

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 488
1 February 1980

15p

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YOUNG WORKERS...

FIGHT THE TORIES FIGHT FOR JOBS



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

A JOB FOR ALL 35 hr WEEK £80 MINIMUM

'No return to the 'thirties' is no hollow cry. Last week it was announced that there are now 'officially' 1,470,621 people on the dole.

That means 1½ million people condemned to a life of boredom, frustration and poverty-level living conditions.

And it is young people who are the first victims of this chronic malaise of the so-called "free enterprise" system championed by Thatcher and the Tories. One in three of the thousands on the dole are under 25. And one in four has been without a job for at least a year.

Over and above the official figures are the thousands of young people on temporary employment schemes. What happens to them when their courses have finished? And there are also thousands not registered as unemployed but who are nevertheless looking for work.

Many school leavers who do manage to work have to accept dead-end jobs far below their real talents. How many apprenticeships are there going in most areas now? How many firms provide genuine training schemes or adequate day or block release facilities?

As unemployment rises, the prospects for school leavers can only

By
Bob Wade

get worse.

The Treasury's own "Economic Progress Report" [Jan 1980] [it should be "Economic Crisis Report"] admits the obvious: "Taken together, the vacancies and unemployment statistics suggest there is an upward trend in unemployment."

Privately, top Treasury officials estimate two million jobless in the next year.

This reactionary Tory government is itself out to create more 'dole fodder'. The massive cutbacks in public sector services and industries, like the NHS, the Civil Service, British Rail, British Steel, and British Leyland, will cost tons of thousands of jobs.

As usual, the politicians
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BACK PAGE

Defy Denning's Tory Law STOP ALL STEEL!

Steelworkers lobby ISTC headquarters, demanding opposition to Denning's anti-union ruling

"As far as I'm concerned I'll picket as normal, and if that means contempt of court then I'll stand up and be counted."

This was the determined comment of Teesside ISTC branch secretary, Cyril Wheat, after the ISTC Executive's decision to call off the strike in the private

By Lynn
Walsh

sector pending Friday's appeal to the House of Lords.

He was undoubtedly speaking for the overwhelming feeling of steel workers throughout the country. They understand that action against the private sector and the stockholders is the key to victory.

There is anger and indignation amongst the steel workers, and throughout the whole labour movement, at the blatantly reactionary class decision of Lord Denning to ban ISTC strike action in 16 private firms.

Lord Denning, the

senior Appeal Court judge, showed that he was determined to implement a Tory law against "secondary picketing" even before Thatcher and Co have had a chance to get it on to the statute books.

Denning's decision, moreover, has been taken as the go-ahead for the police to launch vicious attacks on pickets.

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PAGE TWO

One million pounds an hour!

Spending on 'defence' in Britain is now running at the astronomical figure of £1 million an hour.

Last week, on the very day Tory Chancellor Howe was calling in parliament for "harsh measures" to put Britain's economy right and his henchman Biffen was promising workers "three years of unparalleled austerity," the Tory Defence Secretary, Francis Pym, announced plans to spend between £4,000 million and £5,000 million on a replacement for the submarine-based Polaris missiles.

This is in addition to the £1,000 million already being spent on modernising Polaris, and at least £3,000 million to be spent on equipping the RAF with the Tornado strike aircraft.

These figures, moreover, are merely the basic price of these weapons. The total "life cycle" cost, i.e. the cost of keeping them operational, can be multiplied by three or four times.

The Tories have certainly kept their election promises as far as arms spending is concerned. In last November's Budget, when Howe announced another £3,500 million public spending cuts, he said that defence spending would be increased by 3%. The British government is currently squandering over £8,000 million a year on military spending.

Schools, hospitals, and other vital services for working people are all so much waste as far as the Tories are concerned. But big business regards this massive military outlay as vital to defend its property and power against both foreign rivals and its own working class.

The strategists of British capitalism are deluding themselves they can maintain an "independent deterrent." Although Britain is accumulating arms on a colossal scale, nevertheless, they are like so many pea-shooters compared to the armaments of US imperialism and the Russian bureaucracy.

The capitalist spokesmen, and the 'iron maiden' Thatcher in particular, are suffering from the grandiose, insane illusion that British capitalism can, even now, continue to act as a major military power.

They are apparently oblivious of the fact that British capitalism, while squandering a higher proportion of gross national product on arms than any other major European state, is slipping down to the bottom of the economic league table.

While some of the country's most advanced science and technology is devoted to perfecting new weapons of destruction, British industry is being outstripped by its rivals even on its home market.

In textile machinery, aircraft, electrical generating equipment, and other key fields, the British market is

dominated by foreign imports. Importers now account for 96% of the dishwashers, 70% of hair dryers, 90% of electronic computers, and 99% of office machinery.

One fact in particular, however, which Pym revealed in last Thursday's defence debate, will outrage members of the Labour Party and trade unions.

Pym disclosed that the decision to spend £1,000 million on modernising Britain's Polaris system was taken secretly by the previous Labour government—directly contrary to Party conference policy and even to Labour's 1974 election manifesto, which explicitly renounced any intention of moving towards the production of a new generation of nuclear weapons or a successor to the Polaris nuclear force.

Yet Jim Callaghan formed a secret cabinet "committee of four"—consisting of Denis Healey, David Owen, Fred Mulley, and himself—which under the code name "Chavoline" approved £1,000 million Polaris upgrading and set in motion detailed examination of a new generation of nuclear weapons.

This deliberate, secret contradiction of a policy supported by the overwhelming majority of the Party must be vigorously condemned by the whole labour movement.

The labour movement will also be outraged by Callaghan's recent support for President Carter's proposals for a US 'strike force' capable of intervening throughout the

world, particularly in the Middle East, to safeguard the interests of American imperialism.

Grotesque expenditure on barbarous means of destruction and preparation for war are an inherent part of a social system based on private profit and anarchic competition.

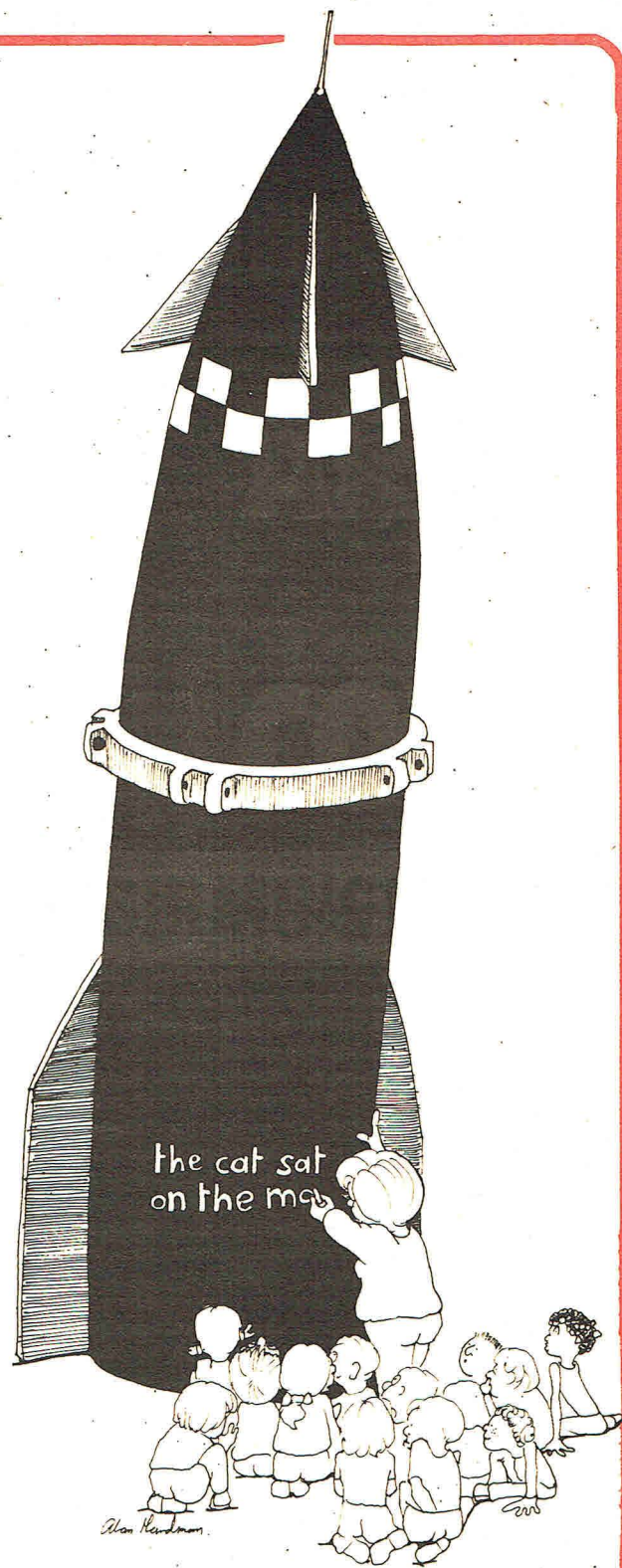
So long as capitalism survives—although world war is not an immediate possibility—the threat of nuclear annihilation will hang over mankind.

The labour movement must campaign against the squandering on arms of vast resources which could be used to provide better education, better health care, and to improve the living standards of millions of workers.

But it is utopian to appeal to the capitalists to cut arms spending for humanitarian reasons. It is necessary to go to the root of the problem and attack the grotesque waste on arms as part and parcel of a programme to take over the commanding heights of the economy and introduce a socialist plan of production.

Workers now employed in arms manufacture and other defence industries must be found alternative work so their skills and talents can be better used.

With socialist planning, there would be no problem of unemployment. The trade unions in defence industries would reorganise their factories to make alternative products and contribute to the economy as a whole.



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PAGE ONE

STOP ALL STEEL!

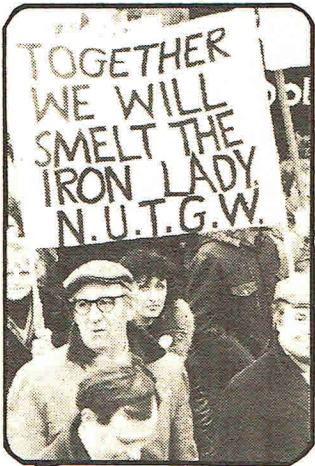
Steel workers and other trade unionists in Wales were outraged at the arrest—and handcuffing—of 42 pickets at Walker stockholders in Pontypool on Tuesday. The arrests followed a police charge on picket lines to clear a way for scab lorries.

Denning's attack on the basic right to strike and the police assault on pickets, however, will only strengthen the determination of the steelworkers to make the strike 100% effective. It will arouse even more sympathy and solidarity action from the miners, transport workers, and other trade unionists.

On Tuesday evening there was bitter disappointment that the ISTC Executive had decided to call off private sector action as a result of Denning's decision. This was a retreat on earlier statements of Bill Sirs and other EC members that they would do everything to make the strike effective, and that they were prepared to go to jail if necessary to defend their members' rights.

In most steel areas picketing of the private firms will go on regardless of the court decision.

But if the House of Lords judicial committee should reject the ISTC's appeal and refuse to reverse Denning's ruling, it is vital that the steel unions, with the support of the whole trade union movement, launch a campaign to back a total stoppage in the steel industry and defeat this



new attempt to undermine the right to strike.

Denning's view that the steel workers' action against the private sector was outside the law because it was an attempt to "coerce the government", and is therefore a "political strike", is a fundamental threat to trade union rights. Such a ruling could be used in the future to rule out any strike in the state sector, or any strike against a future government pay policy.

Even sections of the legal profession and spokesmen of big business have expressed dismay at Denning's ruling. They want to preserve the fiction of an "impartial", "unbiased" law and judiciary. Denning has once again let the cat out of the bag.

This top member of the judiciary, the bastion of the ruling class, makes little effort to disguise the view that the law is there to be used and

benefit in the interests of big business, Tory governments, and the bosses of state corporations.

This is not the first time the Master of the Rolls has twisted the law to hit at striking unions. Last year he gave the reactionary Express Newspaper group an injunction against the National Union of Journalists to prevent the blacking of Press Association news stories which provincial newspapers were using to undermine NUJ strike action.

In that case [the "MacShane case"] the House of Lords reversed Denning's ruling on the grounds that he had contradicted the existing law. Denning, however, was clearly undeterred. In the steelworkers' case, with identical circumstances, he has again ruled against strike action of a kind that has been taken time and again in the past.

But it is not a question of one reactionary judge stepping out of line. If the Tories get their way, and implement their proposed anti-trade union law, Lord Denning would have legal chapter and verse to make this sort of ruling against picketing, solidarity action, and other forms of strike action taken for granted by trade unionists in the past.

Denning's blatant class action underlines the lessons that the labour movement has learned time and again throughout its history.

Unless the trade unions—and many courageous individual workers—had been prepared to defy reactionary class laws the powerful trade union movement of today would not exist.

The working class would not have achieved even its present living standards, and democratic rights—which were won through the struggle of the labour movement—would be non-existent too.

The steel workers are determined to win. They will not allow their living standards to be ground down by the BSC bosses. They are battling on behalf of the whole working class against a Tory offensive on wages and jobs.

To make their strike effective, the action in the private sector must be made 100% effective. Every form of solidarity action from the dockers, the railwaymen, the miners and other sections of workers must be stepped up to ensure the victory of the steelworkers.

The right to defend jobs must also be made a key part of the present strike action.

The whole labour movement must mount a campaign to ensure that neither the judges nor the Tory government are able to use the law to undermine the right to organise and take effective action in the interests of working people.

on the picket line ...

● Women steelworkers are playing an active part in picketing. One of the "Middlesbrough Cargo Fleet Girls" said: "We'll not weaken, definitely not! We'll stand out all weathers until we get a favourable decision."

● Waiting for the ISTC

Executive to decide on what to do after Denning's ruling, Teesside steelworkers commented: "The Executive should stand firm. If they go to prison, we'll go with them. We're all behind them... We'll picket everywhere, definitely!" There was disappointment and anger that the determination expressed by EC members before the meeting changed into a decision to call off private-sector action until the Lords' ruling.

● Angry steelmen went to lobby Lord Denning at the law courts. However, just four were allowed to talk to his Clerk, Mr Post, in an ante-chamber: "I felt it was a measure of the contempt the law courts feel for steel workers," said one ISTC branch secretary.

● The Law usually moves at a snail's pace, but Denning reversed the first court's decision the next day, a Saturday. The Master of the Rolls didn't disappoint the 16 private firms who applied for the injunction against the ISTC [Denning's ruling doesn't apply to other firms or other unions involved].

● At Consett on Friday police tried to arrest a picket. About 160 other pickets said, "You've got to arrest us all"—and attempted to climb into the police cars. The Law gave up.

● The South Yorkshire strike committee have decided that if any steelworker is arrested for contempt under Denning's ruling, all safety cover will be withdrawn from steel plants.

● In Jarrow police tried to arrest a picket for allegedly damaging a car crossing the picket line. Other pickets immediately surrounded him and the police couldn't take him in. Later they said the car owner had decided he would not be pressing charges. Another victory for steel workers!

● Steelworkers' placards outside ISTC Executive on Tuesday: "Smelt Thatcher, re-roll Denning!" and "Dear Sirs, 20%, yours truly, South Yorkshire and all their friends" and "Kick Denning in the private sector!"

LPYS National Rally Against the Tories February 2nd

WHAT WE ARE FIGHTING FOR

By
Kevin Ramage
(Labour Party Young
Socialists National
Chairman)



The Labour Party Young Socialists demonstrate against the Tories in West London

Photo: Militant

The real cause of unemployment lies in the bosses' system, which is based on production for the private profit of the employers.

If the bosses' don't think they are making enough profits, they stop production, close down factories, and throw workers on to the dole queues.

Not a thought is given as to whether the products are needed or whether the workers need jobs.

The capitalist system is facing its worst crisis since the 1930s. Unemployment is rising throughout the capitalist world. In the EEC alone there are six million out of work of which a staggering 40% are under 25!

Now the crisis is hitting home, the British economy is being especially hard hit. While competitors abroad were at least investing their profits in manufacturing industry, the British bosses preferred to squander the profits which our work created.

They put their money into chasing the 'quick buck' of speculation in property and commodities. Now they increasingly find that they can't compete in world markets.

Their 'solution' is to make the working class suffer through unemployment, which is expected to rise

towards 2 million by the end of this year. This would be the highest level since the 1930s.

School leavers, young workers, workers with families, all of us are made to feel the pinch because of a crisis caused by the bosses system.

We don't accept this scandal! The only way to end the nightmare of unemployment is with socialist policies in the interests of the working class.

