

Fight Unemployment



YOUTH DESPAIR ON THE DOLE

By Eileen Short

"Are we really going to be rich?" asks David Frost on the TV.

To most working people, the promise that 'the hard times are over', 'North Sea oil will line our pockets', already sound hollow.

Ask the Easter school leavers how it feels, with all the hope and promises of school still ringing in their ears, to be written off as useless, condemned to the dole.

Ask anyone in Kirkby, Liverpool, where unemployment is a horrifying 50%.

"The longer it goes on, the more you feel careless with yourself...I sometimes wish I was dead and gone."

—unemployed labourer
"Evil nonsense" is what the 'Sunday Express' called the demand for a guaranteed job for all school leavers.

A few days later, Stephen Dayus, 16 years old and just

out of school, committed suicide because he couldn't stand being unemployed.

This is the real 'evil' that the bosses and their press defend. A system which condemns youth to black misery and despair.

Merseyside

On Merseyside, every day more firms are cutting down on apprenticeships, laying off workers, or pulling out altogether. If they smell bigger profits elsewhere, what do they care for those whose jobs are gone, and whose lives are wrecked?

"Even the adverts in the Job Centre say, 'Only people with a good work record need apply,' and the longer you are unemployed the worse your work record becomes."

—Married man, unemployed for four years
Of course there is work! Don't we need steel, bricks, and tools to build schools and

NAZI BOMB ATTACKS

This is what the demented fascists are capable of! Last week, an anti-fascist in High Wycombe received a parcel bomb through the post. He narrowly escaped death.

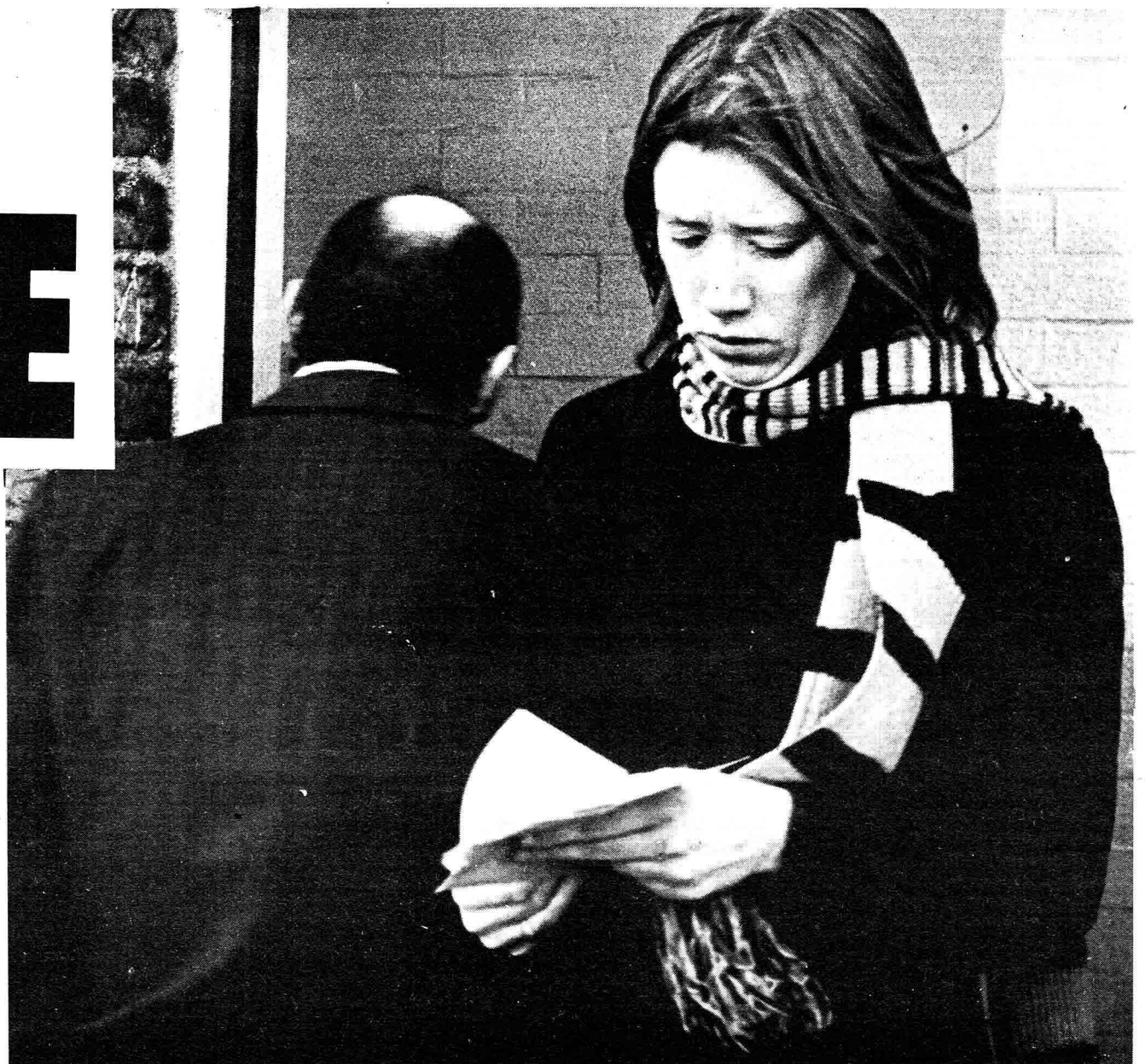
This week, parcel bombs were sent to the Communist Party HQ and to the offices of NUPE. Again, members of the labour movement narrowly escaped death.

Responsibility for these fiendish acts has been claimed by 'Column 88', a gang of Nazi thugs. Yet the right-wing 'Daily Express' [5 April], seemingly quoting "detectives", says "it could have been a left-wing plot" to discredit the extreme right.

As if the fascists need discrediting! The attitude of the Tory press is scandalous, but perhaps not surprising.

These outrages underline the urgency of mobilising the labour movement against racialism and fascism on socialist policies. They also underline the correctness of the NUR's decision to ban NF members [Editorial, page 2], a move that should be strongly supported.

On the back page, we report on the attempt on Roger Prouse, who spoke to 'Militant's' reporter.



The face of despondency: Islington unemployment exchange, London

hospitals? Don't we need more buses, better community facilities, new houses?

It's time to end the hand-outs to the bosses. They get about £20 million every single day in government handouts, paid from the taxes

we pay! They are provided with workers whom they don't have to pay a penny, through the Job Creation Schemes.

But they're only interested in one thing—more profit, whatever the obstacles.

It's time we did guarantee

every school leaver a job. Take over the run-down firms threatening to close, use the £20 million a day to expand the useful, essential public services we need, and there would be plenty of work.

If profits are the only thing

Bob Appleton (IFL) II that stand in the way—let's finish with the profit system! Run industry and the economy in a planned socialist way, before another year's school leavers pay the dreadful, life-destroying price for the anarchy of capitalism!

SUPPORT NUR BAN ON FASCISTS

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The decision of the National Union of Railwaymen to take action, including expulsion, against members of the National Front is a body-blow to these fascist purveyors of anti-trade union propaganda and race hatred.

Predictably, some Tory MPs and their kept press have greeted this decision with a torrent of abuse and distortions. Tory MP Adley denounced the NUR leaders as "self-appointed gauleiters" [*Observer*]. The 'Sunday Express' accuses them of "having a contempt for every principle of freedom...What a vile piece of petty dictatorship." [2 April]

It is not the NUR or the trade union movement which threatens democratic rights but the fascists and their Tory apologists in the press. The right to strike, freedom of assembly, the right to vote, and freedom of the press, were destroyed by Hitler, Mussolini and Franco in the pre-war period. The National Front and other organisations would like to do the same today.

In Germany, it was the Jews who were the scapegoat. But the aim was to destroy all democratic rights, destroy the organisations of the working class, and murder all the leaders of the working people. Today the blacks are singled out.

Before and after they came to power

Mussolini's Blackshirts and Hitler's Brownshirts unleashed a reign of terror against the labour movement. The National Front is trying to emulate them today. The premises and bookshops of numerous left-wing organisations and movements—including our own—have been attacked with petrol and fire bombs. Asian and other immigrants have been beaten up by Fascist thugs. In the last week, a bomb was sent through the post to a member of the Anti-Nazi League in High Wycombe [see front page].

The fascists are obviously responsible for these crimes. Yet the police have yet to bring the perpetrators to book. We do not hear the 'Sunday Express' and the other paragons of "democracy" thundering against these thugs, the genuine gauleiters.

The 'Sunday Express' asks: "Where is the process going to stop? Is the day going to come when NUR members who admit to voting Tory also get the chop?"

The NUR should counter this vile attempt to play on the fears of those millions of members of the trade unions, about one third, who vote Tory. The labour movement is not for the outlawing of the Tory Party, or for the driving from the unions of Tory or Liberal voters. Unlike the NF, the Tory

Party is not a fascist organisation whose programme is to annihilate democracy. The trade unions are the basic organisations of the working class which unite all workers, irrespective of race, creed, religion or colour.

Tory voters, moreover, can be won to the labour movement and socialism only on the basis of argument, through their own experience, and by Labour demonstrating that it is able to solve their problems.

But a clear line of demarcation must be drawn at the National Front. If successful, they would destroy democracy and the trade unions. Their aim is to divide worker against worker for the benefit of the bosses. The NUR statement points out that the "NF and other racist organisations seek to divide workers on the grounds of race, colour or creed."

No worker would concede "freedom" for a scab to break a picket line. Nor should these political scabs be granted full "democracy"—to destroy democratic rights. A campaign of explanation should be launched by the NUR to explain the clear class reasons for this magnificent initiative against the NF.

No doubt the press will exert its considerable pressure to have the NUR decision overturned, or toned down. They should be answered now by the

ranks of the unions with a wave of resolutions supporting the Executive's decision. At the same time, other unions should follow suit.

The General and Municipal Workers Union has circulated their branches condemning the NF and the National Party stating that: "Such organisations are diametrically opposed to every fundamental principle of trade unionism." It goes on to declare that action will be taken against members of those organisations who use the union or union positions to propound their racist views.

This is a good initiative, but it needs to be coupled with a campaign of explanation of what the National Front stands for. On that basis, it is certain that the ranks of the GMWU would follow their NUR brothers and sisters and expel from their ranks all those subscribing to the pernicious doctrines of fascism. And once the gigantic power of the trade unions is mobilised against the NF and other fascist organisations, and linked with a socialist programme to abolish unemployment, slums, and the other social evils which scar capitalist society—the poison of fascism and racialism would be completely eliminated.

There are growing fears within the rank and file of the Labour Party, reflected in resolutions to this week's Southern Region conference, that a majority of the working party set up by the NEC to formulate proposals for a new procedure on reselection are far from determined to implement the spirit and terms of last year's Annual Conference resolutions.

Conference

There is certainly the danger, the way things are going, that the sub-committee will come out with watered-down proposals for re-selection, and at the same time give up the cast-iron, ultimate safeguard that the constituency parties now have (in paragraph (B) rule 7 clause XIV of the Party rules).

The strength of feeling in the party on re-selection was clearly shown at last year's conference. No less than 75 resolutions, the highest ever submitted on one subject, were sent in. When most of these were ruled out of order, a further 17 emergency resolutions were submitted to ensure debate on the issue.

Despite a well-supported reference-back, the Conference Arrangements Committee successfully ruled that all constitutional amendments must go straight to the NEC. It was fortunate that a number of constituency parties were far-sighted enough to frame their resolutions in a way that ensured debate.

Without composite 29, which proposed automatic re-selection and included an ultimate right of recall in a clause similar to the present paragraph B, the question would never have been brought up. It was the debate on this composite that ensured that the NEC, through the chairman, gave an undertaking that they would present proposals providing for automatic re-selection to the next conference.

After the conference, the NEC set up a working party to frame new proposals for the

By Ray Apps

(Brighton, Kemptown Labour Party)

necessary amendments. There is no doubt, however, that there were those on the right wing of the party leadership who, once the immediate problem of placating conference delegates was behind them, saw the working party as a means of sliding out of the NEC's promise to conference. This has been made all the easier by the working party's terms of reference, which actually call into question issues on which conference was firmly agreed.

While the working party was beginning its discussions, Joe Ashton brought out his own proposals. These are rumoured to have the backing of Jim Callaghan. They have certainly been seized on by many grateful members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and have received considerable—and very favourable!—publicity in the capitalist press.

Undermine

Joe Ashton's proposals, however, which have had a considerable influence on most members of the working party, would, if accepted, completely undermine the basic principle embodied in composite 29—that of a CLP's automatic right to re-select its parliamentary representative.

Under Ashton's plans, there would be a special GMC within a specified period after an election. The MP would be invited to address the meeting and answer questions. There would then be a ballot to decide whether or not the MP should face a re-selection conference. If the vote went against the MP, he or she would have the right to appeal to the NEC. Then, if this hurdle is crossed, a re-selection meeting could take place. If this goes against the sitting MP, he or she can again appeal to the NEC.

LABOUR PARTY DEMOCRACY

Support Conference demands for reselection and recall

—demands NEC working party member

It is obvious that such a complicated, and inevitably long-drawn-out process, would be heavily weighted in favour of the sitting MP. The emphasis would not at all be on the right of the CLP to call its MP to account and select a new parliamentary representative.

Tories

Past experience shows that such a complicated procedure gives an MP—or infiltrators like Lewis and McCormick—plenty of opportunity to find procedural discrepancies as the basis for appeal, and even resort to the courts. At the same time, a lengthy procedure gives an MP the maximum opportunity to exert pressure on the Party, especially when they have the fulsome support of the Tory press, as did Frank Tomney, Reg Prentice and others who have recently resisted democratic re-selection.

Studying Joe Ashton's proposals, one might think that they were designed to produce a rally for the sitting member, rather than a democratic

process for checking and control. In 'Labour Weekly' Joe recently stated that over 50 Labour MPs might cross the floor, like Prentice, and join the Tories if they were forced to retire by their CLP.

What an astounding admission! But surely the presence of such MPs, who will undoubtedly resign the Labour Party in the course of future political battles, is an argument for a thoroughly democratic re-selection procedure, not for a "moderate", watered-down process to placate potential traitors!

The proposals that are now being formulated by the working party, if they are the ones it sends to the NEC, are in all essentials similar to Joe Ashton's. They are not based on the principle of automatic re-selection embodied in composite 29, and do not include a clause similar to the existing paragraph (B), rule 7 clause XIV, which at least now provides an ultimate safeguard for CLPs who want to remove their MP.

Paragraph (B), referring to sitting MPs, states: "The general committee at a spe-

cially convened meeting intimates by resolution its desire that he or she must retire at the next general election." In spite of all the difficulties, this is the clause which allowed Newham NE to remove Tory-in-disguise Reg Prentice. To lose this, without gaining cast-iron procedures for automatic re-selection, would actually be a step backwards!

At this point, however, it is necessary to take up the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy. The organisers of the Campaign have put considerable effort into the fight to give organised expression to the aspirations of the rank and file to have democratic control over MPs and Party leadership.

Misleading

But the Campaign's suggested amendment for last year's conference had the effect of deleting paragraph (B). If this was intentional, it was seriously mistaken advice. Even if mandatory re-selection is achieved, the CLPs should nevertheless re-

tain the right of recall over their MP, not just once in the life of a parliament, but at any time. If, however, the right of mandatory re-selection is not achieved now, the "reserve powers" of paragraph (B) remain vital.

In a circular concerning the Southern Region LP Conference, however, the Campaign says:

"Brighton Kemptown has put down an amendment to the Basingstoke resolution (supporting CLPD demands) calling for support of Composite 29 which Conference remitted to the NEC. The reason for remission at Conference was that the wording of Composite 29 included additional demands unacceptable to Conference. This prevented a clear decision being made simply on the principle of automatic re-selection..."

This is entirely misleading! Composite 29 was the only motion on re-selection debated, as the others had been ruled out of order. How can it be said that it included demands "unacceptable to Conference", when no vote was taken because it was remitted on the clear undertaking from the chairman that proposals for "automatic re-selection" would be introduced next year? Prior to the Conference, moreover, leading members of the Campaign informed the movers that they agreed with Composite 29 and would support it. It was Composite 29 that ensured that the issue was debated, and also the reason, presumably, that I (as mover) was invited on to the NEC working party.

In the light of these points, we would ask the supporters of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy to reconsider their position, and we urge delegates to the Southern Region conference to support the Brighton Kemptown amendment.

It must be made clear to the working party and the NEC that nothing less than the proposals of composite 29 will be acceptable to the rank and file as far as Party democracy is concerned.

Lambeth Central Labour Candidate says:

FIGHT RACIALISM AND UNEMPLOYMENT



John Tilley, Labour Candidate

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Q. What do you think are the main issues in the campaign from a national point of view?

A. There are really two aspects of the campaign. One is fighting racialism. The other is the economic and general record of the Labour Government. On that, while saying that there are some achievements of the Labour

Government—on inflation, for example, there has been some progress—on other issues, particularly on employment and public expenditure, there is still an enormous amount to do. I will be campaigning to do a lot more in fields where the government haven't done enough.

Q. What do you think will be the important issues as far

John Tilley, the Labour Candidate, spoke to Lynn Walsh

as Lambeth Central is concerned?

