

GIVE US A FUTURE

Tories' system offers only misery

Labour must fight for SOCIALISM

By John Pickard

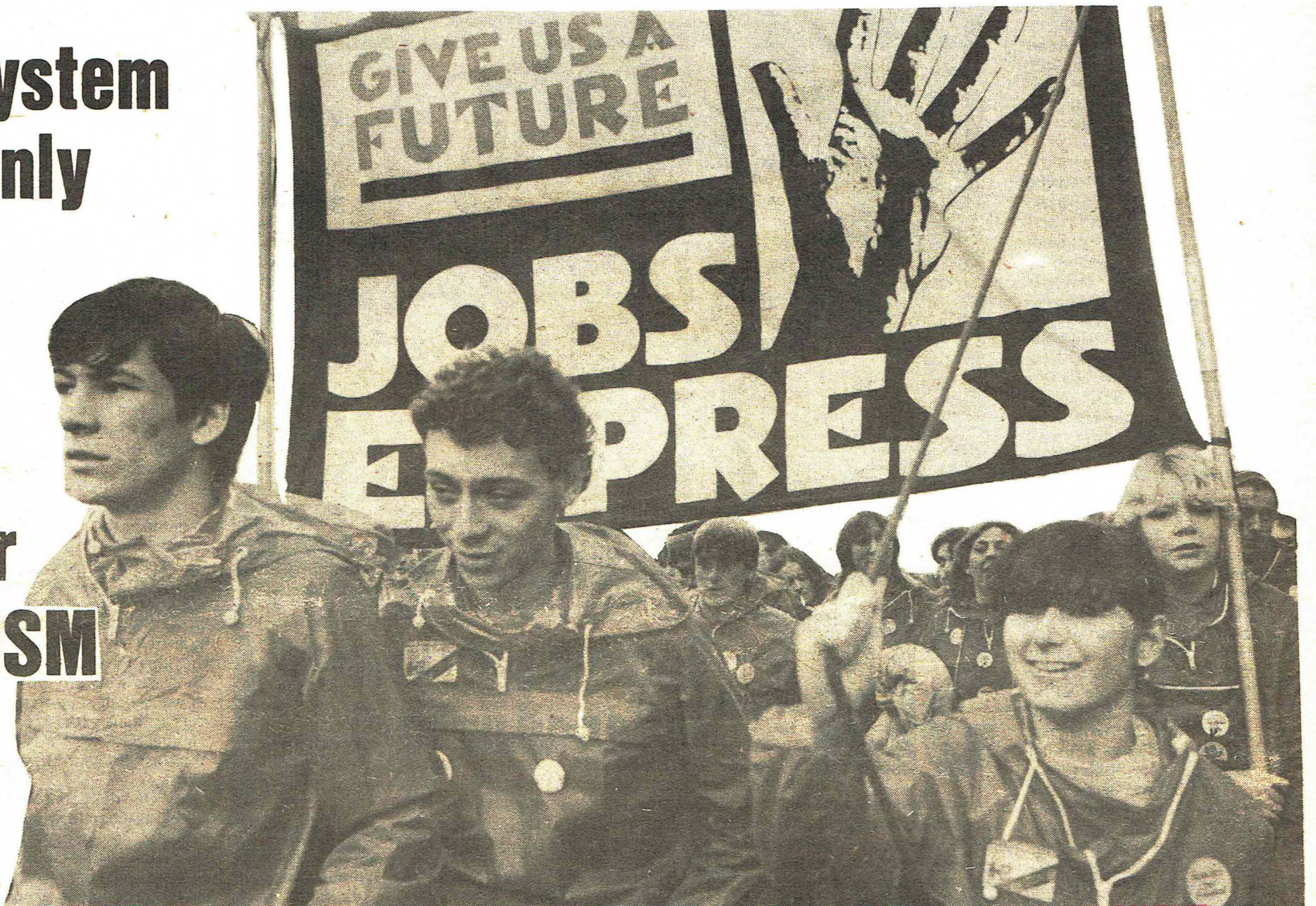
"Things are going to get worse". That was the message Thatcher gave to the young people on the Jobs Express.

There will be fewer jobs, she says and the best hope she could offer was a Youth Opportunities "job" but with no increase in the allowance.

For millions of workers not just the young, the Tory government has already meant huge sacrifices. The Tories have chopped into expenditure on education, health, social services—all vital services for working people—while at the same time they squander billions on nuclear weapons.

They have pushed unemployment to astronomical levels and are deliberately trying to use the dole queues to intimidate other workers into accep-

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Capitalist Britain is less and less capable of giving even a job to young workers. Photo: Militant

BL Longbridge— Why we're making our stand

There is a strong mood of determination at the BL picket line at Longbridge.

Ken King, a shop steward working in material control, explained "this strike is an emotive issue and has nothing to do with tea breaks."

He explained that management want to cut the rest allowance, from 30 to 20 minutes in the morning and 22 to 15 minutes in

the afternoon.

"What kind of time is that? You don't just "sneak around the corner" to the toilets, they are 400 yards away over pipes and wires and up and down stairs."

"As soon as you have used up your rest allowance, you cannot leave the line again without a note from your foreman. If the

foreman can't find a relief, or you can't find the foreman, you can't leave the line."

One man was sick the other day and another wet himself because the foreman would not give permission.

Three women working on the Metro line told us that the day before their period

starts they have to get a note from the male foreman to go to the toilets to change their towels.

Daniel Mulholland who had been on picket duty all night said "we have got to be successful this time, and make a stand. It is a question of self decency."

"After the last strike they thought they could pick us

Mike Higgins and Fiona Churchly (Bromsgrove LPYS) spoke to Longbridge workers

off at Longbridge. They haven't tried it on at Cowley yet."

Les Taylor, shop steward from body and assembly said "we can't afford to lose. In body and assembly we are 100%. One inspector

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Militant

In a wave of hysteria the Tory press has tried to portray the Crosby by-election as the end of the Labour Party.

Crosby was a bad result for Labour. But what the Tory press campaign is deliberately hiding is the fear that the bosses' SDP experiment could rebound with a fury on the Tory Party.

They know that the Crosby by-election would not be repeated at a general election. If it were, according to the BBC computer, it would result in the SDP-Liberal alliance winning 533 seats, Labour 78 and the Tories only 4.

Although this is a 400% increase for the Tories, compared to the computer projection after Warrington, the bosses did not establish the SDP to destroy their own party, carefully built up, used and controlled by them for 150 years. The Tory Party would not be discarded by big business in an instant, especially to a party like the SDP whose membership is overwhelmingly middle-class and politically unstable.

But the 'wets' in the Tory Party have seen that the havoc wreaked by Thatcherism has led many formerly Tory middle-class and sections of skilled workers to desert them for the SDP. Norman St. John Stevas has talked of the SDP becoming "a forest fire that could destroy the Tories." Even the ultra-loyal Sunday Telegraph proclaimed, 29 November, "Crosby indicates a dismal degree of Tory disillusion."

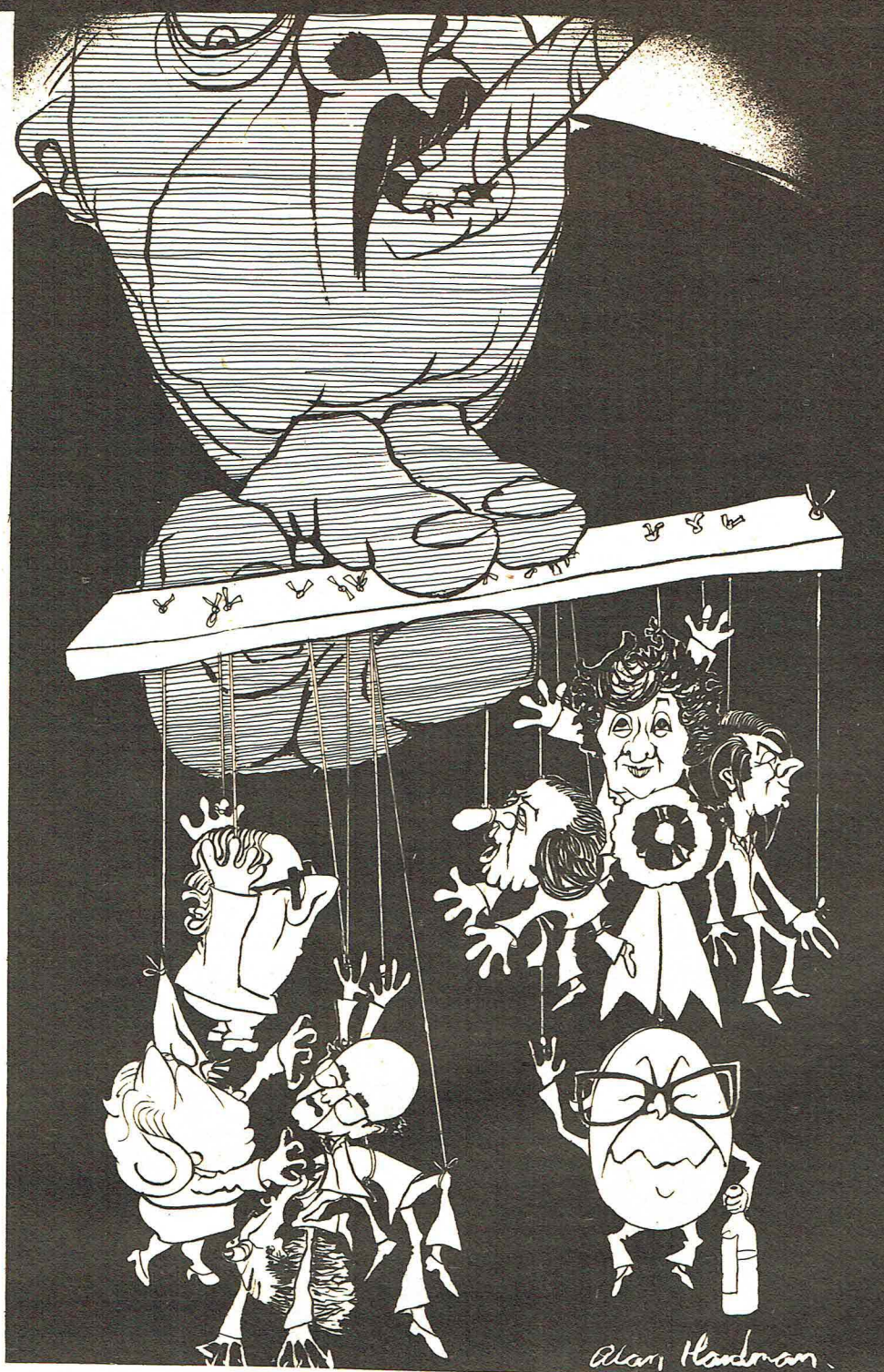
The SDP was deliberately set up to prevent such disillusion being channelled into support for the Labour Party. Such is the desperate position of British capitalism that a future Labour government would be under enormous pressure from the working class from the first day of office. Workers would be demanding action to end unemployment and attacks on living standards.

This is why bosses' journals such as the 'Economist' have declared "No government constitutionally or politically dependent on organised labour must again be allowed to rule in Britain." (26 September)

In past periods the bosses used their minor reserve team, the Liberals. In 1972-3, the press campaign helped the Liberals get 38.6% in a by-election at the Labour seat of Chester-le-Street. Between October 1972 and November 1973, the Labour Party lost between 8% and 14.9% in by-elections held in five Labour seats and between 5% and 14% in six Tory seats.

Labour has not gained a by-election seat for ten years. But the Liberals in England, and the Nationalists in Scotland and Wales, were unable to prevent Labour from winning the 1974 elections.

The SDP has now been formed to prevent such a re-



SDP - Bosses party could rebound on Tories

occurrence. Proclaiming itself something 'new', it is in reality nothing more than the reheated hash of the failed right-wing policies carried out by the last Labour government.

SDP leaders have gone beyond Pontius Pilate. Not only have they tried to draw a veil over their own past disasters, they are trying to capitalise on the disillusion these policies produced.

All they have to offer is a different version of Toryism—support for the Common Market, nuclear weapons and an incomes policy. A poll of their members by ITV's 'Weekend World' showed 72% wanted drastic attacks made on trade union rights, 89% wanted an incomes policy and 60% wanted this to be statutory.

Already David Owen has expunged all mention of 'socialism' from the paperback version of his book (details see p.6). Shirley Williams has stated that if the Tories moved away from Thatcher, and no party had an overall majority after the next election, the SDP and Liberals would enter into coalition with the Tories. Heath not surprisingly has already indicated he would serve in such a coalition.

General elections are different to by-elections. The class polarisation of society

comes more to the fore. The press cannot focus on one single constituency and the one 'show-biz moderate' as in a by-election.

It still remains most likely that Labour will win the next election, but with the SDP/Liberal bandwagon attempting to block Labour from achieving an overall majority. A 'hung Parliament,' with the SDP holding the balance, would just mean another Tory government.

It is essential that the Labour Party conducts a campaign now to prevent this multi-Tory government coming to power. The SDP has taken votes away from Labour at local council and national by-elections, although not as many as it has taken from the Tories.

Yet the MORI poll after Warrington showed that the SDP won 43% of trade unionists' votes, compared to Labour's 53%. Although Labour won 59% of unskilled workers' votes, compared to the SDP's 32%, amongst skilled workers, the SDP got 46%, the same as Labour.

The only way for Labour to cut the ground from under the SDP feet is to offer a clear socialist alternative.

Labour's right wing cannot do that. Their actions are limited to stabbing the party in the back by deser-

tion or by starting a witch-hunt. They would rather destroy the Labour Party than see it becoming a radical, socialist party.

This week, George Cunningham MP accepted Michael Foot's offer of shadow spokesman on Home Office matters and three days later kicked Foot in the teeth by announcing he was leaving the Labour Party.

Such people have quit because they rightly see no future for their policies and careers in the Labour Party, but their actions and those of the SDP sympathisers still in the Labour Party have contributed to the disorientation of Labour voters. The right wing find it hard to fight the SDP because on so many issues they publicly agree with them!

Such is the endemic nature of the crisis engulfing British capitalism that the class polarisation of society cannot be patched up. But the SDP threat must be met. It is crucial that the Labour Party draws the lessons from the failures of past Labour governments and campaigns head-on against SDP policies and for the clear socialist alternative of transforming society.

NO LET UP IN WITCH HUNT

After the last meeting of Gosport CLP's general management committee, some delegates who are long-standing members of the party spoke about how the right-wing operated in the 1950s.

As left-wingers, they had been in a minority in the days when the Gaitskellites ruled supreme.

One described how she was 'advised' to stand down from the panel of County Council candidates. A delegation of right-wingers visited her to say she shouldn't stand—because her daughter was an unmarried mother!

Others told of the utter intolerance of the right-wing in those days. Many activists became demoralised, dropping out of the party for years.

For those who remained and fought for socialist policies, they were of the opinion that these witch-hunt tactics of the right, showed how they lacked the guts to defend their ideas in the movement.

The chairman said: "I had ten years of right-wing ideas being thrust upon me at GMC meetings, but my commitment to socialism didn't waiver. Now that the party has shifted to the left and policies are freely debated, the right continually bleat on about how 'intolerant' that party has become. What hypocrisy!"

Earlier, the GMC (18 Nov) had overwhelmingly endorsed an LPYS motion that this Party should have no truck with any attempt to witch-hunt supporters of the 'Militant'. It also called on the NEC to ratify Pat Wall as PPC for Bradford North.

One delegate remarked that if the right-wing succeeded in proscribing "Militant," then it would give the green light to an attack on the left in general. As far as he was concerned, there would be no going back to the days when the right attempted to expel the Bevanites.

In two constituency Labour Parties where there were resolutions passed against a witch-hunt, it was the Labour MP who seconded the motion. In Edinburgh East, Gavin Strang MP seconded the motion—also calling for Pat Wall's selection in Bradford to be endorsed—and in Glasgow Central CLP, Bob McTaggart MP seconded the motion. Two weeks ago, a similar resolution had been passed at Edinburgh Central CLP, calling on the NEC "to reject all attempts at a witch-hunt and instead defend the hard-won democratic gains by endorsing Pat Wall." The secretary of Rottingdean Ward Labour Party in Brighton has also written to Militant, enclosing a copy of a resolution passed by that ward on the same lines.

