

# Militant

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## THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR AND YOUTH

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# 1.5M JOBLESS BOSSES TO BLAME

Unemployment over the 1½ million mark again! Last month another 140,000 found themselves out of a job, swelling the dole queues to a scandalous 1,585,000.

The worst tragedy is the plight of the 243,000 young school leavers, willing and eager to start their first job, cynically left to endure the living death of unemployment, by the cold cash calculations of big business.

Factories have been closed, workers laid off and a fifth of British industrial capacity left to rust. Whole areas have been hit by hurricanes of redundancies and tidal waves of closures.

But this is not a natural disaster—it is those who own and control the factories who are responsible for this criminal waste and human misery.

The recent Labour Party youth broadcast on TV firmly pointed the accusing finger at the guilty men when it declared: "The real blame lies with the industrialists who, in their drive for profits, have cynically closed firms and thrown millions on the dole. The Labour Party's aim is the common ownership of the means of production so that control of these firms can be taken out of the hands of a few profiteers and tycoons."

The broadcast clearly touched a raw nerve in the boardrooms. The bosses' union, the CBI, wrote to the Labour Party complaining about the broadcast's "unfounded accusation", wailing that it's not their fault and putting all the blame on the workers!



## CBI SQUEALS AT YOUTH BROADCAST

The CBI simply repeat the old myth that "Excessive pay claims which lead to inflationary settlements can only make our goods more expensive and less competitive and worsen employment prospects". But when was the last time you won an "excessive" pay claim? Wages have been held down for three years—on the promise that this would solve unemployment.

The CBI double-talk is really incredible when you look at the facts. British wages are the lowest in Western Europe!

Britain has a highly skilled

industrial workforce being paid cheap wages, an unrivalled manufacturing experience, spare capital and unused industrial assets. So what stands in the way of the gates of empty factories being opened to those who demand work? Only the profit motive!

By  
**Brent Kennedy**

The CBI give the game away when they lecture, "The only realistic basis on which job-creating new investment

can be justified is the prospect that it will earn an adequate profit". So there we have it—unemployment is high because the bosses refuse to invest.

The senile decay of British capitalism is shown by the fact that whereas the average worker in Germany has £23,000 worth of machinery at his elbow and in Japan £30,000, a worker in Britain has to make do with old, second-rate machinery worth only £7,500.

Even with the lowest wage costs; even though they pay

big-time fiddles, tax concessions, and the £8,000 million tax debts written off by the government; even though they are given a present of over £20 million a day in subsidies—these parasites still hoard their gold and refuse work for the jobless.

Whilst blaming the workers for unemployment, in their desperation to keep their stranglehold on industry the bosses are now trying to block the trade unions' attempt to create jobs with a 35 hour

continued on  
page 2

### GIVE US YOUR REBATE

Excellent news has reached Militant in the last few days!

Firstly, readers are now rushing in donations in response to last week's special appeal for extra cash to protect our premises. Over £200 is on its way from Birmingham. £49 as a "first instalment" has arrived from Brighton.

The next time the NF thugs attack, it may not be just with bricks and slogans. No member of the labour movement can allow these fascists the satisfaction of putting a socialist paper out of production. Send YOUR contribution to safeguard the Militant and make it as big as you possibly can.

Perhaps the best news of all is that everyone who is at work has had a tax rebate! I. Warwick of Reading sent his £25 straight to the Militant with the comment that the Chancellor would surely be pleased to know that the rebates were going to a good cause!

SEND US YOUR TAX REBATE, or a very large part of it. ASK EVERYONE YOU KNOW TO GIVE SOMETHING FROM THEIRS. ACT NOW before it's too late and they've all been spent! Ensure the uninterrupted growth of our fighting Marxist weekly!!!

### INSIDE

POEU fight for 35 hour week... 15  
P.O. profits... 7  
Fight racialism... 3  
How women won the vote centre pages

The avowed aim of the reactionary United National Party Government installed last year is to turn Sri Lanka, with its long traditions of trade-unionism and democratic freedoms, into a haven for capitalist profiteering along the lines of Singapore, Hong Kong, or South Korea. Already they have inflicted savage cuts in welfare services and used police and thugs to attack strike pickets and student demonstrators. A new constitution has come into force, establishing a de facto Presidential dictatorship.

Now two new laws have been passed. One gives the President the arbitrary right to proscribe any organisation, without a hearing; even to protest at this banning would

constitute an offence. This is aimed at organisations "directly or indirectly...engaged in unlawful activity", a vague charge defined as action "prejudicial to internal security". It is common knowledge that this would include major strikes.

The other new law enables

the police to keep anybody in custody indefinitely, with bail granted only "in exceptional circumstances". The families of those arrested could starve for months on end.

The LSSP, the traditional mass workers' party now renewed with a Marxist leadership, has led the resist-

By **Vickremabahu Karunarathne**  
(Secretary, LSSP.)

ance to these attacks, and is bearing the full brunt of repression. Already a number of our members have been arrested for no legitimate

reason. They are held for days or weeks and then released without charge. On 3rd July, four of our Party full-time officials were arrested for putting up posters against these reactionary measures. It was two weeks before they were released on bail. They are still facing trial. It is clearly an attempt to harass and paralyse our Party's ability to function effectively.

These measures are being taken in preparation for a head-on confrontation with the Sri Lanka trade unions, who are threatened with virtual destruction by draconian labour laws that are in preparation. Only united efforts by the entire trade union movement can thwart this. At the same time, vicious com-

munal conflicts have been stirred up to persecute the Tamil minority and divide the masses.

We appeal for moral and material help for the defence of democratic rights in Sri Lanka. The mobilising of public opinion in Britain, particularly within the Labour Party and the trade unions, would be of tremendous help to us. Please do whatever you can to publicise our struggle. We also appeal to you to send us funds to carry on the struggle against the reactionary measures of the Government.

Messages, resolutions and cash should be sent to the Secretary, LSSP [UK branch], 19 Hawthorne Avenue, Palmers Green, London N.13.

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லங்கா சமசமாயக் கட்சி  
**LANKA SAMASAMAJA PARTY**

## urgent appeal

# RUSSIAN TRIALS

## 36 YEARS JAIL FOR DISSENT

Enough crocodile tears to fill an ocean have been shed by politicians and journalists of all the capitalist countries over the fate of the three Russian dissidents who have been given jail sentences totalling 36 years.

Political leaders and editorial writers who have for years supported, or at least turned a blind eye to brutal dictatorships in South Africa, Brazil, Iran, Zaire and Chile, where "human rights" are strangled in the grip of military-police repression, have been bewailing and moralising over the scandal of Shcharansky, Ginzburg and Pyatakus.

It is easy to understand, therefore, their fury at one of their own kind, US Ambassador Andrew Young, who has exposed their cant and hypocrisy, by proclaiming that in the "land of freedom" itself "there are in our prisons hundreds of people, perhaps even thousands, that I would call political prisoners".

He quoted his own case; "Ten years ago I was myself tried in Atlanta for having organised a protest movement."

Yet today, Young is a leading representative of the class that put him behind bars. The ruling class of the USA is cynically exploiting his reputation as a Civil Rights activist and supporter of Black liberation struggles in Africa, to present an image of American imperialism which masks its real role, both in the US and in the world, in order to win support from black African political leaders and head off the mass movement of workers and peasants which is sweeping across the colonial world.

American big business don't need to use the kind of totalitarian methods of the Russian bureaucracy. Their power is maintained through economic domination and the lies of the mass media which maintain the illusion that America is a "democracy", in which anyone can say what he likes about the government, provided of course that they don't start to do anything to change the basis of society.

The fact that Young can successfully pose as a friend of the oppressed, when representing the most rapacious ruling class in the world, is in no small part due to the kind of society presented as an alternative by the Soviet Union.

There, capitalist exploitation was ended in 1917. The economy is based on state ownership and planned production. Yet, politically there exists a most ruthless and totalitarian regime. The bureaucratic elite which rose to power under the leadership of Stalin, was forced to crush all actual or even potential opposition. This was especially true of all the former leaders of the Bolshevik Party who led the revolution and thus were linked with the traditions of workers' democracy which briefly flourished, even in the worst conditions of civil war and mass famine.

Opponents were exiled, imprisoned or shot, usually after travesties of trials. Millions of workers and peasants perished in slave labour camps. Russia presented a monstrous caricature of what socialism is.

There was no outcry then, from the capitalist leaders and press when the "Left Opposition" was being persecuted for defending the ideas of workers' democracy. Indeed the Western leaders stood by and let Stalin proceed.

After Stalin's death in 1953, some of the most blatant forms of repression ceased. But the domination of society by a small elite of privileged and powerful bureaucrats was not changed

at all, and these latest trials are yet another proof of this. What is remotely "socialist" or "communist" about condemning men to a living death in vile prisons or labour camps, starved and frozen, for the crime of expressing dissent?

It is not the dissidents themselves that the trials are primarily staged for. Though many are courageous individuals, they pose little of a threat. They are certainly not a cohesive movement, in some cases standing on quite opposite political platforms. Some like Shcharansky are Jews, demanding the right to emigrate; others are Christians, fighting against curbs on their right to worship as they wish, others are from national minorities, such as Lithuanians, Armenians, Ukrainians, who have suffered national oppression from the bureaucracy; others are intellectuals like Sakharov, protesting against restrictions on academic freedom; and a few, like Solzhenitsyn, are plain reactionaries, wanting to turn the clock back to the grim days of the old Tzarist theocratic regime.



Concentration camp on the Tvertsin River near Torzhok, 130 miles NW of Moscow in a converted monastery

Generally though, the dissidents defend the gains of the revolution. Whereas those like Solzhenitsyn and Sakharov, who want to move backwards, are treated gently by the regime and get fulsome praise in the West, those who defend socialism and attack the bureaucratic elite are treated more harshly and disowned by the West.

That is why the bureaucracy are terrified that unless they clamp down with the iron fist on every one of them, then the enemy they fear most, the working class, will rise in revolt.

They will have no friends in the capitalist press to back them up. Movements of workers receive virtually no publicity. Yet a movement is building up, of workers who are no longer prepared to carry on their backs the burden of a monstrous parasitical bureaucracy, which greedily devours a huge slice of the wealth they create and stifles and distorts the workings of the planned economy through bungling and corruption.

The capitalists of the West and the bureaucrats of the East are equally terrified at the spectre of a mass movement of the Russian workers. Already, the developments in Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968 and Poland in 1972 and today, have foreshadowed the mighty movements which impend in Russia itself, when the workers move into action. For them, no tears will be shed in Fleet Street or Wall Street.

The re-establishment of workers' democracy in the Soviet Union, will spell death not only to the elite of Russia, but to the imperialists of America, whose mask of democracy will be torn from their face forever, when the workers of the world can see the real democracy of the Russian workers in 1917 established once again.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

By Peter Hunt

# WHY WAS JOHN BOYLE SHOT?

The facts surrounding the killing of 16 year old John Boyle at Dunloy, Co. Antrim, by British troops have proved impossible for the Army to suppress or distort. The Boyles are farmers who discovered, in a graveyard near their land a hidden cache of weapons. They reported the find to the police. That was during the evening of Monday 10th July.

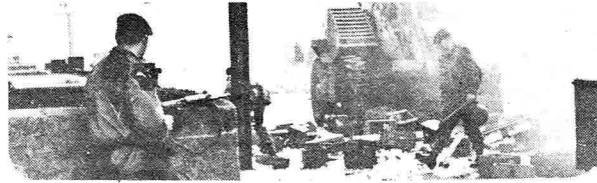
The next morning John Boyle, on his way to make hay with his brother, stopped at the Graveyard to see if the arms had been taken. It was a fatal curiosity.

Soldiers waiting in ambush for someone to come to collect the guns decided that this was their

involved but that he had been armed. In line with military regulations he had been challenged. He responded by pointing the gun and was shot. Then two other men arrived and were arrested and handed over to police.

It proved no more convincing than statement no 1. So it was modified. The claim that a challenge was given was dropped. According to the newest rewrite: "It was impracticable for the soldiers to issue a warning before firing as the man was ten yards from them pointing a rifle in their direction".

The fact that it was the Boyle family which reported the arms find in the first place has torn holes in all the army versions of the incident. The truth has proved impossible to conceal.



'errorist' and opened fire without warning.

John Boyle was hit five times, from, according to the army, a range of ten yards. His brother, who was nearby, came to investigate, and was forced by the soldiers to lie face down on the grass for two and a half hours. Later his father, who was at home, received a phone call from the police to warn him not to go near the graveyard.

He went to warn his two sons but arrived at the scene of the killing only to find himself arrested and forced to lie face down for an hour until the RUC arrived. Only then did he discover that his son's body had all the time been only a few feet away from where he had been forced to lie.

The first official statement said that a patrol had spotted three men acting suspiciously. The men, who were armed, were challenged. One pointed a rifle at the patrol which opened fire killing him.

As the facts, including a statement from the police that the Boyle family were innocent of any 'terrorist' activity, emerged, this account was rendered obsolete, and a new story emerged. Statement no. 2 declared that only one man had been

Secretary of State, Roy Mason, has expressed his "personal sorrow" that "a young man lost his life in such tragic circumstances". A police enquiry into the incident is promised. Faced with the mounting evidence against them, it is likely that the powers that be will use a limited form of enquiry to admit that a "mistake" was made in this case. It will be put down as a "ghastly error", "one of those unfortunate accidents of war" etc. Thus it will most certainly be presented as an "exceptional incident", "out of keeping with normal army behaviour" and the usual application of the "rule of law".

Indeed, from the point of view of the British authorities, a "terrible mistake" has been made—not in gunning down an innocent victim, but because they have done so in circumstances which cannot be covered-up. This is the "tragic blunder" which is causing the authors and architects of military policy to tear out their hair.

John Boyle's death has laid bare the repressive policies of the army, the hand of the British ruling class. Since the troops began to gain the upper hand in the ghettos, and because of the falling away of support from the

Provisional IRA, the screws of repression have been tightened. There can be little doubt that it is official policy to shoot anyone who can be implicated in any way with paramilitary activity.

That the army can get away with such a "shoot on sight" policy without provoking a massive reaction is an indication of the extent to which the activities of the Provisionals have alienated the people even of the Catholic areas. As is always the case, the foolhardy methods of individual terror have given the excuse and made fertile the soil for brutal repression.

However the labour movement both in Britain and in Ireland will stand aside and allow army brutality to continue at its own peril. The methods being used to crack organisations such as the Provisionals today are just the methods which the bosses would gladly use to hold in check the labour movement tomorrow.

The truth about repression in Northern Ireland must be made known. Police enquiries, army investigations, even so-called impartial Public Enquiries set up by the Government cannot be relied upon. The John Boyle death proved that the State machine uses all the propaganda resources at its disposal to hide the truth. The demand for a trade union inquiry into repression must be raised throughout the labour movements of Britain and Ireland.

The torture of prisoners in H Block in Long Kesh, the torture of suspects by the RUC in Castlereagh Police station and elsewhere, the murderous activities of the army, the constant stream of lies and misinformation fed from official sources—these are among the subjects which a trade union inquiry would have to investigate.

The information gathered by such an inquiry could be made the fuel for a powerful campaign by the labour movement for the withdrawal of the troops and the mobilisation by the NI trade union movement of a defence force of elected trade unionists disciplined and accountable to keep the peace, prevent prevent sectarian attacks. Such a step would enormously further the interests of both Catholic and Protestant workers.

## 1.5 million JOBLESS from page 1

week. If the bosses, through their outmoded capitalist system, cannot even provide everyone in society with the basic minimum of a job and a decent standard of living then let them stand aside and make way for those who can! Fearing precisely this, the CBI pinpoints the Labour youth broadcast's commitment to "common ownership of the means of production" for attack. In tones of barefaced blackmail, their

letter throws down the gauntlet to the labour movement.

"I would find it difficult to convince my members that they should continue this work if they were to feel that this broadcast foreshadowed a change in government policy". In other words the bosses would refuse to co-operate and would wreck the Labour government's economic plans.

Labour should take up the challenge! They should resist this open threat from the boardroom bully boys by carrying out its aim of nationalisation of the banks and industry, but with compensation only on the basis of proven need, and under

democratic workers' control. By taking over the top 200 monopolies and drawing up a socialist plan of production, a Labour Government could immediately cut the working week, guarantee jobs for all and raise living standards with a £70 minimum wage.

There is no better chance to make a start than the campaign for the 35-hour week. The POEU has given the lead. The TUC must mobilise every one of the 12 million members in the fight for this cut in hours, with no loss of pay, to create more jobs and take a great stride forward in the struggle to provide a decent life for all working people.

# FIGHT RACIALISM

## BRICK LANE

### Labour must defend Bengalis

The Bengali community in Brick Lane have responded with determination to the fascist murders and beatings, and the police harassment, to which they have been subjected over the last few months. These attacks have brought them out on the streets in an explosion of political activity for the first time.

20,000 came out on a protest march after the murder of Altab Ali, a factory worker. Huge mass meetings were held after the strangling in Brick Lane of Ashaq Ali, a local shopkeeper. Since then, Bengali brewery workers in the area have been brutally attacked by car-loads of thugs, as they left work.

