

Militant

LPYS
WEEK OF
ACTION
see pages 2 and 3

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH

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Labours youth — FIGHT FOR JOBS

Photo: Julian McKittrick

Monday morning on the dole queue. The sun's gone in and Deptford dole is bleak and grim. But it's the only place a lot of young people in South London have to go.

"I've been unemployed seven months. It's useless here—all the jobs want experience. I signed on at an agency, I get a week's work sometimes. I haven't signed on here—I just don't want to."—Jennifer, 17.

It's bad enough being out of work, filling in forms, phoning for interviews, banging your head on a brick wall. But then you're told you're a 'scrounger'! How can you be to blame when you've never had the chance of a permanent job?

'Today's vacancies' in the Job Centre tell you loud and clear what the bosses have got to offer Britain's youth:

★ Despatcher — salary negotiable. Person aged 30-40 years.

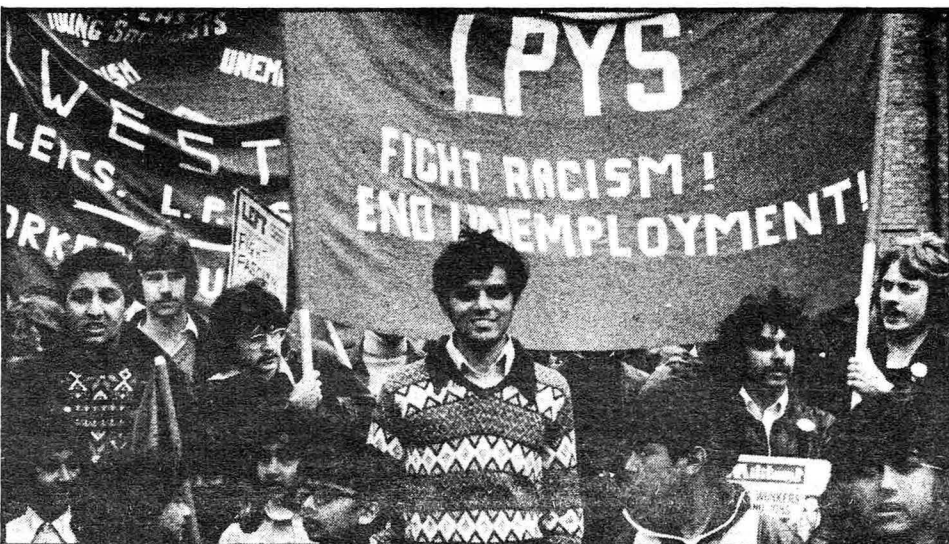
★ Warehouse person. £35.50 + £1.62 Saturday. One week's holiday after 3 months. 1 day off per week.

★ Park attendants [2]. Responsible persons—40+

★ Part time Sales Assistant, Tobacconist and Confectioner. £24.62 pw. Previous experience preferred, aged 21+

Long hours, low pay, dead-end drudgery. And how do you get 'experience' if no-one will give you a job?

"I'm looking for anything where I can learn. I've done welding, spraying, turning for a year and



Labour Party Young Socialists' demonstration against racialism in Leicester on Saturday [10 June]. Report page 2.

a half, but I'm not 'skilled'. It's worse for school leavers."—Kevin, 18.

Walking the streets isn't much fun when the weather turns cold: even a cup of tea in a café makes a hole in your dole money. But

people were unemployed, they'd start to question the way the country is run—they'd turn to socialism. He's right!

The Labour Party Young Socialists, Britain's socialist youth movement, are out on the streets, on

"Firms will only expand and invest if they can see scope for making profits," we're told. If jobs, houses and public services aren't 'profitable', we just have to do without.

Labour must act! They aren't there to do the bidding of the profit system. They were voted in by millions of trade unionists, by young workers voting for the first time, for an end to Tory rule and a better life for working people.

Let's put that into action. Break the stranglehold of big business over jobs, pay and our lives—take over industry and plan it for need, not profit.

That's what the Labour Party Young Socialists are fighting for. Fight with us—for a better future, a socialist future.

**Young Socialists
in action
nationwide**

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By Glenys Ingham

(Deptford LPYS and editor, LPYS paper 'Left')

the streets are where another year's school leavers are going to be, unless the fight for jobs is backed now.

At the youth centre, they try to help. There's a list of jobs on the wall. About the only training you'd get is as a hairdresser—6 days a week for £20.

It's a bleak future—unless we fight to change it. Ted Heath, the old leader of the bosses' Tory Party, said he was worried that if too many young

the dole queues and the estates. And the Young Socialists have an answer.

Everyone needs a job—cut the hours and share out the work, on a living wage of £70 for all. Everyone needs a home—take the building workers off the dole and let them build them! Everyone needs decent schools, hospitals, sports centres, clubs—expand the social services and public amenities. Put an end to the cuts!



'Mrs Thatcher came near to saying that she would have sent British troops into Zaire: "It is partly because of Britain's weakness and this [Labour] Government's natural weakness in dealing with the Russians that this country sat on the sidelines while other countries like France acted to save Western influence and lives".'

'The Sunday Times' 11 June 1978

Ally's broken dream machine



When Scotland went to Argentina for the World Cup, we had a chance of basking in the reflected glory of a winning team, just as the Liverpool workers did with the European Cup in May. For a moment, the problems of daily life were forgotten.

As Bill Shankley has said, football is not a matter of life and death — it's more important than that!

But Scotland was knocked out. Not only that, we were short-changed. When our hopes were dashed, the cynical manipulation of the media, the mercenary interest of the advertisers, and the ruthlessness of the businessmen behind the spo-

ring scenes became all too clear.

For a start, we have had to put up with the lies of the media pundits, insulting us nightly as

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LABOURS YOUTH: AC

MINERS

LIFE IN THE VALLEYS

The South Wales miners held their 25th annual Gala last weekend. The Labour Party Young Socialists were there in force, and one young miner, Tony Tynan of the Ty Mawr NUM Lodge Committee, gave this interview to Kevin Ramage.

"The main problem is the conditions. They're bad in our colliery on the two faces.

The dust—they use wet sacking to try and control it, but with the air coming through it's no good. And there's the toilet facilities, things like this.

And the walking in to the face—some collieries have trams, but many you have to walk to the face. To reach my face, I've got to walk a mile, the other face is two and a half miles.

Sometimes I have to work on that one. I dread the walk. It's a hell of a walk—up and down.

No flat, level part. You are

tripping over and you hit your head, I hit mine about twice a day on average.

In some pits the roof is nice and high and the ground is flat, then suddenly the roof comes down low and that's when you hit your head. And, as the Young Socialists' leaflet said, Prince Charles gets more in a week tax free than I'll earn in a year, before stoppages!

The day shift is too bloody early—getting up at 5.15 am. I'm home at 3.30 pm—you've got all afternoon and evening, but often you just drop off in the chair!

Shifts

The night shift is terrible, you have to leave at 9.30 pm and get home at 7.30 am. You're lucky then to get four hours kip. I'm usually up by mid-day.

You're awake all day, then you go to work at 10.00. That's when you're beginning to feel tired!

Afternoons affect your social life a lot. You can't go out for a drink or to the LPYS or anything.

In our valley there's two cinemas, but one has bingo three nights a week. If you live over in the other valley (Rhondda)—it's terrible the bus prices.

Leisure

There's a sports complex, very big and nice, but expensive. For a married man, it costs about £1 just for the family to have a swim. Then there's the £1 each for the bus fares.

If I take my little boy over to the park, the slides aren't safe. The pictures we get here aren't much good, sports centres expensive, or just the pubs and the clubs. Otherwise there's only the youth clubs, and when you're over 16, you're an old man in a youth club!

That's the 'choice' of leisure facilities we've got here".

NOTTS: "KEEP OUT THE TORIES!"

There has been "restraint" for much of the past 12 years—and it has paid off, said Jim Callaghan at the Nottinghamshire Miners' Gala last weekend.

To shouts of disagreement, he more or less admitted that his government had continued the same wages policy as the Heath government.

He claimed that there had been a big improvement in the country's economic position, but that this would be jeopardised if "self-restraint" was ended.

Many of the older members of the audience clearly wanted to believe that the government had at last got things right. But more likely to win Labour votes than Callaghan's speech was the Mansfield LPYS



leaflet. "Keep out the Tories" was our theme, with a capitalist controlling his puppet "Maggie, the milk-snatcher".

As we drove through the crowded streets of Mansfield, Maggie was greeted with laughter and boos (and one or two cries of "burn her!").

The hatred for Thatcher and the Tories shows the tremendous response Labour would get in the next election if the government went onto the offensive and campaigned for bold socialist policies, instead of copying the Tories' programme.

John Dale

(Ashfield Labour Party)

New leaflet out:

"Young miners—your future?"

The leaflet "Young miners—your future?", co-sponsored by Emlyn Williams (President, South Wales NUM) and Kevin Ramage (LPYS National Committee member for Wales) has already made a big impact—just two days after printing!

2,500 were given out at the South Wales Miners' Gala by teams of LPYS members. During the Gala itself we had people saying what a good leaflet it was, and how they agreed with it.

"Last year Prince Charles' income rose from £130,000 to £290,000 — £5,000 a week!", the leaflet pointed out, "More in one week, tax free, than a face worker will earn in a year before tax!"

The leaflet then goes on to demand:

- ★ An end to all wage restraint and productivity deals!
- ★ £135 for faceworkers now!
- ★ Retirement at 55 on full pay!"

and appeals "to young miners interested in

fighting for a better deal to join the LPYS in the fight for a better society."

Already in Wales, the leaflet is being put to good use. LPYS branches are taking them to leaflet their local collieries. Ted McKay (NUM NEC member, North Wales) has taken 500 for the pits in his area.

Ebbw Vale LPYS are going to display the leaflet around the bus-stops where the miners wait to go to work. That's an example every branch should follow.

Young Socialists are visiting local lodge officials, asking them to take a supply for their pit. Every lodge in the area is being written to with sample copies, asking them to take an order and to make a donation towards printing costs.

Further copies can be ordered from: Kevin Ramage, 107 Corporation Avenue, Llanelli, Dyfed, at £1 per 200 plus postage and packing. Cash with orders please.



Hundreds packed into the hall for a mass meeting after the march

Photos: Julian McKittrick

400 march against racialism

"An excellent demonstration. What we need to do now is to get more Asians to join the Labour Party Young Socialists to fight the National Front. We need to get together and give them a beating they'll never forget."

These were the words spoken to me by Abdul Rashid, a young Asian who came on Saturday's demonstration organised by Leicester Labour Party Young Socialists. Afterwards he joined the LPYS.

Indian Workers

400 mainly young black workers and school students marched through Leicester, demonstrating against racialism and fascism. Jim Marshall MP congratulated the LPYS on the way they organised the demo when he spoke at the public meeting held afterwards. He said the LPYS had its critics but the demonstration showed the work they had done and reflects great credit on the youth movement in Leicester.

The Indian Workers Association also supported the march and Morish Farma, spoke to the rally about the need for the Labour and Trade Union Movement to

take up the struggle against racialism.

Tony Saunois, Labour Party NEC member-elect, pointed to the problems that allow racist ideas to breed —unemployment, bad housing, inadequate social services etc.

Big business, he said, was trying to shake off the blame for low wages, lengthening dole queues, homelessness and slums. They were using black people as scapegoats for the crisis of the profit system.

Tory threat

Those who think that immigrants are taking all the jobs should ask themselves who is it that refuses to use their profits to build new factories? It was the bosses not the immigrants who have closed down many factories in Leicester.

Now, with a general election coming up, the Tories were trying to use racialism to cover up these facts and

whip up a reactionary vote. If they come to power, their programme of attacks on social services, real wages and jobs would help the rich but would worsen the problems facing working people.

Labour, he argued, must take up a socialist programme —explaining how the cause of the crisis is capitalism itself and how it could be solved only by the black and white workers uniting and mobilising for the takeover of the big firms in order to plan society on the basis of workers' needs not bosses' profits.

Recruits

The day was a magnificent tribute to the Marxist ideas of labour's youth.

Scores of names and addresses were collected of people interested in the LPYS.

That night 200 young people came to our dance and by the end of the day, 30 had already formally applied, on the new LPYS membership form, to join the party and the Young Socialists.

Martin Richards

(Leicester LPYS)



There's never much entertainment available at prices you can afford, but Leicester LPYS organised a dance at cheap prices—and 200 came. Groups: Evolution and Wendy Tunes

TION FOR SOCIALISM

Join the Young Socialists!

The Labour Party Young Socialists Week of Action got off to a great start last weekend.

Thousands of Young Socialists turned out onto the streets appealing to working class youth to join them in the socialist fight against unemployment and racialism.

In the Harehills area of Leeds, 14 copies of 'left' and 'Militant' were sold in half an hour. Youth are now keen to find an alternative to the drudgery of capitalism.

In the half hour spent in North West Leeds, 12 mainly immigrant youth applied to join the LPYS by signing the new membership cards. After receiving a really enthusiastic response to the leaflets in a local shopping centre, the comrades went off to East Leeds where as yet there is no LPYS branch.

Car cavalcade

By the response they got there should be a branch soon as 12 young people applied to join! The day was completed by a trip into Chapeltown where another five young workers

signed up. At that rate the LPYS should increase its membership by thousands in the space of the next fortnight!

It's the same all over the country. The Wearside branches staged a car cavalcade through the major towns there.

In Middlesbrough hundreds of people signed the petition calling for measures to combat the high unemployment in the area. They travelled to Redcar and Stockton then ended up in Hartlepool exhausted but fit enough to sign up 12 new members in less than an hour!

Likewise in the Tyneside area, a car cavalcade went from Wallsend and ended up at the miners' gala in Bedlington.

Fifty people attended an excellent meeting against unemployment in the St Helens area of Merseyside where yet again new mem-

bers were signed up.

Bristol got hold of a minibus and used it to tour the local shopping centres and speak to the youth about the socialist fight against the crisis. London Young Socialists have taken to the idea of touring the city in lorries decked up with posters and stacked with leaflets.

London

In Hackney, Islington, Greenwich, Woolwich, Bexley Heath, Erith and Barking the Saturday crowds were called on to join the labour movement by LPYS members who spoke from the back of the trucks. Some areas, like Leyton, will be finding that they receive a very keen response when they ask older members of the party to help out. Many of them are only too pleased to see Labour's youth growing.

With these few reports of what we can do even before the broadcast we can be sure they will not be disappointed.

Phil Frampton

(LPYS National Chairman)

Big impact in Scotland

LPYS members in the Central Region of Scotland have been busy all this week as part of the National Week of Action.

Before this week some of us had been out flyposting, the local press had been contacted and two local leaflets prepared. This, along with national and Scottish leaflets, 'Militant' and 'Left', we have made a big impact in the area.

Last Saturday we were out on the streets of Alloa, Falkirk and Stirling with our papers and leaflets. On Sunday we leafleted the mining villages around Stirling.

Each night of the week has been put aside for leafletting the housing schemes in the area and during the day the

comrades available have been out at the factories, doles, techs and schools.

Friday will be our main day of activity during the week-days, where we hope to make a big impact right after Thursday's Labour Party youth TV broadcast—it will be talked about in every school and shopfloor throughout Britain. Many comrades will be taking the day off and we will be systematically leafletting the schools, factories, etc.

Stronger

Saturday the 17th will see us once again in the main towns, holding street meetings, selling papers and handing out leaflets while

vans and cars tour the area giving out the message on loudspeakers.

We will be holding a series of public meetings next week on the 'Socialist Way Forward' in Alloa on the 20th, Falkirk the 19th and Stirling the 22nd. The week of action can build our strength and influence even more, but don't let's stop at a week, if we continue to campaign throughout the year in the same manner the LPYS can go from strength to strength, ensuring that a real alternative to the horrors of the present system can be achieved.

Alastair Wilson

(West Stirlingshire LPYS)

Apprentices need union rights too

A couple of years ago the Hoover company at Perivale, West London, had difficulties in finding enough young lads to fill their yearly intake of apprentices. Last year, however, when Hoover, unlike industry in general, increased their intake from ten to fifteen places, there was a flood of several hundred applications.

As John Cope, shop steward at Hoovers pointed out: "This is a real indication of the problems facing youngsters in this area, trying to get a job."

Too often young workers lucky enough to get apprenticeships are used as cheap labour.

However, at Rolls Royce Motors in Willesden the trade unions have taken up these problems. One shop steward on the committee has respon-

sibility for apprentices' conditions.

Better pay and training facilities have been won there. No apprentice is expected to sweep up or make tea.

During a recent sixteen week strike at the factory while the union members were "out the gate" the management had these lads washing their cars! They also had them cleaning up the factory, which was the work of the labourers who were laid off without pay at the time.

