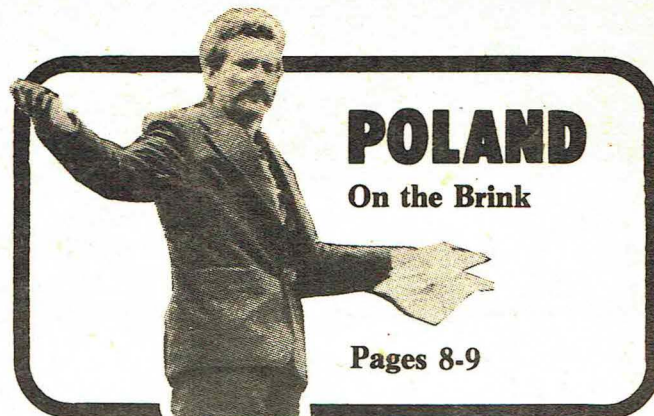


Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 546
3 April 1981

20p



POLAND
On the Brink

Pages 8-9

3 MILLION REASONS - DUMP THE TORIES!

**Fighting
Fund
Appeal**

Last Monday a wealthy buyer paid £902,000 for a painting by Renoir auctioned at Christie's.

Another connoisseur lashed out £1.9 million for Surrealist paintings.

In March the Tories faced an extra £500-£700 million government borrowing rather than pay civil servants a living wage.

'Militant' is appealing to you, however, for a very modest £16,000. We need this by 11 April to achieve our first-quarter target of £30,000.

Already, since our fighting fund column on page 13 was written we've received several hundreds more. A folk night in Liverpool, for instance, raised £70.

But we need every reader now to respond to our appeal. We must continue to improve the scope and coverage of the 'Militant'.

We want to keep you up to date on the industrial battles ahead, the struggle against the cuts, Poland, Spain, Latin America, Labour Party democracy, wage and price [and profit] movements and many other topics.

But you've got to help us first. Send your donation to 'Militant Fighting Fund', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. If you're able to raise any money for us on the last night, 11 April itself, telephone us by mid-day Sunday.



A YOP, step and a jump onto the dole

**Youth Opportunities
or Sweated Labour?**

Job Creation on Merseyside
(above). Photo: Militant

"I am 15 years old and I will be leaving school in July. I have applied for sixteen engineering apprenticeships—resulting in one interview.

"If I do get a job, how long will it last?

"My sister's fiancé has been an apprentice printer for three months since he left school.

"Lucky? No! He was made redundant on the 11 March, with no compensation.

"Now he and my sister cannot afford to get married for a year longer than they had previously planned.

"My uncle works in a plastics company in Crawley and has been given an official notice of redundancy.

"He will be too old to start another job, and so he will have

**By Dave
Cotterill**

to support his wife and two daughters on social security."

This is how one Young Socialist from Feltham, West London, summed up his own situation.

In a microcosm this sums up what is happening throughout British society.

The blight of unemployment brings with it insecurity, misery, degradation.

Linked with the problems of unemployment is the scandal of Youth Opportunity Programme [YOP] schemes being used as sweated labour.

The labour movement must take up this issue!

The Northern region of NUPE has given a lead. They are attempting to organise the YOP

trainees into a union, and have issued an excellent broadsheet.

The Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee at their meeting last weekend have launched a campaign to improve wages, conditions, and to recruit trainees into the trade unions and the Young Socialists.

They are demanding:

★ Trade union rights for YOP trainees, with trade union control over the vetting of training schemes.

★ Proper training schemes, of at least one year—with a guaranteed job at the end.

★ Trade union rates of pay—with a minimum of four weeks holiday and a 35-hour week.

★ The expansion of YOP schemes into a massive scheme of public works to build new schools, nurseries, hospitals, youth clubs, and other much needed facilities for working

people and their children.

Unemployment is bad enough. But what is also increasingly coming to light is the massive exploitation of "trainees" on the Youth Opportunity Programme [YOP] schemes.

This year 440,000 YOP places will be available. At a stroke, nearly half a million 16 to 19 year olds are conveniently removed from the official unemployment figures.

For the princely sum of £23.50 these young people will be given some sort of job "training". This is precisely £1 more than they would get on the dole. This is before travelling expenses.

No small wonder that the employers are rubbing their

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Militant

TUC PROGRAMME OF ACTION NEEDED

This week sees the launching of the TUC Week of Action against Unemployment.

Up and down the country, hundreds of thousands of workers will be demonstrating and participating in meetings organised by the TUC.

Undoubtedly these activities will meet with a massive response, indicating the anger and frustration that has developed in the ranks of the working class.

Unemployment, with its devastating effects on workers' lives, has become the central issue facing the labour movement.

The TUC estimates that in October 1980 unemployment stood at 3,456,000. This is because all the official figures [about 2m at that time] exclude people who leave the labour market but don't sign on.

The wastage caused by unemployment is monumental. In 1980 674 million working days were lost. Compare this to the 29 million lost through strikes in 1979.

The total cost of this is about £18,000 million, when payments to the unemployed, lost tax revenue, and lost production is added up.

Over £2 million is paid out daily by the government to compensate firms for short-time working—about 200,000 workers are currently affected.

These bare statistics are a clear indictment of the profit system.

But added to the economic waste is the untold cost of human misery and hardship. In a callous fashion people are put out of work. Yet others have to work overtime to maintain a minimum standard of living.

In October 1980, for example, 9 million hours of overtime were worked—the lowest since 1974. But 7.2 million hours were lost through short-time working.

Experienced staff are made redundant only to be replaced by youngsters on Youth Opportunity Programme [YOP] Schemes.

The nationalised industries are also affected by the anarchy of capitalism. In North Wales the BSC is importing 20,000 tonnes of Dutch Steel. This is after the unions had fought for seven years to try and prevent the closure of steel making plant.

Such anarchy and chaos is the result of a system which is not planned and has as its basis the drive for profit—it is bound to be a system of crisis.

The TUC's Review, 'Unemployment: the Fight for TUC Alternatives', recognises this:

"Firms will only buy new

machinery and equipment if they think it will be profitable. But the rate of profit has been falling in Britain faster than it has in other countries. So many firms are investing abroad."

The consequence is the decline in manufacturing industry, fall in investment, lost markets and the subsequent decline in Britain's position as a leading nation.

"Even if firms do not invest they don't necessarily do so in the UK, or in productive industries. In the property boom of the 1960s firms invested in office blocks—just because they saw a profit."

However, all of this is only stated indirectly. The conclusion should be clearly stated. The capitalist class [the tiny minority which control and own the means of production] is responsible for the decline of British industry.

The crisis of the profit system forces them to place the burden on the shoulders of working people.

Reconciling bosses and workers?

The TUC's refusal to recognise the naked class interest of capitalism has its consequences in the 'Alternative Strategy'.

Basically, it amounts to trying to work within the framework of the present system—to reconcile the interests of both workers

and bosses. Under conditions of crisis this is entirely utopian.

The TUC advocate a fairer distribution of wealth and a heavier tax on company profits. Yet even their own analysis recognises that the decline in profits has led to a fall in productive investment.

How would heavier taxes encourage big business to invest?

On import controls, they argue that retaliation by other nations would not happen. This is, they say, partly because "other western countries have more to lose than us in any trade war. We buy more from them than they buy from us."

Yet their own figures disprove this—in the economic section they point out that "Britain imports a large proportion of its food and raw materials. To pay for these it needs to export manufactured goods—but the rise in imports has far outstripped the rise in exports."

And "in 1979 Britain imported £2,700 million more manufactured goods from the EEC than it exported."

So who were the selective import controls to be used against?

In addition the TUC want "planning agreements". Yet in their own words, "the economy is now dominated by large multinationals, companies which choose to invest in the most profitable products and the most profitable places. Governments and trade unions find it hard to control these multinational giants."

The experience of the last Labour government—particularly that with Chrysler—is proof that this idea can only be a pipe-dream.

The refusal to face up to reality of present-day society invests the TUC's alternatives with these contradictions.

Theory must be a guide to

action. When it comes to organising the fight against unemployment, the TUC's alternative clearly falls short.

Whilst they argue for the 35-hour week, longer holidays, less systematic overtime and earlier retirement, there is no programme for combatting redundancies. In the final analysis their advice is to get the best compensation and redundancy pay.

Link fight-back with socialist alternative

The combined unity of the working class organisations is the only weapon which can combat the power of the bosses.

The trade union movement must say NO! to all redundancies.

TUC backing to each and every fight would be of enormous value.

Linked in with the fight for shorter hours and a minimum wage, it would raise the whole nature of how society is run and organised.

Inevitably, the movement would be forced to recognise that the only real solution is a political one. Take the ownership and control of the economy out of the hands of the bosses.

The call by the TUC for a Week of Action will undoubtedly get massive support. But the fight needs to be taken much further than protest rallies and demonstrations.

The example of the miners' determined fight inspired and gave heart to the whole of the working class.

Not the least factor in this

was the prospect of a Triple Alliance, between the miners, steelworkers and railwaymen. With such a show of determination and solidarity the Tories were forced to back down.

The Triple Alliance must be extended and developed.

The organisation of the Triple Alliance at shop stewards level, involving all the active layers, would be a first step.

This should be actively followed up by the TUC. An all-round preparation should take place. The facts and figures are a cast iron case against capitalism.

Combined with a fighting programme of a 35-hour week and a minimum wage of £80 new heart could be given to the labour movement.

With such preparation the TUC leaders could pick up the gauntlet which the Tories have thrown down.

The organisation of a one-day general strike to prepare the movement, arouse mass support, and demonstrate a real determination to bring down the Tories, would then be placed on the agenda.

Yet what is needed is a plan of action which offers a way forward. Around a programme of a 35-hour week, linked to the demand for a minimum wage of £80 so that no-one has to work overtime, the TUC could mobilise a mass campaign.

In immediate battles against redundancy the TUC must give its full backing to all sections of workers. In work-places threatened with closures their advice must be to involve all the workers in regular discussions, mass meetings and report-backs.

Solidarity within the factory and with all other sections of the labour movement is the key to such a fight.

YOPS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)



'Trainees' on YOP schemes in Sunderland

hands with glee.

The "profit maker", a business advice magazine, blatantly spells it out: "You might not be looked on particularly favourably if you are simply seeking to replace on the cheap someone who has left, but a little imagination in changing—if only on paper—job descriptions and titles can get you round that one."

This advice has certainly been taken seriously. YOP worker Dave Wares in Sunderland has pointed out:

"We're being used as cheap labour. We're being used to keep the unemployment figures down. And we're being used to take permanent jobs away."

"There are shops in Sunderland where people are on schemes. They get kept on for two or three weeks after the scheme ends and then get

sacked because the shops can get another YOP for nothing."

"I've got a mate who worked in a national chain store. He was earning £45. Last September he was paid off. Six months later he was employed in the same store on a YOP scheme earning £23.50."

"When he was paid off 200 others were laid off nationally—were these people also replaced by YOP "trainees"?"

The response has been that the YOP trainees have formed a "Trainees' Council". Sunderland is probably the first example, but attempts are also being made to organise a National Council.

In South Tyne young trainees are used on labour which resembles American chain gangs.

A scheme there consisted of

digging up the railway lines along a disused stretch, breaking up the stones, levelling the ground and putting down tarmac. This is known locally as the "Mineral Line".

Clearly, it is not training. It is just the use of cheap labour to clear up local eyesores. Work like this is only one 'step' removed from cleaning beaches or counting lamp posts.

The YOP schemes are definitely no answer to the problems of youth unemployment. For a short period they hide the problem.

But this in its turn will breed cynicism and anger.

What has happened in parts of Kent must be seen as a warning.

Unemployment in the county has risen by over 70%. In total, 40,000 are unemployed.

With nothing to do but roam the streets these young kids are falling foul of the racist filth of the NF and the British Movement.

Already fascist thugs have threatened teachers in Dover and in one case savagely beat up a teacher. Labour Party Young Socialist socials have twice been attacked by fascists, at Folkestone in Thanet they've been leafletting schools with their filth.

This should act as a warning to the labour movement. But much more easily can the unemployed be won to the labour movement.



Last Wednesday Hackney local government workers struck against the £2.1 million cuts being carried out by the Labour council. In a lobby of the council [above] they pointed out that Labour had not been elected to carry out Tory attacks on living standards, but to fight for working class interests.

On top of the cuts, people in the borough face a 55% rate increase, the highest in England. And council tenants will also have to pay an additional £2 to £4 in rent. No wonder that on Nightingale and other estates in the area, tenants are proposing not to pay the rent and rate rise. Why pay more for less?

Record LPYS Conference only two weeks away

This year's Labour Party Young Socialists National Conference being held in Bridlington will be full to overflowing.

The LPYS National Committee on 28 March heard that well over 2,000 delegates and visitors will be present. Among them will be a contingent of 50 from Ireland plus visitors from the European continent, Asia and Africa.

At the spring regional LPYS conferences 'Militant' supporters were again elected to all National Committee positions. Among the new LPYS National Committee are Dave Harris, an engineering apprentice from Sunderland and Les Kuriata an electrician at the Longbridge car plant. Four of the new members are unemployed.

This Easter's conference will register a record number of branches (455), a record number of delegates,

By Laurence Coates
[LPYS National Committee]

record sales of the LPYS paper 'Socialist Youth' and the highest ever number attending conference.

The combination of patient education of members and bold activities on the streets combined with the building of firm links with the trade union movement has laid the basis for the rapid development of the LPYS. That was indicated by the 8,000-strong LPYS contingent on the Liverpool unemployment march last November and by the 1,000-strong Easter region LPYS march in Cambridge.

Last month's National Committee decided to approach the Labour Students (NOLS) at local and national level for a joint campaign to recruit Further

Education and Tech students, win a £25 a week guaranteed minimum grant for all those in education over 16 years old, and a joint campaign in colleges to expose the bankruptcy of the Liberals and Social Democrats.

Tens of thousands of youth on day release and block release courses can be won to Labour's youth movement if a drive is mounted in this direction.

The confidence of the LPYS will be shown by another record at the LPYS conference. It's a disc made by LPYS members called the 'Talking Reds' from the South West. The 'A'-track, 'Wasting Our Time', is as good as most other music around.

What distinguishes it is the revolutionary sentiments — 'We are young and we're going to build, a workers' world where workers rule.'

The record will be as big a hit as LPYS conference so make sure you come to the conference. April 17-20.

If you haven't booked yet, do so now.

Contact your local LPYS branch or the National LPYS Secretary, Andy Bevan, c/o LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

chased by 7,349 young people under the age of 19.

The Regional TUC hope to attract 1,000 to Saturday's march and rally at which Alan Fisher and John Garrett MP will be the main speakers. Coaches will be coming to the city from Peterborough, Cambridge and Ipswich and backing has been pledged from trades councils at Thetford, Kings Lynn, Cromer, Fakenham and Yarmouth.

Norwich LPYS has produced a leaflet for the rally urging all workers to resist redundancies. The leaflet spells out the socialist policies of the LPYS and the need to return a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

YS and posters are everywhere.

It's on the basis of this kind of activity that Dunfermline LPYS have grown in the last year from three to sixteen members. Secretaries of the print unions have offered to circulate their chapels about the meeting and one even gave us a large donation to help cover costs.

When asked if he thought there really was a "free press", one print worker replied, "You only have to remember the 1978/79 winter of discontent... The unions took a fair beating

Fascist background to Birmingham bomb outrage



Gutted bookshop and car after petrol bomb attack

Photo: Dave Evans (IFL)

The murderous fire-bomb attack on a left-wing book-shop in Digbeth, Birmingham, last Friday [27 March] was a particularly horrific incident.

The shop was gutted, threatening the lives of several people trapped inside because of the burning car; in addition the body of a woman was later found in the car's boot.

In the news media, this has been presented as a bizarre crime, simply the work of a madman. In some news bulletins it was not even made clear that it was a deliberate arson-attack on left-wing premises.

Whoever was responsible was clearly deranged. But the madman nevertheless had a motive. He was unmistakably animated by the vile racist and anti-socialist hatred whipped up by the fascist grouplets.

This attack in Digbeth, moreover, is just the latest of a long series of assaults on left-wing bookshops.

'The Guardian' (28 March) reported that "the man being questioned is believed to be a member of the National Front." A man has now been charged with the fire-bombing, the murder of the woman, and attempted murder of an Asian man shot in the neck with a crossbow bolt a few days earlier.

