

100 DAYS OF TORY RULE BEGIN THE RETURN TO THE 30's

WORKERS ROBBED TO PAY IDLE RICH

In only 100 days of office the Tories have viciously attacked every aspect of workers' lives.

Jobs are lost as cuts are made by companies and local authorities. Prices are raised to help pay the increased tax relief for the rich. Education and health services are being ruthlessly pruned.

By
Jim Chrystie

The Tories' election campaign had been marked by lies and deceptions. By Budget Day the smokescreen could no longer hold, and their intentions were clear.

LIE: "We have absolutely no intention of doubling VAT" Sir Geoffrey Howe, 21st April.

FACT: VAT doubled to 15% in the Budget.

LIE: "We have no intention of increasing prescription charges" Angus Maude 25th April.

FACT: They were more than doubled in the Budget, rising to 45p.

LIE: "We have never suggested it. (selling the Government's majority holdings in BP). It is a flat lie" Angus Maude 25th April.

FACT: Budget announced sale of BP shares.

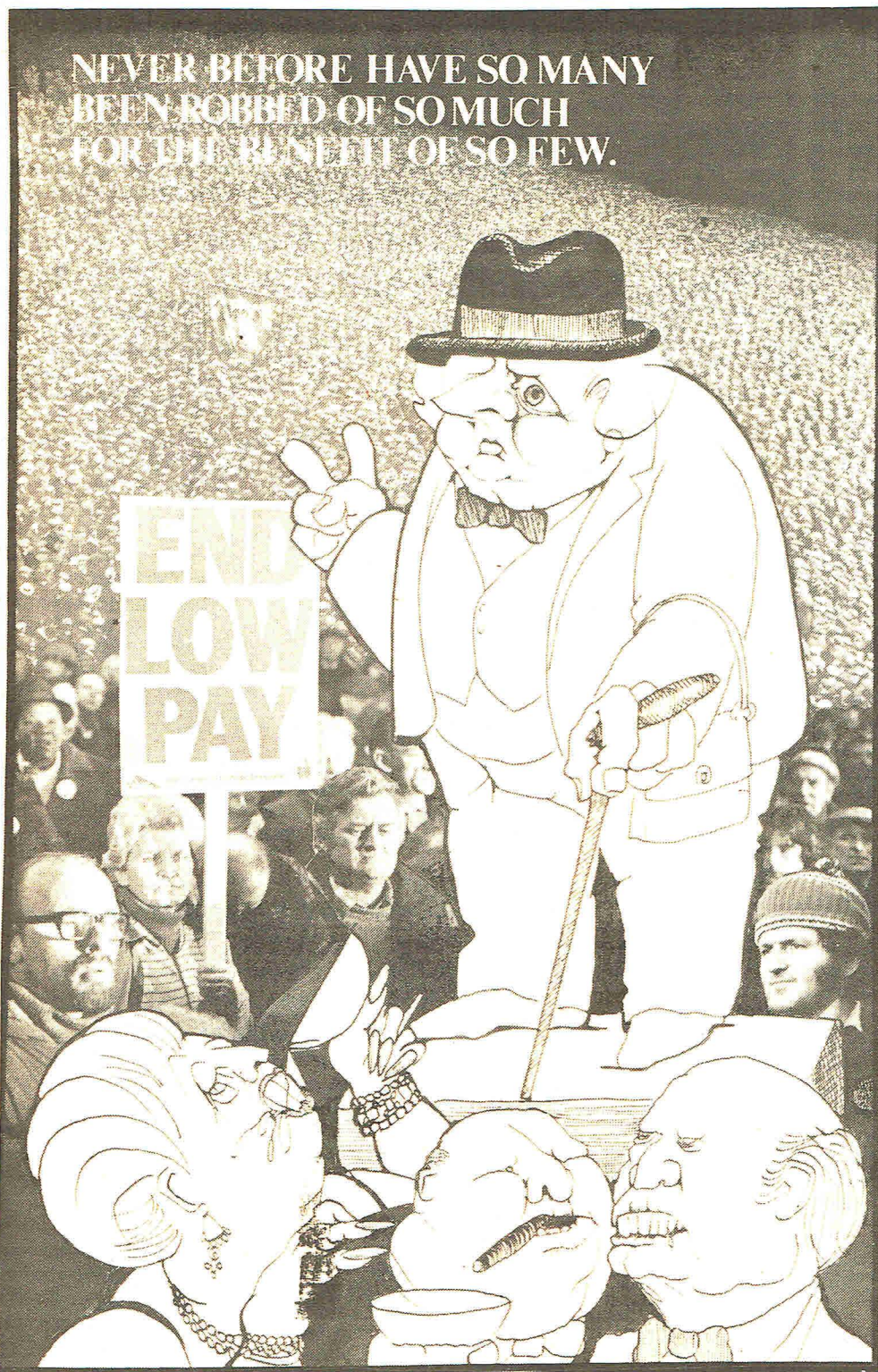
LIE: "Savings will be sought in most areas except the National Health Service" Tory Manifesto Summary, 11th April.

FACT: Cash limits mean cuts. e.g. Lambeth Health Authority was sacked, on 30th July for not cutting its budget by £5.5m.

There's nothing new or surprising about the Tories lying in order to protect the ruling-class. And they are forgetting some of their other policies also.

The denunciations of
CONTINUED ON
BACK PAGE

NEVER BEFORE HAVE SO MANY
BEEN ROBBED OF SO MUCH
FOR THE BENEFIT OF SO FEW.



During the election Mrs Thatcher spoke of how proud she was to be cast in the image of Churchill

ENGINEERS DEMAND FULL CLAIM

By
Roger Shrives



All over the country, engineering workers have given massive backing to the one-day stoppages for increased wages and a reduced working week.

The Engineering Employers' Federation is resisting the very modest demands of the AUEW for an £80 minimum skilled rate. Skilled engineers are at present on a minimum of £60.

The engineering workers are also demanding a 35-hour week by 1982, extra holiday entitlement and a common implementation date for the settlement.

The Employers' Federation are clutching on to their wallets and pleading poverty, but the response of shopfloor workers has been tremendous. Last Monday's

stoppage was even more successful than the first.

An estimated two million workers were out. Areas like the West of Scotland which did not strike last week, [because of holidays] were this week almost 100% solid. In Portsmouth the number of firms affected increased, and picketing was stepped up. Engineering workers at BL Cowley, who did not join last week's strike, were out. In Basingstoke, at ITT [Canon], most of the workforce were out. The handful of scabs are to be fined £15 by the union each time they go in. Three stewards who crossed the picket had their cards removed.

At Mucon, Basingstoke, only one of the 40 workers—all in the AUEW—went to work. Workers will be taking disciplinary action through the union.

The action, though limited, is beginning to bite. Some employers, fearing the

result if the strikes are stepped up after the slack August holiday period, are disregarding EEF instructions and meeting the whole claim. The AUEW estimate that about 150 firms have paid us so far.

The employers though, are still determined to protect their profits. They have threatened to expel any member firms which meet the claim.

Firm action is needed to force the bosses' hand. The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions are discussing ways of stepping up the campaign.

The one-day strikes have shown the enthusiasm for the claim. The Confed must now harness that feeling, and prepare for all-out national action to secure a decent deal for engineering workers.

[Full report, page 15]

Militant

TEN YEARS OF ARMY REPRESSION

British troops have now been on the streets of Northern Ireland for ten years.

After a decade of military occupation, the capitalist press have been gloomily weighing up the situation. They are forced to the conclusion that the problems of Northern Ireland are no nearer solution than ten years ago.

Militant opposed the army being sent in. From the very beginning we warned that the violence in Northern Ireland can never be eradicated by military force, however this is dressed up as 'peacekeeping'.

The army were first introduced in 1969 to avoid the escalation of sectarian conflict into a possible civil war.

This sectarian conflict was itself a dreadful legacy of British Imperialism, who used it as a tool to keep control over Irish economic and political life; to side track revolutionary movements

which arose, and defuse the workers' unity which threatened their wealth and privilege.

The near insurrection in Derry, police attacks on Catholic areas of Belfast and Derry in 1969 gave warning to the ruling class.

If the sectarian RUC and the vicious B Specials [themselves the creation of British Imperialism] were left in charge of 'defence', civil war could result, with destruction of property, and the danger of the conflict taking on a class direction.

Initially, the Catholic population were undoubtedly relieved to see the army in preference to the paramilitary police forces. They had illusions of the army acting as a neutral 'peacekeeping' force. The civil rights movement, encouraged by the Communist Party, actually welcomed the troops.

But Militant warned in the

September 1969 issue "The call made for the entry of British troops will turn to vinegar in the mouths of some of the Civil Rights leaders. The troops have been sent to impose a solution in the interests of British and Ulster big business". We showed that the army had always been used, in Britain and the ex-colonies for capitalism and against the working class.

Workers, particularly in the Catholic areas, were soon to discover how true this was. Their heavy-handed house to house searches, their role in internment, the Bloody Sunday murders, the regular use of torture etc. have given the Army a reputation like the infamous Black and Tans.

The policy of British Imperialism has been one of repression and concessions. While making political concessions to the Catholic middle class, they have relied on the army to keep down the

opposition. They would like a political settlement that would stabilise the situation, and allow a return to 'normality'. But the conditions produced by imperialist repression and especially the monster of sectarianism they created, now make it impossible from their point of view to pull out without the risk of a bloody upheaval which would find repercussions spilling over to Britain. So again, repression.

The failure of the army was summed up in the report 'Northern Ireland: Future terrorist trends' prepared by the army intelligence chiefs, which concludes that "Government policy would be principally one of containment and the underlying problems would remain unsolved". Even though the Provisional IRA have lost much support through the tactic of individual terrorism, and lack of real solutions, the

army despair of a military victory. The 'success' of the peacekeeping forces can be judged by the almost 2,000 dead since 1969.

Only the labour movement, fighting for socialist solutions can get to grips with the social and economic problems like mass unemployment which can act as a breeding ground for the disease of sectarianism.

The trade union movement is the only non sectarian force in Northern Ireland. Even at the worst period of sectarian bitterness the trade unions were united and fighting for the interests of their members, Catholic and Protestant. Now with the decline of the Provisionals and the Protestant paramilitary groups, the working class increasingly look to the labour movement to lead the struggle, for instance, against redundancies at Harland and Woolf. With a fighting lead from

the top, the Labour movement would be a powerful magnet for workers. Only under the leadership of the working class can imperialism's economic and military policies be defeated.

Just as the army can solve none of the problems of Northern Ireland, this failure also applies to the capitalist class.

The solution lies in a political fight. The demand made by the Labour and Trade Union Group in Northern Ireland for a mass party of labour in Ireland must be supported by all workers in Britain.

Such a party fighting against the terrible social problems bedevilling the working class, and fighting for a united socialist Ireland linked to a socialist Britain, is the only way out. It is the only realistic alternative to the repression and sectarianism which exists at present.

"It is inevitable that there will be redundancies. There will have to be a great tightening of belts and reduction in standards."

With these words John Geugeon, Chairman of the Association of County Councils' policy committee, spelt out the brutal results of further cuts in public spending announced by the Tories on 31 July.

Even before this announcement by Michael Heseltine, the 'Observer' (29 July) commented "With £4,000 million worth of cuts to come on top of what is already happening, some politicians may still deny that it is 'draconian'. But it will be difficult to get the argument over to 99-year old Laura May Collier. Her old people's home is closing down and she is being moved into a hospital geriatric ward."

So there we have it! The cuts in public spending mean old people's homes will close, likewise hospitals, schools, meals services. Every public service will face destruction.

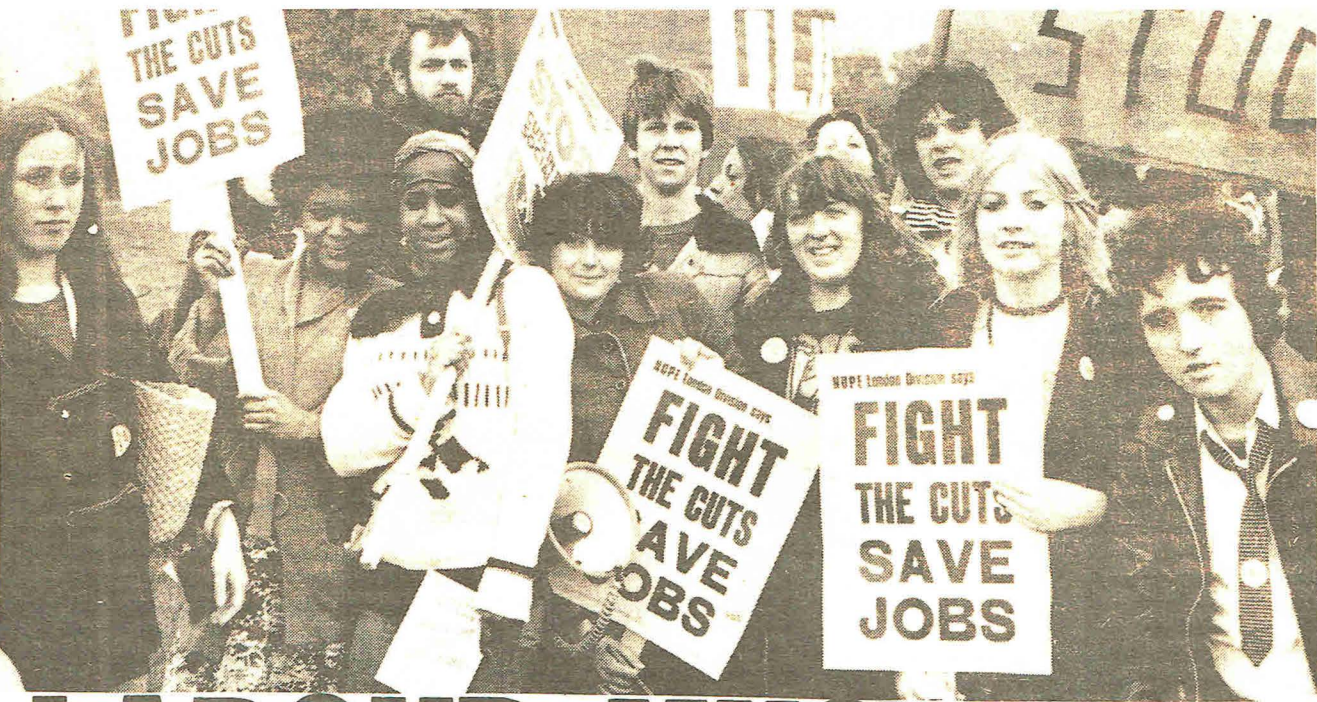
Working people, through the trade unions and the Labour Party, fought to create public services available to all, irrespective of income. These services are now threatened with extinction, bringing misery to millions and unemployment to thousands.

Misery

Alan Fisher, general secretary of National Union of Public Employees, stressed recently that the labour movement "are not prepared to give up these services without a battle. We will not tolerate a return to the misery and degradation of the 1930s".

This must become the battle cry of the whole movement.

For the Tories, our living standards must go down so that our backers in industry can jack up their profits. They claim this will 'stimulate investment'. But the bosses' union the CBI has talked of declining industrial activity in the next year, and falling investment.



just bolster up the capitalist system, but is committed to fundamental social change by bringing the commanding heights of the economy into public ownership.

Local councils who decide not to implement the cuts must not be left to fight alone. That surely is the lesson of Clay Cross.

The key to success lies in building a mass movement of councillors, trade unionists, housewives, tenants' organisations, and all working people, to support a stand by Labour representatives in local councils.

This movement must be directed into the debate in the Labour Party on the need for the next Labour government to be committed to—and to implement—Clause 4, part 4 of the Party constitution which commits the party to nationalisation and democratic control of industry.

This is a battle that can be won by the labour movement. We must learn the lessons of the UCS battle, and of the struggle over the Industrial Relations Act.

They would do well to remember George Lansbury's words in the struggle conducted by Poplar Council against the Tory government's attempts to block Labour reforms: 'All reforms come from those who are ready to break bad laws'. With a national lead from the labour movement, these cuts could be resisted, and a programme of improvements in our cash-starved services could be introduced.

LABOUR MUST MOBILISE AGAINST CUTS

The 1976 demonstrations against cuts in public services had a great effect. Mass action is needed now to fight more cutbacks.

By Nick Bradley

(Greater London Labour Party Executive, personal capacity)

Sir Ray Pennock, who is to be next year's CBI President, has warned of the need for "caution" in investment.

There we have the truth! All the attacks on living standards will not induce industry to reinvest. Regardless of this, the Tories are not without enthusiasm for their programme of cuts.

Alan Clark, Tory MP for Plymouth Sutton, spoke in the House of Commons recently on fuel rebates for the elderly. He argued: "All forms of concession which allow one section of the community to get something below the market price can only be paid for by the rest of the community. It is in effect a form of re-distribution of wealth, and this government, I respectfully suggest, was not elected to bring this about."

The Tory budget on 12 June contained reductions in public spending which will total £2,500 million by April, 1980. The rate support grant to local authorities from central government has been

reduced by £355 million in this financial year.

The Tory-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities has, however, estimated that the government reduction in rate support grant will take £800 million from local authorities' planned expenditure this year.