'Charter'

In taking advantage of the strike to super-exploit these youngsters the management really showed the valuable work done by the shop stewards' committee in safeguarding the apprentices' rights and conditions when they were inside the factory. The positive work of the

shop stewards' committee, and the experiences during the strike at Rolls Royce prove the correctness of the LPYS demands in the 'Charter for Young Workers'.

We demand:

★ *Abolish the indenture system—all apprentice labour to be taken on and supervised by trade unions. Replace indentures with a union card as proof of skill.*

★ *No apprentices to be employed on routine production work, sweeping up or tea making.*

★ *Apprentices' right to join a union, to organise and strike.*

★ *All training to be under trade union control.*

Martin Elvin

(Ruislip Northwood LPYS)

School Students

Who said school days are the best days of your life? I'm sure the thousands of school students up and down the country who are sitting 'O' and 'A' level examinations would certainly disagree.

Some who may want to stay on and study for 'A' levels are prevented because their parents can't afford to let them. Others who go to Technical Colleges or Further Education live in pitiful conditions with meagre grants and find it almost impossible to study.

Yet we still hear the Tories cry out whenever the LPYS leaflet schools that it is "extremist coercion", as one local Tory in Gloucester was quoted in the local paper following LPYS leafletting in Gloucester schools. Is not what faces school leavers political—the dole queues, meagre grants, pitiful wages?

While at school there is certainly no democracy. Some sixth-formers in my school put up Anti-Nazi League leaflets advertising the carnival on the school noticeboards. They were called to the headmasters' office and told "this is a democracy boys, so please do not put up your leaflets around the school".

This is why the LPYS held a National Schools Day during the Week of Action, to show that we stand for democracy in schools, the right of a school students' union, the abolition of petty rules and school uniform and an end to the education cuts. But also to show school students they are not the only ones with problems.



Answer Tory press lies

Working class young people may be faced with serious problems of jobs, wages and conditions, finding somewhere to live and making their money last all week, but as far as the 'popular' press are concerned, they are just an easy source of sensational stories about vandalism, sex and fights. But once you get organised to do something about these problems, that's when the bosses' press really turns vicious and the 'open sewer' of Fleet Street floods with lies and distortions. Look at the abuse they throw at workers whenever they turn to trade union action to secure a better deal.

But Fleet Street reserves its most poisonous venom for the Labour Party Young Socialists and those in the Labour Party who support our ideas. A conspiracy of silence in the press has been organised every time we have made an impact by holding mass demonstrations and rallies of thousands, so afraid are they of our socialist ideas getting a hearing. But every so often the press barons launch well-orchestrated campaigns to distort and discredit Labour's youth.

NOW WE ARE FIGHTING BACK!

This Friday [June 16th] the London LPYS are marching on Fleet Street itself to make our views heard. Join in the march against Tory press bias!

Assemble 7.00 pm, Friday June 16th, at Temple Place
[Note change of venue—NOT Trafalgar Square]
Bring banners and all your members

POOR SICK



SICK RICH



Left: Bethnal Green Hospital, threatened with closure; above: Wellington Hospital, £1.6m profit

If you're taken ill and sent—just for example—to Salford Royal Infirmary, you would very likely be put in a huge ward which still resembles the Poor House. Over your bed, you would see an ageing plaque commemorating some charitable benefactor who, years ago, paid to have the bed installed for the poor sick.

If you're lucky, you'll have a radio head-set that still works. Out in the corridor there's a call box, which you may or may not be well enough to get to. Otherwise there is very little, except the kindness of the nurses and what you're brought by friends and relations.

If you go to the Wellington Hospital, Swiss Cottage, London, however, your facilities would be rather better. You would have your own room, an individual balcony even, a private bathroom, a TV, a telephone, and even a fridge. Marvellous.

There's a snag of course. You'd have to pay: about £165 a day. And that doesn't include the treatment. Altogether, a ten-day stay for a

simple appendix operation would cost you about £2,000. The cost of major heart surgery doesn't bear thinking about.

But there are people who can afford it, both from Britain and abroad. In 1976, Wellington Hospital's owners, Humana International Holdings of Kentucky, USA, made a profit of £1,600,000 on this one establishment.

This is just one example of the boom in private medicine—to cater for the rich middle class—as the NHS is devastated by spending cuts.

Package tours

Another American firm, American Medical of California, has been rapidly expanding its facilities within old charitable and religious nursing homes, and has plans for new hospitals in London, Manchester and Birmingham.

A TV programme recently reported on a growing trend, showing the example of Dutch patients who were coming on package tours to a private hospital (run by a

A simple appendix operation would cost you about £2,000. The cost of major heart surgery doesn't bear thinking about.

religious order, with treatment arranged by a private medical firm) for major heart surgery.

Some were paid for by Holland's state medical scheme. The Dutch organiser explained that there was a waiting list of 4,500 heart patients in Holland, and the treatment was much cheaper in Britain. No mention was made of the NHS waiting lists, now 607,000 patients long.

There are now about 300,000 people in Britain enrolled in private insurance schemes, two-fifths of them paid for by their firm as a "perk". BUPA alone now has 1,000 beds.

The growth of the private medicine has many alarming aspects. One is the steady replacement of private, long-term beds, mainly for the elderly who have always been

inadequately catered for by the NHS, by short-term acute beds for young people who can afford private treatment.

The private medicine boom is an unmistakable symptom of an ailing NHS. The well-off, those who can afford BUPA contributions, use the general facilities of the NHS, but pay to jump the queue when they need urgent treatment.

Private Fees

Apart from a handful of big medical companies, the people who gain most are the consultants who are expanding their private practices. Every year, they demand more "flexible" contracts requiring less time for the NHS and allowing more for private work.

Special optical equipment on one floor of the Wellington Hospital, for example, was mainly paid for by 16 consultants from Moorfields Eye Hospital. Their private patients now provide custom for the hospital—and the consultants are no doubt making a handsome return!

The great NHS, which the labour movement fought to build, is being wrecked. To safeguard the health of the working class, it is vital for the labour movement to stop the cuts and implement socialist policies to guarantee the resources needed by the NHS.

The NHS must be taken out of the hands of the greedy consultants and the haughty bureaucrats and placed under the control of the health service unions and the labour movement generally. Consultants who treat their NHS post as a well-paid sinecure while they rake in private fees must be booted out.

The fabulous medical equipment and facilities now reserved for the rich and privileged minority must be taken over and used as part of an all-round, democratic health service, which will meet our needs and live up to the ideal of the socialists who first conceived of the NHS.

By John Hicks

(Oxford COHSE)

NHS—VITAL SERVICE THREATENED

By Ian Burge

(Secretary, JSSC, London Hospital)

The cuts have hit yet another part of the National Health Service. Eight staff from the vital Emergency Bed Services [EBS] in London have been suspended.

Three are shop stewards, and two are branch officers. They have been 'disciplined' for continuing to send patients to the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital for women which Health Authorities are attempting to run down prior to complete closure.

The stand being taken by EBS staff in continuing to send patients to threatened

hospitals is crucial to the campaign to keep hospitals open. So long as they have written confirmation from consultants that services are being maintained, the EBS staff are willing to send patients to these hospitals, despite contrary instructions from management.

The thirty EBS staff work from Guys Hospital, receiving requests for beds from GPs, mainly in the deprived areas and monitoring bed availability in the London areas. Their service has become more and more critical as



Demonstration against closure of EGA

staff shortages and closures all areas. The stand they have taken

in defence of the patients and of the NHS, is to be applauded. EBS staff have been ready to step in with real help when hospitals have been in need. Now is their time of need.

Support this fight

With eight COHSE members already suspended, there is the danger of the service being closed altogether. This shows once again the lengths management are prepared to go to to enforce hospital closures.

COHSE has already given official recognition to their members in dispute. There is only a small branch. We urge messages of support and donations be rushed to:

Sandra Mead, Branch Secretary, EBS COHSE Branch, Fielden House, 28 London Bridge Street, S.E.1.

MILITANT NOTICES

Meetings

LEICESTER Militant Public Meeting 'The Coming Revolution in India'. Speakers: Gordhan Parmar (Councillor); Sardul Singh (Birmingham LPYS). At Richard III pub, Highcross Street, Leicester at 7.45 pm on 26th June. All welcome.

STEVENAGE Militant Public Meeting. 'Which Way Forward for the Trade Unions?' Speakers: Brian Ingham ('Militant Industrial Correspondent'), Ron Durham (Chairman of British Aerospace Shop Stewards' Committee, personal capacity). Stevenage Leisure Centre Committee Room 2, 8.00 pm, Tuesday 4th July.

HARLOW Militant Meetings for June. Thursday 22nd June: 'Zaire—The Colonial Revolution'—social, economic and political developments in the underdeveloped world. Led off by Brian Bostock, LP and NUT member. Meeting at 48 Morley Grove on Thursday 22nd June, 8.00 pm.

Thursday 29th June: 'Bureaucratism or Workers' Power'—discussion on Russia since the 1917 revolution, examining the nature of the Soviet state. Led off by Dae Fairlamb, LP and ASTMS member. Meeting at 176 Upper Mealines, Harlow, on Thursday 29th, 8.00 pm.

Enquiries to B Edwards, 200 Rivermill, Tel 31215.

Discussion Groups

SOUTH MANCHESTER Marxist Discussion meetings. The Albert Inn, Walmer Street, near junction of Wilmslow Road and Great Western Street. 8.00 pm, Wednesday June 21st—'State and Revolution'. 8.00 pm, Wednesday July 5th—'Southern Africa'. 8.00pm Wednesday July 19th—'Reform or Revolution?'

LONBENTON, Newcastle. CPSA 'Militant' supporters Marxist Discussion Groups. Every other Wednesday, Brandling Villa pub, South Gorforth, 6 pm. June 28th—'The State and Revolution', pamphlet by Lenin. July 12th—'Is Russia Socialist?' July 26th—'Marxist Economics'.

SUNDERLAND Marxist Discussion Group. Every other Friday starting at 8.00 pm. June 16th—'Workers' Control and Management'. June 30th—'The Orlov Trial in Moscow and the Russian Dissident Movement.' July 14th—'The Future of the Labour Party'. For further details, contact Diane English, Sunderland 44365.

Events

TWO WEEKS TO GO to the closing date for the MILITANT HOLIDAY RAFFLE!

A holiday in France for two must be won! Som must be the £150 frame tent, the caravette for a week and another £100 worth of super prizes!

★ Sell every book and ticket!
★ Order more by 'phone if you still have outlets!

Rush cheques and POs (to 'Militant') with counterfoils to 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

ADVERTS: page 13

LEFT & RIGHT

Never at a loss

"You need never make a loss on a Rolls. You buy it at £35,000 and after five years you sell it at £40,000".

Sound financial advice for any worker with £35,000 to spare. And Lord Armstrong ought to know. Head of the Civil Service under Ted Heath, now Chairman of the Midland Bank, he has a chauffeur and Rolls provided. Not to mention his weekend house in the country (not all bank managers live in wardrobes) and business dinners at the Savoy—"Last night it was a banker from Australia".

But he has our problems at heart, like he did when he was Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Lord Butler. "You buy a Mini at, what is it, £2,000? After five years you have little or nothing to sell".

The value of workers' cars, like their wages, go down, not up, you see.

The bosses' view

Top Italian industrialist, Fiat boss Gianni Agnelli, is reported as saying that normal parliamentary arrangements in Italy are no longer sufficient and that "a deteriorated form of democracy" is required.

Capitalism is a deteriorated form of democracy. But with friends like this, clearly the future of democracy lies in the fight to do away altogether with a deteriorating capitalism. And not just in Italy.

Agnelli also commented "Britain has been well managed by the Labour government." Enough said?

White fish only?

Southern Africa is in turmoil. Even Walt Disney is up to subversion. The South African television network has turned down an advertisement for a Disney cartoon, because it shows a mouse saying 'holy mackerel'.

"Where possible, the phrase 'holy mackerel' should be avoided, as its repetition could create a negative reaction," the South African Broadcasting Corporation said.

Clearly they're very sensitive about their image. Paying starvation wages to black workers, herding them into barren desert 'homelands' and shooting down school-children are all 'business as normal'. But references to sacred fish obviously touch a sensitive spot.

Perhaps the hovering foreign advisors and diplomats, desperately trying to hold back the creeping tide of revolution and save their investments in South Africa, know the secret. Or readers could try to decipher the most likely answer.

Life sentence

What price a workers' life? The toolmakers at MEM Ltd, Birmingham have been on strike for six weeks for a decent wage, and management are going all-out to sow division and suspicion between them and the shop floor production workers.

They aren't giving much publicity to the results of a quiet little inquest held in Birmingham during the strike. Fred Cosier, a retired foundry worker, "died from inhaling silica dust during his 44 year spell" at MEM. That's how much management have the interests of the workers in mind.

We've heard all about the dangers to the bosses' health from 'stress', blood pressure, rich food and high living. The press keep very quiet about the death sentence from fumes, poisonous chemicals, unguarded machines and crippling piece-rates for workers in factories up and down the country.

What happened to the factory inspectors? To the Health and Safety at Work Act? Unless the unions themselves keep a check on safety and extract the necessary prevention measures, the law is ignored.

If the bosses get 44 years of hard graft and profit out of a worker, what do they care if he dies because they wouldn't pay for proper ventilation, protective clothing and equipment?

BOOK REVIEW

LIFE AT THE TOP

'Howard Hughes: The Hidden Years' by James Phelan. Published by Collins, price £3.75. Order from World Books.

Billionaire Howard Hughes was literally a symbol of the "filthy rich".

Despite his vast financial empire (valued at 2.3 billion dollars at his death) and his hordes of "aides", when he died in April 1976: "He was a symbol of Gothic horror, a nightmare of self neglect, unkempt... ravaged by drugs..."

"His body was starved, dehydrated, and atrophied to a pitiful skeleton resembling those of the victims of Dachau and Buchenwald. He weighed barely ninety pounds." Thus writes James Phelan in this book which describes the last years of the richest American and therefore one of the world's richest men.

The physical and moral decay of Hughes, his neuroses, his manic lust for power and wealth, his undoubted insanity—which touched and affected all those around him—reflects the warped values of his class. This man who controlled through his wealth the destiny of thousands if not hundreds of thousands of people was a mad despot.

One of his aides is reported in the book as saying: "If Hughes told one of his aides to stand on his head in a corner, he would not ask Hughes 'Why?' He'd ask 'Which corner?'"

On another occasion a bottle smashed on the stairs of his Bel Air mansion. Hughes was haunted by fear of contamination and therefore prohibited his lackeys from sweeping the glass up. "He was especially suspicious of floors," says Phelan.

So he therefore gave meticulous instructions on how the glass was to be cleaned up: "The contaminated area was to be divided into inch-square segments with a ruler. He then wanted an employee to start at one side and brush off and wipe down each segment, a square inch at a time."

The hapless and "lowly" employee chosen to undertake this mission carried out his instructions to the letter, all the time being secretly observed by Hughes. His master was delighted, praised his



Hughes, earlier in his career, rides through New York to a ticker-tape reception

The depraved life of the world's richest man

"leadership qualities" and promoted him to a top executive position, "by-passing functionaries of longer standing."

Incidents like this are legion. This representative of capitalist culture watched the mediocre film 'Ice Station Zebra' 150 times in his private cinema!

But the book is not just about the idiosyncrasies of the billionaire. It also details the way Hughes used his wealth to buy politicians and contemptuously to sweep aside

the rules and regulations which govern the lives of lesser mortals.

The Governor of Nevada, President Johnson and the Governor of the Bahamas were all treated as mere pawns to do Hughes' bidding. He "loaned" 205,000 dollars to Nixon's brother Donald. Nixon himself received a \$200,000 bounty for "election expenses" in 1972 which his crony Bebe Rebozo concealed from the authorities.

Hughes also received a request from Lyndon Johnson

—while the latter was still President—for a loan of 25,000 dollars to build a memorial library to himself. Hughes turned it down remarking to his aides: "Hell, I couldn't control the son of a bitch with 25,000 dollars!"

When Hughes objected to nuclear tests in Nevada—which could affect his jealously guarded health—Nixon offered to send Kissinger to negotiate with him! These incidents show who controls the power in the "dollar democracy". The owners of the big monopolies, banks and finance houses dictate policy to the government.

Hughes and his empire were also enmeshed with the CIA. One of his aides was involved with Chicago Mafia figures and Cuban emigrés in a plot to assassinate Castro. His company had also collaborated with the CIA in secret attempts to capture a Russian submarine which had sunk in the Pacific.

But his passion for secrecy recoiled on Hughes in the end. The "Palace Guards", employed to keep prying eyes out, themselves became his prisoners. All their wealth and privileges were linked to his continued seclusiveness. His later taste for contact with other human beings was vigorously opposed by them.