We demand: A guaranteed job for every school and college leaver.

A 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

According to the Transport and General Workers Union this alone would create about 700,000 new jobs.

An £80 minimum wage.

With a decent minimum wage, millions of workers would be saved from having to work long hours of overtime just to make ends meet. (A male manual worker works an average of about 46 hours a week at present).

A massive scheme of useful public works.

A huge programme of school, hospital, and house building could provide work for the 300,000 workers unemployed in the building industry and supply trades.

It could give work to unemployed teachers and nurses, and cut hospital waiting lists, class sizes, and provide homes for the home-

less.

In contrast, the Tories themselves estimate that the cuts they have made in public spending will mean another 300,000 out of a job.

The Tories and the bosses claim that they can't afford these kind of solutions to unemployment. Yet unemployment costs about £4,000 million just in unemployment and supplementary benefit payments.

The total cost to society of 1½ million unemployed is about £20,000 million, if lost production is taken into account.

The wealth to provide everyone with a decent standard of living is available in society, but the means of production are in the wrong hands.

That is why we call for the nationalisation of the top 200 or so monopolies which control over 80% of industry, with compensation only on the basis of proven need and under democratic workers' control and management.

Then control of industry will be taken out of the hands of the tycoons, and a socialist plan of production will be possible. We can utilize the resources and modern technology to provide for society's needs.

stration. Mick ended his remarks by saying he hoped that the future struggles of workers would ensure that these awards did not become an annual event.

The relevance of the LPYS programme was seen in the contribution of the other speaker, Tom Handley, the FOC (Branch president) of the National Graphical Association in Tillotons, yet another factory where closure had been announced.

In his contribution, Tom called for a fight for every job, and described the incompet-

ence of the bosses, who let new equipment lie idle for three years, so losing vital orders.

The press and radio told us they were coming but failed to show, perhaps because no one at the meeting was accusing the left of infiltration and calling for expulsions from the party! £51 was given in the collection at the meeting and another step in ensuring a mass turnout for February 2nd.



WELL SHE'LL CERTAINLY WIN
THE GOLD FOR THROWING
FOLK OUT OF WORK

The truth behind tory lies

The Tories and their press consistently spread lies and misinformation about unemployment. The reason is obvious—they need to hide the real causes.

They will blame anyone for the scandal of 1,400,000 unemployed—anyone except themselves and their system. Below we take up some of the Tory myths.

1. *Unemployment is caused by the 'Lazy British Worker'.*

The average British worker works longer hours [43.2 per week on average] compared to EEC counterparts [e.g. W Germany 41.5, Belgium 35.4, Italy 41.2].

2. *Britain's 'problem' is too many strikes.*

Workers are not 'strike happy'. A strike means losing pay, and is only ever a last resort.

Anyway, 28 million working days [the highest since 1926] lost through strikes is insignificant compared with more than four hundred million days of lost production as a result of well over a million people out of work.

3. *Unemployment is caused by too many immigrants.*

Unemployment is highest in areas such as Tyneside, Scotland, Merseyside and South Wales—all areas where the immigrant population is very small. In the 1930s they blamed the Jews for 3 million unemployed. Who will they try and make a scapegoat next?

4. *According to Thatcher, high pay is causing unemployment to go up.*

JOIN LABOUR'S YOUTH

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS, CONTACT: National Youth Officer, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London SW1.

If that was the case, directors and big shareholders would be the biggest contributors. In reality, average hourly pay [£2.60] in Britain is lower than in any other EEC country.

In West Germany, hourly pay averages out at £5.36—more than double—yet unemployment is lower.

5. *The unemployed are workshy.*

Nonsense. What about the 35,000 school leavers, still unemployed since last June—they've never even had a chance to find out what work is like. The Tories want to sack 50,000 steelworkers who work shifts in arduous, dangerous conditions. Have they suddenly become workshy?

6. *The unemployed are 'scroungers'.*

Perhaps the most vicious lie of all. To back it up. The Tories are trying to encourage people to spy on their neighbours!

This argument has been echoed by Prince Phillip [among others] who with his wife gets something over £80,000 a week tax free. An unemployed school leaver under 18 gets under £13.

Big business, who are the real scroungers, get state handouts and concessions of over £20 million a day. People in glass houses...

A Rogues' Gallery

Yes, Dunlops has won this year's award for that individual or group that has done most during the previous year to destroy Merseyside.

The awards were read out by LPYS member Mick Hogan at a Merseyside LPYS Rally held last week in Liverpool.

The full list of awards were: 5th Glaxo with 230 redundancies, 4th the Liberal Party for its policy of cutbacks on Liverpool city council, 3rd Mrs Thatcher (considered a front runner for the 1980 award), 2nd Meccano for 900 redundancies, and 1st Dun-

lops for 3,000 redundancies with more to come.

This 'rogues gallery' came in the part of the rally aimed at building support for the February 2nd LPYS demon-

By
Jerry Cope
(Bootle LPYS)

WITCH-HUNT DEFEATED

No witch-hunt and no expulsions. Despite an unprecedented campaign in the press and media the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party came out against the expulsion of a party member in Oxford and against any revival of the so-called "Underhill Report".

In addition to this by 12-11 it also decided to maintain the original composition of the Commission of Enquiry thereby ensuring it reflects the attitude of the LP membership.

During the debate on the Oxford member, Tony Benn explained that he was opposed to the expulsion of any member of the Labour Party just because of their ideas, be they on the left or right. Tony Saunois entered the discussion to argue that "political disagreements must be argued out. Organisational intrigue, manoeuvre and expulsions are steps taken by those incapable of defeating opponents politically."

The expulsion was defeated overwhelmingly, 14-8.

Yet by far the most crucial decision was relating to the "Underhill Report". A request by right-wing Labour

MP Neville Sandleson to be furnished with documents alleging 'infiltration' was turned down by 6-1 at the Organisational Committee.

The documents are completely unverified as being authentic and were submitted anonymously to the previous National Agent [now Lord Underhill]. If published it would have cost the party unnecessary expense and, more importantly, would have been taken as the thin end of the wedge to begin a political witch-hunt against the entire left wing of the Labour Party.

The right wing of the Party, including Lord Underhill, have claimed they do not want to initiate a witch-hunt, and say this 'report' should be published purely for 'information' reasons.

This claim was shattered last weekend by Roy Hattersley MP speaking at a LP meeting; having said 'Militant' supporters play an important part in policy making in some constituen-

cies and that 'Militant' "poses a real threat to the democratic organisation of the party", he said, "As a democratic socialist party we have the responsibility to make it clear that people who do not believe in the transformation of our society by democratic means have no right to membership of our party."

Confessions of a red mole! This shadowy figure appeared on ITN news, purporting to be a former 'Militant', telling sinister tales of how he was once a threat to western civilisation. This sort of rubbish would be intensified by the capitalist media if the so-called 'Underhill Report' was published, and would aid the right wing's attempts at a witch-hunt.

On the other hand, Roy Hattersley is being far from democratic by hoping to use organisational measures to stem the growth of Marxist ideas in the party, and his commitment to socialism can be judged by the role he played in the last government, and the policies he still puts forward.

Michael Foot, despite the opposition from his own CLP, moved reference back of the Organisation Committee minute. He suggested that the press be invited into Transport House to view these documents. If taken up the press barons would have a field day of fabricating plots and conspiracies.

With hardly any discussion the vote was to defeat the reference back, 14-12. Many members of the Labour Party will want an explanation as to why left winger Renee Short was reported as voting in favour of the motion.

The other important issue discussed was the demand for increased resources for the LPYS. Unfortunately, this was heavily defeated, the argument being that the party hadn't enough money. At last month's NEC a proposal to merge the budget of the youth committee and organisation committee was correctly defeated. Yet at that stage no serious opposition to a youth committee budget of £29,300 was voiced.

In fact the overall budget for the party provided for a youth budget of £29,300. Only after the attempt at merger of the youth and organisation budgets had been defeated did the Finance Committee then propose the youth budget be set at £20,000.

Only Joan Maynard, Jo Richardson, Eric Heffer and

Les Huckfield supported Tony Saunois at the NEC when he attempted to overturn the decision of the Finance Committee. LPYS and party members will undoubtedly be incensed at this decision which will starve the party youth section of funds desperately needed this year. Already approximately £3,000 has been spent on the national youth rally on February 2nd. Protests will be flooding in from YS branches and CLPs.

This NEC meeting saw the defeat of those both inside and outside the party who are attempting to take it back to the witch-hunting of the 1950s and regain domination for the disastrous policies of Labour's right wing.

Only Joan Maynard, Jo Richardson, Eric Heffer and

Photo: MILITANT



Labour students - marxist lead still needed

The new National Committee of NOLS elected at NOLS Conference showed their approach to politics at the first meeting of the NC on January 20th.

The 'Clause 4' supporters divided up 'Committees', 'Areas of Responsibility' etc, etc, amongst themselves, but failed to get down to the serious task of planning campaigns and activities to build up NOLS, and fight against the Tory attacks on education.

One good point was decided—the notorious 'Structure Working Party' was scrapped. This has been the body which continuously revised the NOLS constitution to the leadership's advantage.

A major blow for the NOLS leadership came when the two candidates they had supported at NOLS conference to stand on behalf of NOLS for full-time positions in NUS both withdrew as NOLS candidates.

They have decided to stand on the 'Left Alliance' ticket, which includes the Liberals. NOLS conference specifically rejected participating in this alliance. It is a scandal that the two individuals involved never raised this question at

NOLS conference—obviously their careers come before their commitment to NOLS.

In the discussion on resolutions remitted from NOLS conference; one calling for the nationalisation of the press monopolies was rejected, as was one demanding the nationalisation of the press under workers control and management. In a resolution on the National Health Service, the demand for an £80 minimum wage was deleted!

A hastily moved resolution on the witch-hunt of Militant by the Tory press was passed without being circulated to the meeting. The writer proposed a resolution, which gave a better expression of opposition to the witch-hunt, and took up the role played by the right-wing in the Party, which the other resolution did not. It read:

"This NOLS NC totally condemns the co-ordinated attempts of the Tory press to begin a witch-hunt against the 'Militant' supporters in the Labour Party as part of their general attack on the left of the Party. We deplore the actions of Lord Underhill and members of the Campaign for Labour Victory for using the capitalist media to attack the left after losing the political fight at Party Conference.

"We note that whilst there have

been reports that at least twelve Labour MPs are thinking of splitting from the Party to form a 'Centre Party', and that there have been detailed allegations made regarding CIA intervention in the Party, those raising the issue of infiltration have said nothing on these issues. This silence proves that the main purpose of this attack is an attempt to try to stop the Party's movement towards left, socialist policies.

"We call upon the Labour Party NEC to reject any calls for a witch-hunt, and to reaffirm its commitment to the building of a mass membership, fighting on socialist policies."

However, none of the 'Clause 4' supporters on the NC seconded this resolution, so it fell without a vote.

Every Labour Club should condemn the attempted witch-hunt of Militant, and demand an investigation into CIA funding of right wing journals and groups in the movement.

But the best answer Labour students can give to the Tory press is to build the Labour Clubs and support for the ideas of Marxism.

By Alan Watson
(NOLS National Committee)

Newham Militant Readers' Meeting

'Life under the Tories'



John Garrett, a member of the NUJ, speaking at the meeting.

Cuts hitting London's workers mean 2,000 fewer hospital beds, train and bus fares rising by a third and massive rent rises.

Bob Labi, a member of the London Labour Party Executive, painted this picture of life in London under the Tories at a Militant Readers Meeting in Newham last week.

The 30 or so present added their own experiences of the cuts and discussed the socialist response to them.

In Newham itself, it was pointed out, the Labour council had just discussed imposing a five per cent cut in services.

The physical effects of this, one young worker said, would mean doing away with home helps for the old and handi-

capped, cuts in the already overstretched social services and would mean the end of over 100 teachers jobs. "If the people of Newham had wanted Tory policies," she said, "they would've elected a Tory council."

That the government should give £50 million of state assistance to enable some children to go to private schools enraged another speaker. In Newham only 19 kids out of every thousand go to university, whereas in Richmond the figure is 89 out of 1,000. Are Newham's kids thicker?

Bob Labi from the platform tied in the fight against the cuts with the struggle of the steelworkers, and the attacks made on the 'Militant'.

The labour movement must be aroused. It is not enough just to oppose the cuts, Bob explained, "they must be stopped!" There was no way that Labour councils could manoeuvre around the cuts; the Tories were bringing in new laws to stop that—the

alternative was either to make the cuts or confront the Tories. This confrontation would then ask the basic questions facing British society—for whose benefit is it run?

But first a serious campaign must be fought. The Labour Party membership must be activated, street and factory meetings should be held, explaining the issues; posters and leaflets would take the news into every part of the borough, and links would be formed with other boroughs and areas fighting the cuts.

As one Post Office engineer put it, "Workers have to be smacked on the head sometimes to realise what's going on—and that's just what this government is doing to the working class." A collection afterwards raised over £40.

By John Garrett
(NUJ)

LEFT and RIGHT

Bricks to build houses? —No chance

Fed up with all those unpaid bills being blown off the mantel piece by the draught coming in through the window? What you need is a paper weight, and here's one for only a snip at £4,500. And it's not the usual boring type, such as a diamond cluster or a gold nugget—this one's the height of originality. It's a lump of old brick—part of a 2,000 year old one—and with it comes a letter from Prince Phillip which explains how the buyer has contributed to setting up the Royal Photographic Society. But if you can't afford 4½ grand and still want a brick paperweight, go along to the brick yards in Peterborough. There you will find a pile of over a million house bricks, which have been lying idle for over half a decade. Because of the crazy profit system, it is better in the bosses' eyes for the bricks to do nothing instead of being used to build hospitals, houses or schools.

Sympathy for profits

ISTC pickets outside the Lion and Tube company in Teesside withdrew their picket lines after a young manager at the works collapsed and died. The pickets did this as a sign of respect and stayed away from the firm the next day. But although the pickets may be sympathetic types, the boss of the company is certainly not. He used this opportunity to move some stocks of steel, although he told the 'Daily Mirror' [23 January] that "we didn't move more than we normally move." But the boss did add he "very much appreciated" what the pickets had done—whether he meant this because of their sympathetic action, or because he could move steel unhindered, he didn't say.

A bit of advice

The Soviet Union economy is facing deepening problems, as the Stalinist bureaucracies blunder along with their usual record of mis-management, acting as a fetter on the economy.

And now the bureaucrats through their incompetent measures to protect their position of privilege are, like the capitalist bosses of the west, using the old, old yarn of blaming the workers for all the country's ills, and telling them to work harder. But as 'The Times' [23 January] explained with almost heartfelt understanding, this isn't easy when you haven't got the horrors of the profit system to back up your demands. "It is virtually impossible to sack anyone in the Soviet Union, and there is no spectre of unemployment to frighten people into working conscientiously."

The Soviet workers should reject both offers of advice on how to get the economy pushing forward, and an increase of living standards. The solution lies not in creating mass unemployment, but demanding full workers' control of society based on the ideas of 1917, and end the totalitarian rule of the Stalinist clique.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE!

This is the second part of a two-part article by a Post Office engineer.

Here, he describes conditions at a factory he visited recently.

It's a real eye-opener to go into some factories—textile factories are the worst I've found. One I went to had machines packed in so tight that in most cases there wasn't enough space to walk around them—about 150 machines with girls sitting over them going flat out.

The gangways, marked out in yellow, were blocked with trollies of part-finished material, and it was impossible to get to the other side where the coin box was that I had to repair.

I asked one of the girls if there were any safety representatives and she said she didn't know who they were.

After fixing the phone box I sought out the shop steward and asked her if the place was usually in such a mess. She told me that she'd been to management about it and they'd half agree with her, but simply said that there was little they could do about it.

She then told me of the times she'd called the factory inspectorate in, and miraculously the day they'd come round the management had seen to it that everything was nice and tidy.

Of course, the inspectorate had arranged an appointment with management and had seen them before going round the factory.

She then said that the girls wouldn't stand up for their rights.

Before I could say anything she rushed over and asked two floor managers over to speak to me. Now this was rather a surprise. Here I was fixing a phone and I'd been



'Textile factories are the worst'—a typical clothing manufacturer in London's East End

dragged into impromptu discussions with management.

Not that I minded, except that I wasn't certain where I stood with my own boss if he was to find out, especially since it was keeping me from my next job.

What the hell, why should we have to walk through unsafe factory floors. If anything happened nobody would leap up offering compensation.

Especially when in this case it was a question of breaking elementary rules of "good house keeping" and would have been jumped on by any organised union.

