

Brum Workers Say NO WAGE CUTS!



Photo: Militant

TUC must give a clear lead

“In the 'thirties many firms, including my own, were forced to make actual wage cuts to survive. The same situation faces many today.”

By Jeremy Birch

That's the warning going out to Midland workers, from Reginald Parkes, Vice-Chairman of the regional CBI.

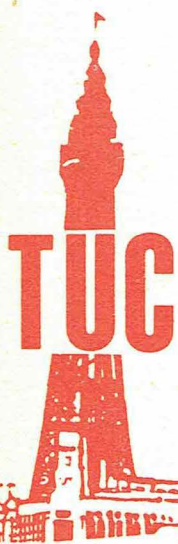
Not content with having 'doubled West Midlands unemployment in just twelve months local bosses want to take full advantage of the recession, and attack those still in work, through real pay cuts.

The West Midlands, the heartland of

NO JOB LOSSES!

TRANSLATE WORDS INTO ACTION

Force Tories OUT



By Wayne Jones
from Blackpool

The Trades Union Congress has spelt out its clearest warning yet to the Tory government of its intention to resist anti-trade union laws.

Over 1,100 delegates

from 118 affiliated unions representing nearly 12 million members passed unanimously a composite motion reasserting its "total opposition" to the government's Employment Act. The TUC agreed the "mobilisation of the movement to vigorously oppose any further legal restrictions."

David Basnett, from

the General and Municipal Workers' Union warned the Tories that industrial action would be used by the trade union movement to uphold democratic trade union rights.

The use of laws to "achieve a massive shift in power and wealth away from the workers and their trade unions" would not be tolerated.

The use of political strikes would be entirely justified should the government attempt to bring in further legal shackles against the

trade unions.

"Both the government and the media will doubtless call that fight back the use of industrial action for political purposes, let them call it what they like. For us it will be a case of industrial survival."

Trade unionists will welcome the realisation by even moderate union leaders like David Basnett that under capitalism, especially capitalism in crisis, there can be no reluctance to defy the law if necessary to defend the gains won

over centuries of struggle.

This political understanding must now be reflected in the campaigning activities initiated by the TUC leaders to bring down the Thatcher government.

The Tories' direct use of mass unemployment as a political instrument to force down wages in order to restore profits, has meant misery for millions of working people and their families.

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manufacturing industry is now suffering 14.8% unemployment, compared with 12.2% nationally. In Birmingham 15.8% are out of work.

Some of the areas oldest names have gone under. The car component firm Rubery Owen is to close, while Leyland is shutting the most modern car plant in Europe—at Rover Solihull.

And after a 20 week struggle against closure, the prominent Ansell's sign over the now silent brewery, has been finally removed along with the clock fingers.

Parkes and his kind are gloating over the shock that sudden mass

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Details of demonstration—Assemble 11.00am Calthorpe Park, Pershore Road. March to Aston Park for rally at 1.15pm.

Militant

VOTE BENN FOR PARTY DEMOCRACY

The election of the deputy leader on the eve of this year's Labour Party conference, is an event which could turn out to be of more importance to the Party's future than any of the debates in the conference itself.

For it is not, as the Tory press coverage would suggest, a battle between two [or three] individuals. It is a battle about the nature of the party and its future role and policy.

Denis Healey represents that section of the Party leadership which has held sway for decades; it is no accident that two former Prime Ministers, Wilson and Callaghan should have intervened to support their colleague.

All three, together with others who have now left to join the SDP, are part of a right wing group who gained the leadership of the Party in the years of the post-war boom. With little or no background within the Labour movement, these leaders based themselves on the ideas of Gaitskell and Crosland, that the class struggle was now a thing of the past.

Under their enlightened guidance, the inequalities and injustices of society could be reformed and legislated away, and through their political skill, the economy could be managed so as to create new wealth with which to provide for the welfare of the masses.

Events over the last fifteen years, and this Tory government in particular, have crushingly refuted these ideas. Mass unemployment, falling living standards, cuts in the welfare state and the continued division of the country into opposed and irreconcilable classes, despite 17 years of Labour government since the war, expose their emptiness.

For several years, Party activists have been campaigning for an alternative programme. They have also been fighting to ensure that such a programme will actually be carried out by the next Labour government. For one of the consequences of the Right-wing's long period of domination is that power within the Party has been taken further away from the membership, with the Parliamentary leadership becoming virtually independent of the conference and the National Executive.

Hence we have been witnessing the struggle by the ranks of the Party and trade unions to gain control over the Manifesto, the MPs, the Party Leader and the policy of the next Labour government. Tony Benn has become the spokesman for this movement, and that is the main reason

why he has gained the support of the rank and file.

It is this bid to return Labour to its socialist foundations which has horrified the SDP defectors, the Labour right-wing, and the Tory press, which is throwing everything behind Healey's attempt to stem the tide.

They all realise that a Benn victory would mark a decisive shift to the left, raising the possibility of a government led by Benn, which would be more susceptible to pressure from the workers than any previous Labour government.

Healey, more than any other was responsible for economic policies which changed from reforms to counter-reforms in the form of public expenditure cuts, wage restraint for the workers, and confrontation with the trade unions who fought back. These remain his policies, which, in a period of capitalist crisis, mean further cuts in living standards.

Healey represents capitalist cuts in living standards

They are the policies pursued by Ramsay Mac Donald in 1931, whose acceptance of the "realities" of the economic crisis, led him to demand cuts in the dole, and joined the Tories in a "National" government when the Labour movement began to oppose him.

The same sort of crisis would face a future Labour government which based itself on Healey's programme. There is no way the workers would accept the kind of cuts which such a government would have to make as the price for remaining within the framework of the capitalist system.

Equally, however, there is no way that the owners of industry and the banks would accept the measures put forward by Benn and the Labour left.

Although containing many good proposals such as the abolition of the House of Lords, the 35-hour week, the nationalisation of the banks and insurance companies and at least some industrial companies, and a programme of public spending to create jobs, the programme taken as a whole fails to face up to the depth of the present economic crisis.

If implemented it would be intolerable to big business, yet it would leave them in ownership and control of the decisive industrial monopolies which dominate the economy. They would not be

prepared to invest to create jobs unless the government abandoned its programme and embarked on Healey's path of cuts in living standards to make their industries profitable.

If the government refused, or, like MacDonald, agreed but failed to get the backing of the Labour movement, big business would once again plot to bring it down and replace it with a new "national" government. [See Page 8]

France provides an illustration of how big business can thwart a left government which attempts to introduce reforms within a capitalist framework. Already both unemployment and inflation are rising, a process which under capitalism is bound to continue and cancel out the benefits of Mitterrand's reforms.

Nationalisation of the big monopolies, under workers' control and management must be carried through if Mitterrand's reforms are to bring any real long-term benefit. The same will be true in Britain with a Benn government.

Benn's stand for Party democracy and conference decisions, however, make it vital that he receives the maximum support from the ranks of the Labour movement. Several unions, POEU and NUPE for instance, are balloting their members. The NUM is holding pit-head ballots. Party branches and GMCs are meeting to discuss the election.

A campaign is needed to take the argument to all these activists. The right are getting massive support from the Tory press—Duffy of the AUEW for example using "The News of the World" to make dark hints that as well as more Labour MPs, "a trade union" could defect to the SDP if Benn wins. The counter-arguments must be taken to every section of the movement.

The right will undoubtedly interpret a Healey victory as the green light for an attack upon the democratic gains which have been achieved in the last few years.

It will strengthen the hand of those wanting a witch-hunt against the left in the party, including the Marxist wing around "Militant", and the re-introduction of a "proscribed list" as demanded by the railwaymen's leaders at this year's Party conference.

The fight for Benn's election is thus closely linked to the fight for a democratic party. The best possible outcome at this year's conference would be a big victory for Benn, a big vote for Ray Apps and Pat Wall, the "Militant" supporters standing for the NEC and the decisive rejection of any witch-hunt.

Islington-Defectors refuse to face election

By Jim Christie

The decision by sixteen Islington councillors to defect to the Social Democrats shows a real contempt for democracy. They refuse to resign and re-submit themselves to the electorate, who voted for them as Labour candidates.

By their action, which follows a similar defection of six councillors earlier this year, they now nearly have control of Islington council. Joining them in the new party is local Labour MP, O'Halloran.

And apparently other Labour councillors are thinking of moving over to the SDP after the Labour Party conference.

Posing as socialists and democrats, in reality they are neither. It has been the recent democratic changes within the Party which threatened their elitist rule.

This was shown by the comments of current Labour councillor, Mark van de Meyer, who has said he was considering joining the SDP, but finds the sixteen defectors far too right-wing for his taste: "Some of the sixteen would have been more at home in the Con-

servative Party," he explained. "They are very reactionary people, who don't hold Labour Party views of any sort, left or right."

Labour council leader Donald Hoodless described their breakaway as "a desperate attempt by a group who think they have a natural right to govern Islington."

Neither democrats nor socialists

In the council the sixteen have consistently opposed party policy. They support the sale of council houses, and have opposed help to voluntary groups and nurseries.

Their resignation from the Labour Party comes only six months after they lost control over the Labour group on Islington council. Seeing what has happened in Manchester (see below)

they clearly thought that the local Labour Party would be unlikely to re-select them for next year's election.

But rather than fight on a democratic basis for their views within the Party, they have scuttled off to get a membership card of another party which will allow them to pursue their council careers.

Hoodless has correctly described the record of the sixteen defectors: "Their destructive actions have harmed the people of Islington. The young, the old and the vulnerable have all suffered at their hands."

But it is vital that Labour offers a clear alternative to the SDP. The SDP clearly hopes to whip up support against a rate rise.

Increasing the rates by 20p in the pound, which the Labour group on the council are apparently considering, would play into the hands of the SDP. There must be no cuts in the living standards of working people, either by reducing services or raising the rates.

Only by conducting a bold campaign for a socialist alternative involving the trade union and labour movement in a policy of confrontation with the Tories can the ground be cut from the SDP's feet.

Manchester Councillors must carry out Party Policy

According to the Tory press, and the right wing of the Labour Party there is a sinister plot afoot in Manchester organised by the left wing and the Militant tendency to oust loyal Labour Councillors. The facts of life, are however, somewhat different.

When on 6 September, Manchester City Labour Party decided to remove twenty four sitting Councillors from the panel of candidates to fight the 1982 municipal elections, this was not the result of a 'plot'.

The criteria for this decision was clear. Do the candidates support Labour Party policy and are they prepared to fight for it? Or do they oppose Labour Party policy, in which case why do they want to stand as Labour Councillors?

After Thatcher came to power in 1979, the leader of the Labour Group on Manchester Council made several speeches attacking the Tories and stated that Manchester would fight. He proposed setting up a campaign involving the trades council, the labour group and the city party, to mobilise opposition against Tory cuts.

By John Byrne (Manchester Labour Party Executive, personal capacity)

The campaign issued two broadsheets, early in 1980, supported the engineering unions demonstration against the cuts and later organised its own. Both demonstrations had between 4 and 5,000 workers on them.

On the 10 May 1980, 10,000 demonstrated in Manchester during the TUC's day of action. This came after a resounding victory in the local elections where, with a significantly higher turn out, Labour won 28 of the 32 Manchester seats.

The election had been fought on the platform of no cuts, no redundancy or loss of job opportunities, no rent rises, and a rate increase to cover any sharp fall in the rate support grant. Despite the fact that some of us argued that the last point was in itself a form of cuts, we failed to

win the day.

But when it came to the crunch the leadership of the Labour Group refused to carry out party policy, and pursue the fight against the Tories. They argued that because Manchester had such good services, savings (ie cuts) could be made.

Thirteen Labour councillors who stood by the Party manifesto and opposed the first round of cuts were promptly expelled from the group. These cuts failed to satisfy the Tories.

Three months later the leadership of the Council announced that there was a £40 million shortfall. The city party called for a three month delay on any decision, in order to mobilise mass opposition within the labour movement and bust the Tories plans.

But the leadership of the labour group refused. Within two weeks they rushed through a further £13 million worth of cuts, and an average rent increase of £2.50.

This year a majority of the Labour Group has continued to refuse to carry out party manifesto commitments, and have carried out a further round of cuts.

Enough is enough. The party wants Councillors who will carry out party policy. That is why it has decided to choose some new people to fight the 1982 elections.

UNION RIGHTS FOR YOPS WORKERS

GET ORGANISED!



YOP workers at rally in Newcastle 28 August

Photo: D Doran

LPYS CAMPAIGN

Only established a few days, the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign is already gaining widespread support in the trade union movement, as well as a keen response from YOP workers.

Initial sponsors for the campaign include:

Bernard Dix (Assistant General Secretary NUPE)

Tom Sawyer (Divisional Organiser, NUPE Northern Region)

Bobby Owens (Chairman TGWU Region No 6)

Len McClusky, Eddie Roberts and Dave McCall (Merseyside TGWU full time officials)

Tony Mulhearn (President, Liverpool District Labour Party)

Terry Harrison (Secretary, Liverpool District Council Labour Group)

Laurence Coates (LPYS Representative on NEC elect)

Shareen Blackall (TGWU 6/612 Unemployed workers branch)

A statement of aims, announcing the 21 November conference (AUEW Hall, Liverpool) will be available in the next few days, along with a poster advertising the conference, a general YOP/Trade Union recruitment poster, and shortly to follow, 'Get Organised', the monthly bulletin of the YTURC.

All this material, along with the existing LPYS YOP leaflet are available through Andy Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

Make sure your LPYS/trade union branch/Labour Party branch help with the campaign to organise the YOP workers, and orders its literature now! Organise visits to YOP schemes to build support for the 21 November conference now!

By Kevin Ramage
(Acting Secretary, YTURC)

LIVERPOOL - Free transport fight

Following on from the day of action in Merseyside on 28 August, we've organised a campaign for free bus passes.

At that event, which was jointly organised by the LPYS and the T&GWU on Merseyside, a delegation went in to see the Manpower Services Commission, about possible improvements on pay and conditions on YOPs.

The main immediate issue which was raised by the YOP trainees was the cost of travel. One of them was paying out £4.50 a week in bus fares to his scheme, of which he had to pay the first £4 himself.

The LPYS is now planning with the TGWU to get a

petition round all the schemes we can find (we're beginning to find out where they are through sympathetic NALGO members who handle all the information about the schemes) demanding that the County Council—they control the buses—provide YOP workers with free bus passes.

We're going to get as many signatures as we can—thousands we're aiming for—we'll get the YOP workers who have already joined unions to give us a hand so they're involved too—and then organise a deputation to the County Council, with as many YOP workers as possible.

Everyone in the trade unions feels the same about YOPs now—they are just cheap labour—and with the YOPs Trainees Union

Rights Campaign that the LPYS has launched, we can link their feelings with the anger of YOP workers in a common struggle. At the same time we can use the campaign around the transport petition to build support and links for the 21 November National YOP Conference which is taking place here in Liverpool.

The main thing is that we get out to the YOP schemes, and all the youth on WEEP (Work 'experience' projects) and get them involved in this campaign as part of the struggle to get organised. We'll be going round the schemes with leaflets, the petition, flyposting them, loudhailers for meetings at lunchtimes—getting all the unemployed YS members involved too.

Then also we're organis-

ing a public meeting in Walton with YOP workers, the convenor from the local bus depot and a Labour councillor from the transport committee speaking.

All in all we are really confident. The rally on the 28th was an encouraging start. We've had a great response among YOP workers, and in the trade union movement, and all the LPYS members I've spoken to are dead keen to get involved. If we can get the Merseyside City Council to agree to our demands, it won't just be a victory for YOP workers on Merseyside, but a precedent we can use in other areas.

By Shareen Blackhall
(TGWU 6/612 and West Derby LPYS)

COVENTRY - Don't WEEP organise

"Art work"—that was the description given by the organiser of the work experience scheme. "Art work" turned out to be mostly tea-making, sweeping the floor, and fetching the boss's lunch. This was WEEP for one Coventry Young Socialist.

It was one more example of the way young people are exploited on YOPS or WEEP (Work Experience on Employer's Premises) schemes, given to a very successful meeting held recently by Coventry Labour Party Young Socialists.

When she started, the YS member said, she had been told that she would have a job at the end of it. But the

scheme ended with no job. The main reason given was that she didn't smile when she was making the tea, and the boss concluded that she could be a trouble-maker.