Chester-le-Street CLP discussed the Manifesto Group letter at its last GMC. There was first a resolution from the LPYS branch urging support for a national budget of £50,000 and this was only narrowly defeated. The MP, Giles Radice, chairman of the Manifesto Group, clearly took this as a signal for an attack upon the left, and with only a little preamble launched into an attack upon Militant in his parliamentary report.

But in what one delegate described as "one of the best debates for years", the mood of the CLP was clearly against Radice's MacCarthyism. No formal vote was taken, but there was only one voice that spoke up in the meeting in his support, while the rest were opposed. In the words of the delegate, Radice's "mumbled and fumbled reply" was a measure of the shock that he received, failing miserably to stir up a purge of the party.

By Militant reporters

LEYLAND CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

went in and he'll be dealt with when we get back."

The men in body and assembly were laid off for three weeks before they joined the strike and have had no money for the three weeks on social security. Workers with two children should have £12.50 a week, but the social security refuse to pay £12 of it as they say the workers are on strike.

Les Taylor said "men with young families are the most determined to carry on the strike." The foreman

had gone in as usual but the management from the paintshop sent six men home yesterday, because the foreman refused to supervise them in sympathy with the strike.

"Having rejected all our other alternatives, including the offer to produce in 39 hours, the same number of cars that we have produced in 40 hours, management are counting on the hardship being inflicted on our families forcing us to accept their terms."

The local media reported that nearly 700 Longbridge workers returned to work on Monday. In fact it was only 55, with only five of them track workers! Despite the dirty tricks of management the strike has if anything been strengthened. The mass meetings after the management's "return to work" call led to another 2,000 workers joining the strike. Now a picket is up all round the plant and more lay offs are likely.

JOBS EXPRESS...

The climax to the TUC Jobs Express Campaign came with the demonstration through London on Sunday, 29 November.

**Roger Shrivess
spoke to
Jobs Expressers**

Six to seven thousand marchers, overwhelmingly young people, showed their hatred of Tory policies which have produced a record level of youth unemployment.

The Jobs Express had passed through Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, Cardiff, Swansea and Bristol and attracted support throughout.

On Monday 30 November, before the Jobs Express lobby of parliament, Roger Shrivess from Militant spoke to some of the Jobs Expressers.

Peter Gayle from Peckham, Patrick O'Shaughnessy from Kilburn and Ray Thomson from Paddington are all on YOPs schemes. They were all very pleased with the response they had got from people they had met on their travels.

**"We'll get
nothing
from the
Tories"**

But the turnout on Saturday had not been good. "The press ignored us" said Peter Gayle "we got a little bit on the telly and a few papers but that was it".

They pointed out that Thatcher had been supposed to meet the jobs campaigners in Bristol. "But she never turned up. We're not surprised at that! What are we going to get from the Tories anyway?"

A contingent of 20 came over from the blackest of unemployment blackspots, Northern Ireland. One girl aged 16 from Newtonabbey near Belfast thought her chances of getting a job were practically non-

existent. "It will need a whole series of these demonstrations before any action is taken".

Michael Lee and Paul Quigley, members of Wythenshawe Labour Party Young Socialists in Manchester, were on the train. They stressed that the atmosphere on the train was very good. But their criticisms of the overall control of the campaign found an echo among many of the Jobs Expressers.

"It was not political enough" they said, comparing the anti-Tory mood of the vast majority of the participants with the determination of the unelected stewards to prevent political activity.

"The mass meetings were suddenly stopped on the Tuesday night without any consultation or explanation. The stewards didn't want "political slogans" on the train but how can you be "non-political" campaigning against unemployment?"

"We were supposed to present ourselves humbly to the bosses and Tories begging for a job.

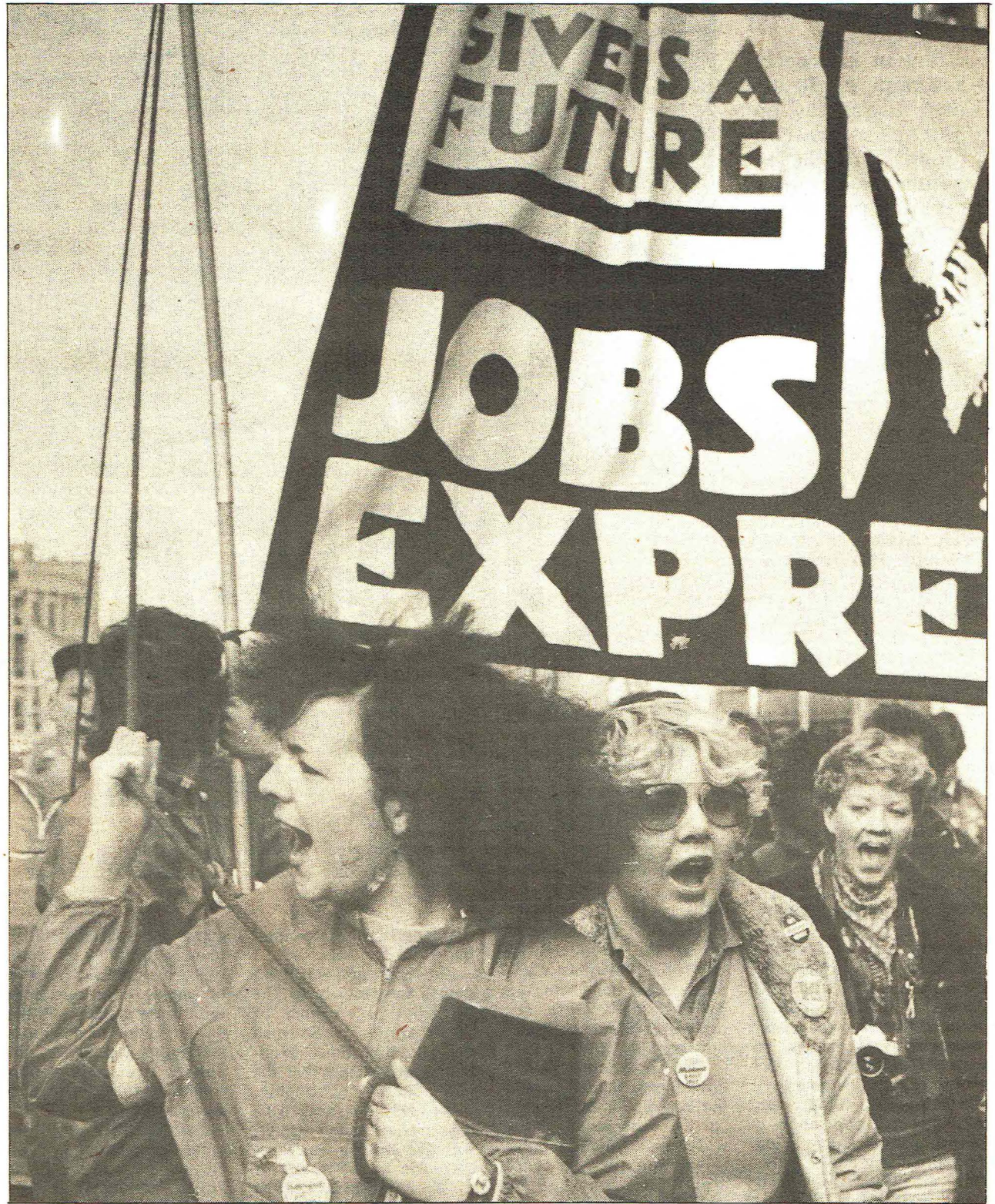
"We wanted to meet workers who are fighting closures and redundancies but the stewards even tried to stop workers from Laurence Scott's dispute collecting money or selling literature until LPYS members intervened."

But the TUC-approved stewards could not stop the young people on the train reaching political conclusions. Well over 100 Militants were sold on the train and at least 70-80 application forms were filled in for the Labour Party Young Socialists.

As another Jobs Express campaigner put it "future demonstrations must be political. What everyone was calling for was an end to Thatcher's government!"

We want a future We want socialism

Photo: Militant



SICK AND TIRED OF POVERTY

"Give us more pay—stuff the £23.50." "Maggie out, socialism in" rang out at the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) building in Glasgow on 23 November.

Over 400 angry YOP workers were on a half-day strike and took part in a picket of the MSC organised by the National Union of Public Employees.

The response was tremendous with trainees coming from all over Glasgow and Lanarkshire and even as far away as Greenock!

There were members of NUPE and the TGWU, on the picket. One girl who had heard about it on the

radio was sacked for joining the strike.

The mood of the picket was angry but good humoured. MSC officials were booed and heckled as the young workers shouted their slogans.

**Join the
LPYS!**

The anger of the YOP workers boiled over when the organisers called for the picket to disperse after an hour and a half. The YOP workers grabbed the LPYS banner and staged a spontaneous demonstration through the town centre.

The police responded callously, breaking up the demonstration with police

vans driving into us at high speed, with lights flashing and horns blaring, forcing the crowd onto the pavement then attempting to break us up into small groups.

At an impromptu meeting afterwards a crowd of over 150 listened to Young Socialists calling on the youth to get organised; over 60 responded by immediately joining the LPYS. Enough young people joined in one town to start a new branch.

This demo gave only a tiny glimpse of the anger of YOP workers and their ability—when they get organised—to fight back.

YOP workers are bitter and angry at the way we are being shoved about. We are sick and tired of poverty

wages, of rubbish conditions and a future of unemployment.

The message is clear—YOP workers must get organised—join a union and fight—what alternative do we have? The organised labour movement must now launch a real drive to unionise YOPs workers urgently!

We must begin to build now for the national lobby of Parliament of YOP trainees on 23 February. Make sure this becomes a massive demonstration of YOPs against the Tories!

**By Glasgow
YOPS workers**

Last week a spokesman for the Manpower Services Commission admitted that "up to 20 per cent of our trainees could be displacing permanent staff according to a survey earlier this year." That means that the MSC YOPs programme, providing wage-slave employment for over 300,000 young people, has been directly responsible for 60,000 redundancies, more than either BL or British Steel in recent years.

David Stoddart, Labour MP for Swindon recently quoted in the House of Commons the example of a store-owner who took on a trainee at a cost of £23 a week (cost to the government, that is) at the same time as paying off a worker who had been receiving just over £70 a week.

The only way to stop such practices is to fight for union rights for YOPs workers and to join in a common fight with all trade unionists for jobs with decent wages and conditions as the LPYS and the YOPS Trade Union Rights Campaign have been doing.

A pioneer trade union agreement in the YOPs programme is being signed at the Gilfach Goch community workshops in Mid Glamorgan. All 70 YOPs workers there have agreed to pay a weekly trainee subscription of 25p to the Transport and General Workers Union.

No answers from Scarmán

“We will not be able to buy our way out of these problems...”

That was William Whitelaw's response to the question of how to solve the decay in Britain's inner-cities.

Yet in his report, Scarmán confirmed that it was the appalling social conditions and the accumulated resentment against the police which were the causes of the April and July upheavals in Brixton.

The Home Secretary's evasion on whether or not to spend money on housing, employment, and education, shows that the Tories have no intention of reversing their policies.

The report on the 'Brixton Disorders,' is a condemnation of the Tory government's policies and the capitalist system. In Lambeth, 18,000 people are on the housing waiting list; 12,000 households in the borough live in overcrowded conditions.

Scarmán states “the physical environment in which the people of Brixton live...is one marked by decay...there are in particular very serious housing problems.” “The provision of recreational facilities in Lambeth, particularly for young people, is at present insufficient,” and this is made worse because of the “enforced idleness of many youths through unemployment.”

One-parent families are one in six of the population, ie. twice the national average. “There is evidence of a higher rate of mental illness and of physical or mental handicap in the borough, than nationally.”

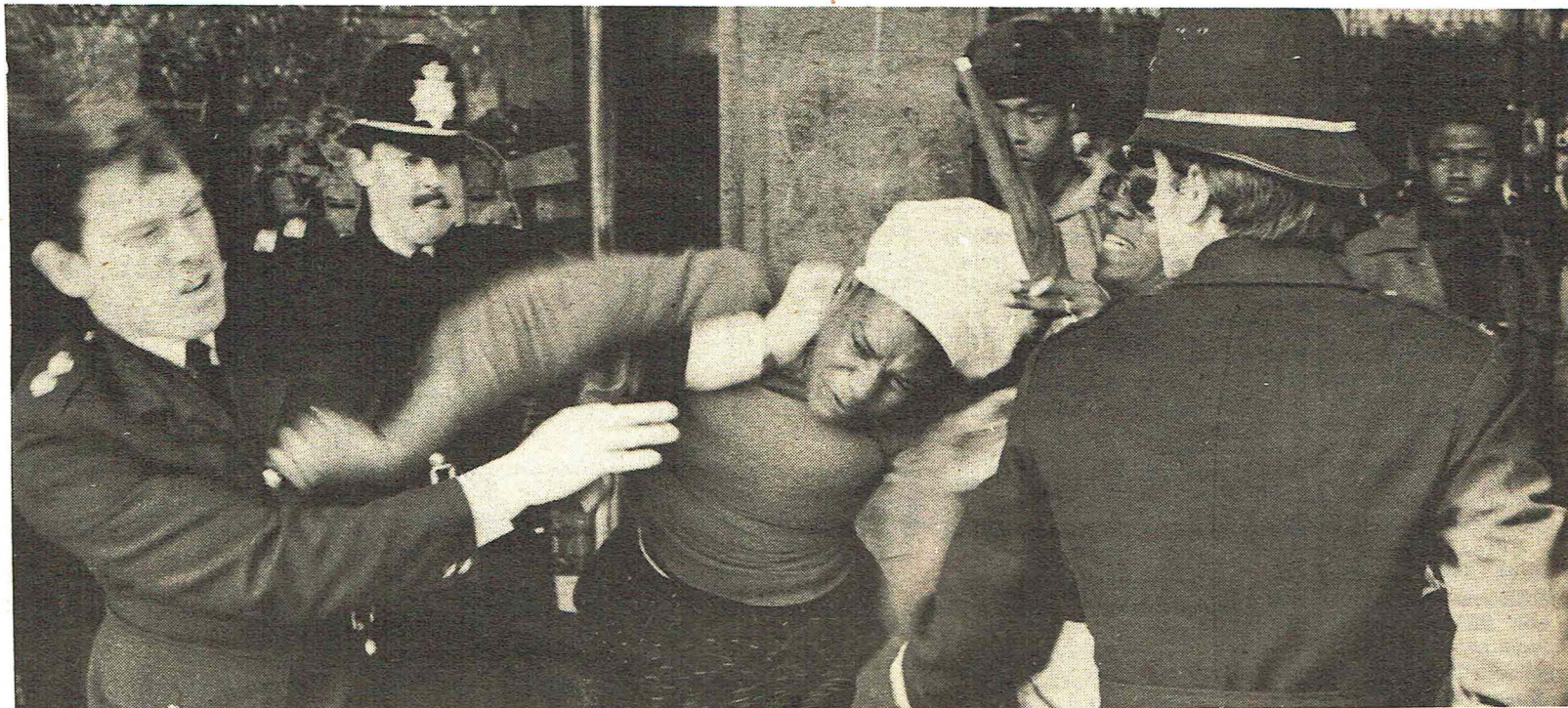
In Brixton, about one-third of the population is black. The black population is particularly hit by inner-city decay and discrimination. In education, West Indian children “have failed to benefit from our society to the extent that they might reasonably have expected,” admits Scarmán.

Unemployment, in the area covered by the Brixton Employment Office, was 13% in early 1981. In the same area, unemployment amongst black men under 19 is estimated at 55%. To Scarmán, “discrimination, by employers and at the workplace is a factor of considerable importance.”

Of those whom the police picked upon and arrested in Brixton, two thirds were unemployed and 67% were black. The majority arrested for threatening behaviour, the most common charge, were between fourteen and sixteen years old.

Militant and the LPYS have consistently argued that rioting is no answer to the problems facing youth. We have pointed out that only a socialist transformation of society provides a way forward.

Scarmán, on the other



Throughout the country problems are the same. (Above) Police move into action during demonstration in Coventry against racism last May

Photo: D Cozens

UPHEAVALS WILL RETURN

hand, after cataloguing the social ills produced by capitalism blithely comments that they “do not provide an excuse for disorder.” He never shows how such ills can be ended.

