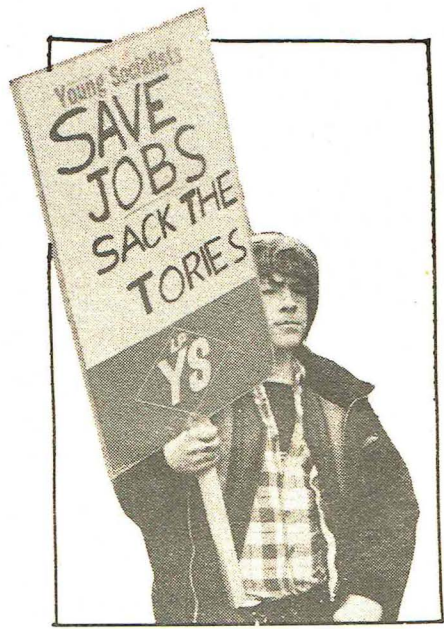


Militant

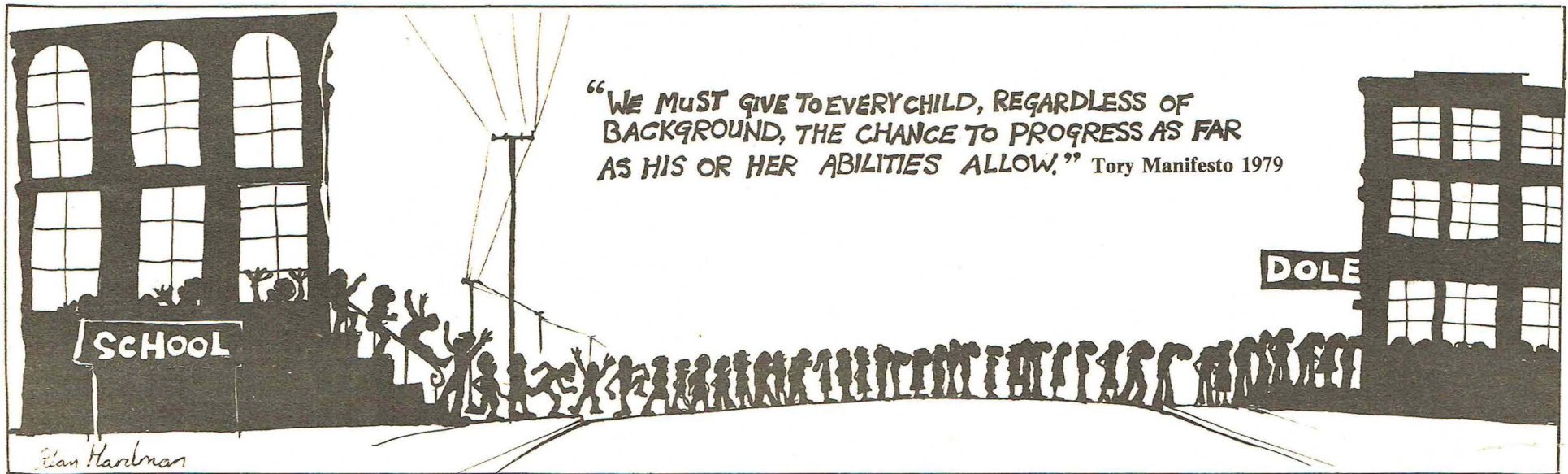
THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 511
11 July 1980

15p



FIGHT FOR JOBS FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS



100 young people chase each job

The prospect for working class youth looks grim. Only a fight for socialist solutions offers the hope of a decent future.

In the whole of the county of Fife in East Scotland, an estimated 3,200 youngsters are chasing only 32 known job vacancies. That's 100 young people chasing every job!

Dunfermline, which is one of the two largest towns in Fife, has 660 unemployed young people. These people are chasing nine vacancies.

In Cowdenbeath, a smaller town on the outskirts of Dunfermline, there are 456 young people looking for work but here you will find only two vacancies!

These figures do not take into account the numbers involved in Youth Opportunities Programmes or the school leavers who are still to be registered.

A large engineering factory which was opened only a few years ago in Cowdenbeath is to close in the next few months, with the loss of 356 jobs.

Further to this, Rosyth

By Paul Cunningham (Dunfermline LPYS) and Graham Lewis (W Nottingham LPYS)

Naval Dockyard, which is one of the areas' major employers, has drastically reduced its apprentice intake.

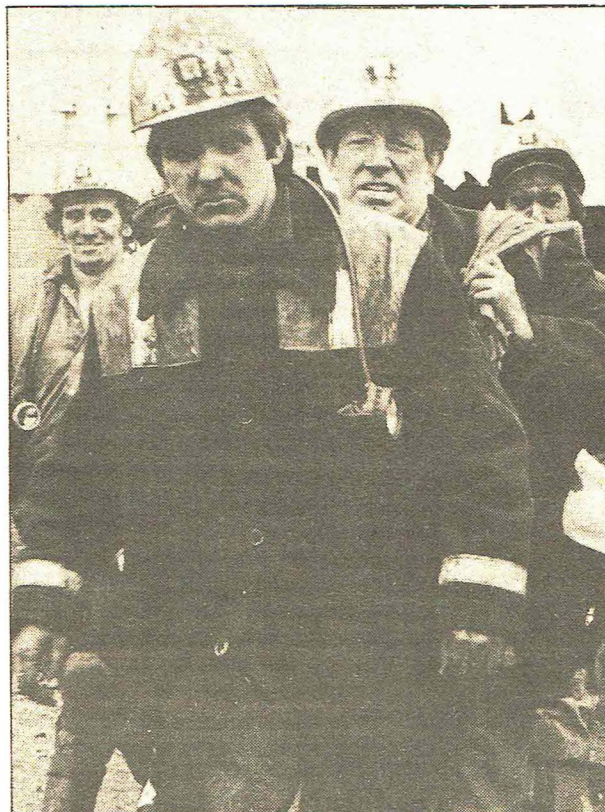
Government spending cuts have hit the already inadequate transport system. This has meant that many workers who have had to use public transport to get to work have simply had to resign—since they can no longer travel to work!

The Labour Party Young Socialists will not be silent about this scandal. The demonstration organised by the LPYS-backed Youth Campaign Against Unemployment in Nottingham last weekend showed that the anger at the deliberate sacrifice of

Continued on back page

Miners Draw Up Battle Lines For £100

Report from Rob Sewell in Eastbourne



The spectre of 1974 will undoubtedly haunt the Thatcher government after the unanimous decision of the NUM conference to fight for a £100 minimum wage in the industry.

The composite resolution which unified the conference demanded a "£100 minimum wage for surface workers with appropriate differentials for all other grades." Given the new financial restrictions of Tory government strategy and the new Coal Industry Bill imposed by the government on the National Coal Board [NCB], the miners are set on a collision course with the government.

If the NCB refuse this just demand, the Natio-

nal Executive is instructed to call a special delegate conference "as a prelude to consulting the membership about taking various forms of industrial action." Scottish Area President Mick McGahey said the miners would not be intimidated by threats of pit closures in their demand for a realistic living wage.

"We can't eat percentages" he said, "take home pay is what really matters." The high levels of inflation particularly in food, transport and clothing meant that the claim was hardly exciting!

This conference has laid the miners battle lines against the new 'Baldwin' government. The union must be

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

WE'RE NEARLY THERE

Every area should reach their fighting fund target! If every reader of 'Militant' sends us a fiver from their holiday money or tax rebates we will make a brilliant head start in reaching the target of £70,000 by October 11th.

But we want to see the final half-year chart all

black next week first! We will count money in transit to us in the first half-year, provided we get a phone call with details by noon Sunday 13 July.

And keep on selling those raffle tickets for our two TV/radio/cassettes!

INSIDE

● Save BL

—page 14

● Northern Ireland

—page 7

● When Britain Invaded Russia

—page 8

Militant

1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Labour Democracy CONFERENCE MUST BE SOVEREIGN

Once again Jim Callaghan has intervened in the debate in the Labour Party, in a renewed attempt to divert the moves towards the democratisation of the Party.

"Enough is enough," he declared in a speech at the weekend; the internal debate on constitutional issues, he argued, should be put aside in order to mount a united struggle against the Tory government.

The ranks of the labour movement are certainly in favour of a bold, united struggle against the Tories. But the question is: on what policies?

The real reason for the intense battle on party democracy [which Callaghan tries to dismiss as "constitutional wrangles"] is that the great majority of activists are convinced that democratisation is vital to ensure that the fight against

the Tories is conducted on socialist policies and by the energetic mobilisation of the movement.

The democratic reforms now being debated have the overwhelming support of the Party, as shown by last year's annual conference and a big majority of submissions to the Commission of Inquiry.

It is not the supporters of democratisation who are splitting the Party and undermining a fight against the Tories. In reality, it is a small right-wing faction in the Parliamentary Labour Party, whose concern about their own Parliamentary careers and commitment to pro-big business policies they have consistently put before an all-out struggle to bring down the Tory government.

Jim Callaghan's comment that the demand for democratisation is simply "messing around" with "a constitution that has stood for 60 years" simply "because of some individual's alleged shortcomings" is no argument at all. The real issue,

as the right wing as well as the capitalist press are clearly aware, is whether the Labour Party will be transformed into a mass Party committed to socialist aims, or will be maintained as an election machine for an independent, unaccountable Parliamentary Party.

Labour "must be an alternative government" by October it is argued by the right. But what kind of alternative government? The rank and file of the party and the activists in the trade unions are absolutely opposed to any repetition of the last Labour government.

The right-wing, front-bench spokesman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, however, have demonstrated that they have far from abandoned the disastrous, pro-big business policies that they attempted to implement last time. Leading right wingers have continued to argue for an incomes policy, although it was the 5% policy which was largely responsible for losing massive working class support before.

Labour's front bench spokesman, moreover, have refused to give a commitment that the next Labour government, if it is in their hands, would reverse all the savage spending cuts now being implemented by the Tories. The PLP leadership refused to vote against the Tories' massive increase in arms spending, a 25% increase [over 3% in real terms]. Nor was the PLP leadership prepared to give support to the TUC's Day of Action on 14 May, and were rightly criticised for their lack of bold opposition to the Tories by Moss Evans, leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

It is precisely commitment to these policies, which will neither ensure the rapid downfall of the Tory

government nor guarantee a Labour government which can really solve the problems facing the working class, that has led to the overwhelming demand for democratic reforms that would ensure the movement has Parliamentary representatives committed to socialist policies.

The Commission of Inquiry has now decided not to make recommendations to the NEC or to the Conference. With the right having failed to gain a majority on the inquiry for proposals which would give the PLP a built-in dominance of the Party, the inquiry has in effect stepped aside to allow Callaghan to make his own proposals.

On re-selection, Callaghan is arguing that CLPs should be free to decide whether to re-select sitting Labour MPs and not be committed to a mandatory rule. This, however, would be no better than the old "vote-of-no-confidence" procedure, which would leave the re-selection process open to the hostile intervention of the capitalist press—on behalf of right-wing MPs.

It is vital that the Party defends the principle of mandatory re-selection which was overwhelmingly supported by last year's annual conference.

With regard to the Manifesto the right are defending the existing system, with the PLP and the NEC jointly deciding the Manifesto. It is argued that the Labour MPs responsible for implementing policy under a Labour government must have a decisive say over the Manifesto. But this is precisely a repetition of the argument that the PLP must be "independent"—in reality, free to repudiate the socialist policies demanded by the rank and file.

Why have Parliamentary

representatives if they are not prepared to act as tribunes for the trade unions and the constituency parties? Why fight for a Labour government if it is not committed to implementing socialist policies which would give practical effect to the fundamental aims and aspirations of the movement?

On the issue of election of the Labour leader, the right simply argue that it should be decided, as now, by the PLP. He is thus opposing even the minimal element of democracy which was accepted by even many of the right wingers on the Commission of Inquiry.

Again, the overwhelming majority of the Party activists are in favour of a broader method of election. 'Militant' has given critical support to the proposal for the electoral-college system of voting at annual conference supported by the Mobilising Committee and the majority of the left. However, the complication of the proposed procedure, which is being used by the right as an excuse for opposing the whole idea of an electoral college, confirms our view that it would have been much clearer to campaign for election of the leader by conference.

The objection that straight-forward election by Conference would give a predominant influence to the trade unions, is not a valid argument. Trade union support for Labour is vital, as are the votes of millions of trade unionists in a general election. It is entirely correct that the unions should have a predominant influence over the Labour Party.

The proposals being put forward by Jim Callaghan, if they prevail, would be an enormous set-back for the Labour Party and the labour

movement as a whole. Far from cementing the unity of the Party and strengthening the struggle against the Tories, it would actually accentuate the rifts within the Party.

An attempt to force through these right-wing proposals with the backing of trade union delegations which may be swung to the right by their leaderships at Party Conference in October—especially if it also attempted to stifle further discussion under a new three-year rule—would do enormous damage to the Party.

The National Executive Committee, in line with the Conference decisions and the majority of recommendations to the Commission of Inquiry, must therefore put forward constitutional amendments to this year's Conference giving immediate effect to the three key demands: implementation of mandatory re-selection of MPs; NEC control of the election Manifesto; and election of Party leader at annual Conference [which at this stage 'Militant' has accepted should be through the electoral college system proposed by the left].

It is vital that the Constituency Labour Parties, Labour Party Young Socialists branches, and particularly trade union branches exert the maximum possible pressure on Labour's National Executive Committee and on their own union leaders, particularly with a view to making their views known to their union conference delegates, to ensure that these proposals are put forward—and carried through decisively at Labour's Conference in Blackpool in October.

MILITANT ATTACKED

by rail union leader

By Lynn Walsh



Sidney Weighell

The capitalist press gave prominence last week to Sidney Weighell's speech at the NUR conference in Guernsey, in which he launched an attack on the 'Militant' and called for the return of the old prescription list within the Labour Party—presumably with 'Militant' at the top.

Sidney Weighell, it seems, thinks that he can turn back the tide, which in the last period has been running overwhelmingly towards the left as far as the labour movement's rank-and-file activists are concerned. Even the Tory 'Daily Telegraph' ironically noted that Weighell seemed to be casting himself in the role of the 'Grand Inquisitor'—and was somewhat bemused that he should be doing this while at the same time threatening NUR members would barricade themselves in British Rail hotels if the Tories tried to sell them off to private buyers.

Weighell also attacked the left-wing majority of Labour's National Executive. "The people who are custodians of the Party rules (the executive) are renegeing on the rules," he claimed.

It is hardly surprising, is it,

that papers like 'The Times', the leading mouthpiece of big business, should frequently give Weighell space to oppose Labour Party conference decisions on party democracy and argue for changes—on behalf of the right-wing of the parliamentary party—which would effectively emasculate the NEC and bolster the predominance of the right wing of the PLP?

Like the other right-wingers—Shirley Williams, David Owen, and Bill Rodgers, for example—Weighell has resorted to smears about sinister organisations and mysterious sources of funds in an effort to give some weight to his attack on the left.

In this, Sid Weighell excelled himself—asserting that 'Militant' had connections with a mysterious 'Fifth International'!

Secret Funds

Where did the 'Militant' get its money from? Once again Sid Weighell tried to raise the bogey of secret funds—in spite of the fact that capitalist papers like 'The Sunday Times', after

weeks of intensive probing, could find nothing whatsoever to substantiate their allegations of mysterious funds. Every penny of 'Militant's' cash, as we have made clear many times, comes from our supporters within the labour movement.

A full statement of the paper's finances was published in Issue 489 (8 February) and details have been given to Labour's NEC in response to their questionnaire—which is more than can be said of a number of right-wing groupings. When NUR members become aware of the fact, there will be no support whatsoever for the attack on 'Militant'.

Sid Weighell, on the other hand is in no position to throw around accusations about sinister sources of finance or organisations with "aims and objectives not compatible with the Labour Party."

It was recently revealed that Sid Weighell is one of the trade union leaders sponsoring the so-called 'Labour and Trades Union Press Service', a set-up which this year will be getting over £7,000 from North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). Over a five-year period, LTPS has received at least £32,335

directly from NATO funds.

Not surprisingly, this propaganda organisation produces a journal with articles supporting the pro-big business economic policies, and the military and foreign policies of US imperialism. NATO is a military alliance of capitalist states clearly opposed to the aims and aspirations of the labour movement. In fact, in both Greece and Italy, NATO plans and NATO generals have been implicated in plots aimed at establishing government or reactionary military dictatorships.

Cuckoos

Sid Weighell denounced the 'Militant' and its supporters as 'cuckoos' in Labour's nest. But if support for the 'Militant' has grown, it is because its ideas and policies have a growing influence amongst the rank and file of the movement.

The real 'cuckoos' are the right-wing careerists in the Parliamentary Labour Party and in the leaderships of some trade unions. Most of them have no record of activity within the ranks of the trade

he told conference, "should be to maintain living standards. If that makes our people have to go to the barricades, then that will happen."

Yet while he said he completely rejected the idea of pay restraint under a Tory government, Weighell continued to argue—both at the conference and in the capitalist press in the last few days—that it will be necessary to return to an incomes policy under a future Labour government.

Weighell ignores the fact that the Tory attack on the working class is not simply a result of misguided Tory policies, but dictated by the crisis of profitability for big business in Britain (and internationally). Any future Labour government which attempted to run and resuscitate the sickening British capitalism would be forced along exactly the same road as the last Labour government—with even worse attacks on working class living standards.

The left has been strengthened, both in the Labour Party and in the trade unions, because the active membership now completely reject the pro-big business policies followed by the last Labour government.

They want socialist policies that will give practical effect to the socialist aims of the movement.

That is why support for the clear Marxist policies put forward by the 'Militant' has grown by leaps and bounds in the recent period.

Even Weighell had to reflect the growing pressure for action to defend working class living standards in the face of an all-out assault by the Tories and big business. "Our minimum objective,"

Joseph dreams of 'Good Old Days'

"Just as people can price themselves out of jobs, they can price themselves into jobs. There would be far more jobs if people were willing to offer a contribution even at a slightly lower unit cost figure."

"I have to say that the insistence by many trade unions on nearly adult wages for inexperienced young labour straight out of school prevents many firms taking on young people they would like to employ."

These gems of Victorian self-help come of course from His Insanity Keith Joseph, the mis-named Industry Secretary. What do they mean, in particular for school leavers?

In June 1974 5,400 school leavers had no jobs. By June last year this figure had climbed to 137,100. Now it is 186,926.

Was this drastic rise self-inflicted? Of course not. The steady industrial decay, particularly in manufacturing, has caused havoc not only in sackings but in the virtual elimination of manufacturing jobs for youth particularly skilled jobs and apprenticeships.

One in three of those on the dole are under 25, and very many have been jobless for over a year. A school in Kings

By Roger Shrives

Lynn has started to teach its 13-year-old students about life on the dole. That, it seems, is the type of "preparation for life" that schools can best fulfil in Tory Britain.

