

LOCAL TORIES THREATEN SERVICES AND JOBS

"My attitude is: if it's not economic, it goes!" Echoing Margaret Thatcher and the Tory leaders, this is the battle cry of the leader of the newly-victorious Wandsworth Tory Group.

If the vital health, welfare, housing, and education services built up by past Labour councils are not "economic", they will go.

What does "economic" mean? For the Tories and their paymasters it obviously means: "Conducive to the maximum profits for big business."

If this condition is not satisfied, the livelihood of workers, and the health, welfare and education of their families, can go to hell as far as they are concerned.

All over the country, Tory-controlled councils have shown how ruthless they can be in cutting services and jobs.

But in Wandsworth, a south London borough where Tory rule has just begun, their list of proposals reads like a horror story for the workers of the area.

Warning

What could be a clearer warning than these local attacks of the threat to working people if Thatcher and her crew win the next general election?

But the workers in Wandsworth are not taking this without a fight.

The Trades Council, the Area Shop Stewards' Committee, tenants and residents are preparing to whip the whole local labour movement into action to fight back.

Two pickets of the council and a public meeting have been called already.

Working people face an horrific prospect at the hands of the Tories. Every trade unionist, every council ten-

ant, the whole of the labour movement must take home the message: it isn't enough just to vote—if you want to keep Thatcher out, it's time for action!

Workers must join the fight in the Labour Party to ensure that socialist policies on wages, jobs and houses are put into practice, to guarantee that the Tory axe-men don't win the next election or any others!

Pickets of council meetings: Town Hall Gates, 6.30, May 16th, and Town Hall Gates, 6.30, May 23rd.

Public meetings: Banquet Hall, Civic Suite, Wandsworth High Street, S.W.18, 7.30 pm, May 23rd.

Support the pickets and the public meeting.

Mike Gibson

(Norwood Labour Party)

What the cuts would mean

Despite limitations, Wandsworth's Labour Council achieved many reforms. The newly-victorious Tories now intend to wipe many of these out. Here are just a few of the Tory proposals:

- ★ Field centre for deprived Wandsworth children [located in Bath] to be "reviewed"—i.e. scrapped.
- ★ Direct works department to be run down [from 1,000 plus] to 100-200 by 1980.
- ★ Cutbacks in every department, with more jobs lost from an already high-unemployment area.
- ★ Sale of vacant council houses.
- ★ More "homesteading" [like Tory-controlled GLC]—i.e. selling the worst properties to home-seekers, mortgage free for three years, but to renovate at own expense.
- ★ Implementation of Criminal Trespass Act [which Labour refused to do].
- ★ Set up "Public Accounts Committee" to investigate departments' finances—i.e. look for more cuts.
- ★ Prospects under the Tories are summed up by the Tory leader [Mr Mallam]: "Wandsworth has been notorious for its losses. My attitude is if it's not economic, it goes!"
- ★ At least 5% of the Council workforce to be scrapped in the first year. The Tories will give no guarantee about redundancies.

The ugly face of the Tories' municipal axe-man

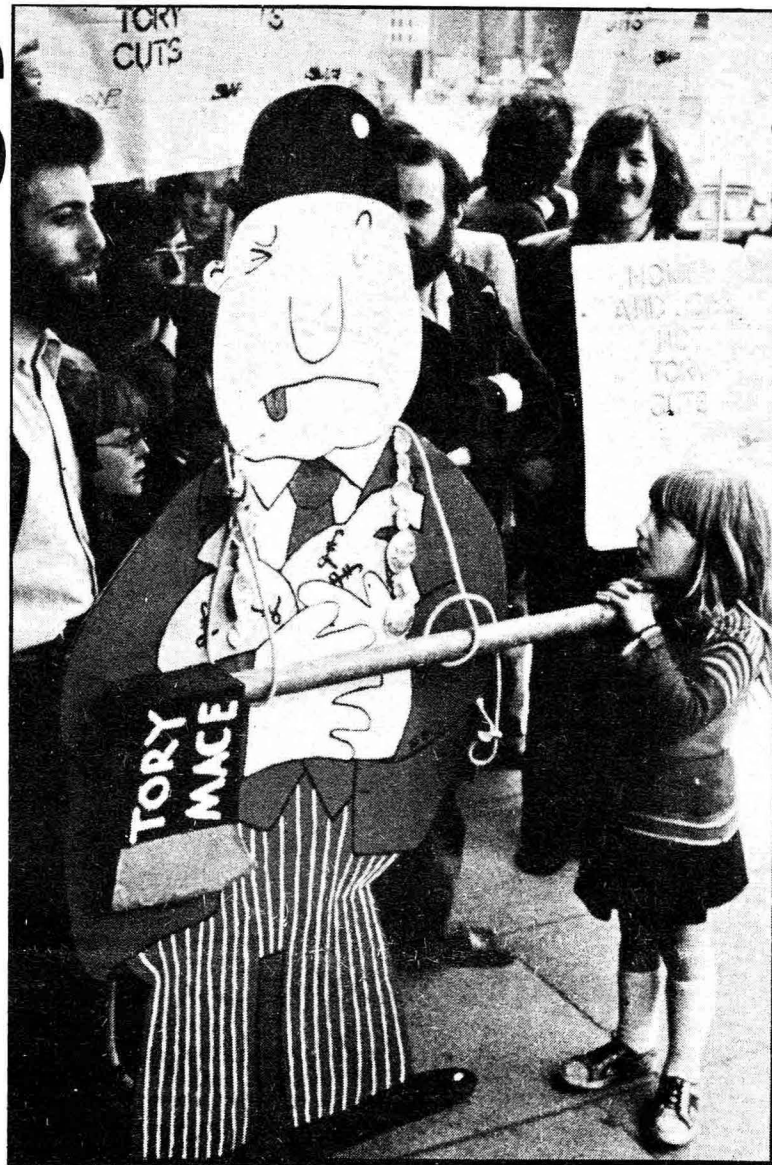


Photo: Julian McKittrick

PARTY DEMOCRACY

Liverpool Labour Group: District Party demands accountability

Delegates from the rank and file of the Labour Party and the wider labour movement met in Liverpool last Thursday night to express their almost unanimous horror over the new right-wing leader of the Liverpool Labour Group and particularly the way he had organised the coup to put himself in that position.

Speaker after speaker, resolutions after resolution, were in total opposition to Councillor Eddie Roderick and this small group of supporters who six days earlier had been able to organise in a back-handed way the ousting of the previous leader, John Hamilton.

It all started at the AGM of the Labour Group, the day after John Hamilton had led the Labour Party in a leadership position within the City council. To the surprise of many, Roderick was proposed in opposition to John

Hamilton as Leader, and in the secret ballot which followed, Roderick won by 21 votes to 16.

Within 72 hours, emergency Constituency, Ward and trade union branch meetings had been convened by the dozen to make absolutely clear their condemnation of the new leader and the way such an important decision was taken, without any consultation whatsoever with the rank and file.

By Derek Hatton
(Liverpool District Labour Party Executive Member)

As delegates entered the District Labour Party meeting, they were presented with letters, confronted with banners and generally lobbied by supporters of Hamilton (or the opponents of Roderick!). Over 90 delegates heard a three-hour debate on resolutions opposing Roderick and his methods.

Terry Harrison then outlined John Hamilton's long

and distinguished history within the Labour Party in Liverpool. No change in leadership should ever take place without full and open debate on the political issues.

The president of the District Labour Party, Bob Wearing, asked on a number of occasions for people to speak against the resolution—there were—three poor efforts. In fact, in no resolution did Roderick's camp receive more than 11 votes.

The main demands which came out of the meeting were: * that the Labour Group should reverse its decision and replace John Hamilton as leader; and that

* In future all major decisions, including the election of leader and committee chairmen be carried out after the councillors had discussed the matter with their wards, and the District Labour Party had been consulted.

Continued on back page

Labour movement must demand trade union enquiry into the death of Brian Maguire

The death of Brian Maguire has brought the foul activities perpetrated by the RUC at Belfast's Castlereagh police station into clear focus.

Brian Maguire was arrested at 6am on Tuesday May 9th and held for questioning about possible involvement in the shooting of a policeman in Lisburn three weeks earlier. Twenty-four hours later his body was found hanging by a sheet in his cell.

T.U. activist

This death follows repeated allegations from both Loyalist and Republican prisoners at the treatment they have received inside Castlereagh police station.

The reports of torture, degradation, and severe beatings have been confirmed by both sides and also by medical opinion. Something which cannot be ignored in relation to Maguire's death is that one of the torture methods used in Castlereagh has been partial strangulation by hanging of suspects.

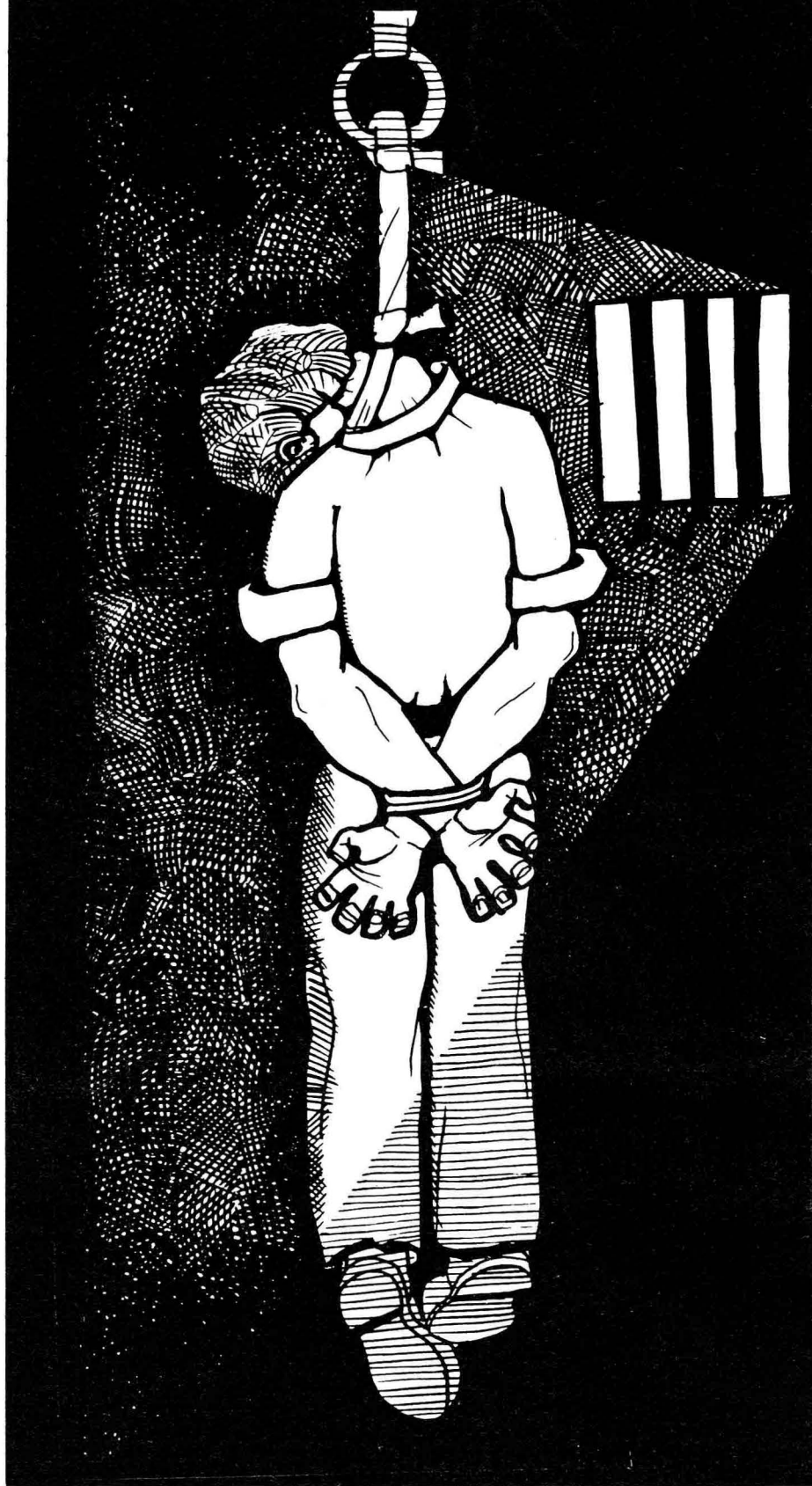
The trade union movement should take particular note of this killing, among other reasons because Brian Maguire was an active trade unionist. He was branch registration secretary in AUEW/TASS and was a delegate to the divisional council of TASS. He worked in the Strathearn Audio factory in West Belfast where, as a representative, he was heavily involved in recent struggles against redundancies. These facts should be more than sufficient to prompt the trade union movement, particularly the AUEW, to take up this issue.

Cover up

Already the police have begun a massive cover-up operation. A senior Merseyside detective has been flown in to carry out an investigation.

In a statement issued in order to divert attention from the manner of Brian Maguire's death, the RUC claimed he signed a "confession" while in Castlereagh. According to their statement the police say Maguire admitted that he had been forced to conceal the gun which had been used in the policeman's murder because of threats made to himself and his

SUICIDE AT CASTLEREAGH



family. Having made this statement, so the RUC story goes, Maguire hanged himself.

The police statement cannot be accepted at face value. It does not explain Maguire's death. There are two possible explanations for his hanging—and whichever is true, the police stand fully to blame.

"Confession"

One is that the sadists of the RUC torture squads went "too far" with their torture methods on this occasion. A "mock" hanging may have turned into the real thing. According to ex-prisoners, it would have been virtually impossible for one man to hang himself in the Castlereagh cells. It has also been claimed that prisoners are not provided with sheets—only

with blankets—so where did Maguire conveniently get his hands on a sheet?

The other possible explanation is that Maguire was driven by torture to such despair that he killed himself. If he did sign a "confession" this means little or nothing. Numerous other prisoners in Castlereagh have been forced into signing "confessions" which in many cases have later been proved to be false. If Maguire was broken after twenty-four hours of interrogation, this simply raises the question: what were the methods used?

Sham

As a trade unionist, a shop steward active in resisting redundancies, he would not have been unused to pressure. What sort of pressure could have been applied in the space of twenty-four hours or less to take his own life?

Until these questions are answered the trade union movement cannot afford to rest. The police enquiry into police brutality must be rejected for what it is—a mere sham.

Already the call has been made for a full, impartial enquiry. AUEW/TASS took the opportunity at the recent conference of the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to issue this call.

Action

A full enquiry must indeed be held. But just as no police enquiry can be trusted, neither could anybody appointed by the government. The workers must have their own enquiry established by the trade union movement

Trade unionists in Britain and Ireland should immediately move resolutions through their branches, most particularly through branches of TASS, demanding that the Northern Ireland Committee of the ICTU, together with AUEW/TASS, set up their own enquiry into the death of Brian Maguire and also into the interrogation methods being used in Castlereagh.

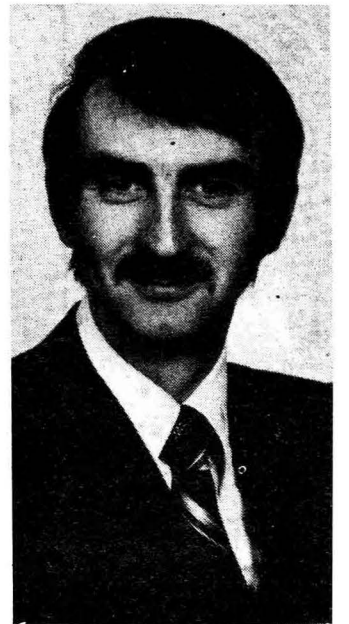
Peter Hunt
(Editor, 'Militant Irish Monthly')

Socialist campaign in Ballymena

The Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Co-ordinating Group (L&TUCG) have begun their election campaign for the vacant council seat in Ballymena.

Three other candidates are contesting this seat: one from the Official Unionist Party, one from Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party, and one from the middle-class Alliance Party.

Polling day is June 8th. The Labour and Trade Union Co-ordinating Group are launching an intensive three-week campaign, which began with a campaign with a public meeting on 17th May. During their campaign, the Group intends to canvass all the main working-class areas, to leaflet factories, and to hold open-air meetings in all the major centres.



Eric Johnston

Ballymena trades council. Eric spoke to "Militant" about the election:

Real issues

Ten thousand copies of a special 4-page election manifesto are being produced. These are to be distributed within the area and, in an appeal for funds and political support, they are also being circulated among trade unionists throughout Northern Ireland.

Area 'C', in which the campaign is being fought, contains a number of estates which until recently were considered to be bastions of support for Paisley. At least one of these estates was a "no-go" area during the hey-day of the UDA and loyalist para-militaryism.

Last December, the myth of Ballymena as a Paisleyite strong-hold was shattered. During an election campaign in area 'C' the L&TUCG canvassers received a warm welcome in all the major working-class districts. The majority of people were opposed to the bigoted policies of the Democratic Unionist Party. Most importantly, the socialist policies on which the Group fought that election got an enthusiastic response.

Last December's election was won by the Official Unionists, not because the inspired any great confidence among the people, but because they seemed to be the party most likely to keep the Paisleyites out. They won on the basis of an anti-DUP vote.

