

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

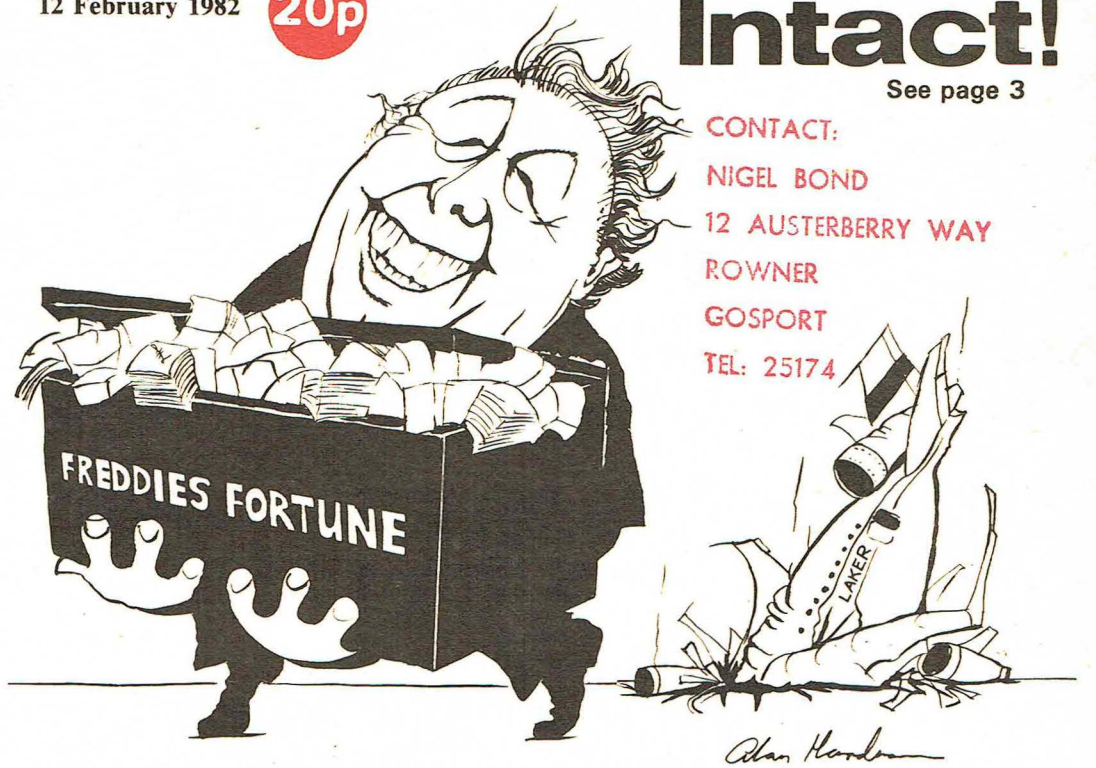
ISSUE 588
12 February 1982

20p

Laker Air Crash Black Box Intact!

See page 3

CONTACT:
NIGEL BOND
12 AUSTERBERRY WAY
ROWNER
GOSPORT
TEL: 25174



ASLEF FIGHT IS OUR FIGHT

**BUILD FOR THE YOPS
LOBBY 25 FEBRUARY**

Protest at Tebbit's slave labour schemes—see p4 and p9

On yer Bike Tories We want jobs NOW!

On Friday 5 February Liverpool held a grand reception for a distinguished visitor, the one and only Norman "on yer bike" Tebbit.

Around 200 YOP trainees, many with bikes, braved the bad weather to let Tebbit hear their opinion about his new youth training scheme paying trainees £15 a week.

Most of the comments of the youth were unprintable.

Fifteen schemes were represented including trainees from Halewood who cycled six miles and entertained the noisy demonstration with a short play, "On yer bike, Norman". Most schemes made their own banners and brought them along.

The demo was called by the Merseyside YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign. We only found out about Norman's visit ten days earlier. I was one of a delegation of four elected to meet "Four per cent Norm" himself.

After being cheered into the building by the demonstrators who by now had built up an electrical atmosphere, we had to be searched by the police for

lethal weapons.

We had a small push-bike as a "present" for Norman but the police said it was a "bit dangerous".

We told Tebbit his scheme would mean industrial conscription. He replied by telling us about life when "he was our age".

Did you know that 25 years ago Norman only earned forty shillings and sixpence (£2.02½) and he's got communist mates! Amazing.

He wasn't so forthcoming about the present day. I asked Norman what future his new training schemes would offer youth. His reply was, "A lot, but it will take quite a few years."

But youth want jobs now, not in ten or twenty years' time.

On Merseyside we hope to bring about 200 to the Lobby of Parliament on 25 February.

We have support from the Transport and General

On Tuesday 16 February Employment Secretary Norman Tebbit will be visiting Nottingham.

A mass picket is being organised by Nottingham Trades Council assembling at 2.00 pm at Castle Boulevard Dole Office.

The LPYS call on all YOP trainees in Nottingham to join the protest.

Workers Union and General and Municipal Workers Union, No 6 Region of the T&GWU have donated £200 to our campaign.

The YOPs lobby will only be the start of a campaign against Tebbit's proposals. The whole labour and trade union movement should say, 'Tories—on yer bike!'

By Shareen Blackall

(T&GWU 6/612 Branch, West Derby LPYS)



Photo: MILITANT

NUR members in Newcastle. All railworkers are threatened by BRB proposals and all unions are under attack from the Tories. Photo: Militant

The ASLEF fight is a fight for all workers! Everyone recognises the importance of a victory for ASLEF and the consequences of defeat. If ASLEF was defeated what chances would unions like the nurses have?

This was the message hammered over 200 railway workers and members of their

families along with representatives of the labour and trade union movement in Glasgow.

All those present voiced total support for the striking ASLEF workers and condemnation of the BRB for renegeing on their agree-

CONTINUED ON
BACK PAGE

All workers must support train drivers struggle

Militant

Labour must rebuild the railways

British Rail are trying to blackmail ASLEF members into giving up the eight-hour day by the threat to close down the railways.

It has been seriously proposed that the railways could be abandoned altogether, except for the commuter system immediately around London, and for those local lines that supply coal to power stations.

This threat, coming from the Tories and from the British Rail Board, carries with it the stink of hypocrisy, because these people have never been interested in the well-being of the national railway network.

In order to smash ASLEF, the BRB are prepared to sustain losses of over £100m, when the 3%

settlement would have cost them only a fraction of that. Like the well-paid bureaucrats running other nationalised industries, Peter Parker would be happy to run one train a year—only providing that his balance sheet looked right.

In fact, the whole system of financing and organisation of the British Railways system has been unsound from the beginning. As any older railwayman will affirm, when the industry was nationalised by the post-war Labour government, it was a heap of scrap.

The taxpayer bought this

junk, on inflated compensation terms and has had to borrow money to invest, so that the industry is saddled with massive debt charges. In effect, through these debt charges, the BRB are annually financing the profits of the big banks and insurance companies, creating artificial 'losses' for the railways.

Not only that, but British Rail is burdened with the profiteering of many private companies which still provide it with necessary parts and equipment, draining away still more of the railway's finance.

Then again, even if parts of British Rail are profitable, they are promptly sold off by the Tories to their big business friends, making doubly sure that this nationalised industry

remains a financial cripple. It is not the railway workers but the Tories and their system which has debilitated the rail network.

The railways have long been starved of investment, yet it offers a much more efficient, cheaper, and less polluting transportation system than any other now available.

The scarcity of funds going to the railways has had a lot to do with the fact that the 'road lobby'—civil engineers, car manufacturers, petrol companies, etc—are completely dominated by capitalist concerns. The road taxes paid by road hauliers are a tiny fraction of road construction and repair costs so the road network is actually subsidised far more than rail.

It is a measure of the stupidity of the British capitalists that today they are even considering the closure of big chunks of the railways. The railways now

carry only 17% of the freight carried (incidentally, costing less than 4% of all freight costs) and Britain is the only major country in the world moving less freight by rail than at any time this century.

As Ray Buckton put it, the system has been allowed to "rot and rust" long before now. Even before considering electrification, there are over 800 miles of track that are overdue for replacement.

The message for the Labour Party is clear. Full support must be given to ASLEF in its fight for railwaymen's conditions and in its fight to preserve the railways. But the Labour Party must go further and spell out its own policy.

The next Labour government must set out to rebuild and modernise the railways. If the government were to adopt thorough-going socialist policies in its general economic strategy,

it would be possible to move towards a genuinely integrated transport system, with massive investment providing more jobs, not fewer.

The debts of the BRB must be written off. The supply industries must be nationalised and integrated into the transport system.

Old branch lines could be re-opened, the railways could consider 'bus-trains' for small branch-lines, like those designed by Lucas workers; freight and public transport could be properly planned and available at reasonable rates. The whole system must be operated as a service that provides for industry and the public at large: in a modern economy it cannot be run as a profit-making enterprise.

Above all, the Labour Party must now inscribe on its banner the demand for workers' control and management in the nationalised industries, where the boards would be nominated from the unions in the industry, (the TUC) and from the government, in equal proportions.

In other words, boards must be created which are really representative of the people who want the industry to flourish.

The Tories and the British Rail Board have never been interested in the well-being of the national railway network... The next Labour government must set out to rebuild and modernise the railways



Pat Wall

NEC COMMITTEE ENDORSES MILITANT CANDIDATES

By
Militant
reporters

Despite attempts to block them by the right wing, two supporters of 'Militant', Pat Wall and Terry Fields, were endorsed by the organisation sub-committee of the NEC as Parliamentary candidates for Kirkdale and Bradford North.

Terry Fields was endorsed first, but not before John Golding had moved to block him until the enquiry into 'Militant' was completed. Laurence Coates, LPYS representative on the NEC and an observer at the organisation subcommittee, pointed out that Terry had

been a member of the Labour Party for 14 years and was a member of the executive committee of the Fire Brigades Union, Denis Healey replied, "So what? Mick McGahey is also president of the Scottish miners."

NEC members were astonished at this remark and murmurs of approval were voiced when Laurence Coates pointed out that those who had been in the Labour Party for years as ward secretaries, GMC delegates, constituency officers, and so on, should not be banned from standing for Parliament.

But in the event, the ma-

majority of the NEC members who spoke were not prepared to consider the enquiry into 'Militant' as a carte-blanc for a witch-hunt and the motion of Golding, seconded by Healey was lost by 3 votes to 13 with only Williams of COHSE supporting. Betty Boothroyd, Alan Hadden and Neil Kinnock all supported the endorsement.

Pat Wall's selection had been the subject of an NEC enquiry after objections had been lodged by right wingers afterwards. The enquiry consisted of Alan Hadden, Boilermakers representative on the NEC, Walter Brown, assistant national agent and John Golding as chairman, and it recommended that a new selection be gone through because of 'doubts' about the original selection.

First of all the enquiry believed that some delegates at the selection had not been fully paid up party members, but this was contradicted by other evidence presented.

The enquiry considered that the meeting room had been inadequate, but it was pointed out that the NEC representative had not objected at the time. The last main objection of the enquiry was that the appropriate seven days notice of selection had not been given, but once again, Laurence Coates produced evidence, including photocopies, of reminders, sent out a month in advance, about the date and venue.

But thin as the enquiry 'evidence' was, the majority of the subcommittee were also annoyed at the press comments that had been made in advance. Frank Allaun thought it "scandalous" that John Golding, the enquiry chairman, had gone to the press in advance saying that he would stop Pat Wall and 'Militant' candidates "at all costs," clearly casting doubts on his impartiality and invalidating the whole enquiry.

When Frank Allaun's view was supported by the committee chairman, Eric Heffer, John Golding declared that he "couldn't remember" going to the Press, but nevertheless offered to remove his name from the enquiry—"a bit late in the day," as someone commented.

Finally, the motion to support the recommendation of the committee of enquiry was put and was defeated by eight votes to six, gaining only the support of Golding, Healey, Michael Foot, Williams, Hadden and Boothroyd.

The rank and file of the party will be delighted at this outcome. The Labour Party needs candidates who are genuinely prepared to fight for the interests of working people, candidates like Terry Fields and Pat Wall. But now, the party membership will be anxious to make sure that this decision is not negated by the full meeting of the NEC which takes place next week.

BOLSOVER

Bolsover CLP has passed a resolution opposing the witch-hunt of 'Militant' and calling for the endorsement of Pat Wall and Peter Tatchell.

One delegate suggested "not rocking the boat" after the Bishops Stortford meeting and winning the election.

But the constituency Chairman, Henry Richardson (who is also vice-president of Notts NUM) summed up the mood of the meeting saying, "let's win the next election, but people like Pat Wall want the right to stand. Brushing the whole thing under the carpet isn't going to get Pat Wall or Peter Tatchell off the hook."

An appeal sheet passed round the meeting produced £9.80 for the 'Militant' fighting fund.

Wavertree-MARXIST CANDIDATE SELECTED



Derek Hatton

"The membership of the Labour Party have had enough of the carpet-baggers, the traitors who masqueraded as Labour members and have now resigned to join the SDP, after building their careers and their bank balances on the back of the Labour Party."

That was the explanation given by Derek Hatton of the decision of Wavertree Labour Party to select him as their Parliamentary candidate. Derek joined three other *Militant* supporters, Terry Fields in Kirkdale, Tony Mulhearn in Toxteth and Terry Harrison in Edge Hill as candidates in Liverpool.

The other selected candidates are also on the left, Eddie Loyden in Garston and Bob Waring in West Derby, and the two remaining Labour members, Eric Heffer and Bob Parry, are members of the Tribune Group.

This shows the move to the left in the Liverpool Labour Party.

Derek is the Chairman of Knowsley NALGO and National Chairman of the Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Par-

ty. He moved the main resolution at NALGO conference which resulted in the ballot on Labour Party affiliation.

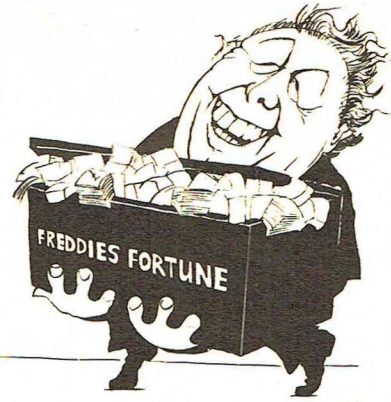
He is a Labour councillor for the Netherley area of Liverpool, and is Labour spokesman on personnel matters. During his term as councillor links with the local authority unions have never been better. Immediately on his adoption, Derek challenged the Wavertree Tory MP to resign and fight a by-election on his policies.

Wavertree Labour Party members will be preparing a mass campaign to ensure that the Tories are thrown out at the general election. Three out of five wards have returned Labour councillors and this shows the potential in a once safe Tory area.

The Liverpool labour movement now has a team of working class fighters ready to take the Tories on as never before. Liverpool needs a socialist Labour government, and our candidates are determined to fight for it.

By Richard Knight

'Free Enterprise' grounds Laker



Laker Airways, the symbolic flagship of Thatcher's 'free enterprise Britain' collapsed ignominiously last week.

Just as capitalism has proved disastrous for the people of Britain, so it has proved for Laker Airways. But although it was mainly the cut-throat competition of the market-place which brought Laker to the brink of collapse, ironically enough it was the effect of a special state subsidy which pushed this crisis into becoming a bankruptcy.

Laker denounced state assistance, but if it had not been for such aid it is unlikely that he could even have launched his company into the trans-Atlantic airways. To purchase his planes Laker borrowed

By Jim
Chrystie

money at a 10.2% interest rate, the rest of the commercial interest rate being subsidised by the British government (British Airways are only allowed to receive subsidies on parts of their planes.)

When faced with mounting debts of over £270m, Laker considered selling some of his planes. But if Laker sold just one of his planes to help pay his debt, then the interest rate on all his other thirteen planes would have risen from the subsidised rate to the higher market rate.

The company could not afford this. It had little real capital and had grown by borrowing from the banks to the tune of seven times its equity. Built upon a finan-

cial house of cards, unable to raise more money to pay the existing debts, Laker Airways collapsed.

2,600 jobs are now in jeopardy and up to 5,000 people could lose their trans-Atlantic holidays. But one person who will not lose much will be Thatcher's 'knight in a shining fuselage', Sir Freddie Laker himself.

With only £500,000 of his money invested in the firm, he had mostly gambled with other people's money.

**No skin off
Freddie's
nose!**

He keeps his £300,000 Tudor house, his metallic gold Rolls Royce, his 1,000 acre stud farm, his private yacht and his modest little family house in Sussex, with its six bedrooms, three bathrooms, swimming pool, tennis court and 100 acres of ground. A millionaire, there is nothing under the Companies Act to stop

Laker from bidding for the profitable part of the collapsed company like the package tours or even buying up the Laker planes from the receiver.

But one can be sure that he will not bid for the trans-Atlantic traffic, for it was this which brought about his downfall. All the major world airlines are suffering from a combination of free competition and economic recession.

In 1978, President Carter ended the practice of one airline being guaranteed certain routes. The 'open skies' policy of unbridled competition proved doubly disastrous at a time when the travel market was affected by the rise in fuel costs and the general recession.

Airlines cut fares to stay in business and piled up huge debts. Last year the world airlines lost £1,108m and this year it is expected losses will rise to £1,700m. British Airways is in debt by \$1,860m, PanAm \$1,160m, TWA \$672m. The top 16 US airlines owe \$10,000m.

Such is the inefficiency of capitalism that every day

the equivalent of forty Jumbo jets cross the Atlantic empty. In the Arizona desert there are grounded over 100 wide-bodied jets, which big business finds uneconomical to fly.

Free competition has failed as disastrously in the airline industry as it has throughout the economy. Five US airlines have petitioned Reagan to end the 'open skies' free competition policy. Lockheed has abandoned its new Tristar and last week, Lucas Industries announced 1,050 redundancies in its aerospace components division.

**Take air
transport
into public
ownership**

Last month it looked as if Laker might survive. But then McDonnell Douglas, one of the main companies behind a projected £5m loan from an American

banking consortium, realised that the net result of such a loan would also benefit their main European rival, Airbus Industries. The US bank withdrew the loan.

Yet Thatcher, who short of direct financial support, did all she could to help save Laker, now wishes to turn British Airways over to such private sharks! The Tories are proposing to sell off profitable sections of BA, such as the helicopter division, to their business friends. This must be resisted by the labour movement.

Capitalism has shown that it is incapable of providing and safeguarding a proper air transport service for ordinary people. The whole of the industry should be taken into public ownership and run as part of an integrated socialist transport plan.

As Tony Benn rightly told last weekend's London LPYS conference, "Air transport is an essential service that people must be able to rely on. It is madness to let it become a pawn in a banker's game of profit and loss."

TORIES MSC CARVE-UP

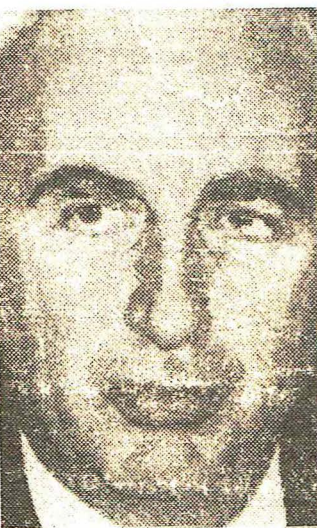
The day after the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) admitted that the real number out of work in Britain was four million, the government sacked the chairman, Sir Richard O'Brien.

The MSC has predicted that this year the number unemployed for over a year would rise to one million, and this number of long-term unemployed would stay as 40% of the total out of work until 1986.

No one could accuse O'Brien of being a wild-eyed socialist. He was the CBI's nomination for the post. But now he has been replaced by a Thatcherite hard-liner, David Young.

O'Brien opposed government cuts in statutory training boards and in MSC staff. The cuts, he said in a letter to his boss, Norman Tebbit, are "adversely affecting our training programme for adults."

He mirrors the fear of even some capitalists that Thatcher's administration has brought apprenticeships to too low a level and has cut back too far on student spending. If on top of this they cut down still more on training, how can there be an adequate supply of skilled workers when an



David Young, formerly adviser to Mad Monk Keith Joseph. Now puppet to Tebbit.

economic recovery comes?

O'Brien had pushed for higher wages for YOPsters, largely because youth are becoming disenchanted with this slave wage "make-work" scheme and may turn to open political opposition.

Such questions don't seem to vex his replacement, David Young, who was previously Sir Keith Joseph's adviser on 'privatisation' of industry. A lawyer who moonlights as

a property developer, he has a simple solution to the problems. Having knocked down millions of jobs, what is more natural than a tasty bit of asset stripping on the jobs service?

He wants to hive off part of the MSC, some of the job placement and training schemes, to leave them all at the mercy of market forces. In the month which saw the collapse of Laker and the ruin of De Lorean, he now wants our jobs to be in the same kind of loving hands!

His ideas on trimming jobs and functions in MSC have been investigated by a government pilot survey in Northern Ireland, which recommends a 15% cut in staff and the privatisation of many functions. The downgrading of job centres and the shunting off of work to unemployment benefit offices would go well with Tory plans to "streamline" Whitehall.

The unemployed who have seen the "choice" in job centres would have no illusions in MSC but this callous government sees such slave labour schemes as YOPS as too "wet". The ruling class offer no hope for those on the dole. Now is the time to fight for real jobs for youth and a real socialist solution to the problem of unemployment. (See page 9).

By Roger Shrivess



Last weekend, 6-7 February, the London Labour Party Young Socialists' Annual Conference attracted over 200 people who heard excellent debates, with guest speakers Tony Benn, Arthur Latham, Chairman of the London Labour Party, and Peter Tatchell. LPYS members in London are now preparing for the 25 February YOPS lobby, and the National Conference at Easter.

Photo: Militant

YOUTH WON'T TAKE ANY MORE...



Picketing outside the court 1 February

... Police harassment

The police chiefs in Hounslow are seriously worried by the stir they have caused after arresting 7 members of the Asian community.

After a social held in November by the Hounslow Asian Youth Club, the police made an unprovoked attack on six youths and one

older man. Later the police arrested those involved on charges ranging from obstruction to Grievous Bodily Harm.

The local Labour Party Young Socialists are convinced that this action was designed to pick off some of the most militant youth (two of the seven arrested are shop stewards) and demoralise them with a heavy-handed attitude and by bringing serious charges against them.

A word of warning to the police chiefs—this has had the opposite affect. The

incident has angered the Asian community and the London labour movement as a whole.

The LPYS, jointly with the Asian Youth Club has organised picketing outside the court, each time the case has come up. And each time there are more people. On Monday (1 February) there were over 30 people willing to take time off work and school to demonstrate their views to the police.

Messages of support and donations have come from a number of London Labour Parties, two districts of the

AUEW, and two London Labour MPs. Some of the letters have related incidents in other areas, and all have expressed concern at the increasing brutality of the police towards Black and Asian workers, youth in general and the labour movement.

Black and white workers must stand together to defend the right of any section of the community to organise peaceful activities.

By Sue Kohn
(LPYS National Committee member)

..SDP-Tory rule

“The SDP have nothing to offer the youth in the West of Scotland. It’s just the same old Smart Alec stuff and we in the LPYS are not fooled by their slogans.”

Frances Curran opened the public meeting organised by the Scottish Regional Committee of the LPYS with an attack on the carpet-bagger Jenkins standing in the Hillhead bye-election.

Over 250 people from all parts of the labour movement attended, a fine start to the campaign to gain Glasgow’s sole Tory marginal, Hillhead, for Labour.

Frances stressed “The LPYS are determined to use this and other initiatives to build Labour’s youth. The only entrance qualification is a hatred of the Tories and the bosses’ system.”

Sandy Smeaton, Chairman of the Glasgow District Labour Party and a prominent supporter of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee stressed the importance of defending conference decisions on policies and the need to put them over to the electorate.

“It is a lie about the left in the Labour Party not want-

Report by David Churchley
(Cathcart Labour Party)

ing to win the next general election. We are every bit committed to returning a Labour government.”

The third speaker, ‘Militant’s’ editor Peter Taaffe, pointed out that one year after the SDP started, some of the Labour leaders were talking as though the Social Democrats had not just won a few by-elections but were already in power.

“The SDP have gained some support from the disillusioned Tory voter as the results of Thatcher’s policies and of the deep crisis become more obvious.

“But the SDP must be seen in the context of the crisis in the capitalist system and the bosses’ need for a second eleven at a time of disillusionment with the Tories. They have been boosted by their numerous members and supporters in Fleet Street.”

Peter finished with the following point. “We all want a Labour government,

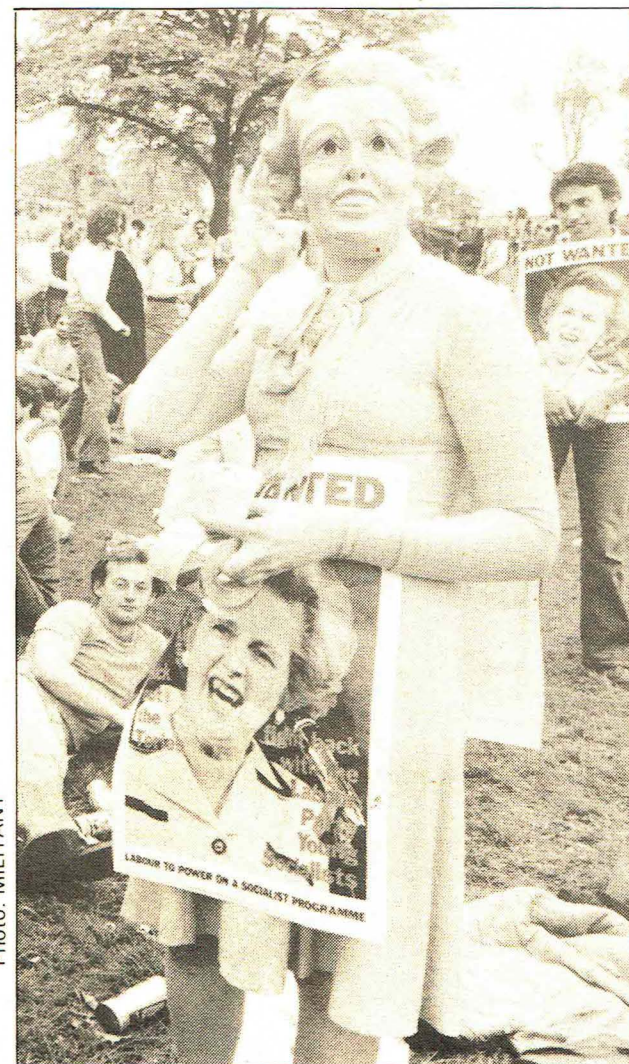


Photo: MILITANT

Thatcher & Co are ‘Not Wanted’. LPYS members at the ‘People’s March’ festival last May

but some right wing leaders are discussing a coalition with the SDP. Meanwhile the SDP has said they would co-operate with a Tory government!

We must learn from the experience of the past. Socialism cannot be put off to the dim and distant future.

We must tell the working class the truth. Although the programme of the ‘Militant’ is only supported by a minority in the labour movement at present, the march of events will convince the majority in the future of the need for a bold socialist programme.”

...Slave labour

Donations are starting to come in to cover the cost of the mass lobby of Parliament organised by the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign.

We urgently need £3,000 to pay for the hall, leaflets, posters, letters etc. Our supporters earn only £25 per week. Therefore we depend on the trade union and labour movement for financial support.

Donations already received include: £10 T&GWU 1/1603 branch, £30 T&GWU Region No 1, £10 ASTMS Leeds University, NUT Barking £6.23, NUPE

Newcastle Central £20, Oxford LPYS £6.50.

The ‘End Cheap Labour’ petition/appeal sheet has been used to good effect. Hayes LPYS collected £11.80 (including a donation from a former Labour councillor who joined the SDP!)

Leyton LPYS collected £7.11 and the Labour Club at Kent University raised £12.50.

Please rush donations to YTURC, c/o 150 Walworth Rd., London SE 17.

Willie Griffin
(Sec. YTURC)

A YOPs worker at an electrical repair workshop in Fulham told his supervisor he saw no chance of getting a job at the end of 6 months.

The supervisor answered him that if he continued with this ‘defeatist attitude’ he would be sacked.

This talk took place when two LPYS members visited a local YOPS scheme and asked to speak to the trainees about the LPYS campaign to unionise these workers.

The supervisor, claimed he was ‘non-political’ but said the main aim of this course was to teach the

workers the need for good timekeeping and discipline.

If any workers were continually on time and good in their work they were rewarded with at least 10 minutes off at the end of the day.

The supervisor claimed discourage the YOPsters from joining a union ‘Who wants to pay 60 pence a week unions dues?’ he asked. ‘We do!’ said everybody.

The demands of the LPYS for free bus passes, union rates of pay and five weeks paid holidays were welcomed despite the supervisors attempts to intimidate the workers.

By Nigel Waterfield
(Southall LPYS)

I never realised before just just how badly treated the people on the YOPs are, until the other day, in the supermarket where I work a young girl started on a YOPs scheme.

At the end of her first week, she received no wages, so she approached the personnel officer about it and was told indignantly ‘You never filled in a form.’

The truth was, however, that Personnel had forgotten to give her a form; this meant she would have to wait another week before receiving her money.

She explained then to the Personnel that she had no money to come to work the next week; and was told she would have some unemployment benefit left.

Not only do YOPsters have to suffer a meagre £25.00 a week, but they also have to suffer being treated unfairly by the bosses. Something must be done about this soon to change all this.

By Mary Frances Harvey (Newarthill & Carlin LPYS)

BUILD for YOPs RALLY

Lobby of Parliament, Thursday 25 February. Rally at Royal Festival Hall, 2—5pm. Speakers include Tony Benn MP, Dennis Skinner MP, Rodney Bickerstaffe (General Secretary-elect National Union of Public Employees) and Peter Taaffe.

Every LPYS member and ‘Militant’ supporter should make arrangements to get to this lobby. It will be an event nobody will want to miss.

The lobby of Parliament is not the end of our campaign. It is only the beginning. Our demands are

- ★ No to Tebbit’s proposals
- ★ Trade union rates of pay for YOP trainees
- ★ 35-hour week and five weeks holiday
- ★ A guaranteed job for all trainees

FIGHT AGAINST THE CUTS

By Ray Physick

Angrily waving their placards and shouting anti-government slogans, 300 demonstrated in support of Sunderland Trades Council's lobby of the local council meeting on 27 January.

The mood was bitter and determined, and became even more so after they were addressed by Charlie Slater, leader of the Labour group of councillors.

People had come from council estates, from their threatened local authority jobs, to protest against the cuts and rent increases, and they wanted action.

Councillor Slater rightly put the blame for the cuts on the Tories, but when it

came to solutions he said "we have to accept the dictates of the government."

Slater offered no fighting lead, quite the opposite, saying; "Cuts, rent and rate increases are inevitable."

He was booed as he returned to the council chambers. NUPE's full-time official for Sunderland then grabbed the megaphone; "This lobby is only the start of the campaign. The fight must be taken to the workplaces—where meetings should be organised." He immediately struck a chord.

About 50 people went into the public gallery to observe the council meeting.

When the issue of home helps came up, a Tory councillor opened up the debate by attacking (what a cheek!) the Labour Group for cutting back 800 people's home helps. This Tory didn't miss any opportunity of embarrassing the Labour Group. He had judged the mood, struck a 'sympathetic note' with some of the public gallery, and, unfor-

tunately, when he sat down some people cheered him.

Slater rose to reply. Alas, the audience didn't expect much. Slater slammed the hypocrisy of the Tories, and correctly put the blame for the cuts on the Tories' shoulders. But he went on to repeat his earlier speech; "What can we do? We have to make do with what we have."

When he sat down, there was a spontaneous reaction. The whole public gallery suddenly exploded; "Support the sick and elderly! Kick the Tories out!" they chanted. Hundreds of 'anti-cuts' leaflets were scattered over councillors, before protestors noisily left the gallery.

One woman shouted 'I work for £18 a week. What will you do about that?' The demonstration of their disgust was complete.

Downstairs in the foyer the atmosphere was electric. Chant and counter-chant could be heard.

Hilda Mustard, a part-time dining attendant at

Red House Infant school, told us; 'I work 13½ hours a week for £18. My husband works as a Plater in a shipyard. If I get paid off, if the rent goes up, our standard of living will decrease. We have an eleven-year-old; what flaming future is there for him?'

"People are lying down," Hilda said, "things are being accepted too easily. Unions should accept no job losses. The council should fight back."

Mrs McMahon interjected; "We don't want Slater, we don't want the Tories. I've always voted Labour, but when they get in they do now." Hilda added; "The next Prime Minister should be Tony Benn."

These women were at their first political event. They instantly grasped the need for a fightback.

Their protests were not in vain, either. Later, a Labour councillor told us that he was disgusted with Slater's attitude. Certainly, there's plenty of life in Sunderland on the cuts battle front!

Students must turn to unions



Students demonstrate in a recent occupation in London

"No to cuts in further education. Occupy." That has been the response of students at a number of universities and polytechnics.

A bold lead from the National Union of Students (NUS), clearly orientated to the labour movement could harness the students' anger to a massive campaign to halt the cuts.

A united campaign of trade unions and students could, in the University sector, force the University authorities to commit themselves to go into deficit in order not to implement the UGC cuts.

In the polys and the FE Colleges, it could force Labour councils to reject the cuts and launch a joint campaign in defiance of Tory minister Heseltine