But could Joseph's bitter choice offer a way out of youth unemployment? It is the pivot of monetarism that unemployment creates a reserve army of labour who are only too pleased to accept any job, at any wage, and therefore boost profits. In Joseph's dream world this creates new jobs.

Young workers are far less willing to put up with low paid, dead end jobs than in the pre-war depression. After all the size and strength of the unions has been able to stop this blackmail.

But workers in Britain are already very low paid. Average wage rates are about half the level in West Germany, and tend to be falling behind those in Southern Ireland. A stroll around job centres, even

in more affluent London, will show numerous jobs at £30 or £40 a week which attract hosts of applicants.

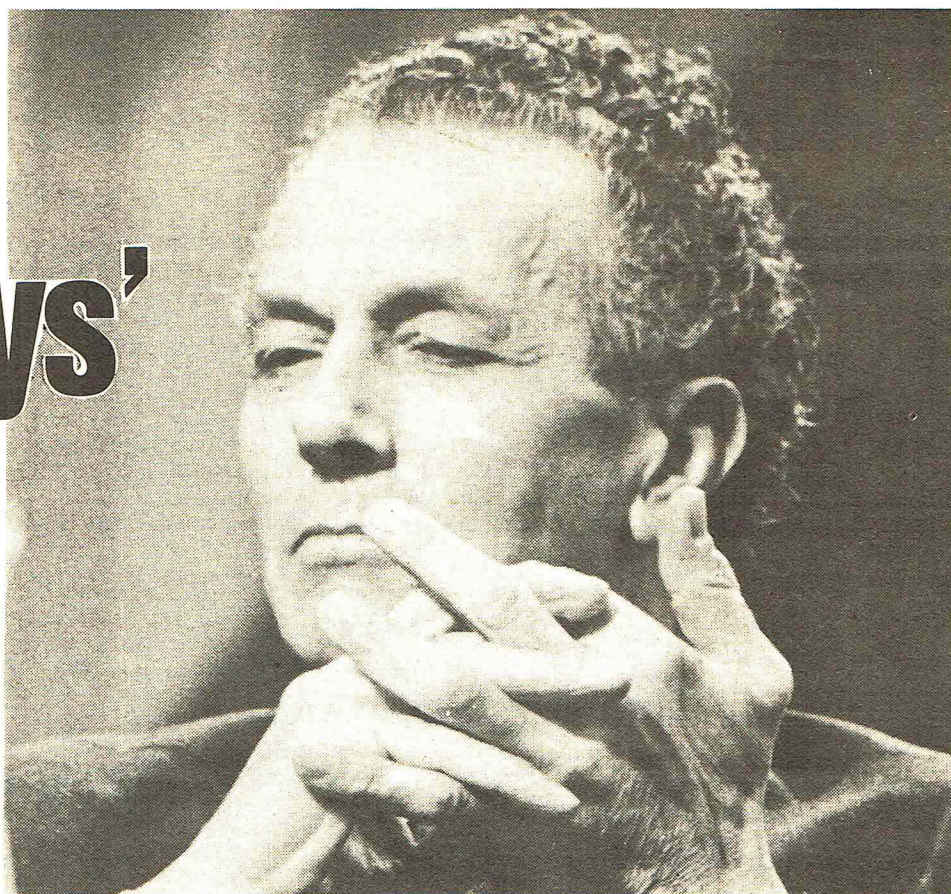
Young people are being employed on Youth Opportunity Programmes for £23.55 a week—thousands of youngsters have applied, looking for a job with a future.

But what level of wages are the bosses prepared to pay? An 'unemployer' writing to 'The Times' said that she "had had to" sack workers at her firm because the Wages Council had set pay too high! Yet Wages Councils cover the lowest paid workers of all.

And will cutting wages create jobs? The bosses only want greater profits. The experience of the past decade shows that profits have not been reinvested in manufacturing, and job opportunities have slumped.

In any case, what would be the effect of huge numbers of workers taking such wage cuts? Just as with the unemployed, would they be able to buy anything but absolute essentials? Jobs would be lost from firms producing for so-called luxury markets like clothing, leisure and so on.

We cannot tolerate this Tory blackmail. The fight must be stepped up now for a socialist solution to the problems of youth unemployment. The fight for a guaranteed job for every school leaver, for a 35-hour week and an £80 minimum wage must become top priority for the trade unions and labour movement today.



Joseph at work at Tory Party Conference

Photo: MILITANT

Unemployment Conference Called For November

The Labour Party Young Socialists-backed Youth Campaign Against Unemployment has called a conference for 15 November of young workers and youth organisations in England and Wales to rally the fight of youth against the Tories.

By Kevin Ramage

[LPYS Chairman]

The conference which will be held in Birmingham, is expected to bring together 1,000 delegates and visitors from trade union youth, student, school student and immigrant organisations and from Labour Parties and Labour Party Young Socialists.

Leading trade unionists and MPs are to be invited to speak alongside young work-

ers and one of the main themes will be the organisation of youth in their workplaces, in the schools and on the dole to mount a socialist fight.

The LPYS National Committee in calling for support for the YCAU conference also backed the call by Clive Jenkins, the ASTMS General Secretary, for the TUC to 'take on the task of unionising the unemployed' and urged the 'TUC to act on this call through its local trades councils'.

Throughout the summer and autumn, LPYS branches are being asked to highlight the question of youth unemployment with a series of local rallies, demonstrations and

rallies. With 444 branches and 20 on the way, the LPYS has never been in a stronger position. Orders for the LPYS paper, 'Socialist Youth', are 1,000 up on April.

The LPYS has not been aided by the report of the Labour Party Commission of Enquiry. Previously it had been reported that support for the LPYS proposals for a £50,000 budget, a full time National Chairman and NEC member, and affiliation of trade union youth organisations had received overwhelming support from the constituency parties.

The Commission ignored these proposals, saying the LPYS didn't need any more resources and recommended that the party have more contact with youth organisations 'in the community'. The LPYS have called on the NEC to reconsider the matter.

ST BENEDICTS -COME TO MASS PICKET

If you were 80 and had lived in one place for many years would you want to be moved to a different place, surrounded by different people and face an entirely different environment? Of course you wouldn't. And yet this is what faces the old people who are at St Benedict's Hospital, old people such as Annie Reid who has been at the Hospital for 30 years and is over 80 years of age.

St Benedict's has now officially been given the death sentence. However, the fight to keep the hospital open continues with added energy. The Trades Council Occupation Committee and the Support Group Committee have stepped up their campaign with the calling of a series of mass pickets.

The first one took place on

A child at Selling Court Junior Mixed School, Tooting, has more than adequately shown the plight of the patients in the following poem. The poem is called 'Alone':

I am old, nearly 85 in fact,
It is a nice hospital,
and a friendly atmosphere,
They're saying they should shut it down,
but what about us?
They never think about us,
Where we are going to.
I am too scared to leave
where I live now,
I can't do anything, that wrinkled skin of mine,
What shall I do?
No one will want me,
If only it would stay open.
I'll go to a place I never even heard of,
and no friends.
I shall be lonely and die there, I know it.

Thursday 3 July and was a great success. About 100 people were present and this clearly showed the Area Health Authority that the closure issue is still alive. The next mass picket will be on Wednesday 30 July, 6am-8am and this time we hope that at least 200 people will attend. All support of activists in the labour movement will be

greatly appreciated as it is important that the picket line roster is effectively covered all day up till 10 pm.

In addition messages of support should be sent to Arthur Hautot, Secretary Occupation Committee, St Benedict's Hospital, Church Lane, Tooting London SW17.

2 WEEKS TO LPYS SUMMER CAMP

Thousands of working class youth are rapidly coming to the conclusion that the 'odds' that the Tories and the profit system offer us, are not good enough, and the stakes — our lives — are too high. The Labour Party Young Socialists have an answer to the Tories' gambling with our lives—the fight for a bold socialist programme to end the rule of profit over our lives.

Join in the fight against the Tories, come along to the LPYS summer camp, from 26 July to 2 August, find out more about the largest socialist youth organisation in

Britain, find out more about our ideas, campaign and activities.

At the camp, in discussions and debates, we will be hammering out just what policies can offer a fighting alternative to the Tories, and how we can fight for them. Topics include 'The Fight against the Tories', with Iony Benn and Tony Saunois speaking, 'Labour Party Democracy', right through to the international struggles of the working class with a Chilean socialist, and comrades from North and South of Ireland.

Some of the seminars during the week will be on campaigning activities, such as building the LPYS in schools and trade unions, and how to organise propaganda

work—designing and printing leaflets etc. The camp will be a crash course in socialist ideas crucial for every socialist—yours for only £35 for the week, meals included (all you need is a tent).

Not only have we got an unbeatable political programme, our Greenwich forecasters assure us that excellent socialist weather (complete with red sunsets every night!) is ahead! Socials every night, from discos to a club night and an Irish evening, with a bar every evening.

Organise your transport now! If money is short, approach your local Labour Party or trade union branch to see if they can help. Book now! Don't miss out on the best socialist holiday of the year!

Send your £35 or a £5 deposit to 'LPYS Summer Camp', c/o Andy Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London S.E.17.

TRIBUNE CONFERENCE

Shows need for coherent fight

The first ever national Tribune conference, held in London on Saturday 28 June, was a welcome move. It was obvious from the debates that many activists in the constituencies feel the need to be nationally organised with coherent policies to fight against the Tories and the right-wing within the Labour Party.

Time and again it was stressed that there was nothing to fear from being a "party within a party"; that at the moment there was no clear overall strategy and that there should be less tolerance for the anti-socialist activities of the right wing.

There was clear evidence of the determination of Labour Party members to continue the fight for more democracy—anger at the effect of Tory policies vied with indignation at the role of the right-wing Labour leaders.

In his paper before the conference, Eric Heffer pointed out that "the future of the Party is genuinely at stake.

By Lynne Faulkes

(delegate to conference from Hackney Central CLP)

The media fears the leftward thrust of the Party. It genuinely worries that socialist policies will actually be carried out by a future left-wing Labour government, and it is in their interests therefore to divide the Party and if possible to split it."

He stated that "Capitalism, class power and privilege can only be eliminated if public ownership under democratic control is extended." The fight will continue up and down the country. Both he and Ron Brown (MP for Leith) stressed the need for a tremendous campaign throughout the country, to mobilise a mass movement against the Tories.

But there was one big question mark. What sort of policies should Labour fight for?

Prof. John Hughes (Ruskin College) was the only one to spell out at the conference an Alternative Strategy in any detail: workers to gain control



Photo: MILITANT

of investment by taking over pension funds (it really is so easy?); devaluation (i.e. higher prices. I thought Tribune burnt their fingers on that last time); an incomes policy; reforming the EEC and import controls. This is in reality only an "improved" plan for managing capitalism.

There was obviously some disagreement on the platform, as Eric Heffer argued that we could not build a wall around Britain but could only build socialism on an international basis (so much for import controls) and that mankind faced a choice between socialism and barbarism.

Both he and Bernard Dix spoke of the need to fundamentally change the system. But there was no explanation of how other than to give support for the "Peace, Jobs and Freedom" document.

As was repeatedly stated, the position of Tribune is

virtually accepted by the majority of the Party at conference and through the NEC document. Nevertheless, it does seem that the Tribune Group as a whole is avoiding its responsibilities.

As delegates testified, there is a tremendous wave of resentment against Tory policies, but as yet this has not been positively channelled into the fight for socialism in the Labour Party. Nor have the links with the trade unions been actively strengthened.

While there was understandably much criticism of the role of certain TU leaders and their abuse of the block vote, the links with the trade unions must be strengthened. We have to concentrate on building stronger ties at branch level and fight for increased democracy in the unions as well as in the Party. Coupled with a real bold socialist programme this is the way forward for the Labour Party.

Children's Hospital Stays Open

By Richard Venton

"We've won." That was the overjoyed reaction of the Birkenhead Children's Hospital Campaign to the Tories caving in to the pressure for the hospital to stay open.

Health Minister Dr Vaughan has now gone back on a previous decision and decided that the Children's Hospital will stay open at least until the new Arrow Park Hospital is ready.

Whatever the Tories may say, the local campaigners know that if they hadn't fought, the Children's Hospital would have closed.

It was united action which brought success. The initial opposition of parents and hospital workers gave the campaign its essential base. And the turn towards the local labour movement was vital. This enabled real pressure to be brought to bear on the Area Health Authority (AHA) and the government.

But the euphoria of victory must not be allowed to cloud the further battles ahead. Vaughan has told the AHA to make 'other savings' as compensation for keeping the 'Children's' open. They may try to close another hospital, St James or Birkenhead General. Or they may try to

reduce manning levels.

The lessons learnt from 'the Children's' campaign must be built upon in the new battles which lie ahead. That is why 'Militant' supporters, who have played a supporting role in the recent campaign, have called a public meeting to discuss where we can go from here.

Militant Public Meeting 'Defend the NHS Fight the cuts'

Tuesday 15 July, 7.30 pm at Birkenhead Labour Club Cleveland St., Birkenhead

Speakers:

Brian Keys [Chairman, Campaign Committee]

Terry Harrison [Liverpool Labour Councillor and member, Liverpool Area Health Authority]

Both speakers in personal capacity

Sand, Sea and Politics

If you have already decided to use your Tory tax-cuts for a few days in the Bahamas next August Bank Holiday then you need read no further! If on the other hand you are one of the millions on the receiving end of cuts in social services and falling real wages, why not spend your August Bank Holiday in an enjoyable and fruitful way by making the trip to South Wales for the S Wales Militant Summer Camp?

This will be the 5th camp to be held at Horton on the beautiful Gower coast near Swansea and after its success in previous years has become something of a tradition for 'Militant' supporters in this area.

The political sessions at the 'Militant' Summer Camp can play a part in clarifying the ideas of Marxism in the minds of those who attend and in leaving them better equipped for their work in the labour movement.

The course dealing with an introduction to Marxism will be essential for

those new to the ideas of 'Militant' while the session on the General Strike will draw the lessons of the events of 1926 and apply them to the current situation in Britain with the prospect of major upheavals in the near future.

In addition, there are sessions on Stalinism, the threat of world war, and Marxism and the Labour Party. All the sessions will have leading speakers from 'Militant' and workers young or old would undoubtedly benefit from the discussions.

As well as the political sessions the camp will provide an excellent weekend for the family, with creche facilities and a fancy-dress competition for the children. In the past we have run a master-marxist quiz, so be sure to do your homework.

There is plenty of space for the more energetic to kick a football around and the beach is not far away. Many people spend their holidays in this area in any case but we have the added advantage of political discussion and social activi-

ties. Despite last year's slight mis-hap regarding the weather, we are sticking our necks out again this year—the weather is guaranteed!

'Militant' Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday, Friday 22—Monday 25 August. Horton near Swansea. Political Programme: Introduction to Marxism, The General

Strike, Stalinism, The threat of world war, Marxism and the Labour Party.

Creche and snacks provided; bring own tents. Cost; [week-end] £6. Children £2, Under-5—free. Day-trippers £1 per day. To book or for further details, contact: Rob Sewell, 99 Penderry Rd, Penlan, Swansea. Tel. 584 542.

Militant Rally

The first ever 'Militant' rally in Staffordshire was a great success. Fifty people crowded into the meeting room to hear two excellent lead-offs from Ted Grant on Britain and Jeremy Birch on Internationalism, and to contribute themselves to a very lively discussion which reflected an enthusiasm for Marxist ideas.

The enthusiasm was equalled by the collection which raised over £120 from the comrades present. New orders for the paper were taken and many requested the chance to attend more regular Marxist discussion groups. All agreed that even more

should have been brought to such a meeting and pledged to make the next of many future rallies even bigger and better. The day was finished with a disco and this was definitely the best political day in Stafford for ages.

By Judy Griffiths

(Stafford & Stone CLP)

Who Causes a Nuisance?

Nearly one in ten of Denny's 12,000 total population is unemployed. In the last six months seven firms have announced redundancies, completely devastating industry in this small town.

So to begin the fight back the local Labour Party organised a march and rally on 21 June. Two hundred came to the march itself, and many more heard the three speakers at the town's shopping centre.

Denis Canavan, the local Labour MP, outlined the grim job prospects facing young people in the area. Jim Friel of SOGAT called on the Labour Party and trade unions to lead a struggle. And if the leaders weren't happy about adopting a fighting programme they should make way for those who were.

This approach was con-

tinued by Frank White of the LPYS. He showed how the LPYS detailed programme to end unemployment was linked to the struggle for a socialist society.

It was the first such rally Denny had ever seen. The police had even tried to re-route the march to prevent it causing a 'nuisance'. They didn't try and stop Thatcher's walkabout in Denny a few months back.

But the Tory policies are causing more than a nuisance to the people of Denny. And the local Labour Party and trade unions are starting to fight back. Many people wanted to join the Labour Party and LPYS after the rally and over 70 'Militants' were sold.

By Alistair Wilson
(West Stirlingshire CLP)

MILITANT PAMPHLET

CAPITALIST CRISIS—'TRIBUNE'S' ALTERNATIVE STRATEGY OR SOCIALIST PLAN, by Andrew Glyn
70p + 10p postage, from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



■ Even death is no escape from the evil system of apartheid repression in South Africa. The 'Telegraph' [23 June] writes: "Apartheid has extended beyond the grave in South Africa with a plan by a Transvaal city council to exhume black remains from a cemetery to make more room for white bodies." But while the ghouls of the ruling class dig up 270 graves, it is another act of degradation and repression on the black workers which will not be forgotten when they move towards overthrowing this hideous regime.

■ Most of Britain's athletes who are going to the Moscow Olympics have been subjected to an intense campaign to stop them going—not only a continuous barrage from the Tory media, but receiving letters and phone calls at their homes too. But the hypocrisy of the Tories' demand has angered many of the athletes. Drew McMaster [100m]: "There is so much hypocrisy and double standards. Business is still going on with Russia and the BBC are screening the Lions' tour of South Africa." David Jenkins [400m]: "Mrs Thatcher could show her concern for athletes by building three new stadia." Rod Milne [4x400m relay]: "The Americans committed just as many atrocities in Vietnam" and Geoff Gapes [shot putt] adds "And look at the troops in Northern Ireland." Judy Livermore [Pentathlon] says, "I believe the government is taking its line because it will cost them nothing." While the Tories and big business piously condemn the athletes taking part in the Olympics, they remain deathly quiet about their trade with the Soviet Union which is carrying on as normal—a protest's a protest but you mustn't upset the profits. As Steve Cram [1500m] points out: "It's absurd that Lord Carrington's son is setting up a chemical factory in Russia. Nothing will stop me now." [All quotes taken from 'Daily Express', July 4].

