

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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TORIES ADMIT 2½ MILLION JOBLESS BY 1983-

STRIKE! ON MAY 14th

KICK OUT THE TORIES

According to the hard-nosed Tory MP for Flint, Sir Anthony Meyer, the Day of Action called by the TUC for May 14 will be a "day of tomfoolery."

Part of the "nation's" wealth will be lost, he claimed in Parliament last Monday, and trade union action will threaten more jobs.

What hypocrisy! This Tory gentleman had no answer to the point that male unemployment in Flintshire is already a harrowing 38%. The closure of the Shotton steel works, as a part of the Thatcher government's destructive policy of running down the steel industry, will send this horrifying figure even higher.

The Tories are trying to blame trade union action for the accelerating rise in unemployment. But stimulating unemployment is a deliberate part of Thatcher's economic strategy.

The government itself predicts 1.8 million unemployed by 1983. But last Monday, Edward du Cann, Tory chairman of parliament's Treasury Select Committee, said that their advisers predicted 2.5 million in the dole queues by 1983, using the government's own calculations.

Questioned on this, the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey

By Lynn
Walsh

Howe, admitted that unemployment "is likely to be higher" than his previous predictions. He refused, of course, to say how much higher.

On the same day that du Cann's prediction was reported, the newspapers also published a report which gave a horrifying glimpse of the devastating, dehumanising effects of prolonged unemployment on workers and their families.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children expressed alarm at the growing number of cases of ill-treatment of children. While not condoning the behaviour of the parents responsible, their annual report puts the blame where it really lies:

"The threat of an economic recession, high unemployment, fears of redundancy, rising prices, diminished support

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Print Bosses Lock Out NGA Workers

Thousands of NGA print workers have been suspended or locked out by bosses resisting the union's claim for an £80 minimum wage and shorter working week.

In Yorkshire, the manager/owner of the Ackrill newspaper group, Harrogate, no doubt fuelled by his father's position as a big-wig of the Newspaper Society, jumped the gun and locked out 37 members of the National Graphical Association last Thurs-

day.

This was four days earlier than the date on the official suspension notices issued to NGA provincial press and general print members over the national wage claim.

The lock-out came during a chapel meeting to discuss the dispute, in support of our claim for the £80 minimum wage and a 37½-hour week without strings.

As the meeting continued, the NGA members were told they were suspended from 12.30 pm.

They responded with a

NGA Members fight for £80 minimum

sit-in which lasted until 9.30 am on Friday. They were denied access to tea and coffee machines,

toilet facilities and use of the telephone. Even the fire escape was blocked off.

During the night management worked like knights in shining armour to produce one of their papers. The result was a mountain of spoils and shabbily-produced papers which eventually reached the streets.

Ninety per cent of the work for the paper had already been completed by our members before the suspensions. That is the only way that anything like a paper could be produced.

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Photo: MILITANT

Iranian Fiasco



The abortive attempt to rescue the 50 American hostages from the embassy in Tehran was a desperate measure on the part of Carter.

The President himself had earlier said that any such attempt would almost certainly lead to the death of the hostages.

Yet clearly, the pressure of public opinion, itself originally whipped up by the President and the capitalist press, pushed Carter into this crazy mission to 'prove' to the electorate, in the weeks before the presidential election, that he is still capable of taking decisive action.

Carter was determined to demonstrate to the world that the United States "can't be pushed around", and at the same time to reassure nervous client dictatorships in the Middle East and elsewhere, whose survival ultimately depends on American arms.

As it turned out, "mechanical failures" forced this ill-conceived mission to be aborted before it provoked any major clash with the Iranian forces. Far from bolstering his position, it has proved a devastating blow to Carter's prestige.

Above all, it underlines the weakness of US imperialism at the present time, particularly as far as the volatile Middle East is concerned.

Any rescue attempt would require bold decisions and determined execution. But from beginning to end, the rescue attempt was prejudged by hesitation and muddle.

This is not just "bad luck", as Carter's apologists are trying to make out. It reflects the splits between the strategists of American imperialism, and conflicts within the ruling class itself.

Usually, it is the military chiefs who push for such adventures, but on this occasion many of the military experts advised against it. Its main advocate in the White House was Zbigniew Brzezinski, the president's national security adviser, who supports an aggressive foreign policy based on an almost unbelievably crude analysis of contemporary international relations.

However, if the rescue force had succeeded in reaching the US embassy in Tehran, possibly joined [as some reports suggest] by an Iranian "fifth column," it is inconceivable that there

would not have been a serious shoot-out, with the almost certain death of some of the hostages and massive bloodshed of Iranian students and workers.

Such an outcome would have provoked an even bigger crisis for US imperialism, and for the capitalist world generally. It would have inflamed the anger of the Iranian masses to even greater heights, and given a further enormous push to the development of the Iranian revolution.

The labour movement in Britain and internationally must unequivocally condemn the rescue attempt, which was not a "humanitarian" exercise, as Carter claims, but was by its very nature an armed intervention against the Iranian people.

After the fiasco in the desert in which eight American personnel died, however, the world labour movement has undoubtedly been outraged by the scenes of the Ayatollah Khomeini and his followers raking through the charred remains of the American dead. Incidents like this are yet another indication of the reactionary character of the Islamic fanatics currently at the head of the movement in Iran.

But what right have the imperialist powers of the world to condemn such actions? Their righteous indignation is sheer hypocrisy. How many times in the past have the imperialists—whether in China, Indo-China, Malaysia, or Kenya—displayed triumphantly the mutilated bodies or

impaled heads of their victims? In those cases, imperialism felt perfectly justified in perpetrating atrocities against those fighting for national liberation.

Nevertheless, the events of the last few days underline the irrational and reactionary character of the present Iranian leadership, and its inability to take the revolution forward.

While condemning US intervention, whether in the form of rescue attempts, economic sanctions, or other possible military action to force the release of the hostages, Marxists cannot for a moment support the seizure and holding of the hostages.

The anger and frustration of the students and their supporters, which undoubtedly led to the seizure of the embassy in the first place, is understandable. They saw it as a way of hitting at US imperialism, the power that for decades armed the Shah, trained his torturers, and assisted in the suppression of all opposition movements in Iran.

But the holding of the hostages will produce no tangible gains for the Iranian workers and peasants. On the contrary, it is entirely counter-productive in so far as the hostages serve as a diversion from the burning problems facing the revolution. The hostages have provided Khomeini with a heaven-sent opportunity of covering the inadequacies of his leadership with a veil of nationalistic-religious hysteria.

The hostages have also, in some ways, worked to the advantage of US imperialism, allowing Carter and the world capitalist press to whip up a frenzy of hysteria against the Iranian revolution. The situation has been used to gain acceptance for a more aggressive foreign policy, and particularly for an accelerated build-up of arms expenditure in the US, Britain, and other capitalist states.

Events could only take this course in Iran because of the absence of a mass party with a clear Marxist programme, capable of taking the revolution forward. From the very beginning, the Tudeh [the Iranian 'Communist Party'] has proved completely incapable of giving a revolutionary lead. Nor do the left-wing 'Marxist' students of the Fedayeen offer a viable alternative to the Iranian workers.

But it is only the programme of Marxism, with the nationalisation of the economy under workers' control and management, a radical distribution of the land with economic support for the peasant farmers, and fundamental moves to establish an entirely new state apparatus based on workers' democracy that could assure the success of the Iranian revolution.

Although the Mullahs, under the enormous pressure of the Iranian masses, have been pushed into carrying out some anti-imperialist measures, and some nationalisation, their primary aim is to preserve their own position at the head of the revolution. Recent events clearly demonstrate, moreover, that they are intent on diverting the movement on reactionary, fundamentalist Islamic lines. Although they may yet be pushed even further, the ideas and the methods of the Mullahs inevitably play

into the hands of imperialism and the forces of a potential reaction in Iran.

Reeling from the adverse reactions to the humiliating failure of Carter's rescue mission, the spokesmen of imperialism are now talking of the danger of armed conflict between the superpowers. Even some within the labour movement have echoed the idea that the Tabraz incident will prove to be a new "Sarajevo", in other words, the prelude to world war.

But war does not come about by accident. War is the continuation of politics by other methods, and it is determined by the balance of class forces. The present international correlation of forces rules out the immediate possibility of world war between the superpowers, war which would unavoidably lead to totally destructive nuclear conflict.

Carter and his military advisors, it is true, have hinted at further military action in Iran. It cannot be categorically ruled out that US imperialism will in the next period use the special "strike forces" it is now preparing for "police action" or punitive raids in areas like the Middle East.

But a major armed intervention would provoke mass resistance from the Iranian people, give a powerful new impulse to the revolution, and produce explosive world-wide repercussions, not least within the United States itself. US imperialism, as events since the fall of the Shah have shown, has no significant forces on which it can rely in Iran. And how could it hold down the whole Iranian people by armed force?

Editorial

The position of US imperialism in the Middle East is now weaker than at any time since the end of the second world war. Imperialism faces the hostility of the majority of Arab regimes, even of Saudi Arabia, a rotten dictatorship which was previously a kept client of US imperialism.

Although the Saudi regime is still ultimately dependent on US military and economic support, their opposition to continued US support for Israel on the issue of Jerusalem and the West Bank and their need to give public support to Khomeini's "Islamic" regime, has produced a conflict between the Saudi regime and the US government.

The United States clearly has the wholehearted support of Egypt, which is now almost as much a client state as Israel. But Sadat's support for the US has pushed him into conflict with other Arab states, and is unmistakably laying all the conditions for enormous upheavals, with the overthrow of his own regime by the Egyptian workers and peasants.

The rescue attempt, moreover, has produced a rift between the US government and its European "allies". Only a few days before the secret mission, Carter had forced the western capitalist governments into line with an ultimatum, insisting they support US sanctions against Iran. Then, apparently without

informing these governments in advance, Carter launched an armed operation which made nonsense of the attempt at sanctions.

The leaders of the European capitalist powers and Japan are also fearful that retaliation to sanctions by Iran and other Arab states [whether by restricting oil supplies or cutting down western imports] will do enormous damage to their own economies in a period of growing world recession. Schmidt and others obviously feel that Carter has been blinded by preoccupation with his own election prospects to the danger of pushing Iran further towards Russia.

The European capitalist leaders reluctantly agreed to the US sanctions policy in the first place precisely because they feared Carter might otherwise resort to military intervention in Iran, which would open the door to counter-intervention by the USSR. Such Russian intervention, in fact, would even be "legal" under the still-existing Russo-Iranian treaty of 1921.

In relation to the Soviet Union, moreover, despite US imperialism's hysterical but impotent denunciations of the invasion of Afghanistan, the US government has been put in the humiliating position of virtually relying on the Russian bureaucracy to mediate with the Iranian leadership in the aftermath of the abortive rescue.

Whereas the Russian bureaucracy considered it vital to its interests to intervene to support a threatened proletarian bonapartist regime in Afghanistan, its main interest in Iran is to preserve stability. A major conflict, which would have unpredictable consequences, would pose enormous dangers to the power and strategic interests of the bureaucracy. Reports make it clear that Moscow has been exerting pressure on the Khomeini regime to play down its reaction to the rescue mission.

These events in Iran, and the situation throughout the Middle East, reveal the grotesque contradictions which have developed as a result of the impasse of capitalism and imperialism in the present period. But because of the enormous weight and influence of the bureaucracy in Eastern Europe, Russia and the other Stalinist states, revolutionary movements, like in Iran, against imperialism and capitalism have taken on a completely distorted form.

Only the working class, with the support of the exploited masses of the underdeveloped countries, can break this deadlock. Only the conscious movement of the workers, with Marxist perspectives and clear socialist aims, can resolve the intolerable contradictions that have developed in the world today.

The establishment of a genuine workers' state, based on workers' and peasants' democracy, in a single country with a significant working class, or alternatively the success of political revolution in Russia or Eastern Europe, would completely transform the world situation, opening a socialist pathway for the movement in other countries to throw off the intolerable burden of capitalist exploitation and the chains of oppression.

LPYS WEEK OF ACTION

FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT!

For school-leavers looking for jobs, the situation is critical. Urgent action is required.

The Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee met on 26 April to plan a Week of Action to begin on 31 May on the issue of school-leaver unemployment.

By Kevin Ramage

- We will demand:
- (1) No cuts—a guaranteed job for school leavers
 - (2) A £25 grant for all school students over 16
 - (3) A massive increase in apprentice quotas
 - (4) Useful public work schemes on union rates and under trade union control
 - (5) Trade union control of all training centres
 - (6) Open the trade unions to the unemployed
 - (7) Open the schools and colleges for evening and holiday use
 - (8) A national minimum wage of £80 and a 35-hour week with no loss of pay.

The Department of Unemployment estimates indicate that with another 900,000 young people searching for jobs alongside the present 1½ million, and only 160,000 advertised jobs vacancies, the situation is desperate. Now the Tories are also cutting down on places at the skill centres. While some companies are crying out for skilled labour, the chances of young people getting trained are disappearing!

Just as crazy is the plan to end the scheme of giving grants to those school students who wish to stay on at least an extra year to study. As it is, only 17% of 16 to 18 year olds were staying on at school in 1977 (and 4 in 10 of these from well-to-do families). With the withdrawal of the present skinflint grant (averaging under £3) even more school students will have to abandon their education.

The alarm bells must be sounded in the labour movement. Either the working class organisations take action now, or their children will face years of anguish and despair.

The LPYS have called for as many activists as possible to be involved in the Week of Action which will be a springboard for a campaign to demand labour movement action to secure our demands.

May 31 will be a national Day of Action with every LPYS branch out on the streets. There will be street meetings with YS speakers, MPs and leading trade unionists and councillors speaking; car cavalcades, petitioning and leafletting.

Throughout the week, we'll be canvassing the estates, the schools and dole queues for support. Branches in many areas are already approaching local trade unions and shop stewards' committees to arrange visits to the factories and union branches for discussions during that week.

Many councils have facilities to allow delegations to speak to them and LPYS activity in the towns and cities will also be directed to these, combining the support of Labour councils with a lobby on the day the issue comes up in the council.

The press and media will be bombarded. We will hold public meetings on the estates during the week, with socials and outings on the last weekend, because if anything will be shown it will be the need for the youth to join the fight for socialism and join the LPYS, the biggest socialist youth organisation in Britain.

The Youth Campaign Against Unemployment, organised by leading members of the Labour Party Young Socialists, have a new leaflet for sale and urgent distribution prior to the TUC day of action.

It calls on all youth to take part in a one-day stoppage. The schools, colleges and the factories will all be leafleted, and all places where young people meet. There is also space on the leaflet for advertising local anti-Tory meetings.

We should mobilise as many youth as possible for the demonstration. Where LPYS branches have a base on any estates they should consider, along with local Labour Parties and tenants' organisations, calling marches down to the starting point of the main local demonstrations.

On May 14th Britain will come to a halt. Young people will see the power of the labour movement. The LPYS must strike while the iron is hot, and show the youth there is an alternative to Tory misery—a socialist fight-back with the LPYS.

The YCAU leaflets cost £4 for 1,000 (£1 per 1,000 extra for postage) and are available from K Ramage, 23 Ironside House, Kingsmead Estate, London E9. Send cash with order!!



The LPYS on the march against the Tories on 2 February

The facts of life in St Pauls

After the Lewisham riot in 1977 an editorial in 'The Times' pointed to the fact that the conditions facing black youth, especially with poor educational facilities, squalid housing conditions and high unemployment, were the root cause of the alienation of black youth from society.

