

# Militant

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The  
END  
of the  
ROAD?

Editorial, page 6

# KICK OUT THE TORY LOOTERS

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The explosive conflict on the streets of Britain's cities has rocked the Tory government to its foundations.

Even Mrs Thatcher, the most bone-headed, hard-nosed prime minister for decades, has been shattered by events.

Visiting Liverpool, Thatcher was, according to 'The Times', visibly "tired and drawn". One Liverpool worker said, "If we'd have got hold of her, she would have been hung, drawn and quartered!"

In spite of the secrecy of her early-morning visit to Liverpool, hundreds of angry workers and youth turned out to protest at Tory policies.

If people had known Thatcher was coming, tens of thousands would have turned out to demonstrate their anger at a government whose policies have provoked unprecedented turmoil on the streets.

Thatcher herself has confessed that it has been "the worst ten days" of her government. For the working people of Britain, it has



BRIXTON 10 July

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

been the worst two years in living memory.

Thatcher's "cure" for the terminal disease of British capitalism has produced even worse crisis symptoms.

There is the horrifying prospect of the number of school-leavers on the dole reaching a million in the coming months.

It is the black despair of young people especially which underlies the street clashes and looting which has swept the cities. Riots have broken out in nearly all the main cities because the same bleak conditions, the same frustration, the same hatred of the Tories and the same anger at the police exists everywhere.

The Tories' ludicrous claim that the riots have been orchestrated by sinister "agitators" in balaclava helmets is dismissed even by serious commentators of the capitalist press and by some of Thatcher's

less bigoted cabinet colleagues.

What is the Tories' answer? To denounce the "greed" of youth and workers on the dole. The "greed" of millions of working class families

By Tony Aitman  
(Liverpool Kirkdale  
Labour Party)

plunged into the worst poverty seen since the 1930s.

The answer of Willie "Whitewash" Whitelaw is the "mailed fist": CS gas, water cannons, instant prison sentences meted out by non-jury courts.

These repressive measures will solve nothing! They will simply inflame the

anger and bitterness of working people.

But Thatcher and Co. have no other solutions.

Mrs Thatcher has retreated to her bunker. Her only "initiative" so far has been secretly to visit the operations rooms at New Scotland Yard and Brixton police station in the middle of the night.

She is like an arch-criminal visiting the scene of the crime!

Evidently she feels at home amongst the police chiefs organising riot squads and military-style occupation of the streets. But she and her Tory cronies have nothing at all in common with the workers, the young people, and the children who are forced to live and (if they can) work in the appalling conditions of the inner-city areas devastated by the

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## They fear our ideas

Fighting on the streets, "like the outbreak of some alien disease" (as the City's paper, 'The Financial Times', put it) is bad enough.

But far more, the Tories and the bosses fear a politically conscious movement of the workers and the youth, with black and white, young and old, united and organised around a socialist programme for a fundamental change of society.

That is why they have launched an hysterical attack on 'Militant' and its supporters.

The Liverpool Liberals, the millionaires' gutter press, Social Democrats like Shirley Williams, and, unfortunately, right-wing Labour leaders like Denis Healey and Roy Hattersley, have all joined the campaign of attacks and lies against the 'Militant'.

They have seen the enormous impact 'Militant's' bold socialist ideas have had on the streets!

But 'Militant' has been able to have an impact only because of the resources we have painstakingly built up—on the basis of the pennies and pounds workers have donated to our paper over the years.

Now we are under attack again. This comes as no surprise!

But 'Militant' urgently needs more cash to respond to events and reach the workers and young people

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# Labour must organise socialist action



# TOXTETH IN FLAMES

The events in Toxteth have shaken the capitalist class to the core.

After two years of Thatcherite government, they were doubtless sitting pretty in their clubs, sipping their brandy, and thinking all was well in the best of all possible worlds.

There had been no major strike for some time, apart from the civil service strike. In most areas, firms had closed down with usually only localised opposition.

And then, in a moment, their world has been turned upside down. Toxteth was in flames. Southall had exploded. The whole world seemed to have gone mad.

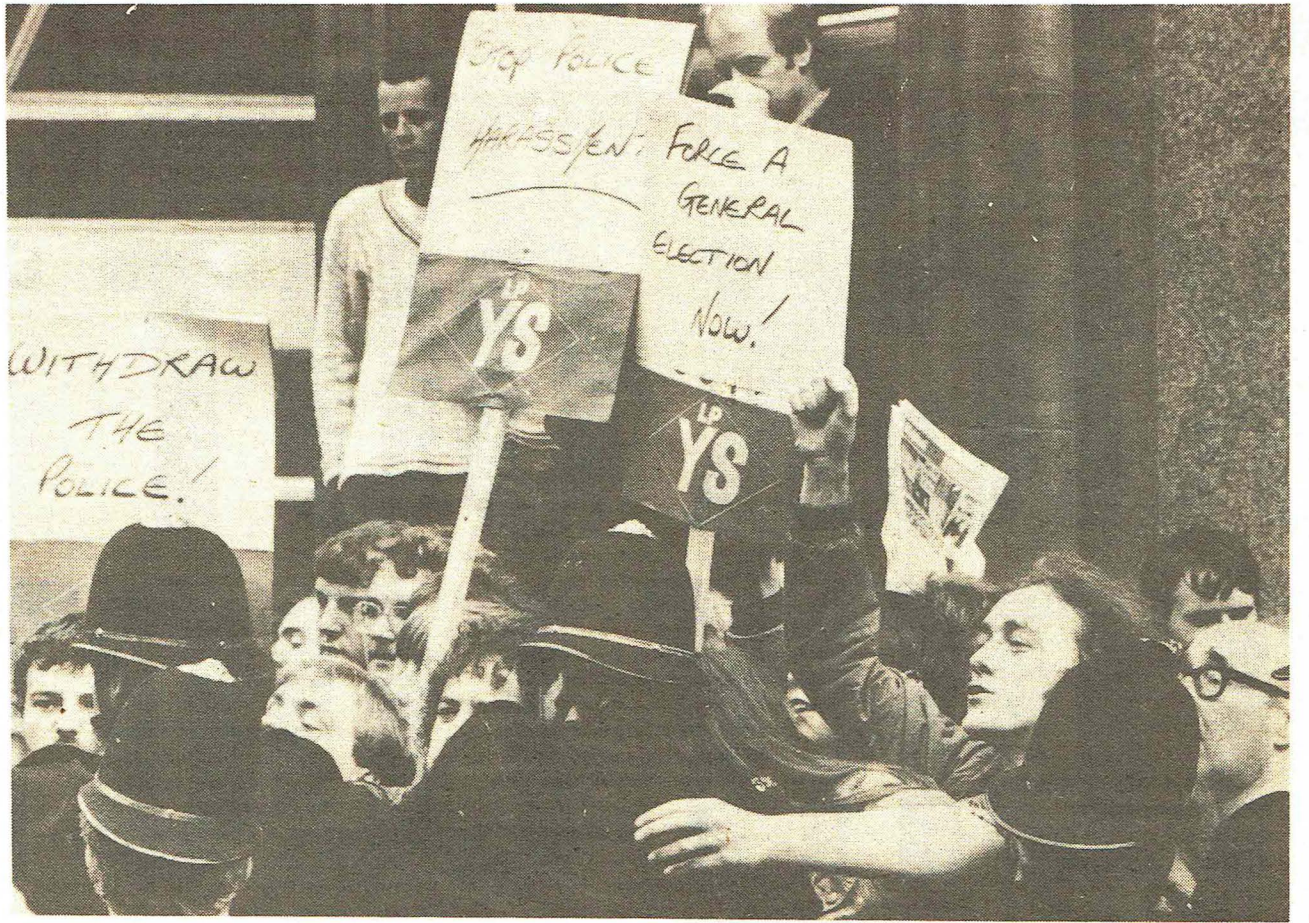
By 'Militant' reporters

Along Upper Parliament Street and Kingsley Road, amid all the fighting, there was an understanding of the reasons for the rioting that showed a real readiness to fight against capitalism.

The fact that this hatred of capitalism was being channelled into a riot is a condemnation of the labour and trade union movement, which has failed to give a real alternative to those youth, a condemnation of successive Labour governments which have abjectly failed to solve the social problems.

There was also a real sympathy among local people for the rioters in their defence against the police. Even with the looting, which was initially spontaneous, arising from the same social bleakness as the rioting, there was at first a certain sympathy.

But this attitude changed completely as the night wore on. As we left the main area of the riot, we walked down Lodge Lane. Not a policeman was in sight, yet gangs of youths



Police push back section of crowd which "greeted" Thatcher on her visit to Liverpool this week

Photo: Militant

were breaking into shops, setting fire to buildings and intimidating the local population. Any sympathy that there was rapidly disappeared, as people used the riots to line their own pockets.

Some of the youth, particularly the unemployed or those whose only hope for

the future is the dole queue, feeling that the police have suffered a big set-back in Toxteth, have been smashing, looting and rioting.

This is a symptom of the rottenness of capitalist society. But it does not have even the level of political awareness that the Toxteth

riots have. But the Tories and bosses are terrified. The youth of Britain are not afraid to take on authority. If we in the labour movement channel this in a political direction, it will sound the death knell of capitalism.

Unemployed youth, black and white, realise the

identity of interests that they have, and are prepared to struggle together.

The Young Socialists and the Labour Party can really grow out of the present events. But only if we state clearly our opposition to looting and violence, and stand firm on our socialist programme.

## What Can You Expect?

By Dave Power (Wavertree CLP)

10.15 am. The area is Granby ward, scene of some of the most bitter and ferocious street-fighting between police and local youth in living memory.

I'm canvassing with Tony Mulhearn, the prospective Labour candidate, who was recently selected to replace Richard Crawshaw, who's defected to the SDP. We're getting people's reactions to the riots and, most importantly, gaining support for Labour's programme for the recovery of the area.

10.45 am First house—no answer! "We may be a bit early, people may be having a lie-in." Could be, 16% of the local residents get a lie-in every day.

First house canvassed

We call at more houses, and a middle-aged woman answers the door. "Excuse my hands, luv, I've just been doing the potatoes."

Asked about her feelings about the event, she says: "Jobs! What can you expect when the kids are given no chance of a job? You have to have some money don't you? My lad's on a YOP's scheme and it's just a con."

"And the police! The kids around here are being picked up for no reason. I lived in Myrtle Gardens before here, and the police were always around raiding people's flats 'looking for swag'."

We meet Jamaican,

British (black and white!), Chinese and Irish during the morning and now I'm feeling ashamed for my earlier "fears". People have been friendly, receptive, and have almost unanimously agreed with Tony's analysis as to the cause of the riots—and the programme we're putting forward.

★ A massive programme of useful public works, the building of much needed housing, hospitals and schools, which would create well-paid jobs for the area

and provide amenities.

★ Immediate help and compensation for all the shopkeepers and small businessmen in Lodge Lane and elsewhere who were wiped out by the looters, together with the provision of open-air market facilities so that local people can still have some shopping facilities.

★ A campaign to get rid of the Tories whose callous policies have directly led to the violence.

11.30 am The door of another house is opened by a lad of 18 or 19. He says "Unemployment is the cause."

"Are you working?" I ask. "Just about, I scraped

into a job in shipping. I've been knocked back so many times I was glad of it. I used to think that I got so many rejections for jobs that it must be me. Then I realised when employers find out you live in Liverpool 8 your chances 'go West'. Whether you're white or black the address is enough for some companies."

12.25 pm The drizzle comes on steadier as we come to the end of our stint "on the knocker".

As the bus pulls away, I catch a glimpse of the Liberal council's "contribution" to Toxteth. A landscaped Princes Avenue, with boarded up houses either side!

### ON OTHER PAGES:



**TORIES TO BLAME:** Reports from Toxteth/2/Brixton/3/Handsworth, Leicester & Leeds/4/Birkenhead & Moss Side/11/

**EDITORIALS:** Oppose new repression, the beginning of the end for Thatcher/6/

**LIVERPOOL:** The lies of the Liberals/12/

## Defend Youth

By 'Militant' Reporters

For years the people of Liverpool 8, especially the black youth, have been the target for wide-spread police harassment.

Many of the black youth are second or third generation Liverpool, but the colour of their skin makes them a target for the worst sections of the police. Using laws such as the infamous 'Sus' laws, young people are picked up on the flimsiest excuses; for standing on street corners; for being out late; for looking suspicious.



When the looting started, the LPYS, in a leaflet opposing the looting, warned that one of the results would be increased police harassment. Already this has started.

Police have raided houses and flats in Toxteth, at random, demanding families prove ownership of their possessions. People have

been arrested virtually indiscriminately.

A 13-year-old lad was arrested for being in possession of 20 cigarettes. A man was dragged from his car and charged with being in possession of a skirt. A man was arrested for eating a meat pie. A 10 year old was arrested on his way to school.

The police are no longer in large groups on the streets, but in twos or threes every couple of yards. It is like an occupied territory. The atmosphere of fear and tension will inevitably provoke further violence—in which the police will move with greater strength than ever against the youth of the area, particularly with the Liberals calling for the army to be sent in.

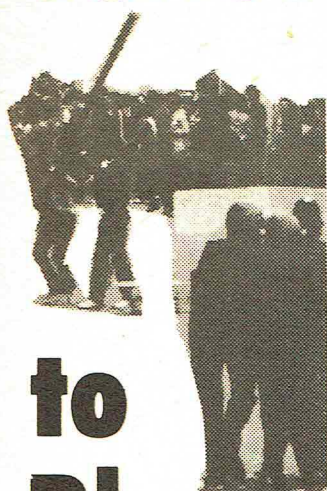
That is why we are saying that a great many of those arrested have been victimised, and we are calling for their release.

The criminals involved in the looting have not been arrested. They are not the ones going on trial and being sent down.

It is the youth of Toxteth who are being made to pay, and they must be defended. The police must be withdrawn to allow people to go freely about freely in their own area.



# Tories



# to Blame

## BRIXTON

The latest street battles in Brixton were again sparked off by provocative police action on Friday, 10 July.

For three months, since the first upheaval in April, local people resisted the provocation of massive police presence, aggressive policing, and arbitrary arrests.

But last Friday two policemen notorious for their

aggressive approach [local leaders had warned that there would be trouble if they were not withdrawn] were involved in the particularly brutal arrest of Lloyd Coxson, a well-known and much respected local DJ.

The fighting erupted once again. This time, however, the police waded in even more violently than before. Despite their previous experience, local people were staggered by police tactics: mass charges by police in riot gear; random snatches from the crowd; arbitrary arrests of everybody in sight in some streets; smashing down of front doors; and public beatings of those arrested—apparently deliberately aimed at intimidating local youth.

This new eruption comes after the stream of evidence of police repression at the Scarman enquiry, despite all its limitations and the boycott by black organisations and the labour movement.

On the 9 June [Day 19], for instance, the local Labour MP, John Fraser, gave evidence of the widely accepted belief that local police have long been involved in the corrupt "re-cycling" of hashish confiscated from arrested peddlers or raids.

Undoubtedly, the belief that some policemen were involved in this, together with the massive "Swamp '81" operation, was one of the immediate causes of the upheaval on 10/11 April.

# ARBITRARY ARRESTS SPARK NEW UPHEAVAL



Police in Brixton 10 July

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

## Liverpool Liberals "cancel" Labour meeting

Fear of the ideas of socialism is shown by the prevention of the recent public meeting in Toxteth.

The meeting was called by the three local Labour Parties with NEC member Eric Heffer, MP, Tony Saunois, LPYS Nat. Exec. representative, leading trade unionists and Bob Lee from the Brixton Labour Defence Campaign speaking.

The Liberal Education Committee called the meeting off, so that when we turned up for the meeting we found a note pinned to the gate saying 'YS meeting cancelled.' What would have been the response from the press if a Labour council had cancelled a Liberal Party meeting?

We still held the meeting, however, on waste ground nearby, with 100 people. But no sooner had we started than a police van turned up, and told us to disperse, or we would be arrested.

We decided to canvass and distribute leaflets, and the police demanded to know where we were going, how many, and so on. Despite this, we managed to get out into the area and do some very good work.

This episode shows the fear of our ideas, the fear that we might turn the blind rioting of youth—which can get nowhere—into a political direction. For the Tories and the bosses this is even more daunting than the thought of more street rioting.

Our ideas will not be stopped by intimidation and harassment. Experience of activity under the police eyes is hardening our YS members and bringing us ever more recruits.

# POLICE ARE 'WAR OFFICERS'

I heard a lot of police sirens in the Atlantic Road area. I am a member of the peace committee in this area and so I decided to go and have a look.

There was a large crowd in Atlantic Road, and I saw three policemen have a man, Mr Maliki, by his locks, pulling him down the road.

I went to the police and said, "this man is a member of the peace committee. If you want to arrest him then do it a better way, don't pull his hair out, and I will follow him to the station."