Last October, the fascist 'Column 88' claimed responsibility for the letter bomb sent to Labour MP Frank Allaun. Similar bombs had been sent to the National Union of Public Employees and the Communist Party.

Last May, the chairman of Southwark National Front was sentenced to six years imprisonment for an attempt to burn down a South London printing centre. He and others were photographed during their arson attempt, and prevented from carrying it out.

Other left-wing bookshops have not been so fortunate. The Black Unity bookshop in London was fire-bombed. The Public House bookshop in Brigh-

ton has been the target of two arson attempts.

In Bradford, the Fourth Idea bookshop has been harassed and threatened, on American Nazi Party newspaper, with arson. Last December two men there were found guilty of threatening criminal damage and carrying offensive weapons.

Militant's East London offices have also faced threats from fascists and been subject to arson attempts.

The fascist grouplets have tiny support. Without massive police protests they could never parade on the streets. But a growing number of brutal assaults on individuals and attacks on premises shows that these thugs must be taken seriously.

The organised forces of the labour movement must mobilise to provide protection against fascist attacks — and to clear all these demoralised, brutal elements off the streets.

FIGHT THE TORIES' RACIST LAWS, page 16

Norwich

Saturday 4 April sees a march and rally in Norwich organised by the East Anglia Trade Union Congress as part of the TUC week of action (4-12 April).

With unemployment in the region now over 8% and rising fast, some rural areas and small towns have blackspots with unemployment well above the national average. Dereham and North Walsham suffered badly when trailer manufacturers Crane Fruehauf made 765 redundant last summer. Leiston was hit when the Richard Garrett engineering works were put

By John Sillett
[Norwich LPYS]

into receivership and nearly 500 jobs were lost.

Recently Norwich suffered a double blow when constructional engineers Boulton and Paul announced nearly 300 redundancies and Courtaulds disclosed that they planned to close their textile factory, with the loss of 215 jobs. Redundancies impending in Norwich are at Laurence Scott and Electromotors (100), Rowntree Mackintosh (88) and Sunblest Bakery (150). In the whole region there are only 118 vacancies, being

Dunfermline

You can't rely on the bosses' press to report fairly on problems facing ordinary people. And if workers, trade unionists organise to fight back they get denounced as wreckers, unless they're Polish.

This Saturday the LPYS in Dunfermline are linking together the Tory attacks on living standards with the lack of a free press in Britain.

In the morning we're joining a march and rally in the town organised by the

By David Mitchell
[Dunfermline LPYS]

Fife Trade Union Action Committee to protest against unemployment reaching 13% in the area. Two of the speakers will be Arthur Scargill (President, Yorkshire NUM) and Tony Mulhearn (President, Liverpool Labour Party).

For the afternoon, the LPYS have organised a meeting on the "need for a nationalised press". This looks like being an enormous success. 2,000 leaflets have been produced by the

Owen fails to impress

Whilst the media lavished its praise upon the social democrats last Thursday morning in the chandeliered Connaught Rooms, their supporters outside in the country were faring less well.

In a by-election held the same day in Old Harlow, a

By Bob Edwards
[Harlow Labour Party]

Tory stronghold, the Liberal candidate decided to push the need for a Social Democratic-Liberal alliance. The election material

was full of the thoughts of David Owen.

Unfortunately for the claret brigade, their candidate came bottom with 400 votes. And top of the poll came Labour winning the seat from the Tories by 300 votes, 1,000 to 700 in a 50% poll.

Dunfermline LPYS Public Meeting

'Information or Tory propaganda? The case for a nationalised press'
Speakers: Jimmy Friel [Scottish Graphical Division, SOGAT]; Tony Mulhearn [NGA].
At City Hall, Dunfermline. Saturday 4 April 3pm.

MUSIC

Get the new single by TALKING REDS, 'The Programme'/'Stop Wasting Our Time'. Phone Southampton 30277 to hear it, and order from Nick Brooks 77 Atherley Road, Shirley, Southampton.

Also hear it and buy it at LPYS conference. Price £1 each for orders less than ten, 90p for orders ten to nineteen, and 80p for orders of twenty and above. Please add 10% p&p.

All proceeds to the Fighting Fund—tough luck EMI.

LABOUR IN ACTION

'A Growing socialist mood'

CANVEY ISLAND

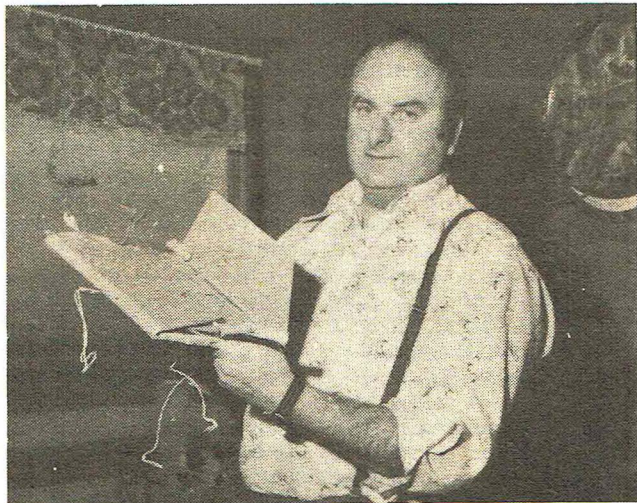
A series of press attacks have described the Canvey Island Labour Party as in 'disarray' and under the influence of 'extremism' and 'far-left fledglings'.

Their main target has been Derek Kennedy, always referred to as "former Communist". Derek is in fact a former Labour councillor and a long-standing Labour Party activist who joined the CP for a few months last year in disgust at the right-wing leadership of the Party. But he rejoined after last year's Conference had shown major successes for the left.

He soon began to support the 'Militant' and was nominated for the County Council candidates' panel, only to be rejected by the Constituency Executive.

This, added to an internal argument between officials of the Canvey Branch LP, has been blown up by the local press as to "threaten the party's existence on the island". Nothing could be further from the truth!

The recent AGM of the Party was the biggest for years, with many major



Derek Kennedy, former Canvey councillor

positions being taken by new, young left-wing members who reflect the growing socialist mood of Party members.

The immediate response of a few members was to leave the Party and form a Branch of the 'Council for Social Democracy' with a disgruntled Tory councillor. Of course, they got sympathetic front-page publicity by the local press.

These attempts by the press to discredit Canvey Labour Party will not succeed. Recent Party meetings have shown increased membership, activity and mor-

Talks are under way with the Hull City Council with a view to finding permanent premises. Unemployed Unions are springing up all over the country now because the unemployed are no longer prepared to be the whipping boys of this Thatcher government.

It may be ironic but this Union will have achieved all of its aims when the offices are finally boarded up and all of its members have left to be employed in meaningful full time work.

By A Stevenson (HUWU)

LUTON

Luton West LPYS is holding a march and rally against unemployment on 23 May, to protest at the helter skelter collapse of jobs in Luton, once called the

golden town of the south'. The recent announcements of Kent Processing Controls axing 250 jobs, and the Whitbread brewery chopping 300 jobs at the end of the month, will give an added spur to the local labour movement to join the march.

The issue of rent increases has been another campaign in which the LPYS has found a great deal of support. When petitioning the massive Marsh Farm council estate with the local Labour Party one night, only two people refused to sign. YS members were literally dragged into houses to sign up whole families!

The growing anger against the Tories, who have turned Luton into a doomed town from a boom town, has surprised even the local labour and trade union movement.

By 'Militant'
supporters on
Canvey Island

'golden town of the south'. The recent announcements of Kent Processing Controls axing 250 jobs, and the Whitbread brewery chopping 300 jobs at the end of the month, will give an added spur to the local labour movement to join the march.

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Members of Uxbridge LPYS hold a street canvass in preparation for the GLC elections

SHEPTON MALLET

How can closing Shepton Mallet's dole office and job centre be doing us any good?

Unemployed will now have to travel five miles to the nearest dole office in Wells after the DHSS have decided our town doesn't need a dole office any more—despite rising unemployment.

The town even offered rent-free offices if the DHSS stayed—they did not even answer the letter.

The YS took to the streets to protest against this closure, and against unemployment in general.

The youth of the town were behind us in our protest. But many had to remain discreetly in the background. As the local paper reported, "Pupils from Whitstone comprehensive had been warned of

expulsion if they took part in the Young Socialists' march."

Is it any wonder more and more young people turn to crime and violence when they are denied the right to protest in any other way?

As a climax to our first day of action, we held a gig with a local band, 'Dream Sequence', who gave their services to the YS. It was a packed house and now several other bands want to do gigs for Shepton Mallet YS.

More days of action are planned, and as long as we have this oppressive Tory government there will be more days of action—not just in Shepton Mallet but across the nation.

By Ron Hodgells
(Shepton Mallet LPYS)

AUEW YOUTH

At the annual AUEW youth conference at Eastbourne it was shown that all is not lost in the future for a socialist leadership of our union.

Among the resolutions passed was the call for the full rate at 18 for all junior workers; David Boardman from Bolton said that many young workers of today had adult responsibilities at 18, such as family commitments.

Other resolutions called for the Labour Party and the trade union leadership to give a fighting lead based on bold socialist policies.

A payment for all students over the age of 16 in full time education, similar to that given to youth on the YOP scheme, was called for, as well as trade union rates of pay for all workers on the YOP.

The most lively debate was on unemployment, which encouraged a total rejection of all redundancies and to pursue a programme

of jobs for all and a minimum rate of £80 for 35 hours.

Other debates included a call for a TUC Youth conference with the right to move resolutions; and a formulation of a youth charter within engineering; an annual AUEW youth conference of at least two days' duration, and the ability to campaign around its own policies decided at conference.

Many delegates showed the enormous anger felt by the working class towards the Tories and called for mass action to rid society of this evil.

By AUEW
'Militant' supporters

**AUEW: The case
for a Fighting
Socialist Leadership**

Militant Pamphlet 40p
(inc. P&P) from
World Books,
1 Meutmore Terrace,
London E8 3PN.

SOUTH WEST CONFERENCE

Significant gains for the left were made at the annual conference of the South West region of the Labour Party, traditionally a bastion of the party's right wing.

In the elections for the regional executive, in the trade union section, left winger Alan Totterdell of the FBU came top of the poll, while a right winger from USDAW, previously a longstanding member of the executive, failed to be re-elected. Also 'Militant' supporters Bridget Shaw of Devon CLP, Andy Rosser of the Young Socialists, and Robin Clapp were elected to the executive.

During the discussions on resolutions, the conference came alive when Brian Kelly, Bristol NE Youth delegate, moved a resolution attacking the Social Democrats.

The right-wing's opposition to this resolution had already been made clear by Michael Cocks MP.

At the pre-conference regional executive meeting Mr Cocks had declared that the right wing splitters of the SDP included "any fine people," citing Eddie Lyons and John Cartwright as examples!

The executive backed Cocks and opposed the resolution. As a result it was lost on a card vote.

But the mood of the constituency and union delegates alike was overwhelmingly one of anger and disgust at the Social Democrat traitors. Special venom was reserved for the South West's own turncoat, David Owen [Plymouth Devonport] who was attacked by speakers from all three Plymouth CLPs.

Whilst the attack on the Social Democrats provided the most animated debate, conference nonetheless passed resolutions on unemployment and workers' control, which represented a major move to the left.

By Bryan
Beckingham
(Bristol SE CLP)

BURNT OAK

On Saturday February 28 in Burnt Oak, North London, a Labour Party Young Socialist paper sale was broken up by a group of British Movement thugs.

The YS were outnumbered, and threatened with violence.

As a result of this serious incident the YS informed the Labour Party, other YS branches and the Trades Council, that they intended to have a mass paper sale on Saturday March 14.

There was a good turnout; about 40 papers sold and 54 names were collected on a petition condemning racism.

In the time we were selling papers, we did not see a single fascist.

There was a great feeling of enthusiasm and determination that the YS will not surrender to Nazis.

This example shows that taking a bold stance against fascists, can turn a defeat into a victory.

WALES WITCH-HUNT WILL FAIL

The strength of anti-Tory feeling amongst working class people has been proved yet again.

'Militant' supporters from the local party and the Young Socialist branch in estate sales have increased sales of the paper to an average of 100 every week, and have recruited a number of new members to the party.

Unfortunately, this desire to channel the anger of working-class people into a fight against the Tories has not been matched by a similar feeling on the part of the leadership of the local party.

The local MP, Jim Callaghan, has long been famous for his hostility to the 'Militant', to the extent that party members sometimes wonder whether he regards the enemy as the 'Militant' or the Tories. A similar question could well be asked of his right-hand man, Lord Brooks of Tremorfa, national organiser of the recently formed right-wing group 'Solidarity'.

At a recent branch meeting, Brooks opposed giving money to the Young Socialists on the basis that he had "concrete evidence" that 'Militant' sellers had refused to sign up new party members because they refused to buy copies of the 'Militant'.

When challenged to give the names of these people, Brooks lashed out and said that he would present the evidence to the General Management Committee. His intervention was sufficient to prevent the branch voting money to the youth.

At the actual GMC meeting Brooks remained strangely silent on this matter, whilst the GMC voted by a large majority to donate £5 to the YS.

At the GMC, the main debate was on two resolutions.

One left-wing resolution, passed unanimously in Brooks' own ward, referred to the Social Democratic Party as completely indistinguishable for the Tories and the Liberals.

Stressing the need for a Labour government committed to socialist policies, it called on all candidates in the forthcoming South Glamorgan county council elections to sign a declaration supporting the Party and opposing the Social Democrats. In opposing the resolution, a number of hard-line right wingers, including Brooks, spoke in violent terms, describing the resolution as McCarthyist and 'fascist'!

By a
'Militant'
reporter

The other contentious resolution called upon Labour's National Executive Committee to "investigate the financial and organisational structure of 'Militant' with the view of submitting the findings to Constituency Labour Parties and unions for discussion and a decision concerning 'Militant' members and their membership in the Labour Party'.

Refusal to let
'Militant'
put its case

Andrew Price, a 'Militant' supporter who first joined the Labour Party in 1964, moved an amendment calling upon the GMC to obtain the evidence submitted by 'Militant' to the NEC. Evidence which was accepted by the NEC on its organisation and finance. It also called on the GMC to invite a speaker from the 'Militant' Editorial Board to address the GMC on these matters.

The complete refusal of the mover of the resolution to accept the amendment showed that he was not interested in the information but in a witch-hunt.

In moving the amendment, Andrew asked why 'Militant' was being put under the microscope? Why not an enquiry into the finance and organisation of Solidarity or the links between the right wing of the party and NATO and the American CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)?

Why does not the party probe the relationship between former Labour leaders and bankers? This was a reference to the long-standing association between Jim Callaghan and the Cardiff financier, Julian Hodge.

Andrew, the only Militant supporter allowed to speak, pointedly asked Callaghan where he stood on expulsions and ended up by saying that after 17 years in the Labour Party nobody was going to expel him. "Want to bet?" yelled one right winger.

A number of right wingers then entered the fray. One speech consisted almost completely of reading from the

fairy story written by Tom Forrester (now a Social Democrat) in 'New Society'. Others, who apparently believe that enquiries into the possible Social Democratic defectors in the party are 'fascist', then called for a purge of the 'Militant'.

One right-winger, almost beside himself with rage, gave the name and address of a member of the public who alleged that he had been prevented from joining the party because he would not buy a copy of the 'Militant'. To some amusement, the secretary of the relevant ward then told the GMC that this name had already been passed on by the 'Militant' supporters who called at the individual's home.

Even more hilariously, one right-winger alleged that 'several' people in his ward had explained to him that they had been told that they could not join the Labour Party unless they bought a copy of the 'Militant'. The only flaw in this brilliant argument was that he admitted to being unable to give the names on one of these 'several' people.

As is often the case when contentious issues are raised, Callaghan was called last and was allowed far more time than any other speaker. The Party, explained Callaghan, was unlikely to win the next election because of the Left, and 'Militant' in particular.

'Red scare tactics'—the oldest trick in the book

There is enormous goodwill in Swansea towards the supporters of 'Militant'. But a tiny minority of old right-wingers are determined to carry through a purge.

The attack of 'Militant' supporters from Alan Williams MP has given them an excuse to attack. Manoeuvres are taking place behind the scenes to get resolutions of support for



Jim Callaghan at the Labour Party conference, with Shirley Williams

This nonsense, of course, conveniently overlooked the fact that it was the disastrous policies of his government that led the party in 1979 to its biggest defeat since 1931.

