



**Prices up 15%**

**Real pay cut**

# STAMP OUT POVERTY WAGES

Thatcher prattles on about there being 'one nation,' but in reality, the Tories represent only 'one class'—the rich.

For workers living in dire poverty in Tory Britain today is creasing hardship.

The number of people growing rapidly—and is

likely to get higher still.

According to a recent report, even in 1975, three million families lived at or below the official poverty line. Now, two recessions later, there are far more.

Then, 143,000 people had been out of work for more than a year. By

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BACK PAGE

## MINERS CLAIM-

## Nine per cent?

# NO WAY!

The 9.1% pay offer by the National Coal Board in no way meets the demands of the National Union of Mineworkers.

This offer, which in all probability will include around 1% on the bonus and 1½% on fringe benefits, means that a surface worker will earn about £7 per week more before stoppages and an

By Tyrone  
O'Sullivan

(Lodge Sec., Tower  
Colliery, S Wales,  
personal capacity)

underground worker approximately £9 per week.

After the tax we'll get

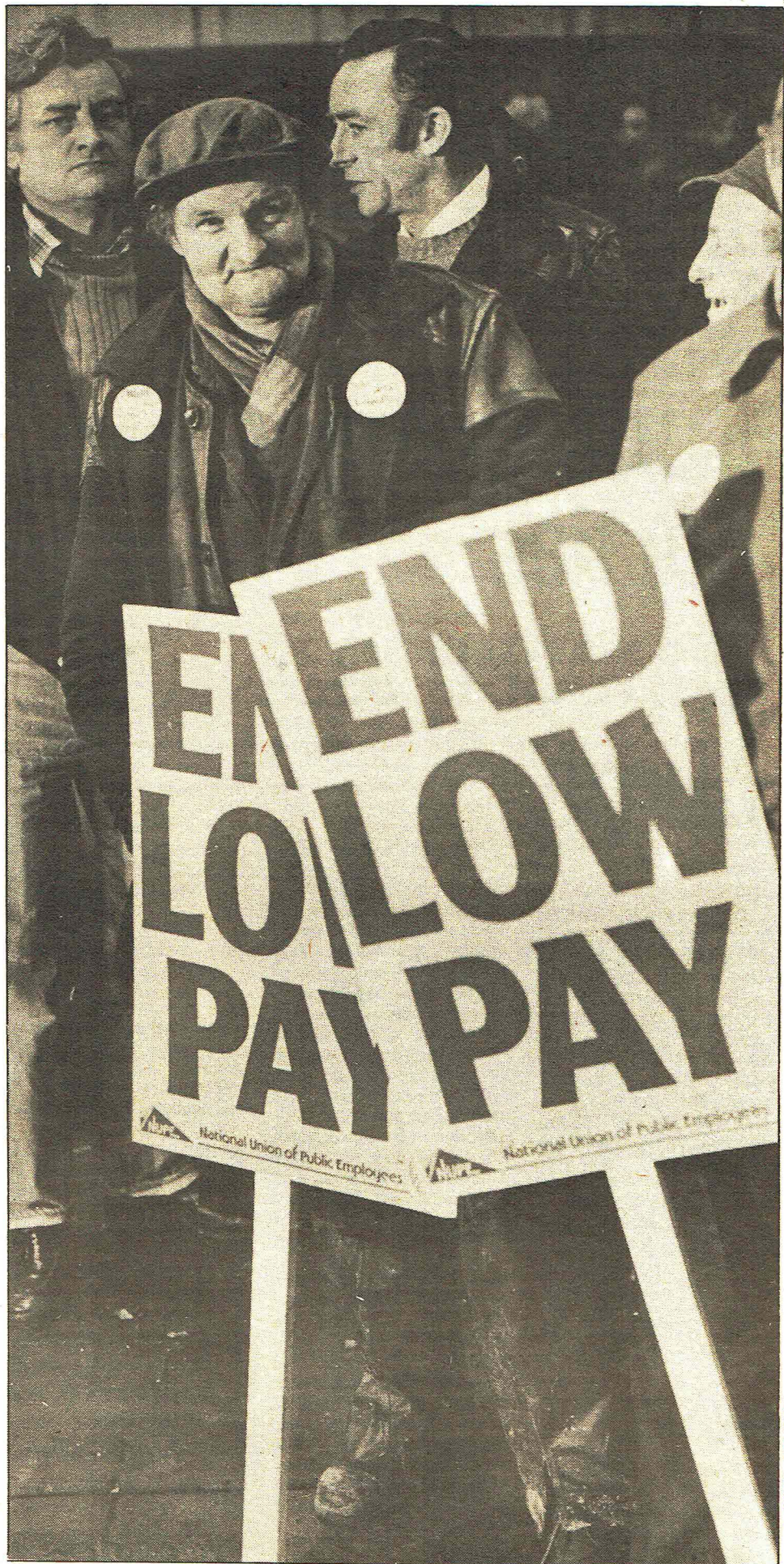
about a fiver in our pockets and that's not on. Most of our members were disgusted at Gormley's plea for acceptance on TV which was made while negotiations were still taking place.

However, our Executive have shown determined leadership in unanimously rejecting the offer.

It's not just wages that concerns our members. Unemployment is devastating South Wales and we feel that early retirement at 60 for surface workers and 55 for underground workers, along with a four-day working week would go some way at least to providing more jobs in the industry.

The NCB have until 26 November to meet our 24% claim. If they fail to budge then we should have a recall delegate conference to test the mood of the membership, explain the issues and prepare for an all-out strike in the new year.

The average take-home pay of a surface worker in my pit is £62 with underground workers taking home just £72 per week. It's wages such as these for working in atrocious conditions that will force the miners to take on the board. And you can be sure that if the government backs the Board, we'll have a go at them as well!



Low paid workers struck for an end to low wages two years ago. Poverty has become more widespread since then.



YOPS TRAINEES UNION RIGHTS  
CAMPAIGN FOUNDING CONFERENCE  
Central Hall, Renshaw Street, Liverpool 1 (2 mins.  
Lime Street Station). Saturday 21 November, 11am-  
5pm. For further details, write to YTURC, c/o  
LPYS 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

## Provisionals campaign leads to bloody dead end

The assassination of Belfast Loyalist MP Robert Bradford has increased the sectarian gulf and has raised once again the possibility of a wave of sectarian tit-for-tat killings. Bradford's death is the culmination of an increasing programme of IRA assassinations aimed at policemen, reservists and UDR personnel, which has given the Loyalist bigots around Ian Paisley the opportunity for a new "Carson campaign."

Now, Paisley has threatened to make Northern Ireland "ungovernable" and to one degree or another, all the Orange Tories are making ominous threats about mobilising Protestant militias. In Enniskillen, there has already been a march of 600 men in military formation.

The Times described Paisley as "Irish nationalism's best recruiting sergeant in England", but if that is the case, then the Provisional IRA leadership are Paisley's best recruiting sergeants in Ireland. In a statement after Bradford's killing, the Provisionals warned the leaders of the

Protestant UDA that they had "better be well aware of the cost of killing innocent nationalist people." This reads like a deliberate provocation.

It is clear, despite the weak denials to the contrary, that the whole logic of the campaign now being conducted by the Provisionals will have the result of provoking a Protestant backlash. Indeed, within hours of the assassination of Bradford, and the caretaker of the community centre where his surgery was held, a youth in a Catholic area was brutally murdered and another was seriously wounded in what were obviously retaliatory attacks.

The hunger strike campaign of the Provisionals and the INLA failed, not because there was not some genuine sympathy for the prisoners themselves, but because the whole campaign was associated with the Provisionals who raised the issue in a purely sectarian manner, as a "nationalist" issue. The continued campaign of assassination of members of the police and army further weakened the

hunger-strikers, by hardening Protestant opinion against the prisoners and giving the government their 'justification' for standing firm.

The collapse of the hunger strike left the Provisionals isolated and defeated, but, nevertheless, such a tiny and secretive armed group can develop a logic of its own. It was inevitable that a faction would turn again to a new bombing campaign in Britain and an increasing sectarian campaign in Ireland to try to bolster flagging morale.

But if it is the case that the Provisionals have launched on a policy designed to bring about a Loyalist reaction, then they have not thought out the bloody consequences. If some of the Provisional's leaders imagine that a sectarian civil war would lead to the defeat of British Imperialism and a united Ireland, then they are badly mistaken.

A civil war in Northern Ireland would be a disaster for the working class. It would not lead to hundreds, but, as in Lebanon, to tens

of thousands of casualties, with probably 95 per cent of them civilians or non-combatants. A civil war would only lead to a new partition of Ireland with a three or four county Protestant statelet instead of the present six-county province.

Catholics would be driven out of Belfast and the surrounding areas towards the west and south. Protestants would be driven towards Belfast and the East. Perhaps hundreds of thousands would have to be housed in refugee camps that would provide the breeding ground for further sectarian terrorist groups.

In that situation the labour and trade union movement would be disastrously split and the working class would be pushed back years. These would be the horrifying results of a sectarian civil war. Even without an all-out civil war, pogroms could lead to the reinforcement of sectarian enclaves and greater divisions within the working class.

After eleven years, the Provisionals have shown

themselves completely incapable of victory. They have even shown themselves incapable of protecting Catholic areas from retaliatory murders by Loyalist paramilitaries, or from the brutalities of the British Army. The whole policy, method and orientation of the Provisional IRA and the INLA is a bloody and hopeless dead-end for all workers in Northern Ireland.

The last wave of sectarian murders in 1975 was only stopped because of the revulsion of workers, both Catholic and Protestant, and the marches organised by trades councils leading later to the Peace Marches. Even today, there is still not the mood among the majority of the Northern Ireland population for civil war. Despite the bellicose statements of Paisley, most Protestant workers would be against a civil war, as would the Catholic workers.

But situations can change. The labour movement must intervene without delay. It is more vital than ever before that

the Labour Party and the trade union movement in Britain take up the question of Ireland, from the standpoint of the working class.

Poverty in Northern Ireland is 50 per cent higher than anywhere else in the United Kingdom, precisely because the potential strength of the workers was weakened by sectarianism and the failure of the leadership to raise clear class demands.

The British labour movement must now take serious steps to put into action what was agreed at the Labour Party conference: to sponsor a conference of all trade unions, trades councils and genuine labour organisations with the view to creating a mass party of labour in the north. Only such a party, fighting on the one hand against the sectarian bigotry of the Green and Orange Tories, and fighting, on the other hand against the unemployment, the slums and poverty capitalism, can point a way forward for the mass of the population in Northern Ireland.

## Constituency parties opposed to purge

By 36 votes to 3, Neil Kinnock's CLP Bedwellty passed a motion "calling on the Labour Party NEC to firmly reject any form of witch-hunt against the lefts and in particular against the supporters of Militant who have been singled out for special attention by certain MPs and other leading members of the Party and trade unions."

The motion, which came from the Cardiff branch of ASTMS, has also been sent to Caerphilly CLP, where the MP recently announced that he would no longer stand as a Labour candidate, Cardiff SE, Jim Callaghan's seat, and Cardiff NW.

It was a few months ago, before the new witch-hunting by the right, that Hull East CLP passed a similar motion condemning certain MPs for not attacking the SDP splitters and attacking Militant instead. In

the last few weeks other sections of the labour movement in Humberside have taken up the same theme.

The Hull docks shop stewards committee last week sent a telegram to Walworth Road, urging not only that there should be no witch-hunt, but also demanding that Pat Wall's selection in Bradford North be upheld and that other Constituency Labour Parties should have the right to select a candidate of their own choice.

In the same week, four week-end schools all held in Yorkshire, agreed to send off resolutions against the hounding of Militant supporters. One was the regional LPYS school in Scarborough. The others, all held at Wortley Hall, near Sheffield, were an NUR school, a regional Labour Women's school and one organised by Salford Labour Party.

The original letter to the NEC from the Manifesto

Group, calling for the purge was signed by the Group's treasurer Ken Weetch, MP for Ipswich. But when, at his own GMC on November 11th, he launched into a vicious attack upon the ideas of Militant, trying to justify the letter, the

GMC, and whilst one or two delegates expressed support for clause II of the constitution, they all upheld the right of members to put forward policies for debate.

One trade union delegate pointed out that he thought it "despicable" that the

**At a recent Labour Weekly Forum in Nottingham, Eric Heffer, in answer to a question from the floor, said to the applause of 150 present, 'I will oppose any witch-hunt as long as I am chairman of the organisation sub-committee.'**

delegates were by no means behind him.

The delegates who spoke were unanimous in upbraiding Weetch for using the local press before raising the matter first on the

Manifesto Group should oppose the proper selection of Pat Wall in Bradford North. Altogether, a dozen or more delegates spoke and the message to Ken Weetch was clear—party unity had

suffered because of his attempted witch-hunt, and such actions should not continue.

In Swansea, the GMC passed a motion opening the door to a witch-hunt of Militant, largely through the Executive Committee insisting on its members having to vote 'collectively' on the GMC. But already, since that GMC two weeks ago, sections of the party are expressing their bitter opposition to a purge. Three AUEW branches in the area, two wards, the LPYS branch and the university Labour club have all passed resolutions condemning the GMC. It is likely that many other sections of the local labour movement will also take up the issue.

Having failed at the first hurdle, the right wing of the party are nevertheless still determined to carry through their attacks upon the supporters of Militant, using the press to stampee the full NEC into taking up the question. The threat of having their chosen candidate refused still hangs over the Bradford North Constituency.

Labour's rank and file must continue to oppose these organisational methods of the right wing, and fight for the right of all socialists to put forward their views democratically within the party, and to insist on a Labour Party's right to select its own candidate.

By Militant reporters



# Healey's record

**Militant supported Tony Benn for deputy leader because he represented very closely the views and aspirations of party members. The right wing, on the other hand, supported Healey for precisely the opposite reason—because he is opposed to party conference decisions on so many issues.**

with LP leader Hugh Gaitskell in setting up the Bilderberg Group involving prominent international financiers, big businessmen, academics, and others, with American funds. Healey became its European convenor, with Dick Taverne, now of the SDP, as his deputy.

For ten years Healey was London correspondent of the CIA funded American journal, *The New Leader*, which supported US "cold war" policies. He was also a prominent speaker at conferences and a contributor to journals run by the Congress for Cultural Freedom, also funded by the CIA.

In fact along with other right-wingers Dennis Healey has been associated with a long line of policy proposals and ministerial decisions which have had much more in common with the strategic thinking of the United States State department and the Pentagon than with the views of a great majority of Labour Party members.

In the last Labour government, for instance, Healey was one of a secret "committee of four" which authorised the £1,000 million modernisation of Polaris, completely contrary to Labour Party conference decisions and the 1974 conference manifesto.

As Militant has previously shown in detail (22 February 1980, 25 January 1980, 1st February 1980) this was quite consistent with Dennis Healey's previous record.

Dennis Healey joined the Labour Party with left wing views (he was a member of the CP until 1940), but as head of the Labour Party's international department (1945-51) he moved to a right-wing, extreme "anti-communist" position.

Under Ernest Bevin, Healey worked in the Foreign Office in a campaign (through the secret Information Research Department) funded by the Secret Vote (money voted by Parliament for the secret service) to combat the influence of the Communist Party and the Labour left.

Throughout that period, Healey supported the "cold war" policies of US imperialism, in which an hysterical propaganda war against Stalinism was accompanied by attacks on the genuine ideas of socialism, and even on radical and liberal ideas.

In the post war period Healey helped to rebuild the Socialist International in a form acceptable to Western capitalist leaders and in 1948 was commended by the US state department for his part in splitting the Italian socialist party because of Nenni's refusal to campaign against the Communist Party.

In his "Cards on the Table" (1947) Healey advocated support for US foreign and military policies, and this statement was bitterly criticised at the Labour Party conference in Margate, but adopted by the right wing leadership. With Rita Hindon, editor of "Socialist Commentary", Healey set up a colonial section at Transport House, "to help combat the menace of Communist propaganda among African and other overseas territories".

Elected to Parliament in 1951, Healey advocated support for the US in the Korean war, the build up of NATO and German rearmament. In 1953 he worked

Former CIA officers have recently alleged that Healey took part in "working dinners" organised by the CIA for their British contacts at a London hotel during the 1950s. At these gatherings, the guests, who were all well aware that the hosts were CIA officers, were encouraged to discuss in detail the inner workings of the Labour Party and the trade unions and their colleagues in these organisations. As one CIA man said later, they were "helping us to pick suitable people".

In 1958, Healey helped set up the Institute for Strategic Studies, with US funds through Bilderberg contact Shep Stone, who formerly worked for the OSS (precursor of the CIA).

In 1960 Healey opposed his own constituency's motion on nuclear disarmament at conference, and supported Gaitskell's defiance of conference, and the moves by Gaitskell, Tony Crosland and others to remove from the constitution Clause IV Part 4 which embodies the Party's basic socialist aims.

While Healey was Labour defence minister from 1964 to 1970 Britain's military spending rose to record heights, (£2,500 million a year).

While Healey was aware that the Americans with whom he from time to time held confidential discussions were CIA officers, there is no evidence to show that he knew that many of the US organisations with which he worked were funded by the CIA, rather than from other sources.

