



FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE!

CORBY WORKERS SHOW THE WAY!

Steel, shipbuilding, Leyland...The list of industries and firms threatening to add thousands to the dole queues seems to grow weekly.

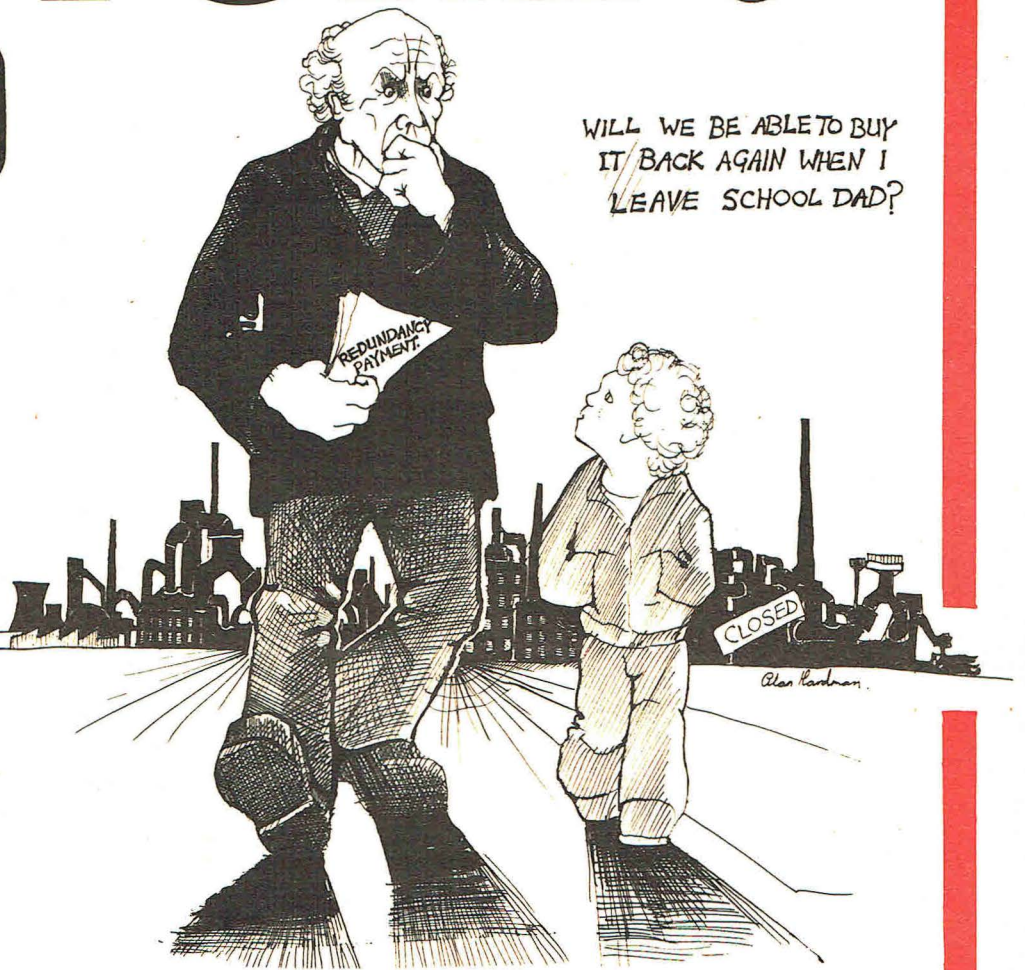
By Heather Rawling

Workers in the steel town of Corby face the threat of a steel works closure which would destroy the town. But they are showing their willingness to fight in no uncertain terms.

"We, the Corby workers, must aim to get the whole labour movement behind us. My fight is my son's fight. At 3 he's too young to fight back, but it's his future that is at stake."

These words of Mick Skelton, chairman of the joint Corby ISTC branches, express the absolute determination of workers throughout Corby to fight to save the steel works on which the town depends.

The whole population of Corby has been galvanised together in one common battle which culminates in a two-hour



general strike in Corby on Thursday 20th September.

Bill Sirs, leader of the

ISTC, sounded a rallying call: "Prove your willingness to fight the closures —prove you will not be

bribed by redundancy payments and we will
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ZIMBABWE DEFEAT IMPERIALIST AIMS

By Jim Christie



Trying to establish the basis for a black capitalist Zimbabwe. That has been the main aim of the Tories

in the first week of the Constitutional Conference.

This has meant that a 'white veto' over the whole

government machinery will have to go. Instead there is now talk of safeguards.

This Monday, Carrington, Tory Foreign Secretary, explained big business' position

clearly: "We don't expect the whites to give up their blocking power but it is unrealistic to expect them to

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STOP PRESS

Workers at Rolls Royce Bristol voted overwhelmingly for the AUEW to call an all-out national engineering strike at a mass meeting, after they were locked out by management. Similar action is expected to spread throughout all RR plants. Confed claim report page 15.

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Militant

LEYLAND CRISIS. WHO'S TO BLAME?

The announcement by Leyland chairman Edwardes of plans for massive redundancies has predictably been accompanied by scandalous and inaccurate attacks on the Leyland workforce by the Tory press. The press imply that the threat to jobs at Leyland is a result of an 'atrocious' strike record. A closer look shows that the problems of Leyland reflect the crisis shaking the whole of British capitalism.

Edwardes' statement outlining the 'streamlining' proposals was accompanied by sideswipes at the Park Royal plant for low productivity, which he blamed on the workers' "lack of co-operation". Yet the statement itself explains the decline by factors which, if taken to their logical conclusion, would throw most of British industry on the scrapheap.

Leyland's investment record has been atrocious for very many years. In 1968 it was still the biggest car manufacturer outside the USA. Now it is easily outstripped by the automobile giants of Europe and Japan. Attempts to guarantee greater efficiency were of no avail as investment lagged further and further behind. At the end of 1976 Leyland had £8,505 worth of assets per employee. The 11 Japanese vehicle companies had £42,020 assets

per employee, i.e. nearly five times as much.

But in this Leyland were only following the general pattern of British industry. In spite of colossal handouts to private industry, investment throughout Britain has been gravely neglected. In 1970 overall investment in productive industry in Britain totalled £4,196 million [at 1975 prices]. This was itself completely insufficient to obtain a real modernisation of British industry, but such dizzy heights have never been touched again.

Last year the amount invested in manufacturing industry only reached £3,860 million [again at 1975 prices]. British industry is working with outdated inefficient machinery.

Edwardes says that the main problem at Leyland is to finance the next stage of streamlining the company.

He admits that "with considerable co-operation from employees, we have already reduced our manning levels by nearly 18,000 since January last year" and that output per man has increased over the past period.

Edwardes reward for this sacrifice is to order 25,000 more redundancies, and to put the future of every Leyland worker 'on review'. Edwardes tries to blame the engineering workers' strikes and overtime bans in an attempt to blackmail workers into dropping their justified fight.

Edwardes' lame excuses explain nothing. He also blames the energy crisis, the downfall in world trade, the pressure of foreign rivals due to a strong pound, and the collapse of Leyland sales on home and foreign markets. All this may be correct—but they are symptoms rather than causes. The same is true of the whole of British industry.

Is the 'Edwardes treatment' to be prescribed for the rest of British manufacturing industry? Leyland's share of the British car market in 1978 declined to 18%. But the whole British car industry now only accounts for 42% of the home market, and Britain has now sunk to sixth or seventh place in world production of cars as opposed to

second place a decade ago.

All sections of British industry could tell a similar story. Productivity has lagged well behind the most advanced industrial nations. Not due to the high wages; they are the lowest of any advanced capitalist country. As 'Militant' has consistently pointed out, the problem is due to British industry resting upon the profit system.

Investment has only been undertaken where there is a quick profit to be made.

In the non-productive sectors, investment now far exceeds that in manufacturing and has risen nearly 30% this decade. The result has been a steady erosion of manufacturing jobs. The working class are being asked to pay for the inadequacies of the bosses and their system.

Without doubt Leyland workers will take up a fight to prevent the destruction of Leyland jobs. Nationally the Leyland shop stewards have passed a resolution saying that they will not allow Leyland to be destroyed and pledging that no plant will receive work from the threatened plants unless they are given the go-ahead by the workers involved.

Unfortunately, the resolution merely calls on the T&GWU Executive to support any plant that resists closures. As our feature

article [see page 13] points out, a united company-wide struggle against all redundancies is needed to cut across any management attempts to play off one section against another; drawing all Leyland workers into the fight and giving confidence to those whose jobs are at risk. All workers should support Leyland workers in their struggle, which is vital to the future of jobs in manufacturing industry.

It would be fatal for workers to sell their jobs and take redundancy pay. As David Basnett explained at the TUC, unemployment is no longer a short term hitch in the economy, but a long term problem. Jobs lost now will not be recovered. Workers in this and future generations would suffer.

But the butchers' plans for Leyland raise political questions. How can any nationalised industry, supported by workers' taxes, and with a Chairman appointed by the last Labour government, try to implement such barbarous measures?

Like other nationalised industries, Leyland was taken over only because the neglect of the capitalist owners threatened to totally destroy an important part of British industry. The owners were compensated, and a succession of loyal bosses appointed

to ensure that the company was run on capitalist lines.

The battle against closures and redundancies at Leyland must be part of a wider fight to ensure that Leyland workers are not left to the mercies of Edwardes and his capitalist advisers. A campaign for nationalisation of the entire motor industry is vital to ensure viability of car production.

But only a system of workers' control and management could ensure the interests of the working class are paramount.

The case argued by 'Militant' supporters at the time of nationalisation of Leyland has become ever more relevant. A board of one-third workers in the industry, elected through the trade unions, one-third elected by the TUC, and one-third appointed by the government would ensure that the interests of the working class, not those of big business, were in a majority.

Such industries would by their success show their clear superiority over private enterprise. The nightmare of industrial decline and mass unemployment which threatens workers through the control of industry and society by the capitalist class and their puppets in the present nationalised industries could become a thing of the past.

DEFENCE CAMPAIGN-

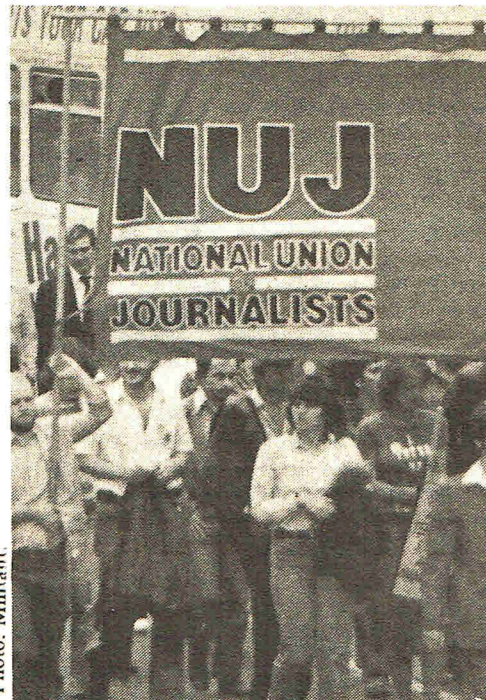
The valuable role that the 'Militant' plays in the labour movement is summed up in a letter received this week from the Brighton branch of the Bakers' Union.

The branch secretary writes: "Although I am not a supporter of 'Militant', I do read it regularly and have always found that it gives good honest down-to-earth reports on trade union disputes, and as a trade unionist and an Executive Committee member of Brighton Labour Party I am disgusted at the action taken by John Golding against 'Militant'.

My members and myself will never forget the magnificent support given to us during our strike last winter. I had to stop talking to the press after being misquoted and seeing my words twisted out of all recognition, but 'Militant' printed everything word for word...you can rest assured that my branch will be doing everything we can to assist your defence. You were with us in our hour of need and we are with you now."

Resolutions of support and donations are now coming into the Defence Fund from many Labour Parties. Some are sending donations and further gathering support by circulating appeal sheets. Walton CLP sent a magnificent £50. Wallsend CLP passed a resolution arguing that "political differences should be argued out within the labour movement and not in the courts" and further urging that the minutes of the NEC be published.

A similar motion was passed at the Shepherds Bush AUEW branch for their local GMC. This branch considered it "deplorable that a Labour MP and a member of the NEC should take legal



Nottingham Journalists [above], in dispute with reactionary employer, donated £22 this week. action against a socialist newspaper. Political battles should be fought according to the traditions of the labour movement and not through the courts."

In passing the resolution for the GMC, the branch also agreed to send a £5 donation itself to the defence of 'Militant'.

As the letter from the Bakers' Union branch above shows, the 'Militant' is seen by trade union activists as a paper that really fights for the interests of workers, reflecting their everyday lives and struggles. No other paper takes the same pains to clearly and honestly state the views of the workers especially when they are engaged in disputes.

The Tory press rant and rave against workers in dispute whether the strike is official or unofficial. They completely ignore the real grievances of the workers and portray industrial action almost as a happy pastime, whereas in actual fact the workers will only engage in strikes or other actions when they are driven to do it. The 'Militant' strives to represent the case that the capitalist press ignores.

The role of the 'Militant' was clearly not lost on the pickets outside the Nottingham Evening Post, workers who have been engaged in a long and bitter struggle against one of the capitalist newspaper groups. These workers cannot be 'well off' themselves by any means, yet a collection sheet passed among them raised over £22 along with £2 from Dennis McShane of the NUJ.

A sum of £43 was collected for the fund from a meeting of Manchester LPYS Liaison Committee; the comrade who sent in the cheque noting that "every effort is being made to raise more money to stave off this attack on the best paper in the labour movement."

In the Northern Region, both Blyth and Wallsend LPYS branches have agreed to send donations of £10 and £20 respectively, and there was a huge

collection of £172 among YS members at a weekend school. Individual donations included £12 from Stephanie Peckham of Poole LPYS, P McNally of Ladywood YS sent £5 as did S Store a Birmingham TGWU member. Wimbledon YS also donated £22 to the defence fund.

Resolutions in defence of the 'Militant' are going through more bodies of the labour movement than can be reported and many are accompanying their resolutions with donations, circulation of appeal sheets and so on. We can be confident that with the kind of support that is now coming in, the continued good work of the 'Militant' will continue for a long time to come.

Further donations urgently to Militant Defence Fund, 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church Street, London S.E.8.

SPOT THE IDIOT

As Militant reported recently, the already depleted British Rail is now set for even more massive cut-backs. As it is, BR workers are forced to work excessive overtime, because of low wages and staff shortages.

However, little sympathy can be expected from the bosses. The following orders have been sent out to workers at the BR Hovercraft 'Seaspeed' port at Dover, who have just received new uniforms:

"1. When you enter the Seaspeed complex at the roundabout for coming on duty or finishing your turn of duty, the uniform will be worn properly which includes having the jackets buttoned up and caps on whilst on duty in the Terminal.
2. Except for the Counter Staff, or if you are in the Staff

Canteen, caps will be worn.

