

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

TORIES LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN

What hypocrisy! The same Tory minister who is enforcing Thatcher's seven per cent pay limit against striking civil servants is to collect an extra £4,375 a year!

This brings the salary of Lord Soames, who as Lord Privy Seal is head of the Civil Service up to £27,825 per year.

Tory ministers and Tory MPs who daily denounce the "irresponsible" civil servants for demanding a 15% increase to keep up with price rises, are quite prepared to pocket an 18.7% increase for themselves.

Cabinet ministers will now be on £27,825, with junior ministers getting £15,100. In addition, a minister will collect an increased parliamentary salary of £8,130.

MPs will themselves be getting £13,950 from 1 April together with increased secretarial and research allowances of £8,480.

The next biggest rises will go to the armed forces, particularly to the top officers. Thatcher is out to buy absolute loyalty from the officer class, to whom big business will turn when they need strong arm methods

against the working class.

The overall increase for the armed forces is 10.3% but a private soldier will get only an 8.3% rise to £76.23 a week. Lodgings and food charges are going up by 26%.

Higher up the ranks, however, a colonel will now get £352.87 per

week. This is a 13.9% rise—not far off the civil service workers 15% claim!

Civil service workers are incensed at Thatcher's hypocritical pay deal. More than a third of the half-million white collar civil servants are employed in the Ministry of Defence. Many work alongside servicemen.



Lord Soames
£27,825



Air Chief Marshal
£33,170



Lord Denning
£41,000



The 'People's March for Jobs' attracted over 10,000 workers to a demo on 18 May despite heavy rain. Photo: Dave Evans (IFL)

LABOUR MUST DEFEND WORKERS

The hard done by top civil servants in contrast to Army, Navy and RAF officers, will only be getting a 7% rise. But it is hard to feel much sympathy with them.

A permanent secretary in the civil service will now be getting £33,170. High Court judges will be on £35,000. The Lord Chief Justice will be

getting £44,500, and the Master of the Rolls, Lord Denning will be getting £41,000.

These overpaid bureaucrats, however, responsible for implementing and dispensing the bosses' 'justice', are moaning that they are only getting half of what

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Peoples march



for jobs

MAY 81
LIVERPOOL-LONDON

Fight Bosses and their System

The myth that the 'People's March for Jobs' is 'non-political' has been totally exploded. "Where are all the Tories on the march then?" is a typical comment.

By John Fahey
from Eastern leg of
People's March

In case anybody hadn't got the message, the Tory Loughborough council refused to let us use any of the council facilities like the swimming baths.

Some of the marchers have been disgusted by comments made by Tories they've encountered on the march: "Why don't you get a job instead of walking about" or "It's about time you did a bit of work," are typical.

But these comments come from just a few individuals, because Labour has got the Tories on the run now. No longer will the working class of this country let Thatcher inflict one more crushing blow after another.

Everybody else cheers and waves as we walk past. The mood of the people is totally anti-Tory. We've lost track of the number of people who have come up to me and said things like:

"Good on you, love, go down and give that Thatcher a lesson."

"Give her a kick for me as well!"

"I'm glad somebody is doing something at last."

"Good luck to you, and I hope you kick her out."

"Don't bother marching anymore, just get 100,000 of you and stand outside 10 Downing Street until you get her out of there for good."

The People's March should just be the start of a campaign by the labour and trade union movement to drive this government out of office. The anger and the hatred is all there. All it needs is the leadership and the socialist policies to transform that aim into reality.

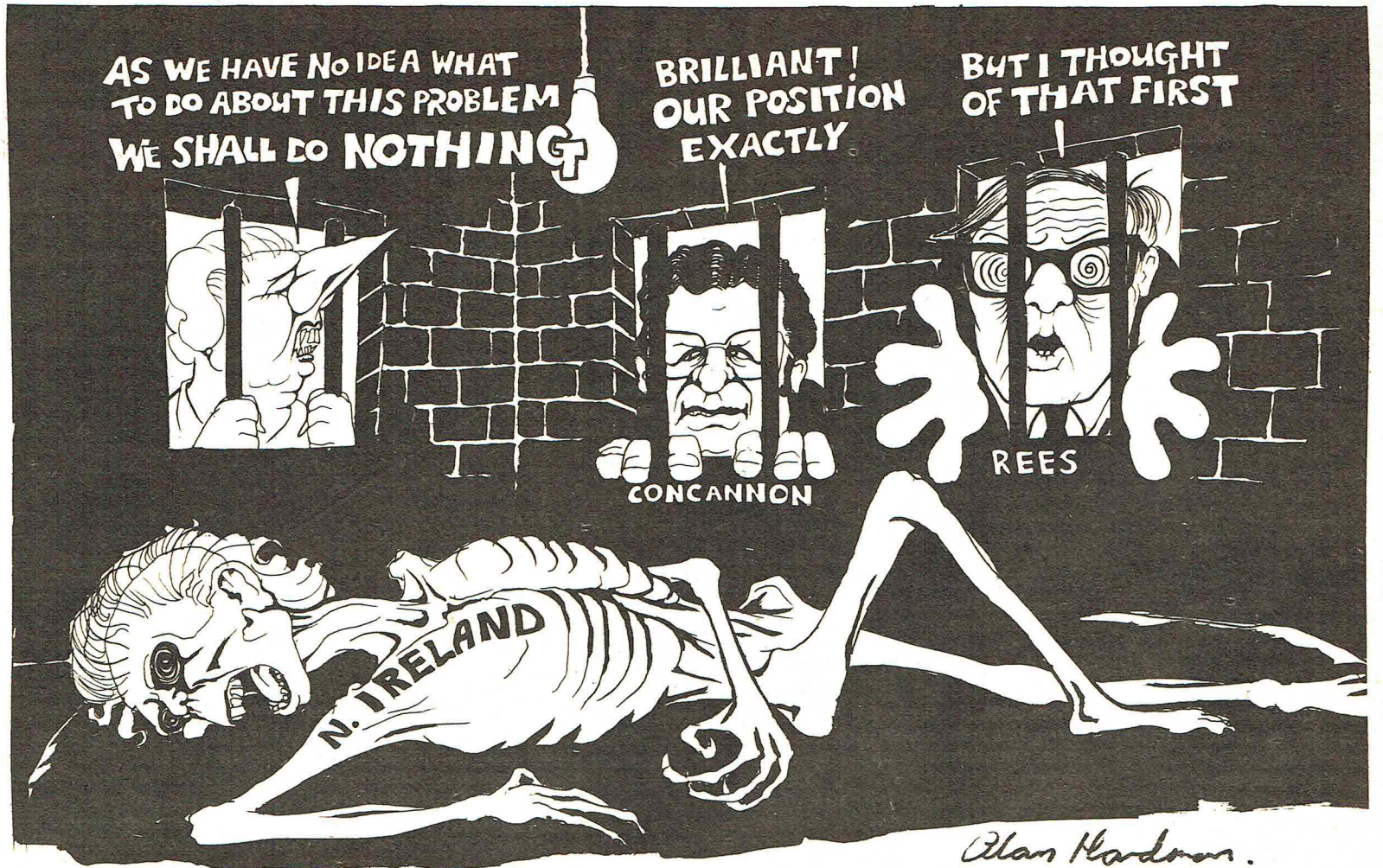
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The "not an inch" stance of Thatcher and the Tories has already led to the deaths of two H-Block hunger strikers, Bobby Sands and Francis Hughes. Two others are within a few days of death.

Raymond McReash was given the "last rites" on Sunday. Relatives say he is drained, virtually in a coma, and unable to recognise them. The fourth man, Patsy O'Hara, is also extremely weak.

The government seems to have judged that the reaction to the death of Hughes, especially outside of Northern Ireland, was not as great as that to the death of Sands, and decided callously to ride out the effects of two more deaths.

They know that should McReash and O'Hara die, there will be a period of six to seven weeks before another death would be likely. The momentum of a protest campaign would be difficult



IRELAND-LABOUR MOVEMENT MUST END OPPRESSION

to sustain over such a period.

In Northern Ireland's catholic areas there is anger and disgust at the hard-faced policy of Thatcher and behind her, of the ruling class.

The deaths have been unnecessary. Simple concessions on conditions could have settled the hunger strike.

If H-Block and all prisoners in Northern Ireland were allowed to wear their own clothes and if, as the British Labour Party's National Executive Committee has demanded, they were allowed to negotiate a choice of work, education and training, the hunger-strike would almost certainly be called off.

It will be the working class, catholic and protestant, who will pay the price for the Tories' stubbornness, with more sectarian violence, bloodshed and increased sectarianism.

Within the catholic areas, however, there is also a growing frustration at the failure of the present H-Block campaign. Those organising H-Block Committees have confined themselves to an entirely sectarian appeal.

Their speeches, leaflets, and press statements have been addressed solely to "nationalist people". This not only alienates protestants but also repels many

catholic workers.

Equally, the impact of the H-Block committees has been lessened by their association with the Provisionals or the INLA (Irish National Liberation Army). This will only ensure more deaths in the prisons.

Ten years ago thousands of angry catholic youth turned to the Provos, seeking quick revenge against a system which meant poverty and oppression. These 'quick solutions' have left the catholic community and the working class as a whole worse off in almost every way.

Only the labour movement can halt the state of oppression. The labour movement has a responsibility to campaign for basic reforms for all prisoners in Northern Ireland. To remain silent, —or, even worse, to give support to the Tories—is to leave a clear field for the bigots and paramilitary groups.

Sadly, the right wing of British Labour's Parliamentary Party have opted to continue with 'bi-partisan-

ship', and have lined up with the Tories against any concessions. These people, above all 'shadow' NI spokesman, Don Concannon, have blackened the name of Labour in NI and among Britain's Irish community, who traditionally support Labour.

Only the organised working class can defeat repression and offer an alternative to sectarian bigots and paramilitaries

The Irish Labour party's leadership have backed the stand of Prime Minister Haughey. Labour has failed to take an independent class position.

From the South's trade union leaders there has been a deafening silence. The

most recent statement issued by the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on the H-Blocks was during the pre-Christmas hunger-strike.

The right wing's position is facing growing opposition. This has not come from the sectarian H-Block Committees. These have proven themselves incapable, especially in NI, of putting the case within the labour movement.

The strength of the opposition to the 'me too' stance of the labour leaders has been due to the work of members of the Young Socialists in Britain, Labour Youth in the South, and the Labour and Trade Union Group in Northern Ireland. Supporters of the 'Militant' have been to the fore in taking up this issue.

In Britain, a resolution moved by Tony Saunois, Young Socialist representative on Labour's National Executive, called on the Labour Party to put pressure on the government to introduce reforms. This was

backed by Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner and Joan Maynard at the party's Home Policy Sub-Committee, and referred to the Labour Party's NI Study Group for further discussion.

In Southern Ireland, resolutions have been put through a number of Labour Party branches demanding that the Party leadership take up the issue independently of the Green Tories of Fianna Fail and Fine Gael.

Belfast Trades Council, as the result of a resolution moved by a member of the Labour and Trades Union Group, is now committed to support the right of prisoners to wear their own clothes and also to press for a choice of work and training. Derry Trades Council also issued an agreed statement outlining the class position [see page 7].

Such pressure must be intensified. Alongside the call for decent prison conditions, the labour movement should set up an enquiry into repression in

NI. This would also have to include a review of the cases of all prisoners convicted on offences arising out of the Troubles.

Such a review would decide who is and who is not a political prisoner. Only the labour movement can determine this, and in doing so will exclude those responsible for calculated sectarian atrocities.

There would be an enormous response to an intervention by the labour movement. It would give both protestant and catholic workers an alternative to the para-militaries and the bigots.

There is no desire at present among either community to return to the days of sectarian violence. There has been no turning to the para-militaries, and there is a growing weariness at the street violence.

The onus now rests on the shoulders of the labour movement to unite workers against repression, and all aspects of the policies of Thatcher's government.

TORIES LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN

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the Top Salaries Review Board recommended that they should get.

The "top people's" paper 'The Times' has been taking up their case—"there will be increasing difficulties in recruiting enough candidates of sufficiently high

calibre to fill the high offices..."

Evidently, top people reckon they can claim even more fabulous salaries, grabbed from the wealth created by the working class, if they work in the board rooms of private industry, banks or finance houses, or in the chambers of money raking lawyers.

If the top people feel that

their efforts in trying to run the country are not worth it, the answer is easy. Let them get out!

The Tory Ministers, Tory MPs, the top civil servants, and the military leaders are the spokesmen and the administrators of a ruling class which has presided over the ruin of British industry.

It is their system, based

on the private profit of the few and the anarchy of the capitalist market, which has produced nearly 3 million unemployed and plunged millions of children into 1930s type poverty.

Yet still they argue for a pay policy which hands fabulous salaries to the rich and peanuts to ordinary workers!

We cannot afford their

pay policy and we cannot afford their ruinous system any longer.

Industry, which produced the wealth, should be run by those who produce the wealth. The bureaucrats, running the country on behalf of big business, should be replaced by the democratic control of society by the labour and trade union movement.

LINK WORKERS STRUGGLES

**Peoples
march**
**for
jobs**
MAY 81
LIVERPOOL-LONDON

Since coming into the Black Country the response to the march has been brilliant. Workers in struggle have looked towards the march as a link with their battles.

Over 10,000 people marched with us into Birmingham. And right behind the People's March banner came that from Ansell workers, who have fought to keep their brewery open and save 1,000 jobs.

The Birmingham march was the biggest seen in the city for years, dwarfing even the 1971 anti-Industrial Relations Act demo.

Despite pouring rain we were supported by workers from all the main unions: transport, local government, engineers, etc. A delegation came from the Rover car plant, threatened by closure. Virtually the en-

**By Mick Hogan
and Richard
Evans**
(on the march)

tire workforce came out from the Smethwick Drop Forging factory which is closing at the end of the month.

Food and other support came from the Indian Workers Association and throughout the march people left their offices and factories to applaud or join us.

It had been a similar story last week as we came through the West Midlands. With the area feeling for the first time the devastation of

mass unemployment, people are looking to the labour movement for an alternative.

In the small mining town of Huntingdon it seemed as if the whole town came out. The pit siren sounded out its greeting and people flocked to give us their support. In Walsall a pensioner insisted we took £10 for the march's fund.

The whole mood of the march is pro-Labour, with songs of "We're on our way to Labour", giving the lie to those who wish it to be non-political. After we found that the Mayor who spoke to us in Earlham was a Tory, the march voted, despite opposition from the "Communist" Party, to ban all Tories from speaking on our platform.

Primary school kids sometimes seem to have a better grasp of what the march is about than some of these characters. Whilst we were going past one school in Cannock, the kids responded to our chants of "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie" by yelling back "Out, Out, Out."

At the same time someone was trying to stop one supporter from selling the *Militant* because the march was 'non-political'.

Yet at the rallies it is the socialist speeches linking the fight against unemployment with the return of a labour government which get the best response. Dennis Skinner's speech in West Bromwich, which called for a planned economy to end capitalism, got a standing ovation and demands for 'more'.

In Birmingham left-wing MP Jeff Rooker got an enthusiastic welcome when he said that the message of the march was not only directed at Thatcher, but should be headed by the labour and trade union leadership and stiffen their resolve to fight closures.

But at the same meeting, when Labour right wingers Roy Hattersley and Clive Wilkinson got up to speak they were met by chants of "Tories Out" from firemen and other workers in the audience. Wilkinson was booed and local transport workers union official Brian

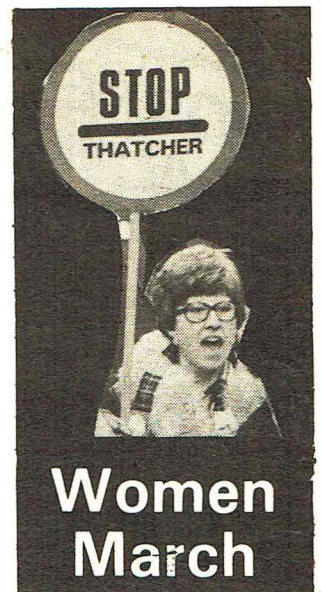
Mathers had to stop chairing the meeting such was the opposition from Ansell workers at his conduct during their dispute.

It is important that the impact of the march does not end after its completion. It must become a springboard to organise a mass movement to bring down the Tories.

During the march local Labour Party Young Socialists have been set up and meetings held. e.g. in Market Harborough, on the eastern leg of the march, fifty-six people attended an LPYS meeting.

On our march some people have joined the TGWU branch 612 in Liverpool, which helps organise unemployed workers.

All these developments must just be the start of a massive campaign to mobilise the working class in this country to get rid of this disastrous Tory government and replace it by a Labour one, committed to carrying out bold socialist policies which will end the scourge of unemployment once and for all.