In the light of this book and other signs of the sickness of the capitalists and their system, no wonder the *Evening Standard* could picture the "monied suburbs of America as centres of aimlessness, boredom, drink, fear and sexual licence" (22nd March, 1978).

One of the moneybags commented to the *Standard* reporter: "I'm going to spend or dispose of every cent of my money before I die. It does terrible things to people." Perhaps Howard Hughes could intone "Amen!" if he was still with us!

But what this really demonstrates is the utter degeneration of an obsolete class which is about to vacate the scene of history. They live in obscene splendour, sating all their needs and passions while millions live in poverty and degradation.

They use the wealth created by the labour of the working class for their own narrow selfish aims. But once the control of the world's riches are taken away from them, the basis will be laid for the super-abundance for all instead of the handful of capitalist tycoons like Hughes.

Then it would be possible to develop society not for the aimless pursuit of greater and greater personal riches but for the real development of all the talents of all the people who are kept in darkness and misery by the capitalist system.

By Peter Taaffe

RECORD REVIEW

"I am the common man" BY THE LAGGAN

This album is unique. It is not produced by the giant recording companies nor is it distributed through the usual commercial channels.

It is a collection of workers' songs, with a truly international flavour. At the same time they have a distinctive Scottish tang.

The songs include 'Work of the Weavers', which reached No 1 in the hit parade in East Germany. 'The band played Waltzing Matilda' is about a soldier who lost his legs during the first world war. 'The Railwayman' tells how a worker was finally broken by the bosses,

being laid off after 30 years' service.

The album also includes socialist classics like 'A man's a man' by Robert Burns, 'Rosa Luxemburg', 'The ballad of Joe Hill', with a finale of 'Jarama' and 'Bandiera Rosse'.

This record is to be warmly recommended. It

has been sponsored by the Scottish TUC and is distributed through trade union branches.

It is a project which deserves the support of the whole labour movement. Copies are available from the STUC, price £2.50.

By Willie Guffin (Bothwell LPYS)

WHO OWNS SCOTLAND

John McEwan is a life-long socialist: as long ago as 1922 he was organising the workers of the newly formed Forestry Commission into a trade union.

He also has a life-long connection with the land. The son of a shepherd, he has spent most of his life in forestry.

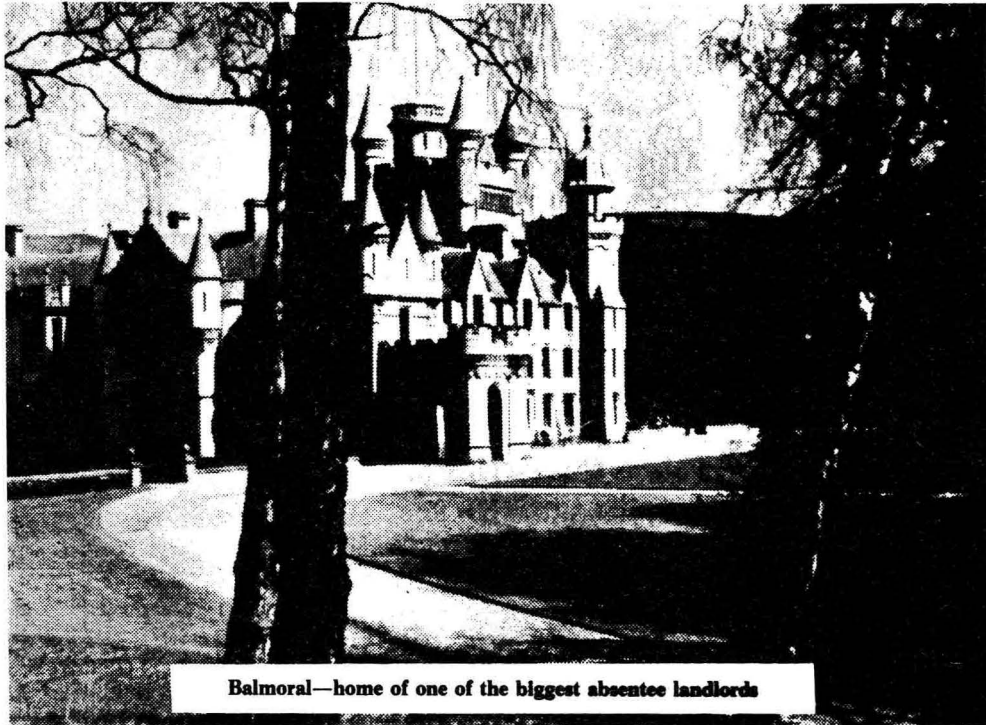
Now, at the age of ninety, after twenty-five or thirty years' work, he has produced a work of major importance on land ownership in Scotland which asks the searching question: "Who Owns Scotland?"

Why has it taken so long to find out who owns the land? MacEwan notes "a certain coyness about claiming ownership these days." But the main reason is the complete absence of a land registry in Scotland.

It is understandable that the Tories, with their intimate links with Scottish landowners, should not wish the situation made known. The attitude of Labour Secretaries of State who "maintain that a land register of all our landlords...is of no value" is less explicable.

He has had to painstakingly work out the acreage of Scotland's large estates from a vast number of 1-inch maps purchased at £91 each, and research their ownership.

The reason for the landowners' "coyness" becomes apparent when one examines the figures MacEwan has



Balmoral—home of one of the biggest absentee landlords

arrived at. **The top 100 landlords own no less than 25% of the total land area of Scotland; the top 546 estates [all over 5,000 acres] account for 49% and the top 1,739 [over 1,000 acres] cover 63%.**

The size of some of these landholdings is put into perspective when one considers that there are 26 landholdings each bigger in total area than Dundee, which has an area of 57,600 acres and a population of 194,420. **The two biggest must each surpass the size of Glasgow, being 277,000 and 263,000 acres respectively.**

Nor are these gigantic areas

By Bob Rice (Dundee Labour Party)

of land all in the hands of traditional highland chieftains and lowland lairds. It is true that the biggest landowner is still an aristocrat, the Duke of Buccleuch (descendant of a bastard son of Charles II) but the Wills family (tobacco barons) run him a close second.

The Duke of Westminster (London Property) has 113,000 acres; British Aluminium Ltd. 110,000; Lord Cowdray (Britain's richest millionaire) 88,000; Eagle Star Insurance Co. 30,000; and Tory Party

high-ups and brewing and distilling millionaires are legion. The representatives of British capital have been moving into land ownership in a big way.

An urban reader might ask, "So what, isn't it well known that vast areas of Scotland are barren and unproductive?" According to MacEwan, this need not be so.

He estimates that the productivity of arable land is only 80% and on marginal and uplands only 50%. He attributes this to the hundreds of thousands of acres devoted to "the 35 to 40

'Who Owns Scotland?' by John MacEwan. Published by EUSPB, price £1.50. Order from World Books.

million play-things [of] the sadistic, anti-social blood sportsmen."

He prefers to call these 8 million pheasants, 5 million grouse and black game, 1 million deer etc. agricultural pests and points out the enormous damage they do to agriculture and forestry.

One quotation suffices to illustrate the misuse of land: "In Perthshire...thousands of acres, at one time given the beautiful name of the 'garden of Breadalbane', [are] now entirely under sheep, and so degraded as to be carrying only one sheep to 2½ acres, and, in humans, one family per 2,000 acres. Not less than 50 per cent of this land should be back in tillage, while the other half should be so improved as to carry one sheep to the acre, and the whole should be providing a comfortable living for ten times as many families as at present."

Inefficient

He also details the huge subsidies paid to landowners for inefficient forestry, pointing to an instance where 1,675 cubic feet of timber per acre were produced on land which under proper management would have produced 5,000 to 6,000. Since the early 'Sixties forestry businesses have grown up to take advantage, in their own words, of the "helpful tax structure and Forestry Commission grants."

MacEwan shows that tree planting by private landlords is in direct proportion to the subsidies paid. Nor does governmental benevolence stop there. The Forestry Commission has powers to set up its own processing plant.

It has never done so. Instead public money has been given and loaned (£10 million interest free in one case) to private timber-millers to process publicly owned timber. Only once under the Labour government of 1964 was any attempt to recoup grants made to inefficient producers of timber.

MacEwan obviously has a

loathing of large landowners as a class but his book has weaknesses. Despite his support for nationalisation of the land he regards it as a long term solution.

His immediate "prescription" is a census of agricultural land and a land register and the setting up of a Land Commission. He appears to see at least a partial solution in improving the powers and administration of existing institutions by putting better people in charge of them.

This ignores the reasons why after 58 years of the Forestry Commission only 2.5% of the land in Scotland is publicly owned (less than the combined size of the two largest private estates) not only by the Forestry Commission but by water boards, NCB and presumably local authorities. It ignores the reasons why the Forestry Commission does not fully use its existing powers.

The main reason, in short, is that the individuals and companies who hold Scottish land in an iron grip are the same individuals and companies who hold the economic life of Britain as a whole in the same grip.

MacEwan prefaces his book with the famous Clause IV part 4 of the Labour Party Constitution. He finishes by quoting from the report of a committee set up by the Scottish Council of the Labour Party in 1972 to inquire into the nationalisation of the land, a report which has yet to see the official light of day.

"We assert that the land of Scotland is the natural inheritance of the people of Scotland. Private ownership of land is a medieval concept, designed to ensure the dominance of a self-perpetuating oligarchy. It is an affront to reason for a private individual to claim ownership of mountains, lochs and rivers."

In other words the only way to begin to solve the land problem is the immediate expropriation of large landowners who have raped and depopulated the land in Scotland for centuries.



Former Tory leader Harold MacMillan shooting grouse. But how much food could this land produce under cultivation?

PEN-PUSHER OR SNOOPER?

A Social Security visitor's casebook

Many people have stereotyped ideas of civil servants as pen-pushing bureaucrats at best, and 'snoopers' into your personal life at worst. There is no smoke without fire, and my job pushes you into both camps at times. Here is an account of a typical working day.

I start work at 8.30 am, as I step out of a railway station and make for the nearest café, so I can look over the cases of the first few people I have to visit. Some offices have cars, but all I get from the Department of Health and Social Security is £2.50 every three months towards a new pair of shoes.

Blind

My first visit is to a man, just under pension age, who is so severely disabled by diabetes that he has gone blind. It has also affected his arm, so he can't even do basket-weaving as he used to.

Unfortunately, he already receives sickness benefit and a pension from the Blind Institute, and I am unable to give him any supplementary benefit. After a long discussion, he accepts my explanation.

Next I have to go to a

local bingo hall and wake up the proprietor. A few months ago, he employed a couple of builders in his club who were on benefit, and they subsequently defrauded the "SS" of about £200 each.

I have to get the proprietor to sign a statement as a witness. This does not take long once he gets out of his pyjamas, and I'm off to another visit.

This time a girl of 19 who, I'm pleased to find, has gone back to work—an easy visit for me. Time for elvenses in another café, where I spend ten minutes looking through my next few cases. Time approx. 10.30 am.

My fifth visit is to a divorced Norwegian who has to look after his children—however, his mother answers and tells me he's managed to find work and started today.

I'm a bit disappointed as I was hoping to use their toilet—an occupational hazard. So I use the toilet at my next call, a man of 25 who hasn't worked for two years.

An unfortunate case, in debt with his electricity bill, and I have to tell him we won't meet all his rent assessment as it is too

high. (I did notice his finger nails were black with dirt, which for a trained motor fitter is suspicious—this job breeds detectives!)

Next I visit a middle aged man who has caught a rare disease from a cow. As usual in such a case, his living expenses are high and a mortgage, his electricity and gas bills are soaring, as well as the leasehold running out on his house.

Steelworker

With his bank account overdrawn he stands little chance of a loan to buy the lease. Unfortunately, I have no time to involve myself in personal tragedies—there's too much pressure to keep the figures up on your visits.

Next visit is to a girl whose mother tells me she has gone out and received no letter of notification. I often wonder what happens to the letters I send out that don't turn up!

Time for lunch, which is eating my sandwiches in a local pub over a glass of shandy. I have the chance to look through my remaining cases.

Within half an hour I'm out and at my next call. I see a man who has been unable to find work for so long, he's going to Nigeria to find work.

Incidentally, he is a steelworker. I wonder what happens to those who have families to keep?

I move on to visit a girl who's amongst a group of squatters. Quite a rough life for a girl of 18, but to me it's just another case with another assessment to work out.

Finally, I have two visits to women who are suspected of living with men. The first one is a young girl with an illegitimate baby and is about to get married to the father. She's living with the father's parents, but it is quite clear that she has to live separately until they are married.

She's fortunate. An unmarried mother can be harassed and suspected almost all her life, any time she's seen speaking to a man.

At last I've finished. It's about four o'clock. I've walked about five miles and now I'll catch the train home.

Tomorrow I'll be in the office from 8.30 till 5 writing up the cases. At least it was sunny today—last time I got soaked to the skin.

I think my job could be abolished under socialism. If we ended unemployment, gave decent pensions, set up crèches and proper nurseries, and factory workers had their pay when sick, just as I do, I could do something useful!

TORIES TO MILK STATE FIRMS

— for big business friends —

The Tories have drawn up plans for an attack on the nationalised industries as a prize payment to their boardroom backers.

The plans are contained in the final report of the Conservative Party's political group on nationalised industries, drafted, ominously, by Nicholas Ridley.

He is the same right-wing Tory who drafted the plans for butchering Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, just before Heath came to power in 1970. It was Heath's attempt to implement those plans which led to the historic fight by the workers in those yards to save their jobs.

In addition to the requirement for a set rate of return, the Tories propose a phased reduction in the amount of money provided by the gov-

Pat Craven
(Dundee Labour Party)

ernment for investment in the public sector. Instead, nationalised industries will have to borrow at market rates of interest.

However, since even these Tories seem to realise that for some industries this would mean immediate bankruptcy, they allow for uneconomic activities to be costed separately and subsidised directly by the government.

There will be no direct government control over prices and wages, though naturally in order to achieve the set rate of return, the managements will be bound to act like any private firm, which

the report accepts may mean selling off surplus land or closing uneconomic activity. **In effect, that means workers will have the choice, lose your jobs or take a wage cut!**

Managers will be paid more, be given more power within the industry, and given more public honours! The present boards would be stripped of managerial functions, and be composed of mainly part-time members, some of whom could be workers in the industry, "provided they were an insignificant minority!"

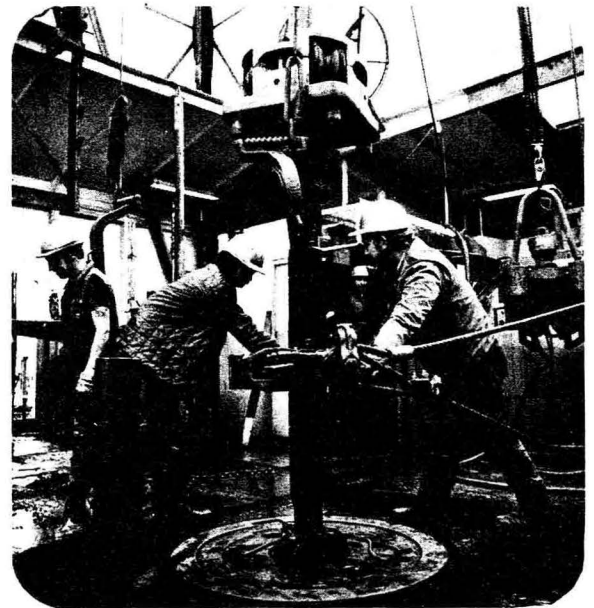
"Insignificant"

So not only will workers be expected to play an insignificant role, but the boards they might sit on would have delegated much of their power to subsidiary companies run by highly paid and

honoured managers, subject to control only by market forces.

Inevitably in such a Tory document, are plans to hive off profitable sections of the industries back to private ownership. The lengths it is prepared to go to include removing the powers of the NCB to licence private mines, allowing private generators of electricity to sell to the national grid, splitting the letter post from telecommunications and ending the Post Office monopoly over the supply of telephones, and removing ministers' powers to stop private sector investment in steel.

They recognise that in certain "true utilities" hiving off is not practical, but in other cases they go even further than hiving off, and call for the fragmentation of industries and the selling



Plum prize for the Tories' rich paymasters: profitable North Sea oil

off of whole sections. The greatest opportunities for this are, they claim, shipbuilding, docks, airports, car manufacturing, buses and freight.

Ports and airports are to be separated and all offered for sale, handed to local authorities or turned into worker-co-operatives. This last idea, a novel one for Tories to adopt, is also proposed for coal pits. Miners and dockers will not be fooled, however, by an obvious device to try and divide them against each other, by having to compete as separate units in industries which, on a capitalist basis, are unprofitable.