But there was never any doubt that those organisations existed primarily to further the interests of US imperialism. In many countries, like Chile, the US through "covert operations" (subsequently exposed by US Congressional enquiries) have intervened to overthrow parliamentary democracy. And is there any doubt that US imperialism is opposed to the fundamental aims and aspirations of the labour movement?

Labour Party members should be made aware of the history and records of all those on the right of the party. The rank and file should vigorously oppose the attempt of the right to hound Militant supporters, every one of whom is a hard working party member, striving to build a mass socialist party. Instead the Party should turn its attention to the right and demand an enquiry into the influence and the contacts made by organisations like the CIA and NATO in the labour movement.



Photo: Denis Doran

The press try to create the impression that Crosby is a middle class constituency. But many workers live in disgraceful slum conditions.

# Crosby is not all middle class

By  
Frances Murphy  
(Crosby LPYS)

If you take a nice stroll down Crosby Marina past the Serpentine you can see the beautifully painted houses. The impression you would get is of a pleasant, comfortably prosperous suburb. But if you go behind the brightly coloured facade you can find real poverty and deprivation even here. The contrast is criminal.

About four hundred yards behind the Marina Mrs Spencer lives in what was Norfolk Street, Waterloo. The houses were so bad the council decided to pull them down. Fine you might think!—but council housing in Crosby is scarce to say the least. The house she is still in is virtually uninhabitable.

The council did offer her a maisonette, but as she said: "How can I accept with six children?" She is only able to use one bedroom in her house as the rest are completely damp; the living room is not fit to live in because of the damp.

What furniture she was able to rescue has had to be put in storage—the rest is completely ruined. She now knows she will have to spend Christmas there. She said to me, "I was going to

paint and decorate for Christmas, but what is the point in this place?" By Christmas she will be the only person left in the street.

At the moment there is an old woman at the end of the next street and a man on his own at the other. They have one street light left on in the whole of the street and the other week she found a man prowling about in her back yard.

The rats are another problem. There is so much debris and rubbish here because of the demolition. People just come down dumping useless mattresses, bikes and furniture so that the rats are uncontrollable. She actually said to John Butcher, the Tory candidate, "You want to come down here and see for yourself." Butcher replied that he had "a home of his own." I bet he has no trouble with rats—he lives in stockbroker-belt Cheshire.

During the recent gales on Merseyside the houses that have not been completely knocked down next door started coming down with tiles, slates and bricks falling onto the street—hardly a place to bring up six children! Mrs Spencer's daughter who is twenty-one could no longer stand the overcrowding and bad conditions so her mother arranged for her to

stay with friends. How long can this situation continue?

What we need is a programme of public works to build council houses. But the Tories on Sefton Council and in Westminster are quite prepared to let working class families "live" in these conditions: 13,000 houses in Sefton need modernising; 6,000 have no proper bathrooms or ventilation.

Do the Social Democrats offer anything different? Shirley Williams says she favours a public scheme for housing. But how is it then that her Liberal allies in Liverpool are busy running down the Direct Works department and putting council work out to private contractors?

The young unemployed of Crosby will be glad to work on housing schemes but provided they get decent wages and proper training so that they did not simply put more building workers on the dole, to join the 11,000 already on Merseyside. Poverty schemes are no answer for Crosby youth. Unemployment among the eighteen to nineteen year-olds has gone up by 70% in the last year. Adult unemployment has gone up by between 25—50%.

The SDP have no policy on jobs. They promise to increase public spending by

£1—2 billion but they recently commented on the cuts in University spending, saying that these cuts were wrong because they were not "allocated rationally" and were made "far too quickly". In other words they are in favour of slow cuts not quick ones!

But even the £1—2 billion pounds promised for investment would not come from big business. The SDP would cut the National Insurance paid by the bosses, while workers would be subject to an incomes policy and "an inflation tax" on those who get "more than the country can afford." In other words if you get a pay rise you will get whacked.

The SDP and the Tories are the real extremists—supporting the extremely rich against the extremely poor! Far from being "unreasonable", what could be more sane than taking the wealth and power out of the hands of the millionaires and putting it to the use of the people of Crosby and the people of Britain as a whole, instead of just a privileged few?

What could be more sane than stopping wasteful expenditure on arms and spending it on education and services? The policies of the SDP must be firmly countered by the Labour Party, but left wing policies locally have to be backed up by clear socialist policies nationally.

## S.D.P.: Reserve party of big business



Owen and Williams with Liberal Pitt. Looking upwards—to the bosses—for their finance.

Alarmed at the possibility that Thatcher's policies will produce a victory for a left-wing Labour government at the next general election, big business has been backing the SDP, hoping to cut across that development. The Social Democrats are expected to get £1 million from industry this year, according to an article in last week's *Observer*.

Sir Leslie Murphy, former head of the National Enterprise Board set up by the last Labour government, is one of the Party's main fund raisers and he explained, "I've had a friendly reaction from a lot of businessmen...and I have been given individual donations by Tory Party supporters and others who will not join the SDP, but are in sympathy with our ideals."

The SDP claims to have key supporters on the boards of NEI, GEC, Unilever, and other companies. The article states, "Industrialists are making the contributions as private citizens in case the Conservatives do win another term in office," but Rowntree has already given public financial support to the SDP through its Trust Fund.

Big business has not dropped its traditional party—the Tory Party—but it is clear that the options are being kept open and the SDP has been created as a 'reserve party' for the bosses. This is further proof, if proof were needed, that the Social Democrats are the same as the Liberals and the Tories. All three represent the interests of the bosses and have nothing to offer workers, despite the facade of 'moderation' that is daily pumped out by the press.

# LABOUR'S YOUTH

## Fighting the Tories

**"If you abolished the monarchy look at all those jobs which would be lost."**

By Simon Thorp  
& Jackie Wakefield  
(Central Hull LPYS)

The horrifying thought of Prince Andrew on a Yops course was the only way the Young Conservatives could defend their worn-out capitalist system in a recent debate with Hull Central LPYS.

The debate centred around the motion 'Capitalism can no longer maintain full employment.' The LPYS speaker, Mark Mason, clearly outlined the policies of the LPYS and 'Militant.'

He called for a 35-hour week, nationalisation under workers' control and management, and for a massive programme of socially useful public works, as an alternative to the only 'jobs' the Tories can offer to youth, the exploitation of the YOP schemes.

What was the Tories' answer? "We all have to suffer until this temporary slump is over," they claimed, "after all, we are all primarily homo-sapiens and must all tighten our belts in order to solve the crisis."

The discussion which followed overwhelmingly supported the LPYS position. However, this was hardly surprising, due to the fact that over 30 LPYS members were present, whereas the young Tories could only muster 2 people, even though they had called for the debate!

The contributions from the floor, from young workers, unemployed, YOPsters and school students clearly indicated that there can be no way out

## ... and their reserves

Several members of Ashby Labour Party attended an SDP 'Public' Meeting. To which 'All were welcome', according to the poster.

However, when some of the local leading lights of the SDP (including a district councillor elected as a Labour candidate) recognised us as Labour members we were asked to leave.

But since the meeting had been advertised publicly we saw no reason to leave and so remained in our seats. After threats to fetch the college principal and even the police had failed to budge us, it was decided to take a vote among the card-carrying SDP members on whether we should be ejected.

With the exception of one member, they all voted to kick us out. At this point, a local vicar who had turned up, like us out of interest to hear what these 'democrats' had to say, decided to walk

out in sympathy!

This was much to the alarm of the SDP, who assured him that the ban only applied to Labour Party members, and that members of the clergy were welcome to stay!

These are the people who claim to represent the democratic traditions of British society. They think they can con workers into voting for them.

But the real attitude of the working class was demonstrated on an LPYS day of action in Ashby shortly after.

We got comments like 'If Thatcher's going to be tough, we've got to be tough too. I support Tony Benn,' 'With Healey, we've got Conservatism in the Labour Party,' and 'The papers and the Tories all call names at Wedgwood Benn, what they mean is he'll be a bastard to them.'

Socialism is the real voice of the future not 'anti-social' so called 'democracy'.

under the capitalist system.

After the meeting, many young people who were attending their first YS meeting signed up for the LPYS.

Despite the Tories' rantings, the meeting showed

that young workers have nothing in common with the policies of these supporters of Thatcher's blitz, 'homo sapiens' or otherwise!

By Jackie Galbraith

## Educating their members

**A very successful weekend school was held recently by the Scottish Labour Party Young Socialists with over 180 people attending.**

The main debate was on the economy with Anne Beales (Chairman, London LPYS) and Michael Connarty (Labour Co-ordinating Committee) speaking. Overwhelming support was given to Ann who spoke on Militant's policies.

One new member commented that it was only through such clear policies that socialism could be achieved. Anne Beales had shown him the way forward (and many others).

In the afternoon after a showing of "The War

Game", Frances Curran (Scottish YS Regional Committee) spoke on how to avoid a nuclear war. She put forward a socialist alternative to nuclear annihilation, and her class analysis was enthusiastically greeted by most of those attending.

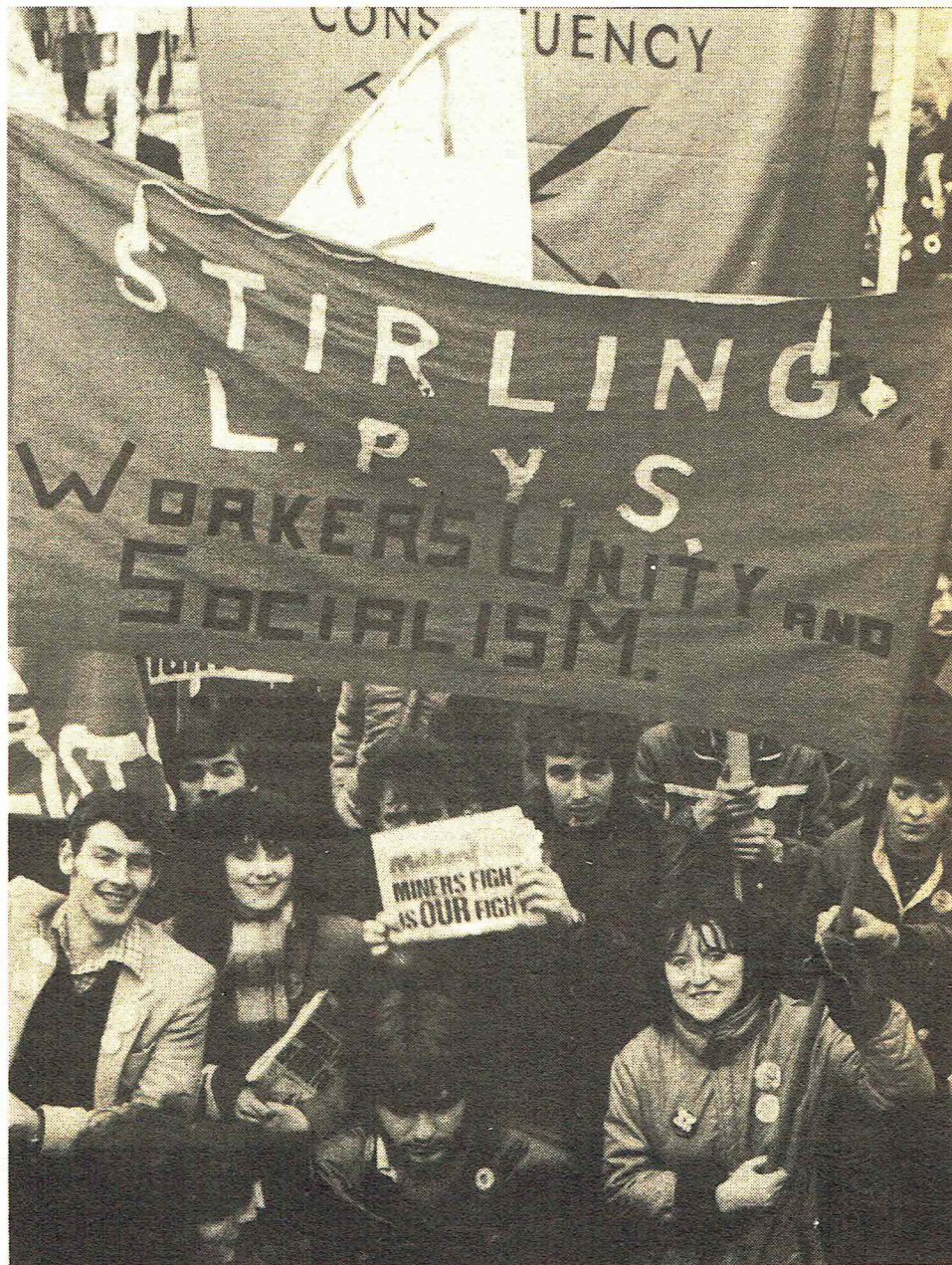
On the Sunday morning, three well-attended seminars were held on "Will America go socialist?", "Unemployed workers' struggles of 1930s" and "Workers' struggle in South Africa".

In the afternoon, the final session of "The life and times of James Connolly" was held with Benny Adams from Ballymena YS speaking. A full and lively discussion followed on a socialist plan to counter repression and sectarianism in Ireland and the need for a party of labour.

The response to this discussion was so constructive that over £100 was raised for the Irish Young Socialists.

Throughout the weekend, a tremendous thirst for the ideas of socialism was apparent, and 180 people left the school eager to learn and put socialist ideas into practice.

**Denny Labour Party Young Socialists Demonstration against unemployment. Saturday 21st November. Assemble 11.00am Denny Town House. Rally in Denny Community Centre 12pm. Speakers: Denis Canavan MP, Ron Curran NUPE, Frances Curran LPYS.**



Scottish LPYS members on the Glasgow demo against unemployment this February. Now they're fighting in Denny to stop that area becoming another ghost town.

Photo: Militant.

## Fighting unemployment

**If UB40 recorded a hit single about Denny in Stirlingshire, they wouldn't sing "one in ten", it would be "one in three"!**

Unemployment in Denny has risen by 108% in the past twelve months to bring the local unemployment level to over 30%.

The Manpower Services Commission are so embarrassed by the exact figure, they will not release the broken-down figures for each area.

Denny grew from three main industries, foundries, coal-mining and paper mills. With their decline over the past twenty years, the old Labour council in Denny, in line with the Labour governments regional development programme, attempted to attract new industry to the area.

This programme provided pre-built factories, rent-free, massive subsidies for machinery and a massive proportion of the wage bill.

With these grants available, a new textile industry was set up—companies like Havelock's, Clares Carlton and Colliers, moved in. But after the statutory time for subsidies

**Gordon Wilson  
STUC YAC.  
Frank Andrew  
Denny LPYS**

ran out they packed up and left, taking the plant and machinery with them.

The only companies that were attracted were those there for a "fast buck". In and out was their policy. With the steady decline of the existing industries, this made an already bad situation worse.

After the closure of the pit, the iron-making and paper-making industries struggled along, finding it harder to compete in markets because of lack of investment. There is now only one paper mill working (there used to be four), and one small foundry, when there once were literally dozens.

But it is not just the unemployed who suffer. The threat of redundancy is hanging over every worker's head. Factories like Alexander's coachworks in Falkirk, Carrongrove Mill in Denny, Burroughs in Cumbernauld—all face closure or massive redundancies in the next few months.

But of course things aren't as bad as it seems, there is one growth industry in Denny—civil servants who work in dole offices are working over-time, trying to cope with the massive back-log of claimants.

So what is the future for the people of Denny? Very little, it seems. There are no new industries moving into the area, no facilities for the unemployed, nothing for school leavers.

The present system offers nothing at all to places like Denny. The only people who can offer an alternative are the labour and trade union movement through socialist policies. Socialism is not something for the dim and distant future but a burning necessity now.

Denny LPYS initiated a campaign for a demonstration against unemployment and received tremendous response and support from the labour movement.

This demonstration will not create one new job, but is the start of a campaign in this area against mass unemployment, which is endemic to the capitalist system.

If we are not successful in our fight, then we'll be singing another song, not "One in ten" but the Special's "This town is becoming like a ghost town"—that will be Denny.

# GETTING ORGANISED

## No to cheap labour schemes!

We think YOPs are a pure rip-off. For the bosses, it's free labour at taxpayers' expense. But for us it's cheap labour with a poverty allowance.

We are sick to the teeth with being used as cheap fodder for the bosses to enhance their profits. We don't want to be used to take away permanent jobs or just to keep unemployment figures from bursting through the three or four million mark.

What we want are real jobs, training and union rates of pay. That's why we are getting organised so that YOPs workers and trade unionists alike can fight for these aims.

In our area (Renfrew and Paisley sub region) we have set up a youth section of the Transport and General Workers Union, which includes all the YOPs recruited to the union, young unemployed people and young industrial workers.

We have a youth committee to co-ordinate the YOPs campaign on local issues such as free travel, better conditions etc. We are also fighting for national policies such as trade union rates and the expansion of

Report by the  
Renfrew and Paisley  
T&GWU Youth  
Section 7/94

YOPs programmes into a scheme of useful public works.

It is also responsible for recruiting young people into the TGWU then into the LPYS, and it's made up of YOP workers and unemployed in the LPYS with a rep on the district committee of the T&G.

We are sending ten delegates to the Liverpool conference, but so many now want to go, our final total will probably be a lot higher. The T&G District Committee have set up a central fund to finance our campaign. All branches in the area contribute to it, and the fund stands at £400 at present!