It is clear that the squeamish appeals of liberals and do-gooders to the Bengalis to trust the police or ask for more patrols, are falling on deaf ears. For every fascist thug, five local Asian youths have been arrested for attempting to defend themselves! They are charged with "possessing offensive weapons", "threatening behaviour", and other acts entirely justified by the desperate situation they face. They have been refused bail or subjected to humiliating curfew restrictions. Police patrols have been intensified, only to subject the local population to further intimidation.

In this situation, who can blame the community for taking measures to ensure its own protection? A "Tower Hamlets Defence Committee" has been set up and has announced its intention to organise such measures.

However, there are grave dangers in leaving it to an ad-hoc body hastily scrambled together for the purpose, under the patronage of figures from the race-relations establishment. Inevitably, all kinds of freaks and outlandish fringe groups have tried to exploit the Bengalis' natural anxieties and clamber aboard the bandwagon. These kinds

## ANL CARNIVAL

Between 20,000 and 30,000 marched through Manchester last Saturday in the Anti-Nazi League carnival. The vast majority were young people who were not organised in the political movement previously. The Labour Party Young Socialists had the largest number of banners of any political organisation.

As with other ANL carnivals, it ended with a rock concert, in Alexandra Park. The spirit of the youth in Manchester was tremendous and was a clear proof that the fascists have very little support amongst young people at the moment.

By Gerry Lerner

By  
Roger Silverman

of sectarians have a vested interest in keeping the Asian workers away from the Labour movement by desperately persuading them that the white workers are incurably prejudiced against them. That is their only hope of creating a social base for themselves. The same goes for the professional spokesmen for the immigrant communities, on the Government payroll, who have a stake in fencing off the immigrants from the rest of the working class.

Socialists will of course defend any step taken by the community to protect itself. But we say: that is not enough! Simply to stand aside patronisingly acknowledging their "right" to self-defence means nothing. If it was left at that, local defence of the ghettos could only lead to incursions from local racists, "no-go" areas, ultimately even a "race war" which would spell catastrophe for the immigrants. In Northern Ireland, a minority amounting to one-third of the population has been given no real protection at all, by a sophisticated paramilitary army! How could the Bengalis of Brick Lane defend themselves if racism ever really got a mass basis?

We say: there is only one force in society strong enough to defend the livelihoods or ultimately even the lives of workers, and that is the mighty trade union movement, 12 million strong. The duty of socialists is not to mouth platitudes but to take action to unite the working class and ensure the protection of every worker under attack.

The LPYS and the Marxist tendency in the Labour Party stands for defence of the Asian community not by self-appointed saviours, but by the mass organisations of the working class. We are pressing that policy in the only place where it matters—within these mass organisations!

That is why the meeting held by Tower Hamlets Labour Party on Tuesday 11th July marked an important step in turning the Party out towards the Bengalis—(something shamefully neglected in the past), demonstrating the solidarity of the labour movement with them, and beginning to win their confidence. Many Bengalis are staunch trade unionists and they clearly understand the responsibilities of the labour movement on this question.

150 people came to the meeting, at least half of them Bengalis who participated energetically in the very full

and free discussion. Kevin Fernandes of the PNP Youth spoke, along with Editor of the "Asian", and Tom Doyle of the Tower Hamlets Labour Party took the chair.

Many local workers, black and white, complained bitterly of the neglect and squalor of the Brick Lane neighbourhood and the failings of the local Labour Council. But when representatives of the sects intervened to try to turn this anger at the record of Labour leaders locally and nationally into a hostility towards the Labour Party and the white working class as a whole, they met a stony silence from the Bengali workers, who enthusiastically applauded the demands of speakers from the LPYS and MILITANT for a fighting socialist programme as the only answer to racism. They appreciated the limitations of merely sentimental and non-political campaigns like those of the Anti-Nazi League, and the value of stepping up the fight within the mass organisations themselves for action by the entire labour movement to defend the immigrant communities and stamp out the virus of racism and fascism.

Dozens of Bengalis signed up to ask for more details about how to join the Labour Party, and there was a brisk sale of MILITANT, the PNP Bulletin, and MILITANT pamphlets on Fascism and on India.



photo: Julian McKittrick

## FASCISTS OFF THE STREETS

About 2,000 people occupied the end of Brick Lane in a determined and successful attempt to prevent the National Front from selling their fascist scribbles on this, their traditional site. For several years the NF have used this area on the pretext of selling papers, but in reality in order to provoke and hurl abuse at the largely Bengali community who live

here. Despite the large numbers of police who were drafted in to harass and control the demonstrators, the NF, for the first Sunday ever, failed to appear. For the local Asians, tired and sickened by continuing attacks on their families and property by fascist thugs, have begun to organise themselves and drive them from the area. Monday's East

End strike by black and white workers in protest against un-checked racist attacks was a historical step on a local scale. The whole labour movement must now live up to its responsibility by initiating measures to ensure that the fascists will never again appear in Brick Lane or elsewhere.



Labour Party Young Socialists on the Enfield march against racialism on Saturday

photo: Julian McKittrick

## LONDON LABOUR CONFERENCE

"It was as good as a Militant Readers' Meeting"—with one difference—it was held in the House of Commons Grand Committee Room, and the London Labour Party Executive mobilised the turn out! This was the reaction of one young comrade after the London Labour Party Conference on Racialism last Thursday. About 150 delegates were present, from Labour Parties, Trade Unions and a number of other Labour movement organisations fighting racialism.

Bob Faulkes (Hackney Central LP) said that the Anti Nazi League demonstration showed the mood that existed amongst young people to fight racialism and fascism, but that this movement must be

led by the labour movement. He pointed out that campaigns like that come and vanish, but what counts in the long run is a political programme. Peter Jarvis (NGA) called for the campaign to be taken out onto the streets with a big Labour movement demonstration. This sentiment was echoed by most of the 18 speakers from the floor.

There was a certain amount of non-political personal criticism of Sid Bidwell MP, who was present because of his support for immigration controls. He said that "the slogan of an open door" won't wash and rejected the "idealism" of the young people. But it was pointed out by the nine Militant supporters who got in to speak from the floor that immigration is in no way the cause of the problems facing

working class people at the moment.

In opposition to racist myths put over by the media the Labour movement must fight around socialist policies to solve these problems. Chris Hill (LPYS London Chairman) and Alan McAskill (Islington Central) drew attention to the tremendous work that the LPYS had done in campaigning against racialism and the NF. They called on the Labour Party to support the initiative of its youth wing.

Peter Walker (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate Brentford & Isleworth) said that he wanted to see a broad based campaign against racialism. However Cathy Sandler (St Marylebone CLP) and Ian Gelman (Paddington) pointed out that socialist campaigning was the key to

building a successful struggle against racialism. "We have to answer the fears of working people". "The popular fronts against fascism in the thirties were defeated", said Ian, "we need a socialist front of workers organisations".

Kevin Fernandes (Hackney North CLP) said "Racialism is no longer just a question of discrimination in jobs and education, now its a question of lives, Asians are getting killed by fascist thugs in the East End. The Labour Party has a duty to defend the immigrant community wherever danger arises".

In summing up the conference Arthur Latham MP said he felt a number of good ideas had come out of the discussion. He called for organisations of the movement to take local initiatives on political education against racialism. And he said "We must be prepared to go to factory gates when workers are attacked, like the brewery workers in East London two weeks ago. Unfortunately he tried to ignore the clear call of the conference for a demonstration organised by the Labour movement.

No doubt, though, in response to the ideas thrashed out at this extremely useful conference, more and more of the rank and file of the movement will learn the need to push the movement to take action on this vital question. The action taken by the YS will be increasingly followed by more and more of the organised working class.

By Ed Bober

London Labour Party

Walthamstow Anti-Racialist Carnival

Sunday 23rd July, 1pm—6pm. Selbourne Park, Walthamstow. "Black Slate", Leyton Buzzard", "Clappe Claw", "New World Steel Band". Puppets, Fun art bus, Braodside theatre dancers, sideshows and food.

# "The LPYS's Ideas are the

# Same as Mine"

## BUILDING WORKER AT LABOUR'S YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOL

This year's Youth Summer School, organised by the Labour Party, although small in numbers, represented an enormous success for the ideas and policies of the Labour Party Young Socialists. Almost entirely made up of young workers, and working class students, time and time again the ideas of the LPYS and Militant were enthusiastically taken up in the discussions.

In contrast, when Nigel Stanley (Chairman, National Organisation of Labour Students) scoffed at the YS's policies—"Workers will not agree with the YS's ideas, they're utopian"—he was sharply interrupted by John Boyd (NUM) who pointed out that he "had just come across 20 young workers that did agree with the YS!"

Kevin Ramage [LPYS National Committee] interviewed several of the participants in the school:

Jose Walker (Rugeley LPYS and NUS): "Nigel Stanley should keep his ideas to university students! He didn't want to know about working class students in techs."

Gerard Benton (Luton E. LP): "If you put across simple, clear arguments, then that's how you win people. It's no good putting across middle class arguments to win the working class. The call to nationalise the 250 monopolies was good, and a £65 minimum wage, and a 35 hour week with no loss of pay. They're fundamental to any socialist programme."

### Workers' Control

Ian Emerson (Bear Park NUM, Durham): "I like the ideas for recall of MPs firstly. Young people should get more involved in the Labour Party. Nationalisation of the

200 monopolies hasn't really been explained—the capitalists will be in uproar—we've got to beat that.

"I believe in workers control very much. It would be very beneficial. Too many bosses are coming in who don't know about the job. Nine tenths of the men are better qualified than the boss. The bosses have never worked where I work—he's come up through the ranks. He knows the job. That's what we need."

Clive Rowlands (AUEW Hoover, Methyr Tydfil): "The main aim that has stood out is nationalisation. It's impressed me, the YS's stand on it. Also the lack of co-ordination in the Labour Party—that struck me—it gives you danger pains. Look—the SSU [Swedish Socialist Youth] has about 150 fulltimers—while the YS has only 1. How can you manage?"

"I like the 'Militant'. I get

## Kevin Ramage Reports



photo: Julian McKittrick

the odd one. There's no distracting adverts or "con-articles". I'll be taking five a week now for the factory."

John Boyd (NUM): "Some days I've agreed with everything. The LPYS were good. They had the right approach. Nationalisation?—It's where to start."

Tony Harris (UCATT): "The YS's ideas are the same as mine. We'll never get the Nationalisation of the 200 monopolies with the wrong leadership. You've got the police, and army, and the private armies against you! We've got to mobilise the trade unions and prepare ourselves."

The eagerness to discuss the road to socialism, was shown when the discussion on NOLS policy lapsed into a discussion on the 1926 General Strike, and the enormous revolutionary possibilities which existed at that time.

Several times through the week, the ideas of the LPYS

of the need for a clearcut socialist programme, were sharply contrasted against the woolly ideas of the "Tribune" group of MP's—for partial nationalisation, state shares in firms and import controls. Overwhelmingly the school backed the need for the YS's programme.

Lynne Cuthbert (GMWU) explained: "If you've got to fight to take over 25 monopolies as 'Tribune' says, — indeed it'll take a hell of a fight just to get the banks—why not go the whole way? You'll have to mobilise the working class and the trade unions to take over 1 or 2 firms, so we might as well take the cake—after all we made it—AND the bakery—we built it!"

If we control all the major firms, then the capitalists won't be able to mess us about. You don't skin a tiger claw by claw do you? The same applies to capitalism."

Arthur Greaves (Yeovil LP

and ASTMS) summed the school up: "The idea is to develop the LPYS. This is what the course should be for."

For this reason the control of the course should be transferred from the Political Education dept. of the Labour Party, to the National Youth Officer (Andy Bevan),

With the organisation and running of the school under the democratic control of the National Committee of the LPYS, a real drive could be made to expand the school, and develop it as a launching pad for new YS branches.

Three comrades at the Summer School related their own experiences at work to 'Militant':

# THE WORKING DAY in shops building sites pits

A miner from Durham described how the Duchess of Kent visited his pit: "The face was whitewashed at a cost of thousands of pounds. At the same time the "hangers-on", visited the training centre, even the Chief of Police—what the hell was he there for?"

"For a week before we were cleaning up, and they had painters in. The instructors were against it too. My Inspector had been wanting equipment for training for several years—he'd been told it couldn't be got. Then they spend all that money on paint, carpets, red white and blue curtains—I remember them!"

The toilets were all done out—cushions on the seat and all. But we still can't get our training equipment."

Tony Harris [UCATT]:

"I'm all for the nationalisation of the building industry—it's terrible at the moment. I have to travel 30 miles each way to work. You could get rid of the lump. The building firms have started a campaign against nationalisation. The banks have adverts, and the building industry. What's the Labour Party doing to counteract this?"

"A massive programme of modernising and building homes is needed. Not just old, but new homes. Many new estates built by contractors need pulling down and rebuilding. We need nationalisation."

Martin Errington (Dover LP and USDAW):

"I work in the Co-op. I hate it. It's a big rip-off. You know how much things cost. I get £26 take home. If you are 17 you get just over £20."

The Co-op is run just like any other firm. They use shareholders as an excuse to hold the workers down. There's no co-operation at all. Only exploitation."

# RE-INSTATE THIS YS BRANCH

Last Thursday at the General Management Committee of Bristol North East Labour Party the Executive Committee moved a resolution to suspend the Young Socialist's branch. This move had been made both on the Executive and the GMC without any notification to the Young Socialists. The YS were not even present at the Executive Committee to answer allegations. This completely flouts party rules, as we have stated in our appeal to the National Executive.

Such allegations as were made at the GMC were extremely vague and unsubstantiated—such as "concern was expressed on the Executive over the new YS programme of meetings" and "they've been breaking the rules for years."

## BRISTOL NORTH EAST

The main charge was that branch members participated in the Bristol Joint YS—an ad-hoc committee to organise activities on an all-Bristol basis. For instance the Joint YS branches had just held a demonstration against Racism which went through Bristol NE constituency.

Not only were attempts made by Bristol NE right-wing to undermine the demonstration but now they suspend the YS branch for participation of its members in the demo. This demonstration against racism had the support of the Bristol labour movement (three Bristol Labour Parties, AUEW

Rolls Royce stewards, NUPE, TGWU, TASS and Bristol District Labour Party] and immigrant organisations [PNP, Pakistan Association, and Bengalis].

Bristol North-East constituency has the highest immigrant population in the South-West. How do the right-wing expect to build the party?

The voting on a YS amendment to stop suspension was as close as 13-11. No wonder we weren't given notice to defend ourselves!

We will not rest until re-instated. We don't want a dead Party. If "stirring up trouble" means recruitment and campaigning on socialist policies to win black and white workers, young and old, then the whole party must stir up trouble.

**Steve Pool**

Secretary,  
Bristol North East LPYS



photos: Julian McKittrick

Labour's Youth in action—last month's demonstration against racism and unemployment in Leicester

# MILITANT NOTICES

**HARLOW Militant Meeting.** "Nationalised industries—success or failure?". Speaker: Irving Nicol (TSSA and Huntingdon LP). Chairman: Danny Purton (Chairman Harlow TUC). Thursday July 27th, 8pm. Harlow Town Hall.

**HARLOW Militant Summer Party.** Saturday 29th July, 8pm. till late. At Danny & Linda Purton's, 9 Willowfield, Harlow. Drink, Dance, Nosh, Chat. Entrance 25p.

**ROTHERHAM Militant Public Meeting.** "Eastern Europe: bureaucratism or workers' power?" Hear Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council). Thursday 3rd August, 7.30pm, "Tollbar", Rotherham Rd, Maltby.

**NEWHAM Militant Readers Meeting.** Tuesday July 25th, 8pm. "Militant and the fight for socialist policies". Speaker: Bob Faulkes (Militant Editorial Board). Labour Rooms 241e, High St. North, East Ham, London E12 (nr E. Ham tube station).

**BLACKPOOL Militant Public Meeting.** "The Coming General Election". Thursday 3rd August, 7.30pm in the Kings Arms, Talbot Road. Speaker: Brian Ingham (Militant industrial correspondent).

**SUNDERLAND Marxist Discussion Group.** Every other Friday starting at 8pm. For further details contact Diane English, Sunderland 44365

## WORLD BOOKS

Book service for the Labour Movement  
New Publications.

Grant—Menace of fascism. 40p  
Taafe—Cuba: analysis of the revolution. 10p  
Silverman—Coming revolution in India. 10p  
Please add 5p postage for each pamphlet.

**SALFORD Marxist Discussion Meetings:** August 2nd—"What is Marxism?"; August 16th—"Where is Britain Going?"; August 30th—"Workers Control and Management". Contact Dave Farrar. 061 7376751

# LEFT & RIGHT

## SOME JUST WATCH

The one and a half million people on the dole may be interested to know that the Stubbs painting "The Labourers" which depicts a group of "common folk" at work, was sold for the handsome sum of £300,000 at the recent Sotheby's extravaganza. Actually providing the jobs is out of the question of course, but owning an artist's impression of what work looks like is a useful asset in these inflationary times.

So, in one respect we'll be doing the "Sotheby's Set" a favour when we do away with capitalism. We'll provide them all with useful jobs. Then instead of merely looking at pictures, they'll be able to experience the real thing.

## TORY PRESCRIPTION

The Tory axe doesn't stop at jobs, wages and the pittance payed to the unemployed. In 1971, as Minister of State for Education, Thatcher took the milk from the mouths of school-children. Now Tory councils are refusing to supply it again, even though it will cost them nothing!