The meeting was part of Coventry's contribution to the national campaign to organise YOP workers. Shop stewards at GEC's two large plants gave our leaflets to YOP workers there, and the Coventry Training Workshop Scheme, with over 400 trainees on two sites, was leafleted several times.

One site was leafleted in the morning, then we returned at lunch time to hold an open air meeting outside. Almost immediately a supervisor tried to tell us that it was "illegal", but we told him that we didn't think so.

About 60 people signed our petition saying they wanted to join a union, and

a large number of trainees discussed our ideas with us. There was tremendous enthusiasm for the idea of joining a union and for the Northern Day of Action organised by NUPE.

There should be one in every city, was the response. One group snatched the petition out of our hands to get their friends to sign it, and get people out of the canteen to meet LPYS members.

Police obstruction

Next day, the second site was leafleted for an open air meeting at lunchtime. However, when we went back we found three policemen and two officials from the workshop standing in the gateway. After a

long argument with the police, who said we would be obstructing the street even if we just collected names, it was clear that they would not let us carry out any activity.

We then moved to the other side of the road and stayed there so it was clear to all the trainees what was happening. Such was the management's fear, one trainee told us, that the supervisors had been confiscating our leaflets.

Coventry LPYS intends to step up the campaign, despite police harassment. We are using our petition to persuade the local trade unions to begin to organise YOP workers and to fight for better pay and conditions.

This is a golden opportunity. When 60 out of 200 trainees in one factory are keen to join the unions must take action now.

We will also make sure that the anger of young people fed up with being used as cheap labour is channelled against their real enemy, the Tories and the system that they represent.

By Mark Picksley
(Coventry SE LPYS)
and Geraldine Gallen
(Nuneaton and Bedworth LPYS)

GET ORGANISED!

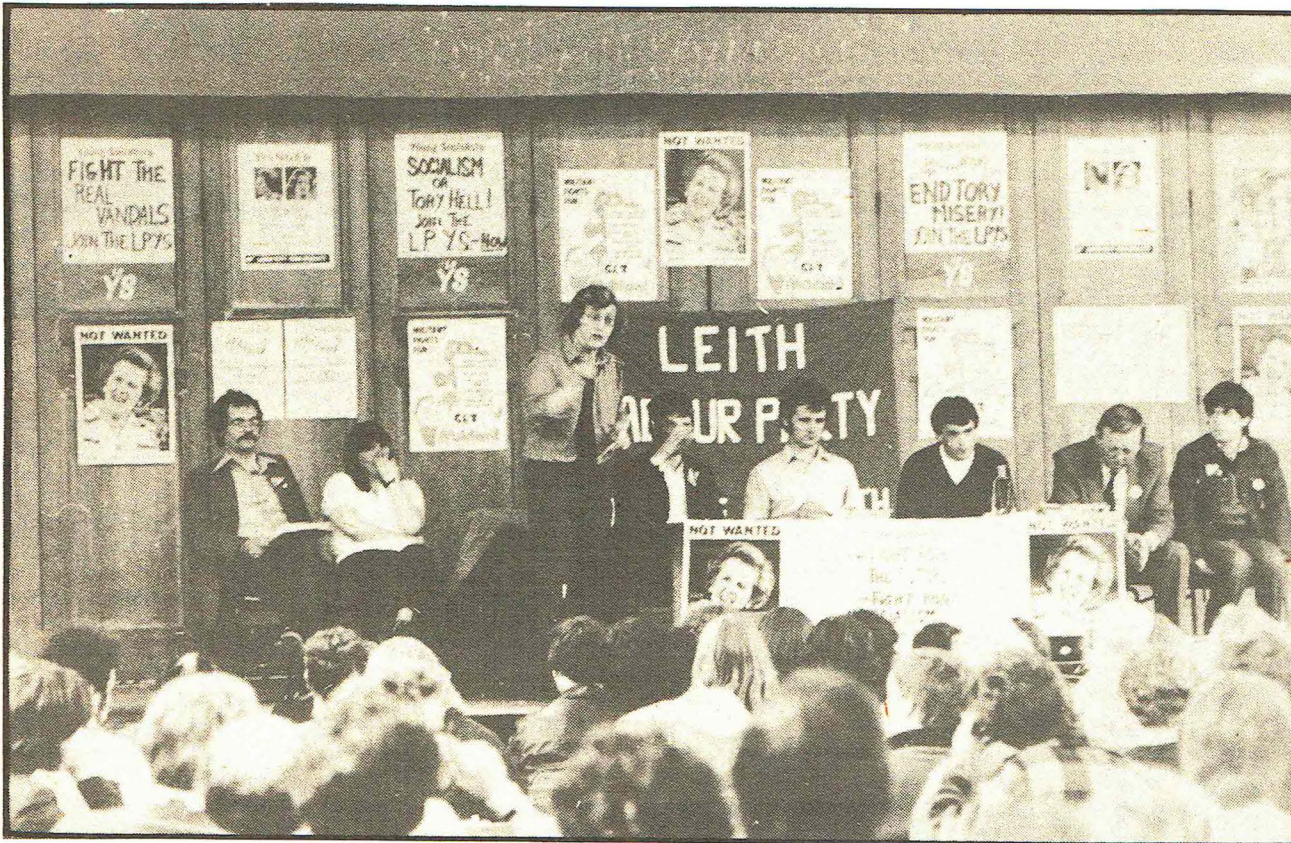
labour for employers, (who when the course is finished are under no obligation to employ the person permanently).

"We therefore call upon the TUC to use the full strength of the Trade Union Movement in order to obtain full pay on MSC schemes and a permanent job at the end of the course.

1. To that end, this Branch resolves to oppose all MSC schemes which; a) cover work which could be done by NEW permanent staff. b) are in departments/sections which have any vacant post.

2. and further resolves that no new MSC scheme will be passed until both existing and future MSC employees with the County Council are given: a) free bus passes to and from work, or a full pay allowance. b) a free meal in the staff canteen every day, or a free meal allowance. c) APT&C (purple book) conditions of service. d) rates of pay in line with WYMCC rates. e) the right to join a trade union, to have the union negotiate for them and to have the subscriptions deducted from their pay cheque. It is the policy of this Branch of NALGO as regards people employed on MSC schemes, that the ultimate objective be that Trade Union rates of pay are obtained for the jobs undertaken."

LOTHIAN - FIGHT TO REVERSE THE CUTS



Resignation no answer

Ron Brown MP speaking at Edinburgh LPYS meeting against unemployment. Cuts would mean even longer dole queues in the Lothian area.

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

At its meeting on the 1st September, Lothian Regional Council made further cuts in their budget in an attempt to resolve the crisis brought about by the government's reduction in rate support grant payments.

These latest cuts included a recruitment freeze designed to save £5½ million at a cost of the loss of over 1,800 jobs through non-filling of vacancies.

Total cuts made by the council, since the Secretary of State, George Younger, started withdrawing rate support grant on 12th August now amount to £24 million.

Younger has obtained Parliamentary approval to withhold £47m in grant payments, but has stated that he is willing to reduce this to £30m "if the subsequent conduct of the council were to give him sufficient grounds for doing so"—in other words, if the council reduce their expenditure by this amount.

The council have suggested that the further £6 million required to attain Younger's figure should be made up by a £3 million payment being made by the local Livingston Development Corporation in respect of regional services, plus a £3m reduction in the anticipated deficit from last year's budget.

Younger has replied, however, that these sums are not acceptable, as part of the £30m package and the council are now faced with the demand to increase charges for services such as school meals, home helps, meals on wheels and bus fares, and/or to start carrying out compulsory redundancies amongst their workers.

The consequences for the council if they had continued to refuse to make cuts after Younger started to withhold rate support grant payments were that within two to three weeks they would have had insufficient money to meet commitments such as payment of wages, bills, etc.

In such an event, the council were advised by their Director of Finance that they could face challenge at law, both for

failure to discharge statutory duties and actions by creditors seeking payment.

Despite the fact that this advice was contested, by other legal opinions, the threat of possible illegality and surcharge on individual councillors was the deciding factor in persuading the majority of the ruling Labour Group to start making cuts, with only 7 out of the 25 Labour Councillors maintaining our opposition to such cuts.

Much has been made of the arguments against illegality. Labour councillors have argued that to support illegal action would pose a threat to democracy, would lead to anarchy and that comrades who advocate such action should be in other political parties.

What do these comrades have to say about George Lansbury and the Poplar Council of 1921, Clay Cross, Clydebank and all the other councils who defied the Tories' Housing Finance Act? Were they anarchists, enemies of democracy, unfit to be members of the Labour Party?

Tory class war

What about the UCS workers, the Shrewsbury Pickets and the gaoled dockers who defied the Tories' Industrial Relations Act?

We are not engaged in a parliamentary debate, to be conducted according to the rules of the House. The Tories have declared class war on the workers of Britain. By removing money for vital social services, they are engaged in an act of theft from the working class who create the wealth to pay for those services in the first place.

Another argument used by Lothian councillors against defying Tory laws is that such a stand is not in accordance with National Labour Party policy.

If the Labour movement is to stand any chance of waging a successful struggle against Tory attacks on workers' living standards, it is vital that the party gives national backing to Labour councillors who defy the Local Government Act and commit the next Labour Government to rescind any penalties imposed on any councillors who backed such a stand in fighting cuts in local services.

There were a number of resolutions on the agenda for this year's national conference calling for just such a commitment—it is vital that they be supported.

Before their climb down, the stand taken by the Lothian councillors provided a lead and an inspiration to other sections of the Labour movement. By standing firm and fully developing this campaign, the Lothian councillors would have nothing to fear from this government and their anti-working class laws.

Their recent actions, however, have divided and demoralised the Labour and trade union movement in the Lothians. At the Labour Group meeting following the decision to start making cuts, a delegation of local authority trade union leaders attended to argue in favour of cuts in order to avoid compulsory redundancies, and to offer their assistance in making these cuts.

The local NALGO branch, despite the fact that NALGO has a national policy to fight against cuts, has stated that there are "special circumstances in Lothian" and accept that cuts are inevitable. Both NALGO and the Teachers' Union, EIS, have stated that they will co-operate and start transfers and redeployment to facilitate the recruitment freeze, again despite the fact that this is against their national policy.

Younger's demand for still more cuts, means that more of the Lothian Labour Councillors are now faced with choices, which they had previously stated that they could not accept—increasing charges for vital services, or compulsory redundancies.

It is still not too late for the Labour Group to take a stand once again and refuse

to carry out the Government's demands for further cuts.

On 12 September, Tony Benn is coming up to Edinburgh to lead a demonstration called by the Labour Party and the STUC against local government cuts. This demonstration must be used as a rallying point to renew a fighting campaign by the Labour and trade union movement and a fresh commitment to refuse to carry out the Tory cuts.

The Labour Group has tried to adopt a

"reasonable" approach, and it has failed. It has been clearly shown that once they start making cuts, Younger will keep coming back for more. They must now restore the cuts that have already been made and resume the task of mobilising the Labour and trade union movement against the cuts being demanded from local government throughout Britain, by both Younger and Heseltine.

- ★ Restore the cuts
- ★ Renew the fightback
- ★ Support the 12 Septem-

ber demonstration.

Support national conference resolutions pledging support for councillors defying Tory local government policy.

Labour Party and STUC
Rally against the cuts
EDINBURGH

Saturday 12 September. Assemble 10am Regent Rd, march via Princess Street and Lothian Rd to Usher Hall. Speakers: Tony Benn, Jimmy Milne (STUC), Geoffrey Drain (NALGO), Phyllis Herriot (Labour Group Leader—LRC).

STOP PRESS

Lothian Regional Labour Party on Sunday 6th September called upon the Regional Council's Labour Group to resign the administration rather than carry out the Tory cuts.

At a meeting of about 60, a resolution moved by Keith Simpson calling for the Group to stay in power but refuse to implement the cuts was defeated.

The meeting was then left with the alternatives of asking the Group to resign or urging them to stay and carry out the cuts. By a majority of two to one they voted for the former.

This course of action would solve nothing. It would leave a Tory minority administration dependent on Labour abstentions to carry anything through. For Labour to abstain while the Tories' cut spending is just as bad as to make the cuts themselves.

The Labour Group will be meeting later this week to consider the Party's resolution.

EDINBURGH YOUTH AGAINST THE DOLE

The magnificent turn-out in Edinburgh for the 'Youth Against the Dole' demonstration on Saturday 22 August was a clear indication of the burning anger of working class youth against Thatcher and her government.

Up to a thousand young people marched in glorious sunshine from Pilton to Leith Academy, where a rally was held.

On the demo were a group of youngsters from Glasgow who were on YOPS. One of them said that they called the YOPS scheme where he worked the "funny farm" because they were so bored as they'd no work to do. Another said that if you took time off your work to look for a job it was docked off your wages!

Because of their experiences, many of them had

seen the need to get organised to fight for better conditions, so they had joined NUPE.

At the rally the main speakers were Eric Clarke of the NUM, Ron Brown MP for Leith and Frank White, Chairman of the LPYS in Scotland.

An excellent collection of £138.75 was raised, to help pay for the 23,000 leaflets and 2,000 posters put out for the demo.

Finally the play 'The Trial of Maggie Thatcher' was performed by East Kilbride LPYS: it was superb and needless to say there was a resounding verdict of 'guilty.'!

By David Brown
(East Edinburgh LPYS)

JASWINDER KAUR

The Home Office has agreed after a long campaign by black and Asian groups, labour movement, and anti-racist activists, to allow Jaswinder Kaur to stay in Britain with her son.

"Jaswinder has given her support to other women facing deportation, in particular the campaigns of Cynthia Gordon, Nasira

Begum and Nasreen Akhtar and Cynthia and Nasira have both been recently granted leave to stay in the UK.

"Nasreen is still under threat of deportation and we are writing to ask you to give your support to her campaign, which can be contacted c/o 59 Ashworth Street, Rochdale, Lancashire.

"Information and details of affiliation can be obtained from 'Stop the Deportations Campaign' c/o Box J.K. 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2. As you will understand the costs incurred in such a campaign are large and donations to 'Stop the Deportations Campaign' would be gratefully received."

Workers boycott Coventry cuts referendum.....

NOW FOR THE REAL BATTLE

By Militant reporters in Coventry

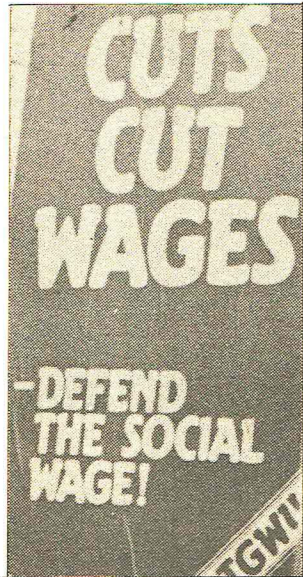
The working class in Coventry have proved that they understand politics better than the so-called 'City Fathers.' Under the pressure of Heseltine's demands for cuts, Coventry Labour Council have carried out a local referendum, [sorry, 'public consultation?'] on August 27th.

Working people were offered the "choice" of £2.36 million in cuts with a 15% to 20% increase in rates, or a rate increase of 35%, with services being maintained.

Most workers knew that voting wouldn't change the plans of the Council. As if to confirm their expectations the council have announced that despite the referendum result, [53,720 for cuts, 7,110 for rate rises, a turnout of 25%], the rates will go up anyway.

In the strongest Labour constituency, Coventry South East, only 1 in 5 voters turned out. At one polling station only 3 of the 700 entitled to vote bothered. The campaign for a boycott of this farcical exercise, led by Coventry Labour Left, showed that it was fully in touch with workers' feelings.

What could be the purpose



of voting against cuts when the cuts had already begun? For example, at Henley College all day-time 'O' and 'A' level courses have been cancelled.

So what was the real purpose of the referendum? It was to give the right-wing Labour councillors an excuse to avoid fighting the Tory government. Now the workers will get the worst of both worlds—cuts, rate rises at 16%, and increases in council house rents (£2.50 decided this week, with a further £2.80 threatened next April). The cuts, totalling £2 million, will fall most heavily on education (£1,250,000) and social services (£325,000).

An opportunity to attack

the Tories has been missed because in reality the right-wing of the Labour Party have no stomach for a fight and no policies to fight on even if they had the guts.