All local papers have been told of our activities, and the TGWU paper *Record* printed an article on the Renfrewshire youth section this month with further articles coming up as our campaign progresses.

We want to spread the campaign throughout West Scotland so, after a meeting between the regional

TGWU and LPYS members from throughout Strathclyde we are now launching the campaign on a regional basis. There is also proposed a meeting of NUPE, TGWU, GMWU and LPYS members to integrate the work and co-ordinate a one-day strike of YOPsters.

These gains within the union are a tremendous advance for the local LPYS and working class youth. We, as young people, want a say in running our lives. We're sick and tired of being trodden into the ground by the bosses' system.

We are the future generation and we want a future—one of full employment and decent living standards for all workers. We want socialism.

We are not prepared to suffer a life of misery on slave labour schemes. The capitalist system threatens us with the scrapheap—but the scrapheap is where the bosses belong not us!

We want to change this system that offers us nothing—and we're going to do it, with the organised might of the labour movement.

The industrial muscle and unity of the working class organised through the unions and the Labour Party is strong enough to transform society. When we've taken into our own hands the means of production under democratic workers' control and management, our generation will have a future. That's what we're fighting for.

## Filthy conditions, lousy pay

Twenty-eight YOP workers doing restoration work on Rochdale Canal are working in atrocious conditions. There is one tub of water for brewing up, and there are no washing, toilet or eating facilities.

The Rochdale Canal is therefore used for both toilet and washing facilities, and the YOPs workers use spit and a handkerchief to clean their cups. They are expected to eat their dinners without being able to wash their hands anywhere but in the canal itself.

They are all glad of the work, but both the YOPsters and their super-

visors think the money is rubbish. One trainee told us that the only reason he worked there was because, "When—or rather if—I go for a job, I can say I was never late and I had a good record. I don't mind working here—it's just the weather and the money."

After paying £5 bus fares, and about 50p each day for dinner, he was left with about £4. Another told us that after paying his rent, bus fares and a ticket for Old Trafford, he could not even afford to go to the chip shop.

Until I saw their conditions of work—up to their knees in mud and water in

the pouring rain—I would never have believed that YOPs trainees would be allowed to undergo such things for the pittance they get.

They were all recruited to the union, and Jim Callaghan (the MP for Middleton and Prestwich, not the ex-prime minister) who invited us down there, has denounced it as "slave labour" in the local press and is going to take the matter up with the government. A number of YOPsters are interested in joining the LPYS.

By Terry Malpas  
(Secretary, Middleton LPYS)



PAY US A LIVING WAGE!

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR...

- ★ A GUARANTEED JOB FOR ALL TRAINEES!
- ★ FULL TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND RATES OF PAY ON YOPS!
- ★ REPLACE YOPS WITH A MASSIVE SCHEME OF USEFUL PUBLIC WORKS!
- ★ FREE TRAVEL TO WORK FOR YOPS!

JOIN A UNION—NOW!

## Paid peanuts—and taxed on it

By Jeanette Thomas

How about this for meanness? At work we're considering taking on a WEEP (Work Experience on Employers' Premises) trainee and yesterday I was asked as Staff Rep, if I had any objection to that person not receiving luncheon vouchers (we get the princely sum of 50p a day).

When I asked why, they said that apparently if these kids get 1p more than their £23.50 it is picked up by the tax people and they are taxed on it—this even applies to subsidised meals in works' canteens!

So—what to do; say no and deny them a chance to do something for six months (the unions are carefully looking at the programme and will keep an eye on what the trainee actually does) or say yes and accept the fact that he or she is not getting treated like the rest of us?

This has really brought home to us the fact that these schemes—YOPs, WEEP, STEP etc—are really exploitative. They are being used to lower their expectations and get them used to low wages so that if they ever are lucky enough to get a proper job they won't expect high wages and good working conditions—like us 'greedy' trade unionists.

All trade unionists must be made aware of these appalling facts and fight for proper training programmes under trade union control with decent wages and conditions.

## No to oppression!

After YOPs comes YOB, the Youth Oppression Board! A group of YOPs trainees in North London have set up this group to fight for a decent wage and decent conditions for YOPsters.

They have taken a great initiative in organising a lobby of the Manpower Services Commission in London on Monday 23 November which the LPYS will be fully supporting, and a benefit to cover expenses.

Members of the Labour Party Young Socialists went along to one of these meetings and pointed out the advantages of fighting from within the trade union movement. There was an eager response to the conference in Liverpool on 21 November. Several of the trainees immediately said they wanted to go.

The setting up of YOB shows that young people are not prepared to accept poverty wages and appalling conditions but are ready for a fight.

One YOPster we had



While vital social services for the old are cut, YOPsters are used as a cheap labour substitute  
Photo: D Doran

spoken to the day before in Newham commented "They're training us to be scrubbers!" She had told us how her first YOPs "job" had been scraping bubblegum from a floor! The other girls on the scheme agreed with her that their £23.50 allowance was a right con.

They'd even been told to bring in their own gloves when they were given weeding work, and they were working in the gardens in their everyday clothes. They were amazed when we told them they were allowed up to £40 for overalls. Needless to say they signed up the TGWU forms we gave them.

Down came the usual office decorations and went the YOPs Trainees Union Rights Campaign posters. We got a good response here too to the Liverpool conference.

While scandalous exploitation such as these young workers have been experiencing goes on, we'll get a response to the campaign. We'll fight along with groups like YOB for a fair deal for youth, to build for the Liverpool conference and the London lobby and to help YOPs get organised.

By Mark Avis  
(Barking LPYS)



### New technology for tenants...

The ruling class are not shy of using the latest technology in the class struggle. CS gas against street disturbances and helicopters to smash occupations are accepted by the bosses now as normal. But technology in the cause of the working class? Shock and horror throughout the media.

Councillors at Droitwich, Worcestershire, are irate at the alleged use of citizen's band radio by council tenants to warn each other of the proximity of rent collectors, called 'Yogi Bear' by the CB fans. The council are so worried about the spread of the idea they are thinking of issuing rent men with radios to intercept warnings.

Is it too much to hope that Labour leaders might use a bit of older technology and start a campaign of meetings throughout the country against the attacks on local authorities?

### 'Have a care for the Eighties'...

That's the call from Lord Denning in an advert for the 'Methodist Homes for the Aged'. In old age it is of course essential that people have the warmth of their family, friends or sympathetic organisations around them.

But how are old people going to be able to see their friends if Lord Denning has his way? His ruling last week against the Greater London Council's manifesto commitment to cut London Transport fares, would create havoc with the capital's transport.

We must hope that Lord Denning now throws himself full-time into work for old people or that the 82-year old judge retires to the bosom of his family, where he can find true appreciation of his worth.

### Parasite Street...

Homeless and fancy a holiday? Then Geneva's got just the place for you. Crown Prince Fahd, head of Saudi Arabia's government, is building a modest little palace there for £12 million. It's not quite finished yet, so wait until next year before applying for vacancies.

So far it's only got a marble balustrade of 1,200 pillars topping the flat roof and its twenty-seven rooms include halls with floors and walls of multi-coloured marble and gilded ceilings. The two-storey palace stands in four acres of ground overlooking Lake Geneva. Each of its massive windows have one inch thick bullet-proof glass.

This palace, nicknamed 'Little Versailles', is of course only one of the many foreign homes owned by the parasitic feudal rulers of Saudi Arabia. Near Fahd's palace is a villa belonging to his brother, King Khaled. And according to the Telegraph, 14 November, Khaled "comes to stay (there) at least once a year for a rest and medical check-up." Must be a tough life moving from palace to palace.

### Cutbacks for disabled...

It is the International Year of the Disabled. But a leading expert on educational technology recently described the government's policy on computers for the disabled as "heartless". The Department of Education and Science (DES) is just getting round to implementing its scheme to encourage schools to use computers—on which it is spending £9 million over four years.

This is little enough, but the DES has earmarked only £500,000 to help put computers into special schools—when computers can transform the lives of handicapped children.

But what can be done with £½ million? "We are going to highlight a lot of problems" says one of the staff at the Centre for Educational Technology, "but solve few of them!" Already under the Tories government spending on aids and adaptations for the disabled has fallen by 7% (1979-80).

# ONLY BANKS PROFIT FROM TRANSPORT SALE

By an NFC  
employee

The Tories' denationalisation plans will provide rich pickings for their friends. Shares will be sold at bargain prices as the nation's resources and assets are sold off to a handful of private speculators and multi-nationals. But in one case the Tories are trying another trick.

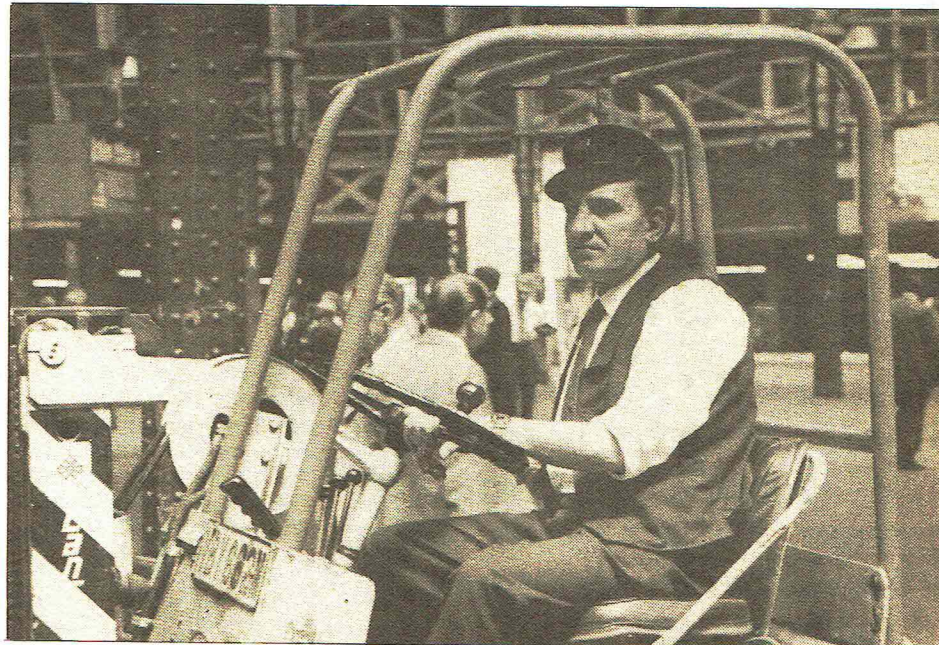
Workers in the National Freight Corporation are being offered shares in their own company. Trade unionists must point out the dangers of the plan, and campaign against it. Instead of capitalist control they must fight for real workers' control and management under public ownership.

The Tories' plan is to sell the company for £53.5m. The banks would control most of this, taking £48m. To cover deficits in the pension funds £4.5m would be sold to NFC's 27,000 employees. Although they would have majority shareholding, real power would still lie with the banks. NFC would owe the banks £48m with the company's property as security.

This denationalisation is one of a series by the Tory government, including the sale of Seaspeed Hovercraft to Hoverlloyd, a company which has refused to recognise trade unions. Only the threat of industrial action has temporarily stalled the plans for the sale of gas showrooms.

Management attempts to present this deal as workers' participation are completely phoney. The National Freight Corporation was converted into a private company on 1 October 1981.

The bankers led by Barclays Bank, cannot lose. They are assured of 15% interest on £48 million, ie £7.2 million a year (ignoring repayment of the loan and fluctuations in interest



Leaders from the NUR and TSSA rail unions claim that there is no alternative to the Tory's plan to sell off the National Freight Corporation.

rates).

The last figures saw the company lose £947,000 in the first nine months of 1980. Workers hoping to get wages supplemented by dividends are likely to be disappointed.

In any case, profits for the bankers and shareholders can only come at the expense of workers in the industry.

Between July and September alone, about a thousand jobs were lost on NFC. Redundancies have come through the ending of BR's door-to-door parcels service (for which National Carriers provided the road aspect), the rationalisation of Roadline parcels service and the merger of Roadline and National Carriers services in Scotland.

The largest trade union concerned, the T&GWU, has opposed the scheme, but the NUR, the Transport Salaried Staffs Association and the United Road Transport Union have supported it.

The NUR and TSSA claim 'there is no alternative'; that the workers would be better off if the company was sold off to an outside buyer.

Both these unions used to support the policy of reat-

ionalisation without compensation, following the sale of Thomas Cooks by the Heath government.

At this year's Labour conference the policy was voted down, NUR and TSSA trade union leaders having reversed their position. This attitude is threatening the future of Sealink, another company on the government's hit list.

At staff briefings we have been told that there would be no discrimination against workers not buying shares. It would be confidential and that no applications would be received until the prospectus was issued. Yet management have already put forward their money, and the 'Guardian' has stated that 60% of all NFC employees had "shown interest".

Management staff appear to have been under most pressure. TSSA should investigate whether their members' jobs and promotion prospects have been made conditional on their buying shares.

The attitude of most NFC workers is probably that they can't afford the money (especially with only a 5% pay increase this year). Even with the company's interest-

free loan scheme, it still means £200 out of their pay packets.

The danger though is that NFC workers will be divided into three camps: those looking forward to redundancy cheques, "shareholders" who may see wage restraint as a prospect of getting a dividend, and union members who will fight for jobs and decent wages.

The NFC bosses are conscious of the value of the scheme in preventing renationalisation. "No previous Labour or any other government in the UK has ever nationalised or renationalised a business without compensation.

"You must consider whether a future government of any political persuasion is likely to do so. You should also consider whether this is made more or less likely if most of the shares are held by employees or pensioners." (Progress Report no. 2)

NFC denationalisation is a great opportunity—for Barclays Banks. For NFC workers it is robbery and blackmail.

## Want a life of luxury?

By Margaret Reavey

(Gateshead East CLP)

Feeling a bit depressed? Need a break? Fancy being pampered for two or three weeks in the countryside? Well, how about a holiday in Buckinghamshire?

You'll have your own living-room, your own kitchen, your own tiled bathroom with shower and your own bedroom equipped with a full-sized bed, above which is a picture of Prince Charles and Princess Diana to greet you each morning. For breakfast you'll be served, depending on personal preference, either tea

or coffee, followed by crispy bacon, sausages and eggs.

At noon you'll only get a little snack, but even that will be rather special: biscuits ordered from Harrods or a nutritious meat dish, full of vitamins imported from West Germany.

Your main meal of the day is served between three and four, steak at least three times a week [every day if you are prepared to pay

extra] or there's fish, roast beef and chicken, all served with plenty of fresh [of course!] vegetables and dessert of apples, bananas and grapes. To help it all go down there's the best champagne—or maybe you would prefer a drop of creme de menthe [both served in gold-rimmed crystal glasses, naturally].

The members of staff are on hand 24 hours a day to ensure your every need is catered for. They will take you walking through the beautiful Bucks countryside and even sleep in your room should a storm break-out and the thunder frighten you. All this for only £12 per day! [excluding champers,

extra steaks etc.]

But before you start splashing out with your redundancy money or blowing this week's dole, I must warn you that Mr Burton, the proprietor of this exclusive establishment, states "we don't deal with ordinary working people. Our clients go skiing in January and February, to the south of France in May and June, to the States, maybe, in July and August and back to the south of France in September. Christmas is cruise time."

It is whilst these 'clients' are abroad, that Mr Burton provides the exclusive facilities I have mentioned—for their Dogs!



## Higher Education under attack

# Tories turn back the clock twenty years

This Wednesday's mass lobby of parliament by thousands of university workers will have registered the opposition of teaching staff, technicians, porters, administrators, students and librarians to Thatcher's attempt to turn the clock back twenty years.

In 1963 the Robbins Report on Higher Education established the principle that "courses of higher education should be available to all those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so." New universities were established and older ones expanded.

Inequalities were not removed, as children of middle class parents still had a much greater chance of going to universities than those from working class homes, but the expansion of higher education was a step in the right direction. It is this step that the Tories now aim to reverse.

On the grounds of "economy", a cut of around 20% is being made in the grants paid to universities in the next two years. (Apart from a very few, such as Oxford and Cambridge, the government grant is the major source of

By Geoff Jones  
(Sussex University)

income for universities.)

This will mean a cut of about 20% in manpower and a cut in the number of students accepted. Of course the children of the rich and the academic elite will still be educated, but the excess of demand over supply will mean that entrance requirements will be pushed up and students quite capable of gaining a good degree will be excluded.

The proportion of young people receiving higher education is already lower in Britain than in many countries. The amount of money required to keep a student is little different from that paid to young people on the dole or on YOPS.

What alternative is there? SDP leader Shirley Williams, when Labour Minister of Education, instituted the racist and discriminatory surcharge in fees for overseas students which have been extended



Student demonstrations against cuts (above) must be linked to those of workers at colleges fighting redundancies

by the Tories.

At the same time, Neil Kinnock, shadow minister for education, has remarked that the universities cannot expect to be "pampered", and must be more responsive to the "needs of the community".

Most workers in universities would agree, but given comrade Kinnock's other comments on the impossibility of restoring Thatcher's education cuts, his comments seem to be merely a coded way of saying that cuts would also be made under a Labour government.