Exploiting the fact that the government hasn't guaranteed to meet the full costs after March '79, about twenty Tory-controlled councils have rejected the offer of free milk for 7-11 year olds, subsidised by the EEC and the government, promised in the April budget. Local parents, Labour Parties and even the National Farmers union are up in arms (though the farmers are more anxious about their profits than the kids).

In Hereford—Worcester, the home of the famous dairy cattle, the local Tories have gone one better. On top of refusing milk to the majority, they have just decided to buy milk to give the children at fee-paying independent schools.

"I am quite happy for the children to have the free milk if every child is indeed suffering from bowed legs, deformed long bones and other symptoms of rickets" announced a Lancashire Tory councillor on the Area Health Authority. Perhaps he thinks the hospital waiting lists aren't long enough. The Tory medicine men seem hell-bent on making sure that even children are driven back into the misery of the 1930's.

## WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS-

Infiltration at Sunday school. False ecumenism and left wing influence in the World Council of Churches! So alarmed are forty-two church leaders at these "anti-Christian" trends that they gathered in Britain last week to launch "The International Network of Confessing Christians", to challenge the "Marxist" threat.

They are particularly horrified that the World Council of Churches has "morally and financially" supported the liberation movements in Rhodesia. The Network, made up of delegates from New Zealand, Germany, the USA and—you guessed—South Africa and Rhodesia, don't go into detail about where they get their money. "We have funds—enough to set up" said the Reverend Shaw, a South African Methodist Minister.

Like Moses, they want to turn back the tide. They have their miracle converts. One of the speakers at the meeting, studied in Czechoslovakia as a young man and returned to Rhodesia "determined to destroy Christianity". He saw the light, and now dedicates his time to "trying to reconcile the people of Rhodesia to one another".

But it will need more than prayers, and even hard cash, to convince black workers in Rhodesia that Ian Smith has their best interests at heart, and that Capitalism is God-ordained.

# TOLPUDDL MARTYRS

## - A Lesson for today

As the banners of Trade Unions, Labour Parties and LPYS' from all over the South and Southwest of England assemble on July 23rd, for the annual event to commemorate the Tolpuddle Martyrs, we will do well to recall the history of our movement, in order to learn the lessons for today.

George Loveless and his five comrades: James Loveless, Thomas and John Standfield, James Hammett and James Brine are an example to us today, an example which some of our Trade Union and Labour leaders could do well to learn from, especially over such issues as Grunwick, Clay Cross etc.

Arrested in 1834 for the 'crime' of forming a trade union, the agricultural workers from the Dorset village of Tolpuddle, were fine examples of working class fighters.

The bosses of the time, using their political party and the judiciary, were determined to smash the trade unions. Michael Foot's recent speech about the use of judges against the labour movement caused a howl of rage from the speech writers of the Tory press. Perhaps they don't like to hear the truth about their state machine—although Foot hurriedly assured them that he was only referring to history!

The courts sentenced the 6 men to 7 years transportation on trumped up, outdated laws. But that was the

**Brian Beckingham**  
Vice-Chairman  
Bristol SE Labour Party

beginning of the mobilisation of an enormous movement of opposition. An estimated 200,000 marched through London, as part of the protest and the mass movement forced the remission of the sentences and after 3 years of slavery, as political prisoners, the Tolpuddle Martyrs returned to England.

Our movement of 12 million organised workers has come a long way since those days. We are stronger and more powerful than ever before. Yet we still live in the same type of class society as then. Still when in crisis, the bosses try to heap all the problems and penalties onto the backs of the workers.

### Today

They will once again use every method—including their state machine—the police and the judiciary—to attempt to defeat our movement.

Today, because of our strength, they prefer more subtle methods, like using our own Trade Union

and Labour Party leaders to carry out their dirty work, as with the last 4 years of wages restraint. But behind the facade of democracy, still, when needed, stand the weapons of the ruling class, in the form of the judges, top police officers, civil servants, military tops etc.

Perhaps in this context it is no accident that this Labour Government, to its discredit, has agreed to pay massive pay RISES to these 'top people'.

As capitalism, in the next few years, faces a deepening economic crisis the ruling class will more and more resort to using the state machine, staffed at its tops by public school types and loyal servants of the bosses, to attack the working class movement.

Already, when we are but at the early stages of crisis, in the last few years we have witnessed increasing use of the police (as at Grunwick picket line) and the judges (Shrewsbury, Pentonville five dockers, Newham NE LP, Clay Cross, Grunwick, UPW right to strike). Time and time again the lesson of Tolpuddle is driven home: we have to rely on our strength not appeals to bewigged judges and lords.

The defeats at Grunwick were due to the timidity of the TUC and APEX leadership. These leaders did all in their power to head off and divert the mass picketing and solidarity action that could

have easily won this battle. Yet the case of the jailing of the five dockers under the Tory Industrial Relations Act shows that when the movement mobilises, the ruling class retreats; and in less than 24 hours these five were released on some pretence or other.

Under a new Tory government, led by Mrs Thatcher, the bosses under the pressure of economic crisis, are preparing for enormous attacks on the TU and Labour movement. Using the kept Tory press as a weapon as well, they are whipping up every possible preparation for an enormous onslaught on our living standards and our organisations. With our strength today we can be confident that they will be defeated.

But let us move might and main to make sure they do not even get the chance. At Tolpuddle 1978, let us resolve to defeat the Tories in the coming General election, but not to have a Labour government in to do the Tories' dirty work. Let us resolve to intensify the struggle to democratise our own movement; we need a leadership accountable to the membership both in the trade unions and in the Labour Party which could then mobilise the enormous strength we have to transform society, to end capitalism once and for all and end the class rule that existed in Tolpuddle in 1834 and is still with us in 1978.

## 'Decision' Inside the Communist Party

By Bob Labi

Hampstead Labour Party

Starting this week, Granada TV are showing a documentary programme in three parts on last year's Communist Party Congress. The Communist Party leaders obviously hoped that by letting the cameras in both public and private Party meetings they would be able to show the Party's new 'open', 'democratic' character.

But the many labour movement activists who no doubt will watch these programmes to find an answer to the question, where is the CP going, will be disappointed. The programmes do not deal with the general problems of the Party, but tend to concentrate on particular narrow aspects and thus tend to trivialise the issues. As the programmes do not even provide clear background information to the struggles which it shows, they could appear to viewers not having a detailed knowledge of the CP like a Harold Robbins saga of endless struggles between differing groups.

The series gives the appearance that one of the key issues at the CP Congress was the issue of the Soviet Union, which results in the last programme having an anti-soviet bias. The CP leaders are correctly shown as trying not to embarrass the Stalinist rulers of the USSR, but as no Marxist alternative to the regime in the USSR is put forward, the viewer is left with a general anti-communist slant.

The main issues at the Conference were the 'Broad

## TV REVIEW:



Bert Ramelson, CP Industrial Organiser, talks to Congress Arrangements Committee photo: Granada TV  
25,293 last November and 29,943 in June 1973. The Young Communist League had only 1,042 members in May compared with 1,638 last year.

### Three trends

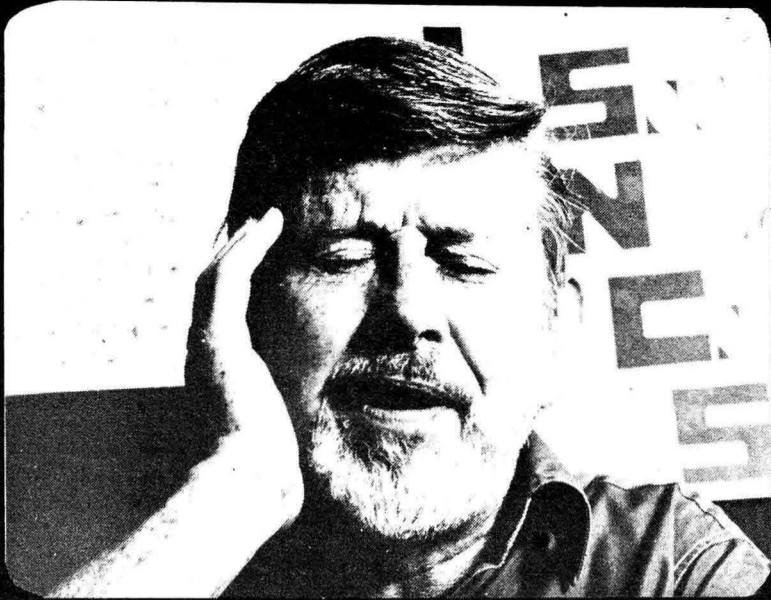
We should always remember that these are the paper figures, the real membership is much lower, last year the Congress was told that only 56% of the 'members' paid any subs! The Morning Star's sales fell by a further 1,300 in the first five months of this year.

However these programmes do give a glimpse of the completely cynical world of the CP leaders and the manoeuvres which go on behind the scenes.

This series, while not letting any of the leaders of the three tendencies in the CP [the existing leadership, the right wing 'Revolutionary Democratic trend' and the pro Moscow old guard Stalinists] clearly spell out their ideas, shows the complete lack of any idea of either what a Marxist policy is or how to fight for it.

It is perhaps noteworthy that the only other tendency shown, briefly, in the series is the 'Militant', a sign of the increasing influence we have in the labour movement.

'Decision' by Granada TV. Film 1, 'Liberty' will be shown at 8.30 on July 25th, with parts two and three, entitled 'Equality' and 'Fraternity', following on August 1st and 8th.



# the workers' music

## INTERVIEW WITH FOLK SINGERS EWAN McCOLL AND PEGGY SEEGER

**Folk music is part of the history and tradition of working people in Britain. Over centuries it has expressed their feelings about life and their struggle for change. That tradition is still alive today, and recently over 120 people crowded into a Militant Folk Night at Wallasey Labour Club to hear Ewan MacColl and Peggy Seeger prove the point.**

Afterwards Ewan and Peggy spoke to John McCabe and Alan Runswick of Wallasey Labour Party.

**John:**—How did you first get involved in singing folk music?

**Ewan:**—I've always sung a number of traditional songs because both my father and mother had songs. They were

both Scots. My father was a magnificent singer—an iron-moulder who was well known in the Ironfounders' Union as a militant and as a good singer. It helped his political work in the Union that he was a good singer.

I assimilated the songs at home, at Hogmanay and so on, without realising that they were folk songs, and when I

got older and started to write songs I still didn't know anything about traditional songs.

The earliest songs I wrote were for factory newspapers, from 1928 onwards. At one time I was writing satirical political songs for five different newspapers. Only some were folk songs, but by the time I wrote "The Manchester Rambler" in 1933 it naturally slipped into that style.

I wrote four songs for the Mass Trespass that we organised over Kinder Scout. One was for the Ramblers rights Movement, which was affiliated to the British Workers Sports Federation—but that's history now, the only one that survived was the "The Manchester Rambler".

Another one started: (sings) "We are young workers in search of healthy sport We leave Manchester each weekend for a hike Oh the best moorlands in Derbyshire are closed To us we ramble anywhere we like... For the mass trespass is the only way there is To gain access to mountains once again."

It's a very crude song as you can hear—but expressed our feelings. Nearly all the open areas were closed off. There were more than 3 million unemployed, and nearly half a million were young workers or had come straight from school at 14 on to the dole.

The authorities were trying desperately to get rid of you so you could get travelling cards. It was a farce because if you moved from Lancashire to Yorkshire or Cumberland

there were no jobs there either. But a big hiking movement developed out of the young unemployed and from this all the best of the young militants came.

**John:**—How did you become involved in singing, Peggy?

**Peggy:**—My family was American upper middle class—my father was a professor of music and my mother was a classical pianist. They were both interested in classical music. During the depression they got involved with the Workers Project Association and through that with folk music. I first heard folk music from the field recordings they made of workers in the 1930's.

**John:**—What influence did Pete Seeger have on you?

**Peggy:**—None really. He is 20 years older than me (a child of my father's first marriage) and we never lived in the same house. He did teach me the banjo. But I never realised that folk music was working class music—from my parents or Pete. I got my political education off Ewan.

**Ewan:**—Folk music, or what we call folk music, is produced by the people in society without wealth, who sell their labour power to create wealth. Before the industrial revolution it's the peasants who make folk music. Hopefully in an industrial society it comes from the industrial proletariat.

**John:**—The employers have many media—papers, TV, the big record companies. Do you see folk music putting forward the view of the working class?

**Ewan:**—I think if could, but that is putting it too simply. The only model we have in art which directly expresses working class consciousness is folk music. Any thing we can create in future has got to take this into account. It's lasted in the face of so much change, and the best political songs of the last 30 years use the same techniques as folk music has always used.

**Alan:**—Has folk music expressed the feelings and hopes of working people?

**Ewan:**—It certainly did in Scotland. By 1740 they had capitalist techniques in agriculture. There was a paid labour force that owned no land, lived in houses that belonged to the farmer, and sold its labour power—just like they do today. And almost every song produced by them complains about bad treatment, bad housing, bad food and exploitation—like in the Bothy songs.

They are not political songs, but songs of extreme-class consciousness. And they came before the proletariat learned the techniques of organisation and struggle.

In the United States folk music developed at the same time as industry so you have the songs of railwaymen, miners—as in Britain with miners songs going back to the sixteenth century.

**John:**—Many folk singers have been persecuted—Joe Hill, Woody Guthrie and so on.

**Ewan:**—Folk singers come under the hammer, because they have the ear of a popular audience. You can be a Marxist, a militant, but if you

play in a string quartet nobody bothers, because who listens to you? A tiny group of people. But in any folk audience 75% are young kids, often trade unionists: the working population that the artist has got to try and fertilise.

**John:**—Why did you decide to form your own record company?

**Ewan:**—Firstly we were tired of political interference. For instance we made an album for Decca called "The Angry Muse". One of the songs was about the Sharpeville Massacre. It turns out that the Director of Decca is also the Director of Decca South Africa, so it can't go on. Things like that happen all the time. We wanted a political say in what went on the records!

The other reason was to try and reduce the price—the rip-off is quite incredible with records. The minimum profit on most records that exceed a pressing of 10,000 is 150%. If they exceed 50,000 copies it can't take more than 5p to make them, and they sell them for £3.50. I don't know any industry that asks that kind of profit.

It's out of the kids they make it. They're the big buyers. The big issues are for pop music—you get a golden disc that sells a million copies and you are down to a cost price of 1p or 1½p a copy, including the pressing, the sleeve, everything. It's the biggest rip-off there is.

**John:**—Finally, what do you think of the Militant?

**Ewan:**—It's very good—one of the best working class papers out at the moment.

## Workers' Notebook

### More on dole Longer on dole

Unemployment has become a permanent feature of the economy. More than 500,000 have been out of work since 1967.

In January of this year, with 1½ million registered as unemployed, 334,000 had been out of work for more than a year, 272,500 of

these were men, but that is only because so many women are not registered in the first place, though they would like to work.

Capitalism works in cycles: in each trough, not only the number out of work, but the proportion of long-term unemployed men goes up. It is a recipe for despair. Long-term unemployment is 2½ times what it was when Heath put 1 million on the stones, though total unemployment is only half as much now as it was then.

What is worse, an absurd state of affairs has developed whereby those between 25 and 39 who should be spending their prime years doing something creative are a rising proportion of the long-term unemployed. In January 1976 they made up more than a fifth of it for the first time; two years later they made up 27%.

Not that things look bright for the

youngsters either. In the early months of this government, the medium number of weeks unemployment for under 18s was 2; by January 1978 it was 11.35. That is to say that unemployment for this age group spanned from nought to four weeks in 1974 but four years later it spanned from nought to six months. Hardly a record for a Labour Government to be proud of.

'Statistics on long-term unemployment'

DE Press Release: July 9, 1978.

### Unfair sackings

The Labour Government ministers sold pay limits to the union leaders by harping on the

benefits to workers under the Employment Protection Act and other labour laws.

But Harold Walker, Minister of State for Employment has been reassuring small firms. He has told bosses of small companies that their chances of facing an unfair dismissal claim in any one year are 1 in 100. Their chances of having to pay compensation after a tribunal are about 1 in 1000.

Walker is trying to prove that these firms are not hindered by the Employment Protection Act. But are not these workers just as entitled to their rights as workers in big business?

DE, Gazette, June 1978, pp 676-81

# POST OFFICE PROFITS

The Post Office has just announced a profit for this year of £360 million. This profit has been made solely at the expense of the Post Office workers, through low wages and lower manning levels, and the working class users who pay through the nose to subsidise the cheap rental rates enjoyed by big business.

As the Post Office is a nationalised industry, supposedly run by and for the workers, and indeed is in the midst of an experiment in "industrial democracy", it will come as a disappointment (though no surprise) to the 400,000 Post Office workers to learn that the profit is **not** being shared amongst the workforce at £900 bonus for each worker.

In fact the postal workers are receiving a productivity payment of around just £35 for Postmen and Postmen Higher Grade, and about £48 for Postal Officers. These are financed by savings in manpower and overtime levels—we get productivity payments as blood money for permanently lost jobs.

In 1976/77, staff savings worth £57 million were made. Over 25,000 jobs were lost in the two years up to mid-1977, and many more have gone in the last year.

