

Militant

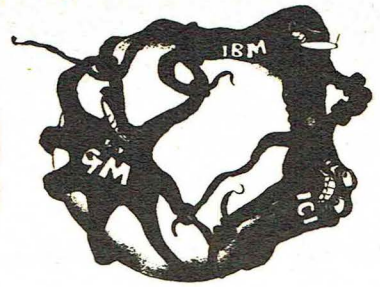
THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 573
16 October 1981

20p

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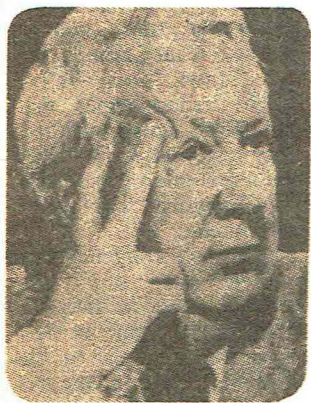
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THE MONOPOLIES



Page 8

TORY CONFERENCE:

When Thieves Fall Out



Tweedlewet



Tweedledry

Blackpool put on an ugly show this week: Tory delegates screaming for blood and Tory leaders stabbing one another in the back.

The Conservatives, the party of big business and the idle rich, are now in complete disarray.

They are split from top to bottom—providing a golden opportunity for Labour to rout Thatcher's government with fighting socialist policies.

On the first day on Tuesday, the Tory Conference—usually a carefully stage-managed rally—was upset by a revolt of the Tory Party faithful.

Whitelaw, stout

defender of "Iron Fist" police chiefs, like McNee, Anderton and Oxford, has not gone far enough. This was the message of the law and order debate.

Baying for blood, Tory delegates rejected the leadership's "moderate" motion, and screamed for a

return to flogging and hanging.

There were squeals of excitement when one Tory lady dangled a pair of handcuffs in front of them.

When one young, misguided delegate, blamed the riots on unemployment and criticised racism in the Tory Party, he was hissed, booed and slow handclapped.

This is the party of "law and order".

But the real debate on Tuesday took place outside the Conference hall.

In a fringe meeting, CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

By Alan Hardman

"The battle is not over, it has merely been postponed." This was the feeling of many railworkers following the decision by rail union leaders to call off the threatened rail strike in August.

Barely six weeks later, the prediction has been borne out. The Executive of the drivers' union, ASLEF, has called a national one-day strike on 21 October.

What prompted the action was the continual refusal by management to

By Stuart Hammond (Stratford ASLEF)

stick to agreed consultation procedure.

British Rail Board have refused to enter into consultation with the unions at national level over cuts in Inter-City services. They want to push through cuts quickly.

Members were already angry at packages of cuts in January and June. They have seen their industry being carved up and their living standards being cut.

On 9 October, this anger turned to action at Waterloo, on Southern Region. The local ASLEF branch called out its

members on a one-day unofficial strike against cut-backs on the London-Bournemouth Inter-City line.

ASLEF members on Southern Region have long been well-organised, united and prepared to take action. But the attempted cut-backs on SR and elsewhere today will soon become widespread—unless the fightback is mounted na-

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE



... JUST WHEN HE THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE TO DISSENT...

Alan Hardman

Support Railworkers Fight

inside

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Militant

TERRORISM PLAYS INTO TORIES' HANDS

Last Saturday's bombing, for which the Provisional IRA has claimed responsibility, has provoked outrage and horror amongst workers.

The horrendous nail bomb killed one elderly woman and injured, among 40 soldiers and civilians, a boy aged 5 and his sister aged 2.

On Monday, another injured bystander, 18-year old John Breslin, died in hospital. His family are from Roscommon in the South of Ireland, and have lived and worked in London for 20 years. "It's their own people they are killing," said Breslin's father. "They are Irish, I am Irish and they killed my son."

The intended "military target" was a busload of Irish guards returning from ceremonial duties. Most of them came from Ireland, from both North and South, and are never called on for duty in Northern Ireland.

How can such an outrage serve the interests of workers in Northern Ireland?

In reality, the nail bomb has put a powerful propaganda weapon in Thatcher's hands, despite the Tories' brutal intransigence in refusing to improve conditions in the H-Blocks during the hunger strikes.

It will also give the capitalist state further justification for new repressive measures—which will not only hit the Provisionals, but pose a threat to the labour movement.

The Provos have threatened, moreover, that Saturday's will be the first of a series of bombings in British cities. Such a campaign will only sharpen sectarian divisions in Northern Ireland and reinforce confused, prejudiced reactions amongst workers in Britain.

A new wave of bombings is a strategy of desperation. The republican prisoners' decision to call off their hunger-strike on 3 October (see page 6) itself underscored the weakness and isolation of the Provisionals.

But they have failed to draw the lessons from the failure of their policies and tactics. Instead, they are reverting to the methods of individual terrorism in their

most brutal form, the very methods which have led them into the impasse.

The Republican prisoners' statement on ending the hunger strikes itself reveals the bankruptcy of their strategy.

"One of the primary lessons to emerge from this second hunger strike," states one of the key sections of their statement, "is that the nationalist community is politically inconsequential and impotent in the context of the Six County statelet."

"Despite the electoral successes, despite the hundreds of thousands at hunger-strikers' funerals, despite massive and unprecedented displays of community support and solidarity, the British government adhered rigidly to the precept that 'might is right' and set about hammering home the point that nothing has really changed since the fall of Stormont or from the inception of this state. That is that nationalist Ireland must always be subjected to the British and Loyalist veto."

What is this but the confession of failure?

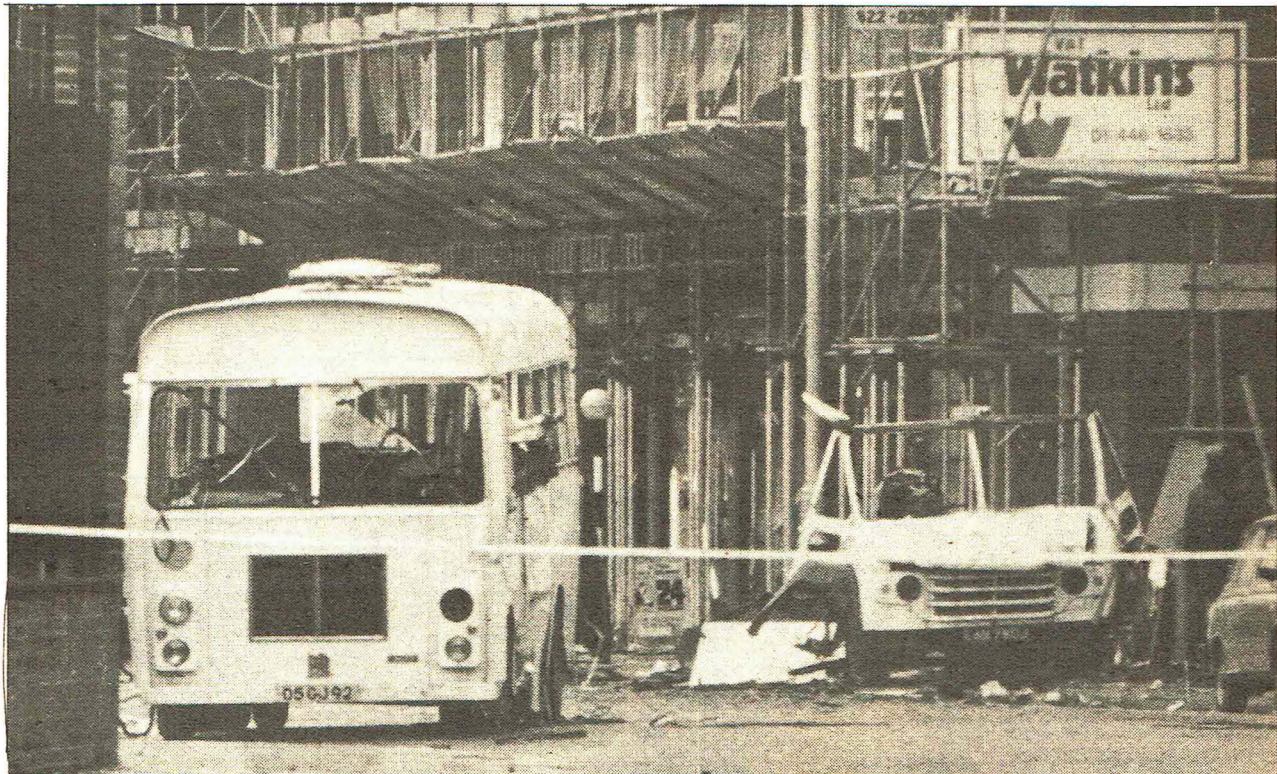
After more than ten years of the Provos' "military campaign" they have failed in two key objectives. They have failed to undermine the power of the capitalist state in Northern Ireland, and they have failed to mobilise even the Catholic working class of the North into a force capable of achieving real change.

In fact, they have now bluntly written off the Catholic working class of the six counties.

From the very beginning *Militant* predicted that this would be the outcome of sectarian, nationalist policies and terrorist tactics.

A campaign of individual terrorism, as we warned, had no chance of shattering the power of the state. On the contrary, it has provided British capitalism with the means of strengthening its repressive apparatus, both in NI and in Britain.

An armed campaign based on a small, clandestine minority, as we warned, could never mobilise the mass support necessary to achieve social and political changes in the interests of working people. On the contrary, reliance on the gun and the bomb denigrates mass organisation and political struggle.



After the Chelsea barracks bombing. PHOTO: Nick Oakes

It inevitably demoralises the majority of workers.

This has proved to be the case, even among the Catholic workers of the North.

They have lost confidence in the ability of the Provos to defend their areas. They have been hammered and hammered again by the security forces and the Loyalist para-militaries. They have made no significant material gains from the last ten years of agonising conflict and struggle.

Some of the Provos' spokesmen have claimed that their campaign has put the national question back on the agenda, pointing to the Southern government's new constitutional proposals.

But how can any revision of Articles 2 and 3, defining the South's ultimate claim to the Six Counties, change the reality?

Nine years ago part of Article 44, assigning a "special position" to the Catholic church, was ex-

but cannot be wished away.

Economic crisis has eroded the relative privileges which were used to buy the "loyalty" of Protestant workers. But the fears of becoming a minority in a 32 County state remain—and Ireland cannot be united against the opposition of a million strong section of the working class.

On a capitalist basis with massive unemployment and some of Europe's worst social conditions both North and South, the fears

aims pursued with the gun and the bomb can only intensify the problem and postpone the solution.

Fortunately, in spite of everything, the seeds of class unity are still there in NI amongst the workers, who largely remain united within the trade unions. Workers from Catholic and Protestant areas have fought redundancies and the Tory cuts together. They have united in strikes and trade union demonstrations against Thatcher's government.

This class unity must be carried over onto the political plane to take up from a class point of view the problems posed by the insoluble crisis in the NI capitalist statelet.

A new provo bombing campaign, unless the labour movement begins to campaign actively for socialist solutions in Ireland, could have enormously reactionary consequences for the working class.

The bombings will increase the bitterness of many workers. But this makes it all the more urgent to go ahead with the proposal, supported by the recent Labour Party conference in Brighton, for the setting up of a trade-union based Party of Labour in Northern Ireland.

As 'Militant' has always warned, a campaign of individual terrorism has no chance of shattering the power of the state. On the contrary, it has provided British capitalism with the means of strengthening its repressive apparatus, both in Northern Ireland and in Britain.

On the other hand, sectarian divisions have been deepened by the Provos' campaign. New bombings and assassinations will allow the Loyalist bigots and para-military madmen to step up the sectarian murder of Catholics.

But what is the Provos' conclusion?

"The logical conclusion of this analysis," says the Republican prisoners' statement, "is that nationalist pacifism in the Northern Ireland context dooms the Nationalist population to subservency, perpetuated partition and thwarts the quest for a just and lasting peace in Ireland."

Yet, although the Provos' campaign has not brought the "nationalist population" one step nearer to "lasting peace", let alone national unity and social justice, they have clearly decided to revive the campaign of bombing and killing in NI and mainland Britain.

punged. But the actual position of the church has hardly changed, and will not be changed by further verbal amendments.

These constitutional moves are being made because the capitalist class in both Ireland and Britain would in general have no serious objection to the unification of Ireland. The independence of the 26 County State has not ended its economic exploitation by British and international big business.

On the other hand, what does British capitalism now gain from controlling Northern Ireland? It is now an enormous liability, an endless nightmare. British capitalism no longer holds NI as a colony in the classic imperialist manner.

But the legacy of the colonial past remains. British imperialism fostered sectarianism to divide and rule. It created a sectarian, Orange monster to maintain its hold. The monstrosity has outlived its usefulness,

and prejudices of the Protestant workers in the North about Irish unity can never be overcome.

If the border were removed now, without the formation of a trade union defence force to protect workers against sectarian attacks Ireland would be transformed into another Lebanon. An embattled Protestant minority would fight with gun and bomb for its position in an imposed and crisis-torn 32 County Ireland.

Only a socialist Ireland could resolve the conflict. Only the enormous increase of resources, of jobs, houses, education and cultural facilities made possible by a socialist plan of production could provide the basis for the rooting out of sectarianism, the washing away of poisonous prejudices, and the harmonious unification of Ireland.

But the road to this lies through class unity, and class unity alone. Sectarian

Read *Militant Irish Monthly* for a full regular coverage of both North and South of Ireland. October issue out now. Subscribe now 6 issues £1.08, 12 issues £2.16, from MIM, 75 Middle Abbey St., Dublin 1.

Northern Ireland after the hunger strike—page 6.

250,000 at Bonn Demo



Section of last weekend's demonstration in Bonn. Banners read, 'Atom death threat,' 'Reagan Arms'. Photo: T Howland (IFL)

DISARM THE BOSSES. CND DEMONSTRATION LONDON 24 OCTOBER

(LPYS leaflets 'End Arms Scandal', £5.50 per 1,000 from A Bevan, LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

De Lorean—who gains?

The saga of the De Lorean car company is a classic illustration of why we need nationalisation of industry under workers' control and management.

Nothing that the De Lorean companies or De Lorean himself has done has been shown to be in any way illegal or criminal. What has been shown is something more serious. It is that as long as industry remains in private hands then private capital will dictate to governments, not the reverse.

When De Lorean approached the British (Labour) government in 1978 with a proposal to build luxury cars in Northern Ireland they had no car, no plant and no workforce. The government has provided the lot and it is the wholly privately owned American De Lorean company which has got the lion's share of the benefits.

The British government has given a total of £80 million in state aid over the last three years. The American De Lorean company has invested far less.

Yet it is the American company which controls and effectively owns the Belfast company, the only De Lorean works in the

By Jim
Chrystie

world. They have 49m shareholders' votes to the Northern Ireland Development Agency's 17.8m.

The main contribution of De Lorean was the design of the car. But this has now been substantially altered by a new process from Lucas, paid for by the Belfast company. The American company, however, owns the patent and rights for the car.

The deal hammered out in the summer of 1978 was done in such a rush that according to *The Sunday Times* (11 October): "The Department of Industry in London was barely consulted, and the cabinet committee which considers such investment projects was not consulted."

Under the terms, the British government provided employment grants to pay wages, and 50% loans and 50% grants to finance capital expenditure. They even gave De Lorean £2 million to help him establish his wholly owned private

American company.

He is now thinking of floating a share issue of this company on the New York Stock Exchange, which could result in giving him a personal share-holding worth £50m.

But that's not all the British government have signed away. De Lorean's personal American company can buy out the British government's £17.8m share; any time it likes up until March 1984.

All it would cost would be the cost price of £1 a share, plus 15% annual interest. But this interest is reduced by half the royalties that NIDA have received from each car sold (£185 a car). So the more successful the company, the cheaper it becomes to buy out the British government.