Callaghan explained he would favour yet another enquiry into the 'Militant'. Evidently the tireless efforts of veteran witch-hunter Lord Underhill, ennobled by Callaghan, are not sufficient. Such an enquiry, according to Callaghan, would produce evidence that would warrant

the expulsion of 'Militant' supporters from the Labour Party.

As one party member observed after the meeting, this is not the first time that Callaghan has supported organisational measures against political opponents as he supported the abortive moves to expel Aneurin Bevan in the 1950s.

Some GMC members are sincere working-class right wingers. On the other hand, there are a few individuals

who personify all the characteristics they quite falsely attribute to the left.

Their loud-mouthed intolerance, their threats of physical violence, and in one case the actual employment of such violence—all in the name of 'moderation'—are totally alien to the democratic traditions of the labour movement.

That is why their witch-hunt will fail.

Mr Williams' witch-hunt-

ing. These will be to no avail! Scared stiff of the growing support for left-wing ideas, the extreme right are working themselves up into a frenzy. Councillor Trevor Burtonshaw, who appears to be behind this campaign has publicly come out against the witch-hunt. In private conversations, however, he

has given quite a different impression, leaving no doubt that he would like to see 'Militant' supporters driven out of the Party.

The right wing are so 'democratic', so 'concerned' that they refuse to look at the truth. Instead, they invent stories of 'infiltration' and 'take-over'.

Alan Williams himself declined the offer to appear

on the same platform as Peter Taaffe this Monday to debate the position of 'Militant'. Likewise, Councillor Burtonshaw, declined the offer, saying "we know your kind of democracy".

To afraid to debate politics they revert to 'red-scare' tactics, the oldest trick in the book.

London NUR—support for socialism grows

An enthusiastic audience of 150 National Union of Railwaymen members last week

heard Tony Benn declare the need for the labour movement to work out now, in detail, what the next Labour government must do. Inevitably facing an unparalleled crisis, said Tony Benn, the Labour government would have to take drastic measures to ensure that for the first time "Labour was in power, not merely in office".

The meeting, called by the NUR London District Councils, clearly showed that many NUR members opposed the attacks by their general secretary, Sid Weighell, on Tony Benn, Labour's National Executive, and 'Militant'. Tony Benn won warm

laughter and applause when he joked about needing to wear glasses when speaking to an NUR meeting—a reference to Weighell's "spit in the eye" attack on him earlier this year.

Other speakers, too, opposed attacks on the left in the Labour Party. John Cogger, of the NUR National Executive, said all he had heard in the last six weeks were "attacks on the Militant tendency. But the Militant tendency were staying in the Party, were helping to build the Party and put it back on the right track. It was time to attack the real traitors and betrayers, the Social Democrats."

There was no support for Weighell's attempt to launch

a witch-hunt against the 'Militant'. On the contrary, he was criticised for not attacking the real wreckers, the Social Democrats.

Tony Benn added that the movement must not be misled by the press attempting to build a bogymen out of the "ideas of Leon Trotsky, or by claims that Joe Stalin in the Kremlin was sending orders to Eric Heffer telling him what to do on the NEC."

Frank Dobson, Labour MP for St Pancras South, also spoke. He pointed to the scandal of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, where 100 beds are left unused through cuts. The hospital is considering co-operating with a company financed by the National

Enterprise Board to build a brand new 100-bed private hospital for children in central London! This news visibly shocked the meeting's audience.

The London Joint District Councils of the NUR are to be congratulated on organising this meeting, and on their drive to encourage NUR members to join the Labour Party. It showed that within the trade unions there is an enormous potential for building support for socialist policies.

By Bob Labi

(Greater London Labour Party Executive)



■ The recession has now begun to affect the bosses. The Confederation of British Industry lost about £350,000 last year and is expected to make a further loss this year. Apparently the cost of their new headquarters—the notorious Centre Point—has something to do with it. The CBI's solution? Cut the staff.

At the same time the owners of Centre Point, Trafalgar House, have awarded their top men, Lord Matthews and Sir Nigel Brookes, rises of 14% and 16%. That meant in September 1980 Lord Matthews was earning £80,000 and Sir Nigel a measly £56,000.

The average rise for directors in British industry was 30%. But times are hard, money is short and we are living beyond our means. So bad, in fact, that in the last three years David LeRoy-Lewis of Ackroyd and Smithers has had to treble his pay from £29,985 to £95,832.

Obviously the little luxuries of life are becoming harder to get. On this basis it would be hardly surprising if we heard that the staff at the CBI had occupied their Centre Point office.

■ A few weeks ago the British press carried report of a trial which has become known as the "It's a Knock-Out" trial. At this trial a former British Army press officer in Northern Ireland, Colin Wallace, was jailed for ten years for manslaughter.

Most of the British press only carried details of the trial, but the 'Irish Times' has carried additional material based on interviews with Wallace in 1974 and 1975. According to Wallace during his time in British Army intelligence in N Ireland he had been guilty of serious misbehaviour. This included the planting of ammunition on Republican suspects, unauthorised telephone tapping and deliberately misleading Sir Harold Wilson and Merlyn Rees.

He admitted that army intelligence had falsified the figures showing how many released internees became involved in violence; this, he said, had constituted an attempt to change the policy to phase out internment. They also carried out phone taps without the knowledge of the Secretary of State and on many occasions arms or ammunition had been planted on known Provisionals in an effort either to have them jailed or recruited as informants.

Following all the "revelations" about the KGB, why is it that the British media and press could find no space to cover this?

■ The patriotic posturing of the Communist Party during the Second World War is well known, but the following quotation from Page 92 of the Autumn 1980 edition of the 'History Workshop' journal makes the mind boggle:

"It is true that the Communists were at least as enthusiastic supporters of the Churchill government as Labour, and they also observed the electoral truce. CP support for the war effort took some grotesque forms. Meetings for the Russia Today Society were adorned with photographs of Stalin and Churchill and they concluded with the singing, not only of the 'Internationale', but 'God Save the King'."

The CP certainly kept their electoral truce—they campaigned for Tory candidates!

When Jennie Lee stood as an independent left in Bristol in 1943 she had the support of a sizeable section of the local Labour Party. But the disgusting role played by the CP is summed up by Harry Bourne, the CP organiser, who said, "Well comrades, in the circumstances we did very well. We succeeded in confusing enough of the workers to get the Tory elected."

Perhaps the CP would care to explain.



Derry Trades Council

Photo: Derry Community Mirror

WORKERS CANDIDATES TO STAND IN N. IRELAND ELECTIONS

History was made in the City of Derry in March when the Derry Trades Council decided to stand candidates in the forthcoming local government elections in May.

This momentous decision is of importance not only to the working class of Derry but for workers throughout Northern Ireland and indeed within these Isles.

In this election workers in Derry will have the opportunity to vote for trade union-based candidates standing for working-class unity and socialist policies.

Not since 1967, when the Derry Labour Party stood 12 candidates, has an alternative being provided to that of the sectarian and conservative based parties in the local government elections.

When the motion to stand candidates was first moved by the AUEW (engineering workers' union) No. 3 branch, delegate after delegate rose to voice their support.

The mover of the motion, arguing for a political intervention by the trade union movement, and referring to the projected unemployment figures, stated that "by the end of 1981 there would be 128,000 reasons to stand against the Green and Orange Tories." The motion was

By Gerry Lynch and Bill Webster
(Executive Committee members of Derry Trades Council, personal capacity)

seconded by a delegate from the AUEW No. 2 branch.

With 8,500 unemployed in Derry, another delegate stated that there were people in the town not knowing where their next meal was coming from: "They need working-class representation."

Another speaker supporting said that "unless the trade unions follow the political fight, Northern Ireland will be left in a state of naked sectarianism."

It was this determined mood which prevailed, despite some caution which was expressed by a tiny minority of delegates. Recognising the importance of the decision, five delegates have so far been selected to stand in wards which straddle the sectarian divide.

The Derry trades council delegates do not underestimate the opposition that will come from the established sectarian parties and the wealthy business elements in the city. The trades council decisions threatens the power and the privileges of these people. Referring back to 1967 a delegate warned, "these people will hit us with everything."

This has already started. Along with the slanders, the

whispering campaign and the red scare, the defenders of the status quo are putting on great pressure in an effort to damage the trades council's campaign.

The Derry trades council has issued a clarion call to the entire trade union movement. We must not be left to fight alone.

Across the province it is still not too late for other trades councils to stand and thus provide an alternative to the sectarian-based parties for all the working class in the North. Trade union activists should immediately fight for this in their branches and on their trade councils.

Breaking the capitalist spiral

At the same time, the movement as a whole must post messages of support, cash and offers of help to Derry trades council.

During the last eleven years, the rest of the working class in Britain and Ireland as a whole have often felt helpless to assist the working class in the North to break out of the horrific spiral of violence, sectarianism and poverty.

In Derry the trades council has shown the way forward; their lead must not flounder for lack of support.

This decision of the Derry trades council is only the beginning. In the past few

weeks, both the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance 719 and 536 branches in the Derry area, plus the Derry AUEW District Committee, have come out in favour of a conference of the trade union movement in Northern Ireland to establish a labour party.

Assistance needed

As well as supporting the Derry trades council, we call upon all trade union and labour activists to immediately move resolutions through their trade union branches, Labour Parties and Young Socialists branches calling on their organisations to take every possible step to assist in the establishment of a trade union-based labour party in Northern Ireland.

On the basis of capitalism, the nightmare which is everyday life for the working class in Northern Ireland will never be ended. Only socialism can offer a decent future.

The Derry Trades Councilors have taken an important first step. They must get full support from the working class throughout these islands.

Militant Irish Monthly

The April 'Militant Irish Monthly' will be a special 12-page issue with a centre-page poster for the elections.

Details of the campaign, candidates' policies, and reports from Derry, Antrim, Belfast and Fermanagh.

Order copies [out 3 April] now. Put up the poster in your workplace and party rooms.

Derry Trades Council

Forward financial support and messages of solidarity to John Duffy, 6 Nicholson Square, Derry, Northern Ireland.

National Organisation of Labour Students Conference

END ISOLATION - LINK UP WITH LABOUR MOVEMENT

By Clive Heemskirk

(Leeds University
Labour Club)

How can the Tories' attacks be resisted? That question will dominate every debate at the National Organisation of Labour Students' Conference.

At the last Conference, a resolution was passed advocating that Labour Councils should introduce rate increases, as a 'realistic' measure to offset Tory cuts.

The disastrous nature of this strategy has now become very clear, as the Militant supporters warned.

Massive rate increases have not guaranteed local authority jobs and services, but they do mean a cut in living standards for workers paying rates.

Conference should now support an effective socialist alternative calling on Labour Councils to refuse to raise rents and rates, building a mass movement of support for a confrontation with the Tories.

Mass unemployment and the world recession dominate the economy debate at conference. The 'alternative economic strategy' is presented as 'a significant step' towards socialism by the 'Clause 4' group.

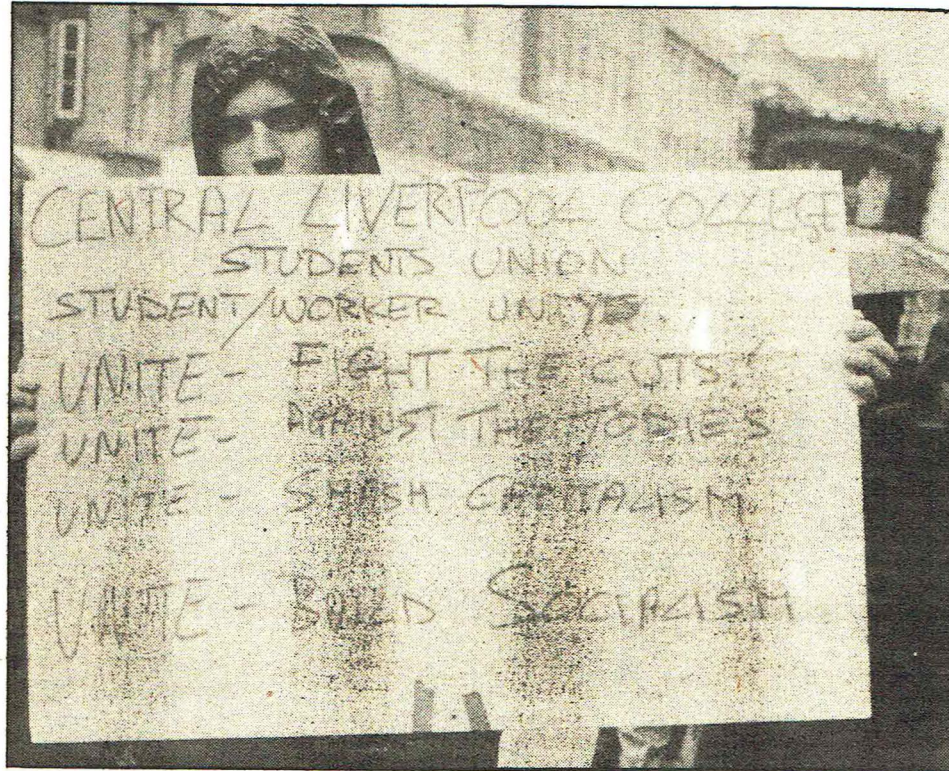
But this strategy is clearly inadequate if the working class is going to change

society. It is still a policy of tinkering with the system, leaving the bulk of industry in private hands. In Chile, this meant that big business could sabotage the reforms put forward by the Allende government—preparing the way for a bloody counter-revolution and Pinochet's barbarous dictatorship.

Whilst claiming not to support 'socialism in one country', 'Clause 4' supporters advocate import controls as part of their programme. They clearly do not understand the deep nature of the world recession. Every capitalist country is desperately competing for markets. Import controls offer no real protection for jobs; they would feather-bed industrial backwardness and would mean higher prices for British workers.

Protectionism would also divide the working class on nationalist lines, being essentially based on the idea that British workers and British bosses have a common economic interest.

None of the resolutions on the 'alternative economic strategy' explains how measures such as 'planning agreements' and 'price controls' can be



The exception rather than the rule. Above: students on local anti-cuts demonstration in Liverpool

effectively imposed on the big private monopolies when they would directly cut across the profit-making interests of the capitalist class.

The resolutions from Leeds and Cardiff explain that whilst big business dominates the economy, Labour governments will inevitably capitulate to their power. Labour must have a programme of breaking the grip of the monopolies.

Both Clubs call on the next

Labour government to carry through a thorough socialist programme, based on the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies.

David Marquand, one of Roy Jenkins' lieutenants, has pointed out the desperate weakness of British capitalism: "The private sector is so weak that 'Socialism in our time' is no longer a fantasy.... a Social Democratic government would try to strengthen the private sector.... a socialist

government could perfectly well break the private sector's back."

The next few years will see class battles on an unprecedented scale in Britain. NOLS must have clear socialist policies to win students to the side of Labour. There is enormous anger and discontent at present. NOLS must be capable of providing a clear socialist alternative to the Tories.

Nottingham University advocate that NOLS should campaign for NUS to affiliate to the TUC and the Labour Party. This should be a crucial part of NOLS programme. It would mean linking up students directly to the labour movement. Students have not got the economic power of the trade unions. The previous policies have left students in isolation whereas a united fight with the labour movement would lay the basis for crushing victories.

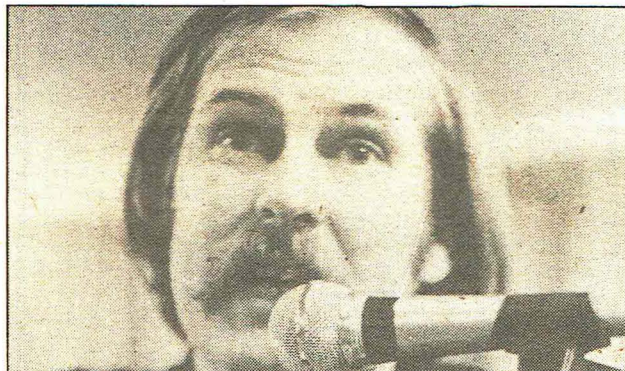
Every gain for the working class in education has been fought for by the labour movement. Ultimately, it is only the forces of the working class, organised through the labour movement, which can defeat the bosses' government and carry through fundamental social change.

Socialist students who are serious about transforming education and society in general must attempt to integrate the student movement with the trade unions and the Labour Party.

The potential for NOLS has never been greater. If conference adopts a Marxist programme and leadership; then there is no reason why there should not be an enormous growth in both active membership and the number of Labour Clubs.