3. It will be the Duty Officer's decision on the day as to whether or not jackets will be worn.

4. If you are in shirt sleeve order appropriate epaulettes will be worn on the shoulders.

5. Collars will be done up and shirt sleeves will not be rolled up.
6. If Duty Officers decide that ties need not be worn then everybody will take their tie off and shirt sleeves will be rolled up sensibly above the elbow.

It is not my intention that everybody should have a haircut to short back and sides, but bearing in mind the modern day trend on hair length, please do not have your hair so long that with a cap on you look like an idiot.

Now that you are wearing these uniforms you will be identified around the town as

Seaspeed so, therefore, I would be grateful if you would act and dress to give the Company and the Traffic Department a good image.

When in uniform if a member of the public speaks to you one is not expected to give a regimental salute, but as you will now be wearing a hat it is a matter of courtesy, it would not hurt just to touch the side of your peak as a mark of respect.

Finally, to some members of the staff, I assure you that the trousers and jacket are not allergic to an iron or the shoes to boot polish.

M R O'Hara (Traffic Manager)."

It seems the bosses are taking the accusation that they want a return to the 19th century very seriously indeed!

CAMPAIGN GROWS TO SAVE EAST LONDON HEALTH SERVICE

On Thursday 13 September we took part in the biggest mobilisation of health workers ever seen in East London. All the main hospitals and all the main unions were well represented.

The staff in the Area HQ were so impressed, even some of them clocked out spontaneously.

Several thousand hospital staff took part in the half day strike, about a thousand actually attending the march and demonstration. Those were augmented by groups of other workers from Hackney who had decided to strike in sympathy.

Unfortunately the protest appeared not to impress the chairman and members of the Area Health Authority. As far as Newham and Tower Hamlets were concerned the cuts were nodded through in the space of about ten minutes each.

The main opposition at the Area Health Authority came during the debate on the proposals for Hackney. A long speech from the chairman of the Hackney Community Council (who doesn't actually have a vote) raised a considerable number of doubts over the proposals, and questioned the use of the word 'temporary' when everyone knew that they were really permanent.

No one any longer really believed that the financial situation would improve in the foreseeable future. Another long speech was allowed from one of the local MPs, Ron Brown, who pointed out earlier promises made to improve St Leonard's hospital



All the hospital unions were on the E London demonstration last Thursday

Photo: MILITANT

after closing the Metropolitan a couple of weeks ago, had never been carried out. The chairman replied that the savings had been gobbled up by inflation.

The members of the Auth-

ority seemed to comprise a mixture of hard-nose committed Tory businessmen, and somewhat overawed but spineless Labour councillors, who just didn't grasp the implications of the cuts.

Lady Riches one of the members, having waited till the protestors left the gallery unwittingly summed up the gulf between the Authority members and the local population when she described

By Ian Burge

(Chairman, Tower Hamlets Health District Joint Shop Stewards' Committee)

how she went along to one of the public protest meetings and was saddened by the attitudes—"they really hate us in this Authority" she bemoaned. "After all we do for them"!

At the public meeting she referred to, the Area Health Authority had been criticised for knowing nothing about Hackney. She had got up to defend herself: "I've come all the way from Kensington to this meeting—that shows we are interested in Hackney".

Open warfare

Obviously its going to be open warfare now as management go back with a mandate to press on in haste with the cuts. But the failure of the AHA to respond to the protest movement shows we can place no reliance at all on these bodies.

Instead the health unions must:

- ★ Involve themselves fully in the local Trades Councils and Labour Parties.
- ★ Involve more fully the local trade union and labour movement.
- ★ Raise the cuts issue at all levels in the unions to ensure

the leadership are leading the campaign at national level.

★ Consolidate and extend the joint shop stewards' committee to co-ordinate, organise and lead the company on the ground.

What we have achieved is a good start to the campaign. Staff have demonstrated their commitment to defending the NHS, to opposing all cuts. The first few groups of workers outside the NHS have become involved in this fight.

Now we must demand the Trades Councils take over the leadership of the campaign, building on these beginnings to a massive mobilisation for the SE Region TUC week of action in November against all public sector cuts. The LP must locally and nationally mount complete opposition to the Tory government.

SHOULD NURSES GO ON STRIKE?

Militant NHS pamphlet, 3p Obtainable from 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

BRING BACK M.A.S.H

Dr Elston Gray Turner, Secretary of the British Medical Association, lecturing in San Francisco to the International Society of Surgery, has his answers to health service problems in Great Britain ['Medical News' September 13 1979].

This elected leader of British medical interests suggests returning to war-time practices with mobile operating theatres going to a patient's home where even major operations could be carried out in his bedroom. After all he said, King George V and VI were operated on in a specifically adapted bedroom at Buckingham Palace when they required major operations.

Another way of saving money suggested by Dr Grey Turner was transporting patients perhaps hundreds of miles for advanced hospital treatment in a few highly equipped and staffed hospitals, just as specialised injuries were taken from the forward line to base for surgery during the war.

Further ways of saving money were voluntary insurance and reducing hospital care, out-patient investigations and making patients in pre-convalescent wards [where they are feeling their weakest] almost entirely fend for themselves—serve the meals, make the beds and keep the ward clean.

Dr Grey Turner is right in one respect—we are in a war situation now. The Tory government has declared war on the British working class and its great achievement the so-called Welfare State.

Dr Grey Turner has seen the problems we are facing in the health service. But a problem is only a problem if you do not have the answer and we do have the answer all right. Perhaps not literally the one advocated by a Hackney pensioner marching in a 1,000 strong demonstration against the health cuts in City & East London 'Stop the rot—shoot the lot', meaning the government, but very near to it 'Stop the rot—get rid of the lot'.

By Myrna Shaw

(Tower Hamlets Health District JSSC, personal capacity)

ELECTRICIANS LEADERS NEGOTIATE PRIVATE HEALTH DEAL

"This Conference pledges its full support for a National Health Service, capable of providing all the medical health needs of the British people and urges the government to make available the resources necessary to ensure a return to the original concept of the health service and to prevent private practice increasing its influence."

So read the composite motion on the health service, unanimously carried at the EETPU policy conference in May of this year.

Yet within months a deal was set up for 40,000 contracting electricians that allowed the option for the workers covered of hospital and specialist treatment as a private patients.

The leadership of the

EETPU, however, claimed that it was the employers' side who first suggested the idea of private medical treatment.

But this is not surprising.

With the savage cuts being perpetrated against the NHS by the Tory government, they and their paymasters in big business see the necessity to mount an ideological attack against the welfare benefits that working people have fought for and won over the years.

In this case, they hope to splinter the trade union movement by making such deals and break any united fightback to protect the NHS.

Delegates at last week's TUC conference gave a resounding "no" to the concept of private medicine.

With Eric Hammond, the EETPU executive councillor bringing to the attention of delegates the fact that many

unions had previously negotiated such deals, albeit on a smaller scale, trade union members will now be checking out their own unions to see whether any such schemes have in fact been pushed through "on the quiet".

Indeed, many branches within the EETPU have already sent resolutions of protest against the scheme to their EC.

Conference policy

In particular, the London NE Contracting branch in noting the decision of the May conference, demanded the scheme be shelved at least until the 1981 policy conference where the 'supreme policy-making body of the union' could debate the issue. Frank Chapple in a union

By a London electrician

WHY WE ARE STANDING

▼ We are seeking election to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in order to fight for socialist policies and greater party democracy.

Working people are now faced with a Tory government determined to take our standard of living back to that of the Victorian era. Mass unemployment the destruction of a viable health service, the slashing of social services and living standards, hang like a thundercloud over the heads of millions of working class families.

Socialist alternative

Now more than at any time since the 1920s, the labour movement must adopt and fight for a bold socialist alternative. Only this will defeat the Tories and capitalism. We are asking for the support of CLP delegates to aid the struggle to ensure the Labour Party adopts such a course. It is vital that we build a mass membership for the Labour Party firmly rooted in the workplaces, which has democratic control over the Party leader-

ship.

If elected, we are pledged to fight for the right of Constituency Labour Parties to have mandatory re-selection and the right to remove at any time parliamentary representatives as candidates, the election of the Party leader to take place annually at Party conference, for the NEC to decide the contents of all election manifestoes

based on conference policy, and the establishment of workplace branches of the Party.

These measures to democratise the Labour Party are essential if the leadership is to reflect the desires and aspirations of the rank-and-file membership.

But if they are to advance the cause of labour they must be linked with a socialist pro-

gramme.

We stand for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay and a £70 minimum wage. We oppose all cuts in public expenditure and call for the restoration of all cuts and a massive programme of useful public works to create new jobs and provide much-needed facilities.

We stand for the implementation of Clause IV part 4 of the Party constitution, which concretely means the nationalisation, with minimum compen-

sation on the basis of need, of the 200 or so major monopolies which dominate the economy, to be run under workers' control and management.

Only in this way, with the introduction of a democratic, socialist plan of production, could the productive resources be used in the interests of working people.

These measures are, in

our opinion, the only alternative to the prospect of economic crisis and ever worsening conditions of life for working people offered by capitalism.

We ask all CLP delegates to advance the struggle for a mass, socialist, and democratically run Labour Party by supporting our election to the National Executive Committee.



Ray Apps

RAY APPS is a member of Brighton Kemptown CLP, and was on the NEC working party on re-selection and a signatory to the minority report providing for mandatory re-selection together with the right of CLPs to remove their MP as a candidate at any time. PAT WALL is a member of Shipley CLP and President of Bradford Trades Council

Photos: MILITANT



Pat Wall

NORTHERN IRELAND : YOUTH FOR SOCIALISM

Northern Ireland now faces the tenth anniversary of the start of the troubles. In that period over 1,900 people have died and 20,000 have been maimed.

Unemployment has soared. Over 70,000 people are currently languishing on the dole. An innumerable number of political initiatives have been tried, all based on drawing together the squabbling representatives of capital, and all have collapsed like a house of cards.

The Labour and Trade Union Group, which was formed to fight for a working class alternative, believes that the onus for providing a solution lies with the trade unions, which are the only force uniting Catholic and Protestant workers in Northern Ireland.

Trade union strength

With 300,000 members the trade unions are also the only organisation with sufficient power to effect real change. The Group have campaigned for the trade unions to create a Labour Party committed to socialist policies. The past ten years have demonstrated that there is no other way forward.

In Northern Ireland a

Report from
Labour and Trade
Union Group
members
in
Northern Ireland

new generation is emerging who are largely unscathed by sectarianism. The L&TUG are launching a 'Youth For Socialism' campaign, to unite these people in the struggles of the labour movement.

The campaign has already provoked interest in the broader labour movement. Its sponsors include Kevin Ramage, National Chairman of the British Labour Party Young Socialists, Tony Saunio, British Labour Party National Executive Committee, Michael D Higgins, Chairman of the Irish Labour Party and Joe Cooper, President of Belfast Trades Council: all in a personal capacity.

We are publishing here an extract from the Youth for Socialism campaign leaflet.

"The Thatcher government is taking away your future. That is the message the Youth For Socialism Campaign has for young people.

They are taking away your opportunity of a job. The doors of the civil and public service are closed to young people seeking work because of the disastrous cuts in expenditure. Industries such

as Harland and Wolff are facing redundancies and eventual closure.

They are demolishing the Health and Education system which your fathers and forefathers fought for. Hospitals are being closed. Hospital services are being reduced.

Private medicine is being encouraged so that the rich do not suffer. However, as far as the Tories are concerned, if you are poor and sick then that's just your hard luck.

School services, meals transport and youth programmes are also to be slashed. The food value of school dinners are under threat. The Tories are even prepared to take the food out of your mouth.

They are threatening your basic democratic rights. The right of workers to organise in trade unions, strike and picket is under attack.

If they had their way the Tories would have the repressive methods which are used by state forces in Northern Ireland to restrain the Labour and Trade Union movement both here and in Britain.

Your life under this government and their system will be lived in an arena of mass unemployment, cut throat competition for every job, falling living standards and dire poverty.

It must not be allowed to happen. The Youth for Socialism campaign has been launched to enable youth to FIGHT THE TORIES, to bring down this government of the rich, and to replace it with a new Labour Government committed to socialist measures."

TUC 'Militant' Meeting

WORKERS' STRUGGLE NEEDS SOCIALIST PROGRAMME

"The most unpopular government since Ethelred the Unready" was how Peter Taaffe described Thatcher and her "Mad Monk Joseph", a latter-day "Rasputin", in speaking to the TUC 'Militant' meeting.

Only a month after the election, opinion polls were revealing the repulsion at their measures as anger at the hard-faced viciousness of the Tories welled up.

The Tories are making working class kids pay for their system's crisis, by depriving them of school dinners; throwing heating bills on to the shoulders of parents by talk of lengthening winter holidays and shortening the school day.

Anger is growing at Tory tight-fistedness in carrying out cuts in DHSS staff in Tyneside who pay out to the poor and the old—100 short, but recruiting goes on only on the 'spying' side! Anger at literal penny-pinching—asking overpayments of 2p back from NUPE workers!

The traditional hatred of Toryism which spurred Tyneside workers to hold parties to celebrate the death of Arch-Tory Churchill was being revived by Tory measures.

The need to explain the reason for the cuts, inherent in the logic of private ownership and profit, and the need to direct this anger by the leaders of our movement were the themes hammered home. The call to our leaders

to be "as loyal to their class as the Tories were" received a tumult of applause.

Any doubts that TUC delegates at the meeting had of workers' willingness to struggle would have been dispelled by the many instances given from the floor, such as the public sector workers in Dorset, where the idea of union militancy had been "laughable ten years ago—but not now!"

Likewise, the flair of Asda shopworkers in a spontaneous picket against closure; the unionisation of women workers shown by the increase of 23% of Liverpool NUPE Welfare Branch in 12 months; DHSS workers' determination to struggle, despite press poison and pressure.

Unions transformed

This mood was reflected not only in the TUC conference by motions from the CPSA, Bakers' Union and the FTAT amendment, and its narrow defeat, but the way this mood will change the unions was reflected in the other two speakers on the 'Militant' platform, Joe Marino of the Bakers' Union Executive, and Kevin Roddy, CPSA Executive.

It was also shown by the significant attendance at the Readers' Meeting by members of recently trans-

formed unions such as the FBU. The changes which will be wrought by events, by pressure of the members in all the unions is beginning to show already.

Official calls to action would get a tremendous echo. Oswin Fernando, bringing fraternal greetings from the Sri Lankan Federation of Labour pointed to the strength of the organised labour movement, unbroken by savage attacks even worse than Thatcher's, in Sri Lanka—but the workers were even more powerful in Britain, where just the workforce behind the TUC was as big as the whole population of Sri Lanka!