The worsening economic crisis means the Tories and the bosses will continue to cut the living standards of workers and youth, in order to gain more profits. **Since April, the number of unemployed teenagers, black and white, in Lambeth, has gone up by 40%!**

Scarmán admits that there were many cases of blatant harassment and racial prejudice by police, and gives examples of provocative police operations and methods. He confirms it was the SPG operations and ‘Swamp ‘81’ that brought the long-standing resentment of blacks, youth, and the community generally, to explosion point.

Scarmán states that the ‘Swamp ‘81’ operation created a “great increase in tension.” The operation had involved flooding Brixton with police officers, and the extensive use of ‘stop and search’ tactics.

From 6 to 10 April, a hundred and eighteen people were arrested, and seventy-five charged. There were many incidents of police, some in civilian clothes, stopping people without identifying themselves. This represented massive in-

timidation of the community.

The report goes into great detail in describing the blow-by-blow events of 10-12 April. Yet Scarmán throughout his report maintains the pretence that the police acted ‘reasonably, ‘lawfully,’ did not over-react, etc. Sometimes, as with the fighting which occurred in the afternoon of 11 April, he mentions the fact that some policemen showed a lack of discretion, or ill-judgement.

“It's received a lot of attention, but there's nothing new in it...it was a waste of money. We know what's going on in Brixton...I never saw the need for the Scarmán inquiry. I notice now that the policemen in Brixton are going round smiling at everybody...”
Local West Indian woman

But Scarmán still points an accusing finger at black youth, who, he claims, “were spoiling for a row,” and he still supports Whitelaw's call to equip police with CS gas, water-cannon, and plastic bullets.

However, the report does illustrate both the lack of police accountability, and the completely inadequate

complaints procedure. Scarmán is forced to conclude that **“a significant number of people have such little faith in the system that they do not bother to make formal complaints against the police, even when they would be fully justified in doing so.”**

But Scarmán proposes purely superficial changes. He believes the existing Police Authorities are adequate in principle, and thinks the Metropolitan Police should remain under the control of the Home Secretary. He calls for a statutory framework in which there will be liaison between “the community” and the police, and some consultative machinery in London.

However, as he admits, “police community” relations collapsed in Lambeth in 1978-79. A police-community liaison committee was formed in October 1978 but it lasted less than six months. Three days after its initial meeting, the SPG started to tour the area without the community reps being consulted!

Scarmán says there must be some form of independent element about complaints and this is now supported in general terms by Whitelaw, and the Police Federation, though no clear intention is given of the form this will take.

The recent case of Errol Madden, a youth who was wrongfully charged on theft

of a toy car, and forced to sign a false confession, has clearly shown the inadequacies of the present Complaints Board. The two officers who arrested Errol have only been given ‘strict advice’, and no disciplinary action is being taken.

He did say the youths did not have decent houses... don't have no work. I hope, and I know a lot of blokes they're having hopes, things will get better...it's only for the government to fulfil their hopes.

They'll have to give people better conditions and find jobs for us, now. If they don't, it'll be worse, there'll be another riot, and they know it. There'll be chaos.”

“Rocky”—an unemployed West Indian worker

Scarmán believes action should be taken against police who are racist, though he leaves the development of this to the police themselves, who are devising ‘scientific methods’ of detecting racial bias.

The Labour Committee for the Defence of Brixton has been continuing its work in pressing the labour movement to campaign for democratic control over the police. Local authority

By Kevin Fernandes
(London LPYS
Regional Committee)

police committees should have the power to appoint and sack the Chief Constable and senior officers, institute an effective independent complaints procedure, and have control over resources, training, discipline, and day-to-day policing.

In his report, Scarmán, while laying bare the disastrous consequences of Tory policies in Britain's inner-cities, points to no solution. He is very mild on the police's activities during April and the summer. The issues of the police raids, and especially the major destructive raid in Railton Road in July, are not even raised.

The plight of many who were arbitrarily arrested, beaten up, heavily fined, or even imprisoned, for doing nothing at all, is not discussed in the report, nor in the Press.

A great well of discontent has been created. Unless the underlying social conditions are changed, and the police are made democratically accountable, there will inevitably be renewed conflict. The labour movement must campaign to offer a positive alternative to the workers and youth in Brixton and other similar areas.

By Kevin Fernandes
(London LPYS
Regional Committee)

FIGHTING FOR LABOUR

The Dingle is an area of Liverpool which sounds like something from a fairy tale—but for the people living there, the reality is something completely different.

Dingle, a part of Liverpool's riverside, overlooks the Dockland. This was once a prosperous area, but is now derelict, symbolising the industrial decline of Liverpool over the recent years.

Like in the rest of Toxteth—the all too common sight here is large areas of wasteland where plans for rebuilding homes have been cut back by the Liberal council and the Tory government. Council estates and tenement blocks have been starved of money and so have a huge backlog of repairs—windows that were broken during the riots in July have still not been repaired.

Families are forced to live in overcrowded conditions due to the 16,000 waiting for council housing in Liverpool. Old people are often isolated in the tower blocks, and for the youth—what kind of future is there with youth unemployment reaching peak figures?

Nearly fifty per cent of black youth are out of work, and for white youth the figure is catching up at

fourty-four per cent. As one woman put it when visited by a local Labour Party member, "All I want is a proper job for my son". He is nineteen years old and has only had one job, on a YOP scheme, since leaving school.

In many areas of Toxteth, a strong tradition of community existed, but because of the social conditions in the area, crime, family problems and loneliness are rife.

land into a marine garden centre at a cost of millions of pounds! It wasn't so long ago that £250,000 was spent on a glorified flower bed overlooked by many derelict and run-down houses.

Archbishop Warlock also came to Toxteth. He opened part of Lodge Lane—the scene of recent riots—as a "Special Housing Crisis Area". This means that money will now be available for more improvements, but

Photo right: Heseltine visits Toxteth to see the dire effects of his government's policies

campaign of canvassing and recruitment to build the Labour Party in the area.

Already in Granby, one of the wards in Toxteth, the Labour Party has been enthusiastically received new members have been recruited in every street.

Many people are disgusted at the hypocrisy of Heseltine and the Liberal Council in particular, who shake their heads at the level of youth unemployment, yet over the years have been responsible for four thousand jobs lost in the local authority—many in the Direct Works department at Dingle.

To the people of Toxteth, the Liberals have been given their chance and showed themselves in their true colour—no different from the Tories.

The departure of Dick Crawshaw, present MP for Toxteth, to the SDP has made the Labour Party even more determined to return a Labour candidate, one who is committed to a socialist programme to solve the problems of the area.

- ★ A programme of useful public works to provide jobs and build houses.
 - ★ Massive scheme of council house building
 - ★ A 35-hour week ; An £85 minimum wage
 - ★ Nationalise the commanding heights of the economy
- For a socialist plan of production



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report) II

Liverpool

But Toxteth has been 'fortunate' in one respect. Since the riots, a whole number of celebrities have visited the area. Michael Heseltine came like a criminal returning to the scene of his crime, so that as the new "minister for Merseyside", he can see for himself the result of his own government's policies: unemployment, inadequate housing, and poverty.



Tony Mulhearn, Labour prospective parliamentary candidate for Toxteth

Liberals same as Tories

Yet all is not lost! Plans are being made to convert part of Dingle's derelict

the fact that it is now a crisis area is precisely because of the money cut back in the past.

It is against this background that Toxteth Labour Party have organised a

There will be mass canvasses by Labour Party members in three constituencies this Sunday, 6 December.

In Liverpool Toxteth, Brighton Kempton and Bradford North, local Labour Party members, Labour Party Young Socialists and trade unionists will be building up the local constituency parties and showing that only a Labour government committed to socialist policies can solve the problems of working people.

FIGHTING FOR SOCIALISM

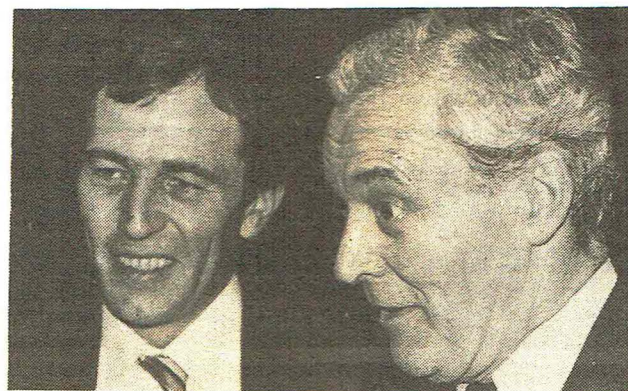
A dreamland of amusement arcades, piers and bright lights along the sea front. That is the "glamorous" image of Brighton.

For working people who live here though, it is nothing like the tourist trap and conference centre which the Tories promote.

This area has one of the lowest wage rates in the country, bad housing, poor facilities for youth and most of all unemployment.

The Brighton area, supposedly a corner of the "affluent" South East has about 15,000 people unemployed. The new redundancies at ITT Creed and the closure of Chubb are only the latest in a long line of job losses. Thanks to Tory rule nationally and locally, this number is likely to rise.

The Pavillion Job Centre looks more like a cattle market than a place to look for work. Not surprising when eight school leavers are pleading for every one job. But this is all the Tories can offer young people in this town.



Rod Fitch with Tony Benn at Labour Party conference

Brighton

situation is not much better. I have seen the most appalling conditions in some areas. In Hanover and Pier Wards I have met pensioners living alone on the top floor of tower blocks, hardly able to move.

In Whitehawk and Moulscöombe I found damp, bad drains and even walls cracking. Similar problems are found throughout Kempdown. And yet the Tories at the Town Hall are spending millions of our

money on building a new 5 star hotel presumably without bad drains, cracking walls or rising damp.

Another hotel is just what we don't need. What Brighton children do need is education but that's another thing the Tories are denying us. Most parents have recently received a letter from the County Council, three pages full of totally confusing writing to tell us that some schools are to be closed down. The

already inadequate nursery facilities could also face the chop.

On top of all this, Brighton is a low wage area. One woman I met during one of my recent visits told me "things are very bad and there's no way we can manage with the Tories' four per cent. If my old man has to go on strike for more pay, I'll back him all the way."

This is the real Brighton, not the 5 star hotels! But the Tories are so concerned with the welfare and profits of the hoteliers and keeping up the tourist trade that they ignore the problems of ordinary people.

That is why on 6 December we will be knocking on every door in Kempdown to find out what these problems are and to discuss the way forward.

We are confident that as in the past we will have a warm welcome on the doorstep. The large number of people who have joined Kempdown Labour Party in the last year is testimony to the wish of local people to have once again a Labour MP.

Then we can start to solve the real problems Brighton faces.

Bradford

Living on Thorpe Edge Estate in Bradford is an experience most people could well do without.

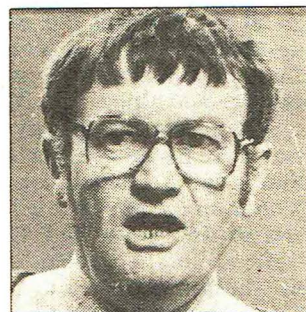
In my half of the estate we have 61% unemployment; everyone wants work but there's no chance. International Harvesters has declined from employing 2,200 to now employing 650, and Hutchinson's mill has dropped from 1,000 workers to 200.

There are few facilities on the estate. The best development is a sports centre but if all the unemployed went there, there would be no space to play sports!

Bus fares have been reduced during the day by West Yorkshire's Labour controlled Council but still many people take the three-mile walk down to the job centre and the dole office because they still cannot afford the bus.

Is it any wonder then that with people being homebound, with no channel for their energy, that the crime rate is so high on Thorpe Edge? The Tories' big stick will not solve the problem but a decent paid job and decent housing might.

A more dangerous development is that the British Movement has been trying to recruit among the angry and frustrated youth on the estate. These fascists offer no future. They blame blacks and Asians for unemployment but these same vicious groups used the Jews as their scapegoat during the 1930s when the dole queue was massive.



Pat Wall

The fascists use racism as a tool to break our trade unions and Labour Party which have taken us centuries to build. Any democratic rights we might have would be taken away.

The blame for the huge dole queues lies with the bosses and their system and not with the working class, black or white.

The Labour Party Young Socialists organised a picket to prevent the fascists rallying in Thorpe Edge. It is up to the Labour Party, however, to show it has a socialist alternative to the present Tory nightmare and to the Tories' second eleven, the SDP.

People want to work. It is only a question of removing the profit barrier and we can get full employment.

When the Third World is crying out for tractors it is madness to stop tractor production at International Harvesters as the bosses have done.

Join us in the battle to stop this lunacy. Join our fight for a Labour government committed to a socialist plan of production.

By Stuart Parkin
(Bradford N CLP)



Baby boom to blame...

Why is youth unemployment so high? The bosses have been searching desperately for an 'answer' to this question that doesn't incriminate their system. When the Tories claimed that young workers had been "pricing themselves out of the market", economists pointed out that the ratio of youth wages to adult wages was low and had not changed since 1973.

But a good monetarist isn't put off by facts and figures. A letter written to 'The Times' explained that the '60s baby boom was to blame. The children born in the '60s are now leaving school and "standard economic theory predicts that an increased supply of a particular kind of labour would only be absorbed into employment if its relative price were allowed to fall."

As the nasty unions hadn't allowed youth wages to plummet, it was the working class's fault the youth were unemployed. Clearly young workers have three choices.

One is to take a wage cut. Another is to find enough absorbing interests that you don't have time for "overproducing" children for the capitalist market. This might lessen the problem in about twenty years' time. The last option is to fight for socialism. The choice is yours.

What's Owen trying to hide? ...

A purge has been carried out within the SDP. The instigator of this purge is David Owen, and it is directed against...himself! Back in January, when Owen was still trudging and fudging about in the Labour Party, he wrote a book called 'Face the Future', a hardback.

But now he's ever so famous he's produced a paperback version, at a cheaper price the plebs can afford. But it seems the thought police have had a go at the text. In the original (when Owen was desperately trying to convince the rank and file Labour Party he was really a socialist) the first chapter was titled 'The Values of Socialism'.

But in the new glossy Social Democratic version, it becomes 'Social Democratic Values'. Similarly, the sections on 'pursuit of equality' and 'community care' have disappeared. And at the end of this Little Pink Book, gone is the talk of 'international socialism', and instead Owen talks of 'the future'.

No doubt Mr Owen was worried that dirty words like socialism might frighten away his new middle class liberal friends. Still, he's obviously a man of principle—and if you don't agree with them, he's quite prepared to change them!

Gambling to stay alive...

One of the sickest aspects of the cuts in the National Health Service was reported in the 'News of the World' (22 November). Two patients at the West Kent hospital in Maidstone are being kept alive by a special plasma which controls their rare blood disease.

The plasma costs only £2,000 a year, which is cheap by medical standards. Yet the hospital just cannot afford it. So they have raised the money—by selling raffle tickets! So determined are the Tories to slash welfare services in order to protect big business that they are prepared, literally, to gamble with our lives!

'Success' for Lucas boss...

While the bosses insist that every penny increase in a worker's wage must be 'earned' by increased productivity (irrespective of the 12% rate of inflation) they are always careful to make sure that the rule does not apply to themselves. The latest annual accounts of the Lucas Group show an overall loss this year of £21 million, and an increase in the company's debts by 71%.

Yet despite these figures, Godfrey Messervy, the Company chairman, has had his annual salary increased from the rate of £95,000 a year to £127,000—a rise of over 32%! No doubt Godfrey's real 'success' for the company was the part he played in putting over 10,000 of its workers on the scrap-heap of the dole last year.

HOMEWORKERS' CONFERENCE



Then as now, homeworkers are the super-exploited section of the working class. (Above) making match-boxes in 1906.

JOINING UNION FIRST VITAL STEP

In which century did workers suffer these conditions?

- ★ Two women sorting electrical fuses for Powron's. Wages 14p an hour.
- ★ Hand knitting Arran sweaters for a London firm; each sweater takes over 60 hours. Worker receives £5 a sweater (i.e. 8p an hour).
- ★ After straightening tights for 9 years at 40p an hour, the firm gave a woman worker two days' notice with no compensation when they closed one of their factories.

England in the 1880s? No—Leicester in the 1980s! These incredible examples

By Pauline Maniscalco and Peter Mason
(Leicester West LPYS) and Nora Gamble (NUHKW shop steward)

are just a few which the Leicester Outwork Campaign has uncovered.

There are literally thousands more in Leicester alone. The massive hosiery industry in this area—as in the past—is based on the super-exploitation of homeworkers, nearly all women, many Asian, all working class.