Fight for a socialist NUS

Alan Watson speaking at NOLS Conference



'Labour Student' has not appeared since October. NOLS' influence in the Further Education colleges is now negligible.

Conference must change this catastrophic situation. Sussex University calls on the NC to launch an anti-Tory campaign, and to turn towards building in the FE Colleges. They also call for national demonstrations and rallies to be organised—something the present leadership have failed to do for the last five years.

A change in leadership is urgent in NOLS. The present

leadership have shown that both politically and organisationally they are incapable of building. NOLS must have a leadership capable of organising a fightback against the Tories.

The growth and activity of the Labour Party Young Socialists is a testimony to the success of Militant's approach. Labour students, too need bold Marxist perspectives.

By Alan Watson

(NOLS NC 1979-81)

This Conference will decide NOLS' future strategy in the National Union of Students [NUS]. How can we best defeat the Tories and Liberals and build a Labour students' leadership in NUS?

NOLS's present strategy, of standing for *only some* of the positions in NUS, gives credence to the idea that the motley crew who run NUS at present have something useful to offer.

In fact, the Communist Party and their allies in the 'Left Alliance' are responsible for the move to the right in NUS. The 'Left Alliance' has consciously promoted liberals and 'independents' for the Executive, not surprisingly turning NUS away from political campaigning.

The present strategy proposed by the 'Clause 4' group is a recipe for further disaster. It has meant NOLS supporting members of the Liberal

Party! Even if the five NOLS candidates for the Executive are successful, they would still be a minority, and thus in a powerless position.

We believe that NOLS should aim to win a majority on the NUS Executive, and stand candidates for all the full-time positions. To do this, a consistent campaign on the policies passed by the NOLS Conference would be necessary, to build support for socialist policies in NUS.

The past year has been one of continual crisis for the NOLS leadership. Three National Committee (NC) members have resigned. Only eight new Clubs have been built—the lowest figure for years. The membership campaign in January was a disaster.

Only ten people attended a national Womens' Day school in March despite all the work the NC claim to have put into this area.

The NOLS turn-out on the 24 November demonstration in Liverpool was pathetic, with a minimum of work being done by the NC.

**Recruit
part-time
students
to NOLS**

A number of Clubs are proposing that NOLS open its doors to part-time students, particularly those on block and day release. They could play a valuable role in NOLS, bringing their experience of work into the Labour Clubs.

In FE and Tech colleges in particular, where there is a much higher proportion of working-class students than in universities, the participation of part-timers could be crucial in building new Labour Clubs.

In the past, the NOLS leadership have always opposed recruiting part-time students. Despite their opposition, last year's Conference approved this change, only for the NEC to reject it, on the grounds that "part-time" was left undefined. The amendments submitted this year, however, clarify the position, and Conference should support this step forward.

Conference should also support the changes in the delegate structure to two delegates for up to 100 members, and 1 extra per 100 or part of above that. This would reflect more fairly the active membership of Clubs; and give adequate representation to small colleges. It would reduce the influence of the big university Clubs, which often have a large "paper" membership.

Delegates should also support proposals to make the membership fee for NOLS £1 a year, and 25p for FE and Tech students.

All these constitutional changes would help make NOLS more representative of active members, and help make NOLS more representative members, and help build a fighting Labour Students Organisation.

By Peter Mumford

(QMC LC and NOLS standing orders)

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POLAND



What colossal reserves of determination and energy the Polish workers have shown in their seven month long trial of strength with the bureaucratic elite that governs Poland!

By Peter Taaffe

Despite naked threats of Russian intervention, regardless of the 90-day "truce" on strikes between the government of Jaruzelski and the independent unions, and in the teeth of the opposition of their own leaders, enormous outbursts of anger, including local general strikes, continue to roll from one end of Poland to the other.

Now, a four-hour national stoppage has just taken place on Friday, 27 March.

This was the biggest post-war general strike which Poland and Eastern Europe has witnessed.

Thirteen million workers, virtually the whole of the labour force with the exception of those employed in emergency services, brought the country to a complete standstill.

It was a mighty demonstration of the power and discipline of the Polish workers.

The bureaucracy has been forced to make concessions to Solidarity as the price of calling off the indefinite general strike which was planned for 28 March.

This development follows the beating of twenty Solidarity members by the plainclothes security police in Bydgoszcz a week ago. "Security reinforcements" had been drawn into the district in the preceding weeks, indicating that preparations for a conflict had been carefully planned. Following the beatings, a general strike was declared in the town and thousands protested in a demonstration denouncing "MO gestapo", a reference to the police.

This incident has inflamed the whole country. It was undoubtedly a provocation by the "hard-line" Stalinists in the government, probably in collusion with the local bureaucrats who have received a number of blows at the hands of the workers in the recent period.

Three weeks ago, the city chief of the town had been removed because of corruption. Seizing the opportunity presented by the presence of 100,000 Warsaw Pact troops present in Poland for "manoeuvres", the local bureaucracy, together with their co-thinkers at national level, sought to take revenge on the workers of Bydgoszcz. They were probably hoping to provoke Russian intervention.

But what the events of the past week, indeed of the whole preceding period, demonstrate, is that enormous power is in the hands of the working class. However, because of the absence of Marxist leadership, they are not conscious of this power.

Almost before the ink was dry on the August agreements between the government and the independent unions, the Polish bureaucracy attempted to claw back the concessions which they were forced to give.

But each time they have merely heated up the already tense political atmosphere. The temperature within the working class is now at boiling point. Such is the power of the Polish working class that, so far, they have effectively vetoed every attempt to take back the reforms given in August.

As preparation for action against Solidarity leaders themselves, the bureaucracy ordered the arrest of Jacek Kuron and Adam Michnik. However, the threat of strike action quickly led to their release. When Michnik was recently threatened with arrest, the workers organised a "workers' guard" to prevent police from taking action!

In Lodz, Solidarity members were sacked from a hospital for exposing the corruption of the local bosses. They had discovered 13 pounds of ham hidden in the hospital as a private reserve for senior members of management. Naturally, they wished to share the ham out fairly amongst all workers. But the bureaucracy did not welcome this example of "socialist egalitarianism"!

As soon as the sackings were announced, a general strike of one hour took place. The dismissals were quickly withdrawn.

In Radom in the south, a threat of a general strike led to the sacking of the local police chief whom the workers held responsible for the June 1976 massacre in the city.

With this victory under their belt, the workers went on to demand the conversion of "the police headquarters into a rest home." They demanded action against corruption and the officials involved in bribery. Similar strikes have taken place amongst timber workers and steel workers, for wage increases and against the massive corruption of the Polish bureaucracy.

These movements demonstrate that the Polish working class in the last seven months has been groping in the direction of a political revolution—that is the removal of a one-party, totalitarian bureaucratic regime, and its replacement by workers' democracy. They have demanded the ending of corruption, the elimination of censorship, independent trade union rights and the right of all parties to campaign for their point of view.

ON THE BRINK?

It is utterly false—as the Stalinists and their co-thinkers in the capitalist West are attempting to assert—that this movement represents an attempt to go back to capitalism.

The regime has tried to play up the activities of very small, capitalist-nationalist parties, such as the “Confederation for an Independent Poland”, whose leaders have been jailed by the regime. However, these elements are entirely insignificant and have no major influence amongst the Polish workers and peasants.

The major factor which has blocked the road of the Polish workers towards a workers’ democracy is the very leadership which it has thrown up in the course of the events of the last seven months.

Solidarity, the independent trade union organisation, has grown to an estimated 10 million membership, compared to 3 million members of the Polish Communist Party!

An entirely peaceful, political revolution was possible in the course of the August events. The bureaucracy was suspended in mid-air, with no support at all amongst any significant section of the population. A clear programme for workers’ democracy—as explained in the pages of the *Militant* at that time—would have led rapidly to the eclipse of the bureaucratic elite.

Bureaucracy will not share state power

A democratic and socialist Poland appealing to the workers and peasants of Eastern Europe and Russia would have smashed any attempt of the neighbouring bureaucratic elites to crush the movements in Poland.

The Solidarity leaders, because of the advice of the “dissidents” and the Catholic church hierarchy, refused to seize this favourable opportunity to take power. This has now provided the Russian bureaucracy with the time to carefully assemble the means to crush the Polish movement in blood if this should be necessary.

It has gathered its armies on the borders of Poland. It is using the Warsaw Pact manoeuvres, as a brutal warning to the Polish working class and the Solidarity leaders of what would happen if they were “to go too far”.

However, it is not necessary for the Russian bureaucracy to intervene at this stage, because the Solidarity leaders are playing the role of fire hose.

Astonishingly, Walesa, in an interview published with the *Sunday Times* (22 March) admitted as much: “I am to struggle to extinguish the unnecessary fires like a fireman.”

The dissidents and Solidarity leaders imagine that it is possible for independent trade unions to collaborate indefinitely with the one-party Stalinist totalitarian regime. But the bureaucracy has bluntly stated: “We shall never agree to share power and even less to give up power” [bureaucrat quoted in the *Sunday Times* interview with Walesa].

The bureaucracy is a complete excrescence, a parasitic elite with stolen privileges. In a workers’ state, an independent trade union

movement cannot restrict itself to purely “trade union issues”, as the experience of Solidarity in the last seven months has demonstrated.

Inevitably under the pressure from below, it protests and demands action against the blatant corruption of the governing caste. It demands and takes action to end censorship, police harassment and brutality.

This in turn raises the need for a new state and new government of the majority of the population, the workers and peasants. Concretely, this would mean workers’ democracy in Poland, throughout Eastern Europe and Russia.

It is for this reason that the bureaucracy must either try completely to emasculate Solidarity or, if this fails, to use force to crush the movement.

At the moment it is attempting to use the Solidarity leaders as policemen over their own rank and file. The leaders have come out recently in favour of a “wage freeze”.

Like a case-hardened trade union bureaucracy in the unions in the west, they also want to keep the power firmly in their hands. They have banned independent action by local and regional Solidarity unions. The regional unions, however, have not taken much notice of this!

The national leadership led by Walesa has all the tendencies of the reformist trade union officialdom in the west. Unless there is an attempt to take power and establish a workers’ democracy, the Solidarity leaders must inevitably seek an accommodation with the bureaucracy, albeit the “reformist” wing.

In so doing, like their counterparts in the capitalist west, it is bound to come out in favour of “sacrifices” from the Polish workers, in order to “put the country back on its feet”.

Nevertheless, despite all the best efforts of Walesa to keep the movement within safe bounds, the upheaval has spread like a prairie fire to the whole of Poland in the course of the last seven months. This has culminated in the call for a national general strike, which took place against the advice and in face of the opposition of Walesa and the national Solidarity leaders.

But what is a national general strike? Unless it is used to take power it is merely a demonstration of folded arms. At the best it is a safety valve to ventilate the indignation and anger of the Polish workers at the events in Bydgoszcz.

Walesa’s shameful statements during the four-hour stoppage shows that Solidarity leaders were as panic stricken as the bureaucracy at the possibility of an all-out general strike taking place.

In Warsaw he declared: “We are striking against ourselves, but there is no other way.”

Thirteen million Polish workers were under the impression that they were striking against the brutality of the security police.

This is a desperate attempt to deflect the anger of the workers and peasants away from the cause of their misery—the wasteful and inefficient gang of bureaucrats who rule Poland.

“The Times” (28 March) with evident relief, declared that Solidarity leaders “have been doing their best to prop up the existing regime while trying to negotiate with it.



Walesa addressing a workers’ meeting: “I extinguish the unnecessary fires like a fireman”

They have not used the power they have to sweep it away.”

The regime has once again bought time by conceding some of the demands of Solidarity. The local officials and police responsible for the beatings in Bydgoszcz are to be dismissed. An “inquiry” into the causes of the beatings has been set up.

None of these concessions touches the fundamental rule of the bureaucracy. A few scapegoats have been found, which it is hoped will mollify the Polish workers.

Yet, even now an enormously favourable opportunity exists for the Polish workers to take power. In the past seven months they have effectively vetoed every attempt of the bureaucracy to take back the concessions that were given in August. Moreover, they have gone on to make even more radical demands.

This has led to the Moscow bureaucracy growling about the attempt of Solidarity to establish “dual power” in Poland.

Walesa, in expressing opposition to the idea of a general strike, declared: “One side has an army. We do not have one. We shall struggle resolutely, but we do not want a general strike.”

Such arguments are entirely false. The bureaucracy cannot rely on the army in a confrontation with the Polish workers. Moreover, the police, in the light of events in Bydgoszcz, are also unreliable. Reports mentioned that the uniformed police were crying as the secret police removed workers from the council chamber and beat them up!

Even more significantly, the events of the last seven months have split the bureaucratic elite from top to bottom. The lower layers of the bureaucracy look towards the workers and sympathise with many of their demands.

Even inside the Communist

Party, the organisation of the governing elite, enormous upheavals have recently taken place. There have been unprecedented demands for democratic discussion and debate and for the right of more than one candidate to stand in elections!

Elements within the bureaucracy who sympathise with the workers have been expelled. Sections of worker Communist Party members have played a role in some areas in the general strikes in defence of the August gains.

A bold lead by the Solidarity leaders would result in a situation where a handful of the top bureaucracy would be the only opposition to a movement to establish a workers’ democracy.

Unless the Polish workers and peasants take to the road of establishing a workers’ and peasants’ democracy it is inevitable that the bureaucracy will either succeed in whittling away the gains of the past seven months or will crush the movement by force.

One thing is certain: it is impossible to keep the working class in a state of high mobilisation forever.

It is incredible that the Polish workers have maintained such stubborn resistance to the bureaucracy at the pitch they have since last August.

But this will not go on forever. Moreover, if the local bureaucracy panics, as in Bydgoszcz, and uses not just fists but bullets, the whole of Poland could go up in an explosion against the bureaucracy.

In that situation, the Russian bureaucracy will have no hesitation in intervening. And if this intervention was met by an outburst of Polish nationalism, which is the theme of Lech Walesa and most of the Solidarity leadership, the Russian bureaucracy would succeed in crushing the revolution.

However, it is not the most likely perspective that the Russian bureaucracy will militarily intervene. It is only a last resort.

Military intervention was possible in Czechoslovakia because the Russian bureaucracy understood that the liberal bureaucratic regime of Dubcek would not put up an armed resistance.

The Polish workers, however, would fight and draw behind them practically the whole population. The bureaucracy would have to wade through blood to consolidate their rule.

Political revolution is the only way out

The Polish bureaucracy has been enormously weakened by the events of the past seven months. But their state machine remains largely intact. So long as this remains the situation, Brezhnev and Co. will probably go along with the attempt of Kania to ride out the present storm.

Military intervention would result in colossal overheads as far as the bureaucracy are concerned. But if their system is threatened they would have no hesitation in taking this course of action.

What is most likely is that, after a period of time, the working class will inevitably be disappointed in the failure of the Solidarity leaders to solve their problems. Already four regions of Solidarity have declared that Walesa is “too soft” and “too liberal”.

Enormous fermentation is taking place amongst the workers, particularly amongst the youth. They will have been turning over recent events in their minds.

They will have been coming

to the conclusion that an accommodation with the bureaucracy will inevitably lead to defeat. They therefore will be drawing the same conclusions as the Marxists in the West—that a political revolution is the only way out for Poland.

In the short term, disappointment with their leaders could lead the working class turning towards vodka for a period. Alcoholism in Poland is second only to France.

However, there is no solution to the problems of Poland on the basis of the domination of the bureaucracy. In the last two years the economy has dropped by an unprecedented 6%. Debts continue to mount up to the West and have now reached the figure of \$34 billion.

Despite their alleged sympathy with the independent unions, the capitalists in the West look with dread towards the possibility of a political revolution. So also do the church hierarchy, who have come in for increased criticism by rank-and-file Catholic workers dissatisfied with their collaboration with the regime.

The capitalists in the West well understand that a democratic workers’ state in Poland would be the death knell for their system as well.

But even if there is a temporary stabilisation of the situation in Poland it is inevitable that a new crisis will break out, perhaps in one or two years.

Twist and turn as they may, to centralisation and decentralisation and back again, the Polish bureaucracy are incapable of solving the problems of Poland or of taking society forward. Only a democratic workers’ state can open up a new future for Poland.

This would be merely an overture for the entry of the East European and the mighty Russian working class on to the scene. A democratic and socialist Poland would appeal to the workers in Eastern Europe and Russia, and would mark the beginning of the end of the totalitarian regimes which besmirch these societies.

This is the only perspective which offers any hope to the Polish workers in the movement that is opening up.