This is not good enough. If the crisis of the system means that, rather than be educated, young people will have to rot on the dole, then so much the worse for the system!

Teachers are available, buildings and resources are available, students are available. Higher and further education should be expanded, not contracted. And that expansion should be in the interests of, and controlled by the working people, not the elite who consider their right to run the education system to be god-given.

## UNITED WORKERS' ACTION NEEDED

It may surprise many to know that apart from students and academic staff, there are thousands of workers in universities—cleaners, porters, catering staff, boilermen and so on—and it is these workers that will be hardest hit by cuts in higher education.

At Sheffield, the TGWU branch has between 900 and 1,000 members over half of which are part time cleaners, who do an essential job—essential both to the university and to their families. In many cases, because of redundancies in steel and engineering industries, they are the main breadwinners.

Shift porters, like myself, work a 3-shift system including weekends and a

seven-day week on some shifts. All this for a pittance. Cleaners earn between £1.50 and £1.60 an hour, porters' take-home pay is between £50 and £60 a week!

At a lay delegate TGWU conference in October, the following resolution was passed: "This conference calls upon all members in universities to resist all cuts and redundancies by all means within their power in order to maintain jobs and terms and conditions."

We are in a position of defending a low paid, foot-slogging job because of Tory monetarist measures.

The University Grants Council are recommending a 7% reduction in Sheffield's budget—which means non-replacement of staff, early retirement and voluntary redundancy at the very least. Early retirement would be okay if it meant a

decent pension but it often means poverty.

In previous years, cleaners have had their part time hours reduced with a subsequent increase in work load. In some halls of residence there have been attacks on night porters—but no increase in night staff.

All manual workers will be affected by these cuts. We need a united front with all other campus unions to resist these cuts and prevent the Tories making universities even more elitist for the sons and daughters of the rich and places of low pay, long hours and fewer jobs for the working class.

By Alan Anderton  
(TGWU steward, 9/212 branch Sheffield, personal capacity)

## Closures and cuts can be stopped

All colleges have been subject to cuts in staffing in terms of frozen posts.

Some of the hardest hit have announced compulsory redundancies—150 at Brunel University, 150 at City University and 210 at Chelsea College in London, by the end of the year. The medical schools and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have faced redundancies. Staff at Westfield College have been asked to take two weeks' unpaid leave a year.

Chelsea College is scheduled for complete closure (4,000 students). Other colleges face merger and rationalisation.

The policy of NALGO, the union representing clerical and administrative staff in the universities, decided at the university group meeting at NALGO conference is for no cover for frozen posts, no early retirement, no compulsory redeployment, no voluntary redundancies and for industrial action to fight com-

pulsory redundancies.

This has been endorsed by many branches, but it is essential for branch officers to campaign to secure support from the whole membership. In London a committee has been set up to co-ordinate the campaign against the cuts. Links with other universities on the campuses are essential, so are links between NALGO branches to ensure that maximum support is given to those members facing the worst cutbacks.

Workers in the universities must be wary of appeals for 'flexibility'. The only way that we will save jobs and services in the public sector is by showing a determination to fight. At Aston University 200 compulsory redundancies have been withdrawn, as a result of a campaign by the unions.

By Barbara Humphries  
(NALGO LSE branch)

## WHO REALLY RUNS A UNIVERSITY?

On the surface Sussex is one of the more democratic of British universities. The reality of power tells a different story. Three key elitist bodies take the important decisions.

**SENATE** The Senate is the overall academic body. All Professors are members ex-officio, but, unlike many other colleges, there is also an equal number of elected, non-professional academics. Trade unions and the Students' Union also have representation. Of course, this makes the Senate a huge, unwieldy body and most decisions are made by smaller groups acting in private. Furthermore, there are no standing orders and no rules of debate, which means that in many cases Senate is not an efficient decision making body.

**COUNCIL** Above Senate, this is the final decision-making body. This consists of the officers of the university appointed by the Court (see below). These include the Treasurer—the Earl of March and Kinrara (Eton and the Rifle Brigade), Sir John Barnes (Winchester and Trinity), Dr J Trafford (Charterhouse and Guys). The remainder are

a dozen or so nominees of the local Councils (of whom three are Labour councillors), a dozen or so local notables appointed by the Court and (for democracy's sake) seven members of the Senate. This is the body that has the final say over the university.

**COURT** This has the job of appointing the Vice Chancellor and other officers of the University and the dozen or so notables mentioned above. Who are they? They include such worthies as the Lord Lieutenant of Sussex, the High Sheriff of Sussex, the Bishop of Chichester, the Astronomer Royal, persons nominated by (for example) the Hebdominal Council of the University of Oxford, the Bishop of Chichester (again), the Roman Catholic Bishop of Southwark, the President of the Baptist Union, the Chief Rabbi, large numbers of nominees of the local Councils and, well below the salt, "one representative of such Chambers of Commerce, Trades and Labour Councils, Trade Unions, Societies, Clubs, Associations and other similar organisations in the County of Sussex, up to a maximum of twelve."

# The Marxist Tradition

## THE FOUNDATION OF THE LABOUR PARTY

By Dave Cotterill

The right wing of the Labour Party today try to give the impression that Marxism is some kind of sinister creed, alien to the British labour movement. But in fact Marxism has always played an important role in the Labour Party, not least in the actual foundation of the Party.

And just as Marxism is growing today because of the experiences of workers so also it was the workers' experiences a century ago that led to the formation of the Labour Party.

In the 1860s independent candidates had stood as workers' representatives but the majority of these had not envisaged an independent Labour Party. Most of them accepted the Liberals as their natural allies and Gladstone as their natural leader.

The mass of workers still had illusions in the Liberals who represented the party of industry and free trade as against the Tories who represented the landed aristocracy and high finance. Only when these illusions were broken by their experiences in the last quarter of the nineteenth century did workers begin to see their own political interests as separate and apart from those of the capitalist class.

### New Trade Unions created in struggle

The Liberals were out of office from 1874 to 1880 and their opposition to the Tories reinforced the illusions that workers had in them. There was in addition to this a long trade depression in the 1870s which weakened the position of the trade unions so that even by 1889 total membership was roughly the same as in 1874.

Paradoxically, it was later, in the period of comparative prosperity and development of industry which saw the greatest advances for the workers. Such periods of growth were interspersed with periods of recession and unemployment and it was these changes which occasioned a change in the psychology of the organised workers.

For many workers the sharp and sudden shift in living standards and employment prospects had the effect of shaking up their old beliefs and outlook. The rise in unemployment from 1884 to 1887 was followed by comparative prosperity from 1888 to 1891, when the workers saw the opportuni-

ty to regain what had been lost earlier in terms of wages and conditions.

In the course of these struggles the workers learnt many lessons and it was in this period that the new trade unions arose. The gas workers' victory in 1889, for example, was particularly important in encouraging other non-skilled workers to try to organise themselves. Similarly the Miners' Federation, founded in 1888, fought for the rights and conditions of miners and grew in four years from 36,000 to 200,000.

Those new trade unions that were based on unskilled workers were particularly radical. They were formed on the basis of struggle and were not encumbered by the old traditions, habits and leaders.

And despite the leadership of the older skilled unions the process of change was taking place below the surface there also as they experienced a big numerical growth.

The changes taking place in the strength and composition of the trade unions inevitably had a reflection in the political sphere. The leaders of the old trade unions still looked towards the Liberals. Even the miners voted Liberal and the cotton workers still voted for the Tory Party.

The backwardness and stubbornness of the leaders of the TUC prevented them from recognising any change in the situation and in 1886 when they agreed to form a Labour Electoral Committee it was only a means of increasing working-class representation within the Liberal Party.

### Marxist influence in new unions

But the leaders of the new unions were of a much more radical breed. Many of them had been educated in the ideas of Marxism through the school of the Social Democratic Federation (SDF) and the Independent Labour Party (ILP). It was these leaders who created the foundations for a real party of Labour.



The Miners Federation, founded in 1888, grew from 36,000 to 200,000 in four years. These miners at Pilsley in Derbyshire struck in 1891 until every man had joined the union.

The turn of the century saw a new crisis for British capitalism. The threat of American competition linked with continuing economic crisis increased the fears of the ruling class of the developing strength of the workers' organisations. Increasingly the capitalists began to band together to try to smash the trade unions. In 1897 the engineers suffered a six month lock out.

The capitalist class began to turn towards the state, demanding that labour legislation be introduced to curb the power of the unions. The experience of anti-union legislation and the Taff Vale Judgement shattered the illusions many workers had in the Liberals and gave a boost to the Labour Representation Committee set up by the TUC.

The workers had learnt through their experiences. Mounting unemployment had brought forward the demand for an 8-hour working day, and the use of legislation against the unions brought home the need for political representation for workers.

The leaders of the Liberal Party were entirely opposed to the idea of increasing representation of workers within its ranks. So, despite the opposition of the trade union leaders the pressure from below forced a change in their approach to Parliamentary representation.

The socialist pioneers had for a long time expressed the need for a party of labour, but in a theoretical manner: they had drawn

that conclusion far in advance of the mass of workers. Engels' advice to the early Socialist League had been to build an independent Labour Party which would become

### Independent Labour Party founded in 1893

socialist, a party which would not be hostile to Parliamentary methods and would act as a pole of attraction to the new trade unions.

This was clear at the formation conference in 1893 of the Independent Labour Party whose primary object was to get the support of the TUC to build a Parliamentary Party which would have the object "to secure the collective ownership of production, distribution and exchange". Linked to this were a series of economic demands which could mobilise support amongst the workers.

The majority of the leaders of the new trade unions and the newly emerging Independent Labour Party had been schooled in the ideas of Marxism. Will Thorne of the Gasworkers' Union was actually taught to read and write by Karl Marx's daughter. The Social Democratic Federation adopted a sectarian position on many issues, demanding for example, socialist ob-

jects in the constitution of the ILP before they would participate.

But nevertheless at a local level there was a great deal of co-operation between ILP and SDF members. Their members were responsible for the decision to form the Labour Representation Committee.

Particularly significant was the fact that before the TUC took the decision to form the LRC it had been formed on a local basis in Liverpool, and in Scotland the movement towards an independent party based on trade unions was far in advance of what the national leaders desired.

But the fact that the TUC formally adopted the LRC gave the idea tremendous strength because of the authority and status of the national leadership. The Labour Party was therefore created largely under the pressure of supporters of Marx and Engels—and the inclusion in 1918 of Clause IV part 4 into the party programme realised this on a permanent basis.

The significance of the Marxist influence and Clause IV has been played down by the right wing. Many of their histories of the Labour Party now try to attribute a major role to the Fabians but a cursory glance at the facts is sufficient to dispel this myth.

The Fabians were originally in favour of permeating the Liberal Party. They hoped either to win influential positions personally or to influence policy by the persuasion of a few top people. They had no confidence whatsoever

in the capacity of the working class movement.

It was only with the appearance of the ILP that the Fabians moved in the direction of the labour movement, but still the formation of the LRC was ignored by the Fabians. When it became clear that the idea of an independent party of labour was to become a significant force these liberal philanthropists began to permeate the labour movement with their ideas of Fabianism and "municipal socialism".

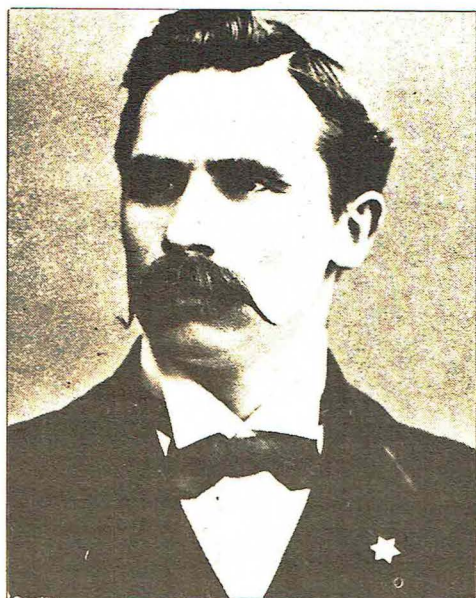
Their approach and their inbuilt contempt for the working class is obvious in the ideas which Sidney Webb expressed. "To bring about the maximum amount of public control in public administration do we want to organise the unthinking persons into socialistic societies or make thinking people socialistic? We believe in the latter process."

### Ramsay MacDonald and Ex-Liberals

Elements of the ruling class also began to appreciate the danger that this new movement represented to capitalism. They saw the need to infiltrate the movement to water down its ideas and bring it under their own "responsible" control. It is not accidental that many ex-Liberals like



# OUR PARTY



Will Thorne and Tom Mann were both members of the Marxist Social Democratic Federation. Many other leaders of the new unions were also SDF members.

Ramsay MacDonald came over to the newly emerging party. These lessons from the foundation of the Labour Party are now more than ever relevant to current struggles and debates. It is an irony that the very people who have recently quit the Labour Party have adopted the name of the pioneers who struggled to create an organisation based on Marxist principles.

The Social Democratic Federation chose its name to show that they were in favour of democracy but that this could only be achieved in its fullest sense by the socialist transformation of society. "Social" democracy was needed as much as "political" democracy. The leaders of the new SDP are clearly unaware of this part of the labour movement's history!

## Post War Boom

The process of change that is taking place in the labour movement today has its roots in the decades which have followed the second world war. The prosperity brought about by the post war boom led to an enormous numerical strengthening of the working class and the trade unions.

At the same time the temporary ability of the capitalist system to grant reforms led to a strengthening of Liberal and pro-capitalist ideas in the Labour Party. But the onset of economic crisis in the last decade has again forced workers into struggle.

A new layer of activists has arisen: many of them young and much more radical than their predecessors. The trade unions have developed in new areas especially amongst white collar workers.

Many of these, like the new trade unions in the 1890s, are not bound by tradition; their structures are often much more flexible than the older industrial

unions allowing for the pressure of the rank and file to be more easily reflected at the top.

The growing crisis of capitalism has forced big business into open confrontation with the workers and once again the proposed use of labour legislation is a significant feature.

The fight to defend living standards and jobs through trade union struggle has its limitations but the crucial difference today is that the workers have a political party to represent their interests—a party which they can turn to and put into office.

In the post war period Labour has been in office for a total of 17 years. But the experience of these years is that these Labour governments have bent the knee to big business and the conclusion which has been drawn is that the PLP has to be accountable to the party and has to carry out party policy.

The strength of the early labour movement lay in linking the industrial issues to the need for political change. The fight against unemployment, the demand for an 8-hour day, opposition to labour legislation, all forced political conclusions and the Labour Party drew its strength from these issues.

Similarly, in the present period the need is to provide a link between the industrial struggles and the need for the socialist transformation of society. Under modern conditions this means a programme to end unemployment, to cut the working week to 35

## Crisis of capitalism

hours, to pay a minimum wage of £85, for a programme of useful public works and the nationalisation of the commanding heights of the economy.

Just as it was the experience of decades of struggle at the turn of the

century that eventually forced the Labour Party to adopt a socialist constitution of 1918, (with the added influence of the Russian Revolution) so today workers will be forced through the crisis of capitalism and the struggle

## Labour will move to transform society

over wages, jobs and conditions to return to socialist ideas.

Marxism had a major contribution to the building of the Labour Party. It is the Marxists in the Labour Party today who have explained the need to transform society. The workers through experience will be drawn to the same conclusions, and once the mass movement is wedded to this ideal it will become an unstoppable force.

The ruling class at the turn of the century scorned the emerging and infant Labour Party. The trade union leaders who remained loyal to the Liberals predicted it would get nowhere. The ideas of socialism were distorted and attacked by the press. But still the movement grew. The parallel with today is obvious—all of the right wing of the party hanker after the deserters, the press proclaim that "no one would support a left Labour Party", and the ideas of Marxism come in for vicious and constant attack.

Within the movement the right wing leaders are isolated, trying to defend out-dated concepts. They are opposed to the left-ward development of the Labour Party. Yet the pressure from below will inevitably force through change.

The experience of the last two and three decades are now finding their reflection in the Party. The working class is forming an instrument which will represent its class interests and its desire to change society.

# Capitalism poisons the air you breathe

In Britain, over 50,000 tons of lead are discharged into the atmosphere each year—10,000 tons in London alone. The effects of urban lead poisoning are well documented but oil companies and other interests who profit from the continued use of lead in petrol are loathe to meet the cost of its replacement.

This week's introduction of Parliamentary regulations on the partial reduction of the lead content in petrol for 1985 is not something too much feared by these companies.

They have been greatly encouraged by a Government report published last year absolving lead emission from car exhausts from causing intelligence defects in urban children and, more recently, by a great deal of confusion arising from controversial evidence submitted to the Government.

The interim report—the product of a 16 month study by a Department of Health working party—indicted food, water and emission from industry as the chief source of lead contamination. The report, however, failed to establish any link between car exhaust fumes, lead levels in the air, and intellectual impairment.

But those findings immediately provoked a storm of protest from many scientists and environmentalists because they were found to be in stark contradiction to all available medical evidence from similar studies in Japan, US, West Germany and Sweden. These countries have now either banned lead in petrol or are taking steps in that direction. Russia has outlawed lead in petrol since 1959!

A huge shadow was further cast over the report with the revelations that the scientists in the working party were making contradictory statements. Some were openly critical of the medical evidence linking lead to intelligence performance.