The referendum has certainly done nothing to quell the opposition to the cuts. Over 200 council tenants are withholding the last rent increase. Unions representing council workers have threatened industrial action if, and when, redundancies occur.

But threats must be turned into action.

The council must urge their shop stewards and activists to join the Labour Party and fight the cuts there, as well as industrially. What clearer explanation is required of the urgent need for the Labour Party and fight for its members' interests.

With a campaign to involve every shop steward and every staff representative in the battle to defend jobs and services, plus a policy of linking up with the tenants' groups which are prepared to fight, the trade union movement in Coventry can unite the working class in a fight against the Tories.

The task now must be to bring together the wings of the Labour and trade union movement to organise the resistance and plan the immediate steps in the battle.



Militant seller (and Militant adverts by the dozen!) in Glasgow February 1981

WHY WE SELL MILITANT

Selling 'Militant' in a small seaside town in Sussex may sound a thankless task like selling Tatler down the Yorkshire mines.

But while there are few people on the cocktail party circuit in Barnsley, there are plenty of workers and unemployed in places like Littlehampton.

On top of that Militant sellers know that our paper offers the only way forward for people suffering under

Thatcher's rule. Littlehampton paper sales quite often reach 100. Tim Gibbs explains what gives Militant supporters in that area the incentive to try the seemingly impossible.

Just look at the horrors this present government has inflicted on the working class. When you do, just think how much worse this would be if not for the organisations of the working class.

All the gains won by workers in the past have been fought for tooth and nail by labour movement activists. Despite the present inadequate leadership, it is still our class which has to fight against present day attacks.

Over a century ago, Karl Marx gave answers to questions workers always asked about how to change the system which gives rise to mass unemployment, squalid housing, and savage

cuts in our already meagre living standards.

It is now 'Militant' which puts forward succinctly and clearly the ideas of Marxism. A few years back, Marxism was said to be irrelevant.

Now, when the bosses' search for profit has made great numbers of workers stand, haunch shouldered, staring at the ground in dole queues of 1930s size, we can be seen to be more relevant than ever.

But no one will know how relevant we are unless we make sure that everybody has the chance to buy and read 'Militant'. Despite police intervention, it is vital that street sales are kept up.

Every supporter of 'Militant' should carry copies with them at all times. Nowadays, anywhere and everywhere, in every town and village, there is a potential selling place.

In Belgium too... NO TO JOB CUTS

On Saturday 22 August the striking Boel shipyard workers held a demonstration and rally through the streets of Antwerp.

The march of over 3,000 was led by 128 representatives of left-wing organisations, dressed in pyjamas to symbolise the concentration camp methods of the reactionary right-wing management.

These workers have been on strike for 20 weeks in an attempt to stop 128 redundancies.

At the beginning of this year the Boel workers put forward a plan to save jobs and ensure work for all. The plan consisted of work-sharing and a four-day week which the three unions (Socialist, Liberal and Cath-

olic) and management agreed.

This was working well. Nevertheless, in March the management announced that they were making 128 redundant, out of a workforce of 3,000. The 128 are socialist shop stewards.

International support

For the first time the three unions are united and supported the workforce in strike action. The dispute was made official.

The march on 22 August culminated in a rally and festival which was held in a

borrowed circus tent. Union leaders told the workers that they would not stop fighting until they have won the strike.

Fraternal greetings were received from Solidarity in Poland and Spanish unions. Richard Blatch, a British shipyard worker, gave fraternal greetings from Britain. He said: "In Britain the shipbuilding workers are under threat of redundancy. Solidarity on a national and international scale is needed to protect the jobs and living standards of the working class."

This was greeted with cheers and applause. He also stated: "Old slogans still ring true. The workers united will never be defeated." Tumultuous applause greeted this.

One of the workers' wives told me "Our government is going over to monetarist policies, after all they have had a good teacher in Mrs Thatcher."

After the speeches the festival began. Food and

drink were available at cost prices, a Dutch Umpah band played for half the evening and a pop group played the rest of the time.

At the end of the evening it was announced that the sponsorship for the march had raised over £3,500 for the strike fund.

On Wednesday, Boel management tried to use scab labour to break the strike—unfortunately for them, during the night the workers had welded the gates together. Not even management could enter the yard.

Armed police were on the scene. Shots were fired. The workers laughed at the police, "you will have to kill all 3,000 of us."

The police had to leave in the face of such defiance. This dispute is an important crossroad for the workers of Belgium. If the Boel workers are defeated, it will pave the way for other bosses to do the same. Belgian workers are waiting with bated breath.

By Pat Blatch (Southampton Labour Party)

Trotsky on the Communist Manifesto To-day

Leon Trotsky on 'The Communist Manifesto today'

Available price 15p plus 15p postage and packing from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



It's an ill wind that blows no boss any profit. The Swiss multinational, Nestlé's, famed for their health foods like chocolate Easter eggs have been given a first payment of £10 million by the Swiss government for developing a special food designed solely for the use of survivors of a nuclear holocaust.

They are developing enough to keep the entire Swiss population for three days although at a nutritional standard lower than that of Bangladeshi peasants. Of course large numbers may die in any holocaust and government shelters may only save the most "important" people in Switzerland (like directors of Nestlé's). In this case the 'lucky' survivors may get even longer lasting supplies.

Nestlé's previously won their way into the hearts of socialists everywhere with their advertising campaign in the third world designed to prove that their powdered milk was more nutritious for babies than breast milk. Their product didn't do much for the health of the children but Nestlé's profits were in the pink.

Do you remember the Social Democratic Party? You know, that 'moderate', party, 'sensible', 'middle of the road', yet 'radical'. But here is Lord George Brown in the *Sunday Express* saying that South Africa may have been right in invading Angola. He complained that Britain had "condemned. We demanded withdrawal. We didn't even wait to hear the South Africans' side of the story. Yet South Africa is essential to Britain and the whole of the western world."

Another member of the SDP, Francis Noel Baker in a letter to *The Guardian* recommended a years national service by conscription, as a good dose of discipline never hurt anyone. He doesn't know yet whether his party would officially endorse trying to solve capitalism's problems in this way. Perhaps that is the reason why Noel-Baker who was Labour MP for Swindon from 1955 to 1969 has hedged his bets somewhat.

Noel-Baker who while a Labour MP was unofficial parliamentary spokesman for the military junta which seized power in Greece in 1967, has joined the Social Democrats and the Liberal Party and the Ecology Party.

"Jack Gill and I met and shook hands and said 'fine'," boasted Lord Grade, the multi-millionaire owner of the film, TV and records company Associated Communications Corporation. Lord Grade had just made Gill one of the three million unemployed in Britain. But with a difference. Gill had just been promised a new British record £500,000 golden handshake.

Gill had worked for Grade for 25 years. For the last eight months he had been on a salary of £75,000 to £100,000 a year, and also had 15% of the company's voting stock. Possibly if every redundant worker got a golden handshake not the usual copper one, everybody might shake hands with their bosses and say "fine". As it is...

Regular readers may remember a character called Ian Cameron who stood in a Brighton council by-election for the "New Centre Party for Social Democracy" As *Militant* (13 March) pointed out, he in fact used to be a member of the NF. But his conversion to the 'middle road' of politics didn't last very long. In court he was recently fined £100 for his behaviour at the election meeting when the results were announced. When Cameron found out he only polled a pathetic 38 votes (Labour won with a 700 majority over the nearest contestant) he broke out into chanting 'National Front' and gave Sieg Heil salutes.

NORTHERN IRELAND PRISONS - Workers call for class lead

The funeral of Bobby Sands, the first hunger striker to die in May. The H-Blocks campaign, as led by the Provisionals, has failed. The labour movement must fight on a class basis.



At September's meeting of the Derry Trades Council the following resolution, submitted by the AUEW No 2 Branch and subsequently amended, was passed:

**By Bill Webster
(Derry Trades
Council)**

"Derry No. 2 Branch calls upon the Trade Council to condemn the government's intransigence in relation to the H-Block prisoners' demands, which has resulted in the death of ten prisoners, one of them being a Westminster MP. [Another hunger striker, Kieran Docherty, who died on 2nd August was also an elected member of the Irish Parliament].

"We further call upon the Trades Council to call upon the Irish Congress of Trades Unions to seek a meeting with the government to discuss with government our deep concern at the escalation of violence in Northern Ireland caused by the lingering death of the hunger strikers and the government's intransigence regarding the prisoners' five demands.

"The government claims that it cannot discuss prison reforms with prisoners and that it must adopt a rigid view to the hunger strikers so that it can combat terrorism.

"But, on the contrary, what really is happening is that it is the government's inflexibility which is aggravating the situation and creating the conditions in which para-militaries on all sides flourish.

"It must now be clear, that a new political initiative is urgently required to defuse the situation.

"The prisoners have themselves stated that they are not seeking special conditions for themselves, but that all prisoners should benefit from any reform.

"Therefore we reiterate our earlier call for the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions to establish a Labour movement enquiry

into all prison conditions in Northern Ireland.

"We call upon the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to act and call upon the government to re-examine its attitude in relation to the prisoners' five demands, because we fear violence will escalate to even more horrible proportions."

During the very good discussion on the resolution, it was pointed out that this was not the first time that the Derry Trades Council had given over time to the question of the H-Blocks, prison conditions, and the overall question of repression.

As far back as 7 May, the Trades Council, in a press statement (see *Militant* 22 May) following the death of Bobby Sands, demanded that the Irish Congress of Trades Unions, take up the question of the need to "immediately establish a Trade Union and Labour movement inquiry into prison conditions in these islands.

"Only the official trade union movement has the power to force Thatcher and Co. and the [then] Fianna Fail government (now the Fine Gael-Labour coalition) to implement the programme of decent conditions for all prisoners, and to fight against all aspects of repression."

One of the delegates from the AUEW No. 2 Branch summed up the concern of the Trades Council, saying, "the nauseating thing is that the situation inside the H-Blocks could have been

resolved as far back as 19 December last year.

"The Tories were keeping it alive in many ways in order to conceal the terrible economic problems confronting the working class in the North at the present time."

He went on to state that by supporting the motion, "in no way did it imply support for various paramilitary organisations."

The meeting agreed that the Trades Council Executive Committee would be prepared to meet the Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions in the event of the leadership dragging its feet on what we consider to be an issue that is of vital concern to the entire organised working class movement in these islands.

Sectarian campaign doomed

This latest discussion comes as a critical time. Last Friday the family of Matt Devlin intervened to end his 52-day hunger strike to save his life. On Sunday, the family of Laurence McKeown, who has been 70 days without food, did the same.

Of the 20 prisoners who have taken part in the present hunger strike, 10 have died, seven of the Provos and three IRSP/INLA including two MPs., four have now given up the protest, while six are still refusing food, five Provos and one IRSP/INLA.

The impasse of the Provos' and the IRSP's campaign to mobilise mass support within the Catholic working class in order to force Thatcher to grant the prisoners' five demands, can be traced back to 29 July of this year, when Gerry Ad-

ams, vice-president of the Provisional Sinn Fein, visited the hunger-strikers in the H-Blocks.

The Provo leadership were opposed to the hunger strike from the outset.

In a personal account of his visit, reported in *Republican News* (8 August 1981), Gerry Adams stated: "given the campaign and the intransigence of the Tories to date to the hunger strikers, I painted the darkest and blackest picture possible—between 10 and 20 prisoners dead, nationalist Ireland demoralised and no advances from the British government".

Since that visit four hunger strikers have died. During the Smash H-Blocks/Armagh committee conference, held in Dundalk on 6 September, a spokesman for the IRSP stated that "no more of their members will be joining the hunger strike for some time".

He stated that "with 28 members in the H-Block, if they continue to put one INLA prisoner on hunger strike for every three Provos, they will all be dead within six months given the present state of the campaign."

In reality, this is nothing short of an admission by the IRSP and the Provos that whilst the H-Block issue is tied to these organisations and their sectarian support committees, the issue will never be resolved.

The position of the Marxists in Ireland around the "Militant Irish Monthly" has been borne out.

The latest situation re-enforces the fact as recognised by Derry Trades Council, that only the organisations of the working class are capable of resolving the H-Block issue.

Therefore no effort must be lost in forcing the trade unions and labour leadership in Ireland and Britain to settle this question from a class point of view.

NALGO special meeting

MEET TORIES HEAD-ON!

Within the next few months NALGO will be holding a Special National Local Government meeting to discuss a strategy of fighting Tory cuts in local authority spending.

This arose out of a resolution at the last National Group meeting of the union from Knowsley branch, when Irene Buxton graphically explained that the Union had no worked out policy on fighting cuts.

Irene welcomed the fact that support was pledged at the NALGO Annual Conference for Labour Groups who take on the Tory Government, even if that support means breaking Tory laws.

But the implications of that decision had not been fully realised; no policy on rate increases exists, and no strategy on uniting the labour movement on this issue had been worked out.

Recently, we have heard much of Labour authorities who have attempted to resist Tory instructions on cuts. Each of these have a genuine desire to defeat the cuts and to ensure that public services are main-

By Derek Hatton
(Liverpool Labour councillor and Chairman of Knowsley NALGO)

tained in their area. Unfortunately, many Labour councillors have been forced to carry out policies which are obviously against everything that was in their manifestoes when they were elected as socialists.

This is mainly due to the lack of a worked-out socialist policy to fight Tory cuts, and a failure to recognise the need to unite with the local authority trade unions as a pre-requisite of any successful struggle to defeat the government on this issue.

In this situation, the Special NALGO Local Government Group meeting assumes a great degree of importance. A positive

stand on the basis of a political strategy to fight the cuts from half a million local government workers will give many Labour groups and other unions the spur that will be needed.

Over the past few years, it has to be recognised that whilst unacceptable cuts have been implemented by both Tory and Labour councillors, the next 12 months will force a polarisation in terms of local services, of an unprecedented nature.

No longer is the issue over whether we have a slightly reduced service. No longer is it over natural wastage. It is now a question of do we make redundancies in local government or do we take on the Tories?

The change in the Rate Support Grant system and the actual cuts being forced through by the Tories will mean that only savage policies will enable Councils to balance their books.

It is at this stage that Labour councillors will need to decide whether they are in business to manage a rotten system which fails to provide adequate housing, which takes the education of the working class children back decades, which actually contributes to the increasing unemployment figures. Or whether they, as representatives of the labour movement, pledge to fight to ensure that the social and political developments which have been secured over the years are maintain-



ed and actually improved upon.

But it is also true that martyres rarely achieve very much. Labour councillors need to feel that the trade unions will support them when the inevitable confrontation arrives with the Tory government. Whilst a lead from Labour councillors will give the inspiration to local authority unions to fight, the trade unions themselves need to plan for the struggle.

The NALGO National Group Meeting must give the lead:

★ No cuts in jobs and

services.

★ No rate increases to compensate for government cuts.

★ Full support for Labour groups taking a stand against the Tories.

★ Commitment to total non-co-operation with commissioners in the event of the government attempting to install them into 'rebel' councils.

★ Support and encouragement for the establishment of Joint Shop Stewards Committees within local authorities uniting all clerical and manual unions.

★ The calling of confer-

ences in all areas of the country in an attempt to involve the wider labour and trade union movement in the struggle.

★ Plans must be immediately prepared for a 24-hour national strike from all local authority trade unions.

It is only with a bold approach can services and jobs be guaranteed, and a complete reversal of all Tory cuts be secured, as an important step towards bringing down this government and returning a Labour government pledged to socialist policies.

A FAIR DEAL FOR F.E. STUDENTS

From this week, school leavers on the dole will be able to claim a paltry £15.25 supplementary benefit. Those 'lucky' enough to be on a 'Youth Opportunities Programme' get an allowance of £23.50 a week.

But those who want to continue their education at school or Further Education College will, in the vast majority of cases, get absolutely nothing.

Thousands of youth are now looking to gain more qualifications hoping that it will improve their chances of getting work. A recent survey of 100 colleges by lecturers' union NATFHE showed that over 4,000 potential students had been turned away from FE colleges in the last year.

But even of those who did

By Peter Mumford
(NOLS National Committee, Militant supporter)

manage to enrol on a full-time course, less than a quarter received any grant at all. Most are forced to look for part time work in the evenings, working in pubs, or stacking supermarket shelves at weekends. Now even these jobs are becoming hard to find. It is no surprise that many students can't afford to complete their courses.