Stark choice?

Local authorities have already committed themselves to £450 million more revenue expenditure (day-to-day spending including wages) than was allowed for when the rate support grant was set.

Even the right wing 'Economist' (16 June) admitted: 'By next winter the true impact of three years of cash limits on local authorities will be showing through in collapsing sewers, school, housing estate, and road maintenance, in closed libraries and swimming baths, deteriorating fire and ambulance services—and in soaring rates.'

Local authorities are seemingly faced with a stark choice: either cut public spending, with redundancies and deteriorating services, or increase rates and further reduce the living standards of working people.

This is the choice facing ever Labour councillor. Heseltine has warned councillors not prepared to toe the line that he will have no hesitation in applying legal sanctions. How, then, can we resist this programme of cuts?

First of all we need a clear lead at national level from the Labour Party and the TUC. They must make it clear that it is not the job of Labour representatives to act as agents for the Tory Party in cutting services. The movement needs to adopt a policy of mobilising mass support to confront the Tory government.

The London Labour Party Executive—in response to pressure from below—has now called a special conference of the London Labour

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CLEGG COMMISSION - 'MOST GET THE LEAST'

Millions of workers in the public services have been looking forward to the first report of the Standing Commission on Pay Comparability established by the last Labour government.

This commission set up under the chairmanship of Hugh Clegg was part of the pay settlement of the public sector workers when they accepted an immediate 9% pay rise this year.

The report points out that there are 1.1 million local authority manual workers.

About 52% of all these workers are paid on the Group A and B rates (the lowest). Nearly 90% of these are part time workers.

There are about 270,000 NHS ancillary workers in Britain, of whom about half are full time. About 75% of all workers are in pay groups 1-3. Some 60% of them are part-time. Over 95% of all workers are in group 7 or below.

The Commission recommends further pay increases ranging from £1.76 to £8.83 for local authority workers, and from £1.76 to £9.72 for hospital workers. The fact that any other pay rise has

been suggested is in itself a recognition that these workers are low paid and find it hard to survive on these wages.

As NUPE's General Secretary Alan Fisher pointed out, if these pay increases had been on offer on top of the 9% settlement at the start of the year, it is highly unlikely that there would have been a public service strike.

In other words, responsibility for suffering caused during the strike has been once more clearly placed on the shoulders of the last Labour government who flouted their own movement's conference decisions.

However, as the 'Guardian'

indicated in its headline on 2nd August, the net result of the Commission is that the 'most get the least'. 52% of local authority workers only got increases of £1.76 and £2.30. Three-quarters of local authority employees stand to get increases of from £1.76 to £3.14.

These paltry increases are not going to go far in keeping up rapidly falling living standards. Once again public service workers will be forced into long hours of overtime to make up a decent wage.

Activists in the trade union movement forecast that the Commission would produce a divisive pay offer. This is

indeed the case. 3.8% on the basic grades but a maximum increase of 25.8% planned for the 2,000 top ambulance men in the country. As one low paid worker pointed out bitterly "as an exercise in restoring differentials this has been an unqualified success."

Living wage

The trade unions and employers signed in advance to accept the report of the Clegg Commission. Despite widespread disappointment this will be generally accepted as "better than nothing".

However it now seems

certain that the Tory government will only allow this to be paid in return for an agreement to reduce the number of jobs in these services. This must be firmly resisted.

The major battle in the public services over the coming months is likely to be over defence of jobs and prevention of closures.

But we must at the same time continue to advocate the introduction of a decent living wage for all workers in all industries, which at present would be at least £70 per week.

SAVE OUR HEALTH SERVICE

HEALTH AUTHORITY DEFY TORIES

The horrifying cuts in spending on health which the Tories would like to see pushed through, are beginning to meet resistance.

The Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority were not prepared to put lives at risk by cutting about £5 million from their budget as the government instructed.

This health authority in South London is the largest in the country, and covers some of the most depressed areas in the country. Deptford has an unemployment rate of 13%, twice the national average.

Southwark and Lambeth have some of the worst housing conditions. All parts of the district suffer the usual chronic inner city problems. As figures for child mortality show in a tragic way, such areas have enormous health needs, greater not less than currently provided.

Oblivious to all this suffering, the Tories' only thought was to punish the rebel authority for daring to take issue with Tory priorities.

Patrick Jenkin, the so-called 'Health' Secretary, sent in commissioners to take over the AHA's functions. Much of the Health Authority's budget goes on maintaining three teaching hospitals. The remainder has to keep a number of very old hospitals and other services.

The authority members had already had a struggle under the last Labour government to prevent a cut in finance under the guise of the Resource Allocation Working Party which proposed less money for London in order to 'equalise' resources to less provided areas.

The labour movement must oppose the playing off of one area against another for health funds. The working class in all areas suffer from limited resources.

The interview below shows the likely effect of Jenkin's cuts. The health service unions COHSE and NUPE

have said they will not co-operate with the commissioners in their axeman job. Their example must be followed.

Similar brave action by Health Authorities throughout the country is important, but given the undemocratic nature of the AHAs such action can only be limited. The structure imposed by the last Tory government was designed to minimise accountability for health care provision.

A clear campaign on the lines suggested in the article on page two, to win active support from the entire working class is vital.

Pat McMenamin [NUPE Branch Secretary Lewisham Health District] and Bob Cole [NUPE steward Lewisham Hospital] spoke to John Bulaitis and Dave Partington. [For 'Militant'.]

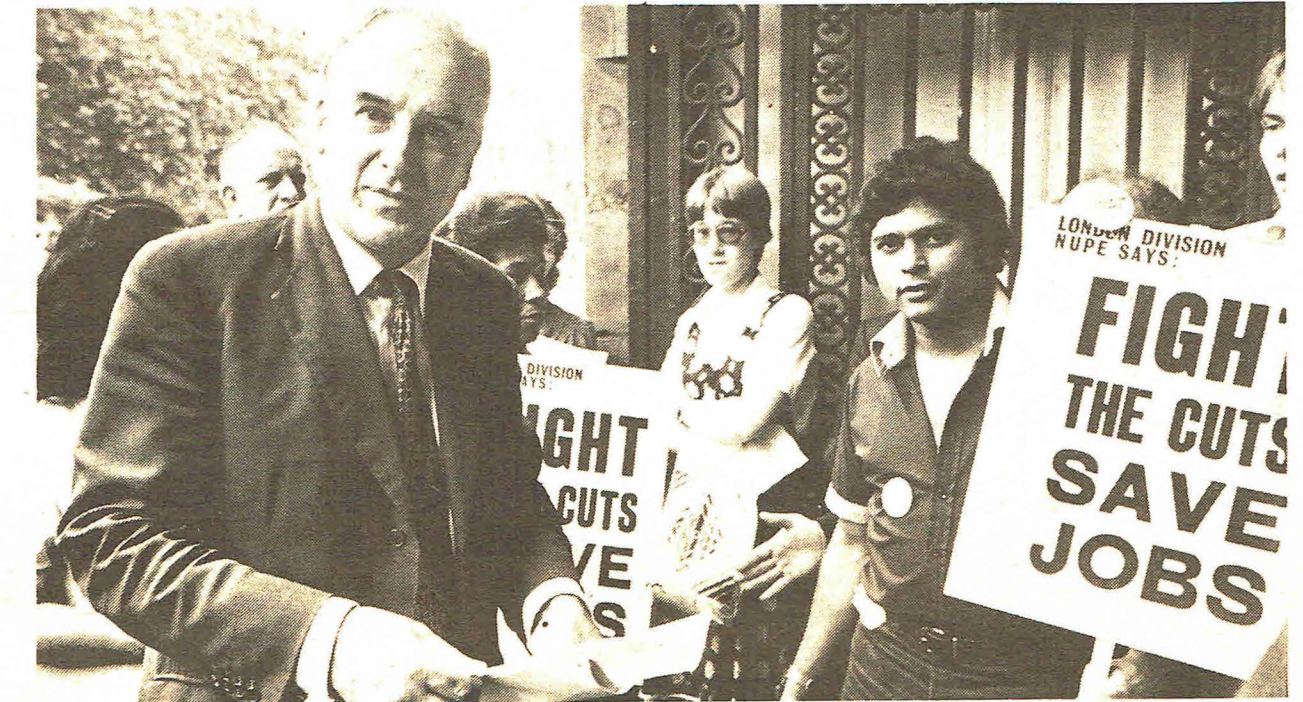
'M': What are the conditions like in Lewisham Hospital now?

PM & BC: The hospital is quite old, and the conditions are terrible. It needs at present a new operating theatre, a new boiler room, a new casualty department, new dining rooms and kitchens. The operating theatres are a spectacle to be seen. If I was a farmer I wouldn't have an animal castrated in the A and B theatres. It would be more hygienic to have the operation done in a barn.

'M': What do you think of the government's action in appointing these commissioners?

PM & BC: Jenkin has appointed five butchers to do a butcher's job on the health of working people in this area. The chairman, Sir Frank Hartley, was in charge of research in a drug company. They're the biggest leeches on the National Health Service, so we know where his loyalties are going to lie.

If things go the way they are now with cuts, the NHS will be more like a workhouse not a health service. The NHS would only have facilities for



Hospital workers confront Tory minister Vaughan before his 'working lunch' at St Bart's Hospital

the elderly, the infirm, mentally handicapped and mentally ill. They're unprofitable. All the rest that's profitable would go to private practice.

The rich of course, can afford private practice. There are even rumours, we don't know if they're true that St Johns Hospital just down the road, which has been deliberately run down, may be sold to BUPA.

All private practice should go from the NHS. If doctors and consultants want work they should work for NHS patients, or get out.

We've been wondering whether Patrick Jenkin has shares in an undertakers. That's the business to be in now! With all the cuts we'll all be redundant. Porters at Lewisham Hospital were talking of pooling resources and opening a funeral parlour!

Seriously though, in a few years the death rate will increase dramatically. Only those who can afford to be ill will stay alive.

To get an operation in this area you have to go miles away to Guys Hospital, and they're cutting there too. There will be a nine year wait not two as at the moment. Intensive care will be cut off. At the moment if there is an accident, you will be put on a machine for a few days. This would go.

Another thing. There's always been a practice for kidney operations to give priority to the youngest. If there are eight people for six places, already those over 60 or so are, tragically, very unlikely to be treated. Now the age will go down to 50 or 45. People will die.

CRISIS POINT IN HACKNEY

By
Stella Gibling

(Tower Hamlets LPYS)

The Tory axe is biting deep into the City and Hackney Health District.

As in many other Districts throughout the country, rigid cash limits are being strictly enforced with no credit allowed. The effects of this, against a background of previous 'trimmings', is bringing the health service to crisis point.

The stationary budget has to cope with rises in VAT and inflation, as well as the ever-expanding cost of technology and expertise.

Debts of £2m to £3m loom in the immediate future, and emergency plans have recently been passed through the AHA to implement cuts of this magnitude.

The plans include closure of all acute surgeries (including orthopaedics), and the casualty department of St Leonards Hospital in Dalston with transfer of staff to St Bartholomew's, even though it is unlikely there will be an increase in bed numbers to cope with the extra patients.

Waiting lists will just be lengthened. Coupled with this comes the closure of St Matthew's, a Catholic Hospital, with transfer of patients to the evacuated St Leonard's wards.

These plans have caused much anger amongst hospital unions, where jobs, also, are seriously threatened—thro-

ugh the local Hackney CHC and Trades Council, a 'Hackney Health Campaign' has been set up.

On July 26, the 3 hospitals were visited by a junior Tory minister, Mr Vaughan, with, at Barts, a special 'working lunch' involving consultants and local MPs, but, of course, no trade unionists.

At St Leonards and Barts, he was met by demonstrations of hospital trade unionists, protesting against the cuts.

This campaign against the

cuts will undoubtedly be a long one. The events in Lewisham, where the AHA members were by-passed by the Tories after they refused to accept the cuts, shows how determined and vicious the Tories will be in insisting on this reduction in services.

Through the hospital unions, and involving local people through the local Trades Council and Labour Party, the campaign against the closures must be taken up.

The demonstrations showed clearly that there is no lack of enthusiasm for such a campaign, and a realisation of the need to defend their hard-won rights by using the solidarity and strength of the organised labour movement.

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THE FIGHT TO TRANSFORM THE LABOUR PARTY

The biggest battle in the Labour Party for twenty years is now unfolding.

Then Gaitskell unsuccessfully attempted to remove Labour's socialist aims—Clause 4 part 4—from the Party constitution.

The present fight is focused on party democracy. But it undoubtedly reflects the anger of party members and trade unionists at the failures of the last Labour government and the Tory victory that followed. Party members are determined to exercise their power to create a mass workers' party, committed to socialism.

Faced with the Tories' brutal attacks on our living standards, jobs and social services, and their threatened assault on the trade unions, such changes are becoming vital.

Labour's National Executive Committee is proposing major changes to party rules. If adopted they will increase the influence of rank and file party members as never before.

The NEC is recommending the abolition of the undemocratic 3 year rule and the clause which prevents annual conference debating resolutions covering more than one subject. In the light of the recent election manifesto which contained hardly any of the measures demanded by annual conferences over the past five years, it is proposed to remove the effective right of veto from the party leader, and to entrust the drafting of election manifestos to the NEC.

The £165,000 paid by the state to the Parliamentary Labour Party when in opposition should, it is proposed, go directly to the Labour Party. This will ensure that the PLP's researchers, advisory staff and machinery is accountable to Transport House and the party membership.

Following the decisions to allow calls for reselection of Labour MPs and the election of the party leader to be re-debated at national conference, these changes reflect a clear shift, with the vast majority of Labour Party activists demanding major changes and more control over the Parliamentary wing of the party.

Opposition

Labour's right wing are mounting a major campaign to prevent any important changes being made.

Fearing a threat to their own positions if confronted with more control by the party membership, they have initiated

an enquiry into party structure. This is seen by many as a move to build in a permanent right wing majority on the party's executive, possibly opening the way to a witch-hunt against the left.

They want a 'radical' party, offering a vehicle for a political career. Their ideas

are that "If constitutional changes are accepted large numbers of the PLP members would find it impossible to continue". If the party membership changes the rules some MPs would resign or join the enemy, like Reg Prentice.

In reality the right wing are

concerned that "If constitutional changes are accepted large numbers of the PLP members would find it impossible to continue". If the party membership changes the rules some MPs would resign or join the enemy, like Reg Prentice.

Every member of a General Committee has an interest in winning the seat for Labour. For us, the fight for socialism and the interests of the working class, rather than

the seat as the MP has, for his future career depends on it and theirs do not." ('Guardian' 9.7.79)

Widening the method of election of the party leader is one of the key demands now being taken up. To ensure that the leader is genuinely representative and prepared to fight for party policy is a further way of controlling our parliamentary representatives.

Party conference is the supreme governing body of the party. All sections and opinions in the labour movement are represented in debate to thrash out policies. This is where the party leader should be elected, if he is to carry out these policies.

In no less than 9 other socialist or social democratic parties the leader is elected at national conference. In only 3 out of the main 20 social democratic or socialist parties is the leader elected simply from the parliamentary group.

Even in Germany's right wing dominated SPD, a 36-member committee selected from congress makes a nomination for Chancellor, which

then has to be ratified by congress.

The leader, together with the cabinet/shadow cabinet must be elected annually at conference to ensure that the whole movement, not simply the MPs, decide the path to be followed by Labour members in Parliament.

TONY SAUNOIS IS THE LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS' REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Now more than ever the party built by working people, over decades of struggle and self-sacrifice, needs a mass membership, a socialist programme and democratic control over its leadership.

The hollow claims of Labour's 'moderates', that the decline in party membership is due to the domination of the left, must be boldly answered.

It is the programme of Labour's right wing which has decimated the party membership. Their refusal to support workers fighting for decent wages, or to clearly explain a socialist alternative to wage restraint, unemployment and low pay, and their passive acceptance of capitalist decay has resulted in the loss of party members.

A massive recruitment campaign, with a turn to the factories and offices, establishing members' branches at the place of work, would transform the party.

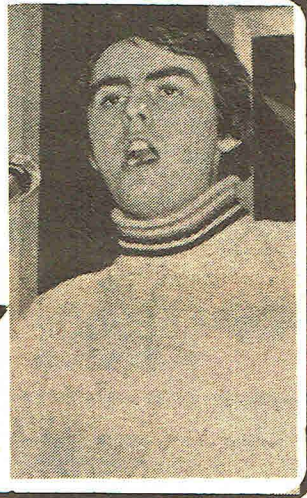
Mass rallies and street meetings to explain Labour's ideas and programme; a reaffirmation of Clause 4 part 4—for the public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange—as the guiding principle of the party, reinjecting the crusading and self-sacrificing spirits of our founders. This is what must replace the disastrous 'liberalism' and careerism, which the right wing have dragged into the party.

Only then can we build a mass, socialist Labour Party, capable of defeating the Tories and their system.



'We must build a mass socialist party capable of defeating the Tories'

says Tony Saunois, NEC member



and programme go no further than tinkering with the diseased capitalist system and when necessary, trying to bail it out.