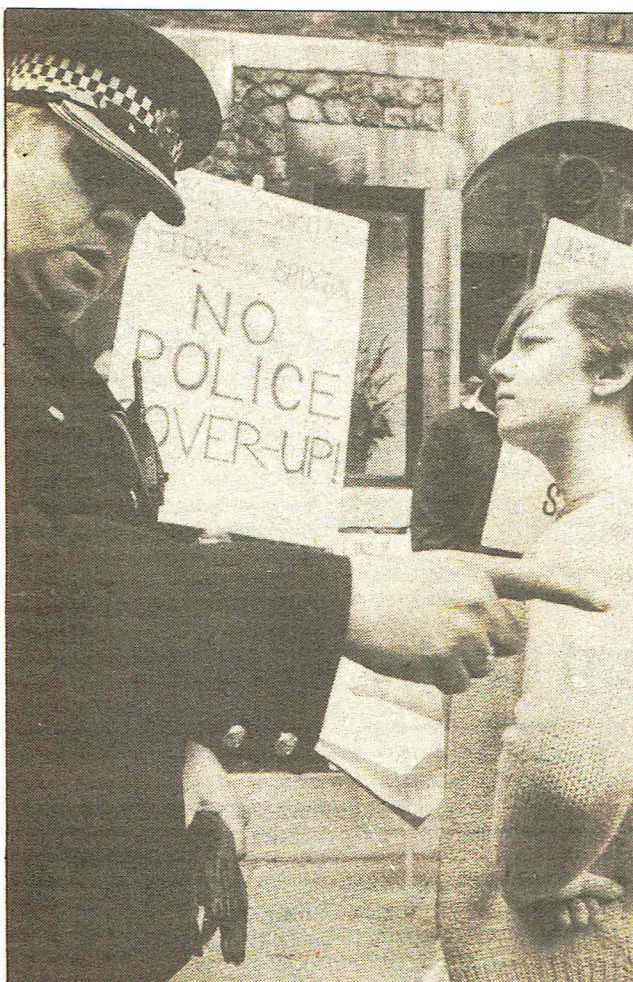
In the last eighteen months hundreds of thousands of women have lost their jobs: 120,000 have gone in textiles and the clothing industry, 300,000 jobs in school meals are under threat, and 150,000 office jobs have disappeared.

By the end of last year over 700,000 women were registered as unemployed. And this hides an estimated one million who do not register.

To help highlight the growing problem of female unemployment, the People's March have asked women to especially join the march on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 May, as it marches from Hitchin to Luton.

London women should meet at King's Cross for 9.20 train to Hitchin. Meeting at Hitchin at 10.00 at Windmill Hill.

No Support for Scarman Inquiry



Lord Scarman's enquiry held a preliminary meeting at Church House, Westminster, last week. Only four community organisations were represented, and they are considering withdrawal.

**By Kevin
Fernandes**

This poor response to Scarman reflects the deep mistrust of the local community, especially the black population, towards the police and the courts. At defendants' meetings it has been pointed out that the enquiry will be a whitewash and a pretext for a future increase in police powers.

Even as the Tories' enquiry is getting underway, the police are carrying out early-morning raids. One police visit on the Stockwell Park estate resulted in youths being detained and goods confiscated. Later the police found that the goods were out on HP.

A glance at the terms of the Scarman enquiry reveals the bosses' motives. The first part will deal with "an examination of the events of 10/12 April and their immediate causes."

This potentially has great danger for any individual who gives evidence.

Don't be fooled by the Attorney General's promise of immunity from prosecution for anyone testifying. Whilst this is a tacit admission that it was the mass police intervention which sparked off a general revolt by local workers and youth, immunity only applies to evidence given to the inquiry.

It will not in any way be a

cast iron guarantee that criminal proceedings will not be brought against witnesses if other evidence is found. And there is nothing to stop evidence given to Scarman being used by the police to prosecute other individuals. In fact, it is very likely this will happen.

The Brixton legal defence committee have decided to be present at the enquiry to safeguard the interests of any individual who becomes the subject of police enquiries.

The second part of Scarman's enquiry seems, on the surface, to be innocuous. It involves "consideration of the underlying causes, with special reference to policing areas where the community is multi-racial". Clearly, this will not result in a programme to end either unemployment and bad housing or police raids and discrimination.

What can it be but an attempt to see how best to police the most oppressed sections of society?

If reference to "multi-racial" communities means Scarman intends to root out racist elements from the police, and outlaw blatant racial discrimination by the police and the courts, no one will object.

But people in Brixton and other similar areas suspect that it is more likely to imply that black and Asian communities are a particular source of problems for the police, and therefore need extra attention.

April 11/12 was not a "race riot", but an explosion of anger of people suffering double oppression, from appalling social conditions and from repression. It is black people who suffer the most in Brixton, but exactly the same anger is building up in other inner-city areas hit by mass unemployment and Tory cuts.

Scarman, supposedly on the "liberal" side of the legal establishment, may make a few token concessions, appealing to the police to be more sensitive to the problems of black people. At the same time, however, he is likely to recommend new powers for the police and more effective policing methods to control the oppressed groups in areas like Brixton.

If possible, the ruling class went to maintain firm control through tightly organised policing—and it would like to avoid, if it can, provoking explosive upheavals through too frequent use of the Metropolitan police's big stick. This is no doubt what Scarman will have in mind.

The decision of the Labour Greater London Council not to give evidence to Scarman is to be welcomed, and is in line with manifesto pledges to enquire into the Metropolitan police, and for democratic control of the Met. and City forces.

A number of other official bodies, including the Lambeth Borough Council, the Council for Community Relations in Lambeth, and the Commission for Racial Equality are being represented at the enquiry.

Once submissions are made, however, there is the obvious danger that any evidence, even of the most general character, may be twisted and used to lend credibility to Scarman's recommendations.

The character of the enquiry was revealed at the preliminary hearing. Scarman refused representation even to such bodies as the National Council for Civil Liberties, which has a great deal of experience in monitoring police methods and taking up individual cases involving democratic rights or complaints against

the police or the courts.

Scarman's decision hardly justifies his claims to be carrying out a "flexible enquiry".

Asked whether he would subpoena (i.e. compulsorily summons) individuals to give evidence, Scarman said he couldn't give any indication of whether he would or not at this stage.

This preliminary hearing reinforced the need for the labour movement to hold a people's enquiry involving local black organisations and underlines the necessity of building support for the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton.

Among the demands it is campaigning for is the dropping of all charges arising from the events of 10/13 April.

If Scarman's promise of immunity for those giving evidence before him has any credibility at all, it means that even the authorities accept that it is necessary to hold back charges in order to find out what caused the exceptional events of 11/12 April. This limited concession, however, which will apply only to a few individuals, reinforces the call for immunity for all those involved, with the revocation of sentences already meted out by the courts.

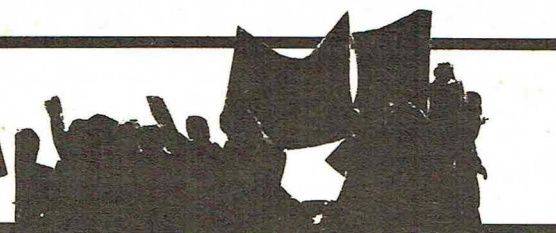
Whatever "improvements" Scarman may suggest, there is no chance of him challenging the basic assumptions of the police, the courts, and the prisons—let alone of questioning the foundations of the profit system which is plunging British society deeper and deeper into crisis.

That is why we need a real People's Enquiry, based on the labour movement, to investigate the real causes—and to fight for change in the interests of workers and black people.

Photo: Militant

Supporters of the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton picketed the Scarman Enquiry (above). Last week the Regional Executive of the Labour Party gave its backing to the Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton.

WORKERS IN ACTION



What alternative to Thatcher?

Thatcher's idea that there is no alternative to her capitalist, monetarist policies was not shared by voters up and down the country in the recent local elections.

Yet whilst it is essential that the labour movement steps up its campaign to kick out the Tories, it is also vital that the debate within the labour movement continues.

This will help ensure that the next Labour government does not make the same mistakes as its predecessors and result in Thatcher or worse coming to power.

On 29 April Liverpool labour movement organised a debate between those who support the Alternative Economic Strategy and *Militant's* programme.

The 250 people present heard Jim Moward (regional officer, Transport and General Workers Union) argue in favour of the AES because "it puts us on the road to socialism, shows the potential for socialism and takes us nearer to socialism."

Jim explained that the AES was not a substitute for a political programme but a component. He said that socialists had won little respect from workers by just mouthing slogans and instead had to provide socialist answers to practical problems.

He went on to show how this would be done by AES through planned growth, planned investment and planned trade. This was answered by a contribution

By Mark Douglas
(Wavertree LPYS)

from the floor—"We can't plan what we don't control, and we can't control what we don't own."

Jim Moward argued that "We must make democracy a reality in industry and we have to move towards workers' control of industry"—although the state should not take over private industry all in one go.

In reply for the *Militant* programme, Tony Mulhearn (President, Liverpool District Labour Party), said that, whilst he agreed with many AES policies such as a 35-hour week, a minimum wage, and massive increases in government expenditure and investment, he believed that the AES could not deliver the goods.

It was basically a return to the failed Keynesian capitalist belief that relied on spending heavily to get out of trouble.

How would the extra spending be financed? Increases in taxation would hit the workers. If capitalists were punitively taxed they would inaugurate a strike of capital. Printing more money would lead to inflation; North Sea Oil revenue was a mere drop in the Ocean compared to what was needed; reducing arms expenditure would lead to a head on collision with the ruling class.

Only the *Militant* programme of taking over the banks, and two hundred major monopolies which dominated the economy, under workers' control and management would transfer power to the working class and enable the economy to be planned successfully.

What would the bosses of the multi-nationals be doing as we "moved towards" workers' control? Only the mobilisation of the working class to take over society could prevent the bosses' sabotage and resort to armed threats. The AES aims could only be achieved by ending capitalism.

But one major policy disagreement *Militant* had with the AES, Tony explained, was on import controls. It was utopian to think they could work in a capitalist economy because it would lead to higher prices, lower competitiveness and higher unemployment.

He quoted Nye Bevan, who described import controls as "building walls around chaos." They would also provoke retaliation from other countries. Instead of capitalist import controls we must have a monopoly of foreign trade as part of a planned socialist economy.

In finishing Tony said that our sights must be raised beyond capitalist society. All shades of socialism have been and will be tried but only the *Militant* programme will in the end, be proved correct. Only Marxism will stop the working class from being doomed to disillusionment.

Support for the ideas of *Militant* were shown by the £328 collected. The debate showed a genuine desire for a programme to unite the working class, and more such debates have been arranged.

Article on import controls p8



LPYS section on Fife march against unemployment. Photo: D Mitchell

Five companies control 80% Press

After a successful march and meeting in April, Dunfermline LPYS has been asked by a neighbouring Labour Party to help set up an LPYS branch.

The march was organised by Fife Trade Union Action Committee to protest against unemployment in the region. It attracted over 1,000 people who heard Helen Monaghan from the Lee Jeans occupation workforce, George Galloway from Dundee Labour Party,

By Paul Cunningham
and David Mitchell

George Botton from the miners and Tony Mulhearn, President of Liverpool District Labour Party.

Tony also spoke in the afternoon when 78 people packed into a hall to hear him and printworker Jimmy Friel speak on the Tory press. Extensive parts of both speeches were featured in the Dunfermline Press, which has a circulation of 50,000. The quality of the meeting was enormously

enhanced by banners, a book stall and the use of a megaphone outside to attract people.

In their speeches both Jimmy and Tony pointed how the bosses' press, the so-called 'free' press, operated. Five groups control 80% of the national press, owning seven out of the nine national dailies and hundreds of provincial dailies and weeklies. All of them were hostile to the socialist aspirations of the labour movement and often took a virulently anti-union stance.

Both speakers called for the press to be nationalised with all groups (except fascists) being given access to it in proportion to their support in the country. As an immediate step, Tony Mulhearn called for the labour movement to set up its own paper which would campaign for working class interests, supported by the trade unions and under full democratic control.



Recent protest against 2,000 unemployed in Canterbury

Unemployment Centre Needed

By Will Martin
(Canterbury LP)

Canterbury Unemployment Action Group recently organised its first demonstration of a hundred unemployed workers, trade unionists and school students.

The Trades Council, greatly assisted by unemployed workers, had organised a petition demanding that the local Council provide a Centre for the unemployed. 3,600 people signed the petition. But, typically the Tory Council threw it out.

The group went ahead with the march. 30 of the marchers

walked for 17 miles and raised nearly £300. A temporary centre has been set up in a church hall and at present is open three mornings a week.

With unemployment now well and truly part of everyday life in the so-called affluent South (over 2,000 in unemployed in Canterbury), the fight for a Centre is only part

of the overall struggle for a socialist society.

With more unemployed workers being forced into political activity, Labour Party members must be seen to be fighting alongside the unemployed, so as to be able to help organise and explain socialist ideas.

The struggle of the unemployed has only just started in Canterbury. There's a long way to go. Given the determination shown by those so far involved, the Tories will be made to pay in the end.

Students back Brixton defence committee

Cardiff University students have decided to give support to the newly-formed Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton. A General Meeting on May 7 voted for a motion, proposed by Labour students, which rejected the government's whitewash attempt with the Scarman enquiry.

It called for a labour movement enquiry to investigate the real causes of the Brixton events and use the findings as the basis of a campaign for real change.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting inviting a speaker

By Steve Davies
(Cardiff University Labour Club)

from the LCDB and any other defence group; to organise a fund raising benefit for the LCDB in order to assist its work (including the defence of those arrested); to produce leaflets explaining to students the truth about Brixton; to issue a press statement; to inform the National Union of Students Executive and the

Home Office of the union's decision; and to send a message of support to the LCDB.

A campaign committee was set up consisting of four Labour Club members and one other, to ensure that the mandate of the meeting was carried out.

Another motion was passed (also moved by Labour students) which committed the students union to campaigning for a maximum turn-out of students on the July 4 Labour Party national demonstration in Cardiff.

Right-wing can't stop Thatcher

“Leave it to the Parliamentary Labour Party, it's the only way to defeat the Tories”—that's what the right wing of the Labour Party often claim.

Yet when you put them on the spot about what they can do the reply it seems is nothing.

That's what Nottingham City Council found when they organised a lobby of our three MPs on 28 April about the savage spending cuts Heseltine has imposed.

William Whitlock (MP, Nottingham North) told us that there was absolutely nothing he could do about government spending cuts because the Tories had an overall majority and that was that.

He said lobbying him was useless because “he couldn't do anything more within the democratic system in which we live.” Instead we should lobby all the Tory members on the off chance that more than twenty-one of them might vote against Thatcher!

Action outside Parliament was also impossible. He told us that it was useless trying to mobilise opposition to rent increases because people just weren't interested until after the damage was done when it was too late.

The meeting was then opened up for questions and contributions. One councillor said that they had discussed the possibility of the whole Labour group on the City council resigning instead of putting up the rents and rates but after further discussion he decided to vote for an increase in the rents!

I argued that councils should stand on a no rents, no rates increase, with no cuts in services. Rather than get into a Clay Cross situation all Labour councils should mobilise together with the labour and trade union movement for joint action. I also raised the demand that the next Labour government should promise to reimburse and annul any fines or penalties that councillors might incur in the meantime.

Finally I called for the next Labour government to nationalise the banks as a matter of urgency because of the quite crippling effect that interest charges have on local authorities.

I quoted an article from that day's ‘Times’ to show the

By John Fahey
(Nottingham West
LPYS)

lunacy of the system. Liverpool Corporation had decided to demolish 450 vandalised flats and maisonettes built eight years ago at a cost of £3 million. The corporation will still have to pay annual loan charges of £410,000 on the flats for the next 50 years, an overall cost of £20.5 million.

Council leader Carrol's response to this was pure defeatism. He said he didn't want to break the law, that it was ludicrous to commit a future Labour government to pay off fines incurred by councillors, he wasn't even sure that Labour would win the next election, and you would never get all councils to agree to joint action.

William Whitlock then asked for a few more quick contributions which came mostly from right wing councillors and then abruptly closed the meeting (before I had the chance to reply to councillor Carrol) because “we don't want to get the bus driver nicked for parking.”

Jack Dunnett, millionaire solicitor, MP for Nottingham East, then said a few words, emphasising the vital need to by-pass him and get in touch with as many Tories as possible. He even offered to get some out of the chamber for us. Thanks Jack!

After the meeting I told some older comrades from the tenants association the story of how Whitlock refused to sign an LPYS petition to the council asking for a day centre for the unemployed. He had told us that there were other sections of the community who were worse off than the unemployed.

“Don't tell us kid, we've had it for years” was their reply. “Still you've got to keep on fighting in spite of them,” one added.

Their attitude really impressed me because despite the response that our supposed representatives gave for the problems that ordinary working class people face, those same people are prepared to fight on. Just think of the reserves of strength and determination that could be tapped given the correct leadership.