By Phil Frampton

They went on to point out, however, that Britain was in a crisis and could not afford to divert profits from big business into the hands of those who needed it—and this in a time of relative boom! All they suggested was hope!

The same was the case in the St Pauls area of Bristol. Over 30% of St Pauls' black youth are unemployed. Thousands more workers' families exist on poverty wages. They live in St Pauls largely because they cannot afford to go anywhere else.

I visited one house in City Road where the kitchen was also a bedroom for two of the men and served as the family's living room.

Then there is Chris in Ashley Road. He pays £12 a week for a one bedroom flat. His landlord wants £35. The landlord negotiates by throwing faeces and rotten food onto the windowsill, scrawling foul messages on the walls,

and withholding the key to the bathroom.

The council flats are not much better. Most people end up in St Pauls because they are desperate. Their personal plight is added to by thin walls and council regulations which means a family of five must live in a two-bedroomed house.

St Pauls carries a stigma which even makes it difficult to get a job. Mrs B told me how her friend had to give a false address so as to get a job.

All this is not simply a problem of 'inner city' areas as the well-to-do suggest. It is a problem of poverty. While people cannot afford to live a decent life, slums will always exist. If the learned gentlemen want to eradicate poverty, they should be advocating an £80 national minimum wage and a job for all.

The Tory press have stirred up an argument about whether the Chief Constable should have withdrawn the police from the fighting with the youth. In fact he had no choice, they had withdrawn already!

Then even 'The Times' was party to the general distribution of the lie that St Pauls is a largely black area. Blacks account for no more than 25% of the population.



Bristol youth march against police harassment and murder of Blair Peach on April 23

This is why the labour movement must take up the responsibility for exposing the real situation in St Pauls: to answer the distortions of the Tories and their henchmen; and to expose the suffering which capitalism causes.

Labour must work out a

programme which will build the Party into a mass active movement in St Pauls and Bristol as a whole.

- ★ For a labour and trade union enquiry
- ★ Build a mass active Labour Party
- ★ Stop the cuts.

BRACKNELL SHOWS THE WAY

At 10.15 pm the Royal Oak pub shook with cheering and applause. Labour Party workers were greeting the announcement on Thursday, 17 April, that two Bracknell Town Council seats had been won from the Tories.

By Bracknell councillors Pat Bayle and Val Pearce

The victory increases the Labour majority on the council to 16 against 9 Tories. More importantly it is a complete vindication of the socialist policies being carried out by the Labour majority group.

The by-election, caused by two Tory councillors moving out of the area, is a devastating blow against the policies of the Tory government and their cronies on the Bracknell County and Bracknell District Councils. A Tory majority of 237 last June was turned into a Labour majority of 118 on an increased turnout of 29.9%, which is extremely high for a council by-election.

In spite of the hysterical attitude of the local press at these policies, the voters in the by-election have given a tremendous vote of confidence to the Labour councillors.

Supporters of the 'Militant' have played a prominent role in the Labour group, which will be strengthened by the addition of two new members, one of whom is a supporter of the paper.

This victory will give heart to the Labour Party in Bracknell in its campaign against Tory cuts in public expenditure, as well as explode the Tory myth that people will not vote for increased services and amenities.

As working class opposition builds up against the Thatcher government, Labour councillors must give a lead at local level, backed up by the District and Constituency Labour Parties, by refusing to collaborate in the destruction of services. Such policies can win enthusiastic support at the polls.

At May's local elections up and down the country Labour will undoubtedly win control of a large number of councils, as the working class cast their votes against the Tory government. These victories must be translated into fighting opposition to the cuts by these councils, involving the wider labour and trade union movement.

Although Bracknell town council is not the most important council in the country by any means, it has shown what can be done. Let's hope that the celebration that took place in the Royal Oak in Bracknell can be repeated up and down the country in coming months.

MILITANT PAMPHLET 'Stop the Cuts—Defend the NHS'

Price 40p (p&p 10p extra)
From 1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN

DON'T CRY—OCCUPY!

Nightingale Lane Day Nursery in Balham, London, was to be closed by the Tory Council. Among those who applied to take over the lease was someone commonly believed to be a front for a Tory Councillor whose wife runs a chain of private nurseries in the area.

This part of London has a quite desperate need for nursery places and the parents decided to fight back under the slogan—'Don't Cry—Occupy!'

Jenny Read of the Wandsworth Child Care Campaign, spoke to Terri Paterson

Public sympathy has been aroused by the occupation—the Trades Council and the local branch of the CPSA have become involved. Lorry loads of toddlers have toured the area and found a good deal of support.

Terri Paterson, a Scottish teacher, visited the occupation when in London with the EIS (Educational Institute of Scotland) contingent on the TUC demo on 9 March. Jenny Read of Wandsworth Child Care Campaign, told her about the occupation.

"The occupation began on the day the Council planned to close the Nursery down—8 March.

"Nightingale Lane was a day nursery with 59 places.

There are 15,000 under-fives in the area. 6,000 children have parents who work full-time. More than 2,500 are single-parent families.

"So there was a real need for the nursery and more places too. A recent report called the Under-five Policy Review stated that there is a need for 4,000 day nursery places in this area.

"The area has many other problems too. All the stresses of inner-city life. There is serious overcrowding and lack of play space. 40% of the community are immigrants.

"We want the nursery re-opened and we want an assurance from the Council that there will be no more nursery closures.



Youngsters enjoying themselves at the Nightingale Lane nursery, as their parents and supporters battle to keep it open through occupation

"The area has many other closed because the building does not meet fire safety regulations and too much expense would be involved in bringing it up to the acceptable standard. It has, however, been in use as a nursery since 1942.

"We are already planning

to carry on the fight—even though it is hard work. Keeping the place clean is a major task—help would be appreciated. The Council application for eviction will be held in the High Court on 25th April.

"But this isn't an isolated struggle. The Trades Council

and local CPSA are involved as well as local Labour Party members and those from other sections of the movement. Incidentally, the local

children's library (Winstanley) and the local hospitals are also under occupation, to prevent closures.

Messages of support and offers of help [elbow grease is badly needed] to Wandsworth Child Care Campaign, 84 Leathwaite Rd, London SW 11. Tel. 228 6367.

National Union of Students MILITANT PROVED AS NOLS GAINS

A quiet NUS Conference in Blackpool saw the 'Left' maintain a majority on the NUS Executive, with the Tories having only two places out of nineteen. The Conference marked a step forward for the National Organisation of Labour Students.

By Mike Levene (Trent Poly NUS)

ate' nature of the NOLS leadership. After an amendment putting 'Militant's' position had been defeated, an addition to the main motion, which backed the 'Alternative Economic Strategy' was proposed.

This was to add that NUS should support Labour Council's refusing to implement cuts, and oppose rent increases. This was carried by Conference, despite the opposition of the NOLS leadership! Labour students must now ensure that the NUS Executive carry out this policy.

The resolution supporting the 'Alternative Economic Strategy' was carried, despite a number of speakers pointing out the reactionary nature of import controls.

Manus McGuire (Ulster Poly), and Simon Cole (LSE) also explained that the gains that had been won in the past would be taken away if capitalism and private ownership were left intact; and that the main motion left the bulk

of the economy in private hands.

Conference backed the call for an all-out strike on May 14th. This must now be co-ordinated with other public sector unions by the NUS Executive, so that a real 'unity in action' can be built against the Tories.

Conference rejected the Executive's 'Development Plan'; which wanted to cut back the campaigning work of NUS.

Over 20 people heard Peter Lush speak on the 'Fight Against the Tories' at the Militant Readers' Meeting. The discussion reflected all the problems facing working people, and was a bresh of fresh air, (and reality!) after many of the inward-looking Conference debates.

The victory of the extreme right within the Federation of Conservative Students was a further indication of the class polarisation starting amongst students. Militant supporters must continue the battle for fighting socialist policies within NOLS and NUS to help win students to the side of the labour movement in the battles that lie ahead.

MILITANT 500 A CELEBRATION OF IDEAS

'Multinational Corporations' was the theme of the film with which the Nottingham 'Militant 500 Rally' kicked off.

Clearly exposing the growing class division in the world, it brought out the example of a factory in New England, USA, which had just been taken over by Ingersol-Rand, a 2 billion dollars multinational.

To maintain its profits, the company gave the New England workers the choice between a pay decrease or redundancy—although the factory had made a profit throughout its existence—pointing out that it could buy labour for 30 cents an hour in Taiwan, instead of the 3 dollar rate in New England...

This opened the eyes of the workers there to the need for united working class action against the absolute power of the Corporation over their lives.

In the afternoon session Bob Edwards [Harlow CLP] spelled out how the 'Militant' has the programme to arm and prepare workers for the struggle against such companies by defeating the capitalist system itself.

£58 was collected for the Fighting Fund.



Ted Grant speaks at a 'Militant 500' meeting in Paddington

LEFT and RIGHT

Entryist?

Tory Wes Gerrard has stood six times for election to the council, and lost every time in the Labour stronghold of Huyton. So this time he is campaigning as a 'Labour candidate,' so that on the ballot sheet the description 'Labour' will follow his name. He is hoping to be elected on the basis of confused voters putting a cross next to his name, instead of the official Labour candidate. And to think the Tories are always bleating about the British 'way of life'—well, this certainly isn't cricket, old chap.

The problem is...

Not too surprisingly, the South African Police force is having difficulty recruiting black workers into its ranks. According to 'The Times' [16 April] nearly 2,000 vacancies for black policemen have been left unfilled. Given the way the South African armed forces, especially the police, brutally suppressed the uprisings in Soweto and so on in 1976-77, this is understandable. However, this has nothing to do with it, according to SAP recruiting officer Brigadier Fourie, despite the fact that unemployment among blacks is ever increasing and police pay is far better than the usual poverty level wages open to blacks. The Brigadier says that one of the main reasons for the lack of black police is that there is now a 'stricter selection procedure' for blacks wanting to join up, introduced since the '76 uprisings. It does not take a genius to work out what sort of questions are now put to would-be black policemen by South Africa's white ruling class. But the SAP will no doubt solve their problem by once again sending their recruiting officers into the rural areas of the country where the black workers are not so politically advanced as their urban industrial counterparts, and where a life in the police force offers a way out to the desperate existence of living off the infertile bush areas. As 'The Times' pointed out, "Black policemen played an important role in containing the 1976-77 unrest, particularly in Soweto, where the black riot police tended to be drawn from country areas and rural communities which had little sympathy with the politicised youth who led the rebellion."

A new disease

The case of General Grigorenko is a classic example of how the ruling clique of the Stalinist bureaucracy in the USSR can use the vague area of psychiatric illness to persecute their opposition. Grigorenko was a 'communist' who through his effectiveness became a Major General in the Red Army, and was showered with medals and honours and so on. However, by the early 1960s he began to form many disagreements with the bureaucracy—he was arrested, declared mentally ill and put in a hospital for the criminally insane. His illness? A description can be found in the official Soviet examination report by doctors Morozov and Lunts, which concluded: "Grigorenko is suffering from a mental illness in the form of a pathological [paranoid] development of the personality, with the presence of reformist ideas..."

Fun is illegal

With all these terrible people criticising the police all the time, police in Tranmere, Merseyside, carried out an operation which will no doubt further good relations between them and the public. On a small housing estate there, the parents in one street decided to hold a disco in their road—in an area of high unemployment and low wages, this piece of cheap entertainment went down well. That is, until the police turned up at 9 pm and broke it up. What an outcry there would have been from the Tories, had the Silver Jubilee street parties all been shut down at 9 pm!

THE TRUTH IS TOLD

Photo: MILITANT

The graphic and accurate account by the National Council for Civil Liberties of the Southall events last year in which Blair Peach was murdered, has had the Tory press and the police chiefs squealing.

The report, titled 'Southall 23 April 1979' gives a blow by blow account of the incidents which clearly show how the police—mainly the SPG—turned Southall into a virtual police state for a day, and subjected the Asian community to vicious racist attacks.

The SPG have been developed as an almost para-military group—at Southall they were used against blacks and anti-racist demonstrators; but as can be seen from their use in the steel strike, they have been developed to be used against the organised labour movement in the coming industrial battles.

The report sets out in detail the build up to the clash. The local Asian community felt threatened by the presence of the fascist NF meeting in the heart of the town—they were angered that these racist thugs should come in from outside areas, complete with massive police protection. But the presence of the NF soon became overshadowed by the massive police operation used to protect the fascists.

The report shows how the police shut off the area around the Town Hall and the Broadway, cordoning off whole streets. This only succeeded in angering the local community even more—as the report says, many were older people just wanting to get home after work, making a conscious effort to stay out of the area in case of trouble. Yet their streets were blocked off, and if they complained they were arrested.

As the crowd got bigger the police tactics became more brutal and more indiscriminate: "Father Thomas Lloyd, a catholic priest, was convicted of obstruction...I was...grabbed from behind by police, my arms twisted behind my back and I was pushed through the police cordon. I cannot see how I could have been obstructing when I was not facing the cordon..."

At one point, the SPG began driving their green vans at high speeds into the packed crowds, and attacking the demonstrators, an act which even stunned local regular police. A police coach was also driven fast through the crowd.

Martin Brice, a reporter from the Ealing Gazette, says in the report, "About 20 police were charging towards me with their truncheons in their hands. It was perfectly obvious that anyone caught by the SPG would get very rough treatment indeed..."

"I ran for my life up the Broadway and ducked into the doorway of the petrol station. I walked over to join the police sheltering under the canopy...They had moved onto the footway and were saying things like 'What do those blokes (referring to the SPG) think they are doing?'"

By Bob Wade

The report is full of statements describing the brutal treatment and arbitrary arrests meted out by the police.

A typical example was the arrest of Martin Craxton, an LPYS member who was in a park handing out leaflets. The police, who were standing around the entrance, suddenly pushed an iron gate in a young girl's face.

As Martin went to her aid the police charged: "I heard shouts from the end of the police line 'right now' and the police surged in around the iron gates and over the wall. I felt something hit my head and was brought to the ground...On the ground I was being pushed and kicked...I was shoved to the pavement and surrounded by a large number of policemen. The group of them started kicking me again."

When in a police van, like many of those arrested, Martin was verbally abused. "He (a policeman) said, 'Yes it's claret (referring to blood from a two-inch wound in Martin's head). If you don't wipe it off with your sleeve you'll get another thump on the head.' I quickly wiped it off."

"He (Martin) said that when two Indians were bundled into the van, the police started shouting 'You black scum! You've no right to be in a country like this.'"

Martin was charged with threatening behaviour, but in December in court the police gave no evidence and he accepted a voluntary binding over.

In a separate section the report outlines the details of the murder of Blair Peach—there can be no doubt that he was killed by a police officer. It also goes on to expose the cover-up which went on through official channels. It also describes some of the weapons found in the lockers of SPG men, which included knives, a rhino whip, a pickaxe handle, a crowbar and various types of metal truncheons.

The report deals with the way in which the Tory press, the courts and so on, treated the events in a totally biased manner.

The Tory press of course, have predictably attacked the report as being merely an attempt to smear the police by a bunch of left-wingers—the 'Daily Mail' went as far as to devote a whole editorial saying the report was not valid because none of the eyewitness accounts were given under oath!

The Tory press—owned by the millionaire barons of Fleet Street—have totally ignored the contents of the report, in the same way they ignored the truth when reporting the events of Southall itself.

