

Militant

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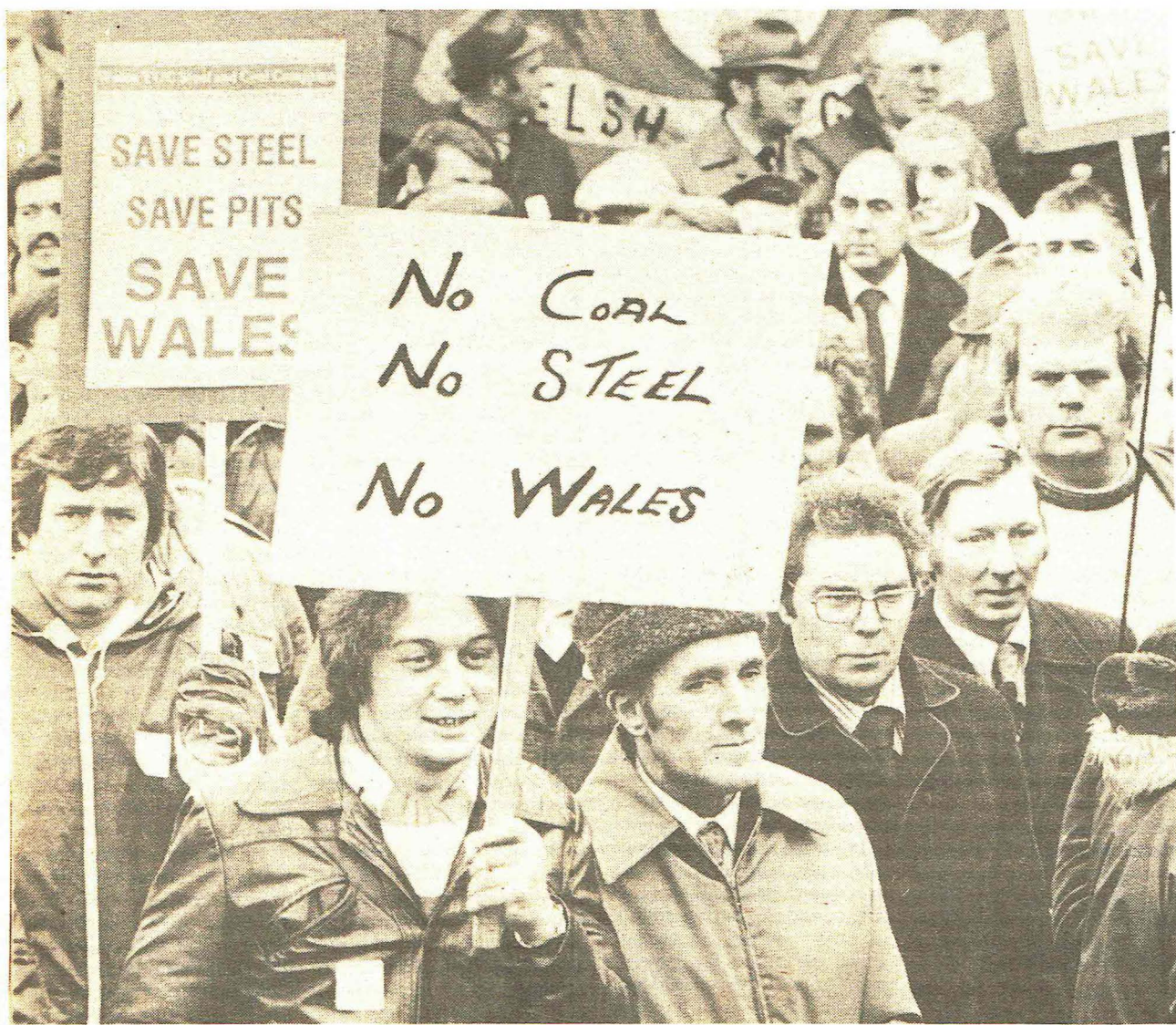
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Steel, Rail, Coal cuts mean dole misery for thousands more ...

WORKERS HAVE POWER TO STOP TORIES

Photo: MILITANT



-USE IT!

The working people of Wales have never had much time for Tories. Now Thatcher and her crew are extracting their revenge.

"Britain's worn-out industrial areas will be bypassed," announced Tory energy secretary David Howell, described as one of Thatcher's "closest cabinet allies", last weekend. "More money will go into advanced automated equipment; less into employing people in

By Rob Sewell
(Swansea Labour Party)

manufacturing industry." Manufacturing industry—steel, coal mining and engineering—is the life-blood of South Wales. The Tories' savage monetarist policies, their 'cure' for the ailing recession-torn capitalist economy, are taking a savage toll. One in eight Welsh workers are out of work.

In Swansea alone, 7,500 unemployed workers are chasing 100 badly-paid jobs.

The threat of more redundancies at British Steel will bring more misery to steel workers, miners, engineers, even shop and office workers. It is estimated that for every steel job lost, three other workers will be made redundant.

"What do we do?" This plea from the wife of a newly-redundant worker [see page 3] is being echoed throughout

Wales. There is no shortage of anger, no lack of fighting tradition—but what hope has the individual family facing soaring bills, higher school meal and prescription charges and only the dole pittance to live on?

Workers do have real power—in the factories, mines and mills, they produce the real wealth that the employers and their Tory servants rely

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**BACK THE
PAPER THAT
BACKS YOU**

**rush cash in now
-£14,000 needed
to hit target**

'Militant' has made great steps forward during 1980.

It has been a year of savage attacks by Thatcher's government. But the last year has also seen more and more workers fighting back.

Gardner's workers, dockers and firemen have all given the Tories a bloody nose and shown how Thatcher's plans can be thwarted. 'Militant' has reported on all these events and 'Militant' supporters have been in the thick of the struggles.

So too with the Labour Party, where we have given detailed coverage of all the tremendous developments of the last twelve months. Our sales have greatly increased over the last year, showing the real hunger for socialist ideas.

But we want better coverage as resistance to the Tories grows. A more regular, up-to-date 'Militant' will be essential. For this we need cash.

We are depending on you to help us reach our 1980 fighting fund target of £100,000.

We urge all readers and supporters to ask everyone sympathetic to the labour movement to assist us. We've been receiving several hundred pounds each day now, but still need every effort to reach the target.

All raffle ticket stubs and cash must be sent in to reach us by Saturday morning but money can be raised for us literally at the last hour. Any donations posted to us over the weekend [crossed cheques and Postal Orders payable to 'Militant'] should be "phoned through" before mid-day on Sunday 11th, to be counted in this year's figure.

With your help, 1981 can be the year which builds the foundations of a mass circulation Marxist paper leading the fight to transform society.

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- **Save Normanby Park** Page 15



March in support of hunger strikers in Dublin, 12 December 1980

Photo: Derek Spiers (IFL/Report)

Lessons of H-Block Only Labour can end repression

By Peter Hadden
(Steering Committee,
N Ireland Labour and
Trade Union Group)

After 53 days the H-Block hunger strike was called off [on 18 December]. Most workers in Northern Ireland will have greeted the news with considerable relief.

The sectarian upheaval and violence which would have followed the death of a prisoner has been avoided.

The settlement terms have been accompanied by claims of victory from both sides. The government document on prison conditions uses extremely conciliatory language and represents considerable concessions on such issues as clothing and associations.

However, these concessions do not meet the original demands of the prisoners. Above all, the demand for political status, despite the claims of the Provisionals to the contrary, has not been granted. And because this demand was made the focus of the H-Block campaign, the government has been able to disguise its partial retreat on the issue of prison conditions as a total victory.

Should the 4½ year old blanket protest end on the basis of the existing offer on work and clothing it will represent a considerable climb down on the part of the prisoners. In this sense, no matter what immediate concessions are given, the immediate effect is one of victory for the government.

Understandably, the attitude of many workers inside and outside Northern Ireland will now be to push H-Block to the back of their minds. But it would be a considerable mistake on the part of the labour movement if the lessons of the hunger strike

and the wider issue of repression were to be ignored.

H-Block was posed in the most poisonous sectarian terms in Northern Ireland. The very mention of the issue now carries sectarian connotations. Nevertheless, repression is a class question, and the chance that all of the methods used by the state to quell para-military opposition today will be used against the labour movement in the future should not be taken.

Relief at the end of the hunger strike should not become euphoria on the part of anyone, because of the partial victory won by the government. This victory inside the prisons on the question of status will help to reinforce the apparatus of repression outside and this in turn can be used against the struggles of the labour movement in the future.

Leon Trotsky once explained that the false methods of struggle of individual terror was a blind alley which eventually serves to strengthen the hand of the state. Four and a half years of the H-Block protest has underlined this in red.

It was the campaign of the Provisionals which gave the British ruling class the excuse to introduce the elaborate system of judicial frame-up, out of which emerged the H-Block protest. The growing isolation of the Provisionals rendered them incapable of resisting this repression both inside and outside the prisons.

In March 1976 the blanket protest was begun. Retali-

ation by the prison authorities further protest and further retaliation, led to the creation of the most barbaric prison conditions in Europe.

Yet the fact that the outside support organisations were connected with the Provisionals prevented them from drawing mass support. The impotence of these organisations, the silence of the labour movement, the determination of the authorities to break the prisoners and the determination of the prisoners not to be broken—these factors produced the 4½ year H-Block stalemate.

Before the hunger strike began most Catholic workers were sympathetic to the plight of the prisoners, but were held back from openly expressing their sympathy in case it would be interpreted as a gesture of support for the Provos.

Sectarianism must be fought

When the hunger strike began this changed. For a period the reluctance of Catholic workers to be seen in the company of the National H-Block Committees was overcome by their outrage at the stubborn intransigence of the Thatcher government.

Overnight, the H-Block demonstrations were transformed from paltry meetings to huge rallies and meetings. Almost 20,000 people twice paraded through West Belfast. Similar crowds, mainly from the North, also marched through the streets of Dublin. In Derry the protest stoppage packed an enormous crowd of 10,000 into Guildhall Square.

This mass movement expressed itself through the H-Block Committees only because there was no alternative, particularly from the labour movement. It took this course despite, not because of, the leadership of these committees, and above all despite the association of

these bodies with the Provos.

On the H-Block platforms from the very outset, there poured an undiluted barrage of blatant sectarianism. The call was made for complete "nationalist unity" behind the hunger strikers.

But it was not only Protestant workers who were alienated. Towards the end of the hunger strike there was a distinct drawing back by sections of the Catholic community. It was not that people were any less sympathetic to the plight of the hunger strikers, but rather that they were repelled by the sectarian poison pouring from the platforms.

On 10 December the National H-Block Committee called for a general strike in Ireland. Even by their own subsequent claims, the strike was a flop.

In Derry the attendance was only half that of the previous stoppage. It was this failure and the partial ending of the protest movement which permitted the government to limit the concessions.

It was also clear throughout all H-Block activity that the call for "political status" was by no means universally supported, even in former Provisional strongholds. Many statements of support for the prisoners made it clear that this was offered on humanitarian grounds.

The international support which came from many countries was also expressed in these terms. This was the key factor in permitting the ruling class to adopt a position of total intransigence on the demand for political status.

Against the H-Block protesters imperialism did not have to resort to its favourite weapon of divide and rule. The H-Block Committees did it for them. By their every word they increased sectarianism, and by so doing scared away an ever more hostile Protestant community.

H-Block could have been taken up in a non-sectarian way by the labour movement. Throughout the hunger strike and indeed throughout the course of the H-Block protest, this newspaper has fought against the sectarian manner in which the issues were posed. Instead we fought for a

class approach, with the labour movement taking up the issue in class terms.

We called for a programme of prison reform to cover all prisoners which would have included the right to wear their own clothes, to negotiate a choice of work and training and education, access to the media, unrestricted numbers of letters and trade union rates of pay.

We did not support the call that was raised by the Provos and the UDA for political status for all their members. Instead we called for a review by the labour movement of the cases of all those convicted on charges arising out of the Northern Ireland troubles, in order to determine who is, in the eyes of the labour movement, a political prisoner.

Inside H-Block are many people convicted on the basis of frame-ups or torture, or who joined organisations like the Provos in the mistaken belief that they were fighting against the present economic system.

While a great number of such individuals would be regarded as political prisoners, those who consciously set out to divide the working class along sectarian lines and who were responsible for sectarian atrocities are clearly not political prisoners in any sense in which the labour movement internationally uses the term.

This class programme should still be taken up and campaigned for by the labour movement, irrespective of the

immediate H-Block situation. Action on the basis of our programme could have ended the horror of H-Block years ago.

This is the key lesson of the entire episode. Only the labour movement can effectively resist repression. In Northern Ireland this means united and joint action by Protestant and Catholic workers, for which there can be no substitute.

It is not yet clear whether the blanket protest will now end. The immediate response of the ruling class to the prisoners was extremely concessionary, in attempts to get them off the protest. But there are no guarantees that this approach will be made again. The original concessions won in 1972 were unceremoniously removed by the ruling class.

Their approach in Northern Ireland will be in support of repressive government. Changes of prison conditions do not resolve the question of the use of repressive legislation, and the existence of non-jury courts.

The outcome of the hunger strike will ultimately strengthen the government's hand in using its sophisticated apparatus of repression. It is now clear that only the labour movement can provide a challenge to this, and that in its own class interest it must now begin to do so.

[This is a shortened version of the article which first appeared in the January 1981 issue of 'Militant Irish Monthly'.]

For regular coverage of the labour movement in Ireland North and South,

read 'Militant Irish Monthly' Price 10p From Middle Abbey St, Dublin 1

London LPYS Weekend School 16-18 January

After last year's successful weekend school the London LPYS have organised another school in Folkestone 16-18 January. It will have political discussions and social activities.

On Saturday eight seminars have been arranged on: Women, What is Socialism?, 35-Hour Week, USA, Chile, South Africa, and Poland. In the evening Folkestone LPYS have organised a dance with live groups playing.

On Sunday morning there will be a debate between

Roy Hattersley MP and Tony Saunoy on 'Socialism - the Way Forward.' And in the afternoon, the school is rounded off by a discussion started by Andy Bevan, National Youth Officer on 'Agitation and Propaganda.' The cost for the weekend, including coach fare, meals and lodgings is only £15. Anyone interested should contact as soon as possible. Linda Reid, Labour Party Headquarters, 150 Walworth Road, SE17. Tel. 01-703-0833.

WALES - WORKERS CAN STOP THE SACKINGS

Pit closures - time to fight

The coal industry in South Wales faces its worst crisis since the massive closures of the 1950s.

Coal output is increasing, with an average of 710,000 tonnes per week, but over 50,000 tonnes is being "put to ground" every week.

Pithead prices for coal have fallen drastically since the recession in the steel industry, causing further financial losses for all but six collieries in the area.

Twelve collieries remain on the National Coal Board's hit list, with a possible 21 facing closure by the mid-1980s. In June last year, the South Wales NUM Executive met the coal board and were informed by Phil Weekes, area director, that there were twelve heavy loss pits in the coalfield and that he wanted to close "any six of these" during the current year.

The NCB singled out Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr for immediate review, declaring in a press statement that they intended to close that pit even before meeting the NUM. The South Wales NUM Executive decided straight away that it would withdraw from all review meetings until the threat to close Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr was withdrawn.

The South Wales NUM have not gone back on that decision. Mass pit-head meetings throughout the coalfield overwhelmingly agreed that in view of the Coal Board's attitude, there would be no further participation in review meetings unless the threat to close Tymawr/Lewis Merthyr colliery was withdrawn; that if the general threat of pit closures was not lifted, consideration would be given to industrial action, preceded by an intensive campaign, and that the issue would be taken

By Ian Isaac
(Secretary, St Johns
Lodge, Maesteg)

up with the National President to seek national support.