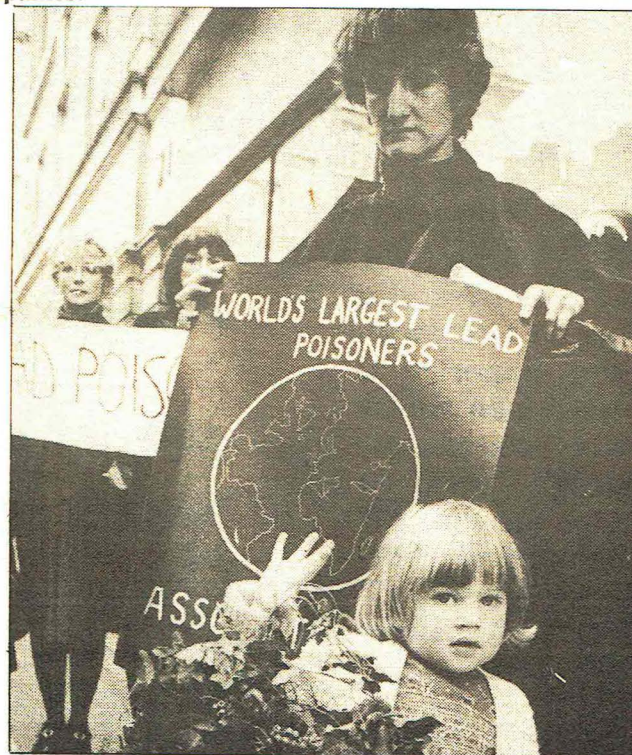
One even went so far as to stake his reputation that only 7% of lead ingested came from the air!—a figure ridiculed by other scientists. It was also discovered that another prominent member of the team had prepared an affidavit for the oil companies defending their use of lead against a court action by some London parents who alleged that atmospheric lead had harmed their children.

More recently, two other members of the working party have attacked the report and published their own findings. What dangers does a lead additive pose to the population as a whole? Is there an alternative? And what are the vested interests?

A great deal of evidence exists associating lead with hyperactivity, impaired learning and behavioural changes in both animals and man. An early study of children living near a lead smelter in El Paso found that many had low IQs, poor eye-sight, sluggish

By Ronnie Sookhdeo

Parents in London protest outside Associated Octel Ltd, just given an export award.



Andrew Wiaard (Report)

behaviour and difficulty in reasoning.

A later survey of the same children found that a staggering 19 out of 20 were educationally sub normal. More recent studies of the shed milk teeth of urban children in Britain and the US have conclusively established the link with lead in the air.

These findings have startling implications. Recent random analysis of the teeth of school children in Birmingham have shown a very high lead content. It has been estimated that as many as 95% of the two million children in Birmingham are affected!

Why is lead added to petrol? It was discovered in 1921 that tetra ethyl lead (TEL) could be used for increasing the octane rating of petrol to make it more suitable for use with high-compression car engines and also prevent 'knocking.' The higher the octane rating, the easier the combustion and less the 'knocking.'

It is also convenient and cheaper to the oil companies because it can be used to adjust the octane rating to produce various grades of petrol, which requires less refining.

Over the years several non-toxic substitutes for lead were found—the most satisfactory being Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE). MTBE has been described as the perfect alternative to lead. It is cheap to manufacture, non-poisonous, causes no engine damage and promotes more complete combustion of fuel, and importantly, does

not produce any harmful products.

But within months of its manufacture, the oil companies and car manufacturers launched a virulent campaign, firstly to persuade the Government against its use, and secondly to disseminate misleading information to the population as a whole.

The oil companies have also asserted that to produce lead-free petrol would require maximum investment in new refinery techniques which would increase the consumption of oil and the price of petrol.

These claims are absolute nonsense. The oil companies have made colossal profits as a result of the wave of oil price rises. Yet a fraction of these profits could produce petrol free from lead. Moreover, because of the recession, all their refining plants have been running at below 50% capacity. A recent conference of scientists has suggested that only slight modification of existing equipment could produce the required higher octane petrol, free of lead.

Where the health of workers and their families are concerned, there is no safe lead level at all. The labour and trade union movement must take up the issue and fight against lead additives in petrol.

Labour must demand

- ★ Regular monitoring of lead in air and regular examination of all children for lead poisoning
- ★ Abolition of all lead additives in fuels
- ★ Outlawing of dumping of lead and other heavy metals by industry.

# JAPANESE CAPITALISM:

## Super profits



Japanese cars lined up for export; (below) trade union rally during the "Spring Offensive".

"Last October... to celebrate the birth of the Escort-Lynx, Ford imported a Frenchman whose only stated attribute was to swipe the tops off champagne bottles with a sabre." (Financial Times 14 October 81).

How different today! Ford sales in USA are down 43% and General Motors' are down 32% ("The Times" 16 October).

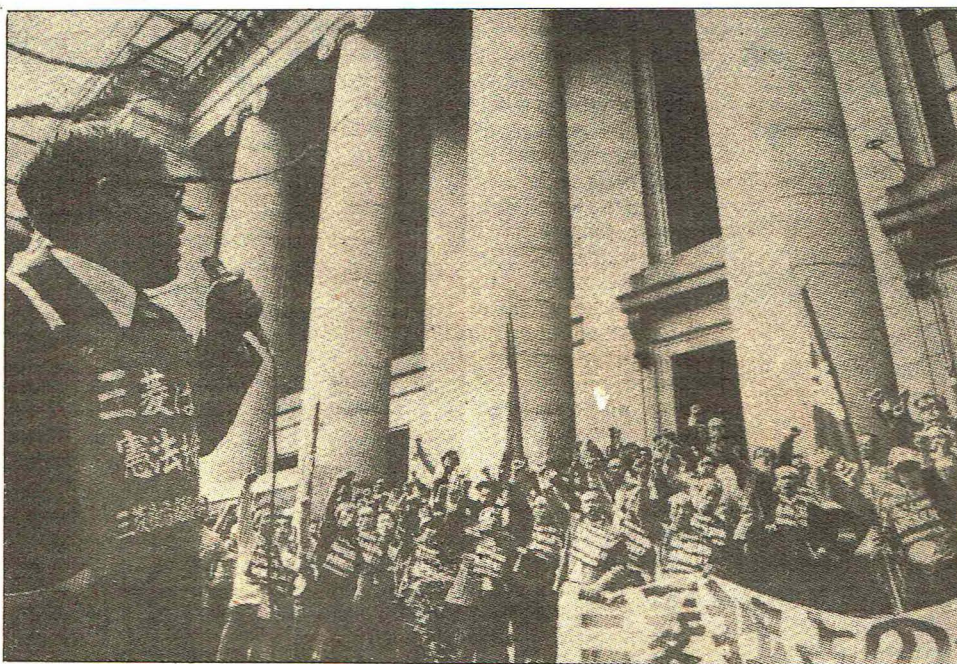
Most blame is, of course, heaped upon the Japanese.

"A US government study found that the Japanese can still land a car in Chicago for \$1,500 less per unit than its own factories are able to. Other economists have estimated Detroit needs to decrease its man hours per vehicle by 40% to catch up" (FT 14 October).

A recent AUEW/TASS study of the Merseyside car industry pointed out that the Japanese produce 43 cars per employee compared to BL's 4 per employee.

The tremendous advances of Japanese capitalism have indeed

## Super problems



caused great concern among bosses —and aroused greater demands for import controls. This is very different from 1936 when Fords and General Motors accounted for 75% of total

vehicle output in Japan!

Toyota has passed General Motors as the world's biggest producer of cars, and total car production in Japan is 3 million more than America. Steel

production looks like being 14m tons more than the USA.

Seven Japanese companies now produce nine million more time pieces than 67 Swiss companies!

Such an explosion of production has to be explained. Marxists have always pointed out that machinery greatly increases the productivity of labour so it is not surprising to hear that Japan leads the way with the latest technological devices.

### Productivity

According to the Japan Robot Association, "a mere 220 sophisticated industrial robots are now operating in Britain, 3,700 are working in the US, and in sharp contrast Japan's highly efficient plants are now fitted with a staggering 75,000 sophisticated automations" ("The Times", 14 May).

Japanese capitalism has literally invested its way to the top of the capitalist charts.

The problem for Japanese capitalism is now to keep enough British and American workers employed to buy Japanese goods! The more successful Japan becomes, the greater are the pressures for import controls in this country —hence 'voluntary' restraint and collaboration with BL and Volkswagon.

Sir Terence Beckett of the CBI has asked: "Haven't we had enough of talks? It's action we want, not words".

Backward British capitalism, with investment down 23% on 1979, can no longer compete. So free trade is wrong, not because they want to benefit us, the workers, but because their profits are at stake. In the mean time, we lose our jobs in a trade war for their profits!

The Japanese workers are not the industrious robots the press would have us believe. In fact, the powerful Japanese trade union movement, the Sanbetsu, was smashed in the late 1940s and early 1950s. 435,463 people were sacked in 1949 for belonging to trade unions.

In 1953, the trade unions in Nissan/Datsun were smashed after a 100 day long strike. Trade union membership has fallen from 56% of the population in 1949 to 35% in 1970.

Now only 20% of Japanese workers take their full holiday entitlement —not through commitment to capitalism but basically through fear of losing their jobs.

Satoski Kamata has written an account of working for Toyota ("Car factory of despair"):

"Every morning the foremen gathered their squad for a meeting. This is before work hours and strictly violates the labour standards laws. I was constantly told at these meetings, Nissan is catching up with us, so don't take any days off..."

"Workers on the line don't have time to go to the bathroom, they must apply three months in advance if they want to take paid

leave, giving the reason why, and if they urgently need a day off they must first check at the factory to make sure colleagues are present and can manage without you.

"There was this man at the conveyor belt; he had a stomach ache and really wanted a rest. I remember seeing him going on working and vomiting at the same time..."

"If something disrupts the system—a worker who takes a day off or a malfunctioning machine—then the other workers must do overtime until the days quota is achieved. But this does not mean more pay, since Toyota wages are geared to the efficiency of a work team, that is attaining production targets with less work units (no. of workers × work hours)."

It's not surprising to hear that 1 in 10 Japanese workers has a nervous breakdown or some nervous disease. In 1980 340 managers committed suicide.

3.4million "temporary workers" have no rights at all.

The so-called life employment system doesn't apply to temporary workers, and Jon Halliday (in his 'Political history of Japanese capitalism') points out that the life employment system is really a promise on behalf of an employee not to leave the company.

The trade unions, having been broken in the 1940s, are now run by management stooges in many cases. Indeed, "The Times" (15 October) reported that in a recent survey of Japanese companies no less than 74% reported that they had at least one executive director who once served as a trade union leader. 16.2% of directors were former trade union leaders.

But (as Andrew Glyn reported in an earlier issue) workers are beginning to reclaim their unions. The spring offensive, the "Shunto", illustrates the working class's instinctive desire for unity and also its capacity under difficult conditions to fight for basic rights.

Strikes under the Shunto lost an average two to three days, again illustrating the power of the working class against even the most powerful of capitalist classes.

GATT (the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) have reported a fall in the value of world trade over 1980 which was itself the third worst year in 25 years. This shrinkage will have great effects on Japan with a population of only 120 million, and critically dependent on export markets.

Already the *Economist* has reported massive over capacity in Japanese industry, e.g. in oil refining and aluminium smelting, which will mean more unemployment and a reduction in investment.

The international crisis of capitalism, ensnared in massive contradictions, will lead to greater class struggle and the development of a Marxist tendency for the Far East.

By Mike Waddington (Basildon LPYS and AUEW/TASS)

## Belgium.....

The Belgian elections of 8 November have not solved but have rather accentuated the political crisis in the country.

The election results show a deepening polarisation between the classes, which has partly been channelled into growing divisions between the French and Flemish-speaking national groups. The 'centre' Christian-Democrats lost a quarter of their seats, while the Liberals and Flemish Nationalists made big gains on the right, and the French-speaking Socialist party won three seats on the

left.

The two sections of the Socialist Party (French and Flemish) now form the biggest bloc in the 212-seat Parliament with 62 seats, compared with 61 for the Christian-Democrats and 51 for the Liberals. The *Financial Times* (10 November) comments: "there now seems no possibility of a government with a working majority except one so right-wing that its formation could split Belgium apart".

The crisis of capitalism make growing attacks on the Belgian working class

inevitable, first and foremost in the ailing steel industry in the south. With state borrowing shooting upwards, Belgium could be forced to seek loans from the International Monetary Fund in the next year, with the usual conditions attached for a savage slashing of jobs, social services and workers' living standards.

### Massive resistance

All this is likely to spark off massive resistance among the workers, especially in the French-speaking steel and industrial towns. A right-wing coalition government would immediately exacerbate the

conflict.

The French-speaking Socialist leaders, unfortunately, have mounted the nationalist bandwagon and will try to steer the workers' militancy down the dead-end street of regionalism and even possible secession from the Belgian state. The Flemish Socialist leaders have a similar position. These policies can only divide the workers' movement and play into the hands of the right-wing nationalists.

The present political deadlock is likely to be prolonged and opens up a new situation in post-war Belgian history. It leaves, as the *Financial Times* puts it, "the future of once-stable and prosperous Belgium more uncertain and insecure".

# USA

The AFL-CIO (the American TUC) announced this week it is launching a massive organising campaign in Houston, Texas. It will attempt to bring an estimated 700,000 workers who are potential union members into organised labour's ranks.

Upwards of 100 full-time organisers may be drawn into the drive once it gets into full swing.

Charles McDonald, a spokesman for the AFL-CIO's organising department in Washington, says 30 unions will be taking part in the co-ordinated effort, including the steel workers, service employees, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Construction unions, teachers and others.

Heading up the campaign is Robert L Comeaux from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, who recently led a union drive in the Southern states in supermarket chains. The campaign ended in victory several months ago.

Workers in states like Texas are exploited by the monopolies. Studies show that production workers' wages average 10 per cent less in "right to work" states (where the closed shop cannot be enforced) than in states without these laws.

It is estimated that 100,000 Houston workers currently belong to trade unions. Over the past two decades Houston has emerged as the major industrial centre of the southern sunbelt states, as hundreds of corporations padlocked their plants in the north, east and midwest of a national plan to weaken the trade union movement.

The growing confrontation between the labour movement and President Reagan deepened this week when the AFL-CIO announced it will not invite him to address their national convention in New York starting on 16 November. It has been traditional to invite the President to speak to the convention.

At the same time, the 146,000-member Northern Alameda Central Labour Council of Oakland, California, sent a letter to Lane Kirkland urging the convention to take a strong stand in support of the air traffic controllers, out two months on strike. It asked the convention to establish a national day of protest in which all 142 national unions, all state federations of labour and central labour councils, would stage demonstrations at the nation's airports to demand a settlement of the strike, and the rehiring of all 12,000 strikers.

On 25 November at 5 pm, Northern California's AFL-CIO members will mobilise at San Francisco's airport to shut it down. A similar demonstration is to take place at Los Angeles airport, because an appeal court upheld the decertification of PATCO as a trade union.

# 'The Union makes us strong'

From Betty Traun in New York



PATCO strikers on Labor Day march, New York.

## Democrats fumble.....

The Democratic Party met in Baltimore last month to discuss how they could take advantage of the Republicans' troubles in coping with the economic crisis. One theory was to let the Republicans hang themselves, then campaign on the slogan "It's time for change".

A change to what? The Democrats' tax bill proposals when they were in office had more plums for the

rich and big business tycoons than those pushed by the Republicans.

The Democratic National Strategy Council could agree on only two things: that the Democrats need clear national themes if they are to win in 1982—and that they have to take longer to discuss what the themes are to be!

Life itself has provided the themes even as the Democrats were meeting: war preparations for the Middle East; a recession which is already here; Reaganomics being attacked on all sides; an historic September 19th demonstration; and a victory won by organised struggles against social security cuts.

There is a mass upsurge in the making for the 1980's throughout the country, with public activity increasing in every area, not only at the federal but also at state and city levels.

A general strike is scheduled for 28 October in Philadelphia, but the Democratic gathering still fumbled and fumed. The reason is clear: individual Democratic office holders may be responsive to public demands but the party as a party is dominated by big business.

B.T.

## Reaganism fails

The US economy is now in the midst of what President Reagan admits is "a real downer". Gross National Product dropped during the second and third quarters of this year, with a further drop at an annual rate of over 3% expected in the last quarter.

Earlier rosy forecasts of 5% economic growth in 1982 have already been scaled down to 1.4% by the Federal Reserve Board. The beginnings of an upturn is now not expected until the middle of next year.

Unemployment has risen above 8% and is likely to remain there.

In the face of these pressures Reagan's monetarist strategy is coming apart at the seams. Despite vicious attacks on social services, Reagan has

had to give up his target of balancing the federal budget (spending no more than total income) by 1984.

But, Reagan's chief economic advisor warned, the budget deficit will be scaled down over the next two years, thus cutting deeper into living standards and social security.

Political turbulence will be the inevitable result of economic crisis. Massive rejection of Reagan's policies by the labour movement, shown in the mass demonstration in Washington on 19 September, is finding its counterpart in a growing lack of confidence on the part of big business. This has led to an increasing reluctance by Congress (parliament) to carry out Reagan's savage measures, and could pave the way to

political crisis in the next year or two.