A bold lead from Solidarity would leave only the top bureaucracy in opposition to a movement towards workers’ democracy

The 'miracle' fades The debts increase

The Brazilian city of Sao Paulo can 'boast' that half its homes lack water, two thirds lack main drainage and half its inhabitants live in sub-standard homes.

This is the working class's share of Brazil's 'economic miracle', not in some inaccessible village way up the Amazon but in the country's industrial heartland.

Sao Paulo state has 80,000 factories and produces 47% of Brazil's output. Yet still, 63 out of every 10,000 babies die before they reach a year old. In Sao Paulo city, one million camp out in the corrugated iron shacks of the favelas.

Brazil is reputedly the eighth most powerful economy in the world, certainly amongst the top ten steel producers and car manufacturers where a production run of a million cars a year promises to overtake the ailing British industry.

This is one of the economic 'jewels' of the third world. But not everything glitters. As the conditions outlined above show, the breakneck development of industry has left in its train broken lives of millions of exploited workers.

It may look 'miraculous' from the viewpoint of the top ten per cent in Brazil who have increased their share of national income from 36.6% to 50.5% in twenty years.

It still looks like the same grim third world from the shanty towns of Rio and Sao Paulo. The poorest 50% have now 14.65% of national income compared to 17.4% in 1960 and it takes the average worker twice as long to pay for food and necessities.

Yet the last two decades have been the most favourable period possible for the eradication of poverty, in

the Brazilian boom. The country was catapulted up the international industrialisation league in the decades since the Second World War, world capitalism's most prolific years.

It was developed predominantly by foreign capital, in search of richer pickings outside the main metropolitan areas. 170 multinationals have been crucial to Brazil's growth.

But now all this has changed. Affluence has given way to permanent world economic instability. The Brazilian bubble has burst, and this miracle exposed as an illusion. The masses impoverished during the good years, now have to face life in the slump.

And economic crisis has hit Brazil hard. To finance the industrialisation, and in particular to rapidly create an infrastructure befitting a modern manufacturing nation—roads, railways, power stations etc.—Brazil was forced on to the mercy of the international moneylenders. It is now the Third World's largest debtor.

At 57 billion dollars the foreign debt represents a quarter of the country's total national product. And servicing the debt accounts for no less than two thirds of annual export earnings.

Brazilian exports themselves are increasingly constrained by the world recession.

Demand for iron ore and even coffee has fallen, while the drift towards international protectionism has adversely affected exports like shoes.

Brazil is suffering the effects of the overambition of its capitalists. Everything was mortgaged during the boom years, so they could attain the level of productivity of their Western counterparts. Now with the crash their dreams have fallen in on them.

But just to put the knife in, Brazil is also being presented with massive bills for the oil swallowed up by its overloaded economic machine. In trying to copy the West, Brazil even aped postwar capitalism's ill considered reliance on just one main source of energy—petroleum.

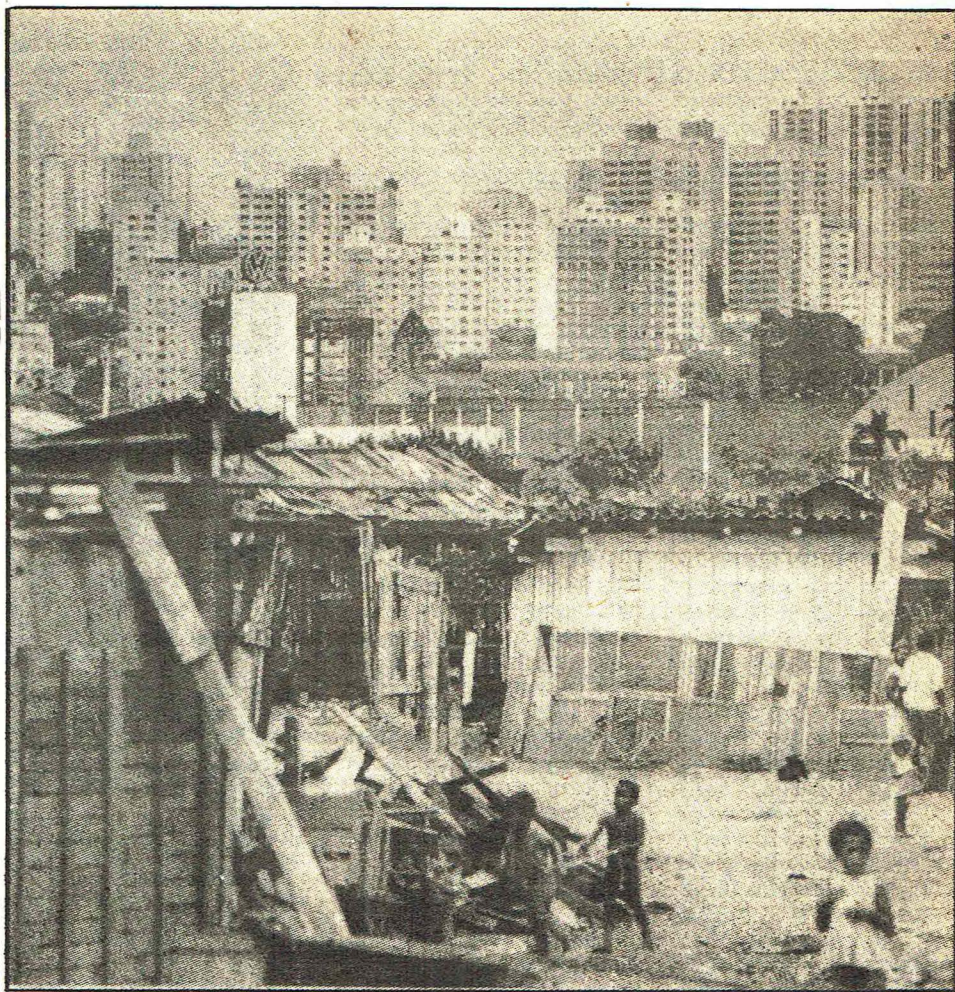
850,000 barrels a day of imported oil are consumed, at an annual cost of 10.5 billion dollars. With the repeated jumps in oil prices, more than half of Brazilian export earnings now go on oil. So last year the balance of trade was in deficit to the tune of 3 billion dollars.

Borrowing \$20m a day

Brazil is now compelled to borrow to repay old loans and to meet the oil bill. Private Western banks are the chief source, lending over 20 million dollars a day, to keep the country afloat.

After all, they were the ones who, confident of fat returns, extended all that credit to Brazil in the past. Now if their largest customer were to default the entire international financial system would be in jeopardy!

A 'Financial Times' correspondent graphically outlined the dilemma; "Brazil has run at commendable speed and still finds itself going backwards. To repay its debts it must borrow more, to borrow it must



Whilst Brazil's top 10% take 50% of the country's wealth, 1 million people live in corrugated shacks in Sao Paulo.

increase its export earnings, to export more the economy must continue to grow, but the more it grows the more it must import, especially oil, and then it must run up more debts to pay the bills".

But Brazil cannot get off the treadmill, shut up shop and just let the economy vegetate. For as Economic Chief Antonio Delfim Netto maintains, a 6% growth rate is the "minimum acceptable rate". Because 6% is just enough to create the 1.4 million new jobs required every year, to prevent unemployment threatening social catastrophe.

Forty per cent of the population is already chronically underemployed, while standing as a menacing reminder to all is an inflation rate of 110%. The last time inflation topped three figures, in 1964, it was the signal for the intervention of the military, who are still in power today.

Last year Delfim Netto was forced to travel the financial capitals of the world, begging assistance and trying to allay international capitalism's doubts. In Britain he was told by Tory ministers that

Brazil had reached the limit of its creditworthiness, and the sums he requested would not be forthcoming until he fell in line with the IMF's stringent terms.

On his return Netto immediately unleashed a rigid austerity package.

No more the 10% growth rates. Growth this year will be just 4%. The contradictions of the profit system have caught up with the Brazilian economy, and swamped it.

The demise of this, one of the most flourishing of Third World countries, proves yet again, that despite the aid, assistance, loans and charity from the West, as long as capitalism lasts so too will all the economic burdens and social horrors of the developing nations.

Catch up in 1,000 years

A recent World Bank report analysing progress between 1950 and 1975, predicted that in terms of per capita income, if historical growth rates are maintained, then of the fastest growing developing countries

only eight would close the gap with the industrialised world within the next 100 years, and only sixteen within the next 1,000 years!

Rise of absolute poverty

Forever the poor exploited relation, that is the best capitalism can offer. And, of course, as Brazil shows, far from 'historical growth rates being maintained', the blight of economic stagnation has afflicted rich and poor alike.

Over the last 30 years the number of people suffering absolute poverty has risen. Now 50% of the world's population are illiterate as compared with 30% in 1950.

Far from alleviating their plight, world capitalism despite the fevered upsurge of production in the West, has given the masses of the developing nations a life sentence of poverty and despair. For the majority of the peoples of the world the struggle for socialism is a matter of life and death.

Time to revive Marxist tradition

The Labour Party in Norway has a tradition with roots in Marxism, still reflected in the programme and principles of the AUF [Norwegian Socialist Youth] which says "there is complete antagonism between the interests of the working class and capitalism."

In future years, these traditions will be needed. The recent prediction by the capitalist economists of the OECD that the Norwegian economy "is set for trouble" will make the experience of

By Kevin Ramage
(LPYS National Chairman)

one delegate to the recent AUF Congress more and more common.

"I have been out of work since last June" he said. "The factory I worked in—it made acid—closed down. The job gave me bad lungs, so now it is very hard to get work."

Until now the economy has been sheltered from the full force of the world crisis by an abundance of raw materials [fish, timber, and especially oil]. Recent economic forecasts, though, are that the Gross Domestic Product will grow by only 0.5% this year, compared with 3.6% in 1980, and 4.5% in 1979.

Unemployment has been kept down to 1.2% [20,000] by government spending programmes financed from oil revenues, but with inflation now over 12% there will be increasing calls on the Labour government to cut working class living standards.

The Governor of the Bank of Norway now argues that the nation's economy faced difficulties in the immediate future, despite oil wealth, and that an incomes policy and restriction of money supply would be necessary.

There is already an incomes policy backed up by compulsory arbitration measures, used to end a strike by oil rig workers last summer. Policies to restrict public spending will lead to rising unemployment.

No fundamental change

The Labour Party has been in Government for most of the time since 1935, but reform programmes have not fundamentally changed the capitalist system. Deepening world crisis will inevitably affect the Norwegian economy.

Opinion polls, although often suspect, indicate that the Labour Party is no longer certain of winning this autumn's general election, a reflection of growing disillusion with the Labour Government.

The previous Prime Minister, Odvar Nordli, suddenly resigned in January, officially for health reasons, but he had also come under increasing criticism as a result of the government's policies, and the falling support for the Labour Party.

The Party executive appointed Mrs Brundtland, who is seen as a radical as Prime Minister, under pressure from the rank and file, and against the wishes of several right wing trade union leaders.

This is undoubtedly a step

forward but in an epoch of world recession, 'radical' policies within the framework of capitalism will offer the Norwegian workers no more a way forward than the policies of the right wing.

Socialism—only guarantee

Just as in all capitalist countries, the only guarantee that the improved living standards of the last forty years are not lost, lies in a struggle to replace capitalism by a socialist plan of production. The socialist tradition of the Norwegian working class will be more relevant than ever.

More dirty ammunition for Labour's enemies

Not to be outdone by Chapman Pincher's sensational stories, a former right-wing Labour MP has produced an astounding revelation of his own: the Militant tendency has been penetrated by the Russian secret police, the KGB.

This is just one of many amazing "facts" revealed in *Left, Right: the March of Political Extremism in Britain*, by John Tomlinson, former Labour MP for Meriden (published by John Calder, £4.95).

"Sources have revealed a quite remarkable and far-reaching development in the case of the Militant Tendency." These "sources" are, of course, far too secret to be revealed. Perhaps it was even Chapman Pincher himself?

Anyway: "Towards the end of January 1980, as the controversy over Militant's presence within the Labour Party gathered momentum, the Soviet KGB dispatched from Paris to this country one of its top specialist agents briefed to infiltrate the Militant Tendency itself, with the object so far as possible of shielding it from complete or damaging exposure." (p 135)

Only one KGB agent? Only last year? Poor, neglected Militant! We only rate one agent, when, according to recent revelations, the Foreign Office, MI5 and MI6 have been penetrated by dozens of KGB agents. Moreover, they have been planted cosily in the highest places for the last 30 or 40 years!

Nevertheless, we should warn our readers: Watch out for men in fur hats. If you are approached by anyone speaking with a Russian (or perhaps French?) accent, let us know immediately.

Be particularly suspicious of anyone who urges you to miss a few meetings, or tone down your ideas.

"When it is considered," Tomlinson continues, "that the Soviets have anathematised Trotsky and all his works to the extent of removing his image from official and historical photographs, so that most Trotskyists similarly despise the Kremlin, such a move may seem especially confounding, not to mention implausible."

So "confounding" and "implausible" is it in fact, that when the *Birmingham Mail* recently published extracts of Tomlinson's book, they omitted this sentence. Even while using his material for a "red scare" attack on the *Militant*, the *Mail's* editor evidently felt that such an admission by the author would completely undermine it.

Such revelations, you may say, are good for a laugh. But Tomlinson's book has a serious, malicious purpose.

His "report" is, he claims, "the result of considerable research into...Britain's extremist political groups." In reality, it is just a re-hash of grossly distorted reports and

By Lynn Walsh

attacks from the capitalist press, which he later admits himself have produced "no substantive revelations as to the nature and conduct of the 'Militant Tendency'."

These are strung together with a crude "political theory" which wouldn't get a pass mark in a CSE examination.

The object is to lump together right-wing fascist groups—which are known to be responsible for vicious racist assaults and arson attacks on the premises of Militant and other groups—with left-wing groups of one kind and another. This hardly conceals, however, the fact that the left is his real target—with Militant in bulls-eye position.

By putting this rubbish together in a book, the author and the publishers presumably hope to give it more "authenticity" and "authority"—so it can be re-circulated by the very gutter newspapers which counterfeited the "information" in the first place.

Militant is presented by Tomlinson as one of the "forces at work...whose interest and influence cannot be deemed compatible with those of the majority." Like other small factions, *Militant*, he claims, has "a capacity for subversion and disruption which far surpasses [its] strength of numbers."

"Radicality" is acceptable, but "extremism" is not.

Extremists are beyond the pale because they seek "to challenge the balance of elements within the socio-economic status quo."

"Hard evidence" he frequently admits is difficult to find; but "to build a circumstantial case against the Tendency is not difficult." Tomlinson suffers from the worst kind of "police mentality". If you can't get "subversives" on substantive charges—use the all-embracing charge of "conspiracy".

By hints, insinuations, and maliciously false associations, Tomlinson works to give the impression that *Militant* (among other groups) is financed with "foreign gold". The Kremlin, Libya, Iraq, and other regimes finance subversives throughout the world. *Militant* is subversive. Therefore *Militant* could be financed from these sources. That is the slanderous "logic" of his book.

In his section on *Militant's* finances, however, Tomlinson does not come up with one single fact, or even piece of "circumstantial evidence", which justifies his smear of sinister, or foreign sources of finance.

Tomlinson relies on the 'Sunday Times' probe into *Militant's* £148,000 loan from WIR Publications. He completely ignores the fact that we have repeatedly explained to the *Sunday Times* (see Editorial, 16 January, 1981) that all the money for the

Militant's fighting fund and the money loaned the *Militant* by WIR Publications Ltd comes from active workers and supporters in the labour movement.

Tomlinson, it seems, accepts that a handful of businessmen finance fascist organisations like the National Front. But he cannot accept that thousands of active workers who support Marxist policies can financially support the *Militant*.

He notes the magnificent collections frequently given at *Militant* meetings. He claims to have information about regular amounts being paid by supporters to the paper.

Yet Tomlinson cynically attempts to imply that there are still sinister foreign sources for this money.

On the other hand, he admits, *Militant* "came up with a scoop of its own, proclaiming across the centre spread of its newspaper (1 February 1980), 'How the CIA funded Labour's Right Wing'. A month later *The Times* of 5 March headlined the news that 'NATO gave £32,335 to Labour moderates'."

Yet Tomlinson tries to dismiss *Militant's* demands for an enquiry into the intervention of the CIA and big business into the Labour Party as a manoeuvre.