Other areas are facing similar threats: in Yorkshire, the NCB have indicated that eight collieries may disappear over the next few years. The Yorkshire NUM and the South Wales NUM have promised mutual support and other areas have given similar commitments to oppose pit closures where workable reserves exist.

Since June, the government and the NCB have been forced to 'back off' and postpone a confrontation.

Since the campaign by the NUM, the Coal Board have retaliated by cutting back recruitment, creating shortages of supplies with no new machinery bought for a while and pits being asked to manage by salvaging materials, and generally becoming belligerent on a local level. They are attempting to cause unrest and uncertainty, to use up the energy of the men and undermine the main impending fight.

The local lodges continue to combat these tactics, demanding new investment and recruitment and standing firm on the need to prepare for the fight against pit closures.

The NUM have continually pressed the Coal Board for markets for coking coal. Some coal will now be used in the power station market, where the NUM have long argued South Wales coal can be used.

But any South Wales coking coal used in the power station would have to come out of the 75 tonnes the

CEGB have agreed to purchase annually from the NCB. 70% of Britain's coal is now directed to this market.

If Llanwern steel plant closes, it is feared this will mean the end of the Gwent part of the South Wales coalfield. The miners and steelworkers in the plant have already begun a campaign to prevent closure.

It has now been accepted nationally by a special conference, that any pit threatened with closure while workable reserves remain will be defended. A big responsibility will lie on the shoulders of any area leadership confronted with an NCB closure notice.

An immediate campaign must then be launched, with industrial action and an appeal for strike support from all other areas. Such action must be endorsed by the national leadership, who in turn should lead a fight for survival, for the jobs of mine workers and the future of indigenous fuel supplies in this country.

Plan for energy

Miners, oil, gas and power workers should form an alliance to campaign to get rid of this reactionary Tory government and establish a socialist plan of production in the energy sector. Such a plan should be co-ordinated, to directly involve workers in the energy industries through democratic management and control.

The trade unions in these industries have shown their capacities for research, skill and a common sense approach to the needs of their industries: to maintain jobs; to aid efficient production and decent living standards. There would be a world of difference between this way of running industry and the present anarchy of competition between energy industries.

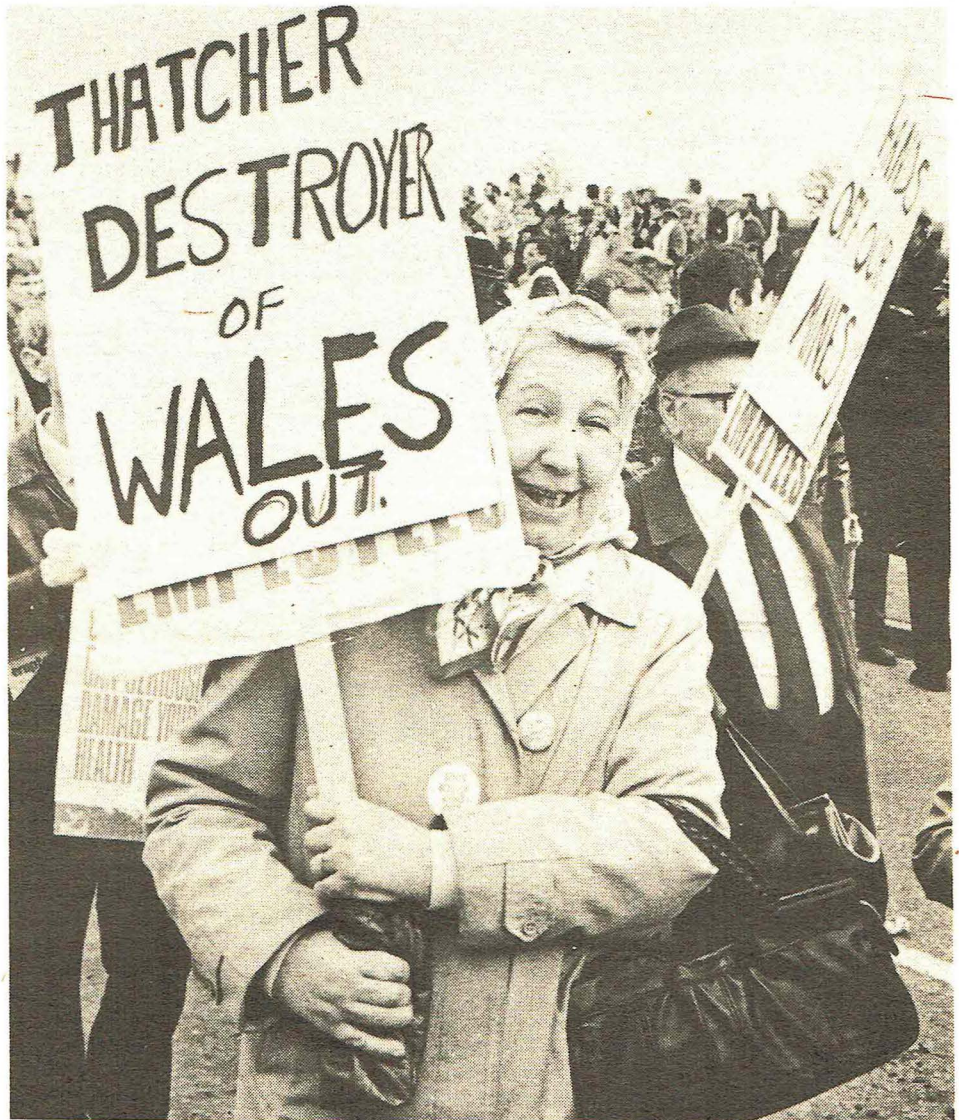
By Muriel Browning
(T&GWU, Llanelli)

work, hit some black ice and skidded into another car. His insurance will only pay third party, as it was an 'act of God'. He won't get a penny from the insurance and no redundancy on top of that.

"My daughter has got chicken pox and my son has broken his arm. It only needs me to go off sick and this will be the end of the line. I don't know what we are going to do.

"What do we do?"

Photo: MILITANT



Welsh workers lobbying Thatcher during her July '80 visit to Swansea—the Tories dismissed them as 'extremists'

steel jobs aren't for sale

Based on an interview
with Velindre workers
by Roy Davies

Of the 20,000 redundancies announced by the British Steel Corporation, over 1,000 are to be at Velindre tin plate works in Swansea.

The workers have reacted angrily to the announcements, after being fed the "rosy future" line for so long. The BSC decision will destroy the lives of hundreds of workers at Velindre.

A thousand redundancies will not add very much to the two and a quarter million already unemployed, but the social consequences to these families will be devastating. The Velindre works, they were told, was the jewel of the tin plate industry down here. Twelve to eighteen million pounds has been invested in the No.5 Stand Mill over the past two years, and the mill has been computerised.

What of British Steel boss Mr MacGregor's promise, when he first took over, that all viable works would be maintained? Over the past ten years Velindre has always made a profit, but the axe is out all the same.

The workers were absolutely shattered by the news. They realise most family men can look forward to a future of hardship—a married man with a couple of kids will be expected to live on little more than £30 a week.

Those visiting the employment centre for the first time will have to fight alongside the other 7,500 unemployed in Swansea for the 100 or so vacancies, with low wages.

Our children's jobs

No doubt the carrot of redundancy money will be dangled to soften the blow. But how long would even £4,000 last on the dole?

Remember, it is not our jobs we are selling, but our children's too. How do you explain to the unemployed teenager you have just sold his job?

In Velindre we have co-

operated with the management and kept the manning levels right down. But now they want more. They will never be satisfied.

This new attack by the BSC is only the start; it can end in the closure of Velindre and a complete carve up of Trostre and Ebbw Vale works. MacGregor has admitted that if plants are not up to standard in six months then they face closure—to hell with the men who work there.

It has been a shattering blow, but the men are prepared to fight these measures all the way. There is no alternative.

The BSC management have to be forced to back down. It is no good talking about sharing out the redundancies more evenly; the sharing out of misery is a sign of weakness. The workforce is not to blame for the crisis.

Action committees must be set up in the tin plate plants, to co-ordinate a campaign to save the jobs:

★ No redundancies—if work is scarce share it out with no loss of pay.

★ Sack the management—put BSC under workers' control and management.

★ A planned socialist economy to really integrate steel and tin plate and guarantee a future for the workforce.

'I'D WRING HER NECK'

Shopping just before Christmas, I was waiting to be checked out and heard the girl on the next checkout point talking to a friend:

"If I had that Margaret Thatcher, I'd wring her neck. I'd wring her neck for what she is doing to the working people of this country.

"Do you honestly think someone should give a married man with three children the sack just before Christmas?"

"Well," I said, "they are doing it. Anyway who was sacked?"

"My husband," she said. "He worked in a garage near Swansea. He gets no redundancy money, as he only worked there for eight months, and yet a young boy who has been working there for six months has been kept on.

"On top of that, he crashed the car last week and was afraid to tell me. He gave a friend a lift to

NEWCASTLE-NO A1 ROAD TO JOBS

Photo: Denis Duran

One year ago, under the headline 'A Job?—Come and get it!' the local Newcastle paper, 'The Journal', announced "an ambitious programme to attract out-of-work Geordies to the country town of Kings Lynn."

Forty workers and their families took Thatcher's advice and left their roots for this 'land of milk and honey.'

But on 9 December the Employment Adviser of Kings Lynn admitted to 'The Journal' that "if we had owned a crystal ball a year ago, I don't suppose we would have start-

By Chris Edwards
(Newcastle Central CLP)

ed this exercise at all."

The 160 skilled vacancies of a year ago have now dwindled to ten.

Seven of the 40 who went

south are unemployed and others are on short time; some have taken unskilled jobs, one is working in Holland and others are back on Tyneside. The skilled workers of Tyneside have been turned within a year into milkmen, labourers, unemployed workers, and industrial nomads!

Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Trades Council are now in the process of setting up an Unemployed Workers' Centre—something else that has come from the job-starved North East.

We must make Thatcher realise that the only place that workers are prepared to go to to be rid of the threat of unemployment is to a socialist society, and you don't get there just by moving down the A1, but by strengthening the labour and trade union movement with a programme and policy that gets rid of Thatcher and the bosses' society.



Youth Campaign Against Unemployment demonstration in Newcastle last autumn

Labour Students look towards Marxism

Resolutions submitted by Labour Clubs for the National Organisation of Labour Students Conference at Easter show both anger against the Tory government and the growth in support for the policies of 'Militant' amongst Labour Students.

Twenty four of the forty four resolutions support the policies of 'Militant' whilst only ten support the political position of the 'Clause 4' group who have a majority on the National Committee.

The anger of Labour Clubs with the work and approach of the NOLS leadership is indicated by the resolution from Durham University Labour Club, traditionally a Club which has supported the 'Clause 4' group. It reads: "This Club notes with alarm

the refusal of the NOLS National Committee to campaign amongst NOLS members and the Student Movement for support for the NEC demonstration against unemployment on November 29th 1980. A simple 'call for support' is scandalously insufficient. The model of the LPYS in producing leaflets and raising active support for the demonstration should be noted."

At the meeting of the Conference Standing Orders Committee, only one of the four 'Clause 4' supporters turned up. That meeting, and the resolutions submitted to the Conference show that the political support for the NOLS leadership has drastically declined. Every Labour

Club that wants to see a change in the NOLS leadership and a leadership committed to Marxist policies and an active NOLS elected at the next Conference at Easter must ensure that their Club is fully represented at the Conference, and comply with all the affiliation procedures.

The closing date for new Clubs to affiliate is January 16th. For existing Clubs to affiliate, and delegation forms to be sent in, the closing date is February 9th.

By Alan Watson [NOLS NC] and Rob Hughes [NOLS Standing Orders Committee]

What they don't tell you about the dole

The fact of there being almost two and a quarter million persons 'on the dole,' has a far more serious consequence than just lack of jobs. Social problems faced by the unemployed and their families are all too often little realised or ignored.

Dr Harvey Brenner, an American sociologist reported recently that 'homicides and suicide tend to rise within a year of increased unemployment rates.' Granada Television's World in Action reported the suicides of three workers, whose deaths could be directly attributed to recent redundancies.

The 1979 report of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children told of the significant increase of violence against children in the homes of unemployed people; and the South Wales Council on Alcoholism has shown a large increase in cases particularly since the closure of many pits and the cutbacks in the steelworks.

Yet the present government propose to make drastic cuts on the very hospitals and

agencies that can help to relieve these problems. To deliberately create unemployment is in itself horrific and then to so callously take away the support that the unemployed and their families so

desperately need is a crime against humanity.

By Terry Thomas (T&GWU Shop Steward and Gwent College of Higher Education)

'Militant' tour

The interest in the ideas of Marxism continues to grow. Recently a number of Labour Parties in the Cumbria area invited speakers from the 'Militant'. A week's tour was organised which took in the major towns of the area. Amongst the meetings held were those of Barrow Constituency Labour Party, the women's section at North Walney in Barrow, Kendal Labour party and a readers' meeting in Carlisle.

In all of these areas we received an enthusiastic response. On the basis of our

contributions there were urgent demands for the setting up of Young Socialists branches and for return visits. In Barrow for example individual members have decided to organise a day school early this year. The general response is indicated by the sale of 110 papers, £20 worth of pamphlets and a similar amount raised for the fighting fund.

By Ed Waugh, Denis Doran and Dave Cotterill

FASCISTS ATTACK PAPER SELLERS...

For more than half a century Chapel Market in Islington has been a sales pitch for left wing paper sellers.

By 'Militant' reporters

Since 1978 the National Front have been trying to seize the pitch and on nine separate occasions they have resorted to physical violence.

On the morning of Saturday 13 December five members of the Socialist Workers Party including a young girl, and a supporter of the 'Militant', were selling their papers when a dozen National Front supporters, one of them armed with a bicycle chain, came across the road and lined up in front of them.

After a few moments abusing them the National

Front waded in with boots and fists, one SWPer was kicked in the testicles, another was battered about the head, and the girl was knocked to the ground. The 'Militant' supporter was violently set upon by three NF thugs who punched and kicked him repeatedly, and stole his papers. Somehow the

left wingers fought back, knocking down two of the NF thugs and landing a few right hands on some of the others.

It was a sickening and terrifying display of violence by the National Front, out to physically injure and terrorise left wing paper sellers, and it indicates the threat that fascists pose.

Socialists everywhere must raise and discuss the issue of fascism in every branch of the labour and trade union movement, to warn and mobilise the movement against this pernicious evil.

And 'Militant' supporters must themselves mobilise to defend their paper sellers, not only at Chapel Market, but at all sales pitches. We cannot allow supporters of 'Militant' or any other left wing paper sellers to be brutally beaten up by the fascists, for once fascist violence begins it grows rapidly if unchecked.

... and smash up their own HQ



Part of National Front march in S London last year

Another bout of infighting amongst the fascists has resulted in one group of fascists smashing up the headquarters to prevent a rival group from having it.

The National Front recently lost the right to use Excalibur House as a headquarters on "planning grounds."

The building was left in the

hands of "NF Properties Ltd" which is run by former National Front member, Paul Kavanagh. Kavanagh was expelled during the latest struggle for power amongst the National Front. So he quickly got a court order to evict the National Front political party.

They responded in their usual calm, rational manner—they smashed the place up breaking windows and defacing walls. When they moved into Excalibur House three years ago the Front proudly proclaimed that they had finally arrived as a major force. Now though their HQ is reported to be "a property in Lambeth."



