

Militant

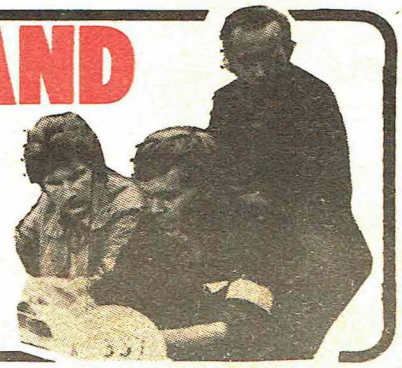
THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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15p

POLAND

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TORIES MUST GO!

Workers in Britain are daily growing more angry at the Thatcher government. Even the capitalist press admit that three people out of every five disagree with their policies.

Labour MP Denis Skinner summed up the feelings of millions of workers on the day the August unemployment figures appeared.

He said: "Now that the Polish workers... have set a wonderful example in showing how a Prime Minister can be thrown out of office, it is for the workers in this country to do the same in respect of this government, who have brought about these catastrophic unemployment figures."

"The trade union leadership, instead of clamouring to reach a compromise with Mrs Thatcher, should be using their Congress to launch a campaign to defeat this government."

For the first time for 47

By Roger
Shrives

years, unemployment has leapt over the 2 million mark. One person in twelve is officially registered unemployed. These figures are a serious underestimate, ignoring the many workers, particularly women, who do not register, and those on job creation schemes.

The cold figures also fail to show the catastrophe unemployment means. Nearly half the unemployed are under 24, and one in six have been on the dole for more than a year.

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Delegates voted at TUC Conference to oppose the Tories anti-union Employment Act. The unions have the power to lead the fight against the Thatcher government.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

TUC 1980 - Trade unions must stop anti-union laws

"This Tory government have declared war on the British trade union movement. We have an option."

"We can await the return of a Labour government at some later date or we can say we are not prepared to see the Tories take away the gains made over a century and a half of struggle."

With these words Arthur Scargill brought the 1980 Trades Union Congress to life. He was seconding the composite resolution calling on the General Council to mount and sustain a vigorous campaign of non-

By Brian
Ingham
from TUC
Congress at Brighton

cooperation with the government including if necessary, industrial action.

The resolution also called "all affiliated unions to unite actively to oppose the unfair and dangerous legislation," and "to demand strenuous and total opposition from the TUC to any

further restrictions either on individual rights or collective rights of trade unionists."

Arthur Scargill, newly elected member of the TUC General Council, spelt out how the Employment Act was a "virtual re-run of the 1970 Act in more subtle form." He warned the Tories that if they attempt to use the Act to "introduce non-unionists into the mining industry we'll stop work the very next day. No coal will be produced."

Not one delegate spoke against the resolution. When Terry Parry, the Chairman of Congress, specifically called on anyone in opposition to come forward to the rostrum, there was not even a hint of movement. This includes those right-wing

union leaders who have spoken of possibly taking state money to finance union ballots.

Arthur Scargill appealed "to all those who say that some things in the Act are attractive, not to accept any part of the Act, as this will only weaken the united opposition of the movement."

Speaking later, Owen O'Brien, General Secretary of NATSOPA, called for the disaffiliation of any union which breaks ranks and compromises the united struggle by taking money on offer from the Tories.

The anger, discontent and deep-seated hatred and resentment at the Tory government in the ranks of the working class was repeatedly ech-

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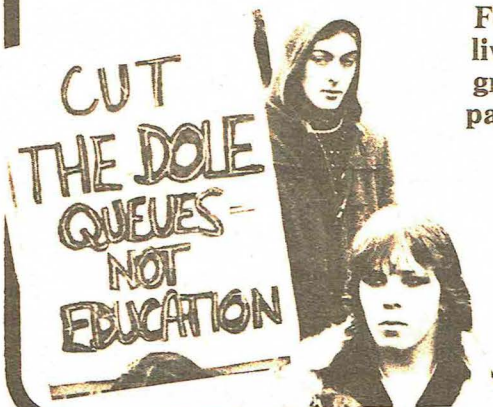
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FIGHTING UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE STREETS

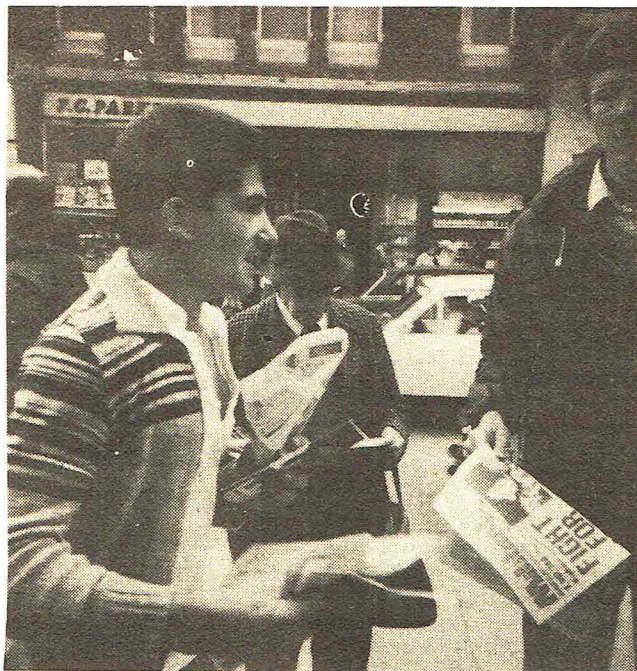
TUC 1980

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All those cynics in the labour movement who say socialism frightens people should have joined the Cardiff LPYS branches when we got together for a 'Day of Action' in the town.

The excellent response we got from working people was reflected in our paper sales—over a hundred 'Militants' and 'Socialist Youths' were sold and we gave out 1500 leaflets.

By Dave Reid
(Cardiff SE LPYS)



LPYS members campaign in Cardiff

Redundancies have been raining down onto the South Wales region at the rate of 1,000 a week! In the last week alone, a soft drinks bottling factory has closed in Cardiff, and 315 redundancies have been announced at Helliwells in Aberdare.

At Risca in Gwent the situation is so bad that evening classes have been organised to prepare workers for life on the dole.

So the Cardiff branches of the LPYS decided to take the battle against unemployment and the Tories onto the streets as part of the campaign leading up to the LPYS demonstration against unemployment in Port Talbot.

We went into the shopping precincts armed with leaflets,

posters, placards and papers. Over a loudspeaker we called for the ousting of this Tory government and for a Labour government to implement a socialist programme.

To stop redundancies immediately we demanded a 35-hour week and called for the trade unions to demand that all firms threatening redundancies should open the books to see where the profits are going.

"It's about time someone

stood up to the Tories," we were told by hundreds of people. The hatred for the Tories has never reached such a level before.

One worker who has been on the dole for over a year told me that he has never been involved in politics before, but he thought he had to do something to kick the Tories out. Because of this campaigning approach in Cardiff we are now over 200 members stronger.

oed during Congress debates, but generally in muted terms.

This was one of the quietest TUCs for many years. As delegates sat, dwarfed by the huge Brighton conference centre, they have been reminded on all sides, by massive placards that over 2 million of their fellow workers are on the dole as a consequence of the catastrophic crisis of British capitalism—made worse by virulent Tory policies aimed at restoring big-business profits.

This situation demands bold action around a clear socialist programme. Congress answered the nightmare facing the working class merely by repeating old formulas "fine tuning" the economy and fiddling with the mechanism of capitalism. The debates on the whole lacked a sense of urgency, as if delegates realised that at best the old ideas merely scratched the surface.

Trade unionists are looking for a way to overcome mass unemployment, attacks on living standards and the social wage, and the decline of industry.

Active trade unionists are totally opposed to any return to the policies of the last Labour government which were disastrous for working class people and led to widespread demoralisation of the movement, paving the way for the return of the Tories.

This feeling was reflected in the stony silence greeting James Callaghan's call for a new version of the "social contract". Callaghan's promise that the next Labour government would repeal the Employment Act was welcomed; but he then went on to call for the trade unions to be "responsible to the state" by not only a new incomes policy but also by working out its own "code of practice" on picketing and industrial action and then "making it stick."

Callaghan's speech seemed totally out of place given the grim reality facing workers and the need for the trade union movement to take the lead in the fightback against the Tories and bosses.

Arthur Scargill pointed out that the TUC should pull all the strands of the trade unions together in a massive campaign to defend working class interests even where this means defying the law—and above all to bring the government down.

Despite a fall in membership in certain trade unions, the membership of the trade union movement was up 44,000 on last year. The trade unions remain the most powerful force in Britain. The power must be used to bring down the government and replace it with a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

100 DISCONNECTIONS A DAY

A real indication of the slashing of living standards in the capital under the Tories is shown by the massive increase in electricity disconnections.

According to its watchdog body, the London Electricity Board (LEB) is now cutting off families' electricity supplies at the rate of over 100 a day—nearly 40,000 a year. The latest figures are a massive 224% up on the same time last year—and this

By Ian Harkness

despite the last winter being much milder than last year. (Figures from 'London Electricity Consultative Council Standard 16/6/80) For Tories and the LEB it's a question of 'balancing the books'.

No doubt the ever increasing number of families whose

homes are burnt down by accidents with candles or by children playing with matches because the power is cut off will be pleased to know that.

No doubt the bankers and other coupon clippers who take their slice of the LEB's income will shed a few crocodile tears when they hear of children being burnt to death. But it won't bring them back to life.

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workers in struggles like the 1972 miners' strike.

The TUC general secretary Len Murray said the unions had "had a bellyful of the government's policies for the past 18 months." No worker could deny that. But no Tory policy, even a "moderate" one, can benefit the working class.

There is no doubt that a lead from the TUC and Labour Party leaders, in a campaign to explain the meaning of the Tory government's policies and to put forward a clear socialist alternative would have a tremendous impact.

The Tories can offer no hope for the future. Unemployment is still expected to climb to a new "peak" in 1981. How much manufacturing industry will be left in Britain by then?

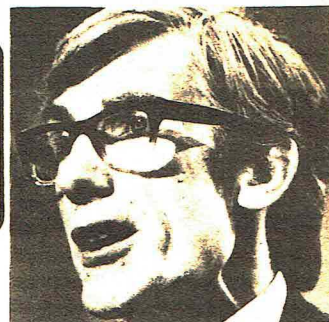
There is an urgent need for action from the trade union leaders to campaign to bring down the Tories and return a Labour government committed to a socialist programme which alone can end unemployment and the other problems confronting working people.

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL

The first ever Kent Marxist Weekend School held last weekend was a great success. Forty-five people from all over Kent attended the school held at the Danville Hotel, Cliftonville, Margate.

By John Nicholson

(Thanet West CLP)



Ray Apps

Ted Grant gave talks on Marxist economics and Poland providing the comrades with an up-to-date analysis of the situation there.

Ray Apps gave a talk on which way forward for the Labour Party—another highly topical subject with the party

conference only a few weeks away.

An appeal for the 'Militant' fighting fund raised over £100 which was an excellent response and showed the determination of the comrades to build 'Militant' as a viable alternative to the capitalist

media. Because of the success of the school it was decided to hold the event again next year.

TORIES MUST GO

Areas of Britain have been savagely hit. Northern Ireland has 15.3% of the working population without jobs, and Strabane has the highest male unemployment rate in Europe, 35.9%. Wales, Scotland, North and North West England all see over 10% out of work.

Workers at Bowater in Merseyside, fighting to save their jobs, are showing the way to fight the Tories. On Merseyside there is no realistic alternative to such a struggle. 102,894 are already out of work in the area—9,500 of them in Birkenhead where there is just one vacancy for 1,233 school leavers.

If Bowaters closed it would be a 38% rise in unemployment in Ellesmere Port, which was considered a "boom town" in the '60s. The disastrous effects of this, with jobs disappearing in supply industries, shops, etc., are lost on Thatcher and her crew.

She continues to blame the working class. "Last year we paid ourselves 22% more and produced 4% less," was her response to the August figures.

What rubbish! If produc-

tion has slumped, whose fault is it? The bosses. They have found it unprofitable to invest in, and produce manufacturing goods and have shut factory after factory and put thousands more on short time.

And far from workers "paying ourselves more", the Society of Civil and Public Servants say government policies have cost every adult worker £10 a week since the election in lengthening dole queues, inflated prices and cuts. This is a disguised £10 pay cut!

Textile workers are third from bottom in a pay league of 77 manufacturing industries, say the Low Pay Unit. That hasn't stopped the workforce being halved in ten years—a loss of 60,000 jobs, half of them vanishing this year.

Thatcher will be deaf to any pleas from the TUC to moderate the policies of all-out class war, which have been waged by Thatcher and her government, in an attempt to bale out a capitalist system in decline.

The Heath government were only forced to change their strategy of confrontation by the determined action of

BAKERS LEADER SPEAKS TO CONFERENCE

By Wayne Jones in Brighton

Bring down the Tories! This was the stirring appeal made by Joe Marino, general secretary of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union.

He called on the TUC jointly with the Labour Party to lead a campaign to bring down the Tories and return a Labour government on a socialist programme.

He said to the conference that resolutions and fine phrases alone were not enough and that positive action must be taken and an alternative strategy clearly posed, in answer to this vicious Tory government. He rejected an incomes

policy saying this has been tried, tested and had failed, referring to the last Labour government, commenting Jim Callaghan had not learned the lessons of that period.

Therefore he called for the rejection of composite 15 moved by the UCW and ISTC, which talked of a pact between the TUC and the Labour Party, and the planning of the economy but which would include controlling wages.

Joe Marino explained that the economy could not be planned whilst the private sector was left alone. "How can we possibly plan the multi-national Ford com-

pany—you can't plan what you don't own."

He went on to say, "The low paid do not gain from wage restraint. For instance, if the Ford workers were to forgo a wage rise there was no mechanism at all under the present system that would mean that this would be transferred to the low paid."

"This is why the Bakers supported the policy of nationalisation of the monopolies and the banks and insurance companies. Only such a fundamental programme could solve the burning problems of unemployment and low wages."

SEVEN YEARS AFTER THE COUP SOLIDARITY WITH CHILEAN SOCIALISTS

Labour Party Young Socialists branches up and down the country will be holding public meetings in the next week.

It is the seventh anniversary of the September 11th military coup which overthrew the Popular Unity government.

These meetings coincide with growing militancy amongst the workers. Following the May Day demonstrations which showed the workers' willingness to struggle against the regime, elections in the trade unions and in the universities have rejected many of the government's candidates. A rally last week, originally called by the Christian Democrat capitalist opposition party, quickly developed into a mass demonstration of 8,000 people in the centre of Santiago.

Faced with this growing pressure and the crisis in the economy, the generals are trying cosmetic measures to appease the opposition and the unrest which is surfacing even among government supporters. The government have called a referendum on a new constitution for September 11th.

SCHOOL STUDENTS MUST ORGANISE

If you have just gone back to school to continue your 'education', like millions of other working class youth, you have probably discovered that there are less teachers around, less new books and few essential repairs have been completed over the holidays.

Evidently, this is what Tory Education Secretary, Mark Carlisle meant when he said, "They (the cuts) will generally be aimed at things which have little to do with teaching." (October 1979).

The Tories clearly think education of working people is a luxury, especially when mass unemployment means 20% of 1980's school leavers are 'surplus' to the bosses requirements. It is an absolute scandal that young people are having to complete a 10-year course of education with lessons on how to obtain social security!

Rather than spend millions of pounds 'over-educating' young people, the Tories have a better idea—pocket the

By Claire Baines
(LPYS National Committee)

Elections are to be held—in eight years time. Of course, no socialist parties will be able to take part. The generals will, under their plan, appoint the President till 1996!

The fact that the Christian Democrats, the Catholic Church and even noted supporters of the government have criticised the poll, indicates their realisation that in its attempt to cling to military

rule, the generals are refusing to give serious recognition to the growing opposition.

Shah Pinochet could be swept away with all his minions and give birth to a movement led by the working class parties which would threaten the very rule of big business.

As in Brasil, the more far-sighted of the ruling class realise that their continued rule demands at least some form of democratic facade. Whatever the result of this farcical referendum, it will not dampen the reality of class struggle.

A new Chile Socialists Defense Campaign leaflet has been prepared by the LPYS. It is available from the National Youth Officer of the Labour Party, 150 Walworth road, London SE17.

The leaflet, demands an end to repression, and for no arms or recognition to be given to the regime. Calling for the destruction of the junta and workers' unity for socialism, it costs £4.50 per 1,000 and has a space for advertising local meetings.