The attempt to raise suspicions about *Militant's* finances is a step towards implying that *Militant* may have links with international terrorist organisations. This is an unscrupulous smear. Needless to say, Tomlinson comes up with no facts, no evidence whatsoever, to back this up.

But Tomlinson, remember, does not need "hard evidence": he can rely on the flimsiest "circumstantial evidence" of "subversion".

"Many of the left factions," he says (p13), "maintain contact with international terrorist organisations, including the IRA and the PLO."

Terrorism is an "extension" of "extremism". Therefore any extremist group may turn to terrorism.

"It is clear then, that even if extreme groups do not of themselves engage in terrorist campaigns, there is no assurance that they will, may, or do not lend local and logistical support to international guerrilla groups."

This sentence (p135) immediately follows the paragraph in which Tomlinson alleges that the KGB has penetrated the *Militant*! Such is the malicious, dishonest method used by this former right-wing Labour MP.

Already, one newspaper (the *Birmingham Mail*) has seized on this to allege actual links between the *Militant* and international terrorist organisations.

These are malicious, dirty smears worthy of Goebbels or Stalin's propagandists.

It counts for nothing, in Tomlinson's book, that *Militant* has consistently upheld the position of Marx, Lenin, and Trotsky on individual terrorism.

Genuine Marxism has always opposed the attempt by

small clandestine minorities to change society on behalf of the working class or oppressed masses with the gun and the bomb. Armed conspiracies do not further the struggle for the socialist transformation of society, which must be the task of the working class itself.

Tomlinson himself quotes Ted Grant of the *Militant* as envisaging "a peaceful transformation of society through winning a Marxist majority in the trade unions and the Labour Party." (p 69).

Regardless of this, he tries to imply that *Militant* could be associated with organisations like the Provisional IRA and the guerrilla organisations within the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

be collected, Tomlinson says. Is he somehow unaware, even today, of the massive surveillance carried out by the police Special Branch and the intelligence services against all sections of the labour movement?

We would recommend to Tomlinson that he consults another book published by John Calder, entitled "Policing the Police". This two-volume book includes a very thorough, alarming account of the extent of police surveillance and computer records on people they consider subversive.

The fact that the KGB is admitted to have access to all the secrets of the intelligence service highlights the real truth: that these under-cover

question the authority of this paper, owned by the multinational company, Atlantic Richfield, to speak on behalf of "democracy".

"Extremism" and "subversion" are a threat, says Tomlinson, "in view of our present perilous economic position and the various predictions for the decade which prophesy recession, slump and all the concomitant economic and social strains..." He appears to believe that "subversion" is partly to blame for the present perilous position.

Yet Tomlinson fails to ask why the decline has come about. Why is there an economic crisis? Why are there three million on the dole in Britain?

Tomlinson's crude political method is to present all opposition to the big business system which has produced the crisis as opposition to democracy, which he presents as an entirely abstract phenomenon.

Lumping together the "extreme right" and the "extreme left", Tomlinson glosses over the fundamental class difference between fascism and Marxism.

The fascists stand for the complete destruction of the labour and trade union movement, which would mean the destruction of all democratic rights. If they were allowed to succeed in their aims, the fascists would pave the way for the totalitarian rule of big business which would brutally defend its naked profit interest.

Marxists defend all democratic rights—the right to vote, the right to organise trade unions, freedom of assembly and the right to strike. Marxists also defend the economic gains of the workers.

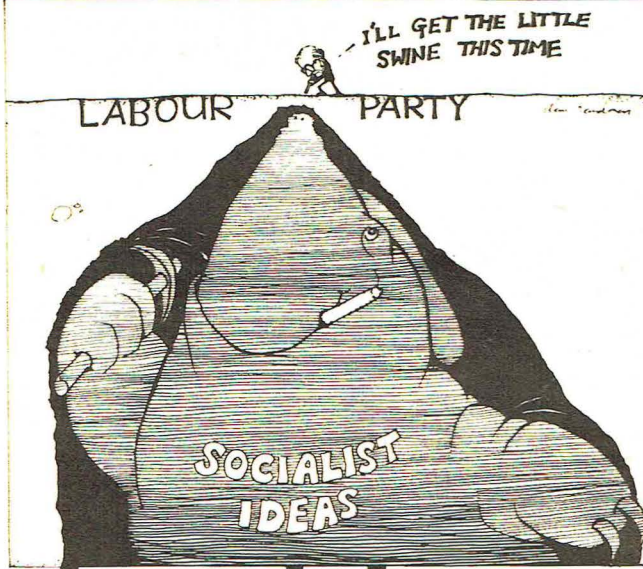
In a period of capitalist crisis, both the rights and the living standards of the working class are threatened. Only the socialist transformation of society can provide a way out.

It is recognition of this that accounts for the swing to the left in the Labour Party and the trade unions—not "plots" or "subversion" as Tomlinson tries to make out. The ideas of Labour's right wing, of which Tomlinson is a part, have been completely discredited by the record of past Labour governments.

Democratically, the ranks of the Labour Party have voted for the democratisation of the Labour Party, for democratic accountability of their representatives in Parliament and for socialist policies as the programme of the next Labour government.

But Tomlinson—one of the many academic interlopers in the Labour Party—cannot accept this change. So, like other mole-hunters, he has resorted to digging up plots.

But his particularly vicious compilation of allegations and smears will find no echo within the ranks of the labour movement. His attempt to provide the enemies of the labour movement with a new armoury of lies, distortions, and slanders will be totally repudiated by all active workers.



The Mole hunter

Militant warns its readers: watch out for men in fur hats!

That *Militant* has consistently opposed the tactics of individual terrorism adopted by the IRA and the PLO—while campaigning for a socialist solution to the national question in Ireland and supporting the national aspirations of the Palestinians—counts for nothing.

So what does Tomlinson think should be done?

There should be more information, he says. In a moment of candour he admits that his material "is in itself insubstantial!" (p 138) So "there is much digging to be done."

He appeals to "those of position and authority" to acquaint themselves with "the threat presented by political extremism".

"The government should institute comprehensive research into the full nature of political extremism in Britain, publish its findings and act upon its findings." (147)

What does this mean? Tomlinson says he is against legal measures. But his appeal can only mean legal measures, or police measures, against groups certified by Tomlinson as "extremist" and "subversive".

More information should

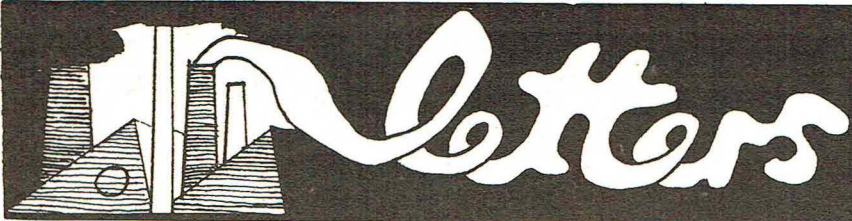
agencies are secret only from the British workers, and are mainly directed against the organised labour movement.

It is also extremely ironic that Tomlinson should be appealing, in the name of democracy, to those with power and authority to take action. Only this week, the serious capitalist press has revealed more details of a conspiracy involving top generals, top civil servants, and representatives of the ruling class, to prepare a coup against the Labour government in 1968.

The implications of this will be analysed fully in *Militant* next week. But it is clear that behind the scenes, those with power and authority are itching to tear away the democratic trappings and reveal the totalitarian face of the ruling class.

Political democracy, according to Tomlinson's thesis, is not "inalienable" or "self-evident"—it must be protected by eternal vigilance. But nowhere in the whole book does Tomlinson examine the real social, class basis of democracy.

He approvingly quotes *The Observer's* attacks on *Militant*. But nowhere does he



Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Press bias

Dear Comrades

Recently 'Militant' published a letter complaining about the BBC's character assassination of John Maclean, the Scots revolutionary leader, in a TV programme to commemorate the centenary of his birth.

But the attitude of the BBC was inevitable. For, let's face it, those who control the media reflect the views of the class system, and when there is a severe crisis of capitalism our opponents will do everything possible to distort the truth and mislead workers.

I know this from personal experience. Some weeks ago

the Tory press published a photograph allegedly showing me standing in front of the 'first Russian tank to invade Afghanistan' (to quote their words). The truth? I was certainly pictured beside a tank—but it was a tank memorial to the uprising against the Daoud regime!

So much for 'objective' reporting. And the Left is going to be vilified even more in coming months as the Tory press and media back up the slanderous attacks from Social Democrats who control the PLP.

Yours fraternally
Ron Brown (Leith) MP
Member of the
Tribune Group

"The real world we live in"

Dear Comrades

My housing troubles started when I moved into a temporary home for single-parent families in Mansfield. Everything depended on whether your face fitted with the matron—and mine didn't. When you move out, the matron goes to the council with a report, and the type of house you get seems to depend on that.

I was given the keys to a house and had to sign for them without even looking at it. I was told I'd have to live here for a year at most and if I got it cleaned up, I would get a modernised house then. After ten months I went to the council

and asked to be moved. Rain had been coming through the upstairs ceiling for three months! The whole house was damp—the cooker kept blowing up and the washing machine caught fire.

On Boxing Day the ceiling caved in. I went to the top council official, my [Labour] MP, a local councillor and the local paper to show them what the place was like and to demand a move. They all promised action, but after another three months of pestering, I have only just been offered a new house. I have now been here 14 months.

For the last 8 months, I've slept downstairs with the baby because he was getting bronchial in the atmosphere in the bedroom. Even then,

Year of the handicapped

Dear Sir

We have had repeated warnings about the CUTS in social services taking affect from April '81, and sure enough on April 1st parents of mentally handicapped adults have been asked by Mid Glamorgan social services to pay 43p for their midday meal.

As most mentally handicapped claim supplementary benefit and disability allowance any way, this extra cost for meals will fall on central government via the social security payments. But what is alarming is that

we have to have the fire on all night to keep the living room where we sleep dry.

Before being offered a house we had a visit from three councillors and some officials who "agreed they wouldn't like to live in it." I think what affected them most was the coalhouse being in the kitchen. I was told the place was "technically fit for habitation."

Have all four walls got to cave in before a house is unfit to live in? I'm moving out now, but what about the other houses on the street that aren't much better? Will they move another family in here to go through what we have?

Yours fraternally
Sue Geoghegan
Mansfield LPYS

the parents of mentally handicapped adults feel that to complain of these cuts may lead to the closing down of day centres.

The local authority will save approximately £10,320 from this cost cutting measure, comparing this sum of money to, let's say the £11,000 million spent on defence, or the £28,000

spent on Lady Di, or the 12% rise for the Royal family. It seems such a trifle.

The mentally handicapped are indeed considered as equal members of society! Equal in deprivation and humiliation.

Yours Sincerely
Ann Bennett

No to voluntary redundancy

Dear Comrades

In a time when wages are being pegged back, and factories throughout the engineering industry and many other industries are being put on short time, or have been on short time for quite some time, I feel disgusted when at the first sign of redundancy, members of our union are knocking down the door of the manager's office volunteering for redundancy.

When will these people realise that whilst they are selling off their jobs, the union becomes weaker in negotiating better wages and conditions. Not only for our members who remain, but also for the 2½-3 million who hope to get work in the future?

My only wish would be that on the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies, that these so-called brothers and sisters of ours, who left with their pockets bulging, do not get the opportunity to do so a second time.

Yours fraternally
C.G. Norton
AUEW shop steward
International Harvester
Bradford

Scientists—shortsighted?

Dear Editor

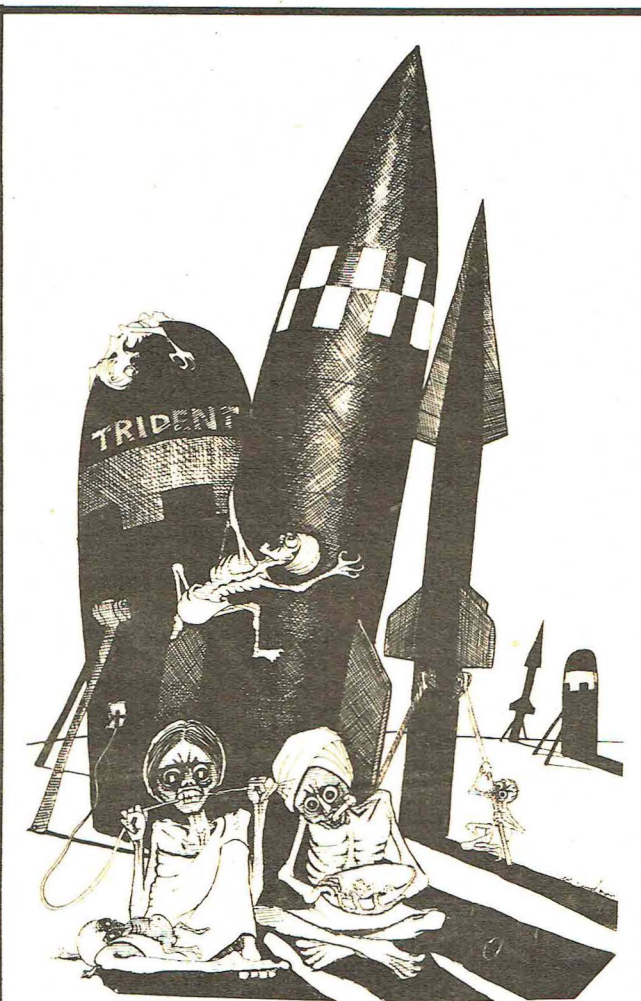
With the demand for escapism pretty much at the front of peoples' minds at the moment, those who saw BBC's 'Hello Universe' programme recently would have found it quite enlightening and interesting. The programme was based around a number of scientists who between them were attempting to derive an equation which would give some indication as to the possibilities of alien life existing in the universe.

With experts in Cosmology, evolutionary Biology, Geology etc, taking part, the group discussed all the pieces of the jigsaw necessary for the possibilities of intelligent life existing elsewhere. For example they would come to a decision on the estimated number of planets which could support life in the universe and then discuss the probability of a life form evolving into an intelligent species, and so on.

However, with all their knowledge these experts when posed with the question, How long is the average lifespan of a civilised race? They could only hum and har about nuclear destruction, as if it was an inevitable conclusion to every advanced society.

The programme however clearly highlighted the fact that despite all our modern technology, we are only scratching the surface with respect of understanding nature and science. It's quite probable that in an advanced society mankind may well be travelling between the stars, but with the majority of earth's inhabitants unclothed and starving we are faced with immediate tasks.

Yours comradely
Les Kuriata
Ladywood LPYS



CND—in the short term

Dear Comrade

I have to say that I was rather dismayed by the article on CND by Rob Sewell. Comrade Sewell seemed to be saying that CND will be useless unless socialists in its ranks can persuade its other members to become socialists!

Well, of course, the danger of war cannot be eliminated until capitalism is finally overthrown. But that is not likely to happen in the immediate future; so what are we to do in the short term?

Those who would make a nuclear war cannot do it on their own; they have to have the support of masses of

people. I believe that the simple appeal 'Stop making a Britain a target for nuclear attack!' can be of enormous assistance in depriving warmongers of support. This is not to be done through "treaties and plans to the super-powers", but through the masses saying, "Get the damned missiles out of Britain!"

Of course the very best way forward would be through the election of a Labour government committed to socialist policies. But even under a Tory government, the plans of the warmongers can be thwarted by mass action; involving the unions of course.

Yours fraternally
Jim Parkes
Walsall

CND—accidents?

Dear Comrades

Rob Sewell's excellent article on nuclear weapons quite rightly stressed the fact that you can't struggle for peace without struggling for socialism because peace and capitalism are incompatible. (*Militant* 545)

Nevertheless, I think it is wrong to minimise the danger of nuclear accidents. Of course, "the imperialists have too much to lose at this stage to leave annihilation to chance or mistakes", but this does not rule out the possibility.

Small mistakes in munitions factories claimed

scores of lives during the last two world wars, accidental bombardment of "friendly" trenches and bombs dropped in error claimed hundreds more. One small mistake with one of these strontium 90 babies could cost millions.

The fear of nuclear accidents reflects a healthy distrust of the ruling class and underlines the urgency of disarming them. A nuclear accident which did not lead to total war would nevertheless claim more lives than all the conflicts since the Second World War put together.

Yours fraternally
Derek McMillan



Shirley Williams with her friends of the press at the launching of the SDP

SDP...an unreal world

Dear Comrades

The press gave the impression that the launching of the Campaign for Social Democracy in Liverpool would be a public affair.