Earth goes round sun—official! Yes, Pope John Paul II has just called for a formal reversal of the Church's verdict on Galileo. In 1633 Galileo was condemned by the Inquisition and placed under house arrest for propounding the theory that the earth moves around the sun. The Vatican was the centre of the world and the world the centre of the cosmos. Galileo, of course, has been dead for 300 years. But it's good to see the Church keeping up with important developments in science.

Following the pioneering efforts by Ballymena Council in trying to take science back 200 years by banning the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution in schools, many schools in the southern states of the USA are now required to allocate equal time to teaching children about the creation as about evolution.

Judge Braswell Dean, speaking in Atlanta, Georgia, said that humanistic values were the cause of rising crime rates, abortion, pornography and pollution. Dr Henry Morris, Director of the "Institute for Creation Research", seeks to "reverse the dangerous drift of our country and its educational system into humanism, socialism, amorality and atheism." To these reactionary supporters of big business in the southern states, it is as immoral to teach the theory of evolution in schools as it is to join a trade union and organise a fight for decent wages and conditions. What do these people say about the "morality" of the petrol-bomb attacks on trade union activists, the deaths of textile mill workers from lung cancer induced by breathing cotton dust, or the violent intimidation of black people?

"Trade unions and all employees should [forego] political interests and get on with the job of making the enterprise for which they work successful." The ranting of a would-be Führer, intent on smashing the labour movement? Not quite. This recipe for the survival of British industry comes from Mr Leslie Tolley, CBE, chairman of Renold Ltd and past chairman of the British Institute of Management. Bosses would be delighted if workers stopped fighting for a better life. If "political interests" were left safely in the bosses' hands, what a paradise it would be for them. Of course, they won't drop their "political interests"—they will continue to defend the capitalist system. But what if the working class steps up the political fight against big business? Will Mr Tolley go one step further and demand the destruction of our democratic rights altogether?

When you school students return to school this week, spare a thought for the poor chaps over at Eton. Recently the Sunday Times magazine, in its 'A Life in the Day' series, concentrated on one Duncan Beardsley, who explained just how beastly life is at the bastion of the British Empire. He seemed a bit put out with all the discipline there, having to get up and go to bed at certain times and so on. Food is frightful, although he pointed out how you can buy food from a 'van from Harrods' which calls once a week. However, his miserable sufferings had taken a turn for the better now he had moved into his very own house, which isn't bad going at the age of 18. But then owning homes runs in the family—they have homes in Derby and Portugal. No doubt this pampered specimen will go on to either be an executive, MP, Judge, etc, having gotten himself a decent education, hoarded by the ruling class at Eton for their own exclusive use, and also through the contacts he has made with other bourgeois brats during his initiation into the ruling class of our society.

1905 THE FIRST SOVIETS

By Derek Macmillan

"The march to the palace was a peaceful one, without songs, banners or speeches. People wore their Sunday clothes. In some parts of the city they carried icons and church banners.

"Everywhere the petitioners encountered troops. They begged to be allowed to pass. They wept, they tried to go around the barrier, they tried to break through it. The soldiers fired all day long.

"The dead were counted in hundreds, the wounded in the thousands. An exact count was impossible since the police carted away and secretly buried the bodies of the dead at night."

This is how Leon Trotsky, the chairman of the St Petersburg Soviet, described the horrific events of Bloody Sunday 1905. The twentieth century has produced plenty of atrocities against the working class since then, but the events of 1905 have plenty of lessons for today.

Marxists were alone in recognising the significance of these events. No more than two days before Bloody Sunday, Peter Struve—a Russian Roy Jenkins—had published an article stating that, "There is not yet such a thing as a revolutionary people in Russia."

Struve was on a par with those academic "Marxists" who, accepting capitalism's post-war boom as an irreversible "accomplished fact", ruled out any revolutionary movement of the working class in Europe—on the eve of the French general strike of 1968!

Bloody Sunday had a decisive impact on the most advanced sections of the Russian working class. They turned their backs on such liberal methods as peaceful petitions and instead built their own organisation—the "Soviet" (a Russian word meaning "committee")—and used their own distinctive methods of struggle.

The demonstration was led



This month sees the anniversary of the start of the 1905 Russian Revolution. Despite final defeat, workers created new organisations, Soviets, which twelve years later helped bring about the downfall of the Tsar. Above, 1918 Soviet. Right, Trotsky shortly before becoming head of the St Petersburg Soviet in 1905.



by a priest—Father George Gapon. This fact led many liberals to believe that the events were a result of his "personality". They failed to notice the small detail that he had around him several thousand political conscious workers who, as Trotsky explained, "formed an iron ring around him, a ring from which he could not have broken loose even if he had wanted to."

This should be a lesson to those short-sighted "socialists" who have characterised the movement in Poland as "Catholic" and "counter-revolutionary" on the basis of Lech Walesa's interviews with foreign pressmen. The Russian liberals at least had the excuse that they were liberals and couldn't be expected to understand the class struggle!

The events of 1905 proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that the capitalist class in backward countries are incapable of playing any pro-

gressive role and the revolution must become "permanent" and place the working class in power. This thesis was dramatically vindicated in 1917.

Perhaps the most important gain of 1905 was the formation of the "Soviet". Even today there are sociologists who prate about the working class being "unable to organise." The Soviet gives the lie to that assertion.

The Russian Soviets provided an inspiration to the international workers' movement, reflected in the formation of "workers' councils"

in Germany in 1919 and the "Councils of Action" formed by British workers during the general strike of 1926.

It is important that we should remember the men, women and children who were cruelly murdered on Bloody Sunday. Socialists have no country—they were our brothers and sisters because they fell in the cause we are still fighting for today.

We do not remember them with maudlin sentimentality but with pride. We don't mourn, we organise.

UNEMPLOYMENT CENTRES CAN BE MORE THAN 'TEA AND CHAT'

By Chris Edwards
(Newcastle Unemployed Centre, personal cap.)

"On the stones" is a unique pamphlet. It has been produced by the Newcastle Trades Council Centre for the Unemployed, but it has been written by the unemployed themselves.

Hours of conversations were taped, edited and put together. It describes in great detail the problems that face the unemployed in the North East.

"On the Stones" is not, however, a story of despair. Shining through the horrors of unemployment, it shows the courage of the unemployed, their determination to fight back. It charts the political awakening of the unemployed.

A clear message emerges. The unemployed are not prepared to be used as the

scabs and scapegoats of a society in crisis.

The pamphlet outlines why the unemployed need to link up their struggle to that of other trade unionists, and why they need the backing of the organised trade union movement if they are going to win.

This is just one of the ideas pioneered by the Centre and the Unemployed Workers' Union which has been set up operating from the Centre.

Now similar Centres are being set up all over the North East: Spennymoor, Darlington, Stockton. Outside the North Centres are being established in Kings Lynn and Liverpool.

Thirty-one other trades councils are discussing the idea, and many organisations

have written asking for information.

The Labour Party Conference backed a call for the setting up of political centres for the unemployed. So too has the TUC General Council.

However, their paper support needs to be turned into concrete support. We need the unemployed to become an integral part of the labour and trade union movement.

The main big general unions should open up their membership to the unemployed, offering them reduced rates, and the backing of their full-time officials and resources, so that unemployed branches can be set up.

Active trade union members still in work should help to integrate these people into the union so that the unemployed don't become an isolated section of the union.

In Newcastle positive activity is the key to winning the unemployed; campaigns at

the dole, demonstrations etc. The Newcastle Centre for example obtained 3,000 signatures demanding free bus passes for the unemployed, with free access to council-run sports and social facilities. Two cinemas have just agreed special rates for the unemployed during the day.

In many towns and cities unemployed centres already exist, but they are usually "drop-in Centres" where you can get tea and sympathy, a game of darts and little more.

Newcastle gives the unemployed the opportunity to organise themselves, not just to stand alone but to stand shoulder to shoulder with the thirteen million members of the trade union movement in a struggle to bring down this reactionary government.

"On the Stones" is available price 50p plus postage from: Trades Council Centre for the Unemployed, 5 Queens Street, Newcastle 1 (Tel 0632 23050).

NEW YEAR 81 GREETINGS

New Year greetings from
T&GWU BRANCH 5/909
[Rover Solihull] to the labour movement
and all trade unionists

Save jobs
Sack the Tories
Greetings from
Doncaster LPYS

Luton West
Labour Party
Young Socialists
Kick out the Tories
Forward to socialism

Fraternal greetings
to all trade union
and Labour activists
ROBB CALEDON
SHOP STEWARDS
& WORKFORCE
DUNDEE

Llanelli and district
Trades Council
send fraternal
greetings to all
Labour activists:
Kick Thatcher out!



North Edinburgh CLP
greet the labour
movement
Thatcher out and a
return of a socialist
Labour government

UCATT
DONCASTER
BC 143
Fraternal greetings
& best wishes
for Xmas and
happy new year
Unite to fight the
Tories
Housing cuts
means homeless
people

Salford LPYS send
socialist greetings
to readers of 'Militant'
1981—the death
agony of Toryism

CHURCH WARD
LABOUR PARTY
LIVERPOOL
sends fraternal
New Year greetings
to fellow socialists
and internationalists
everywhere

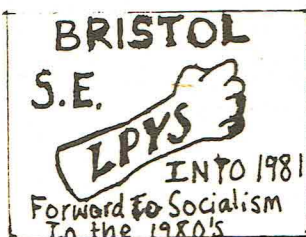
Greetings to comrades
all over the world
May the spirit
of Liverpool grow
Gravelly Hill Ward
Labour Party
Birmingham

Kick out Thatcher
in 1981
Socialist greetings
Sussex University
Labour Club

Brighton Hove and
District Trades Union
Council
SOCIALISM
FOR 1981

New Year's
greetings from
Uxbridge LPYS
to the trade union
and labour
movement
Bring down
the Tories!
Forward to a
socialist GLC
in 1981!

Our new year
resolution—
to step up the fight
for socialism
Make it yours
Whitehawk Branch
Labour Party
Brighton



Socialist greetings for the New Year
from all comrades at
WAVERTREE CLP
Support 30% PLP, 30% CLP,
40% unions resolution at
the January conference

Socialist greetings for the New Year from
all comrades at Valley Ward Labour Party
Peace, Jobs, Socialism

LIVERPOOL GRAPHICAL SOCIETY



THE TORIES' POLICIES LED TO
800,000 JOBS BEING LOST IN 1980—
LET'S MAKE THEM REDUNDANT
IN 1981

Fraternal Greetings from
Hayes & Harlington
Constituency Labour Party
General Committee

Royton & Wardle
Labour Party
Women's section
Thatcher promised
to help the family
—whose family?

WOKINGHAM
LPYS send New Year
greetings to all readers
of 'Militant'

Militant readers in
CAMEL LAIRD
send New Year
greetings to all who
struggle for socialism

●●●●●●●●●●

Harlow Trade
Union Council
New year greetings
Stop the cuts
End unemployment
Sack the Tories

●●●●●●●●●●

Fraternal New
Year greetings
to all our comrades
Fight harder in
1981 to further
socialism
All our support
and best wishes
EAST COWES
LABOUR PARTY

PADDINGTON LPYS
Workers' unity to oppose
repression in
Northern Ireland

"Catholic Sinn Feiners may learn that love of freedom
beats strongly in the hearts of Protestant peasants and
workmen, who, because they have approached it from
a different historical standpoint, regard the National-
ist conception with suspicion or even hostility."
James Connolly

Cathcart LPYS
wish comrades and
supporters of
'Militant' all the best
for the New Year

Make the workers
and turkeys
happy this year
Stuff the Tories!
Tower Hamlets LPYS

Socialist New Year greetings from the
Labour Party in Canvey Island
to all Party members

East Lewisham
Militant Readers
Salute 600 years of class
struggle
Peasants' Revolt 1381
Workers' Revolt 1981
No rate or rent rises!
No Cuts

New Year Greetings from
Wakefield LPYS
Socialist policies for
Labour
End mass unemployment
Fight the Cuts
No nuclear weapons
Smash capitalism
Fight for socialism

Forward to socialism
in the '80s
Comradely greetings
Edgbaston
Labour Party
Young Socialists

Forward to
workers'
democracy
and socialism
New Year's
greetings
NEWCASTLE
CENTRAL CLP

Capitalism is a plague
Socialism for a
living wage
Fraternal greetings
Southend LPYS

Boom, slump, barbarism, war?
Socialist policies now!
Basildon LPYS

ELLESMERE PORT
LPYS send fraternal
New Year greetings
to all comrades in
the labour movement

Swansea LPYS
wishes all comrades
a 'Militant' new year
Forward to socialism!

NEW YEAR SOCIALIST GREETINGS FOR 1981 FROM

Anna Bugler
Bill Bugler
John Burtenshaw
Bob Cheeseman
Tony Dines
Frieda Fenby
Tim Gibbs
Alan Gray
Paul Holder

Dennis Hosgood
Pauline Hosgood
Garry Hosgood
Norman Knight
Mick Lane
Alan Lavier
John Letissier
Christine May
Jayne McEwan

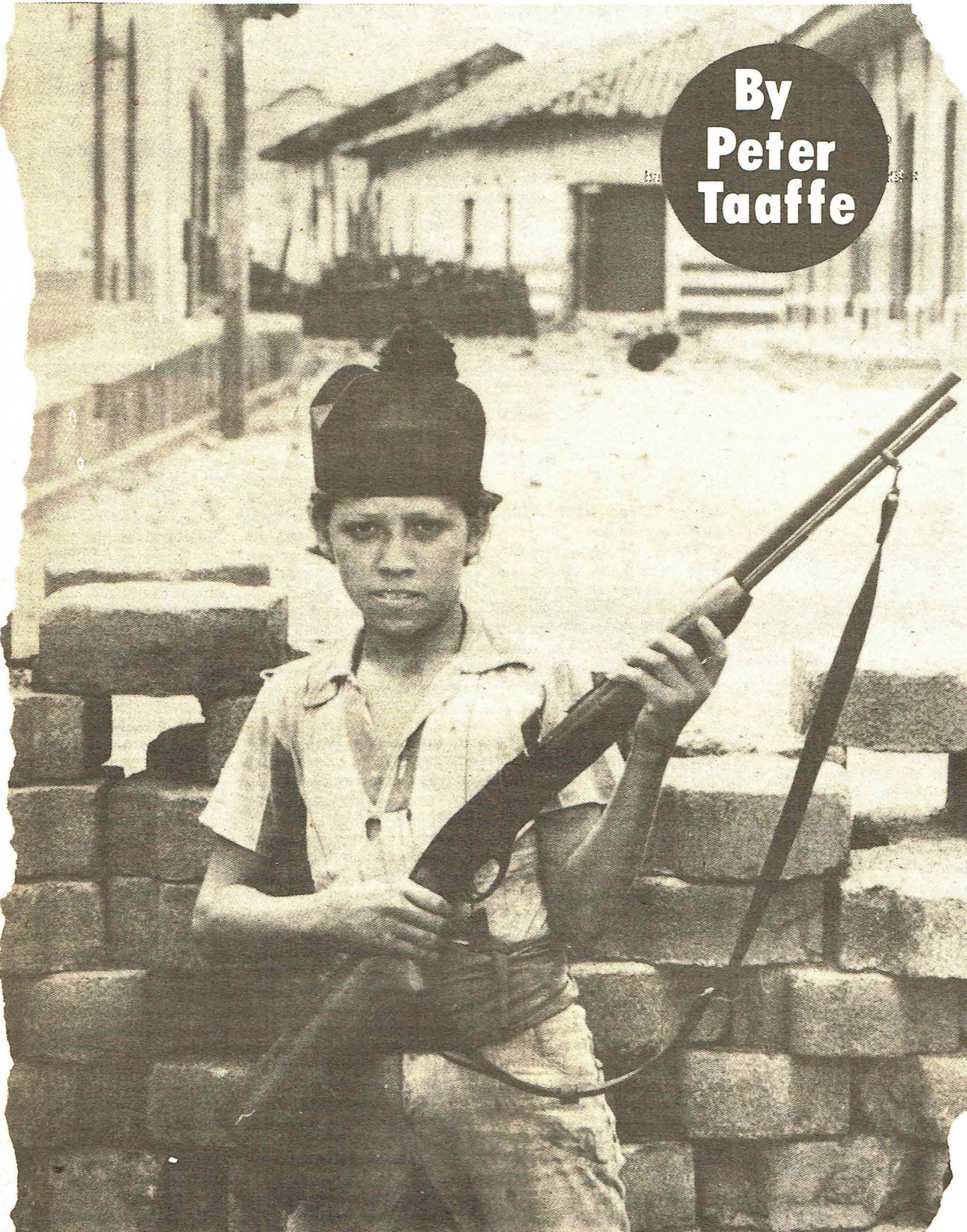
Jim McEwan
Dolly McGurk
Jim Moore
Stan Natrass
Graham Norgett
Graham Padbury
Dennis Sandford
Mark Still
Tony Squires

Wendy Squires
Jonathan Tapsell
Eric Thresher
Gerry Tomlinson
Adam Turff
Sally Warren
Paul Wilmott
Members of Arundel
CLP

ONLY THE UNITED LABOUR & TRADE UNION
MOVEMENT PLEDGED TO SOCIALIST POLICIES
WILL SMASH THE TORIES

1980

By
Peter
Taaffe



A young Sandanista during the fight against Nicaragua's Somoza dictatorship

A fitting opening for a decade of revolutionary explosions

Not even the capitalists themselves believe that they have had a very good year! Their statements confirm the predictions made by the Marxists, that 1980 would mark the beginning of one of the most turbulent decades in the whole of human history.