A hundred years ago in the East End, Bryant & May turned to homeworkers to make matches for pitiful pay; a 16-hour day got them

5p. Many were the only breadwinners in their family and the capitalists used them as a threat to those in work.

In the current economic crisis, the trade union movement is much more powerful. We must use that strength. In factories which use homeworkers, the union should work to unionise homeworkers and factory workers, to jointly fight for decent wages and conditions for all sections of workers.

To encourage homeworkers to come forward, fight for their rights, and join a union, the Leicester Outwork Campaign has organised its second National Homeworking conference. Nora Gamble, the NUHKW shop steward, told a Leicester LPYS meeting on homeworkers:

"We have started this campaign against bad employers and with your help we can stamp them out. Having done a fair day's work we should receive a fair day's pay, which is every outworker's right. We must make sure that homeworking is on the increase for the right reasons and not some back street garage or one-roomed hovel ploughing out work at a disgusting rate of pay and filling their own pockets with high profits, with no overheads to pay."

Every move to improve the position of homeworkers must be supported. Michael Foot has announced that a Labour government will reintroduce bills on legislation for homeworkers which the Tories blocked. While this must be welcomed, it is not enough. The only force which can guarantee decent conditions (including health and safety), decent pay, a guaranteed minimum wage for all workers and job security, is the organised labour movement.

For homeworkers, as for all workers, the need to join a union is the first vital step. As more and more families are forced on to the bread-line, the need to join a union and to transform that union into a bastion, a defence base, for our class against the bosses will become clearer for factory and homeworkers alike.

The Second National Homeworkers Conference:

Saturday 5 December

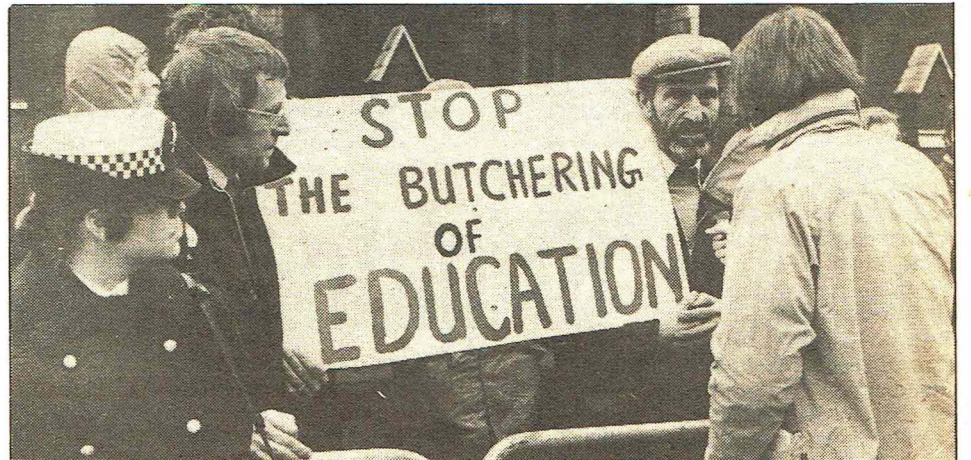
Moat Community College, Maidstone Road, Leicester. 10am-5pm.

Any donations or correspondence please address to Pauline Maniscalco, c/o Militant.

Students strike against extortion

Resident students at Liverpool College of Higher Education (COLCHE) are now out on rent strike. They are refusing to pay £30 a week—a charge which not only includes payment for a single room but also for seventeen meals. It makes no difference whether you have the meals or not, you still have to pay.

Negotiations about changing this have dragged on for two years and the best that the college governors can come up with is for the number of meals to be reduced to twelve by September 1982. A students' union meeting on 2 November decided by 364 to 2 to go on immediate rent strike, make breakfast an optional meal (to be paid for only when taken) and for all rents to be reduced accordingly.



Protest against government cuts in education, 18 November lobby of parliament.

Photo: C Augusto (IFL).

82% of students are now paying their rent into the rent strike fund. As Union President Peri Alleyne has said: "The students' demands are not excessive. They merely want the right to choose how to spend their already inadequate grants in the best possible

way. Being forced to pay for a meal you don't want, because you had to pay for it in advance, is downright extortion."

Support has been received from the treasurer of the National Union of Students and the local LPYS. Anyone wanting further in-

formation can contact me, c/o COLSHE Students' Union, Prescot Rd, Liverpool 10.

By Steve Bates
(COLSHE Students' Union Treasurer)

Being Disabled...

Bridget Shaw spoke to Jim Chrystie

Being disabled is like Christmas; you want to be able to give. It's great fun opening your own presents, but it's even more fun watching someone else open what you've given them.

Disabled people are often forced into a position where we have to take, but like anyone else, we want to be able to contribute, to the best of our ability.

What hit me worst, when I discovered earlier this year that I had multiple sclerosis, was everybody else saying it was a terrible tragedy. Everybody was so awfully nice, that it made me think I had got something ghastly.

There are probably thousands of disabled people living much more limited lives than they should, because there's no real investigation into their needs and wishes. You find you have got to do a lot of the shouting for yourself.

I got my health visitor to lend me a wheelchair to go on the Cardiff unemployment march. It was great. I really took part. And when my health visitor asked if she should take it back, I had to point out that Tolpuddle was coming up the next week, and YS Summer Camp the week after.

So now I've got one of my own, and it means I can be involved in family outings again. As a one-parent family, with three children, aged ten, nine and seven, that involvement is marvellous.

I took the wheelchair to Labour Party Conference this year. As I said at Conference, I have a lot to give, but the capitalist system we live under throws every obstacle in your way.

Multiple sclerosis is a most peculiar disease. It affects your nerves, rather like someone taking a match to the plastic coating on an electric wire, leaving a

hard patch which doesn't transmit the current.

It changes from day to day, even hour to hour. I get up every morning and have to find out which bits of me are going to work.

Disabilities are very diverse and occur in very different ways. If you have an industrial or car accident, you can claim compensation.

But if you have a disabili-



There are thousands of disabled people living much more limited lives than they should.

ty like mine, one which creeps up on you, you may be forced to live off supplementary benefit. There's a great disparity of income among disabled people and the cuts have made things worse.

One of the first things I needed was the path to my front door tarred. Otherwise, when the rain left a

massive puddle by the front door, the only access was going on the stepping stones.

In the past this tarring would have been done by the Council's direct works department. But the Tory council cut them back and it took over six months for Social Services to find a firm prepared to do such a small tarring job.

Wobbling round on those stones was absolute hell, especially after I sprained my ankle, but luckily it was a dry summer.

The pressure the hospital and social services are under is enormous. It was only by chance that I was finally diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis.

I had some X-rays taken in 1980, but the hospital lost them for nine months. Then when I was in the hospital earlier this year, seeing the staff about something else, I mentioned that I didn't walk too well, so they took me in for new tests.

The staff in Social Services have been very helpful, but you can see the workload they're under. There's been a three-month gap in the visits of my hospital social worker.

The system is ridiculous. Disability costs money. I've just got a home help, for four hours a week to help with washing floors, ironing and all the jobs where you have to be on your feet for a long time.

I have to pay £1 a week for that out of my social security. If I wasn't on supplementary benefit I would have to pay the full rate, £1.50 an hour.

Being on supplementary benefit, every penny counts double. But I have to go to more expensive local shops, because I cannot stand in the long queues in the cheaper, big supermarkets in the centre of town.

I haven't been able to work out how to wash my hair on my own. But on a limited income I just can't afford to go to a hairdresser.

But what drove me to absolute fury was my car insurance company, Service Insurance. After nineteen years with no claims, and



Bridget Shaw is a member of the National Union of Teachers, Torbay Labour Party and the SW Regional Executive of the Labour Party. She is active in establishing Brixham Unemployment Centre. In this interview she describes the political impact of becoming disabled.

despite still being able to drive okay, they have withdrawn my personal insurance cover.

They are still prepared to insure the car, my passengers and anyone I hit, but not me. If you ever want to see capitalism at its worst, that's it.

Now if I get injured while driving, I've got no financial backing at all. The result is that I'm beginning to get worried about driving. Yet my car is my only means of doing the family shopping, going to parents' evenings at school, and so on.

Finance, mobility and employment are the key issues for disabled people. But this capitalist system hits you on each one.

I was made redundant as a teacher because of financial cutbacks by Devon Council. I had been teaching social and environmental studies at Audley Park, a local secondary school. At the end of the summer term they announced that the course was to be cut from five and a half to three teachers.

I was on temporary contract so out I went. That way, the council avoided

redundancy payment and boasts that they have not made any full-time teacher redundant.

Now I'm on supply teaching, but I've only had one and a half days work since September. Again it's



I have a lot to give, but the capitalist system we live under throws every obstacle in your way.

the cuts. To get a supply teacher, a school has to have someone off for three days and have more than four teachers absent.

Yet I love teaching. It was stimulating, super work. I remember teaching one child to crochet, and she had never before achieved anything in school.

Teaching suits me great. I can stand and sit when I want. I didn't have discipline problems. The kids were very understanding, especially if you pointed out to them that disability was not just being unable to move around, but could be friends of theirs with hearing aids or glasses.

But you're not going to change the overall climate for disabled people until you've changed the whole structure of society. A disabled person is a human being first, who wants to be able to participate.

To be denied the right to give is terribly crippling. It denies you the right to really exist as a person.

In a subsequent article, Bridget Shaw shows how the labour movement can take up a campaign on disability.

WHAT A WASTE

The Queen was only here for one hour to open the Metro but the preparations began seven days before.

We had security people stopping us, asking for identification, and loads of

instructions about what we had to do on the actual day.

We had to have empty trains standing on the Gateshead side and Newcastle side of the Tyne in case the Royal train broke down. A locomotive was sent out to check the whole train just before she arrived.

The two drivers who had to take her about had to get new uniforms so they'd look nice and smart, even though they'd just been fitted out with new uniforms two and a half months ago.

They hired four red carpets for the four places she'd be getting off the

train. They were put down two days before the visit, but they were covered with plastic, of course, to keep them nice and clean.

There was a squad of cleaners, working overtime to make sure everything was spotless. On the actual day they were on stand-by in case anybody sprayed graffiti on the walls or left rubbish laying around.

The eight drivers involved had to go to three rehearsals. What a waste of time and money—all for a one hour visit!

And the security was tremendous. I was walking

to work at half past eight in the morning and I saw about forty policemen marching two abreast down Northumberland Street.

On the day everyone seems to have been stopped except me, and I was walking around with Lenin's "What is to be done?" sticking out of my pocket. Not a word was said!

She just travelled on a normal train—except this one was completely stripped down and put back together at least twice in the week before the visit.

There are no toilets for the public on Metro sta-

tions, but a portable loo was hired specially for HRH.

Before she came, they passed a list round at work for you to put your name and your wife's name on, if you wanted tickets to see the Queen. I think sixty applied out of a workforce of three hundred.

Anyway, the day before the visit we were told that only five train men and five inspectors had tickets; all the rest went to the office staff.

It was great at work that afternoon—there were no bosses! They were all at the

reception. In fact that morning we saw gaffers we didn't even know we had—all these blokes with queer names, wearing badges with photos on. What a laugh!

It was only the older blokes who were the slightest bit interested.

Most of the young lads just weren't interested at all—like me they all thought it was just a complete waste.

Billy Dodds, Metro and Chairman NUR branch, was interviewed by Dave Cotterill

CREEPING PROTECTIONISM

The open trading system, on which the post-war success of western capitalism was based, is slowly being strangled by creeping protectionism.

Faced with prolonged world recession, rival capitalist states are abandoning liberal trade policies and adopting 'beggar thy neighbour' measures in an effort to defend their own markets and profits.

"The depressing effect on trade of the weakening of aggregate demand," commented Britain's National Institute (NIER) earlier this year, "continues to be reinforced by protective measures."

Few countries have openly challenged the liberal non-discriminatory trading principles of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, now supported by about 121 countries. But every year GATT's annual report includes an even longer list of trade restrictions.

Monetarist policies at home have led to increased capitalist pressure for import controls

In 1979/1980 world trade grew by only 1½% in volume in contrast to the 7% growth in 1978/79. (The dollar prices of world exports increased by 18% to 20% during 1980.) Growth of trade in 1980, in fact, was the lowest for two decades—except for the slump year of 1974/75 when there was a 5% fall.

After that slump, which really marked the end of the post-war upswing, the major capitalist governments mostly resisted the demands from some sections of big business for import controls (through duties or quotas). They feared that protectionist measures could precipitate an all-out trade war, with disastrous consequences for world capitalism.

The major states continued with the "Tokyo round" of GATT 1973/79. This appeared to be a great success, achieving agreements on new tariff reductions and also a 'code of practice' on 'non-tariff' restrictions.

These include concealed protectionist measures like dumping (selling goods at below cost price in overseas markets); subsidies (eg cheap fuel for home industries); government procurement policies which prefer home-produced goods; and things like customs valuation methods, road tolls, and health and safety regulations which can be applied in a way that discriminates against imports from particular countries.

While the Tokyo-round negotiators were still congratulating themselves, however, more and more countries were invoking GATT's Article 19, an 'escape clause' which permits safeguards against imports causing damage to domestic industry.

A number of advanced countries, like Britain, have adopted restrictive measures under Article 19 which blatantly discriminate against particular countries or producers, in open violation of GATT principles.

One current example is Thatcher's insistence that the Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea should buy a British-produced ICL computer, a directive now being challenged under GATT agreements by the US giant IBM.

This creeping protectionism, which contradicts the GATT countries' high-minded commitment to free trade, is the direct consequence of the deflationary, monetarist policies being pursued at home by major capitalist governments.

Abandonment of Keynesian policies, based on high government spending to sustain the demand for goods, was bound to have repercussions internationally.

Drastic cuts in public spending, together with high interest rates and other credit restrictions, put the squeeze on industry, particularly the backward sectors of big business. Outdated firms have been increasingly succumbing to a flood of imports from countries with cheaper labour or more technologically advanced, more productive factories.

This produced a clamour for protective measures from the threatened sections of big business, particularly in older industries like steel and textiles, but also in fields like electrical and electronic consumer goods.

Most of the overt or concealed protective measures taken by the advanced capitalist economies have been aimed against their more recent rivals, like South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Argentina, Brazil, etc, who have penetrated European and American markets in areas such as steel, textiles and electrical goods.

In the boom years, these new producers could be allowed a share of the market. But with recession, their highly competitive businesses are being increasingly excluded.

More recently, however, governments in the advanced economies have also begun to take measures against rival industries in other advanced countries. The case of Japan is well known. The US, Britain and the EEC have also imposed controls or "voluntary restraints" against Japanese steel, and especially Japanese cars.

In the last few years,

other advanced countries, too, have been hit by creeping protectionism.

Between 1977 and 1980, for instance, US firms increased their share of the European market for polyester filament yarn from 4% to almost 30%. They have now been hit by import quotas imposed by Britain and other EEC countries, who claim that cheap, subsidised fuel gives the American firms an "unfair advantage".

In Britain, the Confederation of British Industry, in 1980, openly came out in favour of import controls.

And so it goes on. Even the West German government, resolutely opposed to protectionism until recently, has now resorted to border levies to keep out cheap steel products.

This is how the IMF's Annual Report summed up the position in 1980:

"Significant measures of protection were in evidence in such sectors as steel, shipbuilding, textiles and clothing, and a variety of other manufacturers, especially electronic consumer goods. In one or more of these fields, the EEC, US and Canada as well as some other developed countries maintained or introduced new measures of import restraint affecting trade among the developed countries—particularly trade between a number of these countries and Japan—as well as trade with the developed countries."

While not openly challenging GATT, all the capitalist countries are subverting free trade by stealth

The prospects for world trade are gloomy. The capitalist forecasters expect a growth of only 1% to 2% for 1981. With some recovery in the main countries, world trade, they hope, 'may' average a growth of 4% to 5% over the next three years. But this is low by the standards of the late 1960s and early 1970s, when growth averaged 8½%. Even in 1977 growth was still averaging 5½% a year.

Fearful of an all-out trade war, capitalist governments are still attempting to keep up the appearance of working within GATT agreements. Nevertheless, to defend their national interests, all the main capitalist countries are, to a greater or lesser extent, attempting to subvert free trade by stealth.

This is the remorseless logic of capitalist crisis.

STRANGULATION MARKS END



The growth of trade was organically linked to the growth of production during the war boom. The 'liberalisation' of trade is now going into reverse gear.