This strength was just what some leaders were afraid of. Imagine the might of the TUC mobilised behind a Marxist programme—already one-third of the workers were in Sri Lanka, now we have to do the same in Britain.

The movement, in Britain and world-wide, needs to mobilise on such a programme, not just for demands like a 35-hour week to be made at conferences, but acted upon, organised for on a clear programme.

£465—£100 given by a CPSA delegate—endorsed Oswin's confidence in the ability of 'Militant' to provide such a programme.

Report by
Lesley Holt

LEFT & RIGHT

NOW TO BUY THE NEWS

Britain's newest press baron, Sir James Goldsmith, has turned his attention from processing food like Ambrosia Creamed Rice and Marmite to his latest nourishment for the mind: 'Now' magazine.

Wily Jim believes that his huge profits, like Marmite, are best spread thinly. Cavenham Foods is part of a French-based parent company, General Occidentale. Nearly one-third of the shares of GO's main French subsidiary are owned by Monsieur Goldsmith.

General Occidental is itself 30% owned by General Orientale, based in Hong Kong, which is controlled by the Panamanian-based Lido company. Who controls the bulk of these firms? The Honourable Senor Goldsmith!

Goldsmith justifies his venture into the press world by his strange belief that Fleet Street is monopolised—by Marxists!

THE RICH GET FATTER...

We are now paying more money and eating less food. The money we spend per head has gone up, but not as fast as prices. The average family is paying out over £23 a week on food, with less on the table to show for it.

Official averages of course cover up the silent misery of the millions on poverty-line wages or social security, the pensioners on starvation rations, dying in hundreds as the weather turns cold, children who get only one proper meal a day—if that.

The figures also gloss over the eating habits of the not-so-silent Tory gourmets like our well-fed minister of agriculture. Gorging on the fat of the land as the guest of a local dairy owner, Peter Walker was delighted by trout poached in white wine, picked his way through roast pork, beef, ham, chicken and salads, fruit, cheeses and coffee—with champagne flowing.

The hungry will be joined by millions more if the Tories are allowed to axe the meals-on-wheels service, increase unemployment, bump up school meal prices and cut free dinners [after they've replaced the protein with cheap stodge]. Meanwhile Walker is proposing that MPs should be able to feast as he did every day in the Commons' restaurant.

Survival of the fittest—and best fed—is the Tories' jungle law. It's one of the freedoms their manifesto didn't mention—the freedom to starve.

BEHIND THAT SUNNY SMILE...

The Isle of Wight is heavily dependent on the tourist industry for survival. Glossy brochures and advertisements portray smiling waitresses serving happy holidaymakers, with everyone glad to be alive.

Be warned! That is only a front, to cover the tension and strain of seasonal work in hotels. Students, school leavers, casual workers and even children are all exploited in some of the meanest possible ways.

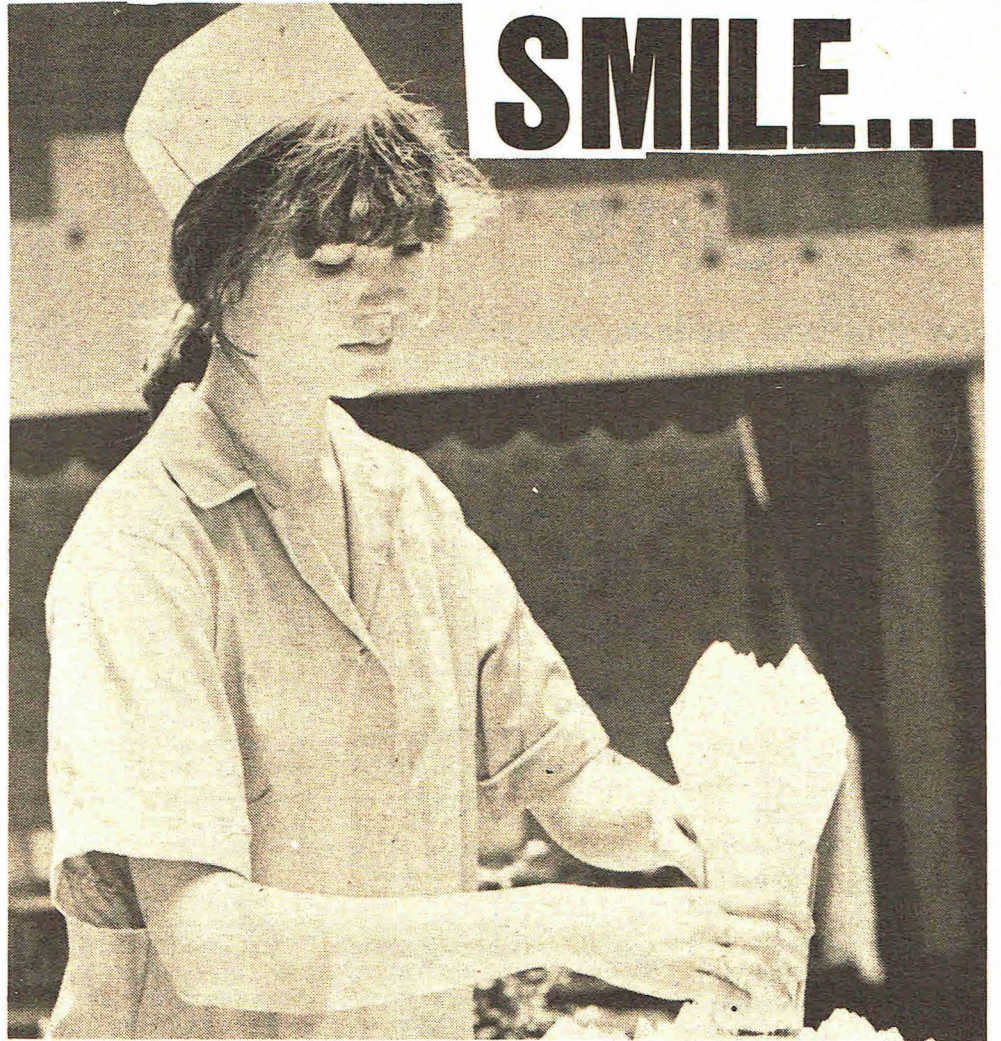
A friend of mine worked for four months this year as the only waitress in a small hotel. She was paid £1 an hour for two hours every evening, although she was expected to work for up to one hour for nothing.

Any tips she received were put into a tin by her boss and she would receive one half at the end of the season. The other would be kept by the boss, as payment for the times he rolled his sleeves up and helped her.

The work was hard and tense, and worse as the season wore on. By the middle of the season she wanted to leave, but out of sympathy for her employers she decided to stay for the rest of the summer.

One night this week, on her way to work, she got drenched in a storm. Cold and miserable, she informed the hotel that she would have to go home and change so as not to catch a chill and end up off work for a long time. This was met by a tirade of anger and abuse, which in no way helped the poor girl.

The next evening she turned up for work as usual, to be coolly told that she wasn't required.



Feeling that this couldn't go on, she decided to leave. When the tips were shared out she received £25 (about 22p per night).

In a hotel catering for up to 25 guests I find this surprising—people are usually quite generous towards waitresses. It wouldn't be out of line to suppose that her boss had decided he was more deserving and pocketed the lion's share of the pot for himself.

A sad tale by itself, but one

of a thousand similar in the hotel industry. Every day, workers are being exploited in much the same way; in many cases, much worse.

That girl, at the age of 15, has learnt a lesson early in life, one that will serve her in the struggles ahead. As a result she has joined a trade union, the GMWU, and the Shanklin Labour Party Young Socialists and is a regular 'Militant' reader.

It's up to us to encourage

young and old to join trade unions and fight to stamp out these abuses of workers wherever they occur. To fight through the labour and trade union movement nationally and internationally for an end to the system that depends on exploitation for its survival.

By Vic Dale
(Organiser/Agent,
IOW CLP)

DOLE OFFICE TO DOLE QUEUE

New technology threatens civil service jobs

Department of Health and Social Security workers are at the moment fighting the introduction of new, time-saving technology in local social security and 'dole' offices.

Datalink was planned to go into operation in September-October. It would link visual display units (VDUs) at all local offices to Central Office, via Post Office telephone lines.

This would give direct access to the large store of information necessary to process claims for unemployment and sickness benefit etc. By eliminating several of the present intermediary stages, local offices would get this information overnight. The service to the public would be much improved.

Hundreds, if not thousands of jobs could be wiped out however. Workers in the punch and post rooms in particular, might end up on the other side of the dole counter.

The Civil and Public Services Association DHSS section have therefore been forced to take a stand of

determined opposition, which has already substantially set back management's plans.

After successful trials at three local offices, they have been forced to return the VDUs to their packing cases, joining similar equipment standing idle at all the local offices.

Management argue that new workloads will maintain present staffing levels in the areas under threat—whatever that means, with Tory cuts in the offing. New jobs may even be created, they say, while more information is being stored in the computers.

This does not sound so reassuring if we look at the potential of the new technology. Further encroachment into clerical processes and the linking up with major computer facilities could provide a comprehensive store of information, a virtual cross-index of everyone's lives.

In conjunction with Datalink, this could have a devastating effect on the number of workers needed at local and especially Central Office. The computers would have sufficient information readily available to provide immediate answers to local enquiries and even perhaps to assess claims there and then.

The introduction of Datalink would have an enormous effect. But this is not all. We

are opposing the thin end of a very long wedge which could prove fatal for large numbers of workers.

Management could well be right about the increased workloads at the DHSS. If we let them get away with it, our offices will become more efficient to deal with all the millions of workers, including our members, who are kicked out of their jobs.

Our answer— shorter hours

CPSA policy on the introduction of computers and new technology in general is being considered by a special committee formed to investigate these issues. Policy, in line with conference decisions, will be formulated after the committee reports.

It will doubtless be considering in detail the impact of Datalink, among other things. This has taken on increased urgency as the union's Disputes Committee is, totally unjustifiably, refusing to give official backing to the present fight to save jobs.

This is a stark example of the problems linked to new technology today. More efficient and cheaper services go hand in hand with increased

unemployment and swingeing attacks on workers' living standards.

Our struggle is for an alternative to the dictates of profit—to ensure that new work-reducing technology is introduced **only** on our conditions: a drastic reduction in hours worked, retraining and job enhancement.

All this can be guaranteed for every worker—but only by transforming society on socialist lines and ending the anarchy of capitalism. We are not opposed to change and progress—only to longer dole queues and worse conditions.

New technology is more and more clearly taking on a political colouring. The Tories are no doubt ready to use it as one of their weapons to attack jobs and working conditions in the civil service and elsewhere, in their drive for 'efficiency'—or more work for less money.

We must be prepared to meet them with a determined industrial and political answer.

By
a DHSS worker

FACING THE FUTURE

FIGHTING THE CUTS

Five thousand students will be turned away from Polytechnics in 1980/81 if the Tory government is allowed to implement their cuts in public education expenditure.

This will make things even worse for Poly students, already the poor relations of higher education. A stagnation in student numbers would give local authorities the excuse to try to cut back on staff levels and facilities.

The Polytechnics are funded by local authorities, and are obviously going to be a prime target for extensive cuts. The cuts that took place last year meant many projects being postponed for an indefinite period.

A report by the Inner London Education Authority argues that the Polytechnic of North London has 56 "surplus" staff members. This is the sort of attack the Polys are going to come under more and more.

If cuts like this are implemented, the standard of lecturing and of courses will fall. Students relying on using Polytechnic libraries will find it even more difficult to get books. Already, in some Polys, important books are available only on four-hour loans!



By Geoff Stout (NOLS National Committee, personal capacity)
The 33% fee increases introduced for overseas students by the Tory government threaten the future of every student. The cut in numbers that would result from these fee increases would mean courses being closed or cut back, and could even threaten the future of whole departments or colleges.

By Alan Watson
(NUS Polytechnics Committee & NOLS National Committee)

The Committee of Directors of Polytechnics have said that the Polys facing the biggest cuts and the biggest problems were likely to be those with least resources. A report by the Council for National Academic Awards (CNAA), which awards the degrees in Polytechnics, said that Birmingham Poly, one of the biggest in the country, is badly short of resources and money.

The report commented: "The departments of electrical engineering, mechanical and production engineering were not found to have developed to any significant extent beyond the stage of traditional technical college departments... When this situation was then compared by the resource deprivation suffered by the Polytechnic as

POLYTECHNICS



Demonstration in Manchester in February

Photo: J Smith (IFL, II)

a whole, and its depressing effect, it was difficult to be optimistic about the future."

The Polytechnics have always been treated as the poor relations of higher education. Their main role has been to provide "graduates on the cheap" for big business.

Tony Crosland, when Minister of Education, outlined graphically their role: "There is an ever increasing need and demand for vocational, professional and industrially based courses in higher education...this cannot be fully met by the universities."

The Director of Middlesex Polytechnic recently claimed that: "...some 95 per cent of polytechnic students are on courses with clear relevance to industry, business and the professions." It is a reflection on the crisis of British capitalism that they are now trying to cut back the Polytechnics sector of higher education, which only came into being on a national scale in the mid 1960s.

The latest available figures

on graduate unemployment, for 1976/7, show that a staggering 10.5% of Polytechnic graduates were unemployed six months after leaving college. Another 10.7% were in temporary jobs. Only 40.6% had found permanent employment.

The cuts in Polytechnics will hit mature students very hard, as Polys cater for mature students far more than the Universities. Recent figures show that nearly half the full time students in Polys are over 21 when they start their courses. The rise in

overseas students' fees, as well, threaten Polytechnic education, as a drop in numbers of overseas students could mean the closure of some courses and even whole departments.

The Polytechnic sector of NUS has a history of militancy. A massive campaign, organised by the Polytechnics Committee of NUS against the cuts, would be a boost to the whole of NUS. National action must be organised, individual colleges must not be left to fight the cuts alone.

But this campaign must



Students and teachers against unemployment

Photo: A Wiard (Report)

Vicious increase in Overseas Students' fees

For undergraduates, fees have risen from £705 to £940; for students on non-advanced courses from £390 to £520, and for post-graduates from £925 to £1,230. These increases are far greater than inflation over the past year, and thus an increase in real terms, intensifying the discrimination against overseas students.

But the government have also considered proposals to charge overseas students the full cost of their education. This would mean fees of around £2,000 per year; and would provoke national and international opposition from the student movement.

NUS have already said that this increase "will leave those students who are in the

middle of their courses in a desperate position and bar many others from coming to this country." NUS have given a commitment to get the fee increases stopped, and are already planning a week of action on this question in November.