■ The 'Daily Mail' and the 'Daily Express', not to mention 'The Sun', are under severe competition as to who can write the most reactionary editorials. Highlighted in last week's 'Tribune' was a recent editorial by the 'Penrith Herald', the local rag in Willie Whitelaw's constituency. The 'Penrith Herald', writing on the events of Southall and the death of Blair Peach, must surpass even the Tory propaganda sheets of Fleet Street! Describing Blair Peach as 'a foreigner who should have kept his nose out of our politics' it continues: "The Anti-Nazi League people are committed to violence and they try to create opportunities to clash with anyone who upholds the law in Britain." [Do they mean the National Front, we ask?]. On the actual inquest it describes the evidence given, many of it from local individuals not involved in the events, as "a tissue of lies from members of the Anti-Nazi League and their supporters who were trying to cause the maximum amount of trouble and confusion." It concludes: "They [our magnificent police force!] are the bulwark against all those who preach revolution and the upset of all we have created in a democratic nation." A democratic free press? Why, of course!

■ The ruling class lost one of its more stalwart members recently with the death of Lady Deterding, whose husband Sir Henri was the founder of Royal Dutch Shell. Deterding was a white Russian, but settled down in Europe with her millionaire husband, who, as the 'Daily Mail' [July 4] put it 'was a close chum of Hitler.' Well, he did have a personal fortune of £25 million. When he died in 1939, Hitler took time off carrying out the annihilation of the German labour movement and the Jews and sent an envoy with a special wreath to the funeral. Since then the lady has spent a 'fabulous' life of luxury taking world cruises, and indulging in her favourite pastime of buying Ferrari sports cars. The 'Daily Mail' complains that "Far too little has been made of the death". Perhaps the ruling class felt it was better not to advertise the lifestyles of these parasitic millionaire friends of fascism.

NEW TECHNOLOGY- BUT STILL HARD WORK

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

By David Jennings

(T&GWU)

A few years ago dockers were presented as the bogeymen of the trade unions, but now the press's hatred has shifted to Leyland workers. It is possible that soon dockers will be receiving the press's 'favour' again.

In recent years an image has been developed of well-paid and not too hard-working dockers. This isn't true. The improvements in pay had to be fought hard for.

When the Tees first became an important port shipping coal from the Durham pits my great grandfather was a coal trimmer. It was a dirty, hard, low-paid job. Even when my father was a docker it was thought of as the worst job in the town.

Only through hard union struggle in the '50s and '60s did our lot improve. It is true that modern methods have improved conditions. No longer do men hump four hundredweight of sugar, and the cocoa bags were recently reduced from two to one hundredweight, although it is still a lot to carry all day.

Now containers and bulk carriers can shift loads much faster. 4,000 tons in containers takes 8 hours to unload, where before, it would have been a week's work. The ore terminal at Redcar can unload 4,000 tons an hour now. In the past

shoveling into skips to empty "a stone boat" would have needed a lot more men and time.

However these new methods require the port at the other end to be as modern, so often we still carry sacks and shovel out loads.

After 20-30 years of hard work the price paid is bad health. Men who cannot do hard work but are not bad enough to stay home see the port doctor who says they are 'sick' and are therefore given light jobs.

One is being 'on the hatch' which means standing all the time on deck beside the hatch, keeping an eye on what is happening in the hold and giving directions to the crane driver. In the middle of winter standing on the deck with no shelter or chance to rest is a sure way to finally ruin a man's health!

The Devlin changes of about 10 years ago gave those dockers that survived the purges more security. No longer did men desperately line up for a day's work, sometimes fighting each other for a chance to earn some money, or face the grim prospect of going home empty handed with only hope that tomorrow would be better. Now all registered dockers are guaranteed their basic.



4,000 tons in containers takes eight hours to unload—before it would have been a week's work. But sometimes the traditional method still has to be used.

On the Tees this is only about £50 take home, not much to keep a family on. Many of the men on the bottom preference, so-called 3rd rota, are lucky to get one or two days work a week.

The new dock methods and the decline in British industry are hitting the docks and yet again we will have to fight for our jobs and pay. At the moment the lucky dockers rely on overtime and the good bonus jobs to get a decent wage; but how long will it last? Middlesborough Dock is due to close and the BSC Export Terminal is under

threat with BSC's plans to cut back.

Some in the labour movement put forward import controls as a way to save industry and jobs in Britain. This ignores the fact that Britain needs trade to live. Any cut-back on imports would certainly hit dockers. If car imports stopped about 70 jobs would go just on Tees Dock alone.

The traditions of dockers from 1889 and the 'Dockers' Tanner', to the Pentonville Five in 1972 will be needed in our fights in the next few years.

Militant reprints out now!

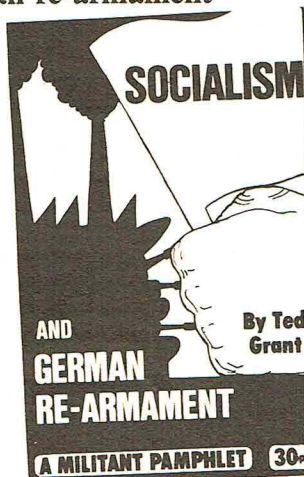
'Socialism and German re-armament'

In this pamphlet, first written in 1953, Ted Grant gives a Marxist analysis to the question of German re-armament and unification following the second World War.

At this time, given that capitalist propaganda had laid the sole responsibility "for the terrible slaughter and destruction of the two World Wars...on the shoulders of German militarism" there was genuine fear and concern amongst the rank and file of the labour movement on this question.

The right wing of the party adopted a position of 'statesmanship' echoing as Ted Grant wrote, "the propaganda of the government and of the capitalist class."

As for the left, led by the Bevanites, Ted Grant wrote they "hold up their hands in horror, and having started



from false premises, land themselves in the position of nationalist self-righteousness and anti-German chauvinism."

The pamphlet goes on to explain the errors of both right wing and left wing reformism. Though the debate has long ended, this pamphlet is worthwhile

'The rise of De Gaulle and the class struggle'

Marx and Engels said that France is the country where the class struggle "is always fought to a finish."

Ted Grant's pamphlet, originally written in 1958, at the time of De Gaulle's coup, shows how true that is. It updates the Marxist analysis of the history of revolution and counter-revolution in France to explain De Gaulle's coming to power.

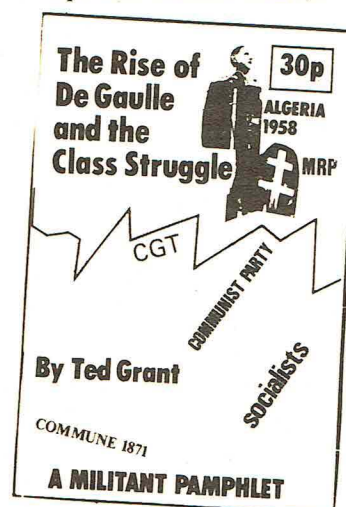
In doing so, it supplements and explains the important Marxist concept

of 'bonapartism.' This is a scientific definition, not just a term of abuse, and a key to understanding present and future developments.

The pre-revolutionary situation in 1968 can only be understood in the context of De Gaulle's coup, for which this pamphlet is the basic Marxist text.

In 1968 the French working class proved to all the sceptics and pessimists that revolution was possible, necessary and (given a correct leadership) inevitable. France was once again the classic country of class struggle.

Both pamphlets 30p each (+ 10p p&p) from: World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



reading as the same kind of arguments have come up more recently in relation to the EEC, and similar issues could arise in the future. This pamphlet illuminates the method of Marxism in approaching such questions.

In Militant, Issue 509, in the review of 'Shrewsbury: whose conspiracy?' the pamphlet by Des Warren, the publishers were omitted. The pamphlet is published by New Park Publications Ltd. and is now available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. price 40p [+10p p&p].

NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST?

- SAVE YOURSELF!

The preparation of the health service for nuclear war. That is the grisly topic of an article in 'World Medicine' [19 April, 1980].

Recent governments, particularly the present, have proved themselves incapable of maintaining a National Health Service capable of dealing with such comparatively minor problems as mass unemployment.

Nonetheless, the DHSS Circular, (dated 1977, presumably having the approval of the last Labour government) thought itself able to tell health authorities how they should make their 'transition to war plans.'

The government wants to keep "disruption to a minimum" during the 3-4 weeks that NATO anticipates as being the preparatory period before any nuclear war. So they will only then empty NHS hospitals and commandeer private hospitals.

Patients would then be discharged home whatever the condition of their health or of their home, to "take their chances with everybody else."

Area Health Authorities would by then have dispersed supplies and equipment from urban districts to as wide an area as possible. Staff also would be "distributed" in the same way.

But where do they imagine they are going to send equipment and staff to? The

article details the effect of a 10-megaton air burst (at 800 mph) which would destroy all structures within a radius of 9 miles, charring exposed skin up to 18 miles and blistering skin 24 miles away. Burns and flash blindness would be experienced at far greater distances—perhaps over 3,500 square miles.

Present government policy on survival for the general public has a familiar ring—"self help." That means build your own shelter in the seven days before the "attack" and stay put until the level of radiation from fall-out activity becomes relatively harmless.

Expect no help if you do survive the first few days because... "trained health service staff would be vital to the future and should not be wasted by allowing them to enter areas of high contamination where casualties would, in any case, have small chance of long term recovery" according to the circular.

Besides, with many millions already dead, radiation sickness casualties would not qualify for hospital treatment; ambulance services would be only what you could organise yourselves, and in any case you could not get to hospital and you would have to rely on being nursed by relatives, friends and the community.

Which hospital would be left standing? What community? How have your relatives and friends escaped

if you haven't? Self help or self delusion?

However, the circular is said to end on an 'optimistic' note. Looking towards recovery of the country (what country?) after a nuclear war "The aim should be...to create a firm base from which remaining staff could work and to raise the morale of both public and staff by demonstrating a determination to rebuild the health service, albeit in a modified form"

What sort of economy would be in this country (or what's left of it) to support a health service in any form is not discussed in the article. It does, however, go on to quote a Home Office circular (ES 8/76) detailing conditions to be expected after an attack i.e. the effect on water, electricity, sewerage, disease, infection, injuries and the urgent need for mass cremations.

Another article, in 'The Lancet' (7.6.80) does question the whole philosophy of military spending, and in fact sees the coming economic crisis (already here for most of us) as a greater danger to the country than the Warsaw Pact.

The article thinks the crisis will be entirely due to the energy shortage, and quotes the fact that half the world's physicists and engineering scientists are working only for the military.

It goes on to say "Spectacular results could follow if

this enormous fund of talent was devoted to peaceful pursuits. In addition, provided that cuts in military spending were offset by an increase in government spending in other areas or by a tax reduction then the number of jobs would increase.

"To sum up, increases in military spending will not increase the security of NATO countries, whereas a decrease in military budgets would, by increasing employment and reducing inflation, offset to some extent the impact of the coming energy crisis."

We describe the protagonists of nuclear armaments as "insane" yet don't we somehow give them their sanity—by arguing with them on their own terms?

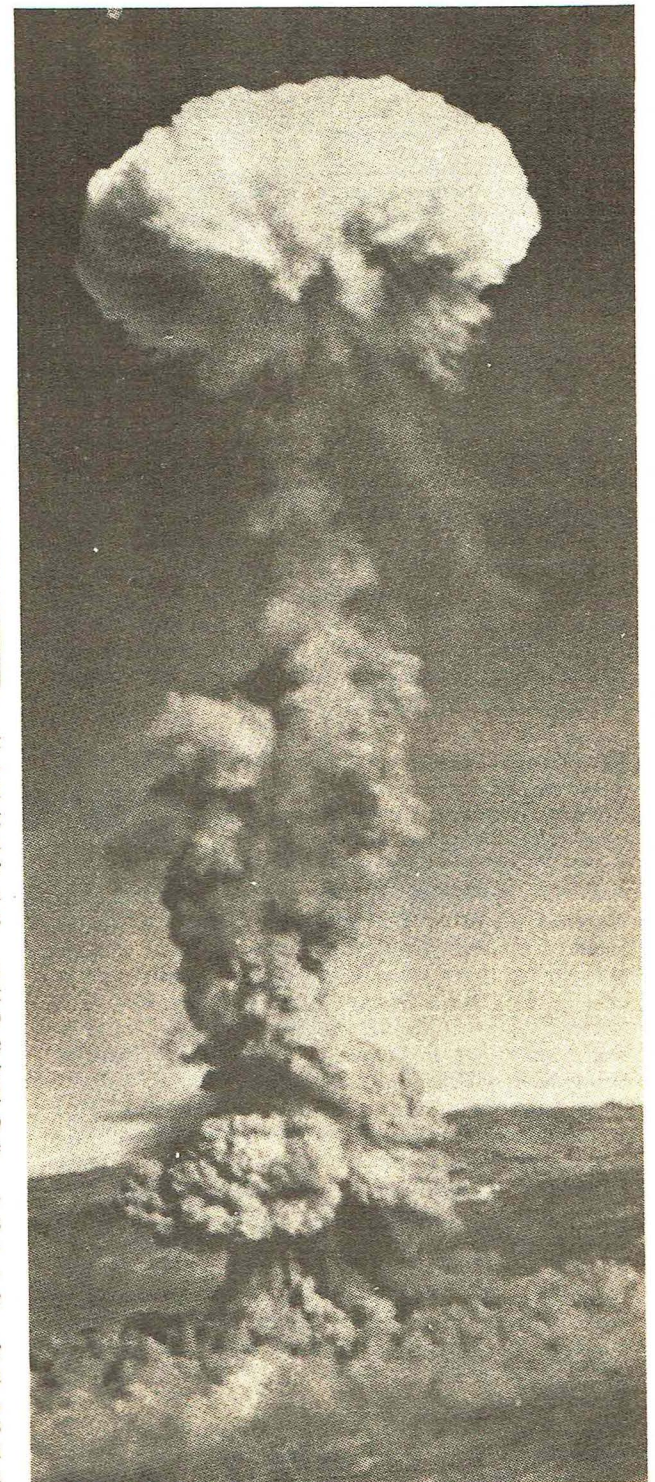
While there is a basis for discussion and debate with 'The Lancet' correspondent, who sees the economic crisis largely as the result of an energy shortage rather than a consequence of the worldwide crisis of capitalism, on what basis do you debate with a Cruise missile?

How do you accept an instruction to build your own shelter within seven days? What sort of dialogue do you have with a light blue government or dark blue when they are both contemplating the wholesale destruction of this country and its population.

Many people are diverted from thinking about the monstrosity of nuclear war

By Myrna Shaw

Secretary, Tower Hamlets Health District
Joint Shop Stewards Committee
(personal capacity)



Nuclear war would mean the end of civilisation. Working class power is the only guarantee against its horrors

by being made to think about "who gets in first with their bomb."

There is only one power that can get in first and that is working class power. Only an international movement of the working class could save mankind from threatened

annihilation.

There is only one deterrent, as has been stressed time and again by 'Militant' and that is the deterrent of socialism and only international socialism could keep the peace once it was established.

NURSERIES FOR ALL

"Lady Frances Russell, daughter-in-law of the Duke of Bedford, has been having a £120 a week rest cure in a health hydro.

"I have had such a tiring time since the birth of my daughter Czarina last year. Two months ago both my nanny and the Filipino couple I had left me.

"As a result I had to do everything on my own. Imagine going shopping taking a child with you in a pushchair. And every time you go out in the car you have all the business of fixing the safety

By Judith Stott

(Rochdale LPYS)

harness.

"By 6.30 in the evening I was finished...When I get home I hope to get another couple, and in the meantime my father-in-law's valet is going to help me in the house."

This quote appears in a new book ('Nurseries Now' by Hughes, Mayall, Moss, Perry,

Petrie and Pinkerton. Pelican Books £.95) which presses the case for adequate child-care facilities for the majority of children, whose parents can't quite afford a valet!

The book exposes the myth that children under three years old should stay with their mother and argues that it is important for both mother and child to have decent child-care facilities available.

Mothers often feel depressed and frustrated, isolated in the home, and want to go out to work both for financial and social reasons. However the present system of child-care provision makes this very difficult, even if you are lucky

enough to find a place for your child.

The book explains the differences and inadequacies of the various types of provision, including a long discussion on the role of childminders. The authors deal effectively with many of the objections raised by opponents of nurseries, and conclude that nursery facilities should be based on three principles:

"There must be enough places for all parents who want them: parents must be able to choose the age when their children can start and the hours they attend for each day; and nurseries should aim to meet the needs of all children for play, care and education."

This would mean a drastic change from the present system of 'care' at day nurseries (run by Social Services Departments) and 'education' at nursery schools (Education Dept.) to such things as community nursery

centres.

The authors also call for an extension of parental rights such as the introduction of paternity leave, the right for any parent to opt for part-time work, and the right to leave from work for 'parental functions' such as looking after a sick child.

As the authors point out, nurseries were made available during the war, when the system needed women to work in the mills. Now that women workers are no longer needed so nursery facilities are run down.

"The question is not whether the extra cost could be afforded but whether it will be. The real issue is therefore political."

The obvious conclusion to be drawn is that capitalism is not prepared to use its resources for the benefit of ordinary working people. Only a socialist planned economy will ensure that the ideals embodied in this excellent book are realised.

Militant International pamphlet

'India: the gathering storm'

Price 60p (plus 15p p&p)
from World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN

A Political Voice for a Waking Giant

"Protestant and Catholic workers are prepared to fight together against the attacks of this Tory government."

"With the prospect of mass unemployment on a scale not seen since the 1930s, the Labour movement must now step up the campaign to oust Thatcher. An all out campaign to bring down the Tories and replace them with a Labour government pledged to socialist policies must begin.

"Such a campaign must be political. Alongside the indus-

trial muscle of the workers in Northern Ireland there must be developed a political muscle in the form of a Party of Labour."

Bill Webster, chairman of the 1980 conference of the Labour and Trade Union Group, held recently in

By Dennis Tourish
(Belfast YS)

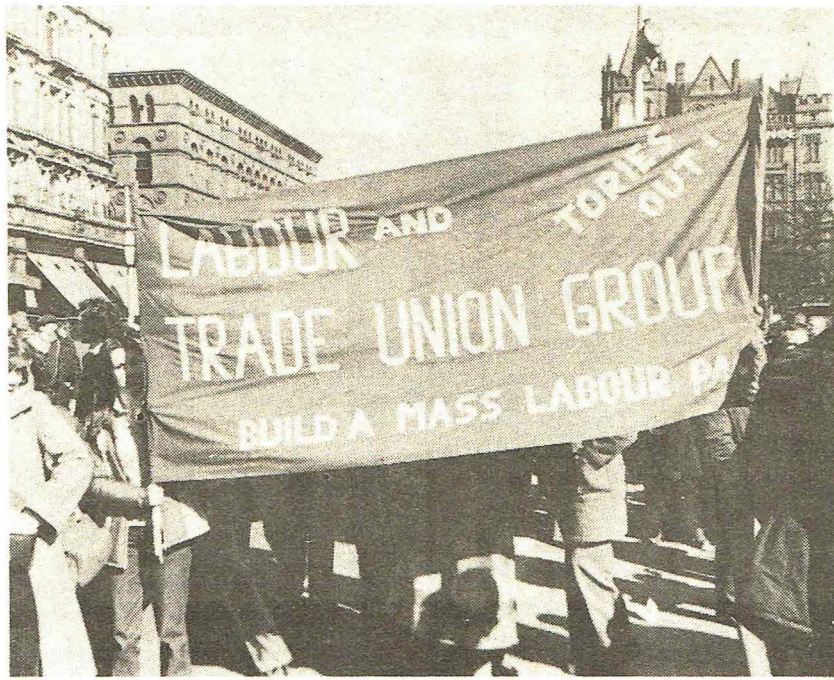


Photo: Derek Spiers (IFL)

Belfast, summed up the reasons why a workers' conference of this nature was so essential.