Post Office Chairman, Sir William Barlow won't be getting £900, or even £35 productivity bonus and a 10% rise like the Postmen. He should be receiving, under the Boyle Top Salaries Review recommendations, an increase of 80%, raising his

**By Eddy Newman**  
(Manchester Amalgamated Branch, UPW, in personal capacity)

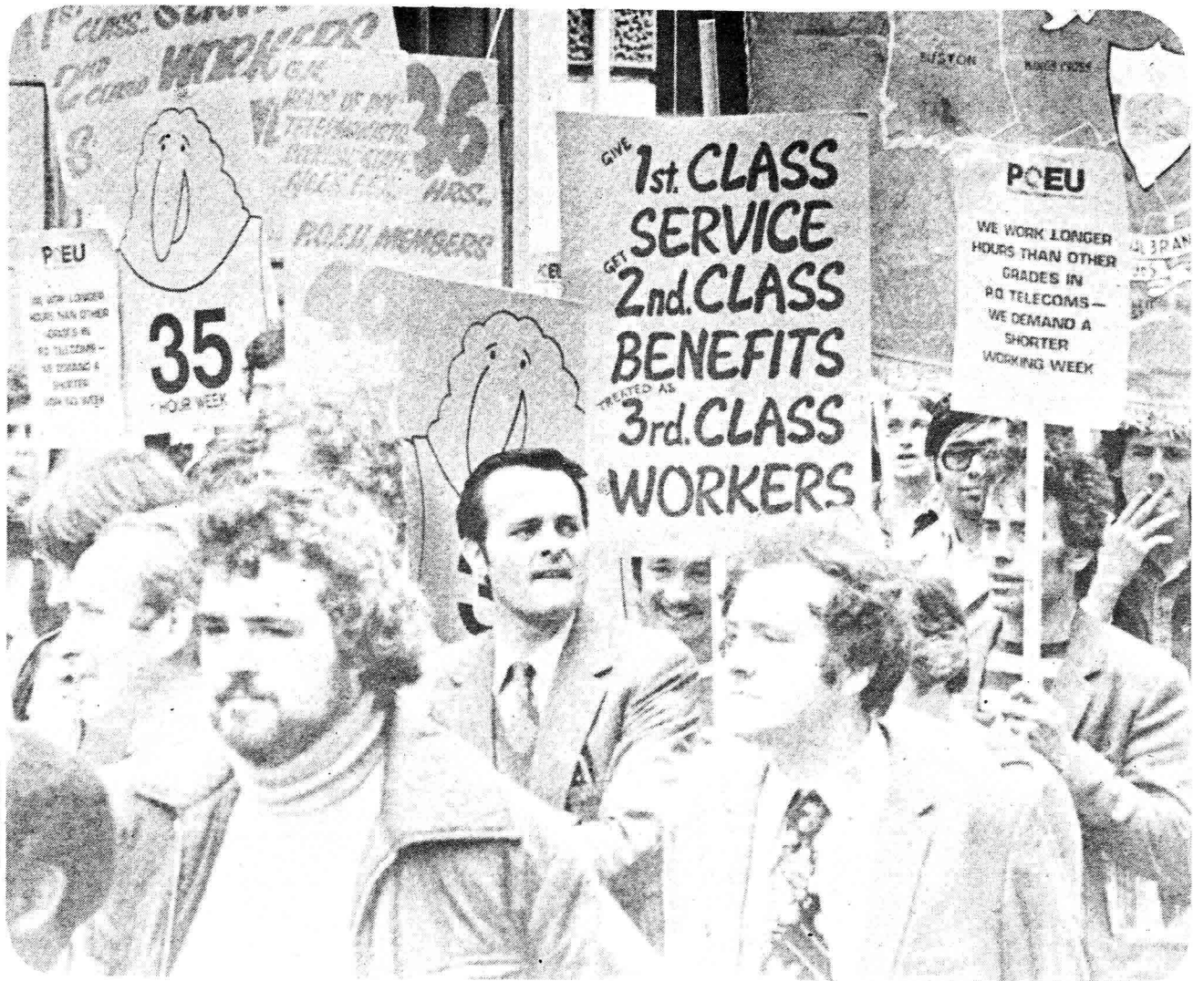
salary from £25,000 to £45,000 a year!

In addition to this enormous profit of £360 million for 1977/78, the Post Office made a profit of £291 million in 1976/77 and £147 the year before that. In 1974/75 the Post Office accounts showed a loss of nearly £307 million. Yet if we examine the accounts in the year of the big loss, which was given widespread publicity at the time as a condemnation of nationalised industries, we find that interest repayable on loans which eventually originate from capitalist financial institutions amounted to £287 million in telecommunications and £24 million in posts.

So if interest payments to the moneylenders were discounted, the Post Office would have made a profit in 1974/75 of £4 million. The Post Office workers' productivity and low pay finances the banks and finance houses which in turn put nationalisation in a bad light.

At the same time, the private manufacturers charge exorbitant prices for out-

## WORKERS AND USERS PAY



Post Office Engineers get the message across to the public on last week's march through London

moded equipment. The Monopolies Commission recently discovered secret price-fixing agreements between the four major privately owned monopolies that supply the Post Office with cable and other telecommunications equipment. These giant firms were ordered to pay back £9 million to the Post Office but even allowing for these fat cats still skimmed off the cream of profit from this public industry.

Our unions should demand that the ledgers and accounts of these firms be opened for trade union inspection. Where it has already been proved that they are illegally cheating millions of pounds out of the Post Office these firms should be nationalised immediately under workers' control.

Every Post Office worker

knew earlier in the year that the Post Office was due to make another massive profit because of the orgy of spending that the Management indulged in before the end of the financial year in an attempt to reduce the embarrassingly large profit. Branch Post Offices were suddenly decorated, including one in Manchester due for demolition soon, and a large amount of capital spending was reported generally.

Each Post Office with only one telephone had a second telephone installed—whether it was needed or not. Another quaint, wasteful practice indulged in is the issuing of each Post Office telephone with a bill from the telecommunications side of the Post Office. The bureaucrats are taking from our left-hand to pay our right!

So who benefits from the postal service? It is big business, who get their services at a cheap rate.

For instance, 80% of all parcels posted are business parcels, and 54% of these are posted using individually negotiated contracts. So big postal users like the mail order companies can get huge discounts on the price they pay. **Big business is served at one cheap rate, and the ordinary man in the street at another rate.**

The micro-electronic age could lead to a cheap and efficient message carrying service if it was harnessed by the Post Office, but only in a rationally run Post Office under democratic workers' control and management. Then technological advantages would benefit the public by a better service and the PO

workers through a reduction in working hours without loss of pay. While the PO is run on capitalist lines it will supply even more redundancies.

No more cuts!  
Reduce the prices of Post Office services!  
No more redundancies or natural wastage!

For a five day 35 hour week with no loss in pay!  
For a £75 a week minimum wage.

One union for Post Office workers!

Nationalise under workers' control the parasitic cable and telecommunications supply firms that at present are like leeches on the Post Office!

A scandal of the abuse of power by Health Service officials has been revealed to Militant.

In Camelon, near Falkirk, in three separate cases, workers whose doctors have certified them as being unfit for work have been examined by the "Regional Medical Officer" and declared fit for work.

This means that they are longer entitled to claim sickness benefit, but must sign on as unemployed. If they are then offered work which they consider they are unable to do, they either have to take it and risk their health or lose six weeks unemployment benefit.

William Millar formerly worked as a fitter in a foundry, working on solid fuel cookers. He suffered a slipped disc as a result of a car accident and has suffered from it for eleven years,

**By Pat Craven**

during which he was often off sick from work. After being off work since January this year, he was signed off by his doctor and signed on at the Employment Office.

After two weeks however, he was again forced to see his doctor and was given a certificate for a fortnight. When he claimed sickness benefit however, he was

informed that the Regional Medical Officer who had examined him two months earlier had declared him to be fit for work. His own doctor's certificate was therefore overruled.

John Graham formerly worked as a fitter's mate, working on house renovations. He too suffered a slipped disc after an accident at work. His doctor told him that he was not fit to do any

job which required constant sitting, walking, bending or lifting, which meant virtually everything! Yet, once again, after a brief examination the RMO declared him fit for work.

The third case began in the same way. But Ian Richardson appealed against the RMO's ruling—and won! The ruling upheld the doctor's right to certify a worker as unfit. Both the others are now going to appeal.

How many other workers have been forced back to work through the actions of RMOs before they were fully fit, and when their own doctors were prepared to sign them as sick? This is yet another example which proves the need to bring the Health and Employment services under the democratic control of the trade union movement to make sure that such abuses cannot occur. In the meantime, every worker put in this position should always exercise his right to appeal.

## SICK WORKERS FORCED TO SEEK WORK

# 1928 - 1978 : 50 Years of women's s

## HOW THE VOTE WAS

It was only in 1928, just 50 years ago, that in Britain, the 'mother of democracy', women first won full, equal voting rights.

The struggle for the right to vote is now presented as an interesting story from the history book. But why was it that such fierce battles had to be waged before this basic right was conceded? "The suffragettes" said Sally Oppenheim, Tory MP, at a ceremony to mark the anniversary, were noted for their "dignity", "won universal respect for courage and the fundamental justice of their cause". That's what they say today, but it certainly wasn't at the time. The call for votes for women provoked fierce opposition from Tory and Liberal politicians, employers, academics and the Church, from every layer of the ruling establishment.

Was it through the Suffragette movement, middle class women breaking windows and throwing themselves under horses, that the vote was won? Two years before the Women's Social and Political Union was founded in 1903, the women workers of the Lancashire cotton mills presented a petition bearing over 29,000 signatures to Parliament.

### Working women

Their demands for voting rights were linked to the fight against discrimination at work; they rallied support at open air meetings and by door to door canvassing in the mill towns and working class slums.

They were voicing the growing anger and militancy of working women. With the industrial revolution, women and children were forced into the factories and mills, to meet the rapidly growing demand for labour. Women were capable of working the machines, of the most grueling menial work, but still 'their rightful place was in the home'.

The employers baldly claimed that it was "only in the women's interest" that they were paid so much less than men; it "prevents them from being tempted by the mill to abandon the care of their offspring at home" as one pompous writer of the time explained.

While the middle class moralisers preached about the 'sanctity of the family' accusing women of neglecting their children and their housekeeping, in the factory towns, family ties were being ruthlessly broken and destroyed by the insatiable appetites of expanding capitalism. Working women were often forced to leave their children to the mercies of childminders, who packed them into tiny rooms and drugged them to keep them quiet. The child mortality rate soared.

At the turn of the century, the trade unions, beginning to organise the mass of unskilled workers, were growing rapidly and extending their links locally and nationally. Explo-

sive and bitter strikes flared up. Against this background of social ferment, even the most oppressed and unorganised groups were drawn into action. The matchgirls, the "most miserable of all the miserable" came out against the starvation wages and terrible conditions at Bryant and Mays.

"As the girls tramped along the Embankment in orderly array...they made a striking object lesson for the careless well-to-do folk who gazed at them with supercilious puzzlement" wrote Annie Besant, one of their leaders. "...the gaunt, ragged group, representing the suffering of the East, was a portent not lightly to be disregarded...."

The strike played an important part in sparking the spread of militancy. Women cigarmakers in Nottingham, London factory girls and millworkers in Kilmarnock were all involved in strikes. Female woollen weavers in Yorkshire rejected a cut in wages and marched in protest. They were attacked and several arrested by the police.

The employers, anxious to quell the growing 'tide of upheaval, turned to the courts. The Taff Vale judgement in 1901 tried to force the unions to repay the costs for strike action. Trade unionists increasingly saw the need for a political voice, through the Labour Party.

Women workers were drawn into this movement. Forced out of the home into the workplace by industry itself, they turned to the trade unions to defend them.

It was in these circumstances that the Suffragette movement was founded. Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters, with a small group of women in the Independent Labour Party (ILP) formed the Women's Social and Political Union, with the slogan 'Votes for Women'. Their aim, originally, was to ensure that the ILP and the Labour Representation Committee adopted this as part of their programme.

At the 1904 ILP conference they got official backing to



Emmeline Pankhurst being arrested in 1914 after an attack by suffragettes on Buckingham Palace. Today's Tories like Sally Oppenheim try to paint the suffragettes as "dignified". Yet amongst those who heard her say this, at a commemoration meeting was 84 year old Connie Laycock who organised the fire-bombing of a railway station. The Tories of 50 years ago had a very different view.

sponsor the Women's Enfranchisement Bill. The Lancashire and Cheshire mill women, now organised in a committee to demand the vote, produced a pamphlet which declared "A vote is a small thing. But the aggregate vote of a great union is a different matter. The cotton unions of Lancashire...have a majority of women members...It will be seen that this great industry is to a very large extent disenfranchised".

Together with the WSPU and the Women's Guild, they gathered outside Parliament, only to hear the Bill 'talked out'. Angry and bitter at the brick wall of intransigent contempt they were met with, the WSPU turned to new tactics, heckling and abusing Liberal and Tory politicians, smuggling themselves into closed meetings and unfurling banners, demanding "Will the Liberal Government give women the vote?"

### Household names

Enraged 'Liberals' kicked and threw them out of halls. The police broke up Suffrage meetings, arrested speakers. WSPU members were hounded out of jobs for refusing to end their activities. Leading figures in the movement became a household name, and thousands turned out to mass meetings and demonstrations. In 1908 the suffrage societies called a united demonstration: between 500-750,000 attended!

Agitation for the women's vote was spreading, drawing support from organised workers in the trade unions. A manufacturer in Newcastle warned Prime Minister Asquith in 1908 that branches of the Engineers' Society were organising meetings with WSPU speakers, responding favourably and enthusiastic-

ally and "what is more important, pledges were given to support the Women's Franchise cause by voting against the Government".

As the movement gathered momentum, it was met with increasing hostility and violence. Thrown into prison, suffragettes went on hunger strike to demand recognition as political prisoners. The barbarous process of forced feeding was introduced. Working class women were subjected to the harshest treatment.

Lady Lytton led a women's suffrage demonstration through Liverpool, dressed as a seamstress. Arrested and refusing to eat, she was forcibly fed without a preliminary heart test. When she vomited violently, the prison doctor hit her. She was badly injured and paralysed for life. When eventually Lady Lytton's real identity was discovered, there was a public outcry. Such treatment of the 'ordinary' suffragette went unnoticed.

The police were issued with orders to stop marches but not to make arrests. Fierce battles raged for hours, with brutal violence and deaths. Embarrassed by the mounting numbers of women in prison and the sympathy aroused by their harsh treatment, in 1913 the Prisoners Temporary Discharge for Ill-health Bill, 'The Cat and Mouse Act', was introduced.

Prisoners were released 'on licence', and instructed to report back to complete their sentence. Of course, they refused to give themselves up, publicly auctioning the licences to raise funds. The Act was used to raid homes and meetings to rearrest women time and again, dragging out sentences over years.

But the more brutal the reaction, the more widespread was the support the

suffragettes' struggle aroused. The middle and even upper-class women who dominated the WSPU were goaded into activity largely by the refusal of the government to contemplate even the mildest concession.

Between 1906 and 1914, twenty seven Bills to reform the franchise got a first reading in Parliament and went no further. Five got to the second stage before they were dropped. Nearly 1,000 parliamentary questions were asked, and the issue was raised in the House of Lords.

Why was every section of the ruling class, both inside and outside parliament, so totally opposed to voting rights for women?

### Social unrest

The Tories and Liberals echoed the capitalists' deep mistrust of any extension of the right to vote. At this time, only men of property, who could be relied on "not to put the country in jeopardy"—7½ million out of an adult population of 45 million—had the vote.



Women at work

Even this had not been won without a fight. Whether in 1832, 1867 or 1897, no section of the population was conceded the right to vote without far reaching agitation and unrest striking fear in the heart of the ruling class at the consequences of resisting any longer.

Neither the Tories or the Liberals were sure who would benefit if women had the vote, even if limited to women householders only as the WSPU proposed. Behind the marches and confrontations a deep movement of social unrest was unfolding. British capitalism, outstripped by her main imperialist rivals, Germany and the USA, caught up in an escalating and costly crisis in Ireland, faced growing unemployment and a mounting wave of industrial militancy, with organised workers in their millions involved in strike action.

### Moral fibre

Between 1911 and 1914 every key section: dockers, seamen, miners, railwaymen, engineers, and other sections never previously involved were drawn into action in a major confrontation only cut across by the war.

A section of the Liberal Party, led by Lloyd George, responded with a move to impose new taxes on landowners and financiers, and when resisted by the Lords, passed the Parliament Act to restrict their powers.

The majority of the Liberal Party, reflecting the growing social pressure, supported the principle of votes for women. Lloyd George even called for the vote to be extended to workers' wives, combined with the warning that it would "see women on the road to equal pay". In the Liberal Cabinet however, there was a hard core of opposition to any compromise on any terms.

The Conservative and Unionist Party, on the other hand, was overwhelmingly opposed to any change although Balfour and Bonar Law, then leading the Party, were more sensitive to the pressure from the suffragettes demands. The 'sanctity of Womanhood' and her 'rightful place in the home' the most archaic myths and prejudices found their voice here, linked to the deep-run-



# suffrage WON



Mass Meeting of strikers at Trico in 1976

ning fear that the very moral fibre of society as they knew it was being threatened.

