

Militant



Conference
of
PNP
Youth
page 4

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH

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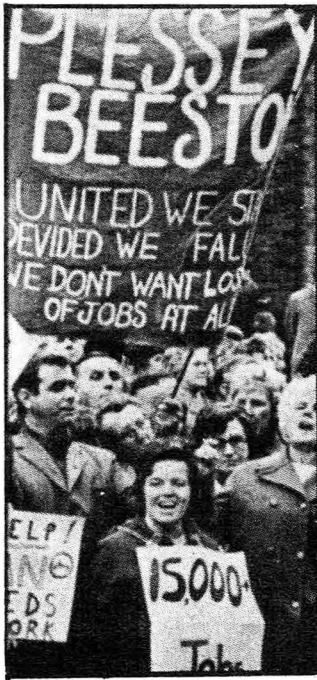
BOSSES RIP OFF STATE FIRMS

Some of the Tories and their big business friends have been caught with their trousers down.

They are always preaching about "law and order" and "morality". They are always quick to denounce alleged "waste and inefficiency" in the nationalised industries, and to call for cuts in "wasteful" public expenditure.

But four major British companies now have to repay the Post Office £9 million. The Monopolies

Commission has found that for eleven years, from 1963 to 1974, these giant companies operated secret



Plessey workers demonstrate against sackings

the four big monopolies involved, Pirelli, is non other than Lord Thornycroft, Chairman of the Conservative Party.

The chairman of another, BICC, until July last year was Viscount Watkin-

By Roy Farrar

(Branch Committee, Post Office Engineering Union, Liverpool Internal, in a personal capacity)

son, a former Tory minister.

What did the Tory press have to say about this? Practically nothing. Naturally these champions of "free press" preferred to keep quiet.

But there were howls of protest from Tory MPs when a Labour MP, Jeff Rooker, put down an 'early days' Commons motion on this scandal. Jeff Rooker called for a

debate "so that we can have an opportunity of inviting the Leader of the Opposition [Mrs Thatcher] to dismiss the chairman of the Conservative Party who, in his other capacity...as chairman of Pirelli has been involved in an illegal price-fixing ring ripping off millions of pounds from the Post Office, and now being forced to pay back."

Lord Thornycroft, the Motion said, should "keep his mouth firmly shut on the issue of law and order, morality, and public expenditure in the coming general election."

Now we know the real source of waste and inefficiency in the Post Office! Between 1963-71 the four giant firms which have been caught out—BICC, Pirelli General, Standard

Continued on page 16

YOUTH BROADCAST HITS HOME

Labour's Youth broadcast, despite its limitations, obviously touched big business and the Tory press on the raw.

The "Sunday Mirror" condemned the broadcast for its "breath-taking banality". So banal was it (banal = commonplace, trite, boring) that they were still angry enough to write a pompous editorial attacking it eleven days later!

Now Sir John Methven, director general of the Confederation of British Industry, has protested to the Labour Party's general secretary.

The bosses' organisation has complained about Nick Bradley's commentary attacking the big industrialists for throwing millions of workers on the dole in their pursuit of profit. As if unemployment was anything to do with them!

Phil Frampton, LPYS National Chairman, told 'Militant': "The bosses' protests show that even in its censored form, the broadcast hit home. The broadcast would have reached even more young workers if the LPYS had been allowed to put its full programme. Even the few basic socialist points made in the

commentary brought in a flood of applications to join the party. The National Executive must stand firm and insist on full control of all broadcasts and ensure that they express the Party's policies."

The Tory press's criticisms of the broadcast are part of a deliberate campaign, aided and abetted by Labour's right wing, to prevent Labour Party and L.P. Young Socialist policy from being put out in mass election broadcasts.

Reporting Methven's protest, it is significant that the "Financial Times" (28th June) said: "The CBI

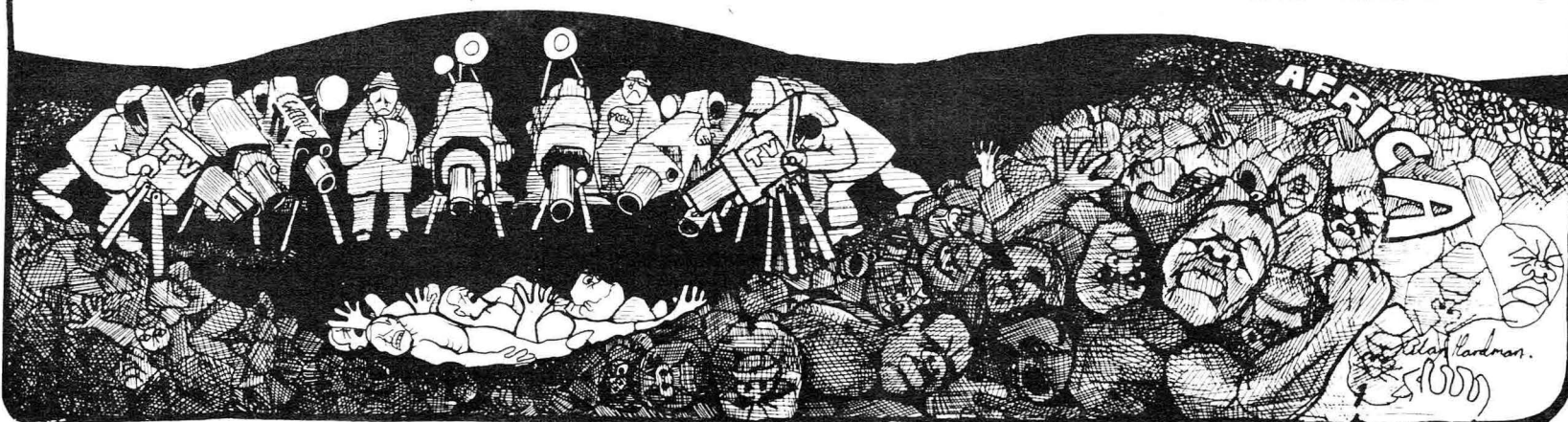
lined up yesterday behind the Prime Minister and other Labour Party leaders in condemning the Young Socialists' views on industry..."

'Militant' will answer the criticisms of the "Mirror", which poses as a "Labour" paper in order to deceive the millions of workers who read it.

We are not afraid to answer them. They have been stung by the facts—by the truth about capitalist society, which they daily waste millions of tons of newsprint trying to hide.

By Eileen Short

MASSACRES- THE TRUTH THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING LIKE THE TRUTH



APARTHEID TROOPS MASSACRE 600

See page 10

BACK YOUR PAPER WITH CASH

'Militant' is better than ever! Its fighting fund is bigger than ever! But there are hard times ahead!

A fighting paper of the labour movement must have the money it needs to provide workers with the facts, figures and arguments they need in the battle with bosses and their system.

Excellent donations continuously demonstrate the best possible support for our programme and ideas. But one look at the fighting fund column [page 13] shows we are way behind target.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

First, rush cash for 'Militant' holiday raffle to our London offices. If you've missed the draw [at the 'Militant' Weekend School disco this Saturday, 1st July] we still want your money!

Second, next Saturday, July 8th, is the deadline for our half-year target! Most areas are still a long way off!

So, appeal to everyone you know to give us a fighting fiver this week and send one in yourself.

By Clare Doyle

THIS WEEK

SPAIN



AFRICA

page 10



HEALTH AND SAFETY

pages 6 & 7

Thatcher tries to woo young voters

Last week the Tories published their document, 'A Time for Youth'.

The document says unemployment is going to get worse. But it is not concerned with creating jobs—it says that "the number of people looking for jobs has to be balanced with the number of economic jobs available." In other words, shove the people about to fit in with the system!

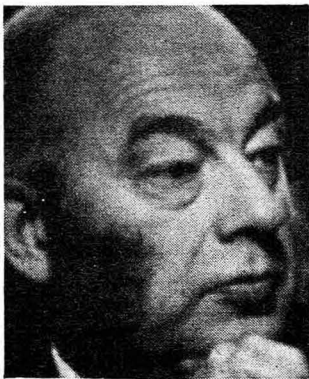
They propose two-year work experience and training for 16-18 year olds—to take 1,300,000 off the labour market (and unemployment figures). These people would be paid the magnificent sum of £19.50 a week.

They intend to cut costs by getting the voluntary organisations to help out. This fits in nicely with other Tory plans for youth.

The last Tory Party Political Broadcast blamed cuts in public spending for lower standards in health and education. **Very true! But the Tories are calling for bigger cuts.**

If you think there is a contradiction in this, you must be a victim of a poor schooling. Wavertree Tory MP Steen has the answer—replace trained staff paid at proper trade union rates with unemployed youth paid at Social Security rates. If you refuse, they cut off your dole

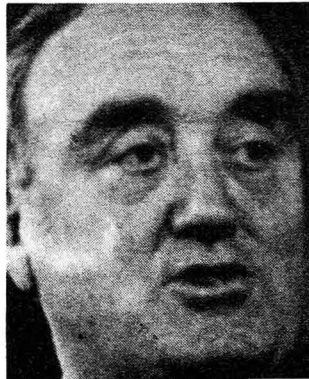
TORY APPEAL TO YOUTH



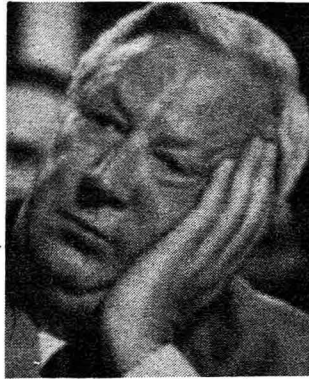
Reactionary Rhodes Boyson



Milk-snatcher Thatcher



Willy-nilly Whitelaw



Sailor Heath

Do they appeal to you?

photos: Chris Davies

or Social Security payments.

Even £19.50 a week may be a bit extravagant. The cost is estimated to be £700 million and St John Stevas said the scheme may be difficult to launch because of expense!

Unemployed youth should not think they are being picked on by the Tories. Just to be fair, students and school students get the same sort of treatment.

Concerned at the problems of students struggling to make ends meet, the Tories are swinging into action. A living wage for all perhaps?

No, the NUS demand for abolition of Discretionary Grants is dismissed as "un-subtle", and of course a living grant would be a bit expensive. But don't worry—the Tories are going to set up a Study Group to look into it.

Bank managers may not be willing to lend money on the strength of this.

If you think that your school is not run properly, the Tories' answer is pupil governors and Schools Councils. But of course they would only be advisory, so if the Head doesn't like your advice you

can't take a vote and have majority rule—that would be democracy.

The Tories turn their attention to the moral fibre of Britain's youth. Prince Charles has been doing his bit recently, visiting the Boy Scouts rather than going to a posh wedding in Monaco (my invitation must have been lost in the post). But the Tory document calls for greater efforts—by social and political education in the schools.

Can we now expect an end to the hysteria about the Young Socialists leafletting

schools, and an end to the harassment of our members at school gates? Oh no—that is not the kind of political education they have in mind at all.

They want to "develop among young people a respect for moral values, and give them a grounding in life's skills, such as getting a mortgage, or everyday maintenance of a car or a house" (Guardian).

We can await a second document explaining the morality of mass unemployment, or perhaps an

By a member of Wallasey LPYS

interesting little economic pamphlet showing how you can save a deposit on a house and run a car—all on £19.50 a week!

The Tories want thorough sex education in schools. Is this a grand long term strategy? Perhaps if the lower orders didn't breed so much it would increase the bosses' chances of survival—and of course "reduce the number of people looking for jobs".

The real reason for the Tories touching concern for youth is made clear: "If nothing is done for youth, we could create a generation alienated from [capitalist] society. That could endanger social stability and the survival of [Tory] democracy. We should read the danger signs now."

We challenge their "democratic right" to throw thousands of us on the scrapheap. We refuse to be bought off with Study Groups, or moved from one set of government statistics to another.

The Young Socialists must fulfil the worst nightmares of the Tory leaders.

Organise the youth to fight for Socialism!

£200m GAS PROFIT

- at our expense

Advertisement

Iran

Where to Begin?

Ahmad Ghotbi

Published by Campaign for Restoration of Trade Union Rights in Iran, London, May 1978

Available from bookshops [£1.50] or £1.65 [post paid] from: CRTURI, BCM 816, London WC1V 6XX

While millions of pensioners, unemployed and working people face with real apprehension their next gas bill, the gas industry is about to officially announce profits of £200 million.

In the wake of this will come the explanations that gas is cheaper and prices will probably be frozen for the next year. However, if you examine the facts it is quite obvious that gas is cheaper for certain consumers and that this enormous profit has been built up at the expense of other consumers.

Let's take the figures for industrial consumers (big business) and domestic consumers (you and me).

In 1967 the industrial consumers were paying an average 6.64p per therm of gas, and in 1977 the rate was 7.24p per therm. In 1967 the domestic consumer was paying on average 10.29p per therm, but by 1977 this had increased to 16.65p per therm.

A bit of a difference you might think—7.24p for industry, 16.65p for you (if you are unfortunate enough to live in Scotland or the South West region you will be paying 18.72p and 18.38p per therm).

But then look at the rate of increase over the ten-year period 1967 to 1977. For industrial consumers the increase was 9%; for domestic customers it was—you guessed it—a 62% rise!

But even this is not the full story. Because while prices

By Dave Cotterill

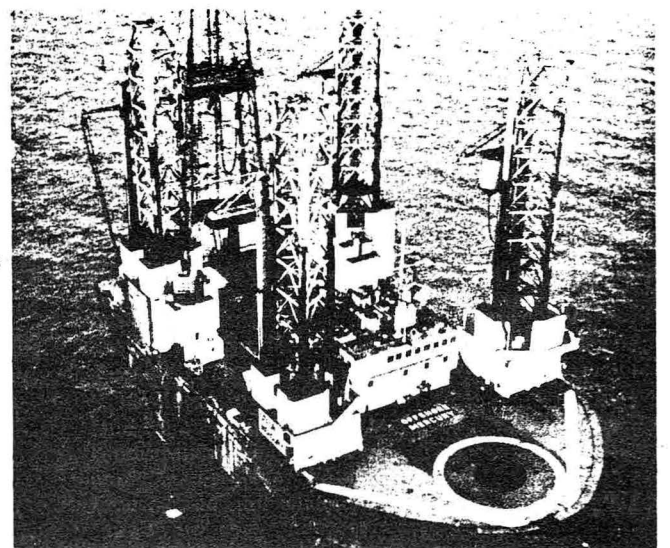
(NALGO Gas branch)

have steadily increased for you and me they have in the case of industry actually declined. In 1972 the average rate per therm of gas was 2.96p (for industry)—this represented a 55% decrease on the 1967 price.

No wonder that in 1975 Tony Benn reported that the Gas Corporation was losing £180m on industrial contracts. In some cases contracts had been negotiated with large firms, where in effect the Gas Corporation was paying for the gas used.

Is it the case then, that the workers in the gas industry have benefited from these profits? The figures show that this is not the case.

The numbers employed in the industry have fallen, in a decade, from 123,000 to 100,000. During the same period the wages, taken as a percentage of turnover, represented 21.2% in 1967 while in 1977 this figure was still only 21.7%. In other words the workers left in the industry are virtually no



Hard work on a North Sea Gas rig

better off—but they are definitely working for their money.

These bare statistics show quite clearly that the gas industry subsidises private enterprise and that we, the small consumers, and the employees in the industry, pay the price for making the industry profitable. This back-door method of supporting so-called private enterprise, coupled with the competition between the nationalised fuel industries, shows the anarchy which capitalism creates.

Milch-cow

The present nationalised industries are in no way run as socialist enterprises for the benefit of the workers but simply as a milch-cow for big business, which gets its fuel, transport and other utilities on the cheap. The appointed heads of these industries are firmly committed to capitalism and opposed to our whole

concept of nationalisation, are drawn from the boardrooms of private monopolies and manage the public industries with big business methods for big business salaries.

To release the full potential of the public industries, the Labour government must take over the rest of industry and the banks under workers' control and management, paying compensation only in cases of proven need to avoid being crippled by the money-grabbing former owners. With boards under the control of the labour movement, the workers' representatives elected under right of recall and paid the average skilled workers' wage, a socialist fuel policy could be implemented within a socialist planned economy.

And then we would see higher wages for the workers and lower prices for consumers!

HUNDREDS JOINING YOUNG SOCIALISTS



Part of the audience at the LPYS National Conference three months ago photo: Julian McKittrick

Now for the Summer Camp

1978 has so far been the most active and successful for Labour's Youth! The National Conference, the Unemployment and Anti-Racialism Campaigns and more recently the National Week of Action, really demonstrate how to go about the building of a mass socialist youth organisation.