**SEPTEMBER 11th
JOIN PICKET CHILEAN EMBASSY
9am-7pm, 12 Devonshire Street, W.1.
[near Portland Place Tube]
8 pm, RALLY
Friends Meeting House, Euston Road
[Organised by Chile Solidarity Campaign]**

By Nick Toms
(LPYS National Committee)

money themselves. The £400 million cut from this year's education spending will help pay for the £600 million given away as tax cuts for high income earners.

It will also help pay for the extra £55 million given to help the private schools for the children of the rich. Trafford Park Tory council, while cutting back on services for state schools, last year spent £800 a head on private school fees for 1700 children. On a national scale over £500 million is now given by the government to educate the 'rich kids'.

If the rich can be subsidised to this extent then the LPYS demand for a grant of £25 per week to allow over 16 year-olds to continue their

education at state schools is entirely reasonable. Bodies of school students, teachers' and ancillary workers' union representatives, trades councils and Labour Party members should be created to mount campaigns against the education cuts at a local level.

LPYS members and LPYS school student sections will play their role in fighting to get school students organised and a national structure recreated, for a school students union. As a first step school students can be united around the mobilisation for the national Labour Party march against unemployment on November 29th. School leavers unemployment threatens all school students. We must defend our future.

Read the LPYS SCHOOL STUDENTS CHARTER. Available for 30p from Andy Bevan, National Youth Officer, 150 Walworth road, London SE17. Order the new LPYS leaflet for the march, cost £4/1,000. (see Education articles page7).



S. Wales Camp TO CHANGE SOCIETY

All things change and develop — that was the theme of the most successful South Wales summer camp ever.

Over 200 people, a record number, enjoyed a Bank Holiday weekend combining politics, discos, sports competitions, and just lazing on the beach building sandcastles.

Ted Grant's introductory talk on Marxism laid the basis for the weekend's political discussion. Ted pointed out that all things were in motion and in a process of change. Ideas that once were dismissed as rubbish came into their own because material conditions changed and they were seen to accord with reality.

All that seems stable and secure undergoes change, sometimes gradually, and then dramatically in a qualitative change, the old order is broken and new possibilities occur.

In discussion, Gerry Lerner pointed out that this dialectical method of thinking applied to ideas themselves. Dialectics was not 'invented' by Marx but was developed in Ancient Greece. Society then was too backward to take advantage of it. Now though it could be used by the labour movement as a tool of analysis to help change society.

This was clearly seen during later discussion over the weekend on Poland and Britain. Ted pointed out that in Poland the post-war development of the economy had resulted in the growth of a working-class that was no longer prepared to tolerate the dictatorial rule of the

bureaucracy which was a fetter on the country's development.

In Britain also, things had changed. The right-wing of the Labour Party had dismissed the ideas of Marxism as "out of date rubbish and irrelevant" during the post-war boom of the 1950s and 1960s. Now they mount a scare campaign against the Marxists because they are terrified about the impact those ideas are having as capitalism enters crisis.

The fact that decisive periods for the working-class can be compressed into a few days was the theme of Tony Mulhearn's talk on the lessons of the 1926 General Strike. And what the long term 'no future' is for people unless capitalism is ended was what ran through Bob Labi's talk on nuclear war.

Whilst the seriousness of the political discussions were reflected in the excellent collection of over £300 for the fighting fund and the number of books sold, the camp combined both politics and relaxation. The afternoons and late evenings were given over to social activities and whilst Swansea triumphed in the football competition some of the winners of other competitions might perhaps prefer to remain anonymous.

Judging by the great mood at the camp and, as ever, the guaranteed weather, the only thing which doesn't seem to change except quantitatively for the better, is the South Wales camp.

By Jim Chrystie

LPYS supports Polish workers

The LPYS is calling on the labour movement to develop links with the leaders of the independent workers' movement who have fought for trade union rights as a means not an end to their struggle against the government.

The ruling bureaucratic clique previously dissolved the Soviets of 1956 and the workers' committees of 1970 and harassed and sacked the leaders of those movements. This record raises serious doubts as to whether the trade unions will be allowed to form throughout the country or be allowed to exist for any length of time.

Stalinist totalitarianism is incompatible with independent workers' organisations. This dictates that either the Polish workers overthrow the bureaucratic elite who rule Poland, establish rule by democratically elected workers' councils and appeal for support to the workers of Russia and Eastern Europe, or the gains of August 1980 will be destroyed by the regime.

Last week before the settlement was reached between the strikers and the bureaucracy, I, together with Dennis Skinner MP and Jo Richardson MP sent the following letter to Gdansk Strike Committee, which stated in part: Comrades,

We and the Labour Party Young Socialists call upon your government to concede the full demands of the workers represented by the Gdansk Strike Committee.

We completely disassociate the LPYS from the reactionary campaign of the British Tories, the Anglo-Polish Conservative Club and other right-wing Polish exile groups who have only their profiteering, anti-working class interests at heart.

The ruling bureaucratic caste in Poland stand as a bulwark against the introduction of democratic workers' control of society, the absence of which has led to economic bungling and mismanagement and the current economic crisis.

The Polish working class have declared against bureaucratic rule. In solidarity, the LPYS support the struggle against bureaucratism and for the implementation of the measures laid down by Marx and Lenin to begin the socialist transformation of society:—

Free elections and the right of recall over all officials.

No officials to receive more than a skilled workers wage. No separate regular army controlled by the bureaucracy but an armed working class and peasantry.

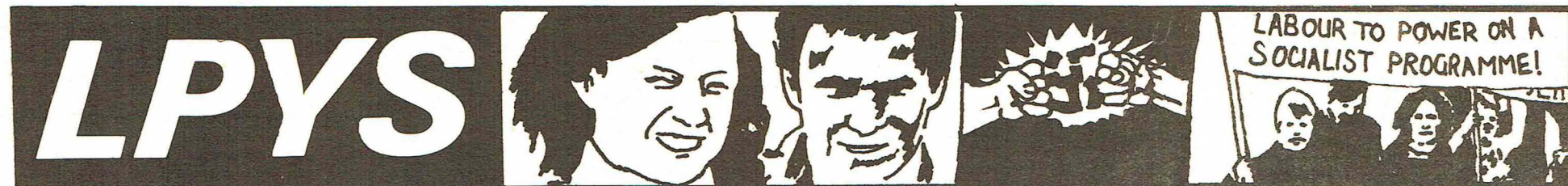
No bureaucratic elite. All positions to be rotated amongst the people.

The right to strike, the right to independent trade unions, a free press and the right to vote freely are elementary conditions for a healthy workers' state.

FOR WORKERS' DEMOCRACY TO BUILD A SOCIALIST POLAND!

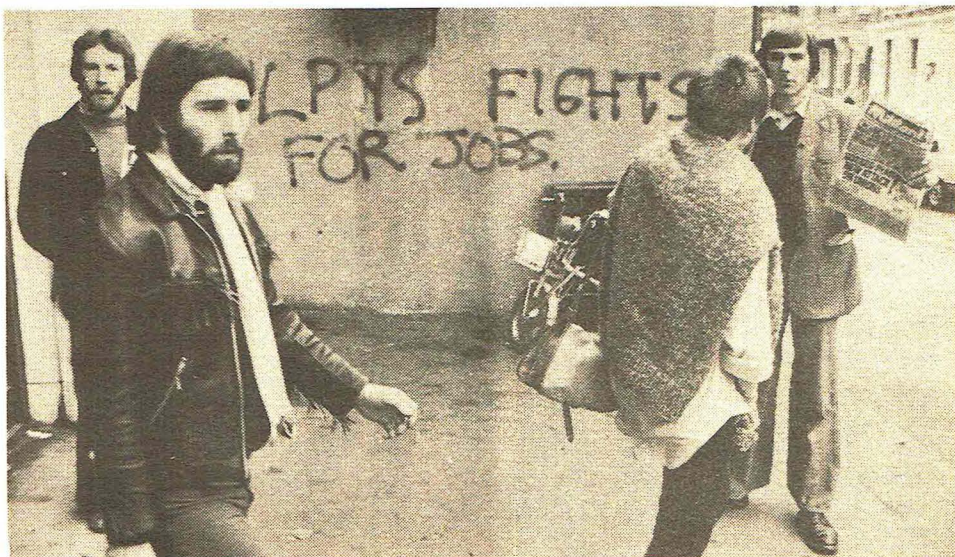
By Tony Sauniois

(LPYS representative on Labour Party Executive Committee)



FIGHTING AGAINST THE TORIES

Around the Country



LPYS members out on the streets campaigning and fighting for the socialist alternative

STRATHAVEN

Nearly 100 comrades participated in a march through Strathaven in a demonstration against unemployment.

The march, organised by the YS branch, was later joined by thirty or so people in the local park to listen to speakers and two rock groups.

Throughout the day fifty copies of the 'Militant' were sold.

Two speakers from Strathaven YS, James Mair and Ian Brownlee, outlined how the vicious onslaught by the Tory government on the working class had affected the area.

With unemployment at 16% in the constituency and with such a grim future, particularly for school leavers, life under capitalism has become intolerable for many.

Maurice Miller, MP for the East Kilbride constituency and a member of the Tribune group, talked about unemployment and how it affects particular areas in Britain, but failed to relate unemployment to the crisis of capitalism—not only in Britain but internationally.

The way forward for the labour movement was shown by Bob Wylie, of East Kilbride CLP, who pointed

out that spectres of the 1930s were haunting the working class today. Mass unemployment (the highest since 1933) and its ghost sister, mass poverty, are an indictment of the Tories and the economic system they represent.

Therefore, the next Labour government must be prepared to serve the interests of the working class with the same tenacity as the Tories have served the bosses.

By Chas Steven
(East Kilbride LPYS)

SOUTH YORKSHIRE

The joint-secretary of the Barnsley Samaritans has written to Margaret Thatcher drawing her attention to rising levels of unemployment in South Yorkshire. The number of calls to the Samaritans is on the increase as a consequence.

Political action is required. From September 3rd, Sheffield Metropolitan District Council is to open all sports facilities, free, to those unemployed aged between 16 and 19 years.

This move is welcomed by the YS branches in South Yorkshire, organised in the region's newly-formed Young Socialist Co-ordinating Committee. But we must take it further.

The Co-ordinating Committee is organising a survey to discover what youth on the

dole think of the facilities on offer. This survey's results will be used within the local Labour Parties to ensure that the moves by Sheffield's Labour Group on the Council are extended throughout South Yorkshire, and as a means to raise other demands, for apprenticeships, for example.

Plans for a regular dole queue newsletter and a petition setting down the demands for a 35-hour week, working without loss of pay, are being drawn up. The LPYS has the important task of explaining that the only solution to mass unemployment is the socialist solution.

Local press, local radio and Yorkshire TV are being contacted in the run up to the 'Youth Against the Tories' rallies in Sheffield and Barn-

sley, when Andy Bevan will be the main speaker.

Local convenors are being circulated with leaflets, as are the local BSC plants, and the Yorkshire NUM. The Young Conservatives and Young Liberals have been challenged to a public debate on the issues surrounding youth unemployment. Also, two 'Days of Action' have been organised.

The rallies will be a focal point for the campaign on the demands of the YCAU; but the possibility of organising a march of young unemployed from Sheffield to the National Labour Party march against unemployment on November 29th is already being explored. The Co-ordinating Committee aims to make the YS branches in the District the most active in the region.

WEYMOUTH

Sunny Weymouth, in Dorset hasn't been so sunny in recent months with a number of firms on the only industrial estate on a three-day week and other major employers such as Wellworthy's putting a further 100 on short time.

But one of the yearly major summer events and tourist attractions is the yearly carnival. Weymouth Young Socialists thought it a good opportunity for some publicity.

We contacted a local firm for a lorry and started to plan our float; but the evening before the carnival the firm contacted us and informed us we could no longer have the lorry as they didn't want to be associated with us.

Although disappointed we were far from beaten. We got an old-and-heavy cart, decorated it with a replica of a

trident missile emblazoned with slogans and with a coffin stating—"welfare state RIP—stop the mad axewoman."

We had comrades dressed as cavemen with placards saying "Tory union expert." Nervous of the reaction we might receive, we were surprised and very pleased at our reception. Locals and holiday makers cheered at us and were pleased to take our leaflets.

It wasn't until after the carnival and a few pints later that we had our encounter with 'law and order.' We had a loud hailer and were entertaining anyone who cared to listen with a few political songs and jokes. We soon found ourselves with an audience dressed in blue and wearing pointed hats.

It wasn't until the officer

informed the comrade with the loud hailer that unless he belted up he was going to make him eat it that we realised he wasn't in fancy dress.

These small incidents aside our efforts were a popular and enjoyable success which gave us confidence for the future. Perhaps the lady Tory should be more worried about her majority at the next local elections than us enjoying ourselves.

By Tony Prowse
(Weymouth LPYS)

SALFORD

Salford YS has come up with a novel way of raising the question of joining the Young Socialists among working class youth.

They have adapted those 'point-quizzes', that often appear in the scum press and tell you how wonderfully sexy you are etc. But instead of the usual inane questions they have given the quiz a political flavour.

They hand them out during paper sales, and it is a light-hearted way in which workers can see where they stand.

The questions include: 'Which school did you go to? [a] Eton [b] Manchester Grammar [c] the one down the road; Do you think the

£15,000 million sacrificed by workers under wage restraint went to [a] Overseas aid [b] RSPCA [c] Employers profits; The way to cure unemployment is to bring in [a] conscription [b] a school leaving age of 32 [c] a 35-hour week with no loss of pay; Pensioners should be [a] paid the average wage [b] given half the average wage [c] killed off; or finally "Which of the following resorts are you considering spending your holidays in? [a] the Bahamas [b] Blackpool [c] sunny Salford."

In all there are 10 questions to answer, and when you have finished the questionnaire you look at a chart on the leaflet

to see how you fared.

You can score between —5 to 50, and from this you can see your political standing: "—5 to 0; if Hitler were alive today he would be the best man at your wedding. 1 to 5; You would have a successful career as a block of wood. 6 to 20; Write to Tory Central Office for your Maggie Thatcher pin up. 21 to 30; Make up your mind—those who stand in the middle of the road get run over. 31 to 50; Get up out of your armchair. Join the Labour Party Young Socialists and together we can fight for a better deal and a socialist society!"

BRAINTREE

By Tim White
(Braintree LPYS)

The industrial editor of 'Militant', Brian Ingham, gave a very comprehensive coverage of what we stand for, and was well received at a large meeting of Braintree Labour Party recently.

His talk was followed by a question and answer session

during which our 'moderate' comrades voiced fears. One comrade said he was worried the left could turn voters away from the Labour Party.

However, an AUEW convenor stated that during a recruiting campaign in a local factory (which proved suc-

cessful) they found that many wanted a change towards a more radical and left stance by the party.

A collection to offset Brian's expenses brought in over £8.

By Roy Nelson
(Wrekin LPYS)

Recently, unemployed members of the Wrekin LPYS held a joint 'Day of Action' with some Birmingham comrades.

We handed out leaflets in Wellington, the main market town of Telford, outlining the socialist solution to the crisis in Northern Ireland, inviting people to a public meeting the same evening, and 15 copies of the 'Militant' were sold.

In the afternoon, we visited the historical ironbridge gorge

area (and the local ale houses—for historical reasons only, of course!) as we couldn't afford to pay to enter the industrial museum. Later we leafleted Adamson Butterley's, an industrial crane manufacturer.

New people who came to the meeting included a 50 year old unemployed Boiler-maker and his daughter who was a school student worried about her future. There was

also an Irish labourer and a NUPE full time official, along with others.

There followed a full and frank discussion in the best traditions of the labour movement, led off by Brian Debus of Erdington CLP.

Everybody involved benefitted from the day and we would urge other YS branches to consider the same approach to their work.

WIGAN

By a 'Militant' reporter

Wigan Trades Fair, organised by the local Chamber of Commerce annually in the town, is meant to 'put local industry on display'. However, this year it only served to illustrate the decline of industry in the area.

During the year since the last Trade Fair was held, the town has lost 1250 jobs, nearly 2 per cent of the working population.

The decline of industry in the area is reflected by the Trades Fair itself where the number of firms on display this year has dropped compared to last year. Ironically the "fair" was due to have been opened by the local Member of the European

Parliament, a Tory. Also present was the local Mayor (a Tory despite there being only five of them on the council!).

To protest against the decline of the town over the last year and against the presence of the Tory MEP and Mayor, Wigan LPYS held a demonstration outside the Technical College where the "fair" was taking place.

The response was twofold. Derision and embarrassment from businessmen in their neatly pressed pin striped suits, but enthusiasm and encouragement from ordinary workers on viewing the Plunderwoman and LPYS posters on display, and on reading

the leaflets being given out. They were particularly enthusiastic after coming out and having seen the dismal display on show inside.