The managers were very apologetic and said they were doing the girls a favour by letting them work here! To have proper aisles and safety standards they would have to take out some of the machines or lay off some of the girls.

I told them they should build an extension or move to a new factory if that was the case (smiling benignly as I did so). They stalled at that one,

saying that wasn't up to them but higher management, but they thought it unlikely since their production was seasonal anyway.

Seeing I was not going to get anywhere with them I told them I had to go. I thanked the shop steward and advised her to let the girls know more about what was going on—from my short discussion with the machine operator she didn't even know that the factory should have safety rules, never mind how to implement them!

I reported the incident to my union secretary—but I doubt if there's anything we can do—except possibly to black the factory until it's implemented elementary safety precautions.

On the positive side it's quite an eventful job compared to factory work which I used to do before joining the Post Office. It's nice to be able to see a job finished, and it gives some job satisfaction to know you've got something working again.

All the same with private industry muscling in, don't be surprised if we run out of the stores supplied by private manufacturers. A shortage in certain, much used stores is already occurring. Without doubt this affects the service we can give, let alone the aggro it can cause when we tell people we just haven't the parts to fix their phone or switchboard.

It seems strange that the workforce in the Post Office and the customers don't have control over all aspects of the business. It's a fact though that there are very large firms ready to pounce, to carve up the Post Office with little thought for us—whether they succeed remains to be seen!

In the first part of this article (18 January) it was mistakenly attributed to Rich Anderson.

Dear Sir.....

Readers may have noticed an article recently which appeared in the so-called 'left' magazine New Society. The four page article, written by Tom Forester, gave the usual run down of 'plots', 'red moles', etc, [yawn], some of which was echoed with great delight in the Tory press. It prompted a reply from one Labour Party Young Socialist which was published in the magazine, and is reprinted below:

Dear Sir

I realise that it's a little early in the year to be thinking of annual awards but I'd like to use your columns to nominate Tom Forester for the 1980 Bernard Levin Prize for Objective Reporting and Service to

Truth, Democracy and Freedom.

His article on the Trots in 'New Society' (10/1/80) was the finest piece of investigative journalism that I've seen since 1924 with the exposure of the letter from Zinoviev—something or other (anyway he was a Ruskie).

It was a splendid article all round—even the title (it was particularly clever to use the word 'moles', what with all this fuss over Blunt and so on).

I expect the cryptos will whine about it and say that there's only word to back up the vote-rigging allegation and that 'one student union officer' and an 'ex-Militant' are hardly authoritative sources but then some traitors will whine about anything once they've got a little Moscow gold in their pockets. Besides, one can hardly expect sources to reveal their names after courageously blowing the gaff on the menace in our midst. These trots will stop at nothing to silence their enemies—they had Stalin killed

in Mexico with an ice axe.

I've met a few of these Trotskyite chappies myself and Forester's quite right, they're boring and totally humourless, and if that doesn't prove that they want a one-party state then I don't know what does.

The exposé was a timely piece; somebody's got to put a bit of backbone into the Socialist Party and force them to publish the Red Underpants Report. Tom's work has not gone unnoticed in the press either. Even that pinko rag the 'Guardian' had to use it to advocate clearing out the Tribune subversives on Labour's NEC. And about time too.

Mind you, Tom had me worried for a while. I must confess that I thought he was a bit of a 'fellow traveller' himself with all those sympathetic articles about the bloody miners and council workers' low pay; not to mention using phrases like 'Fleet Street Boot Boys' and 'hysterical press attacks' to describe good, honest, patri-

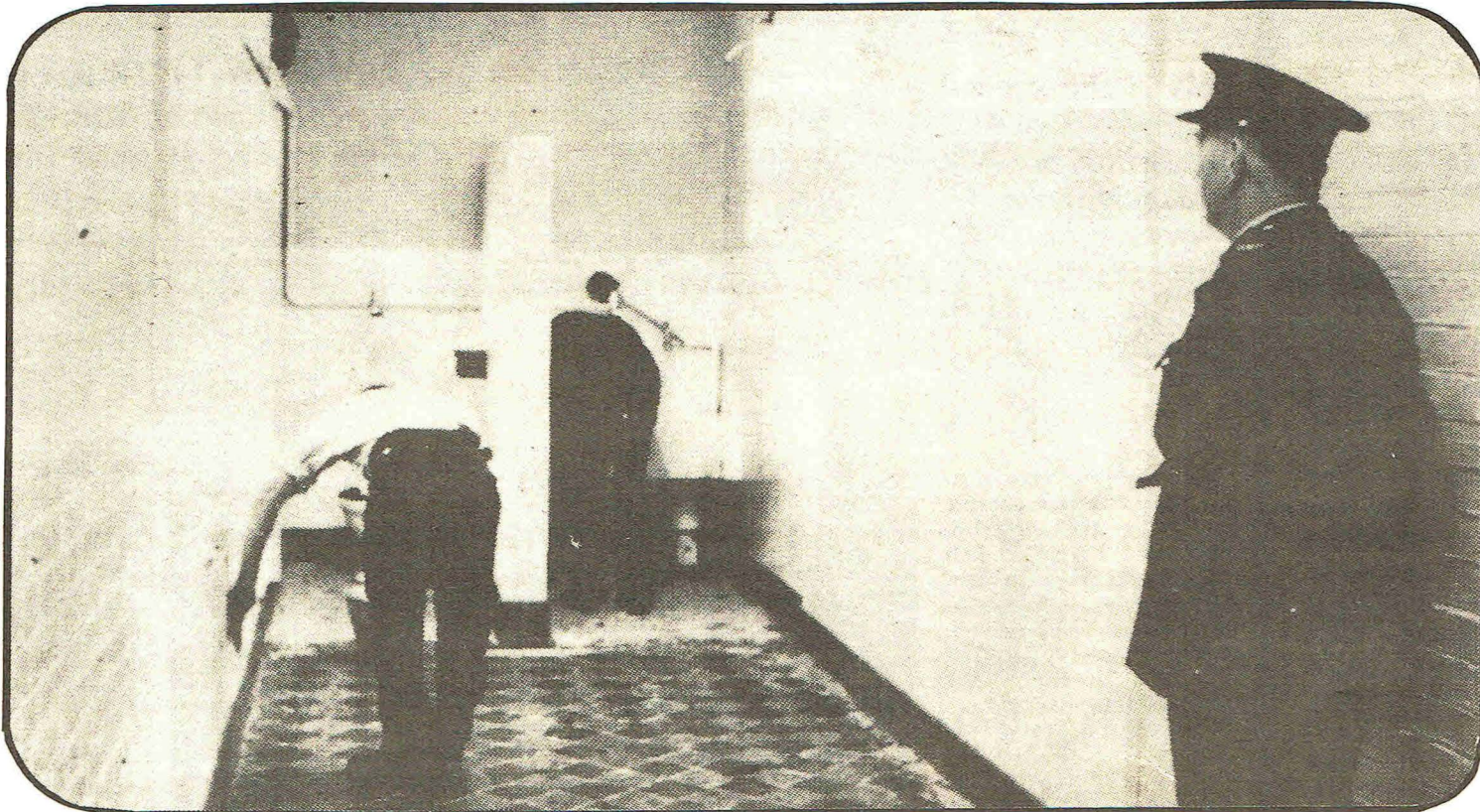
otic journalism.

But my mind is at rest now. Tom Forester once described himself as a 'humble Labour councillor.' Stuff and nonsense, he's obviously a man of substance. And not only that, he's upholding a great British tradition because isn't Timothy Raison (the chap at the Home Office making life difficult for those darkie immigrants) the same fellow who was the founding editor of 'New Society'? Better dead than red, and Tom Forester ought to know. Keep up the good work sir!

Yours sincerely
Steve Davies
Cardiff N Labour Party
Young Socialists
(McCarthyite section) and
Campaign for a Tory
Labour Party.

PS I notice that in last week's edition Tom's name wasn't to be found in its usual place under 'Editorial Staff'. Not got a job at the Home Office has he?

SHARP AND SHOCKING-



A hard vicious life—the Tories' only answer to mass unemployment

BUT NO ANSWER

“A short sharp shock. Life will be lived at a very fast pace.” This was the ‘promise’ William Whitelaw gave at last year’s Tory conference as his treatment for ‘increasing crime and violence.’

The true blue sadists and backwoods-men loved it. Young workers would see it differently.

After all the Tory government itself is a ‘shock’, presiding over a huge increase in unemployment and cut-backs. And as for crime and violence, what could be more criminal or violent than being thrust onto the dole queues, being born in a slum, and due to cuts, standing no chance of getting out of it.

The Tories will not, and can not, change the miserable conditions workers are increasingly facing—except for the worse.

Their “solution”, the short sharp shock centre is only the old vicious regime of incarceration writ large.

It is a system which has never brought down crime figures, particularly in the blackest periods of capitalist recession.

Mike Grieve, now a member of Kirkcaldy CLP, was sentenced to three months in the Glenochil Detention Centre in 1969, after an incident involving himself and bouncers at a night club.

Mike wanted to place a charge against the owners of the night club, but the police told him ‘they’ve got the money—you haven’t. You’ve got no chance.’

They advised him to plead guilty to a charge of assault and malicious damage, saying he would probably just get a £10 fine—he pleaded guilty and got three months at Glenochil.

“I was sent there under

Bob Wade spoke to Mike Grieve Kirkcaldy Labour Party

escort. When I got there a screw came up to me and said ‘Are you a hard man?’ and I said no. He went mad and shouted in my face ‘Sir!—You always call me sir!’ By this time I was trembling.

I was put in a cell, what we call dog boxes—they were 6 feet by 2½ feet. I was left in there for four hours—outside all I could hear was this wild screaming and shouting by the screws.

Eventually one came and got me and told me to double march. I didn’t know where I was going or what double march meant. I just started walking quickly. The screw started shouting again and grabbed me by the hair and dragged me up these stairs.

He kept shouting left then right. I was totally confused by this time and didn’t know what to do, which just made him madder.

After being told to write a letter to my next of kin saying I had arrived alive and well and everything was just fine, I had to see the medical officer for a checkup which was quite humiliating.

He was a gymnastic type with a great bullneck. The first he said to me was ‘so you think you’re a hard man?’ Then he said, ‘If for any reason any officer makes a mark on you there’s no point in telling anyone about it. And we don’t like shirkers who try and pretend they’re ill



William Whitelaw

to get out of work.”

“The routine was very hard. You got up at 5.30 am and had half an hour to get your room ready for inspection. You had to put your blankets into a ‘bed block’, a square shape, which had to have 90 degree corners.

Have you ever tried to do that with horse hair blankets? You had to dust everywhere too—and that meant everywhere!

At 6 am, in hob nails, vests and shorts, you went onto the tarmac for drill. A favourite game of the screws was to put a new inmate in the middle of the rest of us. When they got out of step it meant getting a kick in the shins or trod on by those of us who had to keep in step; if we didn’t we got a bash on the ear or kicked up the arse.

After that was toilet. Even that was done to procedure. Young lads of 16 with chins like girls’ had to shave. It was crazy!

Then came inspection. The screws would look everywhere for dust. In every nook and cranny, and under the mattresses. If they found any, it meant no recreation period, and extra work.

After breakfast was work, which in my case meant stripping down telephones. Throughout the day you weren’t allowed to talk, only if an officer asked you a question. You were only allowed to talk during the recreation period.

Also in the day you would have education lessons, al-

though these were far from that—they were totally mindless, and physical training. The usual thing was circuit training, a rotation of 15 exercises, with 15 minutes on each one.

You were watched, and if your performance didn’t improve you were put on report—you were ‘lazy’. After an hour’s recreation and supper you went to bed at 8.45 pm.

All you wanted to do was just fall into bed and sleep, but it didn’t end there. You were all lined up in front of your cell door and dismissed. If it wasn’t perfect you had to do it again. It usually took six times.

Then the screws might decide to make you do press ups, or sometimes we all had to double march up and down three flights of stairs three times. This really destroyed you, because you could see your bed just waiting for you!

I saw lots of violence there, with the screws attacking the inmates, who were powerless to stop them. One new inmate got a punch on the mouth from a screw. He forgot or didn’t know that he had to call them sir. The blow broke his false teeth and he had to go the whole three months without any teeth.

But the worst thing I saw was when they drove a bloke mad. We were on parade when one bloke, it was only his second day, fell to the ground holding his stomach.

The screw came running up and kicked him in the ribs

and screamed “Attention!”. The guy groaned. He couldn’t, so two of them dragged him off by his hair. We saw them kicking him along the corridor. In the medical officer’s room we could hear him screaming.

He was put in the segregation unit. A few days later I saw the MO and a screw standing in the doorway of his cell when I was working. The boy was in a corner cowering with his hands covering his face, and the MO was shouting “See you, you’re mad! Can you see all these wee men running around?”

They were laughing—the boy was crying and shouting. He was taken away to a hospital for the criminally insane. He just cracked up completely.

A lot of blokes tried to make themselves ill to get out to the comparative heaven of a prison hospital—swallowing metal polish was quite common. But one guy swallowed a needle.

When he reported this he was given cotton wool and a lollipop stick. He had to swallow the cotton wool, and when he went to the toilet he had to poke around in the excrement for the needle. When he found it and took it back, he was charged with theft and lost his remission!

In the hour a day we were allowed to talk to each other, all we ever talked about was what we wouldn’t like to do to various screws

Time after time, we would say how when we got out we would really make ‘them’ pay. We would plan it all—where we would go first and have a good drink and then cause some real trouble. And this is often what happened too. This sort of treatment is no deterrent.”

Of course it is no accident the Tories want to extend this sort of punishment with the reactionary policies they want to try and push through.

How long will it be before trade unionists arrested on picket lines or on demonstrations get put into these centres—to be made ‘decent citizens’ by the Tories?

Private Education - Public Funding

Education is considered to be a luxury by the Tories and their big business friends if you belong to the ‘lower orders’ that is.

After all, the working class only produce the wealth of the country. What does it matter if Britain produces a pathetic, small number of scientists, technicians etc, diseased British capitalism wouldn’t be able to employ them anyway.

Education for the sons and daughters of the rich is different. After all they have to ‘run the country’. But, our rulers protest, ‘we don’t spend public money. We send our children to ‘public’ schools and get no subsidy.”

A recent article in ‘New Statesman’ shows what hypocrisy this is. The Tories have recently announced a scheme for assisted places at private education establishments for the less wealthy, at the cost of £55 million.

How the bill mounts up

	Estimate 1	Estimate 2
	£m	£m
Ministry of Defence	32	32
Diplomatic staff	5.1	5.1
Overseas Development Administration	2.7	2.7
Fares	18	75
Local authority funding (including special education)	85.5	85.5
Charitable status: tax relief	35	35
Charitable status: rate relief	1.2	1.2
Bank of England loan scheme	1.7	1.7
Teacher training courses	170	255
Degree courses	161.5	161.5
	512.7	654.7

But far more than this is already paid out in subsidies to public schools. ‘New Statesman’ estimates that it is probably as high as £500 million, somewhat more than is received by British Leyland.

For example, allowances are made to all servicemen, and to diplomats, to get their children privately educated. In October 1979 the allowance would have been between £1,359 and £1,683 per child.

Most service allowances are taken (surprise, surprise) by officers. About 20,000 officers’ children are boarded out at public expense and many more are in private day schools.

Local authorities (particularly Tory ones) send children to public schools in certain circumstances. In 1977/78 Cheshire maintained 2,712 non-handicapped pupils officially and there are likely to be many more.

Independent schools have charitable status (for service to the poor?) and are eligible to exemptions from income tax on profits, capital gains tax and capital transfer tax.

Add to this the spending on training teachers in the public sector who use their skills in private schools, the loss to tax revenue of firms giving private schooling as a tax-free perk for executives, and the public funding of private education adds up to a huge sum.

Public education gets a hammering, while enormous sums (which are to be increased) are ploughed into the private sector for the rich. And the Tories still claim we are all suffering equally!

"A RISEN PEOPLE"

"The day 700,000 people voted with their feet" proclaimed the 'Irish Times'.

The press were astonished and somewhat overawed by the size of the demonstrations on January 22nd against the inequitable tax system which took place throughout Southern Ireland.

The government party, Fianna Fail, is the main representative of big business in Southern Ireland. Since sweeping to power in 1977 on the basis of lavish promises to improve workers' conditions, the working class have borne the brunt of attacks on living standards designed to rescue capitalism.

The working class is now definitely a majority in the country, and a highly organised one. Sixty per cent of all workers are organised in trade unions.