I felt a truncheon on the back of my head and a policeman said, "move you black c\*\*\*." Then, a contingent of police just came down and people saw what was happening and just surged forward.

The next thing I know a policeman handcuffed me. They beat up Maliki and pushed him into a car. After that they beat me and pushed me into a shop and put handcuffs on both hands.

They slung me into a van. They tortured me in the van from Atlantic Road—it seemed the van took a detour.

They hit me in the face and hurt my jaw. I can't eat anything properly. They kicked me in the stomach. It was very humiliating, and the police beat me up with my handcuffs on.

One policeman was trying to jump his whole weight onto my feet. I told him I wasn't a man of war and was

## Lloyd Coxson speaks to 'Militant'

a member of the peace committee. "You couldn't f\*\*\* all," he said.

At Brixton police station they took me out of the van. They held me by my feet and let me drop. I dropped back and had to hold the back of my head with my arms.

Three quarters of the people in this area know me and have never seen me do anything wrong. I don't teach youth to do anything wrong. I'm always like a guide to youth, trying to show them to keep out of trouble. That's why they rallied round when they heard police picking me up—they couldn't believe it.

What we are saying is give us sensible policing. These police officers here now are not peace officers, they are war officers and they will cause problems. The police should be for the well-being of the people.

In this area the trust between the police and the people is nil. They won't arrest you for what you are doing, they will arrest you for some silly charge. But still I am not fighting a police battle. I am fighting what they did to me.



Police in Brixton 10 July

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

I was in the station for about half an hour. In the cell the policemen gave me three punches in the stomach before taking the handcuffs off me. About 15 minutes after, the Inspector came and said "Get Mr Coxson out quickly," and they charged me for obstructing the police officer in the course of his duty.

There were around 2,000 people heading for the police station demanding my release. I came out

around the streets and asked people to cool down. I came out and took a loud speaker and asked the crowd to go home, and thanked them for rallying around me, and asked them to go.

I'm preaching peace all around the country with my sound system for eighteen years, and I didn't want to end all that in fifteen minutes. I try and teach young blacks and whites to mix, to socialise.

Here, you don't have mechanical workshops, woodwork shops or anything for training in this area.

I condemn people who fight without a cause and who break shop windows and loot. I'm not interested in that. The first thing that went on in Brixton there was a proper cause. But there are people coming now, who are breaking down that cause. I don't support no-one who breaks into shops and thieves things.

I show the youngest youths on the street respect. My team of 18 are youth that used to get in trouble, and now none of them gets in trouble since they've been coming with me.

I'm not making any trouble, I'm trying to be constructive, train them to go to college and to learn. I've been working for 18 years for peace. I could have asked the people to make war, but I didn't, I asked people to disperse. I feel very sad to see that police arrested me before them.

These people in the government and in the town hall don't really know what youth want. There is no real social place where we can socialise.

Look at the people in Railton Road. There is no proper place where they can go. We need better community places.

We want one big place for the whole of the community, where black and white can socialise. We want to live in a community which is civilised.

We've all got to get together and do something. Since this present government came, all sorts of things have been happening.



# 'We won't suffer in silence any more'

The old bloke sitting on the bench watching the shops being boarded up in the wave of riots in the Handsworth area of Birmingham last Friday summed it all up.

He was English and 70, if a day, and his wife nodded agreement by his side.

"In my day," he said, "the working class were treated like slaves. This country's run for the rich, by the rich. But the youth aren't going to put up with what we went through."

He bought a 'Militant' and became a part of the day's trade in riot-torn Soho Road.

Of course, not everyone

By Sardul Dhesi  
(Handsworth Labour Party)

was that forthright. Many were worried by the violence and the damage. But Handsworth people understand that there's unemployment. 'Tories to Blame' was our headline. That's why we sold so many.

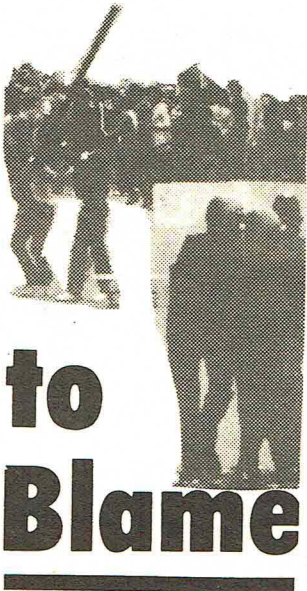
Thousands of LPYS leaflets were snapped up. Cars stopped for leaflets and papers.

'The Tories to Blame!' It was the obvious truth. But



Brixton, 10 April. All over the country, youth have been forced into desperate rioting.

## Tories



## to Blame

only the Young Socialists and 'Militant' were saying it.

How Friday night's disturbances started became

almost irrelevant in the light of the weekend's events throughout the country. Nevertheless, the hundreds of youth who had gathered up and down the length of Soho Road by the evening were there for a reason. A strong rumour had circulated the area of a fascist attack.

Schools and shop-keepers had been warned. The local DHSS was told to lock everything away. The police and emergency services were on alert. The authorities created a mood of expectancy and the youth turned out to defend their community.

The 'skinhead attack' turned out to be so much fiction. But the anger and the frustration of the youth and the conditions of the area were only too evident.

Rioting began soon after 10 o'clock and continued until dawn. Black, white and Asian youth fought side by side. There wasn't the slightest hint of racial tension: exactly the opposite

—unity was cemented beneath the blows of police truncheons.

Handsworth has been held up in the past as a model for 'community policing,' and it's true that the approach has been 'softly, softly' compared to areas like Brixton. But in reality, 'community policing' turned out to be a cess-pool of corruption and intrigue.

Some immigrant community leaders have been fed the carrot, while others still have to suffer the stick! All last week Soho Road police station was picketed by the blacks protesting against harassment.

Above all, 'community policing' did nothing to create jobs in the area, to alleviate the day-to-day horrors of unemployment and poverty. They want us to suffer in silence. The youth of Handsworth will not suffer in silence.

To her shame, the Labour MP for Handsworth, Sheila Wright, blam-

ed the incident on external elements and extremists.

Those people live in another world. Let them take one step outside their ivory towers and talk to the youth who were on the streets that night. They would soon see how ridiculous their statements were.

It's no wonder many Handsworth youth, especially black youth, can angrily say that Labour is never on their side. Well, that doesn't go for the LP Young Socialists.

The Young Socialists has put the blame where it lies, while explaining that rioting is a dead-end of destruction and oppression.

It is time for the area's unions, ethnic organisations, Labour groups, tenants' associations, and youth clubs and groups to come together in one organisation to draw up a programme to fight inner-city deprivation on all levels.

## POLICE APPLAUD CLASS APPEAL

"Make sure you say it was black and white together. Make sure you put that in!" youth in Highfield told reporters.

On Sunday, the LP Young Socialists members went into a park in Highfield where the local black and Asian youth congregate. At first we were told that we "weren't wanted" because we were white. But we stood our ground, discussed with them, and won their respect.

The mood in this area, where most of the rioting took place, was anti-police, sympathetic to the problems of young people, but against rioting as a solution.

Two Asian lads appealed to the rioters: "don't

By Heather Rawling

damage our pub. You've just set fire to the only factory in Highfield." (Fortunately, the damage was slight).

People were generally keen to discuss ideas with the LPYS.

Later on in the night, when most of the rioting had died down, we appealed to the police, through a megaphone to leave the area: "Our quarrel is with the Tory government, not you!" We also appealed for trade union rights for the police.

When we had finished making our statement—the police applauded us!

## LEEDS POLICE

I went drinking with friends in Leeds City Centre last Friday (11 July). Going home at 11 pm, the bus driver refused to go any further because some youths were in high spirits upstairs.

The police arrived and turned everyone off including me. So I began my walk home.

After about half a mile I was overtaken by two panda cars, a police dog patrol van, and a motor cyclist.

I was told by a young constable, aged about 22 and wielding a truncheon, to get into a police mini bus, where I was joined by some more equally confused youths.

We were taken back to the city centre police HQ. It all seemed like a bad dream,

but there was more to come.

We were ushered into reception, and saw a youth, naked to the waist and handcuffed with his arms behind his back. He was smashed in the face by a policewoman, almost knocking him to the floor, in full view of all of us.

This shocked all of us and some of the youths were visibly shaken.

After giving our names and addresses and convincing them we had committed no offence, we were allowed to go.

By Malcolm Richardson  
(South East Leeds CLP)

# COME TO LPYS SUMMER CAMP

## Organise to beat the Tories

By Kevin Ramage  
(LPYS National Chairman)

The anger of youth has exploded up and down the country! Youth have shown that they're not prepared to sit back and accept the horrors of mass unemployment, bad housing and police harassment.

It is vital that the desperation of youth is channelled into the fight for socialist policies—to kick Thatcher and the Tories out and end the misery of their system once and for all.

At this year's LPYS Summer Camp, between August 1st-8th, we'll be hammering out a programme to smash the Tories, and build the struggle for socialism. There's still time to book, if you want to know more about the LPYS, its ideas and campaigns, and get yourself a good holiday to boot!

This year's camp will be

the biggest ever. 600 young socialists from all over Britain and Europe, will be discussing, debating and having a good time. Every night there'll be music including Irish folk band 'Crusheen', discos, socials and films.

During the day you can play football, cricket, go canoeing, or get fit doing some athletics. For the kids there's horseriding too!

The political programme includes major rallies with Joe Marino (General Secretary Bakers' Union), Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant'), Brian Ingham (Militant's Industrial Editor) as well as speakers from Ireland and a Jamaican young socialist.

Every day there'll also be smaller seminars, giving everyone the chance to put their point of view on international topics such as Poland, India and Chile, as well as sessions taking up the problems of school students, the unemployed, and how to organise a practical fightback.

Interested? Then book now! It's not too late to get yourself a week of socialism in the sun! Your local YS will be going, so ask them about transport from your area.

Bring your mates too—or if you've got a family, bring them along, they'll have a great holiday. Full creche facilities will be provided.

Don't be left behind! Get hold of a tent and send £5 deposit now, to A. Bevan, LPYS Summer Camp, 150 Walworth road, London SE17.

LPYS Summer Camp, August 1st-8th, Bracelands Campsite, near Coleford, Gloucester. Cost: Just £40 (3 meals a day provided) or £15 for self catering. (Reduced rates for children under 12). Bookings accepted right up to the day itself.

## MILITANT READERS' MEETINGS

HARINGEY 'Trade Union Fight Against Government Policies'. Speakers: Peter Jarvis (NGA, personal capacity); Dennis McCracken (Convenor, Haringey Local Joint Craft Unions, personal capacity). Tuesday 28 July, 8.00 pm, Tottenham Trades Hall, Bruce Grove, N.17.

TYNESIDE Marxist Sunday School Sunday 19 July 7.00pm The rise of fascism in Germany 1919-1933. Sunday 26 July 7.00pm The Chinese Revolution 1925-27. Sunday 2 August 7.00pm The Spanish Revolution 1931-1939. Sunday 9 August 7.00pm Popular Fronts and France. Venue from your local Militant seller.

STIRLING 'The State', 23 July, 7.30 pm. 'Poland—what is happening?' 13 August, 7.30 pm. 'Which way for the Labour Party?' 3 September, 7.30 pm. Cowane Centre, Stirling.

BLYTH Meetings start 7.30 pm. Wed 29 July—Brixton: what happened and the lessons for the labour movement. Venue: 148 Disraeli Street, Blyth.

BARROW 'Militant'—what we stand for. Saturday 18 July, 7.00 pm. Labour Rooms, 22 Hartington Street, Barrow. Speaker: Roy Physick. For further details phone Sunderland 653994

Photo: Andrew Wiaard (Report)



# NO TORY CUTS! NO RATE RISES

By Keith Simpson  
(Vice-Chairman,  
Lothian Labour Party)

## LABOUR COUNCILS MUST LEAD THE FIGHT BACK

**A one-day strike and day of action by local authority workers in support of Lothian Council's resistance to Tory cuts resulted in the biggest demonstration seen in Edinburgh for years.**

Over 15,000 went on the march and rally on 30 June, showing the enormous support that the Council's fighting stand has generated to date.

Lothian Council are now right in the front line in the battle against the Tories. Scottish Secretary of State, George Younger, has demanded that Lothian Regional Council make a £53 million cut in their services this financial year.

If they fail to do this, Younger, using the new Miscellaneous Provisions (Scotland) Act will reduce the government's contribution to Lothian Regional Council by the same amount. Lothian council has refused to accept this blackmail.

Their reply to Younger's dictat shows that cuts of this size would devastate the Region's educational, transport and social services. In an area of rising unemployment it would also mean up to 50% of the Region's 35,000 employees losing their jobs.

In the government's first "hit list" of Scottish local authorities are six smaller District Councils who are also ordered to make cuts.

In addition a second list has been drawn up by the government for action later this year. In fact according to the government over 90% of Scottish local authorities are spending too much.

As a first step in the fightback Lothian Region Labour Party have called a delegate conference on 25 July for representatives of Labour Party and trade union branches and tenants' groups throughout the region. This will discuss how the present campaign in the Region can be co-ordinated and extended throughout the country.

But it will also have to ensure that the Regional Labour Party's declared objective of "no cuts and no rate rises" is taken up in a fighting campaigning manner. In February this year a conference of Labour Party and trade union delegates in the region affirmed its opposition to any cuts but failed to reach agreement on the rates.

Over the last three years Lothian has faced escalating rate rises. This year's rise of 49%—which is a result of a cut in government support—means that council tenants in E Lothian are paying more in rates than in rents.

Next year's rates would need to be raised by a massive amount, perhaps 100% or more to offset cuts.

This is clearly impossible. The only alternative is to mobilise a wholesale campaign on the basis of the Party's policy of no cuts and no rates rises. Lothian Region Labour Party must now state clearly and openly that it is not prepared either to see cuts in local authority jobs and services or to support massive rate increases to compensate for Tory cuts.

### Debt burden

A socialist alternative is the only realistic way to combat the Tories. And to do that we must make a massive mobilisation of all the resources of the labour movement against big business.

Nearly £50m (almost the exact size of the cuts demanded by Younger) is spent in interest rates by Lothian Council. Lothian Council must undertake a campaign to get the next Labour government to cancel these debts to the financial parasites.

Take over the banks and the insurance companies so that councils can have interest-free loans for development.

The government has shown quite clearly that it is set on the path of confrontation with the Lothians. It is essential that we ensure that Lothian Region Labour Party takes a socialist stand. No rate rises. No cuts. A clear fighting lead could stop the Tories in their tracks.



For the Tories, 1981 is the year of the cut—and to hell with the disabled. Labour councils must lead the fight back.

Photo: Militant

## Haringey: Unions pledged to fight

Haringey Labour Council could get the backing of council workers if they fought next year's election with a manifesto of 'no cuts and no rate rises'.

The following motion was passed unanimously at a meeting of Haringey Craft shop stewards on 26 June. So far three yards have given it their support and after the other three yards have been consulted the motion will be circulated to all branches of Haringey Labour Party:

"We, the Craft Union

Committee, having been mandated by our shop floor members in the London Borough of Haringey are committed to a policy of full employment for local authority employees.

"We realise that to maintain any semblance of our present services to Haringey tenants and the community this Labour council or another that may be elected in 1982 will have to make massive rate and rent increases in order to make up the deficit caused by the reduction in the housing subsidy from central government.

"These increases will represent a real cut in the liv-

ing standards of working class people in the borough. With high unemployment and low pay rises the amount of revenue that can be raised locally will be minimal and this will lead to the eventual redundancy of council employees.

"Therefore, we call on this and any future Labour council to unite with the local unions in a campaign to take the initiative and encourage all London Labour-controlled local authorities to defeat the Tory government and to take note and include the contents of this resolution in the next Haringey Labour Council manifesto."

## Students must take political action

By Peter Mumford  
and  
Clive Heemskirk  
(NOLS NC Members)

In the week when 12,000 student places were cut by the Tories and thousands of University Staff jobs were threatened, the national committee of the National Organisation of Labour Students was more concerned at its meeting on June 30, with arbitrarily excluding active Labour Clubs from NOLS than organising a fightback against the Tories.

Last year, 800 students heard Tony Benn speak at a meeting of Nottingham University Labour Club, because they owe one speaker's expenses, the Club now faces exclusion from NOLS!

This is a clear warning to all Labour Clubs of the bureaucratic intentions of the 'Clause Four' leadership of NOLS to rule out Clubs

which oppose them. This attack was supported by the ultra-left 'Socialist Student Caucus' NC member.

'Militant' supporters' proposal for joint activity with the 'Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Party' around the NALGO ballot over Labour party affiliation was also defeated by an alliance between Clause 4 and 'Socialist Student Caucus' members.

They do not recognise what is happening within NALGO. These workers, who once regarded themselves as 'non-political', have realised that the industrial struggle against the Tory cuts needs a political expression. Students too will draw political conclusions from the Tory attacks.