This time they are hoping to capitalise once again on the strength of local opposition to the Paisleyites, especially as defeat for the DUP will mean loss of their control over Ballymena council.

The L&TUCG candidate is Eric Johnston, a member of the Post Office Engineering Union and a delegate to

"The Democratic Unionist Party, Official Unionists, and the Alliance Party, are really all the same. They are all Tory parties of one form or another. When they fight elections they talk about religion, about "power-sharing", "devolved government", or some such issue. Of jobs, wages, homes, facilities, etc, they have nothing to say and even less to offer."

"We are standing in order to give the people a socialist alternative. We believe that the people of Ballymena and of Northern Ireland as a whole are totally disillusioned with the collection of bigots who politically misrepresent them at the moment."

New Party

"By contesting this seat we intend, first to give the people of this area an opportunity to vote along class lines and, secondly, to show the rest of the labour movement that the time is ripe for the building of a province-wide party of the working class."

The L&TUCG are appealing to the British labour movement for support in their campaign. Trade unions, Labour Party and LPYS branches are being asked to pass resolutions in support of the election campaign.

Money for the campaign is also urgently required. Copies of the election manifesto are available from the N.I. L&TUCG (5p + postage). Resolutions of support, donations, and orders should be sent to the Secretary, N.I. L&TUCG, 18 Donegal Street, Belfast.

Dennis Tourish
(L&TUCG)

MILITANT: Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth.
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Workers defend Health Service

Last Wednesday, many hundreds of hospital workers and local supporters marched on the District Management offices in Tower Hamlets, in protest against the local health service cuts and the threat to Bethnal Green Hospital. The mood, though good natured and friendly, was overwhelmingly one of anger at the proposed cuts and enthusiasm for a struggle of resistance.

Great demo

Hundreds of colourful banners flapped in the breeze as the three-pronged march converged in the Whitechapel Road. Cheers went up as contingents joined up from Bethnal Green, Mile End and Whitechapel hospitals. The long column then marched along the main road in front of the famous London Hospital, wound round the back, and passed the private wing which echoed back the chants "Private Medicine Out!—National Health Service In!"

The demonstration then assembled outside the management offices to hear speeches from the Campaign and from the trade unions. Groups of supporters from Hackney hospitals and from local industries such as the Watney Mann brewery and the Post Office also joined in.

The magnificent turn-out was in response to the call from the Keep Bethnal Green Hospital Open Campaign and the District Joint Shop Stewards' Committee for a two-hour stoppage and demonstration. A previous demonstration called by the Campaign had not received much support but this time the solid trade union support made a world of difference. The Joint Shop Stewards' Committee had asked for mass meetings of all unions to be held to discuss the situation and



Photo: Julian McKittrick

Bethnal Green hospital workers wait for the march to begin.

mobilise members. The results have demonstrated the correctness of this approach.

The simmering anger in many departments has been brought to the surface as the hospital workers realise what has been going on and was in store for them. The demonstration has proved they are not isolated and alone, that their stewards and unions are capable of preparing and leading them into battle. The mood on the march and rally showed that any caution on the part of some of the local hospital union leaders is unfounded. The workers themselves have shown they are ready to move into action to keep the hospitals open.

Given the right lead now from the stewards and bran-

ches, it will be possible to reverse the situation and to force management to carry out the demands of the health workers and the local population. The tremendous reserves of militancy must be brought into play, before it is too late. Hospital workers are seething at the way the NHS is being mismanaged and allowed to be run down.

Back-pay

Apart from the threatened closures there are a hundred and one other issues on the boil. There is the question of back pay owed to ancillary and works staff under an agreement going back 14 years now, with management stalling and dithering about, dragging the negotiations on

and on.

There is the whole question of contract labour, increasingly brought in to do the work rightfully belonging to our own skilled men: the electricians, the engineers, the painters, the plumbers and the carpenters. It seems that the enormous overhead of management costs prices our own men off the market. It is claimed that contractors can do the jobs cheaper. Yet our own men often have to patch up the shoddy workmanship left by these contractors. Many workers believe that graft is the real reason for so much contracting.

Stop!

Attempts have been made to 'save' on costs of standby duties, such as with the radiographers, which means reducing manning and payment reductions. There is the question of increasing centralisation in stores, laundries, catering, with consequent cuts in staff, loss of services at local level, and of course opportunities for further mismanagement on a grand scale.

Shortages of nursing staff, following the freeze on jobs in 1975, and cutbacks in training mean greater and unfair responsibility on the shoulders of training nurses, and generally harder work for all.

"Enough is enough!" was the feeling on the demonstration: "Let's put a stop to all this!" Groups of workers are demanding we really put the screws on management. It is now possible that a serious struggle will develop to prevent closures. The JSSC must be thoroughly prepared to mobilise and build on the existing enthusiasm. The JSSC must be ready in a constructive way to lead the hospital workers into action.

By Ian Burge
(Secretary, JSSC
London Hospital)

Tory budget amendments

Robin Hood in reverse

A tax bonanza—but only for the rich. That is the effect of the Tory changes to the Budget.

Aided by the Liberals and Nationalists, they have cut the basic rate of tax by 1% and altered the rates at which big incomes are taxed.

Nobody will benefit much from the cut in basic rate to 33%. Even the best off will only gain £1 a week. Most will get much less.

Unequal

But the changes in the higher rate bands will mean big savings for the wealthy. The effect of the Tory amendments will be:

- * A married man with two children under 11, earning £3,000 a year (£60 a week gross) will save 12p a week.
- * A man with a taxable income of £10,000 a year will save £4.47 a week.
- * A man with a taxable income of £25,000 a year will save £10.81 a week!

Here we see the real meaning behind the propaganda about "incentives to work" and "overtaxation." If the Tories were really concerned about the burden of tax on ordinary working people they would have raised the personal allowances. Even this benefits the rich most, but it stops some people paying tax at all and increases every worker's take-home pay.

By going for changes in the higher rate bands the Tories have blatantly shown who they represent. The richer you are, the more you benefit.

Thatcher, Joseph and the rest scream blue murder about government "extravagance" and call for cuts in



Thatcher: help the rich

public spending. Yet their measures will increase the government's deficit by £450 million.

In fact there is no contradiction. These Robin Hoods in reverse are demanding cuts in the schools, hospitals and welfare services precisely so they can pour money into the pockets of their wealthy friends. And no doubt some of it will find its way into Tory election funds as a reward.

Warning

The Tories, Liberals and Nationalists have shown which class they represent. They stand for the rich, for the capitalist system and the top people in it. They have given us a glimpse of the handouts the bosses can expect if the nightmare of a Tory government becomes a reality.

By a member of the
Inland Revenue
Staff Federation

this polluted area they came across another, and yet another, in mid-ocean. Some six hundred miles off Barbados, they sailed in polluted waters for two days.

New Regulations?

The increasing concern and growing militancy of trade unions and environmentalists in both America and Europe, together with the unprecedented series of thirteen tanker accidents in the US alone, has caused President Carter to re-examine existing tanker regulations.

He has called for an international conference under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organisation (IMCO), the United Nations Agency concerned with shipping. Their suggestion is that all existing tankers of 20,000 deadweight tons or more should be fitted with segregated ballast tanks (SBTs).

The use of separate tanks removes the need to fill cargo tanks with sea water to maintain the tanker's stability after unloading. This has immediately been attacked by oil monopolies on the grounds that the cost of converting

existing tankers to SBT would be too high—figures of \$300,000 to \$3m per vessel have been quoted.

They in turn have advocated a combination of techniques known as 'crude oil washing' and 'load on top'. These two processes, they argue, would "only" discharge 130,000 tons of oil annually into the sea.

From the point of view of the working class, however, fitting tankers with SBTs would not only go a long way towards purifying the seas, and cutting down the risk of further disasters. It would also provide much needed jobs to thousands of shipyard workers, suffering from the decline of their industry.

Clean Up

The oil and shipping monopolies have grown fat at our expense and at the expense of the environment. The trade unions must force them to foot the bill to clean up the environment. If they refuse they must be cleaned out themselves by full socialist measures.

THE STENCH OF OIL PROFIT

"We knew that a disaster had occurred because of the stench of oil which hung over the whole area". This was the comment of one of the villagers in Brittany, following the sinking of the Amoco Cadiz which released 220,000 tons of crude oil—described as the world's worst oil spillage—onto 300 miles of beach.

Exactly seven weeks later, this disaster was repeated for the residents of Corton, a tiny camping site near Great Yarmouth.

They awoke to find their area engulfed in thick black oil. The cause this time was the 12,000 ton Greek oil tanker the Eleni V, which was sliced into by the French merchant vessel the Roseline.

Accidents like this are not acts of God but arise from the incompetence, corruption and greed of the oil and shipping barons in their lust for easy and quick profits.

What is the basis for these

charges? Most of the oil discharged into the sea is the result of deliberate policy on the part of shipping monopolies. Before the closure of the Suez Canal, oil tankers returning to the Gulf with oil residues and waste still in the ballast found that the Canal authorities regarded it as cargo and it was therefore subject to dues. So the waste was discharged into the sea.

This is now widely practised and is having frightening repercussions. In the last few years port authorities have imposed a ban on empty oil tankers entering the harbours

unless their ballasts are completely free of the combustible gas left behind when the oil is discharged. This fear of explosion has led to the port authorities in Valetta, Malta, for example, banning all oil tankers. In order to use the harbour facilities the tankers therefore use the most expedient method, that is flushing out the tanks with sea water.

Discharges

At present the release of oily ballast water accounts for 1.5 million out of the 1.8 million tons of oil discharged annually into the sea. The Mediterranean alone receives

100,000 tons of oil annually. The Gulf of Muggia near Trieste, which receives effluent from a complex of refineries, has become a biological desert—devoid of even of the most primitive plant life.

Oil Clots

Recent evidence has suggested that the oceans are rapidly approaching this state. Thor Heyerdahl describes a grim scene of oil pollution in the Atlantic during his crossing with the papyrus raft Ra 1. A few days out of the harbour of Safi in Morocco he and his companions found themselves sailing through a mass of opaque water containing large quantities of solidified oil clots.

Two days after escaping

Young Socialists prepare mass campaign

The mood amongst the youth is changing rapidly. The Anti-Nazi carnival, the school students' protests and local anti-fascist mobilisations illustrate a new willingness of youth to fight. This gives great importance to the LPYS week of action between June 10th and June 18th.

Jobless

The nation-wide campaigning visits to the dole on the 14th and the schools on the 16th can bring the combative youth a political alternative to the miserable future which capitalism offers.

This year 680,000 school students will spill onto the job market and 40% will be left languishing on the dole. Unless the labour movement can draw them into its ranks, the unorganised youth will be open to demoralisation and po-

BROADCAST

Following other Labour Parties, Deptford LP's management committee last week passed a resolution for the National Executive supporting the LPYS broadcast proposed for 15th June, on the following lines:

This GMC welcomes the decision of the NEC to give the Labour Party Young Socialists a youth broadcast on June 15th.

The youth vote will be a very important factor in the next General Election.

However, this GMC believes that the content of the broadcast should be the decision of the LPYS National Committee so that it has a direct appeal to youth.

tentially be an easy prey for the racists and fascists.

We hope that the trade union youth committees in the districts and in the factories, the apprentice

stewards and the apprentice clubs will give us a special hand in this week of activity. These are the youth sections of the real force which can fight unemployment and racialism—the organised working class.

Most areas will now be drawing up plans to approach these sections to draw them into the activities and contacting trade union activists to join us in the fight to win the youth. Visits to the factories, depots and offices have been arranged already in some areas.

Leafletting

Such work is being combined with leafletting the estates, the youth clubs and the colleges and schools. All this is in addition to the days of action on the 10th and 17th June when the LPYS,

LP and TU members will be out in the shopping centres, leafletting, selling papers, holding open air meetings and sending car cavalcades or staging demonstrations throughout the main streets.

Resolutions

If the LPYS TV broadcast takes place on June 15th, that will add enormously to the effectiveness of the activities. The YS script is presently under discussion and will have a great effect on the youth. Already 30 resolutions have been sent in by Constituency Labour Parties supporting the YS having a broadcast with their own script.

Phil Frampton

(National Chairman, LPYS)



About 100 school students, including LPYS members with 'Militant' placards, from Fairfax Community School, Bradford, at Bowling Park, where they met at lunchtime to demonstrate support for their teachers' action over pay at the end of March.

MILITANT NOTICES

LONDON Militant Public Meeting 'May 1968'—Massive General Strike in France—over 10m on strike. Speaker: Clare Doyle (Militant Editorial Board).

'May 1978'—The French Elections and Perspectives for Europe. Speaker: Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board).

Plus: **Sud-Aviation**—rare film of workers' occupation and May demonstrations.

Admission: 25p. Friday May 19th, 7.15 pm. Place: University of London Union, Malet Street, London W.C.1. Near Euston Station (Northern, Victoria, Metro, Circle). Buses: 14, 24, 29, 30, 68, 73, 77C, 77A, 170, 188, 239.

NOTTINGHAM Militant Meeting 'Europe in Ferment'. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor of Militant); Tony Saunio (Labour Party NEC-elect). International Community Centre, 61 Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Tuesday 23rd May, 7.30 pm.

CROYDON Militant Public Meeting 'Why Socialists Oppose an Incomes Policy'. Speaker: Brian Ingham (Militant Editorial Board). Chairman: Ian Forbes. At: Cedar Hall, Ruskin House, 23 Coombe Road, Croydon. Friday 26th May, 7.45 pm.

PETERBOROUGH Militant Public Meeting: 'Engineering Industry Crisis—a fighting programme for the trade unions.' Speaker: John Huxtable, Harlow LP; AUEW Shop Steward. Friday 19th May, 7.30 pm. Coalheavers Arms, Park Street.

Marxist Weekend School Friday June 30th-Sunday July 2nd. At Goldsmith's College Students' Union, Lewisham Way, S.E.14. Programme: Opening session: Role of Marxism in Britain. Courses: Marxist Economics; Marxist Philosophy; International. Final session: World Perspectives. Leading Marxist speakers for each course.

Registration: £2. Reading lists will be sent on registration. To register, write to: 'Marxist Weekend School', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

LEICESTER Militant Readers' Meeting. 'The Socialist Struggle for a Living Wage'. Speakers: Liz Blackman (GMWU Home Help Branch); Nick Ramsell (AUEW GEC Whetstone). Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent). Richard II pub, Higher Cross Street, Leicester. Monday 22nd May at 7.45 pm. Everybody welcome.

STAFFORD Militant Public Meeting: 'The Future of the Power Engineering Industry and Stafford.' Speakers: John Byrne (GEC Manchester); Dave Rothwell (AUEW Senior Steward, Castle Works). Monday 15th May at 7.30 pm, Railway Inn, Castle Street.

Conferences

UPW Conference in Blackpool Militant Readers' Meeting Victory Hotel, Caunce Street, Blackpool. Tuesday 23rd May 1978. Start at 7.30 pm. Speakers: Peter Dodd (Delegate Manchester Amal); Bryan Beckingham (Militant); Cricklewood Branch Delegate. Chairman: Dave Griffiths (Stafford UPW). (All speakers in personal capacity).

Discussion Groups

NEWCASTLE Marxist Discussion Group for students, unemployed and shift workers. Fridays, 1.30 pm, Audio Room of Newcastle Poly Students' Union.

12.5.78—The Labour Party in Perspective. 19.6.78—Role of Marxism in the Labour Movement.

HARLOW Militant Discussion Group. 'France—May '68 to May '78—Prospects for Socialism after Election Defeat'. Speaker: Chris Huxtable (Harlow LPYS Sec). Thursday 25th May, 8.00 pm. At: 48 Morley Grove, Harlow.

SUNDERLAND Militant Discussion Group. Every other Friday at 8.00 pm. Phone Gateshead 774948 for further details.

GATESHEAD Marxist Discussion Meetings. May 22nd: The History of the Trade Unions (John Pickard); June 5th: Workers' Control and Management (Wilf Flynn). Phone Gateshead 881165 for details.

Events

YOU could win
A holiday in France for two worth £250!

A 3-room frame tent worth £150!

A family caravan for a week or a "Galleon" British holiday worth £100!

Plus a pocket camera, picnic set, sleeping bag, camp bed, deck chair, battery lantern and a football, if you bought every ticket for the MILITANT HOLIDAY RAFFLE to be drawn on Saturday July 1st! But if you just want to take a chance and buy a few books and sell as many as you can—Order now from: Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Price per ticket 10p, ten tickets in a book.

SOUTH WALES Militant Summer Camp Friday 26th—Monday 29th May (Spring Bank Holiday) Horton, Gower Coast Near Swansea Political Programme

1. The Marxist Method Ted Grant
2. The Class Nature of the Soviet Union Peter Taaffe
3. What is Fascism Ted Grant
4. World War—Future Prospects Bryan Beckingham
5. Marxism and the Trade Unions Brian Ingham

Book Now!
Cost: £6.50 per person
Cheques payable to R. Sewell. Further Details: R. Sewell, 99 Penderry Road, Penlan, Swansea. Tel: 33542.