The American car company receives royalties of £225 per car sold so it could use that to service a debt to buy out NIDA. Anyway, once 2,500 cars have been sold the American company will have received in full the financial amount they invested in the company (£562,000).

The government have justified their actions by stating that it provided jobs. Even if this were true, what an indictment of a system that this is the only way it can provide work.

But capitalism cannot provide secure employment. The history of Northern Ireland and elsewhere is littered with jobs being lost. Reliance upon the luxury American car markets does not provide security.

Many of the De Lorean workers were previously employed by another inter-

national company, Grundwigs. How long will De Lorean last? Workers desperate for any job are getting a pittance. The night shift on average takes home £80 a week and the day shift £60.

This is a long way from the lifestyle of De Lorean. He and his wife, just voted this year's most "Glamorous Couple in the USA", have bought a luxury £1.86m mansion set amongst 450 New Jersey acres.

Last year £350,000 was spent purchasing seven homes for senior executives in N Ireland. £13,000 was spent on modernising four bathrooms for foreign guests.

Yet at the same time, British capitalism laments that it cannot provide jobs for people in the North.

On 9 October the government presented its new blueprint for jobs in Northern Ireland entitled "Framework for Action".

It stated that 10,000 new jobs a year were needed but all that could be hoped for was the current average of 3,000. It was welcomed by the bosses' organisation, the CBI, but less is now being spent on industrial development than six years ago.

Capitalism has nothing to offer the people of Northern Ireland. But a socialist plan of production, based upon the ownership and control of the main sections of industry, could not only provide jobs, but also ensure that production was for need—homes and hospitals—and decent cars for invalids not luxury £14,000 toys for the rich.

RAIL WORKERS FIGHT

(Continued from page 1)

tionally—now!

The ASLEF executive have acted on resolutions passed at this year's conference calling for further cuts to be opposed, with industrial action if need be.

This has been backed up by pressure of members on ASLEF Head Office. As one EC member said, "we have had correspondence from all parts of the country."

The last few years have seen growing industrial action by both ASLEF and NUR members over service cuts and closures. But this is the first national strike against the cuts since 1962, when there was a token one-day stoppage against the Beeching cuts.

The latest cuts and fare rises show the fragility of the "understanding" on pay and productivity reached in August. BR management are on the attack again, even while they are discussing their August proposals with our union leaderships.

BR's ever worsening cash crisis has encouraged management to take a hard line over cuts. Meanwhile, railwaymen still have not received any back pay, six weeks after the August settlement. In fact, we have received only 8% from 31 August, so far.

We must demand that the union executive break off all talks on productivity and changed working practices now.

NUR members greet 'Militant'

Militant's coverage of the crisis in the railway industry has received enthusiastic response from members of the National Union of Railwaymen.

At recent meetings of the West Midlands District Council and Birmingham's No. 4 Branch, the following resolution was carried:

"That this West Midlands District Council congratulates the divisional officer, Jeff Lanwarne, for his article in connection with the recent pay negotiations which appeared in issue 556 of 'Militant'."

"What a marked contrast this article was to the articles written by NUR leaders, who seem more inclined to write in the Tory rags talking about witch-hunts against active socialists!"

At these two meetings, it was also agreed to send invitations to Les Kuriata, the West Midlands LPYS National Committee member to address the next meeting. NUR members felt that it was vital to activate the youth who work in the railway industry and involve them in the political struggle.

If more branches invited the LPYS members to speak, we would soon be packing out branch meetings.

In the last year, railway workers have watched in despair as many familiar aspects of their industries have closed down or been threatened with "hiving-off" to private so-called "enterprise".

Collected and Delivered parcels have finished, the electrified Manchester-Sheffield freight line has closed, and wagon-load freight has virtually become a thing of the past.

But cuts of this nature will carry on while BR is starved of cash by this Tory government. Even the vital cash for electrification will only come at the expense of 38,000 railworkers' jobs.

ASLEF's strike call will undoubtedly get full backing from its members. But it is essential that the ASLEF Executive should approach the NUR leadership and appeal for their support. This must be backed up by local approaches from ASLEF branches to the NUR leadership.

The new federation of rail unions must now be turned into unity in action. Links must be formed to hold us in good stead for future battles.

Our fight, starting with the 21 October strike, must be expanded into united class action by the entire movement to bring down this hated Tory government. We must fight to replace it with a Labour government with genuine socialist policies.

A rail industry in the hands of railworkers and the working class as a whole—and as part of a planned, integrated transport system—will be the only way to prevent the slow bleeding to death of the railways.



Photo: Militant

GEORGE PEAKE

Militant readers will be saddened to learn of the tragic, premature death of Councillor George Peake of Slough, a political exile from South Africa and a staunch activist in the labour and trade union movement in Britain as well as South Africa. An obituary will be published next week.

NUPE

How Union Organised YOPS

Discontent amongst YOP trainees with the schemes first surfaced in Scotland earlier this year. Here Allan Wilson, Area Officer of the National Union of Public Employees explains how his union, together with the LPYS, has been organising the trainees into a campaign to improve their conditions:

6 Dissatisfaction amongst trainees on YOP schemes in Strathclyde erupted in a series of strikes, stoppages and walk-outs in April and May. Mostly these were spontaneous reflecting widespread discontent at the level of allowance and the absence of any real job prospects.

Several approaches were then made to NUPE, via the LPYS and the trainees themselves, to organise the then unorganised workshops and co-ordinate action to prevent premature or isolated activity having a disillusioning effect on already disaffected youths. NUPE was already concerned at abuses of Manpower Services schemes.

Throughout the country YOP trainees are organising. Right, trainees on strike at Anfield Plain, Durham. Photo: D Doran

Allan Wilson
(NUPE Area Officer)

A series of visits to training workshops in Glasgow met with a favourable response and as a result stewards were elected in each of the workshops and a stewards committee for YOPs in Glasgow formed. The demands from the inaugural stewards' meeting were:

1. An increase in the allowance to a sum in line with local authority rates.
2. The provision of permanent employment on successful completion of the training period.
3. Increased trade union membership, with schemes being maintained by trainee stewards.
4. An end to 'Victorian' conditions, institution of union negotiation, grievance, disciplinary, health and safety procedures (to combat the "workhouse mentality" of some managers) protective clothing, free travel etc.



The resultant publicity brought increased interest from unorganised schemes and renewed our stewards' confidence in themselves. We then extended our organisation into Larkhall, Clydebank, Carfin, Coatbridge and Cumbernauld workshops and laid plans for further extension to Paisley, Motherwell, Lesmahagow and Ayrshire. In addition, trainees in such diverse Community Service Agency schemes as the Bridgate Archeological dig, the Dolphin Arts Centre

and the Glasgow Youth Theatre were applying for membership in increasing numbers.

Throughout the assistance of the Labour Party Young Socialists has been invaluable, both as an aid to recruitment and more importantly, as an ally in the fight to secure those aspects of our programme only achievable through political as opposed to industrial action.

We had been at pains not to raise expectations to unattainable levels and our

consultations with the LPYS in our joint campaign enabled us to politicise the arguments, win members to the labour movement but still concentrate minds on the enormity of the struggle. It is only through co-ordinated action, involving both wings of the labour movement, that we can achieve the unity of purpose necessary to be successful in the long term.

That is why we hope to be able to send a large delegation to the YTURC Conference in Liverpool on

November, 21, and to form a major part of the Scottish contingent on the TUC jobs express the following Monday.

Additionally, in conjunction with the LPYS and T&GWU we intend to mark the arrival of the train in Glasgow with industrial action, involve hundreds of our members in the evening's torchlight procession and rally and fully participate in the weekend festival of youth in London on the weekend of 29/30 November. 9

Nasreen Akhtar must stay

Why we joined

After the five year campaign to "bring Anwar's children home", Rochdale is again the scene for another demonstration against the racist immigration laws.

The demonstration has been called to support Nasreen Akhtar and her three children who are threatened with deportation because the Home Office claim her marriage is not valid.

Nasreen was married and living in Pakistan with her first husband who died in 1971, leaving her with two children. Her sister Mumtaz, who then living in Rochdale, arranged that she should marry again to Abdul Majid, a man already living here.

She arranged for them to be married at a wedding ceremony performed over the phone, which is a common and customary form of marriage, perfectly normal and legitimate under Islamic law.

Nasreen was given temporary leave to enter this country until the marriage could be re-legitimised under British law. There were considerable delays with the registrar office in obtaining and verifying the original death certificate of Nasreen's first husband and then obtaining Abdul Majid's divorce certificate.



Racist and sexist laws can be beaten. Above Anwar Ditta, who won her fight to stay.

The delay lasted almost 12 months before permission to register the marriage under British law was given. During this 12 months, Nasreen and her two daughters lived with her husband Majid and his family but her life with them was difficult and unpleasant.

She was forced to do all the work at home for 12 people and was refused permission to go out, even to see her sister who lived nearby. Her unhappy life got worse when the family learned she was pregnant. And two to three weeks after the registrar office had said they were free to marry, her husband told Nasreen to leave the house.

They never had the registrar office marriage. She stayed with her sister Mumtaz and although Nasreen attempted recon-

ciliation her husband refused to have her back.

When the Home Office found out in April 1980 that she was living apart from her husband and that the marriage had not been registered, leave to remain here was refused. In October 1980 Nasreen was sent a deportation order for herself and her two eldest daughters. Although Nasreen would have no choice but to also take her youngest daughter, who was born here, with her to Pakistan.

On 30 March 1981 Nasreen had to suffer the indignity of appearing before an "independent" home office appointed adjudicator to appeal against the decision to deport her. Nasreen received notice on 27 May that her appeal to be allowed to stay in Rochdale had been turned down.

The adjudicator Mr. P. P. Simpson, in his determination, alleged that Nasreen "is resolved to live here on social security for so long as she can", disregarding her wish to obtain work once her youngest child was in nursery school.

At the appeal Mr Simpson had chosen not to believe the sworn testimony of Nasreen's witnesses including a respected expert on Islamic law and marriage.

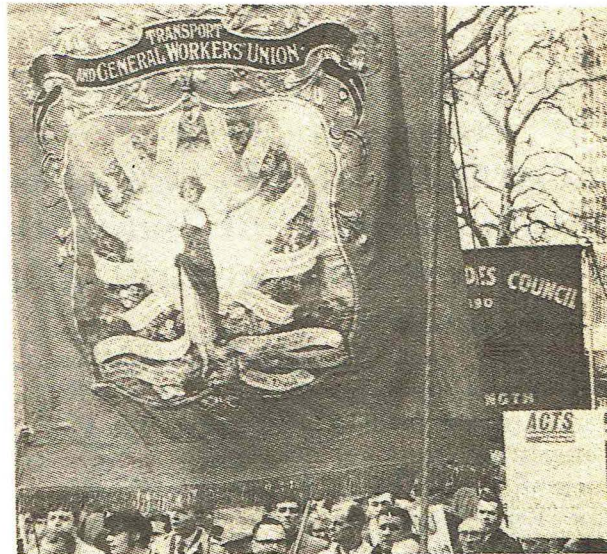
On 18 June Nasreen was granted leave to appeal will be heard on Friday 23rd October at 11.00am at Thanet House, London. A picket of the tribunal has been organised.

In recent months campaigns against threatened deportations have been successful. Jaswinder Kaur, Nasira Begum, and Cynthia Gordon have won the right to stay in this country.

The campaign to stop Nasreen Akhtar's deportation has won the support of Labour MPs Tony Benn and Joan Lester, the local Labour Parties and many other organisations. The demonstration must clearly show not only the support for Nasreen but also total opposition to the Nationality Act and all immigration legislation.

Demonstrate: Sat. 17th October. 2.00pm Church Stile Rochdale.

Tom Stott
(Rochdale Labour Party)



Willie McIlroy and John Quinn work on a YOP scheme run by Inverclyde District Council, where their training consists of tidying up spareground, cutting grass and overgrown hedges. Together with thirty other YOP trainees they have joined the Transport and General Workers Union after attending a public meeting by the union.

They explain why they

joined: **John Quinn**; "Our complaint is that we have no proper equipment. We need diamond hovermowers and a couple of lawnmowers. At present we get no training." **Willie McIlroy**; "We don't have a canteen, we work outside. When it rains you have nowhere to go. We would like a portacabin or something. Somewhere to go when it's raining and to get your tea."

Hackney

"Save Jobs—Sack the Tories—Support the Staffa sit-in." That will be the demands from the demonstration in East London on Saturday 17 October organised by Hackney and Tower Hamlets LPYS. A delegation from the Staffa engineering occupation will head the march and a speaker will address the rally.

Every section of the labour movement—Labour Parties, Trades Councils, Trade Union branches, and

LPYS branches, should come on the march, bring banners and show their support and solidarity with the Staffa workers' struggle.

ASSEMBLE 11am Hackney Town Hall, Saturday Oct 17th.

MARCH to Vernon Hall, Roman Road, Bow for a rally with speakers including: Kevin Ramage [LPYS National Chairman], Ian Barber [NUPE Area Organiser], representative of Staffa workers.

EDUCATION CUTS EDUCATION CUTS

Salford University to close?

Salford University faces the prospect of complete closure unless proposed cuts are reversed.

During the summer the government announced a 44% cut in grant to the university over three years. Over 1,000 student places would be lost together with over 600 redundancies amongst academic and non-academic staff.

But the students and campus workers are not taking the cuts without a fight. A demonstration has been organised for Saturday 17 October which has the support of the University Joint Trade Union Committee, Salford Trades Council, National Union of Students and Manchester LPYS.

This demonstration must be the first step in a campaign by the NUS, alongside the labour movement, to defend education and reverse the cuts. But how can the cuts be fought?

Salford University has set up a company, called CAMPUS, to take in contracts from business. This will not stop the cuts. Appeals to Tory MPs, the course of action urged by the University authorities, will also fall on deaf ears!

The Student Union and

NUS nationally must base their opposition to the cuts on a clear orientation to the labour movement. Unfortunately the student union invited David Alton, a Liberal MP, to speak at the rally.

The record of the Liberals on Liverpool City Council, where they form the administration, is a testimony to their reactionary nature. Currently

they are in a bitter dispute with council typists and NALGO members.

Fighting the cuts is not a question of appealing to 'progressive' individual Liberals etc. but a clash of class forces. Only the labour movement has the power to defeat the Tories.

Labour councils must not carry out Tory cuts in Polytechnics and Further Education Colleges. Labour

councils should stand on a policy of no cuts and no rent or rate rises to compensate for Tory cuts. But they cannot fight alone.