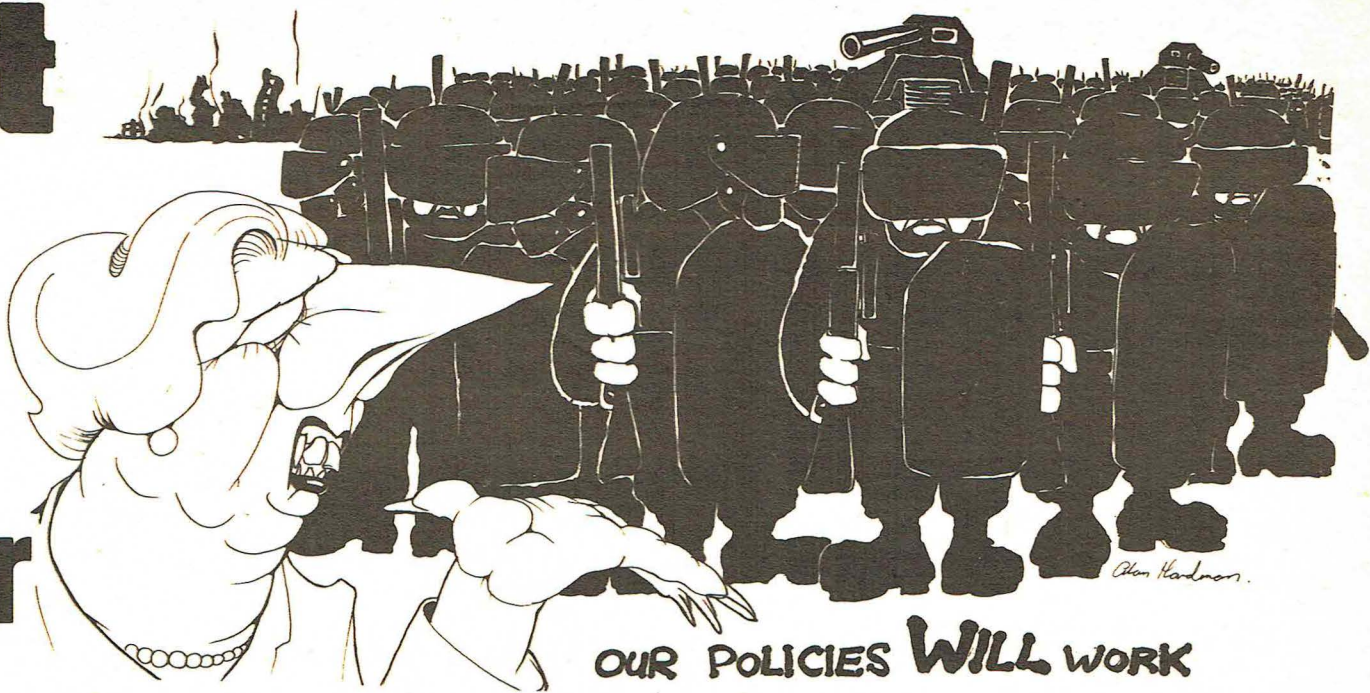
A campaign by NOLS for the National Union of Students to affiliate to the TUC and Labour Party could have an enormous impact amongst students, if NOLS explained that students must link with the workers' organisations to fight the cuts.

Despite the NOLS NC's incapacity to lead on this issue, Labour Clubs should immediately approach NALGO branches in the colleges for joint meetings on the cuts and the need for activity in the Labour Party. This would build the authority of the Labour Clubs, both in the colleges and the labour movement and prove that students can be a serious force in the struggle for socialism.



# Militant

## Beginning of the end for Thatcher



The police sirens still wailing nightly through the cities of Britain are sounding the death knell of Thatcherite policies.

Only a few months ago the spokesmen of big business were complacently commenting on the "success" of Thatcher's monetarist policies. In the interests of boosting big business profits, savage cuts in public spending had been carried through and unemployment pushed up by over a million in a single year.

But there was no revolt in the streets, the civil war had not begun, they happily remarked.

Their complacency has been shattered. Thatcher's savage deflationary policies, which have intensified the crisis of British capitalism, have produced an unprecedented social crisis.

Thatcher is trying to blame "agitators", and "lawless", "greedy" troublemakers.

There were no riots in the 1930s, she claims. This only betrays her abysmal ignorance. The 1930s too, as 'Militant' has recounted, saw major riots in Birkenhead, Belfast, and several other British cities.

### Writing on the wall

Indeed, the "Wets" in Thatcher's own cabinet, who are not quite so blinkered as their leader, warned that deflationary policies would produce social revolt. In February 1980, Sir Ian Gilmour in his Cambridge speech, warned that monetarist policies would produce intolerable social tensions.

Former Tory Premier, Edward Heath, who was taught a lesson by the miners, has also repeatedly warned of the revolt of the unemployed.

Now their worst fears have been borne out. The riots mean the beginning of the end for Thatcher. The "Wets" and the Tories' big-business backers will undoubtedly move to replace her, not now during the immediate crisis, but at a later stage.

But the "Wets" have no alternative [as Thatcher continually taunts them]. Their aim is the same: to off-load the crisis onto the shoulders of the working class, but using more "cautious" "diplomatic" methods.

But the labour leaders, too, must share some responsibility for the blind, violent form taken by the revolt of the youth and sections of the workers in

recent days. Rioting, looting, and arson cannot be supported by the labour movement—they are an aimless expression of frustration and anger.

However, if the leaders of the labour movement had organised a 24 hour general strike as the first step in a campaign of action to bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies, the revolt against the Tories would not have taken such a blind, violent form.

The Labour Party Young Socialists are to be congratulated on their magnificent intervention in the recent conflicts. Far from supporting violence, the Young Socialists have intervened with bold socialist policies which appeal to the youth and point to a way out. Their leaflets, meetings, and other initiatives have received an enthusiastic response from black, Asian and all other youth, wherever the LPYS has intervened.

This points to the action that should now be taken by the labour movement as a whole, mobilising the enormous resources of the trade unions and the Labour Party.

Labour must fight against the Tories and the police chiefs using the riots as an excuse for further repression against the workers. The movement must defend the interests of youth, particularly taking up the issue of youth unemployment and youth conditions.

Labour must fight for a job for all school-leavers, for a 35-hour week now to cut unemployment and create jobs, and for an £80 a week minimum wage for all workers.

But Labour must explain that there can be no solution under a Tory government, or, indeed, within the rotten framework of British capitalism.

Labour must launch a determined campaign for the return of a labour government with a massive majority which will bring about a fundamental shift in wealth and power to the working class.

This would mean the nationalisation, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need, of the big banks, finance houses, and the top 200 monopolies which now dominate the economy.

It would mean workers' control and management of industry, and a democratic socialist plan of production which would produce the resources that we need to wipe out the mass poverty and slum conditions behind the present upheavals.

## OPPOSE NEW REPRESSION

### Thatcher, Whitelaw and the shattered Tory leadership have only one answer to the present crisis: strengthen the police!

Thatcherite policies for reviving the sick British capitalism have proved bankrupt. But they have no alternative—so they have turned to use the "Mailed Fist".

Already the Tories have made para-military riot gear available to the police, with CS gas, and the possibility of rubber bullets and water cannons, too.

They are considering a new Riot Act. Meanwhile, they're urging magistrates to act like summary kangaroo courts, even planning to use army camps as additional prison accommodation.

From the way the Tory leaders speak you would think that the police were a lilly-white force who can do no wrong. The riots according to the Tories, are not caused by acute social problems. They are simply a "breakdown of law and order," engineered by "subversive" outsiders, men in masks, and other "dark forces."

But the clashes throughout the cities of Britain have one thing in common. Apart from youth frustration at mass unemployment and anger at the Tories' arrogant contempt for workers, there is a deep reservoir of bitterness at the heavy-handed methods of the police.

### Provocation

There is especial bitterness at the blatant bias of some sections of the police, particularly in cities like London and Liverpool, against young people and especially against young blacks.

The aggressive role of the police has already been made clear by the Scarman enquiry, despite its limitations.

The paper of City businessmen, the *Financial Times* (11 July), said: "The police...are not going to come out especially well. There's too much evidence of insensitivity, of lack of

knowledge of the area, of a perhaps over-zealous pursuit of suspected crime at the expense of community relations, of an inability to know how to behave once trouble breaks out."

This is putting it politely!

In plain language, Scarman has revealed that a section of the police has for years been systematically harassing youth, especially black youth. Some sections of the police, who include racist elements, are out to nick as many blacks as possible, bending the rules, the law, and the evidence, to hammer the black youth as hard as possible.

As reports to *Militant* show, the latest wave of street fighting and rioting has in almost every case been provoked by brutal police action.



Whitelaw in Warrington last Saturday Photo: Militant

In Brixton, Lloyd Coxson was arrested and beaten up on Friday, 10 July. In Liverpool, on the same Friday evening, Leroy Cooper was arrested and beaten up. Previously he, and other members of his family, have been arrested and otherwise harassed by the police on an almost unbelievable number of occasions.

In other cities, it is clear that there were many young people out on the streets expecting trouble. But it is also clear that the police, too, were out for trouble—and in some cases were determined to provoke it.

*Militant*, as we have made clear before, does not support rioting, looting, or arson. We defend the right of blacks, Asians and workers generally to defend themselves and their homes against attack.

But we condemn mindless violence. In many cases it is workers and small businessmen who are the

first to suffer, not the real exploiters and oppressors of working people.

Marxists, moreover, contrary to what the Tories and the bosses' media allege, are not against the police fighting crime or cracking down on hardened, vicious criminals.

In Brixton, after the events of 10/12 April, when hundreds of people were arbitrarily arrested in the police "mopping up" operations, arising from the spontaneous conflict on the streets, we called for the dropping of all charges.

Initially, we put forward the same demand in Liverpool a week ago. However, we modified this demand (as did the Young Socialists) when it was clear that criminal elements were moving in to exploit the situation and loot.

But we would warn the labour movement that it must not stand aside and allow rioting, looting, and burning to be used by the Tories and the police chiefs as an excuse to strengthen repressive laws and intensify repressive police methods.

Repression will solve nothing—and, once introduced, repressive methods can be turned in the future against the labour movement.

*Militant* implacably opposes the terrorist methods of the Provisional IRA. But we have already seen in Northern Ireland—as *Militant* warned—that repressive measures brought in under the guise of "fighting terrorism" (like the "temporary" Prevention of Terrorism Act) have been repeatedly used against labour movement activists.

### Defence

Now the Tories are considering a new Riot Act for Britain. On Tuesday (14 July) *The Times* revealed how draconian such an Act would be.

"If a Riot Act is introduced, offences under it should be summary, triable by magistrates only, with their normal maximum sentencing powers—six months imprisonment and/or a £1,000 fine. To make a Riot Act offence triable by jury would negate many of its advantages especially that of speed and simplicity."

Already, over the weekend, special magistrates

courts have been dispensing summary "justice" like the worst kangaroo courts. Solicitors at the courts have been pressurised by the police, in some cases beaten up, to plead guilty. Without any legal representation, they have pleaded guilty—and have been given three or six months in gaol.

On the streets, moreover, the police are already acting as though a Riot Act were in force, snatching anyone that they can grab hold of. It is not the guilty who are caught, but in many cases the slowest runners.

This is happening now! What would be the situation if these methods were legitimised by new Tory laws?

Let there be no mistake, if such laws were carried through they would soon be directed against the trade unions and the labour movement. It is still the organised, class action of workers that the Tories and the bosses mainly fear.

That is why the labour movement must take a stand against the introduction of new, even more repressive laws.

The labour movement must take up the defence of all those unjustly arrested, arbitrarily charged and framed in court, and brutally sentenced by non-jury courts.

The majority of workers are sickened by mindless looting and burning. But they also recognise that an outbreak of looting, involving some ordinary working people, is a symptom of a sick society.

The Tories uphold a system of society based on the lust for profit of a tiny but wealthy minority. They spend million on advertising urging people to buy more and more goods. But their policies have deprived 3 million or more of jobs, and deprive millions of the money to buy basic necessities.

While disgusted at looting, many workers have also been revolted at the police going on the rampage and going out for revenge. Working people in Brixton, Toxteth, Handsworth and other trouble-torn areas are becoming increasingly aware that it is only the working class's own organisations, the organisations of the labour movement, which can defend their homes, their communities and defend their interests generally.



# LEAKING STANDARDS EXPLODING PROFITS

Photo: Militant

By Bob Wade

The selling off of British Gas showrooms is the most blatant piece of Tory profiteering to date.

Even sections of big business, not to mention British Gas executives are staggered by what looks a totally illogical act, even by the Thatcher government's standards.

## Lucrative market

British Gas is highly profitable with record pre-tax profits in 1979/80 of £426 million. And for consumers, prices (by capitalist standards) were reasonable given that it guaranteed a high standard of service.

The Tories want big business to muscle in on this lucrative market—11 million households cook by gas. The Monopolies Commission ruled that the 'dominant' position of British Gas meant it undercut private competitors. The capitalists were horrified at massive profits slipping through their fingers. Now, the Tories are coming to their rescue.

The Tories predictably have claimed this "a victory" for the consumer. But 'The Times' (July 9) pointed to the dangers the industry will now face. The installation of British Gas showroom cookers is part of the service at present.

## Private retailers

When these close, and private retailers move in, customers will have to arrange installation themselves. Electric cookers, which only have to be 'plugged in', will then become more attractive, and the gas market will suffer.



Trade union pickets outside gas showrooms in East London 13 July

The 'Times' also estimates that one or two British manufacturers would soon be forced out of business by foreign competition. British manufacturers would not be able to export, moans the 'Times', because "the need to meet British safety standards has also tended to make them less competitive." But safer, we would add!

## Jobs threatened

Even in the short term, thousands of jobs will be lost. The unions estimate up to 40,000 jobs could go, and at a time of unbearable youth unemployment, the 1,000 yearly apprenticeships would end.

And the consumer would suffer too. Besides the rising prices and charges already outlined, consumers will face numerous problems with the closure of gas

rooms over the next three years. Various cooker models are bound to disappear. Even if a cooker needs only one small part for repairs, if there are no spare parts, families will be forced into buying new cookers.

More ominously, the ending of the Gas showrooms' comprehensive and high level of installation, servicing and repair services paves the way for the 'cowboy' forms to move in.

This spells danger. British Gas subsidises its safety services—it is unlikely private retailers will. This will mean higher charges; repairs will remain undone because people can't afford it and accidents will increase.

## Safety record

The safety record of some private retailers is abysmal.

As London 'East End News' (June 19) pointed out: "From 1976-80, of 200 accidents caused by poor combustion or installation problems with gas fires, almost all resulted from private installation.

"An even higher percentage of accidents with water heaters was recorded among those installed by private dealers, and in the same period there were 227 serious incidents involving gas central heating."

But all these will only happen if the labour movement allows it. The unions within the industry are squaring up for a struggle with the Tory government, and will no doubt receive much support from the public.

As the 'Financial Times' commented, in a quiet warning to the government; "In an industry which has never had a fully-blown strike, things are changing in more ways than one."

# The Risk-Takers

By John Creswick  
(Chester Labour Party)

The Tories' wish to denationalise gas showrooms seems to have made them forget the fiasco the last time the government wanted to make capitalism 'renovate' the gas industry.

Thatcher's government proposed in June 1980 that a capitalist dominated company should be asked to undertake one of the most costly engineering projects ever—a gas gathering pipeline running through more than a dozen oil and gas fields in the North Sea.

The importance of this £2.7 billion pipeline cannot be overemphasised. At present, a vast quantity of natural gas which accompanies crude oil from under the sea bed is 'flared off' on oil production platforms—a typical waste of resources under the profit-dominated capitalist system.

The proposed pipeline, about 500 miles long, would bring this gas ashore together with gas from numerous fields too small to be developed individually.

Despite the combined efforts of Thatcher, David Howell (the energy secretary) and other top Tories a private pipeline company

has still not been set up. Apparently, companies such as Mobil cannot obtain high enough financial guarantees from British Gas.

They are worried that the quantity of recoverable gas may not be as high as thought at present. The celebrated 'risk takers' of the oil business want super-profits but they'd rather take no risks! The assured profits of gas showrooms are fine, but innovation—never!

The obvious solution to the problem would be to let British Gas take on the whole project, providing many jobs in associated industries as well as work for thousands of British Steel pipemakers.