Militant Badges: 'Workers Unity and Socialism'. Bulk orders available. Contact Cathy Wilson, 24 Belvedere Street, Ryde IOW, Tel: Ryde 66938.

Plans for Week of Action underway

Throughout the country, preparations are going ahead for the 'Week of Action', 10 to 18 June, 1978.

The following programme of action has been prepared by Kensington LPYS—and may provide ideas for other areas:

Agenda for "Week of Action" 10-18 June, 1978

Every YS branch is expected to play a full part in the events being organised for the NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION.

Saturday 10th June DAY OF ACTION
Three spots in Hammer-smith and two spots in Kensington are to be covered today from 10 am.

Two lorries, dressed up with posters etc. will be used to cover all these spots and to transport YS members around. Megaphones and a microphone will be used, together will a petition on youth unemployment, papers, leaflets, placards etc.

A good start to the week!!!

Sunday 11 June WORK IN AREAS
YS Secretaries should ensure that at least a couple of hours are spent leafletting either the local broadcast leaflet or a meetings leaflet.

A local leaflet will be drawn up advertising the broadcast on 15th June, the week of action, and where to go to see the broadcast with YS members. It is important that this leaflet is circulated widespread around the areas.

Monday 12 June PUBLIC MEETING

Venue: Chippenham pub, Chippenham Road, Paddington. Speakers (provisionally): Arthur Latham MP; Nick Bradley (LPYS); Bob Lee (PNP). Subject: 'Unemployment, Racism and the Trade Unions'.

Paddington YS will leaflet the area—advertising meeting in local press and putting up posters.

Tuesday 13 June

Kensington YS will be responsible for leafletting the area—advertising meetings in local press, posters etc.

Wednesday 14 June

Morning: leafletting and paper sales, and lunchtime at local schools. Then go to local techs.

Thursday 15 June LPYS PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST
Leaflet estates then all get together to watch TV.

Friday 16 June
During the day leafletting and paper sales at the dole, as on Tuesday evening.

Saturday 17 June DAY OF ACTION
Meet Paddington Tube Station at 10 am.

Two spots in Paddington, one spot in Westminster South, and one spot in Chelsea are to be covered today.

Two lorries and all the other arrangements being organised for the previous Saturday's Day of Action will be applicable for today also.

SATURDAY EVENING
We are at present trying to get a decent rock band for this evening. More details will be given shortly.

During the weekdays, Monday 12 June-Friday 16 June

It would be of extreme value if several schools and dole queues could be covered during the week. Therefore we are asking every YS member:—if you work to take an afternoon, morning or full day off work—if you are at school to put aside some time during the day (allowing for exams. etc.)—if you are on the dole to give us as much of your time as possible.

LET'S BUILD THE LPYS!

LITERATURE AVAILABLE FOR THE WEEK OF ACTIVITY

LPYS Posters:
Anti-National Front poster—12p each
Join LPYS poster—12p each
Workers Unity to Defeat
Racialism Poster—5p each

YCAU Posters
End Unemployment: 8p each
We Want Work: 8p each

LPYS Leaflets
School Students Leaflet
Anti-racist Leaflet
Join Labour's Youth leaflet—£3.50 per 1,000
Smash Racialism with Socialist Policies (PNP/LPYS leaflet)—£3 per 1,000 (inc p&p)

YCAU Leaflets
Unemployment leaflet: £3 per 1,000 inc p&p
LEFT Anti-racist Broadsheet—5p each
June issue of LEFT—10p each

LPYS literature available from Transport House, Smith Square London W.C.1.

YCAU literature available from 435 New Cross Road, London S.E.14

LEFT & RIGHT

ARE YOU A MOUSE OR A WOMAN?

An industrial tribunal decided this week that it was OK for a company to refuse 17-year old school leaver Tim Veasey a job, on the grounds that the work was "so boring that a mouse could be trained to do it," as a company man explained, or as they put it to the employment exchange, "more suitable for a woman."

The firm's spokesman at the tribunal claimed that the only discrimination was on the grounds of age. They didn't think a young person would tolerate the work for long. Perhaps he doesn't know any young people stuck in boring, dead-end jobs, with nowhere to go but the dole.

The tribunal chairman decided that a young woman would have been turned down in just the same way, so the law had not been broken.

And the Tories say that industrial tribunals are a threat to the freedom of the bosses!

SOCIALIST FANTASIES

Did you know that racialism, inflation, unemployment and housing shortages are all bred by socialism? That South Africa is "another example of socialism at work"?

That is the verdict of Christopher Tame, writing in 'Free Nation'. The paper is produced by the National Association For Freedom, the organisation funded by businessmen who championed, among others, George Ward, the Grunwick boss.

They don't say whether they employ him as a fiction writer or a humorist.

We know the bosses provide us with the 'Sun' and 'News of the World' to keep the real facts well hidden from workers under a mound of gossip, sport and page 3 photos. But they obviously feel the need for some escapist fantasy themselves. They don't really see any answer to the problems of their system [except cutting workers' wages and living standards to fatten their profits], but then, it's all really the fault of the 'socialist' House of Lords and the reds who run ICI...

After a harrowing day in the boardroom, it must be nice to lie back and pretend.

Self-financing non-productivity deal

Did you manage to wring all of 10% out of your boss this year? Don't let wage restraint get you down: Prince Charles, when he's not practising polo or parachuting, as part of his training to rule the empire, is setting us all a good example.

His tax-free income last year rose by over £160,000, to £290,605. Being a generous lad, and not wanting to embarrass anyone, he gave half of it away to the state. But he's still on £145,000, more than double what he took home last year.

It wasn't a super-productivity deal—he isn't subject to things like that because, of course, he doesn't actually earn his money. It comes from the Duchy of Cornwall, which had an enormous jump in profits last year—from renting out agricultural land.

Farm workers are told they are 'stoking inflation' when they demand £80 for a 35-hour week. Though they're only trying to keep abreast of rising prices—and the astronomical cost of renting land, the farmers like to tell us, is what keeps forcing up the price of food.

LIFE DOWN THE PIT

The reason why an article of this nature must appear in this paper, is to dispel the fallacies that are bandied around about the conditions of the miner.

Whenever a miner starts to talk about his job the first thing people say is: "The conditions are a lot better than they used to be due to the modern machinery."

It is true that new machines have been introduced, but the working conditions in the pits haven't changed much. In fact, the coal-cutting machines in the faceline create a greater dust problem.

This is the most serious hazard in our industry.

By Peter Krykant

(Kinneil Colliery and West Lothian
NUM Branch Committee)

being the biggest killer. This is a problem we have to live with.

There will always be dust in the pits. This is one of the major arguments for a shorter working week and to bring early retirement down to 55 years.

No Toilets

People also point to the fact that no miner has to go home in the dirty state that faced him years ago, now that there are showers at all the pits. But that is all that is supplied, just hot water.

A miner has to buy his

own soap and towels. He has to take his pit clothes home and wash them. And you ask any miner's wife the state her man's overalls get into!

The conditions down the pit are often near the point of being unbearable. The mine has no toilet facilities. He does the toilet in a place where he thinks will best keep the stench away from himself and his mates.

There are no canteens available either, he must either take a slice of bread down the pit or do without (he only has a 20-minute break to eat it anyway).

The miner has to eat his piece in the company of mice and innumerable insects that are crawling all about him.

Mice

If requested he can obtain poison from the pithead to put down for the mice. But if this is done then you have the unbearable smell of dead mice, so most miners prefer to let them run around rather than put up with the smell.

These are a few of the conditions that the miner has to put up with. It is no surprise that the miner has lodged a claim for £135, which after off-takes, will leave him about £85.

'Them and Us in Science'

Remember how we were taught at school that natural science, and the various branches of it, biology, chemistry, physics etc., are placed "above" society? That scientists are hard working, dedicated people working for the betterment of society and that the results of scientific research provide for us all.

This short booklet provides a worthy introduction as to how the class system is reflected in the scientific field, and how false the capitalist approach to science is.

As Gibson says: "In every scientific equation there is either explicitly or implicitly, a variable for capitalist economics. The nature of the product and the nature of its production, the nature of its science, technology, research and development is determined by the social forms and social relations of production. To emphasise, the relations of production determine the technology and not, as is frequently stated, the other way around."

Under the heading "Is Science Neutral?" the author points out that under our educational system class bias still operates. Sons and daughters of the ruling and middle classes have much easier accessibility into studying sciences, and when qualified, they are much more likely to accept the norms of research and development, i.e. science based on profit and not need.



Scientists at work in a blood transfusion laboratory

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

This is shown by who pays for research and which projects are chosen for research. Obviously he who pulls the purse strings decides the projects.

In 1969/70 38% of all funds for scientific research came from private industry, as opposed to 4% from nationalised industries. Of government sector funding, 25% of this went to defence and only 6.1% to research councils.

Discrimination

As I pointed out, science taught at school reflects the general attitude of the ruling class, as well as class differences in re-

search and development, with the working class under-represented.

Sex differences markedly exist as well. Five males to one female is the proportions of study at further and higher education of the natural sciences. We all know from experience that at school girls were encouraged to do biology and chemistry, and similarly with designing of materials, metalwork and woodwork, girls did not do this at all!

However, the author points to changing trends in science and among scientific workers, with the increasing unionisation of these workers into unions

like ASTMS and TASS, and their increasing awareness of the dangers involved in many areas of research.

In many cases involving asbestos, production of rubber etc., safety is criminally and fatally ignored. Also the innovation by groups of workers when their factories were threatened with closure, showed how they could use science and technology for need and not for profit.

The Lucas Aerospace shop stewards is probably the best example. All these point to a growing questioning of the role of science in society.

This booklet is well worth reading as a very simple introduction to the subject of the Marxist approach to science. A knowledge of the Marxist approach to scientific behaviour is essential for an understanding of how science and society works.

As Gibson himself says in the concluding paragraph: "The struggle for the control of science becomes, then, one aspect of the struggle for a socialist world."

Geoffrey Stout

(Bradford South
Labour Party)

'Them and Us in Science' by Ian Gibson. Modern Press, price 30p. Order from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Workers' Notebook

We predicted in advance that the British workers, if capitalism survived, would become the coolies of Europe. This was a sharp contrast to the dazzling future held out by the supporters of entry into the EEC. At the end of 1976, a comparison was made across the EEC of the ownership of 'consumer durables' by households. It shows that Britain, at 53%, has less households with a car than any other EEC member (including even Ireland, 60% of whose households have cars—probably because railways are almost extinct there).

Countries like Belgium, Denmark and Germany all have around twice as many deep freezes per household as Britain. Only Ireland and Denmark have less fridges (the latter obviously because they have so many freezers). Every other country has more dishwashers per household, and only Ireland has substantially fewer washing machines per household. Of course, deep freezers and dishwashers are mocking dreams for the families of many workers. The figures, if read differently, also tell you that 47% of houses don't have cars, 78% don't have deep freezers, and 97% don't have dishwashers.

If you want to understand what the capitalist slump means in real terms, look at housing.

In the 'Fifties, local councils were putting up 169,000 new dwellings a year.

In the 'Sixties they were still managing 152,000 a year. By 1976 they were down to 136,000.

But the private sector builders who were putting up 104,000 in the 'Fifties built 155,000 in 1976.

While local councils are putting up more houses now than they were in the black Tory years, the country is only adding 260,000 dwellings to its stock a year—a far cry from Harold Wilson's pledge of 1964: half a million new homes a year.

Social Trends 1977: Table 9.1 p 149

THE CAMBRIDGE COLLEGES:

Education and big business

To some people, universities are centres of learning, havens of peace where the cares of the world are far away. The sordid world of high finance is washed away in academic debate and philosophical diatribe.

But let us look at the truth of the matter. The combined universities of Cambridge and Oxford are the largest landowners in Britain with 275,000 acres. The Crown, with 176,000 and the Church, with 170,000, finish as poor rivals. Trinity College, Cambridge, alone is the third largest landowner in Britain and had an annual income at June 1976 of £1,444,224.

The colleges are classed as educational charities, and so pay no tax, and only have to publish a digest of their accounts. Their true wealth is therefore unknown. They own most of Cambridge and its surroundings, a large amount of London's Oxford Street, the industrial area of Portsmouth, and most of Southend!

Felixstowe docks, the only private docks in the country, has massive investment from Trinity College. In 1974 it provided 16% of the college's endowment income. Last year when the Lords squashed the proposal to nationalise Felixstowe docks, Lord R A

Butler spoke against nationalisation. Lord Butler just happens to be the master of Trinity. Politics, big business and personal interest combine in enormous power.

Perhaps you would like your name on one of the college's portals? You would go down in history as a worthy philanthropist, a friend of the people.

A Mr David Robinson recently donated £17 million to have a college built with his name on it. He made his money in racehorses at Newmarket, and in TV rentals. Three of his companies, Multi-Broadcast, Robinson Rentals, and Radio Rentals were all recently named in 'Which?' for making exorbitant profits.

Taken together, the Cambridge colleges represent big business. The sons and daughters of the rich are educated here at the expense of the unpaid labour of the working class.

There is no need to ask how impartial and unbiased an education they will receive. Here the circle is closed; the sons of the rich are educated by big business in order to join the boards of directors of the future.

Pete Lee

(Cambridge Labour Party)

Holidays '78

just a dream for millions

Most people will have already decided whether or not they can afford a holiday this year.

Many will not be going abroad this summer or even taking a week's holiday somewhere in Britain, because although the big companies spend millions of pounds advertising 'exotic places', they unfortunately don't explain how workers are supposed to afford the prices. Those people that decide they can afford a break will spend most of the year saving and then find only the cheapest holiday is within their means.

Overworked

When you think that in 1976 the average working week of male workers was 45.3 hours and 12.8% of men in employment averaged more than 50 hours a week, you would think that at least the two weeks' annual summer break would be enjoyed by all—it's certainly needed by all. Of course, what people need under capitalism isn't usually provided.

A report entitled 'Holidays: the Social Need 1976,' sponsored jointly by the TUC and the English Tourist Board, showed that more than one in ten trade union members are still getting less than two weeks' holiday a year and 60% are getting three weeks' holiday or less.



At least this state employee managed a holiday abroad last year.

That, of course, doesn't mean that people actually manage to get away—it just refers to days off work with pay.

For the low paid and one parent families the chance of a week in Europe must be as likely as a visit to the moon. One in five children of two-parent families and one in three children of one-parent families have never had a holiday away.

As a relatively well paid teacher I have been trying to book a cottage for a week somewhere in Britain. Perhaps I have been unlucky but many of the cottages seem to cost between £80 and £100 a week!

On top of that you have to travel to the place and of course provide your own food. It hardly amounts to a holiday on the cheap. Camping used to be an answer but even that has

become expensive.

Some people, of course, can afford villas in the South of France. Princess Margaret's villa on the Caribbean island of Mustique is available for rent at £500 a week including cook and maid. It seems ironic that the people who can best afford a holiday are those who least need one.

Fought for

Paid holidays for workers had to be fought for by the labour movement. It wasn't until the late 1930s that many firms conceded holidays with pay, and it needed government legislation to force some firms to pay up. British workers have fewer holidays than all their European counterparts.

Most unions are in favour of four weeks'

holiday a year and some workers actually get this much. The unions must campaign for four weeks as a minimum for all workers and the trade unions in the place of work must decide when holidays can be taken. Why should your employer have the right to determine the timing of your holidays?

The large holiday companies should be taken out of the hands of private ownership and run as non-profit making ventures for the benefit of those wanting cheap holidays of high quality. The small firms should be monitored by the trade unions to stop excessive charges.

Militant holiday

We won't have achieved those demands by this summer so in the short run the only answer seems to be to buy a 'Militant' summer holiday raffle ticket, or perhaps establish a register of 'Militant' supporters willing to swap houses for summer holidays with a small commission for the fighting fund.

A couple of weeks' holiday away somewhere isn't much to ask for, but for millions in this country it's more than the present system can provide.

Roy Bentley

(Banbury Labour Party)

South Wales Militant Camp provides

CHEAP HOLIDAYS FOR SOCIALISTS

With one week left before the South Wales Militant Summer Camp it is imperative that all areas pull out the stops to ensure last-minute bookings.

The thirst for Marxist ideas has resulted in record bookings from the West Wales area. Comrades and their families will be attending from the Rhondda, Neath and Amman Valleys. New areas, like Maesteg and Crosshands, will be well represented.

Bookings nationally have been more slow. Although most areas will be sending delegations to the Camp, further block bookings should be phoned in.

The weekend will provide everyone with an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism. With an overwhelming number of industrial workers together with their families who will be present, the lectures will be

aimed at outlining the basics of Marxism.

Those who are not sure about coming, will be sorry. All the preparations have been made for an excellent weekend, both politically and socially. **Don't delay, book now!**

Political programme: The Marxist Method—Ted Grant; The Class Nature of the Soviet Union—Roger Silverman; What is Fascism?—Ted Grant; World War: Future Prospects—Brian Beckett; Marxism and the Trade Unions—Brian Ingham.

On arrival on Friday, comrades must register and pitch their tents. A disco has been arranged to begin at 8.00 pm.

Cost: £6.50 per person. Cheques payable to R Sewell. Further details: R Sewell, 99 Penderry Road, Penlan, Swansea. Tel: 33542.