A. It's very difficult to divide local and national here. We've tended in the last year or two to start talking about the problems of "inner city decay" as if there was some special localised problems. There are specific local problems—but if unemployment is the most important single economic issue in the constituency, and youth unemployment in particular, that's also true of the country as a whole. What's wrong in the country as a whole is going particularly wrong in Lambeth.

That's particularly true with something like public expenditure, which I believe ought to be nationally increased. But in an area like Lambeth Central, where the people particularly need health services, public help on housing, and social services, clearly the problems are more acute.

Q. Will you be making it clear that the policies of the labour Government are not

the policies of the Labour Party, put forward in Labour's Programme and put forward in Party conferences?

A. In the election address, I'm saying the economic position of the country in general appears to be improving, and there's been some progress on inflation, but a lot remains to be done in Lambeth, and that what we need is a majority Labour Government committed to a socialist programme of public ownership.

I still support Labour's manifesto of October 1974 and I'm asking people to vote Labour on the basis that the next Labour Government could go a lot further towards that Manifesto than the present one. It's a sort of qualified support for the Labour Government, saying "yes", they've done a certain amount, but there's a lot more to do.

Q. The NF are putting up a candidate. We saw in Ilford North the way in which the NF and the Tories tried to use the issue of racialism. What, in your opinion is the danger posed by this, and how do you intend to counter-act the NF and the Tory racist campaign?

A. In a sense you've partly answered my question: we've got to be clear that we're fighting racialism in various forms. I think that the danger to the labour movement in terms of votes is much more serious from Tory racism than from NF racism. But we have to fight the NF racism very carefully here in Lambeth Central, and indeed the Tories.

The large black community, are not going to vote NF, and the white community know very well what living in

**Join the Labour Party
Young Socialist/PNP Youth
"Day of Mass Action"**

Saturday 15th April, 10.30 am
Meet at end of Coldharbour Lane
(opposite Brixton Town Hall—
2 mins from Brixton Tube)

MASS CANVAS—Sunday 9th April
Assemble 10.30 am, at
Central Committee Room,
57 Old Town, S.W.4.

(near Clapham Common Tube)

At all other times help is needed at
Lambeth Central Campaign Headquarters,
Phone: 01-622 3711

John Bulaitis, LPYS National Committee member for London

a multi-racial community is about. They know that the wild fears the NF try to whip up elsewhere are totally unjustified, so it's not a place where the NF are going to get a major vote, it's a place where they want to make national propaganda from their campaign on the streets.

On the other hand, the Tories do want to get votes. The issue is racialism not race. The Tories have no organisational presence here, outside elections. The NF couldn't even find a local candidate. The Labour Party must be seen not to be dodging the issue, as we have done in other elections.

Q. The Labour Party Young Socialists intends to organise a mass canvass in Lambeth Central on 15th April. What role do you think the LPYS should play in this campaign?

A. When I talk about unemployment being the most serious issue, it's particularly the aspect of youth unemployment that I'm talking about. My estimates are that there are about 3,000 people unemployed in this constituency, of whom half are under 30, and of whom a very great number are school-leavers or people below the age of 24. Unless we can offer some hope to those youngsters who are out of work, or who have never had a job, the Labour Party would be kidding itself. The important role of the Young Socialists is that

they can be saying that the LP is not just middle-aged, cynical politicians who are out for power but there is actually a lot of enthusiasm and dedication in the Labour Party, and there are policies which will start to tackle this problem. If we get a lot of Young Socialist canvassers, their great attraction for me will not be the specific policies say, of 'Militant' or the LPYS, but the fact that they are holding out some hope for the future to the families where youth unemployment is a vital concern.

Q. Will you be having YS and PNP Youth speakers on your platform at your election meetings?

A. We hope to have a lot of street-corner meetings and so on, and on estates, where obviously all speakers will be welcome. At the moment, all we've got fixed are the main speakers, who are Tony Benn, Michael Foot, and Joan Lester...clearly they're people from the left of the Party, and I'm roughly 'Tribunite' in my position.

Q. Are you confident that Labour will hold Lambeth Central?

A. After Ashfield there's no such thing as a safe Labour seat. But on the previous record it should be safe.

It's very important to me that we get votes for socialist policies and not just people voting Labour because they always have done.

Cardiff LPYS fight "EARLY RETIREMENT FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS"

"JOIN THE LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS." "JOIN THE FIGHT FOR JOBS." "FOR A THIRTY-FIVE HOUR WEEK." This was the message spread by Cardiff South East LPYS during their 'day of action against unemployment' in the Llanrumney Housing Estate.

This is part of Prime Minister Jim Callaghan's constituency, that will be hard hit by the closure of East Moors Steelworks. Over three thousand jobs are to go at the steelworks, plus an estimated 3-4,000 jobs that will disappear because they are dependent for work on BSC.

With 15,000 already on the dole in the Cardiff area it is no wonder we were received with enthusiasm by young and old alike. The welcome we were given is reflected in the numbers who wanted to join the YS, took out regular orders for Militant and bought over 50 copies of Militant and Left.

Fear

Many young people expressed their fears to us: school leavers who were still unemployed, having left school last summer. Is this what early retirement means?

School students had little hope of a job—any job—when they leave school in the summer. Plants like East Moors

closing; GKN, one of Cardiff's largest employers, declaring redundancies: they are to sack 1,000.

Estate

These fears were echoed by a large number of older people who drew our attention to the poor facilities on the estate, the lack of repairs carried out by the council, and to the vandalism. One pensioner put it this way, "You can't blame the youngsters, there are no jobs, no day centres for them and even the local cinema has shut."

Many discussed with us the sort of facilities needed on the estate, converting the cinema into a youth centre, capable of holding dances, showing films and to be used by the unemployed. Building houses to cater for the 3,000 on the housing lists and carrying out the repairs needed. All of which would provide jobs.

One woman told us about the plight of her family. Her husband has been made redundant, she

has a son who has not worked since leaving school. "I don't know what he does all day and now he says he's not interested in finding a job."

She has another son and a daughter in school; "I don't hold out much chance of them getting a job either." Her eldest son was made redundant at East Moors, but is now working at GKN, she is hoping that he will not be made redundant when they start their cut back.

All this woman wants is "...decent jobs for my kids, some sort of future for them." What a world, men on the moon, bombs that kill people but leave buildings standing and yet it cannot provide jobs for this woman's children.

The Young Socialists believe it is time for the local labour movement to state that enough is enough and launch a major campaign against unemployment.

Work

Let's have a massive programme of house and hospital building, council repairs and other useful public works. Then we'd have decent estates, worthwhile jobs and a use for the stocks of steel and bricks.

By Terry Burns

GARSCADDEN BY-ELECTION



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

SHOPPING 'ON THE HILL', GARSCADDEN, GLASGOW. It's a million light years removed from the romantic image of Scotland conjured up by the Scottish National Party!

Next Thursday's by-election, however, will again put Labour's working-class support to the test. Beatties biscuit factory has closed, Goodyear and Singer, two other local employers, are threatening big redundancies.

Bitter disillusionment with the Labour government's policies, means there is a danger of big SNP gains. The Labour candidate has done little to answer his threat, campaigning on an uncritical defence of the government's record.

But go to Garscadden, look at the houses, look at the unemployment, look at the people, and you can see the need for real socialist policies.

LEFT & RIGHT

OIL RIGGING

For some strange reason the capitalist press likes to publicise strikes by workers. Strikes of capital are not so newsworthy.

One story that crept into the 'Financial Times' [20.3.78] safe from the eyes of workers, concerns the world's independent oil-tanker owners. At a recent conference they announced plans to form a company to charter super-tankers. One qualification—tankers would be released only when the market was prepared to pay what they consider a 'fair' rate. The FT calls it "basically a market-rigging device".

At least if one of their super-oil tankers runs aground, polluting the sea and destroying fishing and coastlines, they'll know that they got a good price for it, using all the 'force' of 'free market' competition.

BUILDING FORTUNES

Who says that the construction industry is still in the doldrums? The Lotus car firm certainly seems to know better. They have just launched a new advertising campaign aimed at people in the industry. A survey last year showed that one in ten Lotus Eclat owners were in construction, architecture, property development or estate agency. With the Eclat range priced between £9,500 and £12,000 it's safe to assume that it's not building workers queueing up to buy them.

SILVER LINING

Metal Spinners, a subsidiary of Delta Metals, is making gold-plated frying pans and matching saucepans at £670. The pots and plans are made on a solid copper base, plated with 18-carat gold on the outside and lined with sterling silver.

Mr Brian Butterfield, the Managing Director of the company says: "They are not simply expensive and decorative. They are also ideal for cooking!"

PLANNING?

Criticism of the bureaucracy and inefficiency that dogs the Russian economy is sometimes dismissed as capitalist propaganda. This letter from a Russian worker to a Government Department in Moscow, irrefutably shows the frustration and anger of workers at the heavy hand of mismanagement.

"Recently I conducted a little study of my own. I kept track of the hours and minutes I spent waiting in line in an 'average' week.

"...An hour and forty minutes to buy oranges...45 minutes to send two registered letters which can only be done at the parcels window of the post office...Half an hour at the grocery store during the crowded lunch hour, as the cashiers changed shifts...Taken together...they add up to an entire working day!"

A Simka, Kiev [Literaturnaya Gazeta 4.5.77]
Is the workers' anger surprising? They know full well that Brezhnev and Co. do not have to put up with queues and shortages, in their exclusive shops and chauffeur-driven cadillacs.

But the answer will not be long in coming—push aside the pampered cliques and let those who work also plan the economy! End the wastage and corruption and put planned production on a healthy, democratic footing.

TORY APPEAL

If further proof is needed of the cynical switch made by the Tory leadership to pander to racial prejudice, then it has come straight from the horse's mouth. The North-East organiser of the National Front's Sunderland base, Bruce Anderson-Lynes, has left the NF to join...the Tory Party.

On the Buses

"If you can drive a modern one-man bus round Harlow in the rush hour, you can drive anything."

Ten years ago, if your bus ran even a minute early and you missed a passenger as a result, you'd have taken a bus back just to pick up a single passenger. But now if you missed 30 passengers, the attitude would be, tough luck!

Frank Simmons, one of the last four conductors in Harlow summed up the sad decline of the bus service, now operated by London Country Buses.

It's not just the quality of the service that has changed. There is now a feeling, from the management down, of 'couldn't care less'.

Irate

In the morning you ask if there have been any cancellations on the route you are covering. "Don't think so. Not this morning," is the confident reply. Ten minutes later you are confronted by a queue of irate passengers. "What happened to the 7.50?" they demand. You tell them it's not your fault, there are five buses laid up, can't get the spares, some of the crews are out, off sick, or just resigned.

But it rings hollow when you know that few of the private operators have problems with spares, and the dole queues are full of willing labour.

One of the biggest cons was the introduction of one man buses. We were promised the earth. More money, better services, more buses, better conditions, greater efficiency, almost anything to get us to agree. But what is the outcome? Near chaos. Reliability of service is a thing of the past.

If you were running late on a two manned bus, the driver could make up lost time by driving harder. But now, you get a little behind, the driver



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Defend your bus service—before there's none to defend!

faces the extra aggro, longer queues, the extra enquiries. He has got to have nearly three sets of eyes, one for the road, one for the bus and one for entrances.

Such is the pressure, a man can never make up the lost time. In fact the only buses which always run to time are the old two-man buses, when they are fetched out. Which, with the number of breakdowns, is not infrequent.

Machines

"What a pleasure!" squeal delighted passengers; "how nice it is to have personal attention!" when they find a smiling conductor, rather than the open-mouthed mon-

ey-gobbling machine. And then there are the changes in schedules, routes, bus stop sitings, rules and regulations. You need to take a whole volume of circulars to keep up with the latest changes. Every month we get a new lot to read and remember.

While they employ less and less staff on the buses, they employ more and more to prune the service and make it more efficient(!). We used to pride ourselves on knowing the routes and fares. But not any longer.

Perhaps the best way to demonstrate the pressure on a modern driver is in the number of staff that leave in a week. As a result of pressure,

the daily aggro and the promise of better wages, less hours and less pressure outside, up to five drivers often leave the Harlow depot in any one week. That is out of a staff of only 160.

If you can drive a modern one man bus round Harlow in the rush hour you can drive anything.

What of the future? Well for conductors, not much. Last year, the bulk of the remaining conductors in Harlow accepted redundancy. Poor fools, you still see a number of them signing on.

The four of us left are used as emergency fill-ins. We might get a different route every day.

But what is of grave concern is the way the bus service is deliberately being run down. One day workers are going to wake up and find themselves without any kind of service.

Sabotage

Some of the missing buses which so upset the passengers could be avoided. The excuses of no spare parts, missing crews or delays in the new buses are beginning to sound hollow. My guess is they are almost deliberately wrecking the service to cut right back.

They will soon have discouraged many regular passengers, and forced them to find alternatives. The labour movement must wake up to what is happening and fight for an integrated democratic public transport system before there is none to integrate.

Frank Simmons
(Bus Conductor with
London Country,
TGWU, talked to
Bob Edwards
(Harlow CLP)

TV REVIEW:

San Diego Doctors

Eradicate Parasites

"I like cash on the nail"—these were the words of 'sound business sense' uttered by an American doctor interviewed in a horrifying TV documentary comparing the British and American health services [San Diego Doctors, ITV, 10.30 pm, 28th March]

The commercial acumen of this healer of the sick had reaped him an eleventh share in the cool £1 million per year raked in by the doctors in their private practice. Conducting the interview by his swimming pool shrouded with luxuriant shrubs and trees, he seemed quite unperturbed at growing fat on the profits of human misery.

The programme was a ghastly exposure of a medical system serving not the people but providing big business for the private doctors and insurance companies. The sleek consultants we saw are probably the nearest relations to the leeches which sucked the blood from dying men before the advent of penicillin.

One doctor had not made a home visit

to a patient for 20 years; in his own words, it was 'uneconomical'.

Meanwhile we witnessed the despair of one man who having already suffered the loss of his wife through leukaemia, now faced the additional financial burden of finding a quarter of a million pounds to pay medical bills.

Medical insurance in the USA—if you can afford it—covers only 80% of bills. Many patients, if forced to have protracted courses of treatment for a long illness, are simply bankrupted. Four out of every ten bankruptcy cases are through unpaid medical bills.

For those too poor to pay for insurance there are the general hospitals where you can wait seven hours for a prescription.

Since the champion of human rights, President Carter, cut government grants to the state medical system, it is no longer 'cost-effective' for private doctors to treat the poor and the OAPs. So they are sent, often literally, to their death, in the interminable queues at the state hospitals where suitable treatment may

arrive too late.

One harassed doctor in the general hospital was interviewed while in the background an attempted suicide patient 'referred' from a private hospital was being examined. He said that patching up the health service was no answer: "We must wipe the system clean and start again."

The intention of the programme was evidently to show how generous and open-handed the British health service is compared to that in the USA.

We must learn from the doctors: leeches were abandoned when they were found to be not only ineffective but positively harmful to the sick. Unless we, too, are to be sucked dry by such parasites we must relegate them and the diseased profit system on which they gorge themselves to the status of mere curiosities in the by-gone age of capitalism.

By Harriet Stevens
(Bristol West LPYS)

'78 + LPYS '78 + LPYS '78 + LPYS '78

'Their fight is ours'

Reports and interviews by
Lorna Oliver, Brent
Kennedy and Eileen Short
Photos: Mark Rusher
[IFL]

One of the main issues discussed in the **international debate** (on Monday morning) was the question of **South Africa and Southern Africa**.

The mover of the composite on South Africa from Bristol NE LPYS stressed that apartheid was more than morally hateful: it was class oppression in its most brutal form. The British labour movement had a special responsibility in relation to South Africa because of the vast British capital investments involved.

The composite instructed the National Committee to work to expose British imperialism's role in South Africa, for a trade union boycott of South African trade, for support for the South African Congress of Trade Unions and to help the work of Anti-Apartheid in enlisting trade union support as at the Rover Solihull plant.

Key

Delegates pointed out the appalling conditions of the black workers in South

Africa, the mass unemployment and low wages and the way in which they are oppressed and used as cheap labour by the capitalists.

The key force in overthrowing this racist regime is the African working class, which will not stop at just winning democratic rights but will be forced to end capitalism as the only way to use the country's resources in all the people's interests.

Moving the resolution on Zimbabwe, which was carried, **Tony Lewis** [Hampstead

LPYS], pointed out that the British government doesn't care what colour the Zimbabwe government is, so long as it continues capitalism.

Conference called for full support to the liberation forces' struggle for independence, and for a Socialist Zimbabwe so the country's resources could be used to help the majority.

Conference also passed an emergency motion demanding that the government refuse to recognise the so-

called 'internal settlement', which aimed to use the pro-capitalist leaders' influence to help maintain capitalism in Zimbabwe.

From **Spain**, a fraternal delegate from the executive of the JSE (Young Socialists) then addressed the conference on the differences between the JSE and the LPYS, and allegations that the funds of the SYSDC were not being sent to the JSE. **Nick Bradley** replied on behalf of the LPYS National Committee, decisively answering all the com-

rades points (see page 11).