Proposals for a 'primary' system of selecting and electing MPs, as in the USA, or postal ballots of party members to select parliamentary candidates have been raised to counter the demands for more democracy.

They would enormously increase the scope for hysterical Tory campaigns in the media and elsewhere, to influence the selection of Labour's candidates. The party would become a mirror of the American 'Democratic' Party—the employers' loyal second eleven—if they had their way.

Proposals to make the party leadership more accountable have been denounced as 'a threat to democracy'.

At present, the party leader is elected by other MPs only. Election manifestos are finalised at a meeting where no votes are taken and the party leader has an effective right of veto. Conference is denied the opportunity to debate any issue discussed in the last three years; and party members have little control over sitting Labour MPs.

This is the 'democracy' which right wingers are defending. Their pleas are as shallow as their loyalty to the labour movement.

It was Denis Healey who at the joint NEC/Shadow Cabinet meeting last month threatened

saying 'Don't encroach on my positions or power!'

Despite this opposition, the call for increased checks over parliamentary representatives is widespread throughout the party.

Reselection

Through a procedure of mandatory reselection, Labour MPs would have to account for their actions to the party which selected them.

Combined with Constituency Labour Parties having the right to remove a sitting MP as a candidate at any time, this would be a permanent democratic check. If a CLP has the right to select a candidate then it should also be able to remove one!

Happy to be selected by a General Committee, those opposed to mandatory reselection shrink in horror at being removed by one. Their attitude is, 'You can select me to fight the seat. You can work for me, and raise my election expenses, but don't question my actions or statements when elected.'

Labour Party members fight elections to advance the cause of labour and the struggle for socialism. Some of our parliamentary leaders, it seems, see it very differently.

Shirley Williams has stated; "Nor will General Committee members have the same personal interest in holding

any personal and career gains are the motivation.

No MP need fear reselection, unless they see the party as a career, and have no commitment to the traditions and aspirations of the labour movement.

Doubtless this is true of some of our present representatives—approximately 40 Labour MPs don't even pay the £25 a year asked for by Transport House to cover administration and servicing costs.

Reselection, together with a commitment by all Labour MPs to only take the average wage of a skilled worker for themselves, with expenses to be vetted by the labour movement, would remove those simply using the party, and open the way for genuine representatives of working people and the labour movement.

If conference has the power to decide party policy then surely the elected leadership, the NEC, should be empowered to draft the manifesto accordingly.

The claim that the PLP would be totally excluded is false. Prior to the last election 22 out of 30 members of the NEC were MPs.

If the NEC does not draft the manifesto, the party rank and file has no say over its contents and no method of bringing to account those who drew it up. It is precisely because the NEC is more accountable to the party membership, through confer-

JUDGEMENT

Coming out of the House of Commons a couple of weeks ago members of the LPYS met a leading right wing Labour MP. The comments of this erstwhile fighter for socialism clearly show the attitude and cynicism of Labour's right wing MPs.

He stood laughing with a Tory Cabinet Minister. "He has been a good friend of mine for years", he explained.

The conversation then continued.

LPYS: What about fixing a date for the debate you suggested on party policy?

MP: I'd rather leave it now. At the moment I have to be very careful what I say.

LPYS: How are things in your local party?

MP: To be honest I'm bored with my local party. The infighting is getting me down.

LPYS: How do you view recent developments within the Labour Party?

MP I've seen it coming since 1959. If the NEC proposals are endorsed then there will be a split in the party. You shouldn't be surprised to know a large number of Labour MPs would split away. The current dispute is more serious and vicious than at any time in the history of the party. The main debate is not about Clause 4. It is about whether people like me who don't agree with it should be allowed to be party members.

The trouble with the British proletariat is that they are not interested in socialism. Look what happened at the last election. Many of them voted for a reactionary Tory party.

LPYS: What do you think about reselection?

MP: Why should I worry. I could always become a judge.

LEFT & RIGHT

Vantage point

Those Tory tax cuts have really set the country free. Money in our pockets to buy what we want. Well, some pockets, anyway.

Until the budget only rich foreigners could afford to buy any of the 23 flats in South Lodge, bordering on Hyde Park. Now ordinary British millionaires can join in. £450,000 gets you a four-bedroomed house with garage space for four cars, staff accommodation and private lift. For £1.4m, an eleven-bedroom house, with a bathroom in each bedroom.

Hyde Park, near Speakers Corner. Just the place to watch all the labour movement demonstrations against this rich man's government.

Compliment?

Voters in the recent Italian elections were exhorted by one of the parties to 'vote the same as 14 million Englishmen. Vote for the party of Signora Thatcher'.

All very nice for Ma, you might think. Except that the party was Destra Nazionale [National Right] an extreme right wing group. The Scottish 'Sunday Mail' said that their policy could be said to 'demand a recount on World War Two'.

Falsifications

Reporters "cannot clearly differentiate between writing news and writing fiction". Which paper are we talking about, the 'Sun', 'Daily Mirror', 'Express'? No. China's leading newspaper, the 'People's Daily', which in a front page headline admitted that many of its stories contained errors or falsifications aimed at making things seem better than they were.

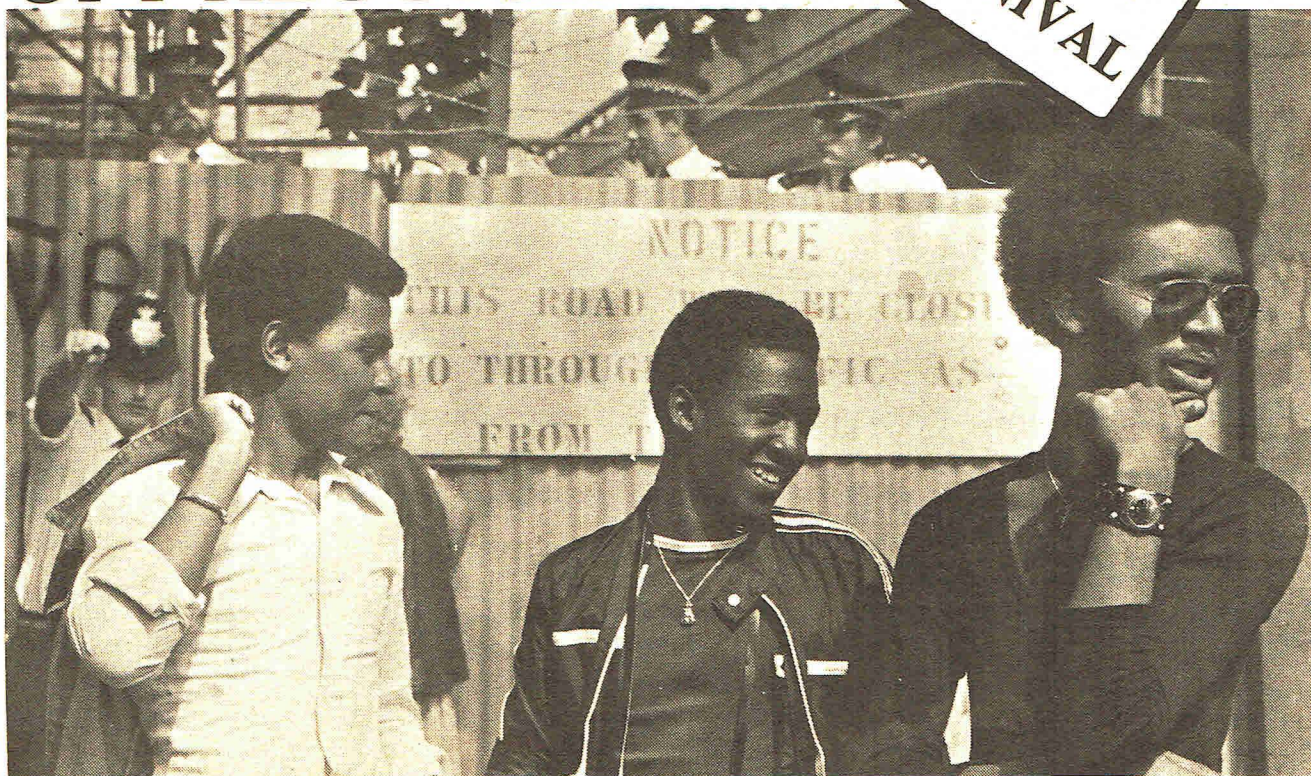
A report in the People's Daily on February 22 said "Since last December, more than 40,000 labourers and technicians have been braving the cold in Wuwei County to start construction of a large irrigation pumping station." But in fact the People's Daily said "Work on the project hadn't even started on time, so where did the more than 40,000 labourers and technicians come from?"

The paper also admitted that "Falsifications of this kind as well as reports which neglect to tell the whole truth, also appear in other newspapers and radio broadcasts."

Apparently, the motive behind the revelations is to try and restore the waning credibility of the media amongst the Chinese masses. However, like 'our' capitalist rulers, the Chinese bureaucrats will not allow complete freedom of the press, just in case the finger points at them.

BLACK YOUTH MUST ORGANISE AGAINST OPPRESSION

NOTTING
HILL
CARNIVAL



Carnival '78. Festive atmosphere, but always the police in the background

Photo: MILITANT

Notting Hill Carnival is now world news. Reporters from all over the globe will be trying to get the 'Caribbean atmosphere'.

Taking snaps to enlighten the imagination to the new heights of ecstasy and feeling, and of course playing up the police inspired riots of the past.

But what feeling? The feeling of police commissioner McNee? When being interviewed about the SPG by the press, he said, "If you keep off the streets of London and behave yourself you won't have the SPG to worry about".

No doubt in the back of McNee's mind he wants to hand out work permits, camp identity cards like in South Africa.

The 1976 Carnival ended in riots. Black youth were dragged out from crowds by the SPG, and they responded. In '77 violence flared again. Riot-shields, tried out before in Northern Ireland, were in use.

In '78 the Carnival was a success because we were determined not to be prov-

oked and intimidated by police exercises—cordonning off half of Portobello Road, the drone of a police helicopter over your head, video cameras on the Westway. Even so, violence occurred on the Sunday night, after police were determined to give us a show of strength.

Harassment

An event of creativity and inventiveness is being used by police as an exercise in riot control and harassment. The Islington 18 trial (lasting 14 weeks and costing £1/4m, with only 2 convictions) showed this. Confession statements were made on threats and beatings.

This time they will have at least 1,500 police and SPG at hand at any one time, and new riot equipment has been ordered just in case.

At this moment, black people and the working class

internationally, the movement of the angry, sick, young and old people, are struggling against oppression. The oppressive regimes have not blinked an eyelid in killing workers who made a brave stand against them.

But these movements have frightened the capitalists. And in the Eastern bloc—Russia for the first time has had to face demonstrations against the Brezhnev ruling caste.

In America, in California 'the capital of the trendies', (they say they are 10 years ahead of anywhere in the world), they have now had an 'embarrassing problem' as the State Commissioner put it, of the riots within Folsom top security prison—within the past two years there have been 20 deaths during race riots.

Tory attacks

And today the black community in Britain now face the attacks of the Tory government. Thatcher is going to cut expenditure in already run-down areas such as Peckham, Lambeth, etc, and harass us through the use

of 'sus' and the SPG—deaths like that of Blair Peach could so easily happen down Ladbroke Grove.

Whether we like it or not, there are elements in our race who have been forced by greed, or unemployment and slum conditions into looking for the MIS dated Superfly image or the CB200—give it up, and get wise.

Black youth need to get organised in a campaign to end unemployment, to destroy slums, end police harassment, and drive out racialism. The PNP Youth have pledged to fight against the oppression of black youth.

We will not be sitting down and moaning—we shall be on the streets during the Carnival selling our papers, running food stalls, and a legal aid centre free of charge.

We must fight for a society where life can be colourful and happy not just at Carnival time but all year round.

By Ken Matthews

Chairman
PNP Youth (UK)

BRIGHT'S NURSERY: STILL A STRUGGLE

The mood in the crowded public gallery of Rochdale Council Chamber during the meeting of Wednesday 11th July forecast a bitter struggle in the coming months.

The stark contrast between the unquestioning, insensitive subservience of the Tory councillors to their leaders' dictates and the pent up, frustrated anger of workers from public services already cut to the bone, indicated the polarisation that has already taken place.

Among those in the public gallery was a lobby

of parents of children in Bright's nursery. They have campaigned vigorously to have the nursery taken into local authority ownership, to prevent its closure, and preserve the facilities so vital to women forced out to work by financial hardship.

As a result of the pressure exerted by this campaign one of the few Tory/Lib splits occurred when the Liberals voted with Labour not just to take over the nursery but to maintain it as a nursery providing one unit as a battered baby unit, one

with 40 Social Service places and one unit the difference between the present fees and running costs to be met by the council.

Spending cuts

Although this represents a victory for the campaign and a tribute to the hard work and persistence of the mothers and the Women's Section, the same meeting which passed the proposal to buy the nursery also saw the imposi-

Save
Bright's
Nursery

tion of a three-month freeze on spending and a plan to cut £1m from public expenditure.

This should be a warning to the mothers that everything they've fought for can be withdrawn unless they unite in the campaign already begun by NUPE and other public service unions to fight the cuts in public expenditure.

By Margaret Crear

Public sector strike

WHAT WE GOT- AND WHAT WE LEARNED

It's now four months since the public service workers' strike and after stoppages I take home an extra £1.40 per week. But with the budget, the bus fares going up, and everything else, we are no better off than before the strike.

The settlement was £3.50, plus £1 on account, from the future comparability payments. But only those working 35 hours or more get the £1. The health service is run by part-timers, so that's caused a lot of discontent. There's only 6 to 8 in my department receiving it.

I work in the Central Sterilised and Supply Department, its the biggest in the country. We do all the traysets for all the biggest operations, and it takes 12 months even to know the basics. But this is all they think we are worth. Some of my women workers weren't so much worse off during the strike, they earn so little anyway.

To make matters worse, we still haven't been offered full consolidation in the health service. Before the strike we got £7.20 in unconsolidated payments. That's been reduced now to £4.80. But for local government workers all these supplements have been put on the basic rate.

The reason is clear. The health service is very dependent on overtime—the men at our hospital almost live here because of poor wages—so full consolidation would have

cost a lot more.

Since the strike, such things as price increases for the meals, lodgings and laundry at the hospital, have taken back most of what we gained.

But even so we learnt a lot during the strike.

Our department were out for two weeks. The second week, without emergency cover, because when this was supplied, management abused it. With the management volunteers there were almost as many people working as in a normal week.

The strike certainly brought it home to the members that the media view of shop stewards bringing people out is just not true. I didn't bring them out on strike. I told them that "it's you that take the decisions". It was the votes taken at the mass meeting that decided whether we went on strike.

Certainly the workers here aren't downhearted because we didn't get all we wanted. We are now looking to a £70 minimum, which is still only two-thirds of average earnings.

If all the health unions fight together, if everything is co-ordinated, then my members will be prepared to take the same action again. We all knew we were doing the right thing by going on strike for decent wages.

By
Myra Horner

(NUPE Branch Secretary
East Birmingham
Hospital)

NORTH-EAST UNEMPLOYMENT WHY GEORDIE WON'T WORK?

Unemployment in the '30s

Our local newspaper the 'Newcastle Evening Chronicle' printed an article on unemployment in the North East called 'Why Geordie won't work!'

In it Mr Jim Redpath of Newcastle's Commercial Jobcentre, a so-called expert on unemployment, said that Geordies were unwilling to take up vacancies available in the North because—they were unwilling to travel to jobs—married men register but don't have any ambition but to be housewives—Geordies are afraid to try new jobs—and most people get enough money on the dole anyway.

Next morning on the BBC's local radio 'phone-in' Jeff Price of the Unemployed Workers' Union rang in to condemn the article and challenge the writer to a real debate on unemployment.

He outlined the real cause of unemployment; the fact that thousands have been made redundant in countless factory closures here on the Tyne after their owners had reaped the profits of grants and subsidies at the tax payers' expense.

The next caller was a married woman with two children who said her husband had just got a job after being out of work for more than two years. For all that time she's had to manage on £38 p.w. plus child benefit allowance.

Far from not wanting to work they were so desperate that they applied for a job in Holland but couldn't afford a passport to get there.

After that an unemployed middle manager phoned in to say for men like himself there

By Cath Ross
(Newcastle North CLP)

are absolutely no jobs at all. Even if they were willing to take less pay and less status there is still nothing doing.

I rang a number of jobs advertised in that night's paper. Three didn't answer, one had so many applicants that they couldn't accept any more, another offered £1.30 per hour to supervise four members of staff and take complete responsibility for running an off-license, and a 'mothers help' position offered £1 per hour.

If these are the sort of wages, no one could afford the bus fares to travel to them and in fact most people are better off on the poverty level based dole.

Where I work we recently received 469 applications for one job and no-one got it. Could it be that its cheaper to put an advert in the paper than to pay a wage?

Unemployment in the North East has passed the point of being a subject for discussion in papers like the Chronicle whose owners also have shares in the closing industries on the Tyne.

In places like Spenny-moor, as Jeff pointed out, unemployment can rise from 6% to 13% overnight due to the Courtaulds closure. Drastic measures must be taken. The future can't be left in the hands of the owners of industry while their only interest is profit—society's needs must be given priority.