NUS must seek the support of the trade union movement in this campaign. The TUC called for an all-out campaign against education cuts, at TUC conference earlier this month. NUS should approach the TUC, and trade unions directly involved in education, such as NATFHE, the AUT, NUPE and ASTMS, for a joint campaign. The fee increases must be seen as part of the overall attack on education by the Tory government.

The Chartists, in 1851 demanded "Schools, colleges, universities supported by the state should be gratuitously open to every citizen." That must still remain the aim of NUS and the labour movement today. A campaign for the abolition of fees, as part of a campaign to open higher education to all, would gain enormous support. The fight against the cuts must be linked to the fight for a decent education system.

'Best qualified dole queue in the world'

"A considerable number of graduates will need to be absorbed into jobs not previously taken by highly qualified manpower" [Department of Employment report].

The report went on to say that the Executive Officer grade in the Civil Service, usually the entry point of school leavers, was now being taken over by graduates, and that "in the Coal Board and in some insurance companies as well as in other areas of employment, employers are being faced with an increasing stream of graduate applicants for 'run of the mill' jobs for which they have no intention of actively recruiting graduates, though they do not discourage those apply."

The question of unemployment is the most serious facing students at present. The threat of the dole queue hangs over every college leaver, however well qualified. For example, it has been reported that in one major nationalised industry, the science services staff do not need any technical training because so many of them have PhDs.

Women graduates are hit particularly badly, ending up in clerical and typist jobs, and finding it very difficult to get other jobs. But post graduate Personal Assistant and Secretarial courses are more popular, because of the desperate hunt for jobs.

There is a noticeable difference in unemployment rates for Poly and University graduates. In 1976/7, the latest figures available, 10.5% of Poly students were unemployed 6 months

after leaving college. Another 10.7% were in temporary jobs.

For universities, the figures were 5.6% and 5.4%. The unemployment figures show the crisis of British industry. "The Times" commented last year: "Industry's appetite for graduates has traditionally been one of the more sensitive economic indicators".

Now, the Department of Employment report talks of 'a considerable number of graduates who will need to be absorbed into jobs not previously taken by highly qualified manpower'. Capitalist economists now believe that the economy cannot cope with so many highly skilled graduates!

The fight for a job for every school and college leaver must be taken up by NUS, as part of the labour movements' fight against unemployment. NUS, and the local Student Unions and Labour Clubs, should affiliate to the YCAU. NUS should campaign for:

- ★ A guaranteed job for every school and college leaver!
- ★ A 35-hour week with no loss of pay!
- ★ A massive programme of public works!

NUS should also be involved in the fight to oppose the Tories' cutting recruitment to the Civil Service, teaching and local government. Then we will see an end to "the best qualified dole queue in the world".

By Peter Lush

MILITANT STUDENT
Autumn 1979 issue includes
articles on:

- ★ Further Education Colleges
- ★ Students and the Fight for Jobs
- ★ Federation of Conservative Students
- ★ Socialists and Left Unity

Price 15p (plus 10p P&P). Order from 'Militant' Student', 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN. Bulk terms available.

LONDON LABOUR PARTY

LABOUR MOVEMENT CAN STOP THE CUTS

Should Labour-controlled councils implement the cuts imposed by the Tory government? Should they try to avoid cuts by raising rates to replace the cut funds? Or should they confront the Tory government?

These are the burning questions facing Labour councils, the public sector trade unions, and the Labour Party.

Roy Hattersley, Labour's shadow Environment minister, has already told Labour council leaders not to make the 'tactical error' of refusing to implement the cutbacks which the Tories are demanding. In other words, they should let the Tories lower living standards!

Many Labour Party activists and most public sector workers, however, have already rejected Hattersley's advice and are demanding a fight-back. In response to this mounting pressure the Greater London Labour Party is holding a Special Meeting this weekend to discuss and decide upon the policy which the labour movement should follow.

The Special Meeting will have before it the Executive statement "London Labour's Fight Against the Cuts". This outlines the scope of the Tory onslaught and declares that "the role of Labour councils must be to defend Londoners, not merely pass on cuts determined by central government."

Unfortunately, however, the statement does not clearly outline the actual way in which they can be stopped. The statement's very next sentence ducks the question: "until the Government is forced to change its policy Labour councils will be faced with the choice between massive rate increases or cuts beyond anything we have seen before."

Expanded services needed

Because many on the Executive are either not prepared to directly confront the Tories, or are frankly pessimistic about the possibility of building mass resistance to the Tories, the Statement concentrates on the issues of how to ensure that the Tories are blamed for the cuts, and how—within the context of the cuts—Labour councils can best maintain services.

While it is important to ensure that the Tories are pilloried for the cuts, the vital question is how the labour movement can prevent any cuts in living standards taking place.

We cannot afford any cuts in public services: in fact, we need a massive expansion in housing, health services, education, social services, leisure and other facilities. The public-sector workers cannot

By Bob Labi

(Greater London Labour Party Executive, personal capacity)

afford either a lowering of their living standards, redundancies, or some mixture of the two.

At the Regional Executive meeting which discussed this statement three different options were put forward.

Firstly, the right wing put forward the idea of the Labour councils making certain limited cuts in spending and seeking to maintain some services, and plans by rate increases to make up for their lost government grants.

Secondly, many on the left supported the position of Labour councils making no cuts in spending at all and seeking to find the necessary cash through rate increases.

If Labour councils are going to spearhead a campaign to stop the cuts, they will have to be prepared to confront the Tory government head on.

However, both of these options would give effect to the Tory plans to lower ordinary peoples' living standards. Neither can be accepted!

Many on the Executive, like Ted Knight (Lambeth Council leader), argued that their approach of a mixture of cuts, rate increases and anti-Tory propaganda was the only realistic one. It was utopian, he argued, to think that there would be a sufficient mobilisation of the labour movement in time to stop the Tories now.

But is it utopian to believe that a mass campaign can be built against the Tories? This year's TUC, reflecting the developing movement among the rank and file, only narrowly rejected (by 61,000 votes) a call for mass action against the Tories, despite the opposition from the TUC General Council majority. If this is the mood today, only four months since the election we can be sure that this radicalisation will continue to deepen as the Tories policies bit home.

While it is essential to demand a fighting policy nationally from the labour leaders, a single local authority, could, with a well-prepar-



Workers protest in Lambeth: Labour Party must lead the way to save jobs and services

ed campaign, act as a catalyst.

The Tories will only be defeated if they are confronted with the mobilised strength of the labour movement.

During the last Tory government, Heath was compelled to carry out a whole series of U-turns under pressure,

Tories.

None of the three options proposed won a majority on the Executive—and it was moved that all three should be presented to this Meeting. Unfortunately, this was narrowly defeated.

As a result, the Statement is a compromise formula

will agree to take other motions which will give delegates a choice of policies to adopt.

But the issue facing this Special Meeting is not just a question of which policy the delegates should adopt. It is also whether the Labour councils will in fact carry out the policies which the delegate bodies of the labour movement decide upon. Already, the 'Guardian' (11 September) has reported that the Labour-controlled ILEA has "drawn up a provisional 5% cuts package for their 1980-81 budget".

This Special Meeting must demand that these proposals are rejected and the ILEA Labour majority takes a firm stand against the Tories. We must fight to ensure that we are not faced with mere verbal protest against the Tories, similar to that against the Housing Finance Act in 1973.

The cuts must not take

place! Pressure must be brought to bear on Labour Councils by the trade unions and Labour Parties not to retreat in the face of the Tory demands and threats.

A bold campaign

A bold call from this Special Meeting would get a response from the movement. It would mark the beginning of a serious campaign to stop the Tories' anti-working class measures—a campaign which could broaden out into a movement to remove the Tory government and replace it with a Labour government committed to implementing socialist policies.

KIRKLEES — Unions resist Tory attacks

The Tories on Kirklees Council have wasted no time in getting on with the cuts. Their first target is the mobile library, involving the cutting of large areas of the service.

They are attempting to persuade staff whose jobs would go to take up vacancies in other parts of the library service and then to abolish the vacated posts. These cuts have only been passed in committee and have still to be approved by the full council.

At the last Kirklees NALGO Branch Executive meeting, as departmental representative from libraries and museums, I successfully moved the following resolution:—

"This branch totally opposes the proposed cuts in the Kirklees mobile library service. It is appalled by the effect these cuts will have on the mobile library service, job opportunities for local people and the staff employed in the mobile library service who will be transferred

to jobs which they find unsuitable.

"We note that the only procedure by which these cuts can be carried out is by persuading the staff employed in the mobile library service to take up vacancies elsewhere in the library service and then to abolish the posts vacated altogether.

"We therefore encourage and give full support to those members of staff affected in refusing to co-operate in this procedure."

This resolution has been sent to the leaders of the Labour, Liberal and Tory groups on the council, showing them that these cuts cannot be carried out and making them think seriously before approving them at the full council meeting. The fight against the cuts in Kirklees is just beginning.

David Michael
Kirklees NALGO Exec personal cap

**MILITANT
PUBLIC
MEETING**

NO CUTS! NO RATE INCREASES!
Hear: Bob Labi (GLRC Executive);
Myrna Shaw (Bethnal Green Hospital JSSC)
12.45-1.45, Kenilworth Hotel, 97 Great Russel Street.
(two minutes from TUC). Food and drink available.

TORY PRESS SMEAR WORKING CLASS PAPER

We publish below a letter sent by Peter Taaffe, on behalf of 'Militant' to the 'News Of The World' in answer to their attack on us on September 9th.

Readers of this vulgar Sunday scandal sheet were led towards an "exclusive"—which revealed "the [so-called] truth about Britain's Red Army"—by an article alongside it with the heading: "A nude model's brush with sniper."

It would be difficult to establish which article was the more serious piece.

Dear Sir

My attention has been drawn to an article in last Sunday's issue of 'The News of the World'. This article has caused indignation amongst those familiar with the ideas of 'Militant'.

Following my telephone conversation today with Gordon Leak, the author, I am writing to protest in the strongest possible terms about this scurrilous article, which is replete with inaccuracies, fabrications, lies and malicious innuendoes about 'Militant'.

The article, printed un-

der the heading 'The Marx Brothers', purports to be a review of a book by McCormick, "the Labour moderate", who was in fact an agent for Reg Prentice until the latter took his rightful place in the Tory Party.

Democratic control

We have answered McCormick's lies about 'Militant' many times, both in our paper and in discussions in the labour

movement. His battle against the socialist rank and file of Newham North East Labour Party, on the one hand, and the growing demands for democratic control of Labour MPs by the Party rank and file on the other, have completely discredited him and his supporters in the eyes of Labour Party members. Even the 'moderates' in the Labour Party have disowned the ultra-right McCormick.

The hostility of Labour Party members to McCormick and his small band of supporters was

intensified when he refused to reveal who supplied the considerable sums which allowed him to embroil Newham North East Labour Party and the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party in costly court action. To use your terms, many Labour Party members found this very "sinister" indeed.

Because his lies cut no ice with Labour Party or trade union members he is forced to resort to the columns of the capitalist press. He hopes thereby that many readers, unfamiliar with the real ideas and policies of 'Militant' will be taken in.

Your article is designed to assist him in this. For instance, it clearly gives the impression that 'Militant' supports the IRA. This is what Gordon Leak wrote: "Marxist groups have close links with Russia and the IRA." A

few paragraphs later, Leak writes: "He [McCormick] singles out one, calling itself the Militant Tendency...as the greatest threat." The ordinary reader is thus given the impression that 'Militant' supports the IRA.

This is a complete falsehood. We are opposed to individual terrorism. We opposed the programme and the methods of the Provisional IRA right from its inception. A cursory examination of the pages of our newspaper would show that we have consistently maintained this position. We re-stated this just two weeks ago in an editorial on the assassination of Mountbatten.

Is it not then the height of journalistic irresponsibility, not to say political illiteracy, to give your 4½ million readers the impression that 'Militant' supports terrorists?

You cannot argue that

this accusation was directed at other "groups" referred to. The bulk of this article detailed the alleged programme and methods of 'Militant'. In the interests of honest reporting, if you wanted to make a statement about some so-called "Marxist groups" having connections with the IRA, you should have clearly exempted 'Militant' from this charge. In reality, by means of crude guilt-by-association, you wanted to smear us as supporters of terrorism.

The same kind of baseless accusation was attempted by Gordon Leak in relation to "the sources of funds" of 'Militant'. He repeats McCormick's ludicrous charge that we receive assistance from: "some foreign source or sources". This is coupled with the accusation about "support from Russia."

Neither McCormick nor your newspaper is able to produce one shred of evidence to back up this lie. Indeed, McCormick admits that "the evidence

Labour

Shirley Williams tried to dismiss debate on den the Labour I the crewmen deciding to ha in the engine

Her speech, made to a fringe Fabian society meeting at the TUC in Blackpool, was eagerly seized on by the capitalist media.

Both the press and television have been giving massive publicity to the right wing counter-offensive, launched by Terry Duffy of the AUEW, Jim Callaghan, Shirley Williams, and later Dennis Healy, against rank-and-file demands for Party democracy.

It is Shirley Williams' own polemic, however, which resembles the fatal Titanic iceberg. Prominent are her colourful phrases, eagerly broadcast by the capitalist media in an attempt to smear the left. Underneath are the entirely spurious and contradictory 'arguments' on which her attack is based.

Firstly, Shirley Williams completely ignores the fact that Labour leaders, by steering a disastrous course of pro-capitalist, anti-working



Lorry drivers picketing at Tilbury. It is workers in struggle who support 'Militant' not fictitious 'Moscow gold'

'EXPRESS' DISTORTIONS

The attempts of the Tory press to smear the banner of Marxism were repeated recently when the Sunday Express claimed the Provos were Marxist. When Comrade Steven Julians from Barking LPYS wrote to the Editor to explain why Marxists opposed 'individual terrorism', and therefore did not support the Provos, he provoked this reply from the Express Editor John Junor.

Dear Mr. Julians, Thank you for your letter. I am glad to hear that you reject the terror tactics of the IRA. Unfortunately, the IRA

does not reject you. It is the indisputable aim of the Provisionals to set up a workers' state in Ireland run on Marxist lines.

Yours sincerely,

John Junor.

Editor of the Sunday Express.

Either John Junor is still trying to carry on justifying the capitalist attempts to smear Marxism by repeating they support terrorism, or he is just a simple political infant. Anyone with any semblance of political know-

ledge would know the following facts:

The IRA split in 1969 into the Official and Provisional factions [therefore why title them 'the IRA' without any explanation of which faction] The Provos' split was partly in protest at "too much politics"; they stressed an emphasis on the military campaign to defend the Catholic workers from the sectarian bigots, and attack the presence of British troops in Northern Ireland.