New National Front got no support for a march in Kidderminster May 9. Whilst over 70 anti-fascists gathered in town (above), the NNF were traced to a pathetic gathering of seven, huddled in a car park, with police escort (inset top right). Photo: Militant

Support Irish Workers Candidates

‘Militant readers will be pleased to learn of the formation of a branch of the Young Socialists in Derry.

This branch aims to be active amongst the Derry working class. At the moment we are planning a recruiting drive, including a ‘Youth for Labour’ day, leafletting and a youth rally involving fraternal participation from Britain and Southern Ireland.

We feel that there is a definite trend to Labour politics in this north-west corner of Ireland. We hope to strengthen our links with all branches, both North and South, in Ireland, and of course with all branches in Britain.

The formation of a Young Socialist branch in Derry is critically important at this time, when there is the threat of the ugliest form of sectarian strife and violence. We hope to unite the youth of Derry under the common

banner of socialism, where they can work for their true interests: jobs, recreation facilities and a non-sectarian future.

We send fraternal greetings to comrades everywhere and we know you will support us, as you know you can rely on our support for a progressive, socialist future for all mankind.

Derry Council

What has been Derry Council's response to the recent riots? They have decided to even cut back the availability of recreational facilities by closing leisure and community facilities in the morning and during public holidays, and by closing libraries at early evening.

Private entertainment also does not provide the unemp-

Finance

Arundel Constituency Labour party has sent a donation of £10 to Derry Trades Union and Labour Group towards their election expenses in the local elections. At its last meeting the party also sent a

resolution to Labour's National Executive asking them to assist in calling together all the Trades Councils, Socialist and Labour organisations in Northern Ireland to help found a strong trade-union based Labour Party in Northern Ireland committed to socialist policies.

loyed with an opportunity to relieve their boredom. In the cinemas, matinees are restricted to Saturdays and prices are high: a seat, plus a packet of nuts and a cup of coke, is almost £2. Other forms of entertainment are also expensive. One roller-drome charges £1 for spectators.

A remark made to me outside a cinema sums up the feeling over the lack of recreational facilities. “This is desperate. No community centres open. No pictures. Can't stand on the corner of

the street because there's a riot.”

What hope is there for a city in which standing on street-corners is seen as a form of recreation? If society rejects the young, can we blame them for rejecting society?

Left policies defeated Tories and social-democrats

Without the publicity from the mass ranks of the Tory media the Social Democrats fared badly during the recent local elections. In some areas sitting Tory councillors changed to Social Democrats, but to no avail.

In Littlehampton Labour captured a seat and not only put the Tories at the bottom of the poll, but beat a Liberal/Social Democrat who had previously sat on W. Sussex County Council as a Tory for the last twenty-five years. Typically opportunist, the Liberal/Social Democrat advised the electors that the local Labour Party was too left wing.

The Labour Party put out a clear and bold socialist manifesto, pulling no punches in

By Stan Natrass,
Mike Levene and
Jeremy Birch

its advocacy of socialist remedies calling for no cuts and no increases in rates. It campaigned for a future Labour government pledged to a massive increase in public works, housing and other socially useful projects to provide jobs for the 3 million on the dole.

In the event, it seemed that the electors of Wick Ward, Littlehampton appreciated the honesty with which the Labour candidate advocated socialist solutions and sent both the Tories and Liberal/Social Democrat packing.

In Canvey Island, in Essex, it was a similar story with Labour winning Canvey West and the Social Democrat getting only 12% of the poll. Canvey East was won for the

first time by Labour defeating a Social Democrat who is a sitting councillor on the District Council.

Such was the concern of this person for the good life, natural to all Social Democrats, that he spent the entire election campaign in America. Throughout the country the Tories and Social Democrats fared badly.

Even in the South East they saw their hold slip; in Essex their overall majority was cut from sixteen to four. But areas such as West Midlands which have seen unemployment rising faster than anywhere else saw a massive swing against the Tories.

With a radical manifesto, Labour won every ward in Northfield and Yardley, parliamentary seats which the Tories won in 1979. On these results the Tories' presence in Birmingham would be reduced to three out of thirteen seats.

All this despite the Tories' scare campaign to “stop the left”, who “will turn Britain into a Marxist state.” Of course with Thatcher in office they could hardly campaign on their record!

Now they must believe the majority in the West Midlands have voted for Marxism. Workers at Birmingham's Davenports brewery placed a sign, “Number 6 Soviet”, over the entrance to the Number 6 Cold room, to rub the Tories' noses in it.

Naturally, for the local Tories, “Marxism” means “freedom of choice will cease to exist,” and “more bureaucrats, more red tape.” Whereas to ‘Militant’ it means policies to end unemployment and the extension of democracy—into the board rooms and corridors of power.

Militant Readers' Meetings

HARLOW: ‘The role of Militant in the Labour Party’ Speaker: Brian Ingham (Militant Editorial Board) at Harlow Town Hall, Friday 29 May, 8.00 pm.

SOUTHEND
‘Social Democratic Party—Which way for Labour?’ Speakers: Steve Glennon (Stevenage Labour Party) 8pm Wed 27 May at the Labour Hall 40-42 Cambridge Rd. For details tel Southend 353588



Bosses—please take note. The 'Sunday Times' [17 May] highlighted an interesting case of redundancy in North Tyneside. Like many small businesses that have gone to the wall since Thatcher came to power, the Gordon Brown Automatic Transmissions firm faced an all too familiar situation. The boss Geoff Gee started looking at his workforce to pick someone to sack. But who? The 'Times' explains; "The works manager had to stay: he was essential to the survival of the firm...The senior technician, stores manager and secretary—sole survivors of an earlier bout of redundancies—were equally vital. There was only one person, Gee decided, that the company could do without: himself." And so he sacked himself. However, this is no kamikaze act by this boss, as he will return to the firm after working for a year in America [for £15,000] hoping business will have picked up by then. But the next time your boss starts making noises about redundancies tell him the story of the Gordon Brown firm. And ask him how vital he is to the running of the firm.

Having recently sacked 200 workers, the engineering firm KTM in Brighton has now turned on the apprentices. The company previously ran an 'Apprentice Association' which organised events for the company's apprentices. This hasn't functioned for two years due to "lack of funds". So KTM sent a letter to all apprentices calling on them to work for contractors landscaping the company premises! The apprentices, the letter said, could do it in their 'spare time'; "In this way not only would the apprentices raise funds for themselves but would give a little back to the company in return for the very substantial support given to them in recent years." [!] Volunteers were called for, although the letter added ominously "we would like a 100% response". Needless to say, the apprentices gave KTM management an emphatic 'NO'!

Workers at the British Leyland Rover plant in Solihull have voted overwhelmingly to fight "by all means necessary" the BL bosses' bid to close the plant with the loss of 2,000 jobs (see back page).

Meanwhile Sir Michael Edwardes, chairman of BL, was criticised recently over the fact that his personal salary went up by £8,000 last year to £64,400. But his directors rallied around him. According to Sir Austin Bide, BL deputy chairman, Sir Michael is worth it: "If you want him you have to pay for him because he is a very marketable commodity. You have to take into account the enormous magnitude of responsibility he carries and you have to consider the pressure of the job." ('Financial Times' 15/5/81). Well, Sir Austin can be sure BL workers don't want Edwardes, no matter how marketable he is. And if he plans to go ahead with the closures at Rover, the workers there will ensure he will be coming under a lot more pressure!

According to 'The Times' [16 May], Lord Victor Matthews, millionaire proprietor of Express Newspapers, "Hates 'The Star'." Why? Because it has recently taken a sharp anti-Tory line, urging its readers to vote Labour in the county council elections, for instance. This goes down well in the North and North-West where it is mainly sold, and 'The Star' circulation has been boosted to a profitable 1,116,385. But hang on, doesn't the right-wing Matthews own 'The Star' too? Yes, he does, and what 'The Times' said was: "Lord Matthews hates 'The Star' but he loves its cash flow, and that it bears a quarter of group costs." Even this press baron, once Thatcher's Number One admirer, is cynically prepared—for the moment—to cash in on workers' hatred for the Tory government.

The ABC of marriage

In this democratic country of ours we are all told that we are all equals.

There are four young people; we will call them Mr A, Ms B, Prince C, Lady D, to save them any embarrassment.

Mr A and Ms B are in love. Mr A has no job and receives from the government a weekly income of £20.65 or £1,073.80 a year. Ms B has a job as a shopworker; she is paid just over £40 a week before stoppages.

They still decide to get married, but how do you get married on a low income? The answer is very carefully and quietly.

If you go to the Registry office it will cost about £7 for the licence to marry. Then you can get your friends to have a whip-round for the wedding breakfast instead of presents.

By Tony Hughes

No honeymoon, no home of your own. That means you living with your mother or mother-in-law. That means overcrowding and the only way out of this is to have two or more children to add to the overcrowding (that means the wife cannot work and you are still out of work) so that the council will have to rehouse you and your family.

Then we turn to Prince C and Lady D. They also decide to get married. If they are in love we will never know; or is it a political decision—we can only guess. Prince C has no job

either; Lady D has a job as—let's say—a childminder. Unlike Ms B, Lady D has stopped working as soon as the engagement is announced. If Ms B had done that the word would have gone round that she was pregnant.

The Prince receives from the government about £5,000 a week and about £250,000 a year from the Duchy of Cornwall. He also has several large houses and farms (on these farms live tenant farmers and their families are tied to the land).

The Prince and his bride will go on their honeymoon for six months and when they return they will move in to the Prince's new house—it cost only £1,000, 000.

The wedding will be in St. Pauls, only the best for them. The word goes out to all the relatives all over the world that there is to be a free junket and boozeup.

The cost of the wedding cake for the Prince's wedding is a small sum of £7,000; the wedding dress

£8,000; the veil £750; the train (15 feet) £7,000.

There will be a guest list of thousands; the wedding presents will add up to a few hundred kidney machines, a few hospitals, and that adds up to a good few lives being saved and the quality of life being improved for a few thousand more.

So the question that must be answered is: is it more of a crime to seek a fairer society where all men are equal in the world and wages are based on need not greed, than to accept as it is now, where the few rule and the majority serve.

I would like to leave that up to the workers to make up your minds as to which is the most fair system, as you are the people that produce the wealth of the world, but are robbed by the well-organised capitalists and monarchists.

**Reprinted from
'Dole Mirror',
produced by Hull
Unemployed Workers
Union**

NIGHT LIFE IN GLASGOW

Night-time in Glasgow reveals the cruel reality of a city caught in the capitalist crisis.

While most workers are 'fortunate' enough to have a solid roof over their heads, many—too many—people are condemned to sleeping in the streets with the only roof over them being the cold, open sky.

People like the two girls, one aged 16 and the other 6 months pregnant, whose bed for the night is a hard bench in the city's main bus station, and whose only guarantee against hypothermia is the warmth of their two bodies huddled together in the cold Glasgow nights.

People like the old tramp who developed gangrene and had to have a leg amputated after sleeping

**By Jackie Galbraith
(East Kilbride LPYS)**

night after night in an alley insulated only with cardboard and dustbins!

These people are not treated as social casualties—they are not even thought of as statistics, as the 2.5 million unemployed are. The truth of the matter is they are not thought of at all by the present brutal Tory government. The onus of providing for the 'people of the abyss' falls almost entirely on voluntary organisations, whose resources are inadequate and limited, and at the present time with the record level of unemployment, these services are becoming more and more strained.

One of the full-time

organisers, Willie Devine, at the city's main night shelter, the Talbot Centre, commented that the increase in those living in the streets must be related to rising unemployment. It is a bitter but clear reflection of the continuing crisis that, in the last month alone, the number of cases handled by Strathclyde Regional Council's service to homeless people has doubled.

Very often we hear today's situation being compared to that of the 1930s. Can anyone possibly refute this when 50 years on in a so-called advanced, civilised society people are still dying in the streets? What an indictment of capitalism that a Talbot Association van drives through the lonely streets in the early hours of the morning to give hot soup to freezing, starving people! The only difference between today and the '30s is that the 'soup kitchens' are now on wheels!

However, the solution does not lie in organisations like the Talbot Centre, although they certainly do an admirable job in attempting to help the needy in the meantime. What is needed is for the working class to unite in its fight to kick out the Tories and to ensure that the next Labour government is committed to a programme which would regenerate industry providing jobs for all, and which would eradicate poverty ensuring homes for everyone and a decent standard of living for all.

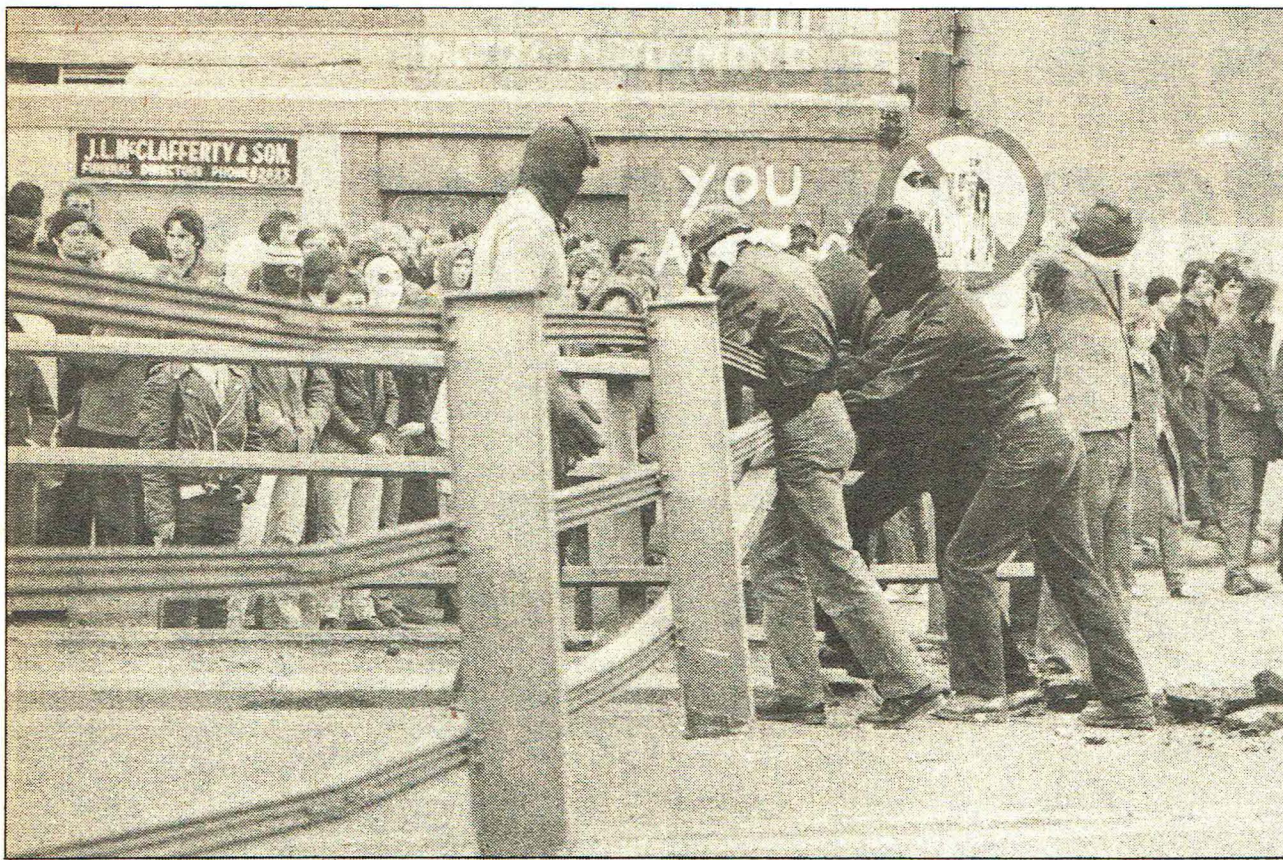
In the words of Willie Devine, 'No man is down and out. A man may be down—but never out.' It is our job to counter the Tories' divisive tactic of unemployment which forces a feeling of hopelessness and uselessness on those out of work, and to involve the unemployed worker in the struggle to break loose of the shackles of capitalism!



Photo: Stephen Willet

A happy reunion for Anwar Ditta and her children Kamran, Imran, Siama and Samara, who have only just been allowed into Britain after years of separation because of the Tories' racist laws. The campaign which took up Anwar Ditta's case will not be wound up, but will now be turned to support Nasreen Akhtur and Cynthia Gordon who face a similar situation because of the Tory Race laws. But the persecution of Anwar has not finished. When her husband Shiya (left) went to collect the children he was sacked from his job. And Anwar has received threats and race-hate mail from fascists, including Robert Relf.

NORTHERN IRELAND



Youth build barricades in Catholic areas of Derry following the death of Bobby Sands. Photo: Militant

Unite behind TU banner

The Derry trades council condemns and regrets the death of Bobby Sands. The Tory government bears the main responsibility for this young man's death.

If the agreement reached between the prisoners in the H-Blocks and the British government on 19 December 1980, which ended the last hunger strike, had been implemented, we believe that the needless death of Bobby Sands could have been avoided.