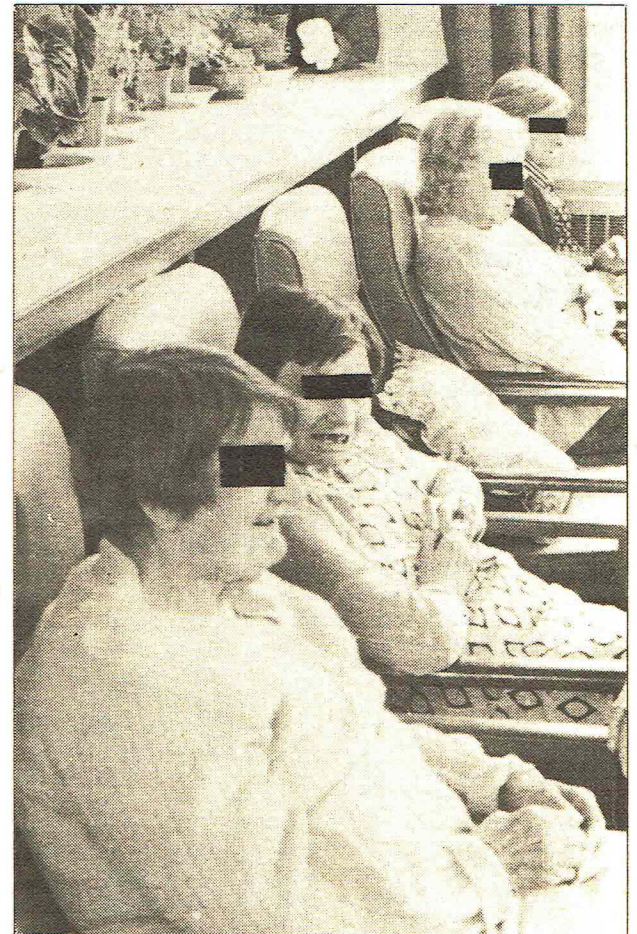
The feasibility of this idea was explained by the 'Guardian' (22 May): "If the private sector pulls out, British Gas is the only candidate with the muscle to build and run the system."

The Tories meanwhile, continue to dream of a private enterprise venture and, of course, dismiss the idea of British Gas doing it.

Deadlines come and go without any sign of progress being made—there is even speculation that the whole project may never get under way. Certainly, it is unlikely to be completed by the target date of 1985.

While a motley collection of capitalists, Tories and top civil servants haggle over profits, the many workers who would have found jobs as a result of the project continue to languish on the dole.

PHoto: Andrew Wiard (Report II)



Mentally ill patients in Hampshire. Cuts are hitting all the most vulnerable sections of society.

# Patients Victimised

By a correspondent

'compassion' only when groups of NHS workers like ancillary staff or ambulance drivers go on strike for better pay, or to defend the service from closure.

Then the papers are full of stories about patients' lives in jeopardy. Not from cuts, of course, but from industrial action.

Strangely though the press have been silent about the damage done to the welfare of mentally ill patients in London due to recent decisions taken by an Area Health Authority and a hospital administrator who happens to be, not an ambulanceman or a porter, but a consultant.

Springfield Hospital is within Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth Area of the

South West Thames Regional Health Authority. At the same time, Springfield provides psychiatric in-patient care for some patients within the Ealing, Hammersmith and Hounslow Area of the North West Thames RHA.

For several years discussions have taken place between the two RHA's to try to rationalise the situation. This involves Ashford Hospital [S.W. Thames] taking Spelthorne [S.W. Thames] patients, thus allowing space and staff at St Bernard's Hospital, Ealing, [N.W. Thames] to cope with North Hammersmith and Chiswick patients.

July 1st, 1981 was agreed as the transfer date for this but unfortunately the neces-

sary building works at Ashford Hospital were not completed in time for the July 1st transfer date. Consequently, the two RHAs were forced to postpone the moves, and eventually agreed to September 1st 1981 as the final transfer date.

Despite this, Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth AHA at their June meeting insisted that transfers had to start on 1 July.

The Medical Administrator at Springfield backed by the Merton AHA unilaterally declared that they could not take patients from the Ealing Area Health authority. People suffering from psychiatric illnesses in the Chiswick area were in effect victimised by this decision.

The department of Health and Social Security said there was nothing that could be done about the situation. No alarmist statements to

Fifty one weeks in every year, the Tory press are united in their attitude towards the National Health Service.

They say it is "too expensive" and should be cut, regardless of the fate of the old, the sick and the disabled.

The press miraculously seem to rediscover their

the press. No headlines about abandoned patients. "Nothing could be done."

Although the situation might at last be rectified by another meeting between the Health Authorities, it shows up the lack of democratic control within the Health Service. The local communities and the trade unions should be in control of the hospitals not the consultants and the

remote and unelected health authorities.

The Health Service faces the same problems in both Health Authority areas. If the working class had democratic control over the Health Authorities there could then be a united fight against the Tory government's plans to devastate the NHS and a united fight to ensure adequate finance for local needs!



# CAN POLISH STALINISM BE REFORMED?

An air of expectancy tinged with foreboding has gripped Poland in the run-up to the emergency "Communist Party" Congress taking place this week.

The Russian bureaucracy, terrified that control of the situation was slipping out of the hands of their Polish counter-parts, threw all caution to the wind in the month prior to the Congress and openly threatened military intervention.

This threat now seems to have been withdrawn as the Polish government of Kania, with the help of Solidarity, seems to have reasserted their control over events.

## Demands for democracy

The daubing of Russian war memorials, alleged fights between Russian soldiers stationed in the country and Poles, together with blatant lies that Solidarity leaders have urged "the hanging of a million Communist Party members", have all been used as a pretext for the war of nerves conducted by Brezhnev and company against the Polish workers' movement.

The insistent demands for democracy by workers, peasants, students and intellectuals, is bad enough. But the Russian ruling caste was confronted by the spectacle of the Polish "Communist Party" itself being infected with this virus.

It was Leon Trotsky who pointed out that once a movement for workers' democracy is in motion, then, with the exception of the top echelons, even the bureaucratic elite which dominates the Stalinist states will be drawn behind the movement of the working class.

A political revolution to establish workers' democracy in Poland, Eastern

By Peter Taaffe

Europe and Russia would leave Brezhnev, Kania, Kadar, Husak, Ceausescu, and the other leaders suspended in mid-air. Even the uncompleted revolution in Poland has introduced into the ranks of the Polish CP unprecedented confusion, with demands for "democracy". One third of the CP's membership—numbering three million—are members of Solidarity. They were undoubtedly instructed to penetrate the movement in an attempt to convert it into a weapon of the regime.

However, a section of the CP members—the lower layers of the bureaucracy—were affected by the complete abhorrence of Stalinism they found there.

A "rank and file conference" held at Torun in April, for instance, had delegates from 19 major cities and three central committee members attending. This "horizontal" movement has challenged all the basic "norms" of Stalinist rule through the so-called "Communist" Party.

One speaker declared "there are no bosses here, this is a meeting of equals". (*Morning Star*, 16 April). Another stated: "We are fighting for an idea. The top people in the party are only fighting to stay in their positions."

Confused calls for the right to organise tendencies were raised at this conference.

Reflecting the utter demoralisation of the bureaucracy one speaker declared, "only two things are functioning in Poland today...strikes and the Solidarity movement." He suggested that when party officials were replaced they should return to the manual or office jobs for which they were trained.



Workers on the picket line in Gdansk last summer. Workers have been groping their way to fighting for a workers' democracy, but a leadership has been lacking.

However, such is the unpopularity of former bureaucrats in Poland today that when they apply for other jobs they have invariably been met with a wall of hostility.

A bureaucrat in Posnan, in a top position for the last ten years but recently sacked, was offered a comfortable niche in the Posnan International Fair. But the staff revolted, claiming that he was neither a linguist nor a trade expert, and they refused to work with him! He next applied for a taxi-driver's job, but the taxi drivers also went on strike.

## Bureaucracy despairs

The deposed bureaucrat was finally taken on in a local factory. In the corner of this factory was a stand with an ancient machine, a museum piece, which reflects the history of the plant. A notice was pinned to this saying: "We are waiting for you, comrade Zazda."

The Polish bureaucracy as a whole would now be a thing of the past if the working class had possessed leaders worthy of them over the last eleven months. The despair and demoralisation of the bureaucracy was reflected in the declaration of a Silesian bureaucrat to Kania in May: "We have lost confidence in the Central Committee and our children have lost confidence in us." (*The Times*, 20 June).

If that is not enough, the police, a bulwark of Stalinist rule, have taken the unprecedented step of demanding "A police union".

The hostility to the police has already resulted in 118 buildings belonging to them being turned over to Solidarity and converted into health centres, schools and flats! The ordinary police have reacted by demanding their own union and by refusing to act as the blind instrument of the government in suppressing opposition.

They have also demanded

that the uniformed policemen (ordinary police) should be separated from the security police, but that they should enjoy the same living standards.

We have pointed out in previous articles in *Militant* that the Russian bureaucracy would pay a colossal price for intervening militarily to suppress the Polish movement. The Polish workers, unlike in Czechoslovakia in 1968, would undoubtedly fight. Poland has a much larger population, 36 million, than Czechoslovakia or Hungary.

## Russian leaders

Moreover, even if the Russian bureaucracy were able to crush the Polish movement in blood, which in isolation they could undoubtedly succeed in doing, then they would have to take on the huge debts of Poland and face the passive opposition of the whole population.

At the same time, intervention would usher in a new and bitter 'cold war' between the Stalinist states and the capitalist world, which would have serious repercussions for Russia in the form of the banning of grain sales from the capitalist West, an embargo on high technology, etc.

The Russian bureaucracy will therefore only intervene in Poland as a last resort. So long as they have control of the situation they will not use force.

But if the police or army are used against a group of workers or demonstrators this could trigger off an explosion which would sweep throughout Poland. The Russian bureaucracy, no matter what the cost, would move in to crush the Polish workers.

However, the events of the last few months convinced the Russian bureaucracy that "the reins of power" were beginning to slip out of their hands. In the brutal letter sent to the Polish CP Central Committee in early June, Brezhnev and Co.



stated bluntly "the Polish state is in danger".

## Eastern Europe 'infected'

Marxists have always pointed out that in the final analysis the state can be reduced to armed bodies of men, that is, the police, army, and their material appendages, the courts, prisons, etc.

The capitalists jealously guard their state as the ultimate weapon against the onslaught of the working class. So too the Stalinist regimes depend on the state to guard the stolen privileges of the governing caste and to suppress any movement challenging their rule.

But in Poland they have been confronted by what appears to be the first stages of the disintegration of the Polish Stalinist state. Not just the police, but the rank and file of the army have been affected by the mood which swept through the working class in the past eleven months.

The twin pillars upon which the Stalinist regime ultimately rests, the "Communist Party" and the police and army, appeared to be dissolving before their eyes.

More alarming for the Russian bureaucracy is the effect of the Polish events in their own backyard and in the rest of Eastern Europe.

The opposition to Husak in Czechoslovakia has been given a boost by the Polish events.

The East German bureaucracy, Ceausescu in Rumania and even the "liberal" Hungarian Stalinist leader, Kadar, have frantically urged that the infection should be eliminated before it spreads.

## Hard-liners

All pretence at "non-interference" by Brezhnev has therefore been dropped. Open backing has been given to the unreconstructed Stalinist wing of the Polish CP—the so-called Katowice Forum—which attempted to unseat Kania, the present "Reformist" leader, at the Central Committee meeting in June. The Russian bureaucracy undoubtedly want loyal stooges in influential positions within the Polish CP's Central Committee.

Moreover, it appeared as though the elections to this month's emergency Communist Party Congress would result in the elimination of the open Stalinist wing led by Grabski and Olzowski. However, the return to repression, favoured by the hard-line Stalinist faction, would precisely trigger off the explosion which the Polish bureaucracy have been frantically attempting to avoid.

The military wing of the bureaucracy well understood this. Thus generals in the Central Committee voted to a man in favour of Kania. They understood that the only viable option short of military intervention from Russia was to attempt to ride out the present storm. By carrying through reforms from the top they hope to prevent revolution from below.

In the last month the Russian bureaucracy have succeeded in pressurising Kania and the "reformist" wing of the bureaucracy into halting the "democratisation" of the Party. Kania has bent all his efforts to making sure that the Stalinist "hard-liners" are represented at the emergency congress.

These "hard-liners" have complained that refusal to endorse the Central Committee nominees in the local and district congresses was a violation of "Party norms". It is true that this violates Stalinist "norms" but not the norms of Bolshevism on which these creatures claim to stand.

Without the full freedom of the rank and file to subject the leadership and its policies to the severest criticism and debate, Bolshevism would never have developed as the most revolutionary party in history. And the Russian Revolution would never have taken place without the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky.

## Perversion of bolshevism

There were occasions when Lenin and Trotsky opposed someone for election to the Central Committee but they were overturned by delegates at the congress. For example, Sverdlov was elected to the Bolshevik CC against the advice of Lenin but it was subsequently demonstrated that the rank and file had been correct to place so much trust in his capacities.

The very fact that the Polish Stalinists can arrogantly pose this issue in this way shows that it is a complete perversion of Bolshevism. The Polish CP is not the party of the Polish working class but of the bureaucratic elite which dominates society. A recent opinion poll put the Communist Party at the bottom of the list in popularity amongst the Polish population.

The "hard liners" were only "elected" as delegates to the Congress by the intervention of Kania with the threat of Russian military intervention in the background. Some only achieved representation on the basis of telephone calls from Warsaw to the local and provincial conferences.

The Russian bureaucracy have learned Jaruzelsky and Kania, who have in turn leaned on Walesa, who has moved to suppress any opposition of the workers to the regime.

## Role of Solidarity leaders

As has happened many times in history, the very organisation which the Polish workers have thrown up in struggle has become an enormous impediment to them completing the movement which they began last August.

To his own surprise—and that of many others—Walesa has been converted from a fiery opponent of the regime into an enormous brake on the workers' movement. As 'Militant'

has pointed out in previous articles, it is impossible for independent trade unions to co-exist alongside the Stalinist regime. Solidarity cannot restrict itself to wages, hours of work, etc. In a workers' state these issues inevitably raise the need to eliminate the corrupt one-party, totalitarian regime. The strike of the airline workers to ensure the appointment of a manager of their choice is a graphic demonstration of this.

Even capitalist commentators have shown that Poland is rotten ripe for political revolution: "The apparatus of power is demoralised and fragmented and largely discredited in the eyes of the public. If Poland were a plural democracy another party would have taken over by now. If it were located in another part of the world, the entire establishment would have been swept away by revolution." (Richard Davy, 'Sunday Times', 14 June).

say you govern for a bit, we'll leave you to it and we'll see how it goes."

The regime has reimposed censorship. And Solidarity has imposed the "self-censorship" of its own newspapers and bulletins. Reports of "dissident" activity in Eastern Europe and Russia in bulletins and newspapers of Solidarity have been suppressed.

The hope is that this will allow "a breathing space" for the reformist wing of the bureaucracy to "put the economy right" and also mollify the Russian big brother.

It is true that the Polish economy is in a catastrophic state. Industrial production fell by 11.7% in the first five months of this year and national income is expected to drop by a colossal 15% this year in comparison to 1980. Coal production dropped by 20 million tonnes below the target for this year.

According to Chris Myant, correspondent of the 'Morning Star', most

and implemented. This would eliminate most of the wastage of resources of the Polish people so evident at the present time.

One thing is clear: the "reformist" wing of the bureaucracy is incapable of offering any long-term solutions. The character of this section of the bureaucracy is shown by the fact that the infamous anti-Semite general Moczar, is now a prominent "reformist". Moczar has belatedly realised that, in the charged situation of today, the mailed fist would have the opposite result of what is intended by the hard-liners. It is this, and no conversion to the advantages of "democracy", which has resulted in his type donning a liberal mask.

The emergency congress will no doubt come forward with a mixture of proposals aimed at reviving the Polish economy. These will probably take the form of proposals for more decentralisation with initiative placed in the hands of the regions and individual factories, together with vague proposals for "workers' participation" in the running of the economy.

The bureaucracy intend by this method to use Solidarity to cajole and convince Polish workers to accept even greater "sacrifices" in order to "put the economy back on its feet".

This will probably go together with increased financial aid from Russia and the capitalist states. The capitalists dread the prospect of Poland defaulting on the massive \$26,000 million debt to the banks of the West. They have extended more time to Poland to repay and also advanced further bridging loans. It is not excluded, therefore, that the Polish economy can partially recover from its present catastrophic state.

However, on the basis of the maintenance of the rule of the bureaucratic privileged stratum which still dominates, there is no long-term solution. In the short term, Solidarity could become more and more discredited in the eyes of the working class. Indeed, in the recent elections within Solidarity the workers have been elbowed aside and their places taken by intellectuals.

## For a political revolution

Bitterly disappointed at the results of their enormous struggle against the bureaucracy over the past eleven months, it is possible that the Polish working class can sink back temporarily into a period of lassitude and even of despair.

The very organisations and leaders which they have thrown up are being turned against them. Some sections will slip back into passivity, while others could return to vodka. However, after a period, the movement in Poland will inevitably resume once again.