Even Reagan's own Republican Party is divided, with some diehard Senators wanting to balance the budget after all through a combination of tax increases and further spending cuts.

A key factor will be the political role played by organised labour. Only the support of right-wing trade union leaders is propping up the capitalist Democratic Party in its role as 'alternative' to the Republicans. The formation of a political party based on the trade union movement would dash the existing mould of American politics, and rapidly begin to harness the enormous power of the US working class to change society.

# Canadian workers on the move

As in the United States, Canadian workers are feeling the whip of capitalist crisis and monetarist policies.

Interest rates in Canada are around 20%. The banks, almost totally Canadian-owned, are raking in huge profits. In return for this bonanza the Canadian Chartered Banks have donated \$1,459,861 in two years to the Liberal and Conservative Parties.

The high interest rates are part of Trudeau's Liberal Government's policies which are the same as Thatcher's or Reagan's—to help big business at the cost of the working class and small farmers and business.

The only difference is that Trudeau doesn't boast as much about monetarism but tries to keep up a 'liberal' face. The Conservative opposition's only disagreement is to call for more cuts.

The high interest rates are having a devastating effect on housing. There have been demonstrations across Canada at this crippling burden. Mortgage interest rates are at least 20%. It is estimated that 85,000 people will lose their homes next year because they can't afford the repayments.

In Canada there is virtually no public rented sector. Private tenants are being hit with even modest accommodation costing \$600 a month.

Inflation is climbing in spite of Trudeau's words. Unemployment is likely to rise to officially over a million this winter.

The big corporations are the only ones gaining from all this. Bankruptcies of small firms is increasing. But just in case any big corporation is feeling the pinch there has also been a shift in tax payments. A few years ago the corporations paid 21% of all taxes; now it is only 10%.

At the same time they get \$6 billion in handouts from the government—more than they paid in taxes!

While all this is happening, Trudeau spends his time touring the world in a diplomatic fling. His main concern in Canada itself is the Constitution.

While it is ridiculous that the British Government should have a say in the Canadian Constitution Trudeau's proposals have rightly provoked widespread opposition. The compromise that has been reached allows the central government to change the Federal Constitution with the consent of at least seven provinces representing more than half the population. This amounts to a built in majority against the French-speaking Que-

bec province on any constitutional issue.

The entire debate, however, ignores the financial domination of Canada by the big monopolies. Trudeau is using the issue of the constitution in an attempt to obscure the growing misery of society caused by capitalism's crisis.

It is ironic that at the same time the government plans to attack the railways, one of the foundations of Canada. It has announced a 20% cutback on passenger trains for both the Canadian Pacific Railway and the nationalised Canadian National Railway. The unions, with wide support, have mounted a campaign of resistance.

Across Canada workers are fighting the big business policies. Miners in Nova Scotia have just won a long strike. Earlier this year postal workers fought the federal government. Ward-air cabin crews are locked out over contracts.

Also struggles in British Columbia show the workers' determination. Workers in BC Tel, despite a high management ratio willing to scab on any dispute, occupied BC Tel. operations as part of a successful struggle. The demand to nationalise BC Tel. is growing.

The Canadian Farmworkers Union is a new union born through bitter struggle. Farmworkers have long been unorganised with no legal rights. They aren't covered by minimum wages law or workers compensation.

Often during harvest groups of families have to live in barns. Now, in spite of difficult conditions, government opposition, and sometimes violent attacks from employers, the CFU is building.

Organised labour has called for a mass demonstration in Ottawa on 21 November as part of a campaign against the Liberal Government. This demonstration and the mood of society offer the New Democratic Party the opportunity to win mass support. (The NDP, while not describing itself as a labour party, is backed by sections of organised labour.) The Tories and Liberals, who are not really different, are both in crisis.

The NDP has been gaining ground over the years. It now has the opportunity, if it can link with the militant workers' struggles, to provide a challenge across Canada to the bosses' parties and their rotten system.

# Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## What really happened in the Ardwick re-selection vote

An article in the 'Guardian' (6 November), in its Guardian Diary section, claimed that 'Militant' supporters in Ardwick, Manchester, switched their votes to the right-wing MP Gerald Kaufman instead of a left-wing councillor during a re-selection vote, after 'Militant' supporter Margaret Crear was knocked out of the contest.

The report prompted this letter from M A Sewell from Largs Labour Party in Ayrshire: "Dear Comrades, I enclose an article (the Guardian Diary report) which I'm sure you will think needs investigating. It left me stunned. Perhaps an explanation through your newspaper by the people involved might clear up the matter. Anyway, I remain convinced that the 'Militant' is an active campaigner for representatives of the labour movement who reflect its policies. As a result I enclose a cheque for £3."

The comrade should have no fears—the 'Guardian' article was totally wrong, as this letter, written by two members of the LP involved, to the 'Guardian' dated 8 November, which the 'Guardian' have yet to publish, shows:

"Dear Sir, once again the columns of the 'Guardian' have been used for inaccurate reporting. With reference specifically to the

report in the Guardian Diary on Friday 6 November, entitled 'A swing to Gerald'. This article was supposedly a report on the nominating meeting held on Friday 30 October by Rusholme Ward Labour Party, as part of the Ardwick Constituency Labour Party re-selection procedure, and your article was totally inaccurate.

Firstly, there were five candidates not four as you recorded.

Secondly, Nick Harris was eliminated after the second ballot and it's doubtful, to say the least, whether all of his votes went to Arnold Spencer as you claim. The most likely explanation, knowing the people involved, would mean these votes would be split evenly between Gerald Kaufman and Arnold Spencer.

Thirdly, Crear, the 'Militant' supporter, was eliminated after the third ballot and not the first as you reported.

Fourthly, in the final ballot between Gerald Kaufman and Arnold Spencer, we can accurately report that both the undersigned, having consistently voted for Margaret Crear, the 'Militant' supporter, then voted for the left-wing councillor Arnold Spencer and not as you stated for Gerald Kaufman who is an active member of the right-wing group 'Solidarity'.

We would finally point out that one of the undersigned was the sole 'Militant' supporter with a vote at this meeting.

D Byrne, P J Rowbottom, Rusholme Ward LP. (P.S. In the interests of accurate reporting we trust you will publish this letter).

forces disagreements to split the Tories. The labour movement has to rely on its own strength on this issue as on every other. It is completely abstract thinking to suggest that Tories can be enlisted to fight the cuts; especially in Leeds where the previous Tory council presided over some of the lowest levels of services in the country.

In reality what would produce a widening of the Tory split to Grand Canyon proportions would be Labour councils mobilising the power of the unions against the government. This would defeat the Tories and force the election of a socialist Labour government.

Yours fraternally  
Bill Wynn  
Hunslet Labour Party  
Leeds

## What it was like to be a 'lucky' one in the grim '30s

Dear Comrades

So much has been written recently about the unfortunate millions who languished on the dole during the 1930s that perhaps the younger generation have forgotten what conditions were like for those who actually 'enjoyed' work during the great depression.



## There's a career for you with Britain's Professional Rioters!

Dear Comrades

A few days ago I read with anger that a 17-year-old in Liverpool had been sentenced to 6 years' detention for allegedly "throwing a petrol bomb" during last summer's disturbances in Toxteth.

The police said they had seen the youth run forward and throw a petrol bomb. They then chased him and arrested him.

The defence witnesses said that the young man had been talking to them for at least two hours before a group of policemen rushed up and "snatched" the defendant.

Although we would argue that throwing petrol bombs is not the way forward, such a sentence, even if the defendant was technically "guilty", is totally unwar-

Throughout the '30s my father was 'lucky' enough to work at the Brangwyn steelworks near Swansea. A typical day began at 5 am in anticipation of 12 hours of back breaking toil near furnaces where fragile human beings worked with 22 ton stacks of sheet metal, glowing at a temperature of 900 degrees centigrade.

Protective clothing consisted of thick flannel shirts which burnt through within two weeks, while shoes were destroyed at the rate of one pair every eight weeks. All this was provided by the men themselves out of a pitiful (in my father's case) £2 10d per 80 hour week! Add to these hardships the constant fear and ever-present fatigue that attended every working day, and the horrors of the dole queue might seem paradoxical.

However, I am not trying to make the point that today's working class 'don't know what hardship is,' on or off the dole. Rather when capitalism is in crisis, there is no happy alternative for the majority of the working class. They must either waste their lives on

Youths pelt troops with stones during a riot in Belfast in 1979. According to the logic of magistrates in Halifax, they could be potential army recruits! Photo: Eamonn O'Dwyer (IFL)

ranted and will in no way act as a deterrent.

In the heightened tension that would obviously surround a street confrontation, often fuelled by aggressive policing, a teenager is hardly likely to weigh up the pros and cons of a prospective six-year stretch. But if the immediate circumstances dictated, a petrol bomb might easily be grabbed and thrown on the spur of the moment.

One might think that the beaks throughout the country would take the same determined stance "to stamp out delinquency and street violence from these mindless young militants out to wreck society etc...etc."

However, our protectors in the legal system are quite capable of being flexible and taking circumstances into account. The following story was reported in the 'Halifax Courier' (14 October):

"A trainee soldier

described as showing leadership potential threw a petrol bomb into the path of a car, Calder Juvenile Court heard today. The 16-year-old boy, from Halifax, admitted having a petrol bomb and using conduct likely to breach the peace. He was fined £50 and bound over in the sum of £50 for one month.

"Chairman of the magistrates, Mrs Mildred Berry, described it as a completely ridiculous act which could have terrible consequences. He had not been given a custodial sentence, she told him, as they felt he was suited to army life (!) and (they) did not wish to impede his career.

"The youth had made the petrol bomb, and threw it in front of a car to 'see what would happen'. The youth had joined the army ten days after the incident.

"Apparently, if a custodial sentence was given he would almost certainly be discharged. His conduct

during his service was exemplary and his platoon commander had said he showed signs of leadership possibility."

So there you have it— young people, are you on the dole? Are you frustrated? Can you construct petrol bombs and show leadership qualities by throwing them at passing cars? Do you fancy getting off a serious and dangerous offence?

If the answer to all these questions is "yes", then you should apply to join the army. You'll become one of the professionals—and get paid for fighting!

If you don't fancy that, but like driving fast with air horns blaring after dark— then why not consider a career in the police?

Yours fraternally  
Pete Greatrex  
Penistone CLP  
Youth Officer

## Workers will stop the cuts—not Tories!

Dear Comrades

At a recent Labour Party branch meeting we had a discussion on how Labour councils should fight the cuts. The councillors in the meeting unanimously supported a block with 'wet' Tories against the new Heseltine measures for increased government control over local authority spending. They outlined that this would mean moving resolutions which would be acceptable to sympathetic (!) Tories; this tactic being used to exploit the split in the Tory Party.

In my view these councillors completely fail to see this as a class issue. The Tories who oppose Heseltine's measures do so because apart from suffering a loss of local prestige, they are terrified that more cuts will provoke massive trade union opposition. On the other hand, as the Tories are completely united on curbing the unions, an alliance would inevitably result in Labour councils resisting union action against the Tories, in order not to alienate their new allies.

These Labour councillors should understand that it is the strength of the organised working class which

the dole or fritter them away on boring and unsatisfying jobs, their standards of living under constant attack from a moribund capitalism.

Yours fraternally  
William Williams  
Swansea LPYS

## Say no to Thatcher's death-machines

Comrades

I read your front page of 'Militant' (23/10/11) on the extortionate amount of money spent on death machines. I think it is anti-christian, deplorable and disgustingly sickening. As we have already got three tons of dynamite to each person in the world one wonders if there isn't a touch of insanity prevailing among the world leaders? What need to buy and make more? I would be quite willing to share my three tons of dynamite with Mrs Thatcher, Mr Pym or Mr Nott, in a bid to save Mrs Thatcher's wasteful expenditure of taxpayers' money on

nuclear death machines. After all, I would ask Mrs Thatcher a question—how much does one need to blow one to bits; 4oz, 8oz? Wouldn't three tons make rather a mess of a human being?

No Mrs Thatcher, you really don't need any more death machines—you need text books and jobs for our children!

Yours fraternally  
Betty Rodgers  
Rotherham

## Points about mental sub-normality

Dear Comrades

In his letter about the voting rights of mentally handicapped patients at Calderstone hospital (Militant 576). Martin Lozier made a common but fundamental error in confusing mental illness and mental handicap.

It is quite wrong to suggest that the patients at Calderstone might be insane. Mental subnormality

almost invariably has a genetic or physiological base whereas mental illness rarely has; mental subnormality has little to do with mental instability.

Secondly, Martin fails to make the important point that anyone who can make a clear-sighted comment about the Tories having done nothing for the poor or working class should not be in a mental subnormality hospital at all.

Despite efforts in recent years to reduce the numbers of long-term residents in our subnormality hospitals and to rehabilitate them in the community, there are still large numbers of people in these hospitals who should not be there. If the patients at Calderstone who are seeking voting rights were living where they should be, ie. in the community, their present campaign would not be necessary.

Yours sincerely  
Carol Robinson  
Bristol

# Build

# Militant

# ads

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

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target for year
Eastern	4731		7100
East Midlands	3572		5500
Hants & Dorset	2613		5200
Humberside	1737		3500
London East	5082		7600
London West	2834		4800
London South	4235		5500
Manchester & Lancs	2669		5800
Merseyside	3609		6600
Northern	4290		8600
Scotland East	2126		4400
Scotland West	4014		7500
Southern	5127		7100
South West	2167		3500
Wales East	1366		2600
Wales West	2765		4600
West Midlands	4681		8600
Yorkshire	4812		9000
Others	19374		12500
<b>Total received</b>	<b>81,801</b>		<b>120,000</b>

**TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000**

## REFLATE OUR ECONOMY

## THIS WEEK: £1086

Can any of our readers now doubt that 'Militant' needs to increase its coverage of all the events going on internationally?

By Steve Cawley

Look at the Tory press. You could fill up a sixteen-page weekly just dealing with their coverage, mainly poisonous distortions, about 'Militant' alone!

Then you've got industrial disputes, fights against the cutbacks, the campaigning work of the Labour Party Young Socialists, victories and setbacks for workers throughout the world, all of which warrant far more space than we can give at the moment.

That's where you come in! When we think of all the vitally needed improvements in coverage and technical capacity for Militant, we can't go cap in hand to the bosses asking for help. We can expect no joy from the bureaucracy in the Stalinist states either. Our advertising revenue is all from the labour movement, and nothing like Fleet Street size!

We have to ask you, our readers, at a time of financial hardship, to balance our books, through the fighting fund. After a few good weeks though, this week's total of £1,086 is not high enough to reach our £120,000 target.

Readers in Cambridge are showing the way they've sent in over £50 this week (including £10 from P Campbell) with a note saying £25 at least will be raised very shortly! Manchester supporters' donations included 'copper collection', £4 from Moss Side

LPYS, and the proceeds from a meeting in Wythenshawe, while Oldham and Rochdale comrades have already sent us the money for about £20 worth of Winter Draw tickets and asked for more tickets! How are they going in your area? Other large donations included the £32 (plus £20 IOUs) from the Yorkshire LPYS's Weekend School. And other Yorkshire readers to send in their help were those in Bradford, where amongst other things a 'Re-selection Curry' and raffle winnings raised £15 plus 1 rupee.

On Merseyside, supporters in Old Swan LP sent us the proceeds of a collection and a Day of Action in support of Trade Union rights for YOPpers, while a redundant LPYS member from Kirkby sent us £57! Thanks to readers who put in to collections at discussion groups as far apart as Bath, Sheffield, Leicester and London.

Thanks also to all the comrades who've supported us, including J Cunningham (NUM Northumberland) £22, A McGuckan (Ashington), S Barrett (Hitchin) £10, £45 from Bermondsey and Dulwich Labour Party members B Kelly, J Toms, B Dawson, R Talbot and J Mulrenan. Thanks for a tenner to L Marsden (Taunton CLP) and for £8 to R Bailey (Erith & Crayford).

Fivers came from A Parkin (Bolsover CLP) and R Worth (Newton Abbot LP) amongst others with £3's coming from M Sewell (Largs) and S&G Powell, Hamburg. £2's included the donations of 'Snowy' (an unemployed Cardiff com-

rade), J Purden (AUEW, Portsmouth) N Burly (W London) and Leicester reader K Pike. £1s were donated by N Gunn, a Totnes student, J Hull (CPSA Colchester), S MacDonald, (National Union of Seamen, Cardiff) and P Wells (Cardiff LPYS) and USDAW member R Luckins (Corby).

The first of what we hope will be many donations came in this week from Yeovil and cash raised for us by means of socials and parties included donations from Burnley, Macclesfield, and Barking. Ipswich supporters sent us in £20 from sale of badges plus cash from raffles etc.

Really though, we need

over £4,000 each week between now and 9th January to reach our target and balance our budget. If this is left to just a few readers to raise, it won't be possible. We urge all our readers to assist in this venture. The mood amongst workers at present is one of anger, frustration and determination to oust the Tories. It's crucial that Militant's voice should be heard effectively.

Rush your pre-Christmas present without delay to; Militant Fighting Fund, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, and watch your area's line on the chart zoom across to the 100% mark!