Writing in the 'Wall Street Journal' on the threshold of 1980, Irving Kristol, a spokesman for American capitalism, wrote: "This episode [the taking of American hostages in November 1979] is as it were a shocking prologue to an equally tense drama that stands poised to unfold in the decade ahead. It promises to be an absolutely ghastly period." [November 1979]

Two months later into the year, the 'Sunday Times' (17 February) stated: "The world economy is breaking down." And, as the year drew to its close, Robert Beckman, writing in 'The Times' (9 October) commented: "European economies are out of control. Recession is ravaging Western Europe. But, worst of all, at the same time inflation rampages ahead. We live in a period of profound turbulence, disillusionment—a time where even those in power feel powerless."

Not one sector of the world has been free from crisis or the beginning of crisis. The advanced capitalist world has been ravaged by the worst recession since the end of the second world war.

Britain is worse effected than in 1929-31. Then manufacturing production dropped by 11%. Yet in 1980-81 it is expected to drop by more than 14%.

Britain's mass unemployment is paralleled throughout the capitalist world. There are more than 24 million unemployed in the OECD area alone—that is in the advanced capitalist countries. Turkey has stopped supplying figures, such is the scale of mass unemployment in that country!

In the citadel of world capitalism, the USA, more than 8 million are out on the stones. In Germany it is almost a million. In France the official figure for unemployment is one million six hundred thousand.

In Southern Europe a picture of absolute catastrophe is revealed in the unemployment figures. In Spain, for instance, 1,494,000 are unemployed out of a workforce of just over 12 million, which is 11.6% of the total labour force. Moreover, behind these bare statistics is a picture of utter deprivation and misery for working people.

In Andalusia, for instance, as the 'Observer' magazine recently demonstrated, real hunger exists in the villages. One labourer declared to the Observer's correspondent: "We're not prepared any longer to die of hunger. We'd rather die fighting...I haven't known anything as bad since

the 1930s and the Republic."

In 1980 the capitalists as a whole have embraced the policies of deflation. According to Robert Beckman of 'The Times': "We see no evidence that Keynesian economics are capable of preventing devastation." The reversal to the orthodox capitalist measures of the past, particularly those used in the 19th century and the 1930s, has reinforced the world economic recession.

The capitalists have attempted through these measures to cut the living standards of the working class, thereby boosting profitability and, at the same time, have attempted to eliminate the syphilis of inflation from the system. However, they have got the worst of both worlds. Unlike the 1930s, they have at one and the same time deflation and also inflation.

Even those in power feel powerless

The economic recession has led, through increased competition between the monopolies both on the national and world market, to the rate of increase in prices coming down. But no capitalist economist seriously expects that inflation can be completely eradicated from the system.

At the same time, a discussion has raged amongst the strategists of capital internationally as to why the massive rise in unemployment has not provoked social upheaval, "even civil war." Some calculate that the working class have been cowed by the recession and are incapable of fighting back. They point to a drop in the number of strikes in Britain for instance.

But the working class does not easily tolerate the present worsening of their conditions.

The employed workers are seeing the seemingly never-ending rise in unemployment and, fearing that they could be next, are held back from moving.

But once unemployment stops rising, and particularly if there is another upswing, with increased profits for the capitalists in 1981 or 1982, then a huge movement of the working class for "their share" will be unleashed.

1980 has demonstrated the enormous simmering discontent within the ranks of the working class.

The conditions have been created for social revolution in a number of countries in Western Europe, particularly in Southern Europe. But if revolution is the locomotive of history as Marx pointed out, then faulty leadership is an

**CONTINUED
ON 8**



Sri Lanka 1980: A nightmare of poverty and hunger

10

A fit for a revo ex

CONTINUED FROM 7

enormous brake.

The last year has underlined the fact that the leaders of the mass organisations of the working class of Western Europe are incapable of understanding the changed character of the period we are passing through.

Capitalism in general is no longer capable of taking society forward. It is demanding—a greater or lesser extent, depending upon the stage of development of different countries—"sacrifices" from the masses as a pre-condition of the continuation of the system.

At the same time, the colossal power of the working class which has been built up over the post war period is demonstrated again and again. Yet the leaders of the mass organisations are precisely afraid of the power which stands behind them.

Developments in Italy demonstrate this point clearly. Marxism has maintained that for more than ten years Italy has been in the grip of a "pre-revolutionary" crisis. The strategists of capital have now confirmed that this is the state of affairs in Italy.

A protracted pre-revolutionary crisis in Italy

Writing in the journal 'Repubblica,' the former President of the Senate says:

"Italy is in a dangerous slalom towards an obscure destination riding on skis of terrorism and corruption. It is a phase which would normally be described as 'pre-revolutionary'."

Such a protracted pre-revolutionary period was never envisaged by the great teachers of Marxism. By its very nature a pre-revolutionary situation leads either to a revolution or a counter-revolution in a very short time.

The reason why such developments have dragged on in Italy is, on the one side, because of the extreme crisis and discrediting of the Italian capitalists. Each month, indeed, almost every day thro-

ughout the past year, evidence piles up which further discredits Italian capitalism and its direct political representatives, the Christian Democrats. The latest scandal resulting from the earthquake in Southern Italy has aroused widespread indignation against the Christian Democrats. The corruption, nepotism and the rottenness which permeates the Christian Democrats and the state machine has resulted in enormous delays in helping the earthquake victims.

Moreover, it is not the first time this has happened. The victims of former natural calamities are still waiting for the aid and help promised by the Christian Democrats and the state. Even an issue like this, which lays bare the rotten essence of capitalism and its parties, could have resulted in the beginning of a social revolution in Italy.

On the other side, is the colossal power of the Italian working class and its organisations. Again in 1980 this has been underlined in a series of movements of the Italian working class involving actions of a general strike character throughout the year.

However, this power of the Italian workers has been frittered away again and again by their leaders, particularly the Communist Party leaders.

This is shown by the recent developments within Italy's major firm, Fiat. In the past the CP leaders opposed the demand for the nationalisation of Fiat and have supported management's call for "sacrifices" in an attempt to rescue the firm.

But in September Fiat proposed to reduce the labour force by at least 15,000. The pressure of the workers forced the Italian Communist Party leaders and the unions under their control into opposition. This resulted in a month-long strike, during which Berlinguer, the leader of the Italian CP, even hinted to the workers that should they occupy the factories, they would receive the support of the CP leaders!

However, the years during which the CP played the role of fire hose has not failed to

leave its mark. During the strike, 40,000 marched in favour "of a return to work." The Italian Communist Party leaders were shown that the working class is not a tap to be turned on and off at their whim.

The newly developed confidence of the Italian capitalists, however, is entirely misplaced. Their belief that the Italian working class have become reconciled to the increasingly worsening situation will be shattered in the coming period.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, the Italian CP came out in favour—or at least hinted at—a left alternative—a Socialist Party/Communist Party government, as an alternative to the discredited Christian Democrats. This appeared to represent a departure from the policies consistently pursued of the "historic compromise," that is, a government including the workers' parties and the Christian Democrats.

A nightmare crisis for the under-developed world

However, it is clear the Italian Communist Party leaders are not seriously agitating or preparing their ranks for such an alternative. It is seen merely as a means of frightening the Christian Democrats into allowing the CP leaders into the government at a certain stage.

One thing is certain, the drawn-out agonies of Italy, of mass unemployment, the terrible poverty of the big cities, and the endemic terrorism, typified by the fascist crime in Bologna where 80 people at least were murdered, will worsen unless the working class transform society.

It is within the ranks of the workers' parties, the Socialist Party and Italian CP, that such a force will emerge.

If 1980 has been a bad year for the advanced capitalist world it has been a nightmare for the "under-developed" world.

In Africa, Asia and Latin America, where the majority of mankind is to be found, landlordism and capitalism has demonstrated its utter incapacity to satisfy even the most elementary demands of the masses. All the figures

to indict the system have been furnished by the spokesmen of world capitalism themselves in the form of the Brandt commission.

The figures which they give are enough to numb the mind. There are eight hundred million destitute in this area, 17 million children die below the age of five, while thirty to forty million are affected by blindness. At least 80% of the population is illiterate.

At the same time, the yearly total world expenditure on arms at the time the report was published, was 450 thousand million dollars. Eighty million scientists, who could be employed to free mankind from these devastating conditions, are involved in the production of useless weapons of destruction.

One jet fighter would be sufficient to build 40,000 village pharmacies.

And yet there is no possibility, despite the appeals of the Brandt Commission, of this situation being fundamentally changed on the basis of capitalism.

Aid from the capitalist West to these areas is similar to a thimble being used to try and bale out the ocean. The miserably target of 0.7% of the rich countries' income going in aid to the backward countries has no hope of being realised this year, or for this decade. At the moment, no more than 0.3% is given as aid. Moreover, most aid goes to service the debt of these countries owed the advanced capitalist world itself.

This debt now stands at a total of 20% of the combined gross national products of these countries. At the beginning of 1980, the backward countries owed the advanced capitalist world a total of 384,000 million dollars. A quarter of this total is owed to the privately owned banks in the capitalist West.

The nightmare prospect that these countries, or at least some of them, could default on their debts to the West haunts the spokesmen of capitalism. Thus, Robert Beckman has written in 'The Times': "The most frightening feature of the situation is that our global financial system is so unstable that such a default could occur at any time, without the slightest warning from one of several sources. We have the combin-

ation of the terrifying debt structure of the third world countries, the illiquidity of the corporate sector throughout Western Europe, and the consumer debt mountain which has been growing inexorably for decades."

This spokesman of capitalism does not discount a crash similar to 1929 at a certain stage. This is unlikely in the next period.

It is most likely that the present slump will give way to an upswing in 1981/2, but one that will be based on far shakier foundations than in the past. This moreover, would then give way to another recession, or small slump in the middle of the decade, of a far deeper and of a more protracted character than the one we have just passed through.

In other words, capitalism has now left behind the period of enormous economic upswing of the 1950s, 1960s and the early 1970s. We are now in a period of booms and slumps, of instability economically which will in turn produce enormous turmoil socially throughout the world.

Developments in the backward countries anticipate the upheavals that are coming the capitalist west. Throughout the last 30 years, Africa, Asia and Latin America have been faced with the greatest upheavals in the whole of its history. And yet this has taken place in a period of world capitalist upswing, in the most favourable period for these countries.

Turmoil in the Caribbean and Central America

The present world economic crisis has had a devastating effect on the under-developed world. This is perhaps best typified by the developments within Jamaica. The left wing Manley government which swept to power in two elections on the basis of massive popular backing, was incapable of satisfying the demands of the Jamaican masses on the basis of capitalism. The Manley government, as with all reformists, attempted to carry through a quarter of a

revolution. But as the experience of Chile demonstrated, this will always be paid for with counter-revolution.

Backed by the CIA, but-tressed by a terrorism campaign against Peoples National Party militants, and with the support of the press the right-wing, pro-capitalist Jamaican Labour Party led by Seaga has just been returned back to power. They have a massive parliamentary majority, but not an enormous lead in the popular vote over the PNP.

However, as events will demonstrate, there is no way forward on the basis of capitalism in Jamaica. Indeed the whole of the Caribbean and Central America has been in turmoil for the past year. The movement of the masses has been met by the bullets and jackboots of the military dictatorships which dominate Central America.

1980 saw the complete defeat of the Somosa dictatorship in Nicaragua. Moreover it appears increasingly as if the Sandinista regime must tread the same path as Castro before. The devastated Nicaraguan economy and society will not be rescued by ailing landlordism and capitalism, nor by the hand-outs of American imperialism.

It is therefore likely that it will move in the direction of establishing a deformed workers' state. It appears that only the lack of enthusiasm for such a development on the part of Castro and the Russian bureaucracy has prevented such a movement up to now.

Castro, as we have pointed out before, is attempting to come to a diplomatic agreement with American imperialism, even with the Reagan administration. If this means the delay of the revolution in Latin America and all that means for the peoples of this area, then—reasons the Cuban bureaucracy—so be it.

However, the virus is contagious. Nicaragua seems to be lost to capitalism and could be followed by El Salvador. Already over 30,000 workers and peasants have been massacred by the right wing military dictatorship in El Salvador.

However, if the El Salvador military junta is threatened it is now clear that the new Reagan administration in America, in contradistinction to previous presidents follow-

1980

ing opening decade of utionary losions



Workers in Warsaw waiting to join the newly formed independent trade union, Solidarity

ing the Vietnam war, is now prepared to intervene, even militarily in Central and Latin America.

The American capitalists obviously calculate that the prevailing political mood in America will allow them the possibility of even direct military intervention where this is required. They already have a "task force" of 100,000 ready to intervene in the Caribbean and in Latin America. However, if Reagan should be tempted to move down this road, then will learn the lessons painfully acquired by Johnson, Nixon and other presidents who received a bloody nose in Vietnam.

It is possible, through a "police action," temporarily to de-rail a revolution. However, it is not possible to hold a whole people in chains. Large-scale military intervention will eventually have the same political and economical repercussions on America as the intervention in Vietnam.

Reagan, another one-term president

Latin America is, it is true, a decisive area as far as American imperialism is concerned. Most of its imported raw materials comes from Latin America. It therefore will be determined to crush revolution in blood where this is possible.

However, the events in Central America are a mere dress rehearsal for the convulsions throughout the continent in the next decade. It is possible perhaps, temporarily, to hold in check movements in small countries such as El Salvador. But such a strategy will be shattered once the Chilean, Argentinian and Brazilian workers throw off the shackles of the military dictatorships in their countries.

Reagan obviously calculates that his "massive mandate" will be sufficient insurance against domestic opposition to these policies. However, the results of the presidential election show conclusively that wide-spread disillusionment and even cynicism affects the bigger section, perhaps even a majority, of the American population.

In the 1976 presidential

election, 54.3% of the total electorate turned out, while in 1980 it dropped to 52%. This was despite the fact that 10 million 18-21 year olds were voting for the first time.