The Polish workers in the past eleven months have been groping in the direction of a workers' democracy. They have demanded the election of officials and the right of recall over them, and an end to the privileges and corruption of the bureaucracy. They have also

demanded an end to censorship and called for the freedom for political parties.

The workers have been groping their way towards a society in which control and management would be in their own hands. The tragedy is that the working class have not had a leadership capable of expressing this in the form of a fully rounded-out programme.

However, the last year cannot fail to leave its mark on the outlook of the youth in particular.

It is no accident that the Stalinist Slovak daily 'Pravda' accused Polish "politicians and Solidarity leaders of advocating the renegade Communist principles of Leon Trotsky". ('The Times', 9 June).

In reality, however, Solidarity has not advanced the programme of Trotsky for the political revolution in the Stalinist states. But in the next wave of struggle it will be towards Trotsky's programme for the political revolution, not just in Poland but indeed throughout the whole of Eastern Europe and Russia, that the advanced sections of the youth will turn.

## Workers' democracy

Already there is evidence that some are moving in this direction: "I listened to them (intellectuals from Warsaw university) say the only hope for success was to spread their movement throughout the Eastern Bloc so that it would simply become too large to be crushed by Russian troops. During this meeting I heard Walesa criticised for being too provincial and for not seeing 'the big picture'." ('The Times', 11 May).

These youth are correct in counter-posing to Walesa's narrow nationalism the idea of the Polish movement spreading throughout the whole of Eastern Europe and of Russia.

This will only be possible, however, on the basis of a clear programme for workers' democracy, not just for Poland but for the whole of Eastern Europe and Russia, which would lead to a workers' federation of the area.

A planned economy together with workers' democracy would also shatter capitalism in the West.

The totalitarian one-party state holds no attraction for workers in the West. But once they saw a democratic socialist federation of Poland, Russia and the rest of Eastern Europe, they would not tolerate mass unemployment and worsening living standards for long.

Workers' democracy in Poland would mean not just the end of Stalinism but of capitalism too.

**The Solidarity leaders refuse to pose the issue of peaceful political revolution to establish a workers' democracy. They seek an accommodation with the 'liberal' wing of the bureaucracy. But basic demands for reform raise the need to end the corrupt totalitarian bureaucratic regime.**

Because the Solidarity leaders, egged on by the 'dissidents' in KOR, have refused to pose the issue of a peaceful political revolution to establish workers' democracy they must inevitably seek an accommodation with the "liberal" wing of the bureaucracy.

This in turn—as with the right-wing reformist trade union leaders in the capitalist countries—must necessarily involve them in attempting to put a brake on the workers' movement.

Walesa had urged that wage increases should be foregone in the present "difficult situation" facing Poland. He denounced the call of the radical wing of Solidarity for a strike in Bydgoszcz because of the failure of the government to punish those responsible for the beating up of Solidarity members in March.

In a workers' state the working class are the "ruling class" and manage and control society. Yet Walesa, like the degenerate Stalinist ruling caste, now speak in terms of "the governors and the governed". In an interview in Japan he stated: "the government hardly had time to govern yet. Let's give them some time. Let's

factories count themselves lucky if production will drop by just 10% this year! He also points out that because of bureaucratic mismanagement, tractor production which was supposed to be 55,000 last year ended up as 1,500!

A million Poles could be out of a job by the end of this year. This unemployment arises not through over-production, as under capitalism, but solely because of the snarling up of production by bureaucratic mismanagement and waste.

## Corruption

Yet Myant can still describe this country as "socialist". A healthy workers' state would have nothing in common with the monstrous corruption and mis-management which characterises Poland at the present time.

Poland demonstrates that only through the conscious control and management of industry and the state by the working class through workers' and peasants' councils would it be possible for a harmonious plan of production to be drawn up

**Militant Pamphlet  
'Bureaucratism or Workers' Power'**  
An analysis of Stalinism Available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E9 3PN. Price 30p + 20p (p&p) each



# SRI LANKA-WORKERS RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

This week marks 50 years of universal adult suffrage in Sri Lanka.

But the reactionary United National Party regime is making a mockery of democracy by ruthlessly attacking trade unions and denying the right to strike; ballot-rigging at local elections at gunpoint; and unleashing a racist reign of terror on the Tamil minority.

Celebrations of five decades' voting rights by the big business politicians are sickeningly hypocritical—for over three decades they have disenfranchised 1½ million Tamil-speaking plantation workers!

For years these tea pickers have endured pitiful conditions of life in return for back-breaking work, with no means of fighting back.

Now the traditional democratic rights of the whole working class are threatened, as UNP President J.R. Jayawardena moves towards a dictatorship (with him playing the role of a Ceylonese Napoleon Bonaparte), to guarantee a worse exploitation of the workforce by the multinationals.

Only the obstacle of the organised labour movement, which has a long tradition of democratic struggle against repression and imperialist domination, stands in the way.

Voting rights were only conceded by the British in 1931 in order to head off the growing demands of the people for national independence. But the Ceylonese landlords and businessmen opposed this democratic reform because they feared it would upset their cosy, privileged position on top of the masses.

These cowards preferred to be lap-dogs to their British rulers and keep the country in colonial servitude sooner than risk unleashing a mass liberation movement which might sweep them aside too.

Thus the leadership of the entire people struggling for freedom fell on the shoulders of the working class and its trade unions, led by the socialist Sama Samajists.

Eventually, after a decade of repression in which the socialist leaders were imprisoned, their party banned, and elections suspended, the British were forced to retreat.

To avert the danger of the workers coming to power under a Marxist leadership which would have appealed to the workers of India and other countries to follow suit, they shaped up their native Tory proteges and handed power to them. Thus was born the UNP!

Their first act was to steal the voting and citizenship rights of the Tamil-speaking plantation workers of Indian origin to consolidate their weak grip on the state. The Tamil people were betrayed by their capitalist political 'leaders,' who put up little resistance just as the whole

By Brent Kennedy  
(UK representative of the  
United Federation of  
Labour in Sri Lanka)

island had been betrayed by the Sinhala ruling class under the British.

The Sama Samajists had a proud record at that time of defending the rights of the minority. They declared that "the interests of the Indian labourers and the vast mass of peasants and workers in this country are the same. The fight is against the capitalist class whether they are Indians or Ceylonese."

Successive UNP and Sri Lanka Freedom Party governments have further attacked the rights of the Tamils, depriving them of employment, access to higher education and imposing Sinhala as the state language.

It was shown, after the communal riots of 1958, that these attacks on the Tamils were a blow to the workers and peasants as a whole. The riots were used as an excuse to introduce repressive legislation placing exceptional powers in the hands of the police and army—which were then used to break strikes.

## Parliament reduced to a rubber stamp

This policy, which was continued by the coalition led by Mrs Bandaranaike who arrested socialists after the 1971 youth uprising and forced strikers back to work at gunpoint, has been taken to new heights by the present regime.

The UNP's election victory in 1977 was the immediate signal for a bloody pogrom against the Tamils, in which many were murdered and hundreds lost their houses and jobs. Jayawardena quickly followed through, abolishing the free rice ration and food subsidies, scrapping the republican constitution and introducing the notorious "Essential Public Services Act" which removed the right to strike from the majority of the working class at a stroke.

What use is the right to vote when the legislature has been reduced to a rubber stamp for a Presidential dictatorship? The President can rule without the parliament and cannot be charged by any court of law. If an MP resigns from his party he is removed from parliament, an attempt to keep Jayawardena's own UNP MPs under his control.

If an MP dies or resigns there is no by-election, the same party simply appoints a replacement—obviously to avoid a test of public opinion.

Jayawardena;  
Tamil tea picker at work;  
scene outside court in Colombo where the leaders of last year's general strike were being brought to trial (bottom)

Local government authorities have been scrapped and stooge "District Development Councils" introduced, in which any elected member can be removed at will by the President! Last month the Nava Sama Samaja Party led a very successful boycott of the first 'elections' to these bodies.

The UNP's fear of the results led two Cabinet Ministers known for their chauvinism to lead a gang of party thugs in a campaign of physical intimidation in Jaffna. In the ensuing police and army riot Tamils were killed, the Tamil library burned and an opposition MP's secretary murdered.

It is quite clear that this was a dress rehearsal for the state intimidation and racist violence that the UNP intends to use in a desperate attempt to cling to power in the 1983 elections.

But this campaign to whip up communal hatred has failed, as did the enormous measures used against the trade unions in last year's General Strike. Despite the crushing of the strike through armed force, press censorship, seizure of union funds and offices, the trade union movement is still the greatest obstacle to the UNP's moves towards complete dictatorship and the crushing of all democratic rights.

## The only guarantee of lasting democracy is in a socialist Sri Lanka

I appeal to our readers to support their Sri Lankan brothers and sisters by sending messages of protest to the Sri Lanka High Commission, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W.2., demanding:

Restore the franchise to the Tamil plantation workers!

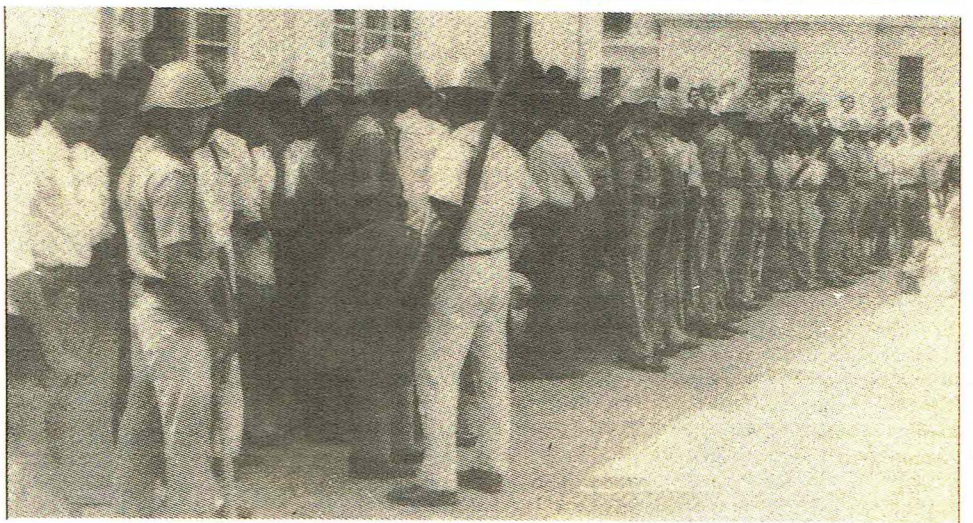
Self-determination for the Tamil people!

Hands off the unions—repeal the Essential Services Act!

Reinstate the sacked trade unionists and drop all charges against the union leaders!

The Sri Lankan labour movement won democratic rights only through struggle and sacrifice—it will not give them up without further struggle. But the only guarantee of lasting reforms and genuine democracy is in a workers' democracy: a Socialist Sri Lanka.

Please send messages of support and greatly-needed donations to: Wesley Mathiah, 19 Hawthorne Avenue, London N12.



## International recession deepens

According to economists' reports, this year will see a further worsening of economic recession throughout the capitalist world.

The managing director of the International Monetary Fund, J de Larosière, predicts that the growth rate for the industrialised countries will slow down still further, from 1.5% in 1980 to 1% this year.

Even some of the most stable capitalist countries are showing an absolute fall in production. In Switzerland, industrial production for the first quarter of this year was down by 3% compared with the same period last year. West Germany shows a 1.5% drop in Gross National Product this year, compared with 1.8% growth in 1980.

Investment in new production is the surest barometer of the strength of an economy and the capitalists' confidence in their own future. In West Germany, according to the annual survey by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), investment is down by 5% after a 3.7% rise last year.

Unemployment has risen from 3.5% of the workforce

in 1980 to 4.75% this year.

For the former colonial world, the recession spells growing disaster and a deepening nightmare for millions who are fighting for bare survival.

The deficit on balance of payments for the non-oil-exporting countries is expected to reach \$100 billion this year, after doubling to \$82 billion in 1980.

Lower prices for the raw materials exported by these countries make it increasingly difficult to pay the burden of interest on their debts to the imperialist money-lenders. Debt service payments, which took up 17% of their total export earnings in 1978, will amount to 21% this year.

Also the nationalised economies of Russia and Eastern Europe, their huge potential squandered by bureaucratic corruption, are being dragged down deeper into stagnation and decay. Increasing economic involvement with the West has exposed them all the more to the consequences of the capitalist world crisis, eg. inflation and dwindling markets.

According to the West German Institute of Economic Research, a growth in Gross National Product of 5.4% to 5.7% a year had

been planned in Russia for the period 1975-80. In fact, average growth of only 4.1% per year was achieved, which slowed down to less than 3% last year.

The other Comecon (Eastern European) countries did even worse. Of the 6.7% to 7% growth a year planned for the past 5 year period, only 3.9% was achieved, slowing down to 1.1% last year. An actual fall in GNP was recorded in Poland (-4%) and Hungary (-0.5%).

For the coming 5 years the bureaucratic planners of the Russian economy have lowered their sights to an average growth rate of 3.7% to 4% a year, and in other Comecon countries to 3.6% to 3.9% a year. It remains to be seen how much of this will be achieved.

Marx explained that a social system is ripe for overthrow when it is no longer capable of developing production and taking society forward.

The impasse of both capitalism in the West—aggravated to nightmare proportions in the former colonial world—and Stalinism in the East make it clear that the period we have entered will be one of upheavals and revolution on a world scale.



# Build **Militant** ads

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

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July	Target for year
Eastern	2716		3550	7100
East Midlands	2353		2750	5500
Hants & Dorset	1588		2600	5200
Humberside	1023		1750	3500
London East	3242		3800	7600
London West	1876		2400	4800
London South	2818		2750	5500
Manchester & Lancs	1946		2900	5800
Merseyside	2168		3300	6600
Northern	2417		4300	8600
Scotland East	1402		2200	4400
Scotland West	2341		3750	7500
Southern	3365		3550	7100
South West	1513		1750	3500
Wales East	901		1300	2600
Wales West	1272		2300	4600
West Midlands	2946		4300	8600
Yorkshire	3211		4500	9000
Others	8442		6250	12500
<b>Total received</b>	<b>47540</b>		<b>60,000</b>	<b>120,000</b>

**Target for July 11th £60,000      Target for year £120,000**

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**

**THIS WEEK: £4397**

By Steve Cawley

If the Tories hoped that 'The wedding of the year' would detract attention from the disaster of unemployment, the events of the last week have ruined their plans.

Unlike the Tories and their press we have a practical alternative to the rioting which has erupted in almost every major city in the country. That alternative is to win the youth, black and white, in work or out of work to a political struggle for socialism.

The Marxist ideas of 'Militant' will lead the way. But to get these ideas across takes money. Money to print the extra copies of the paper and money for extra despatch and distribution costs.

Obviously, extra sales mean more revenue for us, but if we are to reach all the potential new readers we need to spend more cash first. So don't stop raising money for us now! Our readers have done a remarkable job by raising for us £4,387 in the last hectic week. At a time when the Tories are trying to blame working mothers and fathers for the ills of capitalist society, it's very appropriate that the £117.13 raised for our funds during the Labour Party Women's Conference (see report in 'Militant' of 26 June) should be added into the total.

Our summer holiday draw was won by a Londoner (see separate notice) and

the net proceeds of £1,164 are included in the week's total. Many thanks to everyone who helped us.

A Reading supporter tells us that their coach broke down on the way to the Cardiff march... 'but we did persuade a lot of people to part with their refunded coach fare by using 'Militant' appeal sheets. We raised £70...'

That's the sort of initiative that's needed! Collections at 'Militant' meetings show the determination to build our paper: £74 from East London, and £57 from Borehamwood, which is just down the road from Thatcher's constituency of Finchley, and where the local MP has been involved with arms sales to Chile.

Nottingham readers raised £98 at a meeting, Neath over £18, and £35 came from a Leeds meeting and a similar amount in Newcastle. £44 came from a stall at an anti-Nazi carnival, and £16 from Bradford's July Book Club. Many comrades have used our half-year target as an excuse for a party. Canterbury readers enjoyed themselves to the tune of £19, Swindon's party raised the same amount and £37 came from Bootle supporters' social.

A large number of donations from Scottish supporters included two from Paisley totalling £35 and a £4.50 donation from Pollok LPYS. In Sheffield guessing the correct arrival of Jane Doyle's baby has left us £10 better off, plus another recruit to the cause.

It's impossible to list all the individual contributions, but the following are just a few: C East (Croydon) £20; S McKenzie, Dartford, £12;

from members of Paddington NUR No 1 Branch; F Kennett Wakefield (from sale of picture) £25; the 14 engineers at Brighton MLO who sponsored the Grant boys' ride; small businessmen (Barnsley) for regular donations, TU delegates in London, the north and Scotland for £115 expenses re-imbursed; B Shepherd (Tranent LPYS) £3 and Mr & Mrs Joyce (Isle of Wight) who were at the battle of Cable Street!