The conference was a major step forward for the labour movement in Northern Ireland. It was the most representative political gathering of the movement in 10 years. One-hundred people attended, including observers from six Trades Councils, a number of trade union branches, the Irish Labour Party Administrative Council and other organisations including the Labour Party Young Socialists from Britain.

The large number of young people there reflected the impact which has been made by the Group's recently established Young Socialists section.

No Labour Party exists in Northern Ireland. This leaves the political arena free for the sectarian and Tory parties. But political discussion is echoing through the ranks of

the labour movement. This was shown most clearly in the magnificent response to the call for a half-day general strike on 2 April.

Delegate after delegate spoke of the impact this demonstration of the industrial strength of the working class had had on their own areas.

Kieran Molloy (Enniskillen) reported on the mobilisation of 1,500 people in that small town alone. The secretary of the Trades Council had gained an enthusiastic response to his call for the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

But there was caution too. The leaders of the movement had the responsibility to not only organise effectively but to give a definite direction and objective to demonstrations and Days of Action. The inaction of the trade union leaders had meant that there were no public demonstrat-

ions anywhere in Northern Ireland on May 14th. But the need to fill the political vacuum caused by the absence of a party based on the labour movement was central. The Labour and Trade Union Group called for the convening of a conference of the whole labour movement to build a mass party of labour.

Moving, Eileen Cullen (Derry) showed the anomaly of massive trade union demonstrations throughout the North against Toryism, while the sectarian and Tory parties were left unopposed—despite the present weakness of all these parties. The resolution was passed unanimously.

The policies adopted by conference mark out the Labour and Trade Union Group as the main organisation in Northern Ireland campaigning for a socialist transformation of society.

On economic issues they spelt out the burning necessity for an £80 minimum wage,

and a 35-hour week to cut unemployment, and the need for the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies to allow such essential reforms.

Repression, and in particular the atrocious conditions in H-Block weighed heavily on the minds of the delegates. Among the resolutions passed on this subject was one from Ballymena branch welcoming the campaign being launched in the British labour movement.

But as the resolution stressed "Conference urge the labour movement in Northern Ireland to reject all approaches from those sectarian-based organisations who have taken up this issue and instead to fight for a campaign solely based on the official organisations of the labour movement in Britain and Ireland."

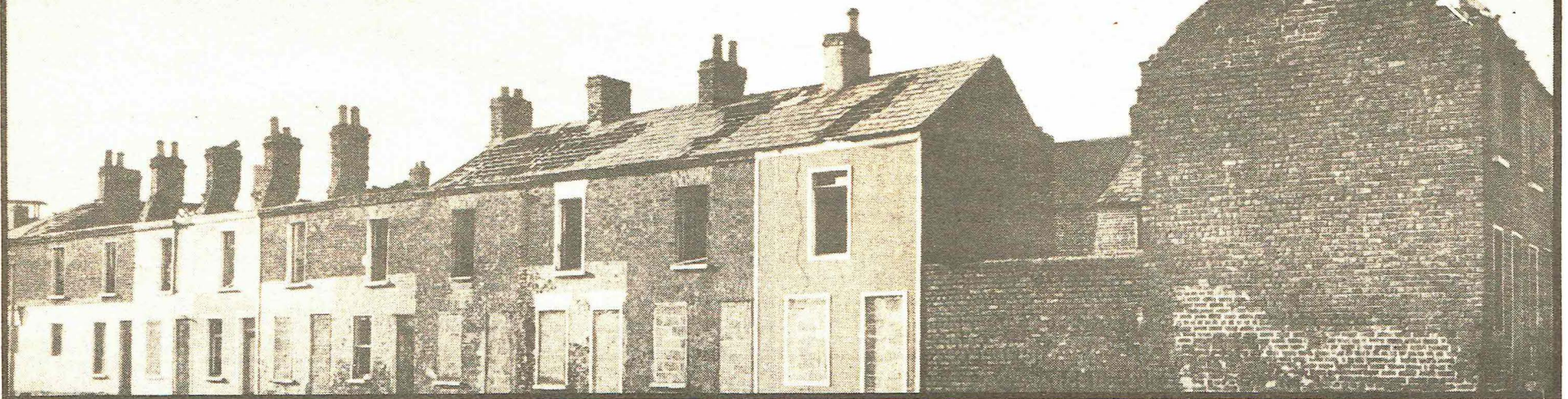
The L&TUG has developed enormously during the past year. It now has a network of branches in all the main areas, with Young Socialist branches beginning to develop in a number of centres.

It is the main organisation on the left of the labour movement in Northern Ireland. There is scarcely a Trades Council without at least some members of the group on it. No other organisation could have held a conference which aroused such interest from the movement.

The seriousness of the group in facing up to the major tasks ahead was seen in the organisational decisions committing the group to further developing its industrial base, the publication of a news-sheet and a two day conference.

The collection to facilitate improvements in the Group's work raised £140, another indication of the personal commitment of the workers involved in this conference.

Ends that don't meet



There can be few areas in the British Isles more in need of a fighting, socialist Labour Party than unemployment-ridden Northern Ireland.

Last week, the electronics firm Grundig announced that their Belfast plant, would be closing in October with over 1,000 workers thrown onto the already massive dole queues.

The general manager of Grundig, Dr Wolfgang Raahe said that his firm had turned down government assistance because they didn't think their situation viable, and the "government should not support lame ducks."

Northern Ireland is plagued by firms lamed by the profit-greedy habits of capitalism. Harland and Woolf may have had a temporary reprieve, but at the same time as this was announced, government spending in Northern Ireland was totally frozen. Government policies are clearly making a bad situat-

By Roger Shrivies

ion even worse.

The official unemployment rate for Northern Ireland is 11.6%, though some areas see nearly half the population jobless! Over 73,000 people are on the stones in Northern Ireland and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions fear that government policies could force the number up over the 100,000 level.

No wonder then that in the words of a recent Child Poverty Action Group report, "poverty scars the lives of thousands of households across the region."

But also, as the report indicates, it is not merely those out of work who suffer.

Sir Keith Joseph's dream of a Hong Kong-style, high unemployment, low wage economy, has had an unofficial trial run close to the mainland of Britain—and like most experiments that capitalism makes in this part of the world the results are appalling for the working class.

More than a third of full-time workers are officially regarded as low paid, compared to one in four in the rest of the UK. Proportionately, twice as many male manual workers are underpaid and six times as many families have to rely on the Family Income Supplement.

The so-called luxuries of televisions, washing machines, refrigerators, are far rarer than in Britain as a whole. The most basic necessities take up far more of a worker's income.

High prices combined with unemployment and low wages are the main culprits. Fuel bills are far higher than in

Ends that don't meet. A study of poverty in Belfast Eileen Evanson. £1.20 inc. postage from CPAG, 1 Macklin Street, London WC2B 5NH.

Low Pay in Northern Ireland. Low Pay Unit, 9 Poland Street, London W1.

Common Misery, Common Struggle By Peter Hadden of the Labour and Trade Union Group. Available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Tce, London E8 3PN. 30p plus 10p postage

Britain. Gas prices are nearly three times as big, and electricity 22% higher.

The majority of those living at or near the poverty line face fuel costs of double the sum which would be paid under

the supplementary benefits scheme.

More and more workers are forced into debt. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has debts of just under £9 million, the Electricity Service of almost £12 million and Belfast Gas Department £3½m.

Hardly surprising either. The majority of families in debt had to spend more than half their total income on food, housing and fuel costs alone. Far from help being forthcoming to solve these problems, the 1971 Payment of Debt Act enables deductions to be made at source from benefits or the wages of public employees!

One family mentioned by the survey existed on £32 per week, paid £10.80 a week in rent plus arrears, £12 to the electricity board and £5 for gas. That left £4.20 to 'live' on.

Contrast the elaborate and

cruel machinery to harass debtors with the state's easy-going attitude to the bosses who commit the crime of low pay.

Wages Councils fix the earnings of the low paid in poorly organised industries. Adult catering workers have to be paid the magnificent wage of £21.02 per week, and the 'luckiest' bakery workers are entitled to £55.50!

To enforce these laws, which are hardly stringent, the state employs two—yes, two—wages inspectors.

The CPAG report is being studied by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions at their conference in Belfast as they consider a campaign on low pay. The report and the vicious attacks on Northern Ireland workers should convince trade unionists not only of the need for a strong trade union response but for a political struggle through a mass party of labour.

The Tories in Britain, and the representatives of capitalism internationally, have whipped up a frenzied propaganda campaign against the Russian invasion in Afghanistan. But in 1917, when the workers and peasants of Russia rose against the Tsarist dictatorship and established the world's first workers' state, it was an entirely different question.

With Britain in the lead, the imperialist powers launched a ruthless military intervention in support of the Russian militarists, landowners, and capitalists, in an effort to destroy the newborn socialist state and restore the old regime.

Andrew Rothstein's book relates the history of the imperialist powers' moves against the Russian revolution, and shows the key role played by the British government—especially Lloyd George and the war-mongering Winston Churchill. But the special focus of this fascinating and original study is the story of Douglas Young, the British Consul at Archangel in 1917/18. Young is the consul who rebelled against his masters' brutal counter-revolutionary policy and especially against the—to him—shocking duplicity with which the Foreign Office conducted its diplomacy.

Young was far from sympathising with the Bolsheviks; if he supported anybody it was the Russian "liberals", the Constitutional Democrats. But unlike the "exclusive class bureaucracy", which ran the Foreign Office, Young saw at first hand the profound social crisis which had destroyed Tsarism, and recognised the mass support for the Bolshevik government. After October 1917, Young became increasingly alarmed at the growing discrepancy between the British government's declared policy and the menacing steps they were actually taking in the Archangel-Murmansk region.

Young repeatedly cabled to London for "clarification", expressing his opposition to intervention on principle and particularly criticising the bungling, inept manner in which the "amateur Russian and allied conspirators" were going about things. But British imperialism was out to strangle a revolutionary threat to landlordism and capitalism and was not in the least concerned about the scruples of a minor consular officer.

Young, however, would not just fall into line. After sending a memorandum to the Foreign Office which was ignored, a letter to 'The Times', which had little effect, he then wrote to the 'Herald', the Labour paper which had replaced the old

'Daily Herald'. Thus in December 1918, just before the so-called 'Khaki Election', when Lloyd George's reactionary coalition was fighting to return to power and the ruling class's anti-Bolshevik crusade was at its height, a dissident Foreign Office official caused a sharp shock to the system by publicly puncturing official propaganda with his devastating denunciation of British policy in Russia.

"This British government played a dirty, double game with the Soviet government in Russia," wrote Young in the 'Herald'. "First they gave a solemn assurance which was published over my name in the Archangel Press, that they had no annexationist intentions and that they would not interfere in the internal affairs of Russia. This was accepted...as meaning that the British government intended no military action against the Soviet government. Then they stabbed that government in the back by forcing a landing of Allied troops at Archangel under specious pretext."

The violence and massive bloodshed which the capitalists propagandists to this day still blame on the October revolution—in reality a virtually painless transformation—was primarily the responsibility of the imperialist powers, who fostered and sustained a bloody counter-revolution which forced the Bolsheviks into three years of devastating civil war.

Rothstein describes the allied powers' intervention, filling in new details from recently released official archive material. He shows that British capitalism's decision to back the counter-revolution with money, arms and men was taken as early as December 1917.

The War Office adopted a Foreign Office memorandum which declared (of course) that Britain had no intention of interfering in Russia's internal politics—but at the same time quite cynically proposing to give financial and military support, all over Russia, to none other than the counter-revolutionaries.

The government tried to cover its crude interventionism with a scanty fig leaf: Britain was merely "preventing war supplies from falling into German hands." But while claiming that it was necessary to maintain a Russian front against the German armies (regardless of the Bolsheviks' withdrawal from the war), allied forces were fighting Bolsheviks in regions where the German armies had never set foot.

The British military commanders on the spot were at

WHEN BRITAIN INVADED SOVIET RUSSIA

By Lynn Walsh

least less hypocritical. Major General Poole, Commander of the British expedition to Archangel, commented, "there [in Archangel] we could easily consolidate the government [i.e. of pro-imperialist, anti-Bolshevik representatives]...We could reap a rich harvest in timber and railway concessions and control of two northern posts." In May 1918, the War Cabinet despatched the first military expedition to Northern Russia, which began Britain's counter-revolutionary offensive.

The British military commanders, backed up by the capitalist press at home, prepared the way for intervention with deliberately fabricated stories of Bolshevik "atrocities".

At the small town of Kem, for instance, the British, French and Serbian commanders, without any provocation whatsoever, summarily arrested the leaders of the Kem Soviet, took them to the beach and shot them. This was a calculated first step in the imperialist armies' assault on Archangel.

The British tried to claim that there was an "anti-Bolshevik revolution" in Archangel, but Young exposed this as a "purely artificial movement": "It was just a put-up job between the Moscow White Guards and the allied missions. There were plenty of well-to-do people, anxious for their properties or bank balances, who would have gladly put the Bolsheviks to slow torture—if only the allies would pinion the intended victim during the operation."

When the imperialist forces seized control of Archangel and pushed their counter-revolutionary allies back (temporarily) into power, their first actions were to abolish workers' control in the factories, re-introduce courts martial and the death penalty, return nationalised shipping to its previous owners, and cancel all Soviet decrees regarding social insurance.

Young repeatedly warned his Foreign Office masters that their policies would lead to disaster. He was all too well

aware that the forces that they were backing were barbarously repressive, completely corrupt, and lacking any real social basis. Poole's stooge government in Archangel was based on 30,000 allied soldiers.

As Young predicted, the Kaledins, Wrangels, Kolchaks and Semyonovs—all the reactionary militarists the British were backing with gold, arms and dirty undercover operations organised by British Intelligence to put the landlords and capitalists back in power—were by their ruthless policies stiffening the mass support for the Bolsheviks. But it was above all the bold, revolutionary policies of the Bolsheviks, who linked military defence with the defence of the social gains introduced by the new workers' state, that ensured the revolution's ultimate victory against twenty or more armies of intervention.

Why did Douglas Young rebel against the policies of British imperialism? He was apparently the typical product of a middle-class professional family. Before Archangel, he had an exemplary and highly praised career in the consular service. In 1914 he had offered 10% of his salary as a contribution to war funds.

The problem was, from the point of view of his superiors, that he took seriously the high ideals proclaimed as the justification for the British empire.

Young believed in efficient and fair administration, honest diplomacy, and enlightened, liberal policies. There had been room for this when the British empire was at the apogee of its wealth and power in the decades before 1914.

But in the period after the first world war, with a new period of world-wide conflict and revolution, imperialism's claim to be based on civilised aims and methods was completely shattered.

When Young began to question Britain's policies—policies that the government clearly hesitated to spell out in writing to its diplomats abroad—the Foreign Office made strenuous efforts to



Sverdlov speaks to Moscow Red Guards before they leave for the front

British imperialism was out to strangle a revolutionary threat to landlordism and capitalism. But the enthusiastic class support of the workers in Britain for the young Soviet state played a vital part in ensuring its survival.

silence him. When as a last resort Young wrote to the 'Herald', the FO bureaucracy moved against him in the most spiteful and vindictive manner, and he was forced to resign.

Even though they subsequently reinstated him after five years of unemployment, the FO never fully restored his pension rights. It was a sordid piece of petty victimisation, as Rothstein says. The Foreign Office's anger at Young was all the more intense as he was ultimately proved right; as Lord Curzon admitted: "the unfortunate thing is that in substance he has been proved right."

In the end, Lloyd George accepted what Young had maintained from the start: "That if we do this [i.e. continue to support the counter-revolutionaries and restorationists] we shall sooner or later provoke an outbreak of Bolshevism in the United Kingdom, thus realising the aim of the extreme Russian Bolsheviks of spreading their ideas throughout Western Europe."

The enthusiastic, class support of the workers in Britain and the other imperialist countries for the young Soviet state played a vital part in ensuring the survival of the Bolshevik regime. In Britain, the refusal of the dockers to load the "Jolly George" with arms destined for the White armies was just the best-known incident in a mass movement of opposition to British imperialism's intervention against the Russian revolution.

Although somewhat bitter

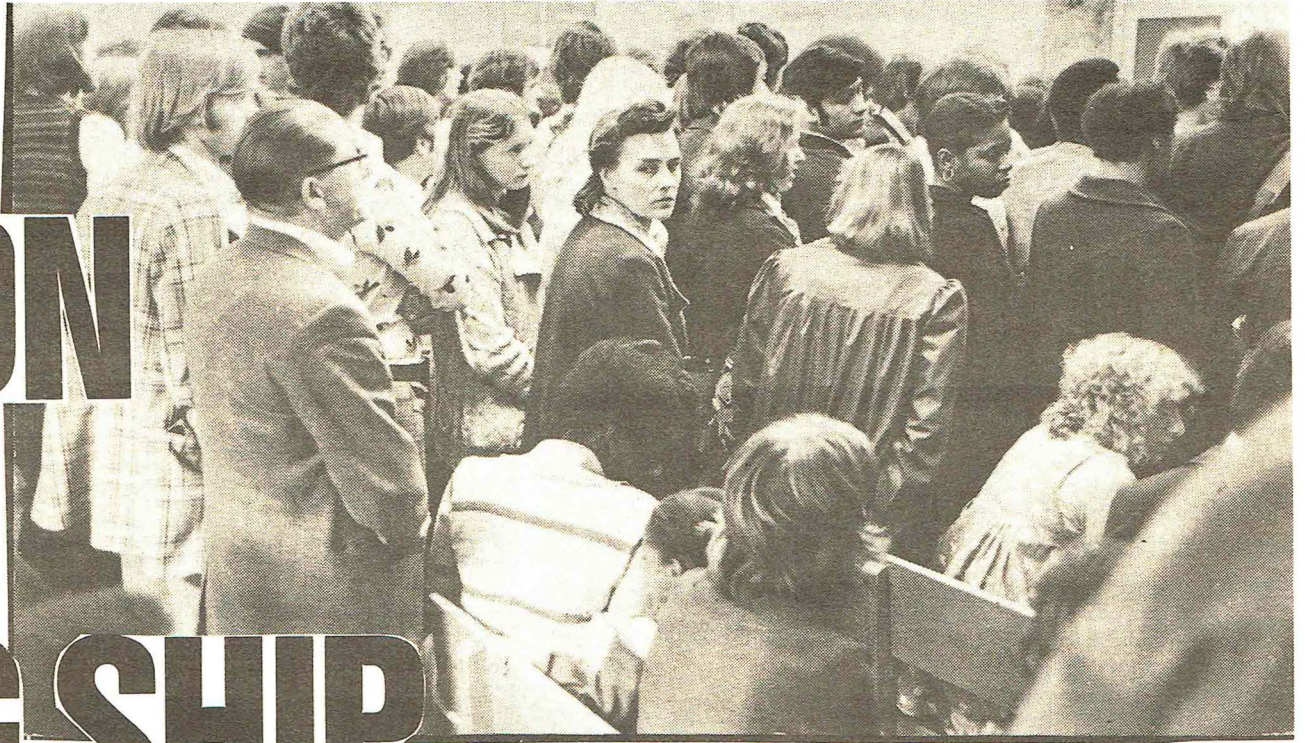
and disillusioned, Young continued to uphold his own liberal ideas. In the 1930s he opposed the appeasement of the ruling class of Nazi Germany, and while the British Consul in Basle (1934-1939) he quite deliberately issued many more than the authorised number of British visas to refugees, particularly Jews, fleeing from the Nazis.