## Sell 'Militant'

People are increasingly coming across the 'Militant' but not always directly through sales by 'Militant' supporters.

On a recent estate sale, I sold a paper to an assembly worker for Ford's at Dagenham. He recognised the paper straight away as somebody puts a copy on the line at Dagenham.

The workers take it off, read it, then put it back again! He was buying a copy to put it into circulation. Let's hope for a big increase in that kind of productivity!

A shop steward at the Fords Foundry in Dagenham sells 'Militant' to his apprentice. The apprentice started to read his copy during a boring moment on his day release course.

The teacher saw him and asked him to stay behind at



the end of the lesson. No problems, it was just that the teacher wanted to buy a copy!

By Mike Waddington (Basildon LPYS)

Tapes of the South Wales Militant Summer Camp for sale! The Russian Revolution, the Spanish revolution, Marxism and the Labour Party - speaker Ted Grant. All £2.00 (including postage). Fascism in Germany - Jeremy Birch. The Hungarian revolution - Pat Wall. £1.75 each (inc. postage) The complete set £7.50. Proceeds to Fighting Fund. From R Sewell, 99 Penderry Rd., Penlan, Swansea. (Cheques etc payable to 'R Sewell')

OXFORD Militant Public Meeting: 'Which way forward for the labour and trade union movement?' Speaker: Tom Smith (Self-changing Gears, BL, Coventry). Monday 23 November, 7.30 pm, Cowley Community Centre, Oxford.

Wandsworth Militant Public Meeting 'Fight Heseltine with socialist action - no cuts, no rate rises'. Speakers: Valerie Wise (GLC member for Battersea South), Denis English (Assistant secretary, Wandsworth council manual workers joint shop stewards - personal capacity), Bob McKee (Battersea Labour Party Executive - personal capacity). Tuesday 1 December 8pm at: Wheatsheaf pub, Balham High road (opposite Tooting Bec Tube).

MANCHESTER University Militant Supporters Society.

Monday 23 November - 'Students and the labour movement'. Debate between Clive Heemskerck (Education Correspondent of the 'Militant') and Dave Gardner (Clause IV).

Monday 30 November - 'After Corby, socialism or social democracy?' Debate between Pete Watson ('Militant') and an SDP speaker.

Monday 7 December - 'Import controls or socialist planning?' Debate between Brian Sedgemore ('Tribune') and a 'Militant' speaker.

All meetings at 12.45 pm in Meeting Room 4, Owen's Student Union, Oxford Road.

'Lessons of Spain' by Leon Trotsky. With the original 1938 introduction 30p + 15p p&p

Also available 'The Spanish Revolution 1931-36' by Ted Grant

Available from World Books 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## CLASSIFIED

NORWICH Labour Party Young Socialists Public Meeting: 'Youth Against the Tories'. Speakers: Andy Bevan (Labour Party National Youth Officer); Robin Dyball (NUPE National Committee elect). Tuesday 17 November 1981, 8.00 pm, Labour Club, Bethell St., Norwich.

GLASGOW LPYS Public Meeting: 'YOPs - end cheap labour'. Speakers: George Galloway (Chairman, Scottish Labour Party); Jackie Galbraith (LPYS); Joanne Coyle (TGWU); Alan Wilson (NUPE). Wednesday 25 November, 7.30 pm, City Halls, Albion St., Glasgow.

SOUTH LONDON Militant Grand Xmas Bazaar. Saturday 5 December, Christchurch Hall, Trafalgar Road, Greenwich SE10. All offers of help and goods to sell phone Doreen Roberts, 01-543 3658.

Essential for all supporters. 1982 'Militant' Year Planner, 60p each; 50p 10 and over. Orders M Tansey, 10 Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone, Kent. Phone 0303 55514

Congratulations to Leon and Angie Jenkins on the birth of their son on Friday 13th November 1981. Another supporter of Militant!!! From Medway 'Militant' supporters

Wythenshawe LPYS Public Meeting. 'Free Bus Passes for YOPs'. Speakers: Allan Roberts MP, Roger Done member of GMC Transport Committee and Malcolm Clark LPYS National Committee. Friday 20th November at the Co-operative Hall, Hollyhedge Road, Benchill, Wythenshawe (7.30 pm start).

Joint S Yorks LPYS and Youth CND Public Meeting. 'Jobs - not bombs! Yes! - But how?' Speakers and films. 2.15pm Sunday, Nov. 22nd. New Trades and Labour Club, at Junction of City Road with Duke St., Sheffield. (Or meet Pond St. Bus station 1.45pm.) Admission free.

Military Coup in Chile - Would an Alternative Economic Strategy Survive? The Allende Experience and the Alternative Economic Strategy. A Day conference

on the relevance of Chile to the next Labour government. On: Saturday 28th November 1981, 10am - 5pm. At: London University Students Union.

SOCIALIST XMAS CARDS. Set of 4 original Hardman cartoons. 60p per set (inc. envelopes) + 14p post & packing. 5 sets - £2 + 30p post & packing. 10 sets - £3.50 + 50p post & packing. Available soon - order bulk sets and boost your area's fighting fund. All proceeds to Militant Fighting Fund. Send cash with order to Eddie McParland, 81 Troughton Road, Charlton, London SE7.

# Industrial Reports

## in brief

T&G Docks in Swansea have blacked a Greek owned ship 'Miss Tita' following approaches made by the crew regarding conditions on board.

Joe Barlow, the NUS full-time official, who inspected conditions aboard ship said he had seen nothing like it in 30 years; a floating death trap without navigation aids, safety equipment, heating, wash-room facilities, and lighting. The engine room was a wreck.

Four Tanzanian workers were flown over to Greece to work on the 'Miss Tita' and were told by the Greek owners they had to pay 700 dollars in order to get on the ship! Having no money and no way of getting back to Tanzania these seamen were forced to pay for the "privilege" of working on board a wreck.

Workers will be called upon to join a mass picket on Monday 23 November, at a construction site in London. Members of UCATT at the Harry Neales site on the Vauxhall Bridge Road are on strike over use of contract labour by management without the agreement of the union. The strike is expected to be made official by UCATT later this week, with official recognition from the Transport and General Workers Union. The mass picket, if held, will be held at the site which is on the corner of Rampayne Street and the Vauxhall Bridge Road, near Pimlico tube station.

A Department of Employment plan to identify the ethnic origin of unemployed people before dealing with their claims for benefits has been criticised by a civil service union as being "insensitive and likely to breed suspicion and alarm." The Society of Civil and Public Servants say this move could lead to tension between black claimants and staff.

Over 200 delegates attended a Lawrence Scott solidarity conference in Manchester on 14 November. The conference discussed the fight to save jobs, with delegates present from Staffa, the Liverpool typists as well as several local MPs. Messages of support were sent from Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill. While it was reported the Confed nationally would allow local Confed officials to negotiate with the Engineering Employers Federation to try and get an agreed return to work, a more realistic gesture would have been to reinstate the official backing so that blacking could be reinstated. It was also announced that pickets were to be placed on the parent company's plant at Doncaster, with the backing of the Local 28 Confed district committee. The picket, on 16 November, was a hundred strong, and some Yorkshire miners attended.

The situation at Leyland, with workers there facing another year of decline in living standards leads other workers in the motor industry to ponder their fate, and to relate to the weakness and vacillations of some trade union leaders.

Vauxhall workers also accepted a pay rise within the 4% guideline, leaving Ford workers in the forefront of the struggle against the Tories.

Fords have made £1,000 million profits in the last three years (£150 million of which went to the parent company in Detroit). This year the union demands for all Ford workers were £20 per week for all workers, commitment to a 35 hour week and improved pensions.

At the first negotiating session the company said money would be available if the unions agreed to certain conditions. It was flatly rejected.

Fords, despite making record breaking profits, returned with a measly offer, 4.5%, payable only at the expense of jobs. Many jobs have already been lost on voluntary redundancy

# FORD IN THE FRONTLINE

By David Llewelyn-Davis  
(T&G Fords, Swansea)

schemes. 300 workers have left the Swansea plant in the last two months. The company are planning to reduce its workforce by 20,000 in the next four years mostly, they claim, by voluntary wastage. They will also invest millions of pounds in new technology.

The company returned to the negotiating table, on November 9 but with even harsher conditions on 'efficiency'. This was again flatly rejected with a warning of strike action from November 24, although further negotiations have now been agreed to by the Fords National Joint Negotiating committee (Times 17/11/81). With the miners rejecting their 'final' offer and Fords workers preparing for strike action, this winter could be a time of great struggle.

Ford workers lobby pay negotiations in Bayswater, London on November 9.

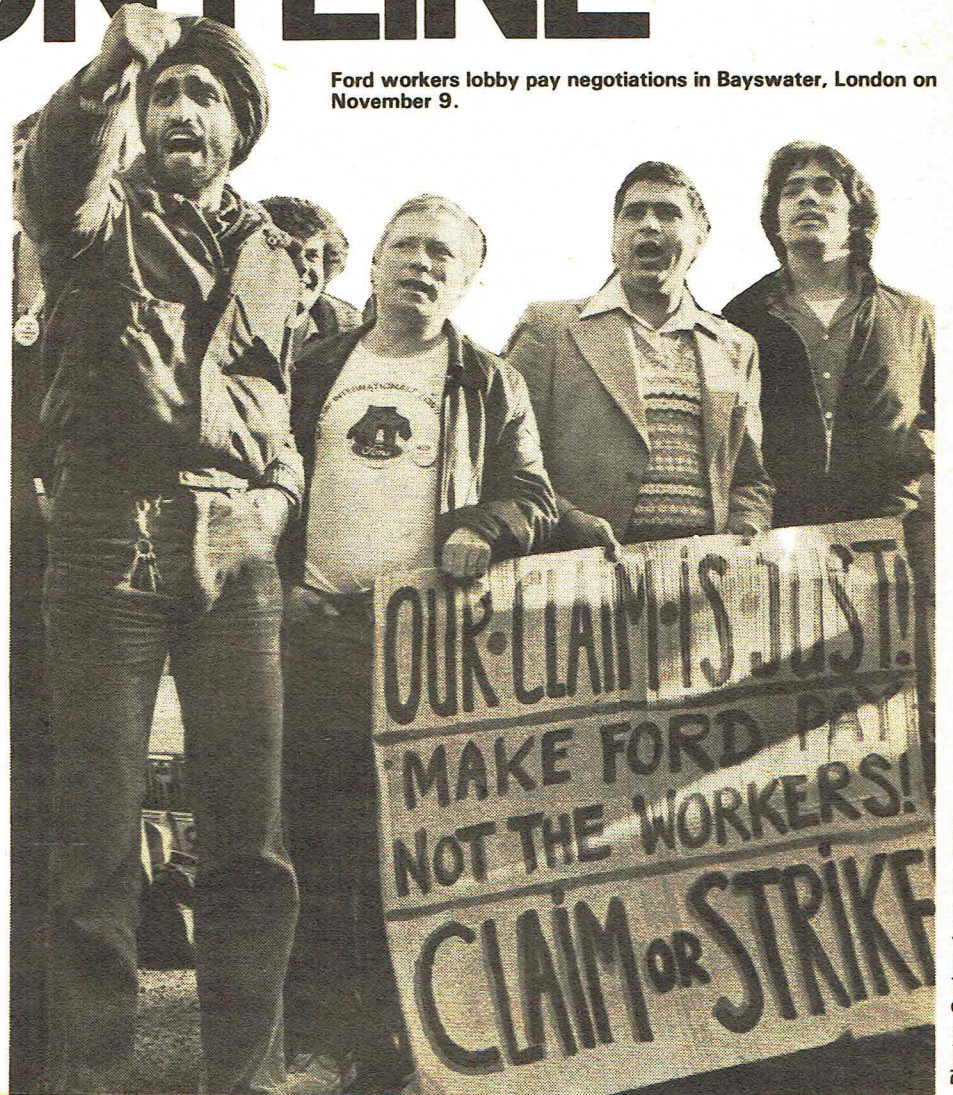


Photo: Carlos Augusto (IFL)

## Nationalise Staffa!

The Staffa struggle goes on. But for the fight to be victorious, lessons from previous struggles by the labour movement to save jobs must be learnt.

Faced with the intransigence of their own management, workers in the past have looked to the solution of finding new owners. But history has shown this is no solution.

The workers at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders thought they had saved jobs by finding a buyer, only to be faced yet again with massive redundancies and possible closure. Capitalism is incapable of guaranteeing jobs or living standards.

The documents found by the Staffa workers show how their firm was robbing the NCB, their main British customers, with a dual pricing policy.

This shows the necessity for the supply sector to the nationalised industries to be in the public sector.

The NUM have a policy that all suppliers to the NCB should be nationalised. A joint campaign should now be waged by the NUM and Staffa workers for the nationalisation of Staffa. The Labour GLC have indicated that they support Staffa staying in Leyton and have offered grants to try and keep the jobs in East London.

Discussions should now take place on areas such as a joint venture between the

NCB and the GLC to own and control Staffa. This would receive tremendous support from the movement nationally as well as raising the confidence of the Staffa workers.

Linked to this must be the demand for the complete democratisation of the NCB so that the industry is accountable to the working class and meets the needs of society and not profit. With workers' control and management of the NCB and the ancillary industries, a rationalisation of costs could be implemented which didn't act to the detriment of workers.

A joint campaign by the mighty powers of the AUEW, ASTMS and the NUM linked to the GLC could force even the Tory government to nationalise Staffa.

Meanwhile, delegations from Staffa have been meeting the labour movement in Merseyside. They received support from the POEU, the NGA and the Liverpool Trades Council. The Liverpool dockers will raise the question of blacking, and similarly the Lancashire miners will discuss blacking Chamberlain equipment.

The Liverpool T&G say they will circulate all branches with details of the dispute, and the Cammel Lairds shop stewards say they will raise the issue within the GMWU nationally. Also, it will be raised on the FBU executive.

By Alan Watson

## STOP BRANCH CLOSURES

More than eighty electricians, members of the EETPU attended a meeting in London recently to protest at their union's National Executive decision to close down fourteen branches and plumbing Lodges in the London area.

The latest batch of branch closures has followed a steady stream of closures and amalgamations that have taken place over the years. The workers gave their personal experiences, including the seemingly increasing method of transferring individuals who always seem to be opposition elements to the NEC, out of their branches and into others.

The fight back against the NEC needed to be on all fronts including in the Labour Party, a London West member pointed out.

The possible use of industrial action was not ruled out by one branch committee, if their branch closed down.

It was suggested the reasons for the latest batch of closures are that the NEC want to stop opposition delegates (coming through these branches and lodges) to the 1983 Rules Revision and Policy conference, to which delegates will be elected next year. Ironically the North London Plumbers Lodge, one of those for the chop, moved a successful motion at this year's biennial conference against premature branch closures. As with a decision taken at the previous biennial conference, this has been totally ignored and underlines the measure of 'democracy' that exists in the EETPU.

A possible court injunction might be initiated against the NEC by a long-standing member of the North London Lodge. But this is no substitute for a mass campaign and could

even rebound; the courts are no sympathisers of democracy in the labour movement. We should remember it was court action which led to Frank Chapple being installed as the union's leader in the first place.

The immediate action is a lobby of the NEC at the head office, Hayes Court, on 7 December, 11.30 am. As many members as possible should turn up: this must be the start of a real campaign to stop branch closures and to democratise the EETPU.

A committee has been set up to co-ordinate and develop this. But until real democracy is achieved with election and control over all officials, subject to the right of recall and with no official paid more than a skilled man, then the stopping of branch closures, important as it is, will only be one victory in the battle to transform the EETPU back into a fighting, democratic union.

By an EETPU member

## GLC sack activist

On 16 October, Terry Barrett, NUPE steward in the Greater London Council's Architects department was given one week's notice on grounds of "unsuitability for the position of messenger."

Terry was stunned. He had not been late, nor taken time off, nor refused to do legitimate work in his four

months' work for the GLC.

Two other active NUPE members in the department, Gerry and Adrian Bruton, have also been told they will be transferred from their present work.

Terry, a lifelong trade unionist and socialist, who before getting his present job had spent seven months on the dole, soon became a NUPE steward after starting work with the GLC.

He became involved in a dispute which had been going on since March. Messengers were having to do work which was not theirs,

including heavy work. NUPE members refused. This was undoubtedly why management gave Terry his notice, but according to the NUPE district officer the way it was done contravened all agreed procedure as he was dismissed without an area official present and without warnings.

A GLC member has now interceded on his behalf, and Terry has been reinstated, but the fight must go on to prevent further attacks on union rights.

By Tim Harris

# CARVE UP OF THE P.O.

# RANK AND FILE UNITY WILL BEAT TORIES

Post Office unions are facing the most crucial time in their entire history.

The Tory Tele-comms Act has split the Post Office into two separate industries, renaming the telecommunications side British Telecom.

Additionally the Tories have opened up both sides of the industry to private competition and granted the Secretary of State dictatorial powers to selectively privatise sections of the industry at will with no further reference to Parliament.

British Telecom in particular is an immensely profitable public industry. The Tories plan to transfer that profitability to the private sector to bail out their capitalist friends in their capitalist crisis. The pace at which they are carrying out this 'legalised' theft has quickened against the failures of the government's economic policies to deliver the goods.