The Unemployed Workers' Union aims to organise workers who have no jobs



together with the trade unions and hopes to mount vigorous campaigns to fight unemployment and the causes of it. It shows up clearly the lies of the press when they claim that workers are lazy and don't want work.

BABIES ARE NOW AT RISK

Out of every 1,000 children born in Britain, seventeen die within seven days of birth. This figure is higher than in many other advanced industrialised countries, such as Japan, France, Sweden, Finland.

However, this national figure conceals large variations in different regions of Britain. For example, in Rochdale in 1977 the perinatal mortality rate [deaths within the first week after birth] was 26.6 per 1,000, the highest in the country.

Other areas with very high perinatal mortality rates include Durham, Gateshead, Birmingham, Coventry, Bradford, Bolton, Stockport, and in London, the City and East London area.

Areas with very low rates—less than 15 per 1,000—

By
Lorna Oliver
(Hackney Central LPYS)

include such areas as Essex, Kent, Kingston and Richmond, Suffolk, and the Isle of Wight.

But are these deaths an 'act of God' or is there a way of cutting them? The most striking thing to come out of these figures is that the highest incidence occurs in predominantly working-class areas.

In Rochdale, for example, nearly a third of the population are unskilled or semi-skilled working class. Four out of ten deaths within the first week were in this group. Most of the deaths were among babies with a low birth weight, which is linked to the living conditions of the mother.

Another reason for child deaths is lack of ante-natal care, or mothers attending ante-natal clinics very infrequently or starting attending late in their pregnancy. The reasons for this are obvious.

In many rural areas, the nearest ante-natal clinic is several miles away, often needing a whole day for one visit. For working mothers, or those who already have small children, finding the time is obviously a great difficulty.

Even where the clinic is very close, many mothers still do not attend regularly. Some of the reasons for this are made clear in a report by City and Hackney Community Health Council on the conditions in the Mothers' Hospital in Hackney.

It is no incentive to attend a clinic which is overcrowded and understaffed. You may have to wait hours, while you are worrying about your children, for whom there is no play space at the clinic, and about whether you can get

home in time to get the dinner and pick the kids up from school.

However, even after birth, the shortage of intensive care units mean that many more babies die than would if these services were widely available.

In Copthorne, Shrewsbury, the nearest intensive care unit is fifty miles away in Birmingham. This unit, however, is not big enough to take all the babies in the area who need these facilities.

Health service cuts also mean more overcrowding and understaffing. Research done recently has shown that across the country, there is a 50% shortfall in staff in departments for the new-born on the levels recommended by the British Paediatrics Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

In Copthorne Hospital, for example, five more midwives and more nursing staff are needed, and there is only one registrar instead of three. So

what can be done to cut down the number of infant deaths in this country?

Obviously more money must be put into the health service, ante-natal clinics, intensive care units, and keeping hospitals open so that care is freely available to all mothers.

However, this is not the whole solution. In Rochdale, for example, according to the area Medical health officer, the maternity departments are adequately equipped and staffed. The solution lies more in finding an answer to the conditions in which many mothers live.

Living conditions

Almost twice as many children born to working class mothers die within the first week as do those born to mothers belonging to the upper or middle classes.

Overcrowded and slum housing, and poor diet all add to the odds against the survival of babies.

Obviously then, the answer lies in creating better conditions for people to live in and have their babies in. On a capitalist basis this is obviously not possible.

While houses are built only for profit and not for need, while people can't afford to live in decent conditions and eat decent food, more, not fewer children are likely to die.

All the more reason to fight for a socialist society, where houses are built and food produced for need and not for profit, where hospitals aren't closed through lack of finance.

Then the needless tragedy of children not being allowed to reach even the age of seven days could be eliminated once and for all.

DOWN TO EARTH - LABOUR'S YOUTH IN THE FOREST OF DEAN

A workers' soviet was set up in the heart of the beautiful Gloucestershire countryside this month!

But it was only a temporary one, while the Labour Party Young Socialists and their comrades from sister organisations across the seas held their annual summer camp.

After the debates of the policy-making conference were over, 450 Young Socialists, including comrades from the North and South of Ireland, Germany, Belgium and Sweden, stayed on for one of the best summer camps in the history of the LPYS.

All the camping areas were divided into village communities or soviets and comrades organised the day to day running of their sections, as well as many socials.

A workers' squad was also set up to run security in

name but a few.

Comrades did not hold back when asked for donations for the British and Irish 'Militant'—the Irish comrades raised a splendid £700 throughout the week for the 'Irish Militant Monthly', and at great sacrifice for the struggle for socialism, outgoing national chairman of the LPYS Phil Frampton said he would shave off his beard if £200 was raised for the 'Militant' fighting fund: £200. 05½ was raised so off it came!

By the end of the week every comrade was enthused and raring to go to build the



WHAT DID YOU THINK?

"For me this has been a fantastic week—its the first time I've been to England. What I couldn't get used to is the relaxed atmosphere and the bold manner of the British YS—because of the political situation in Northern Ireland this is something we just don't have."
Member of the Belfast Labour and Trade Union Group

the camp after a prowler had been reported wandering about the site on Sunday night. The squad proved very effective in keeping out uninvited guests!

And throughout the week there was a perfect balance of recreational and sporting events, and political seminars and debates.

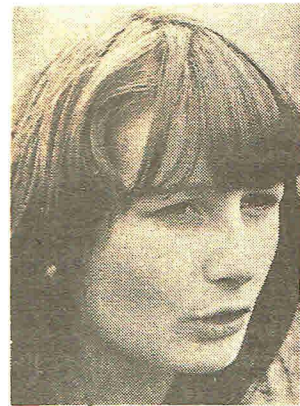
There were sports competitions of all kinds—the team made of the National Committee did not do too well; as one comrade said, "The only thing the NC won throughout the camp and conference were the votes!"

YS in their home areas, full of new ideas they had learnt from discussing with comrades from all over the country. Andy Bevan summed up the comradeship and enthusiasm of the week, saying that whenever he asked for volunteers for work, such as night security, putting up waterlogged tents or looking after children in the creche, there was always a forest of hands that went up.

In summing up at the closing ceremony the new national chairman, Kevin Ramage, said "It is an on-going trend that the

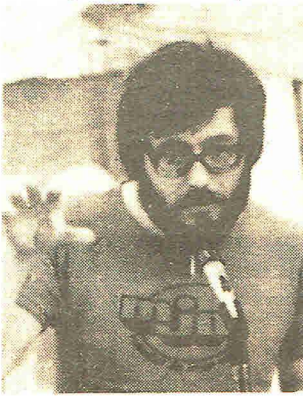
"I just joined after the election—I knew I was a socialist and I wanted to get involved in the fight-back. The debates during the conference were very good and the organisation of the camp has been terrific. I'm definitely going to come to the conference next year. When we get back we are going to campaign to get more people to join the LPYS—having come to the camp and conference I feel a lot stronger in my own mind about socialism. Being here strengthens your ideas and makes things a lot clearer."

Julie Bees
[Bristol South LPYS]



"The political debates were very good, especially the one on Northern Ireland—talking to people who actually live there and are involved politically gives you a clear understanding of what is actually happening there, and you can see through the lies put out by the mass media."

Dave Partington
[Deptford LPYS]

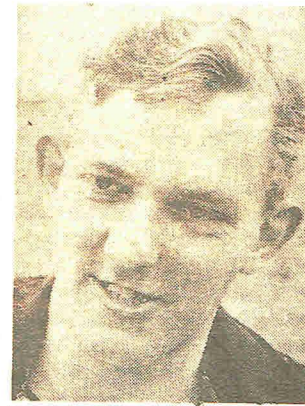


"We don't have camps like this in Belgium. We have weekend meetings but there is no politics in it. I think the LPYS has achieved the correct balance in mixing politics with a holiday atmosphere. This is something we shall try and work for when we return".

Francois Bliui
[Joung Socialisten Belgium]

"What I like about the camp is meeting other comrades from up and down the country and discussing ideas and learning about the youth work in their areas. Lots of them have just joined after the general election and having seen what the Tories and Thatcher are all about, want to fight back. In my own ward in Stevenage we've had 16 people join the Labour Party this month alone."

Richard Aldridge
[Stevenage LPYS]



FIGHT AGAINST TORY ATTACKS

"The Conference and Camp has been a tremendous success. It has uplifted everybody that attended. The week has given every comrade the fire and enthusiasm to build the LPYS.

Equally important, everyone has been armed and re-armed with facts and figures, arguments, and a socialist programme to begin the fight against the Tory attacks.

It is crucial now that every delegate and visitor takes the enthusiasm and debates of the week back to the branches. Then we will be able to mobilise the

branches in recruitment campaigns.

In every factory, school, and college,—and at the dole queues, there will be dozens of youth looking for a socialist alternative to capitalism. As the savage attacks of the Tory government on working class living standards mount day by day—so to will opportunities to build the LPYS.

That is the message we must take back: Fight the Tory attacks! Build the LPYS! Build the fight for socialism!"

Kevin Ramage National Chairman LPYS

"We had our first Youth Section conference in May and there they announced that the British LPYS were holding a camp, and the Irish 'Militant' organised sending a delegation over. At our conference we decided to hold a camp in September but we have had to put it off until next year—comrades from the LPYS will be welcome to send a delegation over."

Pat Dunne [Irish Labour Party Youth Section]

But the competitions weren't taken too seriously—after all how could you with football teams called Trottenham Hotspur or Callaghan's Commies, or quiz teams called the Bamba Grassgroins, the Unholy Alliance or the SPG (Bolshevik Section).

Enthused

The serious moments were kept for political debates which were held on a whole range of topics such as 'Do wage rises cause inflation', Iran, Religion and Socialism, and Womens' Rights. Speakers included Andy Bevan and MPs Dennis Skinner, Joan Maynard and Joan Lester, to

numbers at the YS summer camp increase every year, and we should keep this trend going, making sure that next year's camp is even bigger, and if possible, even better."

And as the Red Flag and Internationale echoed across the camp site for the last time, every Young Socialist there knew that in the next period the LPYS has got the opportunity to build and become the mass socialist organisation of working class youth.

Report compiled
by Bob Wade.
Photos by
Julian McKittrick

'THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD'

Even the capitalist press was forced to admit that the YS were holding a conference when they reported Tony Benn's fraternal address to the LPYS national conference.

What they didn't report of course was his tribute to the Young Socialists' work, help and analysis in the CLPs, and to the work of Tony Saunois on the NEC of the Labour Party.

Tony Benn himself said 'we have the right to free speech, but not the right to be heard'—he wished all the conference could be on television! He felt it crucial that the youth joined up with the Labour Party, and called for factory branches to be built to prepare to fight closures and low wages in the coming battles. It was a crucial time, he said, for democratic socialists, because 'if we don't change the economic system and change it quickly, Britain will become an economic wasteland with mass unemployment'.

On the topical issue of party democracy, he commented on the hypocrisy of the Tories and their press. He explained that without the Chartists and the trade unions there would be no parliamentary democracy—those movements began outside Parliament and created democracy. Accountability and democracy were at the heart of the British labour movement and so 'Annual conference must set what parliamentary representatives should do.'

He added that patronage should be ended and the House of Lords abolished, and said 'If the press wants to know why the labour movement is interested in how ministers are selected, George Brown, Ray Gunter, Dick Taverne, Christopher Mayhew, Richard Marsh and Reg Prentice were some of the reasons!'

The conference went on to sort out a fighting programme for what Tony Benn called a 'decade of opportunity for democratic socialists.'

18th LPYS NATIONAL

“Thatcher has declared war on the working class—our task is to accept that challenge and to challenge capitalism”.

These words of Tony Saunois, LPYS representative on the Labour Party National Executive, set the tone for this year's LPYS conference.

This Tory government is the most reactionary for decades and delegates spelt out what this means—the cuts that cause waiting lists for operations while private patients jump the queue or the unemployment that leads to suicide.

But delegates pointed out that this was the result of a general crisis of capitalism that had been seen under the Labour government too.

Josie Aitman [Liverpool Kirkdale] told the conference “A member of my Labour Party has been made redundant three times in as many years—the last time at the KME co-operative on Merseyside”.

Workers are paying for the crisis. Under the last year of wage restraint Jim McEwan [Littlehampton LPYS] estimated he lost about £20 per week while his firm made bumper profits. Although not

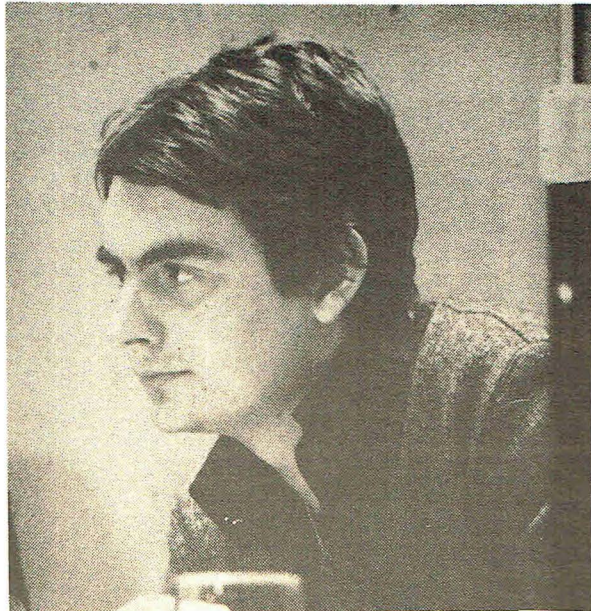
considered low paid, with a wife and child he qualified for a rent rebate!

Lawrence Coates [NUPE shop steward, Harborough LPYS] expressed the humiliation of low-paid workers at “putting in a hard week's graft and having to go cap in hand to the state for a handout” and the anger that led to their national strike.

The reforms of Labour's manifesto had been “torn up and thrown to the wind” said Tony Saunois. The warnings of resolutions, that trying to run capitalism instead of implementing socialist policies would cost Labour votes, had been borne out.

Most important for the LPYS in mobilising youth against the Tories is the new ‘Charter for Young Workers’ approved, with minor additions, by conference. From housing to entertainment, from unemployment to education the Charter provides the YS with answers to the problems and aspirations of youth.

Steve Glennon moving the document for the National



Tony Saunois—LPYS representative on the NEC

Committee said that just travelling to work or to leisure in his area each year costs ½p more on the bus than it does to travel on Concorde—and on Concorde you get a free meal!

As a delegate from the National Society of Sheet Metal Mechanics to the TUC he had moved a resolution calling for the creation of a democratic TUC Youth section. Delegates pointed out the need to turn to the trade union youth. The delegate from Coventry SW told conference how his branch had joint meetings with the AUEW Junior Workers Committee.

Two delegates claimed that the LPYShad failed to attract school students and that the NUSS leadership was succeeding because it “doesn't put policies first”. They were answered by Peter Lush

[Vauxhall] who pointed out that NUSS had lost half its membership last year.

Abdul Shiah [Bradford] added that working class school students wanted to fight racism and corporal punishment and such issues dealt with in the LPYS School Students' Charter.

YCAU

The main initiative to be taken by the LPYS in the coming months will be around the Youth Campaign Against Unemployment with activities in every region against the Tories' attacks.

With what the Tories have in store these activities can boost every YS branch to regular attendances of 20 or more which will build a firm base for national action in the new year.



Tony Benn addresses the conference under canvass

**'FIGHT THE TOR
BUILD THE LPY
THE FIGHT FOR**

LABOUR'S YOUTH BUILDS- FOUR NEW BRANCHES A MONTH!

Nearly four new YS branches have been built every month since the 1978 national conference.

This was one of the many facts which came out in the first debate on Sunday morning on the organisation of the LPYS

This included discussion of motions dealing with the constitution of the YS and the way to begin to build it into a mass socialist youth organisation.

In the National Youth Officer's report, Andy Bevan outlined the recent pattern of growth in the number of YS branches. In June 1977 it stood at 341, Easter 1978—383, Easter 1979—403, and July 1979—424.

The period of slower growth in the last year of the Labour government has come to an end, and the objective conditions for building the YS could not be better, as the youth becomes radicalised in the face of the Tories' onslaught.

Already, the YS plays a role of major importance in the movement, as indicated by the fact that it was a YS member, Terry Duffy, who successfully moved the key resolution against wages pol-

icy at last year's Labour Party conference. Over 20 CLPs sent YS members as their delegates.

And it was clear from the report of the NEC representative, Tony Saunois, that he had played an important role in this position.

Tony outlined the leading part he played in the NEC decision to discuss reselection at the 1979 conference, and to recommend the abolition of the '3 year rule' and of the 'single subject rule' on resolutions.

He also described the farce of the 'clause 5' meeting between the NEC and the Cabinet to discuss the manifesto for the election. Not only was the Downing Street draft run off at the last minute and not available for discussion, but it was forced through the meeting without a single vote being taken!

Thus the NEC's draft manifesto, worked out over five years on the basis of conference policy, was totally ignored by the parliamentary leadership.

It hardly needs to be said that Tony has supported the current moves for the NEC alone to have final responsi-

bility for the content of the manifesto.