With both the capitalist parties Fianna Fail and Fine Gael showing themselves in their true lights, and the unions on the march, the stage is set for further big class battles.

Militant reporters in Dublin and Cork report on the latest demonstration:

Next issue of 'Militant Irish Monthly' out soon

Report from
Dublin by
Patrick Smith
(Dublin South LP Youth
personal capacity)

The general strike called for 22nd January by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions [ICTU] was an overwhelming success. 700,000 workers and their families, more even than the total affiliation to Congress marched in 27 centres throughout the Republic.

In Dublin, between 350,000 and 400,000 marched in a show of strength and determination that overshadowed the massive turnout of 20th March last year. Even the capitalist press proclaimed a 'Risen people'.

The issue which has brought to a boiling point the seething anger of the organised labour movement in Ireland is that of taxation. Figures show that 88.4% of all income tax is paid by means of PAYE. In other words, overwhelmingly by working people.

Fianna Fail, rewarding their big business backers,



The largest demonstration in Southern Ireland's history, protesting against the tax system, on January 22nd Photo: Eamonn O'Dwyer (IFL)

have abolished wealth tax and are reducing to minimal levels Corporation Taxes while simultaneously food subsidies are being phased out.

The large rancher farmers, massive beneficiaries of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy pay next to no tax at all, while the self-employed have seen a gradual reduction in their share of the tax burden in the last five years.

The workers have seen such government policies as an attack on the living standards of the whole class. The banner of marchers reflected their opposition to the rich.

'Tax the property speculators' read a number of placards and in innumerable references to the millionaire Prime Minister Charles Haughey, placards asked how much tax he paid. The occasional sight of pin-striped executives peering down from plush hotels were greeted with jeers of derision!

The Irish Transport and General Workers alone counted 50,000 strong behind its band. The Post Office Workers Union, after going through its first prolonged strike since 1920 marched jubilantly in massive strength.

Every section of the workforce was represented, from the general unions like the Federated Workers Union of Ireland to civil servants, craft unions and even off-duty policemen.

Tax officers protested at the system they had to manage.

The only politicians to march were those of the Labour Party, a clear proof of the class nature of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. It was a shame though that the Party did not march under its own banner.

Labour Youth alone had to try to link the political struggle to change society to the demands of a campaign that cannot be won by industrial action alone.

The Labour Youth marched under several of their constituency banners and held a very successful meeting immediately after the demonstration.

As John Throne, a member of the Administrative Council of the Party explained at that meeting "the movement cannot last unless it is turned into a political campaign by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Labour Party

to drive Fianna Fail from office and to fight for a majority Labour government pledged to a socialist programme."

The movement reflects not only the anger of workers at the issue of taxation, but also their disgust at high levels of unemployment, the chronic housing shortage and falling living standards.

Activists in the labour movement have also lost patience, understandably at being shackled over the last few years by national wage agreements and understandings, which have profited no one but the rich.

The movement has shown its willingness to fight in these demonstrations. Those speakers who warned the ICTU not to let the government off the hook or to back down got by far the best response from an enthusiastic crowd.

In the march in Dundalk, one speaker concluded, to rapturous applause, with the words of James Connolly "We only want the earth." The new decade will see this revolutionary tradition of Connolly once again revived.

By Joe Higgins [Militant Irish Monthly]

Cork

Between 60,000 and 70,000 workers turned out in Cork City to take part in the nation-wide protests. Industry in the city and many of the surrounding towns closed down as workers responded to the call by Cork Trade Council to join the march.

The scale of this turn-out can be appreciated only if you remember that the population of the city is about 140,000. Imagine half the population of London, 4 million or so marching through the West End!

Militant Irish Monthly was the only labour and trade union publication being sold and was in great demand, as evidenced by the fact that this seller alone sold 115.

A number of workers referred to the witch-hunt against the Militant in Britain, showing how events in Britain are eagerly watched here, and in future will influence the ranks of the labour movement in Ireland.

By Joe Higgins [Militant Irish Monthly]

beneath fine words - Health Service Budget Slashed

Faced with a growing movement of opposition to their cuts policies, the Tories have tried unsuccessfully, to put our minds at rest about the future of the health service.

They have denied that they are cutting back on NHS spending. True, they admit that last June's VAT increase has cost the NHS £40 millions during 1979. They concede that inflation above the 8½% level at which they started off in power has cost the NHS a further £60 millions.

But they have promised that future spending levels will take account of these increases. Managements have used this argument, claiming the cuts are only of a temporary nature, and that spending levels will be restored next April.

The Tories also claim that they are maintaining the levels of health spending as planned by the last Labour government, that is of a modest growth in real terms.

Publication of the Public Expenditure White Paper, and the statements of Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, shatter these arguments. They show that behind the fine words lie further cuts.

Governments accept that the NHS requires 1% to 2% growth per year in spending,

merely to stand still. This is nothing to do with inflation. Costs are rising due to the changing population structure and to the introduction of new drugs and new medical techniques.

By Ian Burge

(Secretary, Tower Hamlets Health District JSSC)

The 3% 'growth' announced for the year 1980/81 merely covers this expected increased requirement over the two year period since 1978/79.

Patrick Jenkin stated in

Parliament, however, that 2½% of this 3% would be to make up the losses imposed by cash limits on this year's NHS spending, leaving only ½% left for the inevitable 2% to 4% actual increased costs. It is clear that already we are faced with a continuation of this year's drastic cuts.

Based on an expected 11½% inflation, rather than the 8½% originally allowed for by Labour, the current year's NHS cuts have been estimated at £125 million, including £25 million towards the costs of wage increases. As yet we don't know how wage awards will be funded next year. But already inflation is running over 17%, so the cut this year will be even greater than so far officially acknowledged.

As shown above, this will

effectively be carried forward next year as a permanent cut.

Whichever way you look at it, it is going to be in the region of £200 millions (and probably more) out of a total figure of approximately £9,000 millions. This would roughly be the equivalent of say, closing 100 medium size hospitals.

It would involve upwards of 40,000 jobs, and affect maybe 200,000 or 400,000 in-patients per year for whom no beds will be available.

It is not possible to work out the exact implications of the Tories' policies in terms of future cuts without the actual cash limits figure, yet to be allocated, and the assumptions on which it is based.

If the allocations underestimate the inflation rate, the situation will be even worse,

with health authorities attempting to make huge panic 'savings'. Yet already as the end of the current financial year approaches many Districts and Areas will be overspent and hoping for an easier time next year.

One final point should be borne in mind. What will be "restored" by the government? It is only spending levels which can be restored, and there is grave doubt about whether this will be done.

But there is no way in which health will be restored to those who have had to forego treatment because of the cutbacks. No Tory magic can restore life to those who died because of NHS cuts.

These effects of cutbacks are permanent. Waiting lists go up—and they stay up.

HOW THE CIA FUNDED LABOUR'S RIGHT-WING

This week 'Militant' publishes the second of a series of extracts from the article 'The Sunday Times' wouldn't print—because it revealed secret backing for Labour's right-wing from America's Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1972, 'The Sunday Times' Colour Magazine commissioned Richard Fletcher to research and write an article on CIA backing for penetration of the Labour parties and trade unions.

However, when he read the article, which drew together overwhelming evidence of CIA backing for right-wing journals, groupings and personalities and the Labour Party, editor Harold Evans refused to print it. "These are the people we support," he said.

The extracts printed last week outlined the CIA's multi-million dollar post-war operation to penetrate the labour movement, including in Britain.

This week's extracts give more details of the role of 'Socialist Commentary' the 'Campaign for Democratic Socialism', and of the activities of right-wingers like Tony Crosland, Bill Rogers, and Denis Healey.

If these people were unaware of the CIA's covert role, surely they would be the first to support a thorough Party investigation into interference by intelligence organisations?

Since Richard Fletcher's article was written, much more evidence has come to light. In 1976, for instance, the US Senate's Church Committee

came to this conclusion about "Clandestine Activities, 1953-61":

"Financial support to individual candidates, subsidies to publications including newspapers and magazines involved in local national labor unions—all of these interlocking elements constituted the fundamentals of a typical political action program. Elections, of course, were key operations, and the Agency involved itself in electoral politics on a continuing basis. Likewise, case officers groomed and cultivated individuals who could provide strong pro-Western leadership.

"Beyond the varying forms of political action and liaison the Agency's program of clandestine activities aimed at developing an international anti-Communist ideology...activities included operations to assist or create international organisations for youth, students, teachers, workers, veterans, journalists and jurists. This kind of activity was an attempt to lay an intellectual foundation for anti-communism around the world."

[Final Report, Book IV, pp 49-50].

Labour's National Executive has so far taken on a recommendation to instigate a thorough investigation into the role of the intelligence services. It is now vital that the NEC begins such an enquiry.

These extracts are taken, with the author's permission, from the article commissioned by the 'Sunday Times Magazine' in 1972 but first published by Radical Research Services, and later re-published in 1977 by Spokesman Books under the title 'The CIA and the Labour Movement'.

While top people were relaxing with Prince Bernhard, the Congress for Cultural Freedom was establishing solid ties with the coming man of the British Labour Party, Anthony Crosland, who was by now acknowledged as the Party's chief theoretician. He had lost his seat at Westminster in the 1955 election, but in the following years was travelling regularly to Paris to plan the International Seminars of the CCF with Melvin Lasky and Michael Josselson under the directorship of Daniel Bell.

Michael Josselson, who in 1967 admitted that he had for 17 years been channelling CIA money into the CCF, has described to us Crosland's role at this period. Crosland's contribution, he says, was "encouraging sympathetic people to participate in the seminars sponsored by the Congress functions in Milan 1955, New Delhi 1957, the island of Rhodes 1958 and Berlin 1962. Crosland himself travelled to Vienna in 1958, to Berlin in 1960 and to Australia and Japan in 1964 on a Congress-sponsored tour.

He was at this date a member of the International Council of the CCF after nearly a decade working to re-model European socialism in the image of the American Democratic Party, a cause for the sake of which the CCF had financed a systematic campaign of congresses, seminars and private gatherings for leading Socialists throughout Europe.

This had been backed up by the fullest publicity in 'Encounter', 'Preuves', 'Monat' and the other CCF journals—whose influence was further extended by discreet arrangements with 'Socialist Commentary' for publishing each other's pamphlets and articles.

Rita Hinden was by now the editor of 'Socialist Commentary' and playing a similar role to Crosland in picking African participants for Congress seminars. Michael Josselson describes her as "a good friend of ours. We relied entirely on her advice for our African operations." She also visited India and Japan on a CCF-sponsored trip after the Suez crisis, speaking on the

theme that traditional socialism was irrelevant in a modern capitalist society where there was full employment.

This was the nub of the matter. Many of Europe's socialist parties still had old-fashioned Marxist notions written into their rule-books, which had become an embarrassment to their leaders. A glaring example was the British Labour Party whose Clause IV—"common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange" and so on—sounded to some like a passage from the Communist Manifesto.

The proof of its irrelevance seemed provided by the 1959 General Election in which Anthony Crosland regained his seat at Westminster, but which represented a catastrophic defeat. Roy Jenkins, Anthony Crosland and Douglas Jay were among a small group who met with Gaitskell at his home. They decided that the time had come for Labour to drop its old commitments and get rid of its cloth cap image which had become an electoral liability.

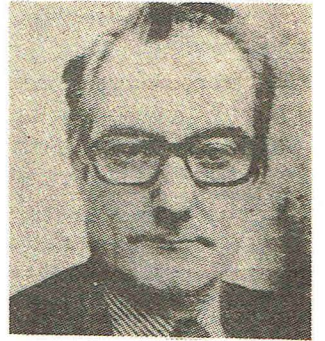
Clause IV

Douglas Jay immediately wrote the now celebrated article which appeared in 'Forward' the following week, calling for the abandonment of Clause IV and a change in the Labour Party's name. And early in 1960, 'Socialist Commentary' commissioned Mark Abram's firm, Research Services Ltd., to carry out an attitude survey on "Why Labour Lost".

The results were published in the journal's May to August number, and they confirmed the Gaitskell thesis that nationalisation was a liability. This Abrams survey had been turned down by the Labour Party Executive before the 1959 election as being too costly. But now 'Socialist Commentary' found the money to pay for it, and in February 1960 William Rodgers, General Secretary of the Fabian Society since 1953, organised a letter of support to Gaitskell signed by 15 young Parliamentary candidates. Shortly afterwards, a steering committee was set up with Rodgers as chairman,

and including some of the signatories of the Gaitskell letter together with Crosland, Roy Jenkins, Patrick Gordon Walker, Jay, other Party members from Oxford and some sympathetic journalists.

This group started work on a manifesto to be released in the event of Gaitskell's defeat in the defence debate at the Party Conference. This duly occurred in the autumn of 1960, when the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament triumphed in its campaign to win the Labour Party to a neutralist programme.



Bryan Magee [then Parliamentary candidate Mid-Beds] resigned from CDS in 1961 when they wouldn't disclose the source of their ample funds.

So in October 1960 Rodgers and his friends released their manifesto in 25,000 copies with widespread press coverage. Calling for "Victory for Sanity"—a dig at their old enemies the "Victory for Socialism" group—they appealed to Party members to rally behind Gaitskell and his Conference call to "fight and fight again".

They also issued an appeal for funds with which to continue the campaign, and in mid-November Rodgers reported to the steering committee that many small donations had been received, together with a large sum from a source which wished to remain anonymous.

Rodgers' windfall enabled the group to take a permanent office and appoint paid staff. The title "Campaign for Democratic Socialism" was chosen and a six-man Executive Committee set up with Rodgers as full-time paid Chairman. The Committee was told that available funds were sufficient for a year's activities and CDS thus had a start on its opponents who, in spite of their widespread support in Labour constituencies and trades unions, were





unable to raise more than a few hundred pounds over the following year and had to rely entirely on volunteer workers.

At CDS's disposal were field-workers in the constituencies and unions, whom it supported with travelling expenses, literature and organisational back-up, tens of thousands of copies of the manifesto, pamphlets and other publications, plus a regular bulletin, 'Campaign', circulated free of charge to a large mailing list within the movement. And all this was produced without a single subscription-paying member.

CDS achieved its objectives. The unions cracked under the pressure and the Labour Party returned to the Atlantic fold at the Party Conference in 1961 after a campaign by the most effective pressure group the Party had ever seen. Rodgers was its driving force. With financial backing assured, he created an organisation whose influence was out of all proportion to its original support among Party members. Whoever put up the money could justly claim to have influenced perceptibly the history of the Labour Party and of Britain in the 1960s.

CIA's conduits exposed

Nor did the importance of CDS vanish totally after it had restored the Labour Party to commitment to NATO for its adherents felt bitterly betrayed when Hugh Gaitskell later qualified his support for Common Market entry at the Brighton Con-

"[CIA] case officers groomed and cultivated individuals who could provide strong pro-Western leadership ... This kind of activity was an attempt to lay an intellectual foundation for anti-communism around the world."
—US Senate [Church] Committee, Report on the CIA.

ference in 1962. Standing at the back of the hall Rodgers turned to the Party press officer, John Harris—later Roy Jenkins' PR man—and said "I'm through with that man, John." Anthony Crosland, furthermore, supported Gaitskell's compromise and so also lost the backing of the ardent marketeers, who henceforward rallied around Roy Jenkins.

One of the consequences of these divisions was that they helped Harold Wilson to capture the leadership on Gaitskell's death. Finding the Parliamentary Party moulded in the Gaitskell image, its policies firmly rooted in Crosland's 'Future of Socialism', Wilson made no attempt to alter the package which became the programme of the next Labour government.

Throughout this post-war period the Party apparatus remained firmly in orthodox hands, particularly the International Department of which Denis Healey had been head until he entered Parliament in 1952. Then in 1965 his old post was taken over by J Gwyn Morgan, one of the rising generation of Party and union

officials whose careers began in the National Union of Students to whose Presidency he had been elected in 1960 on an anti-communist ticket.

As President he took charge of international affairs, representing the Union in the International Student Conference at Leiden, and on leaving the NUS in 1962 he became Assistant General Secretary of ISC in charge of finance. In this capacity he negotiated with the American foundations which supplied the bulk of ISC funds and supervised expenditure of the several million dollars devoted to world-wide propaganda and organisation. In 1964 he became Secretary General of ISC.