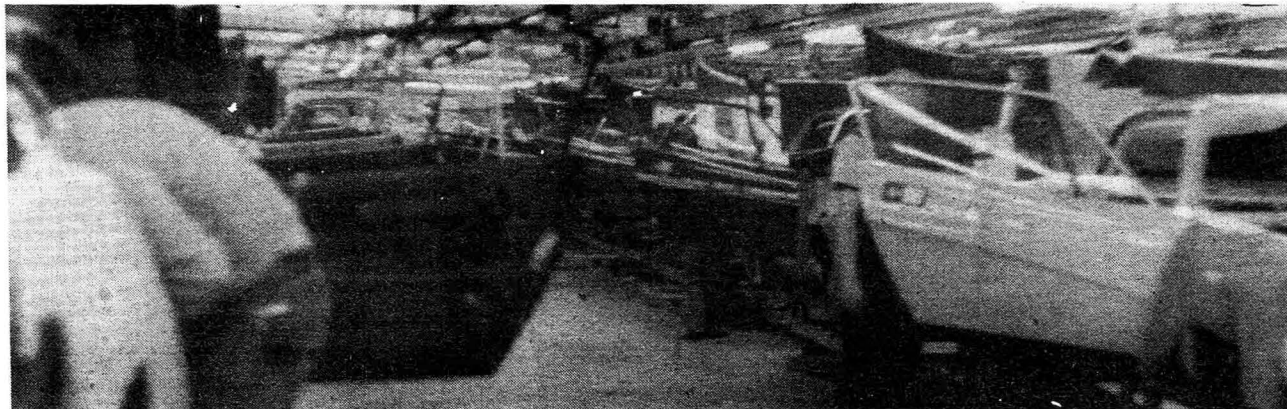
Not at all surprisingly, the biggest auction of all is proposed in the most profitable nationalised industry: all the assets of the British National Oil Corporation are to be sold! And not just sold, but sold at a 50% discount!

Although they say there must be a maximum holding for any individual, that

cannot disguise one of the most reactionary moves by any Tory leadership for years—the selling off of the most valuable asset, potentially for the benefit of working people, to those with the money to pay for it, so that they can speculate and fritter away the wealth from the North Sea.

Reactionary

The whole package of measures is reactionary through and through. There is no doubt, however, that it can be rendered null and void if a mighty campaign is launched by the labour and trade union movement to ensure that every worker is aware of the Tory threat, to prevent the Tories getting back to power so that they never have the chance to apply their measures.



Profitable parts of British Leyland would be under threat

How Immigrant Controls break up families



An Asian mother and child at Heathrow Airport—but where are the rest of the family?

Tory politicians have recently taken up again the demand for a tightening up of immigration control. Jogindar Singh is a teacher in South London, a member of the Indian Workers Association, who has lived in Britain for a number of years and officially has full

rights of British citizenship. His experience of trying to get his eldest son over to England and to reunite his family give the lie to the idea that immigration to Britain is easy. Jogindar Singh spoke to Roger Shriver.

My wife and three boys applied for an entry certificate to Britain on 31st July, 1973. In India it is not as easy to get a passport as it normally is in Britain.

Firstly you have to go the Revenue Officers along with witnesses and surety, and your identity has to be verified by either the village headman or another responsible person in your village.

Then application forms have to go to the police station where similar procedures have to be gone through, then it goes on to the Superintendent of Police, and to Regional Passport Offices. If all this is OK then you can get a passport, though often you have to give a bribe to the police or the forms are not sent off!

On June 18th, 1974, eleven

months later, a decision was made that my wife and two younger boys were mine and could come to Britain, but that my eldest son, who was then about 16 years old, was not mine, and he was refused entry. The officials said that he was fairer than the other children, who look alike, but they could see no physical resemblance between Rashpal and them.

They also seized on minor differences in the replies given by my wife and the children to trick questions on the school class they were in; the position of the hand pump at our home etc. It seemed to be an attempt to stop the whole family applying for entry.

We filed an appeal on September 17th, 1974. This was not heard until September 1976, two years later. The appeal was successful, but the

problems did not end there. When my wife and two younger sons left India, Rashpal was left alone in India with only more distant relatives and family friends to help. He left school and became ill with a chest complaint.

He needed medical clearance before he could get an entry certificate. One doctor approved by the British Embassy gave him medicine, but wouldn't give him a clean bill of health, seemingly because Rashpal was accompanied by a policeman relative and this deterred the doctor from demanding the usual bribe, and also possibly under pressure from the Embassy.

The Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants wrote to the British High Commission and to John Silkin, my local MP, on my behalf. The JCWI got a reply from the High Commission claiming delays were caused by my son having all kinds of ailments including TB. At the same time, October 1977, Rashpal had a letter from them saying they had not heard anything from him since November 1976 and considered the application for an entry certificate to be withdrawn...two totally different stories.

Even after pressure from my MP, there were more hold-ups. The British High Commission gave my son three different procedures for obtaining the plane ticket to Britain. They managed to get an entry certificate for Rashpal in March 1978, and he came to Britain nearly five years after the first application.

Even there this was a few days after his passport expired and he needed to apply for an extension. Incidentally, both the British Airways doctor in India and another doctor in Britain certified my son completely fit. Why hadn't the Embassy doctor?

All my family have suffered during this period. My wife had to return to India for a while to look after Rashpal. I can only get a job in London, far away from my family in Wolverhampton.

Rashpal was separated from his family, and became very depressed and rejected. He had to make many visits from the Punjab to Delhi, over 200 miles. It is a very expensive journey and Delhi is a very expensive place to stay, maybe more so than London.

Friends had to accompany him and maybe stay a couple of days. One friend lost his job doing so. Rashpal also had to give up his education, and in consequence is so far unable to speak adequate English to find a job in Britain.

Many people must have given up the fight, and have less patience in fighting the obstacles. Many people don't know how to file appeals, and have nobody to help them. Mrs Thatcher talks of making immigration controls tighter.

Only the Ku Klux Klan can get into Britain that easily. If someone like myself, with some education, and some money can take five years to re-unite my family, many more families must be permanently split by the present immigration legislation.

—how the BBC distorts the truth— Bad news—

The idea that television is free and independent is a myth. Its 'independence' is less frequently spotted than the Loch Ness Monster.

Yet many people, according to opinion polls, still have faith in television. In a recent survey, 68% of those questioned believed that TV news is the most trustworthy, while only 6% believed it is the news in the press.

The BBC, in particular, works hard to foster an image of independence, of lofty impartiality uninfluenced by either commercial interests or the government. But the reality is different. Policy for news and current affairs programmes is decided by the bowler-hatted back-room boys at the top, and their dictates (known as "guidelines") decide the content and the slant of the news.

The BBC's bias is well known to activists in the labour movement. Not surprisingly, the Corporation's directors and top managers are drawn from the same class background as the tops of the civil service and the directors of big business.

But the blatant manner in which they decide the slant of news programmes has recently been revealed by the publication ('The Leveller', January, 1978) of a set of confidential minutes (from 1976) of one of the weekly sessions of the Editor News and Current Affairs meetings.

These minutes confirm, for example, that restrictive "guidelines" were imposed on all interviews with Philip Agee, the ex-CIA agent who published an exposure of CIA activities and was subsequently expelled from Britain on the initiative of the Secret Service as a "danger of security".

Strikes

The Director-General said Agee "was a man who had visited Cuba. He was a person who should be treated with an appropriate scepticism." The Director General also asked to be informed in advance of any mention of the CIA in current affairs programmes: "Such programmes [dealing with the CIA] were liable to make comparisons between US and British experience which might touch on security questions."

Relations between BBC heads and police chiefs are also very friendly. Desmond Taylor, previous Editor, News and Current Affairs (himself from Northern Ireland) noted

that he and the Director General had "a useful discussion with Sir Robert Mark [then head of the Metropolitan Police] on matters of mutual interest."

The BBC has allowed police access to its film to help them pursue prosecutions. The police are also asked to approve certain 'sensitive' newsfilms. The Notting Hill Carnival film "had been seen in advance by Sir Robert Mark, who had been quite happy with it."

This collaboration of right-wing bureaucrats with the police—as well as with top civil servants and business men—unavoidably gives rise to a systematic falsification of news, sometimes blatant, sometimes more subtle. Film is cut and edited and misleading camera shots are used to hide the size of demonstrations, for instance. In economic commentary, there is a built-in assumption that wages cause inflation and therefore that all strikes for higher wages are 'bad'. When a factory is closed because of bad management and the crisis of big business, the 'bad strike record' is immediately blamed, as at Triumph, Speke and Birds Eye on Merseyside.

During the Cowley strike by 250 engine tuners in 1975, Harold Wilson made a speech blaming workers as well as management. Tory MPs applauded! The television then picked up and plugged his phrase "manifestly avoidable stoppages". Although ACAS later found in favour of the tuners, the TV companies had already tried the strikers in front of their mass audience—and found them guilty.

In the famous Glasgow dustcart drivers' strike in 1975, BBC-1, BBC-2 and ITN covered the stoppage in 102 bulletins over three months. Not once was a striker, shop steward, or convenor interviewed.

Policy is set by the tops. It seeps down to all programmes.

The Director General, it emerges from the disclosed minutes, believes that the

Bad news—



—to order

National Front is no different from other political parties: "The BBC must not single out any party or ideology for special treatment"—unless, of course, it is the ideology that strikes are harmful to the 'national interest'!

News about the pound is

checked first with the Treasury. Francis, the news 'overlord' said: "At the present juncture stories about this country's currency needed careful handling. [He was inclined] to suggest that they should be checked first with the Treasury."

Letters of complaint from influential businessmen, politicians, clergymen, soldiers and policemen prompted a change of policy on coverage of Church of England, George Davis, Concorde and the Thalomid case (involving Distillers). Reporters are con-

The collaboration of bureaucrats with the servants and business a systematic falsification, sometimes blatant, subtle.

tinually being told what to say.

On a projected programme on the Thalomid case, the Director General said: "Such a programme was probably safe from a legal point of view, but was it fair, particularly to the Distillers Company? [He asked] whether the Distillers Company should not be offered a chance to present its case."

On this issue, the BBC was far worse than sections of the capitalist press. The 'Sunday Times', for instance, published a damning exposure of the big drug company's horrendous mistakes and the tragic plight of the victims. While this paper was protesting about a number of its articles being banned by the courts under 'sub judice' rules, the BBC was leaning over backwards to be "fair" to Distillers.

Reporters were directed not to expose government actions, told how to report the situation in Thailand, told to be more anti-Communist Party in the Italian elections, and instructed that an African nationalist leader, Robert Mugabe, should be given less coverage.

The influence that prominent Tories and reactionaries have on BBC policy-making is considerable. Mary Whitehouse and Rear-Admiral Morgan Giles MP complained about a 'Today' programme on Soweto. So the Chief Assistant to Francis later said: "In particular they had complained of the bias shown by an ANC (African National Congress) spokesman on the programme. [He believed] the interview with the ANC man was slightly imbalanced...the interview with the ANC man had not been a good one." In other words: be more careful next time.

The BBC is also careful not to contradict Foreign Office policy on foreign affairs. So a programme on the drought in Bangladesh which reflected badly on India was "not now being followed up."

The top BBC bureaucrats have a paranoid fear of this news dictatorship and self-censorship in the BBC being

'PROFITS CAN BE MADE HERE'

Mr Victor Matthews, managing director of Beaverbrook Newspapers, has again given his blunt view of what "freedom of the press" means to the big businessmen who run Fleet Street.

Asked on an Anglia television programme [Thursday] whether Fleet Street had a part to play in democracy, he said: yes, but first newspapers must be profitable.

"There are easier ways of making profits, but I think

profits can be made here."

Earlier this year, Matthews spelled out just what the profit motive means as far as the political slant of his group's newspapers is concerned.

Crude

Asked whether his paper would be supporting the Tory party in the next election, Matthews replied: "We will support any party that stands for

capitalism and private enterprise. So the answer is yes...[Mrs Thatcher] represents my idea of the Tory Party" ['Sunday Telegraph', 5 March].

So much for the 'independence' and 'impartiality' that the Fleet Street hacks are always claiming. The other press barons may not be quite as crude as Mr Matthews. It's just that he blurts out what the rest discreetly keep to themselves.

Of course, you and I are

entitled to our opinions. We are 'free' to produce a newspaper. There's just the problem of cash [see Fighting Fund column, page 13]. Trafalgar House, which now owns Beaverbrook, had the £13.6 million required to buy Beaverbrook newspapers.

Mr Matthews also is also blunt about how he intends to go about making a profit in Fleet Street. If newspapers can reduce their manning levels, he said on the Anglia pro-

gramme, they can make a lot of money. If he did not have the unions to contend with, boasted Matthews, he would dismiss up to two-fifths of his workforce.

Ruthless

With a ruthless disregard for the livelihood of Fleet Street workers, Matthews aims to use new technology and reduced manning to jack up the profits of his gigantic

right-wing propaganda machine.

Is it any wonder that, when it comes to their coverage of trade unions and strikes, Beaverbrook newspapers take the biscuit as far as distortion, lies and crude vilification are concerned?

It is high time that the labour movement took the press out of the hands of the likes of Mr Matthews and the big corporations who exploit it for power and profit.

UNIONS MUST FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT

photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)



35 Hr WEEK NO LOSS OF PAY!

the rest merely replaced other workers.

The school leavers' subsidy was replaced by the Youth Employment Subsidy which gives £10 per week for up to 26 weeks for firms taking on workers under 20 years of age who had been out of work for six months or more. The DEP dutifully carried out another survey into its effects ('Gazette', April 1978) and found almost exactly the same results.

Three quarters of the "subsidised" young people would have entered their employment regardless of the subsidy, and half of the rest were filling jobs which would have gone to somebody else. However desirable it may be to break up extended periods of unemployment for young people, it is merely a case of spreading misery out more evenly.

Much the biggest employment subsidy is the Temporary Employment Subsidy, which gives £20 a week for a year for each worker kept on who would otherwise be made redundant. This has recently been restricted under EEC pressure to cover only 70% of a firm's labour force, with the rest being eligible for a subsidy to make up 75% of lost wages while on short time.

In theory this gets round the problem of giving money to capitalists to employ young people they would have taken

anyway. It is the root cause of the problem, the sickness of the capitalist system, that has to be tackled.

In the recent period, the rank and file of the labour movement has instinctively taken up the key demand as far as fighting unemployment is concerned: the call for a 35 hour week. This has been reflected in the debates at all the recent annual trade union conferences, and a number of important unions have adopted policy resolutions including this demand.

The case for the immediate introduction of a 35-hour week is overwhelming. Given the hours now worked (see Table), a 35-hour week would "at a stroke" create at least 10% more employment, enough to absorb all the unemployed, registered and unregistered.

Unemployment is not created by the workers, but by the crisis in the bosses' system. The labour movement must demand the sharing of work between all those available for employment. A shorter basic working week, together with the rapid elimination of overtime, and longer holidays, with a **guaranteed minimum wage sufficient to assure living standards**, would be a big step forward for the working class.

If the bosses scream that they cannot afford the introduction of a 35-hour week, the labour movement must make it clear that workers cannot afford a system which, in the last quarter of the 20th century, has again produced mass unemployment and, in spite of all the developments in science and technology, cannot provide even modest improvements of living standards.

The demand for a shorter working week must, of course, be linked to socialist economic policies. The experience of past Labour governments, which have attempted to run a diseased British capitalism, is proof enough that only by taking over the commanding heights of the economy and developing production in a planned way, can reforms and improvements be carried through in the interests of the working class.

A socialist plan of production would eliminate unemployment on the basis of a precise estimate of the capacity in different sectors and on the democratically determined priorities for the use of those resources. The myth that a product cannot be produced unless it is profitable would be immediately exposed as social need would justify production, and thus the use of resources that now lie idle.

The old cry, 'But where will the money come from?' will be buried. It will be demonstrated that things are produced by men and that under a socialist plan money will be controlled by society rather than society by money.

- ★ For a 35-hour week with no loss of pay
- ★ For a minimum living wage of at least £70 a week.
- ★ For a crash programme of public works.
- ★ Nationalisation of any firms declaring redundancies.
- ★ Nationalisation of the 200 monopolies and the banks under workers' control and management, with minimum compensation only on grounds of proven need, as the basis for implementing a socialist plan of production.

Right-wing BBC Police, top civil servants gives rise to criticism of news, sometimes more

exposed. When the BBC's extreme bias in reporting strikes and industrial issues was systematically analysed in the devastating study, "Bad News" by the Media Group of Glasgow University (reviewed in 'Militant' 380), the BBC tops responded by attempting to blacken all social scientists.