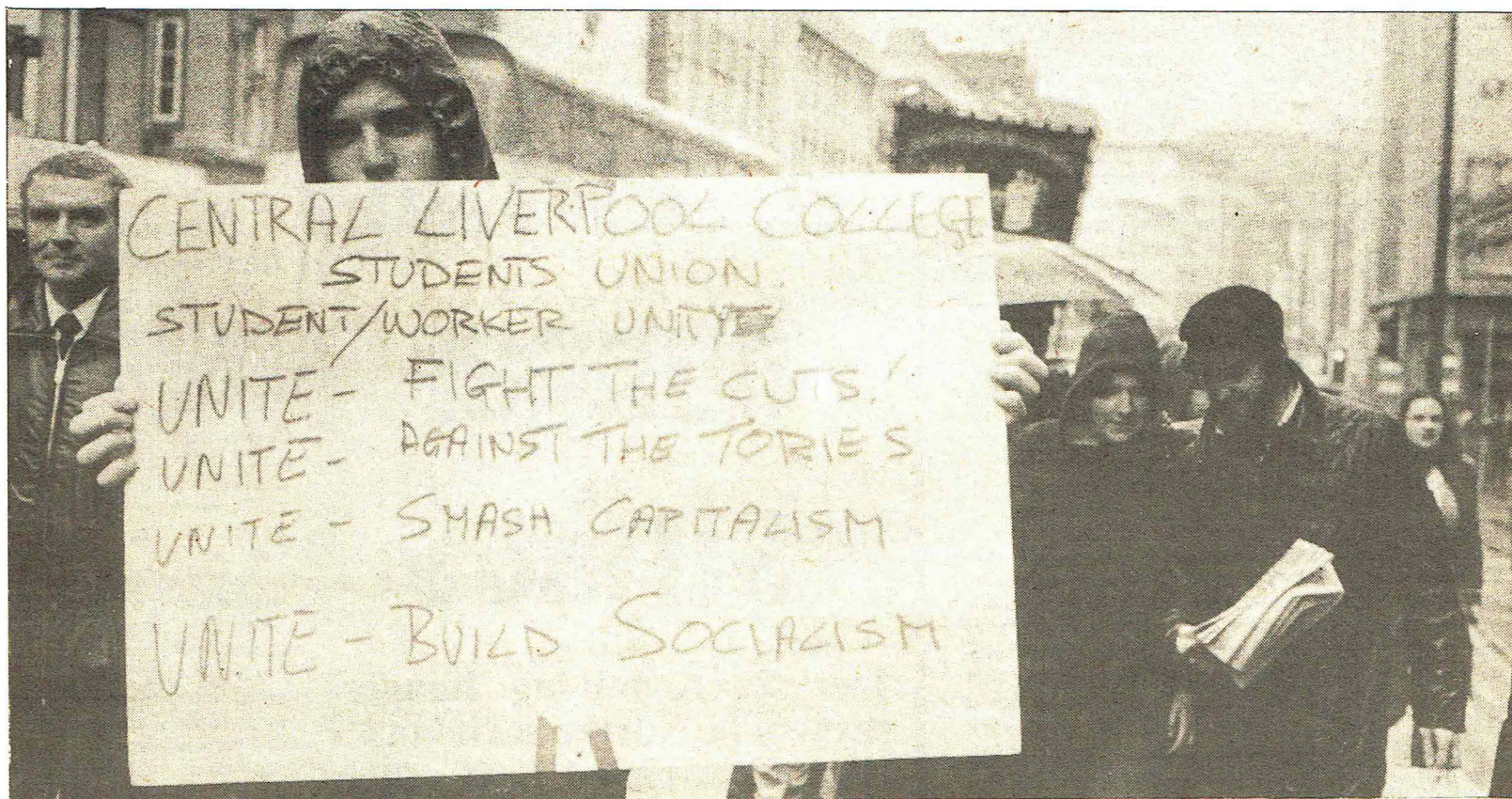
The NUS should campaign for the TUC and Labour Party nationally to organise a 24-hour general strike—to bring together the labour movement in a concerted campaign of demonstrations, protest meetings and industrial ac-

tivity to overthrow the Tories and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

The demonstration assemblies at Irwell Place Car Park, Salford University, at 12.00 pm, with a rally at Crown Square, Manchester City Centre. Speakers include Frank Allaun MP.

Assemble behind the LPYS banner.

By John Barr
(Salford University
Labour Club)



United action to fight cuts. Above: Merseyside demonstration. Photo: Militant

Know who your allies are

By Clive Heemskerk
(Militant supporter, NOLS National Committee)

If students and college workers are determined to fight educational cuts, they first have to know who are reliable allies. Some Labour MPs and student leaders have argued that because the University Grants Committee (UGC), expressed reservations about implementing Tory cuts, they are an independent body.

Set up in 1919, the UGC's aim is to advise the government and universities to ensure that they are "fully equipped to meet the national needs." The composition of the UGC shows whose needs are really 'served'. It has one full-time member, with a yearly salary of £30,000 and its part-time members include a number of industrialists.

Their current 'reservations' about cuts are those of capitalists. They want to lift the immediate burden on their profits caused by financing "unnecessary" education whilst maintaining enough educational facilities useful for them.

During the years of the post-war boom big business was prepared to tolerate the expansion of education as a necessary factor in the development of industry. Highly trained and skilled workers, administrators, scientific and managerial layers were needed to understand and develop industry. But with the ending of the boom throughout the 1970s big business has been demanding cuts in 'unnecessary' education.

This explains the reaction of Salford University authorities to threatened cuts (see above). They have formed a company, called CAMPUS, to take in contracts from business to develop products and hire out its technical services.

CAMPUS is backed by 200 firms including GEC and Ferranti and it's easy to see why the reaction from big business has been favourable.

Why bother to waste money to employ graduates when the free labour of university students can be used? Last September ICL, the British computer firm, withdrew its job offers to 140 graduate trainees. Perhaps it would like to see universities carry out its research projects?

If universities became dependent upon industrial contracts, this would give the capitalists even greater control over their day to day affairs—including details of the education and training of students. Research would be geared even more to the needs of profit.

Last year the Civil Engineering Department at Salford University carried out a study into small-scale hydro-electric power, generated from Welsh

streams, without large structures or environmental damage. They concluded that such schemes could provide a "substantial contribution" to energy needs. Would such research have been permitted if Salford University was dominated by companies such as Arnold Weinstock's GEC which is committed to the less safe but more profitable programme of nuclear power?

Unfortunately, leaders of the National Organisation of Labour Students and National Union of Students, including the vice-chairman of NOLS at a recent Student Council, have given qualified support to the Salford CAMPUS scheme. Instead NOLS and NUS should fight for a socialist education programme.

This must mean the reversal of all education cuts linked to ending the control of education by the capitalists. If education is to be developed for the mass of working people it must be controlled by them.

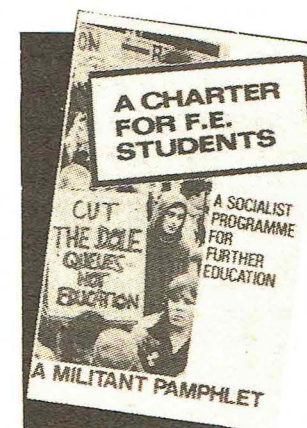
NOLS and NUS should fight for the day to day running of colleges by elected representatives of the staff

unions (both academic and ancillary), the student unions and the local labour movement with the annual election and immediate right of recall over all representatives.

But even to democratise the running of individual colleges would not break the domination of education by the capitalist class—by virtue of their domination of the economy and society. Under crisis-ridden capitalism education cannot be developed in the interests of working people.

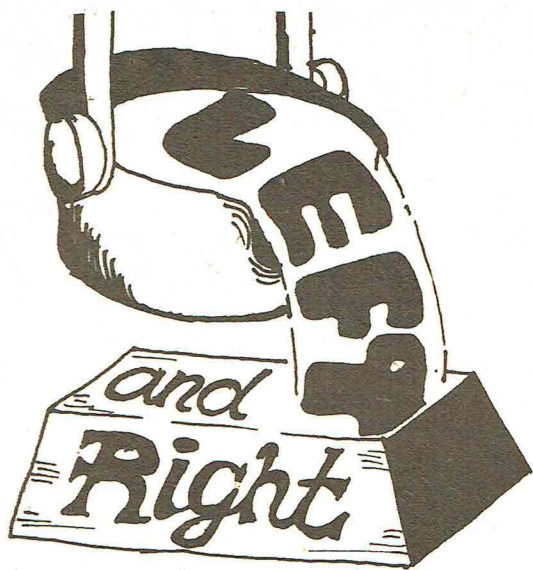
But, with a socialist planned economy, with society under the democratic control of working people, the vision of Tom Mann, one of the 19th century founders of the labour movement, could be realised: "...the demands we, as workmen, now make is for leisure, not for idleness. Leisure to think, to learn, to acquire knowledge, to enjoy, to develop; in short, leisure to live."

This must be the vision which NOLS and NUS must fight for and defend in the student and labour movements.



'Charter for FE Students: A Socialist Programme for Further Education'

Price 30p
(plus 15p p&p)
Order from Militant
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN



Rumour has it that the British aristocracy are a useless bunch of morons ruined by centuries of sloth and inbreeding. Determined to prove them wrong, the Marquis of Tavistock, son of Duke of Bedford, owner of Woburn Abbey, has come up with a spiffing way of solving the economic crisis—or at least his own.

He is putting his workers on a ten-month year and asking them to consider taking their holidays during this two-month Christmas lay-off. He wants to save £15,000 a month heating costs and wages.

He is sure his workers will be able to spread their low wages far enough to go somewhere warm in the winter. "Ask the tour companies. I'm sure there are plenty of places they can offer in the sunshine cheaper than they can at summer peak rates."

If they can't they could copy the Marquis and open their houses up to the public at £1.80 a head or sell a horse like his wife the Marchioness did—one colt for £150,000. As the Marquis said, times are hard and we must all sacrifice. "People realise the situation of the British economy and are being very reasonable."

Perhaps the Marquis has been reading the memoirs of Lady Diana Cooper. A loving review in *The Times* drools over her writings as a "brief social abstract of the century." As the wife of pre-war Tory cabinet minister Duff Cooper she met not only politicians like Asquith and Ernest Bevin (Labour chaps as well you see) but also such flowers of the ruling class as the "forgotten Edwardian lechers Lord Wimborne and Sir Matthew ('Scatters') Wilson."

Reading the review you sometimes wonder which century she is writing about. Lady Diana comments for example that "I do think servants should not be ill. We have quite enough illness ourselves without them adding to the symptoms." *The Times* reviewer finds this "most enjoyable". He probably thinks the same about his own servants.

Lady Diana's attitude to workers' illnesses and injuries still exists today. A foundry worker in Bradford had an accident at work recently, needing skin grafts after burning both feet while pouring molten steel. He gets a bonus of 50p for doing this dangerous job—not 50p an hour, 50p a week. The boss of the company he works for, Renold Ltd., has just had a rise to take his mind of such problems—from £31,000 to £41,000 a year.

The Wonderful World of Disney isn't so wonderful for the 200 men and women who have to put on heavy, sweaty costumes and act as cartoon characters in Florida. These non-unionised workers have been holding secret meetings with the press to complain about conditions.

"It's a heavy costume we wear," the worker playing Eeyore the donkey told the press. "You can't see and you can't breathe. The head weighs 35lbs. We've had a lot of back problems." Heat, abuse and harassment were mentioned, as were the low wages of £2.28 an hour and job insecurity, where workers have to go through new auditions at the end of their two year contracts.

The company don't like unions and threaten with the sack those who speak to the press. But this is for humanitarian, not financial reasons, they claim. They don't want to spoil children's illusions by "telling them regular folk are inside the furry costumes"!



Funeral of Kieran Doherty, one of the last to die, in August.
Photo D Speirs (Report)

Northern Ireland after the hunger strikes

The six remaining hunger-strikers in Northern Ireland's H-blocks called off their hunger strike on 3 October.

They did so after relatives had made it clear that they would intervene at a critical stage to prevent further deaths.

Following talks with the prisoners, Tory Northern Ireland Secretary, Prior, announced concessions to the prisoners.

These include allowing prisoners to wear their own clothing, one of the most crucial demands. There will also be some restoration of lost remission, which could mean the release of about fifteen prisoners before Christmas.

As yet, however, Prior has made no concessions on the question of work, though he has conceded a little on extra association for prisoners.

The concessions will apply to all prisoners in NI not just Republican prisoners in the H Blocks and Armagh.

The concessions will not apply to prisons in Britain, though women are allowed to wear their own clothes. But there is no reason at all why they should not, especially as the Tories claim they are not a concession to Republican prisoners. The labour movement should press for their introduction in Britain.

However, the fact that these concessions have now been made show that the 217 days of hunger-strikes and the deaths of ten young

the Provisional IRA and Irish National Liberation Army.

Prisoners finally isolated

Spokesmen for the Provos have bitterly blamed the suspension of the hunger strike, without the full realisation of the prisoners' five demands, on the intervention of the parents and the 'subversion' of the campaign by the Catholic Church.

Some reports, however, suggest that it was members of the Provisional Sinn Fein themselves who asked Father Denis Faul, the priest most involved with the prisoners, to meet with the families on 27 September. Clearly, the Provos, as well as the families, were looking for a way out.

It was after that meeting that Fr Faul met with Lord Gowie and announced that the families would intervene to prevent further deaths.

The intervention of the parents was itself an indication of the mood within the Catholic community. The Republican prisoners themselves have described this as "the hopeless syndrome."

There has undoubtedly been enormous sympathy for the prisoners over their conditions. But the campaign to support them has been undermined by the H-Blocks' Committee's determination to conduct the campaign on nationalist, sectarian lines.

The hunger strike, and the deaths of 10 prisoners undoubtedly brought new recruits into the Provos' ranks. According to some reports, the campaign around H-Blocks also raised over \$25,000 in the United States for the Provos.

However, in Northern Ireland the H-Block campaign has been equated with support for the policies and terrorist methods of the Provos. In spite of sympathy for the prisoners, this more and more isolated and undermined the campaign.

This has recently led to splits within the H-Blocks campaign itself, and, in effect, has left the prisoners to fight by themselves.

The pessimistic conclusions drawn by the prisoners themselves (in their own statements on the

ending of the hunger strike), underlines the points *Militant* has consistently made about the impossibility of conducting a successful campaign on sectarian lines.

Repression cannot be defeated with the tactics of individual terrorism. The Provos' campaign has allowed the British capitalist state to strengthen its repressive apparatus, and the sectarian lines of the Provos' policies, without producing any tangible gains for the Catholic workers of the six counties, have more and more isolated them.

There are signs that the Provisionals have decided to step up the assassination of the members of the RUC and Ulster Defence Regiment. This has already provoked several retaliatory killings in the last few days, with a threat from loyalist para-militaries that they will kill ten Catholics for every Protestant assassinated.

The Provos may think that in this way they can reinforce their support and recruit more volunteers. But the failure of the prisoners to achieve their aims and the undermining of support for the H-Block campaign should have brought home the failure of their strategy.

Political party

Only the working class, on the basis of class unity, can provide a way out. Class unity on industrial issues has been maintained in the NI unions. This must now be carried over to the political plane.

The support from the Labour party conference in Brighton for the idea of a new Party of Labour in the North based on the trade unions points to the way forward.

With its own independent, socialist policies, the working class could begin to heal the sectarian divisions and eliminate the burning economic and social grievances that underly sectarianism and violence.

Only the labour movement has the potential power to end repression and solve the problems of Northern Ireland. The present situation in the prisons underlines the urgency of the movement taking action.

By Tim
Moodie



FIGHTING CRIME?

Massive police forces attempt to break up GMWU pickets at the Isle of Grain power station during the lagers' dispute, (27.5.80)

Photo: Julian McKittrick (Militant)

What do the police chiefs really mean by "fighting crime"? Two weeks ago Militant 571 made the case for democratic accountability of the police and trade union rights for the police ranks. Now we investigate the "fight against crime".

"Law and order" has long been a favourite electioneering slogan of the Tories.

The Tories try to represent any criticism of the police as an attempt to undermine "the fight against crime".

Calls for democratic accountability are portrayed as "politically motivated" moves to undermine the police's "neutral" and "impartial" role.

At the 1977 Tory Party conference, Whitelaw claimed that it was "part of a left-wing mythology" that "there was something despicable, almost immoral, in discussing the prevention of crime at all."

Contrary to Tory mythology, however, Marxists are not opposed to the police taking action to catch criminals and to protect people's safety and personal property. Working-class people are naturally concerned about crime, and especially alarmed about increasing violence.

But the Tories, by elevating the "moral" issues and the abstractions of "law" and "legality", want to turn attention away from the social roots of crime.

What better answer to the Tories than the comments

By Lynn Walsh

of the Boston Police Commissioner, Robert Di Grazia?