Another important subject discussed was the **Middle East**. The composite passed by conference, from Durham LPYS, recognised that the PLO leaders can offer no way forward because of their reliance on guerrilla struggles and manoeuvring with the various Arab leaders. There would be no peace in the Middle East until capitalism was overthrown, because capitalism could not guarantee the Palestinians a real future. It called for nationalisation of the landed estates and land reform for the peasantry, nationalisation of the means of production, use of the oil revenue to benefit workers and peasants and the right of self-determination for any national grouping that wished it. It recognised that only socialism could help Arab and Israeli workers and end the poverty in the Middle East.

A National Committee statement on the **Middle East** was also presented to and passed by the conference.

Many other subjects, including **Spain, Italy** and the **EEC** were also discussed.

Kevin Ramage, in summing up the international debate on behalf of the LPYS National Committee, emphasised the enormous strength of the labour movement internationally. In country after country the working class is in a position to change society, providing that it has a clear policy and a leadership prepared to fight.

The LPYS should be proud of its internationalist position, its interest in and solidarity work with the struggle overseas and in particular, its recognition that the class struggle is international with the goal of creating a World Socialist Federation.

**"Completely Different"**

The conference was new to me, it's completely different from the Dutch YS Conferences. There is much more discussion from the floor during the debates and the alternative views of delegates come across more clearly.

The political level of the British Young Socialists is very high, most of the debates were on lively

Anneke Poppe (Dutch YS, Amsterdam JS)

political matters rather than organisational problems. This was helped by all the evening meetings organised by different political tendencies and the other activities going on around the Conference. But what really struck me was the enthusiasm and drive of the young people here."

Evelyn Coffilad, German Jusos

If we had such a conference in Germany it would be a great step forward for the Jusos. What impressed me was that the debates were not abstract theoretical arguments but discussed the real problems of young workers. This is because most of the members of the LPYS are young workers and can speak the language of working people.



Pedro Viana, Spanish Young Socialists' Executive Representative—FULL REPORT PAGE 11

**The only solution—socialist change**

This was one of the most successful and useful conferences I have ever been to. Clear thinking and the straight forward ideas predominated the conference.

The very wide participation of the delegates in the thorough discussions assure the democracy within the Young Socialists.

The many problems that the working class is facing today like unemployment and

housing, problems which were created by the capitalist system cannot be solved by minor changes in the face of capitalism. The only way to solve these problems is by fighting for a programme for socialist change on a Marxist basis, and I'm glad to see that the LPYS are struggling towards this socialist transformation of society.

N. Demetriou
Cyprus



John Gills, Weymouth, Durham NUM and **Alan Halliday**, Edingburgh North AUEW, Edinburgh District Junior Workers' Committee, trade union sponsored visitors to Conference.

Cuts cost lives

Perhaps the most horrifying effects of capitalism on workers' lives became glaringly obvious from **Wilf Flynn's** speech in the debate on cuts in public spending.

He reported one of the many cases of hospitals being forced to risk patients' lives in order to cut costs. "Nurses at St James', London, were ordered to wash plastic tubes used in operations and use them on other patients in place of the proper practice of using new ones each time.

"One tube was used on four patients until it was discovered that the first patient had typhoid. As a result, the other three patients contracted this deadly disease. That's the real danger facing NHS patients as a result of these cuts."

Short-sighted

"Ironically, the cuts cannot be justified even on economic grounds—in order to save £2.93 for each tube, thousands had to be spent treating the new typhoid patients at isolation hospitals."

Such false 'economies' were

also condemned by **Chris Huxtable** [Harlow]. She had gone to her Family Planning Clinic to renew her six months' supply of contraceptive pills.

"Next Week"

"There is no doctor available to give a prescription," I was told, because of understaffing. "Come back next week." But when I went back the next week, it was the same story. "Any longer and I won't be coming back here," I said, "I'll be visiting the ante-natal clinic!"

The ruthlessness of big business in jeopardising human life for the sake of profits was exposed by **Frank White** [West Stirling]. "The capitalists are shown in their true colours in their cutting of the NHS. The Tories want patients to pay fees for hospital beds, which will mean that if you've got cancer, if you're working class and can't afford the fees, you'll have to stay at home and die.

"Capitalism is already murdering workers by preventing the supply of enough

heart and kidney machines. In Liverpool, doctors had to choose between saving the life of a middle class consultant and the life of a working class youth. You can guess who lived and who died."

The Labour government has argued in favour of cutting public spending despite its catastrophic social effects, on the basis that this would be free for investment in industry to provide jobs. But the total failure of this approach was shown by **Steve Armor** from **Brentwood**.

"This is the third LPYS Conference while I've been unemployed. With councils not able to pay for new homes and buildings, 60% of the members of my union branch, construction workers, are unemployed. Yet millions are homeless or living in slums and millions of bricks and other materials lie wasted."

The answer was to reverse the cuts with an immediate expansion of the NHS and social services, in conjunction with a programme of useful public works to build the houses, schools and hospitals needed and thus provide jobs.

"A Good Education"

"It's been an excellent conference. I've learned a lot—it's been a really good education. It will certainly make a difference to me as a shop steward. The unions, the organised labour movement, are the key to the struggle for socialism. Trade union delegates to YS Conference are of paramount importance. Anyone who came this year will want to come back. The standard of debates, the fringe meetings were far superior to any I've ever experienced."

Bernard Lynch—Chryslers Linwood AUEW

"I'm going to join"

"I was sponsored to attend the conference by Area 4 of the NUM.

"You can't be a trade unionist without being politically minded; even the fight to get a decent standard of living has to be political.

Conferences like this give us the assurance that someone is still fighting for a change in society.

"I'm going to join the Labour Party when I get back. We're not going to

change policies by standing outside or withdrawing subscriptions."

Other areas definitely ought to sponsor delegates to YS Conference. If they heard this kind of discussion, these ideas, blokes wouldn't withdraw Labour Party subscriptions, or let the Tories in.

Tom McGrady—Rossington Pit (Yorkshire NUM)

School Students

"We've been campaigning for school students' rights and against the Young National Front, and we've trebled our membership. There are a lot

of school students here from Nottingham who are at their first YS Conference."

Chris Clegg (Nottingham West LPYS)



The Challenge of North Sea Oil

Printed in Parliament
by the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer,
the Lord President of the Council, the Secretary of State for Energy
and the Secretary of State for Scotland
by Command of Her Majesty
March 1978

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1978

Slick, but unconvincing

Andrew Glyn [Oxford Labour Party]
assesses the government's White Paper,
"The Challenge of North Sea Oil"

A small part of the promised bonanza from North Sea Oil has already been squandered—on producing a White Paper on the "Challenge from North Sea Oil" full of vague platitudes.

The document smugly refers to the participation agreements between the nationalised BIOC and 44 oil companies. But it does not mention their content:—agreement by the companies to sell 51% of their oil to British National Oil Corporation, provided the Corporation sells it back to them at the same price! It boasts that Petroleum Revenue Tax, royalties, and Corporation Tax will get the government 70% of the revenue from the fields. But it fails to mention the rates of profit of up to 50% after tax received by the companies.

The flavour of the White Paper is brought out best by the list of the uses the government has in mind for the oil revenues, reproduced below (capital letters and all) from the introduction:

- *GUARANTEEING general investment incentives.
- *EXPANDING selective assistance (to particular capitalists).
- *SUPPORTING the NEB
- *TACKLING the problems of Scotland and development areas.
- *FURTHERING the industrial strategy.
- *REDUCING personal taxation to improve incentives.
- *BOOSTING investment in new sources of energy.
- *CONSERVING existing energy supplies.
- *SUPPORTING the planned expansion of communications, docks etc.
- *STRENGTHENING the programme for reinvigorating inner city areas.
- *DEVELOPING even more ambitious training programmes to prepare young people for the world of work.
- *HELPING people to continue education and training throughout life.
- *PROVIDING more and improved social services.

This is a pretty long list over which to spread the expected tax revenues from the North Sea of £2 billion in 1980 or even the £4 billion hoped for in 1985. In fact, it is amazing that the government has the nerve to include

expansion of the social services as one of its priorities when its own Public Spending White Paper plans for school building in 1981 to be one third of the 1972 level and hospital building only two thirds (Militant No 397).

All the talk of a 'fairer and more compassionate society' is no more than a cover-up for a programme of restoring the position of British capitalism. How else could you have the statement that "many new jobs should become available in the service sector, including the public services", followed by the sentence "The government intends to retain a firm control over public expenditure so that it does not absorb too high a proportion of the nation's resources?"

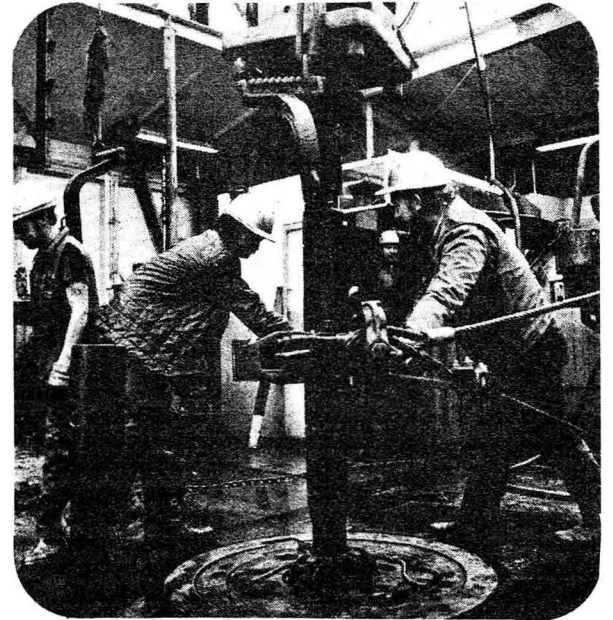
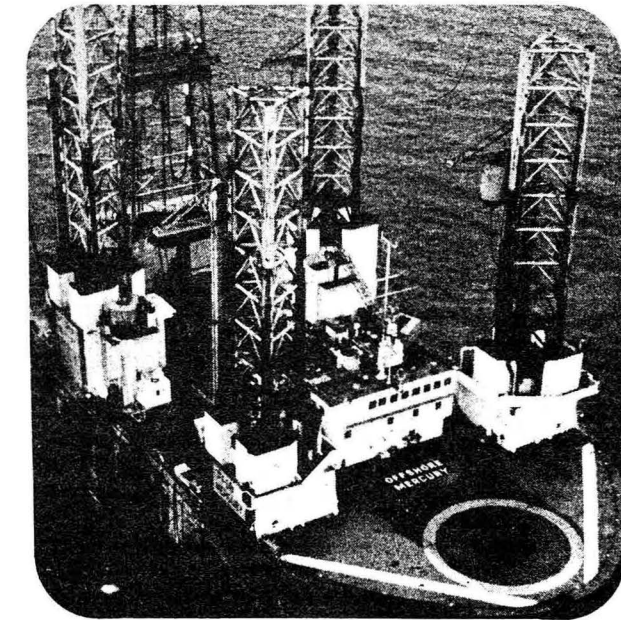
The White Paper starts out by bemoaning the feeble performance of British industry. It quite correctly says that "the inadequacy and poor productivity of investment in a number of sectors of United Kingdom industry has been an important factor".

Strategy?

It goes on: "It would be all too easy for Government to use the extra revenue simply to finance a quick improvement in living standards through tax reductions and increased social benefits to an extent which left insufficient room for increased productive investment...It would be wrong to spend the benefits of North Sea Oil in this way. It will be recalled that a useful balance of payments surplus was built up in 1969-70; but that this was rapidly dissipated in a short lived consumer boom in the early seventies leaving no permanent improvement in our economy... Sustained economic growth and a return to full employment, would not be possible if our investment strategy were to fail."

Now it is rubbish to say that if living standards and the social services were increased by the extent of the oil revenues, then there would be 'insufficient room' for productive investment. The extra resources from North Sea Oil are less than one fifth of the size of the resources wasted each year in British industry due to the unused capacity of 20% or more, as revealed in the National Institute's survey last year.

The reason that capacity is not used is simply that it is not profitable to do so. If it were mobilised there would be plenty of resources for addi-



tional consumption, social expenditure and investment. What the White Paper is really saying is that the capitalists will not expand production and increase investment unless the workers' share of the wealth ('living standards' and 'social benefits') is held back to 'make room' for higher profits.

What then is the Government's "investment strategy"? It is summarised in the memorable sentence: "Investment can be planned and executed only within industry itself. "The best the Government can do is to 'help' by using the oil revenues to guarantee the continuation of the present level of investment incentives (currently worth more than

£4,000 million a year), which the White Paper concedes to be "already comprehensive and generous."

Despite the CBI's protests at the proposed expansion of selective grants to particular industries and firms—their objection is to the selectivity not the grants of course—there is no question of the government really getting control of profitable manufacturing investment as envisaged in Labour's Programme 1973 (or 1976 for that matter) through the NEB and Planning Agreements.

True, the NEB has a "vital role" through its major subsidiaries (Leylands etc), through "exploiting important growth opportunities or assisting industrial restructuring" (along the lines of

Speke?) and through backing "enterprising small firms in areas of high unemployment" (which won't disqualify any enterprising small firms). Buried, though for good and all as far as the White Paper is concerned is the idea of nationalising 'major, profitable companies in manufacturing.

Contradiction

There is also a ritual bow to Planning Agreements to "provide a means of concerting action by Government and individual firms" but there is no discussion, of course, of why only one has been signed; that one, with Chryslers, showed that the only action the capitalists will agree should be "concerted" is bailing them out when they are bankrupt.

But will the government's strategy of bigger handouts, combined with its general policies of trying to hold down the exchange rate and wages to maintain competitiveness (profitability), really work?

The White Paper admits that 'no programme designed to stimulate investment can succeed unless the economic background encourages industrial expansion. "Simply giving the capitalists more cash will not lead to increased investment unless they can see a profitable market.

But generating a rapid expansion by cutting taxation and increasing social spending would not lead to an investment boom either as the experience of the early seventies shows. Because of the increased share of wealth which would go to the workers, the capitalists would not foresee profitable investment opportunities in private industry and would invest their profits in property speculation and the like.

So the government faces a contradiction. Without an expansion of the economy, the capitalists will not invest. With too rapid an expansion, they will not invest.

If only other countries would respond to the Government's urging of "the need for effective action to bring the world economy out of the present recession".

But the very day before the White Paper was published 'The Times' reported from Brussels that Denis Healey has failed to persuade the German government to take more expansionary action, and that the EEC was foreseeing growth of less than 3% this year as compared with the target of 4-4½% set last autumn.

The fact is, that the Government has no coherent strategy for using North Sea Oil revenues, or anything else for that matter, to restore full utilisation of society's resources. All it can do 'if the world economy does not recover rapidly', is to "start expanding the economy through appropriate fiscal and monetary policies."

Illusions

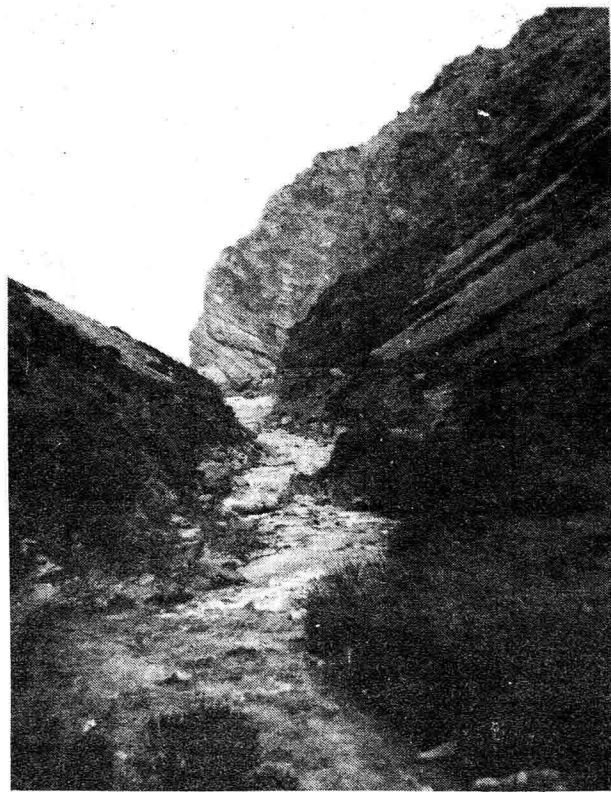
Presumable Dennis Healey's Budget will contain measures aimed at securing perhaps 3-3½% growth. But this with 20% excess capacity would leave the extent of unemployment and wasted resources unaffected.

The government has totally abandoned Labour's policies to get control over the investment and production decisions of the private sector, policies which 'Militant' has always argued would be insufficient, but which would at least be a step in the right direction.

The only useful purpose served by this White Paper would be if it finally lays to rest the idea that the cuts of the past three years, plus North Sea Oil, will see the economy right—and thereby brings it home to those who had illusions in North Sea Oil as a magic solution that socialist policies provide the only means of planning the resources of the North Sea and the UK as a whole.



"The Menace of Fascism: What it is and how to fight it": Ted Grant's classic pamphlet analyses the development of Mosley's Blackshirts and British Fascists, and explains the development of fascist reaction in Germany and Spain. It is reprinted in this edition together with a new introduction by Roger Silverman, which deals with the threat of racist and fascist reaction, now, in Britain and internationally.