The Tory government, having stated in the 32-page document that they were prepared to implement a programme of overall prison reform, now refuse to grant the right of all prisoners—particularly those in the H-Blocks, both Republican and Loyalist—to wear their own clothes and also allow them to negotiate with the prison authorities on the question of work, education and training. The settlement to the present situation rests on these three points.

The position of the Derry Trades Council on the question of prison conditions in no way implies support for the methods and policies of the various paramilitary organisations. In line with the position of the official trade union movement, we demand decent conditions for all prisoners.

The record of this trades council on the question of prison conditions is quite clear. We condemn those politicians in Ireland, namely Hume and Haughey and company, who while calling for a settlement of the H-Block issue "that will not embarrass the government" at the same time have given credence to the overall programme of Thatcher and her government in their

attacks on the living standards of the working class.

The Derry Trades Council also condemns Don Concannon [Parliamentary Labour Party spokesman on Northern Ireland] and Michael Foot for their recent statements on the questions of prison conditions. These Labour leaders speak for the right wing of the Parliamentary Party and not the rank and file and the National Executive of the British Labour Party.

'Militant' reprints the statement put out by Derry trades council after the death of hunger striker Bobby Sands.

Concannon, after visiting Bobby Sands last week, conveniently forgot to mention to the press and news media the fact that the NEC

of the Labour Party passed a resolution in March 1980, which was moved by Tony Saunois, which called for, among other things, the right of all prisoners to wear their own clothes, and to negotiate with the prison authorities choice of work, education and training programmes.

The Derry Trades Council is alarmed at the silence of the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on the question of the situation at the present in the North.

We demand that the ICTU and the British TUC immediately establish a trade union and labour movement inquiry into prison conditions in these islands. Only the official



Bill Webster, one of the five candidates put up by Derry Trades Council to contest the local elections on 20 May on a non-sectarian, socialist platform. Bill, a member of the GMWU, is seen here speaking at the recent May Day rally in Derry

trade union movement has the power to force Thatcher and company—and the Fianna Fail government—to implement a programme of decent conditions for all prisoners, and to fight against all aspects of repression.

The campaign to date of the various H-Block committees has been incapable of mobilising the working class against these terrible prison conditions.

The Derry trades council reiterates its call to the people of Derry and in the Province as a whole to unite behind the banner of the trade union movement.

We call for an end to the indiscriminate rioting and hijacking that has been

taking place over the last few weeks. Such actions tend to be counter-productive, serving only to strengthen the grip of repression on an already long suffering population.

What is required is an all-out attack, led by the trade union leaders, on the terrible social and economic conditions, in which repression and sectarianism all thrive.

We stand opposed to all these evils in our community and pledge ourselves to work to direct the anger and frustration of working people, the unemployed youth in particular, into positive action under the direction of the trade union movement.

DEFEND THE FIRE SERVICE

One aspect of the Tories' plans to make further cuts in public expenditure which hasn't as yet received sufficient publicity concerns their intention to make 'savings' in the cost of running the fire service.

The FBU have published a pamphlet which reviews the green paper dealing with the future of the fire service.

The Green Paper, called "Future fire policy", makes various recommendations, based upon a detailed set of statistics concerning the fire service and fire protection measures. We all know that statistics can be used to prove anything, but as the FBU point out: "Fighting fire with statistics is dangerous and the consequence can be loss of life".

However, the real purpose of the statistics is to justify the Tories' aim of cutting fire service expenditure. According to the FBU, if their proposals are carried through, we will be faced with the possibility of hundreds of people being killed by fires and thousands of homes being burnt down.

The Tory plans cover two aspects of fire prevention—legislation and standards of fire cover. The Tories want to alter the Fire Precautions Act (1971) so that in future only certain of the premises designated under the Act (which include hotels, factories, offices and shops), will require fire certificates. These certificates provide the only means of making sure that fire standards are being complied with.

So, in the future, in the absence of checks, we can expect standards to be reduced in this area. What we should demand is that these premises should be forced to comply with the original spirit of the Fire Precautions Act, and additionally, that the Act should be extended as the FBU argue, to cover hospitals, old people's homes and other similar premises.

By Tom Taylor
(Harlow CLP)

Standards of fire cover in Britain are based on Home Office recommendations according to the risk category of the area concerned. The Tories intend to reduce provision to the minimum requirement necessary to meet the relevant risk category. If this happens there will be fewer appliances, fewer firemen and longer waits for the fire brigade to arrive.

As the FBU suggests: "it...would be a worthwhile exercise to ask those people who were trapped behind the barred windows at Woolworths in May 1979 or Moorgate Tube station in 1975 if they would have been prepared to wait a further few minutes for their rescuers to arrive".

The FBU have put forward an alternative programme, which would afford greater protection to both life and property. Their proposals are based on the practical experience of those who work in the fire service and call for:

- ★ At least five firemen per appliance
- ★ Stricter attendance times
- ★ Two appliances on initial attendance
- ★ More special appliances—eg Hydraulic platforms, foam tenders
- ★ Provision of better equipment eg breathing apparatus.

But even though all socialists would support these demands, we have to realise that they are unlikely to be taken up while governments' continue to act in the interests of big business. Therefore we must link them up with the demand for a future Labour government to carry out socialist policies.

In the meantime, we should support the FBU's call for mass support from all sections of the movement for a public inquiry into future of the fire service.

'BUILD MILITANT' RALLY

A political and social event aimed at supporters, their families and the public in the south, east, west and midlands.

The event, we hope, will include—big meeting, films, folk, food and theatre, bookstalls, badges, banners, cartoons, exhibitions, discussions, seminars on major questions, multitudes of side stalls including literature and posters. Creche facilities will be available, all day snacks too!

To be held at the Friends House, Euston Road, London on Saturday 18 July, 11am—5pm.

Entrance approx. £1. Start organising for this in your area now!

Asian organisations must link up with the labour movement to fight the Tories' racist laws, says Mohammed Azed of the Bristol Campaign Against Racist Laws (CARL), interviewed for 'Militant' by Bryan Beckingham.

What is the background to the Campaign Against Racist Laws?

It's a group of people from different organisations who believe the government have made these laws on a racist basis. We have been finding out about the Nationality Bill and explaining to people about its implications, especially to the minority ethnic groups themselves.

What should be done after the demonstration on 5th April?

The demonstration is not the end. At the moment the Bill is in its second reading, and if we can have some effect on the people who are discussing the Bill it will be very good. We have to carry on fighting, it's not going to end here.

They are certain to bring more legislation in to restrict the immigrant communities, by restrictions on right of elections, jury service and employment in public sector. Once they have created categories of nationality it will be a simple matter for them to bring in restrictive legislation and this will lead to passes being required and pass laws as in South Africa. *It seems to me that the aim of the legislation is not only restriction of entry. It aims to encourage racialism in Britain.*

That's right. The Bill is based on racist ideas, no doubt about that. Of course, they won't know just by face where a person comes from and eventually every coloured person will have to carry a card saying where they come from. The Bill is likely

to go through since the Tories have such a large majority in parliament. Maybe there will be small concessions here and there, so we have to fight on.

Is there any antagonism between Asian groups in Bristol?

Actually, about six months ago the Central Asian Council was set up. They represent all the ethnic groups in Bristol: the Sikh Association, Pakistan Association, Indian Workers' Association, Asian Youth, Women workers' Association, and a few of the Temples that are not in these. I think that's one step towards the unity of the immigrant groups, though at the moment the Asian

Once categories of nationality are created, it's a short step away from Pass Laws as in South Africa.

council is only a social body, though that can change towards political action. There is a basis for this. *What about political involvement in the Labour Party by the Black and Asian community?*

I think that's the next thing. We will have to go around and get people to join the political party and join the campaign. That's the only way we can affect things. Most immigrants vote for Labour, though the Labour Party has not been doing what they should have. The last Labour

Tory laws foster racialism



Labour Party Young Socialists march on the national demonstration against the Tories in London, 5 April 1981

Photo: Andrew Wjard (Report)

government introduced the green paper that became the basis for the Tory Nationality Bill!

Up to now the immigrant organisations have just been social and community groups in Bristol. We have to turn them in a political direction.

Are many immigrant workers involved in their trade unions?

Well, there are not that many working! They are involved, but with the laws they are scared. If they are found guilty of any misdoing the Home Secretary can refuse citizenship—it is an enormous threat. It is intimidating them against being involved in anything.

The Asian youth are moving towards political action. It's vital people become active in the Labour Party, there's no other way.

Do you see any connection with the Nationality Bill and fascist groups in Britain?

As soon as this sort of legislation comes in these groups think they have considerable support from the government, and they think they are affecting the government and so they really push their activities.

What is happening amongst the youth?

As far as unemployment is concerned every household is now being affected. The young people go to the Job Centre, and as soon as they appear they know they have no chance. A far higher percentage of Black and Asian youth are unemployed.

The conditions in unemployment and housing are really affecting the youth and they are becoming very militant now. The Asian Youth, Muslim Youth, Sikh Youth all meet regularly. Gradually they are moving towards the political side.

It would be a really good idea for the Labour Party

Young Socialists to approach these groups to speak on issues that are affecting them.

I have been here for twelve years and always voted Labour, as most immigrants do. It's very vital that the people become active in the Labour Party. There is no other way. We should join the Party that says part of what you want and then work to change it on the rest.

In the last ten or twelve years that I have been here I have noticed a very considerable change in the Labour Party, especially the shift from right to left. I think that's a good thing.

WHO WOULD PAY FOR IMPORT CONTROLS?

There is now a rising clamour for further controls on imports of textiles and clothing from the bosses.

These calls have also been taken up by some of the trade unions in the industry. Understandably, workers threatened with massive redundancies are desperately seeking a solution.

But import controls would not cure the deep-rooted sickness of the textile or other industries, and the effects of protective tariffs would rebound on the workers—as past and current developments in textiles and clothing show.

The Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA 2) was set up by big business in the West to reduce competition from outside. It comes up for renewal this year; MFA 3 promises to be tougher as

support for protection grows in world markets.

The Consumers' Association has produced facts and figures to argue against tougher controls. For instance, in 1978-9, under MFA 2, the costs of imported clothing for adults rose by 37%, and children's clothes increased by 51%. This should be compared by a 24% increase in costs of UK produced clothing.

Tariffs mean that British firms can sit back and raise their prices.

Rapid price increases of imported goods have taken place even in a period when the strength of the pound in relation to other major world currencies has tended to keep down the price of imports. The rise in prices of imported clothing partly reflects increases in workers' wages overseas, even in the 'cheap labour' countries. But it also shows

the effects of the protective tariffs which have been in force in recent years.

A 51% increase in imported children's clothes in one year means home producers can sit back and continue to raise prices without fear of being affected by competition.

Capitalists usually justify their demands for import restrictions by pointing to 'unfair competition' from sweated, non-union, low-wage, Far-Eastern countries, particularly from Hong Kong, Taiwan and South Korea. However, in 1979 the UK clothing industry supplied 70% of the home market. Surely these imports do not account for job losses of 110,000 in textiles in 1980?

The crisis in the clothing industry, as in all other major industries, arises from the failure over decades of the British bosses to re-invest in modern factories and equipment.

In the United States the

cost of protection is monitored. In 1977 the cost to consumers for each job in the clothing industry protected by tariffs was \$13,200—double the average annual wage for an American textile worker.

Where does the difference go? You don't have to be a professor of economics to realise that it is going to the bosses to boost their profits.

An important economic argument against import controls, which cannot be dismissed, is the threat of retaliation.

In June 1980, for instance, the Tories imposed unilateral restrictions on Indonesian clothing imports under the MFA 2, in response to Indonesian plans to increase clothing imports to Britain by £10 million. The Indonesian government retaliated by cancelling export contracts for British companies worth £160 million! This shows that import controls would provoke frightening retali-

ation.

The argument that British capitalism's foreign rivals would gladly tolerate a tariff wall around Britain on the grounds that in the long run it would expand the British market and subsequently the world market is a nice idea. But capitalists produce to make profits, their system operates through the market, and when they are all facing shrinking markets and squeezed profits they are not interested in giving up present markets for the sake of hypothetical 'long run' benefits.

Controls would set off a chain reaction of world-wide retaliation.

Workers in the textile industry must look elsewhere for a solution to redundancies. On a capitalist basis import control offer no way forward.

Socialists do not defend capitalist free trade. It is the

anarchy of the market which has led to the present crisis, in Britain and world-wide. We stand for the planned development of foreign trade. But this will only be possible on the basis of a socialist planned economy.

Import controls are a desperate, crisis measure which in practice—and whatever their advocates may intend—aims to salvage a ruined capitalist economy. That is why the demand for protected trade is increasingly being taken up by the bosses.

The trade unions can in no way form a national compact with the bosses on this question. The fight against redundancies means taking on the bosses, the people responsible for the crisis. The labour movement must wrest control of industry from them so that it can be run and planned under the democratic control of the workers who produce the goods and need the products.

By Simon Heather

(Selly Oak CLP, Birmingham)



BEDFORD

Stop the dole queues growing

Reports by Ian Campbell

(People's March Co-ordinator, Bedford, personal capacity, and Bedford Labour Party)

On 26th October 1936, unemployed workers on the Jarrow Crusade, marching from the "Town that died" on Wearside in North East England arrived in Bedford.

In those days Bedfordshire had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country.

The Tory council hypocritically welcomed them and accommodated them in council buildings—a stark contrast with the Tories' attitude to this march. The real Tory position on jobs came from the National government

cabinet which deliberated that same day that "marches of this kind are not to be encouraged."

The week before the Crusade hit Bedford, a new brickworks with an enormous manufacturing capacity was opened at Ridgemont.

Nearly 45 years later, on Saturday 23 May the People's March for Jobs, after two weeks on the road

from Liverpool reaches Bedford. By a bitter irony, the week after this march leaves our town, the very same brickworks will close with the loss of 1,100 jobs.

At a stroke Bedford's unemployment figures will leap up 1½% to nearly 8%. A few years ago, this would have rated the town an unemployment blackspot!

The twin horrors of Thatcher's Tories and a decaying capitalist system give a sick twist to the closure of the Ridgemont works. No less than 5,000,000,000 (Yes, five thousand million) bricks are being stockpiled by the London Brick Company, the monopoly which runs this brickworks.

Yet the last year has seen a slump in council house building to the lowest level since the '20s thanks to

Heseltine's moratorium while private housebuilding has declined drastically. Meanwhile, one in seven of the unemployed are building workers!

Only a madman—or the crazy capitalist system—could arrange to waste bricks, skills and lives at a time of the worst housing crisis since the war.

What makes it worse is that London Brick Company more than doubled pre-tax profits in the first half of last year to £7.2 million.

No wonder that the 23 May march is likely to be the largest demonstration this traditionally Tory town has seen. Thatcher last year advised workers chucked out of jobs in the Merseysides and Tynesides of Britain to "move".

Areas like Bedford and new towns (which are becoming ghost towns) like Milton Keynes are the 'paradises' they are supposed to move to.

In Bedfordshire the Tories lost overall control of the County council in this month's elections. The mood of hatred for the Tories and their system is growing.

The labour movement has been the backbone of the organisation of this march. Entertainment, food and accommodation are being generously provided by numerous trades unions, Labour Parties etc.

The head office of the NGA in Bedford has been especially helpful throughout the preparation and on the day is lending us its mobile office as well as

many of the nuts and bolts necessary for such a mobilisation.

True to form, the local Tories are being as mean as ever. "No help", was their predictable reply to a request from the organisers to use Etonbury school playing field and changing rooms for their picnic lunch on the Sunday. No relief here for the unemployed!

Up till now, the Liberals have tentatively supported the March but after the thrashing the Tories got at this month's polls, the Liberals went into coalition with the "blue meanies".

It will be interesting to see if the Liberals can find a human face with their new bedfellows when the council meets just two days before the march arrives.

IT'S A POLITICAL STRUGGLE

Few people can be surprised at the callous attitude that most Tories have taken over the People's March. It's not just that the sight of the unemployed brings out the Scrooge in the Tories.

Unemployment is a political problem. The capitalist system causes it when the bosses don't make sufficient profits from our labour and the Tories largely welcome it, too. They want to reduce the strength of the unions by getting workers at each others' throats chasing a handful of jobs.