"We are not letting the public in on our era's dirty little secret," he wrote: "that those who commit the crime that worries citizens most—violent street crime—are, for the most part, the products of poverty, unemployment, broken homes, rotten education, drug addiction and alcoholism, and other social and economic ills about which the police can do little, if anything."

Di Grazia does not draw any radical conclusion about the problem of upholding "justice" in society divided by extremes of wealth and poverty—within a system based on the legalised expropriation of workers' surplus value by the capitalist class.

Nevertheless, Di Grazia eloquently denounces the "politicians (who) get away with law and order rhetoric that reinforces the mistaken notion that the police—in ever greater numbers and with ever more gadgetry—can alone control crime.

His criticisms certainly

apply to Thatcher's government. Unemployment, Mrs Thatcher said after Brixton erupted in April, was not the cause. The real cause, she implied, was the breakdown of "respect for the law" and the erosion of "moral values".

The Tories cannot accept their economic policies, which have had a shattering effect on the youth, have helped create the conditions for conflict on the streets. If there has been a breakdown of previously accepted social norms of behaviour and of traditional morality, they cannot see that the terrible alienation of young people created by the profit system is a powerful contributing factor.

Like the politicians Di Grazia criticises Thatcher and Whitelaw simply back the arming of the police with more powerful equipment: riot gear, water cannon, CS gas, plastic bullets, and, increasingly, firearms. They also support heavier sentences in the courts, and a tougher regime in prisons and juvenile detention centres.

Anderton's "iron fist" approach

The Tories' approach reflects the thinking of the professional police chiefs themselves. Some, it is true, have spoken out against the crude, hard-line stance of the Andertons and Oxfords. John Alderson, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall is a notable example. Although no supporter of democratic police accountability, Alderson said after the riots: "One

thing is certain, it is no answer to resort to brute force to control people."

Alderson advocates "community policing" to gain the support and co-operation of the public for effective policing and law enforcement.

But the new breed of hard-line police chiefs, like Anderton, McNee, and Oxford, regard Alderson's views as quaintly old-fashioned. Unlike Alderson, who heads a predominantly rural force, they are not primarily concerned with fighting crime of the traditional sort. They are now preoccupied with the task of defending the status quo in an industrialised, capitalist society increasingly torn by economic crisis and class conflict.

The statements of Anderton and the others make it clear what they really mean by upholding "law and order": not the protection of ordinary people from violent assaults, burglaries, etc, but the defence of big-business property and the capitalist state from the growing threat of an increasingly radicalised and militant working class.

Speaking on 'Question Time' (BBC-1, 16 October 1979) Anderton said: "I think that from the police point of view that my task in the future...that basic crime as such—theft, burglary, even violent crime—will not be the predominant police feature. What will be the matter of greatest concern to me will be the covert and ultimately overt attempt to overthrow democracy, to subvert the authority of the state, and, in fact, to involve them-

selves in acts of sedition designed to destroy our parliamentary system and the democratic government in this country."

"Fighting crime," for chief constables like Anderton, is not the same thing as catching criminals at all.

Listening to this and other of Anderton's statements, what doubt can there be that by "democracy" he really means the capitalist system? In practice, "sedition" and "subversion" mean any attempt by workers to use their democratic and trade union rights to defend their interests.

Routine erosion of democratic rights

For example, the Association of Chief Police Officers complained to the parliamentary Home Affairs Committee (February 1980): "Today the right to demonstrate is widely exploited, and marching is the most chosen form of demonstration adopted by protestors. Irrespective of the peaceful nature of the procession the numbers involved bring town centres to a halt, business is disrupted and the public bus service thrown out of schedule. In short, a general annoyance is created to the normal process of daily life."

How readily have police chiefs resorted to blanket bans on marches under the 1936 Public Order Act, in reality to prevent anti-fascist demonstrations and counter-demonstrations. On a number of occasions, however, Anderton and McNee were prepared to

muster an enormous number of police to escort a handful of fascists through the streets, supposedly to defend their democratic right to demonstrate!

Police chiefs are also seeking through parliamentary Bills to extend their control of marches, requiring advance notice and seeking to impose their own "code of practice for demonstrators" which would virtually have the force of law.

The police chiefs have been cautious in supporting legislation which would inevitably mean head-on collision with mass trade union forces. They learned some lessons from Satley Gates and Edward Heath's ill-fated Industrial Relations Act.

However, the police have steadily stepped up their harassment of labour-movement activists.

In a 'field manual' produced by a senior London officer in 1977, new recruits were advised to watch out for people who "although not dishonest in the ordinary sense, may, owing to extreme political views intend to harm the community you have sworn to protect." It goes on: "while there are subtle differences between these types of extremists and thieves, it is difficult to put one's finger on material distinctions."

This is the attitude which increasingly underlies routine policing. Clearly, the simple catching of criminals is much less important to the police chiefs, despite the Tories' law and order demagoguery, than protecting the

Continued on page 11

The Tories are not concerned with the social roots of crime: "Law and order" is aimed against the labour movement and democratic rights.

STRANGLER

Grip of big firms tightens

By Andrew Glyn

One of the most important conclusions reached by Marx in his analysis of the development of capitalism was his law of the centralisation and concentration of capital.

Large firms can outsell small ones by taking advantage of large-scale production and marketing, and so there is a persistent tendency within the major capitalist countries for production to become more and more concentrated in the hands of a few firms.

These ideas are strikingly confirmed by the experience of the major capitalist countries over the past 20 years.

In the USA, in Japan, and in the EEC countries as a block, the giant enterprises carry out a massive proportion of total manufacturing production. The proportion of production accounted for by the giant firms, moreover, has grown.

countries as constituting one market, so it makes sense to speak of the domination of the capitalist world as a whole by the giant, increasingly multinational enterprises.

A recent book, *The World's Largest Industrial Enterprises*, by JH Dunning and RD Pearce, has given a mass of information about these giants, which countries they come from, which industries they control and so forth.

From their tables we can make a rough calculation of the extent to which world industry is dominated by the giants.

In 1962 the sales of the largest 100 companies in the world represented about 52% of industrial production in the advanced capitalist countries. By 1977 the figure

scale should not be taken to imply that competition is seizing up. On the contrary, the post-war years have seen the domination of the US giants increasingly challenged by European companies and especially Japanese.

tobacco and the food industries were American.

The only industry dominated in a comparable way by another country is the chemicals and pharmaceutical industry, where three out of the biggest four companies were German.

Nationality of World's Largest Firms	1962			1977		
	USA	Europe	Japan	USA	Europe	Japan
Top 50	21	20	6	38	12	0
Top 100	48	38	10	67	31	2
Top 400	203	120	46	241	123	21

Source: Dunning and Pearce, Table 4.5a

Nowhere has this been more striking than in the steel industry. In 1957 the three largest steel firms produced nearly five times as much as the three largest firms outside the USA. In 1979 they only produced 80% as much as the three largest non-American producers. [This is shown by Droucopoulos in an article in *Capital and Class*, Summer 1981]

In 1957 the three biggest US motor corporations produced nearly twelve times as much as their three biggest rivals. In 1979 they produced just over twice as much.

But still it would be wrong to underestimate the strength of American capital. In 1977 the biggest five firms in the aerospace industry, the office equipment industries (including computers) and the scientific equipment industry—all key high technology industries—were all American.

Three out of four of the biggest companies in the petroleum, industrial equipment (machine tools, etc) and food industries were American. Three out of five of the biggest companies in the building materials, the

The American giants have been hampered by the slow growth of the American economy in the post-war period. In 1955 America had 58% of the output of the biggest six capitalist countries. By 1973 the share had fallen to 48%, though since then the position has stabilised.

They have partially escaped from the slowly growing home market by investing overseas. In 1977 29% of the production of a sample of US giants took place outside the USA, that is in factories in Canada, Europe, Latin America, etc.

This is compared to 18% for German giants and only 7% for the biggest Japanese firms, though even their investments abroad have shot up since falling profit rates were experienced in the late sixties.

Fight for markets

The competitive struggle is increasingly fought out by a network of overseas investments,

rather than simply through exports. The threat of protectionism has increased this trend, as the Japanese motor industry's venture into production in America and Europe shows.

Where does all this leave British capital? Despite the wretched performance of the British post-war economy, in 1979 there were still nine British firms in the top 100. Shell, ICI, Unilever, Dunlops and Courtaulds all figure in the top five companies in

their industries.

Of the major countries, British capital's giants are by far the most multi-national. In 1979 42% of their production took place abroad.

Need for planning

With the collapse in production in Britain resulting from Thatcher's monetarism and the rise of investment overseas since exchange

Percentage of manufacturing production inside country or block accounted for by largest firms

Percentages	Early 1960s	Late 1970s
USA Largest 50 firms	23	27
Largest 200 firms	38	48
EEC Largest 50 firms	15	25
Japan Largest 100 firms	22	27

Sources. USA: Fieldstein *The American Economy in Transition* (p.51); EEC: Locksley and Ward *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 1979, (p.96) Note: Different numbers of firms, and dates, are used for the various countries because of availability of data.

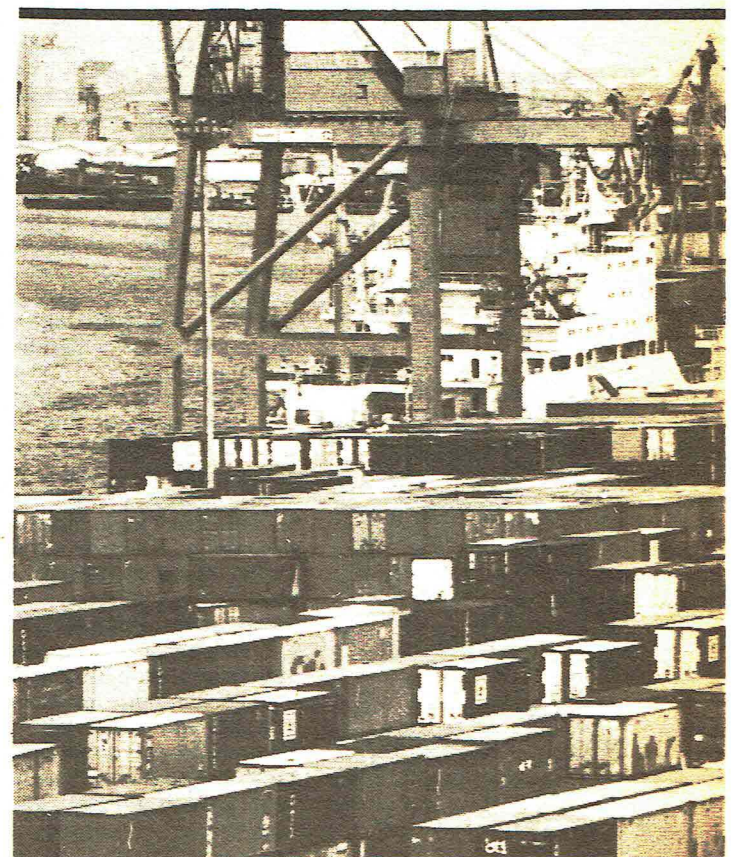
Just as important as these trends within the major capitalist blocks has been the growing integration of the individual economies into the capitalist world economy.

Between 1950 and 1968 exports grew half as fast again as production and there was a terrific growth of foreign investment. Just as it has become increasingly meaningful to think of the advanced capitalist

was 65%. By 1977 the sales of the biggest 25 companies amounted to 35% of total industrial production as compared with 29% in 1962.

These figures are exaggerated by the fact that a portion of these sales will be to other giants, so that the same batch of production would be counted twice. But still the upward trend is clear.

This growth of concentration on a world



Who dominates world trade? Containers piled on the quayside at A

OLD!



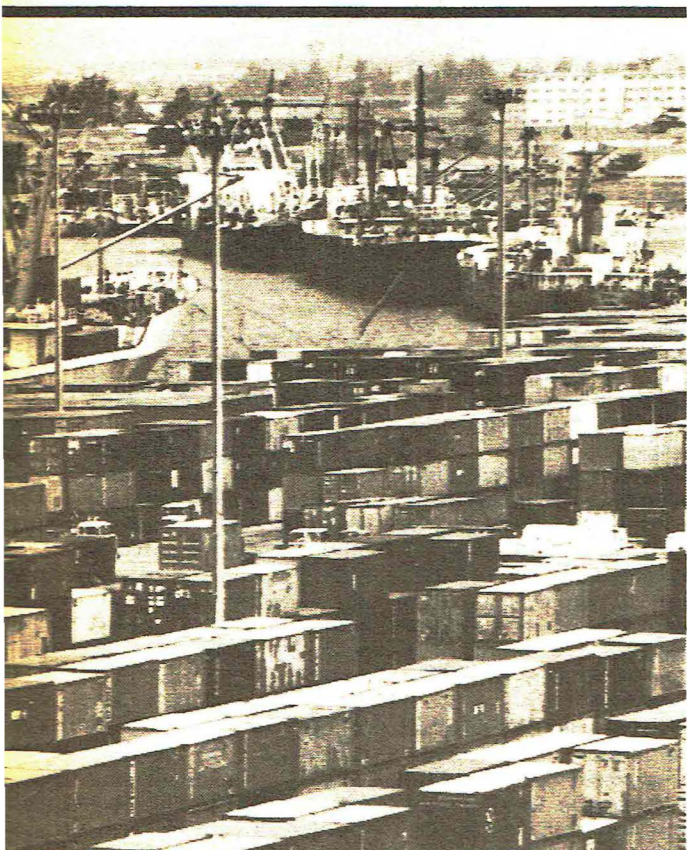
controls were abolished, it is unlikely that in 1981 more than half the production of the biggest British firms is taking place outside the UK.

The increasing integration of the capitalist world economy and its domination by the giants is not just a subject for academic concern. Planning on a world scale is absolutely necessary if the productive potential of modern society is to be realised.

In their pursuit of private profit, giant cor-

porations like IBM, General Motors, etc. understand that worldwide planning is necessary. Their planning, however, is only within the framework of the multi-national: outside, it is still the anarchy of the market.

The satisfaction of human, social needs, will require a World Socialist Federation of states to undertake the planned development of resources and production on an international scale.



sa, Nigeria

POLAND

The lessons of 1956

By Magda Szabo
and Ewa Piatkowska

The momentous events that have taken place in Poland since August 1980 have brought the ferment in the Stalinist states of Europe into the limelight.

Millions of people all over the world are asking themselves what is the cause, what will be the likely development and the eventual outcome of these heroic struggles.

Will the fate of the Polish people be the same as before and will their achievements come to nothing? Or is there a way to permanently consolidate the gains and avoid defeat?

History can provide a valuable guide.

Ferment in Eastern Europe is as old as history itself. As a buffer zone—and consequently a melting pot of Eastern and Western influences—the region has right through the centuries experienced one turbulent period after another.

The events and movements of the last 35 years in particular give us an insight into the opposition and various struggles the people of Eastern Europe put up against Stalinism.

Stalinism came to Poland, Hungary and all the other East European states at the point of a Russian bayonet. In the wake of the Second World War, the peoples of Eastern Europe were in ferment.

The forces of the old order, that of capitalism and landlordism, had fled with the Nazis. Movements towards the establishment of socialism and of workers' democracy were present in all these countries, but were nipped in the bud by the overwhelming power of the Russian bureaucracy represented by the Red Army.

Regimes in the image of Stalinist Russia were created and foisted upon the working class and peasantry of Eastern Europe, thus creating conditions of discontent which was not long in appearing.

By the death of Stalin in 1953, the problems in the Polish economy were obvious to all. Real wages were 12% lower than in 1949 and the current plan, while making major advances in heavy industry, was a victim of the heavy hand of the bureaucracy.

The showpiece Zeran car factory was producing obsolete models, while coal mining had dropped 12% in output per miner since 1949.