When the ensemble of Tory dignitaries, accompanied by the local Labour MP and some leading Labour Councillors, emerged, they were greeted by the derision of the LPYS members, and cries of "Maggie out" and "No Tories in Wigan" brought a number of the cleaning staff out of the Tech building to encourage the YS on.

Wigan LPYS are resolved that no representative of this reactionary Tory government will put their foot inside our town without being greeted by a similar reception.



■ A new fall out shelter is to be built in South Bucks. The complex, titled a 'community survival centre', has a library, dining room, rest rooms and family rooms. It can take 464 people who could stay in it for a month, and is 12 foot underground. It certainly sounds more secure than the Tories' plans for nuclear survival, with all their talk of white washing windows and hiding in holes in the back garden with a jacket over your head, hoping the umpteen-megaton bombs don't see you. But this survival centre is not really for the 'community'—it is merely free-enterprise entering into the world of nuclear warfare. The shelter is built by CC Forrester Ltd and they are selling places in it for £25,000 a family. The firm is quite confident it will find customers too, and with the way the upper classes throw their money around they probably will. In fact the only problems the firm can see is how, in the event of a nuclear holocaust, they could "prevent people who hadn't bought a place getting in [!]" The fact is that only the rich will have a chance—and a meagre one at that—in the event of nuclear war. So workers should not spend their time digging holes in their back garden or saving up for a fall out shelter, but join in the struggle for socialism, the system that can end the rule of the capitalists and the death and destruction they bring. This is the only real 'nuclear deterrent'.

■ The latest electronic game of the Space Invaders line is called Mole Hunter! A little white man with a hammer dashes about trying to hit red moles which pop out of the ground around him. If he hits them, they disappear. If he misses they may bite him and he is carried off.

There is one way in which the game parallels recent events in the Labour Party. No matter how many moles the little man hits, there are always more popping up everywhere.

■ "The four days were soon over. On the last night of the holiday a huge bonfire was lit, with the girls standing on one side and the boys on the other. The girls promised to become good housewives, loving wives and tender mothers, to learn a useful profession and practice it well. The boys gave their word to be good husbands, attentive fathers and staunch defenders of their country..." No, the above quote is not from a report of a joint Girl Guides and Boy Scouts camp—it is in fact the annual camp of youth of the Paide region of Estonia, under the political direction of the Estonia Young Communist League, reported in the Soviet Weekly [August 16]. No discussion on the oppression of women in society or the need for international solidarity with the workers of the world, like at the recent Labour Party Young Socialists camp, for them! It is certainly true that these youth camps, held throughout the Soviet Union, are a progressive step, in that it guarantees a holiday for working class youth from industrial areas—something unheard of under the evil Tsarist regime at the turn of the century, certainly unheard of in the capitalist western countries. It is an indication of what is possible under the planned economy. But the political direction given to the youth is yet another indication of the continuing degeneration of the Stalinist bureaucracies, a privileged caste who protect their own interests at all costs. After all, if the bureaucracies taught the youth en masse the true ideals of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky, the bureaucracies would find themselves in for a one-sided struggle!

Textile Industry— BOSSSES BREAK THE LAW

Photo: Jacob Sutton



Long hours and bad working conditons for workers in the textile industry

"The machinery at this place was so bad that a piece of metal fell off one and broke my foot. But when I returned to work with my foot in plaster and asked the boss to cut down my hours—I was working a 12-hour shift—he just said 'You must work a 12-hour shift or go down the road.'

"I had been hired as a carding machine minder, but also had to maintain the machinery as well. If you refused to do a job you were threatened with the sack.

"The machines were 50 to 60 years old when the boss bought them second hand, and were always breaking down. Sometimes as many as 3 out of 5 machines in my department were broken down; no wonder when they

were used 24 hours a day without hardly any maintenance.

"When I asked the boss to get new parts for the machines, his usual answer was 'Keep them going' for 2 or 3 weeks until the new parts arrived.

"For a period I had to work 5 machines on my own when another worker left, and there was no-one else in the whole department besides me. If I had had an accident, there would have been nobody to help me.

"The floors in the place were always slippy from oil leaking from gearboxes. My mate once slipped and got his arm fast in a machine. I managed to stop the engine and pull him clear but his wrist was badly severed. His hand is now completely

useless.

"After the accident the boss tried to cover up the true conditions of the place by cleaning up the machines and replacing ropes on them by chains. These ropes help up by weights and were always fraying, which was not only very dangerous but caused the fabric we were making to be spoilt when bits of rope fell onto it.

"When I told the truth about what had really happened to cause the accident so that my mate could get compensation, the boss became extremely angry with me, and from then on I knew he wanted to sack me.

"We had no trade union in the factory, the boss would not allow one. He mainly hired black workers like myself and Asian workers

with the idea that we would be less inclined to try to get a union going in the place.

"When I handed out leaflets to the other workers from the union, explaining why they should join the fight for better working conditions, the boss flew into a rage and told me to get out of the factory.

"At the time he had already given me notice to quit, but he threatened that if I applied for unfair dismissal he would have me blacklisted from getting another job.

"We should get full backing from the trade union leadership to change things in places like these. And we must get the Tories out and bring back a Labour government which will fight for better conditions for working people."

An unemployed textile worker describes to John Vasey and Bill Wynn the terrible conditions he faced while working in a textile factory in the Leeds area

A different kind of history

Are you daunted by the words 'historical materialism'? Do you avoid books concerning economics; are you bemused when people talk about the labour theory of value?

Well most of us are because books on these subjects are usually difficult to read.

However, Leo Huberman's book 'Man's Worldly Goods' is a masterpiece in easy to understand history and economics.

And all this in short, easy to read chapters.

No normal history book, it traces history not as a series of dates of battles, kings and queens, and Acts of Parliament; but in how social changes affect people. Huberman particularly concentrates on those people left out of normal history books—the workers.

He brings history alive by using hundreds of quotations from people living at the time. To give an example, he quotes a decree by Francis I of France in 1541 on the journeymen printers who at that time were founding the origins of a trade union.

"The said journeymen and apprentices shall make no oath, monopolies, nor have

By Simon Heather
(Selly Oak CLP)

among themselves any captain, lieutenant...nor any banner or badge, nor shall they assemble outside the houses and kitchens of their masters, nor anywhere to a greater number than five." Sounds like Jim Prior was beaten by four centuries!

A more up to date quote on the role of American imperialism. Major-General Butler a veteran of the US army from the 1900s to the '30s:

"I served in all commissioned ranks from a second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street, and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer for capitalism."

The final section of the book deals with an analysis of the Soviet system. However, he fails to take up the question of workers democracy in a planned society.

Here and only here do I feel he can be criticised.

Price £3.85 + 50p p&p from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

A course for the bosses' men

Browsing through the economics and trade union shelves of a library last week, I came across 'Janner's Employment Forms', a book by Labour MP Grenville Janner.

This book contains 200 essential forms drawn up by Mr Janner for employers to use for all aspects of industrial relations law.

It is directed at the management class—it costs £25 for a start and as the dust jacket tells the bosses "...if litigation is inevitable, then by following the procedures for which the forms create the framework, you should win!"

Of even more use to the bosses and their personnel management, are Mr Janner's courses. The brochures for these can often be found in business magazines—one advertises a course on "Law for Personnel Industrial Relations and Factory Managers," held at the Royal Horseguards Hotel, London. And it is a snip at only the cost of £245 [+VAT] for the three day course.

The course for the bosses includes lectures and teaching on such topics as trade union law, disputes, picketing, and the new Employment Bill. There's also a section on 'ACAS—how to get the best out of it.'

By Tam Burke
(Edinburgh Central CLP)

No doubt, Mr Janner is very objective in his lectures and courses, explaining the workings of legislation concerned with industrial relations. But the personnel managers who attend the course are more likely concerned on learning how they can protect their bosses' profits when they come into confrontation with the trade unions, or an individual employee who has suffered some injustice.

The labour movement will want to know how Mr Janner QC, company director, a Fellow of the Institute of Personnel Management, and a legal correspondent to that well known radical socialist paper 'The Daily Mail', uses these courses to serve the working class which, as a Labour MP, Mr Janner represents.

POLICE JUMP THE GUN



Pickets arrested at Adwest Engineering in Reading

The Tory Employment Bill has given the green light to police to step up harassment of pickets.

At Catercups in Bootle, Merseyside, two LPYS members have been arrested during mass pickets, one at the direction of the management, who accused him of committing "wilful damage" the previous week.

The police are now proposing to limit pickets, allowing only two mass pickets a week.

They are only allowing four pickets, who have to wear "official" armbands. If a T&GWU official is not present the police are claiming that the picket-line itself is unofficial, despite the fact that the dispute is an official T&GWU strike. The labour movement must oppose any "agreements" with the police and firmly oppose any implementation of such anti-union measures.

At Adwest in Reading.

By Peter Lush, with reports from: Roger Bannister [Bootle CLP], Ben Rayner [Reading LPYS] and Dawn Gee [CPSA, Mansfield]

picketing rights have become one of the key issues in the dispute. After a confrontation between police and pickets at the first mass picket, the police formed a human "funnel" across the 23-foot-wide side entrance to the factory to allow the scabs through. No pickets were allowed at the gate, destroying any possibility of effective picketing.

When Danny Broderick, the union convenor, attempted to picket the entrance on his own, he was immediately arrested, and charged with "obstruction"—of 23 feet! This was a clear attempt to intimidate the other strikers: in effect they were refused the right for even one person to picket effectively.

At the third mass picket, the Tactical Support Group (Thames Valley's SPG) moved in and arrested 25 pickets—mainly on charges of obstruction. At the fourth mass picket, ten pickets were allowed—but there will clearly be future clashes.

The dispute of the Civil and Public Services Association at the Unemployment Office in Brixton, South London, has also shown the clamping down on picketing that is taking place. Only two pickets were allowed on each gate—making six in total.

Phil Cordell, one of the trade union branch officers suspended from work because of his trade union activities, was arrested when he became the seventh picket outside the office. Again the police are implementing the Tory proposals before they have become law!

Under the 1970-74 Heath government, one of the key issues for the labour movement was the defence of basic trade union rights which had been won over decades of struggle. Again, the bosses' political representatives are trying to take away the right to effective trade union action.

The TUC must step up

Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

their mass campaign of opposition to the Employment Bill. The demonstration of 140,000 on 9 March this year showed the feeling that exists within the labour movement. It must be raised in every trade union branch, district committee, etc. Full support must be organised for workers involved in disputes where the police attempt to restrict picketing.

Some trade union leaders have attacked Labour MPs Stuart Holland and Reg Race for supporting the pickets. But the Tory action towards the trade union movement is a political attack and the whole labour movement must be mobilised in opposition.

Instead of attacking left wing Labour MPs, the union leaders should be attacking those who threaten the basic rights of the working class; and fighting for an end to the system that creates bitter battles over the right to organise and strike.

Fascists protected Socialists harassed

For the past two months, members of the LPYS and Labour Party in Manchester have been selling papers and leafletting in the city centre to counteract the presence of the National Front.

On Sunday 17 August, the local fascists were due to join a march in the West Midlands. We set off in our coach for Handsworth in Birmingham to join a counter-demonstration of the labour movement.

Halfway down the motorway, we heard that their destination was Leamington, and headed there instead. On assembling outside Leamington Baths, the news then was that 11 coaches and 7 minibuses were at Stoneleigh Roundabout and heading for Nuneaton.

Immediately coaches set off for Nuneaton, only to be stopped just outside Leamington by the police. This was just the first of their delaying tactics to enable the NF to have a free hand in Nuneaton.

Our coach was first to be stopped. The police had been round Leamington taking coach numbers and knew exactly which coaches and minibuses to stop. They wanted to lead us by convoy into Nuneaton, with the police car leading going as slowly as possible to delay us until the Front had finished their march and rally.

Just before Nuneaton we came to a roadblock. Again coaches were stopped and everyone was asked to leave. The police then searched coaches and minibuses and then each comrade before allowing them back on the coach. We wondered if they had done the same to the NF!

However, police harassment went too far when my 10 year old son was searched by a policewoman, despite a loud protest by comrades still outside the coach. Her number was taken and a formal complaint sent to Warwickshire Constabulary. It is intolerable if children are now to be searched in the police's efforts to protect the Front.

When we had been delayed

By Carol Butcher
(Manchester Labour Party)

long enough, we set off again with a policeman in each coach. Worse was yet to come.

On arrival in Nuneaton we were taken to a school, where the coach drove into the playground. It was immediately surrounded by police who clearly intended not to allow anyone to leave the coaches.

Our coach was first into the playground, and we were able to get off our coach as soon as the situation was clear. The two coaches behind were not so lucky, but we were able to warn people in three coaches as they entered the school to get off before the police could stop them.

With a suitable escort, we set off for the town centre, again just before the police blocked off the road with vans, to stop the comrades behind.

The following march and rally, supported by local Labour Parties and immigrant groups, was again escorted by the police in excessive numbers. The road to the police station was barred, to stop a delegation including the local Labour MP from enquiring as to the comrades arrested.

The following rally surrounded by police at least 4 to 5 deep, again protested at police harassment, and their protection of the NF. One youth was arrested at the rally simply for laughing at a police officer!

The actions of the police during the whole day demonstrated not only the lengths to which they will go to protect the NF, but also the stepping up of the harassment of the labour movement, when it mobilises to counteract such marches and demonstrations in areas of high immigrant communities.

The labour movement must stand firm and continue to oppose the NF and their racist policies where ever they try to demonstrate.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

During 1979, nearly one out of three employers visited by the Wages Council Inspectorate were found to be illegally underpaying their employees. Wages Councils fix minimum wages and some conditions such as holidays for about three million workers, mostly low paid, in catering, shops etc. 90% of the workers involved are women and most of them unorganised.

One in eight workers were underpaid, by an average of £67.31 over the year. If all Wages Council employees had the same appalling record, workers would have been cheated of about £22 million. And the minimum rates are far from generous, averaging about £50 per week, but many like hair-dressing far below.

The percentage of employ-

ees infringing laws has gone up from 15% in 1971 to over 30%. But there are only 166 wage inspectors (as opposed to 4,400 inspectors of social security abuse) and spot checks on wages council employers in selected towns are being phased out on government instructions.

When services are being viciously cut by many local councils, readers may be interested in the reply given by Ted Knight, leader of Lambeth Council's Policy and Resources Committee, to a Tory councillor's question on the size of the debts and interest charges in that inner London borough.

"The outstanding debt of

the Council at the 31st March, 1980 was £328 million. The estimate for 31st March, 1981, is £397 million.

"The estimated interest charges for the current year were £46 million, but if high current interest rates continue, this might be exceeded by £4 million. Annual debt charges of £46 million are equivalent to £170 per head of population.

Debt charges are 33% of the Council's total gross budget, but after allowing for subsidies, they account for about 20% of the budget."

No-one could disagree with Ted Knight's final comment to the Tory councillor, "I am sure you will now join with the Labour Party in demanding the nationalisation of banks and

major financial institutions."

The Tories try to justify their cuts in education and social services by claiming "excessive" local authority spending. The Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy, [hardly a socialist organisation] gives the lie to this in "Local Government Trends 1980."

Between financial years 1975-76 and 1978-79, local government expenditure fell as a share of gross domestic product from 15% to 12.6%. Meanwhile the number of clients for services provided, has greatly expanded, the total school population was higher in

1977 than any time this century and school populations will not "peak" until 1981.

1969 to 1978 saw an 11% increase in the population over retirement age to 8.6 million. One parent families have doubled in the decade. Caseloads of home helps have gone up by 54%. More and more old people have gone into residential homes and so on.

From June 1976 to September 1979 there was a minute increase of 3,000 in a workforce of 2.35 million and these are being rapidly shed. In four of the last nine years, councils have under-spent their budgets, despite the enormous sums spent on interest charges.

Lessons of Chile

Now Out!

Analysis of the 1973 coup and its lessons for the labour movement in Chile and internationally.

Price 50p+10p post & package from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Further Education **FIGHT TORY CUTS**

CAMPAIGN FOR A LIVING GRANT

Thousands of working class youth will be registering at Further Education Colleges this week. For most this is their last chance of getting qualifications to help them get jobs or go to University.

They will find enormous problems though. The FE sector has always been the poor relation in terms of education expenditure. Now with cuts throughout the public services they are even worse off.

Most further education colleges have reduced the number of courses available due to a lack of lecturing staff and to the dictates of their cost-cutting local authorities.

Those lucky enough to enrol on the course of their choice, (or any other course for that matter), will find themselves herded into overcrowded classrooms with very few facilities.

Most students in this sector do not receive grants, and if they are at college they will be unable to claim social security.