But one of the most shameful comments in response to the report came from



An arrest at Southall, 23rd April 1979. Ex-Labour Home Secretary Merlyn Rees said of the NCCL findings, "I found the report less than convincing."

the mouth of Labour Home Secretary at the time of Southall, Merlyn Rees, who said, "...on the troubles in Southall themselves I felt it was less than objective. I found the report less than convincing."

The report is highly useful and an important document for the labour movement. However, the bosses, as can be seen from the attitude of the Tory press, have denounced it as propaganda and will take no action over the whole issue.

It is therefore essential that the labour movement conducts its own enquiry into the events at Southall and the

vicious murder of Blair Peach, to ensure action is taken against those who carried out the killing, and the many assaults that took place.

Southall—23 April 1979—the Report of the Unofficial Enquiry

Available from NCCL, 186 Kings Cross Road, London WC 1X 9DE

Price £2.20

THE TOP ONE PER CENT...

Photo: MILITANT

A government of the rich, for the rich, by the rich. This definition of the Tory government is amply justified by the latest Counter Information Services report, 'The Wealthy'.

No wonder that one of the first acts of Thatcher's government was to wind up the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth. Fleet Street gave little publicity to the findings of this Commission. But in analysing official statistics, and also pointing to their great limitations in this field, the Commission underlined the gross inequality of wealth that exists in Britain.

In 1976 the top 1% of the population controlled 24.9% of the total personal wealth in the country. The top 10% controlled 60.6%. That left merely 39.4% for the rest of us, that is 90% of the population.

Despite the fact that there have been Labour governments for sixteen years in the post-war period, the basic inequality of wealth has hardly changed in 50 years. The very marginal increase in 'equality', we may be sure, is as much to do with the efforts of the rich to conceal their wealth from the tax man and statisticians as from any real change in ownership and distribution.

In the Tories' 'tax cut' Budget, the Chancellor handed a staggering 15% of all the money paid out in tax cuts to the richest 1% of tax payers. The richest 7% picked up a massive 34%.

The CIS report, then, is quite right in concluding that "The action taken by the wealthy to protect their wealth at a time of economic recession is having a severe effect on the rest of us."

'The Wealthy' concentrates its attention on the 'Top One Percent'. Who are they, what do they do, and what kind of lives do they lead?

CIS shows that, although great wealth can still be earned in some exceptional cases, most of those who make up the Top One Percent have been born into riches. Lord Vestey, for example, who owns the Union International meat empire, inherited three quarters of a million pounds at the age of 13! Lord Inchcape, chairman of P&O and a director of several insurance companies and banks, inherited £2 million at the age of 21.

The Top One Percent are a tightly-knit network of family and business relations, who dominate the boards of the big industrial companies, the banks, the merchant banks, and also play the main role in running pension funds and building societies and insurance companies.

In 1976, the top 1% owned 54.2% of company shares, 52% of land and 8.6% of the country's housing.

'The Wealthy' also includes profiles of some typical mem-

Lynn Walsh reviews
'The Wealthy'
published by
Counter Information
Services

bers of the Top One Percent. Property developers like the Duke of Westminster and the late Sir Charles Clore, industrialists like Sir Arnold Weinstock and Lords Vestey, Inchcape and Pilkington, and the casino king Cyril Stein.

The profile of Sir Julian Hodge shows what it takes to become a 'self-made' millionaire banker. He started his climb to fame and fortune in accountancy at night school in Wales, while a British Rail employee.

"Hodge first hit the headlines in 1961 when his personal fortune shot up to £4 million in as many minutes..." He based himself in Cardiff, where he established his Bank of Wales. "There he built important political connections. Jim Callaghan has become a substantial shareholder in Hodge Finance, and when the Bank of Wales was formed Callaghan and seven other Welsh MPs took big stakes in it.

"But Hodge became most notorious in the early seventies for pyramid selling and second mortgage schemes. These were like a financial chain letter, in which people, many of them West Indian immigrants, borrowed money

on the security of their homes. If they failed to sell further shares to cover what they borrowed (and many of them did fail to sell) the company claimed what it was owed and people lost their homes.

"Pyramid selling was made illegal in 1973. Last year Hodge Finance and Sir Julian S Hodge were refused licences by the Office of Fair Trading. The OFT has refused only 46 licences out of 55,000 applicants.

"In 1963 when he was already estimated to be worth £10 million he told a journalist: 'I do not regard myself as a wealthy man. It's all on paper you know.' 'So,' the journalist replied, 'are £10 notes.'

Generally, however, it is the inheritors of wealth who continue to consolidate and increase their fortunes. 'The Wealthy' examines the control of the big corporations and financial institutions; the domination of land ownership by the wealthy few; the manipulation of pension funds and insurance companies by the financial elite; and the way that the finance markets, and especially the gilt market and government debt, can be manipulated to produce fabulous gains for the rich.

Despite all the capitalist propaganda against the Labour government, the share of wealth owned by the top 1% actually increased during the period of Labour's office from 1974 to 1976. In 1974 they owed 22.5% of the country's wealth. In 1976 they owned 24.9%.

But now they expect to do even better under the Tories. After all, the Tory government not only represents the interests of big business, but its members are themselves mostly members of the Top One Percent.

Wealth begets wealth (from the labour of the poor), and the Tory monetarists are

They're not always as daft as they look, at least when it comes to defending their wealth and privilege



CIS Report: 'The Wealthy' is available £1 post free from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

prepared brazenly to acknowledge this.

'The Wealthy' is full of

highly explosive ammunition for the fight against the Tory representatives of the Top

One Percent wealthy parasites living off our backs.

... and one of the rest of us

Photo: MILITANT

It's just after 5 am and something—a deafening alarm bell in your ear-hole—tells you that you are expected to be somewhere other than in your nice warm bed.

If you didn't get to bed about 9 pm the night before, you feel lousy. Even if you did, you still feel lousy, and not in the best of tempers when you come to and realise it's neither Saturday nor Sunday.

After a quick cup of coffee and a lump of burnt toast, it's time to set off to Shand Kydd's in Christchurch for the early shift which starts at 6 am. Late shift from 2 pm to 10 pm is just as anti-social. But if you come to Shand Kydd's, it is either shift-work or no work.

On entering the factory you are immediately met by a wall of deafening noise from extractor motors and fan heaters which dry the wallpaper in huge ovens after printing. You instantly become twice as irritable as you were at 5 am! The time clock always seems to be fast in the

By Dave Lovett
(Bournemouth East
Labour Party)

morning, but slow at clocking out time. Another crafty method by management to boost productivity?

After a quick smoke and a grumble in the mess-room, the foreman invites you onto the factory floor, an invitation we reluctantly accept! From this moment on, if you want to keep your hearing for later years, headphones (no Radio 1!) are advisedly worn. Apart from tea-breaks, communications, even with your nearest workmates, is reduced to a sort of system of hand signals.

For the next two or three hours, movement is limited to an area about ten yards long, and you begin to understand how an inmate of London Zoo feels. About once a week, a party of students or sightseers are shown around the place. Whatever for I can't imagine. You can tell by the look on their faces that they can't wait to get out!

The machinery keeps rumbling on, and by about 10 am especially in summer, the factory is beginning to get very hot and stuffy.

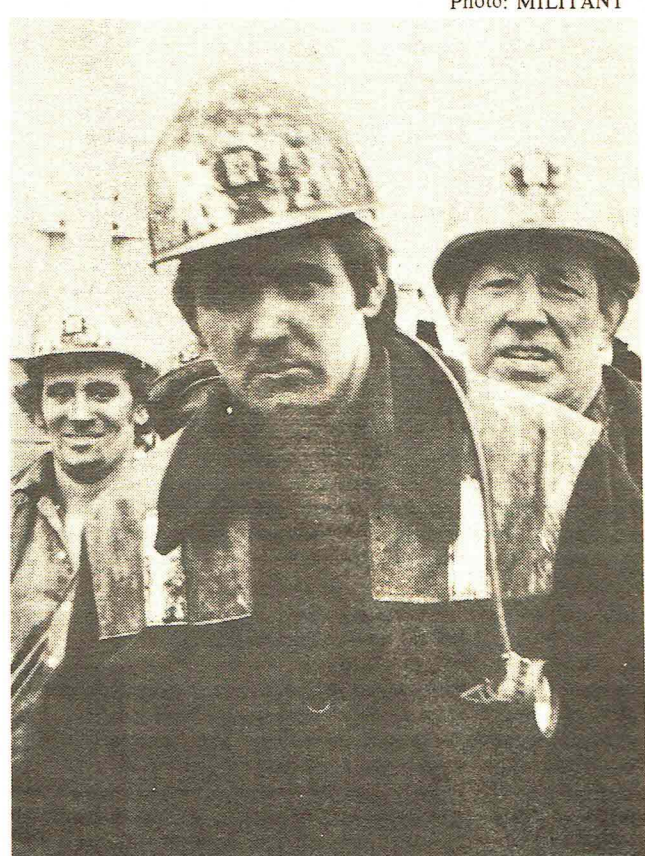
Two or three times a week a lorry comes to deliver reels of paper and the big doors are opened. If you are lucky enough to work near the door, you can see glimpses of the outside world—daylight! It's good in the summer because you can breathe real air for a while, but in the winter a nice cool breeze comes straight off the English Channel right past your machine, turning your blood blue!

The next thing to look forward to is tea break, and some political debate trying to win over some Tory trade unionists—a difficult task in a true-blue stronghold like Christchurch. But at least some conversation is a bonus after about two hours' 'isolation'.

This takes place in the mess-room, all sat around on long forms, eating your food off your lap with tea out of a paper cup. Ashtrays are non-existent. You just try and find a space on the floor for your fag-end!

Management wander off at 10 am to their own canteen for their tea-break, but if we have any problems on the machine, we have to delay ours until it runs again.

From now onwards, we start to scrutinise the time



Unlike the top 1%, the majority of the population, if they can get a job, work often long hours and in bad conditions

clock at regular intervals, know why we bother really counting the hours and We have to come back and do minutes till 2 pm. I don't it all over again tomorrow!

245T

CAPITALISM DAMAGES YOUR HEALTH

The catastrophic accident at the Swiss-owned plant producing 2,4,5, T at Seveso, Northern Italy, sent shock waves throughout the industrialised capitalist countries.

The horrifying effects [described in part 1 last week] on the immediate victims of the poison gas cloud, and the numerous miscarriages and deformed births experienced by women pregnant at the time, forced governments, chemical companies, and independent researchers to pay more attention to this highly toxic substance, used among other things in household herbicides and insecticides.

Medical investigators embarked upon a systematic study of 2,4,5 T. It was soon established that US Vietnam veterans, farmers in Oregon, and babies in Queensland, Australia, were all suffering from the same complaints as those in Seveso.

They were all found to have sight problems and nervous maladies. But the most striking symptom was the partial sterility of the men, and the almost 100% incidence of deformed births.

In both Oregon and Queensland, farmers had been spraying their plantations with 245T and the herbicide had seeped into the rivers and streams and found their way into domestic water supplies.

However, the most damning evidence linking 245T with these various symptoms comes from Britain: farm workers in Derbyshire, railwaymen in Yorkshire and forestry workers in Wales and elsewhere, were all found either to be sterile or to have contracted chloroacne—a skin disease. British Rail admitted it sprayed herbicides containing 245T on their tracks every year.

Under enormous pressure from the trade unions, the

TUC have now called upon the Ministry of Agriculture to follow the US, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, and Holland in banning 245T.

They have demanded, moreover, that the Ministry re-open its inquiry into the pesticide—there have been eight inquiries over the past years. More importantly, they have asked that the Health and Safety Executive should be responsible for monitoring the production and use of 245T.

This follows allegations that the manufacturer of 245T, Coalite and Chemical Products is withholding two confidential reports on the health of workers exposed to dioxin at their Derbyshire plant.

A third report, led earlier this month, showed that men exposed to dioxin were at greater risk of contracting heart and liver disease. Even more disturbing, however, has been the reported break-in at the home of the medical investigator and the loss of vital medical records.

This company evidently has very good reasons for keeping silent.

The 'Sunday Times,' has revealed as many as four out of five workers who worked in the same shift have developed heart complaints.

The case of 245T highlights the absurd inadequacy of the present legislation concerning toxic chemicals. Throughout the regulations, the procedures which are really required to test and regulate dangerous processes and products are subordinated to the narrow commercial interests of the chemical companies.

A company has the right, for instance, to withhold scientific and medical information which may be "of commercial importance." This 'let out' clause—clearly intended to safeguard profitability—can always be invoked to avoid revealing information absolutely vital for assessing the risk a substance poses to the health of the workforce, and to the population at large.

Second part of
an article
by Ronnie Sookhdeo

If, moreover, a company manufactures less than one ton of chemical a year it is under no obligation to perform screening tests for toxicity before manufacturing the product. On this basis, 245T has been given a clean bill of health! The regulations apparently take no account of the fact that minute quantities of some substances may be lethal in their effects.

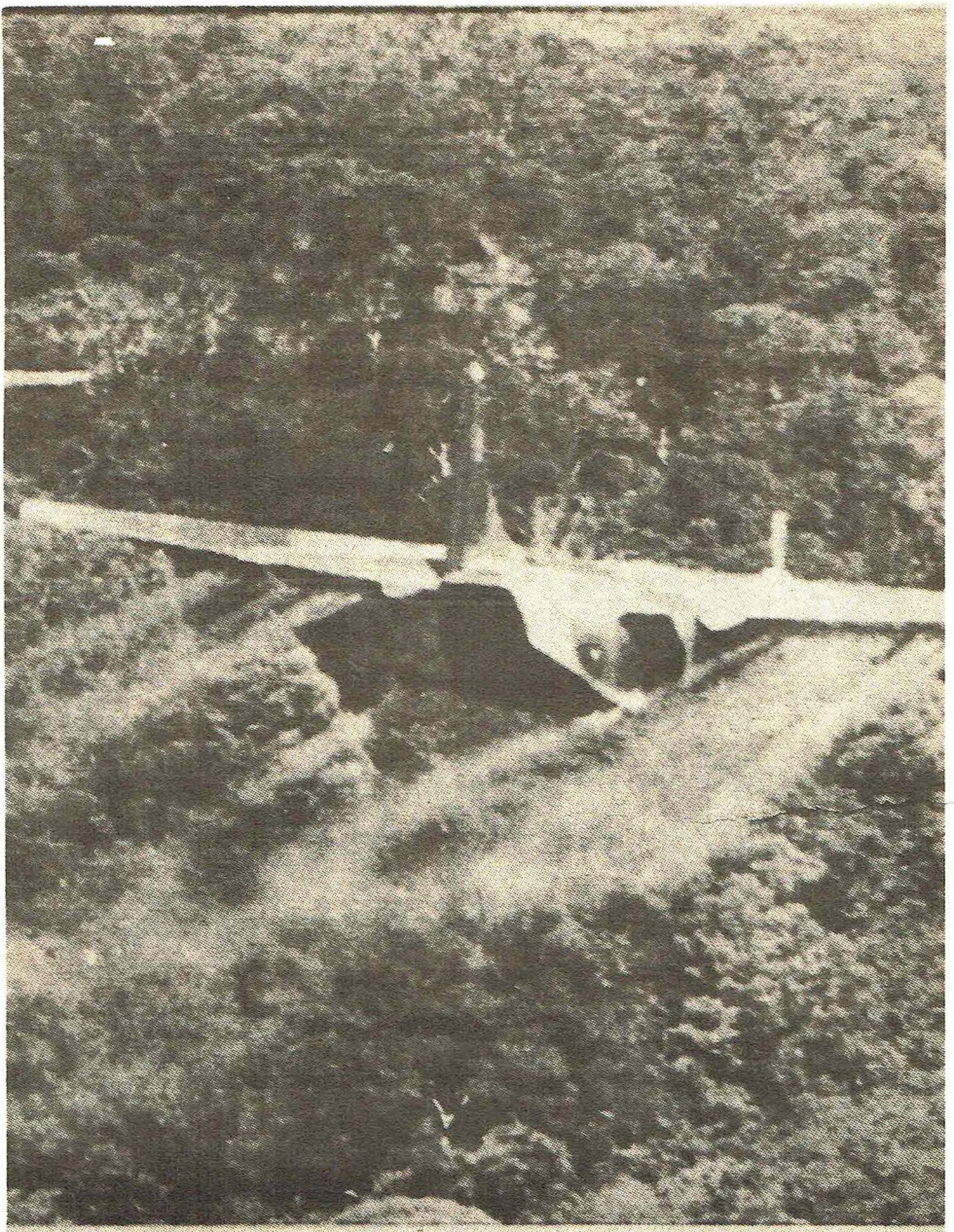
All the available evidence strongly suggests that there is no safe level of exposure to 245T as the government has tried to maintain in the past. Since cancer and other diseases tend to develop slowly, the effects of a toxic chemical like this are unlikely to be known until it is too late.