The Labour Party Young Socialists is campaigning for an immediate grant for all 16-18 year olds in full-time education at least equal to the MSC recommended rate for YOP allowances (£26 in 1981). That would allow students to study without the extra burden of having no money hanging over their heads.

The Tories are not interested in giving FE students a grant or a decent education. Their logic is simple—why bother spending money on educating people to go on to

the dole?

Already Further Education students have to work under appalling conditions, with fewer facilities than those at Polytechnic or Universities.

At one London arts college, students were reported to be using equipment condemned by their council! Other FE students are forced to buy their own textbooks (at around £10 a piece) as library facilities are almost non-existent, on top of buying writing equipment.

But even this isn't enough for the Tories! A confidential Whitehall report, exposed in 'The Guardian' (1 September), shows that the latest proposed cuts will mean nearly 10,000 lecturers will be sacked, and in advanced further education 20% of full-time lecturer posts will go.

But worst hit of all are the part-time students on block

or day release. For many their 'day off' at college means lectures from 9 o'clock in the morning till 9 at night, with all expenses like exam fees coming out the pay packet. Northampton council has already stopped paying fees for students over 18 to make a saving of £86,000.

The last resort for many workers is to go to night-school, to continue education after a full day's work however, even this avenue is now being blocked by Tory and, unfortunately also Labour councils raising the fees.

The 'Times Education Supplement' reported two courses on offer: "How to make your money go further" and "How to cope with a heart attack." TES commented "thousands of students might well feel in need of them when they enrol... faced with big increases in fees."

It is clear that there is no way the Tories can solve the serious problems facing students. The bosses are using education to satisfy their own needs.

Education is tied hand and foot to the capitalist system. There is no need to look any further than the colleges' boards of governors to see in whose interests education is run. The governing body of Hackney College, for example, includes representatives from the Institute of Bankers, the Institute of Marine Engineers and the reactionary National Federation of Building Trades Employers who were behind the "No to building nationalisation" campaign.

It is essential that NOLS and the LPYS take up the struggle against the Tories, not just to defend education, but to improve facilities. Hundreds of working class youth will be won to the banner of socialism if a campaign is conducted in FE Colleges.

It is essential that NOLS and the LPYS take up the struggle against the Tories, not just to defend education, but to improve facilities. Hundreds of working class youth will be won to the banner of socialism if a campaign is conducted in

FE Colleges.

Enormous opportunities exist for the building of new Labour clubs in colleges, especially since the decision of NOLS' Conference to allow part-time students to join NOLS. A bold campaign on the following would gain a ready echo in the colleges, uniting the struggles of the working class and the student movement against the Tories:

★ A £26 a week grant for all 16-18 year olds in full-time education.

★ Free transport, provision of books, paper and other essential material for all students.

★ A guaranteed job for every college leaver.

OUT SOON!

'A Charter for FE Students—a socialist programme for further education'

Price 30p.

Details to follow

By Barbara Humphries

“Destroyed by a banker’s order”—that was the verdict of the Labour Party on the second Labour Government when it was brought down exactly fifty years ago in 1931.

A joint manifesto of the Labour Party and the General Council of the TUC stated “...a new coalition government for which the Labour movement repudiates all responsibility has been formed. It is a government of persons acting without authority from the people. It is determined to attack the standard of living of the workers in order to meet a situation caused by a policy pursued by private banking interests in the control of which the public has no part.

“Fundamentally it is an attempt to reverse the social policy which in this country has, within limits, provided for the unemployed, the aged and the sick, the disabled, the orphaned and the widowed.

Unemployment benefit is attacked on the grounds that it strengthens resistance to wage reductions. These are the motives which impel the new coalition government in its policy of drastic cuts in social expenditure.”

In 1929 the Labour government faced a crisis of world capitalism. The Wall Street crash in September 1929 was the prelude to the greatest slump in world history. It took its toll on the already declining industries in Britain—iron and steel, textiles and shipbuilding. Unemployment rose from 1,165,000 [9.7% of insured workers] in May 1929 to 2,843,000 [21.9%] in December 1932. Industrialists were losing markets at home and abroad.

The solution of the ruling class was to force the working class to pay, in a vain attempt to make the old industries more profitable. Following the defeat of the 1926 general strike, most workers had been forced to take cuts in wages. Defeats on the industrial front led to the channelling of anger into the Labour Party. Labour’s ranks moved to the left on a large scale.

The 1929 Labour Government had come into office with a radical manifesto ‘Socialism in our Time’. It aimed to end unemployment by guaranteeing work or full maintenance.

When the Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, took office, however, he turned his back on Labour’s conference decisions and declared the manifesto to be “a millstone around our necks.”

The germ of the coalition between MacDonald, Philip Snowden (Chancellor of the Exchequer), 14 members of the PLP and the Tories took root the day that the Labour government took office. MacDonald took on the job of solving the crisis of capitalism at the expense of the workers.

He told the “opposition” that the crisis would be solved by “putting our ideas into a common pool,” like a council of state, not by opposing each other like arrayed regiments in battle. Coalition sympathies thus paved the way for coalition government.

The defeat of the government was brought about, however, not by individuals, but by policies. The leaders of the Labour Party, like many of their heirs today, had faith in “the inevitability of gradualism.” They claimed that they could move towards socialism on the basis of a capitalist economy, that they could redistribute wealth towards the working class whilst leaving the commanding heights of the economy in private hands.

In times of crisis, when the capitalists redouble their efforts to save their profits, the hopelessness of the policies of the reformists become blatantly obvious. With an expanding capitalist economy some reforms are possible, but in a time of crisis, a Labour government operating within the frame work of capitalism becomes inevitably the helpless victim of capitalism.

Apart from one or two minor reforms, the Labour government of 1929/31 was used by the ruling class to carry out cuts in living standards. Cuts in the dole and the splitting of the government were the inevitable end results of the so-called “practical” policies which the leaders of the Labour Party claimed to be implementing.

Their mild reformism became reformism without reforms, then counter-reforms and they opened the gate for a vicious National government.

MacDonald used the excuse that his was a minority government and could not therefore adhere to Labour’s programme. But, as Nye Bevan wrote after 1931, “If

1931:

WHAT LESSONS



Scenes from the 1931 General Election—Ernie Bevin (left of photo) campaigns in Gateshead which he lost to a National Liberal by 12,938

a weak and innocuous minority government can be broken by a conspiracy of finance capitalists, what hope is there for a majority government which really threatens the bankers’ privileges?”

The ruling class do not respect Parliamentary majorities; they are only interested in their wealth and power. The only hope of saving the Labour government and preventing a National government emerging would have been for the government to boldly implement a socialist programme and mobilise the ranks of the Labour movement against the attempted sabotage of the capitalist class.

The industrialists had to find a way of cutting the dole as part of their strategy for cutting wages. They bided their time. When the government came into office in 1929, it had the full support of the working class. Thus the ruling class waited until the government had been seen to retreat on a number of issues, such as the nationalisation of the mines and the Anomalies Act, which struck 300,000 people off the dole.

These retreats, and the general deterioration of living standards, left Labour supporters bewildered and demoralised, and this laid the basis for the bringing

down of the government.

In February 1931, the Labour government set up, at the demand of the Liberals, the May Committee, which was to look into the crisis in the economy. It was led by Sir George May, chief of the Prudential Assurance Company, and was composed of industrialists and two “tame” trade union leaders.

At the end of July the Committee reported that the government was running a deficit of £120 million annually and it called for the budget to be balanced.

This was to be done by cutting government expenditure and raising taxation. There were to be cuts of £96½ million, £67 million of which was to be found by cutting unemployment insurance benefit by 20% and by increasing contributions by 10p a week. Further cuts were proposed in education, road building, and grants to local authorities for public works. Teachers’ pay was to be cut by 15%.

After the May committee had reported, an economic committee of the cabinet was set up, consisting of five right-wingers. The whole cabinet, including such left-wingers as Attlee and Dalton, agreed to £56 million of cuts.

It was only when the General Council of the

TUC, feeling the anger within its ranks, rejected the scale of the cuts, that the Labour cabinet was split. The TUC’s rejection of the cuts made it impossible for a Labour government, based as it is in the organised working class, to put them into practice. When the full cabinet again discussed the cuts they were rejected by nine members, with eleven voting in favour.

The extent to which some Labour leaders could desert the movement was seen at these cabinet meetings. They echoed all the hysteria of the Tory press. The Webbs for instance called the General Council “pigs” for not accepting the cuts and MacDonald, in an attempt to blackmail the cabinet, said that whilst some sections of the country were having to make sacrifices, the unemployed could not be left in a privileged position.

Having failed to gain the unanimous support of the cabinet, MacDonald entered into talks with the Tory and Liberal leaders. These were initiated by the bankers and the King. A National government was decided upon, without the knowledge or consent of the Labour cabinet, let alone of the Party itself.

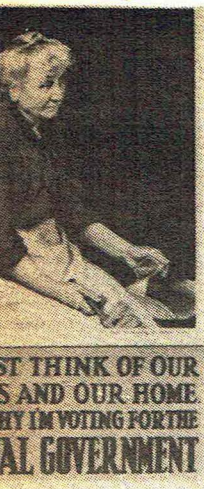
MacDonald, with the bankers, the Tories, the

Liberals and King, had “in the national interest” brought the Labour government down. He, along with three other ministers and 14 MPs, had joined forces with the Tory Party.

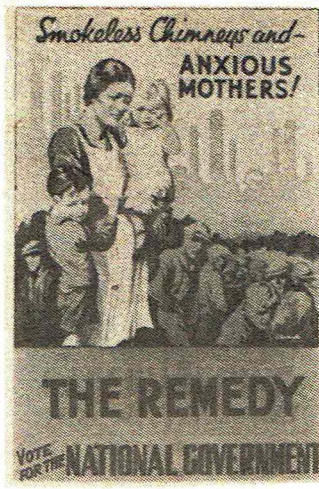
What lessons have 1929-31 for us today? In 1931 the ruling class used a National government to attempt to derail the working class movement, because the Labour leaders were no longer able to restrain the ranks of the movement from opposition to the cuts.

When a Labour government could not be of use that way, it was cast to one side. An “open” Tory government, they calculated, would have provoked widespread resistance from the trade unions and the unemployed to its unpalatable measures. But a coalition led by an ex-Labour Prime Minister might get away with carrying out cuts for a short while, as a section of the working class would be confused and disorientated.

In the election in the Autumn of 1931, the National government won 554 seats; the Labour Party won 52, although its vote only fell by 2 million from 1929. The National government soon exposed its real class character by the reactionary Tory policies that it carried out.



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FOR TODAY?



otes. Above right—MacDonald. Top of page—National Government election posters

Given the similar economic background today, the lessons of 1931 are very clear; the same tactic could be used by the ruling class if they found themselves in the same situation. In 1976, they openly contemplated the replacement of the last Labour government with a National government at a time when the International Monetary Fund were demanding cuts in public expenditure.

They withdrew from this position partly because of the strength of the Labour movement today, compared with the 1930s, with no major defeats behind it. Already thousands of workers in the public sector had taken part in lobbies and demonstrations against Labour's cuts.

The ruling class also feared the growing strength of the left in the Labour Party, especially the influence of Marxist ideas. They feared that a split in the Labour Party at that time could lead to the party of the working class rapidly moving towards a Marxist position.

The ruling class will again, however, face the dilemma of how to deal with the Labour movement. They will want further cuts in workers' living standards to restore profits—and to achieve this they will again

be demanding cuts in unemployment benefits at a certain stage.

Despite the defection already of a handful of prominent Labour right-wingers to the SDP, the election of a Labour government at the next general election with a majority of "moderates" in the cabinet could again provide the ruling class with the opportunity to set up a National government.

Such a Labour government will face tremendous pressure from the ranks of the movement to carry out radical measures, whilst the pressure would be on from the ruling class to adopt counter-reforms. Under these conditions a split could occur in the government, with the remaining right-wingers joining the Tories, Liberals and SDP to form a government of "national unity."

Such a government would be nothing more than a thinly disguised Tory government, masked by Liberals, Social Democrats and certain right-wing Labour MPs. Its role would be to cut living standards on an unprecedented scale. A government of so-called "national unity," like that of 1931, would serve the interests solely of that section of the nation that own the majority of its wealth.

The overwhelming lesson of 1929-31 is for the Labour party to adopt clear alternative socialist policies. In 1931 the National government was successful because the leaders of the Labour Party offered no credible alternative. Arthur Henderson led the party into the election defending the record of the Labour government.

The "lefts" put forward such ideas as tariff reform (import controls), public works, reflation and planning agreements, like the Alternative Economic Strategy today. These were measures which would tinker with capitalism. Even public works were not linked to the need for overall economic planning on a socialist basis.

The National government actually implemented the so-called tariff reform and even introduced certain public works, as well as a programme of cuts.

The only workable answer to the disastrous policies which led to the 1931 National government was to break with the capitalist system and carry out the socialist transformation of society, calling on the ranks of the Labour movement in support. The same is true today. Fifty years after the end of 1929-31 government, there is still no way forward under capitalism.

WHY WE'RE STANDING FOR LABOUR'S NEC

The following leaflet has been written by 'Militant' supporters Ray Apps and Pat Wall, who are standing for the constituency section of the Labour Party NEC.

We are standing for election to the NEC and seeking the support of your Constituency Labour Party.

Workers and their families are currently faced with mass unemployment, falling living standards and attacks upon the trade unions.

The brutal monetarist policies of the Tory government with the economic crisis facing capitalism are making life a nightmare for working people.

The Labour Party must offer a new alternative and lead a struggle to bring down the Tories at the earliest possible opportunity.

Annual conference demands for such radical policies as the 35-hour week without loss of pay, a guaranteed minimum wage, a massive increase of expenditure in health, education, housing and other essential services need to form the basis of a mass campaign by the Party throughout the country.

We must ensure that resolutions of Annual Conference are transformed into reality by concerted struggle of the labour movement.

Yet we must ensure that the pitfalls of previous Labour administrations are avoided. "Mild monetarism", remaining within the strait-jacket of capitalism resulted in a disaster.

The reforms promised in the 1974 election manifesto were completely abandoned at the insistence of the CBI, banks, and other institutions of capitalism.

Major decisions of conference, the nationalisation of the banks, abolition of the House of Lords, on nuclear disarmament and withdrawal from the Common Market continue to be opposed by the parliamentary leadership.

It is essential, if the next Labour government is to implement reforms in favour of working people, that the employers' grip over the economy is broken.

A socialist plan of production, necessitating the immediate implementation of Clause IV, part IV of the party constitution, is the only way to ensure a radical programme of reform is implemented and retained.

In reality today, it means the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy, banks and insurance firms, controlling 80-85% of industrial production, under democratic workers' control and management with compensation paid only on the basis of proven need.

With such a democratic socialist plan the mass unemployment, misery and poverty currently being thrust upon the backs of the



Ray Apps is a member of Brighton Kempton Labour Party and TGWU. Member of NEC working party on re-selection and signatory to the minority report. Campaign organiser for Kempton's prospective parliamentary candidate.



Pat Wall is a member of Shipley Labour Party and ASTMS. He is president of Bradford Trades Council, and has been a councillor in Liverpool and Bingley. LP member since 1950.

mass of the population could be ended and the way opened for the building of a socialist society.

These are the socialist policies that Labour must be campaigning for. Only with such radical socialist policies is it possible to inflict a crushing defeat over the Tories and their shadows in the Liberal and Social Democratic Parties.

Tremendous gains in both policy and democracy have been secured by the Labour Party membership over the past years. These gains must be defended and built upon. We must ensure Labour's parliamentary representatives are prepared to fight for working people and for the socialist aspirations of our party.

Mandatory re-selection of MPs and the Wembley conference decisions must be fully defended.

Indeed they must be built up through the election of the Cabinet and shadow cabinet, taking place by the electoral college and for similar methods of democracy and accountability to be applied at local levels in relation to Labour councillors.

We must ensure that those elected to positions of office on behalf of the

Labour Party are fully in touch and accountable to the day to day problems faced by working people and their families.

The Labour Party has turned towards becoming a campaigning party. This needs to be strengthened. Conference decisions and our socialist objectives must be taken to the factories, door steps, streets and dole queues.