By Alan Watson

(National Committee National Organisation of Labour Students personal capacity)

The vast majority are forced to rely on their parents' generosity, and ability to pay, or to attempt to get part-time work at evenings and weekends. And with mass unemployment where can students get such jobs?

Those lucky enough to get this type of work will be really exploited by their employers. Wages are generally very low and there is little or no trade-union protection. Apart from the lack of money, the hours spent on often very tiring work make studying extremely difficult. Labour students must mount a major campaign to win these students to the labour movement.

All students studying full-time, between the ages of 16 to 18 should receive as a minimum a grant of £20 per week.

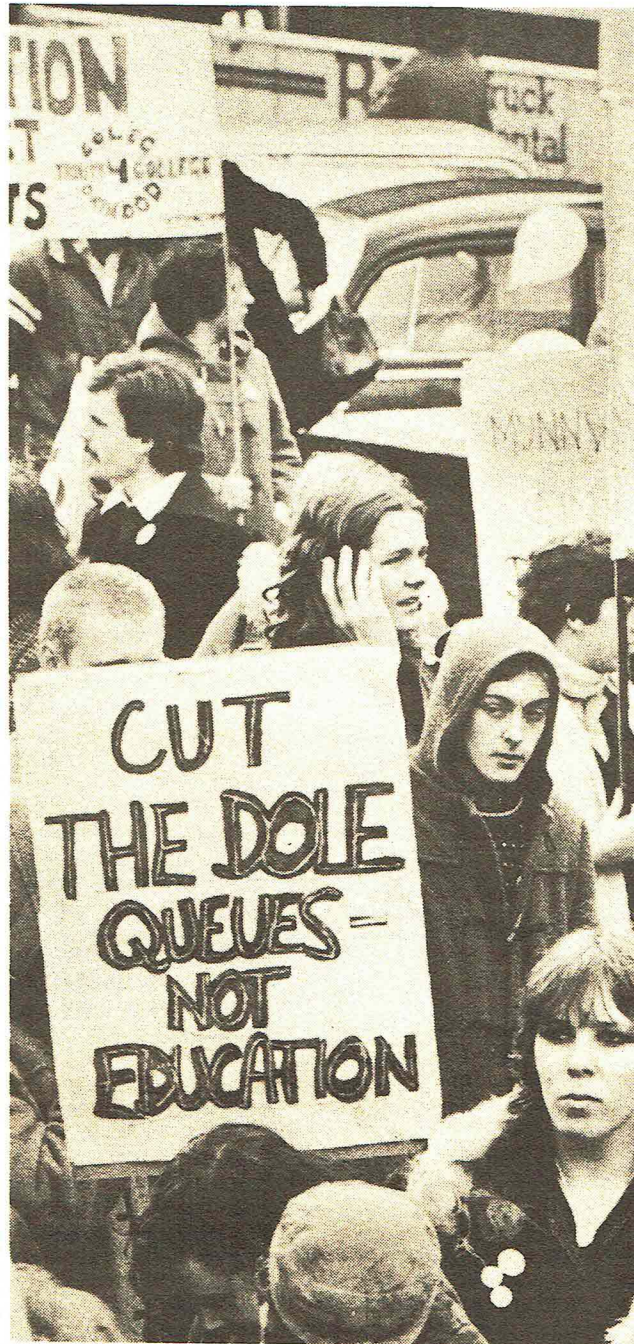
Library facilities are virtually non-existent at many FE colleges and students will be lucky to find the necessary text-books for their courses in the college library. For the vast majority this will mean having to spend £50 or more just for the necessary text books.

For many on specialised courses other necessary equipment has to be bought. This expenditure should be covered on top of a living grant for all students. NOLS must campaign on this issue.

All the problems faced by students, low living standards, lack of good, cheap, accommodation, no guarantee of jobs after finishing college etc. are doubly faced by students in the FE sector.

The problems of part-time students, which are even worse, will be taken up in an article next week. The National Organisation of Labour Students has the responsibility to organise these students and give them a political leadership to fight against the cuts, and for a living grant for all.

We are living in a period of severe capitalist crisis which threatens even more attacks on education. It is crucial that



Students at Further Education colleges face greater problems than ever before.

Photo: Militant

NOLS becomes a mass socialist organisation based predominantly on working class students.

The uniting of the struggles of the working class and of the student movement against

the Tories is essential. The fight for the return of a Labour government committed to the socialist transformation of society offers the only solution to FE students' problems.

TEACHERS — Training for the dole queues

At first sight, the government's instruction to teacher training colleges not to reduce their intake is a welcome respite from the usual round of cuts in services and expanding dole queues.

Not so. The government admit there will be little or no work for them until the late eighties.

This cynical attitude has the 'advantage' for the Tories of creating a more or less permanent pool of unemployed teachers to weaken the bargaining power of the trade unions.

In recent pay negotiations, employers have been at pains to remind us that our case is weakened by the existence of thousands of unemployed teachers.

A decade ago it was claimed that class sizes could not be reduced since the necessary teachers were not available. That excuse no longer holds. Cutting

By Ian Sugarman

(NUT)

public expenditure at a time of falling school rolls has actually worsened class sizes under this government and created registered teacher unemployment of around 10,000.

Addressing the National Union of Teachers' conference in 1978, Shirley Williams, then Secretary of State for Education, announced a contraction of teacher training opportunities as the Labour government's contribution to the so-called problem of "falling rolls."

For teachers, there's little to choose between the Tories' policy of continuing to train teachers for the dole and that of the last Labour government.

They took the "realistic" view. Capitalism means ed-

ucation cuts and since for them, nothing is to be done about capitalism, their role is to cut education provision and the training of teachers too. Both views assume the cutting of education to be outside of its control.

The government justifies its instructions to the colleges by the predicted increase in school population in the late eighties. But, current Tory policy is to reduce teaching staff. Even if sufficient teachers are trained, if they are not employed class sizes will be larger than today's worst.

The NUT has set class size limits of 30 in primary and secondary schools and 27 in reception classes. This policy takes effect from the beginning of this school term.

At present, nearly 2½ million children (about 50% of the age group) are being

taught in classes of over 30 in primary and middle schools. In secondary schools, the figure is over 1 million children (about 25% of the age group). If the NUT is to realise its objective of reducing class

sizes to these levels, its members will have to be prepared to fight—not only through action at local level but also to challenge the whole basis of the cuts, by joining the fight for socialism.

A job for Princess Anne?

Job No. 483-502-16
Job: Groom
District: Workington
Salary: £20 per week
Hours: 40

Details: Person who is not nervous of horses to feed, water, groom and exercise horses. Clean and re-bed stables, Clean saddles and equipment and attend

shows. Caravan and one meal per day if live in. One meal a day if live out.

I got the above from the Workington Job Centre on 22 August. It makes the one in Militant 25 July seem well paid.

By J. McDowell
(Workington)

Victims of 'freedom of choice'

I am starting at Technical College this Autumn. We have been told that although further education students living more than three miles from college or school used to get free bus passes, these were now restricted to school students.

Our generous Tory council has decided that FE students should now only receive a subsidised pass. Students living under three miles must pay the full fare [if the cuts haven't fully destroyed the bus service] or walk to college.

Tory spending cuts have made life for FE students more and more difficult. With rising unemployment more people want to stay at school or go to college to get qualifications, or just to postpone going on the dole.

It has never been easy to get a grant for further education; but now it is virtually impossible. One girl in my borough was denied a grant even though she had been thrown out at home.

Even if you do get a grant, it is usually negligible, and students whose parents can't afford to support them often have to take whatever jobs are going—badly paid Saturday or holiday jobs—to earn some extra money.

FE students not only have to pay for their own text books, usually £50 or more, but of course for pens, paper etc. and at my college an £8.50 fee for registration, and compulsory "activities". Luckily I live in the borough where my college is.

With costs like these, many working class school students just cannot afford to stay at school or go to college. They have the choice of a dead end job, if they are lucky, or the dole queue.

This is what we get from so-called "freedom of choice in education". For the Tories of course, it means the freedom to send their children to elite public schools with small classes.

The LPYS and NOLS must fight on behalf of FE students, in particular on the following:—

- ★ £20 per week minimum grant for all 16 to 18 year olds in full-time education.
- ★ Free transport for all students.
- ★ Free provision of books, paper and other essential materials, so that further education is a right and no longer a privilege.
- ★ A guaranteed job for every school and college leaver.

By

Sarah Wright

(Southgate Labour Party)

THE STATE

One of the major issues which divides Marxism from reformism within the labour movement is that of the state.

In the last analysis, as Marx, Engels and Lenin pointed out, the state consists of armed bodies of men and their material appendages, i.e. prisons, etc.

By Peter Taaffe

It was Lenin who pointed out that "it is impossible to compel the greater part of society to work systematically for the other part of society without a permanent apparatus of coercion."

But does this apply to the modern 'democratic' state? 'No', say the capitalist professors. They maintain that the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky are a little "old fashioned". And the theoreticians of the so-called 'Communist' Party are at one with this conclusion.

After all, we have universal suffrage (the right to vote) and democratic rights in Britain. How then is it possible to talk of the modern state in Britain, America, etc. being a machine for the domination of one class by another?

And yet an examination of the state in Britain today will show that it is firmly under the control of the capitalist class. All the key positions in the civil service, the police, and particularly the army are in the hands of people who have been specially selected by education, outlook, and conditions of life loyally to serve the capitalists.

This is particularly the case with the summits of the army. Trotsky once described the officer caste in a capitalist army as "the guard of capital...the selection of the individuals, their education and training makes the officers as a distinctive group uncompromising enemies of socialism. Isolated exceptions change nothing."

The social composition of the officer corps in Britain completely bears out Trotsky's statement.

In the early 1960s it was estimated that nearly 50% of the intake of the officer corps came from the existing officer class, nearly half came from public schools and nearly 77% came from the "AB" socio-economic group, that is the "top 12%" in society.

Since then there has been a widening of the intake into the officer corps, but the majority of the officers still come from the 'elite' of society. Even the small number of officers from the middle class and working class absorb the outlook and class attitude of the officer class as a whole. It could not be otherwise given the rigid hierarchical structure of the

army. Indeed, the army expresses in a sharper form the class division within society as a whole.

The pro-business and anti-working class outlook of the officers is reinforced, moreover, by the inter-penetration of the tops of the army with big business. In the period of 1971-76, for instance, 97 serving officers and 86 defence ministry civil servants joined firms which had contracts to supply arms to the ministry of defence.

This same officer class, together with the ruling class as a whole, at the same time stubbornly resists all attempts to give greater democratic rights to the ordinary 'squaddie' in the British army.

A similar picture emerges if we examine the judiciary. The judges are one of the most conservative bulwarks of the system. As one commentator put it, "they are men advanced in life. they are for the most part men of a conservative disposition."

The monopolies have more and more fused with the state machine in the post-war period. This is perhaps shown most vividly in the movement between the tops of the civil service and the boardrooms of the monopolies.

A game of musical chairs takes place between the civil service chiefs and the directors of the monopolies. A most blatant example was the appointment of the late Lord Armstrong who moved from chief adviser to the Heath government—he was openly referred to as "Deputy Prime Minister"—to Chairman of the Midland Bank. Mr John Lippert, who was involved in various export activities as a civil servant in helping GEC and other companies to win power stations contracts abroad, also recently left the civil service to join the boardroom of GEC!

These few facts alone are sufficient to completely shatter the image of the impartiality of the state in Britain. It is a vehicle for maintaining and defending the dominant interests of the capitalists.

This has been demonstrated again and again in the experiences of Labour governments with the civil service

and with the chiefs of nationalised industries. Labour ministers have complained—unfortunately only when they have left office—of the obstacles placed in their path by the topmost civil servants.

Reflecting in the 'Sunday Times' (10 June, 1973) on her experiences with civil servants as Transport minister in the 1964-70 Labour government, Barbara Castle wrote:

"I have no doubt that the civil service is a state within a state...how effectively the civil servants impeded us by saying we could not do some of the things our successors are now doing with remarkable facility...It took several months to get my civil servants even to mouth the words "integrated transport policy"."

Barbara Castle gives a glimpse of how Labour ministers can become puppets of the civil service who "control every single ten minutes of a minister's day and night... ministers can't even choose who drafts their replies to letters."

Their political bias is shown by the comments of one top civil servant to Barbara Castle: "Well I must admit, minister, it is true that we do tend naturally to have more contact and, therefore, more affinity with the employers' associations. It's not that we wouldn't like to have contact with the trade unions. But we just don't know how to set about it."

Sometimes the opposition of civil servants borders on outright sabotage. Thus Brian Sedgmore, in his recent book, points out that when Tony Benn was Minister of Energy during a strike at Windscale, his civil servants informed him that unless troops were used to move nitrogen across a picket line a "critical nuclear explosion would take place." Sedgmore diplomatically comments that these warnings were "unfounded".

The Civil Contingencies Unit at the Cabinet Office had prepared a plan "to

break the strike with troops, thus leaving Tony Benn as a sort of latter-day Churchill" ('The Times, 29 May 1980).

If the Civil Servants are prepared to undermine the measures of right-wing Labour governments, imagine the lengths to which they would be prepared to go to frustrate and sabotage the attempts of a left Labour government!

Is not the lesson for the labour movement that it is impossible to use the present civil service, army and police tops to carry through the socialist transformation of society as envisaged in Clause IV of the Labour Party's constitution? Won't these same forces actively sabotage such attempts of the labour movement to change society?

Lessons of Chile

From a long-term point of view, the untrammelled development of the state in Britain poses enormous dangers for the working class. The lessons of Chile, written in the blood of more than 50,000 martyred workers, is a warning to the labour movement here.

It was no accident that a precondition for allowing the Allende government to come to power in Chile was his acceptance of an agreement with the capitalist parties preventing the setting up of "private militias or the appointment of military officers not educated at technical academics." This effectively forbade any "interference" with the training of the officer caste, the running of the military academies, or the organisation by the Popular Unity government of a workers' militia to defend itself and the gains of the workers against counter-revolution.

In the turbulent period which is opening up, the strategists of capital clearly do not rule out the possibility of developments in Britain along the lines of Chile.

The ending of the long

economic upswing and the beginning of the era of economic instability, with short booms and deeper slumps, has brought in its wake a period of social and economic upheaval. The capitalists have been forced—particularly in Britain—to abandon the methods of the last 30 years and to go over to the offensive against the working class. They have also been forced to consider the possible use in the future of the same brutal methods as in the past—i.e. the police and army—to curb the movement of the working class.

This is shown, on the one side, by the big wage increases to the police and army granted by Thatcher. On the other side, is the fact that in this year alone more than 500 workers have been arrested on the picket line. The use of the Special Patrol Group in industrial disputes, and even the use of the army as in the case of the firemen's strike two years ago, has brought into question all the cherished myths in relation to the state.

This is reinforced by the use of the SAS in Ireland and Britain and the widespread use of snooping and telephone tapping by the secret service. This is undoubtedly in preparation for future social conflicts in Britain.

Further evidence is found in the writings of Brigadier Kitson, in which he advises the army to base its strategy, not on the assumption of a war with Russia, but on so-called "internal subversion." This is a euphemism for civil war against the labour movement.

Added to this are the recently leaked details of the suggestion of the Tory government to organise a scab army of "volunteers" in preparation for the possible conflicts in the winter.

How can the labour movement counter these preparations of the ruling class?

An attempt was made under the last Labour government to undermine the reactionary influence of civil



"Measures to make labour movement of such measure capitalists will 'gradually' taken"

In a later article, Peter T dictatorship and the state

servants by placing "advisers" sympathetic to the labour movement in the civil service machine. With foaming at the mouth, this very mild measure was denounced as an attempt to install "commissars" alongside loyal "apolitical" civil servants.

The Transport and General Workers Union, other unions, and some Labour MPs, moreover, attempted to persuade the last Labour government to give rank and file soldiers the right to join trade unions. This was also denounced as an attempt at "political" interference in the



Labour minister Barbara Castle facing the civil service mandarins in 1968, the Permanent Secretary and Deputy at the Department of Employment: afterwards she revealed how they managed ministers and determined policy.



the state more accountable to the must be stepped up. But the limits must also be understood...The never permit their state to be way from them.

affe will deal with the question of Bonapartist

armed forces. To their shame, right-wing defence ministers such as Roy Mason bowed to the pressure of the generals and of the press, and refused the elementary and democratic right for soldiers to join trade unions.

Splits in the Army

However, even if trade union rights were granted, would this be sufficient to counter the dangers from the state to the labour movement? The army cannot be used arbitrarily against the labour movement and the working class. Splits and divisions within society are mirrored, in however a distorted form, within the army itself, even in a purely volunteer army. Any attempt to use the army against the labour movement anywhere in Western Europe at this stage would be fraught with enormous dangers for the ruling class.