Massive cream skimming operations have been initiated to satisfy the fat cats of big business. The public industry is to be robbed of the funds it needs for investment to line the pockets of speculative 'entrepreneurs' at no risk to themselves.

By Colin O'Callaghan (POEU Overseas Telegraph Branch, personal capacity)

Prices would soar leaving the industry, workforce and customer as the victims of this Tory looting.

It is these threats that have placed the question of trade union unity high on the respective agendas of all the Post Office unions. At the POEU Special Conference this week, two different proposals for trade union rationalisation will be debated. The National Executive have proposed the creation of a Federal Union based mainly in British Telecom, incorporating POEU, SPOE and the CPSA P&T group.

Alternatively 15 Branches (the largest composite on the agenda) have submitted propositions calling for industrial unionism spanning both the Post Office and British Telecom, embracing the POEU, UCW and CPSA P&T group.

The POEU Broad Left has consistently campaigned for industrial unionism in the Post Office and consequently has thrown its weight behind this proposition.

This position is further re-

inforced by the UCW's conference decision to adopt a similar formula.

'We do not seek a union organisation which merely compensates for the Tory plans for our industry, we need a strengthened union capable of fighting and defeating them.'

Industrial unionism upon the lines proposed would create a single union of some 450,000 members organising all of the public communications workers. A mighty force indeed. Full amalgamation cannot be achieved overnight, however, it must be our stated aim, if we are to defend jobs and industry.

Alternatively the Federal concept only envisages an amalgamation of the union administrations and the creation of a Federal Council to arbitrate, on a constituent veto basis, the Federation's policy. In every other respect the constituent unions would retain their existing structures ie. there is no unity proposed at Executive, Regional, Area or Branch level.

Yet it is precisely that unity at rank and file level that we most desperately need. The prospect of genuine unity between PO workers has been raised for the first time in the UCW and the POEU at the same time; the opportunity must not be missed.

## CPSA P&T Group Conference in Blackpool

The Post and Telecommunications (P&T) Group of the CPSA meet in Blackpool on 21 and 22 November to consider their future union organisation.

The P&T executive are recommending to the Special Group Conference and their 40,000 members that the P&T Group should leave the CPSA and that "the conference accepts in principle the concept of a Federal Union initially based predominantly on British Telecommunications, involving the CPSA P&T Group, together with the POEU and possibly also comprising Society of Post Office Executives (SPOE), and the Society of Civil and Public Servants Post Office Group. Acceptance being subject to agreement being reached on a new constitution for the Federal Union and thereafter a ballot of individual members."

The conference takes place against the background of the Tory govern-

ment breaking up the Post Office into three separate businesses: British Telecom, Postal and Giro Banks (see POEU conference article).

The maximum unity of post office workers will be essential if jobs are to be protected from the de-nationalisation plans of the government.

In recent years, CPSA members in the post office have gained a considerable lead in pay over their civil service counterparts (partly as a result of the selling of jobs under technology and productivity deals). However, it is quite clear that as a result of the general economic decline, post and telecommunication members can expect to be faced with an attack on living standards facing all workers. Thatcher would like to apply the 4% pay policy even to the nationalised industries.

Only the members' preparedness to struggle to defend living standards will determine wage levels in the future. In the past two years, we have seen the move towards the across the board pay bargaining in the post office involving all the unions. This base is to be built upon as workers' unity will be even more important in the period to come.

One union covering the three businesses in the post and telecommunications industry would immeasurably

strengthen the position of workers in defending their industry, their jobs and living standards.

Militant supporters in the P&T group of CPSA hope that the POEU adopts this position. This could then lead to moves over the next year towards a real democratic union embracing the POEU, UCW and the P&T.

However, the position of one united union is unfortunately not on the agenda of the CPSA P&T conference.

We are in effect to be given the choice of going to a Federated union with the POEU, or staying in CPSA where we are largely federated and where the intention is to make our links with the Civil Service CPSA members even more strictly federal.

In this situation [unless the POEU decide not to move to one democratic union including the UCW and the P&T group, in which case the whole question must be thoroughly re-examined] we feel that the best move for the P&T members would be to vote for the Federation and then to campaign over the next year—before it comes into effect—for the most democratic constitution possible.

By Ann Jones (CPSA P&T, Brighton GMO, personal capacity)

## London Hospital

After a two year battle against job and wage cuts, porters at the London Hospital in Whitechapel have now been locked out.

Two years ago a review was carried out, without any union consultation, which wanted 24 portering jobs to go.

The porters fought management plans with tactics such as lightening strikes. This escalated to supporting action by other NUPE members, and management sent out threatening letters.

Eventually management prevented porters clocking on after one such three hour stoppage, unless they gave individual pledges to the portering manager that no further action would be taken. In other words, they were being made to give up the most basic trade union right; the right to strike.

A NUPE mass meeting was called last week, but any one turning up for the meeting was greeted by a 'picket-line' of management who were preventing porters from stepping onto hospital property! The meeting had to be held outside instead.

New tactics are being employed by management in this dispute; instead of listening to union views around a negotiating table,

management have resorted to eavesdropping on the picket line or the union office!

Porters at Mile End hospital have already declared their support through an overtime ban and porters of St Bartholemews Hospital have agreed to a 24 hour strike. Local council workers, postal workers and transport workers have also given their support.

By Helen Redwood  
(Branch Sec. NE London  
Medical branch,  
ASTMS)

## Tees Dock Strike

"I've worked here 16 years, and I was here when this dock opened. I've never seen anything like this, I'm disgusted with the way the management is carrying on."

"They say, 'accept our proposals or get out' ". This was how one of the Tees docks delegates summed up their anger on Monday morning, following the unanimous votes to strike.

Tory Britain, and local Edwardes-style management have rebounded with Tees dockers saying "enough is enough". 100 jobs have gone in the last

month. The managements offer for this years' pay was the final straw. The offer amounted to a future manning cut of 20%, an increase in work targets so that smaller gangs will have to do more work for the same pay.

In return for this two way increase in productivity, the management's offer was only a two stage lump sum of £800 for the remaining dockers, provided all the management terms are accepted.

An example of management's high handed attitude was their direction to the Marlborough police to remove all reporters talking to pickets. Tees port was held up as a modern port and in the past accepted management's productivity proposals. But workers get no thanks for their acceptance. Management always want more, and they thought they could get away with this this time. They were however, surprised by the dockers changing mood.

By Dave Jennings  
(T&GWU Dockers Teesside)

## Sulzer

After three weeks on strike, one particular engineer from Sulzers was forced to turn to social security. He was given an appointment ten days later, but that was all!

The strike has gained of-

ficial backing by a unanimous vote of the Leeds AUEW district committee, yet has still not been made official by the national executive. Therefore strike pay is not being paid. But this does not stop the Tories deducting £12 from any benefits for strikers' families!

In the last week, however, management has isolated itself. TASS, the staff union, have rejected an offer of 6% now, with more in February. They have imposed certain sanctions and started a levy towards the shop floor strike fund. Deputations have gained a very warm response from local factories when approached with appeal sheets from Sulzers. The dispute is seen as a pay setter for the area. The new factory is geared for a 25% increase in productivity yet management have offered nothing on the basic.

The Engineering Employers Federation have been fishing for a settlement but are only prepared to offer "meaningful negotiations" after a return to work.

There can be no secret talks between the EEF and union officials. Negotiations are based on strength, not on the skill of negotiators. The strike is beginning to really bite and with your help can be won.

Rush support to: Tommy Wake, Convenor, c/o AUEW House, Bridge Street, Leeds LS2 7RA. Cheques payable to Sulzers Strike Fund.

John Ingham spoke to Tommy Wake (AUEW convenor)

## POEU PAY

The Post Office Engineering Union at its October NEC meeting carried without dissent a motion rejecting all attempts by employers to impose in 1982 pay negotiations, the Tories' 4% pay limit.

This rejection of government wages policy is in line with past POEU Annual Conference decisions and it is important that branches ensure that the unanimous support by the present NEC is carried out in practice.

A further motion moved by Phil Lloyd, a 'Militant' supporter, did not receive such unanimous support and was eventually rejected on a left/right split, 13-9. Like a similar motion last year, it wanted to lay down the basis for the 1982 wage claim.

It stated that the claim should take account "of the need for full compensation for all rises in the cost of living, a significant increase to take account of our continued co-operation in the introduction of new systems and equipment and that all increases should be consolidated from 1 July 1982.

The motion also wanted the POEU members to be advised of the basis of the claim. The motion was, as ever, opposed by the right-wing on the usual spurious ground of being "too restrictive", "absolutely premature" and a new one this time "too anodyne"!

The right wing also considered that "other factors" would need to be taken into consideration but without being able or willing to specify such "other factors."

Some right-wingers consider such resolutions a "waste of time" and opposition was even raised about proposing that the membership be advised of the claim.

The wage claim will not disappear having now been placed on the agenda. A report has been promised for the January NEC meeting.

POEU members have an opportunity to now raise the 1982 wage claim through their own resolutions to the NEC in an attempt to fill out the basis of the claim.

By an industrial correspondent

'A fighting programme for the

# NUR

Price 25p [+ 10p postage] from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace London E8 3PN

## Coventry: WORKERS LEAD THE FIGHT

"We can't afford to strike, but neither can we afford to live on this money", was the reaction of one NUPE member, striking against council cuts in Coventry.

The proposed £2 million cuts means cut wages for school cleaners, kitchen staff and caretakers.

For John Doran, a caretaker, and senior steward, it will mean a cut in pay of between £8 and £10 from the already inadequate sum of £65.

His wife, a cleaner, would lose £4.50 from the £27 she gets for a 15 hour week.

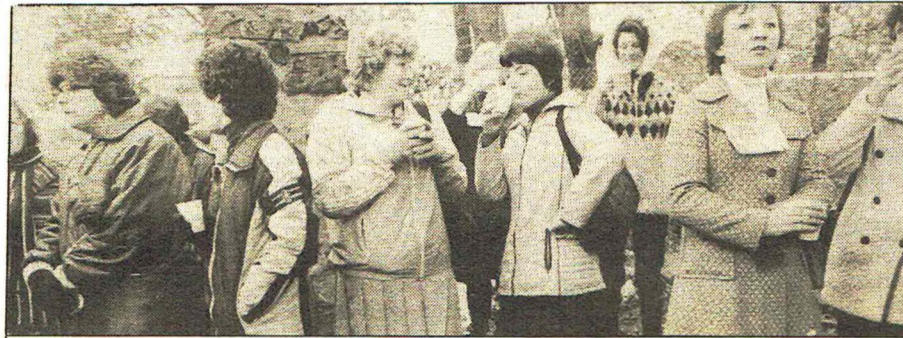
The strike has been solid amongst the 4,000 local authority workers, and workers are prepared for a long struggle, with pickets out at schools and colleges all round the city.

As a cleaner at Bluecoat school told us "The Coventry Evening Telegraph claims that Joe Little, the NUPE full time official is manipulating us for political ends.

"But we pushed him into taking this action. We have had enough." She added, laughing, "if he tries to give in now he will be lynched by all of us."

They have had good support. Transport and General Workers Union members, at mass meetings have voted to approach other LA unions for a one day strike of local authority workers in the city, and dustmen and postmen have refused to cross the picket line. At Whitley Abbey school, they even managed to get food from van drivers delivering to shops opposite.

One council leader Arthur Waugh, said the



On the picket line. Four out of five strikers are women workers. PHOTO: Denis Doran

dispute has been caused entirely by the Tory government, but instead of taking on the Tories in a fight to defend Coventry workers' living standards, the council has refused to negotiate until the strike is called off.

Despite angry protests, the right wing have also stopped the strike being discussed at the District Labour Party, two emergency resolutions being thrown aside by the Chairman, Bill Lapworth the T&G South Midlands Divisional Organiser on procedural grounds.

A lobby of 60 strikers outside the meeting greeted the resolution from Coventry South East Labour Party Executive with enthusiastic applause. It called on the Labour council to return to the status quo by withdrawing the letters implementing cut hours and wages.

It demanded full payment during the dispute, for withdrawal of the cuts package, and reversal of recent spending cuts and for reopening discussions between the Labour council, the district Labour Party

and public service trade unions for a joint fight against Tory plans for further cuts.

Calls for a one day strike throughout the whole city by T&G shop stewards and members must be echoed in NALGO and the NUT. The unions should also escalate action by instructing members not to cross picket lines.

By Mark Picksley  
 (NUPE and Coventry South East LPYS)

Labour councillors must not do the Tories dirty work, they must give a lead against the Tories. Kay Horsley senior steward at Whitley Abbey school had no doubt that if a large council like Coventry took a stand like Clay Cross in the '70s they would get massive support from NUPE members and other workers.

"Unfortunately they have no faith in the

workers" she said.

Labour and the trades unions must take action on a national level in support of workers fighting the cuts, including industrial action if necessary. All the strategies tried by Labour councils have failed to stop Heseltine's cuts.

Labour councillors must confront the government and refuse to implement cuts, or put up rates.

If this action was carried out nationally, it would become an instant focus for workers eager to take on a hated government and to return Labour to government committed to socialist policies.

Local authority workers should also move resolutions in support of the dispute in their unions. Money is urgently needed. Despite one councillor's claim that the women were working for "pin money", for many this wage is the only wage coming into the household.

Resolutions of support and financial donations should be sent to Joe Little, 1 School House, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry.

## CPSA: RIGHT WING DESPERATE

The ballot for the General Secretary and General Treasurer of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) ends on Friday 20 November.

In this final week it has become apparent that the right wing candidate for Treasurer, John Raywood, could be defeated.

At the same time, there is now the possibility, against all the odds, that Broad Left candidate John Macreadie could win the General Secretary's position.

This has produced an hysterical campaign through the media in a desperate bid to make up ground. The right wing have clearly miscalculated the mood of CPSA's membership.

By Chris Baugh  
 (CPSA NEC personal capacity)

Facing a possible defeat on the basis of the early voting returns, they have unleashed a frenzied attack on the Broad Left supported candidates (John Macreadie for General Secretary and Terry Ainsworth for General Treasurer).

Lashing out in all directions, the right wing have accused union branches of intimidating members to prevent them voting; employing thugs for the same purpose; fraudulent completion of ballot papers and other unspecified electoral irregularities.

These smears on CPSA members have been faithfully reproduced by the gutter press, even though they themselves see these charges for what they are, a crude attempt by the right wing to

rally support. For example, the right-wing candidate for General Treasurer, John Raywood, says (*The Standard* 16 November), "It would be disastrous for democracy and our union if Mr Macreadie and Mr Ainsworth are elected. They will be mere puppets for the Broad Left."

### Slanders

Mr Raywood ignores the fact that it was the CPSA Broad Left which fought for and secured the democratic principle of election of senior officers, if it were not for this, these elections would not be taking place.

In fact, the undemocratic procedures have come from the right, who have tried to stop candidates going to meetings to address members. There have even been hints that the elections could be halted and re-run at a later date because of the success of the Broad Left.

These manoeuvres and slanders against the membership, the use of the capitalist press to gather support for their candidates and if all else fails, the threat to the elections shows the right wing in their true light.

But their days in control of the union are numbered. As John Macreadie has said "the scurrilous campaign of the right wing only reinforces the need for a leadership in the union who will defend members' rights and interests".

The fighting programme put forward by John Macreadie in his campaign for General Secretary has found an echo amongst members. A mood for change is developing and this will pave the way for the election of Kevin Roddy as CPSA President and a Broad Left NEC in 1982.

## Poverty wages

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

July this year, that figure had reached 627,000 — and total unemployment is well over 3 million.

But it's not only the unemployed who have fallen below recognised 'subsistence' levels.

Young people on YOPS get £23.50 a week, and 'Mr 4% Norm', the Employment Secretary, Tebbit, has hinted that there will be no increases this year.

Four years ago, there were more than 750,000 households where one person worked for all or most of the year but where they were still in poverty.

And that is even after child benefit and family income supplement were taken into account.

As wage settlements since have failed to keep up with inflation, the situation will be worse today. Average wage increases over the past year have been 8% to 11% which is below even the official inflation rate of 11.7%.

But real inflation is far higher. The retail price index does not take into account the real spending needs of workers and pays too much attention to luxury goods.

And then again, the Tories introduced a new inflation measure in 1979

when they wanted to prove how 'good for us' the cuts in taxes (and services) were.

Since then taxes have accelerated so the average worker is more heavily taxed than ever through PAYE and VAT.

This 'Tax and Price Index' has now shot up 15.2% in a year! So, officially, workers have faced cuts of up to 7% in living standards, quite apart from those who have lost far more through redundancy.

Many workers in the public sector are still way behind their real wages in 1976. How many households now, in and out of work, have to scrape by on poverty wages?

Yet the Tories want us to take further cuts in pay while big price increases for housing, gas,

petrol, rail fares etc are on their way.

The labour movement should demand measures to put a halt to mass unemployment. We should insist on a national minimum wage of £85 per week.

We should demand a sliding scale of wages automatically linked to price rises. There must be a genuine prices index monitored by trade unionists to take into account the real budgets of low-paid workers.

But we won't get these from the Tories. The existence of 1930s poverty in the 1980s is reason enough for the TUC and the Labour Party to lead an all out campaign to ditch the Tories and elect a Labour government committed to ending poverty through a socialist plan of production.

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