In his five years' association with the organisation he visited over 80 different countries and got to know personally many heads of government and leaders of the world's principal social democratic parties. An ardent pro-European and active supporter of Roy Jenkins, he was an obvious choice to fill the vacant slot as head of Labour's Overseas Department at the beginning of 1965. Two years later Morgan



Photos: [left] Hugh Gaitskell, who as Labour leader led the move to ditch the socialist aims embodied in Clause IV; [right] Anthony Crosland, who was sponsored by the CIA-funded Congress for Cultural Freedom and associated

with 'Socialist Commentary'; [above] Crosland, then Labour Foreign Secretary, chats at his home with Henry Kissinger, who directed US imperialism's intervention in Vietnam and throughout the globe.

was promoted to the newly-created post of Assistant General Secretary of the Labour Party, with the expectation that he would fill the top job on Harry Nicholas's retirement.

But early in 1967 the US journal 'Ramparts' revealed that since the early Fifties the National Student Association of America had, with the active connivance of its elected officers, received massive subventions from the CIA through dummy foundations and that one of these was the Fund for Youth and Student Affairs which supplied most of the budget of ISC. The International Student Conference, it appeared, had been set up by British and American Intelligence in 1950 to counteract the communist peace offensive, and the CIA had supplied over 90% of its finance. The Congress for Cultural Freedom was similarly compromised. Michael Josselson admitted that he had been channelling CIA money into the organisation ever since its foundation—latterly at the rate of about a million dollars a year—to support some 20 journals and a world-wide programme of political and cultural activities...

In 1961, William Bohn, 'New Leader' editor recalled Sol Levitas' miraculous ability to finance the journal—ed.

Socialist Commentary's big capital reserves

The "miracle" was resolved by the 'New York Times': the American Labour Conference for International Affairs which ran the 'New Leader' had for many years been receiving regular subventions from the J M Kaplan Fund, a CIA conduit.

The CIA had taken the lessons taught back in the early Fifties by Burnham and the 'New Leader' to heart. With its army of ex-communists and willing socialists it had for a while beaten the communists at their own game—but unfortunately it had not known when to stop and now the whole structure was threatened with collapse. Rallying to the agency's support, Thomas Braden, the official responsible for its move into private organisations, and Executive Dir-

ector of the American Committee on United Europe, explained that Irving Brown and Lovestone had done a fine job in cleaning up the unions in post-war Europe. When they ran out of money, he said, he had persuaded Dulles to back them, and from this beginning the world-wide operation mushroomed.

Another ex-CIA official, Richard Bissell, who organised the Bay of Pigs invasion, explained the Agency's attitude to foreign politicians: "Only by knowing the principal players well do you have a chance of careful prediction. There is real scope for action in this area: the technique is essentially that of 'penetration'... Many of the 'penetrations' don't take the form of 'hiring' but of establishing friendly relationships which may or may not be furthered by the provision of money from time to time. In some countries the CIA representative has served as a close counsellor... of the chief of state."

After these disclosures the CCF changed its name to the International Association for Cultural Freedom. Michael Josselson resigned—but was retained as a consultant—and the Ford Foundation agreed to pick up the bills. And the Director of the new Association is none other than Shepard Stone, the Bilderberg organiser who channelled US government money to Joseph Retinger in the early Fifties to build the European Movement and then became International Director of the Ford Foundation.

When Rita Hinden died at the end of 1971 after 20 years as editor of 'Socialist Commentary', George Thomson—a pillar of CDS who resigned in 1972 from Labour's front bench with Roy Jenkins—paid tribute to her key role in transforming the Labour

Party. In the Fifties, he said, her "ideas were greeted with outraged cries of 'Revisionism'."

"But by the mid-Sixties the revisionism of 'Socialist Commentary' had become the orthodoxy of the labour movement." And Denis Healey's comment was equally revealing. "Only Sol Levitas of the American 'New Leader'," he said, "had a comparable capacity for exercising a wide political influence with negligible material resources." He obviously hadn't paid a visit to Companies House whose Register shows that in recent years 'Socialist Commentary' has been drawing on a capital reserve of over £75,000.

Through its network of front organisation, magazines and subsidies the CIA in the late Fifties and early Sixties had a decisive effect on socialist throughout Western Europe, and in Britain in particular, but the Gaitskellism that it backed is now on the retreat.

For those Labour leaders who, in all innocence, built their careers in the seminars of the Congress of Cultural Freedom and the columns of 'Encounter' or the 'New Leader', rather than in the trade union branch or on the Conference floor, are now feeling the lack of a mass base within the Party.

Attacked by Gaitskell at the Labour Party Conference in 1960 as a fellow traveller, Michael Foot retorted 'but who are they travelling with?' and the question is one that other members of the Party echo. For the chairmen of the world's largest capitalist organisations, monarchists, ex-Nazis, commanders of the American and German forces, the Crown Princes of Europe and CIA agents do indeed make strange travelling companions for Socialists.

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Evidence of interference in the labour movement by American and British intelligence has been steadily accumulating. The National Executive must undertake a thorough enquiry now.



MILITARY THREAT GROWS IN TURKEY

“When a Romanian oil tanker exploded in Istanbul two months ago, many people’s reaction to the noise was that the civil war had started.” [Financial Times 21st January]

With between 150 and 200 people being killed each month, the economy in desperate straits and last month’s ultimatum from the armed forces chiefs to parliament, crisis is almost an understatement to describe Turkey’s position.

By Brent Kennedy

Will the army take over? It takes no great imagination to guess the arguments for a coup circulating among the officer caste: ‘democracy isn’t working, the government is hamstrung by a parliamentary deadlock while the economy sinks lower; the unions are too powerful; the Kurdish provinces are threatening secession and civil war looms.’

But the top brass have already installed themselves in power twice in the last 20 years and for all the vicious terror they launched against the workers their attempts to solve the problems of the economy ended in utter failure. The big question they must be asking themselves now is what would happen if military dictatorship—the last prop of capitalism—failed once again?

What could they then expect from a labour movement much more powerful

than last time? What effect would a workers’ offensive have on the 500,000 workers and peasants in uniform?

A dictatorship in Turkey would stand isolated as the only such creature in existence in capitalist Europe and its demise could well produce such a revolution that engulfed Portugal.

At some stage of the Turkish deadlock the armed servants of the ruling class may decide they have no alternative but to take over, but for now they do not want that responsibility, hence their desperate attempt to force the politicians to do their job.

At the end of November the minority right wing Justice Party (JP) led by Demirel replaced Ecevit’s social democratic Republican People’s Party (RPP) as Turkey’s government.

Undoubtedly, the best course of action for the ruling class would be a coalition of the two major parties, but in the way of that stands not only the personal ambitions of the rival party leaders but the antipathy of their members. In a charged political polarisation this would probably

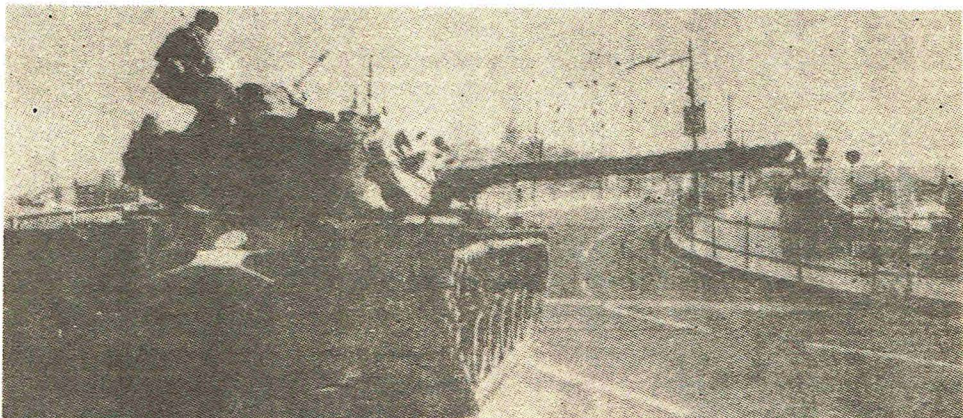
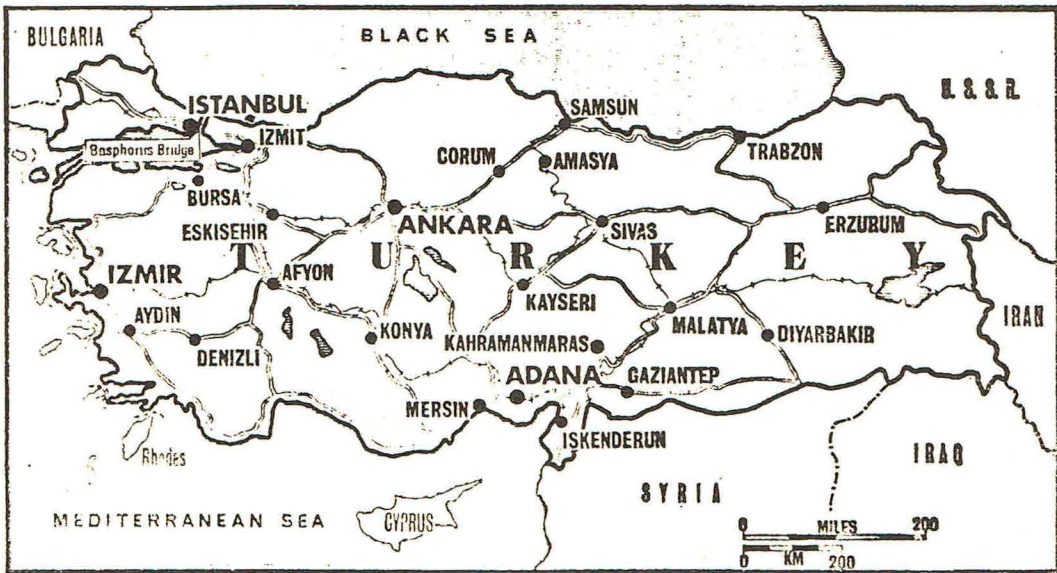
result in a split in the RPP.

And the JP on the other side relies on the support of the fanatical Islamic fundamentalists of the National Salvation Party and the fascist National Action Party, which is responsible for most of the terrorist attacks.

The NAP in the past were accused of manufacturing explosives by Ecevit’s Interior Minister; the leader of the Istanbul NAP youth branch has been charged with torturing to death the editor of a left wing newspaper; hundreds of NAP members have been involved in assaults and killings, yet nothing was done by Ecevit’s last government to ‘shut down the fascist NAP’. On the contrary, where workers formed their own self-defence groups to deter further attacks these were disbanded and disbanded by the state, leaving the terror gangs to roam free.

The NAP has also been shown to have been behind the horrific sectarian massacre of all Alevi Moslems by right wing Sunnis in Kahramanmaraş last December. These slaughterers were taken into Demirel’s previous coalition government.

One of Demirel’s first measures on entering office this time was to purge the state machine of RPP sympathisers and install his own right wing followers in all the key posts. Where objections were raised by workers in government departments, thugs were sent to silence them. In reality the fascist gangs, calling themselves the ‘Grey Wolves’, have been let off their already long leash.



Tanks on the streets last year to try to prevent May Day demonstrations

Greater powers recently given to the military will be used mainly against the left. In the last week of December about 4,000 trade unionists were arrested and four killed in an attack on a huge rally against fascism called by the teachers’ union. Ankara’s martial law authority then clamped down on television reports of the attack as part of a policy of censorship which keeps quiet about right wing atrocities but highlights left wing reprisals.

Workers can rely on nothing but their own organisations to defend democratic rights and their very lives. Unless armed workers’ defence groups are set up under the democratic control of the trade unions the workers will be left prostrate before the murder gangs whose activities are bound to grow with exasperation over unemployment and shortages in a deteriorating economic crisis.

When Ecevit was in office, he put his faith in the ‘impartial’ state forces to

protect workers from intimidation. Yet even then the state was used against workers. On May Day last year, under the RPP government, trade unionists were shot and arrested—under powers introduced by Ecevit himself.

Unemployment is now at 20%, inflation at 75%. the economy is in an absolutely desperate position. The ‘growth’ rate of 2.4% in GDP last year compares badly with an average per annum of 6.9% from 1963-76.

Turkey’s foreign debt now totals \$14 billion. The current account trade deficit last year was \$2.2 billion. The IMF has offered assistance—but only at the price of an austerity package. Last Thursday’s 33% devaluation and increase in food prices means a massive attack on workers’ living standards.

Any attempt by Ecevit to form a coalition with Demirel would pave the road to disaster. Capitalism in Turkey can offer the working people nothing but repression

and cutbacks.

A socialist alternative to the military to Demirel, the IMF and Turkish capitalists must be posed.

The prime tasks facing the labour movement today must be the defence of workers’ living standards and jobs from attacks by the IMF and Demirel, and the defence of their lives and organisations from the fascist and state attacks.

But the only lasting solution to the Turkish impasse can come from the working class taking the running of society out of the feeble hands of a ruling class that simply cannot compete with its more advanced capitalist rivals in Europe.

It is now vital that the RPP adopts Marxist programme, policy and leadership in place of the present vacillation.

Bold workers action and a bold socialist programme are now the only alternatives to bloody reaction.

Things go together with Vodka - Cola?

Steve Walk [Hexham CLP] reviews ‘Vodka-Cola’ by C Levinson [£7.90]

Are the two social systems of Western multi-national capitalism and Stalinist Eastern Europe moving together? Are the anti-trade union interests of authoritarian companies in the West and the dictatorial bureaucratic elite in the East becoming closer? Is the new world to

co-production where both multi-nationals and state enterprises manufacture components belonging to a final product; of joint ventures, of use of Western technology. Levinson argues that this is laying the ground of a new science-based world economy.

In the early days of the USSR, in the 20s and 30s, Western capitalism wanted to destroy all the gains of the revolution. Now Levinson argues, they want to co-operate.

He defines the ruling elite in the USSR as a ‘new class’. Economic pressures will bring convergence. This will not be a positive convergence of extension of a planned economy with the expansion of democracy.

According to Levinson: “Trade union independence and the basic freedoms are rejected and despised by both sides of the Vodka-Cola camp. That is why a negative convergence seems more likely, emphasising the authoritarian characteristics of both systems.”

But Levinson’s theory focuses on the forms of rule and not on the class basis of the social systems involved. The Russian bureaucracy crushes any manifestation of democracy or protest, just like a military-police or fascist regime, but the elite gains its perks and privileges from the abolition of capitalism and imperialist rule in the USSR.

They do not own the means of production, like a capitalist, and cannot be defined as a new class. In the last

analysis they have to defend the gains of the revolution—the ending of the private ownership of industry—and find themselves in opposition to world capitalism.

Despite all the economic links, and Levinson exaggerates their importance on a world scale for multi-national capitalism, there can be no convergence for there is no basic identity of interests. The fundamental hostility was shown again recently over Afghanistan.

The world of Vodka-Cola will not come about. But the forces represented within it do share one thing in common, fear of the power of the working-class to change society.

In the west, to end the rule of private ownership of the commanding heights of the economy, and in the East to end the control of society by an authoritarian bureaucratic caste. Workers democracy in the East and West is the only way to bring ‘convergence’.

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SOUTH AFRICA

WHICH WAY FOR S.AFRICAN LIBERATION?

On 17th of January the 'Guardian' reported that four leading anti-apartheid campaigners in Britain had been suspended from South Africa's main liberation movement, the African National Congress [ANC].

The ANC stated that they had been suspended and faced possible expulsion. Apparently a document critical of the leadership had been circulated.

Although 'Militant' has not seen this document, it has received a press release from the four ANC members explaining their position, which is printed here.

In response to the public attack on us by the ANC office in London, we are forced to make public the substance of the political dispute which has so far been confined within the ranks of our movement. This is necessary to correct the unfortunate false impression created in the original reports by the ANC spokesman.

As activists with the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) we have worked and argued for the building of SACTU as a genuine workers' organisation inside South Africa, rooted underground among militant workers in their tens of thousands, in the mines, factories, docks, offices and on the farms. This would lay a basis for 'strengthening and extending the struggle for full and open trade union and political rights in South Africa. The present exile leadership of SACTU, the ANC and the Communist Party (CP) is opposed to the building of SACTU for this

task.

We have argued that apartheid is rooted in the system of capitalist exploitation. Only a socialist revolution, led by the working class and drawing all layers of the oppressed behind them, can secure national liberation for the black majority, and free our country from poverty, homelessness and unemployment.

The leadership is opposed to a socialist programme, believing that it is possible to achieve national liberation on the basis of capitalism. This underlies the involvement of the ANC leadership with Chief Gatsha Buthelezi, an agent of the bosses' system.

We have stood for the need to arm the mass movement of the oppressed in South Africa, led by the organised workers against the apartheid regime and the employers. Every black worker knows that the struggle in South Africa cannot achieve victory without arms. But we have stressed that the working class must be organised and

mobilised in their hundreds of thousands, under a clear revolutionary programme and leadership, before the task of armed insurrection is posed.