We must increase the industrial base of our Party through the establishment of work place branches.

These policies for which we are seeking your support are the policies which, we believe, will result in the building of a mass Labour Party with an accountable leadership and socialist policies essential to solve the problems of working people and their families.

It is on this basis that we ask your Constituency Labour Party to support our candidature for the NEC.

Yours fraternally
Ray Apps (Brighton Kempton CLP)
Pat Wall (Shipley CLP)

Copies of this leaflet are available from 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Sri Lanka

TAMILS UNDER ATTACK

Defend right to self-determination

The Sri Lankan government of President Junius Richard Jayawardena, bankrupt and desperate, is now fanning communal hatred, with its oppression of the Tamil Nation. The Government appears to think that the Tamils can and should be frightened and terrorised into silence. Fanatical, Sinhala chauvinistic elements have put out posters demanding that the Tamils clear out of the country.

This island-country is once again in the grip of mounting tension. The Tamils have lived from agony to agony, starting with the communal holocaust of August, 1977, just about a month after the UNP Government was installed in office. This was followed in 1979 by the imposition of emergency rule in northern Sri Lanka's Jaffna District which involved not only the terrorising of the people but also brutal killing of Tamil youth.

The Tamils now live in fear not only in other parts of the Island but in their own homesteads in the traditional Tamil speaking areas too. This was demonstrated by the reign of terror that was unleashed in the Jaffna District between 31st of May and 8th of June this year when police personnel and other forces in civies, together with UNP thugs, engaged in wanton

By A K
Annamalai
(Nava Sama Samaja
Party Central
Committee)

and barbarous destruction of the invaluable public library, the "Eelanadu" (Tamil regional daily press) the residence of the MP for Jaffna, the Headquarters of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), bookshops, numerous business houses, pharmacies etc.

Not content with this massive destruction and downright affront caused to the people of Jaffna, the UNP Government has turned its pernicious tentacles to the Eastern Province Districts of Ampara and Batticaloa. Close on the heels of the Jaffna attack, troubles broke out on the Batticaloa-Ampara border between Sinhala and Tamil peasants. Tamils peasants were badly attacked by thugs and some 43 of their houses were burnt down while the security forces looked on. The victims had to flee their homes for their lives.

Now, it is deeply ingrained in the minds of chauvinistic Sinhala elements that even individual disputes or minor incidents between Sinhalese

and Tamil individuals or groups should be whipped up and communal disturbances let loose. So an incident which took place recently at the Batticaloa stadium grounds between Ampara and Batticaloa students was made use of to unleash severe reprisals against Tamils in the Ampara area.

Shops destroyed

Large numbers of shops have been burnt down and over 500 Tamils (among them Government and Corporation employees) have been consigned to a couple of refugee camps in nearby towns, while those who were badly injured are undergoing treatment at the Batticaloa Hospital. The TULF member of the Ampara District Development Council was attacked by the army personnel and placed under house arrest for 12 days.

Moreover, hundreds of heads of cattle belonging to Tamils have been forcibly seized, fishing boats and nets destroyed by Sinhala hooligans. A Hindu temple at Ampara was set on fire and its Priest attacked.

It appears that the Government has also been partly successful in whipping up communal disturbances in other parts of Sri Lanka such as Badulla, Bandarawela, Passara, Tissamaharagama, Galle, Hambantota, Negombo, Ragama etc. In all these places a number of shops belonging to Tamils have been destroyed and looted and some persons killed.

The Member of Parliament for the Northern Electorate of Udupiddy (Mr. T. Rajalingam) who was among those mercilessly attacked at the Ragama Railway Station on 11.8.81 (night) had one or two of his teeth broken.

Earlier, the Anaicottai Police Station in the Jaffna district was attacked by some unidentified persons on the night of July 27th. A Police constable (Sinhalese)

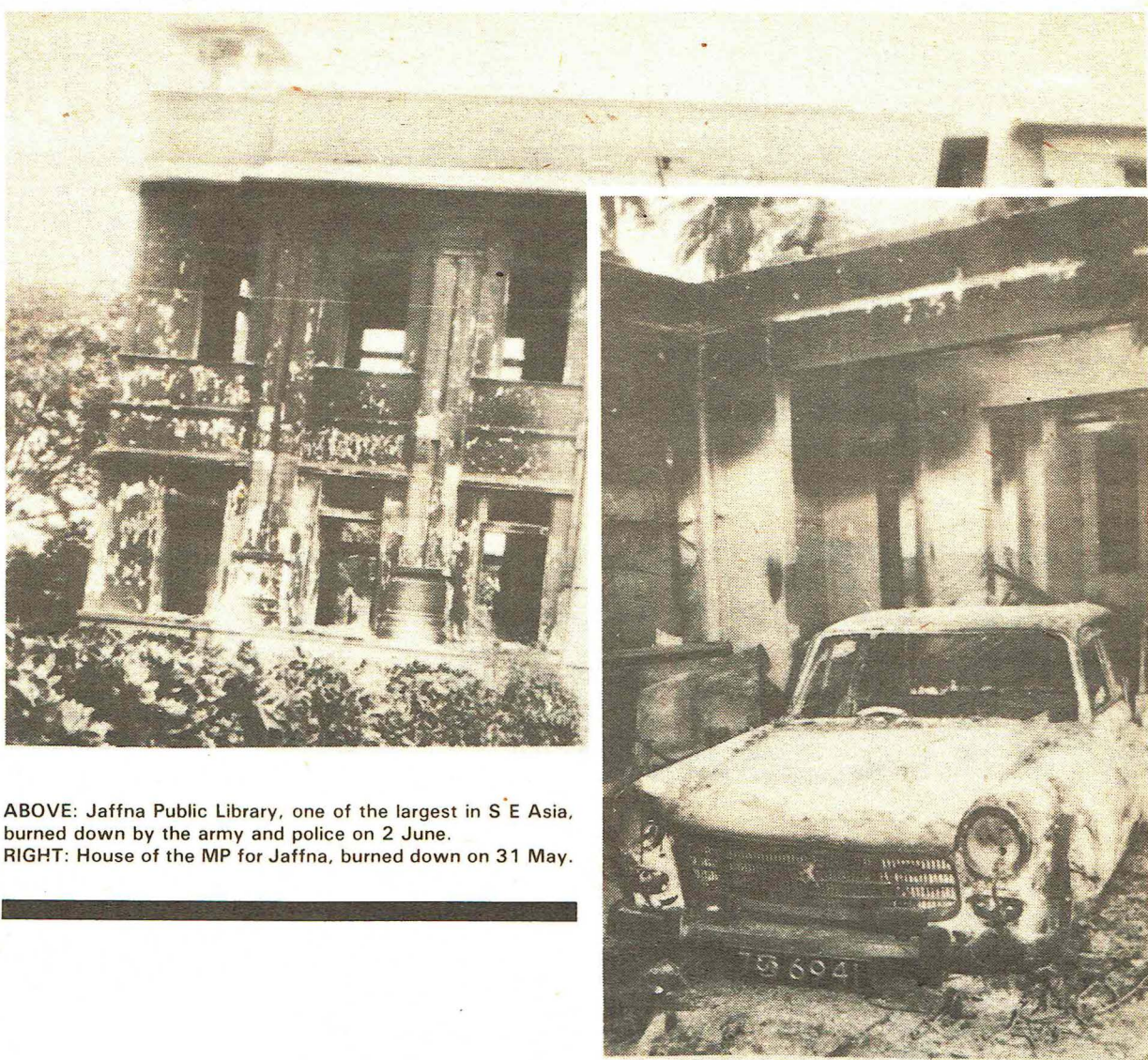
died on the spot and 3 other constables, a Sinhalese, a Muslim and a Tamil were badly injured. Arms and ammunition were also removed by the attackers.

Following this attack the Government disbanded 6 small Police Stations and converted them into army detachments and has also deployed heavy reinforcements of army personnel ostensibly to guard all police stations and to maintain security. But, judging from past experience, it is difficult to rule out the possibility that the government is getting set for a major showdown in the North.

Recently there was a motion of no-confidence in Parliament against the TULF Secretary General and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Appapillai Amirthalingam on the alleged ground that he has acted against the interests of the country in his campaigns carried on in foreign countries. The entire Opposition including the TULF, the SLFP and the CP boycotted the debate on the ground that the motion was unprecedented in the history of Parliamentary democracy and that it was not open to Parliament to debate or pass such a motion since a Leader of the Opposition cannot and need not enjoy the confidence of the government.

Sinhala chauvinism

In the one-horse race that ensued, most of the government MPs who spoke on the motion, having taken leave of their senses, indulged in the most slanderous, vituperative and downright savage attacks on Mr. Amirthalingam, the TULF and the Tamil speaking people in general. Mr. Amirthalingam was called a liar and a traitor and the MPs shouted hoarse that he should be tied to the nearest post and whipped and hurled into the nearby Beira Lake or shot to death opposite Parliament. And



ABOVE: Jaffna Public Library, one of the largest in S E Asia, burned down by the army and police on 2 June.
RIGHT: House of the MP for Jaffna, burned down on 31 May.

these MPs also suggested that all those who agitate for "Eelam" (separate state for Tamils) should be impaled or their bodies should be torn up.

Among the things they said were:- (a) The country belongs to the Sinhalese and that the Tamils and Muslims are aliens, (b) The Tamils have no right to demand "Eelam", (c) The Tamils were brought to Sri Lanka as slaves and they belong to an inferior caste as compared to the high Aryan Sinhala stock; (d) The government is prepared for war if the TULF wanted it and that the "Eelam" demand should be forgotten if the Tamils want to live in unity.

Having found that the passing of the no-confidence motion has not removed the Leader of the Opposition from Office, some government MPs are now seeking to convert Parliament into a Court (Parliament is the highest court under the constitution) and pronounce the requisite sentence to strip Mr. Amirthalingam of his position.

Racist Minister Cyril Mathew, the celebrated Sri Lankan counterpart of Mr. Enoch Powell, has put out a book entitled "Sinhala people, awake, arise and safeguard Buddhism". This 352 pages in Sinhala, with some 60 illustrations, contains nothing but the speeches etc. of President Jayawardena and others from the 1950s loaded with communal sentiments, intended to arouse further prejudice and hatred against the Tamils and to reinforce Sinhala chauvinism.

According to this book several archaeological excavations had proved the existence of Buddhist shrines in early times in certain places in the Jaffna District. The idea is generally propagated that Sinhalese Buddhists should be settled on such areas even though such places are traditionally inhabited by Tamils.

Now, government circles are considering the imposition of a ban on the "Eelam" demand. An in-

competent capitalist government which has already heaped unbearable burdens on the already suffering Sinhala and Tamil masses and is unable to face up to their problems any more is wilfully distracting the attention of the masses along inflammable communal lines.

Inalienable right

The TULF had explained, and the UNP admitted in its election manifesto of 1977 that the Tamil speaking people were driven to put forward and support the "Eelam" demand due to legitimate grievances over such areas as education, employment, colonisation etc.

Far from solving these problems, the government, ever since it assumed office in July 1977, has only aggravated them. Especially in the matter of employment, President Jayawardena himself admitted in a reply to a letter from the Leader from the Opposition sometime ago that the Tamils were deliberately left out on the alleged ground that they were terrorist in their behaviour.

Moreover, the Tamil Nation has the inalienable right to self-determination including the right to secede, if they so wish. They have the right to campaign on this basis and even canvass world opinion. The Nava Sama Samaja Party is the only Sri Lankan Left-wing Party which adheres consistently to this principled position on this question.

Forming a separate state in itself will be no solution to the problems of the Tamil speaking people, but recognition of their right to self-determination, removal of all discrimination in the fields of education and employment, regional autonomy for the Northern and Eastern Provinces with powers over Colonisation and land use, are steps which will create the climate for unity rather than division of the country.

IRAN

Pressure grows on Mullahs reign of terror

The bloody spiral of political violence is continuing in Iran with the bomb blast which killed President Rajai, Prime Minister Bahonar and six other people. The assassination comes only nine weeks after the explosion which killed 70 Islamic leaders in June.

The bloody struggle between the fundamentalist regime, dominated by the mullahs (Moslem clergy), and its radical opponents is a reflection of the deepening crisis in Iran.

None of the problems which led to the overthrow of the Shah's regime have been solved. The national liberation struggle of the Kurdish people continues. The economy has deteriorated further.

Unemployment is in the region of five million, out of a population of 35 million. There are two million refugees from the war in Kurdistan. Industry is said to be operating at 30% of capacity while inflation is 100%.

By
George Collins

The war with Iraq drags on, forcing the mullahs to rely on the officer caste, many of whom are opposed to the regime.

Large parts of the economy, including the vital oil industry, were nationalised in the early stages of the revolution, but the chaos of capitalism has not yet been ended. The weakened capitalist class, bitterly hostile to the regime, are incapable of restoring and developing production.

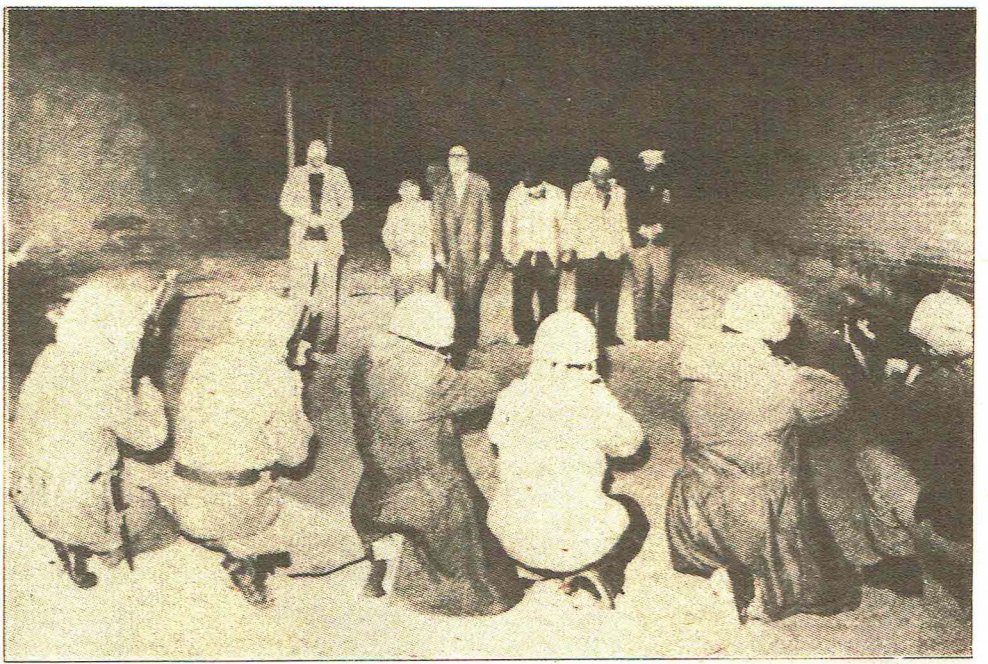
Neither the mullahs, nor the Bonapartist leader Khomeini, have a programme

for solving the crisis. Opposition to the regime is growing. The mullahs' only answer is a vicious campaign to exterminate all their opponents. An estimated 600-900 people have been dragged before firing squads in the last two months. This, in turn, has increased revulsion against the mullahs' barbaric rule.

Guerilla activities have increased over the past period. In a major battle with Mujahidin guerillas on 24 August, over 30 Islamic 'Revolutionary Guards' were reported killed or wounded. 500 guards and 40 members of the Majlis (parliament) have been assassinated over the past two months.

Increasingly isolated and demoralised, the 'Revolutionary Guards' are beginning to waver in their commitment to the regime. An unprecedented rate of desertions is reported. Appeals to desert are being broadcast by the underground opposition radio. During the last week of August alone, hundreds are said to have disappeared after collecting their pay packets.

The shifting mood among



Up to 900 of the mullahs' opponents have been put before firing squads in the last two months

the masses was reflected at the funeral of Rajai and Bahonar. While speakers called for death to all "agents of the great Satan", the crowd was noticeably subdued.

The 'Financial Times' correspondent in Tehran reports: "Many in the crowd seemed despondent... and some gave voice to puzzlement as to how it was that such a bomb could have been placed after two months of extensive anti-terrorist activity."