The only way to avoid long-term poisoning of the workers involved and other members of the community is for the labour and trade union movement to initiate a campaign for the total outlawing of 245T.

Such a campaign must demand the full revelation of all the results of all the relevant tests, whether from government or company sources, together with the thorough medical examination of all workers who may have been exposed to the chemical. The trade unions must insist that comprehensive medical records are kept and made available to the public.

The dangers of toxic chemicals like 245T, raise more fundamental questions. The labour movement, for instance, must challenge the myth upheld by big business experts that pesticides and insecticides are essential to provide the food that we need. Of course, according to the market economy outlook of big business, it is 'obvious' that the solution to the problems of agricultural producers—increasingly dominated by the big monopolies of the 'agribusiness'—is for the chemical industry to produce these highly profitable products.

But there are potentially many more effective methods that could be used, with much less harmful results to the environment and to consumers, such as the planned rotation of crops, growing on smaller areas, and the planned management of insect populations.



A village in Vietnam destroyed by de-foliation chemical 'Agent Orange'. Yet many workers in Britain are regularly subjected to a similar chemical 2,4,5 T in their work.

The labour movement must campaign for the banning of 245T. Science and technology must be taken out of the hands of the profit-hungry capitalist class

The horrendous effects of substances like 245T show that safety checks must be introduced long before the chemicals reach the production stage. The trade unions should be satisfied on safety before production is started. They should also be satisfied that the processes for the manufacture of the chemicals are also safe for the workers involved and for the surrounding community and the environment.

There will always be a fundamental contradiction in capitalist society between the development of science and technology, which demands a rational and rounded-out approach, and the application of the results of science by big business enterprises, which are primarily concerned to maximise their profits and whose operations are at every stage conditioned by the anarchy of the market and competition with their rivals.

The potentially disastrous results of the one-sided and short sighted development of new chemicals, new biological agents, and other enormously powerful physical processes, make it more than imperative that science and technology is taken out of the hands of the capitalist class and put in the hands of the working people through the socialist reorganisation of production.

Oil bosses - no risk, no problems

In the Tory Budget, Chancellor Howe raised the Petroleum Revenue Tax (PRT) by 10%, from 60% to 70%, retro-spective to 1st January.

No doubt the big oil companies will now be screaming about being "over-taxed." But while the PRT increase will add £535 million to total government oil revenue in 1980/81, increasing its total North Sea revenue (from PRT, royalties and corporation tax) to £4 billion plus, this is still chicken-feed compared to the oil companies' fabulous profits.

All the majors reported record 1979 profits. The seven largest, the "seven sisters", increased profits after tax by 97.9% to £9,956 million.

The biggest profit rises were announced by British Petroleum (46% state owned), profits up 265% to £1,621

million in 1979, and the Royal Dutch/Shell Group (60% Dutch owned, 40% British owned), profits up 181% to £3,051 million in 1979.

The oil giants are currently spending a small fortune every week on television and newspaper ads to convince us that they are spending millions and millions on research and development to improve their products and solve the energy crisis.

But the massive increase in North Sea oil profits is hardly the result of daring enterprise and capitalist risk-taking. North Sea oil prices have more than doubled in a year to at least \$33.75 a barrel as a result of OPEC price rises. In any case, investment can be offset against tax, and the oil companies don't pay a penny until they have begun to reap their profits.

If an oil company puts £1 billion into exploration, it doesn't pay any PRT until it has recovered £1.35 billion. If it spends money and doesn't find oil, the expenditure is written off as "abortive exploration expenditure"—all of which can be deducted from tax payable on oil-producing fields elsewhere in the North Sea.

There is no risk involved! The Tories' increase in PRT is a mere flea bite. By 1983, the government would have been taking 51% of the oil companies' gross oil and gas revenues from the North Sea. With the new 70% rate they will be taking 57%. As 'The Economist' (29 March) commented recently: "Not enough of a change to worry the oil companies."

The fight for Socialism is International

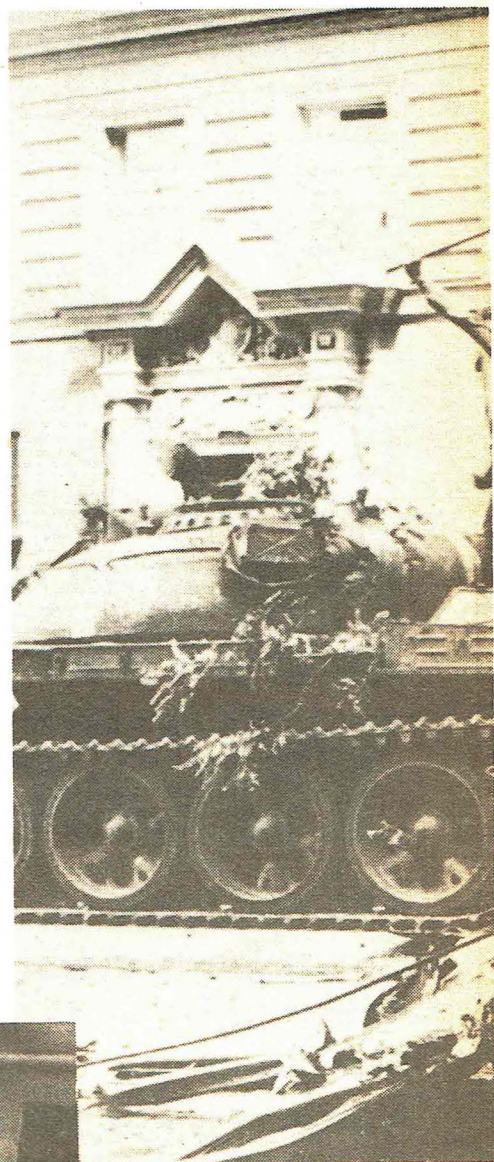


Photo: Popperfoto



PHOTOS: The magnificent French crisis and political upheaval in the ad of Czechoslovakia [above] in August Stalinist states.



Last week we reviewed 1 and its analysis and st publication in 1964. Thi

INTERNATIONAL SENTIMENT. WORLD MARKET. THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS

The very first issue of 'Militant' in 1964 showed the importance which the editors attached to international issues.

"Neither Goldwater nor Johnson for US labour" was the call in an article pointing to the need for the American trade unions to break with the two big business parties and form their own party of labour to fight for the workers and blacks.

An article on South Africa raised an appeal for financial aid for political prisoners on the notorious Robben Island.

By Brent Kennedy

The new paper boldly took up the right-wing Labour leaders and their American friends: "Get US troops out of Vietnam!" demanded another international article, backed up by a defence of young workers here: "Say NO to the call-up!"

A searing arrow was

shot at British imperialism in an article on British Guyana: "These gentlemen, through careful practice in Ireland, India, Palestine, Cyprus, Malaya and many African colonies, have perfected to a fine art their cynical technique of splitting the working class on racial lines and then kindly sending their troops in to preserve law and order. This may provide the answer to Douglas Jay's bewildered question last May Day: 'Why should British troops be sent all over the world to keep the peace?'"

This principled opposition to the murderous, plundering role of British imperialism, a pre-condition for any tendency claiming to be socialist, has been consistently maintained throughout the sixteen years of the

'Militant', including under Labour governments, as more recent readers will know from our articles against the Shah of Iran.

In February 1967 we wrote: "...the British Labour leaders' humiliating subservience to international big business must be met with the demand for support of the Vietnamese, which together with the opposition of the American people is inevitably paving the way for a further victory against imperialism."

But whilst doing our elementary duty in supporting the struggle for national liberation of the workers and peasants, the 'Militant' refused to succumb to the hysteria of those infantile student leaders who, on the issue of Vietnam, mindlessly chanted "Ho, Ho, Ho Chi Minh" throughout the late

1960s.

We soberly warned of the consequences of the Stalinists' method: "How will the revolution in Vietnam develop? In an isolated backward country, where the struggle is being waged on the lines of a peasant guerrilla war, and where there is no working class of any size nor any conscious leadership, it will inevitably take a distorted form. Once free of imperialist domination, South Vietnam would almost certainly unify with the North, and Vietnam as a whole would take the form of a state with a nationalised, planned economy but without democratic control by the workers, which would require a new political revolution at a later stage."

This analysis, published in May 1966, held good thirteen years later when

the narrow nationalist interests of the Vietnamese, Chinese, Russian and Kampuchean (Cambodian) bureaucratic elites led to invasion and war.

'Militant' has not given such serious attention to international struggles simply out of sentimentality. Our internationalism is based on the fact that capitalism has developed the world market into an indivisible whole, uniting the interests of the workers of all countries and making the struggle in one country dependent on the struggle of the workers elsewhere.

Thus the 'Militant' has played a role in educating members of the British labour movement by relating the experiences of workers in other lands who have passed through stages of class struggle which undoubtedly face us in the

CHILE 'DEMOCRACY' RESTORED

The magnificent revolutionary movement of the Chilean workers and peasants—set in motion by the election of Salvador Allende's Popular Unity government in September 1970—was crushed in September 1973 by General Pinochet's bloody counter-revolution.

When they judged the moment ripe the generals

struck, unceremoniously ousting the elected government, and exacting bloody and massive revenge from the working class. Over 50,000 were murdered, tens of thousands imprisoned and tortured and the workers' organisations smashed. "There is a limit," pontificated 'The Times,' [15 September 1973], "to the

ruin a country can be prepared to contemplate... The circumstances were such that a reasonable military man could in good faith have thought it his constitutional duty to intervene..." So this is the real attitude of our rulers to democracy! When the wealth and power of the capitalist class is threatened, then the

ballot box and parliament must be discarded in favour of the tank, the torture chamber and the prison camp.



Photo: Popperfoto

eral strike [left] in May 1968 heralded a new period of need capitalist world; the Russian bureaucracy's invasion 1968 revealed a parallel development of crisis within the

ie 500

development of 'Militant' over 500 issues and on developments in Britain since first week we review its international outlook.

ALISM IS NOT JUST THE CAPITALIST NET HAS ITSELF UNITED TS OF THE WORKERS D.

years to come, learning from their successes and defeats.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed.

Marxism is above all the science of perspectives. The task we set ourselves was to understand the processes taking place in society in order to point the correct way forward. Thus at a time of unprecedented economic growth of capitalism, when the ruling class could afford to grant concessions and reforms to the workers, we patiently explained that it was only the greatly increased strength of the labour movement that had wrested these gains from the bosses, and that when the profit system began its inevitable downward spiral of crisis the fundamental contradiction between the classes would be expressed in revolution.

Whilst the ruling ideas of Keynesianism were readily taken up by the reformist leaders of the labour movement and even so-called 'Marxists' turned to the students and the peasants of the colonial world as the vanguard of revolution, the 'Militant' stood alone in emphasising the key role of the industrial workers of the advanced capitalist countries.

"French general strike poses the taking of power" declared one headline. But this was not during the betrayed revolution of 1968—anyone can be wise after the event. This was an analysis of the one-day general strike in June 1967.

"With 12 million workers out in serious struggle, with a full programme of action and a perspective of winning their demands,

how long could De Gaulle, or capitalism, last?" we asked in anticipation of the following year's events.

'Militant's' unflinching faith in the capacity of the working class to struggle was justified a year later in May 1968: "Ten million workers out! Hundreds of factories occupied and controlled by the workers!...What a mighty demonstration of the invincible power of the working class when it begins to move. What a crushing blow to the cynics, sceptics and apologists for big business...how clear it should be to even the most politically uneducated workers that their French brothers would be in power today but for the cowardly policies of the French labour and trade union leaders...The French workers will not only have succeeded in bringing

and its appeal for solidarity, their determination hardened. They did not want to let down British workers whose expectations had been raised.

This boost to their morale gave the strike a new momentum, and after several months they were victorious. After some subsequent skirmishes, the trade union became very firmly established in MLC.

Today, the balance of forces has changed be-

yond recognition. Now any demand made by the union is eagerly conceded by the management, who are anxious to avoid any more trouble.

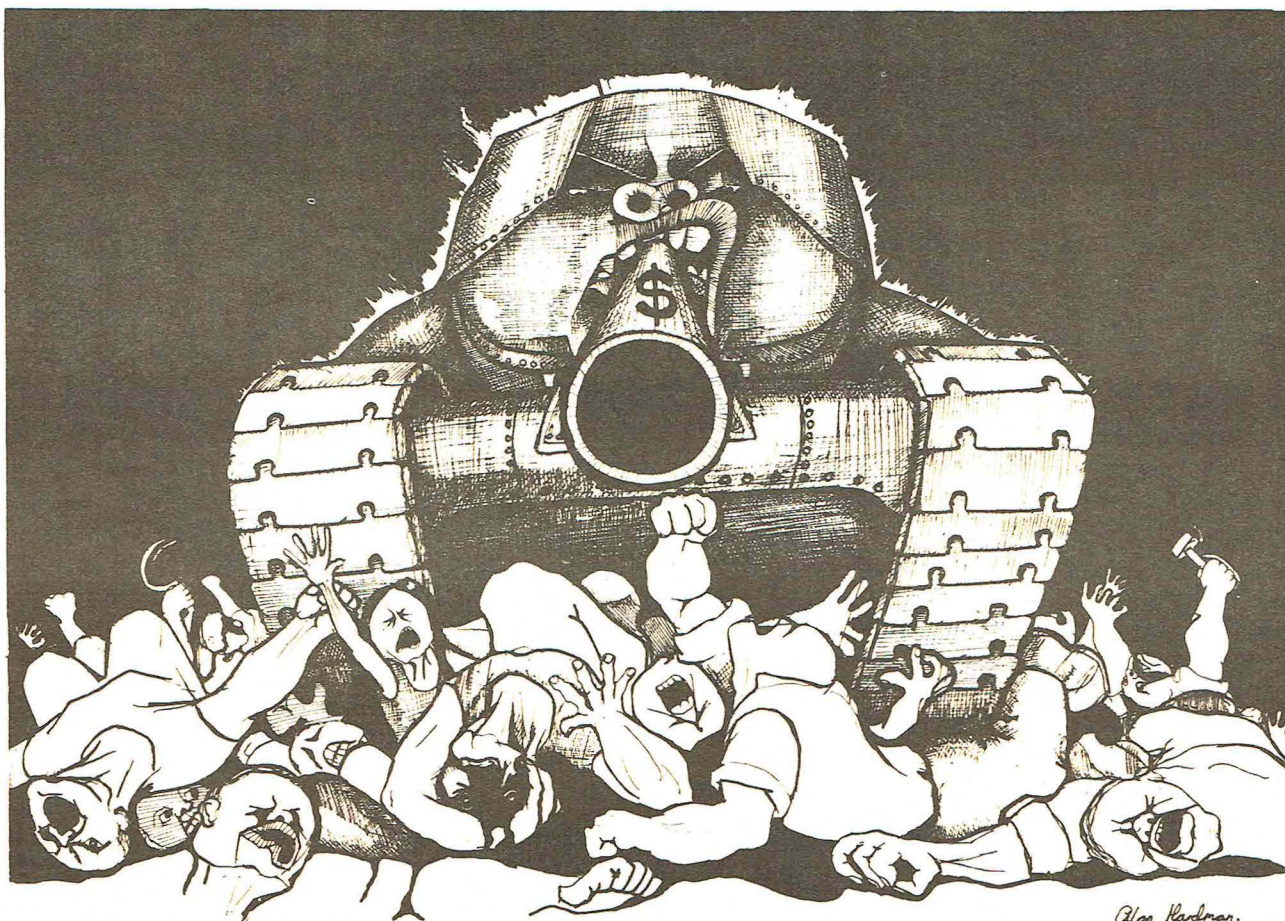
Our strike, which dragged on for months, became a symbol of stamina throughout the working class of southern India. The victory at MLC gave inspiration to workers all over Bangalore.