Heddon's Mouth, North Devon...beautiful for summer visits...

RURAL LIFE

Picturesque but desolate



But working on the land is no holiday

Photo: Chris Davies (Report)

The problems facing rural areas are basically the problems of an unplanned economy. This is the main conclusion drawn in the document 'Socialism and the Rural Worker' written by Phil Frampton (LPYS National Committee) and endorsed by the South West Regional Labour Party Young Socialists Conference in February.

Industry and commerce are centred in the most highly populated areas of the country—London and the South East, and Birmingham and the Midlands—as a large workforce and markets are all to hand, reducing the cost of transport and communication. In fact, a third of the population of Great Britain live in the South East.

Only where there are sufficient people to provide an acceptable profit level will capitalism provide jobs, housing, decent roads, transport, entertainment and leisure facilities. Thus in the "provinces", the level of unemployment is higher, fewer homes are available, the transport system is inadequate and very often entertainment is non-existent.

Ilfracombe, in North Devon, where I come from, is one of the country's unemployment blackspots. In December, 1977, the 'North Devon Journal Herald' reported Mr Douglas Corkett (principal careers officer for Devon County Council) as saying that, although the

increase in the number of young people unemployed in Devon appears to be 20.5% since last Christmas, the real figure was more like 57%. "that would be the percentage if those youngsters engaged in the various special government schemes were included in the number not in permanent employment."

As a tourist resort, Ilfracombe relies very heavily on the summer holiday trade. People work in hotels and restaurants or on the pitch and put or golf course, etc., during the "season" and depend on this income to tide them over the winter.

Conscripts

The hotel and restaurant jobs are very poorly paid. This summer my brother is hoping to get a job washing dishes in a local restaurant where the rate is 60p an hour—and this is considered good!

During the winter, jobs are almost impossible to get unless you are lucky enough to get into one of the very few local factories. Again, the factories in rural areas pay especially low wages because very often the workers are not organised. Where there are unions, they are not usually strong. In any case, the alternative of unemployment prevents any complaints about wage levels.

So winter means six months on the dole for most people. There is an unemployment benefit office in Ilfracombe but the nearest Job Centre is

15 miles away in Barnstaple (75p each way on the bus). Most young people in and around Ilfracombe are used to travelling, however, as Ilfracombe school serves a surrounding area of 50 miles.

After leaving school those young workers face a choice: either accept a temporary summer job and hope something "turns up" in October, or move away to a city where there is more chance of a job. In this way unemployment splits up families and friends and is responsible for a great deal of upset and loneliness. Rural areas are increasingly becoming communities of the old, as young people are herded into the towns and the retired come to spend their last days in the country.

Once I was economically conscripted to the city in this way, and I now find it increasingly difficult to return home for visits. It is hardly worth traipsing down for the weekend because, although the distance from Bristol (where I work) to Ilfracombe is only 100 miles, the train travels via Exeter then to Barnstaple. You have to catch the bus from Barnstaple to Ilfracombe as the railway line has been cut. The train fare for a weekend return is £7.39. When returning on Sunday it is even worse as not only do you have to catch Sunday service buses, but you have to change at Exeter and Taunton (where there is a 1½ hour wait). On Sundays, I leave home at 1.30 pm and arrive at Bristol Temple Mead at 9pm

after a 7-hour journey!

If you decide to stay at home and are fortunate enough to get a job and some money to spend, there are very few places you can take it. In Ilfracombe, as in many other holiday towns, the cinemas and theatres etc. are only open during the 'season'. In the winter the nearest disco is 15 miles away. If you don't fancy the film on at the pictures you've "had it" as there is only one to choose from. The most popular pastimes are going to the pub and the betting office, or staying in to watch TV—and then it may be in Welsh!

Second Homes

Housing is especially bad in the countryside. In 1976, 34% of all houses in rural Devon lacked piped water. The shortage of homes is made worse by the continuing emigration of wealthy commuters into the countryside where they snap up "picturesque" second homes. By doing this they deny local people any homes at all, and push up all the house prices. In 1973, there were 3,000 'second homes' in Devon alone.

Agriculture is a declining industry. At present the number of workers employed in agriculture is declining by about 4% a year. Workers are increasingly being replaced by machines and farms are becoming larger and larger as small-holders are being forced off the land.

The Wreckers



The only major rock venue in Scotland is to become a bingo hall.

This was revealed recently when the owners of Glasgow's Apollo Centre announced their intention to lease the Apollo to Mecca when the current lease expires in July.

George Green Ltd., who own the Apollo, say that they do not get a high enough rent at present and it will only

become economic for them to lease if Mecca turn it into a bingo hall. Since the Apollo was opened five years ago over 1.5 million tickets have been sold for concerts there. When the demand for a large concert hall in Scotland is so obvious, it is disgraceful that the only one should be closed down to open yet another bingo hall to boost Mecca's profits.

The closure of the Apollo would be the last nail in the

coffin of live entertainment in Scotland as far as working class youth are concerned. Major rock acts would never play Scotland because of the lack of suitable venues. And not only rock fans are affected: acts from Billy Connolly to Glen Campbell have played the Apollo in recent years.

The Apollo has never been run as an act of kindness to the young people of Scotland. They have always had to pay the high ticket prices which all major acts demand. The promoters also sell the usual range of badges, T-shirts and programmes and the Apollo sell highly priced snacks in its café to boost profits still further.

The Apollo is already closed to thousands of low-paid and unemployed workers who cannot afford the £4-plus which some bands demand for two hours or less of entertainment. The central problem is this: while the leisure industry is run for

profit and not need, the areas with the lowest standard of living will always suffer from lack of leisure facilities—particularly for the youth.

In the short term, we must demand that the Apollo is taken into public ownership on the grounds that it provides an important service in an area where no other establishment exists to replace it. No compensation should be paid to the old owners, who have already made a fortune from their control of the only large concert hall in Scotland.

The working class will never have adequate access to leisure facilities as long as control of the leisure industry remains in private hands. Only when the leisure industry is run by the working class in the framework of a socialist planned economy will the working class have full access to recreational facilities.

Martin Green
N.Edinburgh LPYS

A Review of 'Socialism and the Rural Worker' by Christine Batten (Bristol South East LPYS)

What the LPYS document points out is that the interests of agricultural and industrial workers, urban and rural workers, are the same. Socialist policies are the only answer to the many extra problems encountered in the countryside, and these are outlined in the document. They include:

*A scheme of public works based on the needs of agriculture, industry, health and recreation.
*Cheap credits and loans to small working farmers.
*Nationalisation of all large farms, under the democratic

control of the agricultural workers and managed by the organisation of the working class.

*A fully integrated transport system.

These demands can only be brought to fruition through a socialist planned economy. It is up to the Labour Party Young Socialists to campaign in the labour movement and show rural workers that, like their urban brothers, their only future lies in the implementation of socialist policies.

Workers' Notebook

Prices down to single figures! Now the increase is only running at 9.5%. Perhaps we can have an equal amount of publicity for the way earnings have only just crept up to 9.4%.

Department of Employment
Press Notice: March 15th 1978

Amid all the talk of Britain being "back on the road to recovery" manufacturing industry production was at exactly the same level in January as it was between April and June last year. While there has been a slight increase in production in some industries, others, like metal manufacturing, are catastrophically down by 6.2% in three months and 12 points below where they were last January.

CSO Press Release.
15th March 1978, Table 1

The Tories bleat about the police force being under strength. The authorised establishment of police is now 116,880, the highest of any time in the last ten years. Since 1966 it has grown by more than 12,000.

CSO: Annual Abstract of Statistics, 1977 Table 41, p 97

When "The Great Game" was first published last year it was widely commented on in the capitalist press. To read the reviews would be to suppose that the chief merit of this book lay in the account by the author, Leopold Trepper, of the work of the "Red Orchestra", the name given by the Gestapo to the Russian intelligence network that functioned in underground Europe during the second world war. The publishers seek to deepen this impression by emblazoning the book jacket with the title "Memoirs of a Master Spy".

The more serious commentators, on the other hand, have highlighted the persecution of Trepper by the Stalinist regimes of Russia and Poland because he is a Jew. But not withstanding these very interesting aspects of the book, its real importance to the labour movement lies in Trepper's account of the heroic struggle of his generation against capitalism and its distilled essence—fascism. More over, despite his terrible sufferings through the nightmare of Stalinism, his faith in the socialist future of mankind is undimmed. Not for Trepper the whining of the Sakharovs, Solzenitsyns and their hankering for a return to capitalism in Russia and Eastern Europe. He merely asks that today's youth absorb the lessons of the defeats of his generation in the struggle for socialism.

Trepper was born in Poland, became a Left wing Zionist and left for Palestine in 1924, at the age of twenty. His experiences soon taught him that Zionism was no solution to the problems of the Jews. Only a socialist society could eliminate racial and religious divisions and oppression. He therefore joined the Palestinian Communist Party and successfully organised

the Arab and Jewish workers through Ichud (Unity). To the consternation of Ben Gurion and other Zionist leaders, "By the end of 1925 there were clubs in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv, and even in the agricultural villages where Arabs and Jews worked side by side." The British authorities, illegalised the CP and forced it underground and the Zionist leaders vigorously persecuted those who wished to cement Jewish and Arab unity. Later on the British and the Zionists found an unexpected ally in Stalin's "Communist International" (Comintern).



Stalin

In 1929, during the insane ultra-left "Third Period", ordained by Stalin and imposed on the Communist Parties throughout the world, "The directors of the Comintern had given the Palestinian Communist Party the watchword 'Bolshevisation and Arabisation'. Since the party leaders were Jewish, they were all called back to Moscow." All of these leaders perished in Stalin's purges and the murders of foreign Communists in the 1930s. Most of them, including Trepper, had opposed the Comintern's incredible support for the anti-Jewish rioting in 1928 which was accompanied by lynchings. The Comintern hailed this as "the beginning of the rise of the Arab proletariat".

On the other hand, Trepper also shows that the thoroughly

THE TROTSKYIS

corrupted Communist Party leaders would not hesitate to beat the drum of Jewish chauvinism if it served their purpose. After his forced emigration from Palestine to France, Trepper worked among the Jewish workers of Paris. On one occasion he organised a meeting of Jews in a synagogue and invited the French CP leader, Marcel Cachin, to address the meeting:

"Dear Friends, it is a great honour for me to be here among the representatives of a race which has given the world some great revolutionaries. I am talking about Jesus Christ, Spinoza, and Marx!"

The speaker was interrupted by thunderous applause. Surprised and annoyed by these words, which had the ring of petit-bourgeois nationalism, I lowered my eyes, not daring to look around the room. But Marcel Cachin went on in the same tone.

"I'm sure you're aware, my friends, that Karl Marx's grandfather was a rabbi."

I could not care less about all this; but the audience was entranced by it. They seemed to find it much more important than the writing of 'Capital' by the grandson of the rabbi in question.

Many such incidents are related by the author, showing the organic opportunism and stupidity of Stalin and his puppets in the leadership of the "Communist" Parties of Western Europe. In his criticism of Stalin's and the German CP leadership's refusal to organise a United Front with the Social

Democrats against the rise of Nazism, he echoes the criticism made by Leon Trotsky at the time.

But the core of the book and the most important are those chapters which detail the inner mechanics of Stalin's regime. Trepper was ideally placed to observe the Stalinist machine in operation. In 1932, full of idealism, he had set out for "the Land of the October Revolution" in order to deepen his "theoretical knowledge". But very quickly "an abyss was suddenly gaping between the theory disseminated at our university and reality."

Protest

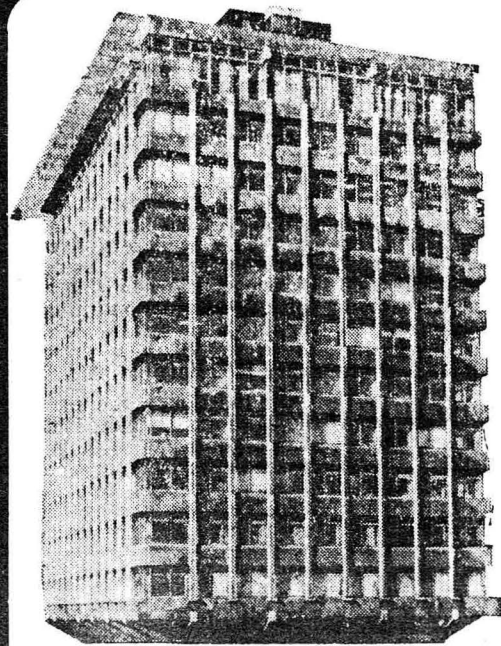
He read Lenin's "suppressed testament" which had called for the removal of Stalin as General Secretary. He also witnessed—and as a journalist was forced to participate in—the deification of Stalin as the God-head of the bureaucratic élite which had usurped power and was ruthlessly suppressing all opposition. The tyrannical power of Stalin alarmed even sections of the bureaucracy and briefly flared up in a silent opposition at the 1934 (Stalinist) Party conference:

In 1934, at the seventeenth congress of the party, was the first time no resolution came to a vote. By the show of hands, the delegates passed a motion resolving to let themselves "be guided by the ideas and objectives proposed in the speeches by Comrade Stalin." This sanctioned the total domination of the party by the secretary general. But every coin has another side. This absolute power, despotic

MEMOIR OF STALIN MASTER SPY

Reviewed by

and already tyrannical, which had slowly asserted itself over the past ten years, alarmed some of the delegates. The election of the members of the Central Committee by secret ballot was the occasion for a last flicker of life. The victory went to Stalin and Kirov. The official proclamation was that they had received the votes of all the delegates but three. What really happened was quite different: two hundred and sixty delegates, or over a quarter of the total, had crossed out Stalin's name. The organiser of the congress, Kaganovich, was terrified; he decided to burn the ballots and announce the same number of votes for Stalin that had actually been won by Kirov. Naturally, this behind-the-scenes transaction did not escape Stalin's



Millbank HQ of the IRD

After Watergate, the turmoil in the American state machine produced a stream of dramatic and horrifying revelations about the activities of the US intelligence agencies, particularly the CIA. The glare of publicity, however, even in this country, also diverted attention away from the virtually identical activities of the security services here.

The CIA, for instance, organised a vast, world-wide propaganda network which secretly channelled money and material into the hands of influential individuals and journals peddling ideas considered to be in the interests of the American ruling class. The CIA particularly

aimed to exert an undercover ideological influence in the labour movement, and there is no doubt that it channelled funds to right-wing groupings in the Labour Party.

But it has now come to light that in Britain, too, the state financed its own secret propaganda agency.

Mayhew

This hitherto secret, right-wing organisation nestled for the past 30 years under the covering wings of the British Foreign Office. The organisation in question was known as the Information Research Department (IRD) and revelation of its anti-left-wing activities may

surprise even those who already recognise how the secret service is used as an auxiliary force of the ruling class against the labour and trade union movement.

The IRD was the brainchild of Christopher Mayhew, who more recently deserted the Liberals. He was then a junior minister in the Foreign Office of the post-war Labour government. His original idea was to have an organisation to produce speakers' notes for ministers and 'friendly' Labour MPs to help them combat left-wing opposition in the Labour Party and trade unions.

From these humble origins the IRD developed into a sophisticated machine for the

production of right-wing propaganda which was disseminated in Britain and abroad, with the aim of influencing opinion in the labour movement and news media. The kept press of big business have kept strangely quiet about the discovery of this organisation, set up by the right wing of the Labour Party to help produce and spread their ideas, using government money to pay for the operation. In contrast to the hysterical crescendo raised against the 'Militant' about a year ago, there has scarcely been a whisper about the IRD (except in the more 'serious' 'Guardian' and Sunday 'Observer').

Within a year of its foundation in 1948 the IRD was paying a hidden subsidy to an anti-communist magazine, 'Freedom First', which was circulated to several hundred key trade unionists. Much of the material contained in 'Freedom First' was supplied by the IRD on a strictly confidential basis.

In similar fashion the IRD helped in the publication of anti-left wing books. It suggested names and titles to various publishers, using intermediaries. It arranged to buy back large numbers of these books and distribute them free throughout its contact network nationally and internationally. For example, David Floyd, the Communist affairs correspondent of the 'Daily Telegraph' wrote a booklet on China at the request of the IRD.

As well as these manipulators, the IRD worked to influence the news media in Britain. Secret

lists of "approved" journalists were compiled to whom material was offered. By the time the IRD was wound up, in May, 1977, this list contained a hundred names, including three leading journalists from 'The Financial Times', two from 'The Observer', five from 'The Sunday Times', five from 'The Times', six from the 'Economist', two from the 'Mirror', and one from the 'Daily Mail', 'Express', and 'Sunday Express' respectively.

Propaganda

According to a recent article in 'The Guardian' (27th January) the journalists were told that the documents they were being provided with were "prepared in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, primarily for members of the diplomatic service, but we are allowed to give them on a personal basis to a few people outside the service who might find them of interest...they are not statements of official policy and should not be attributed to Her Majesty's Government, nor should the titles themselves be quoted in discussion or print. The papers should not be shown to anyone else and they should be destroyed when no longer needed."

The British operation of the IRD was repeated internationally where the slant of its material was to hit back at Russian propaganda as hard as possible. By the 1950s the staff of the Soviet section of the IRD alone numbered sixty people.