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL

The 'Marxist Weekend School' organised by 'Militant' supporters in NOLS offers an excellent chance for a full discussion of Marxist theory. Leading Marxist theoreticians and activists in the labour movement have been booked to speak.

Bob Ashworth, senior steward at Rover, Solihull, will lead off on 'The Role of Marxism in Britain' at the first session; and then the school will divide into courses on 'Marxist Economics', 'Marxist Philosophy' and 'International Affairs'. Speakers booked include: Mick Brooks and Andrew Glyn on economics; Brian Ingham and Geoff Jones on Marxist Philosophy; and Ted Grant and Roger Silverman on International Affairs.

The venue for the school is Goldsmiths College, Lewisham Way, London, S.E.14. The registration fee is only £2; and a pooled fare will operate, to ensure that comrades from out of London can afford to come.

The school is open to all activists in the labour movement interested in the ideas of Marxism. It is between Friday June 30th and Sunday July 2nd. For further details, write to: Marxist Weekend School, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

RESELECTION OF MPs:—

Labour's ranks must be vigilant

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) II



Last year's Labour Party Conference, where the rank and file expressed their desire for democratic control over MPs

"Jim Callaghan last night won yet another battle against the Left in the Labour Party. The party's organisation committee decided that in future Constituency Parties will not be allowed to throw out their MPs as was the case in Newham North East with Reg Prentice."

Thus did the *Express* on May 9th sum up the effect of the amendments to rule proposed by the majority of the Working Party set up by the Labour Party NEC to examine the question of reselection of Members of Parliament.

Smokescreen

However, three of us on the Working Party have refused to allow ourselves to be used by the right wing as a smokescreen for their back stage manoeuvring. The right wanted a so-called "compromise" which will not only frustrate the clearly expressed demand of the ranks of the party for greater democratic control over MPs, but will in actual fact lead to a less democratic situation than exists now.

Jo Richardson MP, Bernard Kissen and myself have produced a minority report. This report takes up the arguments of the majority and submits alternative amendments to rule in line with the pledge made to conference by the NEC.

The majority proposes that not earlier than eighteen months and not later than thirty-six months after an MP is elected to Parliament a special General Committee meeting would be held, the date to be determined in consultation with the sitting Member. He or she would be invited to address that meeting and a resolution would be put to appoint the MP as prospective Parliamentary candidate.

If the resolution is not carried then the meeting will consider a second resolution, to set in motion procedure for a normal selection meeting. This could not be held, however, until the NEC had considered any appeal the sitting Member may make if the first resolution is defeated.

This in no way can be described as providing automatic reselection. In trying to make out a case for this proposal—which would be a rally in support of the sitting MP giving him or her two bites of the cherry—the majority have argued along three main lines in support of a two-stage procedure.

They also claim that it isn't a two-stage procedure! There is no answer to that!

"It will avoid unfavourable publicity and lessen dissension in the local Parties." Well this will manifestly not be the case.

The Tory-controlled press will always come down in support of so-called 'moderates', a euphemism for right wingers, and with the willing help of these moderates will use their resources to smear any opposition there may be, whatever the selection procedure.

The two-stage procedure, which could drag on for months, will give them a field day. Divisions in the Party would be fostered and played upon with charge and counter-charge being made almost daily.

Career MPs in safe seats will be determined to hang on even if they wreck the local Party in the process and appeal after appeal will be made. They are not interested in new affiliations and new members.

They particularly fear the youth joining the Party. They feel threatened by a growing, thriving Party. They prefer a little coterie of supporters. We believe that automatic reselection, and therefore more accountability by an MP, would lead to a growing, active and healthy Party.

The second argument of the majority is that a Constituency ought not to have to go through the full procedure if it does not wish to do so. Why should a Party be afraid of an extension of democracy?

If they have confidence in their MP and he has widespread support, then he will be reselected, and by beating off any challenges at a normal selection conference will have his position strengthened. No MP, or Constituency that has confidence in him or her, need feel afraid of automatic reselection.



Turnoat Prentice

The rule change proposed in our Minority Report makes it mandatory for every Constituency to hold a Selection Conference, the sitting MP to be placed on the short list unless he or she wishes to retire. If this became part of the normal democratic process of the Party, without the need to pass a vote of no

confidence first [because that is what the proposal of the majority would mean in practice] the press would be given less opportunity to intervene and stir the pot, MPs would be more cognisant of Party policy as decided by Conference, and local parties would be reinvigorated, leading to growth in membership and activity.

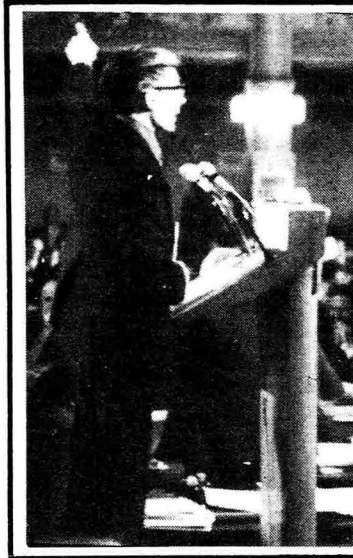
Trade Unions

The third argument of the majority is that a sponsoring organisation should be given the opportunity, if a General Committee decides to go forward with the selection procedure (and therefore casting some doubt on the sitting MP), to put forward a nomination for an alternative sponsored candidate.

We believe that no trade union or affiliated organisation should have a prescriptive right to a seat. However, if we examine the arguments behind the majority's blatant attempt to get the trade union vote behind their proposals by suggesting they would lose representation in Parliament, we find that this would not be the case at all. The two-stage procedure, rather than helping to maintain trade union representation in Parliament, could lead to the opposite, and at the same time cause considerable harm to the trade union movement.

With the two-stage procedure, consider a union's dilemma if a Constituency decides to go for a full selection meeting. They would have to decide whether to withdraw their sponsorship from the sitting MP and put forward an alternative candidate. This alone would cause dissension in the local branches.

If they decided to sponsor a new candidate, bearing in mind the sitting MP they had previously sponsored would automatically be on the short list, this would have repercussions throughout the sponsoring union, with some branches of the union supporting the sitting MP and others the new candidate. It



By Ray
Apps

Brighton
Kempton
Labour Party
and member
of the NEC
Working Party
on reselection
of MPs

could tear the union apart throughout the area, and probably ensure that neither one would get selected.

The unions should oppose this attempt to use them against the Constituencies. After all, we are all trade unionists with the same common interests.

Unions have no need to fear that their representation and influence in Parliament would be lessened by supporting automatic reselection. It is a common practice for a union to sponsor one of its members as an MP only after he or she has been elected to Parliament.

If the union lost a sponsored MP it would be perfectly easy for it to adopt another of its MPs not sponsored before. In the case of ASTMS, for example, there are nearly forty MPs who are members of that union but only a small fraction of them are sponsored.

Similarly with the Co-operative Party, who have a special arrangement with the Labour Party about the number of sponsored MPs they have. If they lost a sponsored MP they would be able to maintain their strength from the large number of MPs who are members of the Co-operative Party by adopting one of them. Presumably they have some arrangement to do this anyway in the event of one of their sponsored MPs losing a seat in an election.

Reg Prentice

The principal points of the automatic procedure proposed by the minority are: there will be less likelihood of hostile and unnecessary press publicity if all MPs undergo the same process; and the wishes of Party members to ensure their MPs are accountable would be genuinely provided for.

We consider it vital that together with a procedure for automatic reselection, paragraph (B) of section 7 of the Party constitution should be retained as a final safeguard. The majority of the Working Party, using the argument that a large number of resolutions called for its deletion, have recommended that before a General Committee may consider a vote of no confidence in the sitting member, it must obtain the permission of the NEC.

This takes away an existing democratic right and gives a new power of veto to the NEC.

On what basis will the NEC grant permission? "Changed circumstances"—whatever they will interpret that to mean. In practice it will mean for example that Prentice, the

Tory, would still be subverting the Party from within, disguised as a Labour MP. It is possible that they would not have given permission in any one of the cases where paragraph (B) has been used to date.

My Constituency, Brighton Kemp Town, has been accused of placing too much emphasis on the rights given to us in paragraph (B). At last year's Party Conference I moved composite 29, which as well as calling for automatic reselection, in the final paragraph called for Constituencies to have the right to call the sitting MP to account at any time.

This, said its opponents, would mean a selection meeting every week. Well those who say that are in a different Party from me! It is absurd to believe that would be the case.

I made it clear from the rostrum that we wanted to retain paragraph (B). This gives a General Committee the right to move a vote of no confidence at any time, and so far it hasn't been used every week, has it?

We were afraid that the Parliamentary Party, with their considerable influence, would use a heaven-sent opportunity to remove this sword of Damocles hanging over their heads all the time. The right wing have always been nervous that if they go too far to the right the sword may fall.

We were absolutely right! Our worst fears have been confirmed. They have taken away the sword offered to them and given us a hat pin in exchange.

In short, the right to move a vote of no confidence at any time of our choosing is to be exchanged for the paltry right to move a vote of no confidence just once at a time to be pre-arranged to suit the sitting MP. Having got through a procedure heavily weighted in his or her favour, the MP would be safe to do what he liked in Parliament for up to seven years without the membership being able to do anything about it.

This is the time for maximum possible unity in action of every Party member and trade unionist interested in Party democracy. All is not yet lost if we unite around the Minority Report.

No to a two-stage procedure!

Yes to mandatory automatic reselection!

No to a new power of veto to the NEC!

Yes to the retention of Paragraph (B)!

Support the Minority Report!

BACK THE MINORITY REPORT!

THE REVOLUTION OF BANGLA

In recent weeks we have drawn attention to the explosive situation prevailing today in India. But the whole sub-continent is in turmoil.

In Sri Lanka, a violent confrontation is inevitable if the resistance of the trade unions to the new dictatorship is to be overcome.

The fragile Pakistani regime is paralysed with indecision as to whether it would be more dangerous to let deposed Prime Minister Bhutto survive, or to execute him. The universal hatred of the regime has been boosted still more by the revolution in Afghanistan.

The Sandhurst-trained General Zia ul-Haque has resorted to the public flogging of trade unionists, students and May Day marchers, and has promised that thieves will have their hands chopped off in accordance with ancient Islamic law.

Now come reports from "Amnesty International" of mass executions at the hands of his counterpart and namesake, General Zia (Ziaur Rahman) of Bangladesh. Up to 600 servicemen have been executed following two abortive mutinies last September and October.

Executions

10-15,000 political prisoners are incarcerated in horrific conditions. Three political parties, including the left-wing Socialist Nationalist Party (Jatyo Samajtanrik Dal) have been banned.

Perhaps this is nothing remarkable? Repression is commonplace throughout the area. But the peculiarity of Bangladesh is that General Zia was himself brought to power 2½ years ago by a similar army mutiny led by the same JSD!

What is more, so fierce was the popular resistance movement in Bengal that even the British imperialists only once (in 1934) dared to execute a political prisoner since 1908, when they martyred the legendary Khudiram Bose, celebrated by minstrels and beggars ever since, and thus set aflame the torch of Bengali nationalism.

Through seven decades of violent armed struggle, famine, massacres and assassinations, in one of the world's poorest countries, a nation born in bloodbath and in violent convulsions ever since, where tens of millions spend their lives hovering on the edge of existence, only Zia has dared to break the taboo that stayed the hands of imperialism. In the most unstable corner of an unstable land-mass, with the richest traditions, Zia is plunging his hands ever deeper into blood.

The story of the 1975 mutiny sums up the heroism of Bangladesh's short but dramatic history.

When Pakistan was artificially created by British imperialism in 1947, half a million people died in the communal riots and ten million refugees migrated across the new borders. It was a theocratic state with a land breach of 1,000 miles, consisting of five nations, of which the dominant Punjabis and the Mahajirs (rich refugees) were a minority.

Three-quarters of the population were victims of national oppression. Urdu, spoken by 7%, was proclaimed the official language.

In the 1971 war to liberate the majority East Bengali nation, over a million perished. In 1974, another 100,000 Bangladeshis

Roger Silverman

starved in a "man-made" famine. Then in 1975, came a succession of four violent military coups and a revolutionary soldiers' uprising, all within three months!

Pakistan, the creature of imperialism's cynical policy of "divide and rule", was an abortion. From the beginning, its dominant political force, the Muslim League, split into wrangling factions and only the military dictatorship of Ayub Khan (1958-69) could temporarily hold the country together.

But no regime can stabilise itself in conditions of intolerable hardship. That regime was blown sky-high by a wave of massive strikes, gheraos and student demonstrations. General Yahya Khan took control, promising free elections and provincial governments, but once the lid of repression had been blasted off no force could hold the masses down.

"Black Night"

East Bengal, the poorest and most populous part of Pakistan, entirely dependent on jute production which wavered at the mercy of world market prices, revolted by voting virtually unanimously for Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League, the nationalist party. The AL actually won a majority of the seats in Pakistan's National Assembly!

It was then that Bhutto, a minister under Ayub Khan and the victor in the Punjab and Sind provinces, blustered that he would not submit to the "brute majority" and by threatening to walk out gave the authorities their excuse to refuse to convene the Assembly.

On 25th March, 1971, came "Black Night". The Pakistan General Headquarters sent 100,000 troops to Dacca with the instructions: "Burn everything. Kill everyone on sight." Thousands were massacred. The war had begun.

Overnight, the people rose up spontaneously while their "leader" Mujib waited at home, Gandhian-style, to be arrested. Most of the troops and even officers resisted Yahya's offensive. In days, up to 12,000 Bengali troops had been wiped out and the victorious Pakistani columns were fanning out from Dacca.

The masses rose up, staking their whole miserable lives on victory. Mujib complained openly: "Is the West Pakistani government not aware that I am the only one able to save East Pakistan from communism? If they take a position to fight, I shall be pushed out of power,

and the Naxalites [revolutionary guerrillas] will intervene in my name. If I make too many concessions, I shall lose my authority. I am in a difficult situation."

It was then that the long arm of intervention was extended by the Indian ruling class, terrified that a people's war of liberation would blaze the trail to revolution in neighbouring and turbulent West Bengal, which was also poised on the brink of revolution, and that the revolt would spread across India like a prairie-fire. India had twice unsuccessfully engaged Pakistan, which was armed to the teeth by American imperialism, to the tune of a billion US dollars, as a reward for its membership of CENTO and SEATO. Pakistan's military expenditure amounted to 60% of the budget.

India saw its chance to neutralise its Eastern flank, avenge itself on Pakistan, pillage Bangladesh, and assert its dominance of the sub-continent. 150,000 Indian troops intervened and, given their popular support, assured Bangladesh of a quick victory.

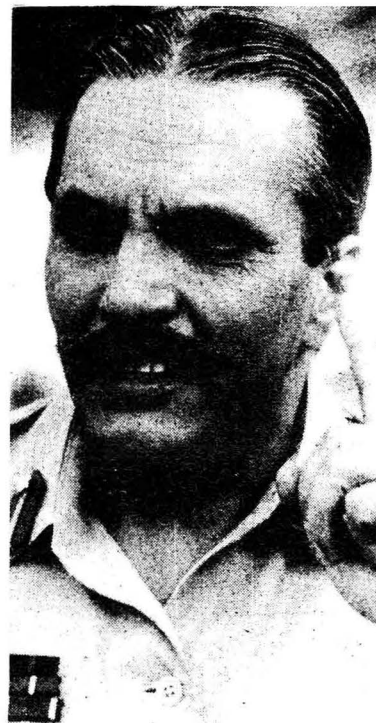
The Indian Army was cheered by the masses and Mrs Gandhi was hailed alongside Mujib as a liberator. But its first act was to disarm the masses and the arsenals, offering in return only second-hand vintage weaponry for "security purposes".

The Pakistani surrender was made, not to Bangladeshi but to Indian commanders. India looted 4 billion rupees' worth of industrial machinery in December 1971 alone.

Under India's patronage, an orgy of corruption raged under Mujib. AL officers openly took over the "abandoned property" of West Pakistanis and collaborators.

Ziauddin, a military hero, remarked within two years how far removed Bangladesh's atmosphere was from that of a liberated country: "The whole of Bangladesh is either begging or singing sad songs...The hungry and poor are totally lost. This country is on the verge of falling into the abyss." Of Mujib, he said: "We fought without him and won. And now if need be we will fight again."

The corrupt officialdom waxed fat on the two billion dollars' worth of relief supplies. More aid had flowed into Bangladesh in 2½ years than in the previous 23. It lined their pockets.



General Zia of Bangladesh

The landless peasants earned 17% less in 1973 than they did in 1949! Out of 74 million people, 46 million were consuming less than 2,100 calories a day. People were literally starving to death in the streets.

Others were committing suicide or refusing inoculation against epidemics, preferring a quick death to slow starvation.

Meanwhile, the Dacca Awami League President was doubling up as Chairman of the local Red Cross, thus establishing a multi-million dollar black market in relief goods. A local United Nations official made a million and bought a hotel in Sardinia on the proceeds of his enterprise. The World Bank paid \$4 billion in bribes. Bangladesh attracted bloodsuckers like Stonehouse from all over the world.