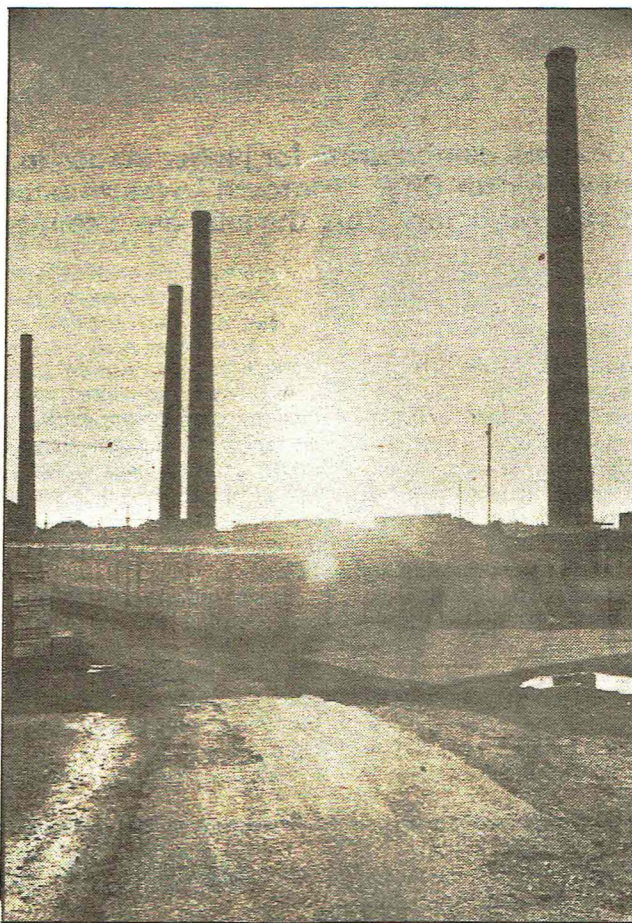
At a meeting held in Bedford to prepare for the arrival of the People's March, Mick Sharman of South East Region TUC put forward the argument of the march organisers that the march should make a broad appeal, arguing that "politics would come later".

Superficially in an area like Bedford this argument could seem quite correct. When the county council election results were announced, the overwhelming victory for Labour in the North and Midlands showed that the "people" the People's March aimed at were definitely anti-Tory and pro-Labour.

But press claimed that the elections showed the existence of two nations, North and South. The "soft South" according to the press were considerably more Tory than the North. Shouldn't we take care not to alienate them by "pushing politics"?

Well, for one thing the "two nations" the elections showed in Britain were not the North and the South—they are the bosses and the rest of us.

Even in Bedfordshire, much of it sleepy rural



Twilight for Rosemount brickworks—victim of the capitalist crisis

districts or quite plush middle-class commuter areas, the Tories lost overall control and 5 Labour councillors grew to 34.

Unemployment is hitting even these areas. Luton is dependent on cars. Is that a safe industry these days? What kind of policies could anyone put forward as a remedy for unemployment that would retain the support of a broad alliance including the Liberals and Tories as well as workers' organisations? The behaviour of our local Tory councillors to us shows what their ideas on unemploy-

ment are.

We would be pleased to see the support of church people, small businessmen, shopkeepers and so on—providing this does not prevent us from putting forward solutions to the problem we are all marching about—the 2½ million jobless.

It would be churlish not to acknowledge the contribution of many church leaders in this area, particularly the local industrial chaplain in accommodating and helping the marchers.

But it is the labour movement which has massed to

the support of the march. We must hammer out the socialist policies to ensure that in another 45 years time we won't have a third Jarrow Crusade or People's March going through Bedford protesting at the lack even of a job.

At the Bedford meeting, Ann Sylvester, a member of the Executive of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation speaking in a personal capacity gave a background to the present civil servants' dispute pointing out that any fight today for better pay or conditions or to guarantee jobs took workers beyond just a trade union struggle.

Kick out the Tories

Despite a warning that to introduce "party politics" into such a meeting would be divisive, her call for the Labour Party to adopt a socialist plan of production and for a shorter working week with an £80 minimum wage was met with approval.

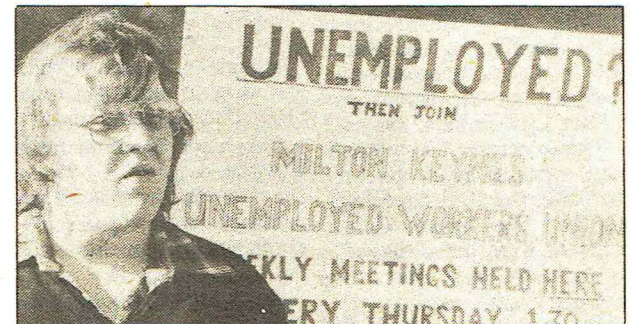
We cannot hide the facts. Only the working class movement can end the misery of those endless dole queues. Join the struggle of 'Militant' supporters in the Labour Party and Labour Party Young Socialists.

Fight for:

- ★ No redundancies
- ★ A 35-hour week. Share out the work with no loss of pay.
- ★ An £80 minimum wage.
- ★ Trade union organisation of the unemployed
- ★ The nationalisation under workers' control and management of all firms threatening redundancies.
- ★ Nationalisation of the 200 monopolies who control the economy.

Join us in a fight to kick out the Tories and elect a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

6,000 JOBLESS IN SUPERCITY



Vic Graves, UWU chairman in Milton Keynes Photo: Militant

Among those welcoming the 'Peoples Marchers' when they enter Bedford will be a delegation from the Milton Keynes Unemployed Workers Union.

Milton Keynes was built as a new city, providing housing and work for workers who flocked out of run-down inner city areas in search of homes and work. Recently it has hit the headlines with its project of energy saving homes.

But the real situation facing the workers of Milton Keynes has not been considered a 'sensation' by the Tory press.

Vic Graves, chairman of the newly formed Unemployed Workers Union, explains: "People like myself came to this place, attracted by the offer of decent and 'cheap' housing.

"But with the recession, the firms that were established here, especially with the Tories cutting off subsidies, have just packed up and moved out, leaving us stranded here with no work. There's now 6,000 unemployed.

"Because of the spacious and fairly cheap factory sites, the firms that remain are mainly stockholders or warehouses—we call this place 'warehouse city'. There are massive complexes which look

impressive from the outside, yet they only need to employ a few people."

The latest major employer to be hit is British Rail's Wolverton works. The workers have been told they must work a four day week, or face 25% redundancies.

But workers in Milton Keynes are fighting back. Vic explained how the UWU was formed. "A few of us active on the trades council who were unemployed decided we needed such a body, but not just to cater for the everyday needs of the unemployed but to have a political direction as well.

"Response from the local labour movement has been good. The trades council has voted to support us, and there has been a lot of support from the Labour Party.

"But our biggest step forward has been the financial help given to us by the local NUPE branch, which covers ancillary and ground staff working for the corporation. Sixty workers there have given us a penny for every hour they work, some giving a straight donation of 50p a week.

"We have so far recruited 90 unemployed, and our latest campaign was to assist the Labour party in the local elections."

Blues falls on Motown

About six months ago, an estimated 72% of all blue collar workers in the USA voted for Ronald Reagan disregarding their traditional support for the Democratic Party.

Here is what is happening to them now. The men and women who worked on the auto assembly line in Detroit, Michigan had learned patience from the cycles of employment and layoffs that characterise the industry.

By Betty Traun in New York

They are learning with despair this time that the jobs may never come back to Detroit. Automation and the shrinking size of the cars mean that far fewer workers than before are needed to make each vehicle. And the growing dispersal of the auto industry to the Sun Belt in the south, as well as overseas, has left this city a 'Motor City' in name only.

The generous unemployment benefits paid out by the state, the auto companies, and the Federal Government were not designed to last for two years of depressed car making and widespread layoffs.

Union officials, social welfare experts, even politicians are now talking openly about a subject which was being hush-hushed, but which the auto makers themselves knew for some time: the likelihood that more than half of the 200,000 jobs laid off, most of them in the Detroit region, will never reopen again.

The best advice they could give to the displaced workers was: "Give up, leave town, and try to find work in some other city."

Mr Ristoski, and many others like him, received that advice too late. "Sure, I would if I could find a job, but with what?" he asks. There's a litter of overdue bills and unemployment payment receipts on his kitchen table, the last one dated February 9, 1981.

"Where are we going to go without money? You want to sell your home to go someplace else, you can't sell it because nobody's got a job, nobody's got the money." With no money for gasoline, he said, "I can't even leave the house to look for work."

Mr Ristoski is 42 years old, and started work at Chrysler's Mack Avenue plant in 1973. On October 8, 1979 he was put on indefinite layoff as the auto slump, now beginning its

third year, bit into the ranks of the workers.

His wife, Angelina, who worked for a small parts manufacturer, has not worked since last spring.

The Ristoskis and their two sons were able to get by on the extensive unemployment benefits available to auto workers: unemployment compensation, and then extended benefits, then Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) from the Federal Government, a special programme to recompense workers for jobs lost due to imports, then SUB (Supplementary Unemployment Benefits) from Chrysler as provided for in the United Auto Workers contract, when regular unemployment benefits ran out.

In all, Mr Ristoski alone drew more than \$14,000 in unemployment compensation from various sources. Like many others, he expected the upturn to come soon. But it did not.

"Nobody thought it would last"

Richard Heugli of Detroit's United Community Services, said: "The problem is that nobody thought it would last. When some plants laid off, they offered jobs in other parts of the country and people said, 'Well, I'll be getting 85 percent of my pay and I'll be getting my SUB and my TRA, I'll stick around and take my chances on something turning up, because things always got better in the past."

"But this time it isn't going to be the same, and there aren't going to be those other jobs."

In 1980 and the first two months of 1981, those benefits ran out for more than 152,000 workers and their families in the Detroit area alone. The number will be increasing by more than 10,000 a month if past trends hold.

According to Mayor Coleman A Young of Detroit, sixty percent of the 1.2

million population in Detroit receive some kind of public aid, including the Social Security for the aged. In the last year 64,000 people enrolled in the welfare programs in the Detroit region. All of them are seeking the benefits of social aid programs that face sharp slashes by the Reagan Administration.

Berkely Watterson, who operates the UAW's Community Services Department says, "What we are dealing with here are the new poor, people who were once productive middle-class people who have been out of work for so long they're no longer even statistics."

Paul Robinson, who had to learn his lesson the hard way, is 37 years old, a Ford trim plant worker for 12 years before he was laid off 18 months ago. He is a statistic on the welfare rolls and it hurts him.

Welfare regulations

"I'm one of those guys who was gonna die before I put my family on welfare, right? Well I learned some things since those days, like you don't give a shoot what you got to do when you wake up some morning and the kids are hungry and you can't even buy a loaf of bread."

Jacqueline Scherer, a sociology professor at Oakland University in Pontiac, Michigan, has followed the experiences of laid-off auto workers and heard their words of shock.

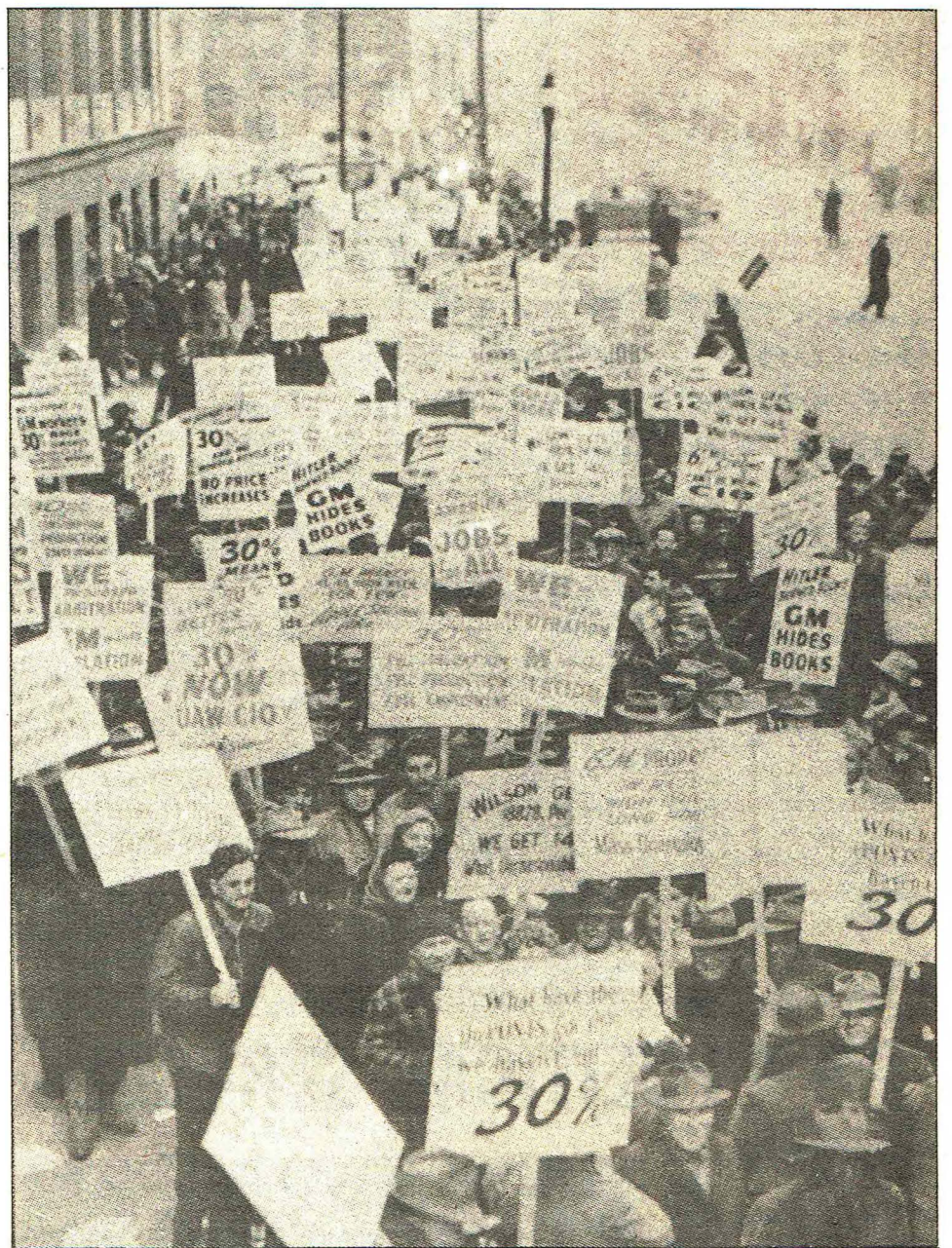
"I find an incredible ignorance about the way the welfare system works," she said. "we've built up all these myths about welfare cheaters and people on welfare living high on the hog, and when these workers go to qualify for welfare themselves, they really hit the stark reality of how strict the rules for qualification are."

"They find out they're not eligible until they really get down on their knees."

Even then, things can go wrong, as they did for Mrs Ristoski when she applied for welfare. The welfare department declared that the old house the Ristoskis once occupied in Detroit, and which they have repeatedly tried to sell since moving to a new home outside the city, was an asset which disqualified the family for aid, although the house has been empty for five months, since the last tenant moved out.

"They say, 'You got two houses, you don't need nothing,'" Mrs Ristoski says with indignation, "Am I supposed to eat my house?"

The \$2,400 the Ristoskis



Workers demonstrate for higher wages in Detroit in 1945. The new 'Motor City' 'Motown' was to become a symbol of the post-war boom. Now the jobs are disappearing.

saved is now gone. The \$50 gas bill and the \$17 telephone payment are overdue, Mr Ristoski borrowed \$500 from his sister to pay the April payment on his house. The family lives on pancakes.

"Why should this happen to me?" Mr Ristoski exclaims, "I work seven and a half years in one place, never late, never a complaint. The boss wants overtime, I work it—10, 12 hours, I don't care, I like to work. People who want to

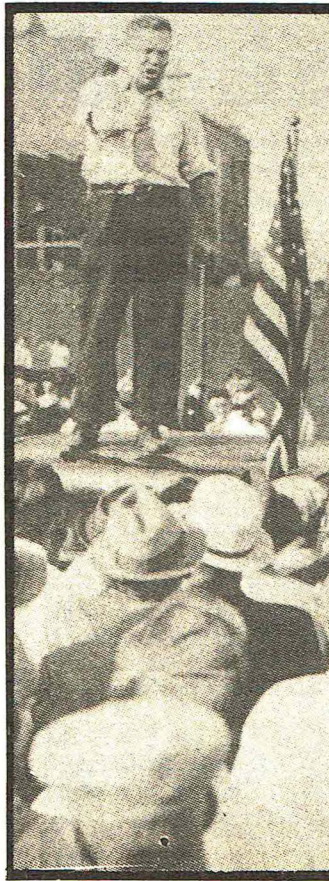
work should have a job."

Asked why he waited so long to look for other work, he replies "I thought they would call me back." He had been called back after several months of layoff in the auto slump of 1974 and 1975.

Union officials of UAW are conceding the hard facts had not been put clearly to their rank-and-file, but time and the running out of money is forcing a reluctant change.

"Who's going to admit

that the jobs will never be there again?" Mr Watterson asked. "It goes against all the images of growth and recovery that the Mayor of the city and everyone else wants to project. They're so used to those cycles in the auto industry, and when we tell them they're not going back, it's like committing political suicide."