In France and Italy, the army is largely composed of conscripts. An attempt to use the army against the working class, as in a situation similar to 1968, would result in a complete split along class lines. In Italy, the attempts at serious coups over the last ten years, had they come to fruition, would have met with the overwhelming opposition of the conscript rank and file.

However, the leaders of the Communist Parties in France, Italy and Spain, in their

approach to the army, play right into the hands of the ruling class. They almost conspire with the officer class and to systematically seal off the young workers once they enter the barracks.

Thus the Communist Party in Italy "rejects the idea of a 'soldiers' trade union' as being neither appropriate today or compatible with the specific and peculiar requirements of discipline." And yet in other European countries the Communist Parties have either supported the existing organisation of soldiers into trade unions or have inscribed such a demand on their banner.

In Holland, for instance, there is a mass organisation for conscript soldiers with about 30,000 members which has been recognised to an extent by the military authorities there is even a left-wing soldiers' organisation.

In West Germany, where there is a half-conscript and half-professional army, there is also an organisation for professional soldiers of about 100,000 members. There is also a trade union for professional soldiers—which includes those working in "intelligence"—linked to the German TUC (DGB). In Sweden, there is a similar organisation for rank-and-file soldiers and even a "soldiers' parliament."

The slavish worshipping of the capitalist state by the Italian Communist Party leaders leads them to oppose

"the setting up of 'party organisations' within the barracks."

Such an attitude is calculated to separate the ranks of the Italian army from the rest of the labour movement. This goes hand-in-hand with demands, like those of the Spanish CP, for "modern weapons" to be supplied to the military brass. Such an attitude could result in disaster for the working class of Italy at a later stage if it remains unchallenged by the rank and file of the Communist Party.

There is no reason at all why soldiers should not enjoy all the democratic rights which ordinary workers in Britain possess: the right to strike, to support political parties of their choice, and to read newspapers, books and magazines of a socialist and Marxist character. The officer class is not denied the right to choose. In an overwhelming majority, they support the existing system and the parties which defend that system.

In Britain, the labour movement must campaign now for the democratic right of soldiers to belong to the trade unions. From a long term point of view, it is also necessary to take the present system of training officers—with the reactionary poison against the labour movement which is instilled into recruits—out of the hands of the specialised military academies and the generals, and put it under the democratic control of the labour movement and the working people as a whole.

In the civil service, too, there must be steps taken to democratise at all levels and to involve working people. This is particularly true in the organisation and management of the nationalised industries.

"Militant" demands that the boards of the nationalised industries be composed of one

third from the unions in the industry, one third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole, and one third from the government.

Similar demands, taking into account the concrete situation and differences in each field, have been put forward for the civil service and local government.

However, it would be fatal to pretend, as the Communist Party leaders and the reformist Left of the Labour Party do, that "the democratisation of the state" will be sufficient in itself to guarantee the British working class and a Labour government against the fate which befell their Chilean brothers and sisters.

Piecemeal measures will neither satisfy the working class nor the middle class, but will inflame the opposition of the capitalists—and, moreover, give them the time and opportunity to strike a decisive blow against the labour movement. This would above all be the case when attempts are made to "democratise" their state. The capitalists would take this as a signal—particularly if the army is touched—to prepare to crush the labour movement.

Does this then mean that the state must remain untouched by the labour movement, as the right-wing of the Labour Party maintain? On the contrary, measures to make the state more accountable to the labour movement must be stepped up. But the limits of such measures must also be understood by the labour movement. The capitalists will never permit their state to be "gradually" taken away from them.

Experience has shown that only a decisive change in

society can eliminate the danger of reaction and allow the "democratisation of the state machine" to be carried through to a conclusion with the establishment of a new state controlled and managed

by working people.

If the next Labour government introduced an Enabling

Bill into Parliament to nationalise the 200 monopolies, banks and insurance companies which control 80% to 85% of the economy, a decisive blow would be struck against the 196 directors of these firms who are the real government of Britain. By the economic power they wield, they dictate the course to be followed by both Tory and Labour governments. They would be compensated for the nationalisation of their assets on the basis of "proven need."

Such a step, backed up by the power of the labour movement outside parliament would allow the introduction of a socialist and democratic plan of production to be worked out and implemented by committees of trade unions, the shop stewards, housewives and small businessmen.

With the new technology that is on hand, particularly computers, micro-processors, etc., it would be possible both to cut the working day and enormously simplify the tasks of the working class in the supervision and control of the state.

The management of the state machine is at present the closely guarded preserve of the so-called "experts". But with the cutting of the working day, the working class would be given the necessary time to organise and manage the factories, offices and the state.

It is true that they would not be able to dispense with the help of the experts. But once it became clear that almost limitless possibilities would be opened on the basis of a planned economy, there would be no shortage of suitable administrators, managers, and technicians etc. coming forward to put their talents at the disposal of

society.

The capitalists would not be able to put up a serious resistance to these measures. Those forces which they relied on in the past—as in the 1926 General Strike when civil servants, students and teachers were used to scab—now look towards the labour movement. The bulk of the civil servants are now composed of low-paid workers who would paralyse any attempt of the capitalists to use them against the working class as a whole.

The same applies to the army, which in any case does not have the technical capacity—as the reactionary Ulster Workers' Strike in 1974 demonstrated—to replace striking workers.

Therefore a peaceful socialist transformation of society would be entirely possible if such bold steps were to be taken by a Labour government.

However, it is equally certain that the road chosen by the leaders of the labour movement—of prevarication and half-measures—will mean enormous suffering for the British working class.

Despite the "democratic" mask which the British capitalists have been forced to don over the last twenty years, if their system is threatened, they will not hesitate to resort to what Trotsky called that "cold cruelty" which they displayed in the past, both in their dealings with colonial peoples and towards the British working class.

Such a terrible danger is undoubtedly posed before the labour movement in the next ten or fifteen years on the basis of a continuation of capitalism. It can only be avoided by the labour movement arming itself with a Marxist programme. A vital component of such a programme will be a clear understanding of the role of the state.

WHICH WAY FOR POLAND?

Amidst scenes of wild rejoicing, the Polish workers seem, amongst other demands, to have extracted the promise of "new self-governing trade unions" from the Polish regime.

The agreement between the strikers and the government reads: "The new self-governing trade unions will be genuine representatives of the working class. They will defend the social and material interests of working people. They will strive to give working people appropriate means of control, to express their opinions and defend their interests."

On paper at least, this represents a massive climb-down by the Polish bureaucratic elite. Even a week ago, while threatening the Polish workers with the possibility of Russian military intervention, the organs of the regime at the same time expressed implacable opposition to any idea of trade unions independent of the bureaucratic Stalinist state.

As we pointed out last week, the establishment of independent organs of the Polish working class would strike at the very foundations of the regime of the Polish bureaucracy. Why then have they apparently conceded on this fundamental issue?

The apparent somersault of the Polish bureaucracy is to be explained by the rapidly spreading strikes and factory occupations. Despite the appeals of the government, the church dignitaries, and even some of the strike leaders, the movement grew in intensity right up to the last moment. A general strike and Soviets threatened to spread to the whole of Poland.

In Wrocław car and truck factories and even the opera house flew banners which proclaimed, "We back the Baltic coast." Even in Silesia, supposedly Gierek's "power base", miners and other workers were coming out on strike, emulating the Baltic workers by organising integrated strike committees—that is, Soviets.

In the big car factories of the South, workers came out in solidarity. More than half a million Polish workers were out on strike. They had followed the Gdansk workers in organising Soviets.

Even the cynics and sceptics who write for the capitalist press have been forced to comment on the magnificent movement of the Polish workers. The 'Observer' (31 August), for instance, speaks of "the great Gdansk Soviet."

As with all revolutions, the working class has learnt very rapidly in the heat of events. All the demands of the Gdansk workers represented a groping in the direction of a complete alternative to the rule of the bureaucratic elite.

They demanded the ending of the privileged shops for the army and the police, and the

Editorial

governing elite; the ending of censorship; the release of all political prisoners; and twenty-one other demands. These demands represented a yearning for a new state, a democratic workers' state.

Lech Walesa, the strike leader, in his speech which brought the strike to an end, pointed out: "The people had been exasperated not only by continuing shortages and chronic mismanagement but by the growing privileges of the party bureaucracy." ('The Times', 1 September)

Moreover, as the capitalists themselves have been forced to comment, there was not a whisper of any suggestion of returning to capitalism. The Gdansk strikers have accepted the nationalised, planned economy in the statement they agreed with the regime.

If the Gdansk and Szececin strikes had been spread through the whole of Poland and Soviets organised on a national scale; if the election of all officials and the right of recall had been implemented; and if the workers had been armed; and other demands for the organisation of a democratic workers' state had been carried through, then this would have been the end of the Polish bureaucracy.

Such was the support of the Gdansk workers that a movement along these lines would have left the bureaucracy suspended in mid-air. Once having organised a Polish democratic workers' state, an appeal to the Russian working class and the working classes of Eastern Europe would have meant the end of the bureaucracy, not just in Poland, but throughout the whole of Eastern Europe and Russia itself.

The 'Sunday Times' reporter commented: "Probably the most significant change was that the workers themselves were daily becoming more politically conscious." The reports which they had received from the workers in the capitalist countries had made them more and more conscious of the international movement of the working class. When delegations from the socialist trade unions in France (CFDT) visited Gdansk with financial donations, they were greeted rapturously by the workers.

If this movement had been left to develop, then inevitably the working class would have seen the need for an alternative government based on workers' democracy to replace the discredited Stalinist regime of Gierek. They would have seen the need to spread the movement throughout the whole of Eastern Europe and Russia as a precondition for the Polish movement to be successful.

Only the absence of a conscious Marxist tendency in

Poland prevented such a development.

However, it is clear that they were dissuaded from following this course by the dissidents and the group of ten Catholic intellectuals who were advising them.

The last two weeks have illuminated very clearly, certainly as far as the most advanced Polish workers are concerned, the social role of the Catholic church in Poland. As in the capitalist West, the church dignitaries, the hierarchy, are a bulwark of the powers that be.

Apart from the historical roots of Christianity in Poland, one of the factors in the mass support for the church was that it was the only organisation allowed to function under the Stalinist regime. It therefore provided a vehicle for the Polish workers in the struggle against the Stalinist bureaucracy. However, if the movement had developed, the Polish workers would soon have divested themselves of any illusions left in the role of the church hierarchy.

In the 1905 Russian revolution the workers marched with Father Gapon at their head at the outset. But very rapidly the influence of religion evaporated, and Marxism became the weapon of the masses in the struggle against the autocracy.

So too in the last three weeks, Polish workers have been given a glimpse of the role of the tops of the church.

Thus, the Bishop of Gdansk stressed "that prolonged work stoppages and possible disturbances or the shedding of brotherly blood are contrary to the good of society." He appealed to the strikers "to act in their wise and prudent manner." This was followed by the televised appeal of Cardinal Wyszyński, who in very diplomatic language appealed to the workers to seek an accommodation with the bureaucracy. This prompted a member of the Gdansk strike committee to say ('Guardian', 28 August): "We did not expect him to go so far in helping out the government—we are disappointed."

Taking fright at the direction which the movement was taking, the bureaucracy concluded that it was necessary to agree verbally, and on paper, to the demands of the Gdansk and Szececin strikers. They could the more easily accept this given the fact that the strikers have accepted that "the Communist Party is the leading force in Poland and have not questioned the existing international alliances."

This concession flies in the face of the original position of the workers, that no member of the Communist Party should be allowed to sit on the strike committee—a demand which expressed the opposition of the working class, not to communism or socialism but to the caricature of these concepts represented by the Polish CP. The Polish "Communist Party" is not a genuine Communist party, a workers' organisation, but is in effect the organisation of



The Gdansk Soviet was a direct threat to the power of the Polish bureaucracy

the bureaucratic elite that governs Poland.

Therefore, the fact that the workers have accepted this demand and curtailed the strike is probably due to the advice they have received from the dissidents and the Catholic intellectuals. There was big opposition on the strike committee to making this concession. Walesa had to appeal over the heads of the leading strike body to the broader committee of 1,000 delegates in order for this retreat to be accepted.

Some of the dissident intellectuals in effect represent a reformist wing linked to the bureaucracy itself. They imagine that it is possible to retain the system intact and graft onto it "reforms" such as independent trade unions.

Events will demonstrate that this is impossible. Even before the ink was dry on the agreement between the workers and the government, many workers openly expressed the scepticism as to whether their independent trade unions will be allowed to function.

One Pole told a 'Sunday Times' reporter: "I don't see how a union can exist side by side with our present Communist Party." Another stated: "I'm not sure how long the unions will last."

It is clear that having been forced in words to accept the idea of independent unions, the bureaucracy will move heaven and earth to make sure that they are still-born.

If the advisers of the workers are unclear on this question, the bureaucracy is quite conscious of the potential role of the independent trade unions.

Just a few days before the agreement was signed the newspaper of the bureaucracy, 'Trybuna Ludu', stated that if unions were allowed to exist, "an entirely new structure, which under one name or another would be a de facto political movement absorbing and proclaiming conceptions contradicting the socialist system and order," would develop. What they mean by the "socialist system" is the untrammelled rule of the bureaucracy.

The strike leaders have demanded that independent

trade unions should be allowed to talk "about the national budget, prices and wages." But once a nationwide trade union organisation began to investigate these matters and the causes of the massive corruption of which every Pole is conscious, the social role of the bureaucracy and the need to remove it would become clear. Very quickly these trade unions would develop an alternative political party to that of the bureaucracy itself.

Therefore, the bureaucracy is playing for time. The agreement concedes the right of independent unions in the Baltic region but not in other parts of Poland. The bureaucracy hopes to limit any concessions to just this area and isolate the Baltic workers from the rest of the country.

The bureaucrats hope that once the movement has ebbed, even if weak trade unions are established, they would be gradually emasculated as were the Soviets in 1956 and the workers' councils in 1970. They will also attempt to victimise some workers while others they hope will be bought off with jobs. The levers of state power remain in the hands of the bureaucracy.

The intentions of the bureaucracy are clearly indicated by the intensified measures against the dissidents during the strike. Their arrest was a warning to the Polish working class. They have been forced by the pressure of the workers to promise the release of the dissidents. But once the situation has stabilised they will try to use similar methods against the workers' leaders.

However, after a measurable period of time, further upheavals are inevitable in Poland. In the short term, the bureaucracy will combine concessions with repression.

They will be supported in this, not just by the Russian bureaucracy, but by the capitalists in the West. Both are mortally terrified of the prospect of the magnificent movement of the Polish workers resulting in a political revolution and the establishment of workers' democracy.

Such a development would mean the overthrow of capit-

alism in the West and of the Stalinist bureaucracies in the East. The strategists of capital are quite conscious of such a danger.

Hence the increased loans to Poland in the last week. West German banks have increased their loans to the Polish government in a deal which amounts to £280 million being granted within the next two or three weeks. Poland has asked the United States government for an extra \$220 million credit in the next year to help finance food purchase from the US.

These new loans are on top of the \$20 billion which Poland has already borrowed from the West. This has resulted in a debt servicing on its loans which amounts to a staggering 68% of projected exports.

The 'Financial Times' (29 August) gives the reasons why the capitalists have resorted to these exceptional measures: "It can thus be argued that Poland has come in to some preferential treatment from international banks. To some extent the reason is political." The capitalists hope to shore up Poland against the threat of political revolution. However, all that this will achieve is to store up the problems—which will result in even greater explosions at a later stage.

Within a measurable period of time, perhaps a year or two, new outbursts of the Polish working class are inevitable. Polish workers have learnt enormous lessons from the last three weeks. They have learnt to rely on their own forces.

In contrast to 1970, they have not looked to a new "liberal" fairy godmother like Gierek, from within the bureaucracy to solve their problems. The next outburst could mark the beginning of the end of the Stalinist regime, not just in that country but throughout the whole of Eastern Europe.

CHILE - THE HIGH COST OF MONETARISM

The Tory government's decision to allow arms sales to the Chilean junta has been condemned by the Labour Party and the TUC.

But it is vital that the campaign against the junta also gives assistance to Chilean workers and socialists in their struggle to overthrow the hated military regime.

This regime has brought nothing but misery and oppression for the Chilean working class. Past articles in 'Militant' have dealt with state repression. This, the first of a two-part article, shows what economic and social conditions are like for Chilean people today.

The Tories in Britain around Thatcher and her economic axeman Joseph are continually stressing the long term advantages of "monetarism". But a glance at Chile, where a "monetarist" experi-

ment started with the military coup of September 11th 1973 shows the end result for the working class.