Guerilla attacks offer no way forward

More killings and counter-killings have taken place since the August 30 bomb blast. The ruling Mullahs must bear the main respon-

sibility for this spiralling violence. But guerilla attacks, despite the personal courage of the guerillas, can offer no way forward to the Iranian masses or to the powerful working class. It presents no immediate threat to the regime, while inevitably it will provoke new waves of repression and counter-terror.

Within two days the dead Prime Minister was replaced by a new one, the former Interior Minister, Ayatollah Kani. Khomeini, arguing that the tactic of bombing showed the weakness of the guerillas, declared: "Those who believe the country will collapse because of a few assassinations are not Islamic, they are Marxists."

But Marxism totally rejects the method of individual terrorism. Only the working class, organised on a socialist programme, can provide an alternative to the

mullahs' regime and solve the problems of the working people on the basis of a nationalised economy under democratic working-class control.

The task facing genuine revolutionaries in Iran is not the assassination of mullahs but the building of Marxist leadership among the working class. The workers have shown their revolutionary strength in the overthrow of the Shah. Until they complete the work they have started, Iran will drift deeper into crisis, dictatorship and the threat of civil war.

NAMIBIA/ANGOLA

On 25 August two South African armoured columns, totalling an estimated 10,000 troops, crossed the Namibian border and struck into Angola, leaving a trail of devastation behind.

The declared aim of the invasion was to destroy the bases of SWAPO, the Namibian guerilla movement, in Southern Angola.

This exposed the hollowness of the South Africans' agreement "in principle" to a settlement in Namibia under United Nations auspices, announced by US Secretary of State Haig in an attempt to whitewash the SA regime.

After a week of savage air and ground attacks, the South Africans claimed they were withdrawing since their mission was accomplished.

But reports from inside Angola indicate that fighting was continuing and that the South African forces were digging in for a long stay. The real purpose of the invasion, the Angolan government believes, is to create a "demilitarised" buffer zone along the Namibian border by laying waste the entire area. This is intended to prevent SWAPO guerillas from crossing into Namibia.

The timing of the attack was apparently meant to forestall a major SWAPO offensive that was planned to coincide with the United

Nations debate on Namibia starting on 3 September. Another factor was the installation by Angola of Russian ground-to-air missiles to protect key towns like Mocamedes.

This challenges South Africa's control over South Angolan airspace.

The South African regime has also been worried about the 5,000 black Namibian teenagers who have fled north earlier this year to join SWAPO and avoid conscription into the South African army.

Undoubtedly the South African regime was encouraged to launch this murderous adventure by the aggressive posture of the Reagan Administration.

The right wing of the American ruling has not yet given up hope of strengthening their position in Southern Africa by forcing a withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola and winning a place for their Angolan puppet, Savimbi, in an "internal settlement" with a destabilised MPLA government.

With political backing from the US, the South African regime is hoping to inflict a decisive military defeat on SWAPO.

A policy of continued military domination, however, would be an enormous strain on South African resources and would in the long run rebound on their heads.

SWAPO would eventual-

ly recover from any military setback and gain even greater support. A long-term South African presence in Angola would force the MPLA government—which has been trying to avoid a confrontation—to fight back. Cuban or even East German troops are likely to be drawn into the firing line, despite the reluctance of the Russian bureaucracy to disturb its relations with imperialism.

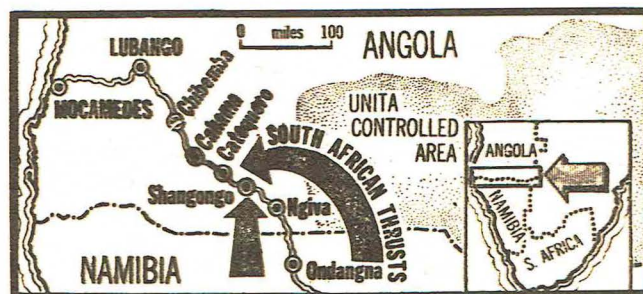
Angola could then become South Africa's Vietnam—but against much greater odds than the American government faced in 1964.

The more far sighted strategists of imperialism are acutely aware of the dangers of allowing the conflict to escalate to this stage.

SWAPO enjoys overwhelming support among the Namibian population and would win the elections if an independence settlement were reached. The imperialists hope that a SWAPO government, installed in power at the present stage, could still be kept within the limits of the capitalist system.

But a SWAPO government coming to power after a prolonged period of warfare and resting on its own military forces would be under enormous pressure from the masses to carry out radical policies of land reform and nationalisation. A South African withdrawal under these con-

SOUTH AFRICAN INVASION-IMPERIALIST CRISIS



ditions would have an electrifying effect on the black South African working class and could spark off a revolutionary crisis throughout Southern Africa.

Conscious of these dangers, the majority of the capitalist class has been dismayed by Pretoria's tactics. The *Sunday Times* (30 August) comments: "South Africa cannot destroy SWAPO. Pretoria's outdegree is more likely to stiffen the political self-consciousness of the people whom SWAPO represents and win it new friends in Africa and beyond."

The ruling class agree

completely with the South African regime that the aim is to counter Russian influence. But South Africa's methods, the *Sunday Times* laments, "may even have the reverse effect of making Cuban, and by extension, Soviet support for Angola's legitimate government welcome in nominally anti-communist African states."

Such are the social tensions in South Africa and Namibia, however, that there is no guarantee of a peaceful and negotiated transfer of power to a pro-capitalist black government which the more rational wing of imperialism would like to see. Any significant

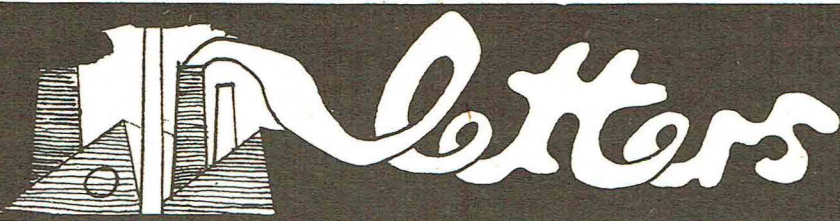
retreat by the South African regime, in Namibia as in South Africa itself, would act as a signal to the black masses and could open the floodgates of revolution.

It is this which makes a negotiated South African withdrawal from Namibia, and a peaceful settlement with Angola, an extremely difficult matter for the capitalist class. The South Africans' solution at present is to dig themselves into Namibia and possibly Southern Angola, at a terrible cost to the Angolan and Namibian people.

Guerilla struggle alone is unlikely to dislodge the South African army except, possibly, after protracted and bloody struggle. Before this stage is reached, events in Namibia may well be overtaken by the unfolding South African revolution.

Only the mobilisation of the black working class in Namibia as well as South Africa can break the bloody stalemate, force the South African army from Namibia and ensure the military security of the surrounding countries.

The overthrow of the apartheid regime and the taking of power by the working class will free the tremendous resources of South Africa and Namibia from the clutches of their present owners and make possible a plan of production and development, under democratic working-class control, that will eliminate poverty from the region.



Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

NALGO in higher education

Dear Comrades

I am writing on behalf of CNALP, a national organisation of NALGO members actively pushing affiliation of the union to the Labour Party. This follows the decision at this year's annual NALGO conference to ballot members, probably some time in January 1982.

If the campaign is to be successful, it will have to enlist the support of Labour organisations who have the opportunity of contacting our members and assisting us in putting forward the ideas of affiliation.

Many of our members in the universities, polytechnics and colleges of Education and technology, along with other sections of the union, face massive cutbacks. This will undoubtedly result in a reduction of essential services in the educational establishment and have a lasting effect on student intake in future years.

The CNALP calls on all active Labour Clubs in these establishments to consider involving themselves in our campaign. We firmly believe that your involvement will not only assist us in achieving a 'yes' vote, but will offer you further opportunities of forging the links between students and workers.

For more information about CNALP, please contact D Purton, 9 Willowfield Harlow Essex.

Yours fraternally
David Churchley
National Committee,
CNALP.

Impartial 'freedoms'?

Dear Comrades

Norris McWhirter, apparently speaking on behalf of the Freedom Association, stated that they were not anti-trade union, undoubtedly attempting to give the impression of impartiality.

This is an incredible statement after the vigorous campaign on behalf of the civil liberty of three objectors opposed to joining the National Union of Railwaymen.

But why restrict themselves to the "freedom" of the individual, within the orbit of industrial relations?

What about the contravention of civil liberties against many people having income tax deducted, a direct imposition on their deeply held beliefs, on questions of contributing towards the arms race, and upkeep of the monarchy, to name but two?

If the "impartial" Freedom Association intend to retain any credibility whatsoever, they should now campaign for the facility of getting the acceptance of procedures of tax relief contracting out forms, giving people the option of contracting out of paying tax, towards any objectionable requirements or institution.

Yours fraternally
D Capper.

Photo: C Davies (Report) II

Overpaid — at 75p per hour?

Dear Comrades

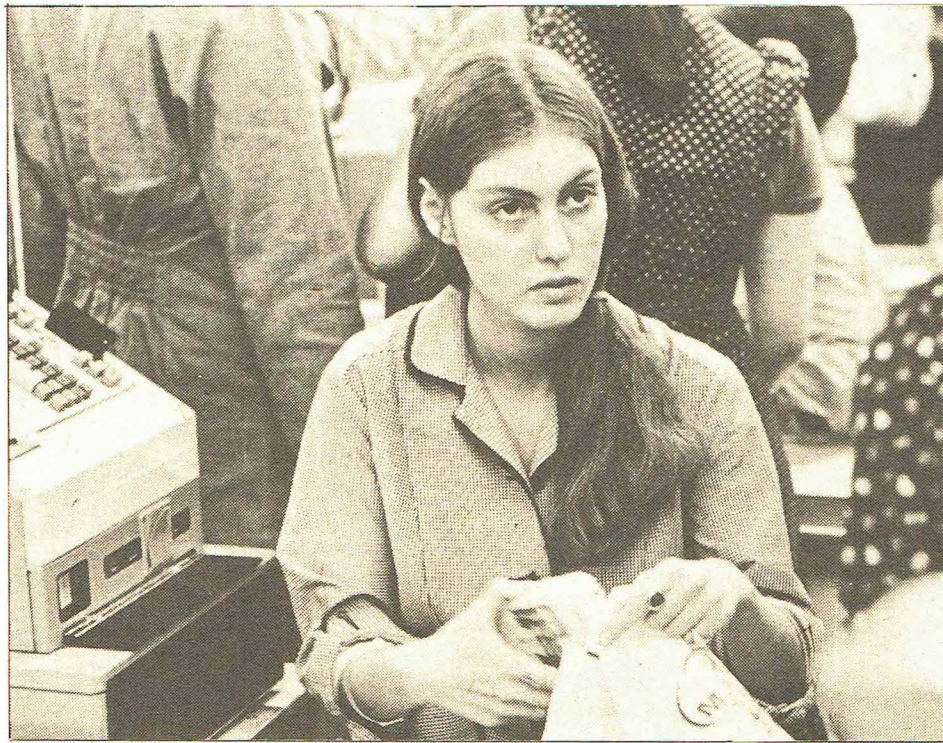
Conservatives in our area are claiming that high unemployment amongst youth is caused by young workers being paid unnecessarily high wages!

I am a sixth form student and on Saturdays I work for a dry cleaning launderette for the exceedingly high wage of 75 pence an hour. I would like to leave home but I have no choice living on £6 a week.

During the week the shop needs another employee for the afternoons, but they make do until I am on holiday from college so that they can pay a lower wage.

The three part-time employees who work during the week, are no more skilled than me and work no harder (I have worked with them) and yet they earn over a pound an hour.

I would appreciate a pound an hour but both of the owners who often work in the shop are always complaining about making



Shopworkers are amongst the lowest paid of workers already Without further deductions by employers.

losses. One of them once said to me, "The workers of today are becoming far too militant, they all ought to be sent to Siberia, then they would see what it's like." Many students are in the

same position as me. We are stuck with low wages as we cannot live on no income.

I was encouraged to write this letter during a student's meeting at LPYS summer camp. I learnt a lot at summer camp, not only from

meetings, but from comrades as well.

It was definitely worth two months' wages!

Yours fraternally
Pam Davies
Eastleigh LPYS.

Arson attack on resource centre

Dear Comrades

Union Place resource Centre in South London was destroyed by fire in the early hours of Wednesday morning (19 August). Police say the fire was probably caused by a liquid like petrol being poured through the letter box and then set alight.

Union Place was set up as a resource centre seven years ago by a group of people who had been living and working locally. The Centre provided printing facilities for people involved in local groups to produce leaflets and posters for their campaigns. Union Place has never supported any one political party but has always sought to help publicise local campaigns, eg. Tenants Associations, Trade Unions and other Community Groups, including those fighting all forms of racism and sexism; supporting these groups in their fight against the effects of current Government policy.

It is in this role, along with Lambeth Council, that Union Place has been singled out for criticism by certain sections of the national press, which has helped to create a climate where activity by right-wing extremist groups in Lambeth has increased.

In November 1979 there was an attempted incendiary bomb attack on Union Place. Fortunately, in this instance, workers at Union Place had been forewarned, and they and their supporters were able to prevent the building from being destroyed.

The three men involved, one of whom was the Southwark regional organiser of the National Front, are currently serving prison terms for this attack.

The Centre had facilities for silkscreen postermaking, A3 and A4 Offset litho printing, photography, layout and duplicating facilities. The extent of the damage is difficult to assess, but it seems that the three presses (the most widely used facility) and all the paper stocks have been destroyed.

Many other community bookshops and presses have been attacked by right wing groups recently, depriving the communities in which they are situated of much needed facilities.

The Union Place Collective is determined to carry on its work in providing this vital service to the people of Lambeth.

Yours fraternally
The Union Place Collective
Tate Central Library
Brixton Oval, London SW2.

You can win!

Dear Comrades,

"Does anyone ever win anything on this?" I suppose many supporters have experienced this comment when they have to try to sell tickets for the 'Militant' summer or winter draws.

Well, members of Leicester West LPYS recently had any doubts they may have had about winning tickets dispelled when the Second prize in the Summer draw was won by a ticket sold by one of their members.

At a organised by the YS, Sue Cooke was presented with a music centre by Derek Hilling, the LPYS NC member for the East Midlands. Encouragement indeed for all comrades when they come to sell tickets for the Winter draw.

Fraternally
Tony Church

Saving money — costing lives

Dear Comrades,

Those thrifty people at the Treasury, acting on the orders of their Tory masters have come up with yet another wonderful idea for saving money.

Up until now, the budget allocated to the Family Practitioner Service which pays for the family doctor network including the cost of drugs prescribed by GPs has been an open-ended one, based on the logical assumption that no-one can predict how many people will become ill in any particular year or how much it will cost to make them well again.

This autumn however, the Treasury will present a paper to Ministers meeting to 'review' public expenditure plans, which they believe will overcome objections to cash limiting FPS.

Sir Geoffrey Howe will press for its acceptance. The British Medical Association

on the other hand has stated that such a cash limit would inevitably reduce the standard of care given by GPs.

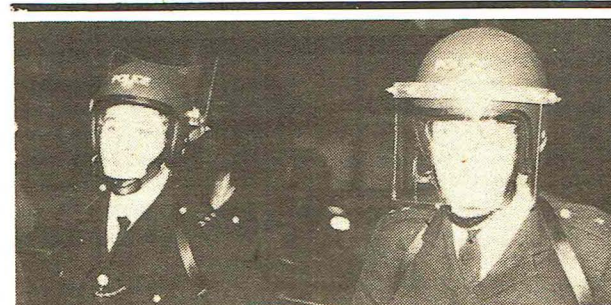
For example, if a doctor is only allocated money for a certain number of screening tests, anyone needing a test after the set number had been done would simply have to go without.

It would also mean that GPs would be limited in what drugs they prescribed, to fit into their budget, rather than to the most effective use.

The thinking behind this plan seems quite simple, it is money which counts to a Tory government—health and even life are secondary considerations.

For the working class the message seems to be—if you're going to be ill under a Tory government, do it at the beginning of the financial year, otherwise the National Health Service may not be able to afford to cure you.

Fraternally
Barbara Baker
Blaydon CLP



Police 'limit' Toxteth march

Dear Sirs

Having read the article on Toxteth in Issue 556. I was disturbed although not completely surprised, to read that coaches taking people to the march were turned back by police before reaching their destination effectively stopping people from joining the march.