The Provos have never put forward a clear socialist programme. Although the Belfast leadership may have

mouthed a few slogans about a 'United Socialist Ireland' in the past, their entire campaign and organisation contradict any such goal.

Business support

Can John Junor explain, if the Provos are Marxists, why the 'Taca'—southern Irish business organisation, raised funds for the Provos?

How can the Provisional IRA, basing itself on the sectarian division of the working class, using terrorist

methods which can only drive protestant workers into the arms of sectarian bigots, win the mass of workers to the struggle for an end to domination by British capitalism, north and south, military and economic. How can such an organisation be described as Marxist?

No doubt the Sunday Express will refuse to print the true facts, in the same way they refused to print Comrade Julians' letter.

REVOLT SWEEPS EASTERN CARIBBEAN

By Ronnie Sookhdeo

The Caribbean has become a cauldron of revolt.

The recent revolution in Grenada has sent reverberations throughout the entire region and detonated social and political upheavals in the islands of Dominica and Antigua during the summer.

Earlier this year the US Secretary of State was forced to concede that "There was not a single island in the Caribbean that could not go the same way as Grenada within five years".

(Financial Times 25/4/78)

Such is the chronic nature of their economies, the poverty and wretchedness of the mass of the people that it was impossible to contain the virus of revolution.

These poverty-stricken islands reeling like punch crazed boxers from one economic blow after another, have just been dealt a further cruel blow by nature.

Hurricane David wreaked havoc throughout the islands earlier this month. In Dominica it killed thousands and made a further 60,000 homeless (out of a population of only 90,000). It also caused millions of pounds-worth of damage destroying the principal foreign exchange earners—sugar cane and bananas.

The economies on many of the islands are already devastated through paying for the huge oil increases and manufactured goods and industrial equipment—it is now so parlous that

their only source of foreign exchange are the remittances from relatives living abroad.

Single crop economies

Unemployment in the Caribbean is estimated at a staggering 60%. And with over half the population under the age of 25 and restrictions on emigration to Britain and the US, the islanders are condemned to a desperate existence.

Many just manage to eke out a living by scouring the countryside for vegetables or by fishing. Many households are without such basic amenities as drinking water or sanitation.

The price of sugar which had risen spectacularly in the early 1970s and promised to go some way towards solving their economic problems has now collapsed. This was due in part to poor weather and the insane policies of the major capitalist countries.

In particular, the Common Market countries have recently taken measures which have had an enormously adverse effect on cane sugar production in the Caribbean and other undeveloped areas of the world. They subsidised their beet sugar producers to the tune of £600m in the past season to dump their supplies on the world market.



This cuts the share of the market of the cane producers and at the same time depresses the price of sugar which has a catastrophic effect on the cane producing countries.

This policy has resulted in sugar prices being well below the cost of production over the past 3 years! Moreover, cane sugar imports into Britain have been dramatically cut following entry into the Common Market.

For many islands the final blow was struck last year when the banana harvest failed due to a combination of natural disasters and a glut on the world market.

For example in Dominica, banana production fell

just under a third for each of the last 2 years!

In St Vincent (with a population of 120,000) the volcano which has been rumbling intermittently and belching hot lava over the island, completely destroyed the banana crop—estimated at over £4m.

The banana industry in both islands was the single largest employer.

Tourism, another pillar of the economy has only exacerbated their problems as the industry achieved early successes and then collapsed.

In St Lucia tourism climbed from 50,000 in 1969 to a peak of 200,000 in 1978. In 1977 tourism earned the islands £7m. With these funds the

government commissioned new hotels and facilities plus a planned industrial free zone area.

The increased fuel costs, and the changed situation internationally have virtually stopped the tourist trade.

In 1977 the government turned for help to multi-national capitalism. It gave permission for the US-based Amerada-Hess Oil Corporation to build a \$135m oil refinery. The company demanded conditions of course. Its main demand was a government bill affirming no interference or possibility of nationalisation.

But last month under enormous pressure from the masses the old conser-

vative government was thrown out in elections. And the new radical government has pledged to re-examine this bill.

Antigua and Dominica also highlight the explosive social and political processes now unfolding.

These two impoverished islands have a history of the governments using the veneer of constitutionality in order to mask widespread corruption and repression.

Both governments are now desperately attempting to curb the upsurge of radicalism and defuse the growing social dynamite.

In the last 3 months the islands have been paralysed by waves of strikes—involving every section of workers—struggling to improve living standards.

In Antigua, instead of getting to grips with the fundamental problems of his island, the Prime Minister and his deputy (his son), have blamed the strikes on his predecessor who had been found guilty of corruption—and on communists. The regime has been attacked by workers because of its internal repression and also its gangster policies of acting as a staging post for arms to the South African and Rhodesian regimes.

Dominica was the scene of a titanic struggle against the repressive policies of Prime Minister Patrick John. In attempting to rush through parliament legislation banning strikes and curtailing the freedom of the press, he united at a stroke the opposition parties and the trade unions.

A general strike paralysed the island and John was compelled to resign.

It had come to a head with the shooting of demonstrators and the revelations in the foreign press of his links with gangsters and the South African regime. Bizarre plots were also revealed which contained all the ingredients of a spy plot—the mafia, assassination attempts, foreign mercenaries—were all implicated.

There is no way that capitalism can solve the problems of the area. The only way out is a decisive break with world capitalism and the establishment of a socialist federation.

'LET'S ADOPT THE CHILEAN MODEL'

"Just a few weeks earlier than the Conservative government in Britain, the Chilean government has issued new laws defining the rights and regulating the activities of the trade unions. They contain ideas which are certainly not irrelevant to similar problems here."

That's the advice offered to Mrs Thatcher by a big business lobbying organisation, the British-Chilean Council in their September Newsletter.

They go on to explain how the new trade union laws will operate.

"Unions must be autonomous and non political".

"Collective bargaining must be between a particular union and a particular employer. [The object of this latter rule is to ensure that wage demands are geared to the productive capacity of each firm,

and that there should not be national wage agreements which cause unemployment by pricing workers out of the market]".

That of course would be welcomed by the Engineering employers at the present. And how about their approval of the following:

"There is a right to strike, but the strike can last only 60 days. If after that period, there has been no settlement and the strikers have not returned to work, they will be deemed voluntarily to have relinquished their jobs".

Some should not even have this 'marvellous' freedom.

"Workers in industries considered vital for public health and national security are not allowed to strike... they cover mainly the supply of electricity, gas and drinking water, telecommunications, state run transport, the central bank,

operation of the ports and the mining industry".

The newsletter ends by explaining the benefits of not joining a union.

The British-Chilean Council

But who are the British-Chilean Council? They call the author of this latest repressive law, the new Chilean Labour Minister, as someone who could be 'loosely described as a 'moderate'!

Well loosely described they are a well heeled bunch of military figures, businessmen, ex-Civil Servants and Tory MPs. Or to be more exact they include:

Sir Frederick Mason [Ambassador to Chile, 1966-70], Sir David Hildyard [Ambassador to Chile 1970-73], Admiral

of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton [Chairman NATO Military Committee 1974-77], former Tory MPs Lord Orr-Ewing and Sir Peter Agnew, current Tory MP Sir Frederick Bennett [with his companies in the Cayman Islands and his 4 homes in the UK] and ex-Labour Peer, Lord Chalfont.

Many of the above have a large number of company directorships, but strange to say none of them state if they belong to a Trade Union in the current Who's Who.

Still they claim to know what's best for Chilean and British workers. Its just a thought, but if they think the Chilean labour laws are 'moderate' what would they call 'extremist'?

By Jim Chrystie

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

Labour must lead workers' struggles

Dear Comrade

Since the general election, in the pages of 'Militant' and in debates with comrades I have often come across the claim that if Labour had fought on a 'socialist' or 'Militant' programme we would have mobilised mass support against the Tories.

I do not doubt Cde Ray Apps (Militant 467) that working people could respond to such a call from their mass organisations, but doubt whether this is merely a matter of presenting a 'socialist programme' to the electorate. In the discussion following Labour's defeat surely 'Militant' should be allowing more space on how to win workers over to socialist ideas.

Workers can best be won to socialism through their own experience of struggles within the capitalist system. The Labour Party should therefore be seen as a fighting

party, taking up the issues that most affect working people.

In this way we could then explain how these struggles must be linked to a fight for socialism.

If the Labour Party was to campaign on issues such as unemployment, oppression of blacks, womens' struggles, we could involve people who may not yet be socialists but through their experiences in these campaigns can be won to the ideas of socialism.

During the Tory government we can win the confidence of workers towards socialist ideas, for example, by campaigning around the main attacks on workers' living standards, such as the health cuts, rather than a largely theoretical debate against capitalism in general.

Fraternally
D Hughes
Bermondsey CLP

The workers' view is inter- national

Dear Comrades

Selling 'Militant' (issue 468) a couple of weeks ago, two Irish workers who described themselves as 'non-political' read the editorial on Mountbatten's killing.

"That is the only editorial I've read that understands the situation" said one. "Whoever wrote that must be an Irishman. No-one else could have written it and had that insight into what's really happening" they added.

Congratulations to the editorial department!

Fraternally
Kevin Ramage
LPYS National Chairman

FOOTBALL FOR THE VIPs

Dear Comrades

After paying £1.60 to stand at Sunderland and another £1.60 to stand at Cardiff already this football season, I was more than interested in an advert in Birmingham City's programme at a recent home game.

It was out to encourage company directors to involve their businesses in match sponsorship. A few perks thrown in were:

Meet soon after mid-day at a luxury venue with easy parking

Enjoy a drink in sumptuous surroundings

Pre-match restaurant meal

or luxury buffet

Coach to St Andrews, right to the executive entrance

Exclusive use of VIP lounge
View the match from a 16 seater executive box with drinks and waitress service

Use of lounge again for drinks until the traffic clears

Coach back to your own motor car.

It seems that in the football world, like in everyday life, there is one set of conditions for those with money and another set for the vast majority of us without.

Yours comradely
Lesley Kuriata
Selly Oak LPYS

John Golding— the right to reply

Dear Comrade

I have been asked to forward the text of the following resolution which was carried at the August General Management Committee meeting of the Hillhead Constituency Labour Party.

"Hillhead CLP deplores the action taken by John Golding MP in taking out a High Court writ for damages against the 'Militant'. This meeting believes that this fight should be fought within the labour movement rather than the

courts.

"However Hillhead CLP feels that 'Militant' should allow John Golding to put his side of the case in its pages to allow its readers to make up their own minds about the case in hand and in future that 'Militant' be willing to allow the right of reply to enable greater political debate to take place within its pages"

Yours fraternally
David Wiseman
Secretary

The editor replies: 'Militant' would like to thank Glasgow Hillhead CLP for its resolution.

With regard to your second point, as we said in the Editorial Statement: "The Militant and John Golding" printed in our edition of 8 June: "Militant has always opened its columns to factual corrections and the right of reply from those who disagree with us".

A glance through back copies would quickly show letters, sometimes lengthy letters, criticising particular points or totally opposing Militant's policies.

'Militant' has always regarded it as the highest duty of a socialist newspaper to report the truth and avoid misrepresentation of any kind.

We had earlier, on May 3, informed John Golding's solici-

itors that we had checked our report and confirmed its accuracy, but said that if he could give us evidence to satisfy us that our report was wrong we would of course be willing to publish a correction and apologise for a mistake. John Golding's solicitors then sent us a statement from Ron Hayward confirming John Golding's version, as we made clear to our readers in the Editorial Statement referred to.

However, a number of other NEC members, including Dennis Skinner, who wrote to Ron Hayward disagreeing with his statement, again confirmed the correctness of our original report. Nevertheless, as has always been our policy, we would be quite willing to give John Golding the right of reply in our columns.

Grounded scabs

Dear Comrades

At the September meeting of the ASTMS Liverpool shipping and freight branch [No 618], a member reported on a dispute at his workplace. After a six-day strike in support of a claim for 20%, they accepted a settlement of 19%.

During the strike only 3 lorries crossed the picket line and those are now blacked throughout the whole of Liverpool, thanks to support from the local trade union movement.

In fact one of those lorries turned up at his next delivery point, about half a mile down the road, and found that he was already blacked and the workers there refused to unload him.

This was reported to us on the same day that Peter Jenkins in the 'Guardian' described the trade union movement as 'immobile'!

Fraternally
DR Clark
ASTMS

School children: THE TORIES' BITTER MESSAGE

Dear Militant

I have been learning to play the trombone at school. I go to Alder Moor middle school, Lordshill, Southampton. I am 10 years old.

Every other time my mum had to pay for my music lessons it was £1 a term. Today the music teacher told me my mum will have to pay £3 a term. My friends and my mum and some others in the class said that they can't pay that much. One boy's mum said he would have to pay it out of his birthday money which made me sad. We all like our music lessons and work hard to try to get in the school band, but I suppose they will get rid of it now.

My dad said that his bosses won't give him a rise: he's on strike. They haven't offered a 10% rise, but the school have increased music lessons by 300%. My dad says it's bloody disgusting.

Yours
Dean Blatch

THE SEEDS WE PLANTED AT CROYDON CENTRAL

Dear Comrades

As one of those who helped in the Croydon Central election campaign, I would like to reply to the letter from Pete Willsman which was published in the 'Militant', 13 July.

I do not believe in "Mirth in funeral and dirge in marriage" any more than Pete does, but I don't think 'Militant' supporters need to be told whether to laugh or cry over the Croydon Central result! What is really needed is a class analysis of the result in the context of Labour's defeat in the country as a whole.

At the present time the main appeal of Marxist ideas is to the more politically advanced sections of the labour movement, particularly to young workers in the Labour Party Young Social-

ists. There was plenty of evidence for this in the enthusiasm of the hundreds of young workers who came from far and near to help in Croydon Central.

However, as Pete will know, Surrey does not have a very large industrial working class. Croydon is traditionally a dormitory town with large numbers of white collar workers.

What there is, is small-scale light industry, where trade union organisation is comparatively weak—scarcely the "big battalions" of labour. In addition, Croydon has the highest income per head of any comparable area. Parts of Croydon, such as Shirley, could be described as "stockbroker belt".

This is precisely the kind of area where—after five years of a right-wing Labour gov-

ernment which failed to tackle the problems of British industry—we would expect Thatcher's "radical" policies of tax cuts to have some effect.

To some extent the Tories managed to stampede sections of the middle class and more backward workers with the "Red Scare" against Dave White. In fact the carefully orchestrated campaign by the bosses' press over the Croydon Central campaign was one of the biggest tributes we could receive—the ruling class recognise the danger which 'Militant's' programme represents to them.

However, the important point is this—those very white-collar workers who helped to put Thatcher in power are now finding out the hard way that what Labour was saying in Croydon Cen-

tral was true; what the Tories were saying was a pack of lies.