Between 1975 and 1977 real social spending by the government fell by 25%, according to the 'Economist'. The poorest 20% of the population's share of total spending has fallen from 7.7% in 1969 to 5.2% in 1979, while the richest 2% increased their share from 43% to 51% of the total.

Protein consumption fell by 18% in the same period. In October 1978 the Chilean paper 'Hoy' reported that 10% of the population was being fed by foreign charities.

The incidence of typhoid has tripled over the period 1973-77 to a staggering 100 cases per 1,000 of the population! This is due to cuts in the health service and

By Ed Bober

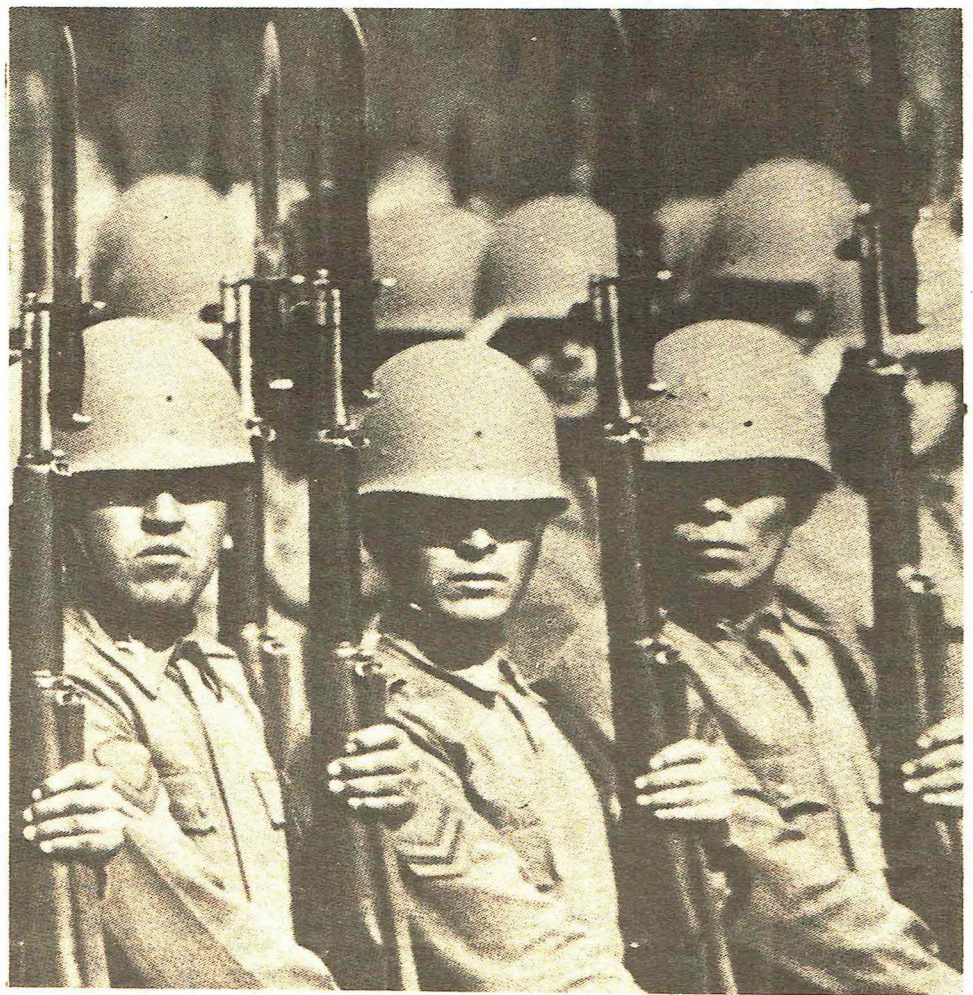
(Hendon South Labour Party)

lower levels of nutrition. In 1978 real wages were 10% below the level of 1970 before the Popular Unity government came to office.

The number of children completing primary education fell by 40,000 between 1973 and 1978. In 1966 73% of all Chilean children were being educated; by 1973 the number had risen to 93%. Now it is below 70%. The government has also halved the number of school meals it pays for.

Over the years 1965-1973 public sector housing starts averaged 28,000 annually; by 1974-8 they had dropped to 9,000 annually. During the same period private sector starts fell from 17,000 to 14,000. Official statistics show Chile to be short of 600,000 homes, though the real figure is probably much higher.

60,000 new homes are needed every year just to meet the demands of the expanding



Imposed by bayonets to crush the labour movement, the seven years of monetarism have proved a disaster for Chilean working people.

population. On the basis of the junta's policies there is no hope for the thousands crowded into the slums and the jerry-built huts in Santiago's mushrooming shanty towns.

After six years of military rule only 19 of the 464 companies owned by Corfo, the state development corporation which took over large sections of industry between 1970 and 1973, were still nationalised. Colonel Ramos, Corfo's present director, explained that "Our role is not to compete with private industry but to do what private industry cannot do itself."

There you have a blatant

admission from even one of the fiercest enemies of state ownership of the incapacity of private enterprise to develop the economy. It also lays bare the attitude of capitalists towards the state sector, that is should only exist to help prop up and act as a crutch for the private sector.

Unemployment in Chile is now officially running at 12.5%, three times the figures during the Popular Unity government, although the real number is probably much worse. In addition to those officially out of work another 170,000 workers (5.1% of the labour force) are forced to work in the government

minimum work programme for a wage of about \$40 a month doing jobs like street cleaning and garbage collection which previously were done by council workers until they were fired.

With these appalling social conditions and the limited revival of the labour movement it is no wonder that many Chilean politicians are extremely worried about the future.

(part two on the splits within the capitalist class later)

Support South African workers

The same British employers who, aided and abetted by the Tory government, are slashing jobs in this country by hundreds of thousands are reaping huge profits from black workers in South Africa.

This is the conclusion drawn in a pamphlet just published by the South African Labour Education Project, entitled 'Profiteering from cheap labour: wages paid by British companies in South Africa'.

At a time when international solidarity with South African workers is crucial, this pamphlet gives invaluable material for all trade union and labour movement activists. For the first time it lists the information given by 202 British companies on wages, hours worked, size of workforce, and industrial relations.

This is a pamphlet written by activists in the labour movement, not another academic treatise. So it lists not only the companies, but also the addresses of South African and British trade unions, so that trade unionists who want to, can try to establish contact with their fellow workers.

In the last few months

By Jim Chrystie

black workers throughout South Africa have struck for decent wages. The capitalist class internationally have seen this as a direct challenge to the continuation of their system in South Africa.

The 'Financial Times' commented, 11 August, "As the black workers become more organised and more militant, the political overtones of strikes are likely to grow. 'The government has a constant anxiety that the labour movement will be politicised,' one Western diplomat in South Africa said.

The capitalists recognise that the struggle for decent wages and living standards by black workers is bound up with the struggle for national liberation. And an aroused, militant, organised working class is far more difficult to finally defeat than isolated rural guerilla activity. No wonder that the 'Financial Times' comment on the ending of the municipal workers' strike said "it gave the impression that they were crushing an enemy rather than resolving a labour dispute."

The last Labour government stated it would overcome exploitation by British firms in South Africa by "self-regulation nurtured by publicity." This proved totally ineffective.

As the SALEP report shows, there are still British subsidiaries, such as the Western Plats mine, paying only £7 a week.

SALEP argues that rather than trust in academic 'poverty lines', the international labour movement must act in solidarity around the demands made by black workers in South Africa, based on those workers' own calculations of their needs.

This pamphlet, both in its material on British firms and its introductory survey of the South African labour movement, will prove invaluable for all workers. SALEP itself was set up earlier this year to assist the work of political and trade union education in the workers' movement in South Africa. It is not trying to replace existing organisations, but is ready to assist all those carrying forward the workers' struggle inside the country.

'Profiteering for cheap labour' 50p each [plus 20% P&P] and more information on SALEP can be obtained from SALEP, 6 Westgate Street, London E8. Tel. 01-985-9820.

CARTER TAKES US INTO DEEPER RECESSION

In the early part of this year, US economists were still debating whether we were sliding into a recession.

In the 'Wall Street Journal' of April 21st, Courtenay Slater, chief economist of the US Department of Commerce, acknowledged that "current data (of March) would suggest that the recession started in February or March."

Now the discussion centres on how severely the recession will develop, despite the optimistic projections of the Carter Administration, inspired by the elections.

Alan Greenspan, economist and former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers under former President Ford says: "The economy is sinking very fast...It is clear that President Carter's impression that the recession will be short and mild is just not right."

Irvin L Kellner, chief economist for the manufacturers' Hanover Trust says: "Whatever it is it's here...It looks like it's going to be a rough one worse than the Administration or the man in the street expects." ('New York Times', May 3rd).

There have been six recessions since World War II: November 1948—October 1949; July 1953—May 1954; August 1957—April 1958; April 1960—February 1961; December 1969—November

By Betty Traun

1970; November 1973—March 1975.

The worst of the lot was the last one of 1973-75, and it is this one that is being used now for comparison with our present situation, because of new ominous signs in the economy.

When that last recession began, consumer prices were rising at an annual rate of 10.2%.

The present recession begins with an inflation rate of close to 20%, with little if any relief in sight. Carter's policies, far from tackling the inflation problem, merely help to accelerate the economic decline.

The 1973 recession began with an unemployment rate of 4.8%. The jobless rate this last April rose sharply to 7% from 6.2% in March. It is rising.

The layoffs in the hard hit auto industry are not due merely to an excess inventory of cars on a planned reduction of production. An extreme crisis exists in this key industry where sales have dropped 42% to the lowest rate in 22 years.

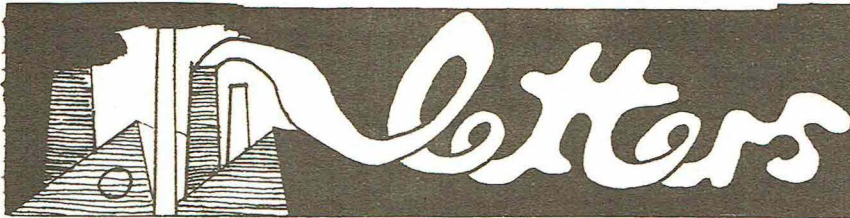
Apart from a changing car market, the oil energy crisis, new technology, the problem

of Japanese imports etc, permanent plant closures and structural problems forecast massive indefinite unemployment in the auto industry. The ripple effects are already being felt in steel, rubber and feeder industries.

The construction industry is more nationwide in work distribution and has been hit critically by the drop in housing starts. According to the National Association of Home Builders, some 832,000 construction workers, or 16% of the industry's labor force are unemployed, and this is only the beginning of the new recession.

In April, the rate of inflation declined to nine-tenths of 1%, as against an annual rate of 18% in the first quarter of the year. This was immediately hailed by the Carter Administration as a vindication of the 'anti-inflation' policy through a deliberate recession policy. The drop in consumer purchasing power due to the ravaging effects of a deepening recession, the diminution of savings, the reduction and loss of wages, unemployment, brought it about.

Recently, the Federal Reserve Board cut back its short level credit controls and this is a dramatic confirmation of fears that the recession now developing may be far more severe than projected by the Administration.



Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

A pain in the pocket

Dear Comrades

If like me, you are finding the Tory policies a pain in the head, think twice before you go to the doctor for something to alleviate it.

Prescriptions are going up from 70p to £1 per item from December, and it now seems that it is cheaper to get some medicines direct from the chemist rather than with an NHS prescription. If, for example, you needed something to clear a blocked nose—a nasal decongestant as it's called—rather than paying £1 you could get it for 30p in the chemists. Anti-rheumatic tablets can be bought for 39p.

We have the insane situation whereby the NHS is paying out vast amounts to the drug companies and keeping up their profits; the sick and poor are being bled twice over. To make it even more absurd, the pharmacist who makes up the prescription gets a fee and in some cases this can be as much as the cost of the drug itself.

Not only do they make you sick and make you pay for being sick, they make you pay three times over!

Yours fraternally
David Churchley
Cathcart Labour Party

Classroom politics

Dear Comrade

In reaction to the letter 'Political Education' ('Militant' 515) I would like to say to the Brighton parent how admirable it is to hear that his/her child is so political at the age of seven. I couldn't agree more about how important it is to start early with the political education of children.

However, I find it hard to believe that the same parent makes reference to the teacher as "an excellent one". Personally I don't believe a teacher can be excellent if she does not utilise an ideal situation for discussion with the children.

Education cannot be seen in a vacuum but must exist within the society we live in. If the children raise issues of a political nature, surely it is the responsibility of a teacher to encourage them to expand upon their ideas.

We cannot ignore political figures of Margaret Thatcher and her Tory government and their effect upon our society because we are in a classroom. Ironically enough the classroom is the very place to learn about our society and the people who affect us.

I understand that the teacher may be a little hesitant to raise certain issues herself but to dismiss the educational opportunity of familiarising children with political leaders and political parties that exist can hardly be classed as excellent, in my book.

Yours fraternally
An unemployed teacher
from Liverpool



Council housing—longer waiting lists under the Tories

How long will the queues be?

Dear Comrades

I wasn't shocked when I read of the Tories' latest error, in their decision to sell off council houses. Indeed nothing the Tories do could shock me any more.

All I can do is to ask any Labour district councillor to say "No! We will defy the Tory law." For the Tory law has no page in our book.

The selling of council property will not only lengthen the already too-large

waiting list which every district councillor has got on his desk, but it will also mean that the people on those lists will be waiting for a house which will obviously be in the growing "slums" of Britain, caused by the Tory cuts.

Nobody is going to want to buy a house in these areas. No, it will only be the newer houses, recently built, and the ones in the better maintained areas.

The council cannot afford to maintain the houses and the older ones in the worse areas will be the ones left

assistant notes my gasp of disgust and smiles. No words are said. None are needed.

So from the other 1.9 million of us on state hand-outs, sincere condolences. Fancy that: 80 years...80 years!...on the state. Not a day's work has that woman done in 80 years!

Yet to look at her, she never once wept when her husband came home without a job. She never once cried to see her kids in rags. She never once resorted to

after the sales have gone through—the ones which the people of Britain will have to queue for, and the ones their children and their children's children will also have to queue for if we left it all to the Tories.

We must fight the Tories. We must do what we know is right and say no to the sale of council houses.

Fraternally
Lesley Wass
Bolsover Labour Party
[& council house tenant]

jumble sales or second-hand shops for her dresses and shoes.

Living off the rest of us hasn't done her any harm has it? Unemployment seems to suit her nicely. Didn't she do well?

Fraternally
Deb Grace
Sparkbrook LPYS

Never a tear in 80 years

Dear Comrades

What with all my job applications, I needed ten 12p stamps. "That'll be £1.20p" says the counter clerk in the post office. I feel faint, and cough up the lucre.

The young lady passes over ten little sticky-backed piccies of the Queen's mum. I feel sick. The young

Tory history

Comrade

I began taking an interest in politics the day I discovered most national newspapers would not print a word contrary to Toryism, or even a letter of opinion unless it was very short and contained no historical fact.

It is diabolical to indoctrinate, through the media and the press, a Tory system that can only make the rich richer and the poor poorer. If only working people would go along to the library and read English social history and the factual history of the British, they would not be so easily impressed by these Tory doctrines.

Horror of horrors—the gesticulation by Maggie and Co. when the Russians occupied Afghanistan! I'll take you back, Mrs Thatcher, to 1839 when the British did exactly the same, only to be wiped out by the Afghans in 1841.

How did we treat the



You didn't fool anybody, Mrs Thatcher

far-eastern races in the past? Read all about it in the history books. A short while ago our newspapers reported horrific accounts of massacres by Robert Mugabe's so-called 'terrorists', (of course innocent people die in war) but these people were fighting for their freedom denied to them for so many years and every other means had failed. Did we not also kill for freedom (freedom for who, I sometimes wonder)

and were more barbaric?

So I say to all working people, do not delude yourselves, to be led into thinking a Tory government will protect your interests. Nothing could be further from the truth. To Thatcher I'll say, we were not fooled by the two shopping baskets on each arm outside a food store prior to the election.

Fraternally
Doris J.B. Millard
Pembrokeshire

South Africa under siege

Dear Comrades

The defeat of the white minority regime in Zimbabwe has sent shock waves into South Africa and South African-occupied Namibia, the continent's last outposts of racist rule.