It would seem that although the police did not

ban the march itself, they did manage to impose a limit on the number of marches which is surely an infringement of personal rights.

Of course this information is not broadcast by the BBC or published in the capitalist press. The only way that the public are made aware of such happenings is through papers like Militant, so please keep up the good work.

Fraternally,
Janice Ralston
East Kilbride

The bosses in space

Dear Comrades

BBC television recently screened a series called "Cosmos" about the Universe and its origins. I for one, watching this programme from a socialist viewpoint, found many of the comments of Carl Sagan, the presenter, both tantalising and frustrating.

It was tantalising in as much as the idea of space exploration, colonising Mars etc. were presented as real possibilities in the future; yet frustrating because he was considering it from the viewpoint that capitalism was capable of achieving these aims.

In reality, the exploration and colonisation of space by a human race, whose means of production are based on exploitation of the majority by the minority, is a pipedream. Since the mid 1970s space exploration has been cut back due to the world crisis of capitalism.

The only great developments in space technology have been that of placing hunter-killer satellites in orbit, increasing the power and accuracy of space lasers etc. The defense of private property by force if necessary has led to a massive squandering of human resources.

However, the future socialist development of society will be releasing our race from the need for "defence", ensure that the perspective of "taming the universe" can be a reality, a reality that will bring untold benefits to future generations.

Such a contrast with the squalid inefficiency of capitalism is like the difference between life and death.

Yours for socialism
Eddie Phillips
Provan CLP

Hysterical attacks

Dear Editor,

"This Brighton Labour Party notes the contrast between the mild criticism of those traitors who have formed an anti-labour social democratic party, and the hysterical attacks being made by some labour leaders against those who are building the Labour Party and arguing for socialist policies to defeat the Tories.

"These attacks are part of a plan to reverse the recent decisions to advance democracy and accountability in the Party. We support the right of any Labour Party member to campaign for their ideas, and stand for elected posts.

"This Brighton Labour Party is totally opposed to any witch hunt against Militant, and any attempts to re-introduce bans and proscriptions. We call instead for an investigation into the involvement of the CIA and other security forces in the affairs of the labour movement through various front organisations."

Sincerely
WJ Clarke
Hon. Secretary,
Brighton Labour Party

Build

Militant

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 10 Oct	Target for year
Eastern	3594		4970	7100
East Midlands	2731		3850	5500
Hants & Dorset	1916		3640	5200
Humberside	1317		2450	3500
London East	3745		5320	7600
London West	2155		3360	4800
London South	3315		3850	5500
Manchester & Lancs	2307		4060	5800
Merseyside	2748		4620	6600
Northern	3046		6020	8600
Scotland East	1592		3080	4400
Scotland West	2943		5250	7500
Southern	3961		4970	7100
South West	1745		2450	3500
Wales East	1065		1820	2600
Wales West	1571		3220	4600
West Midlands	3774		6020	8600
Yorkshire	3874		6300	9000
Others	9669		8750	12500
Total received	57,068		84,000	120,000

TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000

PUT US BACK ON TARGET!

62 year old media boss Jack Gill manages to keep 80% of his record £500,000 golden handshake away from the taxman. Yet Old Age Pensioners who try to supplement their meagre income have to sacrifice 33% of the few pounds they can get.

It would take the average worker 100 years to earn what Gill got in minutes! What can he do with such a sum?

He was on £100,000 a year even before he got the push!

One thing is certain; *Militant* won't benefit! Our paper has to struggle to put forward a fighting socialist programme for the unions and the Labour Party. It depends entirely on the very real sacrifices of hard-pressed workers and the tireless efforts of its supporters in raising cash.

So far we've received nearly £200 from the best ever *Militant* camp in South Wales with much more promised. Similar promises accompanied the £33.58 raised at the East Midlands Labour Youth Camp, and still a number of IOUs signed at the National LPYS Camp are on their way.

Leith Labour Party YS member Alan Brown sold posters and bdes to get £25.90 for the *Militant*. W Coombes of Bristol SE YS gave £16.80 and C Bryant of Kingswood £5. Cumberland YS members donated £2, Pollock £1.45 and Selly Oak £2.40. F Coles and S Lofthouse of York LPYS gave £3.02 and £2 respectively.

By Clare Doyle

Donations from trade unionists this week include: £4 from USDAW shop steward R Luckens in Northants, and two Birmingham AUEW members—L Hampton and 'JM', £2 from T&GWU member D Stem and £1 from C Woofenden (also T&GWU). Other amounts came from M McGeachan and J Edwards (CPSA), Stoke and Shipley readers (union expenses) and from Doncaster—V Northmore (NSMM), J Hughes (COSA), G McCormack (TSSA) and A Kingston (USDAW).

Individual contributors included the Thorpes from Stafford (£7), C Hick (Scarborough), T Corral (Leicester), I and M Body (Chester), J Williams and D Woodward (Nottingham).

Appeal to civil servants

We need a flood of such contributions and this week we make a special appeal to

civil servants. They had a long, hard struggle with very little reward. But now that they have survived the hardships, we appeal to those who appreciated the fighting stand taken by *Militant* on their behalf, to make a contribution from the lump sums of back pay to the fighting fund.

Just 100 donations of £50 would help get us back on target, but we feel confident our supporters could double that if they act now and don't leave it till it's too late!

From the 'big money' to the pennies. In Edgehill, an enterprising *Militant* seller raised 15 20ps for the issue of *Militant* that didn't appear and got £1 extras as well. Huddersfield sellers sent £5.60 from readers on their paper rounds.

Militant supporters in South London took advantage of a local summer activity to raise £51.41 on a bottle stall at the Thamesmead Town Show. A book and record sale in Thanet made £20 and an enormous variety of fund-raising has been going on elsewhere: £40 came from Kidderminster, £27.36 from Gateshead, £11 from Brentwood and Chelmsford and £1.60 (for a start) from Plymouth.

£14.30 from Reading included the sale of tomatoes and courgettes and the storing up of ps and ½ps! Springburn readers held a raffle on a coach, Stoke readers a curry night, Shipley a sponsored run and a tennis match and another coin jar in Glasgow filled up to £6.38 for our funds.

Midlothian supporter Chris Herriot raised a bairn and £16 through a 'guess the time of birth' competition on 28 August, but

refuses to make this an annual event!

A welcome number of *Militant* readers have decided to renounce either cigarettes or alcohol in order to advance the cause of socialism—by raising and saving money for *Militant's* funds and keeping themselves fit for the struggles ahead!

Most ambitious of all is a Doncaster reader who has undertaken not to smoke or drink for 12 weeks and to donate the £5 a week he saves. He already has sponsorships totalling £55 so he should raise way over £100 before the year's end. If just 5,000 of our readers did the same we'd get the equivalent of Jack Gill's golden handshake!

Don't let reserves fall

But even our modest target of £120,000 seems a long way. We need £5,400 a week just to reach the October target. The longer it takes, the lower our reserves fall. Help us now!

New letters to send to Labour Parties, trade unions, ship stewards' committees and LPYS branches with the 1981 appeal sheet are now available for your use. Send some out locally and follow them up. Above all, give a donation yourself and ask everyone else who hates the Tories to do the same.

The sooner we can end the system that spawns the parasites like Jack Gill the sooner we can ease up and begin to enjoy life!

Help build *Militant*, the paper that fights for socialism NOW!

THIS WEEK:
£1,225

NOTTINGHAM Militant Readers' Meeting: 'What future for Northern Ireland?' Speaker: an executive member of the Northern Ireland Labour & Trade Union Group. At the International Community Centre, Mansfield Road, Nottingham. Friday 18 September, 7.30pm.

BASILDON LPYS Public Meeting: 'Which way for Labour—or how to stop the Tories', Bulls Eye pub (upstairs). Speakers: Reg Race MP, Kevin Ramage (Chairman, LPYS). Tuesday 22 September, 7.45 pm.

MERSEYSIDE Militant Readers' Meeting. 'Where to after Labour Party Conference?' Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant'), Tony Mulhearn (Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Toxteth), Chris Williams (Delegate, Tobacco Workers' Union). Chairman: Councillor Derek Hatton. All speakers in personal capacity. Thursday 8 October, 7.30 pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

SOUTH HERTS Readers Meeting 'The next ten years' Speaker: Ian Ilett. Room 6, Alum Hall, Borehamwood (opp. Elstree Station). 8.00pm, Wednesday 16 September.

ads

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N IRELAND Labour and Trade Union Group public meeting. 7.30 pm, Tuesday 15 September at the Hulme Labour Club, Bonsall Street, Manchester. 'Northern Ireland—common misery, common struggle—the socialist solution'. Speaker: Peter Hadden.

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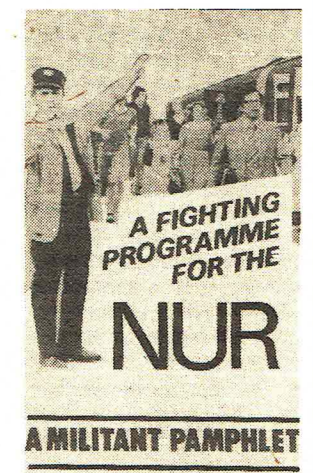
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JUST OUT! 1981 SUPPLEMENT TO PROFITEERING FROM CHEAP LABOUR

In April 1981 the British Department of Trade released the latest reports by British companies with subsidiaries in South Africa in terms of the EEC 'Code of Conduct' on wages and other conditions affecting black workers.

SALEP's pamphlet 'Profiteering from Cheap Labour—Wages paid by British companies in South Africa', published in August 1980, gave data from last year's reports to the Department of Trade. The new supplement updates the pamphlet with the latest figures obtained. The wage rates given in the supplement are those which applied (according to the companies) in June 1980.

Industrial

in brief

Seamen have occupied a ship in Glasgow, in protest against management attempts to lay them off while their ship is in dry dock. All members of the National Union of Seamen, they have occupied the cargo vessel, the Guernsey Fisher.

The Central Electricity Generating Board are to axe a further 1,700 jobs through closures. The Board says it "hopes" that the workers affected will be transferred to other plants, but 5,000 jobs have already been lost in the industry. The plants to close by 1982 are: Rye House, Herts; Portishead, Bristol; Nechells B, Birmingham; Walsall; Spendon H, Derbyshire; Thornhill, Yorkshire; Agecroft B, Manchester; and Caddeton B, Oldham.

Those closed in part will be: Acton Lane, Harlesden; Belvedere LP, Kent; Goldington, Bedford; Staythorpe A, Notts; Connahs Quay, Clwyd.

Those to be closed or partly closed and put into reserve are: Croydon GT; Hastings GT; Rye House GT, Hoddesdon; East Yelland, Barnstaple; Marchwood, Southampton; Poole; Earley GT, Reading; Bulls Bridge GT, Middlesex.

Another occupation has begun in the Manchester area. Workers occupied the Barnes Flexible Packaging factory in Cheetham Hill, primarily over management's failure to honour a redundancy agreement after it was announced the factory would close. However, although the original aim was to improve redundancy pay, it is reported that the workers are now considering fighting the closure.

Managerial staff were stopped from working at the Plessey defence system factory in Liverpool on Monday when white-collar workers blocked off stairs while occupying part of the complex. Led by their shop stewards, the workers, members of AUEW TASS, were protesting at redundancy notices issued to 16 drawing office staff.

Production was stopped at the Ford Halewood plant in Liverpool after 32 workers walked out in a dispute over overmanning. 1,600 workers walked out in sympathy in the final assembly area.

The Liverpool typists lobbying for support at the TUC conference this week.



Liverpool typists DETERMINED TO WIN

By Andy Pink
(NALGO, Liverpool,
personal capacity)

"A liberal society is a place where people care about each other, share

the wealth that is available, and work together for the benefit of the people as a whole."

This proud proclamation is reproduced on the the notepaper used by Liberal councillors in Liverpool.

However, the 'Liberal society' they have created in Liverpool certainly doesn't include the 400 typists, secretaries and machine operators the council employ, who have been taking industrial action since the 28 May.

They have been on all out strike since 6 July and the council is undoubtedly being hit; £5 million allocated

for housing improvements remains unspent; contractors, suppliers etc aren't being paid; and no council committees meet (except for the emergency committee existing of 7 councillors which runs the city).

The action so far has not forced the Liberal council leader, Sir Trevor Jones, to make a serious offer though. Financially the council are

well off, as rent, rates, etc are still being paid in, but very little is paid out.

Whereas many local authorities have made their typists acceptable offers, the determination of Sir Trevor to defeat the Liverpool typists has meant that only non-offers have been made—one offer was £2 for sixty or so typists, and nothing for the rest!

Even the intervention of ACAS in the dispute has come to nothing, as Sir Trevor refused to go to arbitration. This is understandable, as without doubt the typists would receive a favourable award.

The 'liberalism' of Sir Trevor and his friends would even put some Tory hawks to shame. His Victorian employer's tactics now includes the threat to discipline any NALGO member who refuses to undermine the typists' action.

But Sir Trevor's Thatcherite approach to trade unions has attracted support for them; Liverpool's happy band of Social Democrats have now agreed to join with the Liberals in an electoral alliance!

Although the typists have suffered some blows to their confidence—such as the refusal of other NALGO members to support escalation of the dispute, undermining action from some NALGO members, and the refusal of the council to go to arbitration—they still remain united and determined to win the dispute.

'Like being back at school'

By Paul Crane
(TGWU 6/229,
personal capacity)

At a mass meeting of the platform staff of Blackpool Corporation Transport Department last week, the workforce overwhelmingly voted to strike.

This action was forced on the workers by the attitude of the management towards their union, the T&G, and its officials. One union official said that dealing with this management was like "being back at school! Management treat us like children."

This resentment came to a climax when two workers were sacked for what amounts to trivial offences. An appeal to management against the sackings was rejected.

At the meeting, the overwhelming mood from the workforce was for action.

At another mass meeting this Monday, the mood remained, and the workforce voted to continue the

strike action. As a result the local council have been forced to rapidly arrange a council appeals tribunal for this Thursday (it normally takes 5-6 weeks!).

The workforce have decided to hold a mass picket at the town hall where the appeal is to be held.

This is the first strike of Blackpool Transport since Easter 1970, and the militant mood of the workforce has shocked the council into action.

It is essential that the Transport workers win. Already the management have drawn up a list of cuts for this winter, that will effect the wages and job security of many of the workers on the department. If the management are allowed to get away with their actions this time, in the future, they will almost certainly feel they could force redundancies, a run down of services, fare increases, etc, onto the workforce.

If the council do not reinstate the sacked workers then the Transport workers must consider further action, possibly an acceleration of industrial action involving other council department workers, using the local joint consultative committee.

A further mass meeting of the workers is to be held on Thursday, after the appeals have been heard.

CREEDS: multinationals at work

By Jim Watson
(AUEW)

ITT Creeds are to make 990 workers redundant, with 555 jobs going in Brighton, and their Treforest factory to close. The redundancies will occur between September and next June.

John Freer, managing director of ITT Creeds declared that a major realignment of the companies operations was needed, because of changes in manufacturing technology and competition from the Post Office. He said without this 'realignment', "job losses would have been higher."

But in reality, the AUEW (TASS) members argue, the factory at Brighton has been run down for years. The union are planning to fight the redundancies. 990 jobs do not really matter to one of the most powerful multinationals in the world.

While the Post Office were being sold millions of pounds worth of out of date tele-type teleprinters (our main customers), Tory legislation enabled the Post Office to buy teleprinters from our competitors.

One of the biggest competitors is Siemens in West Germany, owned by the STC group—which controls ITT! STC has had a long

history of sacking workers all over the world, including Germany.

Brighton Labour group leader, George Humphries, met union reps from ITT Creeds, Hollingbury, to attempt to get the true story of why there are so many redundancies. He told the Brighton Argus "I'm hoping to have discussions to see what we can do as a council, its our property and it is disturbing that a factory built for 5,000 will only be occupied by 900 workers." He blamed not just new technology, but the policies of this multinational.

At the beginning of 1980, ITT Creeds had a £25 million order from the Post Office, and before then had had the monopoly over the production of teleprinters. Now that the monopoly cannot be guaranteed, ITT Creeds management's answer is to sack workers.

Re-training for alternative products was put forward by the unions, and redeployment was demanded to ensure future employment. Management instead concentrated on the now obsolete product, the A23 teleprinter, that was years out of date.