Recently the workers at the key MICO engineering factory stayed

out on strike for 67 days in a successful fight against victimisation. The workers of Bangalore staged a one-day general strike in solidarity.

'Militant' has given excellent coverage to the struggles of workers and of dalits [landless labourers], in this area. Congratulations on the publication of your 500th issue!

John Bosco, Metal Lamp Caps Employees' Union, Bangalore, India



Alan Hardman.

Militant 14 September 1973

GREETINGS FROM INDIA

I first came into contact with 'Militant' early in 1978 when I gave an interview to your correspondent about the strike that was taking place in Metal Lamp Caps Ltd., Bangalore. This came at a crucial moment in our strike.

The workers, most of them women, had already been out for many weeks, and they had been subjected to violence and intimidation. Morale was beginning to flag. When they saw the 'Militant' report

and its appeal for solidarity, their determination hardened. They did not want to let down British workers whose expectations had been raised. This boost to their morale gave the strike a new momentum, and after several months they were victorious. After some subsequent skirmishes, the trade union became very firmly established in MLC. Today, the balance of forces has changed beyond recognition. Now any demand made by the union is eagerly conceded by the management, who are anxious to avoid any more trouble. Our strike, which dragged on for months, became a symbol of stamina throughout the working class of southern India. The victory at MLC gave inspiration to workers all over Bangalore. Recently the workers at the key MICO engineering factory stayed

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about its (Gaullism's) downfall, but also in beginning to undermine all the honeycombed theories of 'social peace' which have proliferated in the Western labour movement in the past twenty years." Likewise, those who hailed the monstrous totalitarian dictatorships of Eastern Europe as "socialism", or the apologists who hoped for a peaceful, gradual reformation of Stalinism, were dumbfounded by the desperate invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Kremlin bureaucrats only months later as reforms whetted the Czech workers' appetite and threatened to escalate into political revolution.

"Stalinism throughout Eastern Europe trembles on the brink of new upheavals," we wrote weeks before the 1968 invasion, "Through its latest attempts to intimidate the Czech masses the Kremlin has provided an object lesson both to the vicious lengths to which it is prepared to go to defend the power of the bureaucracy, and also to its impotence to stem the tide of revolt. Even the limited liberalisation granted by the Dubcek faction of the Czech bureaucracy, in its attempt to stave off revolution, struck terror into its heart...Ominously, it has left open the road to bloody intervention by resurrecting hoary tales of 'CIA plots'."

'Militant' entered the new decade confidently with an article entitled: "Into the 1970s—a decade of revolution." France '68 opened a new era in Europe: "With one mighty blow the right wing in the labour movement and their shadows, the 'Marxist'

sect, saw their theories blown sky-high." But even these watersheds would "...be merely a ripple compared to the explosions and storms of the next decade." It took only a few months to verify this bold prediction, with the rising of the Polish workers, followed by the rise and fall of the Chilean Popular Unity and the ignition of the Latin American masses, the relentless sweep of the colonial revolution eliminating capitalism in SE Asia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Angola, with the world recession of 1974 leading to the overthrow of military dictatorships in Portugal, Spain and Greece.

In re-reading the archives of this paper, com-

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 10



AMERICA

MAY DAY GREETINGS HELD OVER
FROM LAST WEEK

FOUR HANGED AFTER 1st AMERICAN MAY DAY

The first of May was the day selected by the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor to take action for the 8-hour day. Chicago was one of the key centres of the struggle.

The United States, using the most modern technique, was rapidly establishing its pre-eminence as a capitalist power. The monopolies and trusts were growing in strength, and no bosses were more ruthless than the American employers.

The contrast between rich and poor was stark. The wealthy amused themselves by smoking cigarettes wrapped in hundred dollar bills, spending \$15,000 on a banquet for a dog or a pair of opera glasses costing \$75,000. The wealthiest 1% took a larger income for themselves than the poorest 50%.

The unions were growing too. The knights of Labor in one year, 1885, increased its membership seven-fold to 700,000. The employers, predictably, were out to smash this movement. The Chicago 'Tribune' said: "Every lamp-post in Chicago will be decorated with a communistic carcass." The New York 'Sun' advocated "a diet of lead for hungry strikers."

The police were "long used as if it were a private force in the service of the employers," and most officers were paid by business interests as well as by the city.

The unions had to face the violence of the courts, the



By Bill
Hopwood

National Guard, and professional scabs such as Pinkertons.

On 1st May, 80,000 struck in Chicago with another 20,000 having gained the 8-hour day. The factories were still, warehouses closed, teamsters stopped, construction ceased and the stockyards were silent.

There was a peaceful mass march and rally. The police were frustrated by having no skulls to crack, so on Monday 3 May, they attacked a group of pickets and killed six.

The next night a peaceful protest meeting was held. Again the police moved to break it up. A bomb was thrown at the police.

This was the excuse the ruling class had wanted. The police rampaged through the working-class districts of Chicago. The state Attorney ordered: "Make the raids and look up the law afterwards." The terror spread to other cities. Trade unionists were arrested in Milwaukee, Pittsburgh and New York.

Eight workers' leaders in Chicago were charged with murder. Seven were arrested immediately and the eighth, Parsons, gave himself up although he knew the result. "I know what I have done, they

will hang me. But I have to stand trial with my innocent comrades."

The actual thrower of the bomb was never tried. It was probably a police or bosses provocateur or an anarchist. That was of no importance to the authorities. They had the excuse they wanted to attack the unions. They used it to undermine the strike, although many workers did nevertheless gain the 8-hour day.

From the start of the trial of the eight it was clear they were on trial for their ideas. The jury was packed. The judge allowed people who believed the defendants guilty to serve on the jury. Many of the witnesses were bribed and intimidated.

The defendants' real crimes to which they willingly admitted were "helping to organise brewers and bakers", "being a socialist and opposing wage slavery", "being an enemy of the 'order' of today and despising your force propped authority".

"We pay the penalty for daring to tell the truth." The

trial was a contest between capital and labor.

Seven were sentenced to death and one to 15 years. A mass protest movement of millions developed, including protest from France, Italy, Russia, Holland, and England. Two of the sentences were commuted to life and one died in prison.

On 11 November 1887, Parsons, Fischer, Engel, and Spies' final words were: "There will come a time when our silence will be more powerful than the voices you have strangled today."

There were 25,000 on the funeral march. One Chicago businessman, no doubt speaking for the rest, said: "No, I don't consider these people guilty of any offence but they must be hanged. The labor movement must be crushed."

His hopes were false. The American labor movement wasn't crushed. In 1890, the Socialist International declared 1st May as day of international workers' solidarity.

**Liverpool District
Labour Party
greet workers
of the world on
international
labour day**

The Swansea Branch of the

**POST OFFICE
ENGINEERING UNION**

send fraternal greetings to
trade unionists everywhere

**HARLOW CONSTITUENCY LABOUR
PARTY**

**MAY DAY GREETINGS!
FIGHT THE CUTS!
SUPPORT MAY 14th!**

**Militant Irish Monthly
sends fraternal greetings
to workers in Britain
in the common fight
for socialism**

**Fraternal greetings from
UXBRIDGE
SOUTH BRANCH
Labour Party**

**Spennymoor and Ferryhill
Militant supporters
send May Day greetings
to Labour Party members
and workers everywhere
FORWARD TO THE
DAILY MILITANT**

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 9

rades cannot help but be filled with confidence in the Marxist perspective, having seen its predictions and advice borne out by events. But you cannot avoid also a sense of tragedy and bewilderment by the sheer stupidity of those who have led hundreds of thousands of workers to slaughter and defeat when a Marxist way forward could have ensured victory.

Thus in September 1965, with the rise of the Greek left, we warned: "Instead of linking the struggle against the monarchy with the struggle against capitalism and

giving support to the call of the building workers for arms for defence against the ever-increasing threat of a military takeover, the United Democratic Left continues to act as a cover for (George) Papan-dreou...

"The working class of Greece is now faced with the same task: either take the power and create a socialist Greece, or failing this allowing the capitalist class and the monarchy to take the road to the military dictatorship of the reactionary right wing of the army."

But our most prophetic, unheeded warnings were directed towards the "socialist" and "Communist"

leaders of the workers of Argentina, Uruguay and Chile.

In the face of accusations of 'sectarianism' and 'ultra-leftism' from their apologists in Britain, we pointed out in April 1972: "The continued policy of 'Popular Frontism', most criminally and consistently advocated by the theoreticians of the Communist Party, will pave the way for a bloody coup...The only answer is to mobilise and arm the workers and peasants in defence of their gains and for the overthrow of capitalism. There is no time to lose."

Even in relation to Spain it required the final collapse of Franco's rotten

regime before the cynics were confounded and eventually noticed something stirring in society, while 'Militant' continually referred to Spain as "the key to the European revolution."

Thus in September 1972 under the headline, "Spain—workers prepare for final reckoning with Franco," we said, "Already in existence are three of the four conditions laid down by Lenin for a successful revolution: the working class are prepared to go the whole way to topple the regime; the middle class are in a state of ferment with a section looking to the left for a way out; the ruling class is

split and plagued with doubts and fears. Only the fourth and most vital factor is missing—a mass revolutionary party capable of mobilising the masses to bring down the dictatorship and establish workers' power in its place."

While 'Tribune' and 'Labour Weekly' were dismissing our assertion that the PSOE would emerge as the mass party of the Spanish workers, preferring instead the illusion that the workers would turn to the multifarious social democratic cliques of opportunists, we watched the PSOE become the biggest party. But it was precisely its leaders' re-

fusal to struggle for power that requires a further struggle of the workers for a socialist revolution.

As we celebrate 500 issues, who would dare to challenge our Marxist prediction now, with capitalist crisis condemning millions to death in the undeveloped countries and ruthlessly attacking living standards and jobs in the West, and with the Stalinist bureaucracy now an absolute fetter on production in the planned economies, that we are "Into the '80s—a decade of Revolution"?

JAMAICA

SPAIN

HOW THE BOOM ENDED IN JAMAICA

It used to be said: "When America sneezes, Europe catches a cold". But the "third world" contracts pneumonia.

This has certainly been the case for Jamaica.

The impending world recession, coming only five years after the last world slump, is one of the underlying reasons for Jamaica's present malaise. The heyday of the fifties and early sixties when Jamaica was looked upon as the "model" for other Caribbean economies has gone forever.

Unlike most former colonial countries, where living standards have fallen in absolute terms, the Jamaican economy actually benefited from the boom in the first two decades after the war.

The most important reason was the rising demand for bauxite, the raw material used for making aluminium. With the largest known deposits of bauxite in the world, Jamaica, on the basis of huge investments from American and Canadian capital, was able to rapidly develop a modern mining industry which quickly overtook agriculture as the is-

land's most valuable source of foreign exchange.

A second factor that gave impetus to Jamaica's economy (again a spin-off from the boom) was the growth of tourism. Rising living standards in the advanced countries meant that "sunshine" holidays in the Caribbean and elsewhere became a reality for the affluent middle classes. The island's coastal resorts, with their sprawling hotels and private beach clubs, became another important source of revenue.

Over a twelve year period, more than 150,000 people left the island. This mass exodus helped to alleviate the chronic unemployment, and provided additional foreign exchange in the form of receipts from the emigrants.

Thus, after having virtually collapsed during the inter-war period, the Jamaican economy was suddenly transformed, with the creation of thousands of new jobs in mining, construction, hotels and related industries. And for those workers who could not be absorbed into the economy, there was always the alternative of "starting a new life" by emigrating. Such was the pace of development

that, at one stage, the local capitalists could boast of having the world's "fastest-growing" economy.

The relative strength of the economy in the sixties provided a certain measure of stability to the pro-imperialist Jamaican Labour Government. By granting limited reforms, the JLP managed to sustain itself for almost ten years.

By the late 1960s, however, the economic situation began to change. Jamaica's mini-boom was over! Unfavourable terms of trade, the process by which the metropolitan countries maintain their economic stranglehold over the third world, had finally caught up with Jamaica, pushing the economy into further and further decline.

Unemployment, rising prices and falling living standards provoked widespread social unrest which culminated in the toppling of the corrupt JLP Government in the 1972 General Election. Despite fifteen years of relative economic growth, the JLP had completely failed to solve any of the basic problems facing the Jamaican people.

The election of the PNP in

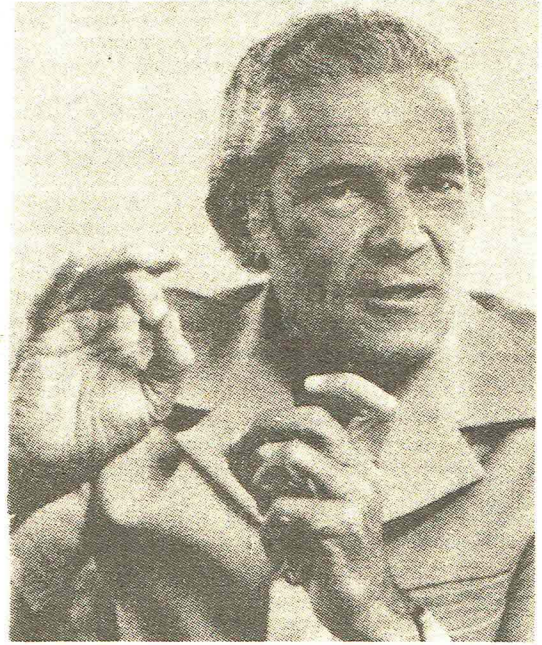
1972 marked a watershed in Jamaican history. The working class, particularly organised workers, saw the victory of the PNP, the Party that historically stood for change, as an opportunity to win reforms and better wages to offset the escalating cost of living.

The number of work days lost as a result of strikes and stoppages increased nearly fourfold within the first twelve months of the new Government coming to power. Thus, the PNP Government, which had been proposing very modest reforms, immediately found itself under immense pressure from the working class, impelling the leadership to move in a leftward direction.