By late 1974, Bangladesh had crumbled into chaos. Over 3,000 AL officials had been assassinated, either by guerrillas or by rival factions of the Party. Mujib, the hero of 1971, dared not venture on the streets.

Heroes

This was the background to the disillusion of the heroes of the liberation struggle. It was symbolised by the defection of Ziauddin to the Serbhara Party, a guerrilla force, and of Abu Taher to the JSD. Between them, these two had commanded 90% of the infantry in 1972.

Abu Taher was a liberation hero, the victor of the key strategic battles of Chilmari and Kamalpur, losing a leg in the war. He had defied the hierarchy, more English than the English, with their carpeted tents, batmen and whisky. Where they had wanted to fight a conventional war relying on India if necessary to quickly instal Mujib and disarm the masses, Taher had bitterly opposed Indian intervention and called for a revolutionary people's war.

Taher became the leader of the military wing of the JSD,



Troops marching through Dacca during the war between Pakistan and Bangladesh

ARY TRADITIONS

ADESH

and therefore of the revolutionary mutiny of November 7th 1975. What distinguished this party from all the other left parties, was that the momentous events of 1971, had rendered them irrelevant.

They had talked scholastically of the national liberation struggle as a "diversion" from the class struggle. Just as the Communist Party of India under Stalin's guidance had betrayed the people and collaborated with British imperialism in 1942-45 while tens of thousands of Congress politicians were interned, so too these parties were bypassed by the capitalist Awami League which, like Congress, was enabled to pose as the leadership of the oppressed masses in their struggle for freedom.

The JSD began as a student group in 1962 with revolutionary elan but confused perspectives including certain Maoist illusions. It joined the AL to form a socialist wing thus making "two parties in one". In the 1970 election campaign, it sent thousands of educated youth into the villages and thus gained a mass base in the countryside with its demand for an Independent Socialist Bangladesh.

Where the pro-Moscow CP turned its back on nationalism and armed struggle, the pro-Chinese CP was at first blinded and then torn into fragments by the cynical and double-dealing policy of Peking. True to its strategic alliance with the Pakistani dictators, China openly opposed the right of self-determination for East Bengal, shrugging off the whole struggle as a "plot" by "Indian expansionism and Soviet social-imperialism," and even a threat to...Pakistan's "territorial integrity"!

(The point was precisely that Pakistan literally had no territorial integrity and was an entirely reactionary artefact of British imperialism!) China even loyally provided Yahya Khan with the use of Chinese air bases from which to launch his murderous blitzkrieg.

Coups

The JSD earned the confidence of tens of thousands of workers and peasants during Mujib's degeneration. It was opposed both to the use of individual terror and to military putsches and palace revolutions, neither of which involved the masses. While in the Serbhara, policy was dictated by military factors, in the JSD Taher's army was subordinated to political direction.

With its mass base, the JSD led two successful nationwide general strikes in early 1974, followed by a hunger march on which troops opened fire. The JSD was then banned and forced underground. In December, Mujib proclaimed emergency rule. 62,000 political prisoners crammed his jails.

By this time, society was at breaking point. During 1974,

the world commodity crisis had combined with the worst floods for 20 years. Where Mujib had promised to halve the price of rice, it had risen ten times over.

Memories were stirred of the Great Bengal Famine of 1943, in which 3 million had perished. Mujib and his Indian patrons were universally identified with the food-hoarders and black marketeers.

The scene was set for the violent convulsions of 1975. When a handful of junior officers murdered Mujib and his family on 15th August, the former demi-god died without arousing a whimper of protest. However, the new regime depended on the backing of the USA and Pakistan, and was composed of hated collaborators and repatriates who had sat out the war in West Pakistan. It was detested by large sections of the army.

The regime lasted until 3rd November. A new coup was engineered by Mrs Gandhi's fiendish secret police force the RAW. But the threat of a new Indian puppet regime was equally loathed by the masses. The threat of civil war between rival factions of the army was posed.

Radical Officers

That was the signal for the armed uprising. The ruling class was split, the officers paralysed, the people ready to stake their lives. The JSD set into motion its plans for a rising on 7th November. It rescued from detention the arrested Chief of Staff, General Zia, an ally of Taher in the war, whom they regarded as an "honest nationalist."

But it also issued an appeal to all soldiers to cease being pawns, to refuse to allow rival gangs of officers to pit them against one another. **"This revolution is for one purpose—the interests of the oppressed classes...The rich have used us for their own interests...This time we have revolted alongside the masses of the country."**

Their twelve demands included the release of political prisoners, an end to officers' privileges, abolition of the batman system, selection of officers from the rank and file instead of the elite military academies, higher pay, rent-free accommodation, and **"a classless army as a step towards a classless society."**

It called for the creation of "soldier Soviets" and established a "central revolutionary army organisation" which would "decide all policies. General Zia will not take any decision without consulting the general committee...This central body will keep contact with the other cantonments, the bodies of revolutionary students, peasants, workers, and the common masses of the country."

The whole army rose up, defying any officers who stood in the way. Some officers were shot



Workers demonstrate in Dacca

and more fled. Conscripts ripped off insignia from their officers' lapels. Revolutionary committees were set up in the barracks. Within two days, less than 35% of the officer cadre remained in control of their commands.

Unlike the successive putsches, to which the masses were passive, mute bystanders, this mutiny was cheered by thousands of workers who poured on to the streets in spontaneous and joyful demonstrations. Crowds rolled through the streets, and soldiers fired into the air, shouting: "The soldiers and the people have united!"

This revolt reverberated through Bangladesh like an earthquake. In the remotest villages, poor peasants and paupers rose to acclaim the revolution. Rich landlords were brought to heel, local bandits were executed, ragged sharecroppers formed committees.

As in Portugal and in Ethiopia, a group of radicalised junior officers had provided the spark to set a revolution ablaze. Their whole world had been rocked by the dramatic shocks of 1971-5.

Officers who for years had upheld the stuffy colonial rituals of the British, found themselves plunged into a revolutionary war. Fighting shoulder to shoulder with hungry peasants, a whole new vista had opened up before them. And conversely, their revolt was the catalyst that brought the masses into action.

The story of the Bangladeshi revolt runs like the film of the Portuguese revolution, speeded up. The tragedy is that the heroism and noble intentions of Taher and his comrades were not enough to successfully lead a revolution. The JSD consciously handed over the power to a "neutral" figure—Zia, the Bangladeshi Spinola.

It restrained his immediate demands to the release of political prisoners (including 10,000 JSD members), an interim government, political liberties and free elections. Although it had before its eyes the model of the Russian Revolution, and saw Zia as a "Kerensky" under whom dual power could prevail, it misunderstood the lessons of 1917. Kerensky took the power solely due to the treachery of the Mensheviks and the mistakes of the Bolsheviks in February, factors which led to within a

hair's breadth of bloody counter-revolution in August.

The JSD's confused perspectives held them back from mobilising the working class as the vanguard of the movement, on a programme of giving the factories to the workers and the land to the peasants, nationalisation of the jute mills and other industries under workers' management and control, and the break-up of the landed estates.

With the inevitability of a Greek tragedy, Zia played the same counter-revolutionary role as was attempted by Spinola in Portugal. On 7th November, the rescued Zia had embraced his old comrade Taher, removing the flowers which soldiers had draped around his neck and placing them on Taher, thanking him for saving his life. He had willingly signed the Twelve Demands. Victory seemed assured.

Sixteen days later, Zia had Taher and his comrades arrested, and after nine months Taher was hanged, in the second political execution in seven decades. A shudder of revulsion ran through the country.

Zia hastily formed an elite paramilitary police force to hunt down the JSD and smash the resistance. He has temporarily consolidated a quiescent pro-Pakistani regime.

But the arch-traitor will pay the price in new explosions of popular outrage. The 1975 mutiny was crushed, but its memory will not fade in the

minds of the people. Only two years later, two violent mutinies rocked Bangladesh within one week. Zia's frightened and bloodthirsty response is testimony to his lack of confidence.

Undoubtedly the mass of thousands of JSD members, and the millions whose hopes were briefly kindled by the titanic movement of November 1975, will have relived these days time and again in their minds. They will have turned the lessons over and drawn conclusions. Out of their midst, the best militants will emerge again to rally the masses.

If they are to lead the struggle to a successful conclusion, they will have to mobilise the small but potentially decisive working class, to draw in their wake the soldiers, students and peasants, and act with determination to offer, not merely abstract political liberation, but an immediate means of resolving the eternal battle for the necessities of life, by taking the wealth, the land and the mills out of the hands of the parasites, the moneylenders, racketeers, landlords and capitalists, and organising a socialist plan of production.

The stirring events of 1975 have been cloaked in obscurity by the world capitalist press. But they are a demonstration of the power of the soldiers, workers and poor peasants in one of the most poverty-stricken backwaters of the planet, providing striking confirmation of the new class balance of forces throughout the world today.

**THE COMING REVOLUTION
IN
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By
**Roger
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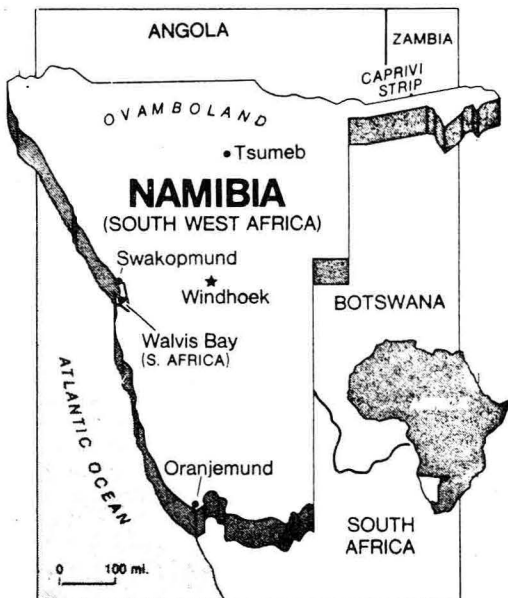
MILITANT PAMPHLET

NAMIBIA / ISRAEL

Namibia – imperialism's latest headache

By Jeremy Birch

(Selly Oak Labour Party)



South African finger on the trigger

Zionism no haven

This week millions of pounds will be spent celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of the state of Israel, and yet while the official functions and revelries bring forward an outward display of national unity, beneath the surface, Israel has never been more divided than it is today.

In its lifetime, Israel has averaged one major war with its Arab neighbours every seven and a half years. Through the financial and economic support of imperialism, the state has built up a more-or-less western capitalist society: yet peace and security are no nearer today than they were in 1948.

Armed Fortress

As in its first year, Israel remains today a permanently armed fortress. Now, for the first time, sections of the Israeli working class are beginning to question the seemingly endless burden of economic sacrifices and military duties, that the state has imposed upon them.

It seemed to most Israelis that last November's historic visit by the Egyptian President was a real and tangible chance for a move towards peace, and yet these hopes have been all but dissipated. Inevitably, the Israeli government—whose leaders have based themselves on militant Zionism—have come under criticism for having thrown away the chance.

The "Peace Now" movement that began with a petition of 300 reserve army officers has snowballed to become a move-

ment of 40-50,000 people. That movement is really only a beginning. More and more, the frustrations of the workers will lead them to look for peace in socialist struggles, rather than in a movement relying on moral appeals.

In the Israel that was established after 1948-9 (i.e. the pre-1967 borders) there were always opposition currents among the small Arab population against the theocratic nature of many of Israel's laws. Now, when the Israeli government also administers the territories occupied after 1967—including an Arab population of over one and a half million—these opposition currents regularly threaten to get out of hand.

There will be no peace for Israel as long as the state imposes military occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza strip, and now Southern Lebanon. Neither will there be peace until there is a solution to the problems of the Palestinian refugees displaced in their hundreds of thousands since the 1948-49 war.

Strike Wave

The class divisions within Israel have reached new proportions, as the burden of the growing economic crisis is foisted onto the

shoulders of the workers. The response of the organised working class has not been slow in coming.

Last year saw the highest number of strikes in the history of the state—500,000 working days were lost through strikes. That figure was ten times higher than the figure for 1974.

Since the introduction of swingeing austerity measures last October, the strike wave, far from abating, is actually growing stronger. The last few months have seen strikes by seamen, dock workers, mailmen, communications workers, teachers, school psychologists, El Al airline workers, judges and even soccer referees!

'Equality'

Most significantly, there was a strike of bank workers, not for higher pay, but against special retirement privileges for bank management. The bosses may not take the calls for "equal sacrifice" very seriously, but clearly the workers do!

The Zionist establishment, the Israeli capitalist class and the government will close their eyes to these things as they celebrate the 'achievements' of the 30 years of Israel. In the minds of most workers, they will be celebrating with one eye on the future—desperately hoping that the last 30 years do not set the pattern for the next 30.

John Pickard

(Gateshead East Labour Party)

Southern Africa is fast becoming a bubbling cauldron of hatred and revolt. Opposition is at boiling point throughout the area against the white dominated regimes.

International capital must be filled with absolute dread when it review the prospects, and then remembers the vast fortunes it has invested there over the years.

All could be lost with the coming to power of radical regimes, apart from the virus they might then spread infecting the whole continent.

Closely paralleling in particular the uncertainty of Rhodesia, comes the growing crisis in Namibia (South West Africa). Indeed Namibia is as important an area for imperialism as Rhodesia.

It has large, untapped reserves of diamonds, copper and uranium. So it's no wonder that Britain and the USA especially are taking such a close interest.

Just as in Rhodesia the aim of the West is to offset the revolt of the oppressed blacks by granting nominal control to the black élite. But just as the intransigence of Smith and the white rulers postponed any measures so long, that now it is probably too late for any safe moderate regime to stand a chance, so in Namibia the blinkered stubbornness of Vorster and the Nationalist ruling class could well sabotage again the best laid plans of the politicians of imperialism.

Illegal Control

South Africa was granted a mandate over Namibia by the old League of Nations just after the First World War, but with the extension of the Apartheid system into the territory in the 'Forties the mandate was revoked by the United Nations. It has since labelled South Africa's control of Namibia as "illegal", and demanded that "free and fair elections" be held. However, the Western powers, namely USA, Britain, France, Germany and Canada were quite complacent about South African control.

But since 1966, a guerrilla war has been waged by the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) who now have over 7,000 men under arms. Already this is proving a serious threat. 20,000 South African troops at a cost of \$1.5 million a day are employed to contain the guerrillas. In fact, in a vain attempt to force Vorster's hand and under pressure from the Afro/Asian block the UN recognised SWAPO as the sole spokesman for the Namibian people.

But undoubtedly events of the last four years in Southern Africa have compelled imperialism to act. Portugal as a colonial power has collapsed and Angola, just over the border from Namibia, has slipped out of the clutches of capitalism completely, and now allows SWAPO to operate from bases inside its territory.

Maintaining capitalism's power to exploit the natural resources of Namibia has suddenly taken on more urgency. However, almost

exactly similar complexities have arisen as in Rhodesia.

There may be no "internal settlement", but that is not for Vorster's lack of trying. But typically his aim was to maintain some sort of white supremacy. Talks were held between tribal 'chiefs' paid by the South African government and the whites, under the leadership of Dirk Mudge, not surprisingly a leading member of the Namibian branch of the National Party.

But even Mudge recognised the impossibility of an "independent" Namibia surviving without a voice of black moderation at the head. Independence under someone like himself would seem as phoney to the blacks as "independence" for the tribal homelands like the Transkei. Unfortunately, moderate black leaders were not in great abundance, and certainly had not been courted previously by the South Africans.

The most likely candidate, Chief Clemens Kapuuo of the Herero tribe, was brutally gunned down by unknown assailants last month. SWAPO has been blamed but no evidence has been provided.



SWAPO leader

So the crisis deepens. South Africa has appointed an Administrator General to oversee progress to independence, who has underlined the dangers brewing up among the discontented masses.

He has stated already: "We have got to hurry up. There must be an election...A decision must be made in a matter of weeks." Now the South Africans have been compelled to accede to the "Anglo-American Plan" for Namibia.

This has laid down the date of December 31st this year as the target for independence, a reduction in troops to 1,500, and a UN force and Special Representative to supervise 'one man, one vote' elections. Now the pressure is being applied to SWAPO to obtain their seal of approval to the plan, and it was even

rumoured that some sections of SWAPO, particularly inside Namibia, rather than the leadership which is still in exile, were moving to support the agreement.

But cutting right across this came the bombshell fired by South African troops who had invaded 100 miles into Angola, with the aim of crushing the refugee camps where SWAPO's People's Revolutionary Army are based. At the major target—the Kassinga camp—"hundreds of Namibian men, women and children were killed and wounded and property destroyed," according to SWAPO.

But the overall result for the peace plan would seem to be still more devastating. The Western powers 'rebuked' Vorster but that was clearly not enough for SWAPO. The Central Committee cancelled any talks with the five nations over the future of Namibia.

However events unfold now the prospects for capitalism securing its future, become more and more uncertain. SWAPO, like almost all the modern "liberation forces", fighting in a period when the economic bankruptcy of capitalism has never been so complete, have been forced to adopt a more anti-capitalist stance.