During the "Week of Action" literally hundreds of thousands of leaflets and posters were distributed. Days Action were organised in most areas. Demonstrations were called, estates were canvassed, schools leafleted, factories and trade unions were approached—all with one aim—"Join the Labour Party Young Socialists and fight for socialism!"

During the week the LPYS in every region took to the streets to offer young workers,

Tony Saunois
(LPYS National Committee)

school students and unemployed a place in our ranks. At the National Committee meeting last weekend it was reported that thousands of names and addresses had been collected up and down the country of people interested in joining.

Following the Labour Party broadcast aimed at youth (see issue 411), despite the fact that the LPYS wasn't even mentioned over 250 applications for membership were received at Transport House within four days of the broadcast. This is the highest number following any previous broadcast by the Labour Party.

Every LPYS branch which took part in the Week of Action increased its membership. Now branches have to carry on what was started on June 10th. New members must be integrated into the activity of the LPYS branches and fresh campaigning work planned and organised.

Undoubtedly the best way of integrating new members is by getting them to what will be the best event the LPYS National Committee has ever organised—the National Summer Camp which starts on July 29th and ends on August 5th.

For only £20 each 600 Young Socialists will be fed, hear leading speakers from the Labour movement, like Joan Maynard M.P. and have a brilliant social time! Sports facilities like football, cycling, horse riding etc are being fixed up along with discos and, for a change, a brass band.

Book now!

Some of the most important issues for young workers are being discussed in debates and seminars. Among the key issues are "The Battle against Racism and Fascism", "Trade Unions: a Power to Change Society" and a debate between Militant, Tribune and the Manifesto Group is being arranged. In addition to this many other subjects will be discussed.

The camp is Coleford, in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire and the National Committee is expecting the remaining places to be snapped up in the next few weeks. Every branch must organise a drive to get members along to the camp. New members should be asked straight away if they can go.

Deposits of £10 should be sent immediately to the National Youth Officer, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, Westminster, London SW1. Only a few weeks are left before the camp and branches should get their bookings in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

In our area... SOUTHPORT

The ability of Labour's youth to grow rapidly when an active campaign is conducted was graphically shown on June 15th when Southport LPYS held a public meeting.

The meeting and the leafletting activity conducted for it was Southport's contribution to the national Week of Action. Members of other LPYS branches, some unemployed, others having taken days off work, had covered Southport intensively for two days before the meeting. The tech college was leafleted twice, as was the railway station and the main shopping area.

Members of the LPYS at school had distributed the leaflet among their school mates. In all three thousand leaflets were given out.

This was not achieved, however, without a struggle. One young member had to sleep in a field for one night when his Tory parents found out what he was doing! The same comrade was threatened by his headmaster when caught giving out leaflets.

But all this could not stop him and fifty or so others from attending the meeting. Another comrade undeterred from attending was a fifteen-year-old girl who was threatened by

the National Front after she had an article advertising the meeting printed in her local paper.

The NF threat to the meeting resulted in a number of older Labour Party members from Merseyside attending. However, the NF, perhaps having seen the big attendance, failed to turn up.

The discussion, on racism and fascism, was very lively. The main contention was whether the foreign bosses would accept the nationalisation of the multinational companies by a socialist Britain.

But as comrades pointed out from the floor, the question was not whether the foreign bosses would accept our measures, but whether, given the example a socialist Britain would set, the workers abroad would accept their bosses any longer!

The meeting was a great success with many there for the first time eager to join. The local journalist who attended seemed very disappointed that the NF hadn't murdered us all, but Southport LPYS is now established as a rapidly growing branch.

Jeremy Cope
(Bootle LPYS)

READING

During the LPYS week of action, Southern Television asked to film us leafletting a local school, to be shown on the programme 'Your Westminster' on June 29th.

Although the actual leafletting was marred by a combination of the weather and the fact that exams were being taken, most of the filming consisted of an interview with LPYS members covering politics in schools, the problems of youth and we also raised the dangers to youth posed by the National Front.

It is important that LPYS members in the Southern Region watch the programme as it may result in local press attacks and debate and we should use it to demand space in the media to explain our policies.

Ian Ilett spoke at our public meeting on Monday outlining the events around the week of action and the effect of unemployment and wage restraint. Even for those who had a job, three million workers earned below the poverty level. Ian Warrick and Kathy Tyler

SWANSEA

Over the past few weeks tremendous progress has been made in recruiting unemployed youth and school students to Swansea LPYS.

Dole queues were leafleted Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for our public meeting. During those days when we were down the dole we also visited local schools, with leaflets and copies of 'Left'. We met with a keen and sometimes boisterous reception, and we obtained the names and addresses of fourteen young people interested in the LPYS.

Glenys Ingham (Editor LPYS paper 'Left') led off in a very lively meeting, attended by nearly thirty, of which 11 were new. In the discussion one unemployed youth explained how he had learned to add up and subtract—playing darts!

He had nothing to do in the day but play football with his mates, and in the night watch television. Now he has offered to help us leaflet the dole and schools to build the LPYS branch. After the meeting all the new comrades agreed to join the LPYS.

If we can keep this up by recruiting young people every week, then we can double and treble our membership over the next few months.

More and more youth are looking for an alternative to the drudgery of capitalism, which throws young people on to the scrap heap of the dole because the bosses say they cannot afford to pay them. We must go out now and recruit these young unemployed to the LPYS, to the fight for a socialist society.

Brian Lewis
(Swansea LPYS)

FASCISTS ATTACK LABOUR MEETING

As part of its campaign against racism, Ashton Constituency Labour Party organised a public meeting at the Tameside Council Chambers last Friday.

The meeting had just opened and Young Socialist Eddy Newman was pointing out that racism was being used as a weapon of the ruling class in an attempt to break working class unity, when a disturbance was heard from outside the meeting. Stewards and members of the audience rushed out to find about ten recognised members of the National Front attempting to invade the meeting.

Those in combat uniform were prevented from entering, although at least two of them who were conventionally dressed sneaked into the meeting in the confusion. One of these was 'persuaded' to leave immediately. The other denied being in the NF and so a large steward sat beside him, keeping him company. Eddy continued with his speech.

Things quietened down as the NF appeared to have left. Eddy had begun to shatter the myths of the fascists' propaganda, exposing the lies and distortions of the racialists.

Suddenly, the National Front came rushing through the main door of the building led by a thug brandishing two

Mike Waddington and John Evans
(Ashton-under-Lyne LPYS)

heavy, hooked window poles. Having hit a steward across the forehead with one of the poles, he was disarmed and thrown out, abandoned by his departing colleagues.

One of the council employees had in the meantime called the police, a few of whom came some time later. They took the injured steward to be examined at the local hospital.

Meanwhile, throughout all these disturbances, the meeting had continued without effective interruption. Eddy Newman concluded his speech with a call for workers and youth to actively involve themselves in the LPYS, the Labour Party and the trade unions, to fight in the most effective way against racism and fascism and for socialism.

The next speaker, Mike Luft, from the Anti-Nazi League, told the audience not to be surprised at what had just happened; this was a

traditional tactic of the NF which they had tried recently in the Manchester area. He pointed out that the labour movement was the ultimate target of the fascists, and drew a parallel with the quick action of the stewards in defending the meeting to the way in which the labour movement must mobilise politically and physically to defeat fascism.

John Tumman (Tameside Campaign against Racism and Fascism) attacked immigration controls but, unfortunately, argued that implementation of the Immigration Acts and their retention was the responsibility of the Labour Party as a whole. It was pointed out in the discussion by an Ashton LPYS member that Labour Party policy since the 1976 Conference is to repeal the 1968 and 1971 Immigration Acts, and that it is the government—not the Labour Party—that is to blame for not carrying out Labour Party policy.

Local Labour MP and Junior Treasury Minister, Robert Sheldon, condemned racism. He declared himself in favour of a multi-racial society in Tameside, unlike his prospective Tory oppo-



nent, Alan D'Arcy Fearn.

In the course of the meeting five middle-aged members of the audience slipped out, and on their way called the stewards "Communist bastards!" They clearly felt unable to heckle or disrupt the meeting although they must have been sent there for that purpose.

The meeting closed with a timely warning from the Chairman of Ashton Labour Party to the audience to leave the building in groups. On departing, we passed two policemen keeping an eye on the situation. We could not but draw the contrast with the thousands of police that were provided to protect fascist meetings and marches previously held in Tameside!

PNP Youth Conference -

MILITANT NOTICES

Meetings

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.

Discussion Groups

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

SUNDERLAND Marxist Discussion Group. Every other Friday starting at 8.00 pm. 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.

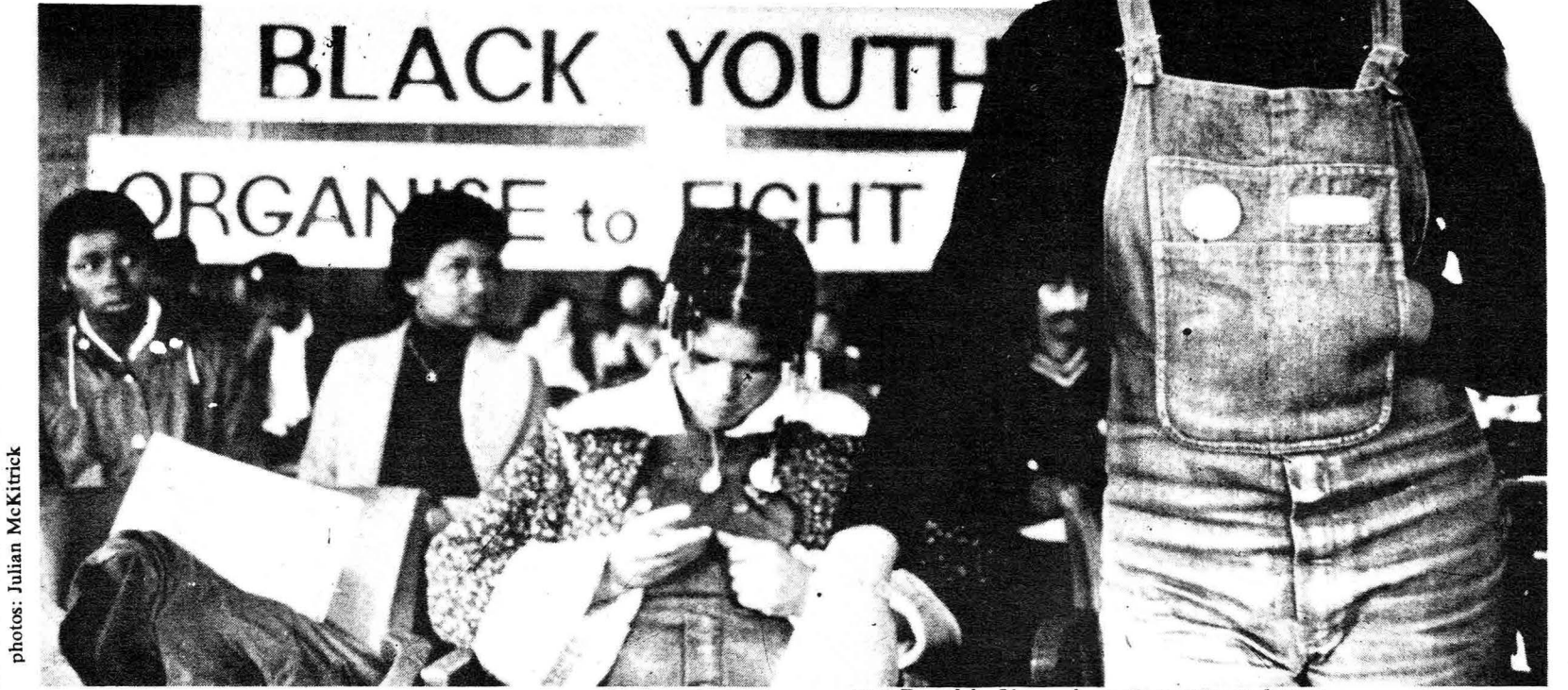
ROTHERHAM Militant Discussion Group—'The Menace of Fascism'; R Aylett (Youth Officer, Sheffield Heeley CLP), Thursday July 6th, 7.30 pm, 'Tollbar', Rotherham Road, Maltby.

LONGBENTON, Newcastle. CPSA 'Militant' supporters Marxist Discussion Groups. Every other Wednesday, Brandling Villa pub, South Gorforth, 6 pm. July 12th—'Is Russia Socialist?' July 26th—'Marxist Economics'.

SALFORD Marxist Discussion Meetings start July 5th: 'Revolution or Reform?'; July 19th—'Is Russia Socialist?'; August 2nd—'What is Marxism?'; August 16th—'Where is Britain Going?'; August 30th—'Workers' Control and Management'. Contact: Dave Farrar, 061-737 6751 for information

Events

MILITANT Weekend School DISCO. Dance to the sounds of top group 'The Dialectics' and to one of London's best discos. Bar till late. Snacks and refreshments available. Goldsmiths College Student Union, Lewisham Way, S.E.13. Saturday 1st July, 7.30 onwards. All welcome. Weekend school attenders: 50p; non-wage earners: 75p; others £1.



photos: Julian McKittrick

Uma Drysedale, Liverpool, speaking at the conference

The National Conference of the People's National Party Youth [UK] which was held over two days in Birmingham at the weekend, attracted over 100 black youths.

It is a testimony to the success of the movement that in just one year it could galvanise so many black youths from many parts of the country.

It was more remarkable since the majority were unemployed.

The PNP Youth policy statement—'A Fighting Programme for Black Youth'—was presented and unanimously accepted.

Unemployment

The conference noted the continued harassment of young blacks by sections of the police especially under the infamous 'sus' charges. This has been responsible for the arrests of over 3,000 people—more than half of them black—since 1973.

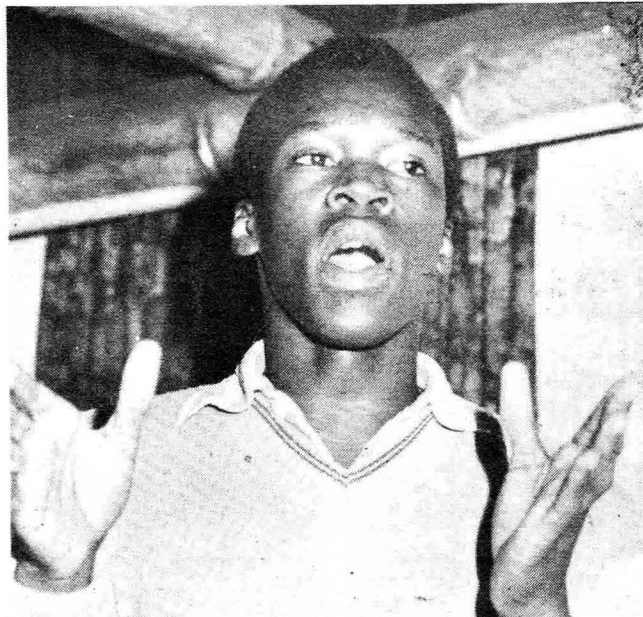
It also deplored the structure of the present education system which has been consistently placing black children in educationally subnormal schools from which they emerge almost illiterate.

The conference called for an end to racial discrimination in schools and colleges, abolition of racist text books, the introduction of a fully comprehensive education system and maximum class sizes of 20 so that the 20,000 teachers on the dole can be given work.

But it was the question of unemployment that really brought the conference to life. It deplored the present high level of unemployment in Britain in general and among blacks in particular.

The conference was told by Bob Lee, the National Secretary, that while unemployment in the last four years rose by a staggering 120% for the 15-25 age group, it increased by the phenomenal 410% for black youth.

The conference recognised that the capitalist system was incapable of solving the many problems confronting the working class and the only solution was the implementation of full socialist policies. It



Sam Bond, Hatfield branch, speaking on education

"Almost half of those unemployed in the London Borough of Lambeth are young blacks. In some inner city areas like Handsworth, as many as six out of ten young blacks are jobless."

resolved to fight for the following demands in the labour and trade union movement:

- ★ A minimum wage of £70 a week.
- ★ A 35-hour week.
- ★ Work or full pay.

★ Nationalisation of any firm that threatens redundancies.

★ Nationalisation of the big monopolies to finance a public works programme to provide jobs, houses and schools.

Workers' unity

The conference unanimously agreed that with rising unemployment, police harassment, and increased fascist attacks, the black community must organise to safeguard their rights. We stand for the unity of all workers, black and white, to fight ruthlessly against any attempt to divide the working class or to divert from the struggle for socialism.