Secret Foreign Office aid for Labour Right

TS WERE RIGHT

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Leopold Trepper was organiser of the "Red Orchestra", the Russian spy network in Nazi Germany. In his astounding memoirs, he reveals the inner mechanics of Stalin's regime—and provides a magnificent vindication of Leon Trotsky's struggle against Stalinism.

y Peter Taaffe Part 1

notice; the vote triggered the bloody process that would lead to the great purges.

Shortly after this, Kirov was assassinated and Leon Trotsky speculated that, although Nikolaiev had pulled the trigger, it could not be discounted that Stalin was behind the Kirov affair. This is confirmed by Trepper: "Stalin eliminated a rival and justified the purge at the same time." And this was but the dress rehearsal for the show trials and blood purges which resulted in the elimination of all Lenin's closest collaborators—Zinoviev, Kamenev, Bukharin—the destruction of the last vestiges of the Bolshevik Party and the murder of foreign revolutionaries who had sought refuge in Russia, some of them from Mussolini and Hitler.

But Trepper is not satisfied with merely detailing the crimes of Stalin. Not even sparing

himself, he indicts all those who remained silent while Stalin and his henchmen perpetrated their dirty deeds. With rare honesty, moreover, he reserves the greatest praise for those who, against enormous odds, fought Stalinism to the death. His words deserve to be quoted in full:

And yet we went along sick at heart, but passive, caught up in machinery we had set in motion with our own hands. Mere cogs in the apparatus, terrorised to the point of madness, we became the instruments of our own subjugation. All those who did not rise up against the Stalinist machine are responsible, collectively responsible. I am no exception to this verdict.

But who did protest at that time? Who rose up to voice his outrage?

The Trotskyites can lay claim to this honour. Following the example of their leader, who was rewarded for his obstinacy with the end of an ice-axe, they fought Stalinism to the death, and they were the only ones who did. By the time of the great purges, they could only shout their rebellion in the freezing wastelands where they had been dragged in order to be exterminated. In the camps, their conduct was admirable. But their voices were lost in the tundra.

Today, the Trotskyites have a right to accuse those who once howled along with the wolves. Let them not forget, however, that they had the enormous advantage over us of having a coherent political system capable of replacing Stalinism. They had something to cling to in the midst of their profound distress at seeing the revolution betrayed. They did not "confess", for they knew that their confession would serve neither the party nor socialism. (My emphasis—PT)

What a magnificent vindication of Leon Trotsky and his struggle against the nightmare of Stalinism! Nor could Trepper be accused of harbouring "secret Trotskyist" sentiments at the time. As he himself remarks, he had vigorously fought the Trotskyists in France in the 1930s. Compare the bold conclusions and criticisms of Stalinism made by Trepper to the shamefaced and partial objec-

tions to some aspects of Stalinism by some of the leaders and miserable scribes of the "Communist Party" today.

Following the death of Stalin, many of these worthies made haste to declare their ignorance of Stalin's crimes. Trepper completely punctures this myth. He details the foreign communists who were struck down by Stalin's purges and then comments:

These decisions were made in official meetings of the International. How is it that no leader of the great parties of Europe raised his hand to call for the creation of a committee of investigation? How could they have looked on while their comrades in arms were sentenced without proof? After the twentieth congress in 1956, all these leaders feigned astonishment. To hear them, Khrushchev's report was a real revelation. In reality, they had been the knowing accomplices of the liquidations, including those of members of their own parties.

Trepper correctly concludes that the Trotskyists—that is, genuine Marxism—had an "enormous" advantage over others. Then—and now—they were the only ones who were armed with a scientific analysis of the causes of Stalinism and a programme of workers' democracy capable of replacing it.

Explanation

Leon Trotsky and his supporters were alone in explaining the reasons for the rise of a privileged caste of officials with Stalin as their spokesman. This élite which had usurped power from the working class destroyed the soviets, the workers' and peasants' democracy established by the October Revolution, and killed all those who were linked, no matter how tenuously, to the heroic period of the October Revolution. He showed in a series of brilliant works that the causes of Stalinism lay in the isolation of the Russian Revolution to a single, predominantly peasant-based country.

Lenin and Trotsky had envisaged the Russian Revolution as the spark which would ignite European and world revolution. Before the Revolution they had shown that it was impossible to establish socialism in one coun-



Leon Trotsky [left] with Natalya Sedova sailing near Prinkipo, Turkey, where they were exiled. The third person was known as "Sobolevichus-Senlin": he turned out to be a Stalinist agent, later arrested—as Jack Sobel—for spying in the United States.

try or even in a number of backward countries.

The beginning of socialism is only possible on the basis of a level of production and technique higher than the highest stage reached by capitalism, i.e. higher than capitalist America today. Only on the basis of a super-abundance of goods, with want abolished completely, would it be possible to begin to dissolve the state, money, and classes, into a self-governing community. A world socialist federation would undoubtedly open up such possibilities. But for the betrayals of the Social Democratic leaders of Germany, Italy, France and the rest of Western Europe in the period of 1917-23, the Russian Revolution would have ushered in the establishment of a socialist federation throughout the world.

But the isolation of the Revolution, the low level of culture, the backwardness and the deepened poverty and hunger caused by the Civil War (when parts of Russia reverted to cannibalism), together with the destruction of the self-sacrificing and heroic generation of workers and peasants who had participated in the October Revolution, led to the growth of a conservative stratum of officials in the State, the Army and the Party. Over a period of time, the masses were elbowed aside from the management and control of the state, and the soviets, the workers' and peasants' councils, were emasculated. Gradually, the growing bureaucratic élite concentrated power in its hands and the state machine rose above society.

Stalin personified and reflected the pressure of this within the Bolshevik Party. His utterly anti-Marxist "theory" of "socialism in one country" was a summing-up of the abandonment by these parvenues of Bolshevism's perspectives of world revolution. In its place

they put a policy of diplomatic pressure on the capitalist states and horse-deals with the leaders of the workers' parties of Western Europe. This in turn resulted in the wrecking of many revolutionary opportunities in Europe and the colonial world, which further isolated the Russian Revolution and thus strengthened the hold of the bureaucracy.

From a position of lacking any confidence in the victory in the Revolution in the West, the bureaucracy moved to the situation at the time of the Spanish Civil War, where it mortally feared the success of Revolution in the West. They understood that a successful revolution in the West would lead to their overthrow and the regeneration of the Revolution through workers' democracy. It was for this reason that Stalin acted as the grave-digger of the Spanish Revolution and at the same time unleashed the purge trials, characterised by Trotsky as a "one sided Civil War".

All those who were connected with the heroic period of the Russian Revolution and the Spanish Revolution were struck down. Trepper relates the protests of General Berzin, then head of Russian intelligence, on his return from Spain, who protested personally to Stalin at the persecution, torture and murder of Communists in Spain, even though he knew that this would cost him his life.

In Part 11 of his review, Peter Taaffe covers Trepper's recollections of the great purge of "Old Bolsheviks" and Stalin's disastrous military policies at the beginning of the second world war.

"The Great Game" by Leopold Trepper is published by Michael Joseph [£6.95]. Order from World Books.



The central committee of the Bolshevik party in 1917: the fate of each of the 24 [as of 1928] is recorded...shot, dead, in prison, in exile...

Bob Wylie

(East Kilbride Labour Party)

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL INVADES LEBANON

The Middle East has once again been plunged into the vicious circle of violence and counter violence, of the killings of Jews by Arabs and Arabs by Jews. The trigger for this latest chapter in the bloody saga of the Middle East was the insane attack mounted by a Palestinian terrorist group in Israel on March 11th. In a completely indiscriminate fashion, Israeli civilians were murdered, beginning with a young American tourist who the group met upon landing in Israel. In a bloody rampage, 34 people were killed, including most of the Palestinians, and many more were wounded.

No matter what the legitimate grievances and terrible sufferings of the Palestinian workers and peasants, nothing could justify these indiscriminate methods of individual terrorism. The world, including the labour movement, was horrified and outraged.

This attack, moreover, was just the pretext which the right-wing Israeli government, led by Begin, was looking for to launch the invasion of South Lebanon—to "cut off the arm" of the Palestinian guerrillas. The invasion and indiscriminate bombing and shelling of Palestinian and Lebanese towns and villages is equally as horrifying and has certainly resulted in greater misery and many more casualties.

Devastation

An estimated 170,000 civilians have been driven from their homes in South Lebanon. Hundreds, including women and children, have died under the hail of bombs and shells which have rained down. The great sea of misery of the Lebanese people has widened and deepened. In Beirut the recent gun battles which have taken place have been not between Christians and Moslems but between the displaced refugees and the landlords who have employed armed guards to defend their empty flats!

Begin has tried to justify the invasion by Israel's need to establish a "six-mile security zone"; but there is little doubt that he intended this as cover for the annexation of the whole of South Lebanon up to the Litani River, thereby re-establishing the border of "Biblical Israel." American imperialism, however, had different ideas. It feared that the continued occupation of Lebanon, together with the intransigence of Begin over the West Bank of the Jordan, would torpedo Sadat's "peace initiative". This in turn could result in the overthrow of the pro-capitalist, pro-American



Palestinians picket outside Egyptian Embassy in London at the time of Sadat's "peace-initiative" visit to Jerusalem

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Arab and Jewish workers hold key to solution

Sadat government—and in another Middle East war.

Egypt has accumulated problems of nightmarish proportions as a result of the shift towards the right of the Sadat regime. In 1976 the overseas debt of the country was 12.2 billion dollars, nearly ten times its merchandise exports! This amounts to 302 dollars a head, higher than the Egyptian's average annual income! Even the right-wing 'Sunday Telegraph' (19 February) recently pointed to the "subsistence existence for millions and a sharp contrast between the Cadillacs and Mercedes of the rich and the thousands of Cairenes who camp out in the old Cairo graveyards." Over 25 per cent of Egypt's gross national product is spent on defence. The bitterness and anger of the Egyptian masses burst out in the January 1977 riots, the biggest upheavals in the country for 25 years.

Fear

These are the factors which pushed Sadat into his "peace" gamble with Israel. Undoubtedly, he calculated that if a separate peace could be made with the Israeli ruling class, combined with aid from American imperialism, defence cuts could be made and perhaps allow some of Egypt's problems to be solved.

The Carter administration favoured such a deal as a means of averting another general conflagration throughout the area with all the dangers this involves. Another Middle East war and a defeat of the Arabs could lead to further massive increases in the price of oil which

would strike a heavy blow to world capitalism, and particularly at American imperialism, now heavily dependent on Middle East oil. Carter also hoped that a separate deal between Egypt and Israel would isolate the radical Arab regimes, particularly the deformed workers' state of Syria.

This in turn could prepare the ground for some kind of military action and possibly the defeat of the Syrian Revolution and of the threat of socialist revolution throughout the whole area.



Foreign Minister Dyan

In the final analysis, fear of revolution is the guiding principle of the Carter administration and of the Arab and Israeli ruling classes. This was recently spelt out in an article in the 'Washington Post' (reprinted in the 'Guardian Weekly', 15 January) by Stephen Rosenfeld: "The hang-up is revolution: the underlying fear that Anwar Sadat or Jordan's King Hussein or Saudi Arabia's King Khalid, each in his own way a "moderate", sits on a social volcano and could be blown off by "radicals" ...The Arab-Israeli dispute has been for the Arabs, very real. But at the same time it has lent itself to being treated as a piece of

political theatre, staged by élites to divert the masses from conditions of backwardness...the Palestinian movement represents not only the fulfilment of a national revolution but also the threat of a social revolution."

In the wake of Sadat's peace manoeuvre, however, Carter has seen the Begin government undermine the possibility of a separate peace by its refusal to make even the minor and entirely cosmetic concessions demanded by Sadat. Thus the "concessions" offered by Begin included "autonomy" or "self rule" for the West Bank, but with the policing (that is the real power) in the hands of the Israelis. The Palestinians condemned this as an attempt to set up "Bantustans" in the area. Moreover, through Jewish "settlements", the colonisation of Arab lands is to continue, not just in the West Bank but in Sinai after the area is "handed back" to the Egyptians!

Carter wanted to concede some kind of "right of self-determination" to the Palestinians without supporting the idea of a "Palestinian homeland". The Begin government was implacably opposed to even these minimum, and mainly verbal, concessions. But in adopting this stance they were endangering the interests of American imperialism: the overthrow of Sadat, as a result of Israeli intransigence, would mark a shift to the left and the beginning of preparations for a new Middle East war.

Carter has consequently cracked the whip, as Eisenhower did in 1957 when he insisted that his client, Israel, should withdraw from Sinai and the

Gaza strip. Moreover, his adviser Brzezinski brutally told the Israeli foreign minister, Dayan, that Begin would have to be removed! Under the guise of the United Nations, Carter has instructed the Israelis to withdraw from South Lebanon.

Change

Meanwhile, the media in Britain and America has begun to switch its line. For decades the Israeli ruling class was painted almost as white as the driven snow and the Arabs in the blackest of blacks. Now the crimes of the Israeli capitalists and the sufferings of the Arabs are being reflected in the media. This has nothing to do with humanitarian considerations or the interests of the Jewish and Arab masses. It is the naked interest of the capitalists which has determined the policies of imperialism in the area. Nor is the Russian bureaucracy capable of showing a way out of the bloody impasse which the area is in.

Diplomatic horse-deals are incapable of showing a way out for the Middle East. The Israeli middle class will not readily agree to a separate Palestinian state, which they correctly fear will be a radical regime and a source of contagion of the whole area. For the same reasons, Carter is now also opposed to such a state. But the impoverished Palestinian workers and peasants will not be satisfied with mere verbal concessions. On the basis of capitalism, therefore, the scene is set for a ceaseless and bloody conflict throughout the area.

Terrorist attacks will not shake the Israeli state. On the contrary, they will drive the Israeli workers and peasants back into the arms of their own worst enemies, the Israeli capitalists.

Yet the Israeli working class, together with the Egyptian working class, are potentially the two most important forces for the socialist transformation of the area. In the past year, a massive protest movement and strikes have shaken the Begin government, which has launched a vicious right-wing programme of attacks on wages, social services and conditions. The government has carried through massive cuts in subsidies on food and services. This has given an added twist to inflation, which now stands at over 40 per cent, and has resulted in a wave of strikes, the latest of which included the seamen and postmen.

At the same time, there is undoubtedly a yearning for peace on the part of the Israeli people, as there is also among the Arab masses. A rising tide of opposition has greeted the Begin government's refusal to make even token concessions to the Palestinians and its decision to press ahead with settlements on the West Bank. "Three hundred Israeli reserve officers and soldiers in front-line units," reported 'The Times' (8th March) "have written to Mr Begin sharply criticising the government's settlement policy and its ideological commitment to possession of the whole of Biblical Israel...[which] will make it difficult for us to identify with the path of the state."

Solution

These developments could culminate in a class movement which would extend the hand of friendship to the Arab workers and peasants. But individual terrorist attacks and military assaults on Israel will undoubtedly cut across such a development and throw it backwards. One thing is clear: the key to the solution of the problems of the Middle East lies in the hands of the Arab and Israeli workers and peasants. Only this force can establish a socialist federation for the area—which would undoubtedly open up the possibility of a Jewish State and a Palestinian State, if such is desired by the Palestinian masses. With the enormous resources at its disposal, a Socialist Federation would eliminate the threat of war, unite Jew and Arab, and literally make the desert bloom for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the area.

By Bob Labi

SPAIN/VATICAN

LPYS ANSWERS JSE LEADERS' ALLEGATIONS

Tony Saunols, LPYS representative on the IUSY European Steering Committee, explains the issue raised at the Young Socialist Conference in Llandudno.

The British Labour Party Young Socialists first raised the question of assisting their sister organisation in Spain [Juventud Socialista d'Espana] in 1972.

They were the first in the labour movement, in Britain and internationally, to conduct a campaign for moral and financial support for the Spanish Young Socialists in the struggle against Spanish fascism and for the overthrow of the Franco régime.

They raised a substantial sum of over £8,500. Over £5,000 was sent directly to Spain; the remainder being used to organise meetings, bringing speakers from Spain and on publicity in Britain.

This aid was given when, internationally, no money was being collected by the other sections of IUSY (International Union of Socialist Youth). The British LPYS representatives fought for an international campaign of solidarity with the Spanish revolution.

But the reward for this sacrifice and activity has been malicious and poisonous rumours, spread by some of the leaders of the JSE among the IUSY leaders, that the leadership of the LPYS has misused funds raised for the JSE.

In reality, this slander was linked to the political attitudes of some of the JSE leaders. For over a year this

ugly lie has been circulated behind the scenes.

Last year, Dave Cotterill, then LPYS Chairman, was physically thrown out of the JSE Congress without explanation (see 'Militant' 377). The LPYS National Committee decided to invite the JSE to send a speaker to LPYS Conference to clear up this situation.

Allegations

Pedro Viana, a member of the JSE Executive, outlined their allegations that the LPYS had used the SYSDC funds to help the supporters of 'Nuevo Claridad', the Marxist paper in Spain, who are a minority of the Spanish labour movement. The LPYS, he said, had invited supporters of 'Nuevo Claridad' to speak on its platforms instead of JSE Executive members because of the political differences between the JSE and LPYS on the situation in Spain.