They have to retain the support of the guerrillas fighting in the field, who after risking their lives want a better society to come from their sacrifices. With the example of nearby Mozambique and Angola, and before them of Cuba and China, to follow, the reshaping of society in that mould, with the complete overthrowing of capitalism would seem the most likely result if SWAPO gain the upper hand.

Should that come from a lengthy guerrilla struggle, if the West's plans really do disintegrate, then the masses of Namibia will be even more vociferously demanding decisive measures against private enterprise.

But even if elections are held on the lines that imperialism has laid down, the outcome it hopes for is not guaranteed. SWAPO draws most of its support from the dominant Ovambo tribe and could well emerge as winners in an election.

But under capitalism there is no economic basis for democracy. So either despite the trappings of formal democracy SWAPO would still press forward with measures to transform society, or inevitably some form of black capitalist dictatorship would be established.

Black Workers

Really what is lacking in Namibia is a Marxist leadership that has a clear idea of the direction to travel and a socialist programme to appeal to all the rural and urban masses of the country, breaking down any tribal divisions that exist.

A leadership that would place no trust in either the South African leaders or the members of the UN security council, but rather saw the maintenance of a genuine, healthy socialist democracy in Namibia linked to the struggles of the oppressed throughout Southern Africa, and in particular to the colossal potential power of the organised black workers of South Africa.

ITALY / LETTERS

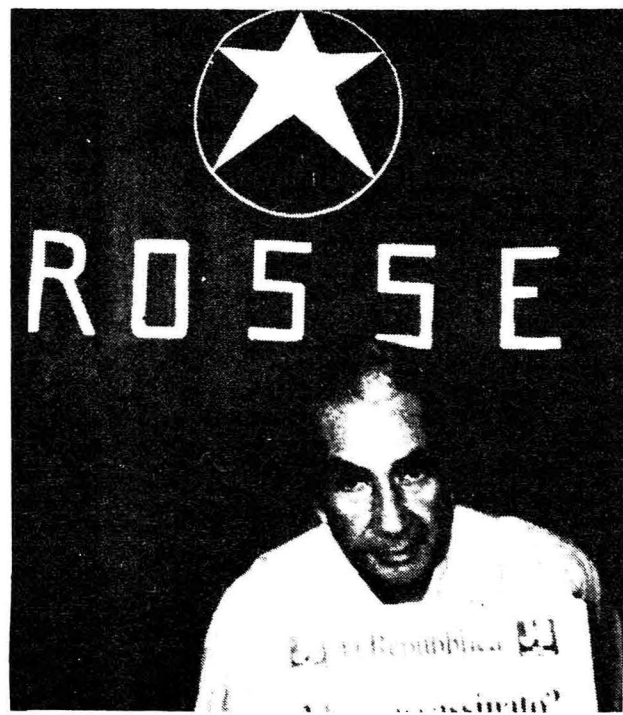
Nothing but revulsion can be felt for the killers of Aldo Moro. These lunatics think that individual terror and murder is the only way they can fight capitalism.

And look at the results! A near unanimous vote of confidence for the right wing government. All-party support for stringent police powers, including widespread telephone tapping and blanket powers of search and arrest, which has already led to the arrest of CP members and worker activists.

Only the ruling class has gained from their terrorist attacks and murders. Who would have thought that so soon after 150,000 Italian trade unionists took to the streets last December to bring down the government, that the same trade unionists would call a general strike as a sign of grief and solidarity in the wake of Aldo Moro's murder?

Fascist Plots

Italy has a long history of fascist gangs of small sectarian groups of ultra-lefts, Maoists and anarchists, which have been infiltrated by police provocateurs. Many of the army officers and most of SID (military counter-intelligence force) are known



Moro under hostage

sympathisers of the fascist MSI.

Prime Minister Andreotti and many other Christian Democratic politicians have been implicated in plotting MSI attacks. In the last 20 years, Generals and chiefs of SID have prepared military coups only to be halted by the last minute nerves of the

ruling class.

When these facts are added to the bungling incompetence of the police, suspicion is aroused. Was it a provocation carried out in collaboration with a section of the security forces? Moro was kidnapped in the centre of Rome in broad daylight, his body was dumped at the side of the CD

Workers' parties must lead society

Glenys Ingham (Deptford LPYS)

(Christian Democrats) and CP (Communist Party) headquarters (equivalent to Smith Square), and yet they are unable to trace the terrorists.

The Times' of May 10th raised serious doubts about the efficiency of the country's internal security forces. "The fact that the terrorists were able today to drop the dead body of Sig. Moro almost at the doorstep of the headquarters of the country's two major political parties in the centre of Rome has fuelled these doubts."

Whether the murder was the work of hysterical ultra-lefts or agents provocateurs

the result for the labour movement is as damaging. But the blame for the growth of ultra-leftism among a section of disenchanted middle class youth rests with the CP who have failed to give a bold socialist lead.

The hysteria over the death of Moro cannot disguise the fearful crisis which Italy is going through. In the last few months Italy had been gripped by strike after strike as workers moved to defend and improve their position.

General strikes and massive demonstrations have been held in all major cities in protest at the government's policies. A massive demonstration held in Rome called by the engineering union was attended by 200,000 workers. The slogans shouted were: "We only want one unemployed: Andreotti you're sacked," "General strike," and "Now! Now! Power to those who work."

As in the rest of Europe young people are bearing the brunt of the crisis. Last summer it was estimated that up to three million young people were jobless. Even in the universities there is tremendous overcrowding. Rome University has 150,000 students but classrooms for only 40,000 of them!

Inflation

In many areas conditions are worsening because the local councils, staggering under an enormous debt burden, cannot cope with local problems. Some councils are so broke that the town hall's telephones have been cut off until they pay their bill!

Underlying all these problems is a situation where production is falling and inflation is now eating away all the wage gains the workers have won in the last few years. Andreotti's attempt to solve this crisis by the usual capitalist method of holding down workers' living standards collapsed. They have struck what Andreotti himself called the "insuperable obstacle" of workers' resistance.

The Socialist and Communist leaders had been forced to stop backing Andreotti when faced with massive workers' opposition to his policies. Otherwise they would have risked losing support and provoking a crisis inside their parties.

But how is it that the PCI supported in the first place a Tory government whose main policy was austerity plans? The answer is that the PCI leaders said that they have no intention of leading a movement for socialist change in Italy. In fact, they are to the right of Labour's Manifesto Group, they even call for the de-nationalisation of firms!

Luciano Lama, Italy's top

union leader, head of the Communist-dominated General Confederation of Italian Labour (CGIL) has already stated that he believes that wages cause inflation and that "firms in a state of economic crisis should have the right to fire workers." He insists that workers who are effectively made redundant, but continue to draw 90% of their wages from the government fund, the Cassa Integrazione, should be allowed to do so for no more than a year. Workers' sacrifices, said Mr Lama, "should not be marginal but substantial."

The main drive of the PCI leaders has been for an "historic compromise" with the Christian Democrats, in other words, forming a coalition with them.

But having suffered 40 years of unbridled Christian Democratic rule, the workers might even see the CP pushing one foot through the governmental door, as a sign to go on the offensive again. If their leaders are in power, albeit in coalition, what better opportunity than to improve wages and conditions, and carry through reforms from



Luciano Lama below?

So the latest 'compromise' is even a climb down from full coalition. The PCI are part of the Parliamentary majority, but not actually in the administration. This way the Christian Democrats can continue in office, thanks to PCI support, but without the dangers of the encouragement to the workers that 'Communist' Ministers would provide.

Latent Power

But it's only along the road of mobilising the tremendous latent power of the Italian workers in the struggle for socialism, that all the problems of capitalism, including the blind despair that leads to bloody acts of terror, can be eradicated. The need now is to turn the PSI and the PCI towards the socialist policies that can lead the class to victory.

INTERNATIONAL LETTERS

The two Americas

Dear Comrades

This has been my first visit to America, and I am writing of my impressions of the state of Florida.

It is a State filled with contrasts—the rich and the poor. The homes of the well-to-do are spacious, airy, beautifully furnished, the trees and shrubs surrounding the homes planted with loving care, the gardens attended by black workers, the homes cleaned by black women.

The East Coast of the state has the big, luxurious hotels catering to prosperous people and very expensive, luxurious apartment houses line the streets. Flowers are everywhere and bloom all year round.

Route S 441 running down the centre of the state presents an entirely different picture from that of the coastlines. Here we have the home of the ranch hands, working on the huge ranches which line S 441 for a hundred miles.

On Saturday nights when the cowboys finish their

week's work, they come to the Red Alligator Bar with their womenfolk or in pairs to play the juke box and dance their southern country dances to the tune of bluegrass music. On our visit here, four Seminole Indian ranch hands who had come in were told they would not be served drinks, and were told to go, which they did, quietly.

From Ocala, in northern Florida, once the home of the proud Indian, down to the Florida Keys and Key West, the Indians were driven from their lands by the white man and forced onto reservations. Chief Osceola of the Seminole tribe defied the white authorities, was captured and killed.

With the exception of a band of about 150 Seminoles who fled into the swamps of the Everglades and survived, the entire tribe of the Seminoles was forced into a 2,000-mile trek across the United States to the state of Oklahoma, many perishing along the way, all on an order of the American government. Now the Everglades Indian Reservation holds the desc-

endants of those who fled into the swamps, about 700 Seminoles.

The State of Florida only recognises the Indian through the use of their Indian names for localities and waters—Lake Okeechobee, Ocala, Oscola, Miami, Pensacola, Oklocoochee, Weeki Wachee. In recent days, the Indians of the United States have roused themselves to fight back for their rights and their lands of which they were defrauded, and many court suits are taking place.

Going south of the ranch lands you arrive at the centre of the state where the poorest of the land are to be found, the migrant farm workers. Here you will find their shanty towns and shacks, out of sight of the rich who come to Florida, and seemingly out of mind of the government.

These homes are peeling, dilapidated, primitive, lacking all hygienic standards of living. At this time there is no work for these blacks and poor whites, so they hang around the street corners of Belle Glade, while their

children, without a place to play, run barefoot on the roads. A few, fortunate enough to have old bicycles, ride them in the open road in danger from the motorists riding through.

As a Welshwoman, I am at a loss to understand why they are treated and classed as second-class citizens.

It is a wonder that the crime rate is not higher than it is.

Neither the government, nor the wealthy who live here in Florida, care how these people live, they are put out of sight to live on the back roads of the state. Who can blame the blacks for the resentment that they feel?

Perhaps one day it will get better, but until it does, the rich will get richer, and the poor will lose hope. In my own opinion the problem of the black people and the Indians cannot be swept under the carpet.

Fraternally
Marie Cozens

A new view of Germany

Dear Comrades

While visiting Germany recently, I met a number of workers and discussed developments with them. One, a print worker, talked to me about the recent printers' strike.

He told me that what was so interesting about the strike was the support that the printers had received from other sections of the working

class, including some sections who had never before openly supported strike action—like the police!

During the strike, the police union joined the DGB (the German TUC). In Hessen (one of the German states, or Länder) lockouts by the bosses are illegal, but in spite of this the workers in one print shop were locked

out. The workers managed to occupy the factory.

When the police were called in to remove the workers, they told the boss, very sorry, but they had sworn an oath to the Federal Republic and the State: if they removed the workers, they would be helping to break the law!

The police also announced

that they were too undermanned to clear away picket lines. Unofficially, the police also gave financial support to the strikers.

This—together with other examples related to me by workers I met—has certainly changed my view of the situation in Germany.

Betty Bell

LETTERS TO: The Editor, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

LETTERS

Births

Dear Comrades

The birth rate, we're now told by the bosses, is on the increase. Already this year there has been a 30% increase in the number of children born. This is the highest recorded birth rate since 1960.

It is not so long ago that the bosses insisted schools, nurseries and hospitals needed to be closed because of the fall in the birth rate. As a result thousands of qualified teachers and nurses were thrown on a mounting scrap heap.

In Nottingham, nurseries on council housing estates were closed and even on one estate where it was recognised by officials that there was a high proportion of young children, a school was threatened with closure.

Now we see an opposite trend, is it faintly possible that we'll get our basic amenities back? I doubt it. Once again the bosses will come up with yet another excuse.

They have proved themselves incapable of running a society for the well-being of the working class. Let us replace it with those who do know how to plan, organise and operate a society for everyone to have a decent life—the majority—the workers. Forward to workers' control!

Yours fraternally
Shirley Bedford
NUT, North
Nottingham LPYS

"GUERRILLA ACTION": DOES IT WORK?

Dear Comrades

At the present moment myself and workers at W Alexanders and Co (Coach-builders) Ltd. are negotiating our wage rise for this year.

As we found, not to our surprise, that the management's offer fell far below what we were wanting, we decided at a full factory meeting that instead of taking immediate strike action, we would adopt a tactic called guerrilla action, which means that at certain times in the week, e.g. 10.30 Wednesday morning, there would be a strike without any prior

notice.

We realised that we might be defeated in an all out strike because of lack of funds. But with this action we can disrupt production just as efficiently and still have money in our wage packet at the end of the week, which means we can carry on this activity indefinitely.

The main point I am trying to raise is that it is not always best to take all-out strike action, but we should look at the situation and use every possible method of disrupting production without actually

being on an all-out strike.

Even very simple things like "total non-co-operation with foremen" can make most factories' production slump. If a factory works a bonus system, freeze the bonus system and you virtually freeze production.

These three tactics have one thing in common—the workers still have some money in their wage packet at the end of the week.

Yours fraternally
G Wilson
Stirling, Falkirk and
Grangemouth LPYS

ELECTION SUCCESS

Dear Comrades

If any of you are feeling disillusioned because of the results in the council elections, you might be pleased to hear how well Fareham CLP have done. We only had one Labour member on the council, with the rest made up of Tories, Independents and Liberals.

The Party in Fareham has always refused to dilute its left policies, and has had a number of controversial issues brought up in the press. One of these, a press release of a resolution to abolish the monarchy in the height of the jubilee celebrations, the right wing thought would lose us votes in a naval area.

I went along to the count [my first] expecting the usual thing of coming third to the Liberals and the Tories and Independents running away with it. But having recently moved out of the area I was unaware of the fantastic hard work the party members had put in. They had leafleted and canvassed the whole area and were very hopeful of perhaps winning one of the seats.

You can imagine our joy when we won two more seats [making our representation on the council up to three] and had increased our share of the vote in most areas and come second in another

couple.

I think this disproves the right wing idea that left policies frighten the electorate. Good luck to Harry Barstow and Pete Davis, Fareham's new councillors.

Yours fraternally
Maggie Hatherley
Eastleigh CLP

Nuclear Critics

Dear Comrades

After reading Vivian Seal's two articles on nuclear energy, it was with great interest that I read an editorial in the weekly magazine 'New Scientist'. Under the curious heading, 'Nuclear Polarization', it said: "Opponents of nuclear power are an essential part of the nuclear establishment: even the nuclear industry needs someone to keep an eye on it."

But a little later comes this incredibly reactionary statement: "To say that we need nuclear critics does not, however, mean that we need a massive protest movement of the sort that took to the streets in London last Saturday [April 29th Windscale demo]. And we certainly do not need the 'Eco-fascism' [!] of the extremists who want to go to any length to bring a halt to nuclear power in Britain."

"Such expression of opposition—by people many of whom haven't the faintest idea of the issues involved..." etc. In other words, let the ordinary people keep out of it, they're too ignorant to understand!

What arrogance, and what a misunderstanding of the situation by this so-called expert. The dangers of Windscale must surely be clear to all.

The real issue at stake is this—science under capitalism, like everything else, develops according to the demands of profit. Old forms of energy are losing their profitability, while of the possible alternatives, the fast breeder reactor can be used the most profitably.

Fraternally
A Huyton
Brighton LPYS

Dundee Yards:
HOW MUCH
UNITY?

Dear Comrades

In reply to the letter in 'Militant' (404) from John McAulay, Yard Convenor at Robb Caledon, Dundee, we don't underestimate the degree of unity won in the yard in its determined fight to retain the skilled workforce in the yard and save it from closure.

But to date there has not been a meeting to decide that all future wage negotiations

will be carried out by the Yard Committee. This is the position we would like, but it will have to be by the consent of the workforce if it is to be meaningful.

Yours fraternally
Alex Allan
Ewan Duncan
EETPU, Robb Caledon,
Dundee

IRISH
PAMPHLET

Dear Comrades

A recent issue of 'Militant' carried a review of a pamphlet produced by Belfast 'Militant' supporters consisting of historical reprints on Ireland. John Hunt's review pointed out that the issues examined in the pamphlet—the past role of British imperialism and the most important events of the Troubles—are relevant to the British working class movement.

However, the review omitted to mention the price of the pamphlet. It costs 40p [postage included] and can be obtained from 'Militant Irish Monthly', c/o L&TUCG, 18 Donegall Street, Belfast. Proceeds from this valuable pamphlet go to the 'Militant Irish Monthly' fighting fund.

Fraternally
Robert Dunbarr
Belfast

CAPITALISM
ON TRIAL
FOR MURDER

Dear Comrades

'Capitalism murders people' may seem an emotive phrase, but two stories in the press recently prove that indeed this is the horrific truth.