No amount of "red scares" and phoney promises will be able to explain away the cut in their living standards. These sections of society will be ripe for a programme of genuine change in society.

This section is extremely volatile in a period of crisis. Given a real lead from the organisations of the working class it is possible that they will come to see that their true interests lie in the socialist transformation of society. It is then that the seeds which were planted in Croydon Central will come to fruition.

But, and it is a big "but", such a swing to the left will only be a temporary phenomenon if Labour's programme is vague and woolly. Having seen through the Tories as liars, they would

soon direct the same accusation at Labour if it too failed to deliver the goods. They would be easy meat for fascists such as the National Front in such circumstances.

It is for that reason that the nationalisation of the 200 major monopolies was stressed and a socialist plan of production advocated in Dave White's election address. The only way a Labour government can "act in the interests of the working class", as Pete Willsman proposes, is by taking over the economy and running it in the interests of society rather than a handful of profiteers.

Yours fraternally
Derek McMillan

Safety at work? Buy it yourself

I work for a building contractor in north London. The site has not been established long and the first job is to organise health and safety facilities for the workers—toilets, washhand basins, canteen.

These large items are usually delivered to the site along with the smaller ones. For some reason the safety helmets had been delivered to the wrong site, so I was instructed to collect them.

On arriving at the site the storeman handed me six helmets. "There must be some mistake" I said. "There will be thirty men on our job." We checked his ticket but only six had been sent.

On the way back I stopped off at head office to pick up some stationary, in the hope that I might see the contracts' manager. It just happened that he was in, so I asked him why only six helmets had been ordered.

He replied that they had been ordered for council officials and management, and there were only six of them. I asked what the workers were meant to wear. "If they want them they can buy 'em" he said. "They only lose them anyway."

This to me represents the saddest face of capitalism: profit in exchange for health and safety. It also goes to prove that the bosses can get away with murder when non-union labour is involved. If you're not in a union you literally haven't a leg to stand on.

I am left in no doubt that the only way to stop the rot is to transform society with socialist policies—and the sooner the better.

Yours
Russell Lane
Chairman, Welwyn &
Hatfield LPYS

LETTERS

FIGHTING FUND: GREAT— BUT NOT ENOUGH!

Just three weeks until the three-quarter year target, and we still have to raise over £16,000—well over £5,000 per week!

By
Alison Rudd

**THIS
WEEK:
£1,196**

This week we received an excellent £1,196.36—excellent, but not enough. We have to get back on target as soon as possible if we are to expand our paper, in quality and quantity.

Every contribution, small and large, comes from individual members of the labour and trade union movement, with other donations from the organisation themselves. We have built our paper from these funds: we have no financial backing from big business to help us. We rely on all our supporters to keep sending in the money.

Even the collections of pennies and half pennies can add up! And there are plenty of other ideas from the examples listed below:

From Eastern Region we received £22: £20 from Harlow and surrounding areas and £2 received by selling coffee, collecting 1ps and ½ps and sale of garden produce in Peterborough.

Hants and IOW supporters sent £26: T Beere (Newport LP) £1.70, sale of food, tea and coffee (Newport) £3.80, sale of badges £12.50, giving lifts in Southampton £2, and £6 from miscellaneous sources in SE Dorset.

Humberside sent in a total of £69.87: sale of badges (Hull) £5.50, donations from J Kinnard (Immingham

NUPE) £1, R Leggott (Cleethorpes) £1, LPYS public meeting (Immingham) £8 and £4.75 from extras on the paper.

From London North we received £51.85 including 'odds and ends' (Dagenham) £2.90, extras (Dagenham) £1.50, rattling tin (Hackney) £1.31, 'Don't Blame Me' badge sales (also Hackney) £7, L Whelan (Tower Hamlets and ASTMS) £1, M Kilander (NUPE) £1, M Wedderburn (CPSA) £5, extras £2.85 and profit from sale of tickets (all from the Tower Hamlets area). T Miles (Ruislip LPYS) £1, 'taxi fares' (Hillingdon) £5, a West London social £12.50, and extras from the sale of the paper £1.

South London sent in a total of £99.81: R Young (Battersea) gave us £1, B and F Kidd (G&MWU) £6, various individual donations (Greenwich) £46.90, sponsored swim (Woolwich) £1, sale of badges (Greenwich) £13.35, and S Godwin (Thamesmead) £1.

From Manchester and District we received £63.40 including a collection in Blackpool £1.30, various donations from Ardwick £47.50, collection at a meeting in Oldham £10, J Salmon (Manchester Hulme LP) £2, and L O'Grady (Manchester G&MWU) £1.50.

Merseyside and District sent in a total of £52.33 raised

Build **MILITANT**

Area	Target 52 wks	Target 39 wks	Proportion of target received	Received
Eastern	4,700	3,525	[Progress bar]	2,143
Hants & IOW	3,100	2,325	[Progress bar]	1,958
Humberside	2,000	1,500	[Progress bar]	1,187
London North	9,500	7,125	[Progress bar]	4,698
London South	3,900	2,925	[Progress bar]	2,612
Manchester & Dist.	4,500	3,375	[Progress bar]	1,780
Merseyside	5,000	3,750	[Progress bar]	2,080
Midlands East	3,300	2,475	[Progress bar]	1,880
Midlands West	9,000	6,750	[Progress bar]	4,940
Northern	5,500	4,125	[Progress bar]	2,515
Scotland East	2,900	2,175	[Progress bar]	1,022
Scotland West	4,500	3,375	[Progress bar]	1,610
South East	4,500	3,375	[Progress bar]	2,928
South West	3,100	2,325	[Progress bar]	1,787
Wales East	2,600	1,950	[Progress bar]	992
Wales West	3,400	2,550	[Progress bar]	1,641
Yorkshire	6,800	5,100	[Progress bar]	2,931
Others	6,700	5,025	[Progress bar]	8,733
Total	85,000	63,750	[Progress bar]	47,437

Progress towards year's target [Progress bar] Progress towards October 6th target [Progress bar]

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



'We want money—that's what we want!'

from a Liverpool ACTSS member who donated £5, R Hughes (Liverpool POEU) £5, a collection at Duttons Ltd £4.30, extras on Toxteth

'paper round', £1, sale of badges £1.30, union expenses £5, Wavertree CLP collection £2.99 and Liverpool NGA supporters £14.

Midlands East sent £11.85, 'extras' for the Militant collected at the East Midlands Regional LP conference amounted to £4, 'taxi service' in Mansfield raised £1.50, plus various donations.

From Midlands West we received £141.30, including £2 from K Davis (Birmingham), sale of coffee at a Marxist discussion group £5.20, 'sales' (of something!) £17.25, extras on papers £3.30, C Mullins (Birmingham NUPE) £5, Birmingham PNP £5.12, other donations £6.29. Extras on paper sales in Wolverhampton raised £8.91, a tax rebate from Banbury £10, and more from the jumble sale in Coventry £56.80 (making a total of £350).

Northern Region sent in £28.20: T Surridge (Blyth LPYS) £2, M Richardson (Blaydon LPYS) £5, D Rowell (Gateshead LPYS) £4, and 'Five-a-side' in Blyth LPYS £2.

From Scotland East we received £42.54 made up of: £5.05 from G Ivers and £1 from Cllr F Christie (both from Dundee LP), paper extras (Dundee) £1.49, tax rebate (Stirling) £10 and

extras £1.50.

Scotland West sent in £38.50 from 'a bus run' in Glasgow (£26.50) and various donations.

From South East we received £6.59 (individual donations) and from **South West** we received £9.30 including a £3 donation from P Nugent (Redruth). Nothing came in from **Wales East** this week but from **Wales West** we were sent £22.15 including £3.11 from a collection at a discussion group in the Rhondda, and £15 from the Swansea area, made up of individual donations and extras.

Yorkshire sent £81.39; £56.39 raised at a public meeting in Sheffield, plus extras etc.

Under **Others**, £500 was collected at a 'Militant' public meeting at the TUC conference, and after expenses £351.51 was donated to the fighting fund. Extras on sales of the paper at TUC conference raised £4.94 and a Belfast reader donated £2.

Many thanks to every comrade who donated hard-earned cash to build the 'Militant' this week. If we pull out all the stops, with every area taking up some of the fund-raising ideas raised here, we can reach our target by October 7th.

ads

CLASSIFIED 5p per word, minimum ten words. SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres. All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

MILITANT MEETINGS

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE Militant Readers' Meeting. 'A Socialist Programme for Labour'. Hear: Terry Fields (Fire Brigades Union EC, personal capacity); Ray Apps (Brighton Kempdown CLP and NEC candidate); Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board, Chairman: Tony Sanoico (Labour Party NEC, personal capacity).

6.30 pm, Tuesday 2nd October, at Christchurch Hall, Bedford Place (off Western Road), Brighton.

BRISTOL Militant Public Meeting 'Which Way for Labour?' Speaker: Terry Burns. Place: Room 2, Central Hall, Old Market, Bristol. Thursday October 4th at 7.30 pm.

BRIDGEND Trade Union Discussion Group. Thursday September 27th. 'Lessons of the General Strike'. Time: 7.30 pm. Venue: Ship Hotel, Duncraven Place, Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan. For further details contact Alan Morgan, Bridgend 63284.

MANCHESTER Militant Public Meeting. 'Fight the Tories'. Speaker: Terry Harrison (Merseyside Labour candidate in EEC elections). At the Unicorn, Church Street. 7.30 pm, Sunday 23 September.

CHESTER-LE-STREET Marxist Discussion Group. Mondays. 7.30 pm. Chester-le-Street Labour Club. 24th September: 'History of the Labour Party', Speaker Kevin Roddy. 8th October: 'Marxism and trade unionism', Jeff Price. 22nd October: 'The philosophy of Marxism', Dave Cotterill.

CLASSIFIED

BADGES made to order: SAE for details from Dept P, Maprographics, 32 Worple Rd Mews, London SW 19.

STAFFORD Labour Party Young Socialists' Public Meeting. 'The GEC engineers' fight for £80 minimum'. Hear: John Byrne (AUEW, GEC Distribution switch-gear), Dave Rothwell (AUEW, Chairman GEC Power Engineering Joint Shop Swards Committee). Chairman: Dave Mole (ASTMS GEC Stafford). All in personal capacity. A Upper Room, Rose and Crown Inn, Stafford Town Centre, 7.30 pm, Thursday 27 September.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Bewicks on the birth of 'Alice Urwin on 11th September, from Ian, Steve, Nigel and Will.

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The media have as usual blamed the redundancies at Leyland on workers striking for decent wages and conditions

Photo: Dave Evans (IFL)

As Edwardes holds the axe over Leyland, unions must lead....

MASS CAMPAIGN TO SAVE JOBS

"How many businesses can claim to have demanded by 15,000 in 15 months?"

Only Michael Edwardes, Chairman of BL Ltd., head of a nationalised industry - shamefully appointed by a Labour Minister - could make such an arrogant claim.

Yet all this will seem nothing besides his latest pronouncement of destruction of jobs and livelihoods. Leyland management has an insatiable appetite for devouring factories and jobs.

And behind Edwardes supporting his attacks to the hilt, lurk Thatcher and Joseph. As Edwardes explains, "we have solid support for what we are doing" from the government.

And what he is doing means getting rid of 25,000 more jobs over the next two years, with the closure or partial closure of 13 plants. He also ominously places "under review" all the 36 plants remaining open. If Edwardes succeeds by the end he will have made one in four Leyland workers redundant, since he took over in 1977.

But what will that mean for the ordinary workers who he is prepared to cast out? As one Triumph Canley worker said about his threatened redundancy, "There's nowhere else around here."

"All the work's gone out of Coventry. It will be a ghost town." Yet this is the West Midlands, where even in the pre-war depression, there was relatively full employment.

Its prosperity was based on the automotive industry. But now the economic basis of the region is being undermined.

1,000 jobs have been lost in the last few weeks at the Rover SD1 plant. Now car making will cease at Canley with another 3,000 going immediately.

How long the lifeline offered to some Canley workers of engine and gearbox manufacture will last, is questionable. In Birmingham 2,500 will go from the old Pressed Steel Fisher body plant at Castle Bromwich. Again with spare body capacity at Swindon and Oxford there is no real guarantee for those who remain.

In the Black Country 300 workers will lose their jobs when Beans Engineering closes, and the future of Coseley Engineering—"under review"—is in the balance.

Elsewhere motor manufacture will finish at MG in Abingdon, and the South plant at the centre of truck operations in Leyland, Lancashire will close.

Redundancies have also been announced for the Leeds foundry. It can only be a matter of time before the Belgian plant, Seneffe closes. At present assembling Mini and Allegro kits from Britain, under the company's plan it would seem to have little future, with the phasing out of the Allegro.

"Hurricane Edwardes" seems intent on leaving a trail of utter devastation in its wake.

But closures are just part of a general onslaught on the trade unions, including the working conditions they have fought for within the company. Already Rover car workers have been forced out on strike by management-imposed manning levels completely contrary to existing agreements.

It's not just less labour that Leyland want, but extra effort from those kept on. Workforces that do not accept the lowest manning levels, or reach the highest levels of per capita productivity, and who refuse to renounce the right to protect themselves through industrial action, could face cutbacks.

Behind the "rationalisation" plan is a declaration of war against Leyland workers' organisations.

The arbitrary closure of London's Park Royal bus plant was not "part of the current exercise but simply because of the appalling lack of productivity," explained Edwardes. And with typical brutality he laid the blame on "lack of co-operation by the workforce in respect of both productivity and recruitment."

So a plant with a three-year order book for Titan buses was closed to punish the workers and as a lesson for others.

"We have to back winners, not losers," is the completely callous attitude of Edwardes, a supporter of private "enterprise" and its management methods, which he is employing with a vengeance in a public concern.

The decline of Leyland

A "winner" to him is a strike-free plant, which meekly gives up those elements of control the stewards have established over management prerogatives. So Speke Number 1 has surprisingly been kept open, at least for now, but the workforce there, out of a feeling of intimidation, even worked through the one and two-day Confed strikes.

Nevertheless if any Leyland convenor is lulled into the belief that "keeping their noses clean" will keep their members' jobs, they should see the experience of MG. Their untroubled industrial relations record did not save them from the "mad axe-man".

These savage proposals follow the latest of a never-ending stream of poor results. In August the market share for BL cars had slumped below 20%, from 23% the year before. Only high total car sales has hidden the effect of Leyland's declining share.

Next year with the onset of economic recession and an inevitable slump in motor sales, what will be the future for Leyland workers?

The whole British motor industry is in crisis. Imported cars now account for a record 58% of sales. And one competitor—Datsun of Japan—has pushed out Vauxhall and Talbot (Chrysler) to take third

By
Jeremy Birch

(Selly Oak Labour Party)

place. Only Ford of the big four is keeping its head above water—just. Leyland has almost gone under.