Then came a turning-point. The threefold increase in the price of oil in 1973, followed a year later by the world slump, brought many Caribbean economies near to the brink of collapse, triggering off a tidal wave of revolt throughout the entire region.

Basing itself on a programme of "democratic socialism" the radicalised PNP leadership in Jamaica embarked on a policy of sweeping reforms, including the partial national-

Michael Manley, Jamaican Prime Minister



isation of key sectors of the economy and the imposition of special "levies" on the giant bauxite companies. On the basis of these policies, the government was able to introduce massive social improvements in health, housing and education.

But the measures taken by the government provoked a hostile reaction from local big business interests and imperialism, who immediately initiated a campaign of economic sabotage and "destabilisation". These attempts by imperialism to overthrow the PNP government only served to fuel the anger of the Jamaican workers.

In the face of a mass movement by workers and peasants, the PNP leadership took further measures against big business, and openly defied American imperialism by establishing trade links with Cuba. The PNP leader actually declared that Cuba

represented "the top of the mountain".

Events moved ahead at lightning speed. The government broke off negotiations with the IMF, declaring that "Jamaica was not for sale", and mobilised the working class for the crucial General Election of 1976.

With the society completely polarised, the PNP leadership went to the polls with a commitment to take Jamaica on the irreversible road to democratic socialism. "Forward on our feet, Not on our knees".

With the overwhelming support of the working class and the middle classes, the PNP was swept to power in a landslide victory, winning 47 of the 60 parliamentary seats. But within a month of winning the election, the government re-opened negotiations with the IMF and introduced a programme of "austerity".

SPANISH SOCIALISTS MUST SUPPORT RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION

Three recent polls in areas containing over 50% of the population have been major re-buffs for the Suarez government. In the referendum on devolution in Andalusia and the elections to the Basque and Catalan Parliaments, his party was rejected.

Below we publish extracts from an article in the Spanish Marxist paper 'Nuevo Claridad', which explained why Suarez's UCD party came 5th and why, compared to the general election, the workers' parties lost votes.

The explanation for the loss of votes by the UCD is clear. The Catalan bourgeoisie is more convinced each day that they cannot break the labour movement's advance using the UCD, and preferred the more 'national-

Translation from 'Nuevo Claridad'

ist' image of Pujol.

In any case, Pujol the banker is a declared enemy of the working class although his party went to the extent of playing the music of the 'Internationale' to win votes in some workers' areas in Leriaa.

'The Madrid government has nothing to fear' declared Pujol after the election.

But how can the loss of votes for the Communist and Socialist Parties be explained? It is clear that the Communists lost votes in two directions; middle class votes which went to the nationalist parties, and workers' votes due to abstentions or to the PSUC (Catalan CP).

As we have stated more than once from the pages of 'Nuevo Claridad', and the reality proves us correct time after time, the middle class cannot be won by using the marketing slogans of the 'professionals' such as 'For a New Catalonia,' nor with rhetoric in public meetings

nor eliminating the socialist content of our programme so as not to 'frighten them.'

The only way to win these sectors is through a socialist programme and a determination to change society, precisely what should have been the basis of the Communist campaign but was sadly lacking.

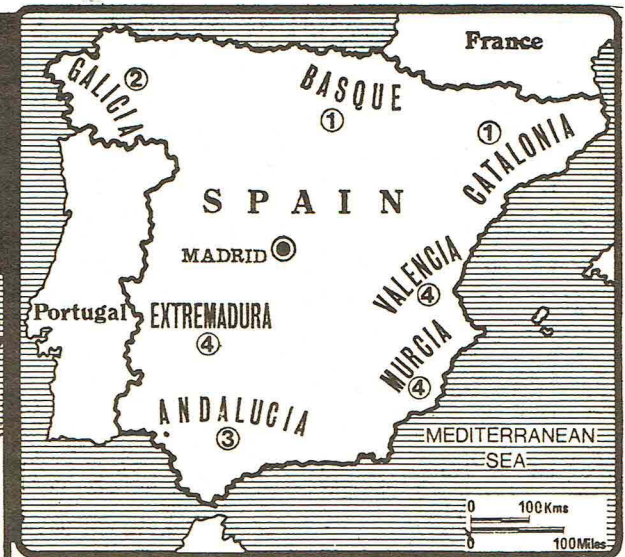
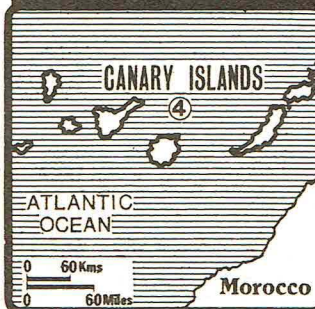
The socialists have to reflect more deeply on the national question. It isn't enough to change the name of the party from the PSOE to the PSC (Catalan SP). Instead concrete alternatives to nationalism must be discussed.

From these pages we have always insisted on the need for the PSOE to defend the right of self determination for Catalonia. For the right of the Catalans to decide freely and democratically their future and the type of relations they wish to maintain with the rest of the Spanish State.

Linking this up to the question of a socialist programme is the only way to attract the middle class and derail the advance of the nationalist parties who historically have always betrayed

PROGRESS TOWARDS AUTONOMY

- ① Autonomy achieved
- ② Referendum soon
- ③ Pressing hard
- ④ Under consideration



the Catalan demands to defend the interests of their class, the bourgeoisie, against the workers.

The confrontations and divisions between the Socialist TUC (UGT) and the Communist TUC (CCOO) only served to benefit the further advance of the right wing. Disgracefully, the socialist leaders gave great importance in the electoral campaign to the defence of the social contract between the UGT and the bosses' organisation, and their attacks on CCOO

for not having accepted it.

When one PSC leader in Hospitalet de Llobregat defended the social contract and attacked CCOO, between 300 and 400 workers walked out of the meeting. In the main Barcelona meeting, the most distributed document was the Social Contract.

At the moment when jobs and the standard of living is being ferociously attacked we cannot tolerate divisions and confrontations of this type.

The leaders of UGT and CCOO must build a unity in

action to fight the attack of the ruling class.

The PSC-PSOE and PSUC-PCE leaders have to draw clear conclusions from these elections. They will only be a majority in Catalonia and in the whole of Spain and from the government if they struggle seriously on a socialist programme, on a programme which satisfies the demands of the working class and the majority of the population. 9

LETTERS

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

Bitter experience proved Marxism correct

Dear Comrades

When I bought my first 'Militant' eight years ago—a proud but insignificant-looking four page paper—it was difficult to convince activists that a world economic crisis was inevitable.

Heath was being battered by the working class and the Industrial Relations Act was in the bin. But only 'Militant' warned that the next Labour government would face economic terror—that reform would become counter-reform—if the government failed to break big-business.

Sadly this was true—British Leyland, Chrysler, Alfred Herberts, redundancies at GEC, cuts in government expenditure—all have transformed Coventry from a boom city to one struggling for survival.

Bitter, bitter experiences had to be translated into Marxist analysis. Today there are no illusions in world capitalist booms. Active workers will turn more to



politics—and to 'Militant'. Forward to a daily paper!

Yours fraternally
Tom Smith
former chairman British Leyland Special Products shop stewards' combine

financial backing of the 'Sin', the 'Wail' or the 'Daily Torygraph' could help me understand the problems faced by other workers, and offer solutions that were worth fighting for.

'Militant' has been like a compass to me over those last seven years, helping me weather the short set-backs that have affected our class, strengthening my confidence in our ability to carry through the necessary transformation of society.

Like many other comrades, I was a little apprehensive, at first, about selling on the streets, a paper with the strident title of 'Militant'.

That no longer worries me. In the last seven years, hundreds of nurses, car workers, apprentices and council workers have approached me, and said "Militant? I'll have one—after a day like today, that's just how I feel!"

Dave Nellist
Chairman, Coventry South East CLP

Pinnocchio Thatcher

Dear 'Militant'

The wicked witch Thatcher will stop my milk at school. I like my milk and I think the bosses are robbers for taking it away.

Maggie Thatcher should be thrown in jail because she told lies about school closures.

PS That's why she has a big long nose like Pinnocchio.

Thomas (age 4)
Stafford

Thrown on the scrap heap

Dear Comrades

I was made redundant from BL special products, a firm that made building site equipment ranging from large earth moving equipment to concrete mixers. (This product has now been sold to private enterprise.) Having served an apprenticeship I have now been thrown on the scrapheap along with 150 fellow workers.

Grantham the town where I live, has nothing to offer in the form of jobs. The daily trip down to the job centre has proved worthless up to now. Even a trip over to Nottingham (24 miles) has proved fruitless.

The day can become very boring if I do not keep my mind occupied. There are no leisure facilities in Grantham except for the swimming pool which is closed down for two days a week. There is no cinema.

With the very real prospect of another BL firm closing down in the town with the loss of 1,500 jobs, the future looks very grim.

That's why we must fight redundancies, have work or full pay, day centres for the unemployed, the right to continue education while on the dole, and the 35-hour week without loss of pay, now.

We must fight for the end of capitalism, putting in its place a real socialist programme that will benefit the whole working class.

Yours fraternally
Nigel Atter
Ex-AUEW shop steward

Golden goodbye

Dear Comrades

Buy British—a good bye! Workers in BL who hit the stones in opposition to their "democratically" imposed pay settlement might wish to consider that one of the major proponents of the "Buy British" campaign, the car firm Appleyards, have managed in this period of austerity to see one of its employees all right for a few bob! To say "good-bye" to one of their ex-Regional Directors the firm gave him a golden hand-shake of a staggering £117,000.

Now what was Edwardes saying about the state of the car industry again?

Yours fraternally
David Churchley
Glasgow Cathcart CLP

Militant plus hard work helps Labour grow

Dear Comrades

In a recent County Council by-election, we doubled Labour's vote, knocked the Tory ("Just call me Bert!") into third place, and scared the Liberal candidate so much that she refused to attend a three-way public meeting.

Scraping the bottom of the political barrel, they chose the wife of the sitting Liberal MP, Steve Ross. It must be the only council election where the MP went out canvassing. Again as with the general election, the name won—not the policies of the Liberals.

On a 42% turn-out our vote was solid on the council estate which made up half of the ward. The Libs picked up their votes from disillusioned Tories. We fight this ward again next May and we will win.

Many compliments were paid to our canvassers on their willingness to discuss problems and the political answers. The majority were supporters and readers of 'Militant'. One evening a week is now devoted to recruiting Labour Party members in that ward.

Finally two messages. First a memo for Lord Underhand. 'Militant' plus hard work equals an active growing Labour Party. Secondly, congratulations to 'Militant' on reaching the 500th edition.

Yours fraternally
Cathy Wilson
Youth Officer,
Isle of Wight Labour Party and Secretary,
Newport Labour Party

From the streets of San Francisco—the Tories' ideal police force?

Dear Comrades

Viewers of ITV were recently treated to a documentary, courtesy of the smarmy Alan Whicker, which had a compulsive repulsiveness. Riveted, I was unable to leave my TV armchair.

The subject of this documentary was how law and order is kept in the streets of San Francisco. So you thought the British "bobby" was brutal? Well, he ain't got nothing on the San Francisco cop!

Among the tasks which the fearless men [and women] in blue had to cope with were: beating up a suspected bank robber in an office behind closed doors [the TV sound unit picked up the noise of the muffled shrieks and thuds]; arresting a hippie in the park mainly because he made a certain gesture which the cops found "offensive"; and arres-

ting a black man who had been accused by a man of making obscene remarks to his wife.

We were also treated to the absolutely incredible spectacle of police acting as "agents provocateurs". A woman police officer, dressed up as a crippled old lady and stood in a doorway with a wallet sticking up out of her pocket.

The object of this exercise was to tempt potential muggers into stealing the wallet! She was being observed by police cameras from a nearby derelict building and by other plain-clothes policemen.

The unfortunate thing was that the police also had to contend with members of the public who were concerned with the welfare of this apparently poor old crippled little lady!

Another "fearless" team of cops wasted the San Franciscan taxpayers' money by dressing up a woman police officer as a prostitute. She then proceeded to solicit various men who, when they swallowed the bait, were arrested by a pair resembling Starsky and Hutch and charged with an "act of soliciting". Funny, I thought that was what the woman was doing!

However, we were assured that the San Francisco police department is one of the most liberal departments in the world—after all, they do recruit women and gays to help them keep the streets of San Francisco clean.

But comrades, amidst all this hilarity and these ludicrous events, there is a note of seriousness. The programme was a good illustration of

what could happen in Britain if the police are given the unlimited powers which Thatcher would like them to have.

The labour movement in this country must be vigilant against this, particularly in the light of the recent Jimmy Kelly verdict.

More importantly, the programme showed that most of the people the police dealt with were pathetic victims of the rotten society they live in and it convinced me more than ever of the pressing need to get rid of it once and for all.

Yours fraternally
Maureen Boyd
Brighton LP

A Tory hypocrite

Dear Comrades

Last Sunday morning while I was reading the 'Militant' I happened to glance out of my bedroom window and witness one of the most disgraceful ways of electioneering I have ever seen.

Because it's time for local elections again, the Tories know they face a stiff time so to combat their obvious unpopularity one local Tory member, while distributing leaflets, actually had helping him his young mentally handicapped son.

What a way of trying to scrounge votes when you look

at the callous and repressive cuts that these parasites are implementing on working people including these young children who will never live a normal life.

I yearn for the day when misery, suffering and privilege will be forgotten. Start by ensuring that Neil Kinnock will reverse all the Tory education cuts as soon as Labour is re-elected.

Yours fraternally
NL Bradford
Eastbourne LPYS

WHAT THE CUTS REALLY MEAN

Dear Comrades

Recently a friend was told that his small daughter needed an eye operation or her eyesight would deteriorate badly, but the waiting list was two years.

However, the doctor took the man outside and told him he could get the operation done privately for £300.

What a dilemma! Should he wait two years and leave the child's eyesight to deteriorate or should he pay the £300, which would cause the

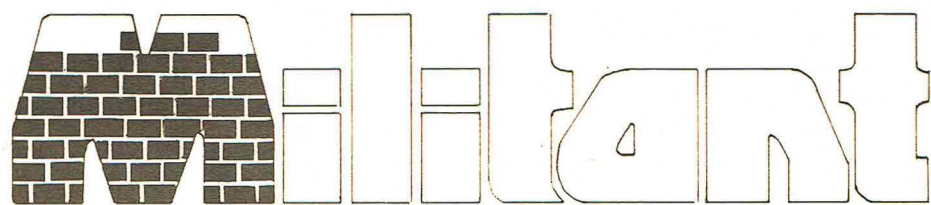
family great financial suffering, and have it done privately.

This is yet another example of the callous attitude of the Tories who have decided that a small child cannot have a routine operation on the national health, thanks to their cuts in the national health service.

Yours comradely
Paula Leigh
Wigan CLP

WE NEED 'DIVIDENDS' TOO

Build



The fall in profits has not deterred the big companies from handing out a fortune to their shareholders in dividends.

Trading profits of non-oil companies fell by 5% last year. Yet dividends paid to shareholders in the second half of 1979 were 70% up on the first half.

Comparing the last quarter of 1979 with the last quarter of 1978, moreover, dividend payments were up a staggering 96%.

Yet the Tories and board-room parasites are still demanding sacrifices from workers to restore big business profitability!

This is what we are fighting. There are no fat dividend coupons dropping through our letter box once a quarter, come what may.