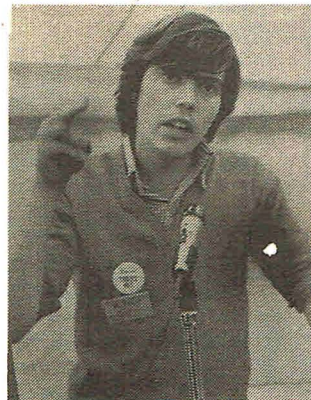
This position was endorsed by conference in the acceptance of his report, and in the passing of Resolution 114 from Isle of Wight LPYS, on Labour Party democracy. The motion also called for the Parliamentary Labour Party to be accountable to conference on policy, the Leader and Cabinet or Shadow-Cabinet to be elected at and accountable to annual conference.

It added that this accountability to be extended to include all party officials with respect to the bodies they serve, and that all MPs and Euro MPs should donate all but a skilled worker's pay into party funds.

Golding

National Committee statements dealing with the extension of the London representation on the YS NC, and deploring the attack made by John Golding on 'Militant' in the law courts were both overwhelmingly carried. One of the clauses of

resolution 114 called for the publication and circulation of NEC minutes to CLPs and affiliated organisations.



Nick Toms,

The main discussion on YS organisation was a composite, moved by 'Workers Action' and 'Clause 4' supporters, which called for a change in the election of the National Committee from regional to national conferences.

It also wanted to end NC replies to debates and recommendations on motions to conference.

Organised in the self-styled 'Campaign for YS Democracy', these comrades argued that 'Militant' supporters deliberately refuse to change the

constitution in order to prevent minority representation on the NC.

They were answered by a number of delegates speaking from the floor, who pointed out the impeccable record of the NC on democracy and minority rights since there was first a 'Militant' majority in 1971.

Nick Toms [NC member elect, Eastern Region] told the conference “the reason for the constitutional wrangles raised by the CYSD is their complete defeat on the question of political ideas and programme.”

Delegates from all over the country reported the growth of their branches as a result of their intervention in the general election, and stressed that the way to build the YS was to get onto the streets and organise campaigns around local issues and the demands of our programme.

Summing up the debate, Tony Saunois for the NC explained the necessity of maintaining the election of NC members at regional level at the present time.

“In the absence of full-time regional workers, NC members play a vital role in serving

the branches in their regions, acting as a link with the national leadership, and ensuring the fastest development of the YS regions”.

Tony pointed out that the reason why minority views don't appear in 'Left' the LPYS newspaper is that the minorities don't contribute articles.

He stressed that the 'Militant' supporters would welcome a debate with other tendencies in the pages of 'Left'—but he made it clear that the paper must also play a key role as the voice of the LPYS and be a campaigning paper.

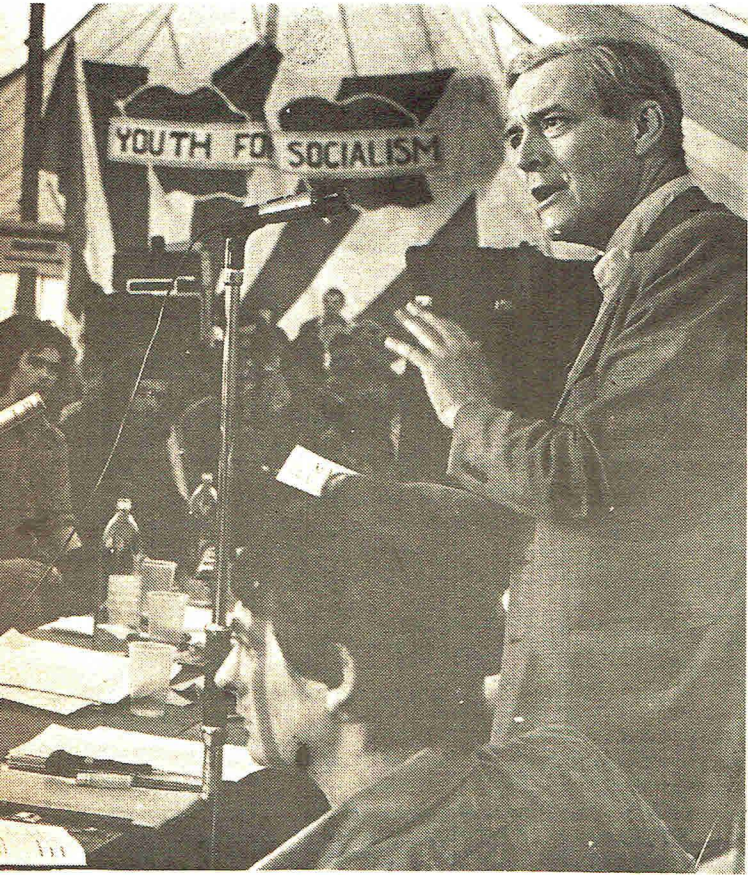
“As such, the lead articles and editorial content must clearly reflect the majority view of the LPYS.”

After a lengthy debate, conference overwhelmingly accepted a composite from High Wycombe supporting the policy of the current leadership, and calling for more resources for the YS from Transport House.

The CYSD motion was defeated by 167 votes to 23 with 2 abstentions.

By Tony Cross
(Nottingham LPYS)

L CONFERENCE 1979



"The apartheid system combines racial and class oppression through the pass laws, reducing the black workers to a migrant labour force, unable to remain in the cities unless they have a job.

This allows the capitalists a free hand in the exploitation of the workers, and gives rise to unparalleled barbarity."

But in spite of apartheid, said Kevin Ramage (National Committee member) during the debate on South Africa when moving the NC document, the black workers are beginning to organise and move forward.

"While the Sharpevill massacre in 1960 led to a long period of calm, the Soweto school students demonstrations in 1976 triggered an explosion which grew among the black workers—and also involved coloured workers—as the violence of the repression was increased.

Such is the mood of the South African black workers today, it opens the prospect of not only an end to racial oppression but the socialist transformation of South Africa in the period ahead."

"And that would be a beacon to the whole of the sub continent", he said, "offering the real prospect of democratic workers' states in place of the backwardness and repression of imperialism which has dominated the continent for 100 years.

In moving an emergency motion on the sham elections

WORKERS STRUGGLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA



Kevin Ramage—the new national chairman of the LPYS—moving the NC document on South Africa

in Zimbabwe. Yasmin Barry [NC member-elect, West Midlands] pointed out the sham propaganda exercise which they represented.

In some areas, the police were so zealous in encouraging people to vote that a poll of over 100% was recorded! And although Muzorewa is

Prime Minister, the real levers of the state machine and the economy still lie in the hands of the white capitalist class.

But she warned that the opposition of the US imperialists to the 'Internal Settlement' was based entirely on their own interests.

Seeing its fragility, and the strength of the Patriotic Front (controlling over two-thirds of the countryside) the US administration wants to avoid driving the leaders of ZANU and ZAPU irretrievably into the anti-capitalist camp.

"They still hope for a 'neo-colonial solution' in Zimbabwe. But its a case of heads the workers win, tails the imperialists lose.

"There is no way that a stable black capitalist regime could be established in Zimbabwe in the existing world situation", she said.

The conference made clear its support for the liberation forces, and the YS will now launch a campaign on the whole South African question.

The aim will be to expose and organise in the labour movement against UK capitalists investing in South Africa, and also to clarify the class issues which are at the heart of the present struggles.

While the Patriotic Front will eventually win the war in Zimbabwe, in the last analysis it is only the working class, both in Zimbabwe and in South Africa, which is capable of reorganising society on democratic socialist lines, not dominated either by imperialism and capitalism or by a bureaucratic elite.

By Ian Waller
(Oxford LPYS)

Y ATTACKS!
S! BUILD
SOCIALISM!

Kevin Ramage—
LPYS National
Chairman

IRELAND

In a period when the British labour movement has neglected this issue, and when the parliamentary leadership has followed a scandalous bipartisan policy in agreement with the Tories, the YS has always put forward a clear socialist solution for Northern Ireland.

In moving composite 7 from Gateshead East, Margaret Reavy [NC member-elect, Northern Region] explained the background to the current situation in the North.

Hundreds of years of rule by British imperialism, maintained by the tactic of 'Divide and Rule', gave rise to the sectarian divide which split the working class into Green and Orange camps. But now the tactic has backfired on the ruling class.

"After 1968, they had to send in the troops to defend their investments from bombs and incendiaries. The troops were not sent in to defend the Catholic minority as is clearly shown by the history of brutal repression by the army since 1969", she said.

The decline of sectarianism since the mid 1970s has been indicated by mass movements of the working class cutting across sectarian divisions, such as the Peace Movements (which the TU leaders scandalously failed to direct, allowing it to become a

propaganda weapon for the British government), and the low pay strikes of last winter in particular.

"Not one of those strikes was broken by sectarianism. On the other hand, the last attempted UWC strike called by Paisley was a complete fiasco."

The social problems of the province, affecting Catholic and Protestant workers alike, lay the basis for the building of a mass non-sectarian Labour Party. There are 71,000 unemployed; 21% of houses are unfit for human habitation, and infant mortality at 18.4 per 1,000 is way above the rest of the UK.

A mass party of labour could be built by a campaign led by the trade unions on these questions. And only a united working class movement would be capable of driving British imperialism out of the North for good.

In reply to the 'Troops Out Movement' supporters, who regarded working class unity as 'abstract', and called for self-determination for the Irish people as a whole, John Bulaitas [NC member, London], pointed out the impossibility of uniting Ireland on a capitalist basis, and the impossibility of forcing withdrawal of troops without the building of a united working class movement in the North.



Goal! Yet another hammering for the National Committee team during the many competitions held at the camp—this time at the hands of the Irish, who beat them 9-1!



Not just a pretty face—Andy Bevan entertains the comrades during the social evening, helped by Dave Nellist



A fistful of fivers—collecting in the cash

Nearly every comrade who remained behind after the Conference attended the Militant Readers' Meeting on Sunday.

Such was the enthusiasm for the ideas of Marxism that a staggering £2,100 was raised in a collection during the meeting for the Militant fighting fund.

The meeting drew together the threads and conclusions that had been explained by Militant supporters during the two day conference.

The first speaker was Linus Jayatilleke for the Sri Lanka Lanka Sama Samaja Party [New Leadership]. He described the situation in Sri Lanka where whole trade unions, the mass organisations of the working class, had adopted Marxist leadership and policies. This was one example of how the international working class are moving towards the ideas of Marxism.

Ray Apps [Brighton Kempton LP] graphically illustrated the deepening crisis in British capitalism and hammered the reactionary nature of the Tories.

Contribution after contribution by speakers in the discussion showed the need for a socialist planned economy under the control of the working class. And it was stressed—socialism now, not 50 or 100 years in the future.

It was with this mood therefore that the excellent appeal made by Bob Edwards [Harlow Labour Party] raised the magnificent collection, a great achievement with only 500 people present.

WHICH WAY FOR LABOUR

The big three-way debate between the Manifesto Group, 'Tribune' and 'Militant' supporters was one of the liveliest and best-attended meetings of the camp.

Kevin Ramage [the new National Chairman] chaired the debate, and opened it on a sombre note when he pointed out that one comrade had been forced to leave the Camp early after being told that 1,500 workers at the Rover plant, where he is senior shop steward were facing redundancy.

These kind of problems, stated Kevin, pose the question of 'Which Way Forward For Labour'.

Ian Wrigglesworth [Manifesto Group] started by saying that some of us had warned what a Tory government would mean. Despite this, he moaned, Labour had been pushed back to the North of England, Wales and Scotland.

Now, however, he said, the Tories were in a strong position in Parliament, while Labour was in a weak one, as it had been when in government.

The rest of Ian Wrigglesworth's contribution dealt with the internal workings of the Labour Party.

It's quite true that the democracy in the Labour Party at present is not sufficient, but it is doubtful whether many comrades in the party would agree with the Manifesto Group's solution to the problems.

According to Ian Wrigglesworth, the Labour Party conference shouldn't be the place where important decisions are made. Likewise the NEC should not be elected there either. Everybody should have the right to vote for the NEC: "Let's have ballots for the positions", he demanded.

But, he said, it isn't just the activists in the party who should have the say in the decisions and policies.

In actual fact it is the activists who are good enough to attend the meetings, do the canvassing and visit the factories, but the comrade didn't mention that. His whole contribution would anger many party members; it didn't mention the words socialism, or working class,

and saw the entire struggle for socialism as being controlled by a handful of MPs in Parliament.

Nationalisation

In complete contrast Pat Wall for 'Militant', opened his contribution with a rousing attack on the capitalist-controlled media.

"At last the press had broken their conspiracy of silence about the LPYS, and given it publicity, but only because they wish to attempt to influence events within the Labour Party", he said.

The capitalist class know that the demands for a 35-hour week and £70 minimum wage, as called for by the YS, and being taken up by workers, will become linked to the need for the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy.

It is not a matter of academic debate, stated Pat, that £900m worth of cuts in public spending took place under the last Labour government.

Nor that enforced wage

restraint forced thousands of workers in the health service onto the picket lines, to the vilification of the Tories, and shamefully some Labour Manifesto Group MPs.

Comrade Pat Wall also took up the wooliness of "Tribune's" programme for a revamped NEB, for planning agreements with the bosses, an so on.

"There is no way out within the capitalist system, for the working class", he stated.

"We need to use the power of the working class in the trade union and labour movement to sweep aside the monarchy, Lords and top civil servants, and from there go forward to create a planned integrated economy, under workers' control and management; thereby using the wealth being created, to be put to the good of society as a whole."

Tories

Jo Richardson MP [Tribune Group] started by thanking the LPYS for the help that they gave her in the election campaign.

She went on to point out

that the Tories were acting quickly to cut back spending and attack workers living standards.

But she said "It is not however a question of just sitting back and gleefully waiting for an election victory in five years time".

Comrade Richardson called quite clearly for policies to end capitalism, but then went on to defend the policies of Tribune and the TUC who had called for import controls, effective taxes on the bosses, a reflation of the economy, and other such methods which only tinker with capitalism.

Warned

When the debate was opened to the floor, a forest of hands shot up with people eager to get in.

One comrade wanted to know whether Comrade Wrigglesworth supported Clause IV. The question was never answered!

Comrade Wrigglesworth, said Bob Faulkes [Hackney Central LP], 'may have warned what a Tory government would mean, but some of us

also warned about the results of the last Labour government's policies.'

It is no good David Owen and his like attacking 'fickle' car workers of the Midlands. Such attacks showed contempt for the movement.

The meeting most clearly illustrated the enthusiasm of the YS and 'Militant' supporters, who were the bulk of the audience.

It also showed most clearly the difference between the attitude of the right wing, the sincere and honest, but confused attitude of many 'Tribune' supporters, and the clear class approach and Marxist programme of the 'Militant'.

We may be confident that it is those policies of the 'Militant' which will gain an echo in the movement in the coming period and ensure a victory for socialism and the working class in the future.

By Martin Elvin

(Stratford ASLEF)

THE ONLY WAY TO UNITE IRELAND

'In Northern Ireland we see the realistic face of capitalism.'

Thus Dennis Tourish of the Belfast Labour and Trade Union Group, at one of the best meetings at the camp, summed up the critical situation in Northern Ireland.

He explained that the British Army, particularly the trained thugs of the SAS, had been given a completely free hand by the ruling class in suppressing workers: the soldiers were now "judge, jury and executioners."

But the capitalists had proved totally incapable of providing any answers—the role of the British army was inseparable from the role of British capitalism which was wholly responsible for the social evils of Northern Ireland. Sectarianism had been fostered and used to divide workers, he explained.

It was just not enough to call for the withdrawal of troops, Dennis said. The question remains: how will they be removed?

"The only way they will be forced out is by a mass campaign by the united working class", he said, adding, "The withdrawal of troops on this basis will result from a whole explosion of discontent against the system, which the Labour and Trade Union Group must be capable of tapping. Otherwise the discontent will result in a return to sectarian civil war."

The LTUG, and the LPYS in Britain, must campaign throughout the labour movement, explaining that sectarianism is part and parcel of the capitalist system and putting forward on a clear class basis the socialist alternative which the Northern Ireland working class can unite around.

During the debate that followed, former soldier Andy Corfield (Bristol North East LPYS) told how the army was being trained in suppression in combat conditions ready to be used against the British labour movement, when it presented a threat to the bosses and their system.

But "We should not forget the rank and file soldiers are workers in uniform", he added, "Many soldiers keep up their trade union membership while serving in the army, and many could be won over to the ideas of socialism."

One comrade from Belfast told how she had been unemployed for 3½ years; the only work she had done was on a job creation scheme—in a job usually given to people of a low IQ! Now, employers, seeing she had taken part in the scheme, presumed she was of a low IQ!

During the debate, supporters of the 'Troops Out Movement' described Militant's position on Ireland as 'confused', claiming that the working class of Northern Ireland could not be united as the Protestants were better off than the Roman Catholics. Dennis Tourish countered this, using one example of a recent survey, which showed housing conditions in the predominantly Protestant Shankhill Road area were far worse than in the Falls Road, which is overwhelmingly Catholic.

The explosive situation in Southern Ireland was outlined by the second speaker, Tom Healy [NC member of the Irish Labour Party Youth section].