Whites in the areas controlled by the apartheid regime reportedly had no conception of the strength of African nationalist sentiments amongst Zimbabweans. They had deluded themselves that the majority of blacks would have settled for a puppet regime headed by that 'uncle Tom' the Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

The South Africans are now wrestling with the possibility that they have also seriously misjudged the mood of the people both in Namibia and in the king of

the apartheid states itself. Progress towards an internal settlement of the guerilla war in Namibia has reportedly all but ceased because of South African fears that a ceasefire agreement and United Nations-supervised elections would sweep to power their opponents on the battlefield, the Namibian liberation organisation SWAPO.

We should therefore, as Labour Party members, be urging our Party leaders to put pressure on the UN to immediately announce a general election in Namibia, and in the long-term to totally disassociate ourselves from the racist South Africans, economically and otherwise.

Yours fraternally
Peter Ward
North Nottingham CLP

The Red Spiders

Dear Comrades

The events taking place in Poland reminded us of our experiences on holiday in Bulgaria recently.

The brochure explained this was a 'socialist' country devoted to 'tourism'. We stayed at a resort called 'Golden Sands', a good old Bulgarian name.

I thought originally we were going to 'Sunny Beach' but not only do the names ape the West; they also have beaches which you have to pay to go on, 1st and 2nd class; a black market in currency (common in many parts of the Third World and backward areas as a legacy of imperialism); special shops where they only accept 'hard' currency—pounds, dollars, deutschmarks etc—for Western and Japanese goods at duty-free prices. This is strictly for tourists.

His comments revealed the hatred and contempt felt by many intellectuals for the ruling clique. As in Poland, first the intellectuals and then the real power that will change things, the working class and the move towards a real workers' democracy.

Yours fraternally
Bob and Lynne Faulkes.
Hackney Central CLP

England's Tories

Dear Comrades

"The British unions will only be able to stop the Tories if they manage to unite all the workers, i.e. above all, drawing into trade union activity the rapidly growing number of unemployed and those low paid workers not yet organised into unions."

The second July issue of the fortnightly journal of the German metalworkers' union (IG Metall, with 2.3 million members), carried

Workers can look at a bear

Dear Comrades

As the economic crisis deepens, security for workers and their families is fast becoming a thing of the dim and distant past. For some sectors of society, however, things have never been better.

A private coach worth £30,000, a chauffeur-driven limousine, personalised luxury home and a freezer filled weekly with £70 worth of food, courtesy of the boss, is just a dream for most of us. For one star of television commercials, this is all his.

an article, entitled 'Arguments for workers against the policies of England's Tories'.

It correctly shows how Thatcher's policies are designed to boost profits at the expense of workers' living standards. The British union leaders should take the hint from our German brothers: organise a union for the unemployed, and campaign for an £80 minimum for low-paid workers.

Yours fraternally
Mike Levene
Stuttgart (on holiday)

Yes, Hercules, the Kleenex bear has an affluent existence any human would envy. Yet again this emphasises the lunacy of a society, that whilst rickets re-appear amongst young children and millions die of malnutrition etc. can countenance such a sick spectacle.

The waste of human time and labour under capitalism to give animals a standard of living far above that of the vast majority of mankind spells out sharp and clear one thing; Capitalism is crazy! For sanity get socialism!

Yours fraternally
Eddie Phillips
Provan CLP

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 TEACHER WEEKEND SCHOOL September 13th and 14th. Venue: Newtown Community Centre, Newtown Row, Birmingham. Speakers on Saturday:—Trade Union Perspectives—Jon Ingham; Education and the Labour Movement—Roy Davies (President Chesterfield NUT); A Socialist Education Policy for the Labour Party—Julie Taylor; Evening—Social. Sunday:—Launching a left programme for the NUT—Felicity Dowling. Cost £3 including lunch on Saturday and accommodation, for further details contact: Jane McVeigh, 53 Bayswater Row, Leeds 8.

ROCHDALE LP ANTI-RACIALISM SUB COMMITTEE DEMONSTRATION Saturday 6th September. Set off 12 noon from Mere St, Rochdale. In support of Anwar Ditta—End Immigration Controls!

SUNDERLAND LPYS Young Workers' Conference; sessions on 'The Shop Stewards movement' and 'The trade unions and the unemployed.' Speakers: Ron Brown MP and Andy Bevan—October 11th. 10.30am at East Community Centre, Moor Terrace, Hendon, Sunderland.

PLUNDER WOMAN IS BACK!

[As seen on TV]
Alan Hardman's popular cartoon reproduced as a striking red and black poster [approx 2ft x 1½ft], now available again. Single copies 50p post free, orders of 4 or more to be sold for Militant Fighting Fund 25p each, cash with order please. Make all cheques, POs, out to 'MILITANT' and send to Steve Cawley, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

ST. HELENS Militant Readers Meeting 'Policies of Tory Madhouse,' which way for trade unions. At the Sefton Arms Hotel, Baldwin St, Town Centre St. Helens. Tony Mulhearn (Vice President Liverpool District Labour Party); Gerry Caughey (SOGAT Convenor); 7.30pm; 9th September.

BLYTH Militant Readers Meetings every Wed. in the Buffalo Community Centre Blyth at 7.30pm. Further details, contact Joe Cox, Tel. Cramlington 712035

BADGES made to order, plus many new designs [Lenin, Trotsky, Marx etc] call, write or phone: Mapprographics, 108 Merton High Street, London, SW19 1DE. 01-543 3864.

OXFORD Militant Tote Results. Second Series—weeks 1-10. Week, Name and Address of winning ticket (£10 prize)
1. J. Hicks 167 Iffley Rd. No. 143. 2. J. Duncan, 41 Almond Rd, Kidlington No. 159. 3. S. Segaran, 33 Rymers Lane No. 135. 4. C. Ballad, 4 Lewis Close, H'ton. No. 119. 5. D. Lewis, 11 Parker St. No. 189. 6. J. Bingham, 47 Victoria Rd, S'town. No. 157. 7. B. O'Leary, Keble college. No. 117. 8. J. Bunn c/o OUP, No. 136. 9. M. Sharpe (Mid Oxon LPYS) No. 148. 10. c/o P. Hawarth, 35 Milmoor Cres. Eynsham. No. 199.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE LPYS "Youth Against the Tories" meetings:
Hear: Andy Bevan (LP National Youth Officer).
On Wed. Sept. 17th. 7.15pm, AUEW House, Fitzalan Sq. Sheffield 1.
On Thurs. Sept. 18th. 7.15pm, Miners Hall, Barnsley. (Behind NUM HQ). All age groups welcome! Admission Free!

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

BLACKBURN Militant Supporters are at present putting together a booklet on the subject of "Art and Socialism". We still require written articles on any arts subjects, groups, or individuals also original work—poetry, songs and black and white photographs of paintings, collage, cartoons etc (not necessarily of a political nature).

Send immediately anything you can contribute to—R&P Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1UR.

Build Militant

Area	Received	% of 3rd qtr target achieved	Target 3rd qtr	Target for year
Eastern	2630		3500	5,000
East Midlands	2352		2660	3,800
Hants & IOW	2289		2730	3,900
Humberside	1071		1750	2,500
London East	3951		4340	6,200
London West	2219		3290	4,700
London South	3704		3290	4,700
Manchester & Lancs	1937		3570	5,100
Merseyside	2940		4200	6,000
Northern	3169		5110	7,300
Scotland East	1266		2240	3,200
Scotland West	2525		3500	5,000
Southern	3177		4130	5,900
South West	1727		2240	3,200
Wales East	1157		1960	2,800
Wales West	1631		2170	3,100
West Midlands	4832		6300	9,000
Yorkshire	2968		5110	7,300
Others	8799		7910	12,000
Total received	54344		70,000	100,000

TARGET FOR OCTOBER 11th £70,000 FOR YEAR- £100,000

GOOD - COULD BE BETTER

This week's total of over £1,500 is nearer the £2,000 plus we need each week in September.

By Steve Cawley

The West Wales 'Militant' Summer Camp was a resounding success, and well over £1,000 will have been raised after all the bills have been paid and the collection, IOUs etc. converted to cash. We've had in over £300 of this so far, as you can see from the chart.

West Midlands supporters are obviously not prepared to see Wales the only area going ahead, and the Coventry "Nearly-New Shop" netted us £214 in only three days! Unfortunately, of course, it's probably a sign of the times that so much can be spent in this way—but it does show what can be achieved: other areas please note!

In Scotland a very successful day's outing to Ayr from Provan was cheaper than the usual fare for those on the bus, but it still made a surplus of £72 for us. And a party has been organised, too, by Provan readers.

The now traditional bottle stall at the Thamesmead Fayre, South London, together with badges sold there, came to a healthy £75, while from Folkestone readers came £21.93 and from Southampton "£15 recently received in remembrance of Comrade Roy Clarke."

Further north, donations from Birmingham included £6 from Rover workers, with promises of a sponsored diet, sale of home-grown veg., and a bonfire social. Brynlliw Lodge NUM (S Wales) said to put in the change from their Labour Party Conference Greetings advert, and a Scottish trade unionist sent us £50 from his TU expenses!

A 'Militant' Readers' Meeting in Blyth had a collection of £28.50, and other meetings and discussion groups in Tottenham, Birkenhead and York, and a LPYS Day School in Huddersfield added their weight. Oldham supporters sent us £8, but (we hope!) other Manchester readers have funds on their way.

Supporters in Leeds have told us they hope to arrange a regular draw for our Fighting Fund, whereas a comrade from Sussex has hired out his bike for £5 for a few days. Last but not least, thanks to comrades in North-west Kent (social, £21), C Jones (Bristol) for £25 from his pools win, and U Knutsson (Sweden) £3.40.

We've accounted for £1,500

of the £12,000 needed this month. Twenty-five more fund-raising days to the end of the month: that's £420 per day to get the remaining £10,500! If our readers use their usual flair, exuberance, inventiveness and panache throughout the month (and use their collecting cards), we'll be on our way. But don't leave it to all our other readers—join us yourself in building the 'Militant'!

THIS WEEK £1542

'MILITANT' trade union pamphlets

- A Militant programme for NUPE 20p
 - Militant Teacher: Summer 1980 25p
 - The way forward for NALGO 20p
 - Militant GMWU Review 20p
 - POEU—The way forward 30p
 - Socialist policies for UPW 20p
 - UPW: Democracy and socialism 10p
 - A fighting socialist programme for USDAW 20p
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- Add 10p for postage for all pamphlets
From Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

LPYS Chile Socialist Defence Campaign. A5 Leaflets now available (with space for local meetings) £4.50 per 1,000 + p&p.

Send orders now to A. Bevan, LP Youth Officer, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

LEEDS 'Militant 50 Club Winner': This week's winner is Mr. M. Richardson No. 31.

TYNESIDE Engineering Workers' Rally. Hear: Bob Wright. Sat. 6th September 11am. YMCA, Nixon Hall, Ellison Place, Newcastle.

TYNESIDE Militant Readers Meeting Poland: the struggle for workers' democracy. Speaker: Peter Taaffe Tuesday 9th September. 7.30pm. University Physics Building. Behind Haymarket Hotel, Newcastle.

TEESIDE Militant Readers Meeting. Poland: the struggle for workers' democracy. Speaker: Derek Gunby. Sunday 21st Sept. 7.30pm. Cleveland Hotel, Linthorpe Rd, Linthorpe Village, Middlesbrough.

RANK AND FILE MOBILISING COMMITTEE FOR LABOUR DEMOCRACY.

RALLIES:
MEDWAY: Monday, 8th September 7.30pm. 32a, New Road, Rochester. Speaker: Frances Morrell [CLPD].

OXFORD: Tuesday, 9th September 7.30pm, Northgate Hall, St. Michael St. Speakers: Derek Gregory [NUPE Divisional Officer, Wales] Frances Morrell [Mobilising Committee] Tony Banks [Asst. Gen. Sec. ABS]. [personal capacity].

PADDINGTON/BRENT Tuesday, 9th September 7.30pm Paddington School, Oakington Rd, Chair: Arthur Latham [Chairman, GLR LP]. Speakers: Bob Wright [Asst. Gen. Sec. AUEW, personal capacity] Bernard Dix [Asst. Gen. Sec. NUPE]. Audrey Wise. Jack Dromey [Sec. SER-TUC].

BROMLEY Monday, 8th September 7.30pm. HG Wells Centre, Bromley High Street. Speakers: Reg Race MP, Jeremy Corbyn, cllr, [NUPE Area Officer].

ROBB CALEDON

THE STRUGGLE GOES ON

At a mass meeting on Monday the workers of the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee reiterated their determination to fight the threat of closures.

They voted through a ban on overtime and agreed to hold a token one-day strike against the bosses' proposals.

This determination must now be directed towards a mighty campaign, involving the whole labour movement of Dundee, and all the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

The prospects for the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee look bleaker than ever. The worldwide recession, combined with the "monetarist" policies of the Tory government, have provided British Shipbuilders with the excuse to harden their attitude towards the demands of the workforce for the retention of the yard.

In reply to union proposals for the retention of a balanced labour force commensurate with the needs of a shipyard,

By Alex Allan

(Deputy Convenor, Robb Caledon)

the management merely repeated their earlier intention to reduce the workforce to 350 through voluntary redundancies. And their undertaking to keep on even these 350 lasts only until the end of this year.

Any future for the yard after that depends on "the level of likely alternative, non-shipbuilding work, which could be obtained."

"The most likely main markets for Robb Caledon," they say, "at least in the short term, is in steel fabrication either for the general engineering or oil-related fields."

This is nothing less than a sentence of death for shipbuilding in Dundee! The "re-

prieve" which was granted in October last year has proved to be an illusion. The last ship in the yard is due to go next month, and nothing but a few minor steel fabrication jobs is in the pipeline.

Given the state of the economy, there can be no chance of breaking into the general engineering field, and oil related work would be leap upon by private firms who would soon sell up and go.

All along we have said that only by building ships, as an integral part of British shipbuilders, can the Dundee yard have a secure future.

The workers have demonstrated that it can be a viable yard by their achievements in raising productivity, despite the continuing threat to their jobs.

But to reap the full benefit they cannot work in the present industrial museum; they need all the machinery and equipment of a modern shipyard.

It is never easy to fight redundancies and closures, but they can be fought, as the famous struggle on the Upper Clyde in the early seventies showed. It is a fight that must be won.

The Caledon workers are not just fighting for their own jobs, but for their town, their industry and their class!



On the picket line at Tandy's—join them on the mass picket

TANDY'S

By Brian Debus
(Erdington LP)

On Monday September 15th, the labour movement in the Black Country and the Birmingham area will have the opportunity of taking part in the first mass picket at Tandy's.

By then this recognition dispute will be four months old. This union recognition battle is now a fight for jobs, as on August 14th, the full-time staffs received a letter saying that they were sacked.

Previously management had made all part-time staff who came out on strike redundant. Tandy management are that nervous that union fever may spread amongst its staff, that one office worker was sacked for speaking to one of her friends on the picket line!

It seems that the local police inspector has been

However, he did not offer to lead in stopping cowboy lorry drivers careering through the picket lines.

On Saturday 30th August a successful picket of four Tandy shops in Birmingham was carried out by LPYS members. At one shop, in four hours, the only trade they did was with customers bringing back defective goods, and a motley collection of anti-union humans. All LPYS members should contact their local T&GWU branch or ring T&GWU official Jack Jones on Wolverhampton 26435, and picket your local Tandy shop on a Saturday.

Remember Grunwicks—take part in the mass picket—7am, Monday September 15th at Dalston Road, Wednesbury, and extend union freedom.

reading 'Militant's coverage of this dispute and expressed concern at the article's accuracy.

Whilst I was on the picket line, Inspector Evans said that if I caused any animosity I was likely to be arrested—dangling a few more barbed hooks he continued "I don't want you to stop any vehicles."

As I was writing this down he said, "I hope you quoted verbatim." He also inferred that his sergeant had a tape recorder on his person.

Then turning and speaking to one of the picket leaders said "I am biased neither way, please don't be misled."

'WE NEED RANK AND FILE SUPPORT'

More than 50 people attended a joint LPYS/AUEW Broad Left meeting in Oldham recently to hear Jon Ingham and Bob Wright, the presidential candidate.

Jon Ingham opened the debate painting a black future under the Tories for the engineering industry.

Jon went on to outline the need for a £100 time rate linked to inflation, and for a 35-hour week for the AUEW.

Bob Wright described the crisis that faced industry

By Eddie Thorpe
(Royton NLP)

today. Unemployment was the cancer of society, he said.

The AUEW leadership must cease to be the shame of the trade union movement, he said, referring to the sacking of Derek Robinson for daring to pose an alternative plan along with his shop stewards. Now, hundreds of employers are queueing to emulate the

Leyland bosses.

Having described the situation he went on to outline the need for a fighting leadership for the labour movement.