Agriculture was in a serious crisis, with what resources there were in terms of fertilisers and equipment being poured into the 'public sector' of state and collective farms.

Although only constituting 14% of agricultural land, state farms received 40% of agricultural investment while their output was only 63% of the per hectare output of the private farms. Agricultural investment, despite the key place held by agriculture in the Polish economy, was only 10% of total investment.

After Stalin's death, the bureaucracy were forced to introduce a certain degree of liberalisation, and it became possible to criticise the shortcomings of the system, if only to a limited extent.

The so-called 'thaw' in the USSR—a limited freedom of expression in literature and the press—meant that Polish writers and journalists were able to expose such issues as 'special shops' (where certain people could buy generally unavailable goods) and bureaucratic bungling of the economy.

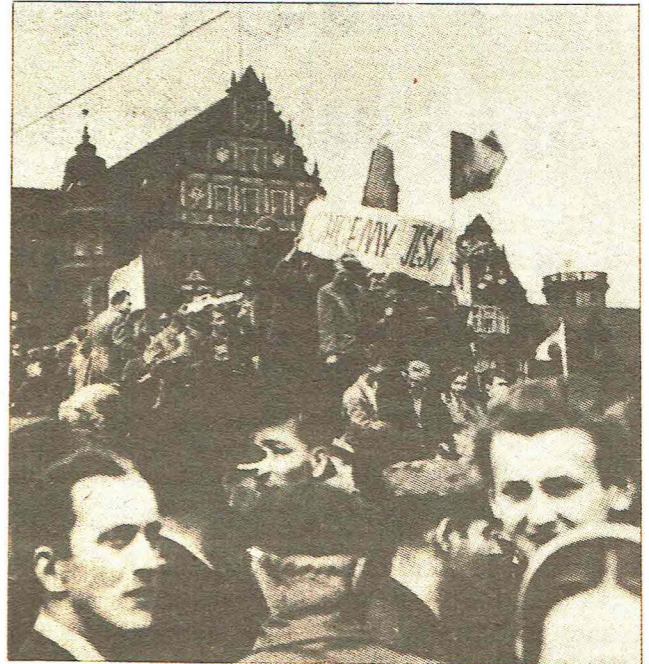
The story is a familiar one to anyone following Polish events recently.

From 1954 to mid-1956 the movement for change was primarily a movement of the intellectuals. Student societies and journals like "Po Prostu" ("Straight Talk") flourished. There is no doubt they had a certain influence within the working class, through exposing such issues as bad housing and unemployment, which officially did not exist.

However, the developments within the intelligentsia were no great cause for concern among the bureaucracy. They did not cause many sleepless nights in the Kremlin.

Workers take over Poznan

It was in June 1956 that the workers in the Zippo factory in Poznan—an industrial town in Western Poland—held a meeting to discuss falling wages. They demanded a 20% increase, and when this was rejected, the 16,000 workers held a demonstration joined by thousands of workers from other factories and the town's shops and offices.



Poznan 1956

Half the population of the town of Poznan was on the streets. The slogans rapidly went beyond the wage issue. The workers called for free elections, independence from the USSR and religious freedom.

They freed prisoners from the jail and attacked the security police building. Troops were called in, many of whom went over to the side of the workers. Barricades went up in the street and it required the bringing in of special units of the army to suppress the insurrection.

The first reaction of the government was to blame the insurrection on 'enemy agents' and provocateurs, but a growing section of the party leadership began to admit that the workers had genuine grievances. The only way to restore stability, they concluded, was not through further repression, but through granting some concessions to the workers.

The secretary of the Party stated to the Central Committee in July 1956: "It must be stressed that the Poznan incidents cannot constitute any justification to turn back the process of democratisation." The workers arrested in Poznan were released or given light sentences.

But the government was faced with the problem of how to deal with the increasingly radical demands of the workers' movement, which had now spread throughout Poland.

Party secretary Ochab, although in favour of a limited liberalisation, was not popular with the workers. They saw him as a Stalinist, and it became obvious to government and workers alike that he would be unable to implement reforms while at the same time keeping control over the mass movement.

The party, however, had a trump card up its sleeve in the form of Wladislaw Gomulka.

Gomulka used to head off explosion

Gomulka had been Party secretary from 1943 to 1948, when he had been removed from office and arrested for his "nationalist views". Although just as much a bureaucrat as Ochab and others, he was seen by the masses as a "man of the people" and a Polish patriot who could stand up to the Russians.

Unlike many other Polish party leaders, he had not sat the war out in Moscow, but had participated in the resistance to the Nazis.

Gomulka had led the Polish party during the immediate post-war period when "national roads to socialism" were on the order of the day, and had always advocated concessions to the Church, the private peasantry and Polish nationalist ideas.

It became obvious to the Party leadership in 1956 that only Gomulka commanded enough respect among the workers to be able to head off the explosion which was obviously coming. Accordingly, they reinstated him into the Party and elected him general secretary.

The Russian bureaucracy was not happy with this situation. They still regarded Gomulka with great suspicion, and a top-level Soviet delegation arrived in Warsaw to intervene in the proposed changes in the Party leadership. Soviet

Continued on page 11

BANGLADESH

CAPITALISTS

NEED NEW

STRONGMAN

By a Bangladeshi correspondent

The ruling class in Bangladesh is desperately looking for a new strongman to replace the assassinated dictator Zia, while the political and economic crisis deepens.

More than half the population are below the poverty line, violent strikes are a daily feature of urban life and the Bangladesh Bank has exhausted its foreign currency reserves.

The World Bank is already unofficially demanding devaluation and deflation—a policy that will cause not unemployment but starvation in a destitute economy.

If the November presidential elections are held, one of the three major parties, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the Awami League (AL), or the 3-party alliance of the 'left' will have to face the economic crisis.

The BNP, Zia's party, is a gang of opportunists united for survival under Vice-President Sattar, their candidate. But whoever the eventual BNP leader, Zia's policies of mediating between the classes with the carrot of American 'aid' and the stick of repression, arrest and execution have reached a dead end.

Explicitly pro-Western and committed to capitalism, Zia lacked the social base or programme to attack landlordism. Indeed to do so on a capitalist basis is impossible since the capitalists and landlords are inextricably linked together.

The abolition of landlordism is vital for Bangladesh. Agriculture produces 50% of the Gross Domestic Product. While 35% of rural households are landless, 10% of the people own more than half the land.

Rice production is less than 10% of the potential

More significantly, the Land Occupancy Survey of 1977 discovered that only 10% of the land was owner-cultivated, which means the rest is cultivated by landless

labourers and tenant farmers. The survey also showed that tenants paid landlords half their produce and bought seeds, fertilisers and irrigation from their share.

Investment in agriculture is correspondingly minimal. While as much as seven tons of rice per acre can be produced in Bangladesh even without mechanisation if seeds, fertiliser and water were available on the right terms, the average yield under the present system is only half a ton per acre—less than 10% of the potential.

Zia tried to make the existing system more productive, for example by sending village chairmen on 'educational trips' to the Philippines and using American aid to build irrigation canals. These policies did little more than stave off famine; they did not attack the causes of the problem—limited access to land and resources for the peasantry.

Communist Party: 'two-stage revolution'

Zia's attempt to generate capitalist investment in industry by giving free rein to private enterprise also failed. The capitalists in the private sector proved to be no more confident in the future of the system and no less interested in immediate cash than the public sector bureaucrats had been under Mujib.

As before it was the middle-men and speculators who syphoned off the investment resources of the nation; as before investment was minuscule and concentrated in the relatively safe sectors which cater for capitalist consumption. Industry still accounts for barely 10% of GDP.

Thus Zia failed to put Bangladesh on a path of dynamic capitalist development; he was only a more successful Bonaparte than his predecessor Mujib.

What is the Awami League and does it present

an alternative?

The AL is sometimes regarded in the West as a 'left' party. Before independence, until the mid-sixties, the AL was a party of the East Pakistani landlords and capitalists, fighting for their share of the capitalist cake. It used its economic strength to get the Bengali vote but lacked the social force to challenge the Pakistani state.

When the worker's struggles broke out in the mid-sixties and the Communist Party failed to give a lead, the student activists of the AL, agitating against non-Bengalis, found they could use the immediate struggles of the workers against the bosses, many of whom were also non-Bengalis.

It was the general strike of 7 June 1966 which shook the Pakistani state and led to army action and the arrest of Mujib. Three years of urban demonstrations led to his triumphant release in February 1969.

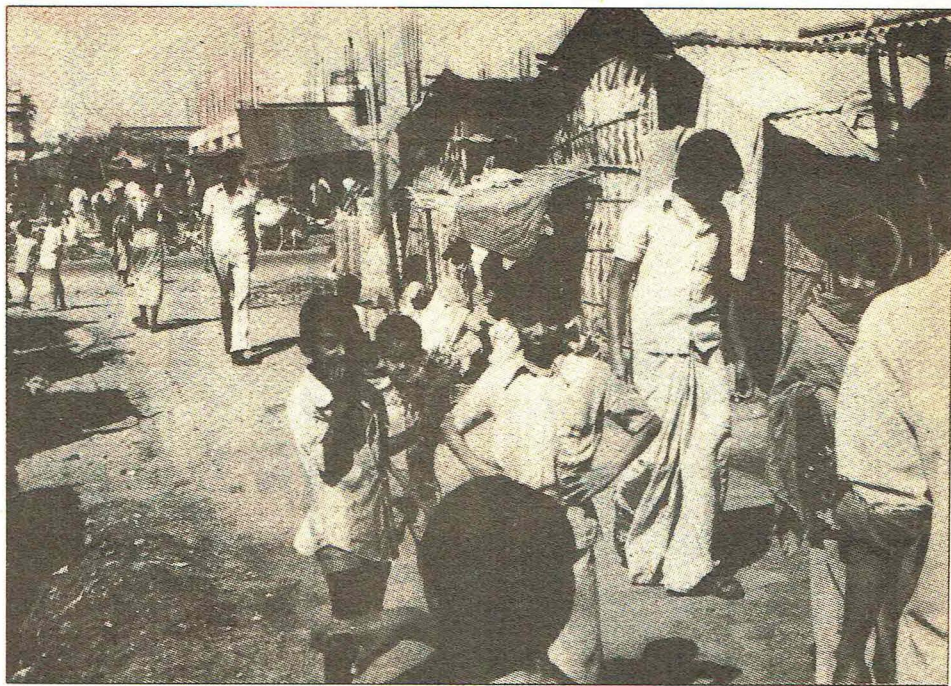
By then, although the old leaders remained firmly in power, the AL found it necessary to use anti-imperialist and socialist rhetoric. The East Pakistani CP regarded the upheavals as the first stage in a 'two-stage' revolution and gave their support to the AL as the leaders of the 'national democratic revolution.' They claimed that a parliamentary road to socialism was possible. The CP still support the AL on these grounds and are successfully branded by the right and by the Maoists as the agents of Indian expansionism, since the AL is explicitly pro-India and pro-Congress.

The Maoists had split from the CP in 1966. Their leading group, the EPCP (Marxist Leninist), in their turn ignoring the struggles of the workers, called for peasant rebellion against the landlords, a policy the state was strong enough to crush.

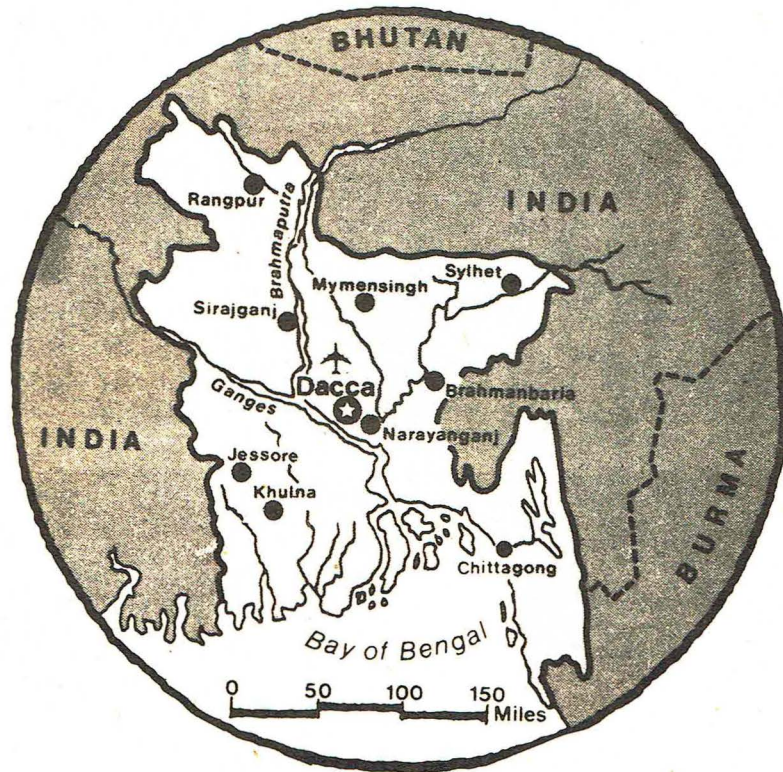
Yet the Maoists still cling to this policy, which is essentially similar to that of the CP from which they had split.

In their view a 'people's democratic revolution' is the next stage, replacing the 'comprador bourgeoisie' with the 'national bourgeoisie'—and this is supposed to be progress!

Their bankruptcy was truly revealed in the late sixties when a smaller Maoist group, the East Bengal CP, pointed out that the nationalist struggle was



The slums of Dacca, capital of Bangladesh



Population: 90 million. 50 per cent of the people are landless peasants. 80 per cent of cultivable land is owned by landlords. 7 per cent of people are employed in industry. 75 per cent of exports is jute—a declining world market.

between the East and West Pakistani capitalists, and called for a separate organisation of workers and peasants. The EPCP (ML) and other Maoist groups accused them of "ultra revolutionary adventurism" and "Trotskyite and Che-guevarian deviationism".

By then the 'theoretical' squabbles and the failure to support the working class had destroyed the credibility of the 'communist' movement.

When the Bengali capitalists in the AL were swept to power in December 1971 after nine months of civil war and Indian military help, their socialist rhetoric continued. Article 12 of the 1972 constitution promised "attainment of a just and egalitarian society free from exploitation of man by man."

JSD: Lack of clear socialist policies

But even though 85% of industry was 'nationalised', control over it remained in the hands of the capitalists through the AL and an elected parliament in a system where election could only be afforded by a few.

Ministries were run like personal empires for the enrichment of individuals,

to the extent that capital equipment was dismantled and sold.

The real wage index fell from 100 in 1969/70 to an astounding low of 49 at the height of AL misrule in 1974/75. Not even the presidential rule could have saved Mujib for long. He was assassinated by young army officers in 1975.

At present the AL is led by Mujib's daughter, Hasina, but the presidential candidate has not yet been announced. They now campaign for a return to parliamentary 'democracy' along the lines of Indira Gandhi's India, which is in fact a ruthless anti-working class regime controlled by the big capitalists.

This will only serve to divert attention from the real issues as the BNP is equally committed to the presidential system. A conflict on this constitutional issue might even be welcomed by the BNP for the same reason.

Equally bankrupt are the policies of the newly emerging Alliance. Consisting of three 'left-wing' parties, it includes the JSD (the left of the Awami League, who emerged as a separate group when it became clear that Mujib had no desire for socialism).

But also the JSD failed to put forward a clear socialist programme. Lack of policies, despite massive support in the army, led to their defeat at the brink of power during the revolutionary insurrection of 1975.

Today, at the head of the alliance with three similar parties, the JSD is trying to attract the presidential candidate General Osmani, himself the leader of the so-called National Citizen's Committee, another party of petty bourgeois idealism. This motley group will depend on Osmani's personality for their votes.