And new support is being

added all the time. Many thanks to Clowne & Barborough LPYS for their £10 donation, and to readers who contributed to the collection at the Prestatyn Marxist Discussion Group.

Thanks to all the above, and to our other supporters. Keep up the good work and make every week a £4,000+ week. While the Tory policies are destroying jobs, futures, lives, you can be constructive. Build 'Militant'!

**BE CONSTRUCTIVE! BUILD MILITANT!**

**MILITANT SUMMER HOLIDAY DRAW 1981 RESULTS**

On behalf of the Militant Supporters Association, we would like to thank all purchasers of tickets. Our congratulations to the winners and our commiserations to everyone else—better luck next time! Your money couldn't have gone to a better cause!

Will the following please contact the Militant office, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, enclosing with their letter their numbered tickets, and stating the address they want their prizes sent to.

1st prize—Summer holiday in resort of choice (worth £500)—M Woods, London NW6, ticket no. 03873

2nd prize—music centre—S Cooke, Leicester, ticket no. 77759

3rd prize—radio/cassette recorders—R Kannalas, Mansfield, no. 35814; 4th prize—N Penn Littlehampton, no. 31133, 5th prize—V Dunn, Barnsley, no. 15537; 6th prize—OXO—no. 21663.

7th prize—book/record token—L Oakley, West Glamorgan, no. 30720; 8th prize—T Godwin, Rotherham, no. 57395; 9th prize—C Astin, Keighley, no. 58895; 10th prize: P Froggatt, Sheffield, no. 13913.

Registered Promoter: D Smith, 73 Armond Road, Witham, Essex.

BARROW Labour Party Young Socialists Weekend School July 17-19: Saturday am: Which way forward for Labour? pm: Nuclear Disarmament. Sunday am How to build a YS. pm: sports and social activities. For further details contact Ed Waugh, Newcastle 857017.

Hear Irish folk group CRUSHEEN 8.30 pm, every Friday, the Britannia, 289 Mare St, Hackney

POOLE Militant Discussion Group. 'Is Russia Socialist?' Tuesday 28 July, 8.00 pm. Further details contact Parkstone 732090/733989

Stockport Militant Supporters GRAND RAFFLE Lenin's Collected Works. Tickets £1, limited to 200 tickets. Tickets from Maggie Harbour, 30 Albert Road, Heaton Moor, Stockport SK4 4EG. Must be drawn soon! Last few tickets.

**'I'D RATHER BE A MOLE THAN A RAT' T-SHIRTS**

Summer T-shirts. Colours—white, yellow, sky blue, dark green, navy and black. All with red motif. Round neck and short sleeves. This is your very last chance to order this year. This will be the final order from the factory. Send now! Sizes: children's: 24, 26, 28 and 30 inch chest. £2.80 each. Adults: small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-40; extra large (no dark green)—42-44. £3.25 each. Both costs include postage and packing. Please indicate colour and size preferred. ALL PROCEEDS TO THE FIGHTING FUND. Cheques and postal orders made out to R Harris. Send orders with payment to: R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR.

**MILITANT BENEFIT**

We regret that, owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Militant benefit at the Rock Garden on 19 July has had to be postponed. Anyone requiring a refund should send their sold ticket to M Cleverley, 108 Vansittart Road, E.17. Orders are now being taken for the re-arranged benefit for which present tickets are valid. Obtainable from M Cleverley/J Dale, 108 Vansittart Road, London E.17.

**NOW AVAILABLE**

**Tapes from Militant Marxist Weekend Schools and LPYS Conferences**

1981 Weekend School: Introduction to Marxism: Method of Marxism—Jeremy Birch; Marxist Economics—Ed Bober; Marxism and Internationalism—Jeremy Birch. Ireland: The 1916 Uprising; Partition and the Civil War; Perspectives for Northern Ireland. All by Manus Maguire. France: Popular Front Government of 1936—Lynn Walsh; 1968—Clare Doyle; Mitterrand's victory: the future for France—Peter Taaffe. History of the British labour movement: Chartists and early trade unions—Brian Ingham; Unemployed struggles of 1920s and 1930s—Brian Ingham; Poplarism: Lessons for today—Tony Saunio. South Africa: History of South African labour movement; Prospects for the future. Poland: The struggle for Workers' Democracy—Lynn Walsh. Debates: The future of the Labour Party—Tony Saunio and Alan Whitehead (LCC); How to achieve peace and disarmament—Peter Taaffe and Harry Robertson (Labour Action for Peace).

1980 Weekend School China: 1925-7 Revolution—Peter Taaffe; 1944-49 Revolution—Peter Taaffe; Perspectives for Today—Lynn Walsh. Economics: Wage, Labour & Capital—Bryan Beckingham; Will there be a slump?—Rob Jones; Alternative Economic Strategy—Rob Jones. Life of Trotsky: Rise of Bolshevism—Alan Woods; Struggle against Stalinism—Alan Woods; 1930s—Ted Grant. Marxism & the Trade Unions: General Strike—Brian Ingham; Role of Marxist as shop steward—Bob Faulkes. Debate: Lessons of Chile 1970-73—Lynn Walsh & Mike Gatehouse (CPGB).

LPYS Conference 1980: Workers of the World Unite—Peter Taaffe 1981: Crisis of Capitalism & Socialist Revolution—Ted Grant.

Cost: £1.50 each. 3 for £4. Full set of 1981 Weekend School (17 tapes)—£20 Full set of 1980 Weekend School (12 tapes)—£14 BARGAIN OFFER: All 29 Weekend School tapes—£30

Cheques payable to 'Militant' (add 20% for postage). Allow 3 weeks for delivery. Send orders to: Weekend School tapes, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



# LIBERAL LIES

Photo: Julian McKittrick

## MILITANT ANSWERS LIVERPOOL LIBERALS

Editorial Statement

David Alton, Liberal MP for Liverpool Edge Hill, his mentor Sir Trevor Jones, Liberal leader on Liverpool City Council, and their supporters are notorious for their attempts to gag their Labour opponents by the "illiberal" issuing of libel writs.

Terrified that they will be exposed as Tories in disguise they have freely issued writs against Labour activists. At least three libel actions are now pending against Liverpool Labour Party members.

Yet when attacking *Militant* and the Labour Party Young Socialists for their intervention in Toxteth, Alton has resorted to the most barefaced lies.

Attacking *Militant* supporter Clare Doyle and the Labour Party Young Socialists, Alton said: "If Clare Doyle does not believe that these [LPYS]

**No Militant supporter or Young Socialist has "blazed a trail of destruction through Liverpool."**

leaflets were inflammatory I would like to know what she does regard as such.

"I wish that she and her fellow Young Socialists had stayed in London. These people have blazed a trail of destruction through Liverpool."

This despicable allegation about *Militant* supporter Clare Doyle in particular was an encouragement to deranged individuals to physically attack an alleged "instigator of violence."

Unfortunately for Alton the Labour Party Young Socialist leaflet on which he has based his allegations and which he waved before the TV cameras states specifically:

"Most workers, including most black workers, do not accept that street fighting, burning and looting are the way to solve the problems facing us."

No *Militant* supporter or Young Socialist has "blazed a trail of destruction through Liverpool," and Alton knows this.

Indeed *Militant* supporters were exonerated from the charge of supporting violence by none other than Sir Trevor Jones himself. On the BBC Newsnight programme on 8 July Jones was asked by the interviewer, John Tusa "Have they [*Militant* supporters] been preaching violence?" Jones answered, "They have not preached violence, certainly not!"

Why then have the Liberals continued to peddle their lies? They want to find scapegoats for their failures. They share responsibility with the Tories for the terrible social conditions of mass unemployment, slums, etc, which bred the despair which led to the riots.

Since 1975 the Liverpool City Council has been controlled by a Liberal-Tory alliance. Yet in that time 4,000 jobs have been cut from the Liverpool Council workforce. Not one new council house was built in Liverpool last year, or this year, and none is likely to be built next year either. Those whose only escape route lies in a council house are condemned to live in slum housing.

Jones and his Liberal cronies have been the most enthusiastic cutters of council spending on social services, housing education, and other vital services. They introduced drastic cuts even before Tory hatchetman Heseltine ordered them to do so.

No wonder Jones was rewarded with a knighthood by Thatcher! He even stated that there were no fundamental differences between the Liverpool Liberals and Tories. On that occasion he was telling the truth!

But when the labour movement attempts to inform working people about the horrible reality of the Liberals' programme and record, Jones, Alton and their acolytes have resorted to undemocratic manoeuvres in an attempt to silence us.

On Wednesday, 8th July, the Toxteth, Edge Hill and Scotland Labour Parties were to hold a public meeting in Paddington Comprehensive school, which they had previously booked, to discuss the upheavals in the area in the past week and to outline the positive programme of the Labour Party to solve the problems of working people.

Yet the night before the meeting was to be held permission was withdrawn on the authority of the Liberal Chairman of the Education Committee, Storey.

This was on the spurious grounds that the school could have been burnt by rioters.

This was a glaring attempt to stifle the voice of the labour movement at a time of intense interest in what we have to say. In open and public discussion of the causes of the riots the claims of Alton would evaporate. His accusation of "blazing a trail of destruction" would be seen for what it is—a lie.

To cover the conflict on the streets we have had to hold over our normal readers' letters and articles on Northern Ireland and H-Blocks until next week.



LP Young Socialists demonstrate outside Liverpool Town Hall during Thatcher's visit on Monday, 13 July

He does not have a shred of evidence to substantiate his lies about *Militant* and the LPYS. If he claims to have proof then let him meet us in public debate.

*Militant* and the LPYS are prepared to meet Alton in public debate any time. We eagerly await his answers to our challenge—but with little confidence that he will accept it.

It is one thing to peddle lies to friendly reporters in the capitalist press, radio and TV. It is another thing entirely to have to substantiate them before audiences of working people.

One thing is certain: Alton and Jones and their campaign of vilification and local threat will not silence us or the labour movement.

Threats of libel action and even libel action itself will not prevent *Militant*

***Militant* and the LPYS are prepared to meet Alton in public debate any time.**

from telling working people the truth about the Liberals and their despicable methods. Other people have tried this—and they failed!

Our programme for socialist change is the one capable of eradicating the terrible social conditions which led to the riots.

Faced by a Labour Party fighting on a socialist programme the Liberals and the Tories will become politically extinct in Liverpool. The hysteria of Alton and Jones is calculated to prevent Labour fighting on this programme. They will not succeed.

## An Answer to Shirley Williams

Shirley Williams' attack on *Militant* in Warrington last week is a tissue of lies.

The Tories have sought to deflect responsibility for what happened in Toxteth, Brixton, and other areas from themselves and their disastrous policies of mass unemployment onto the shoulders of alleged "conspirators".

Shirley Williams is repeating the Tory lies when she says *Militant* "could be linked to what happened in Toxteth, Brixton." In reality, it is Shirley Williams who is linked to these events.

She supported the policy of watered-down Thatcherism—cut in social services, housing, etc—in the last Labour government. This contributed to the terrible social conditions of these areas which produced the riots for the last weeks. Her policies also paved the way for the election of Thatcher.

*Militant* has made it clear that we are opposed to rioting, looting and arson. We and the Labour Party Young Socialists have pointed out that the events of the past few weeks arise out of blind despair of the the youth against their conditions.

We have called for them to join us in a conscious political movement to rid us of this reactionary Tory government and bring to power a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Shirley Williams and her Social Democratic Party have no programme to solve

the problems of the youth and the working class. She defend rotting British capitalism, which will have one million teenagers on the dole by Christmas.

*Militant* has no "training centres" in either Brixton or Toxteth, and Shirley Williams knows this.

We and the Labour Party Young Socialists have a growing number of supporters in Toxteth, Brixton and throughout Britain. These youth have rejected capitalism, and the Tories, Liberals and the Tories-Liberals in disguise like Mrs Shirley Williams and are looking towards our programme for socialist change.

**'Militant' is opposed to rioting, looting and arson. We have called for the youth to join us in a conscious political movement against the Tories and to return a Labour government on socialist policies.**

It is entirely false to claim, as Mrs Williams does, that *Militant* "have climbed into the Labour Party over the last five years."

Many *Militant* supporters are long-standing members of the Labour Party. Ted Grant, a leading supporter of the *Militant*, has been a member of the Labour Party since 1950. Peter Taaffe, editor, has been a member of the Labour Party since 1960. We have won support for the *Militant* through democratic discussion and debate.

Mrs Williams lost the argument and then stabbed the labour movement in the back and formed the Social Democratic Party with £15 million promised from big business.

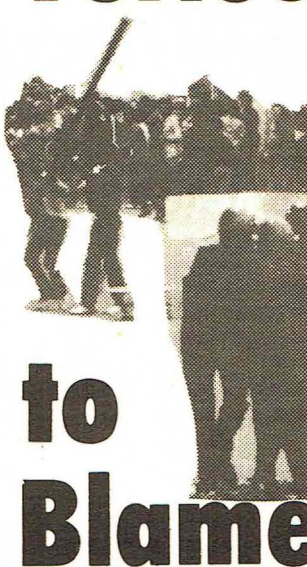
Moreover, she and her party wish to attack the democratic rights of working people. She accuses *Militant* of being part of the "undemocratic left." Yet her cohort, Roy Jenkins, has proposed a system of fines on strikers.

Mrs Williams' campaign of lies, distortion and innuendoes will not prevent *Militant* supporters or the Labour Party Young Socialists from attempting to win the working-class youth to the Labour Party and the struggle for socialism.

Nor will it prevent the victory of Labour in the Warrington by-election.

This statement was issued to the press on Saturday 11 July in answer to Shirley Williams' attack.

## Tories



to Blame



# BIRKENHEAD - Police on Rampage

Photo: Militant

**All hell was let loose on the Woodchurch Estate, Birkenhead, at the weekend.**

We've repeatedly warned that this could happen unless the labour movement showed an organised way out of the despair and bitterness of the unemployed youth.

Woodchurch is Wirral's biggest housing estate, with about a 12,000 population, a third unemployed and bad housing conditions, particularly in the high-rise blocks.

It has a long record of police harassment. In despair some youth have turned to drugs. One young unemployed girl jumped to her death from a balcony last year.

The riots in other cities encouraged some local youth to seek revenge on the social conditions and the police hassle through rioting and looting. On Saturday night the police came into a popular local pub and ordered everybody to 'drink up and get out,' and started aggressively to question youth. So a group of lads started to smash shop windows.

## Military tactics of police

The police charged to disperse the small crowd, shouting: "Commie bastards." They wielded their truncheons on heads and shoulders.

A group of lads entered a 14-storey block with empty flats and others awaiting urgent repairs. They apparently broke into vacant flats and hurled tins of paint, old TVs, bottles and even a fridge down at the police. The futility of this was soon revealed. Local working-class people, including many youth, showed hostility to them. Families were being disturbed, women were terrified. Stories spread that the rioters had forced their way into occupied flats and the police began to appear as heroes.

One unemployed man said: "I'm skint, I'm unemployed, but I'm not taking part in that. They'll destroy the rioters if they carry on. They'll turn people to support the police."

Another unemployed lad commented: "If they really want action, why don't they pick on the big shops that make the money instead of going into the homes of working-class people."

These methods could never be condoned, particularly because it gives a perfect excuse for police brutality. The police were trained in military tactics, even wearing Khaki style helmets. Searchlights were trained on the flat window, and a game of cat-and-mouse developed.

Many of the youth involved left the block of flats and stayed outside. But at about 2.30am the police decided to move in. With riot shields and batons, four foot long pick handles, the police then grouped outside the block.

By  
**Richard Venton**  
(Birkenhead Labour Party)

Crowds gathered, hoping the situation could be resolved and their families left in peace for the night. But what followed showed that the working class only rely on their own organisations to defend their areas from violence, either from rioters or the police.

Women told me of the night before they'd been ready to defend the area from trouble. They were soon to see that the police controlled by unelected officers are a threat to the democratic rights of the working class and cannot be relied on to defend the estates.

The police charged into the flats shouting and banging riot shields with their batons. A policeman got a bag of cement thrown on him. But then they smashed down the doors and entered the block. The police systematically went along each balcony, banging on all the doors shouting "Open up or we come in."

As people outside said "they are making more noise and creating more fear than those lads ever did." People began to say this was reminiscent of army house searches in Northern Ireland. Police smashed down doors that weren't immediately opened and charged into the flats in groups of five or six. Women screamed as they were shoved around. "You live here. Don't effing lie to me, you're harbouring somebody."