Andrew Rothstein's book is thoroughly researched and well written. Rothstein himself is the son of a Russian diplomat, and was in the leadership of the British Communist Party during its hard-line Stalinist years when it followed every twist and turn dictated by Moscow.

However, this book has little to say about the revolution itself, or the subsequent development of the regime under Stalin's bureaucracy. But it is a devastating exposure of one of the most cynical, reactionary and bloody episodes in the history of British imperialism.

'When Britain Invaded Soviet Russia: The Consul Who Rebelled' by Andrew Rothstein [The Journeyman Press, £2.75] This book can be ordered [£3.00 post free] from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

TORIES ABANDON THE SINKING SHIP



The bosses' solution for the workers of Alfred Herbert—the dole queue. Are the Ferranti workers soon to follow?

Alfred Herbert, the once proud flag ship of the British machine tool industry has finally been left to sink. And with it 1,300 workers have been left to drown in the sea of unemployment.

What was once the largest tool machine group in the country has had its only lifeline—subsidies from the National Enterprise Board [NEB]—severed by the Tory administration.

Already this year, 700 workers at Alfred Herbert were thrown onto the scrapheap, when the group chairman, Peter Rippon, announced a 're-organisation plan' after being told by the NEB that the group must become self financing.

A few hundred jobs may be saved by some of the group's subsidiaries being sold off to other companies; the 'Herbert Tools' subsidiary is being taken over by the massive Thorn EMI multi-national. But while the vultures of big business may swoop in for the few rich pickings, yet another major employer has been lost.

Since 1975 the company has received £43m of public money. But earlier this year the NEB said that the company's total borrowing facilities of £16m could not be increased—except on a temporary basis to finance redundancies!

So how is it that this one-time jewel in the crown of British capitalism can join the many grave-stones of the British manufacturing industry? Since 1969 alone, the company had gradually cut back its workforce by 68 per cent!

The company as part of its 're-organisation plan' was pinning its hopes on a smaller range of machines with sophisticated control systems for home and export markets. However, overseas trade statistics issued by the Department of Trade indicate the depths of the recession into which the whole engineering sector is sinking, with a major increase in the value of imports contrasting with only a minimal rise in exports.

Some sections of the labour movement have raised the nationalistic demand for import controls, but this would not provide any solution. This would only mean workers would be faced with higher prices for goods. Import controls would also cause retaliatory tactics by foreign capitalist classes, which given the weak position of British capitalism, would do further damage to Britain's ailing industries.

But it is not the work of the labour movement to try to manage capitalism better

than the capitalists themselves. It must campaign for the only one alternative to this bankrupt capitalist system—socialism. Put the economy in the hands of the working people, where it can be planned to work for the benefit of society.

The bosses, and their spokesmen the Tories, represent the capitalist system that has brought such havoc and destruction. The manufacturing industry as a whole is shedding workers wholesale; many industries and now whole communities face a

bleak future.

The ferocity of the recent attacks on TU rights, public expenditure cuts, the massive increase in armaments spending and the open admittance that if these policies fail, capitalism itself will fail, should strengthen our fight.

The two wings of the movement—the Labour Party and the trade unions—must unite and force the present PLP to take on the Tories, combine this with a massive public campaign to show the real alternative, socialism.

Fight every redundancy,

every speed-up, every cut in manning levels. But more importantly—get political!

Help to get rid of an economic system that is prepared to make money magically available for redundancy payments, but not to provide jobs and decent living standards for us, the class that creates the real wealth of society.

By Cathy
Wilson

(Isle of Wight CLP)

In the first 11 months of 1979, exports of machinery and transport equipment were worth £13,495m, against £13,742m for the whole of 1978 and £12,335m for 1977. Over the three years the increase in value of exports has risen by 9.4%.

Imports in this category, which includes most engineering products, have risen in value at a much faster rate, and the overall balance of trade in Britain's favour is in danger of becoming a deficit.

These are the cold statistics. But what will they mean in terms of job security?

Losses of jobs in mechanical engineering alone totalled 23,000 up to June last year, and reduced the sector's labour force to a new low level of 902,000. There is no sign of the trend halting and this year as many as 30,000 more jobs could disappear.

If we take Alfred Herbert's as an example, we can see what has resulted from lack of investment, declining competitiveness on world markets and a total lack of understanding by the bosses of their own profit system.

As 'The Times' (1 July) pointed out in an article mourning the collapse of the group, "Most observers believe that the seeds of Herbert's collapse were sown 30 years ago. It is said that the company's conservatism and unwillingness to innovate led to inevitable decline."

But while the bosses' class moans about how it is suffering the real misery is faced by the workers. There can be little doubt that Mr Rippon will not be joining the every increasing dole queues alongside the former Herbert workers.

Due to a U-turn by the Tory government, the threat of takeover to the Ferranti electronics group in Scotland—and possible 'rationalisation' leading to redundancies—has been put off for two years.

The NEB, who hold 50% of the shares in Ferranti Ltd. had been ordered earlier by the Tories to sell their shares (which belong to the public) to the highest bidder in order to raise at least £75m for the Public Sector Borrowing Rate.

Ferranti were saved from financial disaster by the Labour government in 1974, who set up the NEB as part of their 'state intervention' programme to ailing industry.

The success of the NEB rescue operation can be measured by the fact that since 1974 the workforce have increased from 5,000 to 7,300 at the present time.

With full order books (although mainly defence contracts from the USA and Britain) and a reasonable pay rise following a 12-week dispute involving manual workers, the workforce looked forward to a rosy future.

However, just as reforms can be given they can just as easily be taken away. The

By Dick
Vivian

(AUEW, Edinburgh)

Tories wanted to throw this profitable industry to the wolves of big business who are gathering around this latest 'sale of the century'.

Indeed GEC were the odds on favourites to buy up the 50% shares which would give them control of Ferranti.

With the past track record of GEC for 'rationalisation' and redundancies, the workforce have been quick to realise the dangers to less profitable parts of the group.

In a rare move, the management, anxious to keep Ferranti autonomous within the Scottish sector, joined the unions in a fight to keep the NEB shareholding within Ferranti.

However, it was not a few bosses that forced the Tories to carry out a U-turn, but the growing hostility and anger to the Tories by the Scottish workers. As 'The Times' (1 July) pointed out, the Tories' decision "...may...have been influenced by a poor Conservative showing at last week's Glasgow Central by-election."

Also Ferranti is 100 per cent unionised and the Tories know that any attempt by a new owner to 'rationalise' the company would meet mighty opposition from the work-

force.

But the situation faced by Ferranti workers has only been put off for two years. The NEB have actually now sold the shares but to financial institutions which will stop any major monopoly taking over the group outright until the agreement runs out in two years.

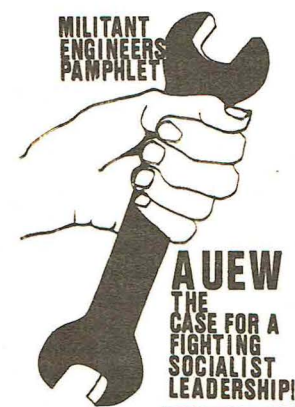
The shop stewards at Ferranti must use this breathing space to explain the issues at stake to their members, and point out the way forward. They must explain that state intervention through schemes such as the NEB is **no substitute** for real nationalisation under the democratic control of the workers and trade unions.

Rather the NEB is merely a prop on which ailing big business industries can limp along on. It keeps its own structural make-up (i.e. the bosses maintain control). Re-

forms, as opposed to a bold socialist programme, can be dismantled by the bosses' class at any stage.

Workers' control at Ferranti could also mean the workforce developing alternative products, rather than the senseless weapons of war being produced at present. With the knowledge and skills in micro-electronic technology the workforce already has, there can be no doubt products for the benefit of society (hospital equipment, consumer goods, etc.) could be produced, along the lines put forward by the shop stewards' committees at Lucas and Vickers.

The socialist transformation of society is the only real guarantor of job security, a decent wage and living conditions for the workers of Ferranti, as it is for all workers throughout the country.



OUT NOW!
A new 'Militant'
pamphlet for
all AUEW
engineering
workers

From World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN
Price 30p (+ 10p p&p)



TURNING-POINT IN SRI LANKAN CLASS STRUGGLE

The United National Party [UNP] government which came to power in Sri Lanka in 1977 with an unprecedented majority in parliament and plans of rapid capitalist development a la South Korea and Singapore is now finding that all its schemes are in crisis.

Its whole perspective was based on obtaining huge amounts of aid, and investment from Western and Japanese imperialist sources. Accordingly, the government's first priority was to create the conditions conducive to attracting investment and to giving into the demands of the imperialist lending agencies.

This meant attempting dictatorial methods; restricting trade union activity, virtually banning strikes in the public sector, the almost complete withdrawal of subsidies on essential food items, 60% devaluation of the rupee, 'opening up' the economy (by removing practically all import-export controls), offering enormous tax and other concessions to foreign capitalists etc. However not only has the expected rapid development not taken place but today the economy is quite clearly heading for a severe slump.

The government is now beginning to realise this and leading ministers are anxiously watching the darkening clouds on the world economic horizon. The Finance Minister admitted recently that the 'sources of aid are drying up.'

In spite of the most liberal concessions offered to foreign capital anywhere in the world, investment has barely trickled in. As a visiting delegation of West German capitalists commented—the climate for investment is good but the infrastructure leaves much to be desired.

As if to underline that point, soon afterwards the country was plunged into an unprecedented power crisis—a result of the unplanned and wasteful increase in consumption. Furthermore a massive and wasteful construction extravaganza has only brought about enormous corruption at the top. Inflation is expected to be over 40% this year.

The policies of the government has effectively resulted in a huge transfer of resources from the working masses to the rich. Real wages have probably declined by 30-40% since the government took office.

It was against this background that the Joint Trade Union Action Committee (JTUAC), uniting all but the pro-government unions, presented 23 demands. The main demands were; to bring down prices of essential commodities, restore subsidies, a sliding scale of wages, restoration of democratic rights

By
Shanta de Alvis
(Central Committee,
Nama Sama Samaja
Party)

such as the right to demonstrate and picket, and the right to strike in the public sector.

A convention of over 3,000 delegates representing all non-government unions was held on the 8th and 9th of March and it unanimously decided to launch a day of protest as the first step in the struggle for the 23 demands.

The Marxist workers' party in Sri Lanka, the Nama Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) had long advocated the convening of a workers' assembly of delegates democratically elected from the work places. Furthermore we had advocated that this assembly be a decision making body (by majority vote) and that it should launch a programme of action to win the 23 demands.

Workers convention

The NSSP clearly pointed out also that the struggle for these demands is necessarily also a struggle to throw out the government.

The convention which was called was unfortunately hemmed in by many bureaucratic constraints. The delegates were not completely representative of the rank and file; in many unions the leaders had appointed them. Furthermore the bureaucratic leadership of the old workers' parties (the CPP and the LSSP), as well as those of the opposition bourgeois party the SLFP, viewed the convention merely as a talking shop.

They made sure that the decision on what type of action should be taken and when, would be left in the hands of the JTUAC.

Consequently, after much delay the protest day was scheduled by the JTUAC for the 5th June. The JTUAC called upon the workers to protest by strike action, and mass demonstrations and/or hoisting black flags etc.

In spite of the lack of preparation by many unions and the refusal of any of the oppositional parties (except the NSSP) to conduct agitation and propaganda for the protest day the response at the work places on the 5th was magnificent. There were completely successful strikes in all the major private sector firms, including the local

branches of multinationals such as Unilever, Imperial Tobacco Co. and Bata.

In the biggest government factory, the Ratmalana Railway Workshop, the whole work-force of 7,000, including those belonging to the UNP union the JSS, came out on strike—defying the virtual ban on public sector strikes. In practically all major work places (public and private sector) workers demonstrated in their thousands on the streets in front of their factories and offices.

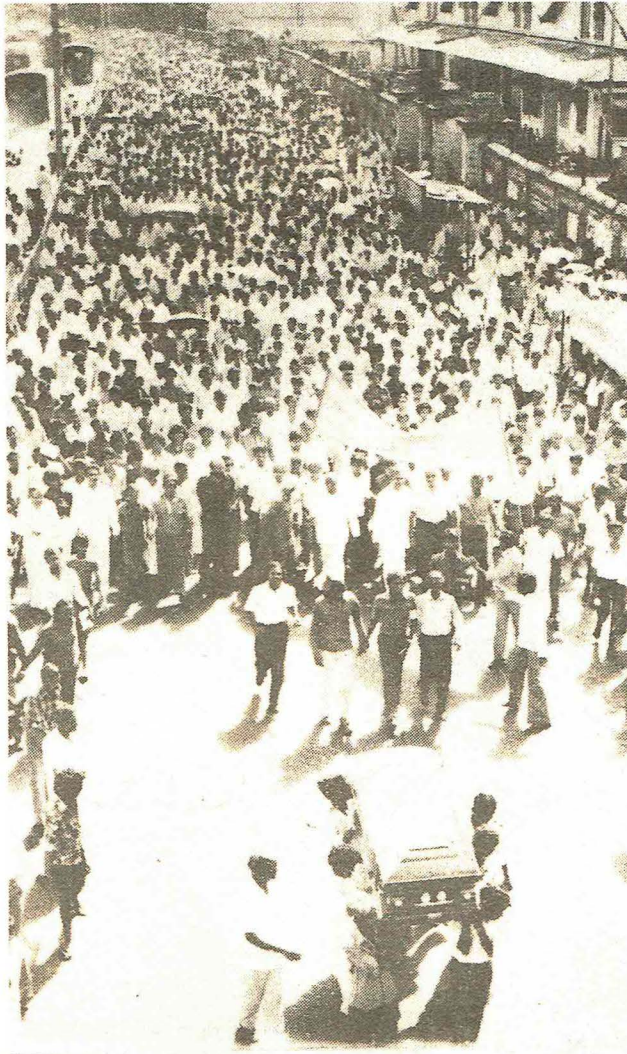
The President had responded to the JTAC call for a day of protest by asking his supporters (i.e. the stooge JSS union) to convert June 5th into a day of support by demonstrating in support of the government. While on the one hand he may have expected thousands of UNP supporters to turn up, on the other hand it was also viewed by his closest stooges as an invitation to launch attacks on workers who participated in protest actions.

The counter movement proved to be a damp squib. Obviously enraged by this the UNP goon squads decided to attack the workers. Several attacks took place in the provincial towns but the main attack was launched opposite the headquarters of the General Clerical Service Union (GCSU), which is led by the NSSP and hence was a prime target.

About 30 UNP gangsters led by a deputy/Minister and two MPs armed with pistols, knives and hand-bombs attacked the peacefully demonstrating line of workers some 500 strong. In the resulting clash one worker died and about 30 others were injured, some seriously.

Another attack, resulting in several demonstrators being injured, took place at the Government Teacher Training College in Maharajama, a suburb of Colombo. JSS thugs from the Maharajama bus depot attacked the main demonstration of teacher trainees with bicycle chains, iron bars and clubs. That afternoon the teacher trainees began a classroom boycott, demanding that the police take into custody the assailants, whom they were prepared to identify.

As the boycott spread to other training colleges, the government after procrastin-



Funeral procession of Somapala, Civil Service worker murdered by government thugs.

ating for a few days, ordered the police to arrest these top UNP 'Trade Union' officials. After this the teacher trainees together with the local left organisations held a mass demonstration and rally in the town—which the by now thoroughly demoralised thugs dared not attack.

Half-Day General Strike

The 5th June was the anniversary of the day in 1947 when the imperialist police shot and killed a clerical worker—Kandadasamy. Accordingly the GCSU had organised a commemoration meeting that evening.

Over a thousand workers, in a very militant mood, turned up to pay homage to both Kandadasamy and So-

mapala, the worker who had been murdered earlier that day. The convenor of the JTUAC, Panditha, the CP Trade Union leader, had to accede to the demands from the floor to call a half day general strike in Colombo district on the day of Somapala's funeral.

The funeral was the occasion for a massive show of strength by the workers. Earlier the UNP had engaged in some sordid manoeuvres to prevent this demoralisation. They attempted to buy off Somapala's widow by offering her a large sum of money in exchange for a 'national funeral'.

But she resisted these pressures and in fact the TUs had already set up a fund to support the widow and her five children. The government had also earlier refused to allow Somapala's body to be taken from his home to the

union office, but later backed down after protests by the JTUAC and his widow.

As a consequence the route of the funeral march was announced only at the last moment. In spite of that around 15,000 marched behind the coffin through central Colombo—from the offices of Somapala's union to the cemetery—led by the JTUAC leaders.

Unfortunately Panditha refused to give a political character to the march. He banned the carrying of banners and in fact as a consequence the march took on a rather disorderly aspect. The anger should have been given a political expression but instead the attempt by the JTUAC convenor to make it purely a funeral march almost resulted in some unseemly situations.

The immediate task for the workers' organisations in the face of these attacks by semi fascist UNP gangs is to build effective defence squads to protect picket lines and demonstrations. This is a point which has been stressed only by the NSSP and was reiterated by Vickramabahu Karunaratne, General Secretary of the NSSP, in his funeral oration, much to the annoyance of Panditha, who hinted at the impropriety of such speeches at a funeral!

In fact the CP and LSSP bureaucrats who had gone to great lengths to assure the President that the JTUAC had no intention of overthrowing the government are now appealing to him to control his own goon squads!

The events of June 5th and the aftermath mark a turning point in the class struggle in Sri Lanka. After the experience of 7 years of a Popular Front coalition government by the bourgeois SLFP and the old workers' parties—the CP and LSSP—the organised working class had been demoralised and confused. The UNP was able to capitalise on this and had a relatively easy time during its first three years in office.