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CYPRUS ELECTIONS - For a workers government

By a
Cypriot
socialist

FRANCE:
celebrations
in
Paris

May 24 sees new elections in Cyprus. They are held against the background of economic scandals such as the bankruptcy of the Co-op Bank which controls one-third of the economy.

A vote for EDEK would give clear notice that capitalist politicians have miserably failed to re-unite Cyprus or solve any of the problems the workers and peasants face.

There is the scandal of XEKTE, the Greek construction firm which promised to build a motorway by 1985. This will now take 15 years or more—at treble the price. There are the first signs of unemployment, and inflation has reached about 15%.

On top of this there is the seemingly insoluble national question and the stagnation of the intercommunal talks.

The invasion of Cyprus by Turkey's capitalist rulers in July 1974 forcibly separated the Greek Cypriot population from the Turkish speaking people. Turkish troops continue to occupy the North and thousands of troops also patrol the Greek speaking South.

About one third of the island's people were forced to leave their homes and crowd into about one seventh of the island. This not only caused much suffering but allowed the local capitalists to super-exploit this sudden huge influx of cheap labour.

Thus the invasion had the unexpected side effect of giving a rapid push to the process of industrialisation, aided by the occupation of rich agricultural land by the Turkish Army. The cheap labour together with large sums of economic aid injected by Western capitalist countries like Greece led to a short boom of the Cypriot economy.

The trade unions, with the 'Communist' Party controlled PEO (Pan Cyprian Workers Federation) and the SGK (Confederation of Cypriot Workers) advocated a policy of wage restraint to "help the country in this difficult historical period."

In fact they only "helped" the ruling class who boasted of their economic miracle which they of course, ascribed to the intelligence of Cypriot bosses rather than the labour of the workers.

The exodus of 'surplus' workers to the oil havens of Saudi Arabia and Libya also allowed the bosses to claim that there was next to no unemployment in Cyprus. This false boom did not last for long. The scandals such as the Co-op Bank and Xekte appeared. Countries in the Middle East began to limit their demand for labour—they will now only take those over 26, prefer-



Devastation near Nicosia after the 1974 invasion

ably married.

Tourism started to decrease partly due to the anarchy of the trade which has led to hotels being built practically on the beaches, but mostly to the crisis in Europe and Greece. This also put an end to the construction boom.

The crisis hit the youth most and despite conscription into the National Guard, youth unemployment appeared on the scene, a bitter blow to working class families in a country where there are no unemployment benefits.

If the economic problems look grim, the ruling class have had even less success with the national question. It is now seven years since the invasion by Turkey. During these years, right wing leaders of both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities have entered into a series of negotiations to find a solution to the national question which affects the vital issue of land for the displaced population. They always failed and the last series of negotiations has just reached breaking point.

The Greek foreign minister has described them as a "dialogue between the deaf." This is inevitable when the 'dialogue' is

between representatives of the different national capitalists with competing interests.

Negotiations between representatives of the working class of the different communities on the basis of a socialist transformation of society—that would be different.

Unfortunately the policies of the working class parties have no such clear aim. AKEL (Communist Party of Cyprus) gives support to that mythical figure, the 'progressive bourgeoisie.'

Their long term perspective is of progressive capitalists from both communities solving the problem. To this end they subordinate any independent economic programme of socialist change to appease the 'progressive capitalists'.

The Socialist Party, EDEK, has to its credit been the only party to oppose the budget introduced by the right wing government, and its four MPs were the only ones to vote against the measures. It is also the only party to stress the importance of nationalising the pillars of the economy and the Church land.

Unfortunately its impact is gravely reduced by a somewhat nationalistic line.

In words, it supports the united struggle of Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers but in practice it orientates itself more to the Greek Cypriot population, drawing an analogy with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's struggles.

But as with the Middle East the problems of the division of Cyprus with the displacement from land and extra poverty it has inflicted on the Cypriot people can only be solved by the united struggle of the working class leading to a socialist future for the workers and peasants of the country.

A vote for EDEK though would give notice that the capitalist politicians have miserably failed to solve any of the problems of the country. Cyprus is faced with two alternatives.

A capitalist future for Cyprus would mean that the country would remain at the mercy of imperialism. The economy would continue to deteriorate in both sections of the island.

There would be no hope for the unification of the island as the capitalist leaders could offer nothing to the two communities. Looming in the background are politicians like Clerides of the extreme right wing DYSI who are gaining

support as the intercommunal talks drag on.

A united front of EDEK and AKEL to fight for a workers' government on socialist policies could unite the workers and peasants of both communities.

A programme to purge the Army and the rest of the state machine and for a workers' defence force based on the trade unions to guarantee the safety of all workers would have enormous impact.

A socialist plan of production capable of controlling the tottering Cypriot economy and giving jobs, houses, etc., for workers regardless of language would unite the workers and small farmers, the vast majority in both communities.

An appeal to workers in Greece and Turkey could prevent counter-revolutionary moves by the rulers of these countries.

The elections will not be the end of the struggle. The fight for socialist, class-unity policies within the workers' parties will gain enormous importance in the forthcoming years as the people of Cyprus look for solutions to the problems bequeathed to them by capitalism and imperialism.

Arriving in Paris on the night the poll was declared, I shared the elation of the mass of Parisians at the election of the first left president in France, Francois Mitterrand.

Any impression received of apathy towards the result of the election was dispelled quickly. Almost as one, the population of the working class arrondissements [boroughs] poured into the Place de la Bastille as soon as the first rumour of Mitterrand's victory got around. The workers were joined by large sections of the middle class.

I saw a small part of the enormous spontaneous celebratory gathering. I had previously gone out to the suburbs to meet a couple of comrades to watch the election results on the television.

Afterwards we went out and expressed our surprise because the streets seemed deserted. When I returned to central Paris, the reason was obvious—the whole population seemed to be at the Place de la Bastille.

Only the packed Metro trains coming back home indicated there must have been tens, if not hundreds of thousands at the Bastille.

I sat till past midnight on the Boulevard St Michel, watching the extraordinary scenes of rejoicing. The noise of hooting cars was terrific, and made more deafening by a powerful thunderstorm which broke out at the same time.

After all the shilly shallying of the Socialist and Communist leaders trying to gain the advantage, the workers, on this night at least, imposed their own awe inspiring and definitive unity. They made it crystal clear that they regarded Mitterrand's victory as an historic stage in transforming society and moving towards socialism.

I was also in France in 1936 when the first Popular Front government was formed and the great stay-in strikes broke out. As one older couple said at the Bastille assembly "it was like 1936 again—the first time we won the right to a paid holiday."

Let there be no mistake, things will never be the same in France again. There may be many set backs due to the opportunist tricks of some of the leaders in both working class parties. The left reformist ministers may well fail to actually deliver the socialist goods.

But should they do so, the French workers and large sections of the middle class too, will sweep them away and put in their place men and women who have been tried and tested in the struggle and are prepared to carry it through to the end.

The French people are on the move. The long delayed socialist transformation of old Europe may not be just around the corner but it is clearly beginning.

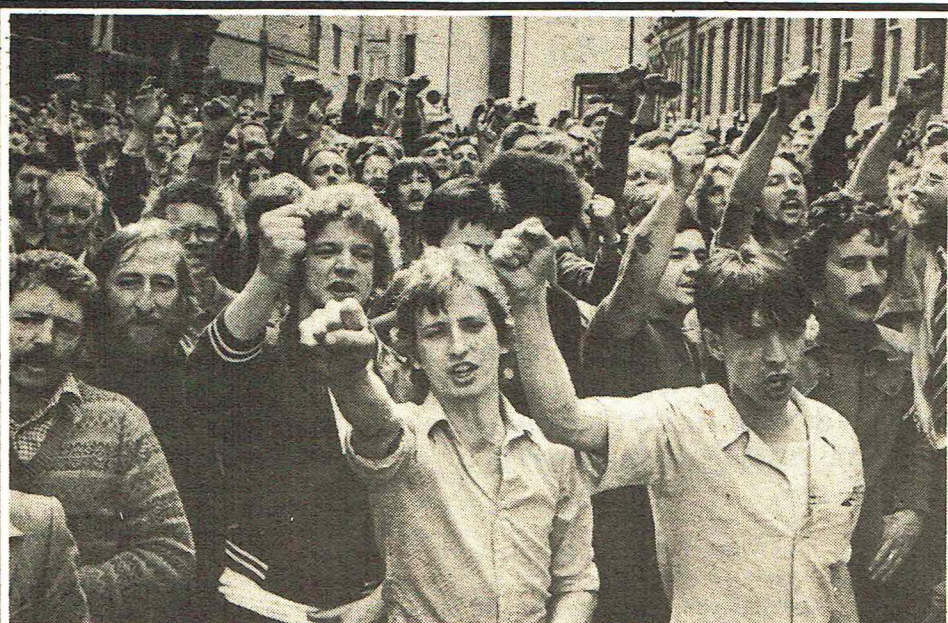
By
Dudley Edwards



Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



Young workers to the fore in the major class battles. Socialism is their only hope

Too old at 19

Dear Comrades

I am now entering my fifth month of unemployment and I just recently had my second interview after applying for countless jobs and either being refused outright or not even sent a letter of "thank you for your application but you're not suitable."

When I went for my first interview, which was for basic clerical work with a building society, I was told that out of 190 applicants only 12 were chosen for interview. I was then informed that the reason I was one of the 'lucky dozen' was because of my handwriting! Right from the start the interviewer had no intention of giving me the job, but

because of his curiosity as to whether or not I used a ruler to keep my handwriting straight, it cost me £2 in bus fares (which I can ill-afford on £19.00 dole money a week) and shattered hopes.

At my second interview for shop work I was told I was too old. You see, being an aging 19-year old, I would have to be paid the full adult wage for that company, which would have been a mighty sum of £58.00 for a 39-hour week!!

Constant refusals, being told you're over the hill at 19, having nothing to do with your permanent 'holiday' can all lead to bouts of depression—the 'dole blues'! If I wasn't sure of the policies put forward by the MILITANT, I don't think I could see any future for me and the other 3 million unemployed.

The only future is socialism, and I believe that I will see the initial stages of the transformation of society from the bankruptcy of capitalism to the progressive stages of socialism.

However, the struggle for socialism is never an easy task, and it's up to the organised worker to link his struggle with that of the unemployed worker and school-leaver. Once we recognise the power we hold in our hands and have the correct leadership to guide those hands there will be no stopping us! FORWARD TO SOCIALISM IN THE '80s!!!

Fraternally
Jackie Galbraith
Secretary, East Kilbride
L.P.Y.S.

Willing to struggle

Dear Comrade

During the past month I have been canvassing for our Labour Candidate in the recently held County Elections.

One Labour voter canvassed in my area described living in the area as 'living behind the Iron Curtain.' It's not surprising when you look at the state of these walk up flats built after the war. He added that it's like the army barracks he used to live in just after the war, the only difference was that he did not have to pay £14 a week in rent.

This was just one of the many remarks I received when canvassing. Familiar stories such as "I've been waiting two years for repairs to my flat" "What about this £5 rent and rate increase"

Many people did not react enthusiastically when asked would they be voting Labour.

Indeed one had only to look at the area to see why. Poverty is evident all around. But neglect did not just start when this Tory Government came into power. Tories have merely accelerated the decline.

Yet despite all this, the majority of workers voted Labour in the County Election. One had only to speak to some of the older workers on the doorstep to find out that they are willing to struggle to achieve a better society.

On a number of occasions older workers told me how they had done the same in their younger days. Canvassing for Labour voters, speaking on platforms, and promoting the cause of socialism.

In fact one elderly worker who had reservations about voting Labour because of past failures while in office responded enthusiastically to the socialist policies I put forward.

He added by saying "It's about time the Left's ideas were put forward—we suffered too much from Right Wing ideas for too long."

Best Wishes
Peter Gunn
Salford East CLP

Destructive Co-operation

Dear Comrades

More and more workers are thrown on the stones, and increasing numbers are turning to the idea of setting up co-operatives, no doubt feeling that 'we couldn't make a worse job of it than management.'

The Co-operative Development Association Newsletter January 1981 reports that a new Co-operative has been established in Consett by redundant steel workers. This Co-op has "arisen directly from the steel closures"—The new Co-op is hoping to bid for the contract to demolish the steel works!

It's tragic that the co-operative movement which has illustrated the capacity of

workers to organise production without the "aid" and "expertise" of management and capitalists should end up implementing the destruction of basic industry.

Co-operatives should be a key element in a planned economy, the task of labour organisations is to draw in the valuable experiences of co-operatives to the campaign for the taking over of basic industry and finance so that co-operatives can flourish in a healthy socialist framework.

Adherence to co-operatives as a way out of the crisis in isolation will lead to confusion, disillusion and eventually hostility to the whole idea as well intentioned ventures are wrecked by the existing capitalist framework of markets and finance.

P. Greatrex
Penistone CLP

Year of disabled cuts

Dear Comrade

I recently worked as a voluntary helper for a charity for the mentally handicapped. One case the charity dealt with was of two 15 year-old twins who were mentally and physically handicapped to such a degree that they had great difficulty walking or moving at all, and needed the constant supervision of their parents.

When the parents applied to renew their old buggies for wheelchairs the reply was that the entitlement was only one per family! Despite the fact that their buggies were now too small and in time would cause unnecessary discomfort and damage.

The parents were faced with the prospect of trying to buy a second wheelchair, (the price of which was helpfully quoted!) or carrying the second 15 year-old around everywhere.

The parents refused to

accept this hard-faced decision and were able to fight tooth-and-nail until they eventually succeeded in reversing the initial decision.

It seems ironic in this international year of the disabled, with the Tories axing vital social services and weeping crocodile tears, that the provision of essential equipment no longer rests on the great needs of the children concerned, but on the size of their fathers wallet!

This is only one case but similar cases are occurring up and down the country as the Tories, in their desperate attempt to save the profit system, are letting the weakest sections of the community go to the wall. Or as Reg Prentice, one time 'moderate' Labour MP, put it when he was a Tory under-minister "the disabled must bear their share of the economy cuts".

Yours fraternally
Maureen McLaughlin
Edinburgh Pentlands
LPYS

France: the need for socialism

Dear Comrades

Francois Mitterrand's victory in the French Presidential elections will be a tremendous step forward for French workers, but as Militant has pointed out, his programme offers no way out of the economic crisis. In spite of left-wing phrases, he is not prepared to challenge the capitalist system.

The French economy, though not yet as bad as Britains, has been hard hit by the world recession. Unemployment is over 1,660,000. Tractor production, a vital product in a country where agriculture is so important, slumped by

over 39% last year. Leading economists expect new investment after the elections to bolster the economy, but admit that unemployment will still be far higher by the end of the year.

In St. Etienne, one of France's unemployment blackspots, I talked with a 17 year old school student. She described how the town had once been a coalmining town, but only one mine was still open.

There is still plenty of coal but it is not thought to be 'economic'. She describes the possibility of a school leaver getting a job as "almost impossible".

Two years ago, she joined the French Communist Youth, but soon left in disgust. The local party is led by middle class and professional people. One is an opera singer, who is forever

flying off to London, Paris, Milan etc.

The French C.P. has also become very nationalistic. A major plank of Marchais's election programme was "No to the enlargement of the E.E.C!" This is a far cry from Militant's clear, internationalist stand point. "Common Market No! Socialist Europe Yes!"

Small wonder that the Communist vote fell dramatically in the first round of the elections. France clearly has a burning need for a united party of the working class, committed to bold socialist policies.

Yours fraternally
Matthew Miller
Southend LPYS

'Voluntary' overtime

Comrades

My boss has had a brainwave (quite unusual for an ex-Tory councillor). The ultimate in productivity deals. No basic, but 100% piecework.

But as the rate is so low he decided to do us all a favour and let us do some overtime. It starts at 8.00pm and goes on til midnight and that's on top of a 9 hour day. Of course you don't have to do it if you don't want to but if you want a decent wage you have to.

Well, when I say you don't have to do it, a mate was working there recently and was given the sack because he "has the wrong attitude". He didn't want to do the overtime every night because he wanted to see his friends sometimes.

There is no union and as a result the safety conditions are terrible. For example, there is a hoist to lift the parcels up to the third floor with no barrier to stop you falling out. The other day the firemen came round to check the precautions and the boss sent someone to

unlock a permanently shut fire exit.

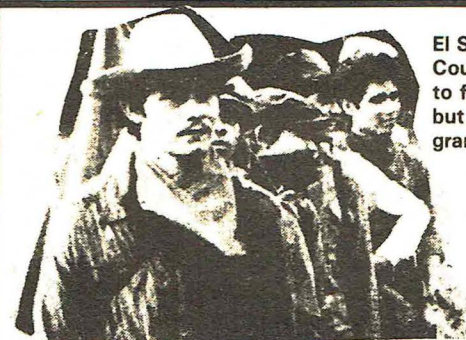
The trainees don't get much better, they get about 90p an hour before deductions, with of course any overtime they can be threatened into, and out of that they have to pay for and arrange their own evening classes.