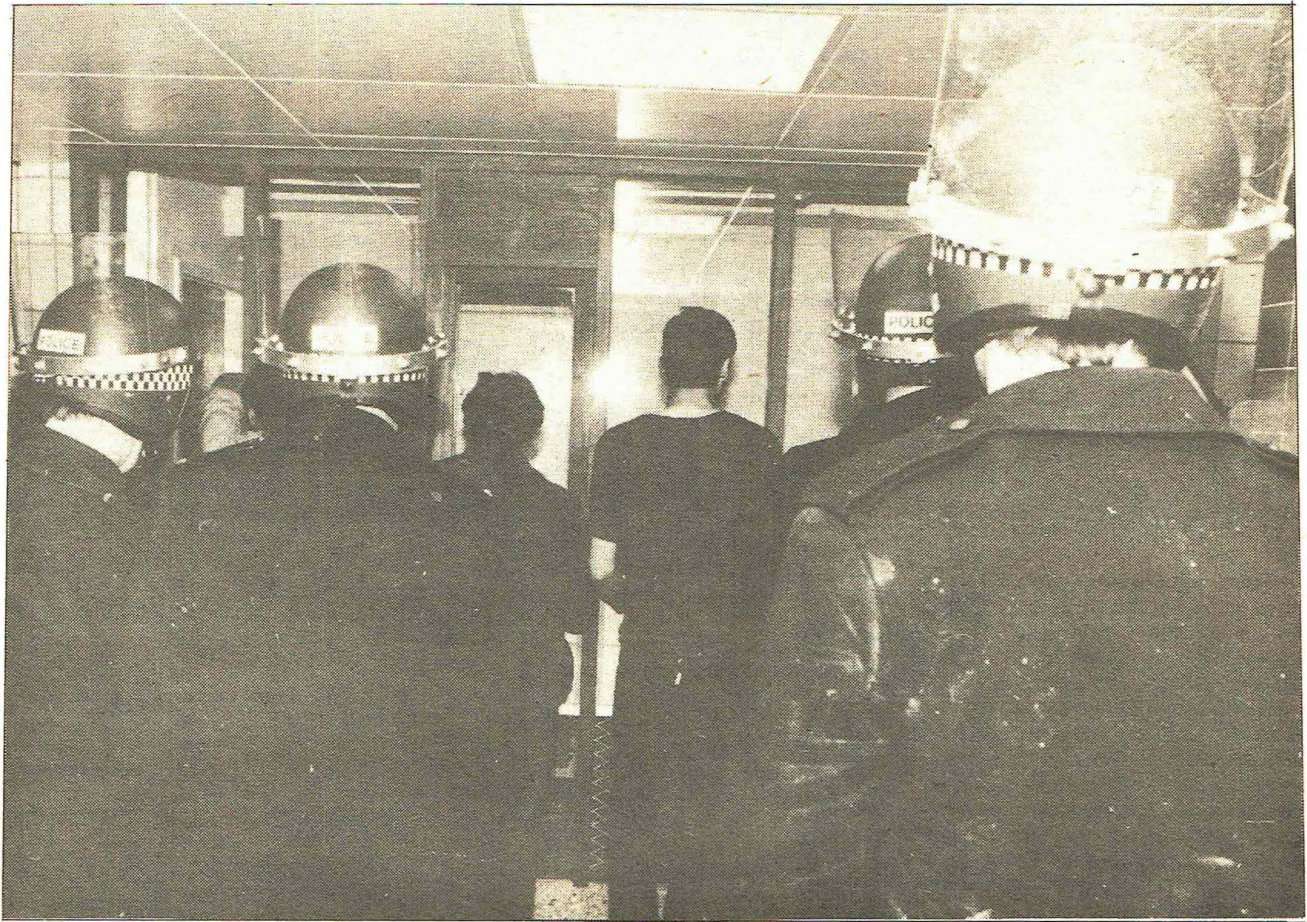
The mood of people outside began to switch. "There's no need for that," was the general attitude. The police were intent on revenge arrests, regardless of whether those arrested had been involved in the night's activities.

## Defend the victims

Police officers screamed at people who looked out of their bedroom windows to get back in or they'd face arrest as well. As they hauled youths out of the flats in a block where many young single people live anyway, policeman roared: "Come out you bastards now, or we'll put you in hospital!" They were obviously serious.

As they went up the balconies arrested youths could be seen holding their heads attempting to protect themselves as police batons came down on them.

They had to run a gauntlet of batons along the balcony. They were dragged and kicked downstairs and made to stand spreadeagled against a wall in the foyer covered in blood. They were handcuffed and frog-marched to vans.



Riot police line youths up against the wall before making arrests, Woodchurch Estate,

Many people said some of those arrested hadn't done any of the looting, some were clearly innocent victims of police revenge.

People said: "Look the van's shaking—they're doing them over."

Senior police officers obviously thought people had seen enough. They blocked our photographer from taking pictures, and ordered the crowd to disperse, gesturing threateningly with their batons. Arrests were still being made, but local people were prevented from seeing.

An official 50 arrests took place in Wirral on Saturday night on the Woodchurch and Leasowe estates. Further harassment and arrests are likely, using looting as a cover for house searches.

## Committees

The labour and trade union movement will in no way support or condone the blind methods used by the youth. But the labour leadership can't simply wring their hands in pious regret. They must intervene to defend those victimised by the police.

They must link up with local people to form street committees and block committees to defend the estates if necessary. They must campaign for the removal of provocative police saturation of the area and an end to harassment.

Above all else, Labour must demonstrate a vigorous determination to organise the despairing unemployed youth into the struggle to bring down the Tories and the system they represent ●

## NEW LPYS LEAFLET! SMASH THE TORIES!

£4 per 1,000 (postage extra)  
Order through Youth Campaign Against Unemployment, PO Box 104, London E9.  
Supplies will be available at 'Militant' rally

Leaflet published by Kevin Ramage, LPYS National Chairman

# Moss Side Tories the Culprits

The upheavals in Moss Side had been expected by many people for a long time!

With 40% of local youth out of work and the long history of police harassment of the area, tensions have been high. An outbreak of looting early on Wednesday morning detonated the explosion.

On Wednesday night, about a thousand people, mostly black and white youth from nearby estates, crowded on to Princess Road. Groups took part in looting in Moss Side and Rusholme. Several people besieged Moss Side police station, which has become a symbol of repression.

Since then a massive police presence has been established in Moss Side and Central Manchester. Convoys of police vans continually speed through the streets.

More than 150 people were arrested by snatch squads on Thursday night. Reports of police brutality are beginning to emerge. One well-known local youth leader was grabbed while telling people to go home.

By Javed Iqbal  
(Moss Side LPYS)

He was badly beaten up in the police station.

The LPYS has been out leafletting on the streets and estates. We are explaining that youth need to organise with the labour movement to fight the real culprits—the Tories and their system.

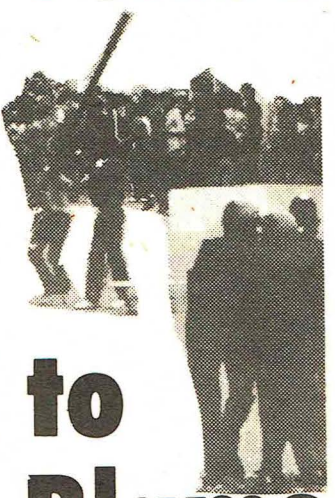
Everyone agrees: "Maggie is to blame". One woman asked us to lay on coaches to take people to the House of Commons. "We'll sit outside until we've got rid of the Tories!"

## Real robbers

We've made plain our condemnation of looting and isolated incidents where ambulance, fire and bus crews were attacked. But one LPYS member was arrested on Saturday morning for leafletting in Moss Side, and two Young Socialists selling papers in Rusholme were moved on by the police.

We are organising activities on Thursday 23 July the day when the new unemployment figures will be announced. We will be protesting at the Tory looters who have robbed this summer's out-of-work school leavers of their right to supplementary benefit.

# Tories



# to Blame

**KIRKBY  
Police tell  
union  
branch  
'Don't  
meet'**

The AUEW branch secretary in Kirkby was told by the police not to hold his meeting in the Labour Club (Friday 10 July) because the people who attacked the police during the week were going to do Kirkby police station.

The branch secretary told the police that £300 was generally collected at their union branch meeting that night, and if they couldn't meet in the club they would have to collect the money on the Club steps, which would be even more dangerous.

The police refused to allow the meeting to go ahead, and the money was collected outside. The police were all over Kirkby's town centre in riot gear.



# Industrial Reports

## SAVE DOCK JOBS!

# SCRAP THE 'ID'

By Nigel Bond  
(Gosport LPYS)

The news that Portsmouth Dockyard would be reduced to reserve status with the loss of 6,000 jobs was greeted with stunned disbelief which rapidly turned to anger.

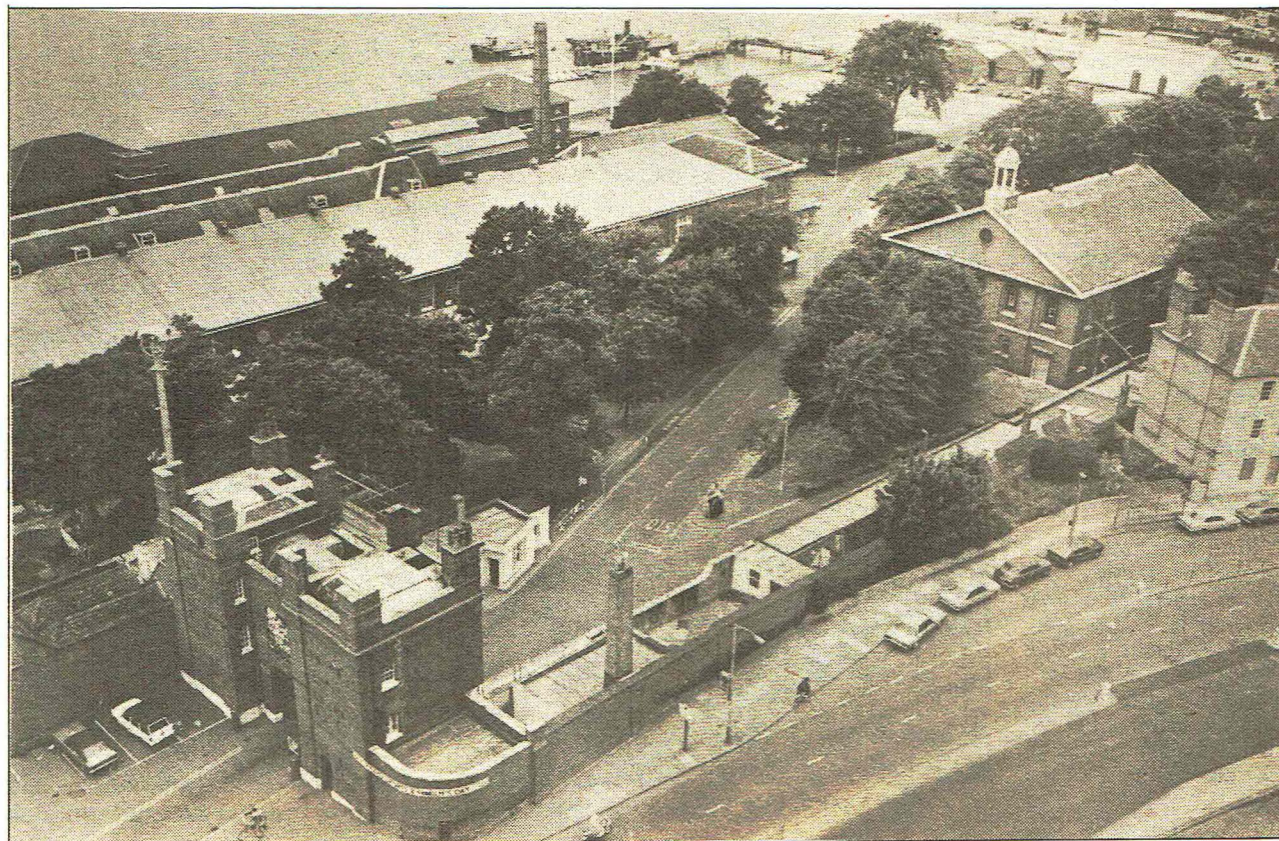
These will not be the only jobs to go. Also affected will be 4,500 mainly clerical jobs in the dockyard, and another 8,500 in smaller naval bases, mainly in the neighbouring town of Gosport.

Added to this is the huge number of workers employed in private industry—80,000 out of a workforce of 184,000—whose work depends in whole or in part on defence contracts. Portsmouth and the surrounding towns will become a desert!

And if naval personnel are moved to other bases—a quarter of Gosport's population are sailors and their families—service industries will also suffer.

The promises of the Tory MPs about voting for them and stopping Labour closing the yard have a hollow wring. Their hypocritical beatings are only designed to attempt to save their own careers. They were completely in support of the government when they shut down the steel towns.

The only amusing thing is



Chatham naval dockyard. Photo: Carlos Augusto (IFL)

their idiotic plans for private industry to take the place of the yard; all around 'private' factories are closing down! The only plan so far put forward, that seems to have some chance of success, is housing a big dole office in the dockyard complex.

Union leaders at Pompey dockyard have threatened a blockade of the navy and uniting with other yards. In the next period the workers in Portsmouth will have to look to new militant traditions to save their jobs and

equally important the need for alternative industries so they can use their skills to produce socially necessary products for the benefit of society.

## CHATHAM

A public meeting was held at Chatham Town Hall last week by the Labour and Trade Union Dockyard Defence Campaign.

The meeting was told by shop steward Eddie Pinn, that this group had been

labelled 'extremist'. He declared that if it is extremist to try and save the 13,000 jobs threatened by closure, then we are 'extremists'!

The group is utterly opposed to fighting the closure alongside Tory MPs and councillors which is the case with the all-party Dockyard Defence Committee. As Eddie told the meeting this Tory government took the decision to close the yard and the Tory MPs and councillors cannot divorce themselves from this decision.

A mass meeting of the yard's workforce meets this Thursday [July 16] where the following resolution will be put, which should be supported; "This mass meeting agrees 1] to extend existing Action Committee to include two stewards from each of the trade unions represented in the yard, this committee to meet within seven days. 2] save the apprenticeships 3] to link up with other dockyard committees to save jobs."

British Telecom engineers in the 'London centre area' are shocked and angry after a series of dawn raids by the 'Investigation Department,' a group styled on the police set up by the Post Office to investigate frauds and theft.

After allegations in the press of illegal phone fixing, the Post Office decided to investigate at the Maple Place and Blackburn Road depots, among others, on the basis of discrepancies in stores records.

Engineers were pulled up on their way into work and whisked away for interrogation by the ID. Their lockers, cars and homes were thoroughly searched. One engineer was kept hours late, without his wife being informed, causing her a great deal of anxiety. Engineers who refused to co-operate were threatened with police arrest and search warrants.

Equipment found in lockers or cars was treated as incriminating evidence.

Yet the shortage of PO vans forces some workers to keep gear elsewhere. Similarly, the stores records become distorted because supplies are often unavailable. In order to get a job done, workers are forced into situations, such as when an item has been out of stock for some time, you take out more than you need for future jobs, so that customers do not suffer even longer delays.

For this, we are now being made to feel like criminals. Five engineers have so far been charged.

The anger of the normally placid workers at these depots boiled over. The depots were occupied in protest.

One POEU branch in the area has called a half-day strike and work to rule. Other branches may follow suit.

The present action will continue until the strike. The union are demanding that apologies are sent to all those interrogated and found innocent.

Some union members are also demanding the sacking of the regional head of the Investigation Department. Stealing is wrong, but POEU members will not accept the use of such strong-arm tactics as a method of preventing corruption. The union must demand the complete disbanding of the self-styled policemen of ID.

## LONDON TRANSPORT

Anger is growing among London Transport underground workers at the paltry offer they have been made for this year's annual pay rise.

The new Labour GLC have told London Transport management that they are prepared to underwrite any wage rise which was finally agreed with the rail unions.

Yet management have refused to offer above a miserable 8.5% on the basic rate of pay, which can only add to the fall in living standards faced by many underground workers.

Furthermore this is only conditional to the trade union's not pursuing claims on the shorter working week or longer holidays over the next two years. The offer also includes lower streams of productivity, lower manning levels and other schemes carried on from the previous Tory-led GLC.

The NUR has made it clear that the offer is not acceptable and are now preparing for all-out strike action to begin on 20 July.

Predictably the capitalist press, always looking for an opportunity to attack the labour movement are attempting to exploit the issue. They are divisively at-

tempting to portray this justifiable claim as a power struggle between the right wing of Sid Weighell (Gen. Sec. NUR) and the left wing of Ken Livingstone, leader of the GLC.

However, unfortunately both the Labour GLC and the right wing of the NUR have made it all the easier for this to happen.

Sid Weighell has publicly attacked the GLC, stating that at least with Cutler he knew where he stood. To many LT workers, Cutler was hated almost as much as Thatcher is nationally.

However, unfortunately, Ken Livingstone and others have fallen into the trap of publicly stating that if the Labour GLC was led by others than the left wing, then the NUR would have been prepared to settle without a strike.