"The PSOE is a revolutionary Marxist party; like the LPYS, the JSE wants to nationalise the monopolies; but Marxism is not a dogma," Comrade Viana told the Conference.

Their strategy was shown in the PSOE's success in winning concessions from the government, like taxation reform, during the negotiations over the Moncloa Pact (Spanish Social Contract). Now the capitalist party, the

UCD, was refusing the keep to the pact, but the PSOE was leading the struggle to carry it out!

We hope that the SYSDC has not finished, went on Comrade Viana, but the LPYS has to decide who it supports. The LPYS cannot continue to support a minority which has been expelled from the JSE for breaking the rules.

Open discussion, said Comrade Viana, will hopefully overcome these differences and allow the JSE and LPYS to work together.

Nick Bradley, replying on behalf of the LPYS NC, began by echoing Eric Heffer's statement to the NEC that in Spain the PSOE and JSE appears to have a different way of working to the Labour Party, with the



Big London demonstration of Spanish Young Socialists Defence Campaign

expulsion of minority currents. "Since the Marxists first won a majority of the LPYS in 1970 we have not recommended the expulsion of any LPYS member," Nick said.

Repudiated

It was explained to Conference that, after a thorough inspection of the accounts, the Labour Party NEC had repudiated the charge of financial malpractice, and the National Committee demanded that the JSE do likewise. In September 1977, the LPYS had written to the JSE demanding either concrete charges or a clear denunciation of all the rumours but had received no reply.

Now it was clear, Nick said,

that the dispute was a political one. The Spanish Young Socialists Defence Campaign had sent money to the Spanish workers' movement with no strings attached. We sent money when the JSE had a right-wing leadership prior to its 1973 Congress, when it had a left wing leadership, and we sent our largest ever donation a few months after the internal 'coup' in the JSE of December 1975, when a new right-wing leadership took over.

But at the same time the LPYS made very clear its position on Spain. We are part of an international movement and comrades in one country have every right to criticise the policies put forward by fraternal parties in

another country.

The speakers who the LPYS invited over to Britain were all representatives of the Spanish workers. Pedro Garcia, who spoke at the Friday night mass meeting, came over with the agreement of the provincial committee of the Madrid UGT, was a member of the Madrid UGT Committee and of the PSOE, in spite of being expelled from the JSE.

Nick Bradley went on to appeal to the Spanish YS to send representatives to LPYS branches around Britain, to explain their ideas, and he hoped that they would let an LPYS National Committee member do the same in Spain.

This could help to clarify the political disagreements. We have nothing to fear and everything to gain from comradely political discussion.

We can all learn by this international exchange of ideas. Genuine Marxists are confident that their ideas will gain support because they are based on objective reality.

At the same time, the LPYS is demanding that the JSE condemn this poisonous campaign of accusations of financial fiddling which have not the slightest foundation, and that it take immediate action to bring it to an end.



LPYS Demonstration against Franco Regime, at LPYS Conference, Blackpool 1975

VATICAN PREDICTS REVOLUTION



Pope Paul, worried about the gold in the cellars.

Leon Trotsky once wrote: "The wind blows the tops of the trees first." Throughout its 2,000 years' experience the Church hierarchy has learnt to bend with the wind.

In recent times, for instance, we have seen the Spanish bishops, who supported Franco's fascist coup, switched to opposition once they saw the mass opposition to his tottering regime. The rank-and-file priests, much closer to their working class parishioners, actively participated in the struggles of the Spanish workers, with the churches being used for meeting halls. In Poland, on the other hand, the Catholic Church has learned to co-exist with the Stalinist regime of Gierek.

Now it seems that the Vatican has drawn conclusions that may well keep the strategists of capitalism awake at night. According to 'The Evening Standard' (29 March) "It believes that the coming power in the world is a form of proletarian revolution, embracing Italy, Spain, France, Portugal and Latin America. A lot of bishops are saying that starving babies will not be fed by capitalism and the only thing that will feed them will be socialism."

More concerned for the moment with the practical, rather than the spiritual

By Peter Jarvis

consequences of this, the Vatican "has shifted nearly five billion dollars out of Italy and into the United States."

However, even America, it seems, is not what it was: "The Pope privately thinks the US is 'over the hill' as a world power [but] he is convinced that in the coming era America will be the only place left on earth where Vatican investments can survive and prosper."

Italy is the worst place at the moment for the Vatican funds: "The Pope's intention...[is] to pull out of Italian money markets and switch to American shares and real estate. Disaster after disaster in the Sindona empire cost the Vatican losses which today amount to well over a billion dollars."

Compounding the temporal problems are the spiritual ones: "Great sections of France, Italy, Holland, Germany are de-Christianised. Many people in these sections are not even baptised. Overall, throughout Western Europe and the Catholic countries, there is no reasonable probability of a religious revival. Religion in the West is banished to the realm of personal belief and family life."

There is one ray of light, however: "The Church faces the prospect of 'making a deal' with Marxism while keeping its vast wealth in the last stronghold of capitalism."

When the Vatican spokesmen speak of 'Marxism' they mean the bureaucratic élite which dominates Eastern Europe and Russia. Their perspective is one of "totalitarian socialism" for Western Europe, similar to Eastern Europe. But the Vatican's expectations are mistaken:

The socialist revolution in Europe will go together with workers' democracy. They are however, devastatingly correct when they speak of "Proletarian [ie working class] revolution" in Europe. What realism compared to the leaders of the Social Democratic and Communist Parties! They—the Labour leaders!—see the socialist transformation of society as the vague music of an indefinite future. What is gloomy foreboding to the Vatican is the only hope for the working people of Europe, and indeed the globe.

But it will only become a reality if the mighty workers' organisations throughout the continent are re-armed with a Marxist programme. Then not even America will provide a last refuge for capitalism.

LETTERS

Cycle of Toil

Dear Comrades,

When Sunny Jim came on the TV last week at the Scottish Labour Party conference and said that living standards were rising, who was he trying to kid?

Workers at Rowntree-Mackintosh's factory in York are only too aware of the reality of the situation. My take-home pay for that week, for instance, came to the princely total of £36, whilst a work-mate who is married and has a mortgage to pay off received £43. This was for five days of shift-work, something I'm sure Callaghan doesn't know too much about.

By making such a statement, he proved just how much out of touch he is with the hard realities of life that are faced each day by working people. The only way most workers can make ends meet at our factory is by working all hours of the day and night on shift work and by working two extra shifts at the end of the week as overtime. What sort of social and family life are workers supposed to have under those type of conditions?

We don't want platitudes from Labour leaders about how things are bound to change and get better, we want socialist policies that will ensure that our living standards won't fall and a fighting programme that can end once and for all the continuous cycle of toil that most workers are tied to day in day out.

Yours fraternally
Alan Benyon
York GMWU
[Rowntree Branch]

Why Hate Christians?

Dear Editor,

I attended a meeting organised here in Bracknell, and noted carefully during the half hour address by Mr Ray Apps the usage of expressions such as 'the cancerous state of the present system'—two-thirds of the world's population having a lower standard of living—slackness—treachery—the need to overthrow these systems etc.

Now, I would not question the fact that corruption is rife, and that something has to be done about it. But what? I asked if I might ask a question, and was graciously invited to do so.

This was my question, and I speak as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ—"Why does Marxism so fiercely hate Christianity?"

I would clarify the definition of Christian as given by the Oxford dictionary "of Christ and his teaching, believing in or professing or belonging to or in harmony with the Christian religion."

What is so corrupt in Christ and his teaching that requires such fierce hatred to be exercised against Christians as, for example, in Eastern Europe?

I should like to hear the views of your readers on this question. Please don't avoid it by saying that one shouldn't argue about religion.

This is a very practical problem because it affects society, and surely Marxism or Socialism is all about people.

PS. As you will see from enclosed cheque and application form Militant sales have been boosted at least by one person!

Yours sincerely,
T. Whitmarsh

Workers by Brain

Dear Militant

I was somewhat puzzled and perplexed to read in Militant (issue 395) under 'It's a fact', that more than one third of Labour MPs were teachers and lecturers. Not that I would wish to dispute your figure, nor that I wish to defend this disproportionately high percentage of MPs from one particular occupation (as compared to less than 10% of manual workers which your column also mentions.)

Rather my puzzlement stemmed from the fact that it should be found in a column where you also quote figures relating to Tories and Peers, presumably in a derogatory sense to show up the class nature of our political system.

The inference seems to me, and others I have spoken to get the same meaning, that lecturers and teachers are somehow less than genuine in their socialist aspirations because they are not manual working class.

While it is true that many

Golden Slumbers

Dear Comrades

In the normal course of my duties at work I was told that two freight trains had been diverted and a third held back several hours. Diversions and delays cost money and can disrupt later working.

But I was assured it was all right. The Royal train had been 'stabled' overnight on its way north so that the royal occupant could enjoy a sound night's sleep. So it was all right.

And while the ducal head dreamed of gold-plated scissors cutting blue silk tapes, thousands of railwaymen throughout Britain were working the night shift for wages that wouldn't feed the corgis for a week, let alone a family.

My own father was one of them. No longer young but like many more doing hard manual work, 12-hour shifts, seven days a week for months at a time. With a basic wage under £40, overtime and working rest days are not optional extras. But I doubt if such thoughts troubled the regal repose.

The monarchy cannot be wished away though; it forms an essential part of capitalism's reserve army. Only the alternative economic foundations of socialism, producing for society's needs not private profit, can eradicate this parasitical minority rule.

With confidence in the ideas of Marxism expressed in 'Militant', I look forward to a socialist republic under the democratic rule of working men and women themselves.

Fraternally
Len Bates
TSSA Conference delegate

teachers and lecturers do express less than progressive views about status ie their own subjective view of where they stand in the social hierarchy, it is also true that in objective, material terms they are workers and not owners. Clause 1V (part 4) of the Labour Party Constitution to which your journal so often refers relates to 'workers by hand or by brain.'

If the intention of your column is purely to state facts then this letter is unnecessary but if as I suspect you were inferring what I suggest, then I think you do yourself a disservice by alienating those people in trades unions like NUT and NATFHE (who are after all important sections of the labour movement) who are trying to further the cause of socialism in schools and colleges throughout Britain.

Yours fraternally
Dave Grocott
Student teacher and
Stafford and Stone LPYS

Good Progress

Dear Comrades

I am writing on behalf of Hull University Labour Club to congratulate you on the appearance of the new, bigger, better 'Militant' newspaper.

It is always gratifying to see the socialist press in this country making significant progress at such an economically depressing time—and we all know who is to blame! Here's looking forward to the next development of the 'Militant'—and may it be soon.

Yours fraternally
S G Farmer
[Secretary HULC]

LPYS—Press Distortion

Dear Comrades,

Just a few lines to express my feelings of immense exhilaration after attending a truly magnificent Labour Party Young Socialist conference in Llandudno last weekend.

A fine example of democracy during which every accommodation was made for all minorities, notably illustrated in the time and patience given to Comrade Adrian Waite of Henley LPYS, who seemed to be in a minority of just one.

My patience was exhausted whilst looking through the national and local newspapers to find reports of debates on such matters of great importance, as racialism and the economic conditions faced by the working class.

Speaker after speaker got up to the rostrum determined to make their voice heard, the message was clear enough to all press agents present.

But in the national newspapers we get reports of—'Labour Calls on Punks'—Daily Mail 27.3.78, 'What we need is a sexy revolution' Daily Mail 28.3.78, 'Love nest plea for the young'—Daily

Express 28.3.78, 'Sex Parlours for young rejected' Journal (NEWC) 28.3.78

And elsewhere in the Guardian at the bottom of another article two lines for the whole conference.

Practically all newspapers failed to cover the tremendous debate on racialism. All this shows the true tyranny of the press barons who constantly attack left wing groups as a threat to democracy without allowing them the right of reply through the pages of their papers.

The only conclusion is the absolute necessity to contribute to the fighting fund whenever possible to build an invaluable daily representing true workers' democracy. Enclosed is a £20 donation, the last of my grant cheque.

Please print this letter to relieve some of my frustration of not having the opportunity to speak at a conference I was proud to attend.

Yours fraternally
Ashley Mardon
(Newcastle University
Labour Club)

Conference—Good Publicity

Dear Comrade,

During YS Conference the media covered the event only briefly. But the coverage given had a great effect on Labour Party members in the North Wales area.

When I was selling the paper outside the conference centre, I was approached by several Labour Party members asking if they could attend the conference.

One comrade from near

Cardiff said he had heard the debate on nationalism on the mid-day radio news, and he would like to set up a YS branch as he thought that most of the young people in his area were turning to the Welsh Nationalists because there was no socialist alternative such as provided by the YS. The nationalists seemed to be radical and providing an answer to working peoples' problems [socialist words,

capitalist actions!]

The LPYS must continue the fight for the broadcast already promised. This programme on the basis of socialist policies will bring a flood of new workers in the Labour Party and the Young Socialists.

Fraternally
Dave Todd
[Paddington LPYS]

JOIN THE LABOUR PARTY!

Dear Comrades,

I ask all readers of Militant who as yet have not joined the Labour Party to join and prepare themselves for the next council elections.

The Tories swept into control at the last council elections because our Labour Councils (or so-called Labour Councils) were dominated by the right, by non-union men and intellectuals, (do-gooders) doing little to further socialism: so they were kicked out.

We the working class must get control democratically by offering real socialist policies. I want grass root trade unionists to dominate the councils and to do so they must join the Labour Party as individuals.

As Jim Callaghan has told me the Labour Government cannot force councils to spend

money on what Labour wants because he says this is a democracy and not a dictatorship, so we as genuine socialists in councils will give the people what they want; socialism.

Comrades, the talking must stop. The Labour Party branches are all going to the left so our chance for change is nearly with us.

We are up against the Tory scaremongers and also unfortunately working class apathy. Our comrades will say they will make the effort to vote but on the day millions will not.

Even so we must not stop until we have Labour Councils dominated by real socialists and a Labour Government dominated by real socialists.

The pioneers who started the labour movement are

nearly all dead and gone. For 70 odd years the working class have been waiting for a socialist Britain.

Thanks to Militant our future is assured. Militant and its staff have shown us the example we needed. Now its up to us to stand as councillors and fight for rights that, as socialists we believe in.

We must not fail for the generations to come will never forgive us. United nothing will stop us.

But comrades, be wary of infiltrators. No more compromises with the right of our party. The do-gooders have had their chance and failed.

Yours fraternally
Alan Graham
Secretary, Penzance
Labour Party
(writing personally)

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 Sauniois (LPYS National Committee)
7.45 pm, Friday 14th April
Richard III Pub,
Highcross Street, Leicester

CO DURHAM
Militant Readers' Meeting
'The Socialist Way Forward'
7.30 pm, Thursday April 13th
Hillingdon Hotel,
Clyde Terrace, Spennymoor

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

SUNDERLAND
Militant Discussion Group. Every other Friday at 8.00 pm.
March 31st—Devolution and Socialism.
April 14th—The Paris Commune.
April 28th—France 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

ISLINGTON
Militant Readers' Meeting
Hear: Peter Taaffe (Editor)
'What We Stand For'
Friday April 7th, 8.00 pm
Islington Central Library (small hall), Holloway Rd, N.17

BRIGHTON
Militant Readers' Meeting
'The Struggle for Party Democracy'
Wednesday 12th April, 8.00 pm
Wagner Hall, Regency Road, West Street, Brighton

ASHINGTON
Militant Readers' Meetings
Venue:
Ashington Labour Rooms
May 2: 'France—1968 and Now'
Speaker to be arranged
May 23: 'Where is Britain Going?'
Speaker: Dave Cotterill
Meetings start 7.30 pm

SOUTH EAST WALES
Militant Supporters
Day of Action against Racialism and Fascism
Jack House Square
(off Heol Trelai) Ely, Cardiff
10.30 am, Saturday 8th April
For further details phone
Cross Keys 271168

Publications

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

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.

NEW 'MILITANT' PAMPHLETS JUST PUBLISHED
Peter Taaffe—Cuba: Analysis of the Revolution..... 10p
Roger Silverman—"Coming Revolution in India"..... 10p
'Militant' Teacher: "Education in Crisis"..... 15p

Please add 5p each for postage when ordering individual copies. Bulk orders post free.

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.

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

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'.

ROTHERHAM PUBLIC DEBATE
'Which Road to Socialism?'
Organised by the New Communist Party and the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment
Speakers:
Bob Hudson (Editor, 'New Communist Review') for the NCP
Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant') for the YCAU at the Howard Room, Rotherham Town Hall (Near Rotherham Bus Station)
Chairman:
Bill Moore ('Tribune')
Sunday 9th April, 7.15 pm

LONDON LPYS Regional Committee Golden Dart Trophy
April 8th, 8.00 pm
Hen & Chickens Pub, St Pauls Road, opp Highbury Tube
LPYS branches should send teams of 4, entry £1 per team

ADVERTS

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'.