The leadership of the ANC, SACTU and the CP opposes this perspective. Instead, it is torn between the policy of guerrillism, which is incapable of securing revolutionary victory in South Africa, and leaning towards the pro-capitalist Buthelezi.

Press statement by:
Paula Ensor
David Hemson
Martin Legassick
Robert Petersen

It is no accident that action is being taken against Marxists in the ANC at the same time that the leadership has been holding discussions with Buthelezi.

The ANC leadership has not suspended us, as it claims, for circulating a

document. It has suspended because of our views—because of the profound differences which exist within our movement over the future course of the revolutionary struggle. The ideas which we stand for are shared by many—by increasing numbers—of the rank-and-file comrades of the movement at home and in exile.

In the course of the struggle for our ideas in SACTU, when all channels for debate were bureaucratically closed to us, we produced a document for discussion within our movement's ranks and among sympathisers. On this pretext, we have been undemocratically and unconstitutionally suspended by ANC officials without a hearing.

Far from "attacking the movement" as the ANC office falsely claims, our document is a contribution towards building and arming our movement politically on Marxist lines.

We have fully refuted the attacks against us—the

"charges" put forward to justify our suspension—in a letter to the Regional Political Committee of the ANC, dated 27 December 1979. There we make it clear that whatever action is taken against us as Marxists by right-wingers in the leadership in exile, they cannot separate us from the revolutionary movement.

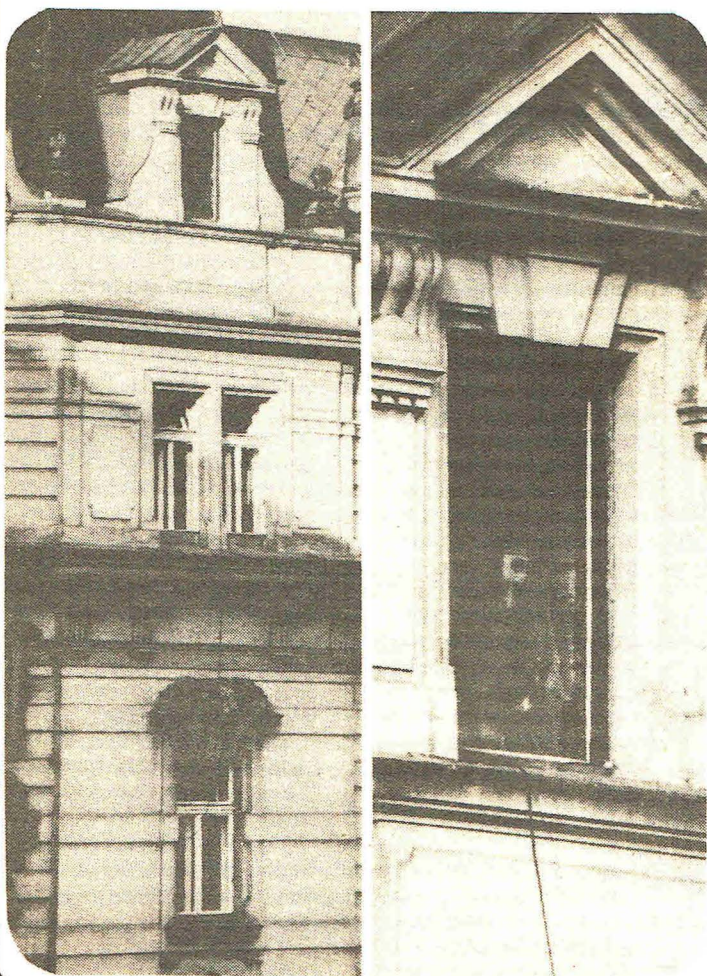
We shall continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our comrades, with the workers and the youth, in the rank-and-file of SACTU, the ANC, the CP and in the workers' organisations at home. A long struggle lies ahead.

The action taken against us is only one episode at a very early stage in an unfolding struggle between the forces of genuine Marxism and the forces of capitalism (however disguised) to determine the programme, strategy and tactics—and hence the future—of all the organisations of our movement. In the long run, this struggle will also decide the victory of the coming revolution in South Africa. ♪



African workers have shown their determination, but which is the best way to victory?

A Stalinist View of Justice



On 23rd October last year, 5 Czech civil rights activists were jailed for 19½ years (see Editorial—'Militant', 2nd November). The photos here were taken of the court house from the flat of one of the accused.

They show a camera (top window) focused on the flat and a lead going down the wall, and into the judges room (bottom-centre) So much for the claim that the judge (Antonin Kaspár) was impartial and independent of the political police.

(Photos: Ivan Barta: Palach Press).

ZIMBABWE

The details of how British imperialism is using the Rhodesian state forces and its auxiliaries against radical African nationalists is now emerging.

On 23rd January Reuters reported how in south-eastern Rhodesia, Muzorewa's private army has been given a free hand to operate against Zimbabwe African National Union guerrillas.

A Rhodesian 'counter insurgency expert', Major Nick Fawcett, of the all-white Rhodesia light infantry, said that some 4,500 of Muzo-

rewa's auxiliaries had been deployed over the last six months in the south-eastern zone. Their job, he explained, was to counter the guerrillas socialist ideology and implant one of 'Zimbabweism', based on nationalism, democracy, peace and livelihood.

With the ZANU guerrillas in the camps the villages are free to intimidation by Muzorewa's thugs.

Or as Major Fawcett explained, "With the security force auxiliaries we can meet the population on equal terms with the terrorists," he said.

One of their tasks, he stated, was to educate people in the voting procedure.

Or as he forcefully put it, "the auxiliaries can introduce a counter ideology and organisation and can support their activities with force."

All this is being allowed and supported by Lord Soames and British Imperialism. They are trying to undercut radical African movements.

And just in case the Rhodesian army and the Muzorewa thugs don't convey the message strongly enough, there is a South African Army. They have a force 7 miles deep into Rhodesia around the Beit Bridge in the south safeguarding their communications for any possible more into the country if the election result and aftermath is not to their liking.

By
Colin Barber

ARGENTINA

So the Argentine government, faithful servant of American imperialism, has rebelled against its master! Videla's military government has officially announced that it shall not support the grain embargo led by America against the USSR.

The reason for this surprising move is, according to Mr Zorreguieta, Agriculture Secretary, that the Argentine government is against using economic power for political purposes, and that only the market forces can decide who

Argentine grain is sold to. This is perfectly consistent with the dogmatic monetarism of Dr Martinez de Hoz, minister of the economy since the coup in 1976.

However, there is another interesting side to this apparent 'rebellion': it so happens that the Soviet Union is the single biggest importer of Argentine wheat, and it so happens that Martinez de Hoz ['the brain'] is one of the most important agricultural producers of the country.

The hypocrisy of the Russian bureaucracy is clear. Argentina has more political prisoners and numbers disap-

peared in detention than any other country in Latin America.

Yet the Russian bureaucracy has not only been 'strangely silent' over Argentina. It has obstructed attempts at the UN to censure Argentina for its record on human rights.

Could it be because out of the 16m tonnes of grain exported by Argentina every year, 2m tonnes goes to Russia?

By
Juan Perez

LETTERS

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

Better jobs? No jobs

Dear Comrades

The problem of youth unemployment is not only affecting school-leavers, it also hurts those lucky enough to get qualifications. I recently went, in desperation, into an employment agency to ask if they had any jobs for an unemployed graduate with little work-experience.

The girl behind the counter answered frankly, though they got many applications, they had no jobs. She told me that employers wanted people who either had years of experience—or school leavers prepared to work for very low wages in poor jobs.

This plainly shows how even those selected out by the exam system for 'better jobs' are feeling the pinch in a declining economy.

Yours fraternally
Steve Score

Secretary Leicester West
LPYS



The fat pig-like creatures

Dear Comrades,

While working in the director's kitchen of the Royal Bank of Scotland last summer I experienced the disgusting inequality which exists in our society close at hand.

Every day the top management would gorge themselves on food that most working people have probably never tasted, for example: smoked salmon, trout, avocado pears and so on.

To finish off their 'feast' they sat down to the best cheeses and wines with a couple of Havana cigars. Not surprisingly a lot of them resembled the fat, pig-like creatures depicted in Alan Hardman's cartoons.

This ceremony normally lasted up to 3 hours. I often wondered when they had time to do any work. [I won't even

bother describing the "business" dinners they occasionally had in the evenings].

Can there be any doubt about the need to nationalise the banks?

Hazel Sutherland,
Edinburgh

PS: Some people may wonder why I've taken so long to write. The answer is simply laziness, which I'm sure is also a vice of many other readers.

So make your paper reflect your lives by writing in about your own experiences. Only in this way can the Militant be truly representative of the people who read it.

The cost of dying

Dear Comrade,

An important part of fighting the cuts in the NHS budget is preventing the growth of private health care.

These days the Squire's buns and the Dowager's piles are taking precedence over the plight of our working class cancer patients who have to wait further and further down the queues for attention.

This winter many of our sick and elderly will die because of the inadequate health service. But even the cost of burial of the dead is to rise sharply.

In fact in this area, the cost of dying is increasing a bit faster than the cost of living. Despite the fact that our local crematorium made a substantial profit last year [about £50,000] their charges are up by 20% from January 1st.

This is the mentality of those we are up against. Not

content with starving and freezing the sick and the old to death, our local Tories are prepared to increase their 'savings' even more by charging more to dispose of them!

On February 8th the public have a chance to voice their feelings at a demonstration in Dorchester when Dorset County Council meet to 'approve' the County budget for 1980/81.

We must put our views in no uncertain terms. United we stand. Divided they can pick us off one by one.

Yours in solidarity,
Lomond Handley
Poole, Dorset

A fire hazard?

Dear Comrades,

An Alan Hardman cartoon in Militant towards the end of last year showed a capitalist kicking an invalid out of a wheelchair and saying "If you can't walk, crawl!"

At first I thought this was a

slight exaggeration of the bosses' attitudes until I read a letter in the local rag, the "Leicester Mercury."

It was about a lad with paralysed legs who used a wheelchair. He had tried to go in to see a film at the local cinema, and had been refused admittance on the grounds that he was a fire hazard!

They had no provision for wheelchairs! He had deliberately gone at an off-peak period to avoid any crowds and had pointed out that he could just walk out of the wheelchair if necessary.

What a disgusting and callous attitude on the part of the cinema management. The suffering of people is merely a fire hazard to them.

They are too busy making profits to bother to fit decent safety equipment. A society that allows things like this to happen doesn't deserve to continue.

The sooner we get rid of capitalism, the better, then maybe people can raise their heads and say "I'm a human being", and not just be regarded as a fire hazard.

Yours fraternally,
Pete Lee,
Leicester.

Ragged-trousered philanthopists —1980 style

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been my fortune to be an apprentice in the building industry for the past 28 months, and I am somewhat disillusioned.

When I first took up the job I was expecting a degree of militancy which I haven't so far come across in my brief working experience.

After working in the industry and reading Robert Tressell's "The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists" I find a frightening parallel.

In the book, union membership was practically non-existent. In my firm there are over fifty men, out of whom maybe a dozen are in their respective union.

In the book, the 'hands'

used to criticise each other's work to the governors or 'chargehands', so if work got slack they would hope to be kept on in favour of the poor workmen.

In my job, if you dare argue in the mess room over politics, you're fighting a losing battle. Nearly everyone seems to be at best a Liberal, and Labour Party members are subjected to abuse.

In Tressell's book, they worked in terrible conditions. Somebody on my site said "if you left an animal in one of these houses the RSPCA would be after you."

There is no toilet-only a shed with a lavatory pan in it, covered with excrement which not surprisingly no-one uses.

No hot or cold running water, only a tap on top of a mud heap, and no heat whatsoever.

Of course this is nothing if you are working outside on houses or buildings which should have a scaffold where you are often subjected to working on old rickety ladders and having to consume sandwiches in a 6 feet by 4 feet shed full up with tools and materials.

Of course this type of thing happens every day in our industry but I know it doesn't help living in a Tory stronghold like East Sussex.

N.L. Bradford,
UCATT and
Eastbourne LPYS

Press hysteria will fail. Workers know who their friends are!

Dear Comrades

The bosses' press and the Tory shadows within the right-wing of the Labour Party will undoubtedly fail in their latest crude attempt to discredit the ideas of Marxism, through a hysterical attack upon 'Militant'.

An LPYS member in Bath told me that in his factory, apart from a few leg-pulls, most workers agreed that 'Militant' must be doing a good job in getting the workers' case across, if gutter rages like the 'Sun' and 'Star' had singled it out for the old red-scare treatment.

Many workers have themselves been vilified while on strike in the last few years and they have not forgotten who their friends and enemies were...

Last week I received a phone call from an old reader who has not seen the paper for a couple of years. He was determined to raise the issue in his local branch Labour Party, and as a result we received another call the following night, saying that he had arranged for a 'Militant' speaker to address the next meeting on the policies of the paper.

The local press carried an article claiming that if people heard the Trots talk, they would see how horrible Marxism was. Subsequently, in a laughable attempt to smear 'Militant', another local rag has published details of a meeting organised by ourselves at which we'll outline our programme. Thanks for the free publicity, press barons!

The days of witch-hunts in the party are over. The left-ward shift will continue and gather pace, as a result of the economic crisis and the

savage blows of Toryism, which in turn will force workers to seek Marxist ideas to combat age-old problems.

As a local reader commented "Yes, I am concerned with infiltration—whatever is the Labour Party doing in allowing Lord Underhill within its ranks. I thought we were for the abolition of the Tory Lords."

Comradely greetings
Robin Clapp
South Western Regional
Labour Party Executive

Tory extremists

Dear Comrades

After the front page exposure of 'extremists' in the Labour Party, can we now expect a page one exposure by Labours' 'friend' the 'Daily Mirror' on extremists in the Tory Party.

An exposure of which Tory Party members go on National Front marches and demonstrations, which Conservative Party activists address NF meetings; news about the Conservative Party alderman who addressed a rally of the openly Nazi British Movement.

Or the Tory MP who shared a platform with a leader of the Italian Fascist party the MSI, or the leader of the federation of Conservative students who was a delegate to the MSI national conference, etc, etc, etc.

I don't think fascist infiltration of the Conservative Party will quite get the same coverage somehow, but then that is what freedom of the press is all about.

Pete Gilman
Islington

Dear Comrades,

The Tory press have reached new heights of hypocrisy in accusing the supporters of the Militant of attempting to subvert the Labour Party. After all, the Tory press is well known for having the best interests of the Labour Movement at heart.

The prize for political analysis must, however, go to the 'Sun' of Monday 14th January. Jon Akass 'answered' the political arguments of the Militant in the following way:

"This group has been identified as the Militant tendency. The term tendency is evidently a perfectly respectable piece of trotskyst jargon, but it has unfortunate overtones.

"Men described in court as having 'certain tendencies' often get themselves into the Sunday papers.

"These 'tendencies' often lead them towards stealing ladies' underwear from the neighbours' washing lines or lurking about in the bicycle sheds of the local girls school.

"It would be a shameful thing, I would have thought, to become famous for having one of these tendencies, but the Trots do not seem to mind in the least because, as you must have noticed, they speak a different language."

I would like to take up the political arguments of Jon Akass but can't seem to find any.

The only thing I can be sure of is that Akass is afraid of the tendency of the Marxists to be right!

Yours fraternally,
Dave Campbell
AUEW (TASS)

MILITANT- A GOLD PLATED INVESTMENT

Some people have no difficulty raising money. If you've already got a tidy pile, you shouldn't be too hard pressed to multiply it.

The latest game has, of course, been precious metals. The demand for gold has been so high that a firm of jewellers in Sheffield gave a woman £120 for a set of gold dentures she found in her attic.

By Steve Cawley

Neither Militant nor its supporters can afford to go into the gold market in a big way. We survive on the generous donations of workers who see the importance of getting Marxist ideas into the labour movement.

We're not going to turn down any gold or silver [in fact a Portsmouth supporter sent £50 from "capitalising on the silver boom"!).

We'll even take gold teeth [in moderation], but the kind of teeth we need put into the fighting fund is the commitment of every reader to donate and collect money to improve the coverage of Militant.