Moreover, even the capitalist experts hold out little hope for Reagan being able to measure up to his lofty promises. The 'Economist' writes: "The odds are that he will be judged by 1984 to have failed—such are the odds against America re-discovering itself and its place in the world." (14 November) It goes on to speak of "another one-term failure."

Thus, even these spokesmen of capitalism have recognised the inherent instability which besets even the strongest capitalist power. As with Britain which is now in the pattern of no more than one-term governments, America is faced with one-term presidents. The disillusionment with Carter and with Reagan will lay the ground for the development of a mass Labour Party in America in the course of the next decade.

The national conference of socialists in the United States held in early December 1980 is a pointer to the way events will develop in the USA. More than two thousand five hundred trade unionists gathered at what the New York 'Herald Tribune' called: "One of the largest socialist gatherings in the United States in decades," to hear Tony Benn and other leaders of the European labour movement.

Calls were made for the trade unions to take the initiative in forming a mass labour party. The absence of many leading trade unionists from the conference provoked William Winpisinger, president of the International Association of Machinists, to comment, "We can only advise our missing friends: either lead or follow, but get the hell out of the way."

It is clear that the actions at home and abroad by the Reagan administration will create a favourable soil upon which an American Labour Party will grow. While it is possible that Reagan will not go as far as Thatcher, nevertheless, a brand of Thatcherism, in the form of cuts in state expenditure and attempts to hold down living standards, will be attempted by his administration. This can lead to rapid disillusionment amongst precisely those

workers who were fooled into voting for him at the last election.

The end of the "Affluent Society"

A similar process has developed in Britain, amongst workers who were tricked into voting for Thatcher eighteen months ago. The development of a mass Labour Party in America would mark an enormous step forward both for the American and the international working class. Starting off as a Labour Party with a reformist programme, it could develop very rapidly towards a socialist and a Marxist position. The American workers have great traditions of struggle, and can develop with lightning speed, as the events which led to the creation of the CIO/AFL in the 1930s demonstrated.

The more far-sighted representatives of capitalism have understood that the period of the last thirty years of economic upswing and rising living standards have disappeared for ever.

This is what Irving Kristol wrote in the 'Wall Street Journal': "The cast of mind shaped in the 1960s—one which perceived the United States as a 'affluent society' whose major challenges were achieving a better 'quality of life' and 'fairer' (i.e. more equal) distribution of entitlements to wealth, income and opportunity was quite unfit to cope with the bleaker realities of the 1970s and we were very slow getting on a new learning curve."

At the same time, Kristol goes on to argue that calling for "sacrifices" from American workers is not likely to go down too well:

"There is far too much easy and glib talk these days about the need for Americans to tighten their belts, accept a reduction in living standards, even resign themselves to an economic philosophy of no growth. It is dangerous and irresponsible talk. Yes of course the American democracy can cope with a temporary cessation of economic growth, as it has done in war time. But only if it is perceived to be temporary. But few seem to realise that a prospect of economic growth

is a crucial precondition for the survival of any modern democracy, the American included.

"For over two thousand years, the consensus amongst political philosophers was that democracy, the rule of the majority, was an apparently unstable and therefore undesirable form of government. The reason that they came to this conclusion was not because they were snobs or disliked the ordinary people, because common people were then inferior to the people today. It was because they believed on the basis of experience (in the ancient Greek city states especially) that in a democracy, the majority, being poor, would always use its power to expropriate the wealth of the more affluent minority and that this would lead (as it always had) to economic chaos, followed by political chaos, followed by the restoration of order by a dictator."

Stalinist bureaucracy, now an absolute fetter

In other words, argues our worthy Wall Street commentator, the inability of American capitalism to deliver the goods is bound to lead to enormous discontent by the majority (being poor), who will seek to use their power to expropriate the capitalists. Kristol hints that the answer to this danger is the establishment of military police dictatorships!

This has been the solution embraced by the landlords and capitalists backed by imperialism, in the colonial and the semi-colonial world. The advanced capitalist world is likely to face problems on a similar scale in the next decade. Therefore the capitalists are preparing for civil war against the working class and the labour movement.

In a brutal fashion, Kristol states, that in a new situation, "SALT (that is, Strategic Arms Limitation Talks) between the super powers becomes irrelevant. The United Nations becomes irrelevant. Foreign aid becomes irrelevant. Sermons on human rights become irrelevant. What will be relevant is an

American foreign policy, in which power and the readiness to use it boldly, will play a far more central role than has ever been the case in our history."

In other words, the naked use of American military power at home and abroad is likely to be the policy of the capitalists in this period of upheaval and turbulence.

In the Stalinist world as well, we are likely to see tremendous upheavals as the developments in Poland show. The Stalinist bureaucracy, with the help of the Solidarity leaders, the dissidents and the Catholic church, seem to have been enabled to temporarily hold the movement in check. However, the event in Poland are merely an anticipation of colossal upheavals which loom in Russia itself.

Karl Marx pointed out that the viability of a system was ultimately dependent on its ability to develop the productive forces. In the past, Stalinism—that is, one-party totalitarian dictatorship based upon the planned economy—was able at enormous overheads, two or three times the cost of capitalism, to develop Eastern Europe and Russia.

In the 1950s, Russia and Eastern Europe enjoyed growth rates averaging 10%. In the 1960s it slowed down to 6%. But in the 1970s the crisis of Stalinism was reflected in a complete slow down in the development of the economies.

Thus even in the 1970s, capitalist Japan, growing at 10% and more, exceeded the growth rate of Russia last year had dropped to about 3%.

Under the new five year plan, industrial production is likely to grow at no more than 2% or 3% a year. In Poland the economy actually dropped by 2% in 1979.

This slow down in the development of the economy is not due to the contradictions which beset capitalism in the West, but from the complete snarling up of production because of bureaucratic mismanagement and waste.

The bureaucracy, from being a relative fetter on the development of production in the past, has now become an absolute impediment to the further development of Russian society. All the sicknesses which afflicted capital-

ism in the West have begun to reappear in these societies—alcoholism, drug abuse, vandalism, etc.

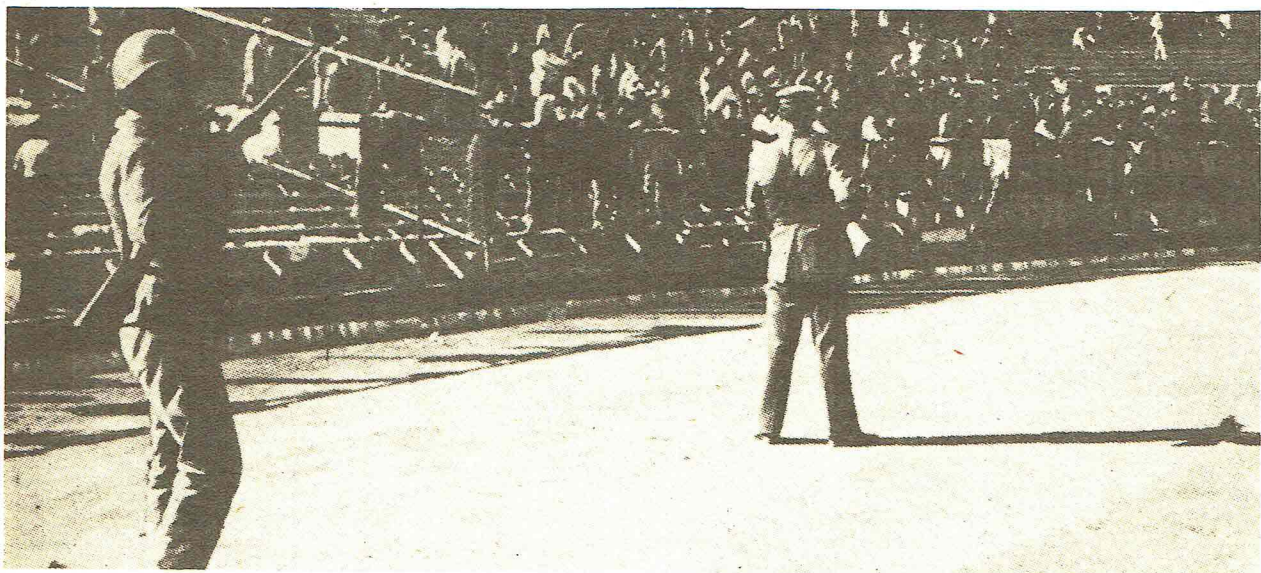
Widespread disenchantment and disillusionment with the rule of the bureaucracy pervades the whole society.

Thus in all the three different sectors of the world, in the advanced capitalist world, in the Stalinist states and in the under-developed world, crises are developing simultaneously. The conditions have therefore been created for a world movement of the working class which will dwarf even the movements of 1848 and the events which followed the 1917 Russian revolution.

1980 has been a fitting year to open a decade which will be marked both by revolutionary explosions in the different areas of the world and also by attempts on the part of the capitalists to resort to counter-revolution in order to crush these movements.

Through victories and defeats the working class will find their way to the ideas of Marxism, which is the only weapon capable of ending the nightmare of capitalism and Stalinism and ushering in the rational organisation of the planet on a socialist basis.

**'Marxism
is the only
weapon
capable of
ending the
nightmare
of
capitalism
and
Stalinism'**



The national stadium in Santiago—used to hold political prisoners after the military junta seized power. British capitalists regard Chile as a good place to invest

British bosses boost dictatorship

The Thatcher government is trying to implement the same monetarist economic policies in Britain which have been applied in Chile.

No, these sentiments did not come from a 'left-wing extremist', but from Cecil Parkinson, Thatcher's Minister of Trade.

Former businessman Parkinson explained in an interview with the Chilean newspaper 'El Mercurio', 2 November, that Chile's economic experience "is very similar to that which we are trying to develop here in Great Britain.

"We, for example, don't believe in high tariff barriers and we are trying to reduce them. We are trying to reduce public spending, the state bureaucracy and taxes on profits. We are removing controls and restrictions on prices and salaries and exchange controls and regulations restricting foreign investment.

"We are looking for ways to break up state monopolies. We have already sold some to the private sector, and have opened up others to com-

**By Jim
Chrystie**

petition. As you can see, the situation is similar to that which was created by Chilean economic policy. Our fundamental belief is that it is necessary to re-establish the role of the private sector and reduce that of the public sector."

There is of course the 'slight' difference that in Chile they had to ruthlessly crush the organisations of the labour movement in order to implement their policy. But for Parkinson this is of only minor account.

"Our experience has been in a democratic context and that of Chile has taken place under an authoritarian regime. In the case of Chile it was possible to impose a policy and regulate its implementation, but this isn't possible in our country. Here

we have to work with the consent of the majority so we have to proceed with more caution and convince people of the benefits of our policies."

This contempt for the labour movement is in for a rude awakening. The democratic rights won by ordinary working people over centuries stand in the way of the Tories. The right to organise, to strike and vote were hard-won rights.

It is now more than ever vital that the links of the international labour movement are strengthened. Big business certainly sees how to strengthen its class. In his interview, Parkinson explained:

'A good place to invest capital'

"In the year and a half of the Conservative government led by Margaret Thatcher we have reduced tariffs against Chile, renewed credit cover, lifted embargoes in some areas and re-established diplomatic relations. We hope that the future will bring improving economic relations

between us. My own visit to Chile two months ago is a demonstration of the interest we have in increasing our bilateral trade.

"The first thing is to re-establish trade. We have calculated that we lost exports to Chile worth between £70m and £80m a year when we mixed politics with commerce. Now both trade and investment are increasing. There are British firms which are increasing their operations in Chile such as the Tobacco Company and the cement company, Blue Circle, and this trend should continue.

"I can now say that the majority of British businessmen are interested in investing abroad, and the majority of the investors I have spoken to with respect to Chile think that it is a good place to invest capital because of its political stability and favourable economic programme."

Labour must build its own links. In the last year the LPYS has launched the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign. To date this has raised nearly £2,000 for socialists in Chile. In 1981 it is vital that this and other solidarity action is continued within the British labour movement to give assistance to those struggling against dictatorship.

CONFESSING THE PAST - WHITEWASHING THE PRESENT

The shock of the growth of independent trade unions in Poland has acted as a warning to the bureaucrats in the USSR and other East European countries who see the need to be more 'responsive' to the complaints of workers.

In Hungary the official political journal of the Communist Party, 'Magyaroszag', has been giving far fuller details than ever before about the Stalinist 'show trials' of the late 'forties and early 'fifties in an attempt to distance the present leadership from the 'mistakes' of the old party bosses.

The journal describes how under the pretext of an "ever sharpening class struggle" Stalinist leaders insisted that "class enemies" were to be found within the Communist Party in Hungary.

A period of terror ensued from 1949 with mass arrests, show trials and executions. Laszlo Rajk, the Foreign Minister and Politburo member, was put on trial in September of that year.

According to a fellow defendant, Milan Ognenovic, quoted in the Party journal, "It was a veritable theatrical performance.

"We received the trial's complete scenario in advance. We knew the sentences: five of us were to be executed, two faced life sentences, and I was to be imprisoned for nine years."

The new People's Army was next to be attacked. Leaders of the armed forces who fought in the communist resistance to Nazi occupation were tried and executed. "The show trials continued as if on a conveyor belt," claims 'Magyaroszag.'

In the public trials defence lawyers were allowed but made their speeches in such a way as to make the prisoners' case worse, and in the secret trials confessions made under torture were the main 'evidence'.

The trials hit party leaders including the present ruler Kadar and finally extended down to shop floor level where engineers, foremen and workers were arrested in any factory where production dropped below the pre-1948 level.

Although the bare bones of the show trials were first made public at the time of Khrushchev's secret speech in 1956, this is the first time full details have been forthcoming. But no more than Khrushchev's speech does the Kadar regime's airing of skeletons in the cupboard show a real change in the nature of Stalinism.

The present leaders blame the 'excesses' on the Stalinist leaders' "establishment of personal power, to which they clung in an unprincipled and desperate fashion." The fight though was not one of isolated 'mistaken' individuals but of a small bureaucratic caste gaining a privileged position within Hungarian society.

That caste is still in power throughout Eastern Europe. Without a doubt their methods are less drastic than the arbitrary "atmosphere of all-pervading fear" described by 'Magyaroszag' in the '50s.

The bureaucrats still fear the power of the working class in whose name they supposedly rule. Protestations that things have changed will not put off for very long the day of reckoning for the bureaucracy when the working class itself demands control of Hungarian society.

**By Roger
Shrives**

Workers protest at repressive laws

Last month saw a huge demonstration in Bangalore in India against the Gandhi government's 'National Security Ordinance' (NSO).

Like the notorious Maintenance of Internal Security Act, this legislation is used to clamp down on democratic rights, particularly against the working class and minorities in India.

The walls of the city were covered with slogans attacking the NSO, showing a growing awareness of the need to fight repressive legislation.

But as a Marxist writer K.P. Vasudevan told a public meeting in Bangalore

organised by the People's Right Committee, on the day of the demonstration, laws like the MISA and NSO are tools in the hands of the ruling class which had been unable to solve India's dreadful problems in any other way.

Other speakers showed how the MISA of emergency days had reappeared as the NSO without even a comma of the provisions being changed.

The President of the trade union federation CITU in Karnataka state said that various trade union forums had come out against the NSO.

The meeting passed a resolution condemning the police firing on striking

workers at Khoday Distilleries in which a Binny Mill worker's son died. They demanded a judicial probe and adequate compensation for the family.

As K.P. Vasudevan pointed out though "the only way for the toiling millions of the country is the path of socialist revolution."