The BBC sent its own self-justifying reply to trade union leaders, and alleged that "it seemed that those involved [in the Media Group] felt that usual academic standards could be disregarded." It set up a special committee to investigate the charges (i.e. to produce a reply) and to research the political background of the authors. "The BBC response would be to look in general at the sociological discipline and the ideology of activists in this field."

Unable to refute the detailed allegations of a serious study group, the directors of BBC news (or propaganda?) set out to damn sociologists in general and these, by implication, "ideologically motivated" sociologists in particular.

Far from being 'independent' and 'impartial', the BBC uses its enormous influence in the interests of the ruling class. Because of the personal and bureaucratic ties between the BBC heads and the top layers of the state machine, the civil service, police, army, etc., the BBC is often even more biased and narrow in its outlook than the commercial television stations.

The BBC is supposed to be a 'public corporation', but it is really a propaganda weapon aimed against the public. Alongside the campaign for the nationalisation of press and private television facilities, the essential basis for the democratic organisation of the mass media, we must demand the democratic control of the BBC by the labour movement. Then television would at last fully realise its enormous potential to inform, educate and entertain.

By Tim Lewis

Last week, Andrew Glyn analysed the rise in unemployment over the recent period, and pointed to the tremendous waste of productive potential and human resources resulting from the failure of big business to invest and expand production. Not only have over 1½ million workers been thrown on to the dole, but the capitalists have demanded drastic cuts in living standards and in public spending on welfare to help restore the profitability of big business.

Nor will the workers sacrifices of the past few years be rewarded by a boom leading to full employment. The government's own spending plans only assume—very optimistically!—a rate of growth which would do little more than provide jobs for the 150,000 to 200,000 extra workers who will be joining the labour force every year for the next few years.

Any limited recovery of the British economy will inevitably be undermined by recessions and slumps in the world economy. None of the forecasters—the Bank of England, the National Institute, etc.—are seriously suggesting unemployment below one million in the 1980s. The Institute for Manpower Studies has suggested [The Times 15 May] that in 1986 unemployment of people under 25 will be 1 million: twice as high as in 1976. The Cambridge Economic Policy Group foresee as many as 5 million unemployed in 1980.

Clearly, such a prospect is totally unacceptable to the labour movement. What can be done? Andrew Glyn this week examines the government's "employment protection" measures and points to the need for an immediate campaign for the 35-hour week.

The rising tide of unemployment has led the government to introduce a barrage of special employment and training measures to try and keep down the numbers on the register.

Albert Booth claims that after the various modifications recently announced, the total number of workers involved in the schemes will be 400,000 by March, 1979, with the pattern at the end of 1977 being as shown in the table.

By Andrew Glyn
(Oxford Labour Party)

The Job Creation Scheme has been correctly criticised for involving youngsters in meaningless, make-work projects, such as knocking down World War II pillboxes. And even the useful projects in the area of public services often do no more than marginally compensate for the ill effects of the public spending cuts. The left hand obviously knows what the right hand is doing, but it is convenient to pretend that some of the effect on employment of the spending cuts is being offset

EMPLOYMENT MEASURES	NUMBER COVERED
Temporary Employment Subsidy	173,450
Job Release Scheme	12,051
Job Creation Programme	47,387
Work Experience Programme	34,221
Community Industry	4,474
Youth Employment Subsidy	2,793
Job Introduction Scheme	36
Small Firms Employment Subsidy	3,372
TRAINING MEASURES	
Training places supported in industry	29,263
Training Services Agency special courses for young people	3,429

HOURS OF WORK APRIL 1977; FULL-TIME WORKERS	Men		Women	
	Manual	Non-Manual	Manual	Non-Manual
Normal working week	39.9	37.3	38.4	36.4
Overtime	5.8	1.4	1.0	0.3
Total hours worked	45.7	38.7	39.4	36.7
% of workers doing:				
less than 36 hours	1.5	23.0	18.6	35.3
more than 48 hours overtime	27.8	1.4	1.0	0.3
	57.0	18.3	15.9	9.3

DE Gazette October 1977

by the government.

Since the government has decided that spending has to be cut by so many hundred million pounds anyway, the more spent on schemes like the JCS the more that has to be cut elsewhere. All that happens is that a number of younger workers are taken off the dole to work on the schemes, and in order to 'pay' for them, more cuts are made elsewhere, pushing other

workers on to the dole.

This shuffling around who is unemployed, rather than reducing the total number, was even more obvious with the subsidy to firms to take on school leavers. The 'Department of Employment Gazette' (July 1977) reported a survey which showed that three-quarters of the school leavers taken on by firms claiming the subsidy would have been taken on anyway, and half of

on anyway, since the applications are supposed to be rigorously scrutinised to ensure that the redundancies really would take place.

But clearly, all the various measures of the government put together have an absolutely marginal effect on the level of unemployment. In the great majority of cases, the bosses are pocketing an extra bonus for a worker to do a job that they would have to fill

THAMES TELEVISION CENSORED: Thames was ordered last week to drop its 'This Week' programme [Thursday] investigating Amnesty International's report on the ill-treatment of suspects in Belfast's Castlereagh interrogation centre. This followed "pressure" from NI Secretary, Roy Mason, and RUC Chief, Sir Kenneth Newman, on the so-called Independent Broadcasting Authority. Persistent complaints and demands for restrictions from Mason have, according to 'The Guardian' [9 June], "reinforced the tendency to self-censorship, sometimes over-cautions self-censorship, to which all British reporters dealing with NI are prone." Peter Taylor, 'This Week's' reporter, described the IBA ban as "a disgraceful act of political censorship."

INDIA

British firm exploits Indian workers

In *Militant* (17 February, 1978) we published an interview with John Bosco, Secretary of the Metal Lamp Caps Employees' Union, based in a factory sweatshop in Bangalore. This union has waged a bitter struggle against the management of Metal Lamp Caps, a subsidiary of Thorn Electricals.

Top wages are £12-£15 a month, but 99% of women workers and 5% of men are classified even after ten years' employment as "casual labour" and paid only 13 pence a day! There is no overtime rate, conditions are atrocious, and all attempts to organise a union are met with victimisation—sackings, brutal attacks by drunken goondas (thugs), and arrests by the local police inspectors who are in the pay of the company.

This fight has been going on since November 1977. We have just received a letter from John Bosco describing the course of the struggle over the four months since our last report.

There could be no more dramatic illustration of the class struggle sweeping India today. It indicates the vicious and desperate antics of the bosses, culminating at times in wholesale massacres like those at Kanpur and Patnagar (reported in previous issues of *Militant*) in which hundreds of workers were slaughtered.

But it demonstrates also the sheer courage, resourcefulness and ingenuity of the organised working class of India, in the face of overwhelming odds. If that resolute force were to be



Thorn workers in struggle against the same company in Skelmersdale, Lancashire

unleashed in an all-out struggle against the capitalist system as a whole, and linked with the no less heroic struggles of the landless peasants, oppressed castes, persecuted religious minorities, etc., then not only could the slavedrivers of Metal Lamp Caps be defeated, but also all the other parasitic capitalists, landlords, moneylenders, food-hoarders, black-marketeers, etc., could be swept out of India, and its vast resources be harnessed to meet the needs of the people.

But the fight in every workplace must be won, and the

struggle at Metal Lamp Caps is a symbol for the workers of the whole of Bangalore—India's fastest-growing industrial centre.

The workers at MLC were encouraged by the fact that their fight was reported in *'Militant'*. What would really boost their morale would be messages of support from workers in Thorn Electricals in Britain. Better still would be financial donations from any source!

Send your contributions to: Metal Lamp Caps Employees' Union, L-56, K.V. Temple Street, Bangalore 560053, India.

Bangalore strike shows

INDIAN WORKERS RESOLUTE

Dear Comrades

Sorry I could not write to you earlier as I was tied down with heavy union activity. Moreover I was also arrested and most of the workers were arrested without any proper reasons.

Our struggle is still carrying on, now it is over six months we are fighting. Our factory is under lock-out for two months and still continues.

Anyway before I narrate all that happened briefly, I must sincerely thank you for the write up in the *'Militant'* (February 17th, 1978). Our workers were very highly boosted after I read the write up.

I receive copies of *'Militant'* weekly, and also thanks for the pamphlet about India which was good, and I have passed it on to my friends.

The last interview I had with you, it ended up saying that we were having a conciliation with the labour commissioner. The conciliation failed us, the management were not willing to discuss with the union.

So we gave the management seven days' notice before we went on strike. The union, after exhausting all other methods, conducted a 28-day old strike from January 23rd to February 20th. The strike was total and peaceful.

Later the strike was called off by the union based upon an assurance by the Commission of labour that once the strike is called off and normalcy restored all problems would be discussed and settled. Anyway the management went back on the assurance and started victimising several workmen.

The union protested and waited patiently for the

Read *'The Coming Revolution in India'*
by Roger Silverman
10p, from World Books,
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

commission of labour to intervene in the matter. But the efforts made by the commissioner of labour were not successful due to the defiant attitude of the management.

Threats fail

During the 28 days strike, we faced a number of problems, like feeding the workers who were very poor and helping them out in other problems like rent etc. Day and night we stayed by the factory after pitching up a tent. We ate and slept in the tent.

To break up the strike the management arranged goondas. Union members were threatened by these goondas that if we do not dissolve the union they will finish us off.

These goondas even forced some to resign from the union. Finally we approached

the goonda leader and told him our problem, and also told him that if he keeps threatening any more workers, then we have to take direct action (i.e. we are ready to face them).

Finally when even the goondas failed management took help from the police forces. On 7th February when some workers demanded their salary, they were arrested. About 147 workers in total were arrested and kept for a day and later released on bail. Among the arrested the majority were girls.

After taking assurance from the labour commission as already stated we called off the strike and resumed work, but hardly a week later one of the union supporters, Jaya Kuman, was sacked and about thirty seven casual labourers and permanent workers were also sacked on flimsy grounds; 'service no



Indian police in training for use against the workers

longer required,' 'loss of confidence,' 'contract of appointment come to an end,' 'alleged absence from duty.'

After physically preventing workers from entering the factory etc., are the methods adopted by the unscrupulous management. The management even went as low down as to abuse one of the women workers in filthy language.

The entire workforce did a down tool strike and wore badges against the abusing of a woman worker. The entire factory continued the down tool strike after the management removed three women workers along with union leaders (vice president) and Executive Committee members. The management went on victimising many workers and consistently refused to sit with the union, negotiate and solve the problems.

So the workers continued the down tool strike for nearly four days when the management declared a lock-out of the factory from March 25th. During the lock out period, which still continues up to date, the management were taking in several outside workers with the help of the police and were trying to run the factory.

Finally even this failed when we took stern action against those who entered the factory, so most of these outside elements did not come to work. The management finally hired goondas again and forcefully tried to bring some workers inside the factory with the help of goondas and police protection.

On 8th May these goondas and 15 of the management joined together and attacked us. In retaliation we overpowered them physically.

The vice president and I went to the police to make a complaint, but to our surprise we were arrested and kept in custody for two days and one night and later produced before the court on a false statement given by the management that we attacked their workers. We were released on bail with great difficulty as the management had influence among top officials.

Anyway it looks like the management is still trying to break the union. But we are determined to fight for our rights although most of our workers are facing problems, since it is nearly five months since they have been paid.

Union leaders and action

committee members are trying to solve their problems by aiding them financially and getting others some temporary jobs so that they can support themselves for the time being.

The management has tried all kinds of mean methods to dissolve the union, but they have failed. They have even gone down so much as to go house to house by car with an escort of police and threatened workers to sign some 'undertaking'.

We are still fighting the unscrupulous management and we need all the support we can get from the British workers especially from workers of *'Thorn Electrical'*. I do hope and sincerely hope to get all the moral support they can give to help us win our labour problem and to achieve our goal for social justice.

The union has sent a memorandum to the government and petitions to ministers to take action to nationalise the industry. So we are patiently waiting from the government for some action, which is yet to come.

Thanks for everything. I hope to hear from you soon, I am sure I have furnished the news to the best.

We will achieve our social justice in time especially with all the factories putting up a tremendous fight against the management for unfair labour practice and low wages.

Yours truly
John Bosco
Secretary, Metal Lamp
Caps Employees' Union,
Bangalore, India



The poverty of life facing millions of Indian workers and peasants. Only a socialist society can sweep away the slums and sweatshops.

LATIN AMERICA - under an iron heel

WORLD CUP CAN'T WHITEWASH DICTATORSHIP

"If it were necessary to make some correction in the image which exists abroad, the 1978 World Cup will be just the occasion"—thus spoke General Merlo, military organiser of the World Cup.

His admission explains why the Argentine Junta has forked out over 700 million dollars for the event: it is designed to whitewash the terroristic military regime which has claimed thousands of lives since Videla seized power in March 1976.

Like Hitler during the 1936 Berlin Olympics, the Argentine junta is trying to use the World Cup to make the regime appear "respectable" in the eyes of the world. They've employed a US public relations firm, Burson-Marsteller, previously employed by the South African regime, to cleanse their image of the blood of Argentine workers.

World attention is now on Argentina, but its focus is highly controlled. 8,000 policemen have been assigned to watch over foreign journalists to ensure that their eyes don't stray from football. TV viewers may have noticed the absence of close-ups of the crowd where "embarrassing" things like resistance banners may appear.

Despite military controls over news dissemination, some details of the repression leak out revealing systematic mass murders of political prisoners in the 30 concentration camps dotted around the country. "Several hundred" prisoners were massacred in Córdoba one day last year

By Carlos Ramirez

and buried in mass graves ('Guardian' 24.5.78) and the liquidation policy continues unabated in 1978.

Another 200 prisoners were massacred by the Army in Villa Devoto prison in March, using the pretext of a prison riot. Horrifying stories of military brutality, like the skinning alive of Peronist leader Miguel Lizaso, have become commonplace.

This military terror is the only way that the Junta can carry out its anti-worker economic policies, savage policies which have spelled a 40% decrease in food consumption and a 60% cut in real wages, while military wages have risen by 120%.

Videla's regime is attempting to resolve the

crisis of Argentine capitalism in the interests of foreign capitalists and local landowners, at the expense of the working class. However, even though it was helped by a bonanza harvest in 1976, the chronic problem of stagflation remains. Inflation has been cut from 900% to 170% but is still a world record, while at the same time only 64% of industrial capacity is being utilised.

The World Cup will only worsen Argentina's economic problems. To understand the Junta's priorities, one can compare the 700 million dollars spent on this extravaganza with the meagre 330 million spent on health and 550 million on education and culture in 1977. In the same year, 1,140 million dollars were devoted to Defence and Security—the defence, that is, of the Junta against the Argentinian



And they're not just spectators!

time working class.

Whether the Junta's football investment pays off in political terms depends on the strength of the resistance campaign in Argentina and abroad. In many countries solidarity campaigns have been launched, either promoting a boycott or highlighting the repression, helping to expose the darker side of Argentine life.

Inside Argentina the resistance movement, after a series of heroic strikes, has turned its attention to the "Mundial". One football pitch had to be returned after being sprayed with acid; another was "accidentally" sprayed with seawater.

The policy of the main opposition organisation, the Montoneros, is to respect the wishes of Argentine workers to see the football, refraining from guerrilla attacks, while seeking to transform



the World Cup into a "giant press conference" for the resistance, using it to draw attention to the repression.

Intervention in the form of crowd demonstrations would be difficult to organise. For one thing, the price of tickets is beyond the means of most workers, costing half a week's wages.

Moreover, demonstrators will find it hard to escape reprisals. To buy tickets people have to submit their identity cards to the authorities. Data on spectators is then fed into a master computer which can provide the security forces with an instant list of names and addresses of people in any part of grounds where "disturbances" occur.

At the same time though, it will be difficult for the military to do much, apart from pull out microphone sockets, if a whole stadium erupts into chants of "Montoneros, Montoneros," as has hap-

pened in recent matches. A trained ear may also be able to detect strains of "Los Muchachos Peronistas" (the Peronist anthem) or chants of "Argentina campeón, Videla al paredón" — Argentina champions—Videla to the wall!

Whether viewers pick up the political chants of the crowd or not, the grim truth is that while football is being played in the River Plate stadium, workers are being tortured in the Navy's Escuela de Mecánica just 800 metres away. This repression must be denounced internationally. That way we will ensure that the World Cup is a victory for the resistance and a defeat for the dictatorship.

[Anybody willing to help the resistance solidarity campaign in this country should contact the British Argentina Campaign, 1 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL. Tel: 01-487 5277]

CHILEAN SOCIALISTS RESIST

Since September 1973, Chile has been living under a regime of terror and repression. All democratic, trade union and human rights have been eliminated.

In order to dispose of its opponents, the dictatorship resorts not only to frequent assassinations but also to kidnapping people from their homes, off the streets and even from the prisons.