EDGBASTON LPYS
Congratulations on the 16-page 'Militant' Forward to a daily paper to help the fight for socialism

PUTNEY LPYS Public Meeting, 10th April on Racialism
Speaker: Bob Lee (PNP Youth Secretary)
7.45 pm, Alton Club, Dilton Gardens, Alton Estate, off Roehampton Lane

Campaign For Labour Party Democracy Conference "It does look, without a doubt, as if compromise proposals are being projected in order to protect MPs who are not prepared to carry out Constituency or Party policies"—Emlyn Williams, President of South Wales Miners.
We must organise to stop the NEC reneging on its pledge on automatic reselection in 1978!
Working Conference: Saturday 20th May, 2-5 pm, Ruskin College, Oxford. Speakers: Bob Wright (AUEW Asst. Gen. Sec. and Presidential Candidate), John Miller (T&GWU National Officer) and Dennis Skinner (MP, Bolsover) and you.
Credentials 50p from Terry Hunt, Basingstoke CLP, 19 Richmond Road, Basingstoke, Hants.

Well done - but don't stop!

THIS WEEK: £2,470.41

Once again every area has sent down money this week. The excellent collection at the Militant Readers' Meeting at the LPYS Conference appears to have given everyone renewed enthusiasm for raising money.

To see the money just flood in was more than sufficient evidence of the support our paper has in the movement. It was a great boost for everyone.

This has been amply reflected by the amount sent in this week—£2,470.41, which brings our total to date to £13,046.50. Although we didn't make the £20,000 by the date given, I think every comrade should congratulate themselves.

This total represents over £1,000 a week coming in on average. A magnificent achievement.

Obviously if we are to raise the £35,000 by July 8th (the end of the second quarter) we are going to have to average about £1,400 a week and it can be done.

This week's individual contributions range from a £25 donation to donations of 10p. Unfortunately we don't have the space to name everyone but here are a few. £25 came from P Holmes of Perry Barr. Two tenners came in, from V Clarke (also from Perry Barr) and from M Todd of Wavertree. A Merron (Teesside) sent in £14.50 and 'Huw'—the "Wolfie of Dinas Powis" (?) sent £5.

Other donations include P Waddleworth (Dorset) £2.40, R Fleetwood (Hull) £2.50, B Garber (Birmingham TGWU) £3, P Burnett (Newcastle) £5, E Lowerson (Chester-le-Street) £3, T Kane (Stirling) £2, R Gaston (Gloucester) £2.30 and G Wilson (Cardiff South) £3. M Hulin and K Mahoney both from Bristol sent in £2 and £1.20 respectively and P Cousin (Plymouth) sent £1.25. Three school students in Southgate donated cash amounting to £1.26 and readers of the paper in Falmouth gave £4.84.

One pound donations came in from the following: M



'Militant' sellers at LPYS Conference. Photo: Mark Rusher (IFL)

Lawson (Cambridge), D Shaw (Peterborough), P Sharples (Stevenage), R Cammish and J Kirwood (both from Hull), H Grainger and B Johnson (both from Scunthorpe), J Murphy (Liverpool Wavertree), R Harrison (Walton), P Jones (Wallasey), C Edwards (Newcastle), H Ward (Brighton), B Chidgey (Bristol), T Wilcocks and A McDonald (both from Islington), S Crean (Cardiff North), P Morgan and G Molan (both from Cardiff South) and a member of Huddersfield Dyers and Bleachers. Many thanks to all of these comrades and to all the others who are not mentioned.

As well as a lot of money raised through individual contributions large amounts have also been raised through fund-raising activities. A curry party in Hull made £8 and one in Leicester £7. Cooking a meal in Cambridge raised £2.13 and sponsored crisp eating in Stevenage £1.40. A sponsored walk in Dorset has raised £4.70 (with a promise of more to follow), one in Durham has made £12, one in Hull has made £22.17 and the Coventry Marathon has so far raised £32.37.

A Militant Readers' Meeting in Bracknell raised £7.50 and one in Huddersfield made £5.50.

Over £400 came in from the West Midlands alone this week. A large proportion of this was collected from supporters of the paper but quite

a lot came from the fund-raising schemes. £132 was made on the West Midlands 'Militant' 500 Club draw and £25 was collected in rattling tins by comrades in Stafford who also sent in £10 from sales of football cards and £2 from the sales of pontoon tickets. In the North Birmingham area £23.81 was made from the sale of badges and posters.

The sale of a 3-piece suite in Peterborough raised £10 and the sale of a 'Jubilee' rug made £5. A jumble sale in Bristol made £15.40, one in Leeds raised £11.11 and a rummage sale in Leicester made £15.

The sale of books at Stirling University raised £17, the selling of sandwiches and drinks at a meeting in the Islington area made £12.12 and the sale of sandwiches on the London coaches going to LPYS Conference raised £17.

A raffle at Homepride Bakeries in Hull raised £2.80, a raffle of records in Wallasey made £5 and an American Auction held in Stevenage collected £1.50.

These are only a few of the ideas sent in this week for raising money. If every area considers taking up one of these ideas and putting them into practice we will easily get the £35,000 required. As I said before—it can be done.

By Alison Rudd

£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		597.06
Hants & IOW	600	2,100		694.54
Humber-side	630	2,200		528.47
Lancashire	430	1,500		223.31
London: North	2,200	7,700		1,178.03
London: South	1,080	3,800		601.74
Manchester & District	830	2,900		276.19
Merseyside & District	1,280	4,500		649.31
Midlands East	1,260	4,400		332.59
Midlands West	2,120	7,400		1,433.32
Northern	1,400	4,900		763.96
Scotland East	710	2,500		432.68
Scotland West	830	2,900		356.36
South East	660	2,300		464.64
South West	660	2,300		468.04
Thames Valley	480	1,700		346.48
Wales East	570	2,000		364.70
Wales West	660	2,300		334.99
Yorkshire	1,480	5,200		764.86
Others	860	3,000		2,235.23
Total	£ 20,000	70,000		13,046.50

Progress Towards year's target ■ Towards April 1st target ■



Fred Jarvis speaking from the platform at NUT Conference.

Photo: Martin Slavin

Teachers' Conference : Determined action needed

The National Union of Teachers' conference this Easter started in good spirits, following the national action in support of the pay claim.

The Executive's report on the negotiations was accepted overwhelmingly. Nevertheless, as many delegates pointed out, the 10% rise represents an absolute cut in living standards since 1975.

The acceptance of the pay offer set the tone for the conference. Many excellent resolutions were defeated, including those given top priority by local associations. Conference sensed the potential power of their organisation, but did not challenge the weakness of its strategy.

Class Size

Class sizes, salaries, racialism and control of the curriculum dominated the discussion.

The Oxford resolution on class size, asked the union to inform the employers that it would authorise all members to refuse to teach oversize classes from September 1st, 1979, and from that date would refuse to cover for absences known in advance. It was defeated on a card vote.

The Executive overwhelmingly rejected all requests for national action. Max Morris even called the Oxford resolution "a recipe for anarchy."

However, the Executive's memoranda, although weak, does call for action on class size, shortages of supply staff, the use of temporary contracts, protection of curriculum at a time of falling rolls and any other "intolerable" conditions. The Executive should be taken up on this.

Conference accepted the need to fight racialism, but rejected attempts to link up the struggle outside the classroom. A resolution

supporting members taking action to prevent the National Front using schools and refusing to work with self-declared fascists, was rejected.

Nevertheless, there is a limited union policy against racialism, which should be taken up by the membership.

Wages Cut

The wages issue was equally muddled. Resolutions called for flat-rate increases, for a starting salary of £4,500 and an immediate end to wage restraint.

Jim Murphy, for the Executive, asked: "Have your wages been cut by 14%?" Conference roared back: "Yes." Poor wages, especially for younger members, have helped radicalise the union. But in spite of this, the Executive's memorandum on wages was accepted, and the better resolutions fell.

Over 150 'Militants' were sold together with many copies of the new 'Militant Teacher' and £40 collected for the fighting fund. The ideas and method of Marxism now need to be put into effect on the floor of conference, to arm the union with a clear programme to defend jobs and services.

There remains the difficult fight to maintain and expand a decent education service, a fight that must be taken up in the union at every level. *Each school facing staffing or class size problems must take up the Executive's offer to authorise action through the division or association.*

★ Restore the Cuts!

★ Class size action for 27/32/30 now! -

Felicity Dowling

(Liverpool NUT)

FALMOUTH:

Docks axe threat

At a time when the national press was focussing the attention of its readers on the seemingly accepted fashion of Royal behaviour [a Prince and two Princesses and their state hand-out] British Shipbuilders were busy, yet again, in handing out marching orders, this time to 15% of the workforce of the largest unit of ship repairing in the UK.

Ultimatum

The 'Falmouth Group', with 1,400 employees, had a shock ultimatum that some 200 men would be selected for redundancy (no mention of voluntary), and that there

would be a severe cut-back in restrictive practices (??) and no intake of apprentices during 1978.

Fight

It is to the credit of all unions within the Joint Yard Committee that they promptly countered with a strongly worded statement to British Shipbuilders criticising them for lack of due consultations, and totally rejected planned redundancies, with a charge of 'no confidence' in local management, and submitting a wage claim of 10% cost of living adjustment.

With the docks as the mainstay against low wages,

the people of Falmouth, Cornwall, already suffering 17.8% unemployment out of a population of 18,600, fear any reduction in the workforce at the shipyard. Apart from the strain upon the economy of the town, it would place too much reliance upon tourism during the summer months, a trade noted not for decent wages, but for very long hours. The fight is on against British Shipbuilders' local management's own statement: "Docks axe—not just an idle threat."

Gordon Davey

(UCATT)

Postmen :

DEMAND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE

The bill passing through Parliament at the moment seeks to give Post Office workers the right to take industrial action in furtherance of a trade dispute against their employer.

At first glance, the bill would be a tremendous victory for Post Office workers, undoing the statement by the House of Lords that industrial action by postmen constituted a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment or a fine.

There can be no doubt that our members need this basic right to defend our deteriorating standard of living. A **postman's standard gross pay [basic rate combined with pay supplements] for a 43-hour week is a little over £47.**

A postman has to start work at 5 o'clock every morning, six days a week, every day of his working life, with all this means for his social and domestic life.

Overtime is voluntary, but the postman may need to work an extra three to four hours, three or four nights a week in order to meet mounting bills. The postman's life becomes a daily routine of work and bed, work and bed.

Overtime

In fact, the Post Office mail deliveries now depend on this overtime. You would expect, then, that management would pay the rate for the job. You wouldn't expect overtime to be paid at less than the normal rate. Yet this is what happens.

The first six hours overtime in any one week is paid at time and a quarter, the second at time and a half, and anything after that at double time. **So we are called upon to work the first six hours of overtime at less than the normal basic rate of pay!** This is due to the non-consolidation of the pay supplements and threshold payments.

At the moment, the employers have refused our November 1977, claim for consolidation of merely the 1975 threshold, even though this wouldn't bring an extra penny to someone who did not work overtime.

We find ourselves, therefore, in the same position as the air traffic controllers who had to fight for the implementation of agreements made in the past. If we are to be true to our annual conference mandate that the 1978 pay claim must at least restore real wage levels, then the uninhibited right to strike or take other industrial action must be guaranteed.

Courts

In this light, the Buchan Bill is most timely. But in actual fact, it is a step backwards. The very title of the Bill: "...a Bill to limit the extent to which industrial action by workers in the Post Office falls within the ambit of the criminal law..." accepts the right of the bosses' courts to intervene in Post Office disputes. We can be sure it wouldn't be on the workers' side!

Selective blacking in a sympathetic strike (e.g. Grunwicks) and "political" disputes (such as last year's proposed ban on postal services to South Africa) would be illegal in law, and not just, as now, in the eyes of this or that individual judge. **It would be a crime for Post Office workers to put into practice the old adage: "An injury to one is an injury to all."**

Unfortunately, the General Secretary of our union seems resigned to this, boasting to the reactionary 'Daily Mail' that there would be no sanctioning of action against private firms. This is quite something from the man who originally supported the blacking of Grunwick's mail and proposed the South

African boycott.

The Buchan Bill legalises only "non-political" strikes. What does this mean? Is action against government wage restraint 'political'? Is it 'political' to fight for a shorter working week, against unemployment?

Technically, the Buchan Bill leaves Post Office workers worse off than they were before the High Court action, by clearly stating that some actions will be illegal.

In practice, however, it will be the strength of the membership and the willingness of the leadership to defend its interests that will be decisive. **No Tory Court imprisoned union members in 1971, when the whole union struck for decent pay. They would not have dared.**

The union leaders must make a determined stand—they must give a clear lead in defending the unconditional right of Post Office workers to withdraw their labour. This is a basic right for all who work; the source of all the power of the mighty trade union movement.

Tied to the fight for a higher basic wage and a shorter working week, every member would see the need to back this stand. A £60 minimum basic wage and a 35-hour week would liberate us from so-called 'voluntary' overtime and the destructive effects of working unsocial hours continually.

Lead

If the membership has a clear programme of demands, and a leadership that won't let it down, then neither the National Association For Freedom nor any other bosses' stooge can stand in our way.

Dermot Mills

(Wolverhampton LPYS, UPW Member)



British Shipbuilders Falmouth—ship repair yard

BIRDS EYE -

The battle's lost but not the war

After four and a half long, cold and bitter months the fires have gone out, and all that remains of the picket-line is the remnants of six or seven oil drums, now burnt out and distorted beyond recognition.

On a fence outside the factory a crudely painted sign still hangs precariously, bearing the words 'no surrender'. Another says simply AUEW Official Strike'. The Birds Eye Foods strike is over.

Vicious

On Friday 31st March, the first workers, the striking engineers reported for work; the following week on a phased basis the laid-off production workers will return. Some weeks ago the local press had hailed the pending re-opening of the factory as a victory for the company.

What they did not say was that the reactionary manage-

ment had kept the workers waiting until the end of the Easter holiday before re-opening, although a formula for ending the dispute had been concluded two or three weeks previously.

To read the 'Liverpool Echo', one would conclude that the Birds Eye Management had done the Merseyside workers a favour by providing work for 800 workers.

The local press made very little of the fact that at least 456 workers had lost their jobs, and in the most ruthless manner.

Before Easter, 32 members of the Engineering Unions (a third of the department) were told in a letter to report to the factory on 28th March, in order to pick up their P45s and any monies due to them. Hundreds of production workers received similar notices.

Included in this massive redundancy programme, was the AUEW convenor and three other shop stewards, as

well as members of the strike committee. Other shop stewards and activists, who were saved from redundancy only because of their long service (18-20 years or more) were nonetheless offered voluntary redundancy and encouraged to leave.

Hiding behind the policy of 'last in first out', the company has ensured that they have got rid of most of the 'trouble makers' as they see them. The others they sought to lay off and at a later date will no doubt try to remove by other means.

Men with 18 years service were dismissed after having spent four and a half months on strike. Men who had devoted their entire lives to the company were only allowed back on the premises for a few minutes to clear away their personal belongings. At least one man who had known no other job in his life was kicked out on to the streets.

For those who did return to work, the immediate prospect seemed bleak. They returned

with reluctance and great bitterness. No trade unionist likes to return to work after such a struggle, particularly after losing so many comrades.

But, return they did, and in the full knowledge that they had suffered a near devastating defeat. As a matter of fact, better conditions could have been gained prior to the strike, particularly in regard to the wage increase, but on top of this they had had to swallow the redundancies.

However, to lose a strike and suffer even heavy defeats is not to be crushed or devastated. The workers returned with their trade union machinery intact and in the full knowledge that they might soon have to take action to maintain that machinery.

Unbeaten

In the first few minutes of the re-opening of the factory, one or two of the 'hawks' among the managers and supervisors attempted to wield the big stick over-time and dictate who should work and when. A speedy meeting of the men brought these managerial thugs into line. Another incident involved the need for a fitters' mate—six of them had been made redundant—and the fitter refused to work without one. Again, the company thugs had to back down.

It's still early days and in a week or two anything can happen. The company had sought to smash the unions, and indeed has dealt serious blows. But they have not destroyed them by any means. New leaders have appeared and workers who had previ-

ously embraced all sorts of illusions about the company have seen the light.

The most optimistic and refreshing event of the entire battle at Birds Eye was demonstrated when at the final meeting before the return to work a motion from the floor was put to re-establish links with other Birds Eye factories. This was in spite of repeated but unsuccessful attempts during the strike to involve the other factories which created some bitterness.

It is fully understood that in order to defeat a company the size of Unilever, it is paramount that it is done on a national scale.

The development of a national Birds Eye shop-stewards combine committee will certainly arise in the near future. It is well known that having defeated the Kirkby workers on redundancy, the management intend sweeping right through the Birds Eye factories nationally. It is understood by the National Officials of the TGWU as well as the AUEW and EEPTU, that some factories are to close and a similar 30% redundancy programme to be introduced throughout the other factories.

The workers have shown that they are willing to fight but it has been proved that it cannot be done in isolation. Now the official trade union machinery must call an immediate conference of all Birds Eye shop stewards to mobilise for immediate action in the event of any further redundancies.

Ted Mooney

(Former Engineers' Strike Committee Member, victim of the redundancies)

The Receiving End

Dear Comrades

Congratulations on the expanded 16-page issues of 'Militant'. This now enables a wider coverage to be given to all aspects of our life and the effect of various policies that are never reported in the so-called "popular" press, or at best are glossed over.

I am glad to see more space given to interviews with people engaged in fighting working people's injustices, such as unemployment, closures of factories, racialism etc.