But Leyland's decline has not occurred overnight, though—it has gradually wasted away. In 1970 it produced more vehicles than

of the Social Contract for four years.

The Birmingham 'Evening Mail' puts its finger on the truth. Working at the doomed Canley plant "meant indifferent wages, bumbling management, outworn plant." When Lord Ryder took over the newly nationalised company he too complained that "British Leyland's present levels of capital expenditure and working capital were far too low."

Since public ownership unfortunately nothing has changed. In 1976 a mere £498 of new capital was invested per employee in Leyland, compared to Renault's £1,370 and Volkswagen's £1,250.

Leyland has lost its market share

million workers depend on Leyland directly or indirectly for a job. If it ever did collapse large parts of industrial Britain would go with it. If Leyland workers do not prepare a fight back now it will be too late.

Through the Combine Committee a co-ordinated campaign of opposition to all redundancies—voluntary or enforced—and to all closures must be waged. A national one-day strike of all Leyland workers should be called around a programme of defending all jobs, to draw together all the various plants.

When notice of closure of any plant is given, it should be agreed that occupations to prevent the stripping of the factories, be organised. The existing Combine policy of non-transference of work must also be upheld.

Political fight

An overtime ban and the demand for a 35-hour week across the company would have to be raised also, as an alternative to job losses. No-one would deny that, with the intransigence of Edwardes, and with a reactionary Tory government the fight will be tough—but this time there is no choice.

Leyland stewards, though, must also continue to make it a political fight, to ask why in a nationalised company, all the problems of capitalism—especially Edwardes—still continue.

Five years ago the Combine raised its alternative to the managerial "skills" of Ryder, Dobson, Edwardes, etc. That the board of management should comprise a majority of elected union representatives from within Leyland and from the broad labour movement, with further representation from the government as well.

This programme of real workers' management need not be confined to Leyland alone. After all Leyland does suffer the problems of inadequate size. A capacity of 2 million vehicles is necessary to be efficient and competitive.

That is about the capacity of the whole British motor industry. Under Labour not only was Leyland subsidised but Chrysler was bailed out, and Ford given £150 million to locate its engine plant in Britain.

Why should British workers through taxes subsidise multi-nationals with no say in how the money is used? Even the Planning Agreement with Chrysler fell down.

A national publicly-owned motor corporation is the only guarantee of the necessary investment and planning to prevent motor manufacturing following the motor-bike industry into oblivion.

The fight to save jobs and to save Leyland is the same fight as that being conducted already by the working class against the Tories. It is inseparable from a fight for a socialist alternative.



"For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap".
(Epistle — Galatians: chapter 6, verse 7)

As this 'Militant' cartoon from 1975 shows, lack of investment is the major cause of decline

Peugeot, Chrysler Europe and Citroen. It is now manufacturing less than any other major grouping in Europe.

One of Ford's chief executives predicted that by 1984 only eight car manufacturers would be left on a world scale, and then only those producing over 2 million cars a year. Edwardes is cutting Leyland's output from 1.2 million to 950,000!

In fact on present trends the Brazilian motor industry will overtake Britain by 1982.

So what lies behind the demise of Leyland? A chorus of Edwardes, Tories and press all agree—the workers. Yet in the West Midlands the car industry is no longer a well-paid job, and Leyland workers have been held within the guidelines

at home and abroad, and recorded a pre-tax profit of just £20.1m for the first half of this year, because outdated equipment and inefficient plant have made it "tougher than ever to compete against the more modern and attractive cars from other European manufacturers," said the 'Financial Times'.

But how can Leyland workers allow the jobs and the futures of themselves and their families to be blotted out because of negligence and incompetence of motor manufacturing management over decades? If this latest attack is not thwarted, when the next wave of redundancies takes place, there will be nothing left of Leyland.

When nationalisation took place Harold Wilson explained that a

BL PARK ROYAL— 'WE WON'T TAKE THE RAP FOR MANAGEMENT'

"The biggest tragedy of the proposed closure of Park Royal Vehicles is that it slams the door shut in the face of young kids. The factory could and should stay open."

This was how Jim Pickard, chairman of the works' committee, reacted to the vicious attack on BL jobs.

The joint shop stewards' committee at Park Royal Vehicles completely repudiated the statement sent out by Edwardes on the closure of the plant, blaming the lack of co-operation from the workforce on both productivity and recruitment of labour. As they say, "PR Vehicles has in the past been highly productive, very competitive within our industry, with the reputation of a high standard of work, which has been recognised by the company."

The recent problems began with the British Leyland ten-year plan which proposed closure of Park Royal Vehicles and the development and manufacture of the Titan bus at the AEC site in Southall. The entire workforce, including the staff, rejected these proposals and unanimously agreed to fight the closure of PRV.

At a later stage this plan was withdrawn by the corporation, resulting in the closure of the Southall plant.

The efficiency and productivity of the PR plant was seriously affected, however, by a series of management



Edwardes announces redundancies

decisions. Production planning for the Titan was brought forward one year; unproven vehicles were placed on the production line leading to major and continuing breakdowns in production.

Many of these problems still remain. The entire body trim and interior finishing are being redesigned after the completion of the first 200 vehicles. Even comparatively small modifications take at least six months to rectify.

There have also been constant delays caused by outside suppliers, and despite demands from the workforce for in-house manufacturing of material in short supply, management have refused to take action. Brother Pickard

pointed out, "Edwardes even claims to be willing to spend in excess of £3 million in redundancy payments, to bribe the workforce into taking the rap for management's incompetence."

Current negotiations on the April 1979 pay review are still unresolved. The company offer of a 5 per cent increase on 1978 earnings is totally unacceptable. The ravages of inflation combined with the production problems of the Titan bus in '78, which seriously affected wage levels, mean this offer would result in wages comparable to, or even below, 1977 levels.

The history of PRV is a demonstration of the lies and distortion perpetrated by Edwardes, his big business friends and their lackeys in the press. The problems of BL are not a result of a 'strike happy' workforce. They are the result of management inadequacies and their failure to reinvest.

The much-vaunted but derisory programme of investment currently under way is being used as a weapon in bludgeoning attacks on the BL trade unions. No plant and no worker is safe as long as these unelected bosses' axe-men are allowed to continue unabated.

Mike Lee and Steve Clare (Uxbridge LPYS) spoke to BL Park Royal workers

MERSEYSIDE: MORGANITE FIBRES LOCK-OUT

The 100-strong workforce at

Morganite Ceramic Fibres, Bromborough, have been locked out. When the TGWU, representing the men, asked for a 25% pay rise, they were offered 10% initially, then 13%. When ACAS were called in, they produced a deal which actually meant a decrease on the 13%. Management promptly said, "This is our final offer."

The men staged a token 24-hour stoppage, and returned for work the next night only to find the place locked up, with managers ignoring them from the inside. Now the bosses have sent all employees—including those off sick and on holiday—a letter saying that they will be sent their P45s.

When it comes to Victorian attitudes, these bosses take some beating. As one picket put it, it's like going back to working down the mines at

the age of 13.

The wages aren't so modern either! £48 take home for a shiftworker I spoke to; £57.40 gross for shiftwork involving 7 continuous days, with two days off. After three years of wage restraint, current inflation of 17%, and those kind of wage levels, a 25% claim is hardly asking the earth.

All that from a company which is part of the Morgan Crucible Group, who recently announced profits of £6.4 millions—and who built this factory on government grants.

This dispute is no longer just about bad wages, but also about the right to withhold your labour and take part in trade union defence of conditions, without being thrown out on to the scrapheap. Several pickets remarked, "There's no way we're going back in there on the bosses' terms."

The nearby Neston plant has been approached, and production workers have come out in solidarity. The picket has been honoured by drivers. The local T&GWU are seeking official backing for the dispute.

The full power of the T&GWU, and of all the trade unions in the Morgan Group, plus its suppliers and customers, must be brought to bear on these backwoods bosses. The men must be reinstated on the basis of the full claim.

Messages of support, donations, information on suppliers and subsidiaries etc. to: Clive Lewis, [Morganite Ceramic Fibres], c/o TGWU Offices, Ellesmere Port.

By Richard Venton (Birkenhead Labour Party)

COALITE—WHAT PRICE LIVES?

Coalite Chemicals' latest derisory offer of an extra 48p for a 50-hour week was met by a statement from the T&GWU branch chairman that they were determined to stick it out for a £64 basic wage.

This epitomised the mood of the pickets at Bolsover. Along with the men at the Grimethorpe and Askern plants these workers have been on strike for three weeks.

Until the disaster at Seveso, Italy, the same chemical was

produced at this complex. Approximately twenty workers are still awaiting settlement of compensation for the effects of 245T.

A young process operator explained that management's dismal efforts to make his job safe had achieved very little. He was still working in close proximity to 300c° effluent which he had to put into barrels. As well as the obvious danger, this sediment gives off phosphogene gas.

These workers work a

continental shift system, on three shifts within almost a week.

Collections are being organised at local pits and Labour Party branches. ASLEF and the NUR are refusing to move anything from the plants and the picket is getting a very good response.

Stewart Webber, T&GWU shop steward, Coalite, spoke to Alan Alberry (Bolsover CLP)



Heathrow airport—T&GWU members are crucial to passenger air transport Photo: MILITANT

AIRPORT WORKERS LAUNCH A PACESETTER

Members of the T&GWU employed in Civil Air Transport are organising seriously for their annual pay rise.

Shop stewards and trade unionists representing over 39,000 workers in the airports and related industries and services recently met at the Centre Hotel near Heathrow to thrash out a pay claim, plus other improvements in conditions and benefits. The claim covers airport baggage handlers, catering, freight terminal workers and security guards among many others.

Nick Nicholls, Chairman of the Civil Air Transport [CAT] Section Committee of the TGWU, explained the issues involved: "We are anxious to get overall policy worked out

as we have members in British Airways and the Corporations, in the British Airports Authority, as well as many private companies including Caledonian Airways, Panam, Air India, Lufthansa. As the largest single union in Civil Air Transport we feel that it is only right that we should be seen as leading the fight for better pay and conditions.

"Today's meeting agreed to go for a substantial pay rise. Each section will negotiate for a percentage or actual cash figure rise according to what they feel is most suitable, all under the overall umbrella of the T&GWU.

"In addition to the rise, payable from 1st January 1980, we are also demanding

an additional month's pay, in line with practice in the Common Market; additional holidays to bring us up to six weeks' annual leave, retirement at 60 years on full pension and a shorter working week, of 35 hours, without loss of earnings."

This claim contains many of the basic demands now being raised throughout the trade union movement. With the serious attitude being taken by these workers, in an industry as strategically placed as the passenger airlines, this claim could be a pace-setter for the rest of the labour movement.

By Martin Elvin (Ruislip Northwood LPYS)

RYTON WORKERS REJECT BLACKMAIL

Workers at Talbot's, Ryton plant in Coventry who have been on strike for 11 weeks for a 20% wage increase were threatened with the sack this week.

Management, through reports leaked to the local and national press, claimed to be considering closure of the plant and shifting production to the Peugeot/Citroen Plissy plant.

This news, coming hard on the heels of BL's threat to halt car production at the Canley plant in Coventry, was designed to frighten the Ryton

men into acceptance of Talbot's derisory 5½% offer.

This action has been interpreted by the strikers as a sign of management desperation. There is a determination to stick out until the claim is won.

One worker summed up the mood when he said "If management think they can scare us, they're wrong."

"Even if we accept 5½% they might still try and close us down in a few months."

By Phil Luker

ITT DON'T FOOL US!

ITT's Components division in Harlow has been hit by its first-ever strike by clerical grade workers.

ASTMS put in a claim for 15% last May. Management replied with a 6% offer from last July and a further 2% from November. With inflation in double figures and rising, union members unanimously took action with a two-day strike when the management refused to improve the offer.

If this action—timed to

coincide with the company's important financial statements—doesn't get an improved offer, further action is planned.

Already national organisation is taking shape. Leeds ITT ASTMS is fully supporting the Harlow action.

The writing is clearly on the wall for ITT. All their talk of the company looking after its employees, leaving no need for unions, is not fooling these workers any more.

By Bob Edwards

FERRANTI STAY OUT

All six Ferranti factories in Edinburgh will stay out for at least another three weeks, unless management come up with a decent offer.

The 2,500 check workers are on strike for consolidation of productivity earnings and a

25% increase on wage rates. This is the sixth week of the strike and donations are urgently needed.

Contact Mrs E Cummins, Treasurer, Ferranti JSSC, 15 Windsor Street, Edinburgh 7.

BDH POOLE:

'A BATTLE
WE
MUST
WIN'

As the dispute at BDH, Poole, entered its fifth week, production workers voted unanimously to stay out at a mass meeting last Friday.

Workers not involved in the dispute have been given 60 days' notice of redundancy if the strike continues. Management are obviously trying to divide the workers—but their ploy has not worked.

One worker came out to pickets with his redundancy notice and begged them to stay on strike so that he would no longer have to work in the factory's hazardous conditions.

Management are not prepared to negotiate further. The union, T&GWU, are now considering bringing in ACAS.

The strikers are determined. This is one battle that they feel they must win, if they are not to be left even further behind next year.

Send messages of support to BDH shop stewards' committee, c/o T&GWU, 238 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth, Dorset.

By Andy Dinkenor (Bournemouth LPYS)

Confed national wage claim



ENGINEERS RALLY TO CHALLENGE EMPLOYERS' ATTACK

Coventry BOSSSES' THREATS REBOUND

Rich Casey AUEW shop steward, Rolls Royce Parkside, spoke, in a personal capacity, to Dave Nellist [Coventry South East Labour Party]:

The two-day Confed stoppage in Coventry on 17th and 18th September showed a strengthening of workers' resolve and a weakening of the management's position. The threats and propaganda being churned out by the engineering bosses is rebounding on them!

Two factories had planned to start production—at both, support for the strike had increased and production was impossible. At Dunlop, where some production was maintained the previous week, the majority of workers stayed away.

At Rolls Royce Anstey plant, the 200 or so who reported for work were turned away from the gates by a single picket. One shop steward, with 40 years AUEW membership, from the Parkside plant convinced these workers of the need for unity to defeat the management.

Many smaller factories are coming back into line. At Sterling Metals, Nuneaton where half the workers turned up for work last week,

support for the strike this week was solid.

The first major split in the Coventry bosses' ranks has occurred at Covrad, a subsidiary of Associated Engineering Ltd. This company, whose managing director is vice-president of the Coventry EEF, made a domestic offer which satisfied the workers and local Confed officials as being virtually the same as the national claim.