One young girl in Bradford was the eighth victim of a vicious murderer known as the 'Yorkshire Ripper', like all of the others she was a prostitute. However, the story in the local paper showed the real reason why she was forced "out onto the streets" in spite of all the dangers.

It said: "She didn't have much choice about going 'on the game' according to her friends. Badly in debt and with two small children to support, she wasn't the sort of person who liked free handouts. Although she knew of the danger of the Ripper it was an economic necessity really."

The following day the 'Daily Mirror' splashed over the front page the story of a 16-year old lad who hanged himself because he was unable to get a job since he had left school.

"Death on the Dole" was the headline; "Death under Capitalism" it should have read.

These two shameful examples, if nothing else, show that capitalism is a rotten, decrepit system which the working class will surely bring down in the future and replace with a system which ensures the full and free development of every member of society and abolish forever the horrors and humiliation capitalism brings.

Yours fraternally
Geoffrey Stout
Bradford LPYS

LESSONS
OF THE
BLACK
PANTHERS

Dear Comrades

The Black Panther Party was formed during a period of increasing state attacks by the American Ku Klux Klan. The party attracted the most radical section of black youth because it was they who experienced the brunt of these attacks.

The party put forward policies of self-defence, a solution which captured the imagination of many. But they failed to analyse the social condition of black workers' oppression as an integral part of capitalism.

They failed to recognise that the emancipation of black workers could only be through the mobilisation of the working class in a united fight for socialism.

The BPP is an historical example of an attempt toward developing and organising black youth on the issues of the day. The circumstance in Britain regarding black workers is very similar to that period. Black workers today are becoming increasingly aware and are openly fighting back.

The question to be answered is whether in fact the pan-Africanist organisations are prepared to give a lead. From my point of view the various grass roots organisations have only moved once a year on odd occasions. The leadership seems to offer the dressing up of black youth in African robes as a step towards emancipation.

The true alternative for

black workers and youth is through an organised fight against our social oppression. We have to understand the present capitalist system only provides two functions for black workers.

We blacks provide the system with cheap labour, and secondly we are used as an object of dividing the ranks of the working masses. Racism, the latter of our two functions, is the method employed when capitalism is in crisis.

Blacks are blamed for the problems of capitalism because this corrupt system is based on profit rather than human need. The alternative for black workers is through direct participation in the fight back against police harassment and racists and fascists.

We must understand that the system produces the police. The police are a tool created by the system which is employed to smash all our forces moving against capitalism and the bosses.

The salvation of black people is through organising at grass-roots level to fight our oppression. We must understand that the complete answer lies within building a working class party and bringing together all sections of workers.

Fraternally
Roy Brookes
PNP Birmingham

£35,000 NEEDED BY JULY 8th

Area	Target		Proportion of target received	Received
	26 wks	52 wks		
Eastern	2,200	4,400		813.70
Hants & IOW	1,050	2,100		893.13
Humberside	1,100	2,200		775.23
Lancashire	750	1,500		259.83
London: North	3,850	7,700		1,751.10
London: South	1,900	3,800		974.95
Manchester & District	1,450	2,900		360.20
Merseyside & District	2,250	4,500		865.49
Midlands East	2,200	4,400		1,054.50
Midlands West	3,700	7,400		1,865.37
Northern	2,450	4,900		1,038.23
Scotland East	1,250	2,500		498.32
Scotland West	1,450	2,900		432.71
South East	1,150	2,300		716.13
South West	1,150	2,300		619.71
Thames Valley	850	1,700		495.15
Wales East	1,000	2,000		509.55
Wales West	1,150	2,300		493.60
Yorkshire	2,600	5,200		905.60
Others	1,500	3,000		2,881.03
£	35,000	70,000		18,203.53

Progress: Towards year's target Towards July 8th target

NOLS LONDON REGION

Swing to right at recall conference

The past year for the NOLS London Region has been a very successful one. The Regional Committee, led by 'Militant' supporters, has organised campaigns on Overseas Students and Further Education, organised regular public meetings and day schools, and supported

strikes and other labour movement activities.

At the Regional Conference in February, 'Militant' supporters were elected again as officers of the region. However, the 'Clause 4' controlled National Committee demanded a new conference, because of a dispute over one delegate. It is clear that they were more concerned with changing the political leadership of the region than with 'democracy' in NOLS.

In the elections, the 'Clause 4' candidates were victorious by two votes and now have a 9-2 majority on the Regional Committee. Their record in NOLS London Region is far from a good one. Under their control, the region stagnated for the first two years of its life. This result undoubtedly represents a move to the right in the region. It remains to be seen whether they will be capable of building NOLS, and running campaigns in the region.

Some of the resolutions passed do not provide a base for regional campaigns in the coming year. A good resolution on 'Overseas Students', called for abolition of college fees, and other measures to improve conditions for overseas students, and explained that this was only possible on the basis of Labour carrying out socialist policies. However, the policy on education called on the regional committee to "join in the debate on the DES Discussion Document 'Higher Education into the 1990s', hardly the basis for winning students to NOLS.

On racialism, policy which posed this question in class terms and explained the need for socialist policies to under-

mine the material base for racialism was rejected in favour of a resolution which welcomed 1976 Labour Party Conference policy, and then went on to put policy far to the right of this.

An excellent resolution from Froebel Labour Club, calling for NOLS campaigns on Further Education, Racialism and NUS affiliation to the TUC and Labour Party, and moves towards greater democracy in NOLS was also rejected.

The 'Militant' supporters in London remain committed to building NOLS, and will campaign as a minority in the region for our ideas. It is only through the clearly worked out policies of Marxism that NOLS can be built. The confused, half-measures proposed by 'Clause 4' offer no solution to the problems the mass of students face. This has been shown in the past, and will be shown again.

Gary Bottomley
(South Bank Poly Labour Club and NOLS London Regional Committee)

SURREALISM

The book on Surrealism reviewed by Peter Harris last week was 'André Breton and the First Principles of Surrealism' by Franklin Rosemont published by Pluto Press, £1.80. This is an introductory, companion-volume to 'What is Surrealism?', selected writings by André Breton (Pluto Press, £5).

Order from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Fighting Fund boosted by trade union militants

THIS WEEK'S TOTAL: £1,128

The magnificent total of £535 collected at the Militant Public Meeting for CPSA delegates in Brighton last week was another record-breaker.

It was the biggest yet at a Militant trade union conference meeting and a real testament to the growing support for the ideas and programme of Marxism. It reflected the mood of militancy that swept the right wing from control of the Civil and Public Services Association.

As more workers demand a fighting lead from their organisations in the labour movement, they will look to a paper that arms them with the facts and figures and well worked out socialist policies. The Militant must be in a position to provide them on an ever-increasing scale. Hence the constant appeals for cash.

We need £35,000 by the half year mark—July 8th on our fighting fund calendar—and ask every reader to take bold initiatives to ensure we reach that target.

This week's total is £1,128.40—double last week's thanks to the generosity of the Brighton meeting. Other supporters have given and raised substantial amounts: a Coventry reader gave a personal donation of £20.

Hull Central Young Socialist T Kivneen donated £15, and and East London reader £10, A Marron of Newcastle gave two donations—£8 and £5.50. B Lynch of Chrysler, Linwood and P Stevens (Greenwich LP) each gave £6 and several supporters, including students, gave fivers.

E Jacobs of N London gave his £5 specifically towards the fight for socialism in Sri Lanka after reading the articles in the Militant about developments there. A Ludlow reader sent 50p "for an even better Militant."

Birmingham supporters energetically sold anti-National Front badges on the recent London demonstration and made an excellent £130.



The large audience at the 'Militant' meeting held at the CPSA Conference last week

A stall at Ebbw Vale's Labour Party May Day Gala meant a healthy £41.40 for our funds.

May Day socials raised £52.82 in Oxford, £18 in Brighton and £10.70 in Crosskeys, Wales. £36 came from a disco at Pirrie Ward Labour Club, Liverpool, with a special mention for the "pigeon fanciers" (?) who donated a bottle of whisky for the raffle.

An Italian evening in Hull was enjoyable and useful as well; £4.50 was the "profit" for the Militant. Raffles in Scarborough regularly raise amounts like the £5.10 sent this week and at their recent darts match Young Socialists in London organised a small draw and raised £2.60.

A couple of supporters in Swansea ran a "baby sweep-stake" on the time of birth of their son, Rhys. Another couple's 8-year old son, Adrian, did two circuits of

Coventry Memorial Park (3 miles) for the Militant and only gave up because of heavy rain. He must have deserved a great deal more than the £1.50 collected from his sponsors!

But every sacrifice that brings any cash to build the Militant is a sacrifice worth making. Some will even help you like the sponsored slim going on in Hackney (£2.15 so far) and the 'beer abstinence' in Cambridge (£2).

G Davies of Bedwellty Labour Party gave up "two pints for the paper" and P Powell of the same constituency gives double the price of the Militant each week.

£1s came from G Higgins (Paisley NALGO), N Borman (Southend COHSE), A Smith (Edinburgh), Mrs Atkins (Brighton), Islington LPYS, R Quinn (Irvine), K Timmins (Aberdeen), R Balfe (S London), and an anonymous

donor in Balham.

£2s from A E Greves and J Short (both of Wandsworth GMWU), J Panting (Gillingham), and O Hughes of Amman Valley. £4 from D Wadell (AUEW Paisley), £3 from D Chapman (Southern TSSA) and numerous other amounts from numerous other readers, but we still need very many more.

Join the hundreds of regular contributors and make it thousands! Help with fund-raising events in your area and use a Militant collector's card to get cash from anyone you meet!

Use the Militant Holiday Raffle tickets, too! Plenty more books available. Finally, don't forget to send your little tax rebate straight off to the Militant—the paper that needs every penny and fights for a socialist transformation!

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'.

New Militant Pamphlets now available from World Books
Trotsky—Stalinism and Bolshevism..... 20p
Trotsky—Against the Stream..... 20p
Grant—Will There Be A Slump?..... 15p
Taaffe—Cuba: Analysis of the Revolution..... 10p
Silverman—Coming Revolution in India..... 10p
Throne—Future for Labour (Southern Ireland)..... 30p
Militant Teacher—Education in Crisis..... 15p
Send now for new up-to-date booklist, to: World Books, 1Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Please add 5p to cost of each pamphlet for postage.

SHEFFIELD LPYS Meeting: 'Trade Unions Today'. Speaker: Ernie Webster (Convenor, River Don Stampings). On Thursday 25th May at 7.30 pm, at the Brown Cow Pub, The Wicker, Sheffield.

TRADE UNION DISCUSSION GROUPS
NEATH: Full Moon Pub, The Parade, Neath. Every second Tuesday, 8.00 pm, from 18th April.
PORT TALBOT: contact P. Harris, 13 Beverley Street, Port Talbot, for details.
PONTARDULAIS: Kings Public Bar. Every Tuesday, 7.30 pm.
AMMANFORD: The Welfare Club. Every Monday, 8.00 pm.
GWENDREATH VALLEY. every Thursday, 7.15pm, Upper Tumble Social Club, Tumble.

PNP Youth Movement [UK] Monthly Disco
Funk ★ Roots ★ Reggae
May 20th, 92b Ladbroke Grove Entrance 25p
Tube: Ladbroke Grove, Buses 52, 15. Nine till late.

Fight Dock Closures!

By Jim Spencer (NASD Shop Steward, Royal Group)

The Port of London Authority have announced that they intend to close the whole of the Upper Docks [West India and Royal Albert] with the loss of a further 4,000 registered men plus office staff in the very near future.

Coming fast on the shock closure of T Wallis it was also announced that two wharfs, Primros and Arnhem Timber, will close.

The closure of T Wallis was a bolt from the blue. Men arriving at work at 2 pm were told to go home, the company was finished. It appears the liquidator has been called in and found that T Wallis's books show that the men's tax, insurance and pension fund monies have been used by the firm.

Under the National Dock Labour Board administration, any employer wishing to return men to the NDLB must put in 28 days' notice so that

the men can be reallocated to another employer. T Wallis gave no notice, so in accordance with statements made in 1974 to support any man not reallocated, the shop stewards in the Royal Docks held a mass meeting and recommended that all labour be withdrawn in support of the men returned by T Wallis. The recommendation was turned down but the PLA have been forced to reallocate the 500 men.

The Port of London Authority itself is already saying it wishes to shed men. As the only remaining employers in the Enclosed Upper Docks, they must be firmly told that they must employ these men, and it must be made clear that we do not intend to let them close docks.

The same old story is trotted out. "We have the best interests of you and your family and the London area at heart—if you let us close this group down the rest, i.e. Tilbury, can be made into a

- ★ No redundancies
- ★ Black all transfer of PLA work
- ★ For a national fight against all closures, led by the reconvened National Port Shop Stewards' Committee
- ★ Nationalise all ports and docks, under workers' management, as part of an integrated transport system.

viable proposition," we are told. They are asking the government for £50-£60m over the next three years to develop downstream.

But there is no golden tomorrow with the capitalist system. It can only survive on profit and to obtain that profit the aim is a small, well-disciplined workforce. Even Tilbury will be in danger when Maplin Sands comes into being in the 1990s.

All the hard won concessions fought for over the years are being reduced to nothing: a regular employer, guaranteed wage, sick pay, washing and changing facilities. The golden future of 1969 has

gone sour.

The implication for the area surrounding the docks will be serious if the local authorities allow these closures to take place in an area that has lost approximately 750,000 jobs since 1969. What does the future hold for the school leavers and those displaced? At present, unemployment is running at 360,000 per month compared with 160,000 in 1974. Closure of the Upper Docks could well add a further 10-12,000 to this figure.

The mood of most men at present is complacent. Most men just want to go to work to earn a decent living to bring up their families, but as forecast by many of us the crunch has now arrived. Do we intend to fight for retention of the docks or watch their ruin while we fight for the best terms to leave?

In the past, champions of the working class like Wyatt and George Brown have



Preston Container Port—united national action halted the closure of Preston Docks

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

called us, among other things Luddites, who wish to remain forever in one place in one job. After 25-30 years in an industry many dockers would like to change, go on to other fields, but if the going means less jobs for those that follow, it sticks in their throat.

With investment, new tech-

nology and improvements, conditions could be vastly improved, hours could be shortened and the working class rewarded for their endeavours. That should be our aim not the scrap-heap so that the employers make profits elsewhere until their time is reached and they join the rest on the dole queues.

DER ENGINEERS PAY BATTLE WITH THORNS

The strike by DER TV service engineers remains strong and has already affected other sections of the Thorn Electrical Industries Group, of which DER is a subsidiary. This week five branches of the Rumbelows retail chain came out in sympathy with the DER engineers.

The men currently earn £55 per week basic and have presented a comprehensive list of demands, including consolidation of the 5% phase 2 payments and £5 productivity agreement, and a £80 per week basic rate for grade 1 engineers, with pro rata for other grades. As service engineers in other TV firms already receive £80 per week basic and the government claim that the average industrial wage is already £82, the men feel their claim is well-justified and very reasonable.

The management in this

company are particularly Victorian and high-handed. By refusing to open negotiations on this claim, they have precipitated this strike, the second within a year. The men see themselves as first in the firing line in the Thorn Group for wage settlements. The senior management of Thorn's have taken over the running of the dispute from the management of DER—they are determined to break this dispute to set the pace for other settlements within the Group.

The EETPU made the strike official from the first day, and at last week's EETPU Conference, the National Officer concerned promised to bring out other EETPU members in the Thorn group in sympathy, though as yet this has not taken place.

Thorn, the second biggest electrical company in the

world, can more than afford to meet the claim. Over 60% of Thorn's £120m profit last year came from their rental outlets, and DER, in particular, made what one director called an "embarrassingly high profit." Knowledge of this has steered the men's determination to remain out until they win.

The dispute has received little publicity in the national press—perhaps for fear of setting an example for other workers or because of Thorn's massive advertising budget, but the men have rapidly learned to appeal to other sections of the labour movement for support. The key, nonetheless, to rapidly resolving this dispute lies in the hands of the EETPU officials—the calling out of other sections of the union in the Thorn group would rapidly bring the Thorn management to the negotiating table and a settlement of the claim.

'Militant' readers should offer all the help they can, both on the picket line and in circulating appeal sheets in other sections of the movement.

Eddie McParland

(Greenwich Labour Party)

Bradford redundancies—Trades Council calls conference

A packed meeting of the Bradford Trades Council listened with growing anger to invited speakers Ray Andrews, District Secretary of the AUEW, speaking on the Thorn's closure and Tom Gallagher, representing Lucas workers, who face a similar situation.

In addition to these two firms, redundancies are threatened at GEC, John Rigby's, Debenhams and the baking industry. Recently the Tory local authority, who have reduced the labour force by a deliberate policy of demanning, sacked thirty-two workers in the cleansing department following the introduction of larger refuse wagons.

During the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that wage levels had not contributed to the massive and accelerating number of redundancies. Workers in Bradford and throughout the West Riding area are among the lowest paid in the country.

A textile delegate reminded the council that the leader-

ship of the textile unions had presided over a reduction of 40,000 jobs in the last decade and that the failure to fight this loss has led employers in engineering and general manufactures to conclude that Bradford was a 'soft' area. Two speakers, Tony Kinder (AUEW District Committee member) and Gary Armitage (General Secretary, Wool-sorters Union) pointed out the limitations of militant trade unionism unless it was linked to political solutions.