Conference linked arms with the Labour Party Young Socialists who are already waging the fight. Nick Bradley, the LPYS representative on the Labour Party National Executive Committee, in his fraternal address, promised every help and called for the establishment of a Labour Party/trade union defence force to defend the black community against racist attacks.

Chelsea Morrison, a

representative from the Black Women Association, observed that the conference and the policy document had omitted the issues of black women, which were of crucial importance to the black community. A lively discussion ensued and it was agreed that a section on black women will be included in the policy document.

Earlier in the conference a representative from the South African Congress of Trade Unions gave a very grim account of the terrible conditions of the Africans under apartheid.

Liberation

The conference noted in a most emphatic manner that they were inspired by the victories of the liberation forces in Southern Africa and in South East Asia and by the workers and peasants of Jamaica and the whole Caribbean in their struggle against imperialism.

Ronnie Sookhdeo

(London PNP Youth)

Internationalism in action

In less than a week, Phil Frampton [Labour Party Young Socialists National Chairman] and Bob Lee [People's National Party of Jamaica British Youth Section] should be going out to the Caribbean to conduct a speaking tour around Jamaica and visit the World Youth Festival in Cuba.

In recent years the LPYS has developed excellent relations with the PNP Youth in Jamaica and the visit is in return for the visit here of the former PNP National Chairman, Sefton Johnson, in 1977.

Under the most difficult conditions the PNP have built up a strong youth

organisation. As Sefton Johnson explained in 1977, scores of their comrades have been murdered by the reactionary forces since 1975.

Thousands more are jobless and eke out a living on the island. With Michael Manley, PNP Prime Minister, being forced to carry out the dictates of international big business [in the guise of the IMF] living standards are also being eroded.

The visit is of vital importance in stepping up the international struggle against reaction. A whole series of meetings will be arranged to discuss the strategy for achieving socialism and the lessons which can be learnt

from the workers' struggles in Jamaica and Britain.

That is why the LPYS and PNP Youth [UK] are placing such emphasis on raising money for the trip. We do not see workers' internationalism as a matter of holiday speeches, jet setting and jamborees like the World Youth Festival but a question of aiding the struggles of the workers in other countries with material and political support and exchanging ideas about how the fight for socialism can avoid the pitfalls and defeats of the past.

We are asking for an immediate response to our appeal for £1,000. Reaction

knows the need for bold tactics in Jamaica; they even stoop to the poisoning of food cargoes and the sabotage of civilian planes.

Let us be as bold and take up this appeal! Raise the issue with fellow trade unionists, Young Socialists and Labour Party members! Tell them how the PNP are risking their lives and ask them if they will risk a few pounds for the socialist cause—the only way that the miserable conditions of the Jamaican workers and small farmers can be alleviated.

Kevin Fernandes
(PNP Youth National Committee)

Left & Right

That's show business

'Whicker's World' [June 15th] investigated the millionaires' paradise of Palm Springs, Florida. Viewers who had the resilience to endure the opulence and banalities of these clapped out leeches were rewarded with one interesting little morsel.

Aspiring social climbers out to make a splash traditionally invite Royalty as house guests. The Windsors used to be a great attraction: so much so that they charged their hosts a £4,000 fee for their services! Clearly royalty are not above cashing in on their 'charms'.

Fifth column

Stories of how Rasputin twisted the Russian Tsar, Nicholas the second, round his little finger are well known. Today holy men with beards have given way to the slightly more subtle alliance of rich and powerful company directors, bankers and bosses, served by hired fleets of newsmen, commentators and 'impartial' academics.

But Jim Callaghan seems to have chosen some strange ways of withstanding big business pressure. He has selected as personal special advisor to supervise the coming election campaign, none other than Roger Carroll, the political editor of the 'Sun'.

Mr Carroll assures everyone that he is a long-standing Labour supporter, but what sort of supporter can reconcile that with editorial responsibility for the 'Sun's' vicious union bashing and blatant support for Thatcher's Tories? Perhaps Callaghan thinks that his personal influence will win him valuable press space. But the press tycoons who have given Carroll sabbatical leave during the election, are more likely to be rubbing their hands with glee at having a pawn in the enemy camp.

The best way to convince workers they should vote Labour isn't an alliance with the Tory gutter press!

Bulwark against revolution

Just as a property-owning electorate is considered the stoutest bulwark against revolution, so widespread share ownership, especially among employees, might be the best safeguard against the wilder demands for worker control and state intervention schemes.

There, from the horse's mouth, is what the bosses think about workers' 'participation' and share-owning schemes. It comes from a pamphlet just produced by the CBI as a guide to companies.

Unfortunately for the poor old bosses, it is very difficult for the top 3½% of the population to own 90% of company shares and 96% of the land, and at the same time convince anyone that they are really spreading out the wealth. The unions, they have to confess, are clear that the schemes "do not further the progress of socialism." "Shareholders will see their equity diluted, and employees may remain unmotivated or sell their shares." In other words, the rich won't like it, and the workers might not fall for it.

Tory "freedom"

Mrs Thatcher likes to tell us that the Tories stand for 'real democracy' and 'freedom of choice', as opposed to the 'East European state' that the Labour leaders are supposed to be building [her geography is obviously as bad as her understanding of what socialism is].

Shipyard workers at Great Yarmouth have had a taste of what Tory 'freedom of choice' means. They chose to wear 'Vote Labour' stickers when Thatcher came to a launching ceremony. Without so much as a 'by your leave' this daughter of the genteel middle classes ripped the stickers off their overalls, telling them like so many naughty children: "I'm not having that".

What else will the political first eleven of the British bosses decide workers mustn't be allowed to do, if they are not defeated in the next election?

FILM REVIEW

The fight for union rights

HARLAN COUNTY U.S.A.

Review by Lesley Levane
(Battersea LPYS)

'Harlan County U.S.A.', the film shown at Garners' Strike Fund benefit early in June, portrays a mining community during the long and bitter strike which lasted from June 1973 until July 1974.

For 13 months miners—and their wives—faced first state police and then "gun thugs" on the picket line. They were fighting for the elementary right to belong to a union of their choice.

They rejected the Company Union and voted to join the United Mine Workers of America. The company refused to recognise this and thus a long and bitter battle ensued.

The brutality of the bosses is graphically illustrated. The miners lived in company shacks with no running water; oh yes, the company was aware of this problem; one spokesman ruefully commented that "until the strike it had been planned to upgrade our people into trailers." That was the extent of the company's concern.

The workers of Harlan County displayed tremendous solidarity; the film also shows us a glimpse of the moments of despair when it was hard to maintain the picket line and when personal bickering almost took a hold. But too many people remembered the struggles of the 1930s to allow the company to walk all over them now.

Even the mother of the young miner who was shot (and subsequently died) on the line said, "I'm proud of my son 'cos he's a union man. No son of mine would ever be a yellow livered scab." Another old lady whose father had died in the mines and whose husband was dying slowly of 'black lung' (pneumoconiosis) said: "Even if they shoot me, they'd never knock the union out of me," and off she went to the picket line.



During the strike, harassment escalated to extraordinary levels. Injunctions were served on the miners' pickets. Company-hired gun thugs, drawn largely from the ranks of the Ku Klux Klan, escorted scab labour through the picket line.

Despite hardship and the ever-present threat of violent confrontation, the miners held firm and the strike carried on. Day after day, at 5 am, miners with their wives manned the line.

The tremendous ability of these miners—indeed of the whole community—to struggle shows up as a complete myth the lie that the American workers have been bought off by the trappings of capitalism. Near the end of the strike when striker Lawrence Jones was killed, the company got off scot free. Wives of the strikers were heard drawing the conclusion—"We must defend ourselves, and be prepared to meet their violence with violence."

When arrested one woman used the floor of the courtroom to give her opinion of the law; she stressed that she did not expect justice from the bosses' courts. Many of the picketers were jailed for 60 days.

The film shows us something of the UMW itself. The year before the strike (1972) the right wing leader, Boyle, had arranged for the murder of his left wing opponent, Yablonsky, killed along with his wife and daughter.

Gunfire

The film is a must. It will underline for any doubters the confidence of every socialist in the capacity of the working class to struggle. There are some light moments such as when some pickets go to Wall Street and encountered a somewhat disaffected New York cop who seemed to be with them all the way, and stressed that the conditions in his own job appeared to be far superior to those of the

miners.

There are other terrifying moments such as when, amidst the sound of gunfire, the film crew themselves had to risk lives and equipment in a pre-dawn scummage where the camera picks up the pistol-wielding leaders of the strike breakers; immediately a face looms into view and the camera lurches and is struck by a man who also smashes the lights.

The film makes no pretence to be impartial; but if anything this is the central theme—there is no room for neutrality. Or in the words of a song written by one of the Harlan County women during the struggles of the 'Thirties: "If you don't want your husband to die in the mine, I'll see you in the morning on the picket line, Which side are you on, Which side are you on?"

The film shows every two hours (from 2 pm daily) at the Scala Cinema, 25 Tottenham Court Road, London W.1. Tel: 01-637 9309.

STALIN'S CRIMES

A giant of a book! This is the only way to describe *Let History Judge*.

Medvedev's book is a meticulous account of the crimes of Stalinism. Not from the pen of some historian trying to besmirch the name of socialism but from a committed Russian Marxist.

Medvedev wrote the book from 1962 to 1968 and the six years of work in its 566 pages won't fail to engross and infuriate you. The author, when a member of the CPSU, protested at the bureaucracy's attempts to rehabilitate some vestiges of Stalinism. He was expelled from the party after he wrote a letter criticising an article which appeared in 'Kommunist' (theoretical journal of the central committee) which justified some of Stalin's crimes. His experience prompted him to write this book.

On the cover leaf are a number of quotes headed by that of Lenin: "We need complete, truthful information. And truth should not depend on whom it is to serve." The author should be saluted for striving to produce his book in this tradition.

Communists jailed

The most compelling section deals with the bloody purges of 1936-39. Personal accounts, diary excerpts, letters and official records are combined with Medvedev's commentary to tell a gripping story of treachery, deceit, misery and despair.

An NKVD (secret police) officer is reading out the prison sentences of the wives of executed commissars, one of the victims recalls: "For what?—this question burned

in my head, in my soul... Eight years!...Five!...Eight!...Five!

"I heard my name—eight years. Someone asked: 'Why do some get eight, others five?' We all have the same fault: we're the wives of our husbands — Communists! And many of us are Communists ourselves."

"The officer was slow in answering, then smiled and said, 'Loved wives got eight years, and unloved five.'"

Medvedev's aim is to expose Stalin, but he does not ignore the role of Stalin's henchmen. While Stalin is the king pin, Medvedev points out that there was a whole layer of smaller dictators backed up with a massive parasitic bureaucracy.

He raises such fundamental questions as Thermidor and Bonapartism and this adds to the book's value. He ap-

proaches the subject as a Marxist using facts—and such facts! For such material to come from the Soviet Union is remarkable. It confirms that there is a movement struggling to find a Marxist analysis of the Soviet system.

A short extract from Medvedev's conclusion will testify to the author's undoubted courage: "Not everything connected with Stalinism is behind us, by no means everything. The process of purifying the Communist movement, of washing out all the layers of Stalinist filth, is not yet finished. It must be carried through to the end." Comrades, read this book.

Bruce Wallace

(Dunfermline LPYS)

'Let History Judge' is published by Alfred A Knopf, Inc. A Borzoi book.

BOOK REVIEW

At work, at home, in hospital...

BUILDING WORKERS' SAFETY AT RISK

Mark Dewdney, a young building worker, was interviewed by Bob Reed on the question of health and safety at work.

Bob Reed: Where do you work?

Mark Dewdney: For a fairly small, privately owned building firm in Plymouth.

BR: Do you feel that proper health and safety precautions are taken generally in the building industry?

MD: As far as I am concerned, no. If the Health and Safety Acts were to be adhered to fully by my employer, the profit margin would be cut drastically. In my work situation the excess profit (or taxpayers' money) is going straight into my boss's pocket. My employer charges the County Council, which we are subcontracted out to,

for the very best safety equipment. He supplies us with the cheapest and therefore the difference in expenditure for the different sets of equipment is his personal gain.

BR: Can you give an example of the lack of safety precautions at work?

MD: I don't say they are non-existent but they are the bare minimum. An example I can give is concerned with asbestos.

I was expected to move some asbestos tiles without a mask or gloves to protect myself from the dangerous dust. When I asked for this equipment I was denied it

because other people were using it.

BR: What would your position have been if you had refused to do as you were told?

MD: Possibly my foreman would accept my point of view but probably he would maintain his position and if I continued to refuse I would either be out of a job or given the very worst jobs on the site.

BR: Could you not rely on the courts to uphold the Health and Safety regulations at your work place?

MD: To rely on a law that will be ignored until it is enforced by the people it is meant to protect would be utterly futile. Laws governing industrial safety are only of use if enforced by the trade

union movement.

The most obvious step is for the workers to have control over health and safety and therefore the planning of our industry. While capitalists make money from the exploitation of working people in the building industry they will continuously prove that the health and efficiency of the industry matters nothing to them. Only the removal of the blind drive for profit can ensure that sufficient time and money is spent on the safety of the building workers. We must begin now by demanding the election of safety reps from the trade unions, but the only lasting solution is the nationalisation of the industry under workers' control.



Hazards of working on a building site are worsened by a lack of safety equipment
photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) (II)

What equality in child deaths?

It seems that in Nottingham not every new born babe has the "equality of opportunity" boasted by capitalist society.



What chance does a baby have in these conditions?

A child health study recently reported in the *Nottingham Evening Post* revealed "disturbingly high death rates and hospital admissions for babies reared in deprived inner city areas...the authorities were staggered by the enormous disparity between these districts and other more affluent areas."

The 1975 figures showed that in one ward (Lenton) the infant mortality rate was 1 in 20, whereas in some others it was 1 in 200. It was admitted that in the most socially deprived areas the rate was twice the national average. To underline the point, the generally middle class ward of Wollaton suffered five deaths, all of which occurred in the working class 'Balloon Woods' estate, where medical services are "hard pressed."

Bronchitis

Some residents there find they spend up to £100 on heating bills in the winter quarter due to poor insulation. To combat condensation tenants are advised to turn up the heating and open the windows.

These tenants, though, are 'lucky' to have such luxuries: the *Evening Post* report revealed that "certainly it is not difficult to find deprived families in Nottingham."

The report highlighted the plight of a 20-year old unmarried mother living with her child in a 12-ft by 9-ft bedsitter sharing a toilet and cooking facilities with three other people at a cost of £5 per week. "There is no hot water or bath, she keeps food in a drawer to prevent mice eating it. Until a kind soul lent her an electric fire there was no heating in the room."

The child, not surprisingly, has suffered a skin disease since he was a baby. He catches a lot of colds and recently had bronchitis and swollen glands—he is two years old!

However, it is not everybody who blames the poor housing conditions for the scandal of infant mortality. A Tory councillor, interviewed on local radio after the report had been published, did not want us to rush to any conclusions and felt that mothers often don't recognise the needs of their infants nor their duty towards them.

It is quite clear that this

Tory councillor, who would like to shift the blame from the profiteering landlords and building monopolies onto working class mothers, will not himself be worrying too much about paying his heating bills nor about providing a square meal for his family every day.

Instead the ruling Tory council will continue their campaign of selling council houses and cutting public services such as hospitals and similar "excesses of the welfare state."

A socialist economic programme from the Labour government is needed.

expanding the health and social services, taking over all rented property and nationalising the building industry to ensure decent modern housing for all. Labour must take over the banks to write off public debts and give interest-free loans to local authorities to expand their services and help eradicate poverty.

Until then too many gravestones will read "RIP" as an epithet bequeathed by capitalism—Rent, Interest and Profit.

By an East Nottingham Labour Party member

Workers' Notebook

Any student of Tory speeches knows that Her Majesty's Opposition would like to frolic in a tax-free Gladstonian paradise. Apparently, the 'British People' (i.e. the wealthy 2.6%) are being taxed out of existence.

Yet it turns out that the UK is in the middle range of industrial countries when taxes and national insurance are expressed as percentages of Gross Domestic Product. For the Japanese it is 20%; for the Dutch 47%. Britain and France are in the middle at 37%.

And of this tax, that on businesses as a proportion of all tax has declined from 25% to 23% between 1967-8 and 1976-7, a fact which is not consistent with the notion that 'enterprise' is being destroyed by this 'socialist' government. In fact taxes on businesses, at 21% of total tax in 1975 compared with 29% in the USA and 43% in Italy. The Tories and their business backers will have to look elsewhere for an excuse for the collapse of their system.