As an active shop steward and Works Convenor, I have always held the view that the best experts are the people on the receiving end of the system, as against the so-called "experts" or "theorists" who seem always to be just outside the framework, and never a part of it.

These down-to-earth reports, coupled with the wider aspects of socialism, are so essential for working people, as they help so much to give an overall better understanding of our problems, who they affect, and the way forward to either minimise these evils from our society, or eradicate them altogether.

Keep up this standard, and I am sure the circulation of 'Militant' will only go one way—up.

Yours fraternally

J Blackley
Convenor

Rolls Royce, Bristol

Support Robb Caledon struggle

"We've waited long enough!" That is the message to British Shipbuilders from the workers at the two shipyards formerly owned by Robb Caledon, Dundee and Leith. We have given notice of strike action from 24th April, unless a satisfactory reply has been received to our claim for a wage increase.

It is a crazy situation. For months the yards have been under a cloud of possible closure, because of a lack of orders. Now that they have a full order-book, they are faced with a lack of skilled workers, because the rates of pay are just not good enough.

Crazy

Once the second highest in Scotland, wages at Robb Caledon have now fallen to the bottom of the league. Skilled men, on £67, are being attracted to new oil-related work. Firms like Kestrel Marine and Redpath Dorman Long are prepared to pay £86 to skilled boilermakers.

So while, in the Dundee yard, between 100 and 180 workers mainly in the finishing trades are surplus to requirements for six months, while the new Polish order is started, so many boilermakers are leaving that the yard might not be able to fulfill the contract. So the only way to secure the yard's future is to raise wage-rates to a level which will attract and keep skilled men. Last year, a claim for the highest rates being paid in Scotland, at that time Govan Shipbuilders, was rejected under the government's guidelines. Now

the national claim by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers is still being negotiated.

Although agreement has been reached between unions and management, once again the government has vetoed the settlement, because the lowest paid skilled men, 40,000 of them, now on £42 a week, would get a £15 rise, outside the 10%. The unions at Robb Caledon were therefore put in a new claim, for either a self-financing productivity scheme, or a rise under the terms of a "Fair Wages" contract. These are clauses inserted in all government contracts guaranteeing 'fair wages', which has always been interpreted as meaning the same wages as are being paid in other yards for the same kind of work. The Leith yard is currently building a ferry for Caledonian McBryane, a government-owned company, so we feel that the "Fair Wages" clause should mean comparability with other yards in Scotland.

Militancy

The Confed. leaders gave management one month to come up with a reply to this claim. That has now passed and nothing has been heard. **So now the time has come to inject some militancy into negotiations, and mass meetings at both yards voted on Thursday 30th March to give four weeks' notice of strike action.**

A minority at Dundee voted instead for more limited action—an overtime ban and a refusal to co-operate in

flexibility and interchangeability. The stewards felt, however that this would inevitably lead to either dismissals or deductions of pay, which would then force the workers to strike anyway. **Better to fight directly on the central question of wages than to stumble into a fight on a secondary issue!** At Leith, all but five workers voted for strike action.

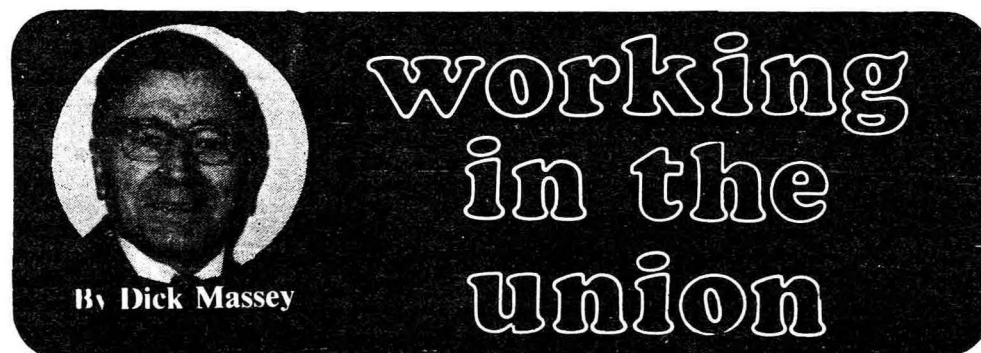
We are convinced that it is right to fight for a decent wage for all workers in the yards, to attract the necessary labour, rather than to wait until lay-offs are threatened and then try to fight at a time when workers are being tempted with redundancy payments.

Jobs

This is a battle not just for our workers, but for all shipbuilding workers for whom this will be a test case. Already workers at Yarrow's in Glasgow and Swan Hunter in Newcastle have been involved in limited forms of industrial action. It is now in the interests of the whole industry to give the fullest backing, through the Confed. to the stand of the Robb Caledon workers.

It is also a battle for the unemployed youth. In Dundee the yard is the biggest employer of apprentices in the City. If we win, we will have helped to ensure that there is skilled work at decent rates for the workers of tomorrow.

By Alex Allen
(Finishing Trades Convenor, Robb Caledon, Dundee)



By Dick Massey

In 1941 I was directed by the National Service Officer to work for a wartime organisation, London Aircraft Production, building Halifax bombers. The overall authority of the organisation was the London Transport Board, and I worked at Aldenham, which is now the bus repair depot for London Transport.

When I arrived everything appeared to be in a state of chaos. I duplicated notices of a meeting to be held at the main gates. There was a tremendous response from the workers. The police were in attendance, two cars plus a "Black Maria".

We soon got organised, and without much ado gained recognition. Among the many problems to be solved was that of transport to and from the factory. This item was on our first agenda. The Board claimed they were powerless to help us, the Ministry of War Transport would not agree to any buses to or from the factory. We placed it on the agenda for our next meeting.

Meanwhile, I went to the House of Commons, and found an MP who would listen and help. As a result, I received the copy of a letter, written by Lord Leathers, Minister of War Transport, making it plain there was no objection to additional buses, provided that, as far as possible, they ran over a public service route.

At the meeting we were introduced to a London Transport official who assured us that the buses we requested were simply out of the question. I produced the letter and asked the chairman to read it. I never saw an individual so completely deflated. He asked me how many buses we required. I told him, and said that we wanted them now. We got them.

A little preparation, find out the facts, get confirmation, and you can shake the biggest bureaucrats.

The next problem was the canteen. We were two miles from any alternative place

for eating. There were about a thousand workers, and only an ordinary service bus—with a 7-minute walk to this stop, and only a ¾ hour lunch break.

The problems of rationing had to be lived through to understand. The management had let the canteen out to contract and claimed they were powerless to help. We organised the workers in groups to pool tea, etc; set up points to boil water; and put up notices announcing a boycott of the canteen.

The management said they could not give us permission to make tea or hot drinks as it violated their contract with the canteen. We told them we had never asked their permission and had no intention of asking. We just went ahead.

Only one meal was purchased the first day. The worker who purchased it was tripped up as he carried it. The following day, we shut down the bosses' canteen. The third day they (bosses and canteen) came to a "mutual understanding" and the London Transport Executive put their own canteen in.

Unity in decisive action can break "contracts" that are detrimental to the workers. We got the management to make a "rest room" for women workers, and to provide a barber's shop.

During the war, it was common practice for "lateness and absentee" committees to be set up. When I investigated the one set up at Aldenham, I found that there was 'workers' representation' on this committee selecting workers who had been late or absent for investigation or reprimand by the management. We stopped that by ignoring the committee.

I went back to Aldenham to work in 1964. The organisation I had helped to build up and maintain has long since died. In its place now stands an organisation I can only liken to a "company union". But more about that later...

Militant

WE NEED THESE NURSERY PLACES

Few people in Oxford can have failed to notice that South Oxford nursey has been occupied.

A carnival-type march through the city centre on Saturday came after a week of activities to bring home to the public that the Tory council's decision to cut thirty nursery places and the jobs of a teacher, an assistant, and ancillary workers, is not the last word.

By their timely and decisive action, the parents of the affected children, members and supporters of the 'Oxford City Nursery Campaign' have given fresh hope to those parents forced to pay child-minders or denied the possibility of taking a job themselves due to the lack of places in state-run nurseries.

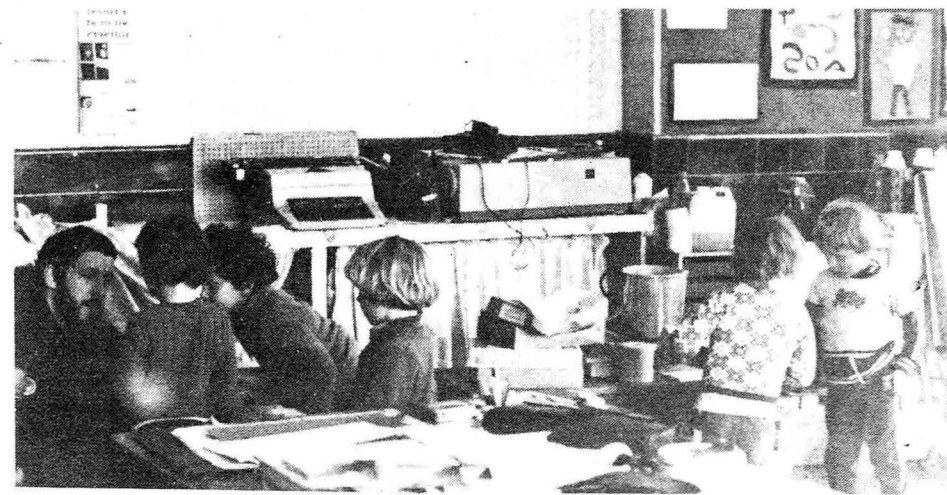
Two members of the campaign committee, Ann-Marie Sweeney and Ted Eames, appeared on a hour's phone-in programme on Radio Oxford and were able to explain the issues involved and answer the now infamous chairman of the Education Committee, Brigadier Streatfield.

Funds

In claiming lack of finance, the Brigadier conveniently ignores the £6 million in the contingency fund and at least £2 million held "in reserve". These amounts make the £5,500 saved by nursery cuts pale into insignificance.

Of course, this arch-Tory would really love to be able to expand nursery provision. That is why the council refused a government grant to do just that.

But nursery provision, says the Brigadier, must take its "fair share of the cuts". John Hedge, Prospective Labour Candidate for Mid-Oxon answered this at the demonstration on Saturday: "Nurs-



ery provision never had its fair share of resources."

The Brigadier clearly reveals his class position when he questions the need for nurseries. Prepared to concede that, maybe, a worthwhile educational job is performed by the nurseries, he alleges that mothers are "misusing" nurseries just so they can go out to work!

An attempt to get the issue raised at the NUT conference unfortunately failed, there will certainly be a call for support at coming meetings of Oxfordshire NUT branches.

Meanwhile the Oxford Trades Union Council is giving its support, and its president, John Power, and the Chairman of the County Association of Trades Councils, Ted Cooper, both spoke at the demonstration.

Policy

The Council may offer the 'concession' of allowing the premises to remain open—but not financed by them. This is totally unacceptable.

The committee are insisting on full maintenance of the thirty places by the county council. And they are not alone! The Labour Party, the

TUC and the NUT all have a policy of supporting free nursery education, run by the state, for all who want it.

What is needed now is a programme of action, and a leadership committed to it, to translate the policy into

reality.

Messages of support and donations to Michelle Flood, 35 Alexandra Road, Oxford.

By Ian Sugarman
(Mid-Oxon Labour Party)

BOOK NOW!

South Wales Summer Camp
Friday 26th May-Monday
29th May 1978, Horton,
Gower, Nr Swansea.

After two enormously successful 'Militant' Summer Camps, each involving over 200, all the plans have been made for another—from 26th-29th May in Gower, near Swansea.

This camp is particularly directed at working class youth and labour movement activists, aiming to introduce them to the ideas of Marxism. Politically, the weekend will cover such subjects as 'The Marxist Method', 'The Class Nature of the Soviet Union', 'What is Fascism?', 'The Prospects of World War', and 'Marxism and the Trade Unions', with leading Marxist speakers.

The camp has all the facilities for a really excellent weekend. It is situated in a beautiful area of Gower, with two beaches only ten minutes away. A bar, coffee lounge and heated swimming pool are on site. Entertainment is being provided, with a live group, disco, quizzes, etc.

Campers will have to provide their own tent and food, although snacks and refreshments will be provided free. A crêche will be organised.

The cost? Only £6.50 each! Children between 6-12 years £1.50. Under 5 years, free.

BOOK NOW WITHOUT DELAY!!! All cheques, etc., payable to R Sewell, to be sent to R Sewell, 99 Penderry Road, Penlan, Swansea.

had happened. It seems very likely that whoever sent the bomb had read this letter, for the address on the parcel was identical to the address at the bottom of Roger's letter, which gave the official name of the garage, not the name under which it is known locally.

When Roger came to open the lethal parcel, some of the chemicals inside spilled out, and this caused him to hold it to one side while he was opening it. This probably saved his life, as it meant that the main force of the blast missed him.

Roger has received many messages of support, particularly from immigrant workers who make up a large proportion of the labour force at the garage. But he told 'Militant' that he was disgusted that no TGWU official has apparently made any comment on the attack, nor has there been any

attempt to contact him about it. This is disgraceful given the serious nature of the attack on the labour movement which the bomb represents.

Roger has made it quite clear that the attempt on his life will not deter him from combatting the fascists. In fact, it is another weapon in the hands of all those in the movement who are trying to expose the violent tactics of the extreme right.

The T&GWU should follow the lead of the NUR (see editorial, page 2) and ban from membership of the union all members of the National Front and other fascist organisation.

Roger concluded by emphasising how the attack had brought home to him the seriousness of the fascists' threat and the need for maximum unity to combat it.

AMOCO CADIZ:

Who controls the oil barons?

Catastrophe confronts the people of Brittany. The black tide of oil from the wrecked 'Amoco Cadiz' has tarred at least 100 miles of coastline. Tourism and fishing face disaster.

In the fishing village of Portsall, at the centre of the disaster, a local councillor estimates that 2,000 people stand to lose their livelihood. The detergents being used to disperse the oil may well kill off marine life for up to ten years.

Sharks

The super-tanker, with a cargo of 230,000 tonnes of crude oil, was sailing from the Persian Gulf to Rotterdam. The sea-route to northern Europe passes through the channel precariously close to the French coast. Amid strong currents and dangerous reefs, with high winds blowing, the tanker's steering gear failed. French officials did not receive an 'SOS' until the ship was already wrecked. What happened in the twelve hours before the ship ran aground is still in dispute.

The tug 'Pacific', one of the privately-owned salvage tugs which follow the scent of ships in distress, had arrived on the scene early. There were numerous radio communications between the Amoco Cadiz and the owners' corporate headquarters in Chicago, and with the 'Pacific'.

The owner denies that he haggled over a price for assistance from the 'Pacific'. But if a wreck is brought in, the tug owner can claim a large proportion of the ship's worth, as well as a percentage of the cargo (insured in this case for \$22 million!). Much more lucrative than the fee for merely helping a ship in trouble.

Whatever the reason, the 'Pacific' did not begin towing for two or three hours. By then it was too late. Towlines snapped, the tanker hit treacherous reefs, and the cargo of oil began to leak out.

This was far from an 'Act of God'. The insurance

companies and shipping owners, with their eyes turned only to profits, interested in paying out as little as possible, are as much to blame as the sharks who man the salvage tugs.

The government announced a plan to pump oil off the ships. But they did not have large enough pumps. By the time these had been flown in from the US, storms prevented their use.

At the same time, a BP spokesman on British radio described their international network of men and equipment to deal with "their" disasters, although he was not confident that anyone could cope with pollution on this scale.

In spite of protests, the oil companies have refused to re-route super-tankers. For them it means money and inconvenience. For the people of Brittany it has meant four tanker disasters in the last ten years.

What anarchy! Huge tankers that take ten miles to stop, travelling within two or three miles of inhabited coasts, and the resources to cope with any disasters are scattered around the world, jealously guarded by competing capitalists.

Like greedy children, the owners of industry show wanton disregard for the safety and protection of jobs, communities and our environment.

Control

The trade union movement will have to exert its control to curb the bosses' irresponsibility. In Australia, dockers refused to handle uranium unless they were satisfied that it would be transported safely, and used for peaceful purposes. Clearly, the oil barons need a similar check.

Control must be taken out of the hands of these madmen, who have proved themselves willing to endanger everything in their search for profit.

Barbara Humphries

(Ealing North LPYS)

NAZI BOMB ATTACKS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Members of the Oxford labour movement were outraged to hear from the national press and television of the murderous bomb attack on Roger Prouse last week.

Roger, an activist in the movement in Oxford, has been working as a bus driver in High Wycombe since January. As reported in the press, he has been working with the Anti-Nazi League in Wycombe. But the reason for his being singled out as a target for attack does not end there.

As Roger explained to 'Militant', soon after he started work at the garage he

clashed with a prominent National Front member working there. The outcome was a motion which put to his Transport and General Workers' Union branch that this member of the NF should be expelled from the union.

The motion, however, was ruled "out of order" by a full-time T&GWU official who attended the meeting, though the NF member concerned—for what it is worth—was made to give an undertaking to the branch that he would "keep his politics out of the garage".

After the meeting, Roger wrote to a left-wing newspaper recounting what

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