This week the Tory press attacks on Militant carried on at full blast. We need your

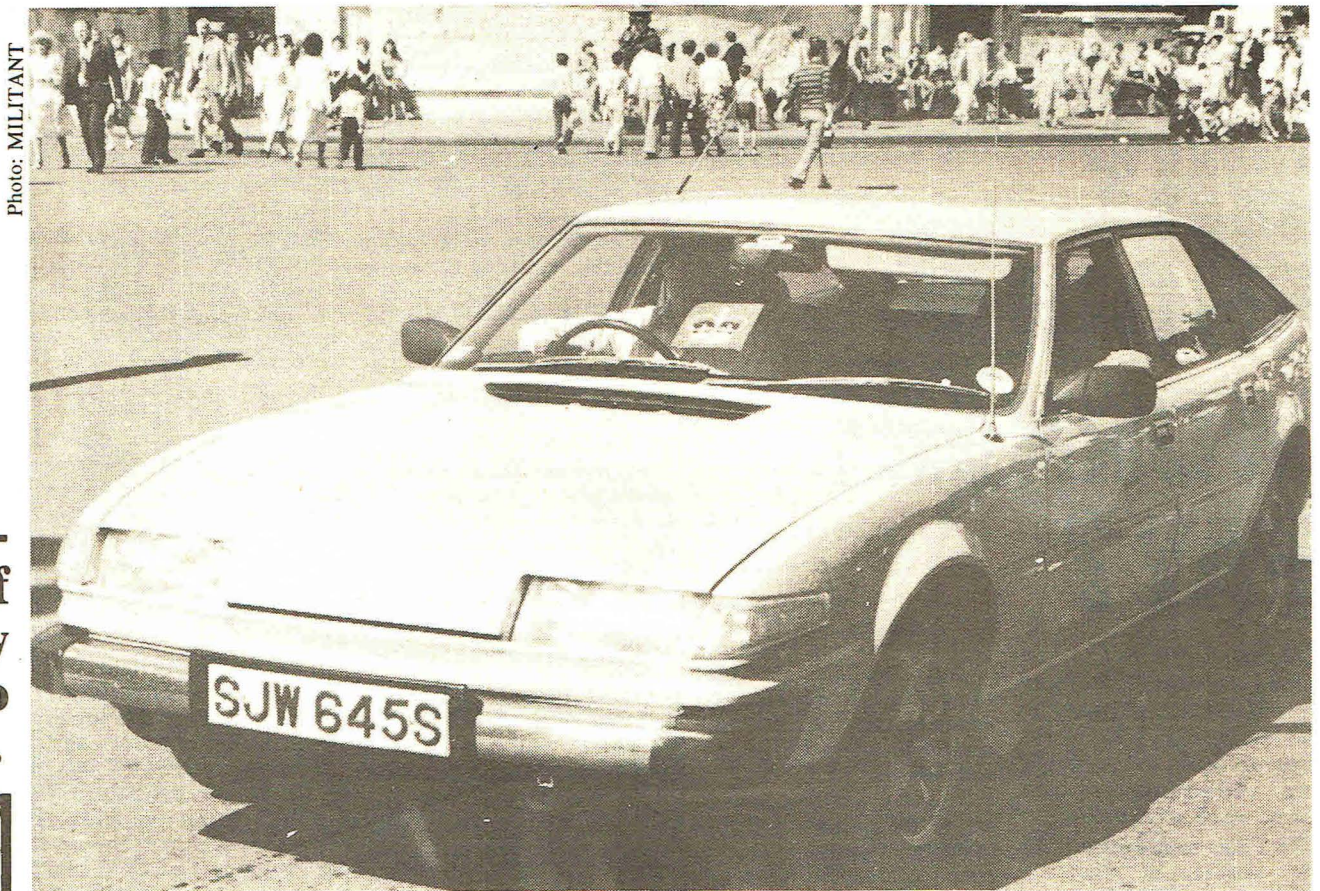
support immediately now to take full advantage of our paper's sudden fame.

Of course the press doesn't give details of the policies of this paper, so that's up to us! So far, as our special appeal sheets point out—it's a 16-page weekly v The Rest (if you haven't got these sheets send us a large stamped addressed envelope).

£30 from Loughborough student P Watson and £25 from T Burns (Gwent) top the individual contributions this week, with 50DMs (about £12) from B Schorb (via Birmingham).

T Mahoney (Brentford & Isleworth LPYS), Cllr Derek Hatton (Liverpool) from TV fees, and J Legg (Strathclyde NALGO) all gave tenners. K Oxborough (Cleethorpes) sent us £8 and fivers donated included those from school student S Cooper (Folkestone), R Barlow (Whitby) and A Roff (Surbiton).

A Docherty (Tyneside), M



Prince Andrew [above] is an unemployed youth with a plush car—and a fortune. Help 'Militant' in the fight for unemployed youth who have difficulty raising a bus fare.

NEW CHART NEXT WEEK

THIS WEEK
£856

Walsh (Teesside), S Smith (Bridgwater), D Shields (SW London), A Wiegold (E London) and P Bernard (Milton Keynes) all gave us sums between £2 and £5.

£2s were from C Benton (Luton LPYS), A Marion (Loughton) and M Mearns and F McClelland (both Strathclyde NALGO), also from "an Irishman concerned at the state of England."

£1s or just over came from B McCosh, J Marsden, E McGeachan, J Huxtable (pensioner, Harlow), C Cummings and C Hoyte (Luton), Cllr B Bundy (Portsmouth), S Marchini (London), I Price-Hood (AUEW Notts), E Hayes and 'Martin' (Birmingham), J Angus (Newcastle), A Twiddle (Newcastle POEU), J Palmer (Bracknell), C Essery (Sheffield), J McHugh (Newton-le-Willows), and from Scotland F Hook, K Luxford, B Barnes, D Scott, J Buchanan, and K McMil-

lan, Thanks also to those we haven't the space to mention.

Trade unionists support Militant consistently: the donations above include money from expenses no doubt, and readers in Peterborough and South London have added another tenner from this source.

The CPSA Civil Aviation EC collected £39 at their last meeting, and LPYS members at a weekend school in Folkestone raised another £17. Thanks to Brighthouse LPYS for their £5. A Readers Meeting on 'What We Stand For' in Southampton raised donations of £50, and meet-

ings on Teesside left us £25 better off.

Finally, £5 came from Ealing North Labour Party members, and over £18 from members of Strathclyde NALGO, including those mentioned above.

Other sources of funds included socials, drinks, eats, lifts, etc. In addition we had a sponsored swim, sales of badges, calendars, wedding (Southampton £30, disco appeal Hackney LPYS £8.55, pizza and apple crumble, £1 found in street (Tyneside), sale of football programmes £7 (Paisley) and a variety of games of chance and skill such as pontoon cards to boost our funds.

Regular readers will be glad to see our chart back next week—we should be over a quarter of the way 'in the black' by then in every area in order to reach £20,000 by April 12th.

SELL THE PAPER THAT SELLS ITSELF

By Dave Farrar

Photo: J Woulfe (Militant)



On the picket line, on demonstrations, at the tube, on the streets. In all these places 'Militant' supporters find that working people are eager to read just what is worrying the bosses press.

Not only are sales increasing, but under the blows of this vicious Tory government more and more avenues are opening for sales of the 'Militant'.

This week, Scunthorpe sellers lead the way, selling 90 papers in only three days, and supporters in Norwich sold 50 papers on a demonstration. In Islington a similar number were sold at a tube station, and in Leicester 45 were sold on the streets.

Can you beat the efforts of these supporters? Sell the paper that sells itself.

ads

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

WHAT WE STAND FOR MEETINGS

ISLINGTON
Speaker: Ron Brown MP (Edinburgh Leith); Bob Faulkes (Hackney Central Labour Party), Central Library, Holloway Road, 8.00pm, Thursday 7 February.

HACKNEY AND TOWER HAMLETS
Hear: Ron Brown MP (Edinburgh Leith); Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent). At the Britannia Pub, Mare Street (next to Hackney Town Hall) on Wednesday 6 February, 7.30 pm.

BIRKENHEAD
Speakers: Terry Fields (Fire Brigades Union executive member); Terry Harrison (Liverpool Labour Party). Birkenhead Labour Club, Cleveland Street, Thursday February 7th, 7.30 pm.

BASILDON
Speaker: Keith Dickenson Hammersmith North Labour Party) Prominent Militant Supporter, Plough and Tractor, off Great Knightleys, Basildon 8.00 pm 14th February.

MILITANT MEETINGS

SOUTHEND Militant Public Meeting

'Against the Tory Attacks'
Speakers: Orville Faulkes (Shop Seward, Ford's Dagenham); B B Edwards (Harlow Labour Party). A Southend Labour Hall, 8 pm, Wednesday 6 February.

SALFORD Militant Marxist Discussion Meeting. 'Muslim World in Turmoil'. Sunday 3rd February, 7.30 pm. For further details phone 793 5808.

THANET Marxist discussion group. 'Dialectical materialism' 7.30 pm, Tuesday 12 February, 30 Chichester Road, Newington, Ramsgate.

CLASSIFIED

You've seen the rest—now buy the best. 'Don't blame me' badges: 3 colours, 20p each plus postage. Order from B Faulkes, 375 Cambridge Heath Road, London E.2. Cheques payable to 'NE London Militant Supporters'.

WOOD GREEN Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting

'Fight the Tory Attacks'
Speakers: Reg Race (Labour MP, Kevin Ramage (LPYS National Committee) Wood Green Labour Party rooms, 4 Stuart Crescent, London N22, 8.00pm, Monday 4 February.

STRATHCLYDE Militant Supporters draw results. 19 January: 1st Prize 3 & 4, 2nd Prize 11 & 44, 26 January; 1st Prize 29 & 31, 2nd Prize: Any two numbers from the following: 8, 28, 31, 35.

Framed original prints—Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky. 8 ins x 10 ins and bigger. From £4 to £5.50. Orders taken—A Douglas, 30 St Augustines Avenue, Birdholme, Chesterfield. Share of all profits to the fighting fund.

SOCIALIST SONGBOOK (New printing). Only 40p, single copies post paid 50p. Bulk orders for 30p each plus postage. From Bryan Beckingham, 62 Haverstock Road, Bristol.

A BOOK SERVICE for the labour movement. For the latest listing of all the literature available from World Books write to WORLD BOOKS, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

CHLORIDE - WHY SHOULD WORKERS PAY?

Chloride Batteries Ltd, the world's largest battery manufacturer, is trying to persuade it's UK workforce to agree to far-reaching redundancies and lower wage settlements.

In a document issued to all the workers in CIBL at Clifton last year the Company spells out the way it expects Chloride workers to shoulder the burden—it attempts to justify sacrifices by the workers to secure dividends for the shareholders.

Spelling out an economic background of rising metal prices, very high interest rates, a strong pound—which makes UK exports more expensive and imports cheaper—and the virtual certainty that the American economy will be in recession, leading to very low world economic growth over the next few years, it then goes on:

"...the UK was sheltered from the worse effects of its declining efficiency by successive devaluations of the £ and in more recent years, by a floating exchange rate...CIBL exports some 30% of its production. This large section

of our business is now vulnerable...Conversely our home market...is more vulnerable to attack by overseas competitors."

This is a clear condemnation of the owners of British industry. They were able to cream off super-profits gained through devaluation—no attempt to use this surplus to modernise and re-invest in any serious way. When the chickens come home to roost, it's the workers who are expected to foot the bill.

Their profit margins are under attack as they face cut-throat competition in a stagnant market from better equipped competitors. To hold their own they must increase the rate of exploitation by sacking many and working the rest harder.

In their haste to persuade the workers to commit suicide the document unintentionally begins to throw light on the bosses' real aims:

"Employee objectives (are) 1. Security of employment. 2. Rising real wages. 3. Shorter working hours. 4. Staff conditions...All the employee objectives directly impact on

costs so they are in conflict with the underlying management objectives (my emphasis -GL). It also follows logically (!!!) that the employee objective of security of employment is incompatible with their objectives 2, 3 & 4."

They appear to be saying that the only way to secure jobs is to forego improvements. But later in the document they attack the parity wage scheme and argue for management consultants to magic away the gains already won.

"The choice is between fewer jobs and no jobs...We wish to tackle this problem with the involvement of employees and trade unions and not to dissipate our energies in internal strife while foreigners capture our markets."

The arrogance is staggering. They want widespread sackings, real cuts in the standards and conditions that the workers have achieved, an increase in the work-rate of those remaining and...they don't want 'internal strife'! No, they want the workers to lie meekly in the mud while they merrily stomp over them with hobnailed boots.

What they do understand though, is that a united campaign by the workers, linked up throughout the combine, could put paid to their mercenary plans. So they try to embroil the unions in participating in their own destruction.

The deputy chairman of Chloride is Sir Michael Edwardes, on loan to British Leyland at the moment. He has used the same approach there, and each concession by the unions had led to greater and greater demands from the bosses. Capitalism, like the legendary vampire, is never satisfied.

The last few paragraphs of the document deal with "participation":—

"Our commitment to participation remains one of involvement and not decision sharing...we see participation as a means to an end...if it does not help the realisation of common objectives it serves no useful purpose."

What purpose does participation serve if "Employee objectives are in conflict with the underlying management objectives"? It merely serves the bosses in their drive for greater profits at the workers' expense.

The document asks "Where and what are your proposals?" They assume that the workers have no alternative but to accept whatever they are given. The workers must have an answer:—No redundancy, a guaranteed living wage.

If the bosses say that's not viable then open all the books for inspection by the trade unions. If the company can't guarantee security to those who have invested their lives than they should step aside—nationalise the company under workers' control and management.

Under the bosses' system workers are units of production to make profits. With a socialist plan of production, more productivity will mean more leisure and better conditions for all, not the dole queue. Until we can achieve that, we must fight tooth and nail to hold onto every gain we have managed to achieve through our struggle.

This is not the answer that the CIBL bosses want to hear. They have spent time and effort with participation schemes and consultant exercises to stick the boot in with as little "internal strife" as possible. They must not be allowed to get away with it.

By Gerry Lerner

WE PICK OUR STEWARDS

Forty machinists and fitters at the Alan Smith group went on strike over disciplinary procedures, so their management say. The truth of the matter is that they were forced out by the provocation of senior management, who have stated time and again even in front of our AUEW district secretary, that they don't like unions, never have and never will.

The factory has been organised for two years. Within that time, wages and conditions have improved, and the workers are not going to let go of that. Management also gained a 16% growth

rate in 1978 and an increase in production in 1978-79.

In the struggle for trade union organisation, shop stewards have become the focal point of attack by management. Where it would have been easier to say yes to management, because of the pressure they brought to bear, they have said no. In doing so they have won the support and solidarity of their members.

Management have now told the union that they cannot negotiate with the shop stewards, especially the works' convenor, and want him out of this position. It seems they

want to elect shop stewards of their choice who will, of course, say 'yes sir'.

Management tried to force the issue, which resulted in a walk out. They have stated that there will be no talks until we all return to normal working; the workers say no return until talks have taken place.

The blokes know this is the crunch. If they are forced back on management's terms, the union could crumble.

The managing director once said that if we go into dispute, it would be a 'Nottingham Evening News' job. Well that fight hasn't

been lost yet and the customers we deal with are AUEW organised factories.

Send messages of support and financial assistance to Alan Smith strike committee c/o Shop Stewards, Brownlow Drive, Rise Park, Nottingham.

By Roy Bennett

(AUEW Nottingham)

BLACK AIRFIX

"We'll fight on, but will the union back us?" was one of the main questions posed by Meccano workers at their mass meeting last Monday (27th). National union support is essential if the fight is to continue.

At the mass meeting, G&MWU official Mike Egan outlined a proposal for a joint working party to investigate other buyers. Whilst this was accepted by the meeting there was a firm commitment from the workers, shop stewards' committee and Mike Egan to continue the fight after Airfix's deadline of February 28th.

Scandalously, national union officials have even raised

the question of allowing management back into the factory after February 28th in order to return to a "legality situation."

Why are Airfix talking now? Quite possibly management aim to use the joint committee to wring concessions out of the unions.

Clearly, Airfix aim to exhaust the workers, offering no information to potential buyers whilst planning to transfer Meccano manufacture to another country.

The Meccano struggle has shown that the only action the bosses understand is the sort that hits their pockets. Pressure should be put on the national trade unions to step up that effect by blacking all Airfix goods.

Thousands of local workers are watching this fight. Victory at Meccano is vital: since the May election 56 firms have announced 5,000 redundancies, with another

10,000 pending. So much for Thatcher's promise of a better deal for Merseyside.

The Meccano workers have already dealt the bosses a crushing blow. Any idea that factories can be closed with impunity has been scotched. Workers will fight and in common with many Meccano workers will draw the necessary political conclusions.