A great deal is made of the gains the trade union movement has received from the Labour Government. Under Heath, the pressure of the working class forced reluctant union leaders off the Register of Trade Unions. Now unions have to have a Certificate of Independence from the Certification Officer, appointed by Labour. What is interesting is that only 157 of the 280 he classes as independent trade unions are actually affiliated to the TUC. In this case the law has strengthened the position of 123 staff associations which are in reality stalking horses for the boss.

'Department of Employment Gazette' May 1978 p.508

'Which' June 1978, pp352-5

Your health is at risk

UNIONS MUST UNITE TO END NURSING SHORTAGE

With chronic shortages of nursing staff in all areas of the country, the chickens are now coming home to roost for the health service management.

Several years ago, with the first of the major cuts in the NHS, a policy was adopted of 'freezing' posts. This meant that most of the jobs vacant on a given date would no longer be considered part of the establishment. Thus, at a stroke, it was possible to severely reduce the total number of jobs in the NHS.

But then, with less jobs available, it was found that many nurses were completing their training only to find themselves with no job to go to. After years of study, long hours, hard work on the wards under tough discipline, all the thanks they got was being shown the way to the dole queue.

In order to 'rectify' this it was decided to reduce the numbers of student nurses taken for training. At one London Hospital the student intakes fell from 80 to 60. At four intakes per year, this was 80 less trained nurses.

Many hospitals in the 'Teaching' Districts depend on student nurses to make up numbers on the wards. So, for a while, it was possible to make up any deficiencies by using more students. But with their numbers cut too, the health service is on a steady course for collapse.

Wards closed

At peak periods there are not enough students available to fill in on the wards. Illness among nurses aggravates the situation. And this illness is often caused by overworking. There are now insufficient newly qualifying nurses to fill even those vacancies which do occur. And the consequences? Due to staffed-bed shortages, the administration decide to cut down on admission. In Tower Hamlets for example, 222 beds were closed over Christmas, largely because of the shortfall of 116 student and pupil nurses.

Even sisters and nurses in some areas, such as at the Mayday Hospital in Croydon, are finding themselves forced to close wards because they are unable to provide adequate standards of care to the patients.

But this only makes it easier for management to impose cuts. They can now conceal their cuts behind the excuse of 'staffing difficulties', and there is little in the short term that the hospital workers can do about it.

Once wards are closed on a regular basis, management can then cut down on other staff. In a growing number of cases, admissions are restricted to emergencies only—the state of 'Red Alert'.

The 'Daily Telegraph' has reported (20.2.78) a

By Ian Burge

(Secretary, Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, London Hospital)

Working conditions are fast becoming intolerable. Fewer nurses have more patients to look after. Holidays are dictated when nurses least want them, and not allowed when they want them most.

Shortages of domestic staff means nurses also have to do additional chores in order to maintain standards of hygiene etc.

are exhausted. The nurses point out that they work for as many as ten days non-stop, rarely have weekends off, work over the hours they are employed to without any extra pay or overtime.

Fight the cuts

Once a hospital has been earmarked by management for closure or part-closure, and even before a final decision has been taken, the uncertainties over future prospects for the staff there, together with lack of enthusiasm on the part of nursing administration for 'professional' reasons to seriously encourage new staff to take up positions in such places, means that these units are likely to run down gradually, regardless of any campaign against the closure.

The problems seem insurmountable. How can nurses and other hospital workers fight back in these circumstances? There are no simple, ready made solutions.

First of all we must make public the real causes of the nursing shortages: the cuts, low pay, poor conditions, overworking, mismanagement. We must insist that nursing establishments be restored, even increased beyond the original establishments when there is a need.

The number of places in Nursing Schools must be expanded immediately. Our unions nationally must be forced to take up this one, and the local Trades Councils should send delegations to the District and Area Nursing Officers and heads of nursing schools.

Overworked

The nurses are pushed to their absolute limits; the harder they are pushed, the more likely they are to go off sick, because they

Why not come and work in our In-patient X-Ray department either in the Film Store or the Marking Up Room? Working conditions are poor but you will have the satisfaction of being a necessary part of a large team that works for the welfare of patients.

—Job advert inserted in the Hackney Gazette by London Hospital crisis in staffing at Chelmsford Hospitals which are "refusing admission to patients except in emergencies".

"This move has been taken after medical advisers warned that nursing cover had been stretched so thin that it was no longer safe, and patients' lives were 'on a knife edge'." At times, as many as 30 or more patients, some recovering from major operations, have been in the care of only one student nurse.

Eventually, even casualty departments are closed. The 'Guardian' reported (2.3.78) that the list of London hospital casualty departments temporarily closed is now so long, and changing so frequently, that the ambulance service is having difficulty in keeping up to date.

Ambulances on life or death journeys are being diverted while they are actually on the way to a hospital. In some areas ambulances have to carry patients up to 12 miles, instead of the four miles that used to be regarded as normal.



The long, long wait at the out-patients department, London Hospital

photo: Julian McKittrick



Nurses' pay must be increased to provide a living wage for all grades. The RCN (Royal College of Nursing) has not risen to the task of defending the services and resisting the cuts. It has not attempted to preserve nurses' jobs in the NHS.

The RCN says there is, in fact, no overall nursing shortage! They are burying their heads in the sand.

Now, more than ever, nurses need to join a proper trade union, such as NUPE or COHSE, whichever is the main union locally. Nursing shop stewards have a vital role to play alongside the other sections of staff, particularly in drawing up the tactics to fight managements' plans for cutting staff and closing wards and hospitals.

Through joint committees, the experience of other unions such as AUEW, EETPU and UCATT, all with members and shop stewards in the NHS, can be invaluable to the nurses at this time.

The stewards must take a more forceful role in maintaining the staffing levels. A replacement must be found as soon as anyone's notice goes in. Shop stewards' committees must be discussing how they might take over the appointment of new staff if management can't or won't do the job.

Unions such as NUPE, COHSE and NALGO have enormous financial resources that must be put to the service of the members in defending their jobs.

These unions have their own journals which should be fully exploited with publicity and discussion about fighting the cuts.

As nursing staff become more militant, experience has shown they will in the first instance be more subject to discipline from their seniors. This again is where a good strong union can be invaluable and where solidarity from other sections of staff will give the nurses confidence that they will not be victimised.

It would be foolish, however, to imagine that there are no difficulties in working with different unions. Many problems can be overcome by working together on the joint shop stewards' committees. But there remain differences at branch, officer and full-time official levels which in the long run will be overcome only through the merger of all the health service unions, the health sections of other unions such as ASTMS, and the formation of a single 'industrial' union for the NHS.

This will put paid to any petty squabbling which only helps management to divide and defeat the unions. What a strong position we would then have, united in a single union, to tackle the tasks of how the service should be run, by its staff, and how to achieve better organisation and control with equal opportunities for all, in all aspects of medical, nursing, technical, and other training!

In this, the first of two feature articles on Spain today, Alan Woods demonstrates the effect of the class consciousness of the Spanish workers, tempered by the experi-

ence of forty years of fascism, on a society racked by worsening economic problems which leave the ruling class in a precarious dilemma. Next week's article

explains the heated debates now raging within the Socialist and Communist Parties and maps out a Marxist perspective for the victory of socialism in Spain.

A few months ago a Sevillian agricultural labourer went for a stroll among the olive groves of his beautiful native province—a last walk from which he never returned. His son found him the next day, hanging from a tree.

He had been 18 months out of work. The news item warranted a couple of paragraphs in the local paper.

It illustrates the plight of over a million Spanish workers condemned to the living death of unemployment in a country in which, even according to the biased official statistics, only 40% of those out of work receive any kind of dole. The situation in the poverty-stricken South is nightmarish. "Andalucia is a vale of tears," said a young building worker who had not seen work for over six months.

His father cannot work because of a chronic chest complaint. His elder brother lies in one of the rooms of their small flat, gradually consumed by a wasting sickness which the family do not have sufficient money to do anything about, given the appallingly bad and expensive private medicine.

CHEAP LIFE

Life in Andalucia has always been held cheap. The life of the farm labourer and the building worker, that is. The poor are the poorest of the poor.

But the rich "hidalgos" still ride his pure-blood stallion on the vast expanses of his estates and spends half the year hunting, shooting and fishing while the numberless, nameless men who pass by his door month by month to seek some kind of casual work eke out an existence now picking olives, now harvesting grapes, now digging trenches, and inevitably, ending up as one of the growing army of unemployed.

The people of Andalucia are poor but they are also courageous. Their indomitable spirit of revolt has been spelt out in letters of blood throughout the ages in peasant revolts and armed uprisings, brutally suppressed by the state. There are terrible stories of bloodshed, terror and counter-terror. In the province of Jaen, before the fascist uprising of 1936, there is the story of a landowner's wife who boasted that she would water her flowerbeds with the blood of the workers. When the villagers rose up, it was her own sons whose blood was spilt in her gardens as the peasants reminded her of her taunts.

But the fascist reaction wreaked a terrible vengeance with mass executions, arrest and torture. There is hardly a family here which is not marked by the death of one or more member in the tempestuous period of revolution and counter-revolution of the '30s.

An old worker showed me his hand with two fingers missing. "When the Nationals (fascists) came here they called up all the young men to force them to fight with Franco. What did I want to fight for? My friends were on the other side. I was no fascist. So I took my gun, held it against my hand and pulled the trigger. They let me go after that."

A veteran socialist described how the members of the Young Socialists saved his village in Jaen from the fascists at the time of the uprising in 1936.

The local members of the Falange (fascist party) had a pre-arranged signal for the uprising. A car would rush through the village sounding its horn, and all the fascists would come out with their weapons and take over.

But the socialist youth got wind of the plan, rounded up all the local fascists and shot them. This comrade's father was later executed by the fascists and he was left, at fourteen years of age, the oldest son to keep his mother and brothers and sisters alive by finding work as best he could.

In the forty years that followed, the workers of Spain suffered a brutal repression. In an ironic parody of a famous civil war song, the Andalucian socialists would sing:

"If you want to write to me, You know where I am lodging: In the prison of Seville. On the feast-day of the workers."

But forty years of fascist reaction has not been sufficient to quench the flame of revolt in the soul of the Andalucian people. The death of Franco has opened up an entirely new period in the history of Spanish Labour which, like the giant in ancient Greek mythology, emerges with redoubled strength every time it is hurled to the ground.

A few months ago, Cadiz, one of the major centres of Andalucia, was shaken by the news that the shipyards Astilleras Espanolas SA was to be closed. This would have spelled disaster for the entire province, not just Cadiz itself but all the surrounding villages.

The reaction of the populace was immediate and violent. A one-day general strike was followed by street fighting with the police in which the "forces of public

order found themselves bombarded from the windows and balconies of the workers' flats with what the press described as "heavy objects" and which included, among other items, a sewing machine and a refrigerator!

Shortly after these events, there took place a series of massive demonstrations involving millions of workers throughout Andalucia. While these demonstrations were formally called in favour of autonomy for the region (or what would be termed "devolution" in Britain), there is no doubt that what really stood behind this enormous display of popular anger were the desperate conditions of unemployment, misery and even actual hunger which hang over every town and village of Andalucia.

BRUTAL

The reaction of the authorities did not vary much from what it had been in the time of Franco. Armed police confronted the peaceful multitude and in one incident a youth was gunned down in cold blood for the heinous "crime" of attempting to hoist the Andalucian flag over the town hall in Malaga where the same local bosses rule as in the period of the dictatorship.

The response of the masses was to come into the streets and battle against the armed thugs of the police, whose nervousness is due to the fact that they fear having to face the consequences of forty years of brutality directed against the Spanish people.

Hunger, unemployment and privation are nothing new to the people of Andalucia. However, the present crisis of world capitalism has had disastrous effects throughout Spain.

SICKEST

Spanish capitalism is the sickest member of the whole hospital ward which presently includes practically the whole of Western Europe. Years of protectionism, cheap credits and subsidies under the Franco dictatorship have bred a pampered, effete and utterly degenerate capitalist class which is totally incapable of competing in world markets against more powerful capitalist rivals in conditions of world recession.

In a desperate attempt to increase the competitiveness of Spanish exports and boost the flagging tourist trade, the Spanish capitalists last year carried through a drastic devaluation of the peseta. At

the same time the weak capitalist government of Adolfo Suarez managed to talk the leaders of the Socialist and "Communist" Parties into signing the Pact of Moncloa which, like the Social Contract in Britain, was an attempt to get the workers to shoulder the burden of the crisis by accepting wage restraint, while prices rocketed.

At the same time, under the "iron chancellor" Fuentes Quintana, the rate of increase of the money supply was to be cut back from 23% to 17%—a measure designed to prevent the inflation caused by the emission of worthless paper money by the Bank of Spain.

In their zeal to carry out the new policy of monetary discipline the treasury officials succeeded beyond the minister's wildest dreams: by October of last year, the rate of increase of the money supply fell not to 17% but to 10%. This was the way to get the economy on its feet!

Unfortunately, Fuentes Quintana had got it all wrong. After years of existing on free hand-outs and cheap credits from the state, the Spanish industrialists suddenly found the taps turned off and the supplies of money dried up overnight.

Like an aged junkie whose supply of heroin is suddenly cut off, Spanish capitalism

went into convulsions. Factory after factory went bankrupt.

Not only small firms but major industries such as steel-making and shipbuilding were forced to close their gates and lay off men. The case of Cadiz was only one. The giant steel company Babcock and Wilcox in the Basque Country could not afford to pay the arrears of wages to workers and threatened to close.

This would mean the loss of 30,000 jobs in the Bilbao area, if we take into consideration the subsidiary firms dependent on the company. The social consequences of such a move are all too

SPAIN - TIME BO

A massive workers' demonstration in Madrid in 1976, protesting at rising prices and falling living standards. The government's 'reforms' are no solution to Spain's catastrophic economic problems.



TICKS A

THE OMB

ds. The Suarez
Popperfoto



AWAY

The seriousness of the economic situation can be seen from the fact that industry is only working at 80% of capacity...With over six million unemployed in the Common Market, Spain's old safety valve of emigration is now firmly closed.

Trade unionists injured by riot police who tried to break up a demonstration in Vallecas, an industrial suburb of Madrid on May Day 1977. Police attacks on the demonstration, called by the newly-legalised trade unions, provoked "the worst May Day violence since the Civil War." Popperfoto



low, with increasing pressure building up against Spanish exports by protectionist lobbies in Europe and the USA, it is precisely these areas, geared to exports and industrial production which are hardest hit.

Protectionist measures in the Common Market have had a shattering effect on Spanish steel, as shown by the crisis of Babcock and Wilcox and Altos Hornos and textiles, with catastrophic consequences in Catalonia, where pressure is building up for autonomy, as in the Basque Country, Galicia, Andalucia and a whole series of other regions.

The economic crisis has undoubtedly been made worse by the hard-line tactics of the government on monetary policy which soon aroused the heated protests of those same industrialists who earlier had been demanding sharp cuts in state expenditure and "financial discipline to curb inflation." As in all countries, the capitalists only object to state expenditure which benefits the workers, the unemployed and underprivileged.

But in Spain, more than any other capitalist country, the capitalists depend entirely

on the hand-outs of the state. Fraga, leader of the main right-wing party, Popular Alliance, protested that the government's economic policies were "destroying the wealth of the nation."

The relative improvement in Spain's balance of payments which nevertheless still had a deficit of 6,363 million dollars at the end of 1977, was due on the one hand to the temporary boost in exports caused by the devaluation of the peseta which made Spanish goods cheaper and imports more expensive. But the main reason for the sharp fall of imports has been the profoundly depressed situation of the home market, where wage restraint, mass unemployment (generally put at 1,300,000 in a country of 35 million) and poverty has led to a sharp fall of demand.

The boastful declarations about the balance of payments do not conceal the fact that the loss of the home market constitutes an unmitigated disaster for Spanish capitalism. The "healthy" picture painted of the economy is like the flush on the face of a man dying of consumption.

Within a few months, rising domestic inflation will

have completely cancelled out the advantages of the devaluation of the peseta. **Spanish capitalism will be beaten on world markets and also with a shrinking internal market: in other words in a crisis of absolutely catastrophic dimensions.**

On the other hand, the uncontrolled growth of unemployment threatens to bring about a social explosion, as we saw not long ago in Malaga and Cadiz. The workers of Babcock and Wilcox have made it absolutely clear to the government that they will not accept the closure of the works.