If the AL joins the bandwagon they might have a fair chance of winning. But how their vague policies

Workers' movement has proved its power

will be implemented, or what good they will do, is not at all clear.

Even if the army does not take over and the presidential elections are held, the economic crisis will not be solved. Only the working class, leading the peasant masses, can defeat the capitalist class, abolish landlordism and redistribute the land.

The workers' movement has proved its ability to overthrow the capitalist state in the revolutionary struggles of 1971, and again in 1975. In the battles to come, Bangladesh may well be the spark that lights the Indian forest fire.

POLAND

Continued from page 9

troops started 'manoeuvres' on the Polish border and there was much talk of a Soviet invasion.

Gomulka informed the Russians that Polish troops would resist any intervention, and threatened to broadcast an appeal to the Polish people to resist the Russians. He made it quite clear that only by making concessions to the workers could the movement be defused and the bureaucracy regain control.

Gomulka did indeed make some concessions to the workers, legitimising the workers' councils and promising agricultural reform. He made sure, however, that all reforms would be carried out from above.

In his own words: "At the head of the democratisation process stands our party and our party alone. If anyone imagines he will be able to sow moods of anti-Sovietism in Poland he is making a grave mistake."

While workers' councils did exist, and for a while functioned successfully, at no stage did they seriously challenge the power of the bureaucratic state apparatus. Had they done so, reforms would have not been enough, and armed intervention by the bureaucracy would have become inevitable.

Gomulka gave a certain amount of support to the movement in Hungary, which had immense support amongst Polish workers. But when the Russian troops entered Budapest, he disassociated himself from Imre Nagy, the leader of the new Hungarian government who found himself at the head of the insurgent workers' movement, although did not explicitly endorse the Russian invasion.

In an attempt to solve the problems of bureaucratically collectivised agriculture and win support, Gomulka gave most agricultural land to small private farmers.

The heroic movement of the Polish workers, in the course of the unprecedented events of 1956, brought down a Stalinist government, forced radical changes in the Party and avoided Soviet intervention.

The victory was still very short lived. By placing their trust in Gomulka, who was no more than the more acceptable face of Stalinism, the workers allowed all the gains they had made to be eroded.

Within a year censorship was strengthened, the radical journals were closed down, there were purges of liberal elements in the Party, and most importantly the workers' councils were integrated into the state bureaucracy. The Councils' activities were restricted to administrative details of the running of individual factories which were of no interest to most workers.

Within a few years, all the gains had been eroded, and the Polish workers were left materially worse off and politically less "free" than their Hungarian brothers, whose revolution had been drowned in blood.

It was not until 1970 that the strength of the Polish working class was once again brought to bear against the bureaucracy. Ironically, it was Gomulka, the workers' hero of 1956, who was then overthrown by the working class in the shipyards of Gdansk.

EGYPT AFTER SADAT

"We have all lost a friend whose courage and vision we so greatly admired. He will go down in history as an outstanding leader."

This reaction by Margaret Thatcher to the assassination of Egypt's President Sadat is a telling comment as to the late dictator's role and the nature of his regime. Another grief-stricken friend is Prince Charles, who flew to Cairo to attend the funeral.

In sharp contrast to Thatcher's and Charles' sorrow has been the subdued reaction to Sadat's death on the streets of Cairo, and the open jubilation in more radical Arab capitals as well as among Palestinian refugees, who saw Sadat as a traitor to their cause.

Since taking over power after Nasser's death in 1970, Sadat has distanced his regime from Russia and tied Egypt firmly to the pursestrings of US imperialism. He has kept a lid on the struggles of the workers, the peasants and the urban poor for a decade. He has suppressed all left-wing opposition and curbed Islamic fundamentalism, which as events in Iran have shown, can serve as a grotesque vehicle for mass hatred of Western capitalist domination.

Above all, Sadat has been the only Arab leader willing to stake his future on an open compromise with the Zionist regime in Israel and the resulting rewards from imperialism.

Now, the 'Financial Times' mourns, "with Mr Sadat's death a cornerstone of US policy in the Middle East has been dislodged." His death is described as "the biggest imaginable blow that could befall US policy in the Middle East..." (7 October).

These remarks reflect the highly fragile nature of the status quo in the Middle East and the weak basis of Sadat's pro-Western, pro-capitalist regime. The killing of Sadat himself has been enough to put the interests of the capitalist class, and their hopes of maintaining a balance between Israel and the Arab states, at risk.

Socially, Egypt is a powder-keg waiting to explode. Horrifying poverty, mass unemployment, an inflation rate of 21% and a widening gap between rich and poor are only some of the conditions created by the feeble, distorted growth of capitalism in a semi-colonial country. \$3 billion of foreign aid which is

By George Collins



Sadat with Begin

pumped into Egypt every year cannot prevent the situation from steadily worsening further.

These enormous tensions have begun to find expression in the turn by sections of the middle class and intellectuals towards Islamic fundamentalism as a platform of opposition to Sadat's regime. So great was Sadat's fear of any protest movement gathering momentum that large-scale arrests were carried out last month in an effort to head off opposition from this quarter.

Yet in a country with the most developed working class in the Arab world, it is unlikely that the religious fanatics of the Moslem Brotherhood will be able to develop themselves into a decisive mass force. The recent clashes between fundamentalists and police in the city of Asyut, where the Brotherhood has its strongest basis, are unlikely to spread to the country as a whole.

In the longer term, a more fundamental threat to the capitalists lies in the grievances of the working class and their determination to defend their remaining gains from the early Nasser period, such as food subsidies, which are coming

under growing pressure from the ravages of capitalist decay.

All eyes will now be on Sadat's likely successor, Vice-President Mubarak, to see whether he can hold the existing state machinery together. The capitalists' most immediate fear is the pressure Mubarak will be under from other Arab states, as well as from within Egypt itself, to abandon Sadat's policy towards Israel.

This would mend Egypt's bridges with the Arab states and partly appease the Moslem Brotherhood, thus giving the regime more breathing space in the event of an internal crisis developing.

While it is too early to anticipate the course of events, Mubarak's regime will undoubtedly be even less stable than Sadat's. Like every post-independent government of Egypt it will depend on support from the army. Mubarak, a former air force officer, will lean heavily on General Abu Ghazala, the Defence Minister, to maintain his authority over an increasingly restive officer corps.

The army officers have been deeply divided over Sadat's policy towards Israel. Since the peace treat-

ty with Israel the military have been downgraded and the officers' privileged position eroded. An army major now earns only about a quarter of what he could get in the private sector. These tensions, too, will undermine the stability of the new leadership.

But ultimately, all factions and struggles within the military and the ruling elite reflect the pressure of groups and classes in society, looking for solutions to their problems. Sadat's death increases the possibility of an upsurge from below.

So far, the lack of an independent working-class leadership has been a major factor in holding back a concerted mass movement. Now, the visible weakness of the regime could encourage a tidal wave of pent up anger and frustration.

If Mubarak proves unable to keep control in the period ahead, this could lead the pro-capitalist generals to stage a coup and establish an open military dictatorship, along the lines of the Turkish regime, in an effort to impose 'stability' from above.

But—as in Iran—the mass struggles may prove unstoppable and force a complete break with the

policies and traditions of the Sadat regime. Without the same basis for Islamic reaction to fill the power vacuum and derail the revolution, a radical leadership could be installed that would be forced to continue where Nasser left off and carry through the dispossession of the capitalists and landlords.

In the absence of a Marxist leadership in the working class, however, the revolution would inevitably take on a deformed character, with power being concentrated in the hand of officers and bureaucrats. The result would be a deformed workers' state similar to that in Syria or indeed, in all essentials, to the present regime in Russia itself.

With these fears at the back of their minds the capitalists will be watching Egypt in the period ahead, aiding and abetting the reactionary rulers. Socialists in the labour movement internationally will work to assist in the development of a revolutionary leadership in the Egyptian working class that will be able to guide the struggles of the coming period towards the socialist transformation of society.

FIGHTING CRIME

Continued from page 7

system against anyone who has the temerity to defend their interests or propagate their views.

The labour movement does not condone crimes of

violence (but it equally condemns the appalling 'cult of violence' fostered by business interests through films, television and other media).

Nor can the movement, while understanding the social causes of crime, support robbery as an "individual way out" of the problems facing workers. We have no sympathy with vicious criminal elements,

who are as much a menace to the workers as to big property owners, and whose activity provides the state with the excuse for strengthening repressive powers.

But the need to counter criminal activity does not give the 'guardians of the law' the right to act as though they are a law unto themselves.

Fighting crime does not

justify the harassment and ill-treatment of suspects; denying suspects adequate legal defence or the twisting or fabrication of evidence; it does not justify savage sentences or brutal, inhuman conditions in prisons; and it does not justify racial bias or arbitrary and oppressive policing.

Overcoming crime, for socialists, means funda-

mentally the eradication of the social conditions which produce crime. But within the present society, democratic accountability of the police, far from undermining 'the fight against crime', would remove the obstacles created by an undemocratic, unaccountable and increasingly repressive police force.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Letter from Ghana

Dear Militant

Until the philosophy of capitalism is finally and permanently discredited and abandoned, then shall we have equal opportunities, and, then and only then, shall we see a change in the social, political and economic set-ups in our societies. Until that day, workers shall never reap the true fruits of their labour.

Until this is achieved it is war; war we declare on capitalism. We shall fight and continue to fight till we win, and we know we shall win.

Congratulations to the Militant for the joyful news it is spreading around. Let those who have ears to hear, let them hear.

Until things change for the better I shall continue to rally behind Militant my spirit, with a lot of goodwill.

Once again congratulations and thanks, many many thanks to the Militant.

Long live the revolution!
Long live the Militant
Yours fraternally
a worker from Ghana.

Shock horror—SDP talk 'politics'!

Dear Comrades

I recently attended a meeting of 'the middle'; the middle aged, the middle class that is.

It was well-attended, the platform spoke of 'Democracy for the People', but didn't say who 'the people' were. The platform spoke of a 'moderate, radical, non-extreme party.'

Their leader spoke of dreams, and maybe it would have been better if I had fallen asleep because he has a great skill in speaking but not saying anything. You know the party I'm describing. It's the creation of the media and by big business—the one and only, the SDP (Super Deceptive Party).

Roy in one of his reminiscent moods thought of the Suez days when 'Britain was a much richer country.' He spoke much of the past and much of 'his dreams.' Wait for it, he actually spoke of Policy! Roy wants to give employers a grant of £70 for every worker they take on. He wants work created for women 'like home helps', 'work suited to women.' He wants more YOPS. He wants an Incomes Policy.

However, for a party 'committed to free speech' they failed badly to answer questions from the floor—they only took four!

Roy often mentioned that the present electoral system bred class conflict. If the SDP ever made a government it will be a Tory government similar to Heath's. The SDP has nothing to offer the working class but Toryism, not as blatantly harsh as Thatcherism but still as evil in its methods.

Yours fraternally
Coatbridge interim YS

The plight of unemployed school leavers.

Dear Comrades

The plight of the young in Thanet (Margate, Ramsgate, Broadstairs) is one of total helplessness, with 1 in 4 unemployed. There is little hope of any of the thousands of school leavers finding a job. The situation is so bad that the people on the dole have to 'sign on' once every 6 weeks, which in itself is a reflection of the acceptance of the situation by the Department of Employment.

When school leavers went to 'sign on' for the first time, six weeks after leaving school, YS members were selling Militant on the dole queue. The manager of the Margate DoE office came out. Asked by one of our comrades what the situation was like amongst school leavers, he replied, shrugging his shoulders, "10 times worse than I had ever imagined!"

On the same day we took a visit to the local job centre (whilst we still have them).

Being unemployed myself I was on the look out for a 'job'. But it was the same old story—seven jobs. One job (I use the term lightly) was for a young person to 'muck' out stables at £15 per 40 hour week!

YOPS courses are very few and far between and generally used as cheap labour. The local council is the biggest offender, being Tory controlled.

The catalogue is endless of muses of YOPS courses, and general exploitation of the youth in Thanet. Thanet is by no means a revolutionary area. The YS is active, although small, but is on the streets selling 'Militant' and 'Socialist Youth'. It is only a matter of time before more and more youth see that they have no future under this corrupt and degenerate system; that caused their plight in the first instance. Only 'Militant' and the YS can show any sort of perspective for the youth of Thanet and the country as a whole.

Yours fraternally
John Nicholson
Youth Officer
Thanet West LP

Royalty—let the rich keep them

Comrades

I read with disgust that Charles, the other half of Diana, has awarded himself a rise of £2,500 a week, a 50% increase, when we are being asked to accept 4%, presumably he sees this as part of his fee for starring in that well-known extravaganza commonly known as 'the wedding'.

As some members of NUPE do not even earn this much in a year, I think it is high time we rid ourselves of these parasites, collectively known as 'the royal family'.

If, according to various research polls, that the percentage population in favour of retaining the crown is decreasing, could this be because poverty is increasing? Therefore it would follow that it is the rich who are in favour of keeping them—well let them. This will then free the ordinary working man from



the crippling taxes he has to pay to keep the Royals in luxury when he cannot afford to feed and clothe his family even after a full working week (if he is one of the few lucky ones to have a job).

As a recent reader and admirer of your paper I am glad to have found at last a publication which deals in truth instead of lies which are predominant in the capitalist media.

By Maihri Preston
Member of Strathclyde
NALGO, Glasgow



March 1981. LPYS demonstrate in Kent. One in four youth on dole in Thanet.

Tories 'infiltrate' Harlow

Dear Comrades

During a debate in Harlow between the LPYS and Young Tories, the prospective Tory parliamentary candidate proclaimed, 'Marxists in the Labour Party bolster their support by bussing them in from far and near.' The meeting certainly gave him his reply! Each speaker from the floor gave name and origin. The socialist speakers from the floor read like a roll-call of the Harlow labour movement; Harlow YS Harlow Labour Party, Harlow AUEW, Harlow NALGO, Harlow unemployed, etc. Tory speakers sounded like a Cooks tour of the South East; Greater London, Ilford, Epping Forest, Cambridge and even Birmingham!

But it wasn't only over 'bussing in' that the Tories were forced to eat their words. 'Tories have maintained educational standards' claimed the Tory.

'Why have school dinners gone up so much, and why so much junk food?' asked eleven year old Kirsti Huxtable. Furthermore, this Tory claim was crushed by the fact that two secondary schools plus the tech colleges are being closed in Harlow.

Mike Waddington, Essex Regional Committee member, speaking on behalf of the YS, damned the Tories for causing massive increases to unemployment, misery and despair. The Tories' reply was that they were launching a programme worth millions of pounds to create more jobs. But then went on to say, to claims of cuts in services, 'It's not the services that should be cut to reduce spending, but the people working on them.'

The meeting, attended by over 140, was a great success, it didn't only prove the decay and degeneration of society as reflected in the Tories' contributions, but the way forward for the future in the growing desire for socialist change amongst the youth.

Yours fraternally
Bob Edwards
Harlow CLP

Parasites prospering

Dear Comrades

I work for the electricity board and I was amazed to discover that last year the industry paid £535 million in interest charges to the banks!

It isn't just industry being robbed, either, in Nottingham each rate-payer pays £1.27 a week to the banks. These parasites do nothing to help society, they just sit back and rake in their super-profits whilst the workers pay through the nose.

The Labour conference in 1931 unanimously called for the nationalisation of the banks and this was echoed in 1976 but still nothing has been done.

We must demand the nationalisation, under workers' control and management, of banks and financial institutions, along with the top 200 monopolies.

This would ensure that the resources of society are used for need and not to line the pockets of the rich parasites.