WAVERTREE LABOUR PARTY public meeting "RALLY TO SUPPORT MECCANO WORKERS"
Speakers: Mike Egan, [G&MWU official, Meccano worker for 14 years], John Lynch, [secretary Meccano shop stewards committee], Derek Hatton, [Labour Councillor], Josie Aitman, [Labour Party Young Socialists' National Committee], Barry Williams, [Liverpool Trades Council], Tony Mulhearn, [Liverpool District Labour Party], Eddie Loyden, [ex-MP, Garston] all in a personal capacity. Chairman Mike Smith [Wavertree Labour Party].
In the works' canteen, Binns Road, 7.30pm Tuesday 5th February.

ALL WORKERS WELCOME

NATIONALISE THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Two strike leaders at Shotton spoke to Richard Venton [Birkenhead Labour Party]

"We're very pleased at the effectiveness of small groups of pickets stopping the movement of steel. This is a fight to the death.

"Many of our members don't see what would happen if we lost. But the ISTC motto is a phoenix arising out of the ashes. When the phoenix does come out, the rank and file membership of the union will support the wider trade union movement a lot more than we did in the past.

"We're sticking together now. I firmly believe the private sector should be called out. The private settlements will be affected by BSC settlements."

"Yes, the private sector will want our support in the future, so they must support us now."

"We're in a situation with the mad mullah Joseph going back 100 years. The things that my dad and grandfather fought for in the trade unions—that's what we're back to.

"We've got pseudo-nationalisation—not as it should be. There should be far greater participation and workers' control. All we've got is figure heads—merchant bankers!"

"Villiers' stock phrase is 'joint determination'."

"Yes, with one elected from the shopfloor—the rest of them bloody bosses!"

"There's not been a single case of 'joint determination'. We're paying for inadequate management at board level. A T&GWU delegation to the EEC steel commissioners were told BSC have got the worst steel management in Europe—if not in the world."

"Workers' control of BSC is absolutely essential. Outsiders can juggle the books, but they can't forecast. We'd have done things very differently if we'd been in charge.

"The average working man will suddenly realise what the Tories intend and what they're doing—then there'll be a lot more militancy. Both parties in the past have been so middle-of-the-road, they've almost been interlinked. There's been no sense of urgency from the Labour Party to bring out the best in what I call socialism.

"A Labour government—a socialist government—should run industry without a private sector. There should be total nationalisation.

"Never mind about creating profitable centres within a nationalised industry and then selling them off. That happens at the expense of the non-profit-making part, selling jobs and plants down the river. That's totally wrong."

By Cyril Wheat
(Branch Secretary, Teesside Staff No No 2 Branch, Steel House)

WE WANT WORKERS' CONTROL

I represent a staff branch within the ISTC and I would be exaggerating if I said that the response for a strike was anything but luke-warm, before 2nd January.

I have been totally committed to this strike from the first hints of action and have been pleasantly surprised at the changed attitude of the branch.

Writing off BSC money

Hot on the heels of the story in last week's Militant about the way that BSC management waste resources, comes news from Tyneside about a letter sent out this week to all employees at BSC Jarrow and Consett and a similar one on Teesside.

The letter is supposed to inform the workers about BSC's present pay offer. In fact it is a blatant attempt to go over the heads of the union negotiators and spread division amongst the strikers, but like most things that the BSC management do, it has completely backfired.

Thanks to 'Steel Workers' Banner', the ISTC strike bulletin, the men are fully informed about the real nature of the present pay offer, and saw through the carefully-worded statement. It abounds with promises but no concrete offer; workers

From being a moderate group they have been forced to adopt a most militant attitude by the intransigence of the reactionary management of the Steel Corporation and government. One individual who voted for this government has become a regular visitor to the picket line to perform what he sees as his duty: to defeat this management and the government.

still have to pay their own wage increases, either through productivity agreements, which are unspecified and unexplained 'pie in the sky', or through massive redundancies, which many of the strikers are no longer willing to accept.

The men are also angry at the obviously high cost of sending these letters out: 5,000 letters, envelopes and stamps, each addressed by hand (all the personnel files must have been looked up to extract their home addresses).

Another big chunk of the money that they created thrown down the drain. All the letters are being collected and will be returned to management. Imaginative suggestions will be included as to what they can do with their pay offer and letters.

By Jeff Price (Newcastle)

STEEL STRIKE WEEK 5!

AROUND THE COUNTRY



Photo: MILITANT

'It doesn't matter what Denning says - we're still on strike'

Welsh workers on the march on January 28th. Victory is vital for the future of steel—and of Wales

SHEFFIELD

In Sheffield on Monday, ISTC members at all the major private steel plants were on strike, in spite of Lord Denning. Dunford Hadfields was silent with all ISTC members responding to the strike call. Reporters, who obviously expected something more 'newsworthy', outnumbered pickets. At Firth Brown, 1,000 ISTC members were out and the plant was effectively closed. A spokesman for the Engineering Employers' Federation was forced to confirm that the bulk of private steel workers in this major private steel centre ignored the injunction and came out on strike.

The ISTC divisional strike committee sent a telegram to Len Murray as leader of the TUC, demanding a 20 per cent settlement with no strings and requesting that all trade unions are involved in fighting the Denning ruling.

At a meeting of Sheffield Heeley Labour Party last Friday, five ISTC representatives were invited to explain the steel workers' case. A resolution giving full support to their fight was enthusiastically passed and a grand total of £94 was collected for strike funds.

By Rob Jones

SHOTTON

Adding insult to injury, BSC have announced a further 900 redundancies at the finishing end in Shotton, in addition to the 6,500 jobs already abolished at the heavy end. So much for 'paring down the workforce to a profitable size to save the remaining jobs'!

This comes as no surprise to the Shotton pickets; but the timing is significant. BSC seem to think it will verify press lies about the strike causing additional redundancies. They've fooled nobody in Shotton.

When the battle has been won by the workforce—because that is the only solution for us—there must be a far-reaching examination into the blundering in the dark of BSC's management, not only at board but at local level. The deadwood does not lie with manual or clerical workers but with the managers, local and national.

We cannot and will not be made scapegoats for their total inefficiency. We should press for a greater degree of workers' control of such a vital industry. After all, we certainly could not do worse.

An example of BSC's folly is Steel House at the Redcar complex. When called to a meeting with industrial relations' officers during this strike, union members found it virtually impossible to get into the car park for managers' cars.

When this was mentioned to the IROs and they were asked how many management staff worked in Steel House, it was disclosed that there were in the region of 500. It does not take a mathematician to work out that with a total staff of about 950 there is more than one manager per worker in the building.

SCOTLAND

"If we stick at it, we'll win" is how Pat Shevlin, ISTC area committee secretary, summed up the mood of steel workers here in Scotland.

Contrary to Scottish press reports that the private sector workers were reluctant to support their BSC brothers, representations made to these workers have met with more or less solid support. "We should have brought them out from the beginning. Never mind, we'll learn from our mistakes."

As it is, no private steel is moving in Scotland. Pickets have been right to the North to ensure that no steel comes in at Aberdeen or other northern ports.

Bro. Shevlin explained how the young ISTC members had really come to the fore in the

struggle. they were the keenest to ensure victory, even though few of them have ever attended their union branch.

One young worker has turned himself into a despatch rider for the union, on his motorbike. He rides around the country like an adventure story, helping to secure support for the strike. Among other things, he raised £100 from a visit to a miners' welfare club.

"The ISTC will never be the same again" says Pat. "In the past the union leaders looked at things from the point of view of management. All that will change now."

By Greg Oxley
and Jan McTaggart
(Labour Party
Young Socialists)

BIRMINGHAM

Yorkshire's answer to instant coffee—instant pickets—shut down three West Midlands firms in 90 minutes.

JB&S Lees, GKN Miles Druce and GKN Steel Stocks responded very favourably to the short sharp shock lads. The same could not be said for the police, some drivers and sections of the T&G's officialdom.

At JB Lees, Albion Road, police collusion became apparent. Throughout the morning nothing moved, while we waited in anticipation.

At lunchtime, three senior cops turned up in unmarked cars and started a conversation with the pickets. Then an 'artic' came trundling out the

gate, without slowing down, knocking pickets to one side. The 'Feds' disappeared as rapidly as they had appeared.

In Yorkshire, pickets reported, police have flagged down lorries for the pickets: it may be connected to the fact that a number of policemen there have relations on the picket line.

Early in the week T&G drivers had crossed the picket lines, on instructions, they claimed, from one of their full-time officers. A deputation of ISTC members paid a visit to the T&GWU's Dudley office to see what the game was.

The union official said he was working to the letter of his executive's decision. He

JARROW

The reaction of striking steel workers to Lord Denning's judgement in the law courts is anger and disbelief. How can one man have the right to decide on the future of thousands of others?

It seems a strange coincidence that this ageing reactionary, whose outbursts against the working class are well known to trade union activists, should decide against the steel workers just as the Tories are looking for an excuse to move against them. A steel worker from BSC's Jarrow rolling mill summed up the men's reaction when he said: "Denning wants what a turkey gets at Christmas."

Despite the law-lords' judgement, Monday morning saw a mass turn-out of all

trades including T&GWU, EETPU and UCATT members, who joined their ISTC brothers for a mass picket at the GKN steel stockholders at Hebburn.

They had decided to turn back all wagons, no matter what their purpose. Within a matter of hours travelling salesmen, vans delivering towels and a repair team for a fork-lift truck were turned back.

Stewards from GKN reported that the only work they were doing was sweeping up and painting. The only steel left in the works has now been blacked.

Rather than dampening the strikers' spirits, Lord Denning has only succeeded in making them more determined than ever to stop all steel movement.

By Jeff Price

steel firms are out. This re-emphasises the importance of all-out action by all steel workers, to win the full claim and launch a fightback on jobs.

At the National Society of Metal Mechanics' youth conference, youth delegates collected £100 for the steel workers' strike fund, after an appeal made by union members in the Labour Party Young Socialists.

At Vauxhall's the stewards have pledged not to cross a picket line but do not regard their factory as "fair game" for picketing until the private

claimed this meant drivers could cross the line at private steel stockholders.

This did not stand up to examination; there was BSC steel in these stockholders. But leaving that aside, the first law of trade unionism is solidarity—not crossing a picket line.

Fortunately, with the NUR and now the T&GWU calling on their members to stop all steel movements, this should prevent any such further incidents.

By Brian Debus
(Erdington Labour Party)

TEESSIDE

At Darlington, the only major private steel works on Teesside, all ISTC staff and production workers joined the strike last Monday.

Pickets who came from all the major BSC works in the area to give a hand were welcomed. Both they and the private sector workers were incensed by Lord Denning's ruling. Bert Fenton, chairman of the ISTC Darlington branch, described the injunction as "clearly political interference in trade union affairs." "What right's this bloke Denning to stick his nose in things?" others wanted to know.

Managers who dared to show their faces were greeted with jeers: "How much did you pay Lord Denning?" pickets shouted (although this was not one of the 16 firms which applied for the injunction).

The BSC workers were undeterred: "It doesn't matter what Lord Denning says, we're still on strike and we'll picket where we think necessary," they said, as they set off to another stockholder.

It took two hours for the police to turn up at Darlington—perhaps they had trouble explaining just exactly how they were to implement this particular anti-union measure. At the GKN stockholders in Blaydon, phone calls to the police by irate management were eventually answered after nearly an hour—by three boys in blue.

Money and support is coming in. Sunderland Poly Labour Club organised a speaker from the ISTC at the Poly's general meeting. They raised £61. £5 was sent in from a group of housewives raised at a coffee evening. So much for the press attempts to create anti-strike feeling.

By Bill Hopwood



Photo: MILITANT

Welsh workers on January 28th—a demonstration against steel closures—and against the Tories

THE DAY WALES STOPPED

'we're ready to fight to the end'

By
Alec Thraves
 (Swansea AUEW)

With shouts of "Maggie must go", 20,000 trade unionists marched through Cardiff on Monday against proposed steel closures.

Up to 200,000 workers at the same time took part in the one-day strike called by the Wales TUC.

The action was taken by steel workers,

dockers, miners, transport workers and many other sections.

Feelings grew high on the march as the workers felt their

strength. The Tories were castigated as the main enemy of Welsh workers.

Enthusiasm, solidarity and comradeship were bound together in this show of strength. The protest march ended with a mass meeting.

Such was the atmosphere that even Bill Sirs was overcome with tears of emotion.

The workers wanted to fight. George Wright, secretary of the Wales TUC, was at first heckled by workers demanding more militant

action. The hall echoed with calls of 'All Out! All Out!'

Wright's comments to sack the BSC management were greeted with enthusiasm. Many activists were sceptical, however, when he said that there was "no painless way out" of the steel crisis, which was taken to be a veiled reference to concessions on redundancies.

Wales could see 50,000 jobs disappear if the Tories have their way. It would completely devastate the country's industrial base. When Bill Sirs spoke, he pledged that he would fight to the bitter end.

The demonstration, he said, must be a starting point for a revolution against the government's policies. He described the excellent international solidarity with the steel strike from fifteen countries, really enthusing the workers present.

"We can't allow any more sackings. We are eating into the seed-corn. It is the future of our children...I commit my union to a fight to the death."

Emlyn Williams, President of the South Wales NUM, pledged his members' support for any action necessary. The Tories, he said, had miscalculated when they took on the steel workers, believing they would be easy game.

"But she has caught a tiger by the tail...the tiger will win." This got great applause. We will not be the gypsies of the past, like in the 1930s, moving from one place to another looking for jobs.

"Whatever call is made to fight for the rights of our children, let us carry it out." This was followed by stormy applause.

Lawrence Daly, NUM general secretary, also drew an enthusiastic response when he pledged the union to give £20,000 to assist the steel workers.

Summing up the unions' response to the Tory attacks, he quoted Martin Luther, who over 400 years ago pasted his petition up, saying "Here I stand. I can do no more."

The final speaker, Michael Foot, when he began was heckled with cries of 'What about Ebbw Vale?' At this point, about a third of the audience began to drift out. Michael Foot directed his attack mainly against the judges for "misinterpreting the laws of parliament."

Now an all-out strike in three industries—mining, steel and the railways—is being planned for 10 March.

The Tories have thrown down the gauntlet. It is up to the whole of the British working class to take up this challenge and get rid of the Tories—and their rotten system—once and for all.

FIGHT FOR JOBS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

who speak for the capitalists—who have themselves created the crisis—are trying to blame the victims.

Commenting in parliament on the latest unemployment figures, Mrs Thatcher resorted to the old, old Tory propaganda—that the workers who "want so much more" in their wage packets are really to blame because they are "pricing themselves out of a job."

But British workers are now the 'coolies of Europe.' As the 'The Sunday Times' magazine reported last weekend, industrial wages even in Ireland are outpacing those in Britain.

No matter how hard workers in Britain sweat, or how long they work, or how few holidays they take, they cannot keep up with workers

in Germany, Japan, and elsewhere who are equipped with up-to-date technology.

So why should workers have to put up with either a life on the dole or low wages and long hours? If this is all the bosses can offer, their system must be changed! If they can't afford us, we certainly can't afford them!

It is the bosses themselves, and the financial parasites of the City, who have for years failed to invest their profits back into new factories, efficient machinery, and modern production processes.

It is not workers who have been speculating in property, buying up art treasures and antiques at inflated prices, or sending millions abroad for foreign investment or speculation.

Currently, one in three workers does an average of 8½ hours overtime a week. In the steel industry the average is 9½ hours.

The trade unions calculate that banning overtime alone would create half-a-million jobs immediately.

The implementation of the 35-hour week would create

even more—probably a million and a half jobs!

The whole labour movement must step up the campaign for the vital demands outlined on page three in 'What we are fighting for'.

Step up the fight for the 35-hour week without loss of pay, and the £80 minimum wage!

Unemployment is not just a problem for the jobless. Mass

unemployment is a threat to the living standards and organised strength of the whole working class. All the power of the labour movement must be used to fight this threat.

The Labour Party Young Socialists' demonstration on February 2nd is giving a political lead for the whole movement. Join the fight for socialist policies!

LPYS NATIONAL RALLY AGAINST THE TORIES

FEBRUARY 2nd.

Send-off rally with speakers from local labour movement, including Ted Knight [Leader Labour Group, Lambeth Council], and John Bulaitas [LPYS NC member, London].

March through Brixton and Lambeth to rally at Central Hall Westminster, 2.30 pm-5.00 pm.

Speakers: Tony Benn MP
 Eric Heffer MP Stan Sheridan [ISTC]
 Tony Saunois [LPYS rep on Labour's NEC]
 Andy Bevan [Labour Party National Youth Officer] and others

The demonstration will move off at 12 noon from Slade Gardens, off Robsart Street, S.W.9. [Not Porden Road as previously advertised]. Nearest tube—Brixton



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