"We have to make use and seek advice from the untapped knowledge among the rank and file shop floor workers, to break the stranglehold of Duffy and Co."

The faults that lie in the postal vote, he explained, is that no discussion and not many branch meetings take place on the issues.

"So the task before us is to hold factory meetings to spell out the truth and expose the bankrupt policies of a right-wing leadership."

When summing up, Bob never said a truer word than when he stated that: "All trade unions must strive for unity. Only when the working class rule the country will we have won the fight."

Internationalism not import controls

By 18 votes to 13, delegates at a TUC economics course rejected a motion for selective import controls. Trade unionists at the course at Sheffield University heard the mover and seconder argue that import controls would safeguard jobs.

Some speakers from the floor agreed, stating that it was a utopian demand to call for workers throughout the world to unite, and that British trade unions should put their own members' interests first.

But other trade unionists argued that import controls would not achieve its aims. When New Zealand lamb and

By Bob Young
(NUR)

butter were restricted, it just allowed European farmers a monopoly to put up prices. The same would happen by British companies if import controls were introduced.

Others pointed out that the present crisis was brought about by the decline of capitalism internationally and workers in struggle needed international support. This couldn't come about if import controls, which are nationalistic and chauvinist, are introduced.

The final nail in the coffin was one contribution which argued that import controls seemed to be an easy way out for trade union leaders. That way they would avoid trying to combat capitalism.

But it was unrealistic. What was required was a socialist campaign to save jobs.

We should get out and fight for a 35-hour week, for sharing out the work with no loss of pay, and for the next Labour government to take over bankrupt firms. Our fight was together with workers abroad in a common socialist struggle against international capitalism.

DAVENPORT STRIKERS GET A LETTER FROM THE BOSS

By Brian Moore
(T&G Shop Steward, Davenport)

The first all out strike in 150 years of the manual workers at Davenport brewery Birmingham continues.

At a mass meeting last week, by an overwhelming majority, the membership decided to carry the fight on, which is almost four weeks old now.

This despite a vast propaganda exercise by the company and statements poured out by the press at regular intervals, stating the companies' reasons why they cannot afford more than the 9.4% offer to the membership.

But in the eyes of the membership the facts speak for themselves. The 25% increase for the shareholders this year; the management's new W registered cars passing us on the picket line; plus the fact that the company made a settlement for the staff and middle management of a greater percentage than the one offered to us.

Just one part of the settlement with the staff illustrates how the capitalist class treats the creators of the wealth, the working class, to themselves. In our offer which the company made was the opportunity of extra holidays. For every five years you have been employed by the company, they offered you an extra day's holiday. So when you had been with the company for 25 years you received one week extra

holiday.

To the staff and middle management the same extra week holiday was offered, but not after 25 years employment, but just two years.

By now the 127 pubs which the company owns have all run out of beer, and reports say that some are selling tea instead of beer! Although we have tried repeatedly to find a settlement the hard line company have made it impossible to reach one.

In a desperate attempt to break the united stand which the membership have taken, the company sent a letter signed by the managing director to all employees (except all the shop stewards on the strike committee). It said it was the unions which ended the negotiations—the fact is the company offer was put to the membership at a mass meeting, which then decided by 99.9% to go on strike.

The letter included its own secret ballot. Workers were asked to fill in a slip at the bottom asking if they were prepared to accept the offer. A stamped addressed envelope was included.

The workers know that the full time official involved has stated that he is available night or day to see the negotiating committee, and is on duty on the picket line, which the management cross daily, so the bosses can see him anytime, if they want to make an offer to the workforce.

It proves the bosses, when in a crisis and their profits are being threatened, will go to any excuses and lengths to win the arguments.

The final outcome of the letter was that the membership not only rejected the offer once more, but the 12p stamp was used for their own private use!

So we are calling on all trade union members to boycott all Davenport's products and send letters of support and finance to R. Davis, 70 St. Marks Crescent, Ladywood, Birmingham.

AUEW MEETINGS

SOUTHALL: Hear Bob Wright; Ernie Roberts MP; Jon Ingham. 7.30 pm. Wednesday 10 September. Southall Town Hall, The Broadway.

LEEDS Labour Movement Rally: Hear Bob Wright; Tony Benn MP. 7.30 pm. Thursday 4 September, Leeds Town Hall.

BOWWATERS WE MUST WIN!

"In view of the employers' inability to sustain paper making in the UK with the consequent possible loss of jobs...the general secretary calls upon the next Labour government to nationalise the paper industry under democratic control and management of the trade union and labour movement."

This was part of a resolution passed to loud applause at a jam-packed meeting of 200 members at the Merseyside and District SOGAT branch on Monday night, when they met to discuss the fight to save jobs at Bowwaters, Ellesmere Port.

The resolution, moved by Dave Power and seconded by Jimmy Wilson, also stated that the workers should rely on their own strength—the trade union and labour movement, rather than linking up with the bosses in the form of the CBI and Tory MPs as was suggested in the past.

They called on the SOGAT general secretary to move an emergency resolution at the TUC (which has gone ahead) calling for full support to the struggle at Bowwaters.

They declared their support for occupation of the factory if necessary to prevent its closure. The branch will also levy members for financial support, and weekly site meetings are to be held to report on progress in the struggle.

This is a very important development in the fight to

**By
Richard Venton
(Birkenhead LP)**

prevent the closure, especially as SOGAT represents over 700 of the 1,500 workers at the Bowwater Paper Mill.

Given the unemployment levels in the area, there is absolutely no alternative but for the Bowwater workers to fight back around the lines that this resolution suggests.

The working class community know that they must give full support in every possible way to the workers at the Mill. Several working class housewives have commented to us that "we've got to fight—it's time to stop the rot in the area." One shop girl for example said that her job was at risk if the place closed.

An estimated 200 shop jobs would, in fact, disappear according to the local Ellesmere Port council.

The tide of redundancies needs to be stemmed.

Locally several other firms also face closures and redundancies—for example the Van Leer face 170 redundancies this week, and the Vauxhalls plant is also on the brink. In addition the Firestone factory in Deeside is now shedding its 600 workers. There's absolutely no prospect but to fight.

The Tories and the employers need to be halted in their tracks and the Bowwater workers have got the power to show the way. The whole of the trade union and labour movement can be mobilised in supporting the Bowwater workers, providing the issues are explained.

The fact that the Bowwater share prices on the day of the closure shows the cynical profiteering attitude of the employers and of their Tory stooges.

The Merseyside SOGAT branch have given a lead in how to fight the closure threat—the campaign must now be taken forward.

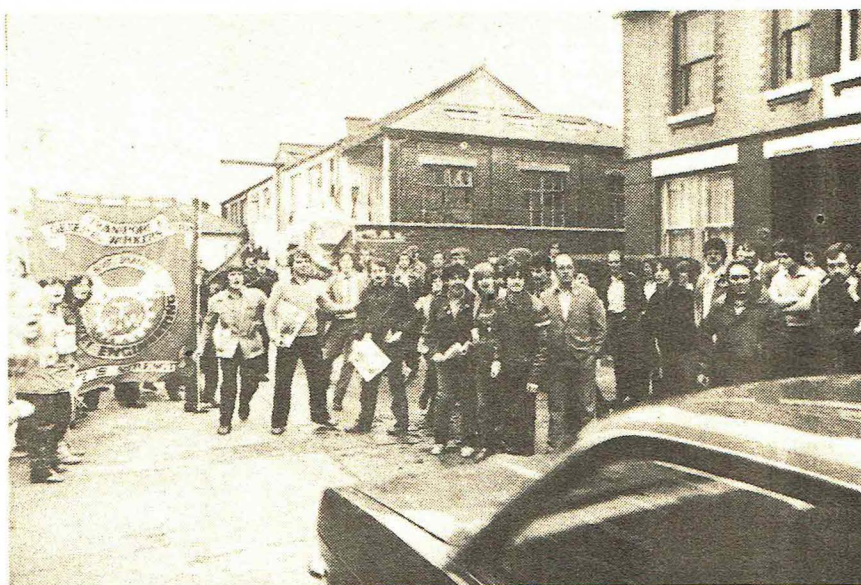
A site combine must be set up, bringing together the workers—already the Sack and Fibre plant workers on the site have indicated their support for the paper workers. A national combine must be forged to rally support from workers throughout the industry, many facing the same prospects of redundancy themselves.

Above all, the demand for nationalisation of the paper industry has never been more vital—nationally this industry is collapsing in the face of chaotic capitalism and reeling from the hammer blows of the Tories' economic policies of the madhouse.

The Bowwater workers must be fully backed both locally and nationally: and they must win.

KING HENRY'S More Support needed

Photos: Stephen Willet



The picket line at King Henry's. A car full of scabs hurtles towards the mass picket



The police, unconcerned by the reckless driving of the scabs, instead lay into the pickets

Nearly 200 trade unionists attended a mass picket of King Henry's Meat Products last Friday, in support of workers who are in their eighth week of a strike for union recognition.

Trouble for the pickets flared as a car tore through the crowd at high speed. Having made one arrest, the police then seemed intent on filling their van.

Youngsters were snatched

**By John Hunt
(Moss Side LPYS)**

from the crowd for no reason, and eleven workers were charged with obstruction.

These arrests have only strengthened the strikers' determination to win. The firm's managing director, David Hollins, is the kind of union-

hating individual that Mrs Thatcher dreams about. He must be brought to heel by the labour movement.

More support is needed for the mass pickets on Tuesdays and Fridays, and help is required to black supplies and deliveries. Financial aid is also vitally needed.

Contact BFAWU District Offices, Room 4, George House, 30 Dudley Road, Manchester M 16 8BE.

CATERCUPS

Build the picket line

The dispute for union recognition at Catercups, Bootle, has lasted six months with no sign of a settlement in the near future.

Since the decision of the workers to continue their struggle for re-instatement with union recognition, there has been a series of mass pickets resulting in two LPYS members being arrested.

The week following these two arrests, T&GWU official Jack Dempsey called a mass meeting of the workers at which an overwhelming decision was taken to continue their struggle for union recognition, after the industrial tribunal to be held on September 4th.

This meeting also decided that mass pickets should be held every Thursday and Friday and T&GWU leaflets should be produced and circulated throughout the movement on Merseyside.

Last week a mass picket was held and as a result of

**By Christine Onions
(Bootle LP)**

lack of time to organise, only about 30 people turned up. Unfortunately, Mr. Dempsey agreed to allow the police to stop a vanload of non-union labour going into the firm, and that he was the only person allowed to approach the van and appeal to the workers inside not to cross the picket line.

I spoke to shop steward Steve Marr, and also Evelyn Ford and Steve Williams after the scene was over. All three expressed their disappointment in the actions of their officials, they had received better response and success when they had organised previous mass pickets without the help of their officials, they said.

What is now needed is the T&GWU to take up this

attitude and aim for a more successful and better attended mass picket. They should not allow the police to restrict the pickets to any one number.

During the last week the T&GWU has taken up the question of blacking suppliers on a serious level and has produced leaflets for this week's mass picket. The workers have been heartened by this action and are looking forward to this week's picketing with new hope.

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Police spy on Unions

The Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE) have released evidence of police spying on trade union officials.

Mr. Ian Dodd, the COHSE official responsible for the North of Scotland has written to the Chief Constable at Inverness and is demanding a full inquiry.

Mr. Dodd said, "The incredible series of events revolve around the admission into Ward 21 of Craig Dunain Hospital, Inverness, of a patient called Morris Mendoza, who had previously been in Porterfield Prison, and was admitted into Section 330 of the Criminal Proceedings Act (Scotland) 1975."

"While in hospital, on several occasions, police visited Mr Mendoza and took him out on at least three consecutive nights for 'further questioning' and brought him back at various

**By a 'Militant'
reporter**

times during the applicable nights in what can only be described as a drunken state.

"As patients under S. 330 have no money whatsoever, then the police have clearly been funding this drunken orgy. To make matters worse, on the final night Mendoza brought back a bottle of whisky.

"I consider the police to have acted totally irresponsibly bringing about an adverse effect on my members, patients, the Health Service and public confidence generally."

"As a result of these outings, Mr. Mendoza came into possession of information concerning at least two of my officials which could only have been obtained by

close and intensive observation of the persons concerned.

"There is no doubt in my mind that my officials have been spied on by the police. Indeed on one of the nights in question, one of my officials was followed home by plain clothes police in a car.

"I will not tolerate such blatant and horrendous gespapo tactics by the police, special branch, MIS or any other repressive security organisation that seems to spend more and more of its time crawling in the woodwork of decent society."

**SHOULD NURSES
GO ON STRIKE?**

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

SRI LANKA DEFEND



Members of the UK branch of the Nava Sama Samaja Party joined by Labour Party and LPYS members on a picket of the Ceylon Tea Centre in defence of Sri Lankan workers' rights Photo: Tessa Howland (IFL)

TRADE UNION RIGHTS!

The struggle to win reinstatement for the 100,000 workers who have been sacked for taking part in the Sri Lankan general strike is continuing.

In many areas of the island the "solidarity committees" are expanding their work of collecting food and money for the victimised workers, who now have no way in which to earn an income.

By Bob Labi

No victimisation

The "solidarity committees" are organising house-to-house and shop-to-shop collections to get support. The police, however, have been attempting to hinder this work. In Kandy on 30 August the police seized the workers' collecting tins and are refusing to hand them back.

In Negombo last Saturday, the police baton-charged a crowd collecting money and gifts. Despite this, the victimised workers have got widespread support from all parts of society, even the local Bishops' Conference has called for their reinstatement.

Many workers have followed the call of the Nava Sama Samaja Party not to fill in the questionnaires which the government sent them last week. The workers are saying that as the government is only offering them the back pay which they are already legally entitled to they see no reason to fill in these forms.

The Joint Trade Union

Action Committee, which called the general strike, has not even met in the last week! A meeting set for 30 August was abandoned, as no representatives from the unions controlled by the Lanka Sama Samaja Party turned up. It has only been the NSSP which has taken an initiative to support the victimised workers and to put forward a clear perspective for taking the struggle forward.

The NSSP's clear stand has resulted in a surge of applications being made to join the Party, especially by those workers who were actively involved in the strike. To strengthen its work, the NSSP is taking on more full-time workers and organising public meetings in every district to explain the lessons of the strike and what must be done now.

NSSP leaders in prison

It is because of the NSSP's rising support that the right-wing UNP government under

J R Jayawardene is determined to try to keep in prison some of its principal leaders, Vasudeva Nanayakkara (President of the NSSP-led United Federation of Labour), Vickramabahu Karunaratne (NSSP General Secretary), and Gunasena Mahanama (General Secretary of the NSSP-led Government Clerical Service Union).

The success of the NSSP has led to a general attempt by the other opposition parties to isolate it. The leadership of the JVP (People's Liberation Front), who distinguished themselves during the strike by secretly telling their members not to support it, are so worried about the effect of the NSSP's ideas on the JVP membership that their stewards at their recent Colombo rally stole leaflets, newspapers and a camera from NSSP members who went to it!

In Britain, the wide support which the protest campaign has won is steadily increasing. The Civil and Public Services Association is the latest trade union to send a protest about the arrest of trade union and opposition leaders to the Sri Lanka High Commissioner in London.

It seems that the High Commissioner, Mr Wimalasena, is getting a bit rattled about the protests. Mr Wimalasena wrote to the Labour Party saying that "several strident and biased protestations in this matter from sundry trade union and Labour Party Young Socialist quarters have been ignored by me."

So unions like the two million strong Transport and General Workers Union are not worth bothering about! A fine example of the UNP attitude to trade unions. But one should have some sympathy for Mr Wimalasena: it is rumoured that he wants to

Protests should continue to be sent to: President J R Jayawardene, Presidential Office, Queen Street, Colombo 1, Sri Lanka and to the Sri Lanka High Commission, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W.2.

Copies of any protests, together with solidarity measures and donations to the NSSP, UFL or GCSU should be sent to Wesley Muthiah, 19 Hawthorn Avenue, London N.13.


Details of the Campaign to Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka can be obtained from 32 Hollydown Way, London E.11. Donations to aid the campaign's work are also needed.

leave his post in London, but no one wants to replace him in the hot seat!

In the past week, the 'Campaign to Defend Trade Union Rights in Sri Lanka' has been launched in Britain by members of the Labour Party, NSSP, various Tamil organisations, and individual Sri Lankans. It has set itself the task of winning support for three demands:

- ★ Unconditional release of all arrested during the general strike;
- ★ Full reinstatement of all strikers without victimisation; and
- ★ Repeal of all anti-trade union and repressive laws.

On the basis of the support which is already flooding in, it is sure that it will be able to build a big protest movement in Britain against the reactionary policies of the reactionary government of J R Jayawardene.



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