"I have one and only one objection to women having the vote and that is that they are women and it should be their glory to fulfill their natural functions" declared Unionist MP Sir John Rees, in 1913.

## Desperate tactics

"A clever woman said to me the other day" added James Grant, another Unionist MP. "If at the most critical period of a woman's life, she has not got the sense to say 'no' to the man who proposes to her, how can you expect her to have the sense to give a vote on a great imperial question?"

They are still being echoed in the Tory Party today, in spite of the Iron Maiden who stands at their head.

A leading conservative journalist warned that the demands for women's suffrage, "one of the most factitious agitations that have ever been organised", could "split the Party from top to bottom". This, increasingly, was what the WSPU saw as their aim. They swung from political and parliamentary lobbying to extreme and desperate tactics, seeking to force one party to adopt their demands in a bid to undercut the other and restore social peace.

Physical attacks on 10 Downing Street, burning pillar boxes and churches, and the systematic smashing of windows in London's West End, provided the ideal excuse for politicians like Lloyd George and Ramsey MacDonald, fairweather supporters of suffrage, to disassociate themselves.

Instead of building on their mass base of support, organising amongst women in the trade unions and linking themselves to the increasingly powerful labour movement the WSPU cut themselves off, standing independent candidates in elections and deciding to attack Irish and Labour MPs in exactly the same way as Liberals and Tories.

Sensational escapades were planned and dictated to the members—within the WSPU, women had no right to vote! Emmeline Pankhurst ruled from the top. Working class activists were forced to choose between the suffrage movement and their loyalties to the labour movement and socialism.

With the outbreak of the first world war, these tensions and splits came to a head. Reduced to an 'underground' organisation issuing orders from headquarters in Paris, isolated from any real base of working class support, when the East London Federation of Suffragettes, led by Sylvia Pankhurst (one of Emmeline's two daughters), split from the WSPU, they were told that "headquarters...had most faith in what could be done for the vote by people of means and influence".

"They said a deputation to the Labour Party was all very well for us, but one to the King was better for them".

The WSPU came out in support of the war. Their paper's name was changed

from 'The Suffragette' to 'Britannia' and advocated military conscription for all men, women to be directed into the factories and internment for all of 'enemy race'.

Suffragettes were amongst the first to present men not in uniform with the white feather, and Mrs. Pankhurst went on a delegation to Russia after the overthrow of the Tsar in 1917, to urge that the government ignore the workers' demands for peace and remain in the war.

Sylvia and the East London Federation, along with others who left the WSPU, attempted to restore the link between the women's movement and the organised working class. As well as the vote, they campaigned with the trade union and labour movement on wider class questions. Sylvia Pankhurst later became a founding member of the British Communist Party.

Although the period of the war saw the eclipse of the WSPU, for many women it brought important changes. For the first time they were drawn into collective work in industry, breaking the social isolation of the home and the kitchen sink and becoming increasingly aware of their position in society.

The end of the war was followed by a wave of upheaval, with the Russian Revolution still an untarnished beacon for workers and war-weary returning troops. The mounting unrest forced the politicians to

consider several reforms, amongst them changes in the franchise. They realised that it would be impossible to exclude women without provoking a repeat of the pre-war confrontations.

In 1918 an Act was passed giving all men the vote at 21 and including for the first time women of the age of thirty, (subject to property and other qualifications).

It was not until 1928, after the working class had been confronted and temporarily defeated in the General Strike, that Baldwin, bowing to the inevitable, took the step of extending full adult suffrage to both sexes at twenty-one.

After years of long, hard and bitter campaigning, with enormous personal sacrifices, the first victory was extracted. The struggle raised women's sights beyond "the glory of their natural functions", to see their doubly-exploited position, and the way it was used to justify lower pay and worse conditions at work, to the benefit of the employers' profits.

## Trade unionists

Many saw the vote as the first step to ending their exploitation and hardships, and those of the whole working class, for ever—the key to the door of socialism.

The life of working women has certainly changed since the dark days of the last century: improvements in conditions at work, maternity leave as a statutory right, laws against discrimination in pay and jobs. The expansion and development of industry, the demand for new skills and more labour, have meant that more and more women now see themselves as women and as workers. With their scope no longer limited to the four walls of the home, in daily contact with other workers, they are being drawn into the trade union and labour movement.

In 1976, 91% of new trade union members were women. Employers have been forced to recognise the power of organised workers; this was how every legal reform was won, and every improvement achieved.

The new division of labour has stimulated the demand for genuine social equality, and combined with this, the lifting of the drudgery of

domestic responsibilities. Women still suffer enormous social disadvantages. Bearing and bringing up children is an essential contribution to capitalism itself and to the whole of society.

But so long as the main burden of providing for them falls on the shoulders of individual parents, without social provision for nurseries, public laundry and catering facilities, childbearing limits women's educational and job opportunities and restricts her to the home, where she still bears the main burden of domestic chores. And as the boom years rapidly disappear, working women are feeling the full brunt of capitalism's decline.

They are the first to be thrown out of work: female unemployment more than quadrupled in the three and a half years up to 1977. Even in a "good" year (1972) only 8 in every 100 girls got apprenticeships, mainly in hairdressing.

In spite of the Equal Pay Act, the gap between men and women's pay has actually grown, from an average of £13.50 in 1970 to a huge £27.60 last year. Only 44 of the 290 appeals under the Sex Discrimination Act have been successful. Employers, as always, have used every trick and loophole to get round the law.

And for working mothers, things have got worse, not better. There are less nursery places now than in 1974! But women today are less cowed, more determined and better organised than even the most militant of the suffragettes.

The fight for equal pay at Trico, the bitter months on the Grunwick picket line, the strikes and hospital occupations involving nurses, cleaners and orderlies, to stop the cuts and save the health service: this is the voice and the mood of working women today, black and white, young and old.

No-one can doubt the potential militancy and self-sacrifice of working class women, if the trade unions and the labour movement goes out to recruit will end low pay and discrimination, the exploitation in the sweat-shops and of part-time workers. Such a programme offers an answer to the problems women face, linked to the fight to end the chaos of capitalism by taking over the massive monopolies the banks and finance houses

and in the hands of the workers, planning industry to meet society's needs, releasing the technical and human potential of every man and woman.

Now as in the past, the problems working class women face both at work and in the home, cannot be separated from the problems facing the rest of the working class; from the transformation of society on socialist lines. To artificially divide women from the labour movement, without linking their needs to the only force in society capable of meeting them, was one of the major mistakes of the middle-class suffragettes. It is a mistake repeated by many in the women's movement today. As Eleanor Marx wrote in 1886, "those who attack the present treatment of women without seeking the cause of this in the economics of our latter-day society are like doctors who treat a local affection (sic) without inquiring into the general bodily health!"

For even today, fifty years after women won the vote, the fight for basic social justice, for genuine equal pay, for freedom from the home, goes on.

Since its birth in the mills and factories where working women first began to organise, capitalism has proved unable and unwilling to meet their needs and aspirations.

Today, outworn and outdated, like its legacy of idle machines and empty factories, it has shown that it never can.



Grunwick picket 1977

## IRAN

# Shah's dictatorship rocked by protest wave

Iran's repressive dictatorship under the Shah has been rocked during the last six months by the biggest wave of strikes, demonstrations and riots for years.

The apparently solid rule of the world's richest man, backed up by the most sophisticated weaponry, has been incapable of preventing a huge movement of outright opposition to the regime. Even the most brutal and systematic repression of a military dictatorship cannot outlaw the class struggle.

The year ended with thousands coming out into the streets of Qom in January, only to be met by the barrels of army guns which murderously mowed down 100. Forty days later, the traditional time of mourning, a march in Tabriz was attacked by machine guns and tanks, leaving many dead and 450 arrested—judging by the nightmarish torture chambers in Iran it is hard to say which was the worse fate.

Yet after another forty days the marchers came out in even greater numbers in open defiance of the police. In three days of protests the police attacks and rioting spread like wildfire to 25 other cities and towns throughout the country, leaving an official death toll fifteen times as great.

By May Teheran and six other cities were rife with demonstrations lasting eight days. Significantly, this time workers answered the inevitable bloodshed with a general strike in the capital and in Tibriz.

## Economy

The speeding economic train based on limitless oil is grinding to a halt. But the new industrial working class has greatly increased its strength and is preparing for the battles ahead.

The economic growth of Iran since the war has been phenomenal. In 1947, Iran had only 175 large enterprises, employing a total of 100,000 workers. By 1972 these figures were 6,000 and 1,800,000!

Between 1972 and 1975 oil revenue jumped up by 7 times from 1.50 dollars a barrel to 10.20. This sudden wealth led to a huge boom and the Gross National Product rose by 34% in 1973-4 and by 42% the following year.

Iran appeared to consolidate a position of economic stability as the oil exports ensured a balance of payments surplus which rose from 500 million dollars in 1972 to 1,600m the following year and 5,250 million dollars by 1974-5.

However, inflation was let rip. The money supply rose by 60% in 1974-5 and another 34% in 1975-6. Petrochemicals greatly expanded and Western firms were attracted by cheap labour, lucrative contracts, and state repression of trade unions. The official figures suggest that the workers benefitted from this boom. Due to the labour shortage and heroic strikes, wages went up.

A national minimum wage was introduced, which rose 36% in 1974-5 and 42% in 1975-6. There was a long running programme of land

The 'land reform' managed to expropriate the land of 1,200,000 peasants and pushed 500,000 off the land completely. The peasant population has fallen drastically as they move to the towns—from 18 million today (just half of the total population of 34 million) it is estimated to fall by 13 million by 1982. The wealthy farmers were the ones to benefit.

The Health and Education Corps were designed to control the peasantry and still 55% of the population is illiterate. As wages in the towns have risen, farmers cannot pay labourers and prices of food have been kept down, so the production of food has failed to keep up with demand.

tion, high housing costs, inadequate power supplies, shortages of construction materials, poor roads, inefficient distribution, the shortage of skilled manpower, and the acceleration of the urban-rural gap."

The 'Westernisation' that took place freed many women from old Moslem laws and in general undermined the Islamic faith. But it also led to increased discontent amongst Iran's minorities, which amount to half the total population. The new austerity is doubly dangerous because it is frustrating the new expectations of the working class whose labour has produced Iran's wealth.

Against this backdrop of economic strain and crisis is

By Tim Lewis

(Wakefield LPYS)

reform aimed at redistributing the land to the peasants and also a national literacy programme.



But these figures hide the effects of run-away inflation, despite the 1½ billion dollars spent in subsidies to hold down prices. Rents in Teheran are as high as in Paris and consume 60-70% of wages. Whilst a car is twice as expensive as in Britain, wages at the Gazor Timber Co., for working from 5 in the morning to 8 at night, with compulsory overtime, are 79p a day.

Many wages are about £40 a year. The minimum wage is a farce as 73% of workers earn less than it.

## Exploitation

There are numerous 'fines' on workers and unemployment is high, especially in Hamadan where half of the active population of 124,000 is unemployed. On top of this, working hours range between 10 and 18 a day.

General living conditions are very bad—Teheran does not even have a sewage system! Children start work officially at 12.

A widespread scandal is the number of 7 year olds working in carpet factories who suffer from tuberculosis and rickets. The working conditions of some women are so destructive to their health that "most of the women of Kashan and Aaran give Caesarian births."

The boom has benefitted the ruling class alone. The top 10% of the population account for 40% of total spending in a desperate orgy of consumption side by side with horrific poverty and misery for millions.

Peasants' wages are 3-6 times lower than city workers'. Meanwhile the old middle classes of craftsmen have collapsed, unable to compete.

By 1976 the spending spree was over. The balance of payments was transformed into a deficit of 97 million dollars and the 1976 budget was also in deficit.

The boom placed great strains on the economy. There was a shortage of skilled labour, huge wastage and corruption. Oil was in over-supply and Saudi Arabia could hold down the price.

Production, excluding oil, fell in 1972 by 12%. Oil production declined by 6-7% as pressure fell and wells dried up.

The economic base rests on just 34m people, mostly very poor, thus limiting the market for manufactures. Due to trade barriers there has been little expansion abroad.

There is overcapacity, with one foundry working at only 70% of possible output. Businessmen are pulling out and investment is low. The 'Financial Times' paints a bleak picture of Iran: "Infla-

tion, high housing costs, inadequate power supplies, shortages of construction materials, poor roads, inefficient distribution, the shortage of skilled manpower, and the acceleration of the urban-rural gap."

tion, high housing costs, inadequate power supplies, shortages of construction materials, poor roads, inefficient distribution, the shortage of skilled manpower, and the acceleration of the urban-rural gap."

The Director of Military Assistance told the US Congress: "The guns they had in their hands, the trucks they rode in, the armoured cars that they drove through the streets, and the radio communications that permitted their control, were all furnished through the military defence assistance programme...had it not been for this programme, a government unfriendly to the US probably would now be in power."

## Army

As well as huge oil concessions, the US also received big military contracts which enabled the Shah to expand his armed forces. The army was expanded from 120,000 men to 190,000 and a navy of 4,000 and an airforce of 8,000 were created. 2,000 Iranian soldiers were trained in the US.

The role of these armed bodies of men, armed to the teeth with the most modern and expensive equipment was obvious. Hubert Humphrey reported an Iranian General as saying: "the army was in



The Shah

good shape, thanks to US aid—it was now capable of coping with the civil population."

Total military aid, up to 1969, was 938 million dollars. The Iranian secret police, SAVAK, was formed using some FBI methods. It now has an incredible 65,000 agents!

The Nationalist Party was smashed and the Tudeh (Communist Party), including 600 army officers, was atomised. Iran is now the lynch pin for US and British imperialism in the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

The so-called "White Revolution" of reforms merely made the rich richer and poor poorer and did little to change Iran into a modern, capitalist, manufacturing industrial country. Torture is widespread and there are 40,000 political prisoners who were tried in military courts without any defence lawyers. There are, on average, two executions a week.

There has been unrest in the prisons, including a 4 week hunger strike. On one occasion 7 families met

together to discuss the situation. 12 of their children had been shot by the authorities, 15 members were in prison, and 5 members had disappeared mysteriously.

The economic crisis and political repression have led to hundreds of industrial battles. Over the last 6 months most cities have witnessed bloody clashes between demonstrators and the police.

Independent trade unions are not allowed, strikes and demonstrations are illegal. Recent political protests have seen police break up demonstrations, arrest pickets, and kill strikers. So terrified are the ruling class of the workers' smouldering anger that army units are present in factories, like the Aryamehr steel mill, employing over 3,000, where there are 500 police agents and an army unit.

There is only one legal political party, the Rastakhiz, whose candidates are vetted by SAVAK. It is simply a cover for the Shah's rule by decree.

The multi-millionaire Shah, who has completely ignored the paper constitution and imposes a tight press censorship, is now ending the food subsidies and is bringing in a new labour code with an emphasis on discipline and raising productivity. He also intends to end the bonus system, which will represent a wage cut of 20%.

The industrial working class has led a courageous struggle against these conditions. In 15 years its numbers have trebled to 2.5m and there are now over 16m people in the towns.

Since 1972 there has been a whole series of strikes. In the Rambler Motor Company workers have struck against the presence of a semi-



Peasants forced off the land arrive homeless in one of Iran's swelling cities

## SPAIN / NOTES



Tanks were used to kill 100 demonstrators in Teheran on May 12th

military unit and for free election of their own representatives.

1973 saw a series of successful strikes for higher wages and 4,000 workers in the Abadan oil refinery struck twice and received a wage rise.

In Teheran, factories, taxi drivers, and the Teheran market have been on strike. In 1971 2,000 workers of a textile factory marched on Teheran to demand a wage rise. The police shot three of them.

The ruthless attitude of the bosses was shown in June 1974 when the Tabriz Transport Factory workers went on strike for higher wages. One of their leaders, Majid Saleh Jahani, a veteran trade unionist, was elected to speak at a strike meeting.

### Democratic rights

During the speech he passed to drink a glass of water. Almost immediately he collapsed and was rushed to hospital where he started to vomit blood. He died the next day.

On top of this mounting opposition has exploded this year's street demonstrations and clashes elevating the opposition to the regime onto a higher level. The Shah is beginning to lose his grip.

The students and middle class are moving into opposition as well. The austerity programme hits them and they are restricted by the lack of democracy and the number of political prisoners.

Significantly, it is even affecting the army. A former Iranian lieutenant stated that "These lower-ranking officers and soldiers do not believe in the regime at all."

General Darakhchani died in prison, accused of spying for the Russians—the second general convicted of spying in 4 months. In January, Ali Naqi Rabbani, a senior Education Minister was similarly accused. Corruption and 'baksheesh' is undermining the regime.

The ruling class is splitting in the face of the growing opposition and the horrific crimes of SAVAK. On an international level, the coup in Afghanistan seriously threatens Iran's borders. Her huge military expenditure

which increased by 1.5 billion dollars last year is adding new strains to the dwindling Iranian resources.

The role of British and US imperialism has been to prop up this reactionary military-police dictatorship of the richest man in the world. Between January and June 1977, the UK exported £325m in goods to Iran. It is British and American military equipment that is repressing workers in Iran and in the Persian Gulf.