A long and determined campaign to prevent closure culminated earlier this year in a one-day general strike in the Basque Country in solidarity with these workers. Even more significant was the one-day general strike in protest against unemployment in Andalucia.

These are clear warnings to the capitalist class as to the social and political consequences of the continuing spread of unemployment and factory closures.

Fear of social explosions, and a growing realisation that the "tight money" policy was leading to the collapse of

Spanish industry forced the Suarez government to make an abrupt about-face early in the year.

Fuentes Quintana was unceremoniously ditched and replaced by a nonentity by the name of Abril Martorell. The nature of this ministerial reshuffle was not immediately evident and there has, indeed, been no immediate evidence of a sharp change.

But there can be no doubt that the Suarez government, faced with a rapidly deteriorating situation, has been forced to change course. One of the first acts of the new minister was to offer credits to industry on the most favourable terms. But there were few takers.

The Spanish capitalists have had their nerves badly shaken both by the economic crisis and the increasingly aggressive mood of the workers, now organised in legal trade unions which between them account for about four million members—a higher figure than in the 1930s—and still rising.

At the end of the first quarter of 1978 the general picture of Spanish industry was one of total stagnation, with empty order books, a further reduction of productive capacity in use and an inexorable growth of stocks of finished products. According to Antonio Garrigues, a prominent industrialist, the only investment which is forthcoming at the moment is that of the state.

In a desperate effort to stave off economic collapse, the government is once again handing out money and credits to industry. But this in turn will lead to a new increase in the money supply, a rise of inflation, the erosion of the competitive edge gained by the devaluation of the peseta, and, in a few months, a new crisis, another devaluation and a further slamming on of the brakes.

TENSIONS

The ruling class is thrashing about desperately seeking a way out of the crisis. The only "viable solution" from its point of view is an **all-out attack on the living standards of the workers in a new austerity policy far worse than the Pact of Moncloa.**

The trouble is that the working class is enormously strong, increasingly organised and not inclined to accept such a policy after forty years of fascist slavery.

To add to the difficulties of Spanish capitalism, the Suarez government has shown itself to be far too feeble an instrument to carry through an effective policy of wage cuts. The so-called "Centre Union" which emerged from the elections last June with a shaky relative majority is not even a united party but a rag-bag of assorted capitalist politicians, ex-Francoist turncoats, opportunists and careerists hastily knocked together on the eve of the elections and held together by the tricks and manoeuvres of the Spanish Machiavelli, Adolfo Suarez.

This government is constantly torn by splits and divisions, reflecting the inner tensions of the ruling class which feels itself in an impasse, trapped between the inexorable pressures of the economic crisis and the implacable resistance of the working class to any attempt to make them pay for it.

evident to the government in Madrid, which feels itself to be sitting on a powder-keg.

In the troubled Basque province, torn by national life and terrorism, there are at present 127,000 unemployed out of a total active population of 972,700. There has been an average of two factory closures here every single day in the first three months of this year.

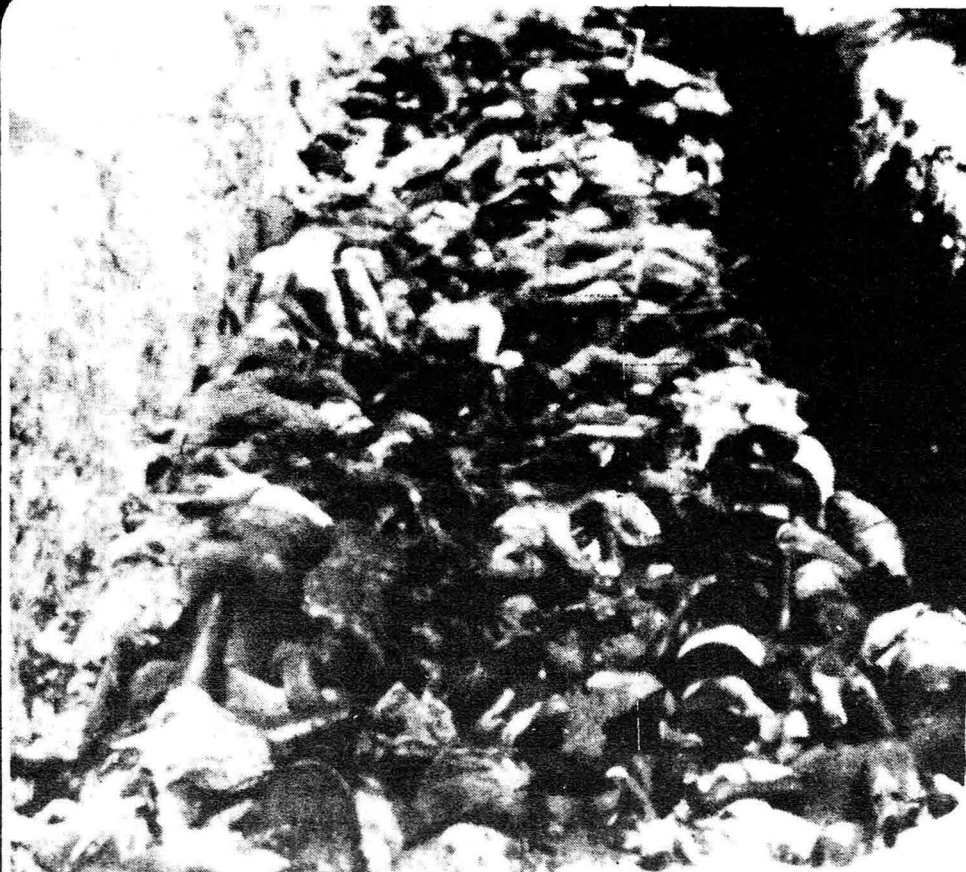
In Guipuzcoa, the province where most Basque is still spoken and where the ETA and other radical nationalist organisations have most support, the rate of unemployment is now 24.54%. In one month alone, March, there were 88 bankruptcies in this

area.

The seriousness of the economic situation can be seen from the fact that industry is only working at 80% of capacity, whereas in certain key sectors such as steel the figure is 74% and shipbuilding, only 60%. With over six million unemployed in the Common Market, the old safety valve of emigration is now firmly closed.

But in recent decades, emigration from the unemployment black-spots of Andalucia, Extremadura and Galicia took place not only abroad, but inside Spain, to areas such as Madrid, Catalonia (Barcelona) and the Basque Country (Bilbao).

AFRICA



mass grave of victims of the Apartheid dictatorship's Cassinga massacre



South African troops prepare for a raid

APARTHEID TROOPS MASSACRE

600

The British press has given sensational treatment to the death of eleven Britons on a mission school at Umtali in Rhodesia.

This is alleged to be by guerrillas, but this certainly cannot be accepted without confirmation. Other cases of "guerrilla atrocities" have undoubtedly been the work of the Rhodesian army and its mercenary auxiliaries.

The gutter press and the BBC also tried to picture the mass exodus of young Africans and small children from Rhodesia to camps in Botswana as "mass kidnappings". When the Rhodesian government sent buses for them,

however, only a small handful would agree to go back.

Is the capitalist press really concerned about the loss of life in this bitter struggle—provoked by the refusal of Rhodesia's white ruling class to allow genuine majority rule? Not at all. Their main motive for sensationalising the massacre, apart from discrediting Africans in general, is to discredit the Patriotic Front, which has rejected Smith's "internal settlement" accepted by other nationalist leaders like Muzorewa and Sithole.

In blatant contrast to the Umtali events, the media gave absolutely minimal coverage

to another massacre of at least 600 people which took place a few weeks ago. Why? Because it happened in Angola and was carried out by South African forces.

"On May 4, South Africa launched a military attack across the Namibia-Angola border, striking what it claimed to be a major base of the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), SWAPO's military wing at Cassinga, 150 miles inside Angola. "SWAPO insists that Cas-

singa was a refugee settlement, holding 4,000-5,000 Namibians, mostly women, children and old people, and that it contained a clinic, agricultural equipment, a sewing factory and a garage. There were no military installations and no more soldiers than a small unit designated to protect the settlement.

"This has been confirmed by independent sources including a Swedish TV journalist, Per Sanden, who has recently completed a film on SWAPO which includes footages of Cassinga before it was destroyed. The Angolan authorities have reported the number of casualties as over

600 dead and the same number wounded although fears are that the final figure will prove to be even higher.

"One account, from someone who visited Cassinga days after the attacks, describes mass graves holding in one case 460 bodies, and in another 160, and tells how young unarmed Namibians were brutally dragged out of buildings and shot in cold blood." ('Africa', June 1978)

The British government simply expressed "concern and dismay" and demanded an "urgent explanation" from the South African government.

Analysing the background

to this horrible incident, however, the monthly magazine 'Africa' (from which this report is taken), concludes that the massacre was a quite deliberate stroke, aimed at provoking SWAPO to withdraw from the recent "United Nations" agreement about the future of Namibia. This now includes important concessions to South Africa, and there would be even more advantages for the Apartheid regime if SWAPO (already hit by mass arrests and harassment by the SA police in Namibia) were to pull out.

The yellow, capitalist press in Britain keeps its big mouth tightly shut about this.

CHAD

President Giscard d'Estaing's intervention in Zaire has already provoked massive protest demonstrations throughout the main cities of France.

The French workers will not tolerate another foreign intervention as in Indo-China or Algeria. That is one reason why France has relied on the now severely stretched Foreign Legion, the official mercenaries of French imperialism. Giscard would not dare to send conscripted soldiers.

France now has over 12,000 troops, together with air support, stationed in Africa. In immediate terms, the Foreign Legion's mission to save Mobutu appears a success. But the dangers of becoming bogged down in exhausting, and ultimately unwinnable, wars against the liberation movement in Africa have been brought home to the strategists of French capital by the not-so-successful case of Chad.

It is now ten years since France first sent troops to stiffen General Felix Malloum's shaky dictatorship. In 1968-71, 5,000 French troops managed to beat back the

FRANCE'S UNWINNABLE WAR

guerrilla forces operating in the north of the country.

The problem of Chad was solved, claimed President Pompidou. Last month, however, France was again obliged secretly to fly in another 1,500 troops to reinforce the 300 French military "advisers" permanently stationed in Chad.

On 31 May French troops and Jaguar jet strike aircraft managed to inflict a heavy blow on the guerrilla army of Frolinat, forcing them to retreat for the time being.

But in the weeks before the Frolinat advance was checked, the liberation movement had managed to rout the Chad army (taking about 2,000 prisoners out of a force of 5,000) and had gained control of about two-thirds of the country.

The inability of French forces, after all this time, to ensure Malloum's control over this vast, sparsely inhabited (about 4 million) country is a real indication of the weakness of imperialism at the present time.

Underlying French interest in Chad is the country's

potential mineral wealth. This year Chad will become an exporter of crude oil (last year a US consortium invested \$25 million in further exploration). There are also important uranium deposits in the north.

Chad is not the only Saharan dictatorship supported by France. French Legionnaires also sustain the rotten regime in Mauritania, which all serious observers agree to be on the verge of complete collapse. By assisting Mauritanian forces against the Polisario liberation front, which is fighting for an independent western Saharan Republic, France is also assisting the equally rotten regime of King Hassan in Morocco, which is fighting Polisario from the north.

At stake in the vast expanses of the Sahara, with its small nomadic population, are also vast mineral resources. Yet even here, imperialism is now incapable of maintaining a firm hold!

Mobutu—the world's richest puppet

"Mobutu succeeded in preventing Zaire from falling apart," a foreign diplomat sympathetic to Zaire's dictator recently told the French paper 'Le Monde': "But of course he is cashing in on it and behaving as if everything were permitted him."

The western governments who have been propping up Mobutu as their last hope of keeping control over mineral-rich Zaire, have been choking over Mobutu's attitude to his regime's foreign debts. He has told his creditors that he not only can't repay the £1,500 million he owes them, but he can't even repay the interest.

Yet while the economy is in chaos, Mobutu is not too badly off.

He began his dictatorial career as a mere pay accounts sergeant in the Belgium-run Congolese army. But as western imperialism's dictatorial front-man in this highly exploited, poverty-stricken country, Mobutu has amassed a vast personal fortune, second only to the Shah of Iran.

Reliable sources in Brussels, reports the 'Daily Mail' (14th June) give this list of some of the possessions acquired by Mobutu:

Millions

"He owns a villa and land in Switzerland valued at £2½ million; a chateau at Namur in Belgium valued at just over £1 million; a villa at Rhode St. Genese in Brussels valued at £500,000; buildings and land at Uccle, a select residential suburb of Brussels, valued at £1 million; a ten-storey apartment block in the Boulevard Reyers in Brussels valued at £1,300,000; an apartment block in the Boulevard Lambert in Brussels valued at £600,000; an apartment in the select Avenue Foch in Paris valued at £500,000; a residence in Nice valued at £600,000; a residence in Venice valued at £400,000; a villa in Spain valued at £700,000; a building at Bangui in the Central African Republic, valued at £130,000; and a villa at Abidjan, Ivory

Coast, valued at £200,000."

Mobutu is also believed to have about £70 million deposited in a Swiss bank account.

This is the man, his hands stained with blood and his treasure chests stuffed with the fruits of corruption, that imperialism has propped up for nearly two decades.

Even foreign diplomats in Kinshasa are beginning to have second thoughts, reports 'Le Monde' (13 June). "When Mobutu surrounds himself with a bodyguard of Moroccan soldiers," said one, "he is admitting he has been propped up only by a combination of foreign forces."

The "lesser evil" theory, it seems, is losing ground among the capitalist representatives who can see what's happening. As a warning to the French ruling class, 'Le Monde' repeats the warning of a Kinshasa businessman. If Mobutu falls, "the people will turn against you, the French. Don't forget you saved him!"

Feature by Lynn Walsh

Songs of toil and struggle



There have always been songs about work, mostly songs the workers sang to help them work in unison, sea-shanties and the like. But it was not until the late 18th-early 19th century and the industrial revolution that the industrial working class began to develop their own folk-culture.

The songs workers made up reflected their own

life-styles and aspirations. With increased literacy among the new industrial proletariat, the songs of this period were the first workers' songs to be written down. They were printed on 'Broad-sides' and taken from town to town and the songs became popularised. Only the words were printed, and as well as supplying the tune, singers would often alter the lyrics or add

verses of their own.

In industrial songs, "...the naked world of factory workers is entwined with marvels of popular folk song," as one writer put it. By stating, or very often understating, the degradation and misery which surrounded them, English workers poignantly reflected 19th century industrial life.

The chief areas where industrial folk song flourished were the North-East and in Lancashire. It is from Lancashire that the earliest know

industrial song comes, the 'Bury New Loom' published in 1804, which tells of the amorous encounter of an itinerant young weaver with a girl as he walked "twixt Bolton and Bury".

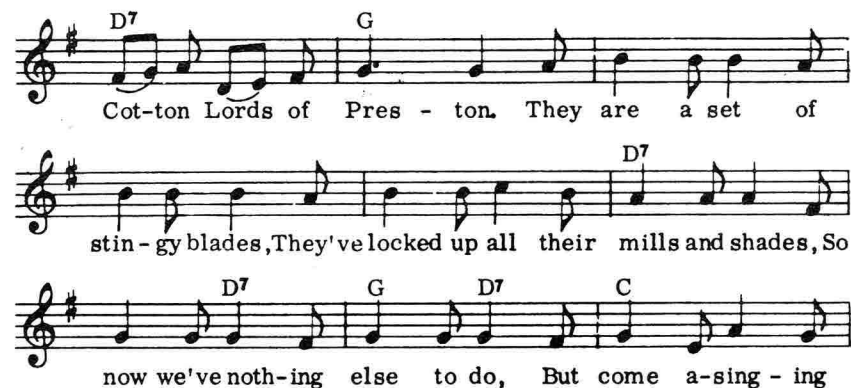
These were relatively good times for the hand-loom weavers. From the 1770s onwards, populations of the weaving districts soared. The weavers were prosperous for the time being, so their songs were romantic fantasies of weaving life. What differentiates them from earlier rural songs is the preponderance of

The physical hardship of their work and their close communities produced a great sense of comradeship. The colliers were proud of their place in the forefront of industrial workers, and their songs reflect their militancy.

The textile workers of Lancashire and Yorkshire, too, were proud of their skills, and this is reflected in many of their songs. Even today, in the North East, heroic miners such as the Big Hewer, Bob Towers, Jackie Torr and Isaac Lewis—all canny, 'strapping lads, who hewed coal at a

"In our Durham County, I'm sorry for to say That hunger and starvation are increasing every day. For want of food and coal, we know not what to do, But with your kind assistance, we will stand the battle through."