But now the mood of the workers has changed and the organised workers have begun to realise that this seemingly invincible government can be made to retreat and even be swept out of office if they are determined enough.

NO PEACE IN INDO-CHINA

When the Vietnam Stalinists invaded Kampuchea eighteen months ago, they claimed it would bring peace to the area. Instead the region remains beset by war, and the refugees cynically used as a political football by the rival powers.

The Chinese leadership, their army having received a bloody nose when they invaded Vietnam, are again instigating new raids across the border. And last week Vietnamese troops sent a warning shot to Thailand, when they destroyed two Kampuchean refugee settlements along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

The Vietnamese were in fact telling the Thai landlord and capitalist regime to end its covert support for Kampuchean opposition movements. From the refugee settlements food was being given across the border into Kampuchea. And this was being accompanied by help for military

By
Colin Barber

groups opposed to the Vietnam-installed Kampuchean regime.

Western imperialism is cynically helping the Pol Pot army against the Vietnamese. The West is not concerned about the Kampuchean people, no matter how many crocodile tears they weep about the refugees.

It was after all US capitalism which devastated Kampuchea by bombs and invasion in the 1970s. The horror they wrought on the people of Kampuchea, in effect paved the way for Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge coming to power.

The sufferings they inflicted upon the Kampuchean people are well known—the emptying of Pnomh Penh, the repression in the countryside and killing of any opposition. Their attacks on Vietnam prompted the Vietnamese bureaucracy to invade. Not to help the people of Kampu-

chea, but to safeguard their own interests.

The Vietnamese occupation has not brought peace. Such has been the opposition to the invader, that it is now estimated that the Khmer Rouge have doubled their armed forces to 40,000 in the last year.

If the area continues to be an arena for the different Stalinist forces and Western imperialism to fight it out, there will be only continued misery and suffering for the people. The only way forward is on the basis of a freely arrived at, Socialist Federation of the whole area.

But that would necessitate the ending of the rule of the nationalist bureaucracies in Kampuchea, Vietnam, Laos and China. On the basis of an integrated socialist plan, the possibilities for the people of Indo-China would be transformed.

Instead of dying for the rival nationalist bureaucratic cliques, they would be able to begin to live a life of decency and plenty. And it would open the way to the ending of capitalism throughout all of SE Asia.



Vietnamese troops in Kampuchea

Romania steps up repression of workers

By
Jim Chrystie

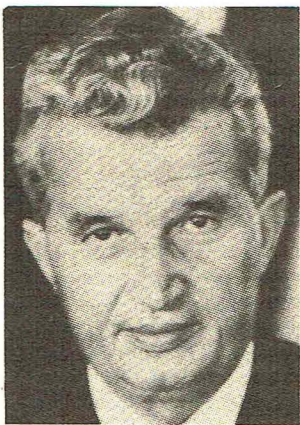
A report last week from Amnesty International revealed the vicious repression meted out to Romanian workers who oppose the regime.

In August 1977, miners in the Jiu Valley went on strike in a dispute over pensions, benefits and safety standards. They set up their own organisational network, separate from the state-run trade unions. The regime responded with vicious repression.

According to Amnesty, the leaders of the strike were arrested, two died "in circumstances never satisfactorily investigated by police," and others were sent without trial to work in other districts under police surveillance. The treatment given to the miners was not an exception.

One of the cases cited by Amnesty is that of Janos Torok, a textile worker and Communist Party member who criticized the system by which National Assembly members are elected during a meeting in March 1975 at his place of work in Cluj. He was arrested by the Securitate (political police) and was reported to have been severely beaten during prolonged interrogation.

He was confined to a psychiatric hospital and forcibly injected with large doses of sedatives. Released from hospital in March 1978, Torok has been under house arrest since then, permitted to leave



President Ceausescu, Romania dictator

his home once a month to report to a psychiatric clinic.

Amnesty also report what happened to members of unofficial "Free Trade Union of Romanian Workers" founded in February 1979. One of its members has been put in jail for 5½ years, on unspecified charges. Others have been given shorter terms, or put in psychiatric hospitals,

KOREA

After the recent uprising in the South Korean city of Kwangju, the military have announced a new drive against corruption. This apparently is aimed at defusing criticism of South Korea's ruling elite. Sometimes a few individuals have to be sacrificed in the interests of the whole gang.

for offences such as "parasitism."

The only parasites in Romania are the ruling bureaucracy, not the workers. Western capitalism wants to have close relations with Romania, because its foreign policy is independent from the USSR. Whilst the Western press denounces the barbaric treatment given to dissidents in the USSR, it maintains a discreet silence over the equally barbaric, Stalinist regime of President Ceausescu.

Marxists fight for workers democracy throughout the world. In capitalist states that means the struggle for the social revolution to end the rule of private ownership of the productive forces. And in the Stalinist states of Eastern Europe, USSR and China, it means the overthrow of the ruling elites so that society is democratically run by the workers themselves.

Yet whilst some of the politicians are being weeded out, the system itself will remain intact. 'The Times' reported, 9 June, that: "Businessmen and industrialists would be excluded for fear of harming the nation's economy." More Kwangjus are on the order of the day.

ISRAEL

It seems increasingly unlikely that Begin's government will last until the elections due in November 1981. In May there was the resignation of month saw the resignation of his Defence Minister Weizmann because of Begin's refusal to make any concessions regarding the West Bank.

June saw the desertion from Begin's coalition of two more MPs, leaving Begin with a slim majority of three in a

Knesset (Parliament) of 120. And last week Begin himself, probably feeling the strain, had his fourth heart attack since taking office. The MPs' resignations had been brought about by the crisis within the Israeli economy.

Inflation is now running at 135% a year. If you want to borrow, the interest rate is 90%.

The government's response has been to cut public spending. Food subsidies have been slashed. Unemployment is rising. In the first three months of 1980 it was 50% up over the end of 1979. It is now

at 4½% of the labour force.

And the latest round of cuts will push unemployment up higher. Between £73m and £94m was cut from the civilian budget and even defence was cut by £63m.

In a recent opinion poll only 15% of people supported Begin. Whilst he tries to beat the Zionist drum by moving his office to occupied East Jerusalem and tightening the military repression on the West Bank, he may well find himself facing increasing opposition from Israeli workers.

IMF forecasts 'grim' future

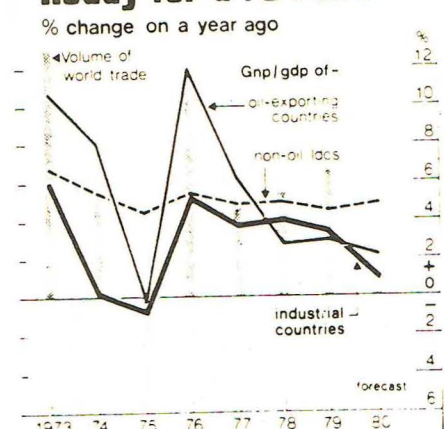
For the first time the International Monetary Fund has published forecast papers hitherto reserved for finance ministers and central bankers. "Rather grim" is their understated conclusion of the contents.

They expect the industrial world's gross national product (GNP) to only grow by 1% in both 1980 and 1981. This overall figure conceals a projected decline from July 1950 to June 1981. So for this year, the best is already over.

The IMF forecasts the American GNP will fall 3½% between the first quarters of 1980 and 1981. And West Germany, the so-called capitalist powerhouse of Europe, will have a 1¼% (annual rate) fall in GNP in the second half of this year.

The industrial world has not really recovered from the storms of the 1970s, when the post-war economic upswing of over two decades ended. Now as it enters the current recession, it is in worse shape than before the last (see

Ready for a re-run?



World economy 1973-80.

Blocks show change in volume of world trade; thick black lines change in GNP of industrial countries, thin black lines of oil-exporting countries; dotted line of least developed countries.

accompanying graph).

William Clark, vice-president of the World Bank recently described the years 1973-8 as "running up the down staircase." He continued, "Even today the new programme is only an attempt to buy time and avoid disaster in the hope that real development can resume."

The IMF forecast gives no ground for optimism. The recent increase in oil price will hit the non-oil producing, poorest countries of the Third World hard.

By the end of last year their debts totalled \$250 billion. That is 18½% of their GNP, compared with under 14% before the rise in oil price in 1973.

As many countries sink

further into debt, they will seek funds from industrialised countries to help pay off existing debt and meet current expenditure. It is a recipe for social explosion.

The attempted dictates of the IMF to Jamaica for increased funding would have meant disaster for Jamaican workers. Yet refusing the IMF whilst remaining within the stranglehold of capitalism offers no way forward.

The recession has set in with a vengeance. The 1930s have already returned in mass unemployment in some industrialised capitalist countries. And for the so-called 'Third World,' it brings disaster, as people are pushed further down into poverty.

Letters

VIEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES? CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO:

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Photo: Chris Davis (Report) II



Miners demonstrate in 1972. Mining areas have suffered from the '30s for some years.

The 'thirties are here

Dear Comrades,

I live in an old mining community where the pits and their successors have closed, opened and closed over the last twenty years.

Since May 1979, this town, Crook, with a total population of about 12,000, has lost about 800 jobs, following the closure of two textile factories.

My employer recently advertised for a new "office junior" [about £30 p.w. gross] in the local paper. The day the advert first appeared one applicant beat the staff to the office—would it be possible to have an interview there and then? Patience, sayeth the employer, for I must choose from a multitude of talents. And

so he did.

Within three days there were 83 applications from youngsters with good paper qualifications—all for a job where a degree in tea-making would be an asset. Among these were a number living some distance away without a direct bus service.

One was from a village 20 miles away—travelling costs at least £7 a week. Example No. 2 was a gem: a young girl from Carlisle [60 miles away] who realised travelling from home is not practicable so will move to Crook if she gets the job.

Sensible? Well she would think again when having to pay £15 per week for one vacant room—if she could find one, because in com-

mon with many areas there is a lack of housing. Here, if you are unlucky enough to land on the dole there are some amenities for leisure, but of course all very expensive.

Comrades, there is but one solution, the socialist planning of the resources of our society to meet the needs of working class people. That means nationalisation of the means of production.

In County Durham the TUC call of "Forward to the 80s, not back to the 30s" is a very sick joke—for us the 30s are here and have been for some time past.

Fraternally,
Kevin Gent,
Youth Officer,
NW Durham CLP.

Amsterdam needs homes and jobs

Dear Comrades

The crowning of Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands (known in Holland as Dirty-trix) resulted in a huge demonstration in Amsterdam by local squatters and homeless people, who were angry at the extravagance of the crowning.

I arrived in Amsterdam shortly after the riots which occurred when the police attacked the peaceful but noisy demonstration.

One of the city's thousand squatters told me that at present there are officially 53,000 homeless people in Amsterdam. However this figure does not include those under the age of 25 years, as they cannot own a house and are therefore not included in the figures.

He went on to say that until recently there were many empty houses in Amsterdam which the government wished to demolish. They did not plan new houses as "They are too expensive to build." These houses have now been occupied by organised squatters.

The squatter I spoke to said he paid as much rent to the owner as he could afford after buying food and clothes, and paying for heating, etc. He said he had no chance of raising the cash to buy his own house, and if he did have the necessary capital there were no houses available anyway. Those who do own property charge very high rents for accommodation that is often only fit for demolition.

Many young people in Amsterdam are both homeless and jobless and can be seen walking the 'red light' area looking for 'trade' to earn a living. Often they turn to drugs, and the consequences that entails.

The Amsterdammers appear to be united in their opposition against both the monarchy and right wing Christian Democratic (Liberal) government. They will not forget the corruption of Prince Bernard and will not stand for the government's anti-working class policies.

The elections in 1981 should see the return of a Labour government (PU DA). However this will not be of any use to the homeless in Amsterdam unless the Labour Party is elected on, and committed to, a true socialist programme that will provide both houses and jobs for the people of Holland.

It is important that the Dutch Labour Party arms itself with the ideas of Marxism as outlined in the Dutch Marxist paper 'Voorwards.' Only then can the people who took to the streets of Amsterdam recently, look to the future with hope. The present decayed capitalist system holds no future at all.

Peter R Harris
Aberavon LPYS

Rhondda youth: four in ten jobless

Dear Comrades,

The worst unemployment figures in years were released last week at a meeting of local councillors. A total 31% of Rhondda men, and 48% of Rhondda women in the 18-24 age group are out of work. 17.3% of Rhondda men and 11.4% of Rhondda women in all age groups are out of work (the UK average being 7.2% and 4.3% respectively).

Mr Brian Morris, Chief Careers Officer in the Rhondda, commenting on the figures said that they were bound to increase with another 900 school leavers seeking work this July. He added that there would be another problem in January 1981, when the next round of school leavers fail to find work.

Mr Ron Blakeman, Rhondda employment manager, revealed that even these figures hide the real demise of local industry: 40% of all Rhondda people who are employed actually travel out

Ratepayers taken for a ride

Dear Comrades,

Plans are "in the pipeline" for a new Mayoral car for Christchurch at the expense of the less fortunate.

This is nothing new in our part of the world. Poole Council recently forked out to the tune of £13,400 for a new "Mayoral Chariot" and Bournemouth Council decided in its wisdom to give their new Mayoral Rolls a facelift which included a new steering box, gearbox and engine, plus complete respray, costing we don't know what—Arnett's of Bournemouth, the Rolls Royce dealers who carried out the repairs, were reluctant to discuss the cost!

Ours not to make reply, nor to reason why our councils persist in useless extravagant frivolities for no other reason than to keep up appearances. Our local councillors are indifferent to the suffering and misery which the cuts are causing. Why should they care, they're doing OK out of it.

Presumably they will increase their own rate of expenses by asking for a "Humbug allowance"!

Sincerely,
Lomond Handley
Poole, Dorset.

Riot act at Vauxhall

Dear Comrades,

On our first day back at work after a ten week strike, the foremen read us all the riot act.

If we could gain a few minutes and sat down or leaned against something to take the weight off our feet we were told to stand up. If we read a paper while on our official break we were told not to.

Shop stewards were provoked and harassed and a few have been sacked. The foremen told us they would assert 'management's right to manage', and how!

We overproduced—had our nights restricted and have lost money through it. We are now laid off for two weeks, 'with pay', it is put out on the news. What they don't say is that the lay-off money was paid for in one of our previous pay deals.

What worries our members is what comes next. We can't expect much from the right-wing leadership of the AUEW—Terry Duffy, John Boyd and co.

What we must fight for is Bob Wright to give a clearer lead in the future if he is elected as the next president of the AUEW.

AUEW Shop Steward,
Vauxhall Ellesmere Port.

NOLS: forget the past

Dear Comrade

As a regular reader of 'Militant', I read with concern the letter from Lewis Matheson and Dougie Miller (13/6/80) on the Glasgow University Labour Club's internal disputes. I felt some comment was needed.

The letter failed to point out that all of the cards suspected were not used in affiliation before the NOLS Conference. Although there were suspicions, there was no evidence they were forged. Yet the officers did not use them to obtain an extra delegate precisely because they wished to avoid accusations of forgery.

Secondly, NOLS has started its own national investigation by the Student Organiser, who has no vested interest and only wants to ascertain the facts, and NOLS will act on his report alone.

On other points: comrades must recognise that as NOLS develops as an independent force in NUS, it will attract Communist and Liberal students (especially as the Broad Left has disappeared). This is to be welcomed. Surely 'Militant' comrades would agree on

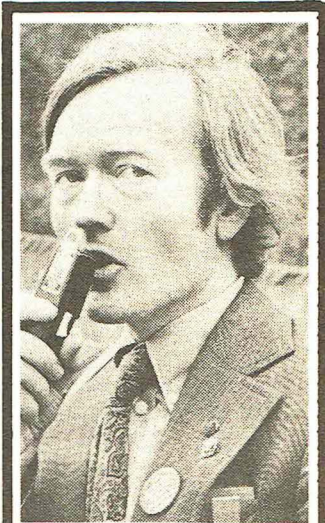
the need for this independent role? Further, as NOLS has made recruiting Further Education students a priority, there are no grounds for saying we do not encourage their membership.

I hope no-one is arguing for a return to the divisions in the past in NOLS. The days when entire Clubs were founded on irregular practices has gone—although specific cases still arise and must be dealt with.

NOLS is beyond the mass investigations. It has become an organisation in which activists can assert themselves. No single tendency can claim dominance on every issue ever again (I hope). However, many tendencies can claim to influence some areas, and Clubs are now making specific contributions.

Before comrades begin to make assertions of conspiracy and intrigue they should await the national report, then begin the discussion and debate. I dread the emergence of a spirit of witch-hunting against spectres which do not exist in NOLS, similar to the disgusting attacks on 'Militant' readers in the Labour Party.

David Mason
NOLS National Treasurer
(personal capacity)



Ian Burge

Dear Comrades

I'm sure I am not the only 'Militant' supporter in the NHS who was shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden death of Ian Burge.

On the four occasions I met Ian whilst in London he always gave me the greatest help and encouragement and I was always able to ask for and receive help and advice. There is no doubt that he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and comrades at the London Hospital and Bethnal Green.

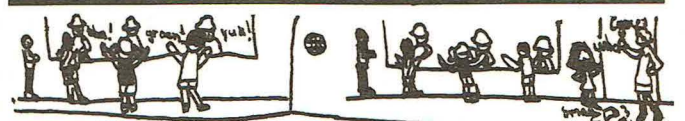
Yours fraternally
Ruth Jellings
ASTMS Stevenage

of the Rhondda to work.

Councillor Len Jones, past chairman of the Rhondda Labour Party said "It's a damn crime to have anyone on the dole who is fit to work. Not a day goes by without seeing X number of men and women losing their jobs. It's a terrible situation to be in, and quite honestly, until we get this bunch of gangsters out of power, I see no light at the end of the tunnel." He added that he wasn't too happy at those who would replace them either!

In the 1950s, there were 52 pits in the Rhondda; there are now three: Fernhill which will be closing in a few weeks time due to dust problems, Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr which is currently being investigated, and which the NCB wish to close and Maerdy, whose Lodge Committee was so strong in 1926, that the cabinet actually read the Lodge minutes during the General Strike.

Yours sincerely,
Anthony Tynan
South Wales NUM



We Want More



looked so yukky, I didn't have any.

The afters was chocolate pudding. That was alright but you did not get much and I was very hungry afterwards. And that small meal cost 45p.

Yours faithfully,
Joy Edwards [9¾]
Harlow.

Conning school leavers

Dear Comrades,

While waiting to sign on at the dole office a young girl came in with a letter. A school leaver, she had

a letter which said that she was not entitled to any unemployment benefit and so could not claim.

These letters are automatically sent out to all school leavers applying for benefit, by a computer.

They are very confusing; people can be made to believe that they are not entitled to any benefit at all, even though they are entitled to Supplementary Benefit.

While I was there waiting,

two more people came in to query these confusing letters. Just another little way by which people can be conned out of their rights.

Yours fraternally,
Jessie Draper
East Nottingham LPYS.