The British labour movement must demand an end to arms supplies to Iran and to SAVAK operations in this country. We must support the tremendous struggles of the workers for the right to form trade unions, the right to strike, for an end to political imprisonment, and for freedom of speech and assembly.

These demands for democratic rights and the workers' demands for a living wage tied to the cost of living, land to the peasants, guaranteed prices, minimum standards for working conditions to be enforced by free trade unions, freely available health and education facilities for all, will be taken up by ever and ever wider layers of the population. Around the struggle for these demands the workers will throw up their own organisations upon which the labour movement will be built.

### Workers' democracy

But Iranian capitalism is incapable of providing these basic democratic rights and social reforms. The struggle against the Shah's dictatorial regime must be a struggle for the overthrow of capitalism, for the nationalisation of Iran's tremendous industrial resources under workers' control and management. A socialist plan of production could expand Iran's economy on a permanent, not a fitful, basis—for the benefit of the whole of society.

With an internationalist appeal to the workers and peasants of neighboring countries a workers democracy in Iran would break the grip of imperialism and blaze the trail for a Socialist Middle East and Asia.

## RIOT POLICE RIOT

*"San Sebastian suburb wrecked by riot police"... "Police looting in Basque town"*

These headlines were not in left-wing journals, but in last Friday's editions of 'The Times' and 'The Guardian'. That helps to convey the extent of the latest outrages of the frenzied thugs in the Spanish riot police.

Even sections of the Spanish ruling class have been wringing their hands in despair at the uncontrollable violence of those supposedly responsible for maintaining law and order. Both in Pamplona the previous weekend and in the San Sebastian suburb of Renteria on Thursday, the police either ignored or even deliberately acted contrary to the orders of government officials.

In Pamplona, thousands were gathered for the traditional festival of St Fermin, during which bulls are let loose in the streets. But this year it was the riot police who were let loose. A few youths jumped into the bull-ring with a banner proclaiming the words "Amnesty, Freedom".

This was greeted with cheers from some of the crowd, boos from others and there was some fighting in the stands. Then in poured the police, wildly firing smoke bombs and tear gas into the crowd.

The crowd returned the fire with stones and bottles. The police then drew their guns and started firing into the crowd. Spectators fled to the exits in panic.

One was shot dead, Jerman Rodriguez, a member of the Revolutionary Communist League. 135 were injured. Cars and shops were burned out.

As 200,000 tourists hastily evacuated the city, fighting continued in the streets. One of those to suffer a beating from the police was an Irish diplomat, whose credentials didn't save him. When he complained to the local police chief, he explained that "The police were completely out of control!"

As 5,000 gathered for Comrade Rodriguez's funeral, the riot police were kept in their barracks, yet soon afterwards they were again on the streets, firing rubber bullets and tear gas at barricades set up by Basque demonstrators.

The reaction of Basque workers was immediate. In Bilbao and Vitoria, demonstrations and a one-day strike were called. Other sections of society joined in the protests. One Basque priest declared in a

sermon, "Never before have so few inflicted suffering on so many."

In Pamplona the rest of the St Fermin festivities were cancelled after the organisers failed to get acceptance of their demands for the withdrawal of all riot police from the streets, the resignation of the Civil Governor of the Navarra province and a judicial investigation into the shooting in the bull-ring.

Throughout the week demonstrations continued. The town of San Sebastian was virtually cut off after the railway had been blown up and all roads blocked in protest at the death of a student in the town in an earlier demonstration on Monday. Factories and shops were closed as more workers came out on strike.

Then, on Thursday, after most workers had returned to work, came the events in Renteria. Acting not only without orders, but in fact in defiance of orders to the contrary, 200 riot police left their barracks and descended on the suburb at lunch time. Windows of shops, cafes and offices were smashed, smoke grenades were fired into flats, telephones were ripped out.

When the Mayor of Renteria and the Secretary of the Municipal Council, watching in amazement as police smashed up an ice cream shop, approached the captain in charge, they were told not to interfere!

The Civil Governor of Guipuzcoa when asked to explain the police action, explained, "I'm furious. I had not given orders for police to enter the town, but the captain commanding them disobeyed me." He summoned police chiefs to his office and told them "I will not let this go unpunished. Measures will be taken to punish those responsible."

Basque workers will not only echo that, but turn his words against him and all the other government officials who have let Franco's old gang of thugs in uniform remain in existence, arrogantly beating up workers and students and showing contempt for the "democracy" which is supposed to have been introduced by King Juan Carlos and Prime Minister Suarez.

The events in Pamplona and Renteria have proved the point made consistently by the Marxists in Spain, that the military-police machine created by Franco to terrorise the working class, cannot be controlled by the good intentions of political leaders. Along with the capitalist system which spawned it, it has to be destroyed root and branch.



### Eye-witness account of an earlier police attack in Madrid

"...Suddenly we heard the crack of rifle fire. We went to the main street to investigate. Police cars by the dozen were tearing up and down the street and everywhere there were police, armed with grenade launchers and sub-machine guns.

Without warning, one of them came charging at us. Thinking he was about to fire a rubber bullet down the street we jumped aside. My friend discovered that what he really wanted was for us to "move along please." Just to

emphasise the point he gave a good old fashioned clout on the back with his grenade launcher!

As we turned to leave we were confronted with our 'friendly bobby's' friend complete with a sub-machine gun he kept prodding us with just to make sure we got the message.

We discovered a few minutes later the reason for this hospitality. Small groups of anarchists, no more than 20-30 at a time, were protesting at the death of a comrade, murdered in the

notorious Carabanchel Prison.

As one small group unfurled an anarchist banner in the middle of a crowd of American and German tourists the police, as impartial as ever, fired a rubber-bullet directly at the crowd, much to the surprise of the tourists.

All the talk about democracy is rubbish while the terror squad remains in the hands of the bosses."

**Willie King**

(Queen's Park LPYS)

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES



### Bolivian election

The cosmetic "election" held in Bolivia last week—the first for twelve years—in an attempt by the military regime to give itself a democratic image has been proved to be a transparent fraud. Observers for human rights organisations have already exposed 1,160 cases of intimidation and electoral irregularities.

In many polling stations voting slips carrying the names of opposition candidates (voters put one slip in the ballot box) appeared to be "missing". The names of government candidates were miraculously excluded from this plague! In one main polling station in the capital, La Paz, only five out of eight name-slips were on offer to the voters.

'The Times' reported one man as saying "I wanted to vote for the Socialists but, as there was no slip, I cast a blank vote". In rural areas troops were used to help electors vote the "right way".

There is no doubt as to the outcome of this rigged "election". But just in case, the dictatorship has enough time to redress any imbalance—the results will not be announced until the end of the month.

### American Nazis

There was no murder of 6 million Jews in Hitler's concentration camps, "but if there was, they deserved it—just like they're going to deserve it this time."

This was the message from Frank Collin, fuhrer of the American Nazis at an open air rally in Chicago last week. "This time we are going to finish the job" added the leader of their St Louis branch.

The 20 'Stormtroopers' gathered around their Nazi flag relied on 1,500 police to protect them from the thousands of protesters trying to reach the Nazis to finish off their own job. Faced with mounting opposition the Nazis have called off a planned march in Skokie, a Jewish area, even though an appeal court over-ruled attempts by lower courts and the Chicago council to ban it.

The Nazis won assistance from a surprise ally—the extreme liberals of the National Council for Civil Liberties, who wanted to uphold the right to free speech as an abstract principle. Hitler didn't listen to the reasoned appeals of his opponents as he destroyed free speech and murdered millions of Jews, Socialists and trade unionists in gas chambers, and neither will his followers today. Real democratic rights will only be defended by the mass mobilisation of the labour movement.

## LETTERS TO: Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

## LETTERS

## The real criminals

Dear Comrades

Because I have plenty of spare time, being on the dole, I went to the city library to read the papers. I picked up the Conservative monthly news and read two different accounts of what causes crime in this country.

The first was by Ma Thatcher who said that there was not enough priority on keeping our police force up to strength. To do this will cost more money but it will be well spent [spending money on this instead of education and the NHS?].

She also said "we are too ready to listen to people who say the increase in the crime rate is due to unemployment, low pay and bad housing". Rising crime, she said, is not due to society.

On the same page Mr David Howell MP stated that bad housing fosters criminality and criminality breeds if you allow it to do so. So we have here two different accounts on the subject from the Tory party.

Clearly the bosses' party does not understand the 'stigma' of being unemployed or being lowly paid, they cannot understand the meaning of the word need, or living on an income allowing little luxury in life. It is these factors that turn people in a desperate position to crime.

The real criminals are those responsible for putting people in that position—the industrialists who close factories and pay bad wages. I worked in a store in Newcastle where it was rare to come out with more than £30 per week even

## Neutron bomb: which target?

Dear Comrades

The neutron bomb is a nuclear weapon designed to kill people with radiation while minimising the damage done by the blast of the explosion and minimising the residual radiation. I therefore read with some interest an article in the May issue of the Scientific American written by F Kaplan, a university expert.

The main theme was that the neutron bomb was of "doubtful utility". A reassuring phrase when reading the description of its effects: "Exposure to 650 rads functionally impairs a human being within two hours...more likely a painful, lingering physical deterioration ends in death within a couple of weeks".

The avowed reason for the introduction of this device is that in the event of a Warsaw Pact invasion of Western

Europe, neutron bombs could be used to destroy the invading army and in particular its tanks, and by using neutron bombs instead of current 'tactical' nuclear weapons the damage and residual fallout would be reduced. Isn't it touching to see the concern of the Nato military for the people of central Europe!

The author shows however that to stop such an invasion vast numbers of neutron bombs would have to be used to get the radiation densities necessary, that probably other nuclear weapons would have to be used as well and anyway that the Russians would retaliate with a massive nuclear bombardment of their own. In short, the damage to property and the residual fallout would be very much the same with or without the introduction of the neutron bomb.

What the article shows is that while being of "doubtful utility" in the rapid destruction of a tank army, the weapon would be highly suitable for the extermination of lightly armed men if you had no regular army to do it with! A situation of a popular uprising and army insurrection for example, where a fairly low dose of neutrons would result in massive casualties while factory damage and residual fallout would be limited, using neutron bombs.

I'm sure that this application of the neutron bomb has not escaped the notice of "our" military leaders and that the neutron bomb is intended to add to the growing armoury of weapons aimed not at the USSR but at us, the working class of the world.

Yours fraternally  
Jerry Cope

## BIG-TIME TAX DODGERS

Dear 'Militant'

The Tories never tire of telling us "private enterprise" suffers from an "excessive burden of taxation" and that one of the things needed to "get the economy back on its feet" is to reduce this "excessive burden of taxation", which would lead to higher profits and hence to more jobs.

In fact, 'The Guardian' tells us that "over the past three years...Corporation Tax (the tax on Company Profits) has fallen from 20.1% to 15.3% of all Inland Revenue receipts" and that "...using constant prices, Corporation Tax revenue actually fell sharply by 46% in the ten years to 1977-8".

This amounts to extra profits for the bosses so, according to the Tories, we should have seen higher investment and more jobs. It doesn't take an economic expert to realise this hasn't happened.

In fact, investment in manufacturing industry ex-

pressed in constant 1970 prices, actually fell from £1,851.2 millions to £1,761.3 millions between 1968 and 1977. We have also had 1½ million unemployed for a long time now so there isn't any sign of higher profits leading to more jobs, as the Tories claim it should.

Once again, the capitalists have shown us that all they are interested in is their own short-term profits, not in providing more jobs. If people have to live in misery on the dole because it is 'unprofitable' to employ them, then so be it—they don't care.

It's high time these companies were placed under democratic workers' control. Only then could a socialist plan of production ensure that the wealth created by the workers is used for the benefit of all, instead of being frittered away in speculation and pickings for the rich, as it is now.

Yours fraternally  
Duncan Bowdler  
West Gloucestershire CLP

## THE POWER OF THE PRESS BARONS

Dear Comrades

In case any of us ever become complacent about the need to sell the 'Militant', I would like to quote one of the press barons interviewed recently on Anglia Television. The remarks of Victor Matthews, chairman of the Trafalgar House group which publishes the Daily Express, certainly made my blood boil.

Commenting on recent unrest among his workforce he growled, "Unless I get the support that I want here, then why waste my time? There are easier ways of making profits...". That sentence sums up capitalism and exposes the myth of the kind bosses, a myth unfortunately often believed by some of our leaders.

Does Matthews keep the plant open because he wants

to give employment to workers? On the contrary, he keeps it open because it earns more money for him and his shareholders. His real feelings towards his labour force are shown when he menacingly threatens, "I would love to go down onto the shopfloor with power of hire and fire."

He concedes that were it not for the strength of the printworkers' unions he would cut his labour force by between 30—40%. It is only the strength of the workers organisations which has so far foiled his attempts, but ultimately under capitalism he can close the presses at a moments notice and he and his kind will always attempt to do so when they smell higher profits elsewhere.

Finally he arrogantly says that "If it's our money we'll be the ultimate sanction in what goes in the paper."

Reading these few words have made me, and I'm sure many others more determined than ever to replace private ownership and control with socialism and workers' control and management.

Fraternally  
Robin Clapp  
Bristol South LPYS

OUT NOW  
Militant International Review  
No 14

★ Behind the 'Liberal' mask: the brutal face of Toryism.

★ The colonial revolution and the deformed workers' states.

Price 40p. Available from 'Militant' sellers or order from world books [cash with order: add 10p postage for individual copies: bulk orders post free].

## DRUG FIRM BRIBE FOR PROFIT

Dear Comrades

This morning at the end of an out-patient clinic a sales rep from Glaxo came in to tell us about a new antibiotic. There were four doctors and he gave each of us a plastic folder [with 'Glaxo' printed on it] containing a note pad, a biro and a pamphlet about the antibiotic: a 49 page, two colour, ring-bound pamphlet printed on very expensive paper; a glossy folded card printed in three colours to remind one about the drug's uses and dosage; and a 6 page data sheet about the drug.

Then to share between us—a 200 page record of a scientific conference about the drug. [The conference was sponsored by Glaxo]. I forgot—he also gave us each another biro with the names of various Glaxo products on it!

The total cost of these bribes I estimate to be about six to eight pounds, plus the rep's wages and expenses. Many other doctors will get the same 'treatment'. I asked the rep how much the drug cost. Answer: £31.50 for a five day course [plus VAT].

Four days earlier, after another clinic, a rep from May and Baker came in and offered to arrange a film show about another antibiotic with a buffet lunch [wine included] for the surgeons at this hospital.

Who dares say the drug companies should not be nationalised to save the NHS money?

Yours fraternally  
A Junior Hospital Doctor

## The right to read 'Militant'

Dear Comrades

We're told that we live in a democratic society where we have basically the 'freedoms' to do whatever we choose. Alas this is not the case as some friends of mine found out last week.

Four students in Stafford were lucky enough to get summer jobs at a local factory: These jobs were available because of a strike over wages, some months back, and to a back-log of work.

One of the students was asked at his interview what he studied and he replied "politics and history". The interviewer immediately leaned across the table and said "We don't want any reds in here

over the summer. I hope you don't bring politics on to the shop floor."

After working there for three weeks, one of the students, "studying law" sold copies of the 'Militant' to each student and they read these during their breaks at work. The following day the foreman approached the politics student and said, "Don't bring those papers into the factory, we don't allow any political papers in here, whether they're Tory or whatever".

Because he studied politics (and the foreman had obviously been informed of that fact) it was taken for granted that he was the one who sold the paper.

Here we have a situation where a man or woman can't even read what they choose during a break at work. I wonder whether the foreman would have taken the same attitude if the students had been reading 'The Times'.

The bosses are frightened of the ideas in our paper spreading through their workforce, and rightfully so too. Unfortunately for them the banning of 'Militant' is precisely the way for us to get it known in the factory. Workers will be even more keen to take and read our paper.

Yours fraternally  
J Kenny  
Chairman, Stafford and Stone LPYS

## Tory split

Dear Comrades

I read the article on the splits within the Tory Party in last week's Militant with great interest. The first few paragraphs brought back a conversation I heard between two, what looked like senior executives, in the central lobby, Westminster (where visitors to parliament wait to see their MPs).

The younger of the two (about 45—50) remarked "I wonder if we will see Margaret? You know I think she has got the right idea about how to run the country."

The older, lower, executive, rather timidly said "to be quite truthful I think Mrs Thatcher is more of a liability to the country than anything else".

The reply to this rather startled me. "Yes, I suppose so." Then he added sternly, "I hope you don't let any outside person know your views of this subject." The whole issue was then dropped; there were strangers about who should not be allowed to know about the Tory splits and what big business thinks of Mrs Thatcher.

Yours fraternally  
Gordon Wilson  
Stirling Falkirk and Grangemouth LPYS

though the firm was making massive profits.

The criminals responsible for bad housing and conditions are the banks, building societies and loan sharks who hold local authorities to ransom forcing the local authorities to cut down spending.

Only a socialist society can put an end to crime, where peoples' wants and needs will be satisfied and therefore there will be no need to turn to crime. We must fight for this, through the 'Militant', in the labour and trade union movement, and put an end to the real criminals in society.