Fraternally
Dave Millington
Mansfield LPYS

An error appeared in last week's issue on the report of the fight by Coventry's local authority workers against the cuts. The article was put in the name of Dave Nellist. The article was in

fact written by:

Dave Patchett
(TGWU shop steward,
Coventry City engineers)
We apologise to the two 'Daves' for this error.

Do you agree with the policies of 'Militant', the articles and the letters? Do you disagree strongly? Write and let us know, to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

BR boss's pay 'over the top!'

Dear comrades

No doubt most of us are used to criticism and articles which are opposite to our way of thinking in the extreme right wing 'Sunday Express'. However, I was left speechless after reading the following sarcastic article written by John Junor:

"I congratulate Sir Peter Parker on his £12,000 a year increase in salary from £48,000 a year to £60,000. It must be agreeable for him that in addition, he will have the right to earn up to £15,000 a year from his outside interests.

I also wish him well in trying to explain to railmen why they should be content with the eight per cent on a basic £58 forced on them while he is taking 25 per cent on £48,000 a year. Are you old enough to remember the days when officers and gentlemen used to go over the top first?"

Sir Peter Parker must be completely without conscience to take a £12,000 a year increase when many workers in non-rail BR subsidiaries are struggling to make a living on much less than the basic £58 stated in the article. The 'Express' must be congratulated, possibly for the first and last time, in publishing the figures of this disgraceful pay increase.

Yours fraternally
Jacky Mitchell
TSSA Edinburgh No. 1
Branch (personal capacity)

Are you with Benn or the Fleet Street men?

Dear Comrades

According to the television, press and the right wing of the Labour Party, Benn is bad for the party. He and his policies will frighten off potential support. But experience will prove otherwise.

While doing my regular early morning factory sale during the week of the Labour Party conference, one of my regular sales commented on the election of the Deputy Leader. He was bitterly disappointed that Tony Benn had not been elected. 'What we need is a fighter, not someone wishy-washy like Foot or Healey. We want someone who will fight for us.' These words, from someone whose factory (Marconi Radar) is threatened with massive redundancies.

Agreeing with him, I said the vote for Benn was good considering the hysterical and scurrilous press campaign against him. After all, if the press didn't like him he can't be bad! 'You've got it girl!' he said.

Hopefully this regular reader will continue to support the Militant and help make it into a national daily to combat the lies and slanders of the 'other press' and fight for socialism. Incidentally, why do the right wing get the support of the press?

Yours fraternally
Heather Rawlings
Youth Officer
Leicester West CLP

Build **MILITANT**

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

ads

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 10 Oct	Target for year
Eastern	4093		4970	7100
East Midlands	3280		3850	5500
Hants & Dorset	2410		3640	5200
Humberside	1503		2450	3500
London East	4332		5320	7600
London West	2516		3360	4800
London South	3684		3850	5500
Manchester & Lancs	2473		4060	5800
Merseyside	3165		4620	6600
Northern	3752		6020	8600
Scotland East	1938		3080	4400
Scotland West	3511		5250	7500
Southern	4765		4970	7100
South West	1917		2450	3500
Wales East	1323		1820	2600
Wales West	2605		3220	4600
West Midlands	4528		6020	8600
Yorkshire	4324		6300	9000
Others	11244		8750	12500
Total received	67,363		84,000	120,000

TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000

£4,000 needed each week

THIS WEEK: £3562

The £3,500 both received and in the post to us over the weekend has brought our total to £67,363, or 80% of our target for the third quarter. This represents a tremendous achievement set against the back-cloth of mass unemployment.

The donations we've received give evidence of what our 'backers' expect of us; thanks to TGWU Branch 5/909 for their monthly £20, 5/826 Branch £10, and East Kilbride TGWU (£2). An appeal sheet passed round Clowne LP (Bolsover CLP) netted us £10.25, and members of Anfield LP (Liverpool) contributed £4.50, with B Caldwell, also from Anfield, donating £20.

Young Socialist branches assisting us included Reading LPYS's meeting collection, Chester (£3), and Stockton LPYS. Contributions also came in from M Cooper (Eastleigh LPYS £3), discussion groups in Kingston, Isle of Dogs, and others. Militant Readers Meetings in Liverpool and Birmingham raised nearly £450 (before expenses)!

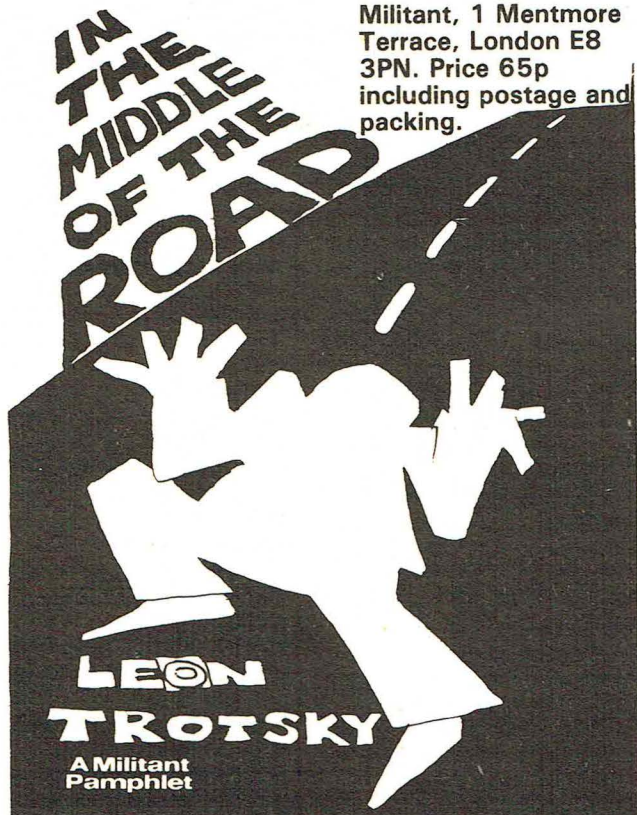
We can't mention all individual donations, but thanks to C Johnson (Neston), W Clegg (BF&AWU), £22 for jogging, J Bleaken (Bristol), Oxford readers I Davidson, M McDonald and I Sugarman, B Walters (NUGSAT, Birmingham), R Trott (AUEW steward, W London), N Holmes (Basilidon CLP), L Doherty (Ford worker, Dagenham), B

Griffiths (W. London), M Averell (Blantyre), and J Bell (Nottingham). Civil servants' backpay from E McGeachjan (Renfrew) and

N Wrack and R Williams (S Lonodn) came to £24, while £16 came from GMWU local government conference delegates.

By Steve Cawley

Available from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Price 65p including postage and packing.



Donations from a leek show and a 1950s social raised £24 from Tyneside plus the proceeds of a Folk night at Maltby. Last week we also received a donation from readers in Scunthorpe, which we hope will be the first of many.

The last quarter will undoubtedly be the one requiring the biggest effort; about £52,650 in 13 weeks almost exactly £4,050 per week! We're asking all our readers to plan their fundraising for us, because that's the only way we can reach that sort of figure.

Have you or your mates got a 'marketable skill' you can employ to our benefit? What about catering (either liquid or solid) after a meeting of your union, Labour Party or LPYS branch? Or would friends who need a regular lift be prepared to contribute towards the petrol?

Do you see other 'Militant' readers at work, or at particular meetings?

What about work place collections? Show your mates the Fighting Fund page—then show them the full page ads in your daily paper—explain the capitalist press can't balance its books on the 'cover price' alone.

If all else fails, explain that for sizeable (according to means) or regular donations, we can arrange (nearly always, anyway) for your mates to have their names in print! Let us know your ideas and how you get on. Forward together to £120,000.

MILITANT READERS' MEETINGS

BLYTH

Wed 21 October—'The 1931 National government—lessons for today'.

Wed 4 November—'Southern Ireland and the way forward for Labour'.

Wed 18 November—'Trade Unions and the fight against the Tory government'.

Venue: Miners Arms, Plessey Road (Upstairs), Blyth. Time: 7.30 pm. For further details contact: Peter D Marsden, 148 Disraeli Street, Blyth. All welcome.

SOUTH WEST LONDON Militant Supporters Disco. Saturday 17 October, 8.00 pm with extension. At Wheat-sheaf Pub, Tooting Bec Station (Northern Line)

Militant Readers Meeting 'Benn next time?' Why you should join the Labour Party' Speaker: Tony Saunois 7.30pm Monday 19 October at Dynevor School, Swansea.

MRM Southend on 'Poland'. Speaker: recent visitor to Poland.

On Wednesday October 21st 8pm at Labour Hall, Cambridge Rd., Southend.

MILITANT Marxist Discussion Group. 'Socialism or Nuclear Annihilation?' Thursday 29 October, 8.00 pm. 181 Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Poole. Speaker: Dave Backwith.

NEWCASTLE Readers' Meeting. 'What Militant Stands For'. Speaker: Ted Grant. Sunday 18 October, 7.30 pm, Bridge Hotel (beside high level bridge).

EAST LONDON Militant Readers' Meeting. Thursday 22 October, 8.00 pm in the Lister Room, East Ham Town Hall (corner of Barking Road and High Street). 'After Labour Party Conference—what next?' Speaker: Laurence Coates (LPYS rep. on Labour Party NEC).

OUT NOW!

Import controls or socialist planning? New 'Militant' pamphlet. Price 25p (+ 15p p&P) from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

SCOTTISH LPYS WEEKEND SCHOOL

* Debate: Solidarity vs. LPYS
* Film: 'The War Game'
* Lecture: 'The Life and Times of James Connolly': speaker Benny Adams (Northern Ireland Young Socialists)
* Plus Disco
* Plus five-a-side football
Date: Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 October. Venue: Dounans Centre, Aberfoyle. For further details contact: Francis 041-771 8961 or Jackie East Kilbride 23371

HASTINGS CLP

We are in the process of selecting our Parliamentary candidate.

Applications please to: The Secretary, Hastings CLP 25 Wellington Sq., Hastings E. Sussex

LPYS Trade Union Day School Sunday 25 October. 'Solidarity with S African Workers'. Retreat Hotel, Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole. 11-1: Film, 'Generations of Resistance'. 2-4: Speaker from SALEP. Admission free.

EASTBOURNE CLP. We are in the process of selecting our Parliamentary candidate. Nominations close October 22nd.

Applications please to: The Secretary, Eastbourne CLP, 155 Northbourne Road, Eastbourne, E. Sussex.

LPYS Public Meeting. Wednesday 21 October, 8.00 pm. Central Hotel, Ashley Cross, Parkstone, Poole. 'What Future for Labour?' Speaker: Robin Clapp (LPYS rep. on SW Region LP EC)

S WALES Bulletin of Marxist Studies. New edition: 'Marxist Economics'. 35p (+ 15p postage etc.). B Lewis, 10 Page Street, Swansea, W Glamorgan.

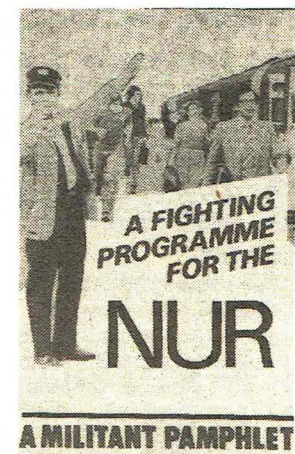
SECOND STAFFORDSHIRE RALLY

Saturday 17 October, 1 pm-5 pm Speakers: Ted Grant on Britain, Jeremy Birch on Poland.

At United Reformed Church, Eastgate Street, Stafford. Stalls, food, etc. Social in evening.

New Militant Trade Union Pamphlet.

on 'Banking and Insurance Workers—the way forward'. Price 20p (plus 15p p&P). Bulk orders available from Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.



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Industrial

Dowty Strike

Over 1,600 men, production workers at Dowty Rotol Limited, near Gloucester, voted to take immediate strike action to force the implementation of the shortening of the working week from 40 to 39 hours.

The men, members the AUEW and GMWU voted some months ago to take an hour off each Friday, with 1,500 for the proposal and 78 against.

However, the management told stewards that they wanted the hour reduced by the workers coming in 12 minutes later each day!

A clause in the agreement resulting from last year's national engineering strike, states that management has the final say on how the hour's reduction is implemented.

After exhausting procedure, the members took action by leaving an hour early on some Fridays, stepping this up over the months.

Management retaliated by stopping overtime in the plant, except for the plating and heat treatment departments, where overtime is essential.

The union replied by banning overtime in these areas.

The company at first took no action but later called in the stewards and announced that they were suspending the full working week agreement—any man without work to do would be laid off.

Management began to take work off the shop floor and also send men home.

This provoked the men to the all-out strike action which began on 5 October.

The men are adamant that they will not return to work until their suspended brothers are allowed back to work. They insist that there is plenty of work in the plant whatever management may claim.

John Ewers (Gloucester Labour Party) spoke to Fred Hunt (Works Convener), members of the Works Committee, and pickets.

On 3 October 200 people joined the 'Day of Action' organised by workers at St Mary's Hospital in West London.

They marched through Paddington to show their anger at the decision of the Tory government to close 127 beds and the accident and emergency unit at St Mary's.

But the axe does not stop there, this is just the first stage of a plan to close the hospital completely.

At a mass meeting after the demonstration, domestic workers, porters, ambulance drivers and nurses made clear their determination to fight to keep the hospital open and called on union officials to mobilise their members in the NHS against the Tory attacks on the health ser-



Staffa workers demonstrate outside the Law Courts in London on 7 October, when an injunction was served on them. Photo: Militant.

STAFFA- FIGHTING ON ALL FRONTS

The Staffa workers in Leyton, East London, are fighting to save their jobs on all fronts (see last week's 'Militant').

The workers of the engineering firm are occupying the factory. They have had the law courts brought in against them, and last week the SPG skulked around the site waiting for orders to evict the workers, with a police helicopter circling overhead.

But their determination to win has been increased by the discovery of the dirty tricks the Staffa bosses used to try and get them to accept their fate.

Staffa wanted to close its site in Leyton, transferring to their other site in Plymouth. When they announced closure on 5 June, it was with the usual crocodile tears.

But this 'sudden decision' by the Staffa bosses had in fact been planned months in advance! And the bosses actually brought in a consultancy, Hay Communications Ltd., who provided documents (passed on to Militant) giving advice, timetables and even scripts on how to orchestrate the shut-down.

The reason for this, according to the introductory document from the Hay group (presented to Staffa in April) was so that "All communications (with the employees) should be... tightly co-ordinated so that the same basic story is being told to everyone; and meticulously synchronised—no one should hear the news before the employees if there is any risk of a 'leak back' which would destroy your ability to control the situation."

Staffa wanted to "control the situation", so that production would continue

without interference from industrial action for the next two years, while the bosses gradually switched production to their Plymouth site. As the document states, "We can't afford the risk that the message is distorted either accidentally or deliberately because it is such a sensitive

By Janice Dale

decision. Difficult though this will be it will help with the ongoing problem of providing management leadership and enthusiasm for production until the shutdown of each unit."

The document's scripts show the Staffa bosses' cynical contempt for the workers.

The section on 'management's posture' advises Staffa's management to be "patient, helpful, courteous, concerned" when breaking the news to staff.

The 'concern' of the bosses is exposed, however, when you read the section titled 'Questions about the delay in announcement.' Management are instructed to tell union reps, "The decision was only made last night and this is a very quick response once it had been made." This, the management did on 5 June—the document is dated 22 May!

This lie is repeated in the section giving set answers to press inquiries; "...we knew that there was no future at Leyton, but the decision at the end of the day might have been to make the best of it and hang on...In the event, the decision was taken on 5 June..."

The full script on how to deal with the unions lists the most likely questions and reactions from the unions, and instructs the managers how to reply, even what physical stance they should make!

In response to union anger at the closure: "The union's role in discussion should be emphasised as well as the fact that the union's role is being given prominence in the announcement. Some mention that the delay was not very comfortable for management either might get a little sympathy!"