NEARLY THERE — KEEP UP THE FIGHT!

Have you sent off your fighting fund and raffle money? If not, put it in the post now! The deadline for the half-year target is the second post, Saturday 12th July.

We fully expect to reach the half-year target, but make every effort to get us off to a good start for the third quarter. A lot of workers won't be going away for a holiday this year, due to inflation outstripping their wages, and the rising tide of redundancies, so now is the time to make your plans.

With thousands of young people joining the dole queues straight from school, there will be countless opportunities to introduce our ideas, and meet people who will understand the need to give money, to help build the paper that offers an alternative to the disaster the Tories represent.

We haven't got unlimited time, we cannot stop for summer. A number of lower-paid workers in London have donated their tax rebate bonus from the Tories to help our finances. What about yours?

Special thanks this week to the supporters at NGA conference who donated a total of £184.90, plus £20 from M Fitzgerald and £19 from A Berry. Also to Bridport Labour Party who voted £25 to the Militant Fighting Fund. Collections at readers meetings this week included £13 from Rotherham and £13.40 from Norwich (both after expenses).

Corringham GMWU £5, J McKay, Basildon LP, £2, D Gee £1 and R Castle £2, both Mansfield LP and CPSA, Tony—Chelmsford £1, M Jepson—Beeston £2, B Straw—Nottingham, K Neilley—Southampton, for his regular weekly extras. S Dashper—Southampton £1, K Simms Tottenham LPYS/USDAW £1.50, H Ross GMWU £3, J Barratt UCATT £5.55, D McVittie Greenock LP/CPSA £10, P Smith UCW £5, B Risby Manchester £50.

Knowsley NALGO supporters £4, Merseyside NGA and SOGAT supporters £14.25, M Dodds £5, and P Callaghan £1, both Boilermakers Society Shop Stewards at Austin and Pickersgill Shipyard Sunderland; K Cox Cramlington LPYS £2, J Cummings Gateshead £6, A Waterworth Newcastle £2, I Milne Dunfermline LPYS £10.

D Scullard and R McGill West Linton £12, D Dick Glasgow POEU £3, I Flanagan Glasgow EIS £1.25, K Chater Dartford £2.50, M Chivers North Somerset LP £1.90, H Higgins St George East LP £4.60, J Cuthbert Caerphilly £7, T Richards NUT/Cardiff North LP, G McDonald Selly Oak LP £5, D Stem T&GWU £2, Soma Oxford £10, G Hessel Wakefield £4.

Also received this week is £3,145.74 from the Militant Defence Fund (last week's figure was a mis-print). Fighting for socialism is a continuous battle. Keep up the fight!

By Derrick McClelland

Thanks to J Hunt, secretary

Build Militant

Area	Received	Percentage of half-year's target achieved	Target half-year	Target for year
Eastern	1,996		2,250	5,000
East Midlands	2,030		1,710	3,800
Hants & IOW	1,775		1,755	3,900
Humberside	818		1,125	2,500
London East	3,098		2,790	6,200
London West	1,954		2,115	4,700
London South	2,787		1,800	4,000
Manchester & Lancs	1,553		2,295	5,100
Merseyside	2,441		2,700	6,000
Northern	2,648		3,285	7,300
Scotland East	1,072		1,440	3,200
Scotland West	2,068		2,250	5,000
Southern	2,472		2,655	5,900
South West	1,319		1,440	3,200
Wales East	880		1,260	2,800
Wales West	951		1,395	3,100
West Midlands	3,826		4,050	9,000
Yorkshire	2,309		3,285	7,300
Others	7,703		5,400	12,000
Total received	43,700		45,000	100,000

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

THIS WEEK £4,751

ads

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

MILITANT WEEKEND SCHOOL

Come to the Danville Hotel (on sea-front) in sunny Margate On Saturday/Sunday August 30/31
Saturday 11—1: 'The Economic Crisis'. Ted Grant 2.30—5.00. 'The Socialist Way Forward for Labour'. Ray Apps. 8.30...Social at hotel (with food)
Sunday 10.00—1.00. 'Chile—Lessons of '70-'73 and the Way Forward'. Sunday afternoon...sunbathe on beach.
Bookings and queries to K Nicholson, 25 Grotto Road, Margate, Kent. Tel. (0483) 291293. Cost: only £7.50 (including bed & breakfast at Danville Hotel). Children: half-price.

ST HELENS 'Marxism and the Labour Party'. Speakers: Ann Dean (Boole LPYS) and Terry Fields (FBU Executive). Thursday 17 July, 7.30 pm, St Helens Town Hall.

BARNSELY Militant Discussion Group. 'Prospects for the steel industry'. Speaker: Tim Shepherd (Rotherham: ISTC). Sunday 20th July, 7.30 pm. At the 'Industry Inn', Bakers Street, Barnsley (nr town centre)

New 'Militant' T&GWU Pamphlet

T&GWU: A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME TO FIGHT THE TORIES' Price 20p
Order from 109 Northfield Road, Birmingham 30. Add 10p for postage; ten or more copies, post free.

Mobilising Committee Pamphlet

Price 20p. From John Lansman, 10 Park Drive, London NW 11

GRAYS Militant Readers Meeting. 'The Labour Party and the Cuts'. Thameside Library, Grays, Essex. Speaker: Dave Farrar (Millwall LP) Tuesday 22nd July, 8.00 pm.

BRAINTREE LABOUR PARTY MEETING

Tuesday 15th July, 8.30 pm. Trades & Social Club, Victoria Street. 'What Militant Stands For'. Speaker: Brian Ingham ('Militant' Industrial Correspondent)

CHESTER 'Is Russia Socialist?' Hear: Richard Venton (Birkenhead CLP) at Chester Labour Club, 5 Upper Northgate Street, Wednesday 16 July, 7.30 pm

'MILITANT' BROADSHEET

'For a mass, democratically controlled, socialist Labour Party' Price, only 2p. Order from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

GREET LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

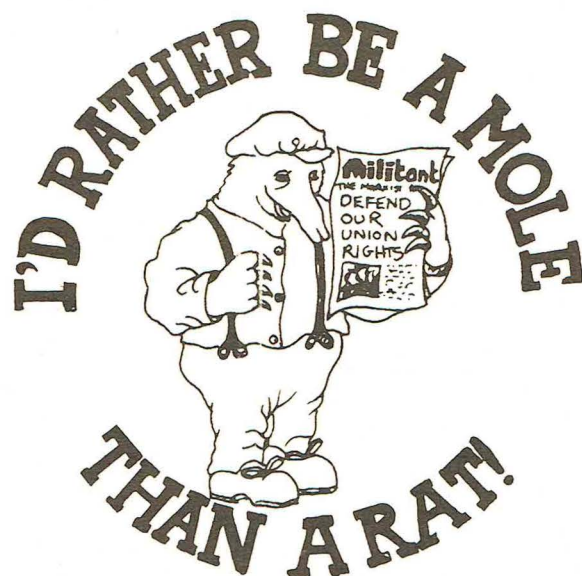
Get your Labour Party or LPYS branch, trade union or shop stewards' committee to place their greetings to Labour Party Conference in the pages of 'Militant'. Support the paper that fights for socialism.

Rates for greetings:

Semi-display:
3 column centimetres...£2
6 column centimetres...£4

Display:
one-sixteenth page...£7
one-eighth page...£14
one-quarter page...£25

Closing date for copy is Saturday 13 September, but send your greetings as early as possible to: the Circulation Department, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



Summer T-shirts. Colours—white, yellow, sky blue, dark green, navy and black. All with red motif. Styles—round neck, and short sleeves or cap sleeves (state which one you prefer) sizes—children's 24, 26, 28 and 30 inch chest. £2.50 each.

Adults—Small—32-34. Medium—34-36. Large—38-40. Extra Large—42-44. £3 each.

Both costs include postage and packing. Please indicate, colour, style, and size preferred. ALL PROCEEDS TO THE FIGHTING FUND.

Cheques and postal orders made out to R. Harris. Send orders with payment to: R. Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1UR.

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

Chris Hill's leaving do. Friday 11 July, 8 pm, Wilmington Arms, 69 Roseberry Ave. E.C.1 Disco and food. Bar extension till 12. Black tie. 50p entrance.

'Militant' Summer Draw

MILITANT SUPPORTERS ASSOCIATION

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW

1st Prize — PORTABLE T.V./RADIO/CASSETTE
2nd Prize — Electronic Wallet 3rd Prize — Electronic Clock

This draw is held by TEN FENCE in the name of the draw. All cash contributions and goods received for the draw go to the draw. London, E8 3PN. Tel. 01-253 1214 (info) 1214 (draw) 1214 (info) 1214.

McKay Printing, London E8 3PN

Double prizes! Don't miss out! One set must be won by Northern readers and the other by Southern readers 10p tickets in books of ten from your local 'Militant' seller or from: 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW Social-Disco-Bar
12th July, 8pm-Midnight
The Geoffrey Chaucer
Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1.

SOCIALIST ACTION

CAN SAVE

BRITISH LEYLAND

By Bill Mullins
(T&GWU, Rover, Solihull)

Photo: MILITANT

“It only took three years to develop the atom bomb, why can't they produce a new car in less than six years?”

This was the response of the 'Sun', in a recent editorial, to British Leyland's announcement that it could not develop a 100 MPG engine before 1986.

With the deepest-ever crisis looming for the world's car makers, all hell is breaking loose as they scramble after ever-diminishing markets. The giant car manufacturers are pouring money into research on a new engine that will mean they can steal a march on their rivals. It is inevitable that the weakest will go to the wall—and one of the weakest is BL.

BL's share of the home market fell in May to 14.8%, its lowest level ever. The total market is 30% lower than last year.

The countryside of Britain is beginning to look like a huge car park, as unsold stocks of cars pile up: the latest figure is 430,000. BL alone has 75,000 unsold cars. In desperation the makers are offering discounts: Fiat's £300 or a free holiday or even a free nuclear shelter, as one garage in Reading is offering new car buyers.

BL's spring discount binge pushed its share of the market up to 22% for one month, but this wasn't sustained. People who would have bought later in the year bought earlier, with the result that a dramatic decline in car sales is forecast for the second half of 1980.

BL is the country's largest exporter. But the crisis is world-wide. The American car market slumped by 30% this year, with hundreds of thousands of car workers laid off. BL's exports to America have fallen even further, by 48%. There are mass lay-offs in Germany, France and Italy.

Is it any wonder that economists are predicting only a handful of massive car firms will be left in the world by 1985: those that have the capacity to utilise the economies of scale in producing two-four million cars per year?

BL produced 750,000 cars in 1979. Volkswagen produced that many for one model, the Golf.

A total of 1.71 million cars were sold in the UK last year. This year the highest pre-

dicted figure is 1.5 million, with most estimates at 1.3 million. For BL, faced with overwhelming competition at home and in its overseas market, the future on a capitalist basis, is black.

In its propaganda to the workers, BL management has continually claimed that there is a future for BL if only the workers would co-operate in their plans—meaning redundancies, speed-up and low pay. Linked to this there has been a deafening campaign through the local media on the progress of Leyland's only new car, the "Mini Metro".

Yet the prospects for the Metro, due to be launched in autumn 1980, are dismal. Already BL have cut projected production by a third, to 200,000 per year. They realise that the Metro is already three to five years behind its rivals, the Ford Fiesta, Fiat 124, and other competing models.

What BL fear, a fear echoed in the 'Sun's' editorial is the European and Japanese manufacturers producing from up their sleeves the next generation of models, probably incorporating revolutionary petrol-saving engines.

Edwardes' plan

Edwardes' plan, stripped of its verbiage, is to de-centralise and split up the combine, so that it is possible "to gift-wrap some of the more acceptable parts for sale to outside groups" ('Times' 14.2.80). But even here they are having problems.

BL's most profitable models are the Land Rover and Range Rover (estimated 1979 profit £40m). Over 80% of this range is exported yet because of increased competition from the Japanese 4-wheel drive makers they have suffered a cut back in production for the first time ever.

This happened while BL were in discussions with Volkswagen, with a view to their buying Land Rover Ltd. Land Rover is alive with rumours at the moment—whether the buyers will be VW or 'Tiny' Rowlands of Lohro.

Whatever the fate of Rover, if BL goes under, the effect on the West Midlands in par-

ticular will be devastating.

BL employs 164,000 people in the UK (plus another 22,000 abroad). Nearly 100,000 work in the West Midlands alone. Including supply, distribution and service industries (again mainly centered in the West Midlands) 454,000 workers are totally dependent on BL for jobs. With their families, this makes two million people.

Every day a new batch of redundancies is announced in the Birmingham/Coventry area: Lucas, Dunlops, GKN, Birmid Qualcast, Rubery Owen and a host of others on top of the redundancies in BL itself. The avalanche seems unstoppable, particularly with the complete lack of a lead from the top of the trade unions.

Yet already there are signs of a changing mood on the shop floor. Six, even three months ago, the dominant feeling in Rover was "When's the next batch of redundancies coming; all I want is the money and I'm off before the whole lot closes."

Now there is a growing awareness that with mass unemployment outside the factory gate the only job available to most workers is the one they have got now. The attitude of the Tory leaders to the unemployed—typified by Keith Joseph's latest outburst that the unemployed should accept any low-paid job offered them, is prompting an angry response.

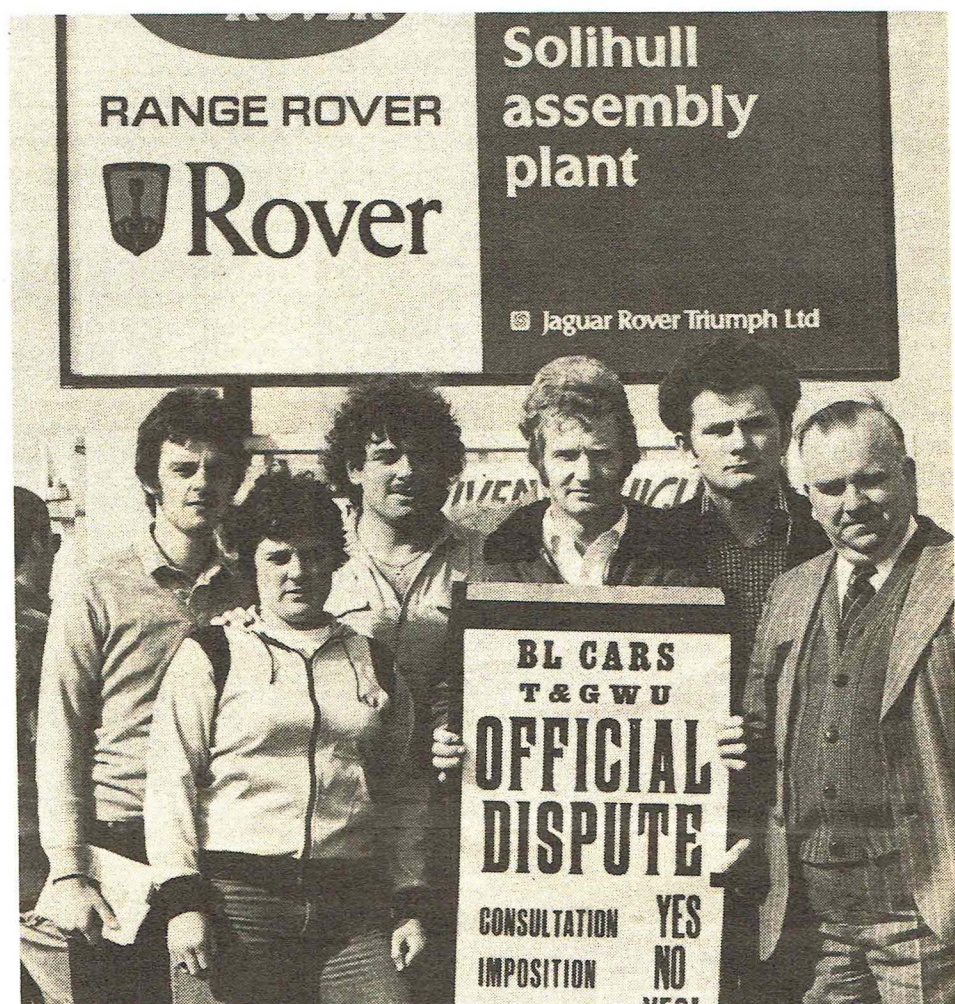
Undoubtedly the period we are in now has all the potential of a time-bomb. The first major factory in this area that resists closure or redundancy will gain a tremendous response from the mass of organised workers.

Unfortunately this changing mood and potential for struggle is not being utilised by the trade union leaders to build a fighting campaign around a programme offering a way forward.

Instead of socialist answers to the problems of BL and other contracting industries, there is an almost hysterical campaign around the demands for import controls, being pushed by my union (T&GWU) in particular. Right-wing trade union leaders like Terry Duffy of the AUEW have joined the chorus.

Now the unanimous voice of the left and right wings of the movement have been joined by Edwardes and other bosses.

BL has for six months been running its nationalistic "Buy British" campaign, which cynically puts the blame on consumers, mainly workers, for the demise of British industry. In truth, of course the blame lies wholly with the



Rover workers taking action against BL management's attempts to cut back the level of workers' power on the shop floor in April. The workforce, in the face of the capitalist crisis, must take up socialist demands

bosses, whose failure to reinvest in the past has led to the complete collapse of whole industries, such as motor cycles.

Supporters of import controls talk about selective controls, for example on Japanese cars. Yet Britain's major car importer, Ford's, accounted for over 50% of all imported cars in 1979, mainly from their West European factories.

Import controls would inevitably create a trade war which could only worsen conditions for working people. The UK monopolies would jack up their prices without any competition from other countries.

The great majority of cars exported from Britain go to the other advanced capitalist countries: Germany, France, USA, which are also the major importers into the UK. Unemployment would be switched from the line making cars for home consumption to the line making cars for the export market.

The amazing statement in the T&GWU 'Record' that import controls have general support because "even the American Auto Workers Union is demanding import controls", of course proves the opposite. Not only will import controls fail to solve our problems, they also cut across the international solidarity of the working class and

would drive the workers into the arms of their own national capitalist class.

Undoubtedly big battles are looming for BL workers on jobs, wages and conditions. Now more than ever we have to take up political demands as an answer to the sabotages of Thatcher, Joseph, Edwardes and all the boss class.

The 'eighties will be a stormy period for BL workers. 1985, if there is no fight back, could see the end of BL, with hundreds of thousands of car workers on the dole.

The struggle to save BL must be taken into the broad labour movement, to commit the next Labour government to decisive socialist action:

Nationalisation of the whole car industry, including supply and service sectors.

The British car industry has an approximate capacity of two million cars per year. By taking this into public ownership we could begin to plan a genuine socialist transport policy.

Workers' management of the nationalised car industry, on the basis of one-third, one-third, one-third:

One third of the Board drawn from the trade unions within the industry, one-third from the TUC and one-third from the Labour government.

Edwardes and his ilk are fundamentally opposed to the idea of nationalisation. Even

if we get rid of Edwardes, there are a dozen like him waiting in the wings.