Yours fraternally  
Joe Cox  
Wallsend CLP

# FOLLOW SLUMP WITH BOOM

After a magnificent two weeks for the fighting fund in which nearly £4,000 was raised, we have plummeted right down to £445.18

It would appear that quite a few supporters have been taking things easy this week after the final push for the half year target. Hopefully, however, everyone will be making up for it next week by sending in large sums of money from the tax rebates. (See Special Appeal).

This is no time for comrades to ease their efforts just because the second quarter is out of the way and only begin again as the end of the third quarter looms in sight. As well as raising the question of money week in and week out to get every penny we need to improve the quality of the paper, last week's NF attack on our building demands immediate action.

Every supporter and reader of the paper is being asked to make a special donation in response to the 'Premises Appeal'—as much as they can afford and as soon as possible.

Then the best follow up would be thousands more commitments to regular weekly donations. Militant has been based and built on donations and support from the Labour and Trade Union movement. Now more than ever, each organisation and individual member should be approached for a financial contribution.

Although this week's total is well down, supporters in those areas which have gone

## THIS WEEK

£445

forward have worked hard at raising the money—from the pennies and half-pennies collected in Peterborough (£5.50) and Hull (£3.22) to the £10 from B. Connors of East Merseyside, plus all the fund-raising activities.

Many thanks to all those comrades who have made personal donations this week including: J. Rubenstein and P. Brown (Hull) £1.11, J. Locke (Newham) £1.90, Wobeys (Hackney) £2.00, A. Nicholes (Ardwick) £2.00, P. Rubinstein (Liverpool) £3.00, D. Short (Gloucester) £2.50 and Port Talbot supporters £2.00.

£1 donations were received from the following: P. Murray and D. Bostock (both from Harlow), B. Bundy (Portsmouth), D. Edwards (Penge), A. Darnton and D. Beddows (both from Lambeth US-DAW), P. Russo (Newham NW), B. Costello (Marylebone), R. Taylor and P. Bamford (both from Liverpool), C. Knights (Nottingham NUPE), P. Warren (Birmingham West), P. Cunningham (Dumfermline), P. Davey and M. Munn (both from Caerphilly) and A. Miller (East Kilbride).

On the fund-raising side, money has come in from a variety of sources. From extras on sales of the paper alone we received over £30.

£5.00 came in from the sale of a pram and a cooker in Peterborough and another

£5.00 came in from wedding expenses in Nottingham. £30 was made at a jumble sale in North London and £12.20 came in from 'catalogue commission' in Leeds.

A social in the West London area raised £17.00 and one in the Birmingham area made £12.50. £6.00 was made on the sale of food during the Labour Party Broadcast on Youth in the Birmingham area and £2.21 was made on the sale of sandwiches at a meeting in the London area.

From union expenses in Brent we received £6.50 and from speaker's expenses in Slough, £4.00. The selling of pontoon tickets in Southend raised £4.00 and in Nottingham £1.45.

A collection at Hendon South LP meeting raised £1.02 and one at a Trade Union Discussion Group in Ardwick raised £1.00. At a Marxist Discussion Group in Southport there was also a collection which raised £1.60.

From Hampstead LPYS we received £1.00, from Toxteth LPYS £2.00 and from Bootle LPYS £1.50.

The rest of the money received this week was either sent in as 'miscellaneous', 'small donations' or 'anon' donations such as the one from Lewisham of £5.00 and the one from Brent of £6.00. Many thanks to everyone who sent in money this week.

**Donations for the 'Premises Appeal', clearly marked as such, should be rushed to the Militant offices post haste. Please note that these, like all cheques and Postal Orders for the Fighting Fund, should be made out simply to 'Militant'.**

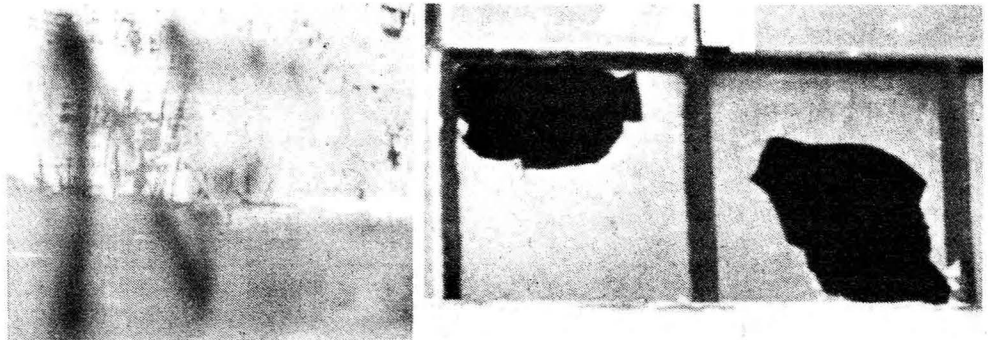
## £52,500 NEEDED BY OCTOBER 7th

### FIGHTING FUND CHART £70,000

Area	Target 39 Wks	Target 52 Wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	3,300	4,400		1195.09
Hants & IOW	1,575	2,100		1481.82
Humberside	1,650	2,200		925.28
Lancashire	1,125	1,500		306.03
London: North	5,775	7,700		2687.31
London: South	2,850	3,800		1538.57
Manchester & District	2,175	2,900		691.12
Merseyside & District	3,375	4,500		1234.41
Midlands East	3,300	4,400		1391.73
Midlands West	5,500	7,400		2789.39
Northern	3,675	4,900		1799.96
Scotland East	1,875	2,500		709.46
Scotland West	2,125	2,900		808.12
South East	1,725	2,300		1175.16
South West	1,725	2,300		954.59
Thames Valley	1,275	1,700		776.63
Wales East	1,500	2,000		789.17
Wales West	1,725	2,300		785.05
Yorkshire	3,900	5,200		1384.13
Others	2,250	3,000		3349.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>52,500</b>	<b>70,000</b>		<b>26772.16</b>

Progress towards year's target      Towards October 7th target

## Protect our Premises



Our front windows after the attack [right] and the attackers' signature [left]

# School Students Need Socialist Lead



Bradford school students took their lead from Militant in the strike wave earlier this year

The Annual Conference of the National Union of School Students met recently, following a year of major activity by school students. After the strikes and demonstrations involving thousands of school students, the Union should have gone from strength to strength. However, it has lost over 2,000 members during this period.

This compares very badly to the growth in the school student membership of the LPYS, which has been dramatic, because of the bold intervention by LPYS branches in these demonstrations,

armed with the infamous LPYS School Student leaflet, which has aroused the hostility of the Tory press.

### Trade unions

The situation facing the union was critically considered by many delegates. Although the leadership, dominated politically by the Young Communist League, put it down to the loss of benefits from NUS Travel, many delegates saw a more significant reason. It was the leadership's fear of taking a political stance, of linking in action with the trade unions, and fighting for socialist answers to the plight of school students, which has led to this

decline.

The LPYS members who were delegates gave a lead to this feeling. At the start of conference, we moved an extension to the measly 1 1/4 hours allowed for discussing mandates and resolutions. Although we were unsuccessful in this, the policies of the LPYS shone through in all major debates.

We showed that the way to defeat racialism and fascism was not 'to be friends' as the National Committee thought; but to link NUS to the strength of the labour and trade union movement, to crush the fascists, and campaign for socialist policies. This was the only way to abolish the poverty and bad

housing which the fascists use to win support, playing on the fears of working people.

Much of the activity of NUS in the past year has been around the 'School Students Charter'. This offers some reforms which everyone would support, but does not

go beyond that.

The problems of school students cannot be solved in isolation. If NUS were to fight on class issues, taking up the questions of cuts, youth unemployment, and poverty, as well as issues directly in the schools, it

could have enormous growth.

A mass NUS, fighting for its programme, would also give it credibility in the labour movement itself. This is the way to win the recognition by the teachers' union and other sections of the labour movement.

LPYS members should become active in NUS and branches which have no school students should approach their local NUS branch for joint recruitment activities.

The only way that NUS can be taken out of its present impasse is through taking up socialist policies. The new President of NUS, John Mumford, is an LPYS member, but does not support the policies of the LPYS. Inevitably, he will be under enormous pressure from the bureaucrats of the YCL not to change the present situation.

Only the mass influx of school students into NUS, and the ideas of the LPYS, could see the growth of NUS from its present shell into a mass union representing the millions of school students, and be able to provide a lasting solution to their problems.

**Bob Campbell**

Delegate, Bexhill NUS

# MILITANT IRISH MONTHLY

July/August issue out now

- \*Fianna Fail and unemployment
- \*Youth at work
- \*Army torture
- \*Czechoslovakia 1968

Price 8p. Order from MIM, 75 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1.

# DOCKERS BUILD INTERNATIONAL STRENGTH

Following action taken by the Port of Hull Docks Shop Stewards Committee in supporting their Scandinavian brothers, there is now in embryo an International Docks Shop Stewards committee.

Swedish dockers asked the Hull dockers for assistance in closing down an unregistered wharf in northern Sweden. This was successfully carried out by the blacking of the Swedish ship, the 'Christopher

Meadr'. The ship was blacked by Walter Cunningham, the Chairman of the Hull Docks Shop Stewards Committee and backed up by the National Port Shop Stewards Committee. The ship could not unload its cargo anywhere.

This action has been taken against the Swedish Port Employers who had been attempting to scuttle the dockers' union, the equivalent of the British NASD ('Blue Union). Their intention was to have all dockers in the

equivalent of the T&GWU which in Sweden would have drowned the voice of the dock worker. The Swedish dockers have resisted this and have formed the "Swedish Dockworkers Union".

## Visit

The Swedish ship 'Christopher Meadr' was for months anchored off Port Gullfiber with nowhere to go and nothing to do! Eventually, the employers capitulated. By way of thanking the Hull dockers, a delegation of three shop stewards were invited, all expenses paid, to visit their Swedish brothers.

Bros. Trevor Branton (T&G), Jimmy Woodhead (T&G) and Bob Parrish (NASD), who is also Secretary

of the National Shop Stewards Committee, docked into the port of Gothenburg on May 27th. They were received by Oily Wikström, the dockers' chairman, and a delegation of shop stewards and officials. An English docker working in Gothenburg, Peter Shore, acted as interpreter. The three Hull dockers were taken on an extensive tour around the ports of Sweden.

Bob Parrish explained what the situation was in comparison to Britain. "There are 2,800 dockers in Sweden, the majority of whom are in the new Swedish Dockers' Union, and now all auxiliary workers are being recruited into the union, which will mean one union for the ports industry."

"The union was formed in March, 1972, and all its officials have to stand for re-election every three years. There are 30 ports in Sweden and 17 of them are 100% new union. The others are 50% new union, except Port Gaul which is 100% old union."

"The Swedish dockers were very interested in the way that

## Hull dockers talked to Alan Hartley

the Hull dockers organised in the two unions, where 'Blue' and T&G work and co-operate together and also how they vote together when electing their shop stewards, so that one steward will represent all dockers in his section no matter what the colour of his card."

## Build links

The three Hull dockers were somewhat stunned on seeing the working conditions of their Swedish counterparts. The ports have rest rooms with TV's, showers and sauna baths. The ports themselves are equally well equipped with modern machinery, which shows a large capital investment, in contrast to the ports in this country.

Many meetings were organised for them where they exchanged experiences and offered each other advice and information. A final meeting was attended by shop stew-

ards from all over Sweden including Gothenburg, Santburg, Lanvall, Viking, Olgar and Wesman, discussed future co-operation and activities. Two shop stewards will be coming to the next meeting in London of our National Shop Stewards' Committee to find out about the British situation.

Out of this experience has now arisen the perspective of a 'Dockers International'. Most European and Nordik countries will eventually be represented, and other countries are also being visited.

This magnificent move on the part of dockers shows in practical terms what internationalism is all about. Not only is this a beacon to workers in other industries to organise likewise, but will have enormous political significance for the working class as a whole in the struggle against the power of big business internationally.

## Rolls Royce Offensive

After failing to hammer Coventry workers into the ground on a 10% wage increase the bosses are now trying to implement a vicious improvement plan throughout the Rolls Royce Combine. This would more or less take away the "right to strike" by using 10% as a carrot.

This so called "Improvement Plan", if accepted would have meant: The 10% wouldn't be paid if you were out sick. Flexibility—"not being limited by previous agreements". Work overtime when told to. A commitment to "natural wastage". Non-replacement of leavers, redeployment and voluntary early retirement.

Finally the bosses' classic clause: "management reserve the right to withdraw the increase from any individual or group if the spirit and intent of these provisions are disregarded". After making the offer the bosses then informed the workers that the offer was "non-negotiable": take it or leave it.

Bearing in mind Sir Kenneth Keith (Chairman of Rolls Royce) told us he intended "doing the job with as few people as possible". It was obvious that the offer is meant to reduce the workforce at a time when there are 1.5 million unemployed. Not satisfied with the £16 million profit made last year, more profits must be made by making less people work harder.

The way forward for Rolls Royce workers is:

1. Share the work, 35 hour week without loss of pay, with five weeks' holidays.
2. £85 minimum wage linked to the cost of living index.
3. More apprenticeships.
4. Full workers' control and management.
5. A socialist plan of production to guarantee jobs for all.

By Dave Robbins  
(AUEW Engineering Section)  
John Sharpe  
(AUEW/TASS)

# Kipling bosses take the cake

The canteen women at Kipling Cakes Bakery, Manchester are on strike for paid meal breaks and for back pay to make up their wages to the same level as one worker in the same department to whom management had paid more.

The real issue is the way management have stonewalled every reasonable request and forced the workers to take industrial action to make the slightest progress.

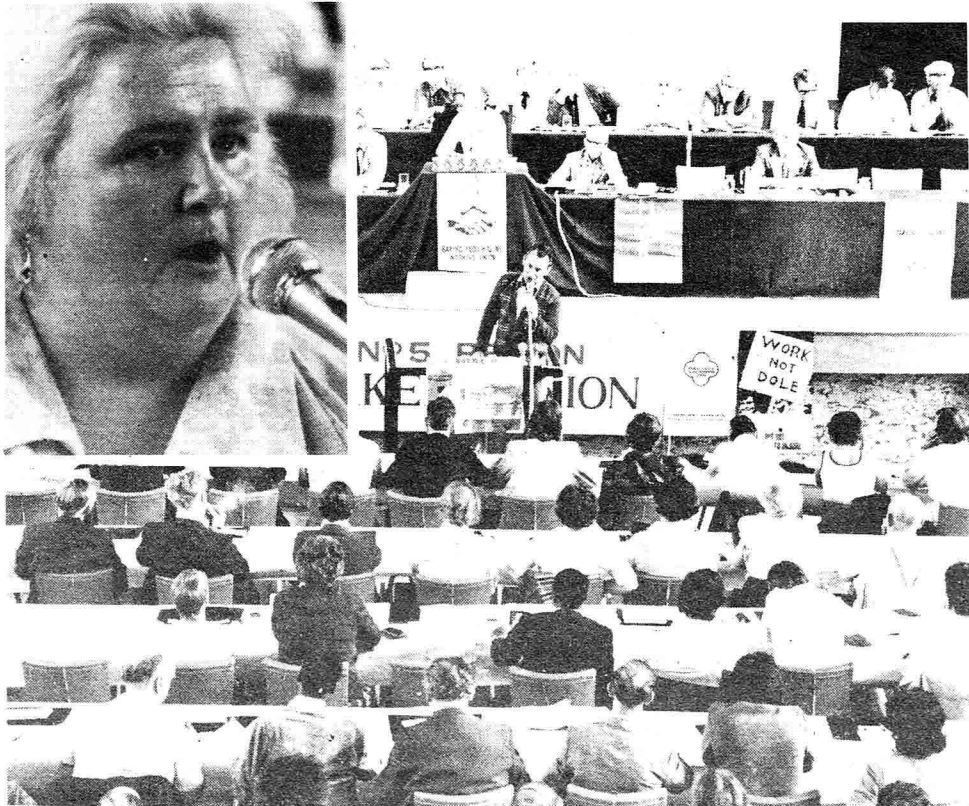
Kiplings is part of the giant Rank Hovis McDougal Company whose trading profit has risen since 1975 by 18.5%. The shareholders' dividends have risen by 21.1% while the workforce (mainly on the bakery side of the group) has been reduced by 8%. In spite of its super profits the company forces disputes over what amounts to peanuts by comparison.

The union believes that

if improved conditions are acceptable for one worker in a department then they should apply to all workers in that department. The management have argued that they gave the better conditions by mistake! This can't be accepted as the clock cards are checked weekly and if there is one thing management are keen on, it is to make sure that no one gets any more than "necessary" by "mistake".

This strike is just one event in a whole string of industrial disputes at this bakery, most of which have been provoked by the management. Its getting so that each week you don't know what new tack they will be trying on. The workers are sick of the uncertainty this creates, and will not tolerate these tactics.

by Val Dunne  
(Bakers Union  
Shop Steward,  
Kipling Cakes)



Val Dunne [top left] was one of the speakers at this year's Bakers Union Conference.

# NEB allow Tress to close

Despite the media's attempts to disguise the fact, unemployment in the Northern Region has risen by 8%. The region now has the highest level of unemployment in the country after Northern Ireland.

In this situation the closure of Tress, with a loss of over 300 jobs, is a severe blow to the region. As reported (Militant 407 and 409), the shop stewards were determined to save jobs and agreed unanimously to take all necessary action including occupation.