We rely on the financial backing of activists in the labour movement. Energetic, consistent efforts to sustain and fund improvements are the life-blood of our fighting Marxist paper.

This week's fighting fund total of £1,215.78 brings us just £31 short of £23,000, which means that in the next eleven weeks to July 12th, we need £2,000 every week to achieve £45,000 by that date.

The money from Readers' Meetings celebrating our 500th issue has started to arrive. Before expenses, we've had £54 from West London, £104 from Littlehampton, £50 from East London, £114 from Brighton and other amounts have reached us from Bradford, Wakefield, Folkestone, Stevenage (over £40), Birmingham (on British Leyland, £54) and from Bristol, where donations included one from T Lucas shop stewards.

Over £70 was raised by supporters at Perth during the Scottish TUC, and donations from student comrades at the NUS conference boosted or funds by £52.

We've received a letter from Brighouse LPYS, wishing us luck and enclosing the £10 they promised us at LPYS conference. Are there any more IOUs to come in? Thanks to individual contributors such as B Sachs (London), Anon (Consett), I Raybold (NUPE steward, Nottingham), and J Kelly (T&GWU Liverpool). We don't have space for you all!

Many of our supporters will have purchased the Plunder-woman posters by now, and got a wall-sized receipt for helping us. Unfortunately, they're now collectors' items—we've sold out.

Manchester Ardwick supporters sent us money from a jumble sale and £11 raised by using a collecting card, whilst the sponsored diet of a Blackpool comrades goes on, another 12 pounds (sterling).

By Steve Cawley

Humber-side readers have sent us the proceeds from Marxist Discussion Groups, in Hull and Scunthorpe, while a £5 donation has been received from No 2 Region Bakers' Union in return for photographs.

Finally don't forget to let us know your plans for fund raising this summer; we've been told by readers in Blackburn, for example, that they'll be selling special T-shirts and showing films on rent and rates strikes which of course are sure to provoke good discussions as well.

What are your plans? In response to comments received last year, we've decided to run two summer raffles this time, and the first prizes (Portable TV/Radio/Cassette) are well worth any

Area	Received	Percentage of half-year's target achieved	Target half-year	Target for year
Eastern	1,231		2,250	5,000
East Midlands	917		1,710	3,800
Hants & IOW	718		1,755	3,900
Humberside	348		1,125	2,500
London East	1,701		2,790	6,200
London West	1,349		2,115	4,700
London South	918		1,800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	783		2,295	5,100
Merseyside	1,442		2,700	6,000
Northern	1,315		3,285	7,300
Scotland East	608		1,440	3,200
Scotland West	1,249		2,250	5,000
Southern	1,527		2,655	5,900
South West	626		1,440	3,200
Wales East	393		1,260	2,800
Wales West	390		1,395	3,100
West Midlands	2,104		4,050	9,000
Yorkshire	1,265		3,285	7,300
Others	3,985		5,400	12,000
Total received	22,969		45,000	100,000

TARGET FOR JULY 12th £45,000 TARGET FOR YEAR-£100,000

THIS WEEK £1,215

number of 10p tickets! One must be won by a reader in the north and one in the south. Other prizes will be electronic wallets and quartz

digital clocks with stop-watch facilities. If you don't know what an electronic wallet is, you'll soon find out when you win it!

Blackburn 'Militant' supporters are aiming to put on an "Arts Weekend" in the North West in September. We hope to organise an exhibition of works—paintings, cartoons, poetry, songs, collages etc.—together with discussions on the theme of "Marxism and Culture", and films and a folk and drama evening.

We would like to hear any ideas and comments 'Militant' readers may have, and details of photographs of work that anyone would like to contribute. The contributions do not necessarily have to be of a political nature.

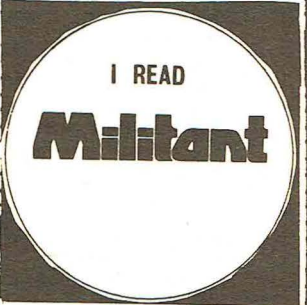
Write to Peter and Rossina Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR.

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'500' MEETINGS

HOUNSLOW Hear: Keith Dickinson (Hammersmith N. Labour Party). Friday 2 May, 8.00 pm, 20 Heath Road, Hounslow.

LEEDS Hear Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant). Sunday 14 May, 7.30 pm, Victoria Hotel (behind Leeds Town Hall). Includes exhibition of development of Militant and a book-stall.

SOUTHWARK Hear: Bob Faulkes, Wednesday 7 May, 7.45 pm, Lansbury House, 41 Camberwell Grove, London S.E.5.

Militant Readers' Meetings

PETERBOROUGH Militant public meeting 'What Militant stands for'. Speaker: Bob Edwards (Harlow Labour Party) 7.30 pm, Monday 19 May, at the Swimming Pool, Bishops Road

ST HELEN'S Militant discussion group. 'How long will Thatcher last?' Speakers: Alan Jackson (G&MWU convenor, United Glass), Lesley Holt (Liverpool NUT). 7.30 pm, 15 May, St Helens Town Hall.

BRACKNELL Militant public meeting. 'Ireland'. Hear Eddie McParland (Greenwich Labour Party). 8.00 pm, Friday 9 May, Griffin House (Labour Party HQ), High Street, Bracknell

MILITANT Northern camp Whit weekend. Friday 23 May to Monday 26 May. Near Heswick, Lake District.

Cost: Adults £8, children £2.50. Full details of political programme later. Further details: M Lindsay, 051 922 2318.

'A Socialist Programme for Kirkcaldy'

Militant Public Meeting Speakers: Paul Gerrard (Huddersfield West CLP Vice Chairman). David Michael (Dept. rep. NALGO). Thursday 8th May, 7.30 pm, Friendly & Trades, Northumberland St, Huddersfield.

BLYTH Marxist Discussion Group. Every Wednesday, 7.30 pm, at Blyth YMCA.

April 30 'How a socialist society would be organised' May 7 'What is capitalism and imperialism?' May 14 'Which way now, after the TUC day of action?' Anyone interested should contact Joe Cox Tel. Cramlington 712035.

SHEFFIELD Militant meeting. 'The one-day strike and the policies of Militant'. Speaker: Gerry Lerner (Salford LP). Wednesday May 7th, 7.30 pm. The Station Hotel, The Wicker, Sheffield.

Classified

West Midlands 500 Club draw winners: £200 Angela Murphy (Tipton), £20 Stuart Percy (Quinton), £10 Gordon McKewen (Stoke). £5 prizes to Dave Sankey (Dudley), Gene Banning (Firmans), Steve Martin (Stoke), A Rose (Lozells).

THE '500th Militant' draw organised by Newcastle North Militant supporters has had to be postponed. Results will now be in Militant 503.

CONGRATULATIONS to Huddersfield Town on promotion. Best of luck for next season. Commiserations to Portsmouth—Russ and Sandy

STRATHCLYDE draw winners two weeks' results. 19 April: 1st prize: 13&23. 2nd prize: 18 with 23 or 26. 26 April: 1st prize: 37 with 13 or 25 or 30 or 34. 2nd prize: 7&29.

TROTSKY poster: 1-19 55p each; 20+ 40p each. Postage included. Cheques to North Nottingham Militant supporters. Orders c/o 14 Jacklin Gardens, Top Valley, Nottingham.

SOUTHEND rally 1.15 pm, 5 May, Victoria Circus (town centre). Oonagh McDonald and Ian Mikardo. Music by M U Chairman Nigel Smith (Southend 353525)

ISLINGTON Five-a-side football. Sunday May 4, 11 am. Finsbury Park (Seven Sisters Road entrance). Islington LPYS versus all-comers. 50p entry. Proceeds to Militant Fighting Fund.

'STUFF THATCHER' badges: 2 for 45p; 5 for £1; 10 for £1.75; 50 for £7.60. Order from D. Kemp (Dept D), 114 Ladybarn Rd, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

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CONFERENCE REPORTS- TEXTILE WORKERS, STUC, AUEW

TEXTILE WORKERS UNITE AGAINST CLOSURES -

Import controls will not save jobs

The conference of the Amalgamated Textile Workers' union held in Blackpool last month resolved unanimously in favour of a united campaign against mill closures.

The conference met against a background of threatened collapse of the textile industry. 20,000 jobs have been slashed in spinning and weaving in the north west since last August, with thousands more redundancies in allied trades.

Factories are closing at the rate of almost one a month. Tory plans for a cut in regional aid will add salt to the wounds.

Most delegates felt that paltry redundancy payments were no compensation for being thrown on the dole. As Harry Williamson, a delegate from Preston who had been on three-day working for more than nine months, explained: "Redundancy payments don't buy your pride. We mustn't let big companies like Courtauld's pick us off one at a time."

The union is currently in

annual negotiations with the employers. The need for a fighting lead on wages and conditions was spelt out by Sonya Conwell, a shop steward at John Brights in Rochdale.

In reply to the suggestion by one district secretary that shop-floor workers were "apathetic", she said, "If there is any apathy, maybe it's because of the wages and conditions we've grown used to. At my mill we have to work with weaving machinery made in 1949, 1945 and 1926. We spend the day in rotten surroundings, covered in grease and are lucky to take home £40 at the end of the week."

The conference was addressed by Mr Ian McArthur, director of the British Textiles Confederation, which claims to represent the interests of both bosses and workers in the face of foreign competition. It is union policy to support his call for tighter government control of textile imports.

Joint campaigns with the employers will not save work-

ers' jobs, however.

Despite the scandalously low wages in Britain, the industry has been unable to cope with competition from the USA and the EEC. The employers have a track record of mis-management and inadequate investment.

Tougher import controls would enable them to raise prices to subsidise their inefficiency, but there is no evidence that they would step up investment in machinery and research or stop cutting jobs.

Working people built up the textile industry through decades of toil and sweat. In the face of massive redundancies, the ATWU should fight for the sharing out of available work without loss of pay, and for the nationalisation of the textile industry under workers' control and management.

Real links should be forged with textile workers in other countries. An international campaign should be launched through the International Textile Garment and Leather

Scottish trade unions prepare for battle

The labour and trade union movement was paying close attention to the Scottish Trades Union conference in Perth. This was the first major test in the conference 'season' of how trade unionists in Scotland would respond to the Tories' attacks and what programme would come forward as an alternative.

Conference was unanimous in urging all trade unionists to declare May 14 a one-day strike. Demonstrations have already been arranged in every major Scottish town.

However meekly the TUC puts forward its proposals for a day of action against Tory policies, the rank and file of the movement are seizing this opportunity to show the Tories what the response will be to their 'taking on the unions'.

May 14 will be a demonstration of the united strength of the trade union movement. But what then? What strategy should the unions adopt to replace Thatcherism?

This central question was discussed on the first full day of the conference. The main debate centred around a composite motion, endorsed

by the STUC general council, calling for an alternative economic strategy to Tory theories and the watered-down Toryism of the last Labour government.

The composite, which was overwhelmingly carried, called for many vital reforms: a 35-hour week, expansion of the social services, cuts in arms spending. It failed to explain, however, how we could guarantee these improvements on any lasting basis while capitalism is, as 'The Times' put it, in "irreversible decline."

Socialism was rarely mentioned. Instead the demand for import controls was put forward as the solution to the problems of Britain's (big-business dominated) industry.

If the speakers from the floor and the platform are correct, all industry's ills lie at the door of 'foreigners'. Controls against foreign goods and multi-nationals (never mind British capitalist exploiters) would solve the problems and regenerate the economy.

This theme dominated the entire conference. The many international fraternal dele-

gates, who all received tremendous ovations, hopefully did not take these suggestions too seriously.

It was left to the 'Militant' supporters, virtually alone, to uphold the proud socialist traditions of the Scottish labour movement, arguing that socialist action on a national and international scale was the only solution to a crisis rooted in under-investment, profiteering and poverty, the features of decaying capitalism.

Mass struggles as in the '20s and '30s loom again in Scotland, where 200,000 workers are already languishing on the dole.

As millions of trade unionists move into action, demanding a solution to these problems, the voice of Marxism will win a louder echo; to end the misery of Toryism, a socialist programme must be placed at the fore of the STUC's agenda.

By Wayne Jones
(Industrial Correspondent)

workers' federation for a 35-hour week and improved wages and conditions.

The problems faced by textile workers in Britain are not caused by workers in Hong Kong or the USA. They are caused by capitalism.

There is a burning human need for textiles throughout the world. The only barrier to meeting that need is a decaying capitalist system

which holds thousands of millions of workers in dire poverty.

Many delegates spoke of the need for a campaign against "the most reactionary government this century." The TUC day of action on May 14 will be a golden opportunity for textile workers to join with other trade unionists in demonstrating their opposition to the Tories.

Unfortunately the ATWU have no central policy on May 14, so it will fall to the districts to organise action in tandem with local unions and trades councils. This can be the start of a firm fight to save the industry from the ravages of the Tories and the bosses.

Report by John Hunt
(Moss Side Labour Party Young Socialists)

AUEW CAMPAIGN FOR A FIGHTING LEADERSHIP

By John Ingham

(Leeds No 6 Branch AUEW)

When the AUEW engineering national committee assembled in Blackpool last month, it was clear that president Terry Duffy and the right-wing dominated executive intended to ruthlessly exploit the narrow right-wing majority, to thwart all the demands and aspirations of union activists.

The conference brings home sharply the urgent need for a campaign to elect a fighting leadership, armed with a clear socialist programme to meet the crisis in engineering and British industry. As a first step, AUEW members must rally to challenge Duffy in the presidential elections this autumn and campaign for the election of Broad Left candidate Bob Wright.

Last autumn's nine-week strike action shook the Engineering Employers' Federation to its foundations, demonstrating the massive latent strength of the two million-plus organised workers in the industry. With 1.2 million of those in the AUEW, the union was charged with establishing a programme and policy to defend our

members against the Tories and the ravages of unemployment and inflation.

From the start, however, the 'moderate' wing of the union established a majority, with the right winning a clean sweep of all five places on the standing orders committee by 29 votes to 23. The implications of this were felt in all voting.

A resolution calling for an end to unemployment was rejected because it included the demand for a 'cut in expenditure on arms.' This contrasts sharply with the work of the Lucas Aerospace shop stewards' committee, including AUEW members, who drew up plans to move production at their factories from arms to socially useful production and continued employment.

One million jobs have been lost in manufacturing industry during the 1970s. Yet resolutions calling for 'vigorous action to alert our members to the dangers of unemployment, including a campaign of demonstrations, lobbies, industrial action' and 'for the fullest support to lay officials on the factory floor to oppose such dismissals (redundancies)' were either amended to delete industrial action or defeated, under the direction of the

executive.

Right wing delegates described the members as greyhounds shooting out of the gate when offered redundancies.

The workers of Dunlop, Meccano, Massey Ferguson of Merseyside and others have illustrated beyond doubt that trade unionists are beginning to take up the struggle against redundancies. In the course of those struggles the union has failed to organise sufficient support in terms that the employers understand, calling sympathetic industrial action in the combines.

A lead has to come from the top. One delegate pointed out that, "if the leadership is given there will be a stampede to the door; there has to be a ray of light, there has to be leadership."

National Wage Claim

It is only in the last two years that the Minimum Time Rate has had any relevance to the mass of engineering workers. Even now large sections of the industry have achieved way above the £73 national rate.

The engineering employers have demonstrated their enthusiasm to reduce the real buying power of our wages, rapidly eroded by 20% inflation. Their opposition to

decent wages can only be met by a national claim.