The heads of the present nationalised industries (most appointed by Labour governments, to their shame) are linked by a thousand threads to private industry. The interests of the working class can never be represented by these people.

That is why in 1975, the BL shop stewards' combine adopted our demands for workers' management. The workers representing the car industry would know exactly what the problems are, and how to use the industry's existing resources in the workers' interests through the introduction of shorter working hours etc.

The third of the board from the TUC would represent the interests of the whole working class, and provide a channel for joint planning with other associated industries. We are not in favour of the workers in an industry running that industry in isolation, possibly leading to decisions being made against the interests of society as a whole. The government representatives would voice the interests of the consumers.

This formula gives a clear majority to the working class, the overwhelming majority of the population.

AUEW

FIGHT FOR A LEFT VICTORY

"The AUEW elections will be a decisive vote for the whole labour movement."

Paul Green [Chairman Heeley GMC and AUEW shop steward] so predicted as he opened a meeting in Sheffield on the future of the engineering industry. Over 90 people heard Bob Wright, the Presidential candidate, Brennan Bates, candidate for EC Number 5 division, and Jon Ingham, secretary of the Campaign for a Fighting AUEW leadership.

Jon, the first speaker, pointed out that the present leadership failed to understand the crisis of capitalism and the need to lead a national fight on wages. The demand for a £100 per week minimum wage and a 35 hour week, linked to workers' control and management of the economy were the only way forward.

A million jobs have been lost in the industry in the last 10 years, including 200,000 apprenticeships. Present Tory policies are suicidal. In Leeds, manufacturing industry is operating at 60% capacity and engineering bosses admit that half the workforce are on

By
Alan Anderton

Sheffield Labour Party

short time working. That is why we need 100% fighting leadership to steamroller the Tories out of office.

Brendan Bates, a recently victimised AUEW convenor spoke of the importance to organise at grass roots level and pointed out the difficulties put in the way by the national leadership who want "a quiet life." He emphasised the strategic importance of the AUEW, illustrating it by showing its role in the fight against the Industrial Relations Act.

The last platform speaker, Bob Wright said that the right wing were selling members short and the united left platform must fight to oppose them.

"Every worker has an interest in the outcome of these elections." He pointed out that Duffy decided to oppose democratic change in the Labour Party without even consulting the AUEW delegation! There must be a determined campaign to defeat the government. "The quicker we create conditions to force them out, the better."

The left must ensure that a Labour Government carries out conference policies and, if necessary, changes the leadership. "It is a pity that those in the Labour Party who supported Prentice, didn't follow him across the floor of the house!"

He outlined the alternative as he saw it, expansion of the economy, reconstruction of industry and control over the flow of capital.

This alternative was taken up in the discussion. Pete Greatrex (Penistone Labour Party) pointed out that the call for import controls, without taking over capitalism, was a dangerous path for the left to take. It could lead to illusions about joint management/union initiatives as at British Leyland, putting the blame on "foreigners" rather than on capitalism.

The meeting was a successful culmination of a four week campaign, which included leafletting eight manufacturers, and meetings with 20-25 shop stewards committees and AUEW activists to plan the campaign and notify every convenor and branch secretary.

The decision to hold the meeting was a unanimous one for Heeley Labour Party on the initiative of "Militant" supporters, recognising the importance of engineering to the whole Labour movement and the importance of the AUEW leadership battle to the Labour Party.

Last Sunday, the Broad Left conference of engineering workers meeting in Birmingham, mainly shop stewards and convenors, discussed the challenge to workers' rights posed by this most reactionary government—and how to build up a fighting leadership in both the industrial and political wings of the the Labour movement.

Speakers, including Bob Wright and Derek Robinson, stressed that the issue now was not whether there were postal ballots or not, but to ensure there was no press interference.

Bob Wright explained how the union now had to defend the gains of the past. Who could have dreamt in 1945 of the return of a reactionary government like Thatcher's? We had to fight against cuts, the standstill in housing and the highest unemployment since the war.

Delegate after delegate stressed the need for an enthusiastic campaign, including factory gate meetings. There was also a realisation of the link between the industrial and political struggles. The fight was one for a fighting AUEW leadership, one that was prepared to mobilise in the factories.

Photo: MILITANT



Bob Wright, left candidate for AUEW Presidency speaking at Sunday's Broad Left meeting in Birmingham

The fight for reselection and democracy in the Labour Party was linked to maintain democracy in the AUEW.

Dudley Edwards, like many of the speakers from the floor, a 'Militant' supporter, and a pensioner who had belonged to the AUEW for many years stressed his pride in the traditions of the engineering workers.

150 years ago they had started the fight for a 10 hour day. They had led the 1919 strike in Clydeside for an 8-hour day that was not won until fifty years later.

The traditions needed to be maintained and strengthened. That was what made the struggle for a fighting leadership so vital.

Big Brother is sacking you!

Big boss is watching over you for more profits, that's Cadbury's 5-year plan. It finishes in 1984.

Part of that plan is to reduce by 3,200 nationally the number of jobs within Cadbury Ltd. To begin with 700 redundancies at the Bourneville factory in Birmingham by August of this year and another 300 by Christmas.

The majority of the redundancies will be women in the T&GWU. They are one of the most exploited sections of the working class, who not only look after the family, but

provide a vital income to prevent the family from falling into the poverty trap.

Most of those for the chop will not qualify for redundancy payments because of short service, and with high unemployment in the Midlands, it is unlikely that many will find alternative jobs. All that the bosses can offer is the scrap heap of unemployment.

With the serious economic decline in the country and the fall off in sales, the capitalists are trying to solve their crisis by attacking our living standards and our jobs, in order

to maintain profits at all costs.

The bosses at Cadbury got a bloody nose last year when they tried as part of the 5-year plan to implement a 'continental' shift system (round the clock working) to reduce the workforce, and were defeated after a 4-week strike.

The 700 redundancies at Bourneville are only the beginning. Even in the 1930s Cadbury escaped the necessity for lay-offs, but the situation is completely different today. The trade unions within Bourneville must now

work out a programme to fight redundancies whether they affect part-time or full-time jobs.

We can give the parasitic bosses a sticky time by making them pay for the crisis and not the workers.

- ★ No to redundancies
- ★ Work sharing
- ★ For a 35-hour week
- ★ Nationalisation of the food industry under workers' control and management.

Only on the basis of a socialist society will workers' needs be met.

By G Debenhams
(Senior shop steward,
T&GWU 5/712
Cadbury Ltd, Bourneville,
Birmingham.
Personal capacity)

Collins - where have all the profits gone?

The arrival of the Tory government has given the green light for the employers to attack the strength of the print unions, especially the closed shop.

Thatcher's manifesto singled out the print union SLADE for 'short sharp treatment'. And shortly after her election the Times Newspaper bosses established a Fleet St. cartel to fight the first round of the big fight on new technology. Employers at Collins in Glasgow have not been slow to respond to this call. Despite decades of profit, the first year of loss in 1979 spelled redundancy. Early in 1980, 400 workers were made redundant "to make the company more competitive on world markets."

Now the board has unequivocally withdrawn from national agreements on wages and bonus rates without consultation with any of the unions involved. They are also attempting to alter bonus agreements which in reality will mean wage cuts. They assert that failure to comply will mean closure.

Workers at Collins are entitled to ask a few questions of the worthies who control their future! For example: Where has the £25 million profits which Collins made in 1972-8 gone? Similarly, how was the £2¼ million of government grants attained in the same period spent?

The current management

negotiating team is a Dad's Army. Only three of the nine either have any print experience or have been with the company more than 5 years! The rest are an asset-stripping team whose experience of "running" the watchmaking, computing, and the motor industry, has been limited to running them down!

The time has come for the Collins workforce to say 'enough is enough'. The firm stand taken by the union negotiators must be supported to the full. Not a word can be spoken about bonus schemes until the national agreement is honoured.

Asset-stripping here must be opposed by union resistance, in publishing, wholesaling and retailing. If things are so bad that closure is imminent then the Company books should be opened for inspection by the trade unions.

Collins' controls an empire. They own a third of Pan Books, and have subsidiaries throughout the world.

The gloves are off. The fight to preserve wages, conditions and jobs is of significance for printworkers nationally.

By Bob Wylie

'COMPANY POLICE' MOVE IN

On Wednesday 2nd July at a mass picket of Adwest Engineering, Reading, sacked convenor Danny Broderick was arrested for attempting to carry out his lawful right to picket.

Danny was immediately bundled into a nearby meat wagon in an obvious attempt to intimidate other pickets. The police clearly acted outside their jurisdiction and even two reporters have said they are prepared to swear in court that Danny had nothing unlawful.

The police were obviously determined to act as a strikebreaking force for the bosses. Outnumbering pickets 4-1, SPG and regular officers formed a human

funnel to get scabs through.

Such mass intimidation by the forces of "law and order" i.e. "profit and property," is not only beyond the limits of the law but is a direct attack on the hard won rights of strikers to peacefully approach and persuade scabs not to cross a picket line.

Such rights must be defended by the whole trade union and labour movement. A massive picket of the factory is being arranged for Monday 14th July between 6.30pm and 8.00pm with pickets arriving from all over the country.

If the police intend to use such tactics as a testing ground for their role in the forthcoming Employment

Bill, the labour movement must mobilise now.

We must show that what has been won by working class organisations cannot be destroyed by merely passing laws at Westminster or arresting strikers on the picket line!

Information, messages of support and donations contact D. Broderick, Flat 4, 46 Berkeley Av. Reading (cheques payable to J. Dhoot).

By S.J. Morgan



Police in action against pickets at the Isle of Grain dispute

DURHAM MINERS-

On Saturday, July 12th, tens of thousands of people will gather on Durham Racecourse, as they have done every year since 1872, to celebrate the strength and unity of the Durham Miners' Association.

The Gala has become the focal point for miners and their families in the area, and only the dwindling number of union lodge banners due to pit closures tempers the enthusiasm of those present.

The history of the Durham miners, is one of long and tenacious struggle that began in earnest in the early decades of the nineteenth century.

Long, bitter battles with the coal-owners hardened the attitude of men who faced lock-outs, evictions, police and militia brutality and scabs shipped in from as far as Cornwall, Ireland and Wales. Starvation and deprivation were stock answers from the titled bosses of the day: the Londonderry's and the Lambtons among them.

Safety was an impediment to production, scales were rigged, and stone content in coal as little as 5% resulted in non-payment for coal dug. A yearly bond tying a man to a master, the truck shops and other indignities and the appalling dangers faced by men in the bowels of the earth throw up leaders of legendary stature like the great Tommy Hepburn.

Although the Miners' union became strong in Durham, life was still not easy for the men. Strikes and battles for a better life were still prolonged and hostile, ending in defeats as well as victories.

The militant history of the Northumberland and Durham miners is well recorded. As far back as 1792 General Lambton was interrupted as he attempted to quell rioters driving blackleg miners naked through the town of North Shields by a pitman enquiring whether the General had read the "little work of Tom

Paine" ('The Rights of Man').

Finding that he had not, the miner remarked: "Then read it. We like it much. You have a great estate, General, we shall soon divide it amongst us!"

Earlier this century the Bishop of Durham called pitmen "Lazy and good for nothing but drudgery" which inflamed pitmen to an extent that on the day of the Gala they mistook a passing Churchman bedecked in frock-coat etc for the Bishop and deposited him in River Wear which runs beside the racecourse.

The highest figure estimated for attendance at the Gala was 300,000 but that figure is nowhere in sight for today with a 'mere' 30,000 to 50,000 depending on the weather. Many trade unionists and Labour Party members in Durham feel that the scope of the Gala needs to be extended to cover the whole trade union movement.

The Durham 'Big Meeting' is already established on Labour's calendar and is a date no leaders of the Labour Party, dares miss. The platform is often taken up with local and national figures from the NUM, NCB and foreign embassies and the like who ought to take their place on the greensward with the rest of us and allow the platform to offer more speakers with a divergence of

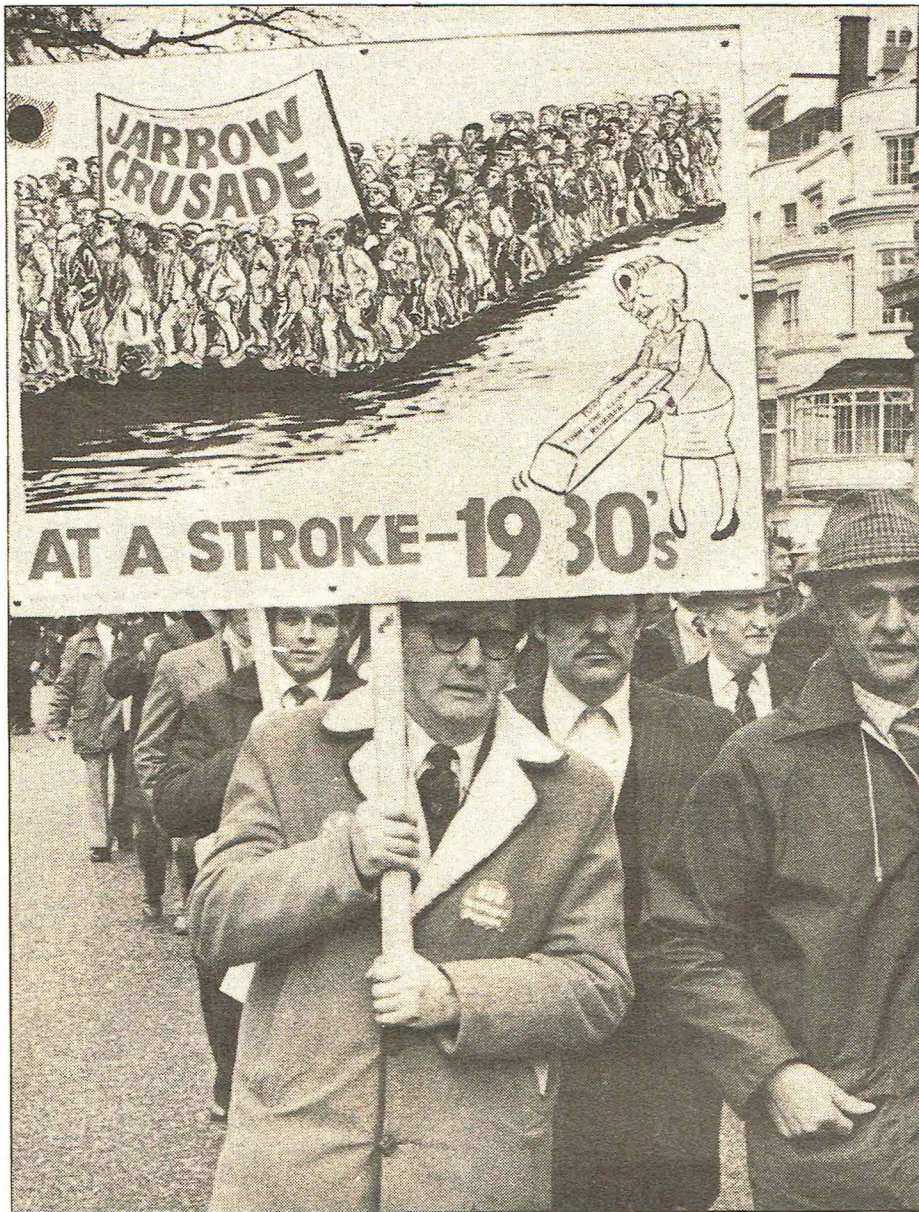


Photo: MILITANT

militant tradition fighting future

viewpoints.

More banners and bands from other industries (eg. shipbuilding, steel and railways etc.) drawing together all the different strands of industrial working people—blue and white collar—to hear the message of socialism, to discuss the future and carry away the messages back to their own places of work.

It is imperative that the Miners Gala become a celebration of working peoples' organisations which by sheer numbers could strike fear into the bosses. Nevertheless, the valiant part played by pitmen of Durham and Northumberland in the formation of the trade union movement and the Labour Party, demands

that Durham NUM should be hosts and organisers taking into account the wishes of the other participants.

Capitalism is moving into a new, and ultimately self-destructive, phase and workers' organisations must change as well to face the challenge. The days of fighting alone are finished!

The miners, transport workers, steelmen, engineers and so on will have to join together to plan our future society: there could be no better start than fraternally and at leisure at a 'Big Meeting' which welcomed all sections of organised labour!

Forward to socialism and a just society!

MINERS CLAIM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

geared up to defend the living standards of its members by challenging and fighting the Tories.

As in 1972 and in 1974, the NUM can be an inspiration to the whole working class and bring nearer the defeat of the Tories and the election of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

SCHOOL LEAVERS

Continued from page one

working class youth on the altar of monetarism was being given a definite lead.

About 150 LPYS members, trade unionists and Labour Party members took part. One of the speakers, Brian Harrison, ASTMS convenor at Plessey's pointed out that they were threatened with a decline from the 6,500 who worked there in 1975 to an expected 2,500 in four years' time.

They were making tele-phones that workers were increasingly unable to afford. The skills of the workforce could be used to provide kidney machines if they did not commit the crime of being unprofitable.

The demands of the YCAU demonstration for the trade union organisation of the unemployed, and for day centres for the jobless, are vital. But as the speakers pointed out, the scandal of unemployment could be wiped out permanently on the basis of socialist policies.

The campaign for a 35-hour week with no loss of pay, for a programme of useful public works must become one of the main battles of the labour and trade union movement.

The LPYS will be fighting on these issues—and campaigning to get rid of this disastrous government. The return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies is vital.

As a speaker at the Nottingham rally said, "by taking over the 200 major monopolies, banks and insurance companies, a future Labour government would have control over the economy. It could carry out all these measures and end the scandal of unemployment for ever."

SUPPORT ARRESTED YOUNG SOCIALISTS

By a 'Militant' reporter

Despite the arrest of five LPYS members in Southall Broadway last month, during a paper sale and recruitment drive, the campaigning work has continued in the area, culminating in a film show and public meeting on Tuesday 8 July.


Financial and moral support for the five arrested members has continued to

grow over the past few months. Now the Labour Party NEC has followed the lead of many CLPs and union branches in condemning the police action.

The trial of the five is set for 10 am on Monday 14 July at Ealing Magistrates Court, Green Man Lane, West Ealing. The LPYS Regional Committee is calling upon the

movement to assemble there at 9.30 on the day for a demonstration of protest and solidarity.

Please continue to send financial aid to the "LPYS Southall Five Defence Fund", c/o Steve Clare, 50 Rofant Road, Northwood, Middlesex.



GET
Militant

BRITAIN	13 issues...£ 3.25
26 issues...£ 6.50	52 issues...£13.00
EUROPE	REST OF WORLD
[by air]	[by air]
26 issues...£ 7.25	26 issues...£10.00
52 issues...£14.50	52 issues...£20.00

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Make cheques payable to MILITANT and return to the Circulation Department, MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN
Bulk orders available, sale or return