Trying to make for itself a "democratic image", the Junta recently declared an amnesty for political prisoners. But the "amnesty" has been a complete sham.

Prisoners granted amnesty have been exiled, while thousands of political prisoners remain in prison convicted as being "common criminals". More than 2,500 people have disappeared in the hands of the secret police.

About 250 Chilean exiles in a number of different countries have been on hunger strike in support of the strikers in Santiago. Nearly 100 Chileans have been involved in twelve hunger strikes in Britain. On June 2nd a

picket was organised outside the Chilean Embassy in London.

This is the background to the hunger strikes at present taking place in Newcastle and many other places throughout the world. A 'Militant' correspondent spoke with a hunger strike representative in Newcastle.

Q: How did this hunger strike start?

A: A year ago, last June, there was a hunger strike in Santiago, the Chilean capital, to protest against the repression and to try to influence international public opinion. It was intended as a means of demanding from Pinochet a public reply to the charges made concerning the kidnappings and disappearances.

Due to the pressure put on him by the hunger strikers and United Nations, Pinochet was forced to promise a public reply. But now, one year later, there has still been no word from the dictator about the disappearances.

Q: And that's the reason behind this second hunger

strike?

A: Yes. Due to Pinochet's inaction, the families of the disappeared started a new hunger strike in Santiago. At present, the strike is taking place in seven places in Santiago and also in Concepcion.

Q: What kind of support have the strikers received in Chile and abroad?

A: At the moment, the strikers in Chile have the support of sectors of workers, Christians, youth and pensioners' organisations, the people's soup kitchen organisers and the unemployment committee. But the situation of the disappeared concerns the whole world and we have gained moral support and solidarity internationally.

In this moment, there are sympathy hunger strikes in 30 cities in 12 countries (including Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Canada, etc.). Internationally, there are about 250 people on hunger strike in support of the just struggle of the families of the disappeared, upholding human rights and



The Chilean hunger strikers in Newcastle

demanding to know the whereabouts of the disappeared.

Their objective is to put pressure on democratic governments, working class organisations and humanitarian groups to demand of Pinochet that the repression ends and that he reveals the whereabouts of the disappeared.

Q: How did your hunger strike go here in Newcastle?

A: The strike began on Friday May 26th and lasted until 12.30 pm on June 3rd. Fourteen people fasted, including Chilean refugees and other Latin American and Spanish people. Nine people remained on strike throughout the eight days. We are trying to give concrete support to the hunger strikers in Chile and to develop a movement of

solidarity from political, trade union and humanitarian organisations. We are calling on the British government to take concrete and effective action against the Pinochet dictatorship.

Q: How much support have you got locally?

A: We have received press, radio and TV coverage from the media. Also, we've received the support of the left-wing political parties and humanitarian and religious organisations. A local priest, Ian Harker, provided us with his church for the strike.

In addition, we have the support of the Poly Chilean Society and the University Latin American Society, both of whom have paid for telephone messages of support to the Chilean strikers. The local Labour MP, Harry Cow-

ans, visited us and promised to present a motion in Parliament concerning the plight of the disappeared and calling for real government action against Pinochet.

Q: What specific help do you need now?

A: Trade union support is our main need. The repression in Chile is mainly directed against the workers. It is therefore necessary to bring this to the attention of British trade unionists and to get the unions to fulfil their role of defending workers, wherever they may be.

We call on the workers of Britain and the world to support the Chilean workers' struggle and to pressurise the international organisations of labour to do their duty.

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

LETTERS

Revolution
East
and West

Dear Comrades

Your paper recently has given much attention to one of the more momentous turning points in the development of the working class. But the revolutionary situation that existed in France was one of two great events that year in 1968. Also important were the events in Czechoslovakia, which led ultimately to the invasion of that country in August, by the USSR and Warsaw Pact countries.

How did the events in France affect what was happening in Czechoslovakia and vice versa? The interplay of events and interdependence of the struggle of workers throughout the world cannot be denied.

Can things move in Portugal without an effect on the struggles of Spanish workers? Will not events in Iberia rekindle France and Italy?

But even more importantly, is it not probable that when events in Western Europe begin to move they will give rise to movements—perhaps on an even more dramatic scale—in Eastern Europe? Who would dare to say what will happen when events in the Soviet Union start to provide again the flame—the shining example—they did sixty years ago?

When the workers of East and West move, the Iron Curtain will melt away overnight, and with it those who created it to divide us from our comrades in the Warsaw Pact countries.

Yours fraternally
Ian W Malcolm

The
big time
scroungers

Dear Sir

I have been a socialist for as long as I can remember and have recently joined the LPYS. Having lived in the slums of Cardiff, my parents' marriage broke up. Straight on the dole from school, I have been aware of the inequalities of capitalist Britain from an early age.

The working classes have to take all the blame for the capitalist crisis, and the slander from the press as being spongers and scroungers. Yet a number of official figures can answer these lies.

In 1976 there was £2.6 million defrauded from the DHSS, resulting in 15,300 prosecutions. Many of these cases were given wide publicity in the press. In the same year a staggering £1,500 million was lost to the Inland Revenue in tax evasion. However, only 126 prosecutions followed.

Why is this? Has tax evasion become socially acceptable? These evaders are the real scroungers. Every old age pensioner could receive £3 a week or more, if the company directors, multinational companies etc. paid all they legally should.

Nationalise the top 200 multinationals, and stop the tax evaders!

Yours fraternally
P R Harris
Porth Cawl LPYS

What do
you think
of them
so far?

Dear Comrades

Outside our factory yesterday there was a heap of horse manure. One of the workers from our factory with an eye for the truth put a notice on a stick and stuck it over the manure.

The notice read: "This is what the National Front are made of." It was well received!

NJR
GEC Whetstone

Why the miners got organised



Dear Comrades

I am on holiday in Pembrokeshire, and have just visited a Tourist Information Office where there was a display showing mining methods and history in the area.

One account by a boy aged 8 told how he sometimes was lucky enough to have oatmeal broth before he went to work, and occasionally had bacon scrape for dinner on Sunday. His father had been killed down the mine and his mother and three brothers and sisters were forced to work from 6 am to 6 pm to get enough money to survive.

They all lived in a mud and straw "house" and often had to have a fire burning all day [with the accompanying

smoke and fumes] to keep the walls dry enough to stay up. He had been down the mine since he was seven years old.

No wonder the coalfields are now strongly unionised. It is only by joining together that we can fight employers who allow these sort of conditions.

Seeing that exhibition has certainly strengthened my resolve to fight against capitalism, the system that perpetuates economic slavery and resulted in such barbaric conditions, because it is only the strength and unity of the working class that have eliminated such hardship today.

Fraternally
Christine Batten
Bristol South LPYS

Unemployment
Campaign

Dear Comrades

I am writing to inform you that a branch of the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment (incorporating youth against racism and fascism) is in the process of being established in the Wansdyke area.

In an area such as this it will serve a number of purposes: to encourage youth to join and play an active role in the Labour Party and trade union movement, leading to the establishment of a Labour Party Young Socialists branch, and to act as a body to which older trade unionists and Labour Party activists, who support to some extent the ideas of the youth wing of

the Labour Party can become active in.

An inaugural meeting will be held shortly at which the ideas of the campaign etc. will be explained. At the meeting any trade union and Labour Party branches will be welcome to send representatives and all interested individuals are invited.

Further details of the meeting and the campaign can be obtained from 5 St Lukes Road, Midsomer Norton, Bath.

Yours fraternally
Mark Chivers
Secretary, Midsomer Norton Labour Party (personal capacity)

National action needed

Dear Comrades

I am a member of USDAW and at present we are campaigning for a basic wage of £55 for a 35-hour week, which to be realistic is just not on.

I am a check-out operator for the Templeton branch in Bishopbriggs. It is impossible to take industrial action because the management could easily take over as it is not a very large store. The

only industrial action we could take is non-co-operation with the management, but we don't co-operate anyway. Comrades must realise I do agree with the letter on guerrilla action but it can not always be successful especially in a store such as Templetons.

Yours fraternally
Kay Callaghan
Kirkintilloch LPYS

Fight Fascism with Socialist alternative

Dear Comrades

Last week's letter concerning the role of the ANL raises some very serious questions for all socialists and Marxists. We all welcome the massive support given to the ANL carnival, particularly the overwhelming support from young people, which clearly nails the lie that young people are either racist or don't care what's happening.

With the polarisation taking place within society, the quick response from the labour movement over the racist attacks of two years ago, led to spontaneous committees being formed by local labour movements. But it was the failure to co-ordinate and organise these committees with a national organisation that has allowed the ANL to fill this void.

Over the years we have seen many popular movements crossing classes, with a sprinkling of film stars and do-gooders who have campaigned on one issue, without relating it to the system and conditions we live under, like CND, Vietnam and more recently the Women's Peace Movement in Ireland. Once the popular momentum wanes, we see that none of these movements has changed events, and in most cases the dangers are now even greater.

While all fascist parties use racialism and nationalism, attempting to divide the people, making one section scapegoats, whether it be blacks, Asians, gay groups or other minorities, their real aim is the destruction of the labour and trade union movement, without which

they cannot proceed with their aims. At the same time they play on the economic and social conditions.

It is on these two important questions that the ANL is at its weakest, as the letter ('Militant' 407) states. They fail to raise the socialist alternative to the growing problems, for fear of alienating 'popular support'. They campaign purely on Anti-National Front propaganda, without directing the movement towards the real questions.

The fight against the fascists is a fight against the social system that allows them to develop. This is not the time to water down the fight for socialism, in fighting fascism, quite the opposite.

It will be through our strength, our understanding,

our willingness to fight against this evil, throughout the organised working class movement, that other sections of society will be forced to our side. There are no short cuts.

Grave dangers lie ahead. For the ANL to mobilise 80,000 people at their carnival, and not to raise the political questions, not to arm these people with a clear socialist understanding, means when the immediate struggle against the NF recedes, these youngsters could be lost to the movement.

Yours fraternally
Rod Fitch
Convenor, Brighton and Hove Committee
Against Fascism

The two
nations

Dear Comrades

Last week the three card trick was once again demonstrated by the civil list manipulators when they announced the massive pay increases to the original beneficiaries of Social Security—the Royal family.

These pampered drones, with their numerous obscure relatives from Greece, Germany and all stations west are on a monetary peak so high that no doubt future historians will refer to our era as the "British Madness" period.

Also reported last week in the national press was the grim fact that up to 10,000 people may die in the next twelve months due to the lack of money to obtain kidney machines.

I suggest every reader of 'Militant' writes to the multi-millionaire, the Queen, and ask that she purchases these machines from her untaxed, unearned income, or, as I have always wanted to live in the Tower of London, cut out my letter and forward it to Buckingham Palace.

Yours fraternally
George R Hornby
Bridlington Labour Party

Prepare
for
action

Dear Comrades

The letters page of 'Militant' is reflecting more and more the issues facing the working class and raises issues that could be discussed further. In 'Militant' No 406, G Wilson raised several points but in particular the doubt that the workers in the factory would win through all out strike because of lack of funds.

This would obviously have a massive impact on the members but other issues are more important. A bold lead from the shop stewards gives the direction for the struggle but unless over a long period leading up to the dispute the whole workforce has had the issues explained in full this lead may not be followed.

With their case, with the build-up for the dispute, and an appeal for cash, the firemen showed that it is possible to launch an all out strike.

One issue still remains outstanding, and that's why the firemen lost. The answer is national leadership. If the TUC had backed the dispute then a victory would have been scored for the firemen and all trade unionists.

Similarly with the election of Terry Duffy in the AUEW. National backing to make disputes official will now be very hard come by.

With the pressure from the employers, strikes can be forced upon us. If the issues are explained then the work force can be solid, but a campaign has to be launched to gain official backing, for a victory, and a lesson to management which will bring gains in the future because of the strength being demonstrated.

Yours fraternally
Jon Ingham
Leeds No 6 AUEW
and LPYS

£35,000 NEEDED BY JULY 8th

FIGHTING FUND CHART £70,000

Area	Target 26 wks	Target 52 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	2,200	4,400		1,039.84
Hants & IOW	1,050	2,100		1,033.81
Humberside	1,100	2,200		804.98
Lancashire	750	1,500		264.83
London: North	3,850	7,700		2,087.89
London: South	1,900	3,800		1,127.31
Manchester & District	1,450	2,900		488.55
Merseyside & District	2,250	4,500		982.50
Midlands East	2,200	4,400		1,196.07
Midlands West	3,700	7,400		2,142.54
Northern	2,450	4,900		1,270.42
Scotland East	1,250	2,500		582.75
Scotland West	1,450	2,900		646.56
South East	1,150	2,300		815.55
South West	1,150	2,300		720.83
Thames Valley	850	1,700		545.56
Wales East	1,000	2,000		598.55
Wales West	1,150	2,300		642.82
Yorkshire	2,600	5,200		1,031.63
Others	1,500	3,000		3,111.11
	35,000	70,000		21,134.10

Progress towards year's target  Towards July 8th target

How to fight for the 35-hour week and socialism:

Donate 5 hours' pay (or at least £5) this week

THIS WEEK'S TOTAL: £690.20
TOTAL SO FAR: £21,000
NEEDED BY 8 JULY: £35,000

Heading the issues at every union conference is the demand for the 35-hour week to be implemented now. The message of every conference must also be that nothing is granted without a fight and a fight there must be, throughout the trade union and labour movement.

The 'Militant' campaigns consistently for a 35-hour week but it needs your help to do so. Send us an item for inclusion in 'Militant' on the issue. Sell more copies; take the facts, figures and argument we provide into your workplace, to your local branch of the labour movement and push for a real plan of action.

Above all, help us financially! We are aiming for £35,000 by July 8th and have just over £21,000 so far. This requires emergency action and a real sacrifice from our readers.

We are appealing to you to reduce your working week for 'Militant'. Send us 5 hours' pay or a minimum of £5 from this week's pay packet!

Over the next four weeks we want every supporter to give a 'fiver' and raise a 'fiver' to get us back on target. And it can be done!

Find someone else who will give a fiver like R Hartill of Bristol LP Young Socialists, M Sullivan or P Hackett of Coventry, M Wedderburn of Tower Hamlets or 'a Skelmersdale trade unionist' who each gave £5 last week.

Find five people prepared to give £1 like F Paterson of Derby NUJ, E Ralston (TGWU Rolls Royce, Glasgow), J McAllion (Dundee), R Oakon (Stoke), a 'Brent USDAW member', J Giles (Notts LPYS), V Crossley

(Liverpool) and J Locke (E London). If they can contribute every week, all the better!

Find someone like S Perumel (Tower Hamlets) or R Miller (Glasgow) who will give £3 and someone else to give £2 as the following did last week: S Sweeney (Bath NUFLAT), J McLaughlin (Hammersmith), G Hold (S London), R Walsh (Stevenage SOGAT) and J Campbell (CPSA) and K Timmins both of Edinburgh.

Find a few readers who will give 50p each week like B Chidgey (Bristol TGWU), E Cameron (Edinburgh C LPYS), A Douglas (AUEW Shop Steward) and J McLeland (AUEW, Chrysler, Linwood).

Sell some more books of raffle tickets, collect among your workmates, and at your trade union, Labour Party or LPYS branch. Last week £3 came from Wandsworth GMWU members, £1.50 from POEU members in Glasgow, £4.52 from Oldham LPYS, £1 from Penge LPYS, £6 from Harlow May Appeal, £10 from a football raffle ticket raffle at Prestcolds, Glasgow, and a total of £27.78 has been collected so far this year in small but regular donations from readers in Cornwall.

This week gives numerous other examples of ways to raise cash to build the 'Militant'. The collection at the S Wales Summer Camp raised an excellent £125. The 'Militant' meeting and other collecting at GMWU Conference meant another £90 for the funds after various expenses for covering the Conference were deducted. £38.30 was collected at UPW Conference, £10 at a meeting in Nottingham and £1.37 at a

small Discussion Group in Dundee.

A disco in Paisley raised £21 for 'Militant', a social in Rochdale £8.13, a 'clothing club' in Leeds raises sums like the latest £6. 'Printing' in Durham raised £6.50, a 'round of drinks' in E London £2.20, 'tape measures' (Woolwich) £1 and the same amount from 'excess from curry bill' in Llanelli. Sandwiches were sold in N London to raise £1.25 and, in Coventry, supporters even sold Boveril cubes to raise 75p!

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the total of £690.20 this week, especially T Mailer of Paisley who gave a whole £20 saying "don't mention it"! A Hammersmith supporter also gave an excellent £22.50 and a Coventry reader sent the first contribution we have had from the 'tips of a dustman's bin round!'—£6.50.