In response to the threat of strike action: "The best response is low profile but pointing out that the decision has been made and a strike won't help. Suggest—carefully—that their role is to work out a package which gives the best deal for the employees that can reasonably be arranged at a realistic cost."

In response to the unions wanting to bring in union officials and local MPs:

"Low profile—question if they want to hand over their role and opportunity to an outsider who doesn't know Staffa—don't refuse to talk to the Area Official!"

"A comment that the local MP had previously indicated an unwillingness to become involved in management decisions such as redundancy might be appropriate."

It is clear Staffa's move to Plymouth is an attempt to increase their profits, by moving to the West Country where wage rates are lower and cutting the workforce, and to break the unions.

Staffa's target is the union

The documents admit that of the different reasons for moving, "none of these would be strong enough on its own." The Greater London Council have also stated that they would match the government grants Staffa could claim in the free enterprise zones of Plymouth. But Staffa's target is the unionised workforce who stand in their way of increased profits.

The only reason the Staffa workers found out about management's two-faced actions is because they occupied the factory, discovering the documents.

How many other factories that have closed down—with the boss appearing in the press wringing his hands over how tragic it is—have had the likes of the Hay Group move in with their plans and scripts? How many other bosses have sat rehearsing 'immediate announcements' months before they 'officially' take place?

The play-acting of the Staffa bosses must be a warning to all workers.

St Mary's 'Day of Action'



vice.

For a period of time management at the hospital have been interviewing individual workers and "advising" them to look for jobs elsewhere. At the ambulance stations, instruction have gone out telling drivers to stop taking emergency cases to Harrow Road as from Monday 19 October. But the am-

balance drivers are going to defy this instruction. As long as the workers keep St Mary's unit running they will continue taking emergency cases there.

The Occupation Committee and the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee have organised a mass picket for the 19th, to make sure that ambulances are not stopped from coming into the

The picket line at St Mary's hospital. It is now the task of these committees to lay concrete plans for fighting against any attempts at closure, and to provide a clear lead for all the workers at the hospital in the struggles that lie ahead.

By Ruth Herdman (NUPE, St Mary's)

Reports

CPSA Broad Left backs John Macreadie

At the Broad Left conference of the Civil and Public Services Association on Saturday, the 100 members present gave overwhelming backing to the candidature of John Macreadie in the coming election for the general secretary of the CPSA.

The meeting felt confident in backing John Macreadie, because of his past record, his policies and the fighting role he has played in the union.

The meeting also backed the candidature

of Terry Ainsworth in the union's election for Treasurer.

It was pointed out that these elections were of vital importance for the union, and it was essential for a vigorous campaign amongst the membership to secure support for these two Broad Left candidates.

Election addresses will reach branches by 26 October, and the closing date for the voting is 20 November (votes must be in to head office by this date).

The entire membership of the CPSA Civil Aviation Authority Group Executive Committee (J Campbell, F Bonner, F Booth, M Cool, J Coutts, T Crow, P Dowd, R Johnson, A McGhee, A Nicolson, F Relf, W Rogers, C Rogers, R Wilson) unanimously resolved at its meeting of 5-6 October 1981:

That "The Civil Aviation Authority Group Executive Committee welcomes the decision of John Macreadie to stand for General Secretary. It places on record its complete confidence in him to carry out the job satisfactorily, and calls upon all CPSA members to vote for him.

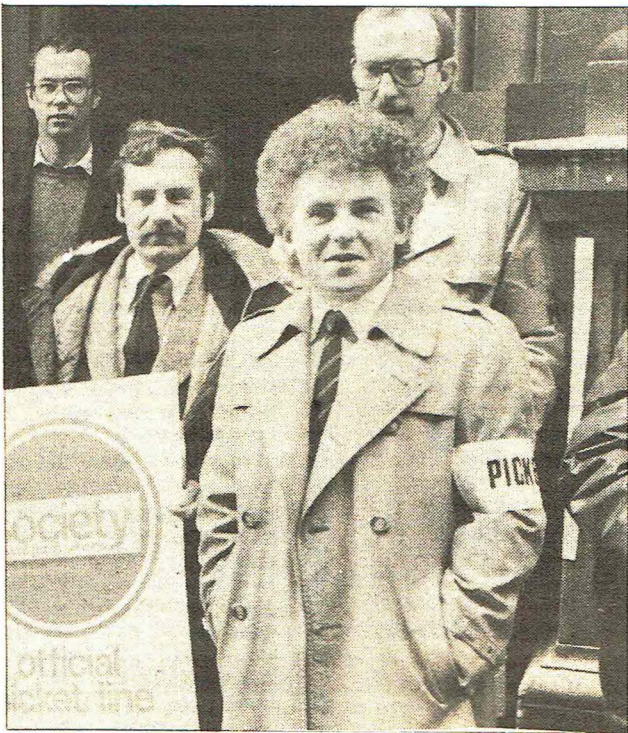
"He has given CAA members outstanding service. He has shown he has the experience, skill, dedication and work-rate necessary to fulfil the task of the job. The CPSA will be a far stronger union with John Macreadie as General Secretary."

SSRC Strike

Staff employed at the Social Science Research Council head office in London took part in a one-day strike on Friday 9 October. The strike was solid — of the 159 staff there were only five scabs.

The strike, by members of the civil service and white-collar unions (the CPSA, ASTMS, SCPS, and CSU) was in protest against proposed cuts. The SSRC was set up in 1965 by Royal Charter to encourage and support research in the social services, providing such services, making grants for research available, and provide advice and information in this field.

The strike coincided with a meeting of the Governing Council of the organisation. At that meeting it was recommended by the SSRC management to fix a reduced staffing figure for the Council for 1982-83, as a



John Macreadie (foreground) joins the picketing SSRC workers on 9 October. Photo: Militant

result of cuts in grant the SSRC receives from the government. The Council have been asked to agree a cut in staff from 159 to 146.

The strike will launch a campaign of non-cooperation by staff and could lead to further industrial action if management attempt to introduce their arbitrary staffing figures.

CPSA National Officer, John Macreadie, said today that SSRC staff were fed up with the repeated attacks on their jobs over the years. Enough was enough and staff were now ready to fight to defend existing jobs, both for themselves and for children still at school and for workers on the dole.

Railmen fight re-grading

Midlands & North West

A dispute over the introduction of a pay grading restructure has resulted in a one-day strike of signal and telecommunications staff at Midlands rail stations.

Those affected were Birmingham New Street, Birmally, Coventry, Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, Walsall,

Crewe, Manchester and Chester.

The stoppage was a terrific show of solidarity for their workmates in the Euston area, who are refusing to implement the restructuring because of a shortage of skilled staff and other grievances.

The management have refused staff the right to work unless they agree to the restructuring, and staff at Euston and Watford have been out since last Tuesday.

The staff at Euston are demanding to work in their normal conditions until a joint enquiry is held to look at their grievances. The management have refused this small concession and have sent letters to the staff

distorting the men's case and trying to undermine the local union representatives.

The NUR full time Divisional Officer has put his name on this management letter! What a situation, when an official of the union, whose wages are paid for by the members, appears to side with the management!

The men are trying to intensify the strike this week, which could result in a regional strike of signals and telecommunications staff.

By Mick Atherton
(Birmingham No 4 NUR personal capacity)

London

The strike by signal and telecoms workers on BR at Euston, Willesden and Watford last week, was the culmination of growing discontent at management decisions regarding work practices.

The action was triggered off when management sent home a number of staff who, in line with an earlier decision of the workforce, came on duty to their old rosters, and refused to work to the new ones which

management were trying to implement without union approval.

In an attempt to undermine the strike and justify their own position, BR management issued a scurrilous letter to the staff involved. This scandal sheet asserted the strike had been organised by people acting 'in an underhand manner'! In addition it contained a veiled threat that staff coming on duty at the old times of the previous rosters would be trespassing!

In fact, the strike was a unanimous decision of the workers. It was backed up by a one-day strike by S and

T workers in the Midlands and North West (see article), and also at West Hampstead in London. It is realised that if management are successful in Euston then other areas would follow.

The new rosters are part of a restructuring scheme aimed at making savings to the company in terms of earnings and jobs. It is essential now that the NUR leadership gives it national backing.

By Mike Waldheim
(Euston No 1 NUR personal capacity)

Shipyards



Workers occupying the Robb Caledon shipyard in Dundee. Active support for their struggle by other shipyard workers has been widespread throughout the country. Photo: Denis Doran

The struggle by Robb Caledon has had widespread support throughout British Shipbuilders.

In Cammell Lairds everyone is supporting the overtime ban and one-day strikes, apart from a few scallywags in management. To stop them working on the one-day strikes on Mondays, a picket line has been organised.

Only two people broke the line last Monday, one by arriving in the middle of the night, another by clambering over a barbed wire fence. They found it very difficult

when they did get in, as all services were turned off.

A few bravehearts approached the line, one of whom said he was a ship's captain. Someone suggested that he was Captain Pugwash.

Another 'gent' asked for all of our names, which we dutifully supplied. He took note of a hairy-armed Boilermaker called M Thatcher, but got suspicious of a Mr D Duck.

Spirits stayed high even though the cold was not alleviated by daylight.

Those on the picket line not only resolved to maintain the action but to explain the need to fight.

If compulsory redundancies are accepted the end is nigh for not only Robb Caledon, or even shipbuilding itself, but for its many service industries as well. It took many years to end the casual labour and poor wages which have dogged our industry. We cannot give up what we have won now.

By J Shepherd
(GMWU Cammell Laird)

Fields Printers

Following the successful fight against redundancies earlier this year, SOGAT members at Field Printers, Bradford, were not surprised at the announcement last week of 217 redundancies at this subsidiary of the giant multi-national, Reed International.

At a mass meeting the shop floor proposed and unanimously supported a one-day strike on 7 October. This was to warn Field's management that SOGAT would not accept one job loss.

The strike was 100% amongst SOGAT members, but unfortunately other smaller unions on site did not respond. They should learn that unity with their own organisations is the best defence against the bosses' attacks.

Deputy Imperial Father of the Chapel, Malcolm Nixon, said: "Management say we're overmanned. We dispute this, enough overtime has been worked in the last three months to provide 250 extra jobs.

"The strike was a spontaneous reaction from the shop floor to show the bosses we're solidly behind our full-timers when they refuse to accept any job losses. The order books are

full but we're being asked to bear the cost of rationalisation."

The morale and humour on the picket line was excellent, helped by a local shopkeeper who donated two bottles of whisky!

The workers have also produced their own greetings card for 'Fields Christmas Draw' showing gallows, saying 'each member puts their head in a noose, when the lever is pulled the one left standing wins a prize; but 217 have no chance of winning!'

By Keith Narey
(Bradford West CLP)



Leyland workers' dispute eighteen months ago. Once again management are asking for huge sacrifices. Photo: Militant

8% Inflation - 3.8% Offer DENT THATCHER'S PAY LIMIT

Once more Leyland car workers are the centre of attention with the prospect of an all-out strike over pay.

Management's media machine have again been enrolled to threaten us with redundancies, closures, everything short of a plague of locusts if we dare to fight back.

But for four years now, Leyland has got away with just single figure wage offers. With inflation still at 8%, if we are forced to accept the 3.8% currently on offer, we might as well start paying the company for the privilege of working here.

Our claim for £20 across the board, a 35-hour week, and an increase in premium payments pro rata is the absolute minimum needed to

By a Longbridge BL worker

keep our heads above water.

Management were initially going to ask the union to support a pay freeze this year, but in recognition of the "excellent co-operation of the workforce" (production up 30% and hardly a dispute in 1980) they are going to make an offer of 3.8% which was "not negotiable".

They further outline their plans to give plants "audited plant" status which would mean manage-

ment control of all manning levels, and up to 20,000 further redundancies throughout the company.

The Leyland Cars Joint Negotiating Committee rejected the management proposals and unanimously called industrial action. There was a difference of opinion about how the membership should be consulted, however.

The AUEW and the EETPU were for a secret ballot, but the shop stewards' meeting at Cowley decided that mass meetings should be held at all plants, as a secret ballot would invite another 'paper war' with BL management.

With speed-ups and other pressures (after all, Derek Robinson was sacked for writing an alternative to the Edwardes Plan) the shop stewards could not hope to communicate with the members as effectively as the management.

The company often hand out photocopied press cut-

tings supporting their case, and management bulletins at crucial times come out at the rate of three a day! The park meetings will all take place on Friday 16 October, at 8.30 am.

After the meetings full-time officials will be told the voting figures and then the senior stewards will report internally on 22 October to decide on the action.

If the majority of Leyland car workers are for action there will be no need for five days' strike notice and the strike will commence on 1 November.

Obviously we'll have to face yet again the full venom of the Tories and their kept press. But a victory for Leyland workers now would restore some much needed pride among the workforce. It would be the first dent in Thatcher's 4% pay limit.

THIEVES

Continued from page 1

Norman St. John Stevas, one of Thatcher's sacked accomplices, launched a merciless attack on Thatcher's economic policies.

He denounced the Thatcherites' "callous chatter about a leaner, fitter British industry," and clearly aiming at Thatcher, Stevas observed that "nothing is so unpleasant as a virtuous person with a mean mind."

Meanwhile, Ted Heath, with the help of the media, was building up to a massive onslaught on the Thatcher leadership on Wednesday's debate.

Since coming to office in 1979, Thatcher and Co. have stolen the jobs of (according to official figures) 1,400,000 workers.

They have slashed the NHS, cut unemployment and social security benefits, sold off 160,000 council houses, and devastated other vital services.

Now the "wets", led by Heath and Stevas, are in revolt. But their aims are just the same. They want to restore the profits of big business at the expense of working people.

But half way through Thatchers' term, they are afraid that they are going to be brought to book for her policies.

The Wets are afraid, with good reason after the lost Tory deposit in Warrington, that the Tories will be hammered in the next general election.

They are afraid that Thatcher's monetarist policies, which have already provoked riots, in Brixton, Toxteth and elsewhere, will provoke a massive revolt amongst the working class in the coming months.

They are afraid, into the bargain, that Thatcherite policies will not revive the

diseased British capitalism. After all, since 1979 manufacturing production has fallen by a catastrophic 16%. The annual rate of inflation has gone up, from 9% to 11½%. Interest rates have risen from 12% to the current 16%.

But Heath, Stevas and the other 'Wets' are no friends of the working class. They have no real alternative to Thatcherism.

They want an increase in the government's capital spending to give orders to big business, not the restoration of cuts in welfare services for workers. They favour a softly, softly approach to attacks on workers' living standards and trade union rights.

Under the leadership of Heath, remember, the 1970-74 Tory government attacked one section of the workers after another—the postmen, the railwaymen, the gas workers—until it was brought down by the miners in 1974.

When he was Under-Secretary of State for Education in 1972-73, St. John Stevas, was known as 'Mrs Thatcher's poodle.' He was her accomplice in snatching school milk and other cuts. With her, he defended the privileges of private education.

These people have nothing to offer working people.

The labour movement must muster all its forces to kick out the whole lot—both hard-line Thatcherites and faint-hearted 'wets.'

There has been a massive response to the Labour Party's demonstrations against unemployment. In the coming weeks, there will be enormous industrial battles [as our industrial reports this week make clear].

It is time for the leadership of the TUC and the Labour Party to come together to launch a massive campaign, starting with preparations for a 24-hour general strike against the Tory government.

This would be a first, bold step in a real fight to bring down the Tories and to bring about the return of a majority Labour government on socialist policies.

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HACKNEY DEMO

"Save jobs—sack the Tories. Support the Staffa sit-in."
 Demonstrate Saturday 17 October, 11 am, Hackney Town Hall.
 See page 4

SALFORD DEMONSTRATION

Action to save education
 Details page 5