Members of the union will therefore be bitterly disappointed that the demand for a more realistic £100 a week has been dropped in favour of a 'substantial' increase in pay, even though £100 was the union's existing policy for the 1980 wage claim.

Index-linking of wages was also rejected by the leadership on the grounds that employers working to fixed contracts could go bankrupt if wages were to rise with the rate of inflation. Where is the equivalent concern for members who see their families near to bankruptcy as inflation outstrips their take home pay and mortgage repayments go through the roof?

The resolutions passed at this year's conference of only 52 delegates are aimed at shelving the power of the union. It is an empty hope. As was shown last autumn, the engineering employers, in their attempt to make workers shoulder the crippling cost of the crisis of industry, will spur our 1.2 million members into action.

A fighting leadership could maximise the strength of the unions in engineering. The AUEW could play a vital role.

In order to give the AUEW such potential every member



Bob Wright, the AUEW Broad Left's candidate to challenge Terry Duffy in this year's presidential elections.

will have to play their part by mounting pressure for the achievement of £100 as the minimum for skilled workers and pro rata for other grades, together with a common implementation date.

The decisions of the AUEW conference point the membership towards the presidential elections and the need to elect a fighting leadership. We must rally around a fighting socialist alternative:

- ★ Elect Bob Wright as AUEW president
- ★ £100 Minimum Time Rate
- ★ Common implementation from 1st November 1980
- ★ Fight all redundancies
- ★ Total opposition to Tory Employment Bill
- ★ Nationalisation of the engineering industry, under democratic workers' control and management.

MERSEYSIDE:

'It's time to fight'



CAMMELL LAIRD CLOSURE THREAT

Billy Johnston, chairman of Cammell Laird Confed committee, Birkenhead, spoke to Richard Venton, Birkenhead Labour Party:

"Against expectations the 1366 merchant boat is not being proceeded with, on British Shipbuilders' instructions. The explanation given was that the anticipated buyer did not give an offer which BS thought economically reasonable. So the deal is off.

"British Shipbuilders were sufficiently confident of selling to proceed with keel laying etc., as though the contract had already been signed. If this is combined with the current government change in the defence programme (towards nuclear weapons) then the future of the yard is in real danger.

"The 1979 Blackpool Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions' conference decided to give Cammell Lairds this merchant ship job. They intended to help us over the recession and bring us nearer to the forecast improvements in the industry.

"Already there are hundreds surplus to requirement in the yard and if we get no buyer or fresh orders the situation will worsen. If we get no merchant work it could mean the loss of up to 1,000 jobs and if the government change in the defence programme goes ahead it could mean total closure.

"We're tackling the situation on the assumption that this is an attempt to close the yard—it seems in general line with the political strategy of this government towards Merseyside."

This threat to jobs must be seen by the trade union movement as the last straw. After a string of voluntary redundancies at Laird's over the past two years the fight back must begin. In Birkenhead there are 26 unemployed chasing every vacancy.

The Laird's workers decided almost unanimously at last Monday's mass meeting to lobby parliament with their case and to levy each worker £1 per week.

A united struggle to save all Laird's jobs is crucial. All sections of the labour movement's industrial and political wings must be involved.

It cannot be seen as a fight for Merseyside shipyard workers alone. British Shipbuilders' management and the Tory government would dearly love to see friction between yards and regions.

A national strategy of industrial action to save all shipyard jobs and to draw up new schemes of work is required. That is the only language the Tories and their BS management shadows understand.

ST HELENS - ANOTHER GRAVEYARD?

The venomous onslaught on the jobs of Merseyside workers continues apace.

In the last few months there have been closures and job losses at Meccano and, more recently, Scotts Bakery in Netherton. The announcement of 500 redundancies at the United Glass Group in St Helens, where jobs are based primarily on the glass industry, threatens to drive yet another nail into the coffin.

As Alan Atherton, the local G&MWU branch secretary involved in the dispute, pointed out, "Once more in St Helens the people are being told that they are to be sacrificed in order to maintain the profits of the employers."

"In a town with over 5,000 people unemployed and at least 43 chasing every job, another 500 families are being told to join the ever-increasing numbers. St Helens is rapidly becoming an industrial and social graveyard.

"This decline must be stopped. The profits, past

and present, of United Glass, Pilkingtons, Rockware, Sidac etc are made with the sweat of the people of St Helens. The employers must not be allowed to turn St Helens into another Skelmersdale."

Some 275 workers at the United Glass glass containers, Teasley Cross, works will lose their jobs while the Ravenhead Company Ltd, a member of the United Glass group, are to reduce their workforce by 220. All redundancies are to be made by July and affect all sections—staff, engineers and process workers.

In a letter to the trade unions management say:

"As you know, 95 shop is an old facility which can only be modernised and made truly competitive at an unecocost. Regrettably therefore, 95 shop will cease production on 30 April..."

The reply of trade unionists must be that workers are not prepared to be thrown to the wolves because management are howling about profit-levels.

UNILEVER

Over 100 T&GWU members at FIL of Bromborough are striking in pursuit of a decent wage. The strike will probably be official by the time of publication.

Pickets explained their case to Richard Venton (Birkenhead Labour Party) and Gary Leech and Paddy Dunn (LPYS):

"We want parity with fitters' mates who were offered 20%. Management got rises well above the inflation rate; fitters and fitters' mates got a rise to meet inflation but on the shop floor we've been offered 16.2%."

"The company says they can't afford any more. It's the same old tale. In fact FIL itself made a 33% increase in gross profits last year.

"We're falling behind inflation. After working 40 hours, some of us still qualify for supplementary benefits. About 21 of the 140 strikers need some kind of rent relief. That's disgusting, after a week's work."

"Management even said that the wages can't be bad because they get plenty applying for jobs. One day we had 400 coming for 20 vacancies. That's not because of good wages, it's because of unemployment."

Unilever seek to keep their employees divided by paying different rates in different companies. These workers need full solidarity from trade unionists throughout Unilever as a step towards greater trade union unity in the combine, in common struggle against this giant monopoly.

Donations, messages and inquiries c/o Paul Davies, Transport House, Berner St, Birkenhead.

In reply to Tory Wandsworth's devastating onslaught of cuts, NALGO members are refusing to accept reduced services or manning, to cover for absent colleagues or to do overtime.

On Wednesday 23 April Housing Management Assistants [HMAs] were instructed to prepare and send out Giro books—work nor-

mally done by cashiers. The council, however, have deleted six cashier's jobs, so the HMAs refused to handle their work.

The council promptly issued them with an ultimatum—if they refused to handle the cashiers' work they would be suspended without pay, on the same day! NALGO members stuck to their policy of

blackening the work and as a result, on Thursday morning 44 HMAs found themselves suspended.

The union hastily convened a meeting which decided to call a half-day stoppage of the 2,500 NALGO members in the borough for Monday 28th April. Support for the stoppage was almost total, and extended to all departments.

NALGO steward Jeremy Weinstein spoke to Julian McKittrick

★ Open the books

★ Share out the work

★ 35-hour week with no loss of pay

★ Nationalise any firm threatening redundancies

Massey's threat ends occupation

Workers occupying the Massey Ferguson, Knowsley, plant, at a mass meeting on 23 April voted by 201 votes to 165 to return to normal work.

They had been threatened that if normal work was not resumed by 11.00 am on Thursday 24, the jobs of all concerned would go immediately, there would be no entitlement to redundancy pay and the company would take legal action to "regain its property."

The company is "looking into" possible alternative work for the Knowsley factory. The work done there until now will be transferred to one of Massey Ferguson's Manchester factories over the next two months.

Members of the occupation committee regard talk of possible alternative work as holding out no hope whatsoever.

Workers at Massey's Manchester plant have decided to accept the transfer of Knowsley's work, partly on the basis of a promise of work for five years.

This must be set against the company's statement, towards the end of 1979, that the Knowsley factory had orders for three years. They recently announced the long-

term aim of concentrating production at the "core" Coventry and Peterborough plants.

A crucial factor in this fight was the long delay on the part of the AUEW executive in giving them official backing.

The T&GWU gave its support within 48 hours of the occupation of the factory on 3 March. The AUEW waited until 15 April, a full six weeks, before following suit.

This had damaging effects on the campaign to win support from the other Massey Ferguson factories and compelled the occupation committee to spend valuable time and money on trips to London to lobby the AUEW leaders.

Convenor Frank Yates (AUEW) and other members of the occupation committee were bitterly disappointed by the decision to return against their recommendation. They felt they had a real chance of forcing the company to reverse its close-down decision.

The action committee are now considering further action. They know that a large section of the workers are ready to fight on, and are weighing up the odds.

By Jim McGinley

Photo: MILITANT



mally done by cashiers. The council, however, have deleted six cashier's jobs, so the HMAs refused to handle their work.

The council promptly issued them with an ultimatum—if they refused to handle the cashiers' work they would be suspended without pay, on the same day! NALGO members stuck to their policy of

BLACK KLEIN BROS.

The battle for union recognition at Klein brothers in Salford is winning growing support.

In the past week money has been flowing in, particularly from Agecroft colliery and Manchester Docks. A meeting last Friday of shop stewards on Manchester's buses agreed to organise collections in all depots.

The morale and confidence of the strikers, mostly women, has grown tremendously. As one picket explained, 'A few weeks ago I'd never have dreamt I'd be doing what I'm doing now.' The growing desperation of the Victorian-style management was demonstrated when the ageing managing director attempted physical attack on a picketing

bus driver.

The Klein workers are determined to win recognition for the National Union of Textile and Garment Workers. The screws must be tightened on this cowboy firm.

Anyone with information about firms buying or selling clothing bearing Klein's 'Bendyk' trademark should in-

form the strike committee urgently. Contact the NUT &GW c/o 409 Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester 20.

By Peter Gunn

(Salford LPYS)

TUBE VIOLENCE— A WORKER'S ANSWER

The London Underground has now been closed early on Friday and Saturday nights for several weekends running, as Tube workers stopped in protest at violent attacks on crews and station staff.

The last straw, which led to this action, was the serious incident at Neasden station on 14 March, when youths went on the rampage, injuring several LT workers and smashing up a train.

After the incident (on 14 March) a meeting was called for all members of trade unions, irrespective of union or grade.

We drew up a resolution calling for the withdrawal of trains from 10 pm on the Saturday night of the following weekend. The feeling of the meeting was, however, that this was not strong enough. They felt it should be every weekend until there was adequate protection for staff.

The meeting called for stronger police protection, not for reactionary reasons, but because the blokes felt that the police were the only alternative open to them.

I don't think this is the answer. Why were these youngsters in the pubs in the first place? Obviously, there are no amenities for them, there is a need for many more youth facilities.

Even if they could recruit more staff for the transport police, there wouldn't be any better understanding between the police and the blokes, who feel that the transport police are there to protect property and not the lads themselves.

There should be a security force of organised trade unionists, employed by management, but under the control of the trade unions.

Bob Brogden
 (secretary,
 Neasden ASLEF)
 spoke to
 Ed Bober

Then the lads would see them as doing the same job as themselves. I discussed this with a lot of the lads, and they think it is a good idea.

The police are already being used against the trade union movement, and strengthening them would pose new dangers for us. One of Thatcher's first tactical moves was to give massive pay awards to the police and the armed forces. The Tories knew full well that their planned attacks on the working class would not be taken lightly.

If you go back to the turn of the century, railway workers were shot dead for demanding their rights. In 1911 there was a rail strike in Liverpool, which spread through the country and troops were sent in, supposedly to protect the stations. A bit later, we see Churchill ordering troops into South Wales against the miners.

In the present day, trade unionists peacefully picketing are intimidated by the police. At Grunwicks and in Southall it's clear the SPG have been used against workers. It deeply disturbs me that some police chiefs have been calling for these groups to be armed. I don't want a situation where



Photo: MILITANT

to go on the picket line to defend our rights we have to run the risk of being shot.

The ranks of the unions wanted the Friday and Saturday stoppages to be made official but the NUR came out with the 24-hour strike. We feel that this was hitting the wrong people, and was the wrong kind of lead.

There should be full manning levels at all stations, so that our safety is not undermined by staff shortages. To recruit all the full-time staff needed, there will have to be a big increase in the basic pay.

I also think there should be sealed cabs for guards, and better Sorno equipment (for crews to contact the controller). But this would not be the complete answer. No, the answer lies within society itself.

Give these young people something to do. They are rebelling against society because it has not met their needs. They need really full, adequate and free leisure facilities. They need the opportunities to prove themselves, not just church youth clubs with table tennis tables.

Supposedly, there are leisure facilities in Harrow. But how many of these youngsters can afford them? If you are at school, you can't ask your old man for 25p every night, and that's just the cost of getting into one of the existing places. To participate in many sports costs over £1 per hour. They can't afford it.

It's no wonder that they end up boozing it up in a pub—then taking it out on the first person they come across.

What we need is somewhere they can go—irrespective of colour—or whether they are a "punk" or a "ted" or a "skinhead" or whatever.

Workers at factories in Yeovil, Lincoln and Glasgow amongst others have phoned in to keep up the urgent task of blacking all Alan Smith work.

Offers of help and financial contributions should be sent to Alan Smith Strikers, c/o 85 Brownlow Drive, Rise Park Estate, Nottingham.

STRIKE

CONTINUED FROM
 PAGE ONE

from public funds—all these factors add to family tension and to the risk of children becoming scapegoats."

Asked by his Tory colleague, du Cann, if he considered the battle against unemployment as a "secondary problem", Howe tacitly agreed by saying, "the battle against inflation is prime."

"To beat inflation," he said, "there must be a reduction in real incomes."

It's the old, old chorus the Tories are forever singing on behalf of their big-business backers. The working class, who labour to produce the wealth, must pay for the crisis in the bosses' profit system.

But while clamouring for a drastic reduction in workers' living standards, the handful of parasitic shareholders who own the big monopolies have recently reaped a 96% increase in dividend payments [see page 13].

Yet the Treasury expects that there will be a significant decline in industrial investment this year. The capitalists are just not prepared to invest in the up-to-date equipment and plant necessary for a real rise in productivity and output.

For Sir Geoffrey Howe [we learn from a 'Sunday Times' profile, 26 April], "a high bank rate and bankruptcies "are to be welcomed because they "sort out the virtuous from the sinners."

And what of the consequences for the workers? "He does not flinch at unemployment"! Will they flinch at 2.5m

unemployed? Three million? Four million?

Howe and his Tory cohorts themselves provide the strongest arguments for determined strike action on May 14.

Unfortunately, the TUC has not made a clear, unequivocal call for a 24-hour general strike. A number of unions, however, have called for strike action from their members, and others have pledged their support for branches and factories taking industrial action.

It is vital that in the few days left, every trade union branch, shop stewards' committee, and trades council organises

for the maximum possible support for action on the 14th. The Day of Action must be a massive demonstration of working class strength and opposition to the Tory government.

The labour movement, moreover, must put forward a clear alternative to the Tories. It is futile to expect any change of Tory policy which can benefit the workers of Britain.

The labour movement must campaign in every possible way to bring down the Tories and fight for the re-election of a Labour government committed to bold socialist policies.



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ALAN SMITH STRIKE

On Monday April 28, AUEW officials and senior Alan Smith management met at the Albany Hotel in Nottingham. Management's peace 'offer' was to reinstate all workers at Alan Smith—except convenor Roy Bennett.

This attempt to behead the trade union in the

factory was declined unanimously by the members despite the strain of a strike lasting well over three months.

Workers made it clear that there was no way they would go back without Roy. They were prepared to fight it out till the end. Support is now flooding in.