Two Glasgow supporters sent £10 between them and R Eskilson of Sweden and P Neve-Schwandt of Germany sent £4.40 and £2.40 respectively. B Brum of N London gave £2.51 last week, C Webber of Bristol CPSA £1.24 and A Williams (NALGO, Paisley) and R Walsh of Kirkdale LPYS sent £1.50 each. Readers unnamed contributed to the £35.98 from Southampton, the £17.75 from Sheffield and £12.07 from Wandsworth.

£10 from every supporter over the next four weeks would get us up to and over our half year target. Our sights are set high, nothing is won without a fight.

Fight with the 'Militant'.
Fight for the 'Militant'!

ADS

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'.

CROSSHANDS LPYS Meeting—'What the LPYS Stands for'. Speaker: Glenys Ingham (Editor, 'Left'). 7.30 pm, Thursday 22nd June, Crosshands Public Hall, Carmarthen Road.

SWANSEA LPYS—'The LPYS and the Socialist Answer to Unemployment'. Speaker: Glenys Ingham (Editor, 'Left'). 7.30 pm, Tuesday 20th June, Elysium Buildings, High Street, Swansea.

CARDIFF LPYS: 'What the LPYS Stands For'. Speaker: Kevin Ramage (LPYS National Committee). 7.30 pm, Tuesday 20th June, Empire Pool, Cardiff.

CENTRAL REGION SCOTLAND LPYS Public Meetings: 'The Socialist Way Forward'. Falkirk—Monday 19th June, 7.30 pm, Temperance Café. Alloa—Tuesday 20th June, 7.30 pm, St Mungo's School. Stirling—Thursday 22nd June, 7.30 pm, Cowane Centre.

KINGSTON AUEW AND LPYS Public Meeting. Speaker: Mike Convery (Kingston AUEW District Committee); Phil Frampton (National Chairman LPYS and member AUEW). At Kingston Labour Party Rooms, 162 London Road, Kingston. 8.00 pm, Thursday 22nd June.

WALTHAM FOREST LPYS presents 'Disco Fever' Saturday 24th June, from 8 pm at the 'Grange', Grange Park Road, Leyton E.10

LONDON LPYS Demonstrate against the Tory press. Friday 16th June, 7.00 pm. Trafalgar Square. March 'down Fleet Street, rally at the Temple. Speakers include: Andy Bevan (Labour Party National Youth Officer); Jim Brookshaw (AUEW, 'The Times').

HACKNEY LPYS: 'The Struggle for Socialism'. Tuesday 20th June. Hear: Phil Frampton (member, PNP Youth UK and Chairman, Labour Party Young Socialists). Venue: Labour and Trade Union Hall, 96 Dalston Lane, E.8., 7.30 pm. Plus: DISCO, 24th June, 8.00 pm, same venue.

New LPYS recruitment leaflet for week of action. Produced by London LPYS Regional Committee. Out now. Only £3.50 per 1,000 plus p&p. Enquiries to John Bulaitis, 10 Winbourne Court, Croydon Road, London, S.E.10.

Young Socialist Sponsored Walk from Gosforth to Blyth Labour Club. Sunday June 18th (2.00 pm). All welcome.

Social Evening Blyth Labour Club, Sunday June 18th, 7.00 pm. To celebrate the walk.

Blyth LPYS Day School on China. Speaker: Dave Cotterill. At Blyth Labour Club, Saturday 15th July, 1978. 11.00 am to 4.30 pm. Tickets 50p, lunch provided.

Marxist Weekend School Friday June 30th-Sunday July 2nd. At Goldsmiths College Students' Union, Lewisham Way, London 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 with registration. To register, write to Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

ST MARYLEBONE Labour Party Young Socialists present a PARTY with disco, bar and food. On Saturday, June 17th, 8.00 pm-12 midnight. At the 'Cock' pub, Triton Place, N.W.1. (off Euston Road). Three minutes from Great Portland Street, Warren Street and Euston Square Undergrounds. Only 45p entrance. We have booked the whole pub, with a bar extension until midnight.

'Militant' Marxist Weekend School: Minibus for School leaves Coventry Railway Station Friday June 30th, 6.00 pm. 12 places available, £3 each (return). Book a place from: Mike Levene, 55 Barras Lane, Coventry.

Jim Allen will officially open 'Days of Hope' bookshop at 115 Westgate Road, Newcastle on Saturday 17th June. Meeting afterwards in the Black Bull, 12.30 pm.

Trotskyist Posadist The 60th Anniversary of the Soviet Union J Posadas 20p, IV International Publications, 24 Cranbourn Street, W.C.2.



Militant's industrial correspondent, Brian Ingham, with Clare Doyle left.

Photo: Julian McKittrick

BEST EVER

Clare Doyle, General and Municipal Workers' Union member and fighting fund organiser for 'Militant', gave the financial appeal at the G&MWU conference 'Militant' public meeting which led to a collection of £75—the biggest collection ever raised at a G&MWU conference 'Militant' meeting, and more was given later!

In an excellent discussion, the only real note of controversy arose around the demand for a £60 minimum wage, which two or three delegates opposed as they thought that,

if secured, it would be immediately eaten away by inflation.

Key demand

This was also the best attended meeting ever with delegates and visitors to the conference from a wide spectrum of industries and regions.

Brian Ingham, 'Militant' industrial correspondent and the main speaker, spelt out why 'Militant' supports this demand, and why it could well become the focus of struggle for the lower-paid in the G&MWU and other

unions. Because the bosses will always try and claw back what they have been forced to concede, Brian stressed that the task facing the labour movement in the struggle to achieve a £60 minimum wage would be; firstly, to insist on mandatory rises in the minimum wage to compensate for rises in inflation; and secondly, to link the industrial struggle with the overall political fight for the removal of the bosses and the socialist transformation of society.

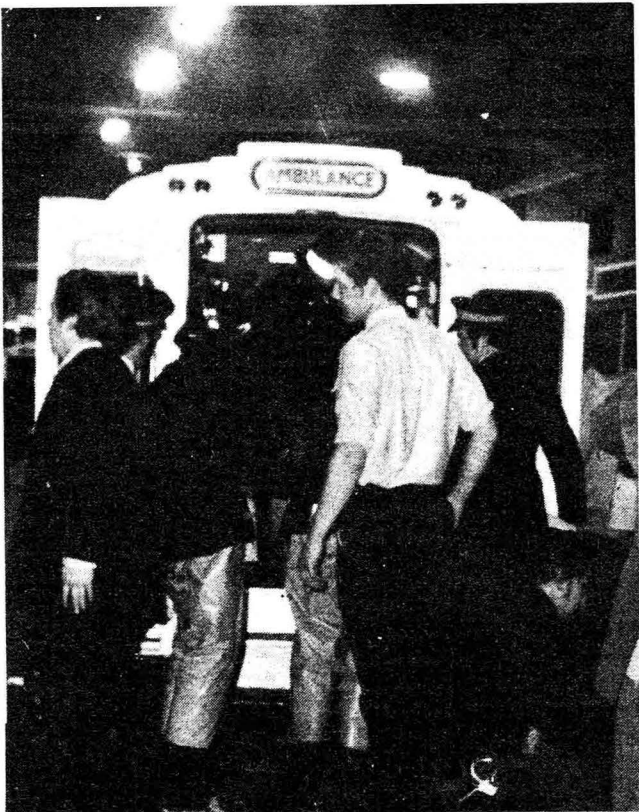
By Bob Young

Coventry ambulance drivers:

Management back down

On Wednesday 7th June, the senior TGWU shop steward for ambulance drivers in Coventry was sacked for an alleged time-keeping offence. Ambulance stations throughout the West Midlands took sympathetic action with the strikers in Coventry, immediately walking out in support. The strike lasted four days and resulted in the reinstatement of a shop steward pending a further appeal.

Dave Nellist (Secretary, Coventry SE LPYS) talked to Mick Keegan, the senior shop steward at the centre of the dispute.



“It's common practice throughout the ambulance service for shift workers to cover for certain periods for their relief driver. This has always been condoned by local management.

In my case, I arranged for cover informally, but both my own and my relief's clock cards were interfered with by an unknown person—and it appeared from the time records that we were both claiming wages for the same shift.

When I was called into the office, I expected a 'dressing down' for this minor offence, that of informally arranging cover for an 8-hour shift. To my amazement, I was charged with the major offence of 'attempted fraud' (in apparently seeking 40 hours wages for 32 hours work), immediately sacked and ordered off the station.

A similar case occurred some months ago, and the driver concerned, after being found guilty by the station officer of fraud (a far more serious charge than 'attempted fraud') was only given a day's suspension. Yet I was

sacked—that's a clear case of double standards.

I've been a thorn in the side of local management for the four years that I've held a steward's card.

First in line

Coventry is well known as a militant station. We have working conditions and a bonus scheme, for example, far ahead of those enjoyed by most stations throughout the country. If management can break the strength of union organisation here, they think it will be that much easier to impose cuts and lower bonus rates etc., in other stations.

That's the real reason behind this victimisation.

The support received has been nothing short of fantastic. I'd obviously hoped for the full support of my own members.

But I'm especially thankful for the support I've received from stations in other parts of the region. These are people who have never seen me before in their lives, and yet they were willing, in many cases within hours of the

sacking, to come out on strike and stand on picket lines. It's just tremendous.

The dispute was made official by the TGWU on the day after I was sacked.

After four days of strike action in this area, however, and with the threat of action at other stations, the Regional Health Authority suddenly made a peace offer.

We held a mass meeting in Coventry of all the strikers and the formula was accepted. This provided for my reinstatement and suspension on full pay, pending another appeal. This is not total victory, but it was a climb-down by the Regional Health Authority, as local management had been quite adamant that the dismissal was final.

It's quite clear to me that we would not have achieved this without strike action. The unity we've shown against this attempted victimisation of a shop steward will be vital in the future when further cuts and attacks on the conditions of ambulance workers will be attempted.

Fares boycott to save buses

Buses missed out, schedules changed without any warning. Fares up to 18p for all, even for a two-stop journey. All this has built up to an explosive mood in Harlow. (See 'Militant' No 400).

At a meeting of ASTMS in May they sent the following resolution to the Harlow Trades Union Council:

This Harlow TUC considers the service provided by London Country Buses to be totally inadequate and a public disgrace. We object to paying more and more for a poor service and call on Harlow Labour Party to mandate its representatives on Essex County Council and Harlow Council to demand:

1. An immediate freeze on fares.
2. An immediate end to cancellations and delays.
3. An immediate reduction of children's fares to half fare at all times.
4. The establishment of a committee of elected bus users and transport employees to organise and manage the provision of public transport in Harlow.

5. The introduction of tickets that allow transfer between one bus to another if a change is necessary.

6. Harlow Council to continue to press the Essex CC to increase the subsidy to public transport.

If these demands have not been met by July 31st we will organise a boycott of fares.

Before the Trade Union Council debated it, the Chairman got in touch with the TGWU stewards at the Bus Depot in Harlow. So cheesed off were they with the situation in Harlow, the ranks of buses broken down, the continuous aggro from the public over the missing buses and changed schedules, that they agreed that if the TUC in Harlow organised a boycott they would co-operate and accept passengers who refused to pay in support of the TUC action.

They informed the management of this. Immediately the phones buzzed. Nine top London Transport officials came down to Harlow.

The drivers confirmed their support for the fare boycott.

Within a few hours the top management decided to divert brand new buses destined for other areas to Harlow. They will arrive within three days. Ranks of broken down buses are to be repaired immediately, and returned to the Harlow roads within days.

Despite these promises the TUC passed the above resolution unanimously, and are still determined to organise a boycott if the demands aren't met.

It was also decided to contact other areas to make sure their services don't suffer. The TUC in Harlow doesn't want Harlow's gains to be other areas' losses.

The feeling is that if Harlow bus users get this attention and improvement by just a discussion of a resolution threatening bus fares boycott, what other concessions can be wrung out by the taking of action itself? Any action will be taken in full consultation with the drivers' trade union.

By Danny Purton
(Chairman, Harlow TUC)

Brockhouse Hunt: strikers sacked

After five weeks on the picket line, the 250 strikers at Brockhouse Hunt foundry in Birmingham have all received letters from management.

The message reads—you're all sacked. If you fail to return to work on June 14th, your contracts of employment are deemed broken, and so you are dismissed.

But this latest turn of the screw has only made the workers more determined. At the mass meeting on June 13th they almost unanimously agreed to stay out, and in no uncertain terms told management what they could do with their letters.

But at the meeting, what made them just as angry was the list read out by the stewards, of the other companies in the Brockhouse group they had visited, and the wages and conditions the workers there enjoy. Brockhouse Hunt was at the bottom of the pile.

Every other plant has a sick pay scheme. On wages too,

the workers on strike are being singled out for rough treatment.

Brockhouse Hunt management have offered only a 10% wage increase, and this included the nationally negotiated Minimum Earning Level (MEL). With a £50 per week wage, this gives just £4.33 (8.6%) to the T&GWU production workers and £3.45 (6.9%) to the AUEW members. But all the other companies visited had received the full 10%, with the MEL and even other bonus payments on top.

The strikers cannot go back on these terms. But to stay out they must particularly approach the other workers in the group for financial support, but also with a view to establishing a stewards' organisation for all the companies to prevent the group management picking off any one plant at a time.

By Jeremy Birch
(Selly Oak Labour Party)



At A J Lees, a demonstration took place on Wednesday June 7th along Witton Road to demonstrate solidarity with the eight workers who have been on strike since the beginning of March. The streets rang to chants of "A J Lees—out, Metal Mechanics—in" and "sweat-shops out—living wage in."

An indication of the conditions in this factory is given by the fact that meals have to be eaten off tables where there is rat poison and mice droppings. There are no proper washing facilities and the toilets are never cleaned.

The machinery is not guarded. In one instance 15 machines were condemned by the factory inspector because they had no guards. One machine produces wall ties for use in the building industry. The wire fed into the machine had broken on occasions and whips back across the operator's head, which could blind you. These are some of the conditions these workers are subjected to.

Therefore it is necessary for the labour movement to take up some of the demands passed at Erdington Labour Party's GMC:

- ★ black their products [cotter pins];
- ★ support any future calls for mass pickets;
- ★ organise collections in the movement;
- ★ cut off essential services and bring this reactionary employer to heel.

By Brian Debus
(Erdington Labour Party)

Sell Militant to your workmates

Contact: Circulation Department
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

HADEN'S ATTACK SHOP STEWARDS' RIGHTS

Last week London electricians working for the multinational Haden Young Company, overwhelmingly rejected Management—Union proposals to decimate the number of accredited shop stewards within the Company.

The document outlining the proposals—employee representation, consultation and disputes procedure—was signed on behalf of the union by an area official, yet a number of the proposals are in complete contravention to the EETPU rule book, a point taken up by dozens of rank and file members.

The main concept of the proposals is to elect the stewards on a departmental

basis, thus preventing the electricians from electing their own representatives at site level.

As one of the departments was deemed to cover Haden's jobs in the Milton Keynes area, under the proposals there would be only five stewards to cover the whole of London. At present, Haden has approximately thirty large contracts in the London area entitled to have stewards.

The proposals are a revamp of a scheme called operative representation that has been in operation at Haden's for a number of years. But the new proposals are far more far-reaching and dangerous.

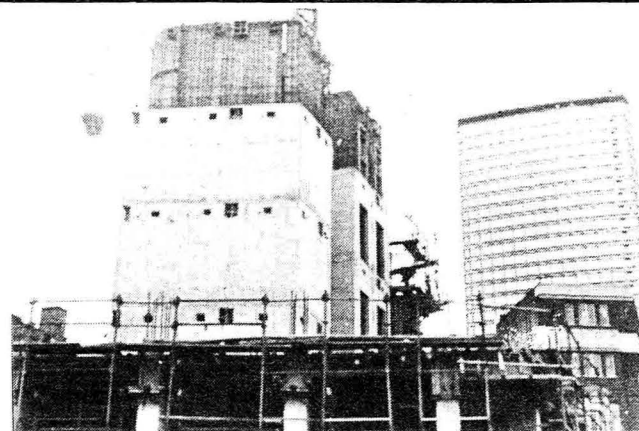
Various clauses (e.g. D4, E1) in the agreement give management a direct say in

the accrediting and de-recognition of stewards.

Again DI goes on to state that only craftsmen may be nominated and they must have at least two years' service with the company, yet it is surely an elementary right of any union member to be elected as steward at any time.

2-year term

One of the most democratic features of the labour movement is the right to recall your steward; but this would be a thing of the past. Haden management point out that they are spending a lot of money training the new stewards, as safety reps and to resolve incentive disputes,



and so demand that the stewards remain for their full two year term, although again the rule book states that stewards are to be elected annually (rule 16 [I]).

