now.

That's what we're fighting for, and that's why we're getting an enthusiastic response.

The hysteria of the school authorities and the press only shows how much they fear the potential of a strong National Union of School Students fighting side by side with the rest of the labour movement, an organised voice for their anger and frustration.

Alan Anderton  
(Edgbaston LPYS)

## PROFITS

(Continued from front page)

In other words, British capitalism was producing even less in 1977 than in 1976.

Perhaps the improvement is still to come? But the statistics show an even more serious fall of investment, on which any future growth would depend.

"Investment fell by 1½% in the fourth quarter of 1977 because of the impact of the swingeing cuts in the public sector capital spending.

So public spending cuts are now hitting the private sector as well.

"During 1977...total investment was down 4% during the year to reach the lowest level for the past 10 years."

Perhaps there is no money to invest? Have the rich all been turned into paupers by the Labour government?

No! While the workers have suffered the biggest percentage cut in living standards in the last 100 years, the parasites in the finance houses and boardrooms who have presided over the utter degeneration of British industry are actually making bumper profits.

"Overall, 1977 was definitely a year when profits did well..."

"In the year as a whole, profits, after deducting stock appreciation, went up by 50%. Even if the North Sea sector is excluded there was a 30% increase.

"There was also a marked jump in the share of national

product going to provide trading profits of companies. These went up to 8.77% as against 6.54% in 1976."

Yet still they are not satisfied! The Tories, the front men of big business, are planning even more draconian attacks on workers' living standards.

The very same day that 'The Times' reported the CSO figures, the paper's Labour Editor outlined some of the Tories' "new" policies.

If Labour is defeated in the next general election, "the TUC will find the Tories in a much tougher mood [than under the Heath government]. With the benefit of hindsight, [Tory] party leaders now believe that Upper Clyde Shipbuilders should have been allowed to die; that Chrysler should have gone the same way..."

What would these policies mean for unemployment? Two million, three million, four million...? These are brutal policies aimed at saving a brutal system. No matter what the cost to working people!

This is what the return to government led by Thatcher, Joseph and other champions of the decayed profit system responsible for the present crisis would really mean.

Such a capitalist threat can only be fought by Labour with bold socialist policies.

Lynn Walsh

## Nottingham LPYS ATTACKED

Every Monday for the last few weeks, unemployed members of Nottingham West Labour Party Young Socialists have leafletted two local schools on the estate where we meet.

The National LPYS school student leaflet and anti-NF leaflet and or own recruiting leaflets were handed out. There has been a good response and we have already won several new members from one of the schools.

At both schools the headmasters and some teachers have come outside to try to prevent us leafletting. One LPYS member was physically threatened by a teacher from Charnwood School.

Everytime the staff try to stop the school students taking our leaflets the pupils come over to see what we stand for. The headmasters' fear of our ideas on school discipline, on youth unemployment and on racialism has led to the pupils being sent home 5 minutes early on Mondays to avoid us.

At Fareham school the headmaster called a meeting to tell pupils not to take our leaflets. Letters have been sent to the homes of known LPYS members telling them not to attend meetings.

A special meeting was called for the Charnwood governors and was reported on the front page of the Nottingham Evening Post. The Tories attacked our ideas as being 'trash' and said that we should not bring politics into education.

We immediately sent letters to the paper asking if we are 'extreme' to demand no school uniform, no corporal punishment, the abolition of petty school rules and decent jobs for every school leaver.

We demanded that the 'Post' give us space to answer the accusations made against us in more detail and said that if the governor's spokesman wanted to try to answer our points they should give him space to do so. The 'Post's' comment on the LPYS was full of reactionary rubbish.

We were criticised for attacking religious indoctrination. "An attack on ancient religious values which have done so much towards welding a reasonably orderly society" etc. They agreed with the school governors that our leaflets should be outlawed. "They (children) must be protected from these outside influences, which are thoroughly evil and should not be excused by anyone."

So much for Tory democracy! We demand that all political organisations, except fascist ones whose aim is to crush democratic rights, should have the right to put their ideas over to school students and that political debates should be on the school curriculum. Our ideas are called 'trash'. But the 'Post' dared not say who was leafletting. In its 'comment' it called us a 'left-wing movement'.

Labour's youth are not going to sit back and allow our democratic rights to be squashed. We will continue to leaflet the schools. We are going to contact the county labour group, the Nottingham Constituency Labour Parties, the NUT and NUPE, to get their support for the basic right to leaflet.

Gary Freeman  
(Nottingham West LPYS)