Tracing the developments of India since independence, he showed how capitalism had faced a permanent crisis since the mid-sixties. The switches from pre-emergency Congress rule to the period of emergency to Janata government back to Gandhi were signs of this instability.

Now the ruling class had

reduced democracy to an absolute minimum. He warned that the ruling class were prepared to push the system towards a succession of barbaric repressive regimes. Only the working class can stop them. The left parties must give proper leadership to the Indian masses before it is too late.

**By a
correspondent
in Bangalore**

NEW YEAR 81 GREETINGS

Millbrook Branch
Southampton CLP
sends fraternal
greetings to socialists
everywhere
Save jobs
Sack the Tories

North Fylde LPYS
wish all comrades
a very prosperous
New Year
Forward to
socialism,
the workers' state
and a bigger,
daily Militant

BRIGHOUSE LPYS
Fraternal Greetings
to all comrades—
fight for socialism in 1981

BRIGHOUSE & SPENBOROUGH CLP
Fraternal greetings to the labour movement
Maggie, Maggie, Maggie—out, out, out

Militant supporters
in Cardiff South
East CLP send
socialist greetings
to the
labour movement
Save pits, save steel
Sack the Tories
now!

Rochdale,
Heywood
& Royton
Militant supporters
greet the New Year
but not the Tories
Get them out
in '81!

Fraternal festive greetings from
Newtongrange Labour Party
No cuts, no rent rises, no job losses

Coventry NW, SW,
SE LPYS branches
send greetings
Tories out in 1981
—fight for socialism

**COVENTRY
[SE] CLP**
sends comradely
greetings to all
workers and
their families
for 1981
Save jobs—
sack the Tories
Dave Nellist
Chairman
Mohammed
Iqbal, Secretary
30 Coundon Rd
Coventry

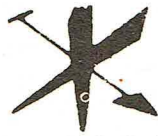
Binley & Willenhall Ward
(Coventry SE LP) Militant readers say:
Put the Tories on the dole,
put the workers in control!

"You cannot fight
against the future.
Time is on our side."
Gladstone
PIER WARD
(BRIGHTON)

Fraternal greetings
from Pitsea Branch
Labour Party
'The past we inherit,
the future we control!'

**ASTMS, NE
LONDON
MEDICAL
BRANCH**
sends New Year
greetings and calls
for solidarity in the
struggle to retain a
free NHS for all

BRENT SOUTH CLP
Sends New Year
greetings to all in the
labour movement



**Doncaster and
District Trades
Union Council**
sends New Year
greetings to all
in the trade union and
labour movement

**BROCKHURST
WARD, GOSPORT**
says: No cuts, rent
or rate increases!
Smash the Tories
with socialism!

Gosport LPYS
24-hour general strike
[for starters]
Bring down the Tories

**Newcastle-Upon-Tyne
Labour Party
Young Socialists
Forward to socialism
in 1981!**
Unity is Strength!
Newcastle West Newcastle North
Newcastle Central

**GREATER MANCHESTER
LABOUR PARTY
YOUNG SOCIALISTS
LIAISON COMMITTEE**
Black and white unite against
Tory divide and rule policies!
Support Manchester City Labour Party's
demonstration against the Nationalities Act
Saturday 14 February 1981

**Littlehampton
Labour Party sends
comradely greetings to all
for 1981**

Fight for a socialist Labour
Party, giving us socialist
policies, carried out by a
socialist leadership

**Littlehampton
Branch**
1/874 TGWU
extends to all
trade union and
Labour Party
comrades greetings
for 1981—
Labour to power
on socialist policies

**Littlehampton
Labour Party
Young Socialists**
extend fraternal
New Year greetings
to the British
labour movement
Unite to bring
down the Tories

Bognor Labour Party Young Socialists
sends all comrades fraternal greetings
Jobs for the young in 1981

The Bristol District Committee AUEW
sends New Year greetings to all our members
and fellow trade unionists everywhere

Fraternal greetings to
all our friends in
the labour movement
5/908 BRANCH
TGWU

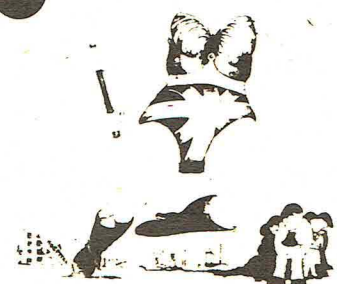
Fraternal greetings
from **SCOTTISH
REGION LPYS**
"Bring down
the Tories
Unity is strength"

Save Steel! Sack MacGregor,
not workers. For workers' control
and management and a socialist plan

Redcar, Stockton, Hartlepool LPYSs,
Teesside Labour Club
and supporters in Middlesborough LPYS

The officers of the
East Midlands and East Anglia
Regional Committee of CPSA DHSS
Section send greetings for 1981
to comrades in the labour movement

THATCHER OUT! in 1981



Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

KEYNES: yesterday's guru

Dear Comrades

I was a little surprised to read Comrade Philip Jones' letter. I was under the impression that Keynes had been well and truly buried: do we really want to dig him up again?

The Tories, comrade Jones, are quite right (for once!) in that printing of money without a corresponding increase in production would be disastrous for the economy.

This idea is not original to the Tories: comrade Jones may have heard of an economist who lived in the last century called Karl Marx. It was he who pointed out that a country's wealth relies on its productive capacity and that the circulation of paper money is just representative of this real wealth.

For example, if we have one million units of production and one million pound notes in the economy, then each pound represents one unit of production. If, however, we increase the money supply to two million then each pound note now only represents half a unit of production, ie. 100% inflation has taken place.

Thus, as Marx pointed out, the only way to increase society's wealth is to increase production. At the moment, British industry is working at under 80% capacity so, obviously, the utilisation of that extra 20% is the key to the restoration of Britain's wealth.

However, the present system of capitalism is unable to increase industrial production. In fact, the present policies of the Tories, the representatives of the ruling class, are having the opposite effect!

'Militant' has consistently pointed out that the only way industrial production can be increased and wealth used for the good of all is by a planned economy. Thus the demand for the nationalisation under workers' control of the top two hundred monopolies.

Comrade Jones would do better to propagate these views than to continue his vain attempts to resuscitate John Maynard Keynes!

Yours fraternally
John Rubinstein
Sheffield Hallam LPYS

—but Friedman's no answer either

Dear Comrade

Mr Philip Jones appears to regard J M Keynes as a great socialist and fighter for the working class. I would like to point out that Keynes was, in fact, pro-capitalist till the day of his death.

I was surprised to learn that Keynes advocated incomes policies; I have always understood he advised capitalists to boost profits by attacking real wages, not the pay-packet. However, he may well have contradicted himself!

Keynes advocated a number of 'cures' for unemployment, his favourite being increased investment to fight slump. He seemed to overlook two facts: that

Comrades

It's not often that Thatcher's speeches confirm the correctness of the programme advocated by 'Militant'. Yet she refuted the policies of Keynesianism, as supported by Heath and Philip Jones (Letters page, issue 532) quite well.

Keynes considered that if there was unemployment it was because not enough goods were being 'demanded'. Thus, by putting more money into everyone's pockets, more goods would be demanded and the bosses would invest in increased production to satisfy it, employing more workers. The supporters of Tony Benn echo Keynes' theory with their talk of 'reflation'.

Heath resorted to such policies during his infamous rule in the early 1970s. As Thatcher recently pointed out, "we got an artificial boom, and do you know where the money went? It did not go into investment or expansion, it went into the biggest property boom we've ever seen."

The extra money in the economy was not backed by extra production; inflation resulted. After all, the bosses could make more profit by buying office blocks and acres of land than factories and machines.

The Tories, it appears, have learnt the lessons of the Heath government. They accept their need to restore the rate of profit in manufacturing industry by driving down the standards of living of workers.

We are said to be returning to the 1930s, the era in which Keynesianism began. Keynes didn't restore bosses' profits then. Only a decade of mass unemployment ending in the waste and destruction of world war achieved that, at the expense of the ill-led international working class.

Only 'Militant' has learnt these lessons of history. Only 'Militant' has the programme to lead the working class to victory, to socialism, in the 1980s.

Yours fraternally
Andy Zapple
E Nottingham LPYS

Class war in the grotto

Dear Comrades

A friend of mine wrote the following short story for his 9-year-old daughter. Even fairy tales these days can't escape the misery caused by the Tories:—

"Quite early on the morning of Friday 24th October, Vanessa leapt out of bed singing 'Happy Birthday to me, Happy Birthday to me,' only to find that nobody else seemed to share her sense of occasion! 'What, no presents?' she yelled. 'Where are my cards, my cake and trifle and

things?' 'Oh! Is it your birthday or is it Christmas?' her mummy asked.

'You know it's my birthday. Have you forgotten?' wailed Vanessa.

'That was last year, you turnip. You can't have one every year!' said her daddy. 'Hurry up or you'll be late for school.'

'It's not fair!' she bleated, 'Everybody gets one each year, why not me as well?'

'Only people who were born on earth get a birthday every year,' her mother answered, 'and you weren't.'

'It's not my fault,' she wailed, 'that you decided to

Widening the gap

Dear Sir

Attending a Labour Party mass public meeting at Maestag on December 5, I purchased a copy of 'Militant'. Glancing through, my interest was arrested at the article, 'Why did the miners accept?'

No, I already realized why the miners, as all other workers will accept Tory

dictates as to pay rises. My interest was aroused at the expression "In the region of £15 across the board."

Yes, across the board. Who were the fools who ever thought up percentage rises?

Isn't it time we went back to 'across the board' rises? After all, the man in 'charge', already has a higher rate of pay than the grafter (and there'd be no need for chiefs without

injuns).

So why do we, with percentage rises, make the gaps in wages even wider, merely adding insult to injury?

I will vote for a party who will start thinking along these lines.

A mere housewife: now unemployed.

Yours sincerely
C Pryme
Maestag
Mid-Glamorgan

Life in their hands

Dear Comrades

What price safety! I teach in a school in Wigan and, several weeks ago, I had to travel to school on the school bus.

I was appalled to find that it was a one-man bus. As it was a double decker I decided to go upstairs to see what the kids were up to—they were completely unsupervised.

There were children of nursery age and upwards to 11, wandering about from seat to seat. Others were swinging on the rails both upstairs and down ('till they saw Miss!').

I dread to think of the consequences should the bus have made an emergency stop.

That night I phoned the Greater Manchester Transport and explained that in my opinion, as a teacher and a parent, (as they themselves have managed to blot out childhood completely from their minds), it is extremely dangerous for children to travel on these one man buses and it must be nerve-racking for the driver!

I was told that this would be looked into and I left it in the hands of the nice patronising complaints officer.

Several weeks later we had a phone call at school. The Transport Department had decided that the two-man bus we normally had in the afternoons would be replaced by a one-man bus!

It is illegal for a one-man bus to be reversed. Therefore it cannot enter the tiny school yard so we now have to take over forty children across the busy road every evening.

The department have certainly looked into my query. I don't know if I should blame myself. Did I suggest (albeit inadvertently) a wonderful way to save even more money?

Fraternally
Jean Leigh
Wigan, Lancs

Double standards

Dear Comrade

A glaring example of the double standards in society appeared in the Hull Daily Mail the other day.

A 17 year old waiter was found guilty of stealing £27 from a fruit machine where he worked. He was fined £30.

Nothing remarkable about that. However, it was pointed out that he worked from 7.30 am to 11.30 am and from 6 pm to 1.30 am, 6 days a week. For working nearly 70 hours this lad was paid the princely sum of £29 per week.

Needless to say the employers were not fined anything for robbery. It would appear that robbery is alright in the eyes of the law as long as it takes the form of unpaid wages.

P Boland
West Hull Labour Party

No help, no job, no money

Dear 'Militant'

I have been out of a job for so long I have forgotten how to work. I do go out and look for work and all I get is bull shit. No help at all.

My motor bike has been put off the road by an old banger of a car. I got £195—my bike was worth £400. The police did nothing to help.

I am helping out a mate in Coventry for nothing, to keep from going mad sitting about. I've got no help, no job or money coming in.

I just want to work. I must get back on a motor bike before the new law comes in so I can pass my test. How the hell can I, if no one will give me a job!

Yours
John A Sheasby
A worker, Coventry

The bosses' future

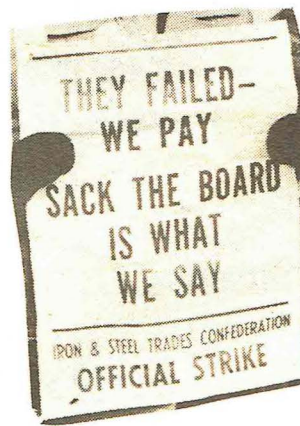
Dear Comrades

"There is no guaranteed future for a damned soul in this business anywhere—not even my job."

So announced new British Steel whizz kid, Mr Ian MacGregor as he outlined his plans for 20,000 more steel redundancies and the start of the rundown of the steel industry itself. For once the bosses are truthfully telling us they have no confidence in themselves or their system to solve Britain's economic and industrial problems.

While industry is run for profit and constantly shackled by the interests of the banks and finance companies—BSC pays £200 million annually in interest rates—there is no way forward for the British workers, except onto the ever-lengthening dole queues.

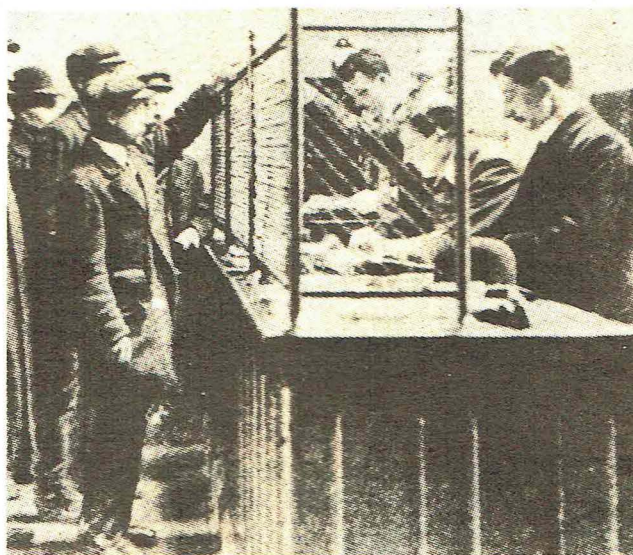
MacGregor is absolutely right: there is no future for Britain while industry is in the hands of parasites,



incompetents and 'upper-class twits of the year' like himself. Sir Michael Edwards and the rest.

Only under a socialist plan of production with workers' control and management of industry can the survival of Britain's industry and jobs be guaranteed. If Mr MacGregor is so worried about his own job, perhaps he should join the LPYS and support the 'Militant' in its fight for full employment.

Fraternally
Stephen Wright
East Kilbride LPYS



A new labour exchange in 1910—but under capitalism, the dole queue is still not eradicated

capitalists cannot be forced to invest if they don't want to—and they won't want to in the middle of a slump!; and that even if such

investment did take place, it would merely intensify the contradiction between the restricted purchasing power of the masses and the

Militant pamphlet CAPITALIST CRISIS— Tribune's 'Alternative Strategy' or a socialist plan?

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ads

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SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY

Newcastle University labour Club. Debate on unemployment. Newcastle University Students Union Debating Chamber. Clive Heemskerk (Leeds University Labour Club), Peter Young (National Chairman, Federation of Conservative Students). At 7.30pm on Friday 23 January.

MILITANT CHILDREN'S PARTY Sat. 10th January 2pm John Marshall Hall, Blackfriars Road, London SE1. Please contact C. Doyle at Militant offices.

Don't miss the London 'Militant' social, Saturday 10 January, 7.30 pm to 11 pm.