This policy was supported by the AUEW District Committee, Tyne and Wear Council, Tony Benn and the Northern and AUEW sponsored MPs.

But the company was determined. They wanted immediate closure and offered payment for the 90 days

instead of using it as a consultation period, as laid down in the Employment Protection Act.

Against the shop stewards' recommendation, a mass meeting decided to accept the closure. This was partially due to the offer of a lump sum payment, after the six-week strike, and the company's threat that if there was any 'trouble' the workers would be in breach of contract, and any money would be stopped. Also the shop stewards were not supported by the union officials or the local MP.

This closure has raised a number of questions which the labour movement must

take up urgently. The role of the National Enterprise Board is a scandal. According to Labour's October election Manifesto, its aim was to create employment and act as a stepping stone to socialism. Instead it acts like a merchant bank.

## Who decides?

Varley, the minister concerned, said the closure was up to the NEB and nothing to do with the government. The NEB said it was up to the Fairey management, the same people who nearly destroyed the Group before the NEB stepped in last year.

By Bill Hopwood  
and  
Alan McFadden  
(AUEW)

They promised to invest and expand Tress. "The only investment was a few pencils and a paper shredder bought when the closure was announced, to destroy the files" said a Tress shop steward.

Trade union representatives, including Hugh Scanlon are on the NEB. What action are they taking, and who are they responsible to? Who decides what the NEB does?

Union members are demanding to know whether their leaders are bothered about saving jobs, or just how much they can be sold for.

Already these points have been taken up by some MPs,

the Newcastle Trades Council, the AUEW and local Labour Parties. Our AUEW branch passed a resolution demanding socialist policies to end unemployment and workers' control and management of the NEB and all nationalised industries. Newcastle North Labour Party passed it unanimously, adding that any firm receiving government money should not be allowed to declare redundancies.

We must learn the lessons from Tress, to strengthen the fight to save jobs. The help pledged by workers in industries throughout the region to the Tress shop stewards in the struggle they wanted to lead is a sign of the growing mood against redundancies. The unions at several major factories in the area are refusing to let Tress workers start because they sold jobs.

The Tress shop stewards will be producing a pamphlet on their battle which will be reviewed in a future edition of 'Militant'.

# COVENTRY:

## Busmen Under Attack

Last Saturday there was a one day strike by Coventry bus workers in protest against police harassment of one driver. Kundan Singh was attacked by some passengers late on Saturday [8th].

The police arrived and driver Singh stated that he was "arrested for assault and taken to Coventry Police Station at 11.30pm!" His belongings were taken and he was put in a cell.

Later they took him to hospital for treatment and then returned to the station. He was eventually released at 5.30 am—and had to walk 3 miles home! While at the station he said that "my three requests to telephone my wife had been refused".

**He arrived home to find his wife and children waiting for him in tears. Any trade unionist would be disgusted at this appalling arbitrary behaviour of the police.**

The feelings of busworkers were summed up by driver Karnail Johal of the Indian Workers' Association. "This is not an isolated incident. It reflects the general attitude of the police, especially towards black busworkers.

"The police and management treat this and previous attacks in a very arbitrary way. We are all in favour of providing a service—but when it leads to limbs paralysed and loss of eyesight, then a big question mark must be put over it".

Over the last period attacks

Coventry!

So much for his concern. This can only lead to a further deterioration of the situation. We must take a firm fighting stand and the one-day strike was a step in the right direction.

The public must be made aware of what the Tories are doing to their services. We can't rely on the local press so we must launch a campaign ourselves.

This is just a local example of a national trend. In complete contradiction of the social contract which promised to hold fares down, increases in fact have averaged 40%. Socialist policies are needed now to save our transport system and prevent these attacks. There is a burning need for trade unionists to fight in the LP for socialist policies to reverse all the cuts.

**★ No to the cuts ★ No to redundancies ★ For a socialist transport policy under workers' control and management.**

By Paul Walder  
(Coventry SE LPYS) and  
Vincenzo Insantino  
(T&GWU 5/42)

such as this on the bus crews have increased while the relationship between the crews and passengers have worsened. Why is this occurring? Services have been cut back while fares have continued to increase. These are a direct result of cuts in public spending. While this has spelt inconvenience for passengers it has also meant that bus workers have longer hours and redundancies have occurred pushing up unemployment.

**The Tory Mayor on the day of the strike said to the press that he was concerned that children's holidays might suffer. However his party are planning to put fares up by 25% in the near future in**

**Militant Pamphlet  
"FOR A DEMOCRATIC,  
FIGHTING POEU"  
Written by Militant supporters  
in the POEU.**

Price 10p. Order from Roy Farrar,  
74 Balls Lane, Liverpool 9.



POEU members on the march in London, leading the fight for a 35 hour week. photo: Julian McKittrick

# 35 HOUR WEEK TUC must back POEU

The Post Office Engineering Union has now embarked on the most important industrial action of its history. But why is the 35 hour week so important that a traditionally non militant union has been galvanised into action?

Mark Morton and Brian Lewis of Swansea Labour Party Young Socialists met Phil Lloyd, Swansea District Secretary of the Union and asked him about the union's current industrial action.

**Mark Morton: The POEU is demanding a 35 hour week. Why is this demand so important?**

**Phil Lloyd: The Post Office has been introducing new technology in the exchanges for some time. The Union always responded by discussing productivity deals. However, the members now realise this meant selling jobs. Already 80 to 90,000 jobs have gone through productivity.**

The Post Office are now planning to introduce System X. This is completely new and nobody really knows what it is about. It is certain though that the Post Office intend to cut jobs using the latest technology in the form of electronic exchanges. The membership now feel "enough is enough" and although the Union has been campaigning for a 35 hour week for the last 7 or 8 years, System X has brought the demand to the fore. Our attitude is simple: if the Post Office want System X they will have to give us a 35 hour week. There must be no loss of jobs!

**MM: What action is the Union taking?**

**PL: From October 1st last year the Union withdrew from productivity deals and from November 1st it refused to introduce new equipment into the exchanges. After some backpeddling by the National Executive, a Special Conference was held at which the members reaffirmed the action they had already taken and instructed the NEC to settle on no other terms than**

a 35 hour week.

At this year's Conference the NEC proposed quite a good document which was passed by an overwhelming majority.

It stressed the need to struggle and to take on the Post Office. In addition to the existing action the Union now refused to expand existing systems agreed under existing agreements. The branches were given authority to take industrial action to protect any members victimised by the Post Office for carrying out the decisions of Conference. Some branches have taken action. For example, a demonstration has been organised in London with all the London branches coming out for one day.

**Brian Lewis: Is there any chance of an all-out strike developing?**

**PL: Not at present. The Union has learnt from the UPW strikes. The POEU does not have a history of industrial struggle. In over 90 years it has held only a one day strike and a one hour strike. Our task is therefore to educate the membership through experience by going on token stoppages and day stoppages and perhaps escalating under local control to a week stoppage.**

**BL: What is the mood of the men like?**

**PL: It is developing. The men are suspicious of the national leadership because they fear a sell-out. However, insofar as the NEC take up the struggle they have the members' support. That is**

the point: within the branches there is a good deal of loyalty to the action.

**MM: The Government, the Post Office and the CBI have all written off the 35 hour week as unrealistic. What do you think of this and of their argument that there is a lack of resources to finance such a scheme?**

**PL: Well, there is a lack of resources under Capitalism. It is going to be a tough dispute and we will meet with Government opposition since a victory for us would be a breakthrough. Under Capitalism, the bosses are in a dilemma. If a 35 hour week spreads to industry it would erode profits. The only way forward is Socialism. Under Socialism, new technology would be used for the benefit of the working class and not for profit.**

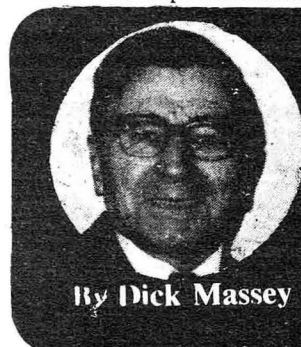
We have a Labour Government which was elected to change the balance of forces in favour of the workers. Instead, Callaghan and his cohorts are carrying out policies supported by the Tories and big business. The Labour Party and TUC must pressure the Government to change its policies and live up to its Socialist name.

**BL: What effects do you think the action will have upon other unions in the near future?**

**PL: Primarily, we hope to engender support amongst the other postal unions but we are also hoping that the TUC will support the 35 hour week and will give assistance to the POEU. The Postal and Telecommunications section of the CPSA has already decided to go for a shorter working week and has offered our union every support in its struggle. This is an important step forward and it bodes well for developments within the TUC.**

**Sell Militant to your workmates**

**For details contact: Circulation Department,  
Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN**



By Dick Massey

# working in the union

*This week, Dick describes the conditions seamen faced in the past and the battles fought to establish recognition of their union. We hope seamen and other trade unionists will write to 'Militant' about their experiences, so that we can continue the series, showing how much things have changed today with the growing organisation and power of the trade unions, and the battles still to be fought.*

"What is the union going to do about it?" How often one hears the question asked.

For some years I was a member of the National Union of Seamen. In those days, once you had signed on a ship there was no provision or recognition for election of a shop steward or any form of representation for crew members. We were completely at the dictates of the Captain and officers, or to give them their correct titles, the Master and mates.

A number of the Masters and their mates in those days had served their time in the old sailing ships, where discipline had been enforced by a "Bucko" mate, with his fists or a rope end. One could hear them sigh for the "good old days"; however physical force had been replaced by intimidation. "loggings" (fines), imposition of onerous duties and threats of a bad discharge. As a seaman's discharge book was a continuous certificate of discharge, this was a serious threat against a man's livelihood.

I signed on a ship in the Tyne and found that the forecabin or the foc'sle as the crew's quarters are known, had not been painted after the occupation by the previous crew. I drew the mate's attention to this. He replied that the place had been washed but owing to a quick turn around there was no time to do the painting and if I did not b— well like it I would have to lump it. My shipmates were of course furious about it—the union was informed but failed to appear before we sailed.

Later during the voyage preparations were

made for some midship accommodation to be painted by the crew. This caused some bitter grumbling among us. I suggested an alternative but it was not until I promised to be the spokesman that I won their support. A spokesman was inevitably denounced as a "sea lawyer" and life on board was usually made uncomfortable for anyone who dared to voice a grievance.

The "Bos'un" (foreman) ordered the watch to carry on with the painting of the midship quarters, but instead we all started to prepare our own accommodation for painting and commandeered the paint for this purpose. The mate was soon on the scene threatening and bullying. I informed him of our decision and told him that no amount of threats would deter us from making the foc'sle a more comfortable place to live in.

Soon the "Old Man" (Master) was on deck. Without even listening to our legitimate complaint he called us "mutineers", threatening to take action when we reached our port of call and ordered us to work amidships. When we ignored his orders, he told us we would all be "logged" for insubordination and given a bad discharge. Someone ironically called for "three cheers for the captain". This eased the tension and he departed to the sound of our laughter.

The Foc'sle was painted and we heard no more of the "mutiny". The morale of the crew was high, we had defied a bullying Mate, had the temerity to laugh at an irate ship's master, and learned the answer to that question, "What is the union going to do about it?"

# Militant

## SPANISH HOLIDAY DISASTER WORKERS SACRIFICED FOR PROFIT

200 people killed! The 180 who survived are so seriously injured that they must also be added to the list of fatalities!

These are the horrifying details now emerging from the gas tanker explosion at the camping site at San Carlos de La Rapita, Spain, last Tuesday.

The accident occurred when a tanker carrying 38 tons of liquified propylene—a highly inflammable chemical used to make synthetic fibres collided with a brick wall, and hurtled 100 yards into a camping site packed with holiday makers from Germany, Holland and France.

Eye witnesses spoke of a mighty explosion followed by a huge fire ball and then a rain of ignited liquid which saturated the whole area.

Within seconds the searing heat reduced people nearest the blast to smouldering

charcoal. Those further away suffered appalling injuries as the intense heat tore off their skins and were literally boiled alive as they threw themselves into the sea that adjoined the site.

The heat was so great that cars and caravans were reduced to mere shells of metal as everthing susceptible to flame vaporised and produced choking fumes, moreover, the tanks of butane gas, used by the campers for cooking, added to the the casualties as they ignited and exploded.

Such was the enormity of the holocaust that many workers searching the camping site for bodies were so overcome with emotion as they came across bodies burnt beyond recognition, that they were unable to continue.

Feelings ran high amongst the survivors and relatives when it was learnt that most of those injured were unlikely to survive because they were so hideously burnt that plastic surgery was impossible.

They were further incensed when it was revealed that the disaster could have been averted for a paltry £7 if the

lorry driver had used a new toll road rather than the narrow coastal highway.

The local population were angry and bitter but not surprised over the accident. They have attacked the Governor of the Province for not responding to the many requests to ban tankers from the highway.

Indeed, even on the day of the catastrophe, there was an accident involving a tanker carrying vinyl chloride which was released into the atmosphere. Vinyl chloride is a chemical notorious as a cancer forming agent.

Belatedly, 48 hours after the accident, the Governor banned all tankers carrying expensive cargoes from roads in built up areas, and reduced the tolls on the new A7 road.

That it has taken a disaster of this magnitude to galva-

rather than the very expensive and luxurious hotels, only to be incinerated and subjected to horrors that defy the imagination.

The catastrophe has sent reverberations throughout the capitalist world, since most corrosive, poisonous, explosive and inflammable substances are carried by road tankers.

The most recent accident was in Mexico City at the weekend, in which 10 people died and another 200 seriously injured when a tanker carrying liquified natural gas blew up. This has put pressure on governments to re-examine their policy on the transportation of hazardous chemicals.

The disaster in Spain has demonstrated that whilst the workers were moved to tears, the capitalists were moved only by considerations of profits. Will other chemical haulage companies now change their routes and introduce safety precautions? Not on your life! How long until a similar accident happens somewhere else?

By Ronnie Sookhdeo

## POEU WORKERS READ MILITANT



POEU members marching through London—for a 35 hour week.

Last week's issue of Militant, with the lead article on the fight for a 35 hour week, has won an excellent response among trade unionists, and none more so than the Post Office Engineers who are spearheading that fight. As well as the coverage on the front and back covers, the two articles by POEU branch officials on our industrial pages were well received.

For example, the London North Central Internal branch ordered £10 worth of that issue to distribute to the members. One member who pinned a copy on his notice board said: "it's gone down

like a bomb".

### Best Coverage

Branch Committee member George Blackmore explained why they were using the Militant to publicise the union's case: "All trade unionists are aware of our fight for a 35 hour week, and I know the Militant is read by many trade unionists. The coverage of the POEU campaign in the Militant is as accurate as if we had written it ourselves".

Another branch officer

added: "It's the best coverage of any newspaper our branch has seen. We wish more engineers would read Militant".

And so they can if they are offered it! Our regular sellers must make sure every Post Office engineer and every branch of the POEU is given the chance to buy a paper that tells the workers' side of the story. And as we build the campaign for the 35 hour week for all workers, with material in every issue (see page 15 and cartoon this week) every regular reader should become a regular seller of the paper.

## COME TO THE LPYS CAMP

The best holiday you've ever had—that is what we're guaranteeing to everyone who attends the first ever National Summer Camp of the LPYS—from Saturday 29th until Saturday 5th August 1978. The camp site is in beautiful thick woodland, near the River Wye, five miles from Cloeford, Gloucestershire. The whole area is enough to take your breath away.

Free afternoons for trekking through the countryside and coach trips. Sporting events: football, netball, tug-o-war, three-legged races etc. Plenty of entertainments in the evenings—films, discos, Club Night, folk nights etc. A drinks licence has been applied for.

This is no hard labour camp! You don't have to peel spuds, wash dishes or

cook because 'Professionals' will be doing all that. You'll get breakfast, dinner and tea throughout [from Sunday morning] served in the huge dining marquee. For those who don't have a tent—no need to worry.

### DEBATES

There will be room in five long ridge-tents we have hired. Everything else is basically provided as the camp site is very well equipped with showers, numerous water standpipes, and disposal units. Excellent debates and seminars have been organised, with speakers from all sections of the labour and trade union movement. There is a debate on the Sunday: 'Which way for

Labour' between the 'Militant', speaker Rob Sewell, 'Tribune': Neil Kinnock and 'Manifesto' Group: Ian Wrigglesworth. Frank Allaun will be speaking with an NC member on World Peace.

So there will be tremendous discussions on all aspects of policy, international and at home

### OUTINGS

There will also be creche facilities on the camp, with games, entertainment and outings organised for the children.

Branches should be raising money to pay for school students, unemployed etc as well as help pay for coaches.

Blyth LPYS are organising a Sponsored Cycle run from Newcastle to the Summer Camp. Three riders are setting out on 24th July and are arriving for the beginning of the Camp on 29th July—cycling on average 60 miles a day. They plan to stop at Leeds, Nottingham, Birmingham and Bristol.

The cost of the camp is only £20 all in!!! What a bargain. So book your holidays now!—29th July till 5th August—and remember you have to bring your own camping equipment [tents, illos, sleeping bag etc].

Deposits of £10 or more should be sent to: Andy Bevan, National Youth Officer, The Labour Party, Smith Square, London SW1. (cheques and PO's payable to "LPYS Summer Camp Fund").



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