Undoubtedly there are right wingers wishing to embarrass the present leadership of the GLC. However, that does not in any way make the claim by London Transport any the less justifiable; the NUR national executive have voted to strike.

The decision doesn't rest with Sid Weighell alone.

Neither is it any excuse to point to the London busmen who have settled for 8%.

And it's not a question of awaiting the outcome of the railway staff national tribunal, dealing with this year's pay rise for British Rail workers. This body has rarely made a decent offer.

The Labour GLC was enthusiastically elected by the workers of London on a radical programme, and in the face of a vicious anti-Labour press campaign.

Yet if this situation continues, it could mean a split in the labour movement in London, with national implications. It is absolutely essential that the GLC now honours its election pledges on wages and shorter working hours to their employees. The GLC has a duty to step in now to be sure that the NUR's claim for a decent pay rise is met immediately.

Every Labour Party and Young Socialists branch have been urged to send resolutions in support of the NUR's claim to the NUR, Unity House, GLREC, and to the Labour Group on the GLC.

## ROBB CALEDON

One of the three bids to buy up the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee has come from three of the former top management of the yard—the very same people who have constantly told the workers no ships could be built there!

This alongside the closure of another shipyard and fears of undercover 'privatisation' taking place, has hardened the unions in the fight to save the yard.

A national delegate conference of shipbuilding workers on August 18 will be urged to take action in support of the fight to save the yard.

The Shipbuilding Negotiating Committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers decided upon this action after a meeting with British Shipbuilders' top management, who restated their determination to close the yard, on September 18th.

Management still refuse to admit compulsory redundancies will be declared on

that date, in breach of a national agreement. They are still hoping voluntary redundancies or transfer to other yards will be accepted.

The workers gave their response at a mass meeting. It was put squarely to all those still left [149 manual workers, 134 white-collar] they will now have to stay and fight, or volunteer to go. Only three workers and two foremen agreed to go! The 278 now left are determined to save their jobs.

The union leaders have now decided that only national action will force BS to change course and will be recommending this to the delegate conference.

Meanwhile the Robb Caledon workforce remain committed to take strike action the moment the first compulsory redundancy is announced. They will be sending out deputations to other yards and workplaces and labour organisations within Dundee to explain their case and build up support. The fight is on!

## National CNALP meeting

Venue: Woolton Labour Club, Liverpool on 25 July, 11am. Speaker Eric Heffer MP. Delegates to meeting should be elected at District CNALP meetings, which are being held presently to map out the campaign. For details contact CNALP secretary Danny Purton on Harlow [0279] 31656.

By a Post Office engineer



# TOTAL SUPPORT FOR GAS STRIKE

The question of privatisation and hiving off of the British Gas Corporation is not new to our industry.

It first arose during the last Tory government of 1970-74. Ironically, then the excuse for selling off our showrooms was the fact that they made a loss.

On this occasion, it was no more than an academic exchange of views between Whitehall and the Corporation 'experts'. The subject was finally dropped when British Gas made changes to our accountant system, which formed loss making outlets into profitable ones.

However, during this period, the manual workers were experiencing a sorry state in their salaries and related conditions negotiations, and after a five week strike, with no clerical

**By John Flynn**  
(Shop steward,  
Newcastle Norgas House  
branch, NALGO)

support at all, they returned to work with no stamina for another fight in that foreseeable future.

Today, Margaret Thatcher plans to sell off our 900 showrooms because, would you believe, they are too profitable! (see page 7).

The main results of this Tory dogma and the massive job losses it would cause has been the creation of a multi-union action committee. This covers all unions in the industry, from national level, down through the regions to branch level.

It is seen as the coming

together of employees, both manual and clerical, the likes of which we have not been able to mobilise before.

**"We won't fall foul of the moral red herrings of 'devotion to duty'. But we hope to hit industry first."**

A one day national strike was held on Monday in which no area caved in to management tactics. Every union was represented on the picket line.

This strike shows we see the question of privatisation as a direct attack on our living standards. We are united in our opposition to the whole affair. On this occasion the national gas supply was unaffected.

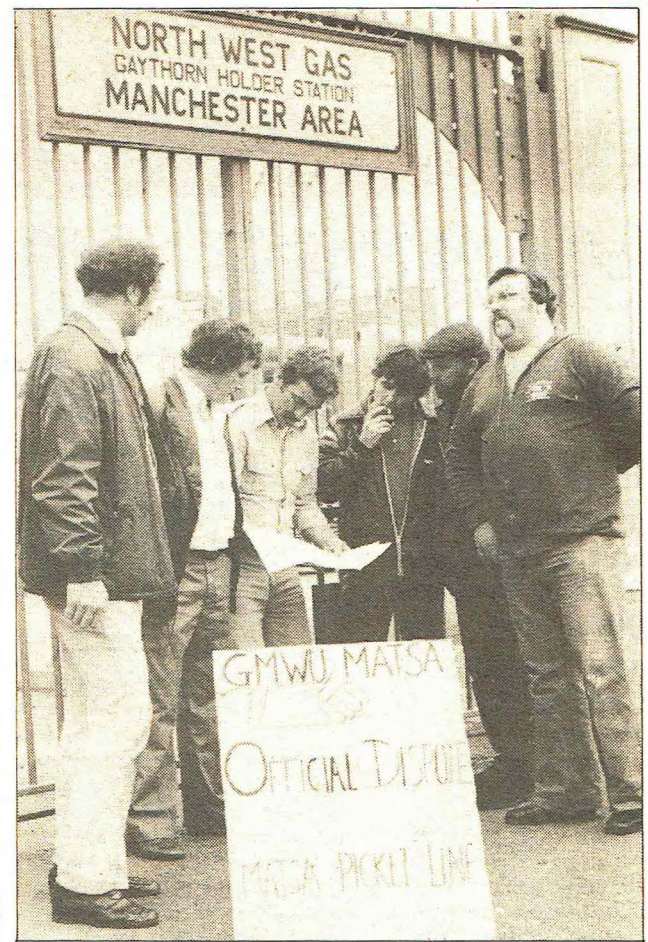
But plans have already

been made for a total withdrawal of labour nationally, and a reduction in gas pressure to a point that would be no good for industrial or domestic users.

We realise that this drastic step would create discomfort for the rest of the population. But too many trade unionists fall foul of the moral red-herring of "devotion to duty".

This national strike would take place later in the year when both impact and effect can be maximised. We hope to hit industry first. We wonder how long industrialists will accept losing its cheapest energy supply for the sake of selling off 900 showrooms.

Secondly, as the pressure is reduced, the amount of gas entering the system will also be reduced, and thus the oil companies who supply gas to BGC will have to 'flame' (burn) off the gas in the North Sea. I don't think the oil companies will cherish burning today what could be bringing in profits tomorrow.



Gas workers on the picket line at a dispute in the Manchester area in September 1978. It was in previous disputes such as these that gas workers learnt the need for unified action from all the industry's union. Photo: John Smith (IFL)

## EDINBURGH

The main picketing was on the showrooms, basically because all the area's depots and clerical offices were out. The picket lines were used at the showrooms to show the public what was happening and to explain why it was necessary to strike.

together to the all out strike call in Wales. There was normal safety cover in Wales which is normally expected in a dispute, but the mood was still one of 'Bring down the Tory government'.

## OXFORD

Last minute contemptible manoeuvres by management failed to break the resolve of workers, both manual and staff in Oxford.

100% support for the strike, with very enthusiastic picket lines. All were looking forward to the national strike! Petitions were taken out onto the streets, with a very good response from the public.

## MIDLANDS

Only one showroom in the country was open today; Birmingham showroom, which was open for renova-

tion work. This is to be turned into a luxury store for British Gas. Yet it may be the first one to be sold off if Margaret Thatcher's plans go through.

## LEICESTER

Total support for the all out strike. Huge attendance on picket lines all over the area. The membership saw it more as a political dispute, and realised that at the end of the day it was a question

of who runs the industry, ourselves or the government. We believe it's ourselves.

## NORTHERN REGION

Manual and clerical staff gave 100% support and due to a management dispute over the level of emergency cover, the final result was no emergency cover at all. This may raise for the rest of the regions the question of

whether in future we do give any emergency cover during gas disputes.

A mass meeting was held where all unions not only pledged support for this dispute, but gave some indications of joint strategy for all future gas disputes. For the Labour Party, Dave Cotterill, a 'Militant' supporter, questioned privatisation, and urged that in return the strikers should seriously support the Labour Party by joining it.

## WALES

Excellent 100% response from manual and staff

## JOY MANUFACTURERS

It's the afternoon of the weekly factory meeting at the Joy manufacturing plant in East Kilbride. They have been out on strike now since 18 June.

Men huddle in small groups. There are faces which you think can only be made in places like Glasgow, Liverpool or Newcastle. There is bitterness in the air, bitterness and determination.

When you look at them and see the strain etched in the faces it makes you laugh at all the Tory talk about strike happy workers.

The dispute is about management arbitrarily breaking working agreements that have lasted for six years.

"We are going back 40 years here son. We're fighting for conditions that our fathers fought for. I'm no militant but when it's in union book I'll fight for it."

"Tell the people we want the company to survive but with this management it's chop, chop, chop. We get threatened with redundancy all the time. If you ask for anything you get redundancies thrown at you."

The management at Joy are like Victorian entrepreneurs, only the whiskers are missing. Thirty redundancies have been an-

nounced since the strike started, and the men have had their holiday pay docked in Scrooge-like fashion.

But the dispute is a crucial one. The shop stewards have toured local factories and over 50 shop stewards' committees in the West of Scotland have pledged moral and financial support.

"People know we are right and when you're right trade union solidarity is there," said Calum Shaw, the convenor.

He continued, "The intimidation of management has stiffened the resolve of the men. The support we are getting from other factories is out of this world."

They all go to the meeting which lasts about 40 minutes. It finishes suddenly and the workers pour out in droves.

"Going back?" a reporter asks. "No we're not going back now, not after we've been out this time. We're not going back with nothing."

By Bob Wylie

## RAINES

The steelworkers at Raine Rolling Mills returned to work on Monday after management agreed to unconditionally reinstate Brian Nixon, sacked shop stew-

ard. Management had tried to break the resolve of the workers by refusing to even speak to local union officials. Rumours were also spread that the plant would be closed if the men did not return to work. The mass meeting last week reflected the tension many of the workers were beginning to feel.

John Clarke, the ISTC full time official warned the men that if they stayed out, and the plant closed they would not get redundancy money. He also stated he believed management genuinely intended to close the plant.

Workers replied this was ridiculous; why should they close the plant and at the same time take delivery of new machines? Others said how could they hope to negotiate a decent wage unless management realised they were determined not to be pushed around?

When the vote was taken on a return to work only 7 voted in favour, with 120 against. Management must have heard of the feelings and the strong solidarity of these steelworkers—within 24 hours talks had resumed!

A local procedure has been agreed so the unions can now challenge redundancies. They have also agreed to hold talks on future plans for the steel mill.

There can be little doubt that the determined stand taken by the ISTC members, the way they organised

regular mass meetings, the well established contacts with other branches, and the way they negotiated as a united workforce, was an important factor to win this fight.

## HARROW ROAD

The fight to save St Mary's Hospital, Harrow Road, in West London continues. It has now been under occupation or 'work-in' for the past three weeks.

The decision to occupy was taken to pre-empt the final decision on the hospital's future by Sir Gerard Vaughan, Tory Minister for Health.

However, management have not waited for the final decision, they have slowly but surely over the years been running it down. Their latest area for attack has been on the domestic staff. Due to deliberate management policy there are now 22 vacancies for Grade 1 domestic staff. Yet Grade 2 domestics are now being expected to do Grade 1 jobs as well as their own.

But the domestics are standing firm, despite the offer of an extra £2.40 a week, and pressure from administrators.

As one shop steward said "We will not do other people's jobs when there are 2½ million people on the dole. We have no alternative but to fight for our jobs and

to protect the services."

Disciplinary action including dismissal has now been threatened, but if this happens the domestics will take strike action.

The occupation must give full support to the domestics. Present picket lines, although good for publicity, are only a token force: these should be stepped up, with a proper rota to involve all staff drawn up.

Other hospitals in the district must be ready to give full support to the Harrow Road struggle. If management get away with dismissing workers there, they can get away with it with any workers in any district.

By Sue Pearce  
(NUPE shop steward,  
St Mary's Hospital)

## CANNON & STOKES

After 18 weeks on strike, the 70 TASS members at Cannon and Stokes in Leicester have returned to work.

The result was a settlement, with a deal of 10% being given [originally management offered 5%]. The redundancies that management wanted were withdrawn with the company agreeing it had not gone through the correct procedure.

However, the correct procedure has now been ex-

hausted and management have given 30 days notice to the two workers involved, with a promise to reinstate if vacancies arise!

The afternoon tea break has been scrapped and other issues are to be settled by domestic negotiations.

Mick Griffin of the Works Committee described the deal as, "a compromise, not a victory nor a defeat. It was the best we could get under the circumstances considering we were badly let down by the other unions in the plant."

What were the major lessons? Firstly, the power of the membership forced an intransigent management into making concessions. Mick thought that in future, "the trade unions must sort themselves out and get unity otherwise management will pick us off."

What did he think of 'Militant' and the LPYS's support?

"It was absolutely tremendous. We were always grateful for any help but if the same enthusiasm that you lot had shown, had been shown in the plant and elsewhere then the dispute would have been over in days."

Finance is still needed: please send to Cannon Stoke Strike Fund, AUEW Building, Vaughan Way, Leicester.

By Don Finley  
(Leicester South CLP)



# CIVIL SERVANTS:

THEY FEAR  
OUR IDEAS

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE ONE

For 19 weeks, in the longest major dispute in British post-war history, 5,000 civil servants have been on strike.

## 'We can still win'

By Pat Byrne  
(CPSA)

On behalf of the 1/2 million civil servants, the selective strikers have carried the major part of the pay battle under the tactics drawn up by the civil service trades union leaders.

£7.2 million has been paid to selective strikers during the dispute, £6.1 million having been raised by levies. Nearly £2 million has been raised since 22 June, following the special appeal from the union leaders.

All this effort must not be wasted. Bold decisive action is urgently needed in order to force the government onto the defensive.

The government has so

far sat smug waiting for the hesitation, inaction and weakness of the union leaders to take its toll. Nevertheless, even at this late hour, if the union leaders were to go boldly to the members with a call for all-out strike action, the dispute could still be won. Union members should put pressure on their executive demanding this action.

The need for renewed pressure from below was revealed for instance when a detailed account of the IRSF executive meeting was given to the CPSA execut-

ive. It seems that by a vote of 25:1 the IRSF executive voted to continue the selective strike action even though such action is now quite plainly not going to be sufficient to win the dispute.

More alarmingly, it seems that there was also a tied vote on whether to put an offer from the government to the membership without a recommendation. This is before anyone has any idea what that offer might be!

At the last meeting of the Council of Civil Service Unions a decision was made to continue the selective action and not to reconvene until there was something new to discuss. But the selective action cannot simply drift along.

Action has now been

called in the Unemployment Benefit Offices (UBOs) following on from strike action called at the Department of Employment office in Watford which blocked the supply of giro to UBOs.

By Thursday 16 July, it is estimated that 647 UBO staff will be on strike. If, as a result of this action, the government apply further suspensions in DE or DHSS then it will be impossible for it to continue on a selective basis with strike pay. An all-out strike of civil servants would then be the only viable response. But it would be far better to campaign thoroughly among the members for a well prepared all-out strike which included the provision of some emergency cover in

DE and DHSS.

A suggestion has been made by some leaders that this strike should now be concluded swiftly so that negotiations can begin on the 1982 pay award. But the attitude of the government will entirely depend on the outcome of this dispute.

It is already widely known that the government is thinking of imposing a 3% cash limit next year in the civil service and public sector.

This dispute must be won by civil servants, and it can be won. But only a bold call for all-out strike action offers the chance of victory. The demand for this action should be raised by civil servants in all unions.

moving into action.

Our Fighting Fund this year has so far reached a magnificent £47,540. Unfortunately, however, this is not yet up to our half-year target of £60,000.

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'Militant' Rally  
Saturday 18 July  
at Friends House  
Euston Road, London  
  
Fighting Fund, latest  
figures: page 11

# KICK OUT THE TORY LOOTERS

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE ONE

capitalist slump.

The youth and some older workers have lashed out in blind despair. People who have suffered in silence have given vent to their angry feelings.

But rioting, burning and looting are no way out. The labour movement does not support these methods.

But the labour movement must give a lead and put forward a real alternative.

The labour movement must fight to force a general

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The Tories are to blame—workers everywhere enthusiastically agree.

So it is time to smash this Tory government—and begin in earnest the fight for the return of a Labour government committed to bold socialist policies.

## Tories



## to Blame

PHOTO right: Police in action in Dalston, East London.

Photo: Nick Oakes (IFL)

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