He described the outburst of anger in the labour movement at their declining living standards, with a corresponding growth in Labour Party membership and the founding of the Youth

WISH YOU WERE THERE?

A pick of the week's debates



Dennis Tourish section.

The recent one-day general strike and the many other struggles workers had faced, had revealed how powerless the ruling class were to act, when the labour movement moved into action. Tom gave examples of the Garda (police) refusing to break the Post Office workers' strike, and soldiers letting their reporting sick, when they were ordered to run a scab service during the busmen's strike.

"The Irish Labour Party should learn the lessons of the

present movements, and draw the thousands of discontented workers and youth into the ranks of the Labour Party and Youth section" he concluded.

After the meeting an excellent £330 was raised for the 'Militant Irish Monthly' fighting fund.

35 young workers from the North and South of Ireland, from Protestant and Catholic areas attended the camp. Summing up the meeting Tom Healy pledged that next year, "the Irish delegation to the LPYS national conference will number over 100."

EUROPE IN FERMENT

"When a boom in capitalism occurs, the workers' movements stagnate, and the scum rises to the top."

That's how Joe Higgins of the Irish Labour Party, described the rise of the right wing leadership of workers' movements throughout Europe, during the debate 'Europe in Ferment'.

The speaker was Tony Saunois, YS representative on the Labour Party National Executive. He explained that throughout the boom which followed the last world war, the right wing leadership of the Labour movement declared that capitalism had solved its problems, that there would never be a return to the '30s and that class warfare was dead.

Analysing the major European capitalist countries one by one, in each case he highlighted the diminishing investment, increasing strength of the workers' organisations despite rising unemployment; militancy of unions

which in the past had lain dormant for years; and the workers' declining living standards which was forcing them into conflict with their respective ruling classes.

In the debate that followed the internationalism of workers of all countries was emphasised, with examples such as the magnificent international blacking of the 'Times', Had Marxist policies been adopted in places such as Portugal, Italy, and in France in 1968, it was pointed out, socialist states could have been achieved.

The key lessons drawn from the debate were that a successful socialist transformation must be on an international basis, and that a Marxist programme must be adopted by the workers' organisations.

By Robert Lewin

(Brentwood & Ongar LPYS)

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

NEW RHODESIA PLAN TO DEFEAT LIBERATION STRUGGLE

The proposals on Rhodesia agreed at the Commonwealth Conference are not new. They mark a shift of the Tory government back towards the last Labour government plans for preventing the birth of a socialist Zimbabwe.

At first the Tory government thought this aim could best be achieved by giving support to the Muzorewa-Smith regime. Now they seem to recognise that British business interests in southern Africa and Black Africa, would best be served by trying to involve the Patriotic Front (or part of it) in a compromise deal.

Thatcher and Carrington saw that if Britain alone tried to lift sanctions and move towards recognising Rhodesia then the consequences for British business would be heavy. Even in the week before the Commonwealth Conference, Nigeria took over BP's interests because it was involved in supplying oil to South Africa.

The tactical shift of the Tories has been quite marked. In their election manifesto they stated that the only question preventing recognition was whether the Rhodesian elections were fair.

The Manifesto stated: "If the six principles are fully satisfied following the present Rhodesian election, the next government will have the duty to return Rhodesia to a state of legality, move to lift sanctions and do its utmost to ensure that the new independent state gains international recognition."

Thatcher's special envoy, the reactionary Lord Boyd, reported that he thought the elections were fair. But the Tories did not recognise the Muzorewa regime and last week they unveiled their new proposals at the Lusaka Conference.

These stated that the British government would draw up a new constitution for Rhodesia, call a conference of "all parties to the conflict" in September, agree a ceasefire, hold elections under British auspices and then Britain would confer legality upon the new regime. Sanctions would only be lifted "as part of the process of implementation of a settlement."

This marks a tactical shift away from the April position and the manner in which the new policy has developed shows the balance of forces in Africa today. No longer able to directly intervene with troops British imperialism has to use Black African governments.

Although these regimes rest upon international capitalism, the ruling elites have some limited room to manoeuvre and inflict some blows upon specific capitalist firms and countries without attacking imperialism as a whole.

Countries such as Nigeria have used the rivalry between the capitalist powers

to try to obtain commercial advantages.

The ruling cliques in these countries have had to reflect the hatred of their peoples for the racist regimes of southern Africa. Yet they are also concerned not to attack imperialism as a whole and have been worried about the growing Soviet and Cuban involvement in southern Africa.

The intentions of the Tories to unequivocally back the Muzorewa regime attracted great criticism. The American government was concerned that this would polarise the struggle in southern Africa driving the liberation movements to the left. This would harm all of international capitalism's interests in the area and possible lead to moves against some capitalist firms in Black Africa.

During May there were visits from Vance (the American Secretary of State), a two-man delegation from the Australian Foreign Ministry and from the Commonwealth governments urging the British Government to alter its approach.

When in July Thatcher indicated that sanctions would not be renewed the reaction was immediate. The American and African governments told the British government of their opposition to this plan. And this was strongly reinforced by British businesses operating in Black Africa.

They explained that their stake in West and East Africa was considerable. number of major British companies make large profits out of their investments in Africa.

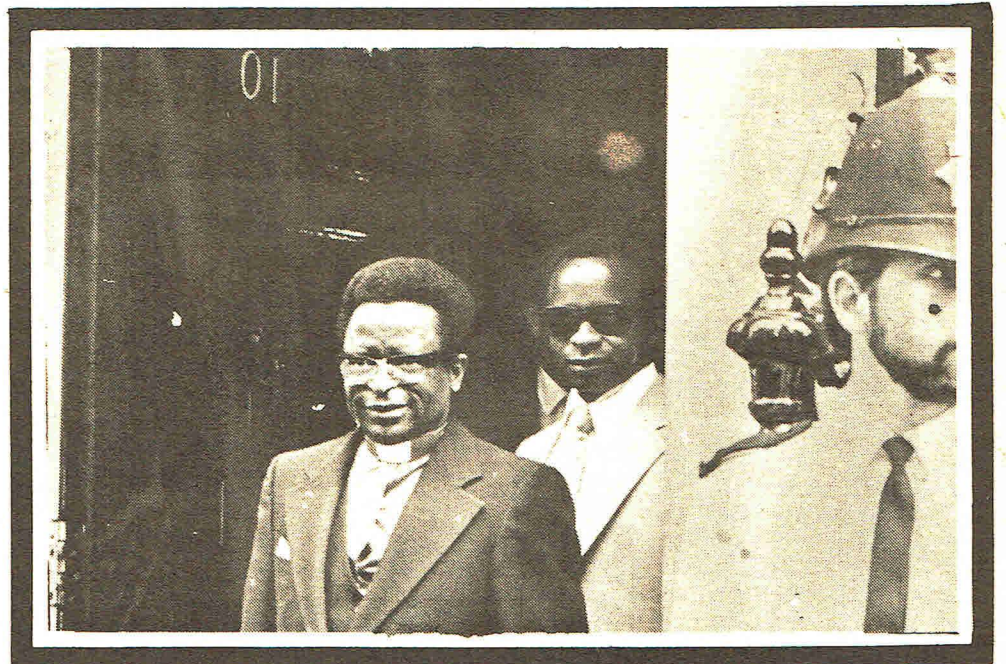
For Lonrho 96% of their world-wide profits were from Africa, for Mitchell Cotts 88% (including S Africa), Paterson Zochonies 71%, Blackwood Hodge 45%, Berc 43% (mostly Nigeria and S Africa) and Unilever 11%. Even for those with interests in South Africa, it is Black Africa which is the growth area.

Direct investment by British firms in Nigeria was twice that in South Africa from 1972-6. A number of British firms (including GEC, Reed International) have sold South African assets in the last few years for "political and economic" reasons. British capitalism now exports twice as much to Nigeria as it does to S Africa, and Nigeria has become Britain's ninth largest export market.

Trying to safeguard British capitalism's interests in Black Africa was one reason for the Tories change of tactics. The other was that wholesale backing for the Muzorewa-Smith regime would prove counter-productive.

Nyerere stated that unless the Lusaka proposals were carried out, Rhodesia would become "another Mozambique". The 'Financial Times' commented that: "White Rhodesians and Bishop Muzorewa must know that either they come to the negotiating table or they face a prolonged war which they cannot hope to win and which would devastate their country" (8 August).

A continuation of the war would drive the Zimbabwe liberation movements further to the left. So the Tories are now trying to patch up a compromise settlement which would establish a black



Muzorewa looking for support from Thatcher

Photo: MILITANT

nationalist, but non-socialist regime in Salisbury.

They have recognised the political impotence of Muzorewa and built up links with Walls, the Rhodesian Army Comander. They are clearly hoping that some kind of military and political deal can be made with some leaders of the Patriotic Front.

The Muzorewa regime is stuck in a dead end. It cannot move to end racial discrimination or break the power of white capitalism in the country. None of its actions since taking office have anywhere near met the aspirations of the African population.

At the end of July David Smith presented its first budget. It contained no social reforms, only increased holiday allowances for whites, tax relief for business and military expenditure.

It is therefore the intention of international capitalism to devise a new constitution of Rhodesia, which would

lessen the white's political power and give concessions to black nationalists. They recognise that there might have to be a 'more radical' independence constitution than that agreed elsewhere in Africa, but that would be a small price to pay if it stopped the war and halted the radicalisation of the liberation movements.

It is highly improbable that their schemes will succeed. Even if some of the leaders of the Patriotic Front do get sucked into a compromise, the struggle will continue. The fight for a socialist Zimbabwe is not something that can be halted by these latest imperialist manoeuvres and this fight should be given the wholehearted support of the international labour movement.

By Colin Barber

SOVIET WORKERS AGAINST THE GULAG

A peaceful demonstration. Red flags and a portrait of Lenin. A march in protest against price rises and a cut in piece rates. Suddenly there was an attack with machine guns.

By Peter Lush

chev for sausage meat' showed that the workers were demonstrating against the political rule of the bureaucracy, not against the gains of the October revolution.

This book covers the experiences of workers in the struggle for democratic rights. It looks at the 'Free Trade Union Association', formed in 1977.

Many of its members have lost their jobs because of their political or trade union activities. They inevitably run up against a brick wall in trying to get 'justice' from the entrenched bureaucracy of the Communist Party and the trade unions.

At present, the Free Trade Union Association covers a number of different viewpoints, although its constitution supports annual elections and right of recall for officials. The material in this book ranges from support for socialist ideas to support of nationalism and religious beliefs.

They have addressed their appeals to numerous different bodies in the West, including the United Nations, the International Labour Organisation, and the American trade union leader George Meany. Their hope for support from these people,

though naive, is understandable, given the early stage of political development of the organisation.

The founder of the FTUA, Vladimir Klebanov, has been persecuted for over twenty years because of his political and trade union activities. He has been imprisoned, pronounced insane, and kept in a mental hospital at different times. **His experiences are not uncommon.**

The tensions under the surface in the Soviet Union, indicated in this book, show what a wide response there would be to a political programme based on policies of workers' democracy; on the ideas of Lenin and Trotsky. A political revolution—the overthrow of the bureaucracy by the working class—is the only way that the political and trade union rights sought by these workers can be guaranteed.

The overthrowing of the bureaucracy, and a return to the genuine workers' democracy of 1917-23 would be an enormous leap forward in the struggle for socialism internationally. That is the task facing the Russian working class today.

'Workers Against the Gulag—The New Opposition in the Soviet Union'. Ed. V Haynes & O Semyonova. Published: Pluto Press. £1.95

LETTERS

Send your views and comments on the issues that affect you to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Political ideas not vendettas

Dear Comrades

Peter Willsman's letter, ('Militant', issue 464) contained a supposed quote from a speech I made at Canterbury Labour Party.

When I read it I was much amused at the obvious distortion of what I said. I felt it did not merit a reply from me, as Peter Lush had dealt with the main arguments very well.

Willsman is so hurt by my disregard for his falsity, however, that he has seen fit to circulate Labour Party activists around the country with previous correspondence written by Campaign for Labour Party Democracy members in reply to articles I wrote last year on the reselection of Labour MPs.

There have been very sharp differences between myself and some members of the CLPD on questions of strategy and tactics. These have always been conducted in a

comradely way, however, on the basis of differing ideas rather than personal vendettas.

Peter Willsman is abusing his position as an EC member of CLPD. They are concerned to further the course of Party democracy and as far as I am aware support no particular political programme. 'Militant', 'Tribune', Willsman's if he has one, or any other.

In the speech I made at Canterbury I never even mentioned Bournemouth: that is a figment of Willsman's imagination. The claim I made at Canterbury was that if the programme of 'Militant' was to be adopted by the Labour Party we would sweep the country in the election and the Tories would be reduced to a rump in Parliament.

That rump may or may not include a Tory MP from Bournemouth who may or

may not be an ex-Colonel who arrives in a bathchair loaded with hand grenades.

Willsman reveals his contempt for working people by his suggestion that they would be unable to relate to and support such a programme. But we are confident the labour movement would win overwhelming support for such demands as a 35-hour week and a £70 minimum wage.

To secure such demands and the full fruits of their labour, would require the public ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

Yes Comrade Willsman, the working class would respond to such a call from their mass organisations.

Fraternally
Ray Apps
Brighton Labour Party

Out of the mouths of babes...

I am six years old. I hope Maggie goes soon. Milky ways have gone up to 8 pence and they used to be only six.
William Watt

Tories' manifesto lies

Dear Comrades

Within a few weeks of electing the Tories to power, many Tory voters are trembling fearfully at the malignant disease they have inflicted on themselves: rampaging inflation coupled with price rises, and in public expenditure, where the ruthlessness of Tory cut-backs is certain to be felt.

One of the principal targets for 'reducing wasteful expenditure' (as the Tories like to put it), is education, one of the largest government-funded services.

The end results of these cuts are contrary to the Tories' manifesto pledges (what a surprise). The major factor of production to be sent reeling from the repeated body-blows of the Tories will certainly be labour, and no matter which angle you look at it from, it spells chronic unemployment.

Approximately 70% of the running costs of higher education is comprised of staff salaries. As opportunities for expenditure savings in other areas are deemed 'non-existent', it is inevitable that dramatic reductions in staff numbers will be made.

The colleges of higher education are understandably quaking as the Tories' stranglehold on expenditure grips ever tighter. This is reaching its limit, and the colleges of higher education get closer to closure every day whilst the Tories are in power.

It is up to us to emphasise that we will fight any government policy aimed at reducing employment levels in the public sector. Tory policies are infamous for worsening unemployment and contributing to the run-down of the public services. It is imperative that we say, 'enough is enough'.

Yours fraternally
Keith Wright
Huyton LPYS

Women down the pits?

Dear Comrades

Your feature on the Durham gala by Bill Hopwood was an interesting general history of that area. However Bill seems to have grafted on a few bits and pieces of other counties' histories.

He talks of women down the pits in the early 1880s. Whilst this may have been true of other places, it was not the case in Northumberland and Durham, where women have never been employed below ground.

Fraternally
David Douglass
Hatfield Main Branch
NUM Doncaster

The cameras are at Goodwood not LPYS conference

Dear Comrades

In issue 461 of 'Militant' Kevin Ramage made reference to an article in the 'Daily Telegraph' in which they stated that the then Prime Minister, Jim Callaghan, will lead a Party "whose elan and sense of direction is supplied by the Young Socialists".

For once in my life I am forced to agree with the analysis of this reactionary rag. However this view cannot be held by our friends at the BBC.

All those comrades fortunate enough to have attended the recent LPYS conference will no doubt have noticed

that the BBC deemed that we only warranted one small transit van emblazoned with their famous green and white.

When travelling back from conference to our native Sussex we passed through Goodwood prior to 'Glorious Goodwood' week. I was astounded and disgusted to see this annual upper-class party required at least a dozen BBC lorries etc, full to the brim with expensive equipment.

My analysis of this is quite simple. It is not that the BBC, or for that matter the media in general, believe that our conference was of no partic-

ular importance; rather they are fully aware of the mass appeal that the policies formulated by conference will have for young and old alike. Any comrade who explained our policies to the electorate during the general election will know that this is true.

I am looking forward to the day when society gets its priorities right and YS conference will take its correct position as one of the most important events of the year.

Yours fraternally
Jim McEwan
Littlehampton LPYS

SPG— a copper's view

Dear Comrades

Two weeks ago I had the dubious pleasure of visiting the local police station. While waiting for attention, I could not help but note the following conversation.

A policeman who had been on duty at a carnival in Coventry commented, "There were too many police but there were 15 arrests, mainly by the SPG". Policewoman: "Why, because they were getting bored?"

This 'coppers-eye view' of these gorrillas in uniform is an arrow in the eye for Commissioner McNee's pious defence of the SPG.

Yours fraternally
Brian Debus
Vice-Chairman Erdington Labour Party

Marxists fight alongside workers-

East and West

Dear Comrade

In 'Militant' 463 Gavin Reed referring to the article 'Poland Forward into the Past' in issue 460, takes us to task for what he describes as a "...vicious and slanderous attack on a nation progressing towards the goal of socialism under the most difficult of circumstances".