Marshall Hall, 27 Blackfriars Road, SE1 [nearest station Waterloo]. Further details from your 'Militant' seller. All welcome.

Great entertainment and raffle draw. John

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41 of Alan Hardman's best 1980 cartoons collected in an attractive 11in. x 8in. book with red, black and white cover.

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As demonstrated recently in Liverpool

"DUMP THE TORIES" posters. Approx 15in x 23in with bold red and black slogans. Special price while stocks last £1 for 20 post free. Send cash with order to Dump Tories, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Ideal for meeting-rooms, banners, paper selling etc.

Subscription offer!

Take advantage of our special subscription offer now. Unfortunately, postal charges will be going up in the New Year, which means higher sub rates for the paper.

But if you renew your subscription now it will still be at the old rate. Why not take out a 'Militant' subscription as a present for someone? What better present than a copy of 'Militant' through the door every week!

DEBATE The Future of The Labour Party

Militant/CLV/Tribune

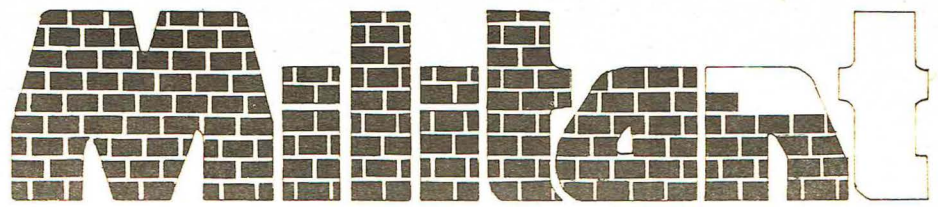
Jeremy Birch/Clive Wilkinson/Audrey Wise
Friday, 9th January, 7.45pm. Wednesbury Labour Club, Church Hill, Wednesbury
All Party and trade union members welcome. Contact Rob Steventon, 021-556 8311, West Bromwich West CLP

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Send for free comprehensive booklist to World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

THIS WEEK £5,309

Build



Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target for year
Eastern	4,535		5,000
East Midlands	4,084		3,800
Hants & IOW	4,689		4,600
Humberside	1,854		2,500
London East	6,016		6,200
London West	3,660		4,700
London South	5,266		4,700
Manchester & Lancs	3,289		5,100
Merseyside	4,126		6,000
Northern	4,883		7,300
Scotland East	2,541		3,200
Scotland West	4,407		5,000
Southern	5,305		5,900
South West	2,425		3,200
Wales East	2,190		2,800
Wales West	3,127		3,100
West Midlands	7,313		9,000
Yorkshire	5,101		7,300
Others	10,389		10,600
Total received	85,169		100,000

TARGET FOR YEAR - £100,000

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU

By Steve
Cawley

At the time of writing this column there was just a week to go before the deadline for our 1980 fighting fund. With money pouring in there was still a good chance of reaching the £100,000 target.

But, if you're reading this before midday on Sunday 11th, you can help make absolutely sure we succeed—by sending or phoning a bumper last-minute donation!

Here's how your area stood with just one week 'til the deadline:—
Supporters in the Eastern region had £465 to raise to reach their target. Special thanks to S Turner (AUEW Fords) for his fiver, sellers in Chelmsford, Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill, and three school students from Ware (Herts).

East Midlands supporters had reached their target—but they are still collecting. Their total was boosted by over £75 collected at a Leicester Readers' Meeting, a tenner from Leicester students, discussion group collections at Gedling & Matlock, and donations from J Stewart and G Naylor amongst others.

A magnificent £202.30 came from the Poole 'Militant' Bazaar in Hants & IOW area, and this together with £110 from Gosport supporters made sure of the Hants target. Special thanks to Andover readers for £45!

In Humberside, however, they still had a long way to go! Grimsby/Cleethorpes readers collected over £60 since our last issue, and Hull supporters over £100.

Special thanks to B Owen, D Martin (Hull T&GWU), three Hull students (£18) and K Williamson (Cleethorpes LP). Another £646 was needed in a week!

East London supporters had only £184 to get to hit their target. Thanks for tenners to R Crawford (SPOE) and C Stone (NAL GO), also to J Jones (Tower Hamlets LPYS), P Marsh, R Barker (EETPU) and all who assisted with the bazaar.

The West London line is moving more quickly now, helped by Brent & Barnet readers' £80, Ealing readers' £75, a fellow traveller's £5, R Da Silva (Hounslow), Hillingdon Parks Dept. supporters, J Waterhouse (re car repair) and a supporter's mother for 210 ½ps. Still £1,040 to the target (or nearly ¼ million in ½ps)!

South London readers are already well over their target. But special thanks to individual contributors—G Reynolds (Greenwich), M Barley (Battersea T&GWU) and C Peckham (Dulwich LPYS).

Manchester & Lancs supporters have cashed in on seasonal goodwill. £97 was raised at a bazaar and £36 from sale of "Jewellery and toys" in Rochdale. Special thanks to Altrincham & Sale LPYS and M Valchero (Stockport) for their contributions. Many more needed with £1,811 to raise!

Merseyside's contributions included an anonymous

£100 donation—excellent! Special thanks to a GMWU steward for donating expenses and to another Liverpool reader for £25 'catalogue money'. All stops needed to be pulled out to raise another £1,874 in a week!

Northern readers raised over £103 at a Tyneside bazaar. This was supplemented by a £20 interview fee from the TV programme, 'Friday Live,' a meeting in Blackhall, £8.85 from Tyneside ISTC member, a collection at Blyth LPYS and a donation from the vice-chairman of Redcar LPYS. The area was nevertheless still £2,147 short!

East Scotland supporters sent a donation from the surplus made from transport to the Liverpool demo. Dunfermline LPYS members sent us £12. Special thanks to R Taylor (ASTMS Edinburgh) and R Clifton (E Edinburgh LPYS). Another £659 still outstanding!

Readers in West Scotland were within reach of the target, with a final push, being £593 short by 3rd January. Special thanks to M MacDonald (Glasgow), D Miller (E Kilbride LPYS), L McKelvie (Glasgow NAL GO), and regular contributors G&E Scott (Cumbernauld).

Supporters in Folkestone, Camberley, Littlehampton, Brighton, Reading, Canterbury and Gravesend all showed they are determined to reach the £5,900 target for Southern (and at £595 there was only a few hundred to go!).

South West's line was £775 short but a lot of money had come in from Bristol, including £25 from J Kelly (Patchway LPYS), tenners from V Kaufmann and I Gailey, and other sums from R Hartill and W Coombes. And there was still "more to come!"

East Wales supporters are certainly finishing the year in much better style than they started! They raised nearly £100 from a Christmas Fayre and had £50 from Gwent readers, £25 from a Folk Night, £16 from Caerphilly readers and a number of individual donations including those from M Davies (AUEW Branch Secretary) and C Jones (unemployed) both of Cardiff.

Only £610 more required! Readers in West Wales had reached their target but special thanks this week go to those in Llanelli who contributed £41 and in Swansea for their £58.

West Midlands supporters were within sight of their target if there was an all-out last minute effort! Mrs Foster (Birmingham) sent us a tenner ("I wish I could send you a lot more"). Another tenner came from D Patchett of Coventry. A social in Oxford netted £80, and one in Birmingham over £65. As well as profits from a jumble sale, there were a number of individual contributions including those of S O'Neil (AUEW) and G Gordon (T&GWU). Shortfall to the target: £1,687.

In Yorkshire almost £90 from Leeds included £30 TU expenses. Donations also came from Barnsley and Wakefield readers. £52 was raised at a Sheffield 'Bazaar and Folk Night'.

Shipleigh shows the way!

Shipleigh supporters sent a 'Militant' appeal sheet round International Harvester workers and thanks go to T Miller, I Dyson, C Norton, Heffrey, A Dignam, R Binks and J Moffat among others for their contributions. Together with back pay and some other donations this came to £131! Yorkshire readers were aiming to raise another £2,199 to pass the target figure.

The 'Others' figure includes donations received at the Fire Brigade Union Special Conference—thanks to brothers J Gregory, J Allington and S Parry. We've also had a Christmas card from Australia with a £20 donation from M Holt, a regular reader.

The 'Militant' is a vital weapon in the struggles of the working class—against the bosses, against the Tories and for socialist policies, nationally and internationally.

If you support our paper, show us in the best possible way! Help us build it!

Industrial

in brief

The inaugural meeting of the East End News Co-operative Society Limited will meet this Saturday in East London at the Half Moon Theatre, 27 Alie Street, E.1. The East End News, which is aimed to be a pro-labour movement local paper and a pilot project of the Campaign for Press Freedom, will be launched itself on 13 March.

A recent pamphlet published by the NUM shows the decline of the mining industry. Titled, 'The Miners and the Battle for Britain,' it shows how the number of collieries has declined from 840 in 1956 to 259 [1974 figure]. Manpower has been slashed from 697,400 to 252,000. It also explains how nuclear power stations will over the next five years take the place of 8-10m tonnes of coal.

In the week after the magnificent demonstration on 29 November in Liverpool, workers at Ross Foods, Liverpool, voted to accept redundancies. "I feel sick as a pig," said convenor Tommy Roberts. "The workers have the support of the Hull and Grimsby site stewards. The stewards' committee is willing to occupy. However, many of the workforce are not convinced that a sit-in will be successful." The lessons must be drawn out to the rest of the Ross co. fine. A campaign on the shop floor is needed fully airing views and misgivings.

COHSE has slammed a conference of gambling bosses who met recently with hospital administrators to discuss ways of running lotteries to fund the health service. General Secretary Albert Spanswick said, "Nothing could be more offensive than the introduction of lotteries into the care of the sick." He added, "Those who remember the recent case in which the Liverpool surgeon drew lots to see which women could have operations in his hospital will think it enough of a gamble already whether one gets into hospital." The union is calling for 'progressive direct taxation' to provide funds.

Members of the National Union of Seamen took industrial action on a Sealink car ferry last week sailing from Weymouth to the Channel Islands, after management offered only a 10% wage rise. The ship was stopped for six hours. In Tilbury, a cruise liner was stopped from sailing through industrial action. As we go to press, the crew of P & O Ferries, the Ulster Queen, are still occupying the vessel in protest over the sudden closure of the Belfast-Liverpool service. Last year the ferry carried 350,000 passengers and 45,000 cars—P & O have said they will not re-open the route even if offered government aid.

Mosedale - 'there's no going back'

Attempts by management to break the union at the Mosedale brick works in Flixton near Manchester have only succeeded in strengthening it.

By Margaret Crear

When the workers went on strike, after they discovered non-union members were being paid more (see issue 532), they were sacked. But as a shop steward explained to 'Militant' reporter Margaret Crear, morale of the fifty workers who are picketing the site is high.

"If we win this dispute—which we should do with the backing we're getting from the labour movement—there'll be an incredible change in atmosphere at the works.

For a start off we're talking of a closed shop agreement, time off for union activities and a proper office; at the moment we have part of a switch room and the union material has to be stored in a biscuit tin!

This will be achieved because of the change that's taken place in the lads while we've been out. Most of the members have gone along with the stewards' recommendations in the past, but as a result of the dispute everyone has become committed trade unionists.

We're in a position which is irreversible and all the safety valves have been removed. All their real opinions about the bosses have come out. We're just economic units in Mosedale's game. We're of no con-

sequence as human beings.

But some of the older workers have worked hard here for a long time, one of them since 1936 with only a break for the war, and he's one they've sacked without a farewell note or anything!

One of the older workers spoke for us all when he said he was prepared to fight them all the way down the line and reject all forms of redundancy or compensation.

The dispute is definitely developing a political awareness, including amongst some of the younger element. We took a few of them down to Liverpool on the 29th, and that definitely increased their political awareness.

One thing that is really helping is the fact that so many trade unionists and political activists are coming down to the picket line. We're beginning to realise the full influence of the labour movement, that it's not just restricted to this branch or TGWU headquarters in Salford. This is one of the things that has made us really determined.

From the stewards' point of view, we've been thinking of joining the Labour Party. We want to be sure of what we're doing before we get involved as we did before we set up the union here.

Nobody will have the same views as they had before the dispute and the opinion has definitely moved to the left.

The dispute is now backed officially by the T&GWU. But help is still needed. Send donations to: Mosedale lock-out fund, J Brown, 216 Irlan Road, Flixton, Urmston, Manchester

BOSSES FORCED BACK

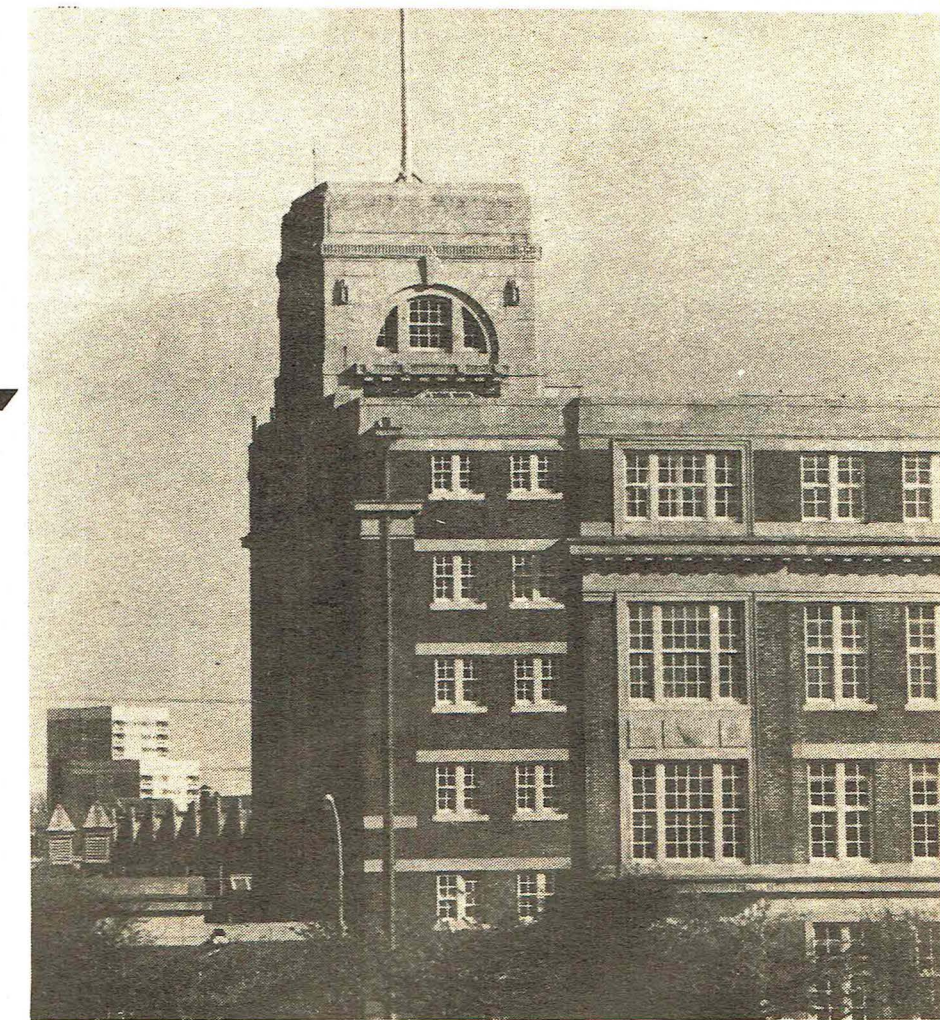
Workers at Collins, the multinational printers based in Glasgow, have won a significant victory against threatened redundancies.

They have shown that determined, decisive action can halt the bosses' conveyor belt to the dole queue.

The latest round in the war of attrition between the employers and workers began early in December. The management team declared that twenty-six redundancies, split evenly between the

printers and assistants, were necessary to ensure the future of the company.