The expansion and liberalisation of world trade was a vital factor in the long post-war boom of Western capitalism.

Without it, the enormous upswing could not have developed to the extent it did. Nor could it have been prolonged for over three decades.

The growth of trade was organically linked to the growth of production. Today, the virtual stagnation of trade—which is expected to increase at only 1% or perhaps 2% annually in the next couple of years—is a sure sign that the conditions which produced the post-war boom have now exhausted themselves.

Protectionist measures, introduced as each capitalist economy, to a greater or lesser extent, attempts to protect its own national interests, can only intensify the economic crisis.

The creeping protectionism of today, however, is only the prelude to more extensive measures later. It heralds the all-out trade war which will inevitably accompany the crisis as it reaches even deeper into the foundations of society.

There will undoubtedly be brief periods of recovery

By Lynn Walsh

in the world economy. But the long-term curve of capitalist production is now moving in a downward direction.

In the last few years, the working class, especially in Britain, has been hit by a tidal wave of unemployment. Almost overwhelmed—without a bold, class alternative from the leadership of the labour movement—some workers have turned towards the idea of import controls, of protectionism, as a way out.

But an analysis of the post-war upswing shows that protectionism offers no solution. This is not to say that capitalism any longer has a future under free trade. Now that the long boom, which granted world capitalism a lengthy reprieve, has played itself out, there can be no solution within the diseased framework of capitalism.

Protectionism, if adopted by the labour movement, would cut across the fundamental internationalist interests of the working class. To take up protectionism would link the fate of the working class with the doomed crisis-policies of big business.

Analysis of the post-war upswing shows that protectionism can offer no way out for capitalism

How, then, did the long post-war boom develop?

Figures for the early post-war period, from 1953 to 1960, show that trade grew much faster than production. Mining and manufacturing output in those years increased by 54% in volume terms (ie. discounting the effect of price increases). But world exports of manufactured goods increased by 83% (or by 93% in value terms).

In terms of annual average growth rates, the exports and imports of European countries grew at a rate of about 7% between 1948 and 1962. Gross national products grew at an average annual rate of about 4%.

Trade itself is not an in-

Only internationalism can develop the

ATION OF FREE TRADE

OF BOOM



ong post-

These were industries like aircraft, electronics, plastics, synthetic fibres, and new chemicals and pharmaceuticals. In their infancy in the 1930s, they had been given an enormous boost by the demands of war. There was also an ever-growing stream of consumer goods based on new processes. Production was continuously being revolutionised by the application of new technology.

The expansion of world trade was rooted in the new conditions of production

The growth of trade flowed from these developments. It was rooted in the new conditions of production, which demanded the liberalisation of trade.

Liberal trade policies were not simply the result of the new-found enlightenment of capitalist politicians. They were a response to the pressure of new economic conditions.

The development of production methods based on sophisticated technology was connected with an extension of the 'division of labour.' There was more specialisation between firms, areas—and, of course, between countries.

Without free trade, without the ability to import specialised machine tools, special production processes, etc, and to export specialised products without tariff or 'non-tariff' penalties, this development could not have taken place.

From the beginning, the new industries were dominated by giant firms, the multi-national corporations, or, in other words, the big monopolies. While these giants largely carved up their own national markets between them, there was still intensive competition in international markets.

In the post-war period, competition has not just been to produce existing capital equipment and consumer goods more cheaply (through higher productivity to cheapen production). To keep ahead of their rivals they have had to strive to produce new products, based on new technology, ahead of their competitors.

The big monopolies all the time attempt to increase their share of the market and to exploit new products to the maximum benefit before their rivals get into

the field and catch up. For this, free access to international markets has been essential.

West Germany, for instance, one of the worst hit by the war and its aftermath, was nevertheless one of the most successful capitalist economies in the post-war period. As a share of gross national product, its exports grew from 8.6% in 1950 to 16.6% in 1960, virtually a doubling.

In the same decade, German exports increased on average by 12% a year (in volume terms). This contrasted with the 2% a year growth of Britain's exports. For Germany, the growth of exports was associated with higher levels of investment and more rapid growth of productivity and production.

While expanded trade accelerated the growth of countries like Germany and Japan, it also helped disguise the relative decline of backward British capitalism.

Britain's share of world exports (measured by value) declined from 25.5% in 1952 (compared to West Germany's 7.3%) to only 8.8% by the time of the 1974/75 slump (compared to West Germany's 21.7%). Investment and growth of labour productivity in Britain also lagged way behind West Germany, Japan, and other major competitors.

Trade liberalisation enabled capitalism, partially and temporarily to overcome the limits of the nation state

Nevertheless, the absolute expansion of trade helped cushion British capitalism against the worst consequences of relative decline. Even during the boom years, however, British capitalism suffered periodic balance-of-payments crises, often brought on by trade deficits.

"Import penetration" deepened in many key branches of industry, as more and more ailing British firms were outstripped even in their home market.

Some of the giant British monopolies, of course, managed to stay in the first division. Whatever their rank internationally, however, success for the big monopolies depended vitally on access to the biggest possible markets.

A single national capitalist state is not enough

for a big monopoly, even if the country concerned was the United States. Britain, even with over 50 million people, is entirely inadequate for giant firms like ICI and AEI.

The US market, for instance, is about four times the size of the West German market—and 75 times larger than Norway's. Huge markets are essential for big companies to achieve the necessary economies of scale and volume of sales to recoup, with a sufficient profit, the vast investment necessary to modernise production and maintain their share of the market.

The pattern of post-war trade, moreover, shows that it was overwhelmingly dominated by the industrial products of the advanced capitalist countries. Roughly speaking, the United States, Western Europe and Japan have accounted for between 60% and 70% of world exports. Between 60% and 70% of this trade consisted of the export of manufactured goods.

Overall, the underdeveloped capitalist countries' share of exports (dominated by primary products, ie. agriculture and minerals) declined, as did their prices relative to prices of the West's manufactured goods.

It is hardly surprising, in the light of this pattern, that the economically backward countries have not fully shared in the benefits of liberalised and expanded trade. Indeed, in many cases they have been deliberately excluded from the liberal measures of the advanced capitalist states.

However, for the advanced capitalist countries the expansion and liberalisation of trade provided a means of surmounting—partially and for a temporary period—the limitations imposed by the framework of the national states. Together with the private ownership of production, it is the nation state which constitutes a fundamental fetter on the development of the productive forces.

Under modern conditions, national self-sufficiency is impossible

The representatives of US imperialism realised, as the second world war drew to a close, the importance of establishing an open world economy based on free trade.

The US, in the 1950s, produced about 37% of the world's total industrial output. Of the world's total monetary reserves, the US held (in 1948) 74% of the gold, 40% of IMF deposits, and 70% of the dollar and other currency reserves.

Relying on this overwhelming economic power, they set out to create favourable conditions internationally for American big business. This meant a sound and stable method of financing settlements for imports and exports—and the general reduction of trade barriers, especially tariffs.

There was a very slow reduction of tariffs during the immediate post-war years. But once the world upswing was under-way (and the Korean war was over) a number of countries agreed under GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) negotiations of 1956/57 to unilateral reductions of their tariffs. In 1962 the so-called 'Dillon' round of GATT brought a further 20% all-round reduction of tariffs.

1956 had seen the formation of the European Economic Community (EEC), which originally brought together six European states in a glorified customs union. In 1959 Britain, with a number of Scandinavian countries, formed EFTA (European Free Trade Area).

Both the EEC and EFTA rapidly reduced internal tariffs by 50%, and also reduced external tariffs even prior to the 'Dillon' round. Subsequently, many other arrangements were made—under the EEC, EFTA, and GATT—to liberalise trade even further.

Socialism demands a higher level of economy than capitalism

Since 1974/75, however, the trend towards liberalisation has been reversed. In response to the growing crisis, governments have moved to protect threatened sections of their own capitalist class from foreign competition.

But how can capitalism save itself by a return to autarky, to national 'self-sufficiency'?

Tariff walls will inevitably feather-bed backwardness. Behind the shield of import controls, big business would attempt to wring every last pound of profit out of its old plant and machinery—without the massive re-investment in modern equipment necessary under free international competition.

This would rebound on the working class through high (protected) prices. The further development of productive forces, the key to all social progress, would be even more retarded.

The idea put forward by the Tribune left and the so-called 'Communist' Party, that a Labour government could carry through socialist measures behind a

protective wall of import controls is completely misguided.

Under modern conditions, economic self-sufficiency within a national economy is impossible. Socialist planning calls for a higher level of economy than capitalism.

Capitalism itself, as we have seen, could only develop in the post-war period by partially surmounting the limitations of the national state—through expanded, liberalised trade. Even then, growth was mainly confined to the US, Western Europe, and Japan. The underdeveloped capitalist world, for the most part, has experienced uninterrupted crisis.

Moreover, the anarchy of the world market forces, with giant multi-national corporations competing for profit, has produced enormous imbalances, distortions, and waste—contradictions which have eventually transformed upswing into downswing.

The adoption of major protectionist measures by advanced capitalist economy—like Britain—would inevitably provoke retaliation from the other main capitalist economies. Such a drastic step would inevitably hasten and intensify a trade war—for which, in any case, the main protagonists are already preparing, manoeuvring for position.

Free trade, as Marxists have always recognised, was indispensable to capitalism's progressive role in developing the productive forces. But with the demise of boom conditions, free trade itself is being strangled.

Only socialist planning, in the present epoch can take the productive forces forward. Such planning must be under the conscious, democratic control of the working class, the class which labours to produce the wealth.

For us, the first step must be the nationalisation of the big monopolies which dominate the 'commanding heights' of the economy, with minimum compensation on the basis of need.

But it is not enough for socialist planning to break the fetters of private ownership. It must also break through the narrow national constraints.

The inauguration of a socialist plan of production in Britain, under workers' control and management would of necessity have to be a first step towards world-wide socialist planning.

The socialist transformation of British society must be seen as an integral part of the fight for a Socialist United States of Europe, and for a World Socialist Federation.

International socialist planning

the world's productive forces

Sri Lanka

The performance of the United National Party (UNP) Government of President Junius Richard Jayawardena is so disgusting and sordid that the people are becoming sick of it. Enough is enough, they say, and President Jayawardena should quit.

The government has been hell-bent on hitting the Tamil Nation and the working class below the belt. Barely a month after it came to power in July 1977 racial disturbances were let loose, resulting in hundreds of innocent Tamils being brutally killed, scores of Tamil women being raped and millions of rupees worth of Tamil people's property being destroyed or looted.

The government appointed a Commission headed by ex-Chief Justice Sansoni to inquire into the incidents. It haggled through a number of sittings and brought forth a report last year, recommending, among other things, payment of compensation to the victims. Not a single victim has been paid a cent so far.

In 1979, following the destruction of an aircraft in Colombo airport, the Government imposed Emergency rule in the North on suspicion that Jaffna Tamil youth were involved. It immediately despatched President Jayawardena's nephew, Brigadier Tissa Weeratunga (who has since been promoted to Army Commander) to Jaffna with the fullest powers to "wipe out terrorism".

What happened? Seven Tamil youths were torn out of their beds on that fateful night of 14 August 1979 by members of the Armed forces in civvies. The next morning the mutilated bodies of these youths were found along roadsides in Jaffna, having been killed by Police/Army personnel in the most grotesque and gruesome manner.

A Parliamentary Select Committee headed by President Jayawardena's close confidante, Trade and Shipping Minister Lalith Athulathmudai, was appointed, with a representative of the nationalist Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) on it, to inquire into these atrocities.

By A K Annamalai District Secretary Jaffna Nava Sama Samaja Party

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

This committee has yet to submit its report.

The barbarous attacks launched by the Armed forces on Tamils in Jaffna in May/June 1981 are now too well-known to be elaborated on.

This was closely followed by heavy attacks on Tamil peasants in the Eastern Province. In July/August 1981, the Tamil estate workers of Indian origin (all in predominantly Sinhalese areas) were subjected to severe attacks.

The hapless victims had to flee their cattle shed type dwellings, hide in jungles, and trek miles without food to find safety.

Over 10,000 refugees were accommodated in refugee camps. At the Kahawatte Church, where some refugees were accommodated, hooligans poured petrol and set it on fire. Some of the inmates were burnt alive.

In order to distract the attention of the suffering masses from the burdens heaped on them by his government, President Jayawardena and his henchmen have been making out that the separatist agitation by the TULF enraged the Sinhalese, thus leading to communal violence.

This view was expressed even by the Sansoni Commission. But how then does the government account for the attacks on the leader of

the major estate sector trade union, Mr. S. Thondaman, who is a Cabinet Minister and an avowed opponent of the separatist demand?

Hartal

Following these attacks, there were protest demonstrations in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. In fact a one day Hartal (general strike and mass mobilisation) was organised by the state government itself.

A few days before the Hartal, Minister Thondaman was sent like a hireling to India to try and stop the action, but failed. He is powerless to ensure the safety of the estate workers; nor has he been able to obtain for them the 70 rupee wage increase granted to other workers over a year ago.

Soon after the above-mentioned events the TULF put forward 5 demands and declared that its MPs would boycott Parliament until the demands are met. Talks were initiated by the government with the TULF leadership; but even while these talks were going on the armed forces in Jaffna have been provocatively harrasing and attacking members of the public.

On 15 October, two unidentified youths in Jaffna town shot dead two soldiers and a civilian (all

Sinhalese). Another civilian (Tamil) was seriously wounded. Some soldiers later opened fire in retaliation and seriously wounded a police department clerk (Tamil) in the company of an investigating team of police.

On the 16th several students, teachers and others were attacked. The author of this article received a blow on his head with an iron bar from soldiers in a passing truck.

Attacks continued in several places. At Elephant Pass a Tamil police constable was manhandled by army personnel. On the 18th a book depot in the Jaffna bus stand and a couple of petrol pumping stations were damaged and seven workers of the Ceylon Transport Board were attacked. This sparked a one-day strike by the CTB workers on the 19th.

In the train from Colombo to Jaffna on the 20th, army personnel segregated Tamil passengers into certain compartments and beat them up severely.

An uneasy calm prevailed on the part of the armed forces during Queen Elizabeth's official visit to Sri Lanka.

President Jayawardena has begun to see that international opinion, particularly that of India, is turning. He is now accusing his own UNP MPs of in-



Above: mass meeting during 1980 general strike addressed by United Federation of Labour secretary O Fernandes. Below: press censorship under Jayawardena—front page of the NSSP newspaper.



citing communal violence. Surely he should have disciplined them in good time?

It is not possible to deal exhaustively with the draconian measures this government adopted to suppress and degrade the working class. It has been systematically endeavouring to throttle and subdue the working people. The Sri Lankan workers are among the lowest paid in the world and they have not been paid any wage increase worthy of attention, given the cost of living sky-rocketing day by day.

When there was

widespread agitation over this, the government passed the Essential Public Services Act in 1979 with a view to banning strikes. Nearly 50,000 workers who participated in the general strike of July 1980, demanding mainly higher wages, were instantly dismissed. Most have still not been reinstated.

Now the suppressed working class, the oppressed Tamils and the suffering and semi-starved general masses should join forces to tear the incompetent, wicked and corrupt government of President Jayawardena to pieces.

Apartheid state lashes out at workers

Terrified by the growing challenge of the workers' movement, the South African bosses' apartheid government is hitting back by arresting trade union leaders.

The strike wave which began in 1980 shows no

signs of dying down. In October alone there were over 40 strikes, involving more than 20,000 workers.

With the phoney 'independence' of the Ciskei bantustan (in reality a rural labour reserve) on 4 December providing an excuse for the bantustan authorities to crack down on trade unionism, a general strike in the port town of East London is

possible, which could spread to other areas.

The Minister of Labour said in parliament in August that "labour is rapidly becoming the focal point of the political situation".

Last week's detentions include three trade union general secretaries as well as other trade union organisers and supporters. The detained secretaries are listed below.

Sam Kikine (South African Allied Workers' Union, PO Box 7002, East London 5200, South Africa); Emma Mashinini (Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union, PO Box 7135, Johannesburg 2000); Samson Ndau (General and Allied Workers' Union, Cambridge House, Sauer Street, Johannesburg 2001).

Labour movement

organisations can send telegrams and messages of solidarity to these unions. The General Council of the TUC should add its voice to protest at this arbitrary suppression of the basic rights of workers combating the cheap labour system of apartheid.

For a socialist analysis of the struggle in South Africa order INQABA YA BASEBENZI, Journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress. BM Box 1719, London WC1N 3XX. £3.20 for one year's subscription.

IRISH WORKERS FIGHT ON CLASS ISSUES

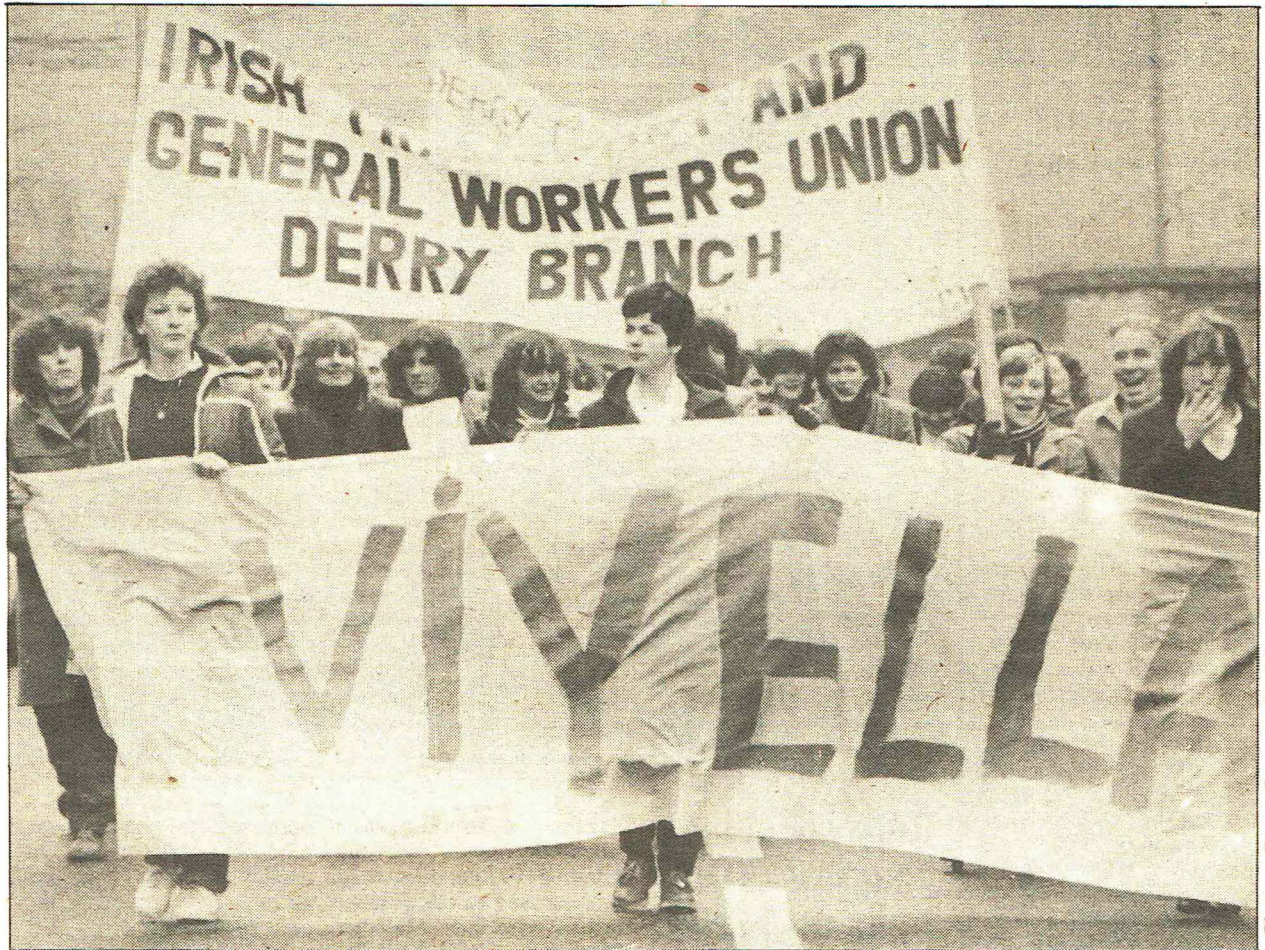
It would be easy to get the impression that the workers of Northern Ireland are only pre-occupied with sectarianism. But that is far from being the truth. During the last two weeks of sectarian rallies, some newspapers touched upon the workers' economic problems, but very briefly, almost in passing.

Two weeks ago, the Financial Times noted, a demonstration took place, resulting in an army road block to divert traffic. The demonstration consisted of Catholic women, carrying placards, protesting about heating bills.

A week later, the Guardian reporter who attended the Loyalist rally outside the Belfast shipyard noted the poor attendance and then also commented on the distinct lack of enthusiasm

among those who did attend: "Their half-hearted response revealed that the real crisis is the bankruptcy of Unionist leadership and the workers' fears about job security rather than border security...perhaps the economic humiliation of the recession is at least as close to the hearts of those who assembled, for the yard is only working at 40 per cent capacity."

The disputes reported here are a further indication that the workers in the north of Ireland are not blinded by sectarianism. They are prepared to struggle through their trade unions for the defence of their rights and living standards, even if these class issues are not given the same headlines as the sectarian issues in the British and Irish press.



Over 150 workers took part in the march in Derry in support of the women workers occupying the Vyella Shirt factory

Photos: Derry Community Mirror

NEWRY 'GRUNWICK' STRIKE

On the 11th August, four days after they joined the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, seven workers were sacked from Norbrook laboratories in Newry. The next day the 25 remaining union members went on strike and placed a picket to protest against what they saw as an attempt to intimidate them from becoming unionised.

In order to prevent the pickets from carrying out the normal function of pickets ie stopping and speaking to anyone entering the factory, the employer got an injunction against the branch secretary at the union and anyone acting on his behalf preventing them from stopping anyone from going in. He also took out an injunction against one of the strikers to prevent him disclosing information about the company.

The employer kept up a barrage of petty complaints to the police about imagined happenings on the picket lines. In one of the more bizarre incidents, when the pickets were wearing green nylon anoraks supplied by the union to protect them from the rain, the employer rang the police to report the presence of 'para militaries' at the factory. Bearing in mind that this is on the edge of the South Amargh area the possible reactions of the SAS had they got that story are best not imagined.

Another tactic of the employer was to try to get statements from anyone who went in to the effect that the pickets had intimidated them. Shortly after the management began recruiting blacklegs so at the beginning of October the Irish Congress of Trade Unions granted an all out picket on the factory.

This compelled all other unions to recognise the picket. In order to boost

morale amongst the pickets and protests against the presence of eleven blacklegs Newry Trades Council organised in conjunction with shop stewards from local factories and unions a rally and march on the 19 November from the centre of Newry to the factory.

For most of the marchers this meant leaving work early and thus losing pay. Yet over seven hundred marched, with Trades Councils from Ballymena, Newton Abbey and Cregavon taking part. A number of messages of support from all over Ireland were read out at the rally at the factory gates.

16th week of bitter struggle

The intention had been to let the blacklegs see what the workers of Newry thought of them. What we weren't surprised to find was that the factory had closed early.

Most of the strikers are young women (two are pregnant) now in the 16th week of a bitter struggle. They had joined the union to try and improve the wage of £56 for a forty hour week with no overtime and less holidays than other local workplaces. No wonder this place had a high labour turnover since it opened.

The Trades Council has also collected evidence of alleged breaches in regulations over the dumping of chemical waste by this factory and presented it to the District Council for investigation. We have to show this employer that the rule amongst trade unionists of an injury to one being an injury to all applies in Newry.

By John Corrigan
(Newry Trades Council personal capacity)

The courageous struggle of the 320 mostly women workers, at the Vyella factory, Derry who have been in occupation for over a month was ended on Friday 27 November. Extremely frustrated and angry at the lack of a clear strategy and alternative from the union officials involved—in terms of generalising the struggle against the closure amongst the trade union movement in the area—the women voted to accept redundancy.

Nevertheless, in an unemployment blackspot like Derry — 26% male unemployment — these women carried out the first occupation of a shirt factory in the history of the city. Their action showed quite clearly the ability of working people to struggle united on class issues at a time of increasing sectarian tensions in the North.

The occupation began when the Carrington Vyella bosses announced that no more orders were available for the factory. Over the past 18 months the shirt industry in the Derry area has been subject to short time working and layoffs.

As soon as the occupation began the Derry Trades Council met to discuss the situation. The secretary sent a letter to the official of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, himself a member of the trades council, asking that a delegation from the factory meet with the trades council, in order that we could assist the struggle of these workers.

We were informed that the shop steward at the factory felt that the trades council should stay out of the dispute! However, many of the Executive Committee members felt that the union officials themselves did not want the trades council to get involved.

A press statement was issued by the trades council pledging full support for the women and calling upon the leaders of the trade union movement to demand the taking into public owner-

representatives turned up with their union officials. The executive committee stated its position: the occupation was the concern of the entire trade union movement in the Derry area.

We were not prepared to see 320 jobs go without a fight, and therefore we would organise a march and demonstration in support of the occupying workers for Thursday 19 November.

Thousands of leaflets were produced and were sent to the shirt factories and other factories in the area. The dole, local tech colleges and schools were

in the shirt factory informed us that they would be walking out on the Thursday at 2pm and a meeting had already been held to this effect.

However, on the day of the demonstration we were informed by the women shop stewards from the factories that the official from the Irish Transport and General Workers Union had told his members to send only one or two people out! His justification for this was that his union was going to call a stoppage the following week!

Nevertheless, over 150 people still turned up for the demonstration. All the shirt factories in the area were represented on the march. Engineering workers, social workers, and unemployed workers also turned up.

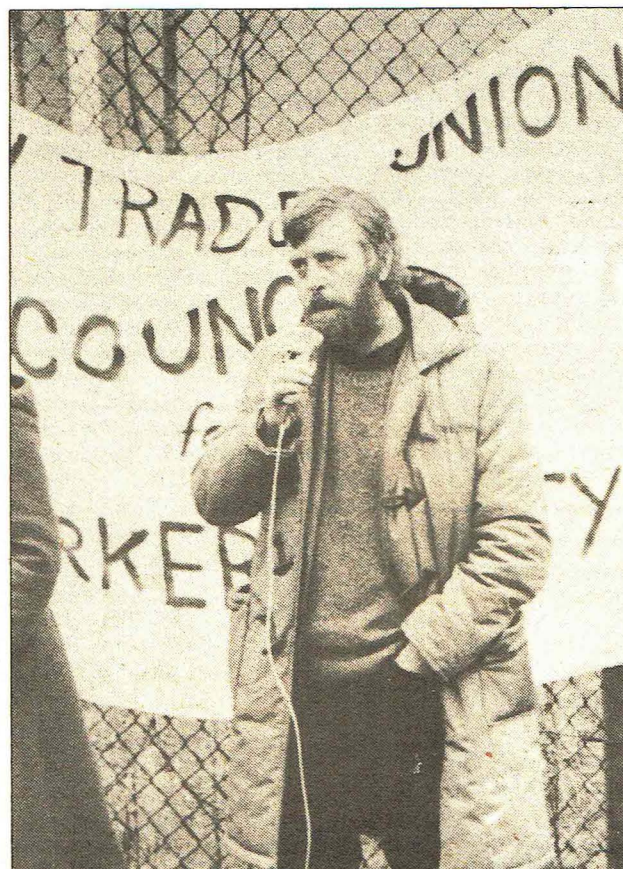
Campaign against unemployment

As we approached the factory for the meeting, the writing on a banner inside the gates summed up the horrific nature of unemployment in Derry. The banner stated: "Our fathers have no work, our sons have no work, now our daughters have no work."

This small, but important demonstration of solidarity could well have turned into a massive show of strength if only the trade union officials had fully co-operated with us. It could have been the spark to set up a massive campaign by the unions against unemployment in the city of Derry.

This chapter is now over, but the lessons are being learnt by many trade union activists. The heroic struggles of the Vyella workers has pointed the way forward and will inspire the workers in Derry when the bosses decide to close the next factory.

By Gerry Lynch
(Derry TC Treasurer, personal capacity)



Bill Webster of Derry Trades Council addresses occupation solidarity meeting

ship under democratic workers' control and management the Carrington Vyella Group.

Two further meetings of the trades council executive committee were held at which the shop floor

also leafleted, and the trades council was assisted by the Young Socialists of Derry.

The local radio and press carried our statements as well. The day before the demonstration the women

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Elderly suffer while rich get richer

Dear Comrades

Ford workers last year took a pay 'cut' of 9½% (inflation was running at 16%) yet the Ford Motor Co this year are again trying it on, hiding behind a Tory government intent on proping up capitalism at the expense of working people; the young and most of all the old.

The elderly people in life have given their service to society. Yet today there are thousands of old people who cannot afford a bit of luxury eg. a nice piece of meat for a Sunday dinner, let alone keeping warm in the winter to come. The parasites in this society live in luxury; the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

From Tory ministers with big fat bank accounts to some trade union leaders who betray their very own class, and the traitors who have left the Labour Party for the 'Tory Party Mark 2' and other muck under the decay of capitalism, it makes me wonder how they can sleep at night. They better sleep because the working class will wake from their sleep one day to achieve socialism!

Yours fraternally
David Llewelyn Davies
Llanelli
Dyfed



Parents with their children demonstrate against the closure of St Nicholas' Children's Hospital in Greenwich, September 1978. Photo: Mark Rusher (IFL)

Only socialism guarantees the right to live

Dear Comrades

The recent acquittal of Dr Leonard Arthur for the "attempted murder" of a Downs Syndrome baby has raised hypocritical cries of protest from many of the capitalist press's pet reactionaries, not least Malcolm Muggeridge in the *Sunday Times* of 8 November.

These people sermonise at length on the "sanctity of

life", yet remain conspicuously silent over the hundreds of lives threatened or destroyed by this government's NHS cuts. Malcolm Muggeridge says (rightly) that Downs Syndrome children have as much right to life as normal children, but utters not a whisper of protest as cuts, staff shortages and poor conditions make life nigh on intolerable for the mentally sick and handicapped in Britain's mental hospitals and institutions.

Comrades, as socialists we too respect the "sanctity of life", but not in this ser-

monising, hypocritical way. Life is very cheap in capitalism and is frequently given second place to the grab for profits.

We are fighting for a society where responsibility for child-rearing is placed on the whole community, and not just on the pressurised parents. We want all children, handicapped or not, given the opportunity to grow and develop in peace, security and freedom.

Yours fraternally
Caroline JM Wright
Leeds SE LPYS

Voluntary services used to prop up crumbling NHS

Comrades

At present I am working in a Volunteer Centre and consequently come into contact with many old and infirm people. They are forced to rely on volunteers to provide health and social care. Volunteers are asked to visit people who are clearly in need of constant care. Patients are being discharged from hospital, many with serious health problems, and volunteers are being asked to provide support for them and their families.

All this at a time when this vicious Tory government is running down the NHS. The government are spending billions of pounds

on nuclear missiles while old people are dying through lack of hospital beds. Community care services are not escaping the Tory cuts—district nurses, home helps, meals on wheels are all being cut back, meaning more suffering and neglect for the elderly. Volunteers are being used to prop up the inadequate services provided.

The fight against the cuts is already taking place; work-ins and campaigns continue, but the Tories are already planning to restrict the trade unions.

This Tory government has to go! Their rotten capitalist system must be smashed! Socialism is the only answer—so let's dump these parasites now! Join the LPYS, sell 'Militant' and fight to elect a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

Yours fraternally
Diane Quinn
Cathcart LPYS

Imperialists and 'benevolent' allies

Dear Comrades

A letter in the 'Guardian' 24/10/81 from a 74 year-old ex-army officer, graphically pointed out the role of American imperialism after World War Two.

He was military liaison officer in Greece working with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Association. This body was almost entirely financed by America and its main role was to put down the left wing enthusiasm that was sweeping the Greek workers and peasants at that time. It also promoted and supported the capitalist landlords, shop owners etc. When he protested he was threatened with court martial.

As Marxists have consistently pointed out, America's aid to Europe was not a benevolent act towards its friends and allies, but a means of holding back the tide of socialism that was threatening the rule of capital.

It is, however, significant to note that now, due to the weakness of capitalism internationally, American imperialism can no longer dictate what will happen in the countries of Europe, as the elections in France and Greece have shown.

The workers and peasants in these countries have proved their willingness to struggle for socialism. It is now up to the leadership of the socialist parties to prove their faith in the working class and implement their election manifestos.

Yours fraternally
Pete Boland
West Hull CLP

What will you do when you leave school?

Dear Comrades

I was talking recently to some young girls who at weekends do voluntary work at the hospital where I work. Most of them are in the 5th form at school. When I asked them what they were going to do when they left school three of them replied, almost enthusiastically, that they

would "fill in" a year at technical college and then go on a YOPs scheme.

This brought home to me how, as a result of Tory policies, youth today in an area like Bristol have given up hope of getting a real job. It used to be a case of "when I grow up I'm going to be a teacher or a mechanic". Now its the case of "when I grow up I'm going to go on a YOPs scheme!"

Yours fraternally
Chris Edge
Gloucestershire LPYS

With 'Militant' all the way

Dear Comrades

Socialism or nuclear war is a very good title and important, because anyone who doesn't understand the facts of life today, will really have their eyes opened on this issue. I read the 'Militant' and was relieved and pleased that I wasn't fighting this issue alone, an issue which made me join the Labour Party and become the chairman of Whitwell Young Socialists.

I feel very bitter and agitated about the whole idea of nuclear war, cruise missiles and all that nonsense. It makes me want

to step ahead of the Labour Party and go and give our Tory government what it deserves! But besides not being able to get to London, because I am unemployed and penniless (which makes me think Thatcher made us all unemployed to stop us going down to London to sort her out!), I would only be locked up.

I only hope we sort the government out and make a harder fight to get Tony Benn in power.

P.S I'd just like to say that whatever the 'Militant' does to fight the Tories, I'm with you all the way.

Yours fraternally
Stephen Whyles
Whitwell LPYS
Notts

New technology must be under workers' control

Dear comrades

Stuart Cormie of Brunell University Labour Club asks why we don't welcome new technology (Militant 577) as it will result in the reduction of human work-hours needed?

Unfortunately experience has shown that where new technology has been introduced, it has led to a cutting of jobs, not hours, be it by redundancy or 'natural wastage'. It has led to worsened working conditions for those left in a job, by the speed up of production lines or by making once skilled jobs repetitive and boring. The motive of any capitalist for implementing new technology is to increase profits.

In the public services, the introduction of new technology has gone hand in hand with the cuts, and is designed to help management cut back on staff. Such is the case in several London University Libraries at the present.

I would not advocate that the labour movement should reject new technology, but the trade unions must ensure that jobs are not lost and that workers' health does not suffer as a result of it. Advance technology could, as Stuart Cormie suggests, lead to increased leisure time and wealth for everyone, but only if it is introduced under a planned socialist economy.

It is utopian to think that we can change the attitudes of those who cause unemployment. It is the system that we have to change.

Yours fraternally
Barbara Humphries
NALGO member.

Bosses with a conscience —one sighted in Scotland!

Dear Comrades

In a recent issue of the 'Daily Record' (Scotland's equivalent of the 'Mirror') a well known firm of house builders, Leich Homes, had a full page advert that had me choking with sympathy for their poor shareholders.

However the advert showed quite clearly in a number of ways the depth to which some sections of the bosses' thoughts have sunk in regard to the crisis. It not only shows what lengths they will go to to sell

their houses, but also shows up the divisions inside the bosses' class.

The advert was headed 'Thatchers are supposed to put roofs over heads' and goes on 'There's one thatcher that isn't doing too good a job. Ask 3,000,000 people how they can afford the roof over their head these days.'

Obviously the directors of Leich Homes don't quite agree with the leader of 'their' Party about restoring profitability and 'sound market economy.' They are finding it very difficult to sell their houses. And from a well of philanthropic feeling, knowing the problems of the hard pressed worker, trying to put a roof over his head, they will move moun-

tains just out of the goodness of their hearts; they will cut the mortgage rate by 5½%, pay your legal fees, and in their words 'make the impossible possible'! Yes, they will also offer you the ultimate —100% fully guaranteed 'redundancy cover scheme.'

Of course, we can rest assured that the people at Leich Homes had no thought at all of profits or anything so nasty, and really had the welfare of working people at heart.

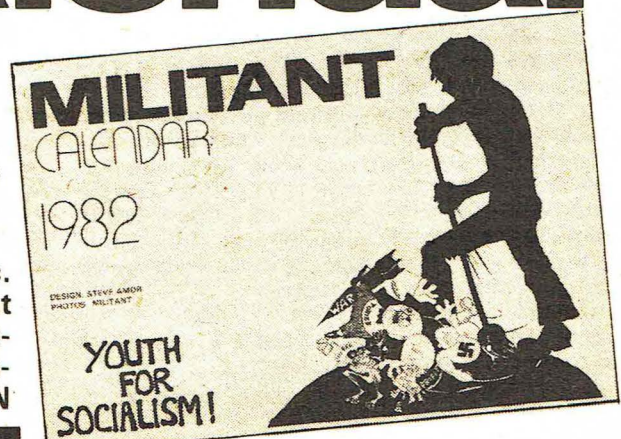
But looking at it seriously, it gives me great confidence in the future for our class taking power, when we can see the ranks of our enemies so divided

Yours fraternally
John McLelland
Govan CLP

Militant Calendar

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London East	5392		7600
London West	2893		4800
London South	4355		5500
Manchester & Lancs	2875		5800
Merseyside	3753		6600
Northern	4473		8600
Scotland East	2194		4400
Scotland West	4330		7500
Southern	5262		7100
South West	2240		3500
Wales East	1366		2600
Wales West	2808		4600
West Midlands	4920		8600
Yorkshire	4910		9000
Others	19666		12500
Total received	84829		120,000

TARGET FOR YEAR-£120,000

ONE LAST BIG EFFORT

At the time of writing we have just six more weeks till the end of our 1981 appeal.

Throughout the year our readers have responded magnificently, and we've reached the figure we achieved by the end of December last year.

But our target has to outgrow inflation. With one last big effort, we should be able to raise the £35,000 needed to reach our £120,000 target. Here's how the individual areas stand:

Eastern are £2,091 short, needing £348 per week for their target, however £269 came in this week! Thanks to Cambridge catering, Ipswich discussion group on Poland, Southend rattling tins on demo, and many individuals, like L Downman, unemployed, (Ware) £9.

East Midlands, collected £102 to bring them within £1,765 (£294 per week) of their £5,500. Thanks to Leicester comrades for £40 and Lincoln supporters £15 at recent meetings, N Tuthill (Derby) and J&J Sherwin and M Bounds (Leicester) amongst others.

Only £22 from **Hants** still leaves that area with £400 per week to go! Thanks to A Holmes and M Smith (Southampton), but what about all our other readers? **Humberside**, too had a low week, but £16 in 'extras' from Grimsby shows the potential. Thanks also to Hull readers S Simms (TGWU) and K Ellis. £272 per week is needed.

Only £92 from **East Lon-**

By Steve Cawley

don is less than the £368 weekly they need to get to £7,600. Tower Hamlets LPYS sent £5, with J Millar (NUR) and D Clapton (TGWU) and Poplar discussion group assisting. Readers in **W London** donated £50 this week, which leaves £1,907 or £317 weekly.

Although they are in the 'lead' at present, with only £41 received this week, **S London** still need £191 per week and could be overtaken by other areas. Thanks, amongst others, to Ray Andrew (Dulwich LP).

The **Manchester & Lancs** line on our chart went along by £60 this week, leaving £487 each week as a target. Thanks to sponsored dancing (Blackburn), Blackpool readers, £10 from Lancashire in memory of an old miner, Ed Rourke, and R Hardy and B Dean (Salford).

A similar amount is needed by **Merseyside** supporters, but since unfortunately hardly any donations came in this week we expect a bumper crop in future weeks. Thanks for £1 to subscriber G Woods (Widnes). £106 was the movement on **Northern's** line, but it'll have to be bigger than that (to the tune of £687 per week) to achieve their £8,600 figure! Thanks to Teesside LPYS, Blyth readers' social (£34), supporters at Longbenton, A Waterworth, Newcastle and T Smith (Seaham) amongst others.

East Scotland supporters

sent in only £20 in the last week, but we're confident this will be bettered very shortly: £2,206, or £367 weekly required now to hit your target! **West Scotland's** £177 this week shows that the £528 per week needed to achieve £7,500 can't be impossible, though it obviously means all our readers must be involved. Thanks to E Kilbride disco, pontoon cards, sale of cigars, and supporters including H McLaughlin (Newart Hill YS) and T Rooney (CPSA).

Southern supporters are second in our table and need £306 per week to come in now, nearly £100 having come in recently. Thanks to P James (CPSA) £39, S Timmus (student) £3, Bracknell badges and Littlehampton LP and LPYS members who were the main sources.

£50 from the **South West** brings them to within £210 per week of their target of £3,500. Thanks to W Coombes (£16), D Amos (student), A Price (Plymouth NALGO) and sale of books and booze. Nothing from **East Wales** and only £18 from **West Wales** this week means the comrades are counting on a last minute rush (not to say stampede). It can't start too soon! £205 per week and £298 per week needed in East and West Wales

respectively!

West Midlands £125 this week needs to be multiplied by about four to reach the £613 weekly figure they need to reach £8,600. But with £50 donations such as that from P Elmer, and the £5s from Mosely LP members M Smith and R McDermott copied through the area, it's quite possible. Thanks also to bonfire party organisers, and G Ladkin (Birmingham).

Yorkshire supporters are just over £4,000 short of their £9,000 figure, or £680 per week. Thanks to all who contributed, including members of Swinton & Kilnhurst LPYS, K Pattison (Leeds POEU) who asks whether any other post office engineers had their productivity rises? G Robinson, (COHSE, Leeds), 'Rotherham's Red Referee' and Halifax readers. 'Others' includes over £60 from the POEU and CPSA P&T conference delegates and visitors!

Overall, we need just over four times this week's total between now and 9th January to be sent in each week. We appeal to all comrades, especially, but not exclusively, those who don't make regular donations to our funds, to dig deeply into their pockets on this occasion so that Militant can get off to a flying start in the New Year, 1982.

This Week £1,558

Build Militant Winter Draw

(Promoter: D Smith, 73 Armond Road, Witham, Essex)
1st Prize Video System (including camera, etc) or £1,000. 2nd Prize Portable TV/Radio/Cassette (or £100) Plus 8 other prizes!! To be drawn 9th January, 1982. Get your tickets now from your Militant seller! Don't miss out!

MANCHESTER Ardwick Militant Readers Meeting. 'Can Labour win with Marxist policies?' Speaker Margaret Crear, Chairperson Rochdale Womens Council. Friday 4 December 7.30pm Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Longsight.

MANCHESTER Militant Irish Social. Food, drink and 'turns'. 8pm til late. Phone (061) 248 7928 for venue

NORTH WEST LONDON Militant Readers Meeting. 'What we stand for.' Speaker: Kevin Ramage (National Chairman, Labour Party Young Socialists). Thursday 3 December 7.45pm Anson Hall, Anson Rd, London NW2.

Militant Marxist discussion groups, every fortnight in Waltham Forest. For details contact: Janice Dale or Mike Cleverley (01) 519 0961.

MAERDY Militant Readers Meeting: 'Scargill for President! Full claim for the miners! Drive out the Tories!' Speakers: Ian Isaacs (Secretary, St John's Lodge NUM, personal capacity); Jeremy Birch (Militant). Maerdy Workman's Hall, Maerdy, Rhondda, 7.30 pm, Friday 4 September.

Ashton-under-Lyne CLP Day of Action Saturday 12 December 10am Droydsden, Ashton, and Mossley town centres. 1pm Rally: Ashton Town Hall. Speakers include: Robert Sheldon MP, Doug Hoyle MP, Lawrence Coates LPYS, trade unionists from Laurence Scotts.

WIRRAL Militant Supporters Limited Draw winning ticket: No. 56.

TROTSKY 'MILITANT' PAMPHLETS

In the Middle of the Road 60p
Against the Stream 30p
The Class, the Party and Leadership 20p
or £1 for all three (price includes p&p)
from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace,
London E8 3PN

CELEBRATE XMAS AND NEW YEAR WITH 'MILITANT'

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 + 60p post & packing. 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.

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

Militant Grand Bazaar, Saturday 5 December, 1.00 pm start at Christchurch Hall, Trafalgar Road, London SE10. Help needed from 9.30 onwards. All offers of held and/or donations phone Doreen Roberts, 01-543 3658.

New Years Greetings in MILITANT

Get your LPYS, Labour Party or trade union branch to put New Years greetings in Militant. Greet the labour movement and help to build Militant at the same time! But hurry—closing date for copy is Saturday 19th December.

Rates:
SEMI DISPLAY: 3col cms (up to 15 words) £3
6 col cms (up to 25 words) £6
DISPLAY: 1/16th page £10

Send greetings or write for forms to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Looking for a gift for the socialist with everything? Give the ideal Christmas present...A SUBSCRIPTION TO 'MILITANT'!
£4 for 13 weeks, £8 for 26 weeks, £16 for 52 weeks. Take one out now as the rates go up in February.

MANCHESTER University Militant Supporters Society.

Monday 7 December—'Import controls or socialist planning?' Debate between Brian Sedgemore ('Tribune') and Bill Mullins (ex-senior shop steward BL Rover, Solihull)

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

BIRKENHEAD Militant Public Meeting. 'Tory Crisis—Socialist Policies for Labour.' Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant'). Birkenhead Labour Club 177 Cleveland Street. Thursday 3rd December, 7.30pm. For further details ring Richard Venton 051-647 4400.

NEW MILITANT LEAFLET now available. 'What we stand for' leaflet. Size A5 (13cm x 20cm). Duplicate details of your local Militant Public Meeting on the back. Phone orders to Circulation Dept. 01-986 3828.

BIRMINGHAM Militant Readers Meeting. 'Marxism and Democracy'. Speaker: Peter Taaffe. Digbeth Civic Hall, Lecture Room 1, Wednesday 10 December, 7.30 pm.

EAST LONDON Militant Readers Meeting. 'What Militant stands for'. Hear Jen Pickard at Lister Room, East Ham Town Hall (corner of Barking Road/High Street) at 8.00 pm, Wednesday 9 December.

Unity will beat Tories

The Inland Revenue Staff Federation is faced with a series of crises never dreamed of before.

The demands from the Rayner enquiry points to major job losses, and the threat of computerisation is dangerously close.

No agreement has been reached between the civil service unions and the government. There is therefore no guarantee that jobs won't be threatened. Jobs are being lost already due to arbitrary cuts, especially in the taxes branch where plans for computerisation are aimed at cutting a huge proportion of the lower grade jobs.

A national united response to the threat to civil service jobs must be worked out urgently, involving all civil service unions, so that they are not left to do the best they can in isolation.

Neither can we have any illusion in the Megaw inquiry producing an acceptable wages structure. Our experience has shown that we will only have a living wage if we are prepared to act to defend our interests. This is true whatever wage system operates. It could well especially apply to Megaw now that the government is demanding pay linked to the area of work of the low grades. So if you live in a poorly paid area (and who doesn't after a bout of Thatcher's policies?) then watch out!

There is a growing awareness in the IRSF that they should have a discussion on pay at a special conference. We should demand democratically worked out claims and the strategy necessary to win it.

It is also time the promised conference on Automation was convened. Other wise the aim of the previous conferences to gain advantage for the members from computerisation will come to nothing. The Tory vandals have homed in on the civil service. A united approach must be taken to beat them.

The IRSF must take a determined stand against any plans to reduce jobs and we must campaign for a joint agreement at national level with all civil service unions concerned against job losses. No civil service union can afford to accept any agreement that is not in the interest of all civil servants.

FROM A MODERATE TO A MILITANT

George Cochran has been a trade unionist for 34 years, and has been a shop steward in the past at Staffa, where he has worked for six years.

Now he is outside the gate of the factory in Leyton, East London, fighting to save his job. Janice Dale spoke to George after their weekly mass picket.

What did you think when the occupation and strike action was first put to the workforce?

I voted against it because I thought management's plans had gone too far and the position was irrevocable. I was one of those who were approached unofficially on my being transferred to Plymouth. I said if I hadn't got a job by the move I would seriously consider it. But I've changed my mind now.

What did you feel when the occupation first started?

I went along with the majority and did my best to help. I've been involved with the delegations and pickets 100%.

What did you feel when the Hay report (see 'Militant' 572) to management was discovered?

It was devious. The report changed my mind, it made me feel that the decision taken to occupy and strike was right.

What do you feel about strike action now it's in its ninth week?

It's been an eye-opener for me. The labour movement support up and down the country is tremendous. Not so much from our own union, the AUEW—the district office don't want to know. But I went out on a delegation to meet UCATT members on a building site in Pimlico. They decided to have a weekly levy for us. We addressed a shop stewards' meeting at a power station in Kent and received a tremendous response. These are just two examples from many.

What do you think of the demand for joint municipalisation of Staffa by the National Coal Board and the GLC to keep your jobs in Leyton?

The idea is OK, if there was full participation of workers on the board. If it

was like the present nationalisation, no way. The trouble with nationalised and private industries is that management comes out of colleges, not from the shop floor. There is as much skill as management has that is untapped amongst the shop floor workers. We didn't need advice in a report to organise our strike, but management did. The Hay report shows the inefficiency of management. If they need people to advise them how to run their company what are they doing in the positions they are in!

On the trade unions, what do you think about the election of all officials and accountability to members?

There is too much bureaucracy. District and national officials forget where they come from and that's the shop floor. Duffy can't feel what we are going through. One district official hummed and hahed over giving help; it seemed like he had superglue on his arse and couldn't get out of his office chair to help. Regular elections and

accountability would mean that members would get those who would represent them.

People like me and trade unionists in general elect our shop stewards, they have to represent us or they go out. Why shouldn't people on higher bodies be subject to the same as us?

What conclusions have you drawn?

Without the support of the trade union movement outside, there is no way which Staffa workers could have been out over eight weeks. If it had been 390 workers on their own against Brown & Sharpe we would have lost weeks ago. The moral and financial support we have been given was really necessary. If there is another firm in dispute we can offer our experiences to the workers in how to get support.

All I want as an individual is to be able to do a day's work for a day's money, I want the right to work. What right does one person have to say whether my life will be happy or sad? I'm only here for three score years and ten and

Thatcher says I should spend ten of them on the dole. Anyway inflation can't be cured by unemployment, the less workers working, the less is being produced, the less exports there are and the less wealth there is for this country. Real wealth is the workforce and what they produce. I think the wealth of this country is mis-directed. They spend billions of pounds on nuclear weapons and the arms race. If this money was directed into the right areas, there would be enough work for people to be able to have a decent life.

Before the strike I had my fishing and the telly with my wife. I was never political or a militant but I am now. The strike has made me aware of all the political issues of the day.

I feel that we must continue our strike until we get what we want on the table, if all we wanted was redundancies then we wouldn't have come out on strike. When I'm offered £1,000 for my job I think it's an insult. At the end of the day I want my job.

When profits come first

The 'Financial Times' on 1 December rejoiced the news that Chamberlain Phipps's profits were up a staggering 92%. It patted the company on the back for bringing in pre-tax profits of £1.42 million at a time when recession was gripping most of Britain's industry.

But while the financiers and speculators celebrated, workers at the company's Bishop Auckland site faced

their fourth month of strike action against sackings.

And the statistical cold print of the FT of course gave no indication of the appalling working conditions Chamberlain Phipps' workers faced, in order to provide such profits for this chemical based footwear company. One of the strikers, Eddie Horner, described to 'Militant' just a few incidents faced by workers at the Bishop Auckland factory.

The materials used in the production process, like gas or PVC, produce nausea. Although you might be quite hungry, often a worker would just throw away his dinner in the bin.

A typical example of the conditions can be found in the mixing room. This is chronic. Although, according to management, it's

quite safe to breathe in there, you're not supposed to drink or eat inside the room! To eat, you have to wash all the dust off then go outside and eat. It gives an insight to management's thinking—you can't eat in there but it's quite safe to breathe! There are no lung protection facilities, so their attempts to stay within the law on this point are a total nonsense.

The number of accidents in there is absolutely incredible. The working process itself is dangerous, never mind accidents. You work with three kinds of lead, and if they build up they can kill you. But there's also these new super lightweight metals of which titanium (in the form of titanium dioxide) is the most dangerous—it is an accepted cancer producing material.

The most dangerous is polyvinyl chloride. This has even been used by the military in Vietnam. It produces respiratory problems and is again cancer-producing.

Myself, I was nearly gassed once. We were cleaning the ovens—they are about 10 feet by 100 feet long. Then I heard a noise and it was the doors closing! I tried to let the person outside know there was someone locked in the oven but they couldn't hear me. The extractor fan was going and these can be heard miles away. No one had checked to see if anyone was in the oven. I was locked in total blackness. I first thought I was bound to be gassed. I was very fortunate that a supervisor was wandering up that way—if he hadn't I would have been gassed.

The words of the supervisor when he opened the door and I clambered out were "there is no need to panic"! Needless to say I told him what I thought of it!

Yet even though this incident could have led to a fatality, it was never taken any further and no steps were taken to prevent such a situation happening again. 9

Meanwhile the dispute continues. Rush donations and messages of support to: M Smith, 26 Howard Close, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham, or phone 0388 663330

Coventry—strike against the cuts

Four weeks of the most determined strike action against cuts that the city has ever seen has brought Coventry's NUPE members within sight of success. The strike has shaken the council.

Without the benefit of experience in previous strikes, the workers have organised for themselves the elements of successful battle. Sadly a mass meeting of NALGO workers voted not to take industrial action in support and voted not to support a one day strike which members of the NUT

and T&GWU had called for. Unfortunately the plan for a day of action has been put aside temporarily.

But it is vital that these workers support the struggle. The strategy for the council is now clear; they are trying to break the will of NUPE in the prelude to cutting the jobs, wages and conditions of the other public sector workers.

The Labour council has stooped to the lowest level, they are even prepared to use the local Tory press with a full page advert—the tactic used by the Leyland

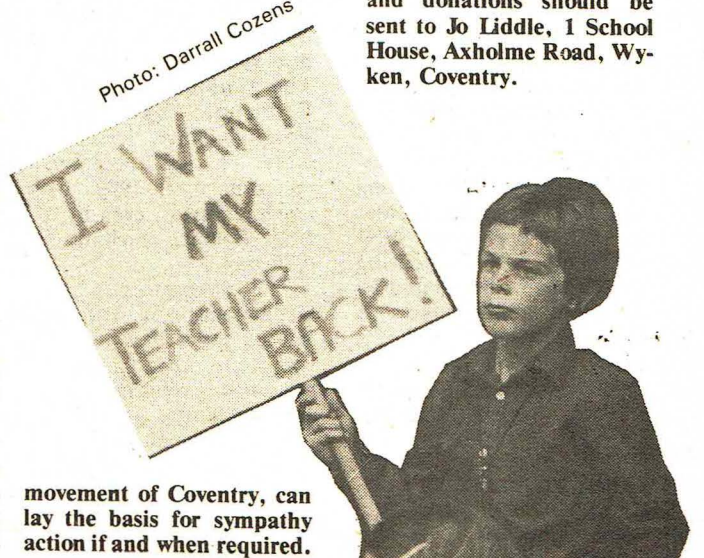
management to put their case. But this will not work. The strike has been solidly maintained, with mass meetings on Monday 30th of cleaners and caretakers, where they voted to stay out by 4 to 1, and canteen assistants also voted to stay out.

Now the strike committee must drive home its advantage. The committee must be reinforced with the addition of more of the most active pickets. This will also provide a further direct link with the mood and spirit of the membership. It should

also be frankly stated that if the dispute continues for very much longer, the present strike committee is inadequate to deal with all the pressing problems of giving directions to the battle, of boosting morale, of organising pickets, fund raising, hardships payments and so on.

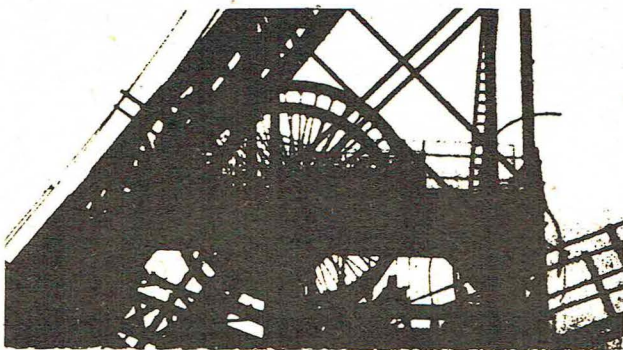
The widespread sympathy for the strikers must be used to the best advantage. Direct appeals to other NUPE branches for financial support, together with a drive to explain the workers case to the whole labour

Photo: Darrall Cozens



movement of Coventry, can lay the basis for sympathy action if and when required.

Resolutions of support and donations should be sent to Jo Liddle, 1 School House, Axholme Road, Wyken, Coventry.



NUM ELECTIONS

Miners want a fighting leadership

As the campaign for the NUM presidency draws to a close, Arthur Scargill has again been in Durham addressing large meetings of miners.

On a cold wet Saturday morning he spoke to over 200 at Vane Tempest, then later to over 300 at Ferryhill and the following day to another 250 at Murton.

At the Vane Tempest meeting, the three Durham

area had been one of those nominating Scargill.

Around the Durham area there has been a mysterious distribution of a special edition of the 'Lancashire Miner', containing a personal attack upon Scargill.

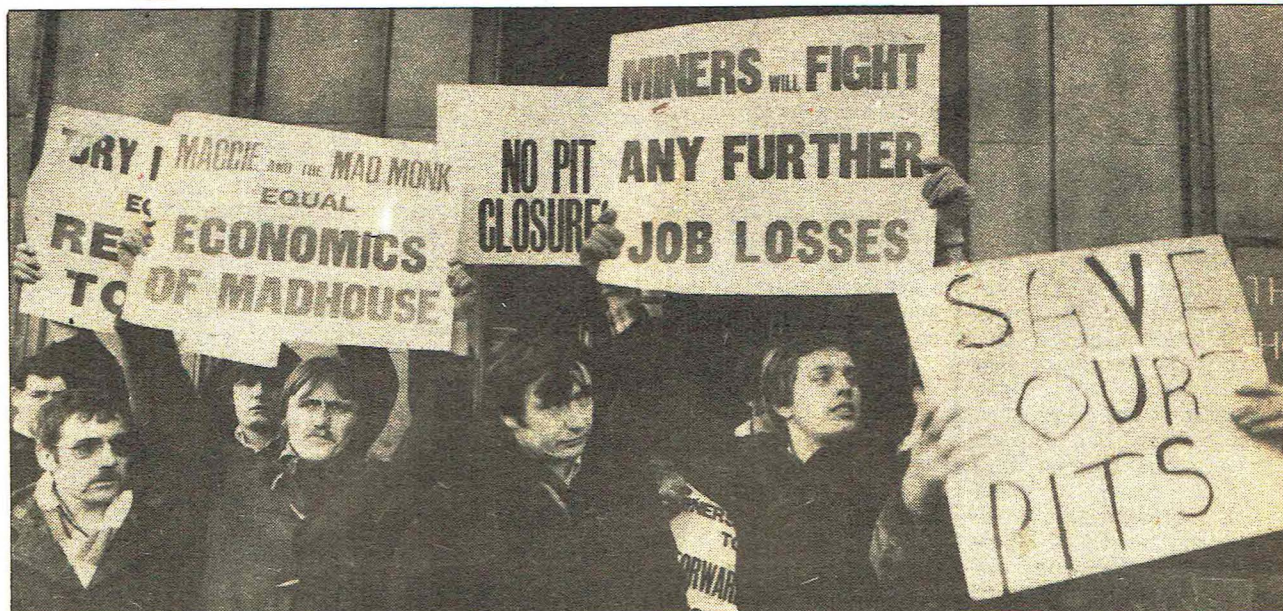
These papers seem to have been dumped at quite a few collieries, without there being any attempt to contact the NUM lodge, but in any case, they have not been well received by the miners themselves.

In between meetings, Arthur Scargill was given a good reception when he made some visits to miners' clubs in South Hetton where the workers are being threatened with 200-300 redundancies. The South Hetton lodge, in fact, lobbied the last council meeting of the Durham NUM, in protest against the threat, but they are not alone.

There are threats of redundancies hanging over Marley Hill and Herrington collieries. It seems that the NCB are not happy with the 10,000 jobs lost nationally in the last year.

They are tackling Durham in the hope that it will be a weak link in the NUM chain. But the ballot for the presidency will show that the Durham area—previously a 'moderate' area—is waking up to the dangers faced by the industry.

By Stan Pearce
 (Monkwearmouth Colliery)



Miners lobby union negotiations with the NCB in February 1981

Photo: Militant



Arthur Scargill

agents (Chairman, General Secretary and Treasurer) were on the platform and they endorsed Arthur Scargill's campaign, explaining that the Durham

"In the 1960s, miners became gypsies going from pit to pit in search of work, but we will never again accept the systematic murder of our industry!"

That was typical of Arthur Scargill's commitment to give the NUM a fighting leadership, and at the end of his speech the packed audience gave him a standing ovation.

Over 600 Leicestershire miners had turned up at Coalville Miners' Welfare

Centre to hear Bro. Scargill, along with two other Presidential contenders, Trevor Bell and Barney Donaghy.

Bro. Scargill made clear the need to fight not only against pit closures but also for pit openings. This is particularly true in the Leicestershire area where the exhaustion of local pits will lead to Coalville becoming a ghost town.

Miners will become "wandering gypsies" unless coal-mining is begun in the Vale of Belvoir. But this proposal has been opposed by local Tories led by the Duke of Rutland (believed

not to be an NUM member) and backed up by the press and media, locally and nationally.

Scargill drew the loudest applause when he said: "Everyone accepts we are going to need more energy and we need to rapidly expand the collieries we have and begin development now of at least 40 pits, including the Vale of Belvoir, to provide replacement jobs where others have closed."

"I give an undertaking on behalf of the Yorkshire miners to take industrial action if necessary to save pits from closure. That same policy decision applies to

the fight to get new pits in the Vale of Belvoir".

A week earlier Leicestershire branches had voted by a 2-1 majority in favour of Arthur Scargill's Presidential nomination. This, along with the turn-out of 1 in 5 of local miners at the public meeting and standing ovation, signals the end of an era of 'moderation' for Leicestershire miners; and at a time when the miners are preparing to lead a fight-back against the Tories.

Report by
 John Merrell
 (Leicester West CLP)

Give us a future!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ing low wage rises.

Whether in a job or out, the Tories are determined to reduce workers' living standards, to create the cheapest labour force of Western Europe.

Now the Tories have piled on more burdens. Howe's mini-budget is hitting workers yet again!

As we go to press, Geoffrey Howe is expected to announce further cuts in living standards by taking another £1 off workers in NHI payments, by increasing prescription charges and by keeping the rise in unemployment benefit below the rate of inflation.

Rents are going up by £2.50 a week so that the average council house rent will have risen by 117 per cent since the Tories came to office!

Further cuts in the cash allocation to local authorities will mean higher rates as well.

But what Howe does not tell us is that all our sacrifices are in vain. Not one of the last two weeks' economic forecasts points to any significant increase in economic growth or living standards in the foreseeable future.

The bosses own organisations, the CBI, forecast a miserable economic growth next year of only 1 per cent. The National Institute of Economic and Social Research have forecast a more or less permanent recession until 1986, with unemployment, even by official figures, reaching 3.8 million.

The government's own Department of Industry figures show that new investment this year in buildings, vehicles, plant and machinery will fall by over 15 per cent, more than in any year for a decade. The CBI thinks there will be a further 10 per cent fall

next year.

So there you have it! The bosses are not investing in our future. They are not training young people in new apprenticeships. The Tories are closing down Industrial Training Boards. They are dismantling the present and snuffing out the future.

All the blood sweat and tears of these Tory years will only lead...to more and more sacrifices. There will be no return to prosperity in capitalist Britain.

But if the Tories and the bosses of industry are not capable of making their own system work then to hell with it!

The Labour Party and TUC must fight for a change of society. They must step up the campaign to expose the Tories and fight for socialist policies as a direct answer to the social problems faced by workers.

They must begin a campaign now to bring down the Tories and replace them with a Labour government committed to socialist



change.

The nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, banks and finance houses, under democratic workers' control and management would mean for the first time that all the wealth and resources of the country could be planned for the benefit of the whole population, and not squandered for the benefit of the few.

This must be the programme of the Labour Party. The fight that the Labour Party is now engaged in is not just to give a better future to workers: it is to make sure the workers have any future at all.

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