They don't even get any proper training, they ask me or my mate for help if they get into trouble which we don't mind but it is obviously embarrassing for them. The conditions that exist in this factory are

obviously repeated all over the country in little sweatshops.

This is only one reason why a socialist economy is needed to replace this rotten regime now in power. The death screams of capitalism will be the mark of the greatest victory the working class has ever won.

Yours Fraternally
Steve Roach
Wood Green YS



El Salvador:
Courage is needed to fight the junta but a socialist programme is vital

A programme for El Salvador

Dear Comrades,

I would like to congratulate John Throne on his recent article on El Salvador (issues 549/550).

As socialists and class fighters, it is our duty to maintain, develop and agitate for our ideas, and not throw them out of the window as the masses move into action against capitalist exploitation and oppression. To submerge ourselves without trace in "popular" movements is to be thrown off course by the revolutionary movement itself.

The guerilla struggle in El

Salvador, as elsewhere in Latin America, is undoubtedly being conducted by many of the bravest most self-sacrificing sections of the population. It is being fought against a regime responsible for mass murder and torture.

However, the struggle of the workers will be in vain, and the aspirations of the workers and peasants dashed, unless the movement has at its head a party with a Marxist programme committed to overthrowing landlordism and capitalism.

Yours fraternally,
David Milson
Attercliffe LPYS

ads

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

Concert for the People's March and the Day of Action against government public service cuts organised by Tower Hamlets Council Unions on Monday 1 June at York Hall, Old Ford Road, E.2. from 7.00 to 11.30 pm. Bar, Disco, and three bands. Admission £1.50 (£1 unemployed).

MANCHESTER MOSS SIDE LPYS Public Meeting. "After Brixton, what future for youth in Moss Side." Speakers: George Morton MP Sam Brown (Labour Committee for the defence of Brixton) Thursday 28 May 8pm Pastoral Centre, Moss Side.

LIVERPOOL Youth March for Jobs Rally. St George's Hall, Liverpool 2.00pm national labour movement speakers to greet LPYS marchers. Assemble 10.00am flags near post office Kirby town centre.

POOLE LPYS/TRADE UNION DAY SCHOOL "Workers' Internationalism"

Sunday 31 May at the Retreat Hotel, 311 Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole, 11.00 am-1 pm. Film: "Controlling Interests" on the role of US multinationals. Speaker: Nick Brooks (Militant) 1.00 pm-2 pm. Lunch. 2.00 pm-4 pm. "The Workers Struggle in South Africa". Speaker: from the South African Labour Education Project. All welcome—creche provided. Further details contact Parkstone 733989/732090

MILITANT MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL Friday 26 June-Sunday 28 June

Courses on: Introduction to Marxism; Ireland; France; History of the British Labour Movement; South Africa. Debates: The Future for the Labour Party; How to achieve peace and disarmament. Also: Meeting on Poland—The struggle for workers' democracy. At Goldsmith's College Students' Union, Lewisham Way, London S.E.14. Cost: £4.00 whole weekend, £2.00 Friday evening and Saturday or Sunday only. Half price school students and unemployed. Food for weekend (lunch Saturday and Sunday, sandwiches for Sunday breakfast) £2.00 (no half price). (Cheques payable to Militant). This weekend school is open to all workers and activists in the labour movement. There is full debate and discussion in each session. Come along and put your point of view. **BOOK NOW!** Send bookings to, or for further information write to: Militant Marxist Weekend School, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

OUT NOW!

'A fighting programme for the NUR'
Price 25p [+ 10p postage] from **World Books,**
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN

JUST OUT! 1981 SUPPLEMENT TO PROFITEERING FROM CHEAP LABOUR

In April 1981 the British Department of Trade released the latest reports by British companies with subsidiaries in South Africa in terms of the EEC 'Code of Conduct' on wages and other conditions affecting black workers. SALEP's pamphlet 'Profiteering from Cheap Labour—Wages paid by British companies in South Africa', published in August 1980, gave data from last year's reports to the Department of Trade. The new supplement updates the pamphlet with the latest figures obtained. The wage rates given in the supplement are those which applied (according to the companies) in June 1980. Price: 15p (plus postage) 10% reduction on orders of 10 or more. Order from: SALEP, 6 Westgate Street, London E8. Please make cheques and postal orders payable to SALEP.

BIRMINGHAM MILITANT RALLY

Saturday 6 June. Doors open 12 noon
Stalls, Crèche, Refreshments, entertainment
at 1pm: The Banner Theatre Group
present their play on BL
2.30pm: 'The Socialist Way Forward'
SPEAKERS:
Ted Grant [Militant Political Editor]
Les Kuriata [LPYS National Committee]
at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane,
Birmingham

Tickets £1

Tickets available from M Spence, 22 Milstead Road, Yardley, Birmingham.

Build

Militant

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July	Target for year
Eastern	1749		3550	7100
East Midlands	1423		2750	5500
Hants & Dorset	1099		2600	5200
Humberside	640		1750	3500
London East	2008		3800	7600
London West	1301		2400	4800
London South	1185		2750	5500
Manchester & Lancs	1634		2900	5800
Merseyside	1469		3300	6600
Northern	1795		4300	8600
Scotland East	996		2200	4400
Scotland West	1611		3750	7500
Southern	1972		3550	7100
South West	864		1750	3500
Wales East	645		1300	2600
Wales West	871		2300	4600
West Midlands	1518		4300	8600
Yorkshire	2170		4500	9000
Others	6966		6250	12500
Total received	31916		60,000	120,000

Target for July 11th £60,000

Target for year £120,000

Trade union members in struggle against job losses or for better wages and conditions will always look to socialist ideas to solve their problems.

In the front line of the battle against the Tory government is the main civil service union, the CPSA. The fighting fund appeal at the conference's **Militant** readers' meeting showed they put their support for socialism into a tangible form with a marvellous collection of £2,007!

Collections at *Militant* meetings at the EETPU, SCPS and NUPE conferences added another £235, and we're getting donations regularly every two or three days from the People's March, including £2 from Macclesfield LPYS and £1 from L Harbison (Newcastle).

The IRSF held their conference last week, and as well as the £146 from the *Militant* meeting a further £26 has come in, including donations from two EC members.

A magnificent collection at a meeting in Liverpool on April 29th of £338.80, before expenses, illustrates the mood of the movement on Merseyside, and also explains the Labour landslide the following week in the Council elections. (We hope the comrades who put in IOUs will redeem them quickly!)

West of Scotland LPYS branches put together a very good £41 donation this week, and £36 from Blackpool supporters was raised by "doing without various things for a week." Manchester readers raised £43.05 at a recent meeting, and another £82 came from supporters who were unable to attend, while an Ipswich May Day party netted £25.50 and N Bardwell added a tenner!

Thanks to D Grace

By Steve Cawley

(Potters Bar) for £25, J&B Boadle (retired) Coventry £15, B Kelly (S London POEU) £14, I McLeave (W London) £10, AUEW Eccleshill No 1 Branch £5, B Eustice (Bury St Edmunds) £9, and V Infantino (Coventry) £5.

This week we also received the £50 IOU given by Irish supporters in Galway to the LPYS conference in real money. Are there any other readers still to redeem their IOUs?

Several other ways of raising funds for us include the well-tried paper extras: £10 from a Lambeth seller, £4.40 from an Oxford supporter; selling a mattress (Canvey Island reader, £2.68); assisting a comrade to move (L Waker, Dagenham £10); and socials in Brighton and Oxford £36.

Finally, £5 from J&P Cawsey of Macclesfield, £10 (anon) Canterbury and £2 J Harris (Secretary, Canvey Island Labour Party) are just a few examples of a large number of donations of this size we've had.

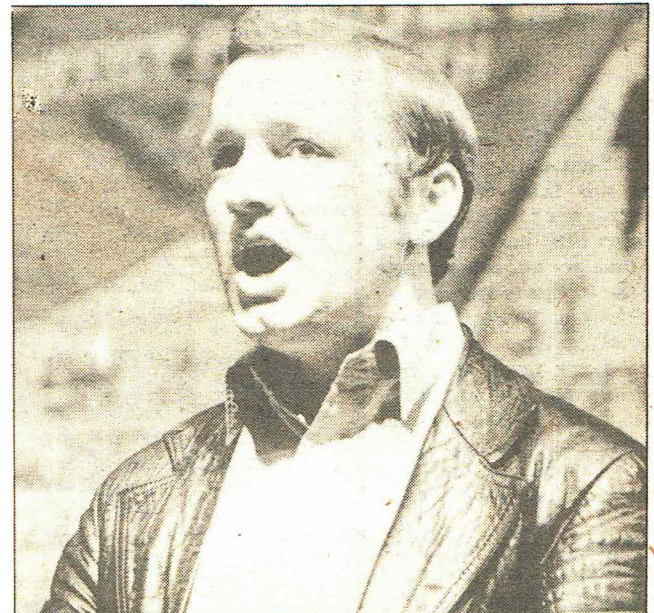
Once again a special thanks to the trade union conference delegates. We look forward to your contributions in the future by way of articles or letters explaining the issues facing your members and the way you think *Militant* can best assist your work.

It's your money that makes *Militant* possible, but you can also give us vital help in making it the paper that best reflects the views of the working class.

And to those comrades who have yet to attend their own union conference this summer, how about some socialist competition in the way of the Fighting Fund collections? Onward to £60,000 by 11 July!

THIS WEEK £3,643

KEEP UP WITH THE UNIONS!



Kevin Roddy, Broad Left candidate for CPSA presidency at 'Militant' readers' meeting last month. Follow the lead of CPSA members—give to the fighting fund.

WIN A SUMMER HOLIDAY FOR 10p

£500 holiday in resort of your choice is the first prize in our Grand Draw other prizes of music centre, radios etc.

Tickets available now from your Militant Seller—books of 10 tickets for £1. all proceeds to Militant Fighting Fund. Militant Supporters Association. Registered promoters: D Smith 73 Armond Road, Witham, Essex.
or Tickets by post from "Summer Draw", 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Industrial

in brief

Shop stewards at Delta Electricals, Odham have recruited homeworkers to the General and Municipal Workers Union, who receive work from the factory into the union. They have also negotiated an agreement whereby all future wage rises will apply to the homeworkers, and are now negotiating a holiday pay agreement for the homeworkers.

The construction industry union, UCATT, has launched a new pamphlet titled 'Organise for Safety's Sake' which points out the dangers on construction sites and informs workers of their rights and the laws covering this field of work. The union's general secretary, Les Wood, said, "Despite the general evidence of social progress during the last thirty years, many construction workers are expected to tolerate working conditions and site facilities which would be more appropriate to the 19th rather than to the 20th century."

Staff at the London based 'Time Out' magazine have occupied their workplace after management say they want to end the magazine's equal pay system, where all the workers involved received the same pay. The staff have been offered a pay increase of 2.5%, while management have awarded themselves 25%! In addition, management want to end an agreement where if the company wish to purchase another existing company they must consult the staff.

The dispute at the Lee Jeans factory in Greenock is now in its sixteenth week. During this time the Labour Party Young Socialists have played their part in helping to take news of this struggle to the labour movement.

The Labour Party Young Socialists have raised the Lee Jeans issue at recent conferences and publicised the fight in the Labour Party. Young Socialists have also helped to organise discos for the workers sitting in.

Most recently, the YS in Castlemilk, Glasgow, arranged for a deputation from Lee Jeans to address the workers of F. Miller Ltd a local textile factory. The Lee Jeans workers were exceptionally well received by the women of the Miller factory. Expressions of solidarity were made immediately and arrangements are being made for shop stewards to take a collection throughout Scotland.

The YS should take a lead from this excellent example and organise similar meetings wherever there are workers who have not heard the Lee Jeans workers' case, especially in areas where there are clothing factories.

CIVIL SERVICE unions "Why we must win"

The civil servants' dispute continues. Already the Council of Civil Service Unions estimate that the industrial action taken has cost the government £3,500 million.

Selective action has been widespread. The Ministry of Defence, Inland Revenue, courts and airports have all been involved. The staff at the Scottish Sheriff Courts in Edinburgh and Glasgow have been out for five weeks—5,000 cases are log-jammed.

One of the key groups involved in the dispute are the Air Traffic Controllers. *Militant* spoke to Tony Rooome, an ATC at Glasgow Airport.

"A victory would maintain the magnificent unity of the unions involved and provide an enormous fillip for the unions in the eyes of the members. It would leave us strong to fight off the attacks that are coming in the future," Tony said.

But he was also clear on the dangers of defeat: "A serious defeat would damage the present strength of the unions. It could open us up for widespread attacks from the Tories. For a period it may even provoke wide disillusionment with union membership."

Tony then added emphatically, "That is why we must win."

Tony spoke of the unity engendered by the dispute to date. "The struggle has provoked the greatest unity ever known. Nine unions with half a million members locked together in dispute. The union has been beyond the wildest dreams even of most activists."

Tony, however, is no wild-eyed idealist. Civil servants have not had a reputation for militancy. He posed

By Bob Wylie

the difficulties involved in co-ordinating solid action with the telling remark, "7% of £12,000 a year is worth having. 7% of £2,000 isn't. That is the problem we are faced with."

This means that tactics become an important consideration in building support for action. For example, Tony believes that a five-day all-out strike would be supported, while an all-out indefinite strike would be considered adventurous by most of the members, at this stage.

He explained that the three weeks of action by Air Traffic Controllers have already had their effects. "Those who were inclined always to support industrial action have become more militant. Their attitudes have hardened. The middle ground has also supported the ballot decision. Support for action has been almost 100% solid."

Some illusions have been broken too. "In the past, you could not convince some people that the press distorted reports of trade union disputes. Now they know it does. The former trust that there was in management being fair and honest has been eroded. Management action has shown to people that they are more interested in winning the dispute than in air traffic safety."

There is still a long way to go. But it is already clear that, whatever the outcome, things will never be quite the same again.

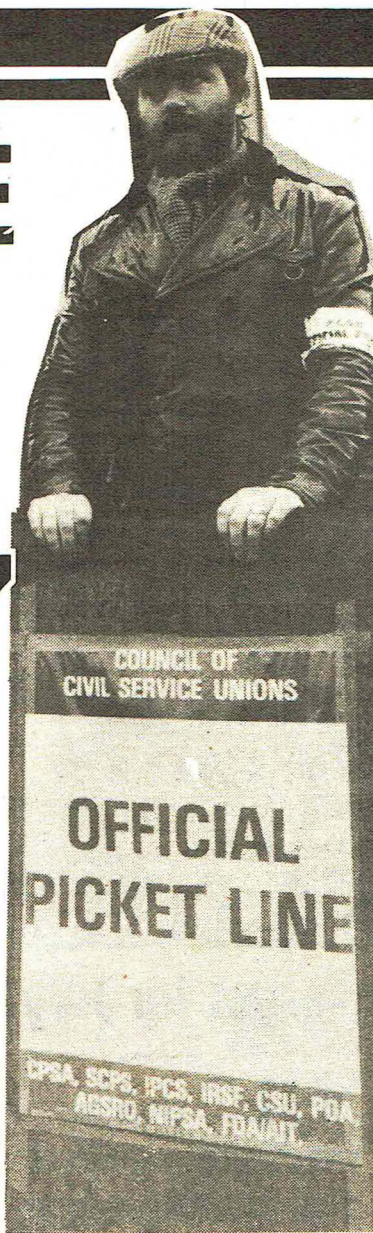
Laurence Scott

Four weeks on, the occupation by 650 workers at Laurence Scott, Openshaw, Manchester continues.

Arthur Snipe, Chairman of the Doncaster based Mining Supply company, which owns the Laurence Scott group, still refuses to negotiate. The workers have labelled him "The JR of Doncaster"! He says they have dismissed

themselves by taking action and are not entitled to redundancy payment. But as convenor Bob Penchion says, "We are not being intimidated. From the start we knew this strike was to prevent closure and to protect jobs—not for a payoff!"

Many local factories have organised collections and the stewards at Gardners



CPSA Conference

Last week's CPSA conference was one of the most successful ever for the union's left wing. The victory on five-yearly elections for the top four posts in the union is a victory for the entire trade union movement. Before this decision these officials were appointed for life by the National Executive Committee. Unsuccessful applicants were able to appeal to conference.

In the presidential vote, standing for the first time 'Militant' supporter Kevin Roddy pushed up the left vote by 2,000, while the vote of the right fell markedly.

Kevin just failed to be elected to the NEC by a mere 100 votes, because of the limitation on the number of NEC members allowed from his section, the DHSS. Should anyone from that section leave the NEC during the year Kevin Roddy will be automatically called up. Another 'Militant' supporter, Chris Baugh, was the overall runner-up. A full report of the conference will follow.

By Brian Ingham

have shared their experiences helping to organise trips to other parts of the country to raise support.

Please send donations and messages of support to Laurence Scott, joint shop stewards committee, c/o George Fryer, 20 Roundcroft, Romiley, Cheshire SK6 4LL.