Is Comrade Reed making unconditional support for the Polish regime a necessary credential for being a socialist? If so, he falls neatly into the same trap as those apologists for Stalin who used to support his every action as 'advancing the cause of world socialism' and attacked any socialist who criticised him as 'saboteurs helping the capitalists'.

Marxists have always pointed proudly to the enormous economic and social benefits which have accrued to the workers of Russia, Poland and all the countries where capitalism and landlordism have been abolished as a result of

their planned, nationalised economies. We stand for the unconditional defence of these gains.

By themselves however these gains do not constitute 'socialism', which also means the control of society and the economy by the workers themselves, democratically through their own organisations.

In 'Militant' we have carefully analysed and explained the process by which Russia, Poland and the other East European countries have developed into one-party totalitarian states.

Unlike the opponents of socialism, we don't believe that this bureaucratic distortion is the inevitable result of revolution. It is the result of utopian and reactionary attempts to build national roads to socialism within each of these countries, neither involving their own workers in decision-making nor appealing for help to the working class internationally.

Only the Marxist programme, calling for a political revolution in those countries to establish workers' democracy, offers a viable alternative to the attacks of capitalist reactionaries everywhere who have long used the horrors of Stalinism as a scarecrow to put workers off the idea of socialism.

Comrade Reed's letter ends with a sectarian attack on the Labour Party and the activity of 'Militant' supporters within it. Could he tell us what precisely is his alternative to being active in the Labour Party?

The accusation that the Labour Party has a reformist leadership, many of whom have incomes and lifestyles poles apart from the membership, could be equally well levelled at the trade unions. Does that prevent Comrade Reed from being an active trade unionist?

As members of the Labour Party, the political wing of the trade union movement, we

got the ear of large numbers of voters when campaigning for the return of a Labour government on a socialist programme. We explained why the last Labour government had carried out a programme of trying to prop up capitalism at a time of economic crisis and we exposed the dangers represented by the Tories.

We outlined the only kind of programme which could have defeated the Tories conclusively and we pointed to the concrete advantages of a socialist transformation of society. We also urged Labour voters to join the Party itself and become involved not only in the struggle to make the Labour Party more democratic but also to make it take up and campaign on the socialist programme which is part of its constitution.

What was Comrade Reed's contribution to the election campaign? Was it a matter of complete indifference to him which party got into office?

Does he disagree with those millions of working people who voted Labour not because they supported Callaghan's policies but because they knew only too well that a Thatcher government would try to attack every aspect of the gains the working class have made over the last seventy years?

Comrade Reed would be more useful to the cause of socialism if he got off the sectarian sideline and worked with 'Militant' supporters, taking the ideas of Marxism into every section of the trade union and labour movement. Anything else will condemn him to continued and perpetual isolation.

Yours fraternally
David Brandon
Secretary, Peterborough Central Labour Party

NEARLY HALFWAY TO TARGET

You've done half the job so far! But we still need £3,000 every week! As our press date approaches we've almost reached the half-way stage with our fighting fund target! We're only £800 short of the £42,500. But, this was due by July 7th and as happens every summer, there's a tendency for the rate of 'surplus' going to the fighting fund to fall! We must get £3,000 per week on average to reach £63,750 by October 6th.

We appeal to our readers and supporters to reverse this trend: it's not an immutable law. You can do this by giving Militant a holiday bonus in the form of part of a tax rebate or pocket money not spent on holiday, or by any one of the profitable and enjoyable schemes mentioned in this column.

The largest contribution since our last issue has come from supporters at the Labour Party Young Socialists Conference and Camp: £2,122.23 with some IOUs still outstanding. This includes both the donations at the Militant Readers' Meeting profits on snacks, books etc, while Phil Frampton's close shave also netted over £180.

Although many workers have been on holiday, some have not been able to afford to get away at all, mainly on account of low pay, but in some cases because of strikes that have dragged on through the summer. (You wouldn't think so to read the mass circulation press). It's a scandal in this day and age that in some families both adults and children dread the 'holidays' when they don't get decent meals. (though Ma Thatcher's going to scrap

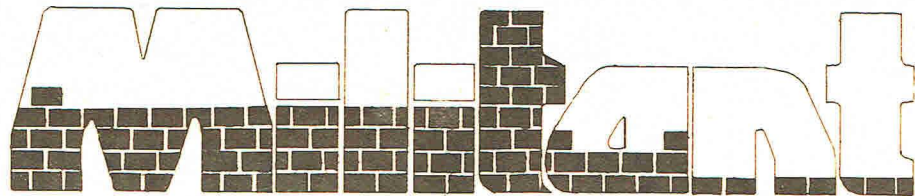
By Steve Cawley

school meals (anyway) and their mates all go away.

The meetings that have gone ahead in August have been organised by leading trade unionists and socialists, often to fight on specific issues. Thanks to supporters at Militant Readers' Meetings in Southampton (£30), Immingham (£22.50, including £10 from Lindsey Oil Refinery Shop Stewards Committee), Rochdale ('fight the Cuts' £14), Mansfield ('Which way forward for the NUM, £13), Wakefield (£16), and Tyneside (£11.50). Discussion groups in Scarborough, Huddersfield, N London, Leeds and Bootle are making regular donations.

Where the Militant is sold at work, regular collections come in from week to week—to give just three examples—recently workers from an AUEW factory in Nottingham sent us £10.55, Rotherham Bakers' forum raised, £16 after expenses, and leading CPSA representatives in the Civil Aviation Group sent £47. Do you sell Militant at work? [if not, why not?]. Would just two or three, to start with, of your mates be prepared to buy Militant? Or, as trade unionists, can they afford NOT to

Build



Area	Target 52 wks	Target 39 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	3,525		1,828
Hants & IOW	3,100	2,325		1,649
Humberside	2,000	1,500		956
London North	9,500	7,125		3,868
London South	3,900	2,925		2,224
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	3,375		1,630
Merseyside	5,000	3,750		1,847
Midlands East	3,300	2,475		1,769
Midlands West	9,000	6,750		4,220
Northern	5,500	4,125		2,297
Scotland East	2,900	2,175		915
Scotland West	4,500	3,375		1,477
South East	4,500	3,375		2,466
South West	3,100	2,325		1,543
Wales East	2,600	1,950		953
Wales West	3,400	2,550		930
Yorkshire	6,800	5,100		2,653
Others	6,700	5,025		8,465
Total	85,000	63,750		41,673

Progress towards year's target ■■■■■ Progress towards October 6th target ■■■■■

TARGET FOR THE YEAR - £85,000 TARGET FOR OCT. 6th - £63,750

read the Militant?

Labour Party Young Socialists branches rarely 'close down' for August, and to prove it we've had £14.13 from Midlothian (part of Gala Day proceeds), £10 from Feltham, and other sums from Harlow, Spennymoor and Sedgfield, Chester, Hendon, and via Southampton LPYS members on the Tolpuddle rally.

Over the past three weeks we've had too many individual donations to mention them all here, but we hope comrades don't send us money just to see their names in print! £35 TV fees tops the bill, followed by £20 from a Southampton supporter. Tenners from D Lee (Cambridge), P Bamford and A Dean (both tax rebate money from Merseyside readers, any more?), from C Tweed (Vice-Chairman, Isle of Wight CLP), from supporters in Eastleigh and, unfortunately, from redundancy money from a Gosport LPYS member.

£9.50 union and conference expenses were passed on from A Davies (Southend). £5s came from B&F Kidd (London), M Strobel (Ipswich), A Howkins (Brighton) and M Zamorski (Oxford), whilst £4s came from J Stirton (NUPE, London) and an ASLEF

**Three week's total:
£4,567**

**Raised at LPYS
Conference
£2,122**

**NEEDED
£3,000 weekly**

member of Craigton LPYS. Groups of health workers in London and Yorkshire have sent us 'appeal sheets' that they used to encourage donations of 10p and £2, when renewing their subscriptions to Militant. P Rogan S Bush and J Sullivan sent us between £2 and £4 extra to round it up. Altogether we have to thank the 17 contributors who sent between £2

and £5, the 16 who gave us £2s, the 6 who sent us between £1 and £2 and the 34 comrades who sent £1. Fund raising events are reaching a summer peak: you've enjoyed raffles, car rides, badges (£170 paid in here for!), eaten ice cream, curries, Greek food, pizzas, drunk tea coffee and home-made brew, then gone on sponsored walks (I should

think so, too, after that lot!) played poker, dominoes, organised discos (Driffild, £30) and camps (£70 more just in from the Northern camp) jumble sales (Eastbourne, £38) and regular draws (Wakefield £30). I've been asked specially to mention the staff and customers of the Doctor's Bar in Glasgow (£11.50), although I'm not quite certain whether what they serve is purely medicinal.

Last but not least, over £65 came in by way of 'extras' (mainly, literally!) in 5ps. This shows every penny counts. We have a tremendous job to do over the next months, with the debate in the unions and the Labour Party, and the attitude of the working class to the Tory attacks, to report and explain in a way that will strengthen the labour and trade union movement both politically and organisationally to defend our living standards, and to argue for the programme of scientific socialism as the only viable alternative.

Unlike the 'free press' we have no rich friends. We need your help. If you think our ideas should be heard, help to give us a hearing in hard cash.

ads

RATES:
CLASSIFIED: 5p per word.
Minimum ten words.
SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2
column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should
reach this office by SATUR-
DAY.

Greet Labour's Conference

We invite you to place fraternal greetings to delegates attending the 1979 Labour Party Conference in 'Militant'.

This year's conference will be one of the most important ever. Make sure your trade union branch, shop stewards' committee, Labour Party or LPYS branch sends its greetings through our paper, which gets very wide circulation at Conference.

The closing date for copy is Tuesday 18 September.

Rates for greetings:

Semi-display: £4 for 6 column centimetres [maximum 25 words]; £2 for 3 column centimetres [maximum 15 words].

Display: £7 one-sixteenth of a page; £14 one-eighth of a page.

'MILITANT' ON IRELAND

A second enlarged edition of this pamphlet carrying important articles from the 'Militant' and 'Militant Irish Monthly' dealing with events in Ireland over the past ten years. Essential reading for anyone interested in Irish politics. Price 40p each P&P extra 10 or more, post free Obtainable from Militant Irish Monthly c/o 18 Donegall Street, Belfast

WEST LONDON MILITANT SUPPORTERS

New pamphlet on 'Bourgeois revolution and the Permanent revolution' with 'English revolution (1640)' and 'American revolution (1776)' Send 50p to World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

Militant Readers' Meeting 'AUEW—Fight for Full Claim' Speakers: Roy Bennett (AUEW Convenor, Nottingham); Nick Ramsell (AUEW Shop Steward GEC). At 'Richard the Third', Highcross Street, Leicester, Friday August 17th, 7.30 pm.

Provan LPYS Public Meeting. John McLean—fighter for the working people. Speakers: Bob Wylie and Harry McShane. Blairfunnoch House, Easterhouse. Wednesday 29 August 7.30 pm.

South Wales Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday 1979, August 24-27
Horton, near Swansea

EXCELLENT COURSES IN MARXISM
Speakers include: Roger Silverman on 'Fascism & Bonapartism'; Clare Doyle on 'Popular Fronts and United Fronts'; Mick Brooks on 'Socialism; Utopian and Scientific; Alan Woods on 'State and Revolution'.

PLENTY OF SOCIAL ACTIVITY
Cost, £6.50 per head; Under 5s free; 6-12s £2 [costs include snacks]. Write or phone Rob Sewell, 99 Penderry Road, Penlan, Swansea. Tel. Swansea [0792] 33542. Book Now! Cheques etc, payable to 'R Sewell'. As always we guarantee the weather!

ROVER STEWARDS SAY FIGHT ALL JOB CUTS

On Wednesday 1st August British Leyland management told us that from 3rd September they would be shutting down one of the production lines on the Rover P6 Saloon car, the 'European Car of the Year'.

Rover is only the latest section of Leyland where the axe is poised. Edwardes' plan for the breaking up and hiving off of the combine is being speeded up now that the Tories are in office, intent on giving the bosses free rein.

The plans for Rover, if carried out, would cut production of the P6 saloon by a third and reduce the labour force by nearly 1,500—four out of every ten production jobs.

In 'classic profiters' fashion, the sackings are to be combined with getting more work out of those left behind, as we have explained in the shop stewards' leaflet. On the two other production lines the company want to do away with 150 jobs, even though there will be no reduction in line speeds.

Management went on to say that they would institute a programme of selective redundancies combined with transfers to Landrover (200



By Bill Mullins, T&GWU senior steward, Rover Solihull

(jobs) and Triumph (400 jobs) in Coventry, 12 miles away.

It was clear to us that we had to fight against all job losses. Shop stewards' committees throughout industry have fought compulsory sackings for a long period, but when faced with cut-backs, there has rarely been an active fight against voluntary redundancies.

Many workers still believe that they can step out of a job and into another.

One 39-year old worker with a family said to me: "It was quite easy last time".

Last time for him was 1971, when unemployment had not bitten so hard in the Midlands.

The shop stewards decided to fight back on the basis of four clear demands:

No to all redundancies—voluntary or enforced;

No to any speed-up;

Share out the work. Short-time working without loss of pay;

No to the closure of line 3. Strike if the company closes on September 3rd.

This was adopted almost unanimously by the 120 shop

stewards. Prior to the mass meeting the stewards produced a leaflet explaining our position, pointing out the lack of job prospects in the area.

On the dole

At the mass meeting on 7 August there was a very despondent mood, reflected in the 50-50 vote on the shop stewards' call for action against all job losses.

It was then decided to oppose enforced redundancies and speed-up with industrial action. This position was overwhelmingly supported.

Since the mass meeting we have produced another leaflet explaining the derisory 'copper handshake' offered to those taking voluntary redundancies and how the Tories are treating the unemployed. Thatcher is now saying that you will be made 3 job offers (no matter how low the wages) and if you refuse, dole money will be withdrawn.

Already the mood is changing. Workers are beginning to say 'This is the only job we have got and therefore it's worth fighting for.'

That fight must be based squarely around the demand for work-sharing without pay cuts.

CUSTOMS WORKERS PROVE THE POINT

Customs officers, members of the SCPS and CPSA, were operating a work to rule this week in protest against job cuts.

The government and civil service heads hope to reduce the customs department from 30,151 to 27,000. They plan a direct ban on recruitment and the filling of vacancies.

The government have decided that as our pay settlement earlier this year was in excess of what they budgeted for, we have to pay for this in terms of jobs and worsening conditions.

The Tory message is: if you want a living wage you will have to pay for it.

This is only the tip of the iceberg, however. The civil service department are already negotiating the possibility of further cuts of up to 20% later this year. We face a vital struggle to protect jobs and maintain working conditions.

It's only by working to rule that we can do our job properly! That's how undermanned we are.

At the East Midlands airport last weekend four customs officers were supposed to deal with 400 passengers arriving home after a tiring plane journey. Such is the insane reasoning behind the cuts.

We are forced to do a job without the resources, while 1½ million people on the dole cannot find a job.

We are showing our determination, but it is becoming steadily clearer that the Tory cuts cannot be defeated by workplace action alone. Therefore we will be pressing for a vigorous campaign mounted by the TUC throughout the trade union movement to reverse the cuts.

In the immediate future we are attempting to defend our conditions. In the long term the fight is to defend public sector jobs and all our social services—won by working people through hundreds of years of struggle.

By Dave San

(Assistant Section Secretary, CPSA Customs Section, personal capacity)

TRUMANS— UNITY WINS

At Truman's brewery in Brick Lane, the scene of many fascist attacks, workers recently staged a five-day strike.

Office workers at the brewery were told that their 15% pay increase claim had been rejected. They were offered only 10%, a paltry increase compared to the massive profits the brewery make.

The office workers weren't going to accept a further drop in their standard of living and therefore decided to strike every Monday, while maintaining a go-slow during the rest of the week.

Monday 23 July saw the first strike action. The brewery bosses reacted by sending home, without pay, many manual workers, who weren't even involved in the strike.

Because of this unfair treatment the office workers

refused to come into work on the Tuesday unless the workers were paid for their lost day. Management refused and after Tuesday's strike action more workers were sent home.

An all-out strike was called, which lasted until the following Monday, when the bosses decided to reimburse the workers who had been sent home, at £10 a day.

Not only were the office workers forced to go on strike for a better living but the manual workers were forced out as well by the childish action of their bosses. Office and manual workers fought together, forcing their bosses into retreat.

It just shows that no matter what struggles you face against your employer, workers' unity can defeat them.

By John Consadine
(Tower Hamlets LPYS)

BTR OUT FOR 15%

On Wednesday 18 July, 2,000 members of the GMWU, the entire production staff, walked out of three BTR (British Thermoplastics and Rubber) factories in Leyland, Lancashire.

Our last wage settlement was 10% in July 1978. This year, despite the ending of government wage control, only an average of 8½% was offered.

Higher grades get up to 16% while lower paid grades get an unbelievable 6%! This is to be phased in over 6 months.

On union advice this offer was rejected unanimously at a mass meeting, causing the first strike in the history of the factories involved.

Picketing has been successful so far. Post, parcels, milk, food and coal deliveries, have all refused to cross the lines. The managers must be cold and hungry by now! Only one lorry and two scabs have crossed the picket lines, assisted by managers.