Now 990 workers, most of whom have worked for the company most of their

working lives, have not been trained for anything but producing out of date equipment.

The company's aim is breaking the hold the unions have on rates of pay, and thus maybe in the future re-employing workers on their own terms and working conditions. Another un-unionised sweat shop is the aim of STC and ITT. By sacking workers from the machine shop most of the AUEW works committee and shop stewards face redundancy.

The only way to break the hold of these hard faced multi-nationals is to nationalise the telecommunications industry, to develop products to help the disabled and the elderly, teaching machines in education as well as many cost-saving, labour-saving products for human need. This should be the alternative to a multinational raking off millions of pounds from a nationalised industry.

Nationalise the industry under workers control so that these products can be produced and be developed using the experience, the technical knowledge of workers and using the labour saving machines in production to establish the shorter working week.

Reports

We need socialism - not witch-hunts

With the TUC conference now in full swing and the Labour Party conference only weeks away, many workers will be discussing the political issues which face the movement.

Railway workers will be no exception in this, following the narrowly averted railway strike, and the implications of such a strike, had it gone ahead.

Unions like the NUR have played a keynote in building and shaping the trade union and labour movement over the years. The members will be looking towards the union to do likewise in the coming period.

However, the general secretary's political report to this year's NUR conference contained an attack on Labour party membership. Clearly aimed at the left of the party, it refers to "covert activity by infiltrators" who aim to "convert the Labour Party into a Bolshevik style organisation paving the way to physical confrontation on streets."

Regretably, this followed a resolution carried at the 1980 conference which called for a return to bans and proscriptions in the Labour Party. This is an attempt to launch a McCarthyite witch-hunt of expulsions and suppression of political ideas in the party.

The resolution was carried largely as a result of the misinformation and inuendo from the conference platform.

Militant in particular was singled out for attack by the general secretary Sid Weighell. "We have got to ensure that these political cuckoos do not push us all out of the nest," he said, at the same time speaking for a resolution aimed at pushing out of the Labour Party those with ideas opposed to the right wing.

He also held up a copy of *Militant*, asking where its money came from, despite the fact that *Militant* has presented its accounts to the Labour Party National Executive, who are entirely satisfied with them.

The *Militant* prides itself on the money it raises, which is entirely from sales and donations from individual workers, from Labour Party, LPYS and trade union branches.

This is in contrast to the misnamed "Labour and Trade Union Press Service" of which Sid Weighell was listed in 1980 as a vice-chairman, along with David Owen, William Rodgers and the latest deserter to the Social Democrats, James Wellbeloved MP.

By Martin Elvin

These are the real cuckoos who have 'covertly infiltrated' the Labour Party, who in belonging to the LTUPS are members of an organisation funded by NATO, the strong arm of Anglo-American imperialism.

Unfortunately the NUR have submitted this resolution over one year later to the 1981 Labour Party conference.

Many Labour Party members and trade union activists will be outraged to see this on the agenda, particularly from a union with the traditions of progress and democracy associated with the NUR.

Many Constituency Labour Parties and trade unions will be lobbying to have the resolution dropped from the agenda. If it is discussed they will undoubtedly ensure that it is heavily defeated.

Previous attempts at witch-hunts have failed because the majority of Labour Party and trade union members are opposed to attempts to stifle democratic discussion within the movement.

Within the ranks of the NUR such actions will only serve to further discredit and isolate the right wing.

Most notably, ten members of the union's twenty-six strong national executive opposed the resolution going before the Labour Party conference.

This indicates how little support there is within the union for such reactionary policies.

However, on a committee which it is said that the 'left' have a majority, such a policy should not have got through at all.

Those NEC members who failed to oppose the resolution are not only striking at the traditions of the movement, but are being very short sighted. Measures taken against the *Militant*, if successful, would very quickly be turned against anybody who opposed the policies of the right wing.

In an effort to put the record straight, *Militant* has written to every NUR branch and also produced a broadsheet for distribution to the membership. These appeal to NUR branches to invite a speaker from *Militant* to put forward the



ideas and policies of the paper.

Also branches are requested to send in resolutions, making clear to the NUR leadership their opposition to bans and proscriptions.

However, the leadership of the union have challenged *Militant's* right to do this. A circular from Unity House claims that the letter from *Militant* contains untruths and should not be taken on the agenda of any branch meeting.

Every word in *Militant's* letter is true and can be backed up and substantiated with evidence. Why instruct branches not to include the issue on their agendas? What are the union's leadership afraid of? *Militant* is prepared to debate its policy and programme with anybody, at any time, in front of any group of railway workers, anywhere.

The latest actions of the right wing are a measure of their desperation. They are concerned at the rejection of their bankrupt policies by so many workers seeking a radical alternative. The instruction in the circular, quoting union's rules (where they don't apply) is typical of the right wing's attempts to substitute the rules and constitution for honest political debate about ideas and policy.

They see the growth of support for socialist ideas in terms of cliques and conspiracies, rather than growing mass support.

Militant's campaign has met with a tremendous response. Despite the circular, many branches have discussed the issue. Resolutions opposing any witch-hunt have been carried at branches as far apart as Glasgow No 5, Perth No 1, Tinsley, Birmingham No 4,

Paddington and Grantham to name but a few.

Several branches have welcomed speakers to address their meetings. At one Yorkshire branch they gave the speaker a very friendly reception, although they said they had never previously heard of the *Militant* and stated that it was the first time that politics had been discussed.

Several other branches have promised that speakers will be invited. One London branch is planning a debate between a right-wing speaker and a *Militant* supporter. One branch secretary when approached said that unfortunately he couldn't deal with it because of instructions from head office, but suggested that if the material was taken to the membership it would get a good response.

That is precisely what *Militant* has done. Many major railway stations, goods depots, freight yards, loco sheds have been visited. Bus depots and the docks too, where there are NUR members, have been approached.

Bundles of broadsheets have been taken by LDCs and branches for distribution.

Regular sales of *Militant* have been organised at shift change times, at works gates, and even in the clubs and pubs where railway workers gather.

A large number of papers are sold by railway workers and NUR members themselves. Regular sales at Stratford, Paddington and Euston have shown a steady increase.

The new *Militant* pamphlet, 'A fighting programme for the NUR' has proved a great success.

It is now crucial, with the aroused mood of railwork-

To raise the question of a McCarthy-style witch-hunt strikes at the traditions of progress and democracy associated with the NUR.

ers, who will be discussing and analysing the recent near rail strike, that the campaign is continued with the same enthusiasm and dynamism.

Sid Weighell himself is being forced to acknowledge the ground swell of popular support for a break with the ideas of the previous Labour government.

At a recent Midland District Council meeting he stated, "I feel that the party is potentially a livelier one now than for a long time. Many young people have come in. They want changes. They are fed up with the Tories and very impatient. Mature members worry that things are not so good as they were. Yet change is the name of the game."

Militant supporters would certainly endorse those points. But it is the Marxists in the Labour Party and the trade unions and above all the Labour Party Young Socialists who have played a proud role in fighting alongside all those who are campaigning for a bold socialist programme and a fighting democratically controlled leadership of the movement.

No amount of undemocratic manoeuvring or attempted witch-hunts by the enemies of the labour movement, outside or within the Labour Party, will succeed in defeating the growth of socialist ideas.

Militant is confident in the face of the attacks of the Tories and the crisis of their big business system that many more youth and working class people can be won to active trade union membership and to the banner of the labour movement in the struggle for the socialist transformation of society.

DON'T SELL JOBS!

Clearly railworkers have not been given the 11% pay award with "no strings attached" as per mandate.

Instead the leaders of the rail unions have 'convinced' their union executives to accept the ACAS settlement, which in reality can only be described as a raw deal for railway workers, and the industry as a whole.

All three parties concerned (the NUR, ASLEF and the British Rail Board) are clearly interpreting the settlement in their own ways, which may eventually lead to talks breaking down.

In a recent NUR broadsheet Sid Weighell stated that "the Tribunal award must be honoured without strings." This no doubt would include what the Tribunal said on productivity; "It has been made clear to us that the current proposals for productivity improvements were not before us and we were not asked to take them into account."

Yet the NUR is stating that productivity would only be introduced under "specific agreements". In reality the NUR is already committed to the 'open station concept.'

The BRB on the other hand are looking at things in quite a different light altogether. Their industrial relations officer Cliff Rose, said in 'Rail News' (the management's mouthpiece), "we are in for another bout of hard work in carrying through the agreement."

They certainly are, for the BRB discussions with the unions will no doubt be looking for all the crumb they can get, so as to help recoup their assets after paying out 11% to the already dwindling workforce.

It will be no surprise to anyone when they start to put the pressure on the unions to accept the open stations, single manning of freight and passenger trains, as well as flexi-rostering in full.

We can be sure the board will use every trick in the book to get what they want, including the threat of not paying up the other 3% in January 1982, as well as stepping up the reduction of the workforce and selling of the profitable bits to industry.

Branches of both rail unions must carry resolutions to their executives, along the lines of 'investment—yes, redundancies—no!' It is no good giving rail workers a rise one week only, to tell them they have been made redundant the next!

The rail unions must not let this happen. They must save jobs, not sell them, and be prepared to fight to save the industry before it dwindles away.

By Dave Janda
(Euston No 1 NUR,
personal capacity)

BROAD LEFT CANDIDATE FOR CPSA LEADERSHIP

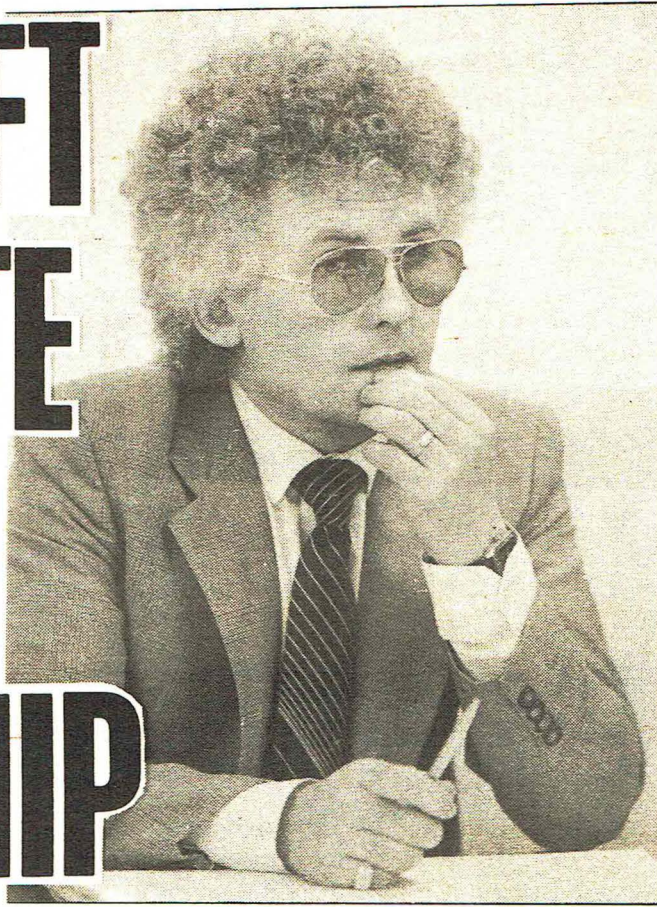


Photo: Militant

John Macreadie

Much to the horror of those semi-official organs of big business, 'The Times' and the 'Financial Times', it has been announced that the national union official John Macreadie will contest the coming CPSA general secretary vacancy. This vacancy will

arise when Ken Thomas, the existing general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association retires. The senior officer positions in the union are now open to election and five-yearly re-election, following the decision at the 1981 CPSA conference. 'Militant' supporters in

the union have played a major role in the fight for these policies over many years.

The National Executive Committee candidate for the general secretary vacancy will undoubtedly be the existing deputy general secretary, Alistair Graham. 'The Times' and 'Financial Times' have already described the coming election contest as a fight bet-

ween left and right in the union. Mr Macreadie will receive the backing of the Broad Left organisation, while Mr Graham will receive the support of the union's right-wing and the CPSA HQ bureaucracy. 'Militant' will carry fuller details of the election in future issues.

NO WAGE CUTS

CONTINUED FROM
 PAGE ONE

unemployment has given to a previously prosperous area. They hope that the Midland employers will be able to set the pace in reducing pay settlements to "the very low single figures". "There is growing evidence that workers are accepting lower wages by agreeing to defer settlements. Some of our group's firms have already deferred settlements for 6 months". With 11% inflation that is a wage cut.

So the choice offered by capitalism is clear—forgo a wage rise and tighten your belt a few notches, or risk the dole queues and pull it in to breaking point.

The bosses make believe that workers' caution in the face of closures and redundancies represents a 'new realism'. The local Engineering Employers Association even claim that regional officials of one major union in their industry wants to discuss with them how to maintain "the more reasonable attitude to bargaining."

But whatever discussions are held, at the first sign of the recession abating and unemployment at least stabilising workers confidence will be restored.

Midland workers will be back in the front line, to get back with interest however much the bosses have tried to take away

from them.

But no-one has to wait to show the real feelings of the labour movement in the region. The Labour Party's latest national unemployment march, to be held in Birmingham on 19 September could not have come at a better time.

The trade unions have begun to get the campaign into full swing, to get the members out on the 19th. NUPE has circulated its 2,500 stewards and provided funds to transport workers from other parts of the region.

In Birmingham itself the TGWU have distributed 20,000 leaflets to their members and the Automotive and Engineering District Committees are planning a stewards' conference to gear up activists for the demonstration.

The 19 September demonstration will surely be the largest in Birmingham since the war.

After Liverpool, Glasgow and Cardiff now it's the turn of the Midlanders to show that the fight back against unemployment and the Tories is underway and the pressure is mounting for the return of a Socialist Labour Government.

In the words of the Young Socialists stickers produced for the march, in the language of the Midlands, "Tories, on your bike!"

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DEMONSTRATE ON 19th

FORCE TORIES OUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

This responsibility to act on behalf of the working class must be taken on board by the newly elected TUC General Council.

However, in an earlier controversial motion the system of election of the General Council was changed. Election to the TUC's ruling body will be replaced by selection to it, with automatic representation for unions with over 100,000 members. The old trade group structure which gave a leading part to the older manual unions, who created and pioneered trade unionism has now been overturned.

This thinly disguised attempt to remove left wingers on the TUC by organisational means was passed by 6,441,000 votes to 5,143,000.

The new system allows right-wing leaders such as Roy Grantham of APEX and Bryan Stanley of the Post Office Engineering

Union a guaranteed place on the TUC. Nevertheless, this will not halt the shift to the left in the thinking and actions of trade unionists.

Under the impact of the decline of capitalism, workers will seek to change and transform their organisations to fighting socialist outfits that can effectively defend living standards.

In the debate on unemployment the scandal of jobless youth was highlighted and in particular the use of YOPs as cheap labour to undermine union rates of pay and conditions.

The motion condemning youth unemployment was passed unanimously including a call for the abuses of YOPs schemes to be ended. If this did not produce acceptable results then the Congress was to "oppose the WEEP schemes and withdraw trade union co-operation."

The organisation of unemployed youth was also taken up as was the demand for the "TUC to develop links with those organisations representing young people so that they will have a say in determining their own future and as a means of combatting racist and fascist propaganda amongst young people."

Incomes policy

Clearly the Labour Party Young Socialists has a very important role to play here.

These debates were followed in the afternoon by an address to conference by Michael Foot. Hopes that Michael Foot would paint a vivid picture of the socialist programme of a future Labour government were dashed by a defence of incomes policy, of the previous Labour administration, and the

Keynesian policies of previous post-war governments.

"I'm not ashamed of what we did before," he said, giving the example of the 1975 £6 across-the-board wage limit, "there may have been some deficiencies but it saved the government and the country from hyper-inflation!"

These remarks were given a cool reception by the delegates who know from their own experience that wage restraint solves neither low pay nor inflation.

Unfortunately Michael Foot used his opportunity in front of the whole media to attack those in the party striving for democratic change and accountability. Socialism was not even mentioned in his speech.

But the mood of the conference still remains one of unfulfilled expectations to see the end of the Tories. More than ever the whole agenda and mood is one of change and a growing awareness of the need for a united industrial and political campaign to deal with the Tory government.

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