BIFU

Our branch is disappointed at the result of the ballot last week of members of BIFU, the bank workers union, which stopped the continuation of industrial action over our pay claim.

Computer centres went out expecting the rest of the membership to be behind them. But basically you can't claim the membership because in the smaller branches they get a lot of pressure from management.

Just because we have lost this one does not mean that we are beaten. When the next time comes there will be more of us out than ever, because the membership is growing all the time. As

long as we keep the feeling in the branches high, the banks just can't beat the union.

For most of the clerical staff it is the first time they have been in a dispute of any kind. They were overwhelmed by the amount of public support.

The public were refusing to go into the bank and they wrote letters to both management and the union executive saying how much they supported us.

Most of the pickets were young people, under 25, who were the lowest paid. They were the ones management tried to put pressure on. It is those young people who will be getting active in the union from now on.

By Sue Griffiths
(Chairman, West End branch, BIFU)

Manchester Buses

Workers at Manchester Hyde Road bus depot have voted overwhelmingly to reject the management's proposals to axe 25 buses.

The 15 normal service and 10 rush hour buses were to go on Monday, May 18. But the workers decided to refuse to operate the cuts; management responded with a lock out, causing major disruption of services.

The busmen expressed a mood of anger at the way the service had been run down and mismanaged over the years.

Management couldn't give a damn about giving a decent service. They are on record as saying, "the city of Manchester is dying, why do you need a bus service?"!

T&GWU branch chairman Warren Bates said "management are responsible for us being £13 million in the red. Taking more

buses off the road is no answer. We have said enough is enough. The response we have had from other garages so far has been tremendous."

These plans were drawn up when the Tories controlled Manchester council. The workers are angry that as yet, the newly elected Labour council has not scrapped them. Labour's election manifesto had a commitment to freeze fares and extend services.

Labour party members in Greater Manchester must support the dispute and demand that the Labour council withdraw the cuts immediately and carry out its pledge to provide a decent bus service for the people of Manchester.

By Dominic Byrne

FORD Halewood

Despite the veiled threats of closure, 10,000 workers have gone on unofficial strike at Halewood.

The strike has resulted in layoffs at Dagenham and Southampton. Fords claim to be losing 600 Cortinas, 200 Fiestas, and 260 Transits a day.

The dispute is over the new disciplinary procedure introduced by Fords in November. The strike arose when 4 production line men refused to carry out 62 'tasks' an hour, instead of the usual 55. The patience of Ford workers finally snapped, particularly as the implementation of the new code, has, to say the least, been selective.

The body plant convenor Steve Broadhead said "This dispute is not over the disciplining of four men. People are being laid off even though they are not involved in the dispute. We have got to the stage where we are not prepared to

accept this any longer."

Unfortunately, AUEW members are crossing the picket line, in spite of instructions from the AUEW Liverpool District committee not to cross. Pressure must be placed on the Transport and General to make this strike official.

Fords are blatantly using this new disciplinary code to lay workers off at a time when orders are low. Unless national action is taken, Fords will attempt to take away the conditions won by the Halewood men over many years.

Fords Industrial Relations Director, Paul Rootes has said "we will have to have satisfaction on discipline before we reopen Halewood." However, the determination is there at Halewood to see the bosses off and to scrap the code.

By Richard Knights

New 'Militant' pamphlet for railwaymen
'A fighting programme for the NUR'

Price 40p (including postage)
from World Books,
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Reports

Save Foresthall

The importance of Foresthall to Glasgow and indeed Strathclyde region, cannot be adequately described in a single article.

The social work unit at Foresthall which is under immediate threat of the axe, cares for not only the elderly, but mentally disturbed residents that homes are unable to cope with.

Several years ago, the Poplar, a well-known model in Glasgow's under-privileged East End, caught fire. Several hundred residents were evacuated and emergency shelter had to be found for them.

The authorities turned to Foresthall. It was and still is undeniably, the only place that can cope with an emergency of such proportions.

If the unit at Foresthall is axed, what on earth will happen if there is a similar fire?

Scandalously, it is a Labour council who are wielding the axe for the Tories. Mr Albert Long, a

By Alec Stirling

(Foresthall convenor, T&GWU)

councillor who professes to be devoting his every attention to the problem, has as yet failed to give any suggestion as to where the council intends to re-locate the residents.

An article in the 'Evening times' (21 April) on the plight of Glasgow's down and outs listed 2,600 places available in basic lodging houses (the Great Eastern etc...). I phoned around the hostels and other homes and hospitals in the area. The grand total of vacancies they could scrape up between them was only four.

If Strathclyde Regional Council maintains its position and attempts to close Foresthall, it will be fought by the staff at Foresthall. We will be supported by the mass trade union movement and the public at large when the facts are presented in a fair, balanced manner for all to see.

Plansee

Martin Conroy and Colin Brunt of the Plansee strike committee are both on the 'People's March for jobs', not only to protest against Tory policies but to try and gain support for their dispute on the way.

The dispute at the Plansee tooling firm in Rotherham is now in its 13th week.

Plansee's intransigent management are trying to carry out to the letter the policies of Thatcher and Joseph.

The unions put in for a moderate 10% pay claim that was rejected out of hand. Management said their final offer was 7% with a five-month pay freeze—in effect an insulting 2% increase.

Also every single agreement on working conditions that the union had secured was torn up. When the workers went on strike, they were made redundant.

In response the workers occupied the factory until they were evicted by a Manchester court for trespass. They have been picketing the gates ever since.

The strike committee has drawn up a list of brand names of Plansee products that it would like workers in all factory and work places to black.

Already Fords, British Aerospace and, very importantly, the NUR have answered the call.

When he arrived in Loughborough, Martin got a telephone call telling him that Plesseys had also agreed to a backing. Every new backing agreement gives a tremendous boost to the morale of the strikers.

Send donations to Plansee Tooling strike appeal fund, c/o Len Godbehere, 138 Greenhow Street, Walkley, Sheffield.

Roach Bridge

The 20th century has not yet dawned at the Roach Bridge paper mill near Preston in Lancashire.

For though the calendar indicates otherwise, workers have discovered to their cost a management still operating in 1891!

Almost 22 weeks ago workers at the mill decided they would no longer tolerate the appalling conditions at the plant and formally elected a union committee. This was recognised immediately by SOGAT, the general print union.

The management refused to recognise the union, and two days later, engineered the dismissal of the FOC (shop steward), Frank Brown, on the pretext of "bad timekeeping". The workforce immediately walked out in sympathy and as a result, management sacked all of the 50 union members.

Conditions at Roach Bridge are truly appalling. There is no canteen for shift workers, "meals" have to be grabbed when a spare

five minutes arises, while at the machine.

A 24-hour picket has been set up with the backing of SOGAT.

A mass picket was called for 11 May, but unfortunately management got wind of this, and brought the scab workforce in on the Sunday and gave them Monday off! The 250-300 pickets who turned out from all over the area found an empty plant to picket.

The lessons are now clear, this fight is about recognition for trade unions and many other firms in the region are watching events with interest.

The leadership of SOGAT plan to mount mass pickets in the coming period. Every trades council in the North West and every Labour Party branch must be involved in order to give the struggle a mass dimension.

Messages of support and donations to SOGAT (Central Lancs branch), 66 Saint Georges Road, Bolton, Lancs.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCES NUR

"The coming year will be one of fights from beginning to end." So assistant general secretary, Russel Cook, of the National Union of Railwaymen outlined the fight facing members at the union's conference of shunters guards and chargemen shunters, who bear the brunt of service and manpower cuts.

On wage negotiations, he stated that it was the union's intent to seek an increase not less than the rise in the cost of living; he made it clear that the employers' offer of 7% was unacceptable, and that the industrial tribunals finding under Labour Peer McCarthy would not be binding.

During discussions the delegate from St Pancras urged all delegates to support the London Midland District council's resolutions calling on the executive to accept nothing less than 13%, and to use industrial action to win our claim.

Many of the delegates criticised the executive es-

pecially over collection and delivery (C&D) parcel services. It was felt the executive had not provided a determined stand against the BR-board's proposals. Delegates were determined that there should be no repeat of the C&D fiasco. The union leadership were called upon to leave BR in no doubt that further cuts would result in action from this union.

Conference unanimously supported an emergency resolution from Wolverhampton branch opposing the 1981 Transport Bill. John Cogger for the executive pointed out this bill allowed the Tories to destroy and hive off any section of BR's subsidiaries, and to introduce private contractors.

He argued that it was up to the rank and file to mobilise behind the executive. His call for extra parliamentary action to defeat the Tories was loudly applauded.

The importance of building the Triple Alliance at grass roots level was stressed by delegates. As one delegate put it "one union on its own cannot bring the Tories down, but the Triple Alliance have the responsibility of leading a fighting campaign that will not only safeguard our respective

industries, but get the Tories out of government and return a Labour government pledged to socialist policies."

Sales of 'Militant' and the newly printed 'Fighting programme for the NUR' were well received, as was the leaflet attacking any witch-hunt against the 'Militant' or the Left within the Labour Party. Similarly, the fraternal speaker from the LPYS, Robin Clapp, was warmly received.

The success of the conference will be measured in terms of the fightback launched by the NUR in the coming months. Every delegate was urged to return to their branches and district councils to hammer home the seriousness of the situation. No matter what the closure or what part of the country it is in — be it Scotland, Yorkshire, South West or Wales—national action to save jobs is essential.

We must forge the Triple Alliance into a body of action and ensure that the catastrophe of the Beeching era and the recent C&D tragedy's never again repeated.

By Tom Doyle
(Tinsley NUR delegate)



Railwaymen collect their pay at Manchester's Victoria station. In this year's wage claim, railwaymen must not accept any offer less than 13%. Photo: John Sturrock (Report)

UCW

For the first time the newly formed Broad Left of the Union of Communication Workers made its presence felt at the union's annual conference.

Unfortunately, the conference voted two to one to support Denis Healey in the deputy leader elections in the Labour Party, on the direction of the union's executive.

But the vote for Tony Benn indicated a significant growth in support for the left. This was also shown by the election of a Broad Left supporter, Gerry Casey from Oxford, to the union's executive.

The Broad Left held an extremely large fringe meeting on Sunday night with 500 delegates and

visitors attending. Tom Jackson later described this as a "rag bag of Trotskyists"! At the rally, Tony Benn received a standing ovation for his call to build the movement to transform the Labour Party and the trade unions. Peter Dodd, secretary of the Broad Left of the UCW explained the programme of the Broad Left.

On Monday, at the conference itself Mick Wheeler, Editor of the Broad Left paper 'Communique', was wildly applauded as he supported a resolution successfully carried against the executive, forcing them to draw up comprehensive safe guards against the introduction of new technology.

Tom Jackson, in opening conference began with an attack on the "drift to the left" in the Labour Party, accusing the party of going towards 'narrow left sectar-

ianism'. However the UCW itself is also changing towards the left: perhaps this explains Jackson's tirade. For the first time for many years, some delegates have said since 1967, conference is discussing political issues.

By Bryan Beckingham

EETPU

Last week's electricians' union conference at Blackpool failed substantially to come to grips with any of the problems facing its members.

At a time where the EETPU's books show a decline in membership of 5,000 over the previous year, only a minority of delegates warmed to the calls for a fight against redundancies and closures.

General secretary Frank Chapple appealed to delegates not to support a composite motion that called for 'forcing an early general election'. In opposition he called for a 'non-inflationary expansion of the economy', but failed to identify where the resources for this could be found.

The best debate of the conference was around the question of import controls. Speakers arguing for opposition to this device pointed to their economic disadvantage, as well as appealing on the basis of international class solidarity.

It was left to executive member Bro Gallagher to unleash a tirade against imports that abounded with chauvinism, nationalism and anti-communism. And yet some left wing delegates still voted for this option.

Unfortunately, a motion calling for a new witch-hunt against the Marxists in the Labour Party and the union was agreed, though with an unconvincing majority.

This should be taken up vigorously, both within the Labour Party and the union.

On the positive side, private medicine was substantially rejected by the conference. This will place the leadership in some dilemma, considering the private medical scheme negotiated for contracting electricians.

With 50% of the delegates attending conference for the first time, many were made well aware of the stifled way in which debates were carried out. The elaborate security operated by full-time officials went to the ridiculous extent of one delegate having his credentials temporarily removed for not going to the appropriate toilet!

At the Militant readers' meeting, held during week, speakers Terry Harrison and Frank Hammond were well received. The collection that followed raised £155.

By a Conference delegate

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DEFEND WORKERS FROM FASCIST ATTACKS

By Dave Nellist
 (Coventry South East
 Labour Party)



Photo: Dave Evans (IFL) II

A left wing bookshop was bombed in Birmingham in March. Now racist attacks are increasing in Coventry

On Saturday 18 April, a young Asian student Satnam Singh Gill was brutally beaten, kicked and stabbed to death in Coventry precinct.

This has been the most horrifying incident in an increasing campaign of abuse, insults and physical attacks on black workers and their families.

On the night of 16/17 May a petrol bomb was thrown at the Shree Krishna

Temple and another arson attempt was made on the India and Commonwealth Club.

That same night, the windows were smashed in the Coventry District Labour Party and Coventry Communist Party HQs. The leaflet pushed through the smashed windows said:

"WHITE DEFENCE FORCE. Notice to occupi-

ers. Your premises are required to house homeless white families in this area. You have two weeks to vacate this property after which time our units will be instructed to remove you by force. This applies only to non-whites."

The letters WDF below had a flash running through them similar to that of the Nazi SS.

Hundreds of workers, mainly Asian youth have demonstrated over the last three Saturdays in Coventry Precinct against these attacks, and more than twenty anti-racists have been arrested during these activities, 2,000 attended Satnam Singh Gill's funeral on Friday May 8th.

Coventry South East Labour Party discussed the attacks by the fascists at May 13. In addition to sending letters to trade unions and shop stewards bodies in the area building for May 23 it adopted the following as part of a programme to fight racialism.

It was agreed to prepare leaflets for doles, schools and factories and support NUT pressure for active opposition to racism and racist ideas in the schools.

Secondly, to involve the labour movement in the defence of black and Asian families and to organise a joint meeting between the Labour Party and the anti-

racist defence campaign.

The responsibility for building the fight against racism lies with the organisations and the leadership of the working class explaining and exposing the lies of racialists.

The fascists play on the fears of white youth demoralised by long term unemployment. The labour movement must explain the real causes of the ever rising dole queues, and show that the problem facing workers in towns like Coventry is the same as that faced by workers in areas like Scotland, Northern Ireland and the North East with very low immigrant populations.

The labour movement also has the responsibility to mobilise the working class movement to defend all workers against attack by fascists and racists.

Plans should be made nationally and locally for a conference of the labour movement to launch a massive campaign of leaflets and demonstrations to force the racialists and fascists off the streets.

This must be clearly linked to a campaign to replace the Tories with a Labour government pledged to the socialist policies capable of eradicating unemployment and slum housing and all the conditions which allow racialism to breed.

NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS

called by Coventry Campaign Against Racism. Saturday, May 23rd. Assemble: Edgwick Park, Foleshill, Coventry, at 1pm. March moves off at 2pm to City Centre, to lay a wreath near 'Mothercare', where Satnam Singh Gill was murdered.

ROVER- RESISTING TORY WRECKERS



Rover workers protest at BL attacks April 1980. The closure threat must be resisted. Photo: Militant

The Edwardes plan to run down and break up BL continues unabated.

After only being in existence for 5 years the Rover saloon assembly line at Solihull is due for mothballing.

This plant "the most modern in Europe", cost at 1975 prices, around £90 million. The proposed closure will mean over 4,000 jobs going in Solihull and Liverpool along with another 2,000 cutback in the Jaguar plant.

Only the production of profitable Land Rovers and Range Rovers will continue on the Solihull site with the complete stoppage of the TR7 and the transfer of the SD1 saloon to Cowley Oxford.

For a national campaign!

This latest attack on BL workers' jobs has been answered by the workers of Rover Cars who have faced a wave of redundancies in the past few years. At a mass meeting they voted overwhelmingly to resist the closure the closure "by all means necessary".

As the shop stewards' meeting said, a political decision has been taken to impose conditions of profitability on the combine that cannot be met. High interest rates, inadequate financing, low volume production combined with the policy of

By Bill Mullins

spending millions on contraction are meant to prepare the public for the closing down of BL.

The projected spending to 1985 is about £640 million below what is needed. So-called "consolidation" by concentrating on Longbridge is just another step to total closure.

The shop stewards' committee is still in the process of drawing up campaign plans to resist closure but besides visits to MPs etc. the most urgent need is to boost Rover workers' confidence that they can win.

When national union leaders like Alex Kitson come to address mass meetings of Rover workers, it is insufficient to say "if you take action we'll back you."

This time they must make a clear call for the workers to occupy the plant and then lead the campaign within BL and the movement for massive resistance to the plan of Edwardes and the Tories to close Leyland.

More industrial reports—pages 14 and 15

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