Action

The Trades Council adopted the following measures unanimously:

- ★ The election of a sub-committee to co-ordinate the fight against redundancy.
- ★ The adoption of a statement prepared by the officers calling on all trade unionists to unconditionally oppose any redundancies in the Bradford district.
- ★ To convene a conference of the labour movement to formulate a clear programme of action to fight unemployment.

The fight is not confined to the workers whose jobs are

threatened and the Trades Council. Plans have been announced for a mass meeting of AUEW stewards to discuss the unemployment issue and the Shipley Constituency Labour Party, while carrying emergency resolutions in support of the Lucas and Thorns workers, called for the nationalisation of Thorns if the redundancy plans are not withdrawn.

'Soft'

The opportunity now exists to mobilise a mass campaign in defence of jobs and to demonstrate once and for all that Bradford offers no 'soft' option for the plans of the employers.

Peter Whittacker

(NUPE delegate, Bradford Trades Council)

STOP PRESS: Since the meeting, the Trades Council's unemployment sub-committee has recommended that the Trades Council organise a conference in Bradford in July, to discuss the unemployment situation in the town and how to combat it.

BUILDING WORKERS FIGHT FAIRWEATHER ATTACKS

The maximum unity of trade unionists in Wandsworth is demanded, when employers—private and council alike—are stepping up their attacks [see front page article].

The recently-formed Area Shop Stewards' Committee, aiming to build up trade union organisation and activity, has been involved in organising considerable support for building workers in a number of disputes. The latest one has brought the Fairweathers, St John's Hill, site to a standstill.

Flying pickets have also closed the Richmond site and are picketing another. They are visiting as many workplaces as possible to raise cash and plan a day of action and mass picketing to bring an early victory.

Their appeal sheet reads:

"We have been on strike since April 26th against the sacking of 14 bricklayers, including three stewards, for alleged low productivity. In February we went on strike to end the harassment of shop stewards, and we won that one. But Fairweathers ignored the panel's recommendation that the union and management should sit down and sort

out the major areas of grievance on the site.

"Not once have they been prepared to discuss the main grievance—the totally inadequate productivity scheme in operation. The union side on the other hand has been available at all times to reach a reasonable agreement. Fairweather's final reply was the withdrawal of our guaranteed 50p an hour bonus, the issuing of redundancy notices to the bricklayers' labourers (including the convenor steward) and the sacking of the bricklayers. This is a direct attack on union organisation.

"We are on strike to get our brothers reinstated. If we don't it will be a serious setback for the union and for rank and file organisation in this area. This dispute follows weeks of harassment by management which reduced our earnings to the bare minimum, so your financial support is essential if we are to be successful in defending trade unionism on this job."

All donations to: Bro D Williams (Strike Committee Treasurer), 36 St Alphonsus Road, London S.W.4.

Garners Day of Solidarity

On 20th May the Garners Steak House Workers' Strike Committee have organised a 'Day of Solidarity' with a march and rally. The strikers are appealing for every trade unionist to attend with delegations and banners. Assemble at Speakers Corner, 2.00 pm, and march to Trafalgar Square.

The Garners workers have now been on strike for four months in their battle against the appalling conditions their employers impose—a waiter's take-home pay is £28.49 for a compulsory 55 hour week.

This is a crucial fight for every catering and unorganised worker. Victory will be a step forward for the whole trade union movement, a blow to every scab employer and Victorian overlord who thinks he has

unquestionable power to do as he likes with his workers.

Picketing continues daily, from 12-3 pm and 5.30-11 pm at 399 Oxford Street [opposite Selfridges], 243 Oxford Street [Oxford Circus], 40-41 Haymarket, 56 Whitcomb Street [Leicester Square] and 29 Cockspur Street [Trafalgar Square]. Mass picket every Saturday at 12 noon, 399 Oxford Street. So if you fancy a day out in Central London, organise your trade union, Labour Party or LPYS branch and join the picket line! Funds are also urgently needed—strike pay is only £6 a week. All donations to Garners Strike Fund, c/o TGWU room 84, 12/13 Henrietta Street, London W.C.2.

Unions in Conference: AUEW/TASS, UPW, NSMM, NUR, NUPE

AUEW-TASS reject wage control for a national claim

By Dominic Byrne
(AUEW-TASS)

This year's AUEW-TASS conference is the first to be held without direct representation from the branches.

This reduction in democracy is further reflected in the fact that of the 100 motions sent to conference, 56 have been submitted by the Standing Orders Committee for the AUEW conference.

Of the remaining 44 motions to be debated, motion 16 from the Executive Committee condemns incomes policy and

declares the intention "to encourage members to defend and improve their real salaries...to assist members with information and advice useful in creating effective wage systems in companies or groups."

Motion 17 is nearer the mark with its call for a national wage claim supported by a campaign to promote increased wages, working with other trade unions at plant level. A national claim is essential to restore living standards for all members. But in the present period the only guarantee of a successful

settlement would be if the claim was backed by a national mobilisation, supported by national action.

Amalgamation

The future of the amalgamation is perhaps the most important issue facing the union in the coming months. Motion 12 recognises that the 1974 proposals for furthering the amalgamation are quite unacceptable to the engineering section, and it calls for discussions within the AUEW to amend these.

TASS's refusal at this stage

to agree to the election of all full-time officials is only providing the right wing in the engineering section with a weapon to break the amalgamation. If these points were taken up and combined with the call in motion 13 for a campaign within the union to defend the amalgamation, a way forward would develop.

The lack of a fighting lead from the EC is reflected in the fact that the question of nationalisation of the engineering industry is not even on the agenda. The ending of private ownership and production for profit must be

seen as fundamental to the interests of workers in the industry, as the only guarantee of a living wage, decent conditions and secure jobs in an expanding industry.

The election of Duffy in the

engineering section should be taken as a warning and a pointer to the need for a bold fighting lead and a clear socialist programme both in TASS and the whole of the AUEW.

NUPE

Example after example of the plight of low-paid workers were given by delegates at the NUPE Conference in Margate this week.

The union represents some of the lowest paid workers in the country—nurses, ancillary staff, caretakers, school meals staff and other public employees.

Alan Fisher, General Secretary, summed up the mood of the conference when he said: "Many thousands of our members would be better off if they did not work at all. The low-paid can't afford to make any more sacrifices."

In the debate on pay, delegates were overwhelmingly critical of the Labour government's policies, although no-one wanted to see the Tories returned. As the delegate from Cynon Valley stated: "We elected this Labour government to carry out socialist policies, not to peddle the policies of the capitalist system."

"If Denis Healey had to live on the wages that some of our members have to, he wouldn't be flaunting about 5 or 7% limits. If Thatcher had done what this Labour government has done, our movement would be up in arms."

Conference unanimously approved a statement from the Executive Council on wages strategy. This offered a way forward for the union and the low-paid in general.

Demands included a £60 minimum wage to be fought for in the '78-'79 pay negotiations. Coupled with this was the demand for a 35-hour week, which as the EC statement pointed out, is "essential if the trend of losses in job opportunities in the public services is to be reversed."

The union will wage a campaign with posters, leaflets and mass meetings, and aim to win support in the wider labour movement by contacting local trades councils and Constituency Labour Parties.

Alan Fisher said that the campaign for a £60 minimum wage and a 35-hour week "was not going to be easy, but we're not going to pull back if this is the year of the General Election. We must say to the Labour government if they fight for us against low pay, we'll fight for them in the general election."

By John Bulaitis,
at NUPE Conference

NUR Grades Conference

The 46th National Conference of Permanent way, Signal and Telegraph, Canal and Overhead Traction Grades meets at Scarborough on the 19th and 20th May.

Its agenda indicates that this conference will be dominated by safety, contract labour, conditions of service and rates of pay taking up 34 of the total 41 resolutions.

These grades represent all skilled workers vastly underpaid with an average wage of around £55 pw. No wonder Glasgow No 21 branch is demanding further increases on top of the annual increase for Signal and Telegraph workers, earning generally under £60 pw for highly responsible duties ensuring safety for the rail traffic.

Safety

All grades at this conference are under constant danger while at work on running lines. Demands after demands are being made to improve safety plus danger money from Manchester No 1 branch.

Management are constantly imposing penny pinching tactics, which Wrexham branch expose. Weather patrolmen have been withdrawn from non-passenger lines, putting the lives of the train crews and staff at risk.

As living standards continue to erode, contract labour is still being used. Glasgow No 21 branch demands the blacking of all non-union labour while others are demanding other positive steps to stamp out this scab labour.

The local Labour Party has organised a Transport Forum and has invited conference delegates to attend. This is an ideal opportunity to link the campaign for "No Rail Cuts", the demand of the December 1975 lobby of Parliament, to a socialist programme for a fully-nationalised, integrated transport system. That is a key part of the fight for a planned, publicly-owned economy, democratically run by workers themselves.

By Bob Young
(NUR delegate,
Scarborough
personal capacity)



Photo: Julfan McKittrick

UPW

By Peter Dodd
(Manchester Amalgamated Branch,
personal capacity)

Delegates to the 59th Conference of the UPW face a packed agenda.

The General Secretary's report covers the work of the union over the last year. 1977 was the year of Grunwicks, the year the right to strike was questioned and a two year experiment in 'industrial democracy' began. It was also another year of pay restraint, which meant increased hardship for the 195,000 UPW members.

On Grunwicks, the role of the Executive Council is taken up sharply in composite amendment IB, which condemns the EC for its handling of the affair. The actions of

Defend the right to strike

the Cricklewood branch in support of the Grunwick strikers was vital for their struggle.

The attacks on our union and in particular the strike-breaking attempts by right-wing organisations such as NAFF showed what is in store for any branch of the UPW forced into industrial action in the future. The EC, as the elected leadership, has a responsibility to give a fighting lead. They failed on this issue.

Open the books

Post Office finances is a key question at any UPW conference. Particularly in the context of the PO investment policy, past government interference in pricing, the interest burden and the many cuts

that have taken place in all grades over the past period.

LOT No 2's amendment to paragraph 2.1. of the General Secretary's report calls for the opening of all accounts and records of the Post Office to scrutiny by committees of Post Office trade unionists.

The call to open the books needs to be linked with the fight for decent wages and conditions to cut out the need for overtime working, for a 35-hour week and workers' control of the whole industry.

★ For a £65 minimum wage, tied to the cost of living.

★ A 35-hour week.

★ No redundancies—black all vacancies until they are filled.

★ Workers' control and management of the Post Office.

Foundry workers

Report by Terry Harrison

Pressures from declining living standards, arising out of the government's wage restraint policies, was shown at the Foundry workers' conference by the demand for an increase in the MTR to £80 pw for skilled workers, and £60 pw for the unskilled, with the full rate at 18 for all foundry youths. A contradictory element was introduced when a resolution declaring opposition to restrictions against free collective bargaining, and to any form of incomes policy was defeated 23-27. Conference also approved a motion for an orderly return to free collective bargaining.

The members demanded government policies to end

unemployment, particularly of youth. This is to be coupled to the TUC campaign including industrial action to achieve a 35-hour week with no loss of pay by 1979.

A campaign of one day stoppages to force it home was called for. Many of the speakers correctly emphasised that these stoppages should be undertaken across the labour movement rather than by the Foundry Workers in isolation.

The most intense debate was on the future of the amalgamation. A call for withdrawal, to search elsewhere was defeated. Conference went on to declare its continued support for Amalgamation based on the Worthing proposals, seeing this as the best means of organising a campaign for better pay and conditions.

In the aftermath of May Day the union expressed its international solidarity by calling for support and assistance in the strengthening of the Spanish labour movement and for an ending of apartheid in South Africa.

In some areas 95% of members are immigrants. Responding to the exploitation of racialism by the enemies of the labour movement, conference called on all sections to combat the growing activities of the NF and other fascist organisations.

Steve Glennon
(Stevenage NSMM,
personal capacity)

Metal Mechanics demand 35-hour week

Nine resolutions call for an end to wage restraint at this year's NSMM Conference, plus a number calling for a restoration of the public expenditure cuts.

Our union must come out with a fighting programme for the membership, and warn the government that it must start acting on behalf of the working class with socialist policies, so that we can ensure that we are not faced with a reactionary Tory government after the next election.

We are meeting this year at a time when redundancies are on the increase in industry. One of the main campaigns that must come from this conference is for a 35-hour week: this alone would cut the present unemployment by half.

But this must be linked to a much higher basic rate, not only to cover the reduction of 5 hours, but so that take home pay means no-one will need or want to do overtime. In most industries, a minimum wage of £70 (as the lowest rate) is not only

reasonable but necessary.

Again the question of amalgamation will be raised, which is a logical step to increase the bargaining power of our members. But we must not allow any infringement on our union's democratic procedure.

The issue of youth, in the context of the broader trade union movement, is raised in the resolution on the democratisation of the TUC youth conference. The NSMM must show a lead on this, by the real establishment of our own youth section.

Militant

SOGAT CONFERENCE Use new technology to shorten

Delegates representing members of SOGAT, Britain's largest print union, meet at a time when print workers are faced with the prospect of increasing unemployment, particularly in the newspaper and publishing sector, as well as the economic stresses at present being experienced by the entire working class.

Profit v. jobs

New technology being applied by management threatens immediate disaster for the jobs of the NGA workers, but SOGAT workers in turn will suffer a similar fate if these techniques are applied solely for profit at the expense of jobs. Together with the 'rationalisation' policies of the publishing monopolies, it clearly illustrates the future threat facing SOGAT members.

To counter the effects of unemployment, SOGAT have limited overtime working to 8 hours in any one week. Alone, this cannot radically improve the situation.

Like all British workers, SOGAT members too have felt the pinch of stages 1, 2 and 3 as well as Healey's 'belt-tightening' exercises. It is difficult for members to lose potential earnings while bills still have to be paid.

So while this policy should be supported, SOGAT must clearly fight to eliminate the necessity for overtime working by raising the basic rates of pay to provide an adequate standard of living, and by a reduction of the working week. Resolutions proposing such a campaign should be fully supported, as a means of saving jobs and also improving the working conditions of our membership.

SOGAT members are among the most militant and class conscious of the print unions. Conference has the opportunity to continue that tradition, and hammer out a positive programme of socialist action for our union.

Dave Power

(SOGAT, Walton Branch)



Evening Standard loading bay photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

working week

SEAMEN DEMAND 35-HOUR WEEK

A return to free collective bargaining, a basic wage of £3 an hour minimum and a 35-hour week—these are the main demands agreed by the bi-annual general meeting of the National Union of Seamen.

Speaking in the debate on the 35-hour week, Mrs I Organ, who works on the Dover cross-Channel ferries,

argued: "We want a 35-hour week and we mean just that. We want to earn a decent wage and the time to enjoy it. I don't want to die on board ship but to live to enjoy a decent life."

On wages, the anger of the seamen was expressed by Tommy Mullen of Liverpool when he said: "We're the cheapest seamen in the world."

Workers on other European ships see our members as scabbing on them!"

The union is committed to support the campaign being waged by European seafarers' unions to secure harmonisation of pay and conditions throughout EEC shipping.

The delegates unanimously passed an emergency resolution deploring the action of

Cunard in forcing all workers on the QE2 to sign a letter following a dispute involving waiters. They were told to 'regret their action,' 'recognise the generosity of the company' in reinstating them and undertake to give complete loyalty to the company.

Pat Craven

Red Brigades Aid Christian Democrats

See feature, page 11

STOP PRESS: As we go to press, results of the local elections in Italy confirm our prediction [see page 11] that the wave of revulsion caused by the murder of former Christian Democrat President Aldo Moro would swing sympathy votes to the previously discredited CDs and temporarily halt the progress made by the main workers' party, the Communist Party.

The percentage of the votes won by the three main parties compared to the 1976 general election and the 1972 local election were:

	1978	1976	1972
Christian Democrats	42	39	37
Communists	27	36	26
Socialists	13	9	13

LIVERPOOL LABOUR PARTY

[Continued from front page]

* Any future change of political officers should be raised and debated throughout the whole party before they take place. Political rather than personal criteria should be the basis for changes.

* There should be a campaign for change in constitution to ensure that in future the leader and committee chairmen be elected by a combined meeting of District Labour Party delegates and Labour councillors.

In summing up the meeting Bob Wearing reminded the Labour group of the decisions taken and explained to Roderick and the group that the DLP is the highest policy-

making body as far as the Liverpool Labour Party is concerned.

He warned them that just as the DLP had issued the licenses for people to become councillors, they could just as easily withdraw those licenses.

Councillor Roderick then left the meeting to a deafening blast of "Resign," "Get out!"

The day after, the Labour group met and a vote of no confidence in Roderick was carried by 21 votes to 14. Councillor Roderick then agreed to resign and a new election for leader will take place next Monday.



Photo: Julian McKittrick

CPSA delegates gave a standing ovation after massive vote confirming appointment of "Militant" supporter and union full-time official, Terry Adams. The attempt to sack Terry was a key factor in ousting of right wing EC. Members disgust led to massive support for Terry and new EC being elected. Full conference report and analysis next week.

Militant

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