In conclusion, the rebuttal of the proposals means that the sparks are not prepared to be hamstrung by the management. They are prepared to stand by their traditional organisation, including the shop stewards' committee,

which was not even consulted over the proposals.

Resolutions condemning the proposals have already been sent to the EC of the union. The men are demanding a thorough investigation of how the document was ever approved in the first place.

By Brian Ingham
(Industrial Correspondent)

UNION CONFERENCES NGA, COHSE & G&MWU

NGA — No Redundancies

Delegates to the 1978 NGA Conference gather in the Isle of Man with the crucial questions of the future of free wage bargaining, the control of new technology and the growing demand within the trade union for a shorter working week to reduce unemployment facing the union.

The last ten years have seen wage curbs erode the living standards of print workers.

The idea of a continued policy with a 7% 'norm' is being floated by the government. This must be firmly rejected by the NGA.

Unemployment has affected the printing industry badly. In some areas, like Merseyside, NGA members have been on the books for periods ranging between one and 12 months. Normally the yearly intake of apprentices averaged around 2,500, but in the year ending September

1976, only 1,763 were admitted and 1,509 for 1977.

An immediate reduction in the working week by five hours would be a major step forward.

The past two years have witnessed the determination of the employers, particularly in Fleet Street, to add many more print workers to the dole queue by introducing new technology. NGA members are familiar with the effects of computerisation and cold composition on numbers employed. The question is—what is to be done to protect jobs whilst welcoming new, modern methods of production?

The much-publicised Daily

Mirror agreement was negotiated with the loss of 70-odd jobs in the composing areas. The other national dailies are now drawing the obvious conclusions.

35-hour week

Mass redundancy arising from the introduction of new techniques should be combated by the call for an immediate reduction in the working week without loss of pay. This was a glaring omission from the demands made by the trade unions negotiating the new technology agreement at the Daily Mirror.

The intentions of the

employers need to be answered by the trade unions with the demand for the public ownership of the press facilities under the control and management of the trade union, Labour and Co-operative movement. Control of the industry should be comprised of one-third from the unions within the industry, one-third from the TUC and one-third from the government to ensure democracy.

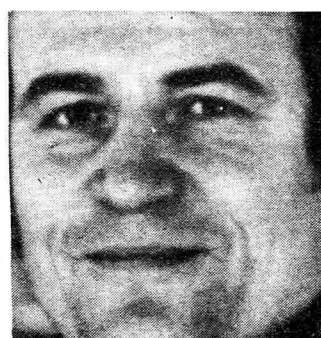
In the past the NGA has shown the way on the vital amalgamation question—joining with some unions who were faced with extinction due to changing techniques. The imminent merger of SLADE is doubly welcome as

it gives an opportunity to hammer out a common policy on the threat facing print workers.

Without amalgamation the bosses could drive a coach and horses between workers at the point of production, playing one group off against the other.

We must campaign for the democratic control of the unions as they are, and a single industrial union in the future. Although the re-election of full-time officials at all levels of the NGA is not on the agenda this year, this basic element of rank and file control needs to be posed as far as an amalgamation with other unions is concerned.

The unions must take the initiative. The NGA is capable of that initiative if a clear policy is adopted and fought for by a determined leadership which reflects the aspirations of the rank and file.



By Tony Mulhearn

Delegate, Liverpool NGA, personal capacity

NGA CONFERENCE

Militant Readers Meeting

'The Socialist Way for Britain'

Chairman:

Ray Williams (Liverpool Dist. Sec. NGA, personal capacity)

Speakers:

Tony Mulhearn (Delegate, Liverpool NGA, personal capacity)

Richard Knights (Labour Party Young Socialists)

Tuesday 20th June, 7.30 pm
At: Bowli... Green Hotel, Derby Road, Douglas IOM

GMWU — END WAGE RESTRAINT

"We are in the process of establishing, within the trade union movement, a new radical left."

These were the words of David Basnett, General Secretary of the third largest trade union in the country (and present Chairman of the TUC) at the GMWU Congress in Scarborough.

On the National Front, he declared: "We cannot stand for workers' rights; we cannot stand for the solidarity of workers; we cannot stand for international trade unionism unless on our own door steps we are prepared to tackle head-on the divisive and vicious policies which these organisations proclaim."

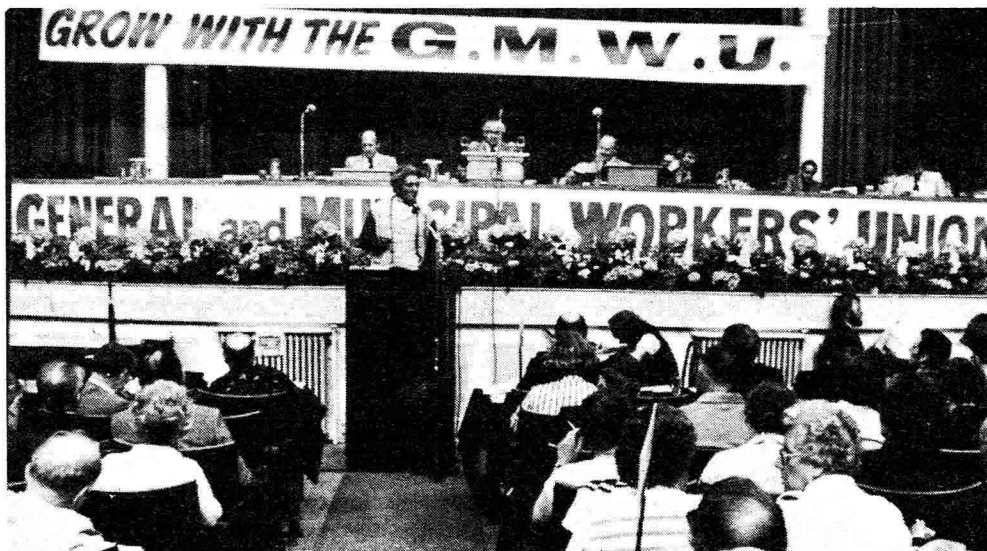
Report by Clare Doyle
(Lambeth G&MWU)

The Executive statement "gives our officials at all levels—from the workplace and branch right up to national level—the authority to stamp on the National Front where trade unionism is being brought into disrepute as a result of members' association or membership of a fascist organisation."

On pay, David Basnett declared: "There will be no agreed norm, no agreed phase four, no agreed income policy, no acquiescence in direct government interference in wages. There must be a complete return to voluntary collective bargaining."

Merciless attacks were made on the Tories and on various employers in the course of speeches from National Officers and Executive members. The members will welcome these fighting words. In a two-year period "living standards fell by 5%," Bro Basnett reminded Congress, and wage restraint had "left our negotiators in impossible positions."

But a few militant swallows don't make a summer. The membership wants real backing for their struggles, as the lobby of London Insulation workers emphasised. They had official support withdrawn for their strike to achieve a 35-hour week. Why?—when so much is said from the platform about the membership taking up this



Dave Booker [Bridport] speaking at G&MWU Conference 1978

photo: Julian McKittrick

battle, when the chairman talks of "positive action" rather than paying lip service, and when, as leading left-winger, John Cope, stressed, advances don't come from the beneficence of the employer?

For all the talk of being radical and left, the GMWU leaders do not tackle the root cause of our problems. They

imaging that "further injections of the same drug," as the Wandsworth delegate described the EC's subsidising proposals, will somehow bring back to life an ailing capitalist system.

The leadership still shies away from the only means of planning society—the use of the great power of the movement in a campaign to take over the commanding heights of the economy.

They even opposed a resolution on the nationalisation of banks and finance, already Labour Party policy—"other ways of control must be found"! On the main economic debate, the platform rejected a challenge from the left (composite 3) which unlike the Executive statement, immediate return to free collective bargaining, the need for substantial rises throughout, and for the 35-hour week now as of right.

"Last year we said no to phase 3 and we are back here saying no to phase 4," was the way John Cope explained that Congress could support the EC's Special Motion (as most regional delegations were already mandated to do) but also vote for composite 3 to make sure the options of the leadership were not left open.

Two delegates who opposed any form of TUC 'policing' also succeeded—after a ten minute recess and two votes—to overrule the

chair in winning a considerable victory for the right of Congress to vote on alternatives to the Executive's position. The composite was then defeated by only a hair's breadth—204 votes to 199.

Why was the platform so upset about this resolution? When the union stands against spending cuts and for the restoration of those already made, why did they oppose a campaign of joint action?

There was enough talk of unity during the week of Congress; now the members must forge that unity at shop-floor and industry level. Shop stewards' combines and industrial conferences alike must insist that the policy of the 35-hour week without loss in pay and an end to government interference in wage negotiation now become a reality. They must ensure that their representatives are no longer pressurised at national or regional level to hold back in expressing the real views of their members and fighting all the way for their interests.

COHSE FOR A FIGHTING HEALTH SERVICE UNION

The resolutions for conference express the frustrations of health service staff facing loss of earnings due to government pay policy, heavy cuts, and staff shortages. A number of resolutions reflect a development of the Confederation in the direction of shop stewards committees and away from the "consultative" bodies.

Resolutions on pay mainly call for a return to free collective bargaining. They seek £55 or £60 per week minimum wage, consolidation of all pay supplements into the basic, automatic rises tied to the Retail Price Index. None of the resolutions support the government's pay policies.

A large number of resolutions call for increases in on-call, standby and special duty payments. Increases in all allowances and introduction of fringe benefits are demanded. A 35-hour week is demanded and six weeks' annual holiday.

No less than eight resolutions deal with the unacceptably low staffing levels in nursing.

Shop stewards

On the conduct of negotiations, many resolutions are against working with non-TUC affiliated organisations. Rule changes are proposed recognising shop stewards' committees. Some of the clauses submitted by the NEC do, however, by making the stewards responsible to

their branches, seem to unnecessarily tie the hands of stewards participating in inter-union committees.

Adoption of resolution 91, if passed, could unfortunately play into the hands of management. Whilst justifiably expressing concern at the welfare of the patients in industrial action, it somewhat idealistically talks of the "anachronisms of strikes..." and supports "the principles of arbitration and conciliation as more mature forms of political development." Actually, it is management's implementation of cuts which is the most harmful action against patients' welfare. Time and again management cast all 'principles of arbitration and conciliation' to one side in order to push through their own aims.

By Marie Harrison
(Sefton General Branch,
Liverpool, in
personal capacity)

The most 'mature form of political development' we should aim for is the replacement of existing bureaucratic management by democratic workers' control. All sections of health service staff have experienced the dead hand of management stifling all initiative and genuine innovation.

The resolutions reflect a change developing in the union. Members of COHSE want it to move quickly in the direction of greatest unity with other unions and for restoration and improvement of earnings and conditions.

Emergency Bed Service threatened, private medicine boom: see page 4.

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GARNERS

Labour MPs Ian Mikardo, Jo Richardson, Ted Fletcher and Audrey Wise joined the Garners, Haymarket, picket line on Tuesday 14th, donating £17 to the strike funds in a show of solidarity with the strikers.

As the five months of picketing and blacking begins to bite, police are stepping up harassment, trying to limit pickets to six at a time.

The 84 striking T&GWU members have appealed for help on the picket line and donations to help their fight for union recognition.

A recall Garners' support conference will be held at 7.30 on Thursday 22nd June at T&GWU headquarters, Smith Square. For further information, contact the Strike Committee, telephone 01-240 1056.

Fascists rampage

Violence in Brick Lane, East London, has again shown the vicious results of the fascist National Front's racist rabble-rousing.

A group of about 80 skinheads, urged on by NF thugs and booze, rampaged through Brick Lane on Sunday, smashing windows and lashing out at local Asians.

Some of them got more than they expected as local Bengali youth gave them a taste of their own medicine. As a result, the police were forced to arrest 20 white youths, while one Bengali youth was taken to hospital

suffering from head injuries.

This was yet another example of the constant racist attacks suffered by the Bengali community in Brick Lane, which has included arson, pregnant women being shot at from passing cars, and the murder of Abht Ali just two weeks ago, which resulted in a massive demonstration of Bengalis in protest against both the attacks and the police's failure to act against those responsible.

LPYS acts against racialism: see page 2

LABOUR'S FLAG RAISED

Under the most difficult conditions, the Labour and Trade Union Co-ordinating Group fought a socialist campaign in the Ballymena by-election, held last week in an area regarded as a Paisleyite stronghold.

BILL WEBSTER of the Co-ordinating Group reports:

In reality, this by-election was a contest between Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party and the Official Unionists to see which was the most sectarian and Loyalist.

The DUP was determined to make sure the by-election was fought along sectarian lines. What was at stake for Paisley and the DUP was overall control of the local

council.

What added to the polarisation was the late intervention of the Irish Independent Party. Their nationalist, Catholic stance—canvassing outside the Catholic churches, etc.—was a gift to the DUP.

The turn-out was 55% (30% in December 1977) with the following results: On the third count, the DUP were elected by 2,594 votes to 2,403 votes for the Official Unionists. The Alliance Party polled 173 votes, the Labour and Trade Union Co-ordinat-

ing Group 104 votes, and the Irish Independent Party 268 votes.

Because of the sectarian nature of the campaign, we had envisaged that Eric Johnstone, the Group's candidate, would do well to maintain the vote he received in December (177).

A scurrilous attack on Eric Johnstone and the Co-ordinating Group by the Northern Ireland Labour Party during the campaign undoubtedly cost us votes among workers confused by their poisonous smears.

Although our vote went down, we nevertheless conducted a successful campaign along class lines. The Belfast and Derry Trades Councils, and a number of important trade union branches, officially backed our candidate. Important contact was made with many shop stewards and trade unionists in the main factories in Ballymena.

The position of the Co-ordinating Group has undoubtedly been strengthened among its supporters and sympathisers in the area. Despite the result, we are increasingly confident that in keeping aloft the independent banner of Labour more workers will be drawn into the ranks in the period ahead.

Ally's broken dream machine

[Continued from page 1]

they present the spectacle in their terms. We have to listen to John Motson telling us there is no place on earth like Buenos Aires when Argentina have won. The Argentinians, he says, have two great passions, football and food, and they spare no efforts in satisfying their desires to excess.

The thousands rotting in the Junta's dungeons don't have much scope for this. The millions in poverty know no excesses about eating. Don't tell us about Videla and thousands dead, don't talk about Geizel's Brazil, they say, we can see the national anthems are really important to these players.

So the bubble burst and the kept press had a field day turning on yesterday's heroes. Now we know all about who says what and why they print it. They print smokescreens for capitalism, but their cynical inconsistency has been displayed with full-frontal nakedness in their coverage of Scotland's World Cup.

The writers and editors who made us believe we were going to beat the world have been quick to pick up spades to rake the dirt of defeat. But what about their part in creating the false euphoria?

We have also had to put up with the gripings of our fallen idols. We, the people who ultimately pay the wages, have had to hear Don Masson tell us that £900 in bonuses to top the competition group was not enough. £900 for three days' work was insufficient for some, even though one of the perks was drinking

the Alta Gracia hotel bar dry. So reality proves to us that



A worried Ally MacLeod

football cannot repay all the emotion we invest in it. As Jimmy Reid has said, the fervour with which the working class, particularly the Scottish working class, absorbs itself in football, shows the stark poverty of culture under capitalism. Defeat rev-

eals the desperation behind our enthusiasm.

But then comes the Holland game and the impossible dream becomes possible. The great God Archie Gemmill with a divine Souness at his right hand side promises to deliver an escape into World Cup fever for another few days. But Johnny Rep's right foot shot from 35 yards shatters yet another dream.

I'm glad, in a way, that Rep burst the bubble, because now it's back to the crystal clear struggle of everyday life, unclouded by false triumphs on a football field. Our real goal is not one of Kenny Dalglish's, it's socialism. It can be hard to remember that at times.

WORLD CUP CAN'T WHITEWASH DICTATORSHIP page 11

Conference on racialism

The Greater London Council of the Labour Party has called a conference on racialism to be held on Thursday 13th July at 7.30 pm. This is the result of a resolution put forward by 'Militant' supporters at the last annual conference.

By Ed Bober (Greater London Labour Party Executive)

The Conference must call for a demonstration of the labour and trade union movement against racialism over the summer months, which would make a really dynamic prelude to an autumn election campaign. In this way, if Labour takes a bold stand, millions of working people will see that there is an alternative and a further blow can be delivered against the latter-day Nazis in this country.

PNP Youth Movement [UK] CONFERENCE FOR BLACK YOUTH 24th-25th June The "Farcroft", Rookery Rd, Handsworth, Birmingham. Every section of the movement must mobilise black workers and youth for this conference. For details, contact Secretary, 446 Uxbridge Road, London W.12.

Marxist Weekend School Friday 30th June to Sunday 2nd July See adverts page 13

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