As if 26 wage packets could make the difference between life and death for a company with a turnover of £60 million and subsidiaries in Africa, Australia, Canada, Jamaica and New Zealand! This move was compounded by the insistence that management should have the right to name who was to go!



Fort Dunlop—workers faced with redundancies

Dunlop workers must fight

By Pete McNally
(Ladywood CLP)

Factories like Fort Dunlop in the Erdington area of Birmingham used to be regarded as the jewels in the crown of West Midlands industry.

But this is 1981, and 1,000 redundancies are threatened here with more at other Dunlop plants. The company have given the required 90 day notice to the unions. If there were any hopes that these job losses would be a one-off, they are futile hopes.

It seems they intend to close the apprentice school, which is part of the site, and reduce the numbers of workers in vital trades, such as tinsmiths, drastically. Not surprisingly the workers do not accept the redundancies. The convenor of the majority union, Noel

Johnson of the GMWU, told 'Militant' that a failure to agree had been reached.

In fighting the threat of the sack workers will want to weigh carefully all the factors. It will be crucial to fully explain the position to the whole membership.

Co-operation between the unions on the site has never been so important. An early start to full joint trade union meetings will tell the management that the workers have united to defend their jobs. It is now also clearly necessary for the workers at Dunlop's UK plants to be united in a combine-wide shop stewards' committee to prevent factories being played off against each other.

There are stark examples of victory and defeat in the recent past for Dunlop

workers to take note of. At Birmetals the prospects of saving any jobs are bleak. At Gardners in Manchester compulsory redundancies have been avoided.

Now, at Dunlop, a decisive struggle must be waged to protect jobs. A determined battle and a clear victory at Fort Dunlop could turn the tide against the bosses over the whole country.

The immediate task is a bold fight to save jobs, but the wider questions still remain to be answered. Why cannot the skills of these workers be put to producing socially necessary goods? Where is Dunlop investing its money? Why should we tolerate decisions about our lives being made by people we never even see, never mind control? One thing is for sure: if factories like Dunlop are in trouble then the whole system is a mess.

By Bob Wylie

The Joint Shop Stewards' Committee embracing assistants and printers took a determined stand against the sackings.

A policy of non-co-operation was introduced combined with two one-day strikes on the 9 and 6 December. This caused the company to withdraw the redundancies threatened for assistants, but they continued to insist that 13 printers, whom they picked, must go.

On Thursday 18 December, a factory meeting decided by a two to one majority to implement an indefinite strike if the sackings went ahead. The employers had ob-

viously counted on their concessions on the assistant sackings and the Christmas bells ringing in everyone's ears to prevent a fight to save the printers' jobs. They were wrong.

The threat of such action concentrated their minds wonderfully and on Friday 19 December after negotiations with full-time officials they withdrew the naming of compulsory redundancies. Instead a package with improved terms is to be offered for voluntary redundancies.

It seems that jobs will be lost through voluntary redundancy but the leading shop stewards are clear about the importance of the struggle. Jimmy Criel, the FOC in the machine chapel, told 'Militant': "As far as we are concerned this is a victory for the workers. We have established the principle that management cannot dictate hiring and firing in this factory." There has been a tremendous reaction in the factory with the workers now confident to face future battles. Trade union organisation has emerged strengthened also, as it seems likely that a factory chapel will be formed from the experience to prevent further attempts by the management to divide skilled and unskilled workers.

Reports

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Force BL to..... RE-INSTATE LONGBRIDGE EIGHT

The striking British Leyland Mini Metro workers decided to suspend their strike action at a mass meeting on Sunday in Birmingham.

The strike followed the sacking of eight workers, four of them shop stewards, after the so-called 'ram-page' on November 21 [see 'Militant' 530].

An inquiry will now take place with a committee made up of two union representatives and two management with an ACAS official presiding. The mass meeting eventually agreed to a resolution, moved by the works committee chairman to suspend the strike until the inquiry reached a decision.

The 'riot' was a spontaneous event which was sparked off by yet another round of lay-offs without notice or pay.

As sacked shop steward Jim Denham told the 'Sunday Times' (January 4): "What changes a workforce of men praised by management for producing 5,000 cars into what they call an unruly mob in a matter of weeks?"

None of those sacked have even been accused of any vandalism. This is because

By Richard Lewis (T&G shop steward, BL Longbridge) and 'Militant' reporters

there is not a shred of evidence to connect them with it, otherwise management would have used it.

So the impression which the media have tried to convey, that the sacked workers were in some way ring-leaders, is completely false. Management clearly still labour under the misapprehension that they can sack who they like, at any time they like, for any old trumped-up reason.

When the sackings were announced nearly 1,000 Longbridge workers in that section immediately walked out. As the 'Financial Times' (January 3) pointed out: "One reason advanced for the militant stance is the fact that many of the 1,500 (workers on that section) realised they could just as easily have been singled out for punishment as the eight dismissed." But although the rank and file of the shop floor took immediate action



Derek Robinson marches with his supporters during the unsuccessful campaign to get him reinstated. The trade union leaders must not repeat the fallings of this campaign if the Longbridge eight are to get their jobs back.

in the face of management attacks, as they have done on several other occasions, it should not be surprising that they have now suspended their action.

Edwardes used his typical bullying tactics of threatening the workers with the sack en-masse, and the Fleet Street Tory propaganda machine went into full swing. They gave much space to horror stories of how BL was on the brink and how Thatcher would withhold a government subsidy if the strike went ahead.

But besides all the scare stories and Edwardes' threats, the lack of leadership from the main union involved, the T&G, can take a major part of the responsibility for the meeting's decision. Not giving a recommendation in the midst of a major struggle, and leaving the workers to 'decide for themselves,' is not leadership.

However, now the decision has been taken the workers must now remain vigilant to make sure the management do not attempt a re-run of the Derek

Robinson incident. As soon as the result of the inquiry is known a mass meeting must be held to discuss the next steps to be taken.

At all times it must be made clear that only pressure from the shop floor will get the men their jobs back.

It is abundantly clear that the sackings are based not on evidence but on an attempt to intensify the pressure on BL workers as a whole, and the plant producing this year's saviour model in particular.

Such is the viciousness of the threats from BL that even the well-known 'moderate' Terry Duffy has called Edwardes' idea of filling strikers' jobs from other parts of the plant or even from the dole queues, what it is—blacklegging.

BL bosses were probably only testing the reaction to

this kind of suggestion, reminiscent of the 'thirties. But this very fact should serve as a warning to the trade union movement about the real plans of the boss class.

The present dispute is by no means an isolated incident. There have been a series of attempts to play off one section of the workforce against another.

In particular, lay-offs at very short notice have been used to try to split workers and get them to blame each other. It is quite normal during a dispute in a part of the factory to receive 3 or 4 letters from management during a single shift.

The works committee, as the leading trade union body in the plant, must be just as quick to send out its own propaganda. This has been sadly lacking in the

present dispute, with many workers outside of the 'trouble spot' left uninformed by the unions and having to rely on the capitalist media.

This latest issue is part of a pattern which is becoming more and more familiar. First, a provocative action by the bosses. The workers react angrily, and apply sanctions up to and sometimes including strike action. Management threaten to sack everyone on strike, close the factories or part of factories affected, and ultimately cease production of models.

If jobs are to be saved, and the workers leaders are not to be picked off one by one, then the unions must fight back in defence of union rights with the same ferocity the bosses are using to try to take them away.

Normanby Park

The BSC management have been sending out propaganda in preparation for a ballot of their survival plan, or as they call it, "a vote for the future."

What MacGregor is doing is asking the 20,000 steel workers who are losing their jobs for a vote of confidence in his corporate plan! He wants them to accept the closures which will have a devastating effect on the steel workers and their families in the immediate future, and turn Scunthorpe into a ghost town.

Scunthorpe steel workers haven't taken these cuts in the steel industry lying down. The Steel Action Committee has been set up

By Bill McCoid (Normanby Park ISTC)

composed mainly of trade unionists determined to safeguard the future, not only of Scunthorpe, but of the working class as a whole.

The town has been flooded with leaflets from the committee and a rally has been organised, where the speakers will include Tony Sauniois, Joan Maynard MP, Euro MP Richard Caborn, Mike Skelton from Corby, John Lee, leader of the Consett struggle, an NUM speaker, an NUR speaker, hopefully Sandy Feather from the ISTC and a delegation from Scotland.

A resolution has been passed by Normanby Park No.2 branch for a fight. The resolution consists mainly of a ban on overtime, withdrawal of co-operation with management, mass meetings to be called and a mass rally to give full support to the Scunthorpe Steel Action Committee.

Although some of the leaders from Normanby Park have seemed a bit reluctant to fight, the rank and file must take up the cudgel. As one branch secretary at the Scunthorpe work committee stated: "These jobs aren't ours to sell. They belong to the community and to the future. It's your kids' future they are talking about."

This is the right kind of attitude and if we can channel it then Scunthorpe can be saved as a steel town.

Teachers' pay

Teachers in the state sector have been given advanced warning of their pay offer for 1981—4%!

When local authorities met together last week there were even some who pressed for no offer at all on account of the so-called 'Clegg error' in the last pay award, a matter already settled by arbitration! Local authorities claim they

have budget limits for only 6%—the government cash limit—and that a 7.5% award to council manual workers mean that teachers therefore should expect to receive correspondingly less.

Such an award would seriously erode both the real value of teachers' pay and undermine their relative position, determined by the comparability exercise in the Clegg award. It would be a step back to square one.

By Ian Sugarman

Between now and Spring, when pay negotiations begin, the union's national executive must prepare a fight for a salary rise capable of resisting the huge erosion of teachers' wages, inflicted by the continuing capitalist crisis.

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Price 35p (+post) from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

DELCO

Management at Delco's in Merseyside seem to be attempting to run the plant down.

They have already made some workers redundant, and have said even if business picks up again, these people will not be taken on.

In true 'Scrooge' style management paid the office workers only 75% of their Christmas bonus. Now they are offering the skilled workers an 8% pay rise and the rest about a 3% rise.

The management even docked 20 minutes' pay from the workers' wages after the workers attended a meeting management themselves had called!

Sections of the workforce have been put on short time, leaving many of those on full time with not enough work because the parts they need are not being made.

Workers also believe work is being sent outside, when it could be done in the factory.

A joint campaign to

involve all of the unions, TASS, AUEW, EETPU, and T&GWU is needed. Even sections which at the moment are not affected must be involved, as they will be next in line for management attacks.

Joint meetings on the shop floor will be essential. And if Delco, a subsidiary of General Motors, is 'unviable', as management claim, then let the firm open the books and prove to the unions that this is the case.

LUCAS GIRLING:

Demo—Friday 9 January, 9.30 am
 assembling at the Girling factory,
 Thermal Road, Bromborough, Merseyside

'Millions for bosses ...

Another multi-national giant has decided to murder Merseyside jobs.

The directors of Lucas Girling have explained that the 920 workers in Bromborough are to face redundancy because the plant is a "sacrificial lamb" needed to balance the company books.

This butchery comes after massive concessions by trade unions in the plant over the past two years which the company promised would guarantee these 920 jobs.

Jeff Gore, and Jack Jamieson, secretary and joint chairman respectively of the Action Committee explained the background to me. "The factory was opened in 1960. In 1978, another new management team arrived and announced their so-called 'plan of action.'

"This meant 700 jobs lost in the last two years, plus greater flexibility, more mobility, demarcation being removed, etc. In return, the company guaranteed security for the remaining 920 workers, but on November 4th they announced complete closure by July 1981.

"The directors admitted they had had complete co-operation from the workforce since 1978 with the quantity and quality of work required—management have double-crossed us.

"We produce 50% of British Rail's braking equipment. The company intend to transfer this work to Tisley in the Midlands but they haven't got the plant to cope with the big demand there, and they haven't got the skills either—they don't pay enough.



Photo: MILITANT

Dole threat for us'

"They have invested £7 million in Bromborough in the last five years, but they would need another £5 million at least to make it viable. Two thirds of the plant is virtually written off.

"Some was twenty to thirty years old, the last plant was introduced four years ago. It is obviously Lucas policy to move out of the United Kingdom.

"For example eight years ago, Bromborough was the only disc brake producer in Britain. After government investigation and criticism of the company, Lucas opened a factory in a depressed rural area of France, where they are

not trade unionised. Workers there hadn't even got canteen facilities.

"In the French plant, they can produce 60,000 car brakes in four days per week where we can only produce 12,000 in five days.

"The company still gets 20% investment grants per year, they propose to move the car brake production to Pontypool where they will get even bigger grants.

"We are determined to save this factory, we have been to Lucas sites and we have been promised support. The workforce is determined and united, and paying to the weekly factory collection.

"All six trade unions on the site have organised a joint action committee.

"We are hoping for a massive turn-out on the demonstration on Friday 9th in Bromborough.

"Coaches are coming from South Wales and the Midlands, and a one-hour stoppage is called for throughout the Lucas factories. We need national action to save this factory. The unions nationally have got the power to do it."

This struggle deserves and needs the support of all sections of the trade unions and labour movement. Multi-national monopolies like Lucas will move to wherever the

biggest profits and highest government grants are available regardless of the misery caused.

The trade unions nationally should fight for opening up of the company books to trade union inspection to see where years of profits and grants have gone. They certainly don't seem to have been reinvested.

Lucas made £51.3 million profit in 1980 and over £70 million in 1979.

In order that these profits produced by the workforce can be used for the benefit of the workers and society as a whole, Lucas should be nationalised under workers'

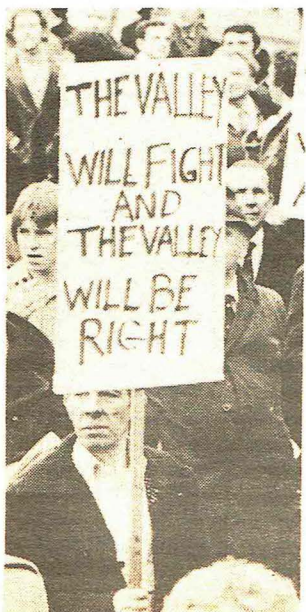
control and management.

In this way jobs could be guaranteed, plant modernised, hours cut without loss of pay, and schemes of useful work implemented such as those produced by the shop stewards at Lucas Aerospace.

The workers at Bromborough must rely on the strength of the trade union movement, and not on any joint approach with the company.

By Richard Venton

NATIONALISE LUCAS UNDER WORKERS CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT



STOP TORIES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

on. In 1972, the miners used that power and Heath's hated Tory government was brought to its knees.

An alliance of miners, rail and steel workers has already been proposed, to defend every pit, mill and rail line against closure. The combined power of the trade union movement must be used to fight every redundancy, to demand shorter hours and longer holidays

with no cut in pay, sharing out the available work and insisting that firms that won't comply are taken into public ownership.

Such a campaign would arouse mass confidence and support, sweeping the Tories and their Iron Maiden aside.

Determined action is needed. That requires determined leadership. In the trade unions and in the Labour Party, workers are demanding firm socialist policies—and a socialist leadership capable and willing to put them into practice.

The Tories must be replaced with a Labour government armed with policies that meet the needs of all working people—taking over the 200 giant monopolies that run the

economy, introducing an £80 minimum wage, a 35-hour week, a planned programme of house, school and hospital building and other useful public works schemes, socialist planning to guarantee jobs for all.

This is what we are fighting for. Wales faces devastation under the Tories, but the thirst for a socialist lead is growing.

We want every worker, every trade unionist, shop steward and Labour Party member to join us in that fight. We want to get our paper out to every street, every factory, every worker.

Help us to sell our paper—help us kick out the Tories and the system that destroys our lives.

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