Alex Dowell, chairman of Toxteth CLP, members of the LPYS and myself went along, but were told by a gent in coat-tails that it was a private function. Inside we caught a glimpse of tables heaving with food and friendly bottles of booze.

The "meeting" was held in a church hall in one of the middle-class areas of Toxteth. This proved to be

fitting. Standing in the cold we saw expensive cars roll up.

Out poured fur coats, lounge suits and the occasional hacking jacket. I saw at least two ladies go in with "blue stockings". Just to make sure of "maximum" support we saw three vicars join. That proves it's going to be a democratic organisation!

Thankfully only seven members of the Labour Party were seen. All were over 50, remnants of the old right wing. The rest, amounting to about 40 people, we had never seen before. Maybe it was a rally in the N West.

Perhaps the best judgement of the evening was the account of a local Tory trade unionist. A GMWU steward on the buses, he was the only one to give us a friendly word going in. He could only stick it for five minutes.

When he came out, he said, "I'm a Tory and always have been, but even I felt out of place there. I was surrounded by Nigels, Rodneys, Julians and Deidres." (Sorry to the comrades with those names, but you know what I mean!)

Liverpool's judgement—no great loss to the labour movement!

Fraternally
Terry Harrison

ads

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ISLE OF WIGHT Labour Party and Militant supporters welcome visitors to the island. Copies of Militant and details of meetings etc., Cathy Wilson c/o 10 Fairlee Road, Newport. Tel. 526318

Reigate Labour Party and Trades Council
Anti-Tory march and rally. With Reg Race MP. Saturday 11 April. Assemble 'Progress House', Garlands Road, Redhill. 10.30 am. Rally: Town Centre. Bring your banners! Tel. Horley 73408.

'Defend Railways—Build Triple Alliance'
Acton Labour Party Hall, Church Road, Acton W3. Speakers: J Cogger (London NUR EC) N Milligan (AS—LEF) plus Kent miner; steelworker, Andy Bevan (Labour Party National Youth Officer). 7.15pm Wednesday 8th April

SIXTH SOUTH WALES MILITANT SUMMER CAMP AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY 1981

POLITICAL PROGRAMME:

- ★ The Russian Revolution—Ted Grant
- ★ Fascism in Germany—Jeremy Birch
- ★ The Spanish Revolution—Ted Grant
- ★ The Hungarian Revolution—Pat Wall
- ★ Marxism & the Labour Party—Ted Grant

Cost: £8.00 per camper

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Any family interested in hiring a caravan for the period please get in touch with Howell Bithell [0792] 464013.

POOLE LPYS/TRADE UNION DAY SCHOOL Sunday 5th April, Retreat Hotel, Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole

11—1pm: Film 'Look Back At Grunwicks'
Speaker: Cathy Wilson [ex-PPC, Isle of Wight]
1—2pm: Lunch
2—4pm: Trade Unions and the Law'
Speaker: Peter Jarvis [NGA, personal capacity]
All Welcome

POOLE LPYS JUMBLE SALE

Saturday 4th April, 2.00pm Woodlands Hall, Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole. For further details contact Andy Rosser, Parkstone 733989

MAY DAY GREETINGS IN MILITANT

We invite your trade union, Labour Party or LPYS branch, shop stewards' organisation or trades council to place in 'Militant' fraternal May Day greetings to the labour and trade union movement.

'Militant' is read by thousands of labour movement activists in Britain and internationally. Unlike the capitalist press we have no rich backers or big business advertisers. We rely on individual workers and workers' organisations like your own to support our newspaper.

Send your greetings of solidarity with the labour movement. Help build a paper that fights for socialism. The closing date for copy is Tuesday 21 April.

RATES FOR GREETINGS: Semi-display: 3 column centimetres (up to 15 words)—£3; 6 column centimetres (up to 25 words)—£6; Display: one-sixteenth page—£10; one-eighth page—£20; one-quarter page—£40.

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LEEDS Militant 50 Club. This week's winner: Miss C Sahmore No. 32.

Build

Militant

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 April	Target for year
Eastern	858		1775	7100
East Midlands	678		1375	5500
Hants & Dorset	716		1300	5200
Humberside	390		875	3500
London East	1,208		1900	7600
London West	759		1200	4800
London South	718		1375	5500
Manchester & Lancs	809		1450	5800
Merseyside	734		1650	6600
Northern	894		2150	8600
Scotland East	528		1100	4400
Scotland West	758		1875	7500
Southern	1,067		1775	7100
South West	568		875	3500
Wales East	341		650	2600
Wales West	472		1150	4600
West Midlands	778		2150	8600
Yorkshire	1,313		2250	9000
Others	207		3125	12500
Total received	13,796		30000	120,000

Target for 11 April £30,000

Target for year £120,000

Make Fighting Fund A Priority

THIS WEEK £945

By Steve Cawley

The TV and media time given to the SDP would have run into many millions of pounds if it had had to be paid for at commercial rates. One minute's advertising on Thames Television at peak viewing time can cost up to £17,000, and at London Weekend up to £20,000.

Just now and then supporters of the 'Militant' get a chance to reply to some of the false claims, innuendo and distortion. T Burns, from Gwent, was interviewed on BBC Wales Radio and passed his £15 fee on to the Fighting Fund.

Also included in the £51 total from Gwent supporters was £14 trade union expenses, which is another way active trade unionists can assist our funds. This helps explain why the East Wales line (above) is doing better than last year!

One of the longest lines at the present is the South West. How do they do it? Well, we must thank the following Bristol readers: V Kaufman, an Aerospace worker, D Robbins (EETPU), R Giles (AUEW-TASS), A Laine (CP SA), W Coombes and Mr Azad (Bristol SE LP), R Howell, D Evans (AUEW), R Hartill (Bristol S LP) and J Sharp (Bristol W LP).

We also had £17 paid in from union expenses and £4.67 from 'Kingswood Coppers.' From Exeter we had the cash collected at the Regional Party Conference, and Gloucester readers sent in nearly £10 including £3 from R Twomey (NUR), and £1.45 in small change after Labour Party meetings. It's not just these sums which have put the South West ahead, but the fact that the comrades there are determined to raise money for us every week!

Our shortest line, 'Others',

includes sometimes the most interesting donations. We received this week a letter from a member of the Austrian Socialist Youth, who says:

"Personally I am grateful to 'Militant'—its clear socialist positions often helped me to find the right answers to many of our own problems. Therefore I enclose a 'fiver' as a small contribution to Militant's Fighting Fund. As a preparation for the International Union of Socialist Youth Mass Meeting in June, I'll copy Militant's political cartoons of the last year for an extra edition of our newspaper and connect that with a collection for the Militant Fighting Fund".

If you want a collection of Alan Hardman's cartoons from 1980, we've reprinted them in book form "The Plunderwoman Must Go Cartoon Book" (only £1.20 post paid).

As well as our regular contributors we've had new financial support from Erith & Crayford LPYS members (S London), Banbury readers (£12.60), a Militant meeting in Andover, G Buick (Arbroath, NE Scotland, £2), P Stamp (Market Harborough LPYS), supporters in Chester and Runcorn (£25), student G James (Cardiff) and from Stirling, Fire Brigades Union EC member Bill Craig.

Oldham's £15 and Telford's £12 will, we hope, be followed by further donations from readers in those towns, and discussion groups in Croydon, Chester Le Street and Ellesmere Port, and meetings in Braintree and Teesside raised nearly £50 in all.

Fivers this week came from T Harman (Brixham), K&L Hollins (Blythe Bridge), G

Williamson (TU expenses, London), K Peaney (Kirkby), and M Brown (Edgehill, Liverpool). If every reader could afford a fiver, we'd pass our target next week.)

North West readers have flair when it comes to fund-raising: Rochdale raised £16 from sponsored press-ups (was it so many pence per hundred?) and £4 surplus from a sweep on the date of Shirl the Pearl's leaving the Labour Party. Sale of pizzas on Teesside and meals in Gosport show that cash can be raised from the essentials of life, besides luxuries. Has your area got a Militant cordon bleu chef?

With only just another week to go before the target date for our first quarter, April 11th, it may seem as

though the £16,000 we need is a tall order. However, if all our readers really did deeply into their own pockets and persuade their friends and mates to do the same (ie. dig into their own pockets) we can do it.

Look at your area's line and ask everyone you know who could help to send a donation this week, rather than in the indefinite future! We'll take money 'phoned in' up to mid-day on Sunday 12 April from a number of socials, parties, etc. being held on the night before. (Is one being arranged in your area? Ask your Militant seller.)

We appeal to all our readers: Make the Militant Fighting Fund target your priority this week!

Militant Readers' Meetings

HACKNEY

'Socialism or Social Democracy? What policies for Labour?'
Speaker: Bob Labi (Greater London Labour Party Executive) 7.30pm 7th April Hackney Labour Club 96 Dalston Lane.

LEWISHAM

'What is happening in the Labour Party?' Hear: Peter Jarvis (NGA and Hackney South LP) Wednesday 8 April, 7.45 pm, Deptford Town Hall, New Cross Road, New Cross SE14.

SHEFFIELD

'Which Way forward for the Labour Party?'
Hear: Terry Harrison (prospective parliamentary candidate, Liverpool Edge Hill) 7pm Thursday 23 April AEU House, Furnival Gate, Sheffield 1

SOUTHERN AREA SCHOOL

Sunday May 3 and Bank Holiday Monday May 4. Three speakers, social and food. Hotel Bed and Breakfast at Danville Hotel (on sea front), Cliftonville, Margate. Only £7.50 (same as last year). Please book early as capacity limited. Write/phone K Nicholson, 25 Grotto Road, Cliftonville, Margate, Kent (0843 291293). Speakers: Ray Apps 'What is Marxism?', Dudley Edwards '1926 General Strike'. Debate—Militant versus Communist Party, 'Perspectives for Britain'.

SUNDERLAND

'Poland—the struggle for workers' democracy' Speaker: Bill Hopwood; Sunderland Supporters Club, Wednesday April 15th 7.30pm. Further details phone Ray Physick. 0783-653994

Industrial

in brief

Civil Service

STAND FIRM!

Workers at Mosedale brickworks at Flixton, near Manchester are now in the nineteenth week of their dispute.

They are prepared to discuss with management, but management are insisting that they should choose who should negotiate for the union. Management wanted the two longest serving shop stewards, to negotiate, but they had already left Mosedale! The strikers are not prepared to let them decide on their future.

Money has come in from all over the country in support of the strike, including donations from the Isle of Man, Kent and Angus in Scotland. Mosedale has been blacked by Liverpool and Manchester direct works, but unfortunately the Labour controlled corporation in Norfolk are allowing their contractors, who do the majority of the council's work, to use Mosedale bricks. Messages of support and donations to be sent to J Brown, 216 Erian Road, Flixton, Erntstone, Manchester.

An occupation last week at the Talbot car factory in Dublin in a bid to save 90 jobs which management threatened to axe. The workers involved, members of the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union, are occupying the factory on a 24 hour basis.

The Birmingham Trades Council, Labour Party and Co-op Party are to hold a festival and demonstration to celebrate Mayday, with the theme 'Peace and jobs'. The festival will be held on May 4, at the Digbeth Hall, and the demonstration will set off from Milk Street at 11.30. For further information contact Birmingham [021] 523 8592.

Health service management have told unions representing nurses that their pay claim must stay within the government's 6% cash limit. As NUPE pointed out this "showed up the Minister for Health's letter of 'intention to do something for nurses because they do not take industrial action' as so much hypocrisy and humbug." The unions will meet management again on April 14.

The struggle at the Euro-weld factory to save jobs has entered its tenth week. Recently, representatives from the 60 workers taking the action spoke at the Labour Club at the New University in Belfast to raise support. A collection of £61 was donated during the meeting.

EETPU members at Whitham-James in Fleet Street, London, have now been on strike for eight weeks. The union leadership must now make this dispute official.

Almost half the government's income has been cut off by the civil servant's selective strike action. Government borrowing has been pushed up more than three fold.

The Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has now admitted "the action was doing substantial damage to government finances."

In support of this action, other disruptive action is taking place, including defence establishments.

Walk-outs and go-slows by customs and excise and immigration workers are causing chaos at ports and airports.

Almost every department and region has been effected.

Court staff in Scotland are now fully involved, and the unions in the Civil Aviation Authority, whose pay is linked with the civil service are consulting their members in air traffic control.

The numbers involved, however, are still quite small. It is vital, therefore, that the majority of members are kept fully informed of all developments. Distribution of regular strike bulletins must be urgently

Chatham

The civil service action at Chatham naval base is gaining momentum.

On the one day strike last month, 1,500 civil service union members massed outside the Admiral Superintendent's office in a silent protest, and then moved off to the main gate where the computer bureau staff were picketing—these workers have remained on strike supported by a £2 levy on the rest of the members.

North West

A mass rally was held last week at Apsley House in Stockport, the Regional Office for Inland Revenue, with some 2,000 workers attending. Some had walked out for the rally, others took the whole day off work.

Last Friday ten members in Customs House, Salford came out on strike, following union instructions, after being threatened with suspension. From 12 noon, the civil service in the North West staged a massive walk out for the rest of the day. A

BIFU

At a meeting of BIFU [Banking, Insurance and Finance Union] on the 24th March, we saw a mass meeting of over 500 members calling for action against the bosses.

By Kevin Roddy
(Broad Left
Presidential
Candidate, CPSA)

stepped up as constant reminders to members to pay the strike levy.

Action to involve the entire membership must also take place. The strike centres are planning rallies, demonstrations and walk-outs on 5 April—to commemorate the day in which civil servants were due for a pay increase based on the pay comparability exercise suspended by the Tories.

However, the effect of the protest has not been helped by the fact that the CPSA leadership did not issue a circular to union members about the rallies, calling on them to support the official action until the end of March. This will mean that it will not be seen by many of the members until after the 1 April.

The action should have

They have now been joined by the Health Physics Department who walked out last week.

This action is seriously impairing the refitting programme of two nuclear submarines presently in dock.

One of the most heartening features of the dispute here is the co-operation between the civil service workers and their industrial counterparts.

By a shop steward,
Chatham Naval Base

rally was held in Salford.

In addition, civil service members joined the BIFU workers on their picket line at the Barclays bank computer centre.

At Manchester airport, the strike by fitters, electricians and engineers, from the T&G, the AUEW and the EETPU employed by Dan Air—now in its fourth week—has continued to get both moral and financial support from their civil service brothers and sisters.

By Pete Chiltern
(CPSA)

The derisory 10% rise offered is an actual cut in wages. Yet the profit made by the banks is in hundreds of millions of pounds. The National Westminster Bank made over £400 million profit in 1980-81.

A series of one-day strikes has started, with Lloyds bank's and Barclay's com-

puter centre out for a day. This shows the feeling of deep anger inside the union at the present time. The mass meeting gave the strikers a tremendous welcome as they entered the meeting and messages of support were sent from many areas of Britain.

The Tories remain perplexed about what to do about the strike. They have shown hesitancy on the issue of suspensions. The Tories cannot be sure that massive suspensions will work. Nor can they be sure that the right-wing leaderships of unions like the CPSA will be able to hold the members back from retaliating.

It is possible, however, that despite their fears and the effect of the strike, the Tories will start massive suspensions and dirty tricks.

The moment this starts, the unions must escalate the strike action. It must be demonstrated that we will match the Tories' attack for attack. If this is done quickly and boldly, the Tories will retreat as they have done with the miners and gas workers.

Despite criticisms of several aspects of the strike, the basic strategy remains correct. Strike pay at such high levels (85% of pay) always will mean difficulty in producing more general action. But it is quite possible that reduced levels of strike pay would be accepted by members in order to generalise the

strike, if it became necessary. The unions will win the present war of nerves, and the pay campaign—if they stand firm. Action must be escalated over the next few weeks, where and when necessary, to tighten the effects of the strike or to retaliate.

If the strike continues until the union annual conferences in May, then the unions will need to consider significant escalation. For the moment, "stand firm" must be the watch-word for the campaign.

Speculation abounds that the government are putting together some doctored form of a long-term pay system. The CPSA's special conference in January demanded the return of the pay research agreement.

The union leadership must accept nothing less than the return of the pay agreement suspended by the employer. Nor must they retreat from the 15%/£10 minimum pay claim. With a Tory budget adding 10% to the retail price index, an increase of 15% is totally justified.

The success of the campaign is now firmly in the hands of the members and the regional strike centres. We must grasp it.