The most hardline management response has been at Rolls Royce Parkside where 2,000 manual workers have been threatened with a lock out from Wednesday 19th. At mass meetings of the day and night shifts on Friday 14th only a handful voted against the decision to report for work as usual on Wednesday and defy management attempts to break the strike.

The Rolls Royce workers also became one of the first major groups to decide for a national all-out strike to defeat the Engineering Employers' Federation. This is recognised by many workers in the area as the only way to defeat the employers' campaign to divide the workers, and bring the strike to a speedy and successful conclusion.

Rolls Royce Bristol: WORK-IN FROM WEDNESDAY

The Rolls Royce trade unions' combine committee have launched a counter-attack.

The company have suspended from the payroll all employees involved in the Confed action for the national wage claim. Today, Friday 14th, a call for a 'work-in' was overwhelmingly accepted at a mass meeting of 5,500 manual workers outside the Bristol factory.

Similar meetings were held simultaneously at Leavsdon, Glasgow, Derby and Coventry, converging the 30,000 workers affected by the 'lockout'.

John Blackley [Production convenor AUEW] told the Bristol meeting that if the company tried to stop the work-in, "we will stop the factory for every human being".

"The claim would not cost the company very much: the minimum time rate would only affect our overtime and nightshift premiums" he said. "The company could settle for a quarter of the cost of the strikes!"

Bro. Blackley asked "Why haven't the company settled? Rolls Royce are members of the EEF and Dennis Head (managing director of RR) is a leading negotiator for the EEF. Where do his loyalties lie? With this body or his employers?"

The main stumbling block has been hours. Yet the staff, outnumbering the manuals, are already working 37 hours.

"Dennis Head has launched a campaign saying our action is crippling the company. So he instructs that the factory is shut down, stopping all production!"

"Customers, anxious to see orders met, congratulate him on taking a tough line with the unions, he claims—even though he is ensuring even longer delays!"

"There is only one conclusion. Rolls Royce is being used as a spearhead by the employers to break the Confed claim.

"No private capital is at risk, only state capital—our taxes!"

"Should we meekly accept shut down? Or work normally on Wednesday, with or without management assistance!"

No work will leave the

factory until production workers are paid. "Anyone going to work Monday or Tuesday would be blacked" Bro. Blackley added. AUEW-TASS representatives have instructed members to work normally from Wednesday, in co-operation with the work-in.

After the vote the mechanics of the work-in were discussed—how the workers would control and manage the factory.

Bro. Blackley told me afterwards "If the return to work is organised and disciplined the management wouldn't be able to prevent our action. If the EEF want to resort to anarchy, we will shut down Rolls Royce completely to everyone, staff and management".

Personally, he felt the national campaign should harden and that the Confed should call an all-out strike "to protect ourselves".

John Blackley [Production Convenor AUEW] spoke to John Sharpe [Branch Secretary AUEW-TASS RR]



Dennis Head, Rolls Royce managing director and leading EEF negotiator

Bournemouth

200 workers at De Vilbiss in Bournemouth have been suspended without pay for taking part in the Confed unions' one- and two-day strikes. Unless they return to normal working, they will be locked out from Wednesday 19th.

Management have hired a mini-bus to take 8 scabs through the gates. The workers, who belong to the AUEW and the NSMM, at the moment have a basic minimum wage of £60-£67, or £55 for unskilled.

By Andy Rosser [Poole LPYS]

GEC Fife

At GEC Glenrothes in Fife, all 600 workers again supported the 2-day strike.

120 of them picketed down the road at GEC Kirkcaldy to persuade the 900 workers there to come out. Unfortunately they were, in the main unsuccessful.

John Heggie, AUEW Glenrothes convenor said that an even bigger picket, with banners and placards, would

be mounted while the strikes lasted. Blacking of work and supplies between the two plants would be imposed.

One Kirkcaldy worker explained to me that she had refused to cross the picket line herself but felt that a national all-out strike was needed so that all members knew when they were out and why.

By Tam Burke [Edinburgh Trades Council]

Telford

AT Adamson—Butterleys, an industrial crane manufacturer in Telford belonging to the Norcross Group of companies, the 30 pickets were solid in supporting the strike but felt they were not receiving enough information and propaganda from the National Executive.

The men felt that it was a justifiable dispute but were annoyed that dispensation was being given to firms who settled. It should be an all-out strike until the dispute is settled, they said.

The senior shop steward, Graham Morgan said that the dispute should be viewed in a political context, and added that if it wasn't for a paper like 'Militant' giving the socialist viewpoint the strike could crumble under the weight of the capitalist press.

GEC Birmingham

"You will load up and cross the picket line", the Manager at GEC Osram, Birmingham, ordered. The drivers' reply was to join their brothers on the Confed picket.

This display of solidarity by T&G drivers, who are not part of the Confed, was a big filip to the AUEW and G&MWU members on the gate.

On Wednesday the drivers were still on the picket line, as management were refusing to pay them for the Monday and Tuesday. Sections of the workers who they had initially

'ALL-OUT STRIKE IS OUR ONLY RECOURSE'

At Rolls Royce Hillington in Glasgow shop stewards were only 'informed' of managements' plans to lock out the workers at the very last minute. They were left no time for warning the members.

Most workers did not find out that they were to be laid off until they heard the evening news.

The Works' Committee and the workforce at Hillington are incensed at the spurious reasons given by management for the close-down. Management say that since they could not meet delivery targets on outstanding orders because of the overtime ban and one- and two-day strikes, they would close down completely on Friday 14 September until the National Claim was settled.

In fact what they are admitting is that they would

rather starve the workers into submission and defeat the unions than have to pay limited wage increases.

In 1978, Rolls Royce won the order from Pan Am to power the Lockheed Tristar and signed an agreement worth £200 million with the Romanian government, for joint manufacture of the Spey engine. Everything seemed to be going well.

Sir Kenneth Keith, the chairman of Rolls Royce, commenting on the company's performance in 1978, was not so cheerful, however. "We are simply not generating enough profit to invest in our future."

The relative strength of the pound against the weakness of the dollar was the main reason given for this lack of profit. Only two years ago we were told that the reason for low profits was the pound's weakness which meant that

raw materials were costing too much. Are we now supposed to accept that the opposite is a justifiable reason for tolerating low pay as well?

The engineering bosses see the Confed national claim as a threat to their 'stable' world—where investment strikes, export of capital and speculation are the order of the day.

Workers, they say, are 'lazy' when they demand a reduction in the working week and two extra days annual holiday; 'greedy' when they demand £80 per week minimum for skilled workers and a common implementation date throughout the engineering industry. Meanwhile unemployment is at the 1½ million mark and rising; skilled men are leaving the industry because of low pay.

The EEF are trying to wrest back the initiative by implementing lockouts. The battle

lines are clearly drawn up.

If the Confed back down now, local wage negotiations up and down the country will only be a formality. If the bosses win this one, they will pick off plants individually in the future.

An all-out strike to win the claim is our only recourse. A lock-out at one company is an attack on us all.

By Tom Williams [T&GWU Rolls Royce, Hillington]

Accrington

In Accrington, 24 AUEW members at F Millers are on all-out strike over the sacking of their shop steward, the day before the first national one-day Confed strike. The tin-pot boss showed his provocative attitude when he told trade union negotiators "I'm not going to let anyone tell me how to run this place."

Militant

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POST OFFICE SPLIT-



POEU members struggle for 35-hour week to stop menace of unemployment

By
Dave Farrar

(Manchester
 Amalgamated
 UPW, Personal
 Capacity.)

damage done to the national communications network.

On the postal side, the dangers of a loss of the letter monopoly are apparent, a creaming off of the lucrative city and inter-city post to private firms with the rural and small town services greatly reduced or disappearing altogether.

The lessons of a private postal service are plain to see from the 1971 strike. Cowboy firms offered to deliver the mail, at inflated prices of course, only to dump the letters or post them when the strike was over!

Further noises are being made about productivity, with the latest UPW pay offer including an 'efficiency agreement'. The Tories will not face up to the fact that there are 10,000 vacancies in the post office at the moment, and despite intensive recruitment, the jobs are not filled.

For instance of 17,000 recruitments in London last year only 1,500 stayed in the service. The real answer is for a strong industrial trade union representing all postal workers which fights for a nationally planned and democratically controlled postal service with pay and conditions worthy of an efficient postal service.

FIGHT FOR FUTURE

CONTINUED FROM
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back you."

The two hour general strike has been organised to show Bill Sirs—who will be visiting Corby on that day for talks with the management—that Corby workers will fight. They want the fullest support from their national trade union leaders!

It is almost impossible to walk anywhere in Corby nowadays without being reminded that a grim struggle for survival is underway. Children playing in the streets sing this song:

"Come to Corby, come to Corby,

See what's happening to us,
 Empty houses and no future,
 If they close the steel works."

Disaster threatens. But the workers know that with resolute action Corby can be saved. Another song heard in local streets begins:

"We're on the march with Corby's army,
 We're on the march to save our town."

Anarchy of capitalism

Victory for the Corby steel workers will be an inspiration to all those workers throughout Britain who are struggling against factory closures and mass unemployment.

In the last 2 1/4 years 26,000 steel industry jobs have disappeared. Now the Tory backed steel bosses have emerged from their plush offices with the demand for a further 16,000 sackings.

Corby is to be made into a ghost town so that their books can balance! But as Bill Sirs has correctly warned, the

whole steel industry would vanish—even by 1980—if the Tories and the steel bosses are determined to make BSC break even.

Never was the callous anarchy of capitalism more transparent. In Britain, the car, shipbuilding and engineering industries are all in crisis as a result of the more intense competition on world markets and the attempt of British capitalism to compete on the basis of backwardness.

Industry in Britain has been starved of investment, now it is collapsing. As the manufacturing base of Britain vanishes, so also does the need for steel.

The fight to save steel therefore has to be linked to the fight for socialist reorganisation of society. Some workers have suggested that this struggle can be fought without a political perspective, but this idea is utopian.

The struggles on the economic and political plains are absolutely indissoluble. So long as industry is run in the interests of a handful of coupon-clipping capitalists then the resources of society will never be organised in order to satisfy the needs of the people who produce those resources.

The fight of the Corby steel workers is the fight of the whole Labour and trade union movement. A programme of ongoing industrial action in Corby should be announced so that the momentum of struggle continues and the pressure on the management is intensified.

But the fight cannot be won merely within the boundaries of Corby. A national steel strike is now essential to bring the steel bosses and the Tories to heel. This is a fight the British trade union movement cannot afford to lose.

BOON TO BIG BUSINESS DOLE THREAT TO WORKERS

Sir Keith Joseph's recent announcement of the splitting of the Post Office into two corporations [Telecomms and posts] sent a shudder of apprehension through the minds of most postmen.

This splitting marks the beginning of a Tory attack on the postal service and postal workers' living

standards in particular.

The Tories and their big business backers have had their eyes on the large profits made by Telecomms (£326.6

million in 1977/78 which increased to £347.1m in 1978/79, up by over 6%) and are impatient to put this money into their own pockets.

Opposition to this division has so far been only verbal and the split has been, unfortunately, supported by the POEU leadership. But neither postal nor telecomms workers will benefit from this move.

The next step for the Telecomms will probably be the further intrusion of the big business suppliers, especially telephone companies, in an attempt to corner a slice of this lucrative market.

This can only lead to fewer jobs and a race for super profits irrespective of the

ZIMBABWE

CONTINUED FROM
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do so without safeguards". Over the weekend Muzorewa broadcast on Rhodesian radio and argued that the racial safeguards in the present constitution "were not really that important after all." He went on to extol the virtues of capitalist Kenya as a model for Rhodesia to follow.

Smith's reaction was predictable. "I just can't believe that anybody would say such a thing. We have all agreed that the retention of safeguards is absolutely vital," was his comment on Muzorewa's statement.

But Muzorewa was trying to reflect the interests of a black, middle-class elite in the running of a regime dominated by international big business. Western capitalism is basically uninterested in the colour of the Rhodesian regime.

The only colour that interests them is green. If a white regime threatens their money, it must be replaced by a black puppet regime.

But whites in Rhodesia still have considerable power and privilege. Muzorewa's is a puppet, stooge, regime. Whites do not always see eye-to-

eye with international capital.

So the first task of imperialism at this conference is to dismantle some aspects of white privilege without endangering the whole structure of the regime. Romantic, right-wing racists in the Tory Party want to cling to Smith at all costs.

But Carrington, like the Labour government before him, sees that would only make African opposition to the regime more radical. A stable black capitalist regime must be established.

Carrington recognises that a black puppet regime would be incapable of withstanding the liberation struggle on its own. So he is trying a number of additional measures.

Firstly to retain whites in key positions. In his constitutional proposals presented to the conference he uses the codewords "properly qualified and experienced persons" for whites to run the Defence Forces and Civil Service.

Secondly to win over leading elements within the Patriotic Front. To get them to curtail moves to fundamentally change the political and economic system of Rhodesia.

Thirdly to work with the leaders of the Front-line African states to put pressure

on the Patriotic Front to negotiate a compromise.

It is highly unlikely that these manoeuvres will succeed. Muzorewa's regime rests upon the white-dominated army. If he made major concessions and gave over control of 'law and order' to the Patriotic Front, it would deprive him of all power, and many whites would leave for South Africa, Latin America or Britain.

Similarly those in the Patriotic Front who want to do a deal have to reckon with their own supporters. The struggle for Zimbabwe is not a cosy constitutional chat. It is a revolution.

Radicalisation

And it cannot be ended by whatever deals individuals arrange with imperialism. It is probable then that the conference will break-up.

A black capitalist Zimbabwe might offer nice fruits of office for a few, but for the mass of Zimbabweans it would be a hollow victory.

An end to racist discrimination would not in itself end the problems faced by African workers and farmers. To stop unemployment rising Zimbabwe needs continued economic growth of over 10% a year for a number of years.

That is impossible under a white or a black capitalist Zimbabwe.


Imperialism wants to defeat the forces of liberation at the conference table, when they are unable to defeat them on the ground, in Zimbabwe. Big business is desperate for a solution.

As the struggle has progressed, so has the radicalisation of the liberation movements deepened. Many of yesterday's leaders of the nationalist struggle now sit in Muzorewa's delegation. If the struggle continues, that process will intensify.

International big business wants to introduce UN forces and or African capitalist armies into Rhodesia as a 'neutral' force to be used against left-wing fighters who would not accept a compromise deal. No reliance can be placed on these manoeuvres.

The only strength the liberation movement has is the people of Zimbabwe and the international labour movement.

The best way to defeat imperialism would be to intensify the struggle in Zimbabwe. Establish workers' and peasants' committees to wage a struggle in the urban and rural areas to overthrow not just the present regime but its capitalist backers in London, New York and the western world.



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