Morale is high and a further mass meeting is planned every Thursday, as long as the strike is on. Union negotiators have set 15% as the minimum they are prepared to accept, for everyone, to be paid now and not phased in.

By Kevin Broxton
(Chorley CLP Vice-Chairman, GMWU Trade Council delegate)

ALL OUT AT GEC STAFFORD



Starting the day at GEC, Stafford's biggest employer—when workers aren't forced out of the gate

Photo: MILITANT

Four years ago 2,500 manual workers at GEC Stafford, struck in support of a £10 rise. This year, 1,800 are on strike.

Much more is at stake today—as the drop in the workforce shows. GEC are Britain's biggest firm, but looking at the wage packets you wouldn't think so.

Weinstock has his £100 millions in the bank; he's just turned down £7m for his race-horse 'Troy'. Yet obviously he's still not squeezing enough from his workers.

Trouble has been brewing for years. Like the rest of the engineering industry, wages are made respectable through overtime and bonuses.

Now management are on the offensive. Over 500 jobs have been lost at Stafford in 9 months.

When the shop stewards submitted the site wage

claim (for 20%) management refused to answer and insisted on making eleven replies, one for each division or 'company' within GEC.

This 'divisionalisation' is aimed at dividing the workforce and reducing trade union control and bargaining power.

When the stewards rejected this, management went on to produce their eleven offers anyway. These confirmed the workers' doubts.

The offer amounted to peanuts in exchange for flexibility, work-timing, ending demarcations and more. At present the base rates are the national minimum of £60. With bonuses, the factory average is £72.

Management offer to raise the base but make any extra much harder to earn. Many workers would lose money. One manager said if his incentive bonus was attained,

it would be stopped!

On top of this GEC want total flexibility.

Then they announced that they would not recognise the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee and would set up individual company agreements with each product group on the site. They withdrew union facilities.

After circulating their 'offer' they tried to go over the heads of the JSSC again. Just before the mass meeting, loudspeaker messages went throughout the factory saying that if there was a strike, workers would be 'worse off', and would lose their jobs.

These broadcasts from 'Tokyo Rose' were all the lads needed. Management are now challenged by an all-out strike.

Stafford workers see this as the thin end of the wedge for all GEC workers. At the moment there are nine other

disputes over similar anti-union attacks within GEC. Already Stafford has been threatened with closure.

This emphasises the importance of the efforts being made to build a combine committee to meet Weinstock on equal terms. These efforts must be urgently pursued.

The stakes are indeed high. The workers are expecting a hard battle.

All eight trade unions involved are asking for full support, especially from other GEC workers. Messages of support and financial help to: GEC Strike Committee c/o A Clews, Lea Cottage, Bishops Offley, Eccleshall, Stafford.

By Dave Griffiths

(Stafford LPYS)

2 MILLION ENGINEERS STRIKE FOR NATIONAL WAGE CLAIM

An estimated two million engineering workers responded to the strike call by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions [CSEU] on the 6th August, in the first of three one-day national strikes.

Coupled with an overtime ban, this is the beginning of a fight by workers in the industry to secure an £80 minimum for craftsmen, with related increases for other grades, and a 35-hour week, throughout engineering.

By
Pat Gallagher

(AUEW Shop Steward
Sunbeam Electric,
East Kilbride)

In negotiations since last February, the Engineering Employers' Federation (EEF) have repeatedly refused to make any acceptable proposals. In fact they have moved very little from the first offer of £5 on the national minimum rates (NMR) for craftsmen, bringing them up to £65 minimum, combined with a joint working party to look into the other conditions on the claim, including the 35-hour week.

The Employers' have also insisted that the claim should become effective on the anniversary dates of the separate domestic settlements.

After further meetings the NMR for craftsmen was raised to £68 and then £70, the present offer. This still only amounts to half of the original claim.

Now the EEF are bleating that they "can't afford" to meet the full claim. It's a story we've heard before—Weinstock must be one of the most tight-fisted employers, yet GEC have just announced record profits. If they aren't bluffing they shouldn't mind letting us see all the companies' books, and deciding for ourselves!

Their pleading certainly didn't convince many of us. At the fifth and last meeting, negotiations finally broke down.

The unions had been mandated by their National Committees to reject the EEF proposals and to:

Achieve in full the claim in respect of Minimum Time Rates;

Secure a reduction of one hour in the working week this year, with further staged reductions towards a 35-hour week in 1982;

Secure two days extra holiday this year and

A common operative date of April 1979 for the implementation of the agreement.

The negotiators were also given the power to call a series of one-day strikes and an overtime ban. This is to be reviewed if no progress is made in securing the claim, with a view to stepping up the action.

Th bosses' intransigence is seen by the membership as a direct provocation. It is well known that the EEF have been preparing for this situation by building up a considerable cash fund.

Clearly this is a deliberate attempt by one hard-nosed section of the bosses and their Tory allies in Westminster to confront and smash the unity of the engineers—something Ted Heath tried and failed.

Their arrogance has been encouraged by the apparently

hesitant and weak leadership of the main Confed union, the AUEW, during the negotiations.

Terry Duffy, AUEW national president, was elected to office on a platform of opposition to most forms of industrial action. During negotiations he attempted to stave off the threat of industrial action by offering various compromises which came nowhere near the claim for £80.

In 'Proceedings at National Conference' Book 3, Duffy is reported to have asked "Are



Engineering workers at Tower Hill, London, for a rally during the first one-day strike

CONFED MUST PREPARE FOR ALL-OUT STRIKE

decided not to call out their members.

To ensure payment for the holiday you need to work full days before and after, and the strike was thought to jeopardise this. Workers in the area will however be supporting the strikes to come.

Overall the potential support for the strike and overtime ban has been mas-

and met the full claim. The Federation disputes this, but undoubtedly some bosses have seized the chance to pay up and avoid disruption, so that they can get an edge on their strike-bound rivals.

If the dispute drags on, our full strength in action will be needed. We must match the bosses' rivalry with union unity. We may have to consider calling out all members at EEF firms, whether they have settled or not, to step up the pressure and ensure that our weaker members are not isolated.

John Boyd, AUEW general secretary, berates the EEF for their "negative, selfish, uninspiring attitudes" (AUEW Journal, August 1979). But that is not the answer—we must not be misled into false hopes about making firms see reason and converting them to charitable ways.

If British capitalism were still going through the up-

swing of the 50s and 60s, the capitalists could afford to give reforms and increase living standards. Today things are completely different.

The working class are being asked to pay more and more for a crisis not of our making, while the bosses refuse to re-invest in manufacturing industry.

Now, after squandering the profits of our labour, they tell us that the industry's in trouble and they can't export as much. We must counter this by insisting on the rapid introduction of a national 35-hour week, to fight unemployment by sharing out the work without loss of pay.

After the years of wage restraint, which held back wages while inflation has surged ahead, leaving a bitter legacy amongst skilled and unskilled alike, this national wage claim is important. Our industry is riddled with small sweat shops paying the bare

minimum, if that. Linked to a shorter working week, the claim will improve conditions for every EEF worker.

If we are to take on the employers and win, however, we need to mobilise all our forces. Demonstrations and rallies must be held in every major industrial city as a basis for uniting and keeping the membership informed.

If the Federation are intent on a drawn-out confrontation then we must be ready to meet their challenge. Preparations must begin now for hard-hitting action unless the claim is met.

The one-day stoppages have already proved the superiority of national action over the disastrous guerrilla or regional action used in 1972. We will show the employers what a force they are trying to take on.

All out national action must be the answer, for the full claim, without strings.



Terry Duffy, AUEW president—is he prepared to lead an all-out strike?

you prepared to recommend a sum of £70 to your member firms?"

The EEF predicted that the strikes "would receive only limited support" ('Financial Times' 6.8.79).

Their crystal ball was totally contradicted, however, by the dust storm of 2 million engineering workers magnificently responding to the strike call. Area after area reported strong support.

In the West Midlands, the North West and Wales the shut-down was almost 100% solid.

45,000 engineering workers in the East of Scotland came out, 500 workers marched through Edinburgh in support of the claim—at a time when most industry in the area is traditionally shut down for summer holidays.

In the West of Scotland things didn't run so smoothly. Due to the timing of the strike call, the Clyde District Confed

was shut down for several days. The strikes coincide with the annual shut-down in the key engineering areas of Sheffield, Rotherham and much of Yorkshire. But it will undoubtedly be brought nearer to full potential over the next weeks.

In some factories the determination of the workers is evident from the tough approach they are taking towards the handful of workers in firms refusing to support the action. At Rolls Royce, Coventry, the shop stewards have sent letters to sub-contracting firms informing them that their goods will be blacked if their factories aren't shut down during the strikes.

Only this type of unity and action around the claim will force the employers to concede in full.

Already there are cracks in the EEF—over 100 firms are reported to have broken rank

In West and North-West London, one of the major centres of the engineering industry, there was a good response in many factories to the first of the three Monday strikes.

The AUEW and sections of the T&GWU, EETPU and the sheet metal workers' union backed the action. Many of the large food and other manufacturing plants, as well as engineering, were hit as a result of the maintenance workers (craft side) joining the strike.

Workers at the big EMI complex in Hayes shut down large sections of the site. Callard and Bowyer's sweet factory in Hayes was also hit.

Pickets were out all along the Great West Road, from

United Biscuits to Tricos (windscreen wipers), Alfa Lavalls Engineering and Magnatex to name but a few. The giant Park Royal estate was also hit.

One Southall District AUEW representative reported the employers' reaction: "The bosses have been on to us—they're going mad."

The fact that thousands of workers in West London were out was a measure of the enormous support. The activity on the day differed from factory to factory however. Some were picketed while others weren't.

At a rally in central London several leaders of the Confed made important and welcome references to the need for stepping up the action if the

bosses have not agreed the claim by 20 August. "Military on a factory basis needs to be transformed into military nationally" said one Confed official.

This is a question already being taken up by many engineers.

Unfortunately the rally was poorly attended, partly due to the number of factories on holiday. It also showed, however, the urgent need for the Confed leaders to put words into action.

They must lead a vigorous campaign, raising the key issues, encouraging shop stewards and involving the membership to a far greater degree.

By Martin Elvin

MANCHESTER

The Manchester district responded solidly to the strike call.

On Monday 6th, 3,500 workers at GEC Trafford Park came out. All the Ferranti factories were affected with thousands of workers on strike.

Work halted at Hawker Siddeley's Chadderton factory, as at all the 25 British Aerospace factories. Eight thousand Leyland Bus and Truck workers were out and in Stockport the Simon

Engineering Cheadle Heath factory was virtually shut down, with a thousand workers on strike.

John Tocher, the Confed Manchester secretary, reported that 36 firms in the area were given "dispensation". "As far as I am aware" he said, "the strike is 100% except in firms where we have reached agreement."

He pointed out that many engineering workers in the area have a basic wage above the £80 claim, due to local

agreements. "We regard the shorter working week as a key element in the claim" he said.

After the bitter experience of the 1972 strike, the mood in the Manchester area is for national all-out strike action rather than regional or other local intensification of the campaign.

By Ian Stoweli
(AUEW—TASS
Manchester)

CORBRY - WE WANT JOBS. NOT BRIBES



Fighting to save the town, Corby workers' lobby, 28 June 1979

Photo: J McKittrick

process be stopped? How can Corby succeed where other towns have lost the fight? Corby will not win this fight on their own.

A national steel strike is the only answer. Steelworkers throughout Britain must rally to the support of steel workers at all plants under threat.

The closures at these plants will not make jobs at large plants like Ravenscraig any safer. The whole steel industry is under direct attack from this ruthless Tory government.

One-time major industries like the motorbike industry have gradually disappeared over the years. Unless a stand is taken, the same would happen in steel, with disastrous effects on the rest of manufacturing industry.

If a national steel strike were called, BSC and the Tory government would have to sit up and take notice. This is the only way to save Corby, save the steel industry and save jobs.

For a national steel strike!

No steel to be produced until all threatened closures and redundancies are withdrawn!

How much is a steel town worth? A mere £3½ million, according to the latest Tory government offer to workers at Corby.

Corby workers describe the offer as an 'insult', a 'cheap bribe' and 'peanuts'. That's when their comments are printable. Sir Keith Joseph thinks he can close a steelworks with a £3.5 million bribe, but the workers of Corby won't be bought off that easily.

Any amount of money, or regional aid will not

By Heather Rawling

provide the security of employment needed in Corby. Previous belated attempts to diversify industry in this town have failed miserably.

Of the 24 non-steel manufacturing firms open in 1970, 11 had closed by 1977. The average life of factories set up since 1967

has been a mere two years!

Corby had fewer non-steel manufacturing jobs in 1977 after a decade of rigorous effort to diversify than it did in 1957.

Two-thirds of Corby men work for BSC, yet Sir Keith Joseph thinks £3.5 million will allow the Tory government and BSC to turn Corby into a ghost town.

The fight to save the steelworks and to save Corby continues. A Festival Against Closures is being held this Saturday with a march, public rally, street theatre etc being organised. The LPYS has a stall, and will be there in force to recruit the youth of Corby to the banner of socialism.

But with 18,700 steel jobs gone in the last eight months how can this

TORY RULE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the State's 'featherbedding' private firms is wearing thin. The National Enterprise Board is being retained, as are 33 of the 40 government working parties on different sections of industry. Without state aid much of British capitalism would go to the wall.

It hasn't exactly been an equality of sacrifice though.

£1,000 million went on share prices the day the Tories won as the Stock Exchange Index rose by a record amount. The forces of 'law and order' have been given huge increases to help insure their loyalty in the battles ahead.

Virtually the first act of the Tories was to give a 20% increase to the police, with a further 15% to come in September. The Army was not neglected, getting an overall 32% increase.

£50 million was set aside for 'direct grant' schools to get pupils from the state sector. Other areas of education were not to be so lucky, and up and down the country local authorities are announcing cut-backs in their education

budgets [Birmingham £2m, Clywd £1.6m now and £3.2m next year, Liverpool £2.8m, Somerset £1.5m].

The Tories proclaimed their philosophy.

"Adequate competition, unequal rewards and profitability" is Sir Keith Joseph's declared creed.

The Budget was truly that, and if you earned over £10,000 a year you made a gain. Below £10,000, well, bad luck.

But while the bosses gain the rest of us suffer. And all the indications are it will get worse. According to the Treasury forecasts, unemployment will rise to over 2 million next year, inflation to 20%.

The cutbacks on social services will grow. On the 24th July the Tories agreed to cut £4,000m, mostly in social services, in 1980/81.

If all this havoc has been achieved in 100 days, can they be stopped? Not if Labour's right-wing have their way.

Callaghan has called for the opposition to the Tories to be limited to Parliament, where the Tories have a majority of over 40. That is a recipe



Saving the financial sharks

for disaster. Workers cannot afford another 1,700 days of Tory rule.

Local and national campaigns against the Tories must be mounted, combining the industrial and political wings of the labour movement. Fighting on a socialist alternative, the Tories can be defeated.

Traditionally governments have a 'honeymoon' period on taking office.

It's been a short honeymoon. The first 100 days has aroused considerable opposition from sections of the working class.

That opposition will grow in the coming period. Armed with a fighting socialist programme it could not only end the spectre of 4½ more years of Tory rule but begin to build a lasting socialist alternative to the present capitalist chaos.

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth
Tel: 01-986 3828

Editor: Peter Taaffe, Business Manager: Dave Galashan. Published by Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Printed by Cambridge Heath Press Ltd [TU]

EMI-UNION RIGHTS TRAMPLED ON

The vindictive attitude of EMI management, who have been pressurising EEF engineering companies not to concede the present Confed claim [see page 15] has now provoked further strike action.

Production workers at the EMI plant in Hayes are fighting alongside Confed workers for the national claim. They are also fighting for a local £10 cost of living rise.

Despite a recent 13% pay increase, this is felt to be essential due to the rapidly rising cost of living.

The EMI workers have joined the one-day strikes and are operating an overtime ban in line with the national action. They are also working to rule and blacking all contract labour on site in pursuit of the local claim.

Last Friday, however, several men in EMI-Tape were quite unjustly suspended for refusing to load a lorry owned by an outside contract company. Following a walk-out by the rest of the EMI-Tape workers several men were suspended for refusing to enter the EMI-Tape section of the plant.

This dispute poses a number of problems. There is a general feeling that it is not a good tactic to fight on two fronts at once. Many think

that the national claim should have taken precedence, with the local claim dealt with afterwards.

Management's conditions for reinstating the suspended workers, however, was a return to 'normal working', ending the local action. Faced with such an ultimatum, the production workers voted to continue the strike action now affecting the whole Hayes plant.

Although the virtue of the present tactics is under dispute, the claim has now got to the point where basic trade union rights are being violated. EMI bosses must not be allowed to get away with this.

It is now essential that the full power of the unions in EMI is brought to bear, maintaining maximum shop floor unity and strength to face the major battles ahead.

By Martin Elvin, (Ruislip-Northwood LPYS), Mick Bowe (T&GWU 1/690 EMI), Dongie Swan (AU EW shop steward, EMI)



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