- ★ Stand firm
- ★ No retreat on conference decisions
- ★ 15%, £10 minimum

Support Broad Left

April is a crucial month for the CPSA Members will be voting to decide the leadership of the union nationally, and of the various "Section" and "Group" Executive Committees.

The CPSA is in desperate need of a leadership equipped to fight on pay and in defence of jobs—as the on-going industrial action against the government's cash limit demonstrates.

Traditionally, the so-called "moderate" leadership of CPSA have opposed some of the most important features of the pay campaign. They have fought in the past against the involvement of DHSS and DE members in industrial action—yet that is now happening.

They have argued lacking faith in the membership's response against levies to maintain selective industrial action—yet the weekly levy now being collected is a great success.

The "moderates" have also been extremely sceptical about other civil service unions, yet a magnificent unity has been forged in action by the members of all the unions.

All this was brought about because the special pay conference of CPSA in January—which the right-wing NEC had not wanted—made absolutely clear-cut decisions.

The main drive for everything positive, including the 15% and the £10 underpinning minimum claim, came from the union's Broad Left.

This year's election campaign is being conducted by the Broad Left in a much more systematic manner than in the past. Already, thousands of leaflets have gone out to areas, and public meetings have been held in over 30 locations throughout Britain—with the Broad Left presidential candidate, Kevin Roddy, speaking.

Another national tour of meetings is also fixed for early April.

Most important of all, plans are being laid to deliver leaflets to every establishment organised by CPSA in Britain.

Local Broad Left groups are already making arrangements for this leafletting drive. With help from organisations like the Labour Party Young Socialists, we are confident that we can make a major impact.

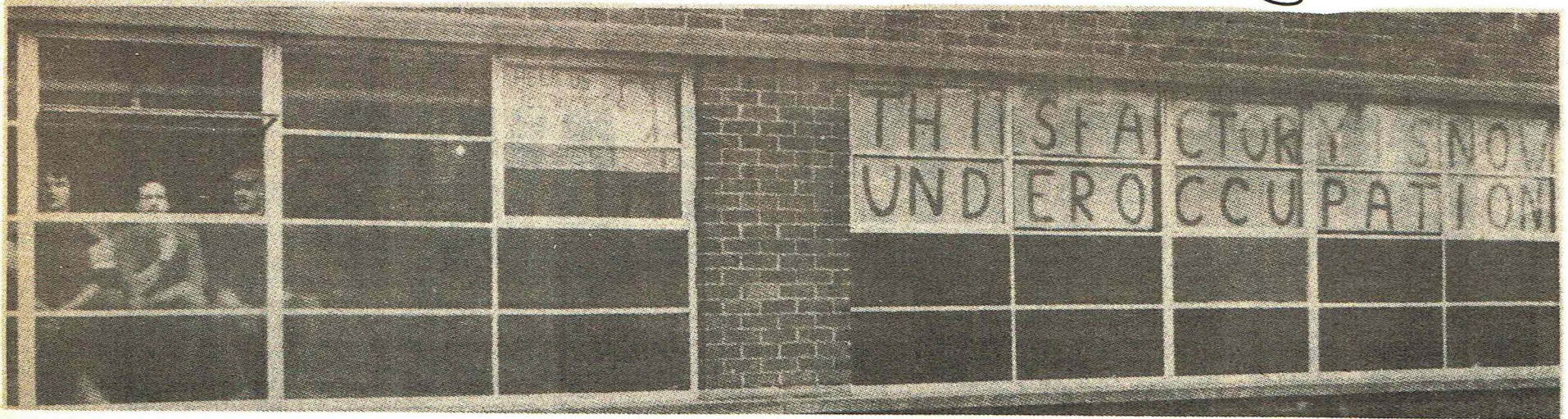


industry is changing, the staff are coming to realise the Bank's true colours, and are now seeing the only course available is that of strike action to win their fight for better living conditions.

By Mike Suter
(BIFU)

By Pat Byrne
(CPSA)

Reports



The occupation at Plansee

SHEFFIELD

RESIST BOSSES ONSLAUGHT

“Employers in Sheffield think they have strength and they can use it.”

This comment by Stan Platts, convenor at the giant Firth Brown private steel plant, where 1,200 jobs are threatened, expresses serious alarms felt by the workers in the area. Job losses have become a flood.

Two years ago, Sheffield had only half the national unemployment rate; it is now level with the rest of the country and still rising. Even in the previously lucrative special steel industry, still in private hands, the squeeze is on, as Firth Brown shows.

Added to this, the employers see the circumstances as an ideal opportunity to launch an offensive against such a bastion of trade unionism as found in Sheffield.

In recent weeks, two factory occupations at Plansee in Rotherham and Bone Craven in Sheffield—have had injunctions served against them. Stewards have

Reports by
Rob Jones,
Simon Duerden and
Lineesh Muthiah

been instructed to appear in court: not in Sheffield—but in London and Manchester. Up to five years gaol could result in defiance.

And the events at Snows (see right) shows what a hollow farce the so-called “protective measures” brought in by the last Labour government’s ‘Employment Protection Act’ has proved.

Such an attack cannot be withstood by isolated pockets of resistance. The only way forward to combat the bosses is co-ordinated strategy by the trade union movement in the area. The Triple Alliance must be applied at grass roots level in South Yorkshire, jointly with other unions under the orbit of trades councils, the Confed and other union bodies.

Snows

A hundred shop floor workers at Snows Engineering, which is part of the Elliot Machine Tool Group are in their third action against a threat to sack them all for supporting their convenor.

The canteen is occupied by the men and there is a 24-hour picket being maintained.

Since 1971, a cycle of new managers followed by threats of redundancy have recurred at Snows, which has a well organised shop

floor.

Despite some men going down the road before Christmas, the management wanted more jobs to go, but backed down after a works agreement was reached. Then they announced they wanted 32 jobs to go, which was unacceptable.

Then three weeks ago claiming a rush job was on, the top management approached Morris Skidmore, the convenor, wanting him to work the following day. He had the right to refuse (he had already worked his quota of full days for the 12-week term) and could not be the first to break the agreement he had signed

himself.

He was immediately suspended for three days. The whole shop floor walked out in solidarity. All were warned that they were sacked if they did not return to work—except the suspended convenor!

When the workers refused it became a lock out with management refusing to discuss any issues with the shop stewards. While the men were sacked for walking off the job, the convenor is now officially “redundant”—and in fact offered redundancy pay, which he actually refused.

So the Alice in Wonderland situation has been

reached, and starting with a strike provoked through the victimisation of the convenor, all the shop floor were sacked.

At the heart of the matter is jobs and the necessity of preserving the trade union organisation. Aid is urgently needed in this fight.

Rush messages of support and donations to P Anson, Treasurer, Snows Shop Stewards’ Committee, 20 Foxwood Avenue, Sheffield S12 2FJ.

Realising the importance of the struggles, Sheffield Heeley CLP and YS have already collected over £170 for the Snows and Plansee disputes.

Plansee

In February, shop floor workers at Plansee’s Eastwood works, Rotherham, struck in response to a decision to tear up all existing agreements with the union.

Added to this came an offer of an insulting 2% rise in actual earnings, including a 5 months pay freeze! On March 11 all strikers were sacked and staff made redundant. Rumours are now rife that they intend to

transfer their operations to their other factory in Warrington.

In response the workforce occupied the factory. Management obtained a writ against the occupiers, and fearing possible imprisonment the workers then came out as they didn’t feel that the union support was strong enough for them to defy the courts.

However at a mass meeting on Saturday, the workers voted overwhelmingly to carry out the fight. The Warrington plant will be picketed, dockers will be

approached to black Plansee products and raw materials. They are also calling on fellow workers to black Plansee goods under the brand names of Plansee, Herbert, Tizit, Cutanit Gold Master Tips.

Convenor Ian Paisley told ‘Militant’, “we have been around approximately 200 factories in South Yorkshire. Yorkshire NUM have been holding pithead collections for us and we have had speakers and collections at many other labour movement meetings.

“Before the dispute began

we were attempting to forge links with our brothers in Austria. If we are successful in saving our jobs, our next priority will be to build links with fellow Plansee workers in Austria, Italy, Germany, and France.”

Messages of support and donations and perhaps most important, news of blacking of Plansee products, should be sent to Len Godbehere, 38 Greenhow Street, Walky, Sheffield.

Dockers ready for action

The dockers’ lock-out in Southampton has escalated in the last week.

The lock-out is now clearly an attack on the National Dock Labour Board scheme and therefore the Southampton Dockers have been sending shop stewards to docks all over the country to seek support. They have addressed mass meetings and seen shop stewards.

They have received tremendous support. Indeed in the South Wales ports of Newport, Cardiff, Barry and Swansea dockers held a 24-hour strike last week on 26 March.

Southampton cargo has been blacked in the NDLB ports. Unfortunately, support from the national officials of the T&GWU has not been so good.

They have refused to call a meeting of the National T&G Docks delegates conference, in spite of massive

pressure to do so. The employers have been trying to move Southampton cargo through ‘non-scheme’ ports.

Southampton dockers have been picketing as far afield as Dover, Felixstowe, the inland container terminal in Birmingham to Holyhead in North Wales.

This is a tremendous effort for one dock to do and there have been hundreds of volunteers for flying picket duty.

On Saturday 28 March a meeting of the national port shop stewards committee was held in Liverpool.

A resolution was passed calling for a national dock strike to start on Monday April 6th—either official or unofficial, if the Southampton dockers are not back at work. Financial support is needed to help with picketing. Donations to D Harriman, 2/28 branch, T&GWU, 67 London Road, Southampton.

By Nick Brooks

Edgware LT

At Edgware London Transport Bus Garage management have not heeded the lesson of the two-hour strike on Monday 23 March [see issue 545].

In fact the following day they provoked another dispute which kept buses off the road for one and a half hours. 48 jobs were cut out of the garage last week—every one represents a bus not running. Buses were standing in the yard doing nothing.

The work force is still taking industrial action in the form of a refusal to co-operate with management until they adopt a better attitude to keeping buses on the road through adequate coverage of jobs.

Either overtime or employing more crews, but not wasting buses and keeping passengers waiting. The

men are refusing to move buses into the yard unless they are officially booked off a route. They are refusing to drop back behind schedule or push up ahead of schedule to cover for buses which management are not putting on the road, and they are not making up time on the road if a bus is late.

Management booked a driver for refusing to move a bus in the yard last Tuesday, so the union reps had to call another strike to make management back down.

Eventually all the men were paid for the one and a half hours. For the moment the union is holding off further strike action but the men are not happy with the situation. If management don’t change their tune more strikes will be necessary.

Philip Crossley of Halifax, told ‘Militant’ of a notice which appeared in his print room at work, after an instruction had been given to the print room attendant, by the chief draughtsman to cut the number of prints

issued by 20%:
“20% less prints, 20% less drawings,
20% less drawings, 20% less work,
20% less work, 20% less jobs,
20% less jobs,

LBC’s ‘blackmail tactics’

The London Brick Company’s ‘blackmail’ of Beds County Council seems to have paid off.

LBC announced the closure of their Ridgemont works, with the loss of 1,000 jobs, within days of their plans for a new ‘superworks’ being rejected by the Council on health and environmental grounds. (See Militant 541)

But last week a Council committee overturned the decision (reached twice in the last ten months) and agreed to grant planning permission.

This decision will not have to go to full Council because only five committee members raised objections (six are needed for referral).

A Tory member who was expected to join the five, left the meeting early explaining that he “had a train to catch”!

The leader of the Council’s Labour Group talked of “blackmail tactics”, and said “LBC had threatened us that if they don’t get planning permission for Ridgemont they will build their new works in another county. No other applicants for planning permission hold a gun to our heads in this way.”

Demolition of the old works will start in autumn. It will be 4 years before the “super works” is in production and even then, after four years unemployment, only about 700 of the 1,000 workers presently employed may be offered jobs.

By Ian Campbell
(Bedford LP)

20% less company, won’t be worth bothering about! Unless you are one of the 80% that’s left doing 20% more work”

TORY RACE LAWS - OUT!

The Tories' racist 'Nationality Bill' aims to provide the authorities and the police with a new legal charter to restrict and harass blacks and Asians.

This measure, if the Tories are allowed to carry it through, will be yet another blow to the rights of all black people.

But it is also a weapon aimed at the whole labour movement.

By its very nature, the Bill attempts to reinforce the idea that immigrants are to blame for the crisis in British society. This is a calculated racist ploy aimed at confusing and dividing working people.

Vicious harassment by immigration officials, random police 'fishing raids', and mass deportations are just some of the measures the boss class have been using to intimidate black and Asian workers and their families.

End all immigration controls

Now the Tories plan to go one step further! They want to strip tens of thousands of blacks of their legal rights by withdrawing their citizenship.

Up to now, all legislation connected with immigration and nationality has been designed to discriminate racially against black citizens and subjects to make it as difficult as possible for them and their dependents to settle in this country.

The Commonwealth Immigration Acts of 1962 and 1968 and the Immigration Act, 1971, all imposed harsh restrictions on blacks who wanted to exercise their right to come and live in this country.

These laws [especially the 1971 Act] provided the legal framework for a regime of arbitrary and bureaucratic rules designed to discourage blacks from applying for entry.

The hideous 'quota' system, 'virginity tests' [now discontinued] and hazardous X-ray examinations are

By
Bob Lee

all part of this system.

These 'controls' often have a devastating effect, causing untold misery to thousands of black families who get separated for years and years, as in the case of the Ditta family.

But while the present 'controls' have been very useful and effective in keeping blacks out, they have also become a source of embarrassment to the British ruling class. Britain has been found to be in breach of a number of international human rights agreements. The UK has been unable to ratify the fourth Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights, which requires that no one shall be "deprived entry to the territory of the state of which he [or she] is a national."

The new Nationality Bill, however, is designed to overcome this difficulty and also provide the ruling class with a once and for all 'solution' to the 'problem' of black immigration. Under the Bill, blacks will not merely be subject to further restrictions—they are to be stripped of citizenship itself.

**Demonstration Against Nationality Bill
 Sunday 5th April
 Assemble: Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. 1.00pm.
 Sellers of Militant can collect extra papers near the railings at Speakers Corner.**

This makes the Nationality Bill fundamentally different from all previous immigration legislation. As many as three million people may be threatened by this legislation.

The Bill provides for three basic tiers of citizenship: British Citizens, Citizen of the Dependent Territories, and British Overseas Citizens.

The only trouble is that the two secondary categories, which essentially apply to blacks, are nothing more than a sham! Such 'citizens' will not be citizens in the real sense of the term.

Those in the category of 'Citizen of Dependent Territories' will be stripped of their present right to enter the UK and will become citizens of the territories where they now live [eg. Hong Kong, Gibraltar, Belize etc.]

Those classified as 'British Overseas Citizens' actually find themselves worse off than refugees: because they will become 'stateless', without an absolute right to stay permanently in any country [least of all in the land of their 'citizenship']. This would apply, for instance, to Asians in East Africa.

On top of this, a British birth certificate will no longer be proof of British citizenship.

Divide and rule —bosses aim

The Bill also abolishes the automatic legal right of black Commonwealth citizens who came here before January, 1973, to register for British Citizenship. They will have two years to register. After that, British Citizenship can be achieved



Arrest during Wolverhampton anti-racist demonstration

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

through costly 'naturalisation'—at the Home Secretary's discretion with no right of appeal.

Candidates will have to undergo a 'language test' and satisfy officials that they are of 'good character'. The right of black Commonwealth citizens to vote and work for the Civil Service etc will also be subject "to review."

The new legislation is an attempt to control the black and Asian population through intimidation and harassment. By providing legal weapons for use against trade union activists, shop stewards, and political activists, the new laws would be used to prevent black workers from organising, and to isolate them from the rest of the working class.

Harassment and intimidation under the new law would not just be confined to those affected legally; it would affect all black and Asian workers regardless of their status. All blacks would potentially be "under suspicion."

Even supposing they were all "repatriated", the problems would still remain. They are rooted in the long-term, catastrophic decline of a completely rotten and decayed British capitalism.

The labour movement must be alerted to the dangers posed by this latest racist onslaught. A divided

working class is a weak working class!

The national demonstration on 5 April must be the start of a massive campaign by the labour movement and black workers' organisations, to defeat this Bill—and to bring down the Tory government.

The way would then be opened for the election of a

Labour government. Unlike the previous Labour administration, however, which initiated the first Nationality Green Paper and implemented other anti-working class policies, a new Labour government must be committed to the repeal of all racist laws and the abolition of all immigration controls.

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