When Tommy Armstrong died in 1919, the old folk song tradition was passing into oblivion. From time to time a pit disaster or a desperate slump in the cotton trade would inspire a new song, but



"The Cotton Lords of Preston" which celebrates an heroic battle against the Lancashire cotton bosses in 1853.

technical terms used, showing the weavers' pride in their skills.

The prosperity was short-lived, however. Trade fell off during the Napoleonic Wars, the owners cut the weavers' prices to the bone, and when demand returned their status was undermined. Then the weavers' songs became bitter, more realistic, often using Lancashire dialect.

Common themes were strikes, disasters and evictions. After the Peterloo Massacre in 1819, songs espousing the workers' plight and advocating unity among their class became popular.

However dour the circumstances, though, many songs are rich in wry humour, like "The Coal-Owner and the Pitman's Wife," originated by a collier in the 1844 Durham strike.

"Aye the way I got out, the truth I will tell, They're turning the poor folk all out of Hell, This is to make room for the rich wicked race, For there is a great number of them in that place."

The miners have possibly the strongest folk culture of English industrial workers.

great pace and downed unlimited ale—are still well known and celebrated in song—although they're pure fiction.

While in Lancashire men like Sam Bamford and Sam Laycock drew on local dialect poets for their material, in the North East the music hall was a major influence. Balladeers such as Tommy Armstrong and Willie McGuire were prime exponents.

By Chris Clegg

(West Nottingham LPYS)

Armstrong grew up during the pioneer period of trade union enthusiasm and militancy. He was conscious of the lead his songs gave to his fellow colliers and there was great disappointment if he failed to come up with a suitable song to mark contemporary events.

The most durable of Armstrong's songs is the 'Durham Lock-out', still widely sung in the North East. The song concerns a colliers' strike of 1892, which followed a wage cut, and a bitter struggle which ended in defeat for the miners.

the creations of the 1920s and '30s were mainly mere parodies of popular hits of the day and just as ephemeral.

The decline in the mining industry and the textile trade was one reason for the loss of folk culture in industrial England. But perhaps the main cause was the rise of the popular media; especially cinema and radio, and later television.

Dialect verse today exists (with a few notable exceptions) as a nostalgic whimsy, a crude debasement of the traditional roots of industrial folk song. Even in folk-singing circles, industrial songs were decried and ignored by the performers, intent on idealising English rural life.

In the last fifteen years, however, singers like Ewan McColl and Harry Boardman have performed hitherto forgotten works, not heard for decades, stimulating a revival of industrial songs.

COMING SOON
'Militant'
Interview
With Ewan
McColl and
Peggy Seeger.

'ATOMIC POLICE'

"What is the answer to the charge that fast breeder nuclear reactors will put our civil liberties at the mercy of an extended armed constabulary with sweeping powers of arrest, answerable to no elected body, and of a secret service effectively answerable to no-one?"

This was the question posed by the Labour MP, Leo Abse, in the Commons debate on Windscale and Britain's nuclear energy programme at the end of last year.

The answer, in fact, is that the Atomic Energy Authority (AEA) police and the security services generally have been given new, virtually unlimited, powers.

The AEA Constabulary, currently 400 strong, used to

operate with limited and localised powers under the 1923 Special Constables Act. Under the AEA (Special Constables) Act 1976, however, the AEA Constabulary was given sweeping new and exceptional powers.

The 15-mile limit on their jurisdiction was removed; and they are now allowed to carry arms at all times; to engage in what is termed 'hot pursuit' of thieves or attempted thefts of nuclear materials; the right to enter any premises at will; and the power to arrest on suspicion.

Despite these new powers, the AEA Constabulary will remain responsible only to the AEA itself, an unelected body over which the Secretary of State for Energy (now Tony Benn) has only general pow-

ers, not the right to intervene in its day-to-day running.

Mr Abse commented that the 1976 Act "in effect created a private army which was not ultimately answerable, as are other police forces [in theory] to an elected body or to the Home Secretary."

In fact, the AEA police will be as the Special Branch and the security services always have been, a law unto themselves.

If the AEA's plans for a large-scale nuclear programme are allowed to go ahead, and all the powers now available are used, three groups of people would become subject to vetting and surveillance. All the workers employed in the industry would be "vetted", so too would their families and

"known associates". The procedure would be similar to the "positive vetting" process carried out under the direction of the security service (MI5) of civil servants and workers in the defence contract industries. This entails detailed, private, and intimate knowledge of a prospective employee and his or her acquaintances.

By Vivien Seal

(Lambeth Central L.P.)

But by far the largest group to be placed under surveillance (without their knowledge, of course) would be those considered by the security services to be "subversives" or potential terrorists.

"Subversion," according to Lord Harris of the Home Office, "is defined as activities threatening the safety or well-being of the state and intended to undermine or overthrow parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means" (House of Lords, 26.2.75).

But in recent years an increasing number of incidents, which have revealed the large-scale, systematic surveillance of trade union activists and left-wing students, make it clear that the security services decide for themselves who is "subversive" and their definition is an extremely wide one.

Commenting on the very wide definition given by the government on the term "subversive", Mr Justice Parker (in the chapter of the Windscale Report entitled 'Terrorism and Civil Liberties') simply comments that there are "people with evil purpose" (unspecified) who want to sweep away the "system of government" and

the "rule of law" which has "taken centuries to build" (para 7.23).

His conclusion is that "The problem is easy to state but there is no easy solution. Indeed I can see no solution at all. If the sort of activities under consideration [terrorism] are to be checked, innocent people are certain to be subject to surveillance, if only to find out whether they are innocent or not. Equally certainly friends and relatives will be subjected to distasteful and embarrassing enquiries."

Faced with the prospect of a large-scale nuclear programme, particularly one based on plutonium producing fast-breeder reactors, the labour movement should be warned not only of the horrifying environmental and health dangers of this development in a capitalist society, but also the draconian new powers that will be given to the state's security police and secret forces on the pretext of guarding radioactive materials.

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

LETTERS

STORY WITH A MORAL

Dear Comrade,
A lot of interest has been raised among trade unionists about the recent Health and Safety Act. The following story, told at my ASTMS branch the other night, shows that the employers are not quite so interested.

The brother who told it is a supervisor at a local engineering works and on the Safety Committee set up as a result of the new legislation. One day, all representatives were shown a special film.

It was a case study of an accident, caused by a failure to keep the factory floor anything resembling swept and tidy. The film placed a great deal of the blame on the supervisor, who had refused to have the area cleaned up because it would interfere with production.

Our brother took the message very seriously, and on the way back to his shop bumped into the factory training officer.

"I've just seen an excellent film on safety" he said. "What we need to do is make everyone in the factory safety conscious."

"What a good idea" replied the training officer.

"So why don't we show everybody this film, a section at a time; after all, it only lasts half an hour."

"What!" was the immediate response.

"You can't expect management to give everyone half an hour off work just to see a film!"

Moral [very simple!]: safety is wonderful so long as it is free. I wonder how many workers with missing fingers, scarred hands and swarf stuck in their eyeballs would agree?

Fraternally
Ruth Aylett
Sheffield Central ASTMS



NO DISCRIMINATION HERE!

Dear Sir

My son-in-law has your paper every week and I always look through it after he has finished with it.

I read your article on police brutality on coloured youths. I have every sympathy with these boys but can assure you it is not only coloured boys who are getting this kind of treatment. My two sons aged 18 and 20 years and four of their friends were treated

badly by police two weeks ago.

As they came out of their local they were provoked and rounded up like animals for no reason, and now all face charges of criminal damage and assault on the police. My oldest son is charged with assault on three police officers even though about twelve of them had him on the ground kicking him. His brother tried

to help him as he was shouting out "somebody help me", and he's being charged with assaulting four police while handcuffed. My two sons have been in trouble with the police before. I know my sons are being victimised, but what chance have working class people like us?

Yours faithfully
Mrs A (Southampton)
Name and address supplied

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

Dear Comrades

The London demonstration organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists against the Tory press, was made more timely by the editorial comment on Labour's youth broadcast [*Sunday Times* 18.6.78]. It was ironical that when our argument that the "profit system creates slums and misery for millions" should be described as 'deluded', so much evidence in that paper would support our case!

In the colour supplement we were treated to a day in the

life of the Lord Mayor of London. He gets "called with the newspapers" at 7.35 pm and spends at least the next half hour alternating between drinking tea in bed, and discussing the papers with his wife in her boudoir.

His first problem is complicated by bringing the wrong snuff to work: High Dry Toast instead of Judge Carmel's mixture! The rest of the day is taken up with lunch with the Launderers' Company; a meeting with the Gun Trade Association; and a speech to the Export Credits Guarantee Dept. [A reception at St James's Palace to top it off.]

A few pages earlier, there is a special feature on Brazil. One colour photograph shows a family's straw hut: a fire on the floor, two cooking pots, ragged clothes, and children with bloated stomachs.

Elsewhere we read of a rent collector sacked for wearing an Anti-Nazi League badge while working [p 3]; claims by fishermen against the monitoring devices set up by a chemicals firm [p 2]; and of concert tickets priced £7.50 [p 3]. Not to mention the pitiful lack of nursery facilities [p 4] or the closure of adventure playgrounds because of the cuts [p 4].

So much then for our "pathetic fantasies of capitalist iniquity."

Yours fraternally
Leon Kaplan
Rother Valley LPYS

Finding a job

Dear Comrades

I am at present taking my finals at Manchester University and of course looking for a job at the end of it all.

The careers service have just circulated a leaflet given out by the Australian careers service and they add: "The message seems of equal applicability here. The time to start looking for a job is early January onwards."

The leaflet prefaces its message with a few gems of advice: "Open up as many avenues as possible. Always present an optimistic front—nothing impresses an employer so little as a person obviously defeated by the world and his life in it."

Why should they have to add this? Because, we are told, a good job hunter will make up to ten applications a day! A quick calculation tells me that by now I should have made over 1,000 applications, instead of my 38 (with five replies). It's not surprising people feel defeated after experiencing this.

It also knocks a hole in the argument that qualifications get you a job—in England or Australia. Students are waking up to the future and it can only bode well for the forces of Marxism and socialism in the labour movement—and that's what's needed—now!

Yours fraternally
Mike Waddington
Ashton LPYS

Docks Threat

Dear Comrades

With reference to 'Militant' 26th May, on the reason for docks' closures. European Ferries, the free enterprise ferry operators, beat the state-owned British Transport Docks Board in a take-over battle for the Suffolk Port of Felixstowe. Now they have given a political donation of £10,000 to the Conservative Party fighting fund, because the Labour government was coming under pressure to nationalise large parts of the shipping industry.

Many shareholders urged the Chairman, Mr Wicken-den, himself the Tory candidate for Dorking, to increase the size of the donation. He said: "We are under a threat of nationalisation in whole or in part. Certainly the port of Felixstowe will be nationalised if a Labour government is returned."

All of us working in the ports are at the mercy of these private investors, manipulating the money, working behind the scenes. We must fight off this threat to our jobs, and our most treasured possession, the Dock Works Regulation Act.

Return in strength a real Socialist government prepared to nationalise the whole port transport industry, without compensation, under workers' control. Until this is accomplished we will never have a secure livelihood.

Yours fraternally
H C Williams
2/28 T&GWU Dockworker

Shop workers' strength

Dear Comrades

In Kay Callaghan's letter she raises an important point that faces many other unions as well as USDAW—the difficulty of organising small units, i.e. shops, warehouses etc. Indeed the leadership of USDAW have for a long time used this as an excuse for doing little to help its members.

Strength in the union movement can come from many sources. For example Templeton's retail food chain should be organised as one unit. All the shops in the group should be contacted and a committee be set up so that any action can be co-ordinated to have the maximum impact.

A shop may be able to function with a small staff of management and supervisors but it cannot take the bad publicity of its workers parading outside protesting about low wages and long hours.

Also essential is the winning of closed shop agreements so that shop managers and supervisors are brought under the discipline of the union. They must be brought to realise that their interests lie with the workers and not the bosses. Wages for shop managers are generally very low and hours very long.

Even in individual shops where this sort of organisation is not possible other avenues can be explored. Most shops are either in shopping centres or grouped together along with other shops on a High St. USDAW must organise these as whole units with joint claims, co-ordinating bodies to promote maximum impact and unity.

Lastly, every branch should take its full part in the union nationally, fighting for a new radical leadership committed to fighting on the membership's behalf. Within USDAW there is a Broad Left, as yet small but committed to fight for such a policy. I suggest Kay and other USDAW members write to me at the address below and I will put them in touch with the local Broad Left organiser.

Yours fraternally
Jeff Price
Broad Left National Steering Committee
150 Dilston Road,
Fenham,
Newcastle upon Tyne 4
Tel. 730861

Not one of us!

Dear Comrades

I heard on the wireless today (13th June, 'Profile on Margo MacDonald') Winifred Ewing speaking about her first memories of Margo MacDonald. Mrs Ewing was standing as an SNP candidate at Hamilton and during a public meeting she noticed a glamorous blond girl asking politically difficult questions.

She said she assumed because of her 'ability' that she must be a Young Socialist, but was relieved to find out she wasn't. So are we!

Yours comradely
Cath Ross

FIGHT WITH 'MILITANT'

Dear Comrades

Enclosed is a cheque, £1 for raffle tickets, £10 for the fighting fund. I have just started a part-time job in a children's home and find myself in the front line fighting the cuts. 'Militant' has never been so important to me as I need its information to make sense of my job!

Fraternally
Barbara Street
Cardiff North West

A FAIR WAGE?

Comrades

I am a storekeeper in one of the hospitals in the National Health Service and earn £33 a week. The list below is a run-down of my weekly expenses:

Rent—£6.73; Bus to work, twice a day, total—£2.40; meals at work—£2.40; meals at home—£5; newspapers etc.—£1.

A grand total of £17.53. This leaves me £13.47 to

fritter away on non-essentials such as evenings out, football matches, holiday savings, visiting friends etc. This very same £13.47 is meant to last seven days! What if I wanted to get married? No chance.

Is £33 a fair wage for 40 hours of lifting heavy boxes, stock control, making up ward provisions?

Yours depressingly
C Calveley

the best education money can buy -



HELP MILITANT GIVE A SOCIALIST LEAD

**£35,000
NEEDED BY
JULY 8th**

In *The Times Higher Education Supplement* this week there was an article on the University College at Buckingham.

This is a privately financed university and the article stated that "Money from industry and private benefactors now totals £2 million. Without companies like Beechams and Volkswagen, which gave £40,000 ... Buckingham would not exist."

It also said that: "A year's study is estimated to cost between £3,250 and £3,700" and is considered by some to be a "playground for the rich". It provides education for those who can afford it and has no time for those who cannot. As one professor said "...the poorer student would not consider applying to this college."

'Militant' on the other hand provides an education (of a political kind) for everyone but, like Buckingham University, without funds we could not continue. However, unlike this university it does not get money from industrial or private benefactors.

It relies solely on the donations and fund-raising efforts from all of its supporters. All our supporters see the need to get back on target and to reach the £70,000 by the end of the year so that the paper can continue to expand and in turn reach new readers.

This week the total was £685.40 and we received individual donations from the following: J. Taylor and B.

Owen (Hull) £3; the Wobeyes of Hackney £2; C Robinson (Chester) £2.88; J Hollinhead (Chester) £1.50; C Michelson (Chester) £9; and a supporter at Heathrow airport donated £1.50.

Fivers came in from L Evans (Wavertree); S Poole (Bristol); Cllr V Jones (Cardiff) and three supporters in Brighton sent a fiver each. L Walker (Sefton) sent in £3 as did L Stanger (West Birmingham).

T Dix (Stafford) donated £4; D Triece (Newcastle West CLP) £2.15; M Swanson (Edinburgh) £1.80; Eastbourne supporters £5.50 and Port Talbot supporters £3.50.

£1 donations were received from L Beszant (Gosport); J Turner (St Pancras); M Keegan (Coventry) and B Jones (Cardiff). Over £40 was also sent in from small donations collected by comrades up and down the country. Many thanks to all these comrades for their donations this week.

Other 'educational services' provided by the supporters of 'Militant' are the 'Militant' Readers' Meetings and Marxist Discussion Groups. There were quite a few of these held up and down the country this week and between them they raised over £54 in their collections.

A 'Militant' Readers' Meeting in Littlehampton collected £10.50, one in Oxford made £8.50, and one in Leeds raised £15.20. A Marxist Discussion Group in Gosport raised £4.28, one in West London raised £2.35, one in Cramlington made £3.60 and one in Wakefield raised

FIGHTING FUND CHART		£70,000	
Area	Jan 20 weeks	Target £2 wks	Received
Eastern	2,200	4,400	£1,075.07
Hants & IOW	1,050	2,100	£1,078.43
Humberside	1,100	2,200	£866.48
Leicestershire	750	1,500	£311.83
London: North	3,850	7,700	£2,153.33
London: South	1,900	3,800	£1,153.33
Manchester & District	1,450	2,900	£540.00
Merseyside & District	2,250	4,500	£1,027.46
Midlands East	2,000	4,000	£1,309.27
Midlands West	3,700	7,400	£2,363.75
Northern	2,450	4,900	£1,350.59
Scotland East	1,250	2,500	£595.23
Scotland West	1,450	2,900	£717.56
South East	1,150	2,300	£955.16
South West	1,150	2,300	£761.19
Thames Valley	850	1,700	£585.69
Wales East	1,000	2,000	£621.55
Wales West	1,150	2,300	£706.45
Yorkshire	2,600	5,200	£1,163.14
Others	1,500	3,000	£3,178.96
Total	35,000	70,000	£22,514.14

£9.80.

A collection at Gosport LPYS raised £4.73, Northfield LPYS donated £10, Blyth LPYS donated £5 and LPYS members in Slough donated £12.

A collection of 1/2ps and 1ps in Peterborough amounted to £1. a rattling tin in Ardwick raised £5.50, pennies collected by supporters in Hull raised £7.18 and a rattling tin in Stafford raised £9.27. Still on the question of collections, one in Minchenden School in Southgate raised £2.02, one in Newcastle University Labour Club made £3 and one in Newcastle Poly Labour Club made £2.

The rest of the money this

week came in from various fund-raising events. A sponsored walk in Hull made £7, one in Ardwick made £32, one in West Birmingham raised £15, one in Wolverhampton £8 and one in South Tyne £6 with a promise of more to come.

Other money sent in was from travelling expenses (Peterborough) £1, 'Punk 21st Party' (Gosport) £6.27, a party in Southgate £2, a sweepstake on the Derby in West London £7.12, sale of pontoon tickets (Chester) £2, a social in West Birmingham £7.65, a jumble sale in Stafford £10.41, a party in Littlehampton £9.50, a curry night in South Tyne £26 and a

social in Oxford £12.45.

We also received £22.78 from sale of photographs of the 'Militant' Summer Camp in Swansea. From FTATU conference we were sent £3.98, from SOGAT conference £25 and NALGO conference £28.60.

There are now only two weeks left until the end of the second quarter and every effort should be made by all our supporters to put us nearer the target. Our total received this year now stands at £22,514.14 (32% of the full year target) and it must be made sure that we don't fall any further behind.

We need every penny you can provide!

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'.

ENFIELD Demonstration
Black and white unite!
Stop the racist attacks!
Saturday 15th July
Assemble 11.00 am
Knights Lane (by Edmonstone Town Hall), N.9
Rally—2.00 pm, Chase Green, Enfield Town

BRISTOL LPYS Demonstration
against Racism. 1st July 1978. Assemble at 11.30 am, St George Park, St George. Move off at 12 noon. Rally at the Corn Exchange at 2.00 pm. Leading Labour and Trade Union speakers. Bring banners—all welcome.

BRENTWOOD & ONGAR LPYS Demonstration
Against Racism
1st July 1978.
Assemble at 2.00 pm, Co-op Hall, Kings Road, Brentwood (near station)
Move off at 2.30 pm.
Rally back at Co-op Hall at 3.00 pm
Speakers:
Tony Sauniois (LPYS new rep on LP NEC)
+ members of Brentwood ANL and CRC
Bring banners—all welcome

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 Wimbourne Court, Croydon Road, London S.E.10.

The overwhelming majority of workers will support the LP as their party in the next general election

Fight to campaign for socialist alternatives to right wing Labour policies with the labour movement drive to keep the Tories out.
Send for a free copy of the Platform of SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN FOR A LABOUR VICTORY
Come to the SCLV Conference, London, July 15th
Write: SCLV, c/o 182 Upper Street, London N.1.

European Marxist Tradition
Annotated bibliography set out as comprehensive introductory survey for individuals or Marxist Discussion Groups. Section on Britain. 17p inc. post. Newcastle Central LPYS, 230 Clara Street, Bonwell, Newcastle.

WORLD BOOKS
Book service for the Labour Movement
New Publications.
Grant—Menace of fascism. 40p
Taafé—Cuba: analysis of the revolution. 10p
Silverman—Coming revolution in India. 10p
Please add 5p postage for each pamphlet.

POEU MOVE INTO ACTION

Under pressure from the rank and file of the union, the POEU leadership has at last swung its weight behind the demand for a 35-hour week for Post Office engineers.

This situation has come about because of the anger of the rank and file at the intransigence of the PO and the inactivity of the leadership, which resulted in the negotiations being drawn out over ten years.

The leadership has said that it will give national backing to the actions of all branches on this issue. This has resulted in an explosion in the rank and file who have immediately taken the cue for action.

In Scotland already some branches have initiated a

35 HOUR WEEK

work to rule, which resulted in several of the workers involved being sent home by management. The immediate response of the engineers was to walk out in sympathy and to refuse to come back until disciplinary action is lifted.

A 25p levy has been introduced nationally on all members to provide funds for those workers sent home due to their industrial action. Other branches have decided to ban overtime and work to rule in support of the claim.

My own branch (Tyburn) held a well attended meeting last Thursday which voted unanimously in favour of a work to rule and overtime ban, and voted to establish our own supplementary levy to provide extra funds. We are now looking for support to the Society of Post Office Executives who can ensure that no overtime is worked by non-union members, by not signing their time sheets and consequently stopping any payment.

The scene is set for a huge struggle against the Post Office who have treated our demands with contempt. We are one of the only groups of government workers who work 40 hours, yet the management have not even tried to compromise with us, even though we have offered to maintain productivity levels by accepting new technology.

The POEU has not had a militant history, with only one day's strike in about 90 years.

But the attitude of management has proved that industrial action is the only way forward.

Due to the enormous number of rules and regulations involved in Post Office engineering, a work to rule could have an enormous effect. In fact it could be so effective that the PO might resort to widespread lockouts.

In the face of this, the role of the union leadership has been completely unsatisfactory. They have passed the

buck over to the branches to carry out action, which could result in some of the less militant branches not being fully involved in the struggle.

There has been no campaign on the part of the leadership among the rank and file to draw in the less militant members and explain the issues involved, giving them the confidence that we can win the dispute. **They are in a position of leadership and must lead from the front, not the back, if the issue is to be settled speedily and successfully.**

By

Steve Waterfield

(Tyburn Branch, POEU)

Night shift anger

Last week's 'Militant' drew attention to the health dangers of shift work. The last month at British Leyland's Longbridge factory has made the insecurity of night workers into a burning issue here.

Car factories, especially Body and Assembly work, are notoriously prone to lay-offs. But at Longbridge recently, groups of workers—through no fault of their own—have been losing regularly 2-3 nights pay a week through being sent home.

At Longbridge there is a plant agreement that no night workers will be sent home after 10.00 pm. If any dispute blows up before 10.00, however minute, management have been laying off large groups of workers, telling them to report to work the next night, only to be laid off again.

The situation came to a head a fortnight ago when two Test shop stewards on the

Mini refused a mobility request. The management therefore sent all the Mini chain workers home. Some sections, incensed, picketed the gates until midnight before going home. Some of their placards read: "Like owls we sleep all day...only to be sent home at night."

The management have now said that they will no longer recognise the two Test shop stewards. This may represent an initial attack on the whole trade union organisation at Longbridge.

The Works Committee called a full meeting of the 800-strong Joint Shop Stewards body at Longbridge to press the stewards and workers not to endanger our fellow workers by taking action on nights that could be resolved, without lay-offs, on the day shift; to put our grievances through procedure, and to generally tighten our own discipline so as not to give management a stick to beat us with.

By Nic Boulter

(TGWU Shop Steward, Longbridge)

But the discussion from the floor showed the bitter anger against night working. Our aim should be to abolish night working. But while we have to suffer it, demands were put forward that at least there should be guarantees that night workers would not be laid off on the first night of any dispute. Stewards also illustrated that there are scarcely any management about at nights, above supervisors, making negotiations almost impossible, and so increasing our vulnerability.

With the mood building up now against nights, the Works Committee and the full-timers should seize the opportunity to wage a campaign for more security for shifts on nights, and for the abolition of nights as a whole. Otherwise the blokes on nights, feeling isolated and thinking that nobody cares about them when they get laid off, may resort to action by themselves.

important as well as general support from the movement.

It did not take long before the press began a campaign similar to the one against the firemen. "People will die," was the cry.

In fact, preparations were made to cover emergency cases and anyway, why didn't the press point out that the situation had only arisen because of management's refusal to honour an agreement?

The strike was called off to allow a national official, Mr Peter Adams, to negotiate with the DHSS. Only a work to rule was implemented. Since then, the electricians have been in the dark as to what sort of deal will be made.

The offer put to the electricians will probably include a productivity payment. It is doubtful that it will match the original demands, but it has shown that, organised through the EETPU, these workers have a lot of muscle and need to use it in order to make any gains.

In the future, we are bound to see more attacks on the living standards of NHS workers. It is important that the shop stewards' committees and EETPU branches are strengthened ready to meet this threat.

Dave Cartwright

(ASTMS)



SAVE SINGER JOBS

"Singer's plan to slash 2,800 Clydebank jobs."

That was the headline in last week's 'Glasgow Herald', giving the news to the 4,800 Singer workers that their numbers would be reduced to around 2,000 between now and 1982.

Once Singer's employed 15,000. Down the road, John Brown's Shipbuilders employed 14,000; now, as John Brown Engineering and Marathon, it only has 1,600. On top of the present 8% unemployment, Singer's move is a catastrophe for Clydebank and the local area.

Singer is a US-based multinational which is trying to recapture its world-wide operations. Competition from the Far East (where production is based on poverty wages) and lack of investment in the Clydebank factory (some of the factory's machinery was reconditioned in

1925—over 50 years ago!) has brought about this crisis.

So sacrifices now have to be made in order to get the firm back on its feet. It's the workforce who are being sacrificed by losing their livelihood.

By David Williams

(Glasgow Hillhead Labour Party)

Singer's plan means about 600 redundancies and the rest of the 2,800 jobs going by natural wastage. Apart from the effect on supply firms etc., 'natural wastage' means jobs lost to the area; to school leavers already struggling to find a job. Redundancy payments will be offered as inducements for workers to leave: this must be resisted. The demand of 'no redundancies' is not enough, it must be 'no loss of jobs'.

Top management from the US has already been discussing the situation with the government, possibly to squeeze out grants or other forms of bribes to keep the factory open. However, the management's cynical attitude must be ended. If the owners can't run the present factory then the government should take it over.

Singer's factory must be taken into public ownership—with no compensation to the parent multinational. This demand should be readily taken up by the labour movement in Scotland, since this year's Labour Party Scottish Conference called for public ownership of any firm declaring redundancies.

This must be the answer of the Labour leaders! No more government hand-outs, as with Chrysler. Public ownership with workers' control and government investment is the way to save these jobs.

Hospital Electricians Dispute

It is now a fortnight since hospital electricians decided to take action over their latest pay offer.

Support A J Lees fight

£58 and £52 a week, an increase of up to 130% on the previous rates of pay, is the award of the Central Arbitration Committee to the AJ Lees workers, Birmingham. They have also recommended union recognition but à la George Ward, management have no agreed to implement.

The key issue of re-instatement of the shop steward Richard Green is still in the air. As Phil Morris one of the pickets said when told of the award, "that's no more than we deserve, but we don't go back till Richard has his job back".

Please send messages of support and financial donations to John Morgan D.O. NSMM, 70 Lionel Street, Birmingham, to help break the back of this hard bitten penny pinching exploiter.

By Brian Debus

According to an agreement with the DHSS, the hospitals' works department pay "should continue to be linked to the Electrical Contracting Industry rate." This followed the 'Davison Inquiry' in 1972 and committed the DHSS to pay the same rates as those in outside industry.

The electricians therefore expected an increase of £8.80 a week to maintain parity. However, the offer turned out to be a measly £1! Some electricians have pointed out that the effects of the total deal would in fact make them worse off!

Fifty EETPU shop stewards from the London hospitals met and decided to call out twelve major teaching hospitals as from Monday 19th June. This was part of the national dispute which had been made official.

Provoked

Tom Painter [shop steward, Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead] told me after this meeting that the staff in the works department did not want this strike but months of negotiation had failed to get anywhere. He said that financial assistance would be

BRISTOL CREAM? — NOT HERE

By Wayne Jones

(Bristol South LPYS)

The dispute at Harveys, the famous wine firm, is now in its 5th week.

Eleven members of the AUEW came out on strike for union recognition and negotiation rights. They receive well under the minimum district rate of £60.

They have since been sacked by management, who have imported scab labour

from a nearby factory, like Harveys, a subsidiary of the Allied Group.

Consultation with the TUC and T&GWU has failed to resolve the dispute. A document drawn up by the two unions and agreed as a basis for a settlement has been thrown out by the company.

One-day strike

Production continues and the T&GWU members continue to cross the picket line. All negotiations have failed. Action is needed. The

AUEW must take up the demand from several branches for a one-day all Bristol stoppage as a first step.

The AUEW branches have been circulated with details and a levy is being introduced. But pressure must be brought to bear on the hard-headed management who seem determined to defeat the union. If they do, will the T&GWU be next?

Resolutions of support and donations to the Shop Steward, Jeff Bruton, 3 Dryleaze, Keynsham.

DEFEND OUR HOSPITALS!

Tower Hamlets hospital workers will be moving into action again on Friday 30th June. This is the last working day before management attempts to implement wide-ranging cuts and changes in the health services here.

We are taking part in a massive strike and demonstration which we hope will be joined by St Barts and Hackney hospital workers, and we are appealing to local workers to join us.

In addition to the loss of 360 of the district's 1,065 acute beds, increasing waiting lists and waiting times, the loss of casualty and out-patients' departments will mean 50-60,000 extra patients per year seeking treatment at Whitechapel or Mile End.

Already waiting times in Whitechapel casualty are up to 3½ hours. Staff are horrified.



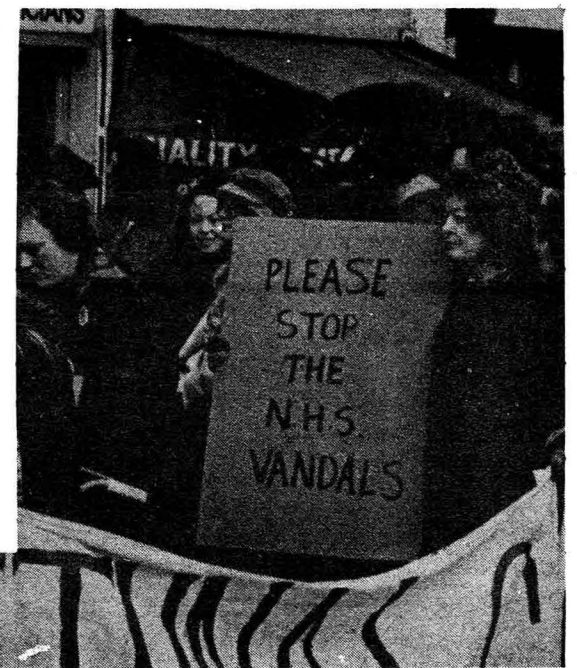
Local workers joined hospital trade unionists on protest march to save Bethnal Green Hospital earlier this year
Photo: Julian McKittrick

The Keep Bethnal Green Hospital Campaign has done a great job in alerting the local community. But all the representations and protestations have met a solid wall of complacent, arrogant officials and health authorities.

The spotlight has now turned on the hospital workers themselves. Everybody is waiting to see how far we are capable of taking the fight.

Since the last day of action, called by the Campaign in May, shop stewards from City

and Hackney hospitals, also threatened by sweeping cuts and changes, have come together with Tower Hamlets stewards to co-ordinate the fight. These districts are part of the same Area Health Authority, and management



are planning the changes across the area. That is why trade union organisations should now also embrace a larger area.

Up to now much of the talking has been about non-co-operation with transfers of staff and patients and of blacking any work connected with changes of use. But this could show our weaknesses.

both in the hospitals and on the streets, management will see that they cannot get away with their plans. They must see that no-one is prepared to work their plans; that if they do not withdraw them they will not be able to manage a single hospital in the area.

Through the local bodies of the labour movement, the whole borough should come to a standstill until the authorities are prepared to guarantee that these plans will be withdrawn, that services will continue and expand, and that there will be a rapid return to full staffing levels in all wards, units and departments.

First shot

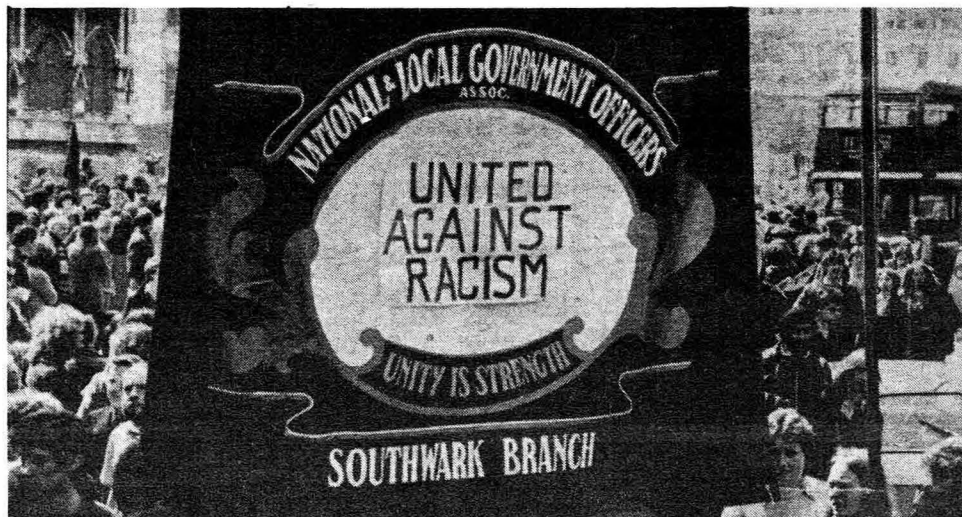
Fighting rearguard actions, allowing management to have the initiative, is not the best way to fight cuts. We have to go on the offensive.

The action planned for Friday must be the first shot by the hospital unions.

We are aiming for such a massive mobilisation that

By Jane Doyle

(Nurse shop steward, NUPE, London Hospital)



NALGO members at Anti-Nazi League Carnival—the union must take its place in the organised labour movement

DISCONTENT IN NALGO

The 1978 conference revealed the uneven development of trade unionism in NALGO.

In the major debate on policy the argument developed around collective bargaining versus Phase 4 (or any of the other polite names given to wage cuts). Using the excuse that the members won't take action, the NEC won support for Phase 4 by a substantial majority.

On the question of cuts the NEC persuaded conference not to continue the campaign for restoration of the cuts. This, together with the passing of a resolution in favour of productivity agreements, should be a warning to activists on the question of further attacks on manning levels.

On the brighter side several attempts to persuade NALGO to retreat from issues such as Chile and Abortion were overwhelmingly defeated. Conference reasserted its belief in negotiating union membership agreements.

Throughout the conference both in the formal business and in informal discussion the discontent felt by the rank and file came through. Intol-

erance of weak NEC speakers and many resolutions seeking ways round pay policy revealed this. The NEC suffered several major defeats: their descriptive document on Whitleyism was rejected and they were defeated on two further issues.

The first arose from the action of the "Magnificent Seven", 7 NALGO members who went to court rather than through the democratic procedures, successfully blocking the March 9th strike against local government cuts in 1977. Conference overwhelmingly adopted making conference the supreme body of the Union, against NEC advice.

Blacklegs

The second matter concerned the activities of three blacklegs who had been active during the Edinburgh Gas Strike. The NEC had rescinded their decision to expel them and this was reversed by conference. The speaker, moving this resolution received a two minute ovation and the resolution was unanim-

ously adopted despite NEC opposition. Blacklegs have no future in NALGO.

Good resolutions on the NHS, racialism and direct works were passed, but on the other hand conference decided not to hear the debate on Labour Party affiliation. It is a pity as the discussion at the Campaign for Nalگو Affiliation to the Labour Party (CNALP) meeting the night before conference was one of the best of the week—perhaps that is what the anti-lobby are afraid of—thorough discussion of NALGO's political role.

In conclusion '78 conference saw magnificent advances in NALGO's development as a trade union. Acceptance of a further year of wage cuts will only increase the frustration and anger of the rank and file members.

Activists throughout the union must channel this anger so that policies more suited to the needs of rank and file members will be adopted and acted upon.

By Ronnie Stevenson
(Strathclyde Branch, personal capacity)

UNITE RAIL UNIONS

Report by Bob Young
(NUR Delegate)

The National Conference of Permanent Way, Signal and Telegraph, Canal and Overhead Traction grades was highlighted by two fraternal greetings from Jon Ingham, vice-chairman of the LPYS on the first day and Harry Cowans, NUR sponsored MP.

Jon Ingham brought off a loud round of applause as he congratulated the NUR's stand against the National Front, "and this should be taken up by the other unions". He touched upon the vital problems facing the working class and informed the conference about the L.P. political broadcast on youth, dealing mainly with racialism and unemployment.

The response by the delegates was magnificent with a standing ovation. Over 80 names and addresses of delegates were collected with pledges that LPYS leaflets could be sent, and they will distribute them to the young NUR members in their branches.

Frank Cannon, Ass. Gen. Sec. NUR also addressed the conference and felt that it is time we should have one union for British Rail Industry but could not see this happening for a long time to come.

One delegate suggested that a basic minimum wage of £60, a 35 hour week, retirement at 60 and breaking the pay policy would bring the unions together, instead of the management being allowed to divide the unions, squabbling over a limited amount of money.

During the debate on contract labour, demands for nationalisation of contract firms were made as well as industrial action being called for. Contract labour undermines BR labour because there is no pension or job security, and it is only hired casually. One delegate pointed out to Frank Cannon that this limits the amount of cash available when the unions negotiate for pay rises.

Roland Boyes, prospective Labour Party candidate for

Scarborough addressed the delegates during a special meeting and listened to their views. He thought that nationalisation under its present form is unsatisfactory because it is controlled by the wrong hands which is the main set-back to transport and industry.

The NUR has been called a sleeping union but it is really awakening now. Over 50 Militants were sold during the two day conference.

Scottish teachers work to rule

Thousands of Scottish primary teachers will be officially working to rule next August.

The EIS, the largest Scottish teachers' union, has been negotiating for a maximum of 25 for composite classes (more than one age group) for over two years. At this year's EIS AGM, delegates voted by a large majority against the advice of the Executive, for action to force management to take notice. Composite classes amount to part-time education and the cuts in education spending mean they are on the increase.

Delegates also called on the EIS to be prepared to support a no-cover policy in case of teacher absence. These two resolutions represent an important victory for the membership. For the first time since the 1975 Houghton strikes, Scottish teachers will be asked to take action themselves in defence of their conditions.

For the first time, too, the EIS has taken a positive step in support of unemployed

teachers. Nearly 2,000 college leavers will have no jobs this August. The composite class action and the no-cover policy could force local authorities to employ more teachers.

The EIS has still a long way to go before it can claim to be giving a real lead. Resolutions specifying a reduction in class sizes, attempting to democratise the union, demanding large flat-rate wage increases and a public sector alliance on salaries were defeated. The Executive also held on to its policy that EIS members should cross official picket lines.

Undoubtedly this year's AGM represented a small step forward. It showed that, although Scottish teachers have not been hit by the cuts as hard as our English colleagues, timidity has to a certain extent been dispelled. One sign of a more aggressive attitude was the passing of a resolution demanding access to teachers' records.

By Catherine Burns
(Angus EIS Local Association)

Militant

MINERS DEMAND FIGHTING LEAD

By Ian Isaac
(Sec, St John's
Lodge NUM,
S Wales Area—
personal capacity)

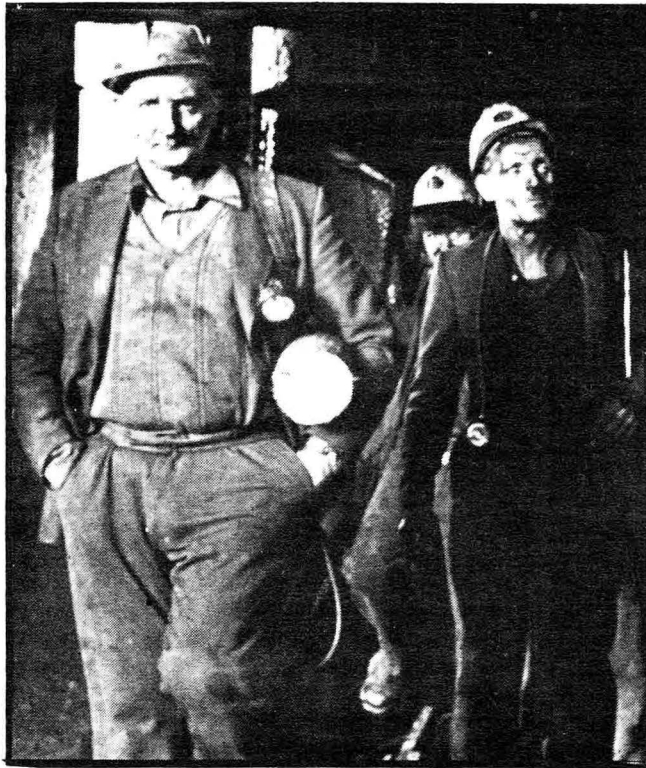
The annual Conference of the NUM meets this year with the question of wages and union democracy again to the fore. The fact that South Wales are asking for £110 per week for faceworkers and Scotland calling for £135 per week, reflects the mood of the rank and file.

With inflation expected to accelerate again by the new year, these resolutions must not be diluted into vague appeals for 'substantial' rises we 'seek to achieve'. The next

wage claim should represent a clawing back of the living standards that were achieved in 1974, eroded over the four years of wage restraint.

Since Christmas many of the areas have reluctantly operated the incentive bonus scheme. This amounted to a poor substitute for decent wages in the coal industry and represents the most serious threat to the unity of the NUM since the 1950s.

In South Wales, as 'Militant' supporters in the NUM warned, the incentive bonus scheme has been used to



spotlight pits that are not 'paying their way' and are now being earmarked for closure. This amounts to a warning: what is happening in South Wales is about to happen in other areas in the coming months.

It makes a mockery of the promises of aid from the Department of Energy in the light of an increase in energy demand for the year 2000. The fact remains that consumption of coal in 1978 is likely to be at the 1967 level of

120 million tons ('The Miner' Feb/March 1978).

Mineworkers are not fooled by 'delightful' prospects for our industry when with the same breath the NCB embark on propaganda campaigns to close pits.

Areas like Yorkshire have promised support to South Wales in the event of fights against closures. This is the kind of solidarity that should come from the National Union itself and should be discussed at Conference this

year. The manoeuvres to introduce the productivity scheme, flying in the face of conference decisions, and the refusal to lead a fight on the wage claim, have raised sharply the question "who controls the union?"

The National Executive, as it stands, is entirely unrepresentative. Single pits have an NEC representative, while whole areas like Yorkshire, with well over 60,000 members, have only three places.

Resolution 3 from Yorkshire demands that on important issues the Executive should have the right to hold a card vote, on the basis of the actual numbers each delegate represents. This would end the situation where small areas and sections can overrule the vast majority of the membership.

But ultimately, the NEC itself must be completely reorganised. NEC members should be democratically elected at full area conferences, with the number of places for each section corresponding to its membership.

Three areas: South Wales, Scotland and Yorkshire, have moved amendments to resolution 1 from the Executive, demanding that all officials retire at 60 (the Executive proposes 65). Many miners will see this as the only way of getting rid of the present unelected and discredited right-wing leaders.

As a step in that direction, it must be supported. But it

does not really touch on the main issue. The union exists to serve the members, not the other way round. If officials do not carry out the members' wishes, we shouldn't have to put up with them till they retire!

Every official should be regularly elected, and subject to recall as any shop floor representative is. None should get more than the average wage of the face worker.

This is the only way to guarantee committed officials who defend the members' interests, know the problems and respond to the demands of the rank and file. That is the way to ensure a fighting leadership and a democratic, powerful union. Then we will be armed to fight closures, and save jobs.

But at the end of the day, only when the coal industry is integrated with other energy industries and run by elected representatives of the working class, will energy needs be planned for and satisfied, and mineworkers have security of employment with a decent wage. This is the programme the NUM must take up.

The message from Conference should be loud and clear. £135 per week for face workers, across the board increases for other grades and wages linked to inflation. The NEC should gather all the resources of the union to fight pit closures big or small, appealing to the labour movement for support if necessary.

BRISTOL

By Robin Clapp
(LPYS Rep,
SW Region Labour
Party Executive)

MASS MARCH AGAINST FASCISTS

The build-up to the Bristol Labour Party Young Socialists' demonstration against racialism and fascism on July 1st has really gathered momentum in the last few weeks.

The LPYS have distributed 20,000 leaflets and got an excellent reception, especially among black and Asian youth.

The Pakistan Association secretary, Mr Ahmed, has written with a £10 donation, and has said: "The leaflets have been translated and distributed, the details have gone out over the radio and our community have been instructed to support."

The T&GWU distributed a leaflet to all branches and included a statement from the T&GWU General Secretary, opposing the National Front and saying that it will take action "...against any members involved in any provocative racist activity..."

In addition to this the AUEW-TASS No 17 Division have pledged support and sent a £5 donation. The Rolls Royce shop stewards' banner will be present along with several others.

Two of Bristol's MPs—Ron Thomas and Tony Benn—have agreed to march as have several councillors. Bristol Anti-Nazi League are giving their full support.

The demo starts in St Georges Park at 11.30 am and will be marching through the main black and Asian areas of Bristol to finish with a rally at the Corn Exchange at 2 pm where Nick Bradley and Tony Benn will be among the speakers.

The tremendous response for the demo is the answer to those right-wing officials and local Tories-in-Labour-disguise who have refused to support our initiative, or have even tried to obstruct it.

We will march under the united banner of the labour and trade union movement of Bristol around the slogans of the LPYS:

End racial discrimination—repeal racist immigration Acts.

Ban the NF and other fascists from municipal buildings and open spaces.

Stop the Nazis
Black and white-workers unite

Fight unemployment—with socialist policies.
JOIN US ON JULY 1st—ALL TU/LP BANNERS WELCOME.

RIP OFF

[Continued from page 1]

Telephones (a subsidiary of the American giant ITT), and Telephone Cables (mostly owned by GEC)—managed to sell the Post Office £450 millions-worth of cable an equipment.

In the same period, the average profits of the 'big four' appeared to be three or four times higher than average industrial profits. So even after paying back £9 million, they still made fat profits from a state-owned industry.

For years, the 'big four' milked the PO through "fixed price contracts" and "bulk agreements". The government's Auditor General, for example, found that when in 1968-69 the PO bought back branch exchange equipment from a non-agreement firm, prices were 23% below the estimated prices.

In a reply to Jeff Rooker's Motion, Lord Thorneycroft tried to mitigate the big four's

"wrong arrangements" by referring to "the honourable intention of preserving stability and levels of employment."

What hypocrisy! While Plesseys and GEC were pushing up their profits by 125% and 104% respectively between 1971 and 1975, they were at the same time axing over 47,000 jobs between them.

Sir Keith Joseph, the Tories spokesman on industry, recently said that a Tory government would soon "reduce Post Office control of telecommunications" and open up more sections of the Post Office to "free enterprise".

Of course, the Tories don't want to de-nationalise the basic utilities like railways, gas, water, electricity, coal. Nowhere in the world have the capitalists been able to run these utilities at a profit. No they prefer these to be run at the taxpayer's expense for the benefit of big business.

But they want to pick the cherries out of the cake. That is why the Tories plan to "hive off" any part of any state industry where they think there will be juicy profits for big business.

If Thatcher's Tories get back and carry out their plans, the profit-making they got away with in the past—and the Post Office is undoubtedly only one such case—will seem like the small time swindles of a pavement con-man compared to the multi-million pound money spinners that will then be operated—at our expense.

If the Tories get their way, gas, electricity, rail fares, the

telephone, the post, and all the other services of the nationalised industries will cost us more. Tens of thousands of jobs will be lost through Tory 'rationalisation'. Services will get worse.

That is why the labour movement must prevent the return of a Tory government by fighting on socialist policies.

★ Open the books of the public industries: let's see

what really goes on; ★ Democratised the state firms with workers' control and management;

★ Nationalise, with minimum compensation on the basis of need, all the main suppliers of the state owned industries.

★ Use public ownership of the "commanding heights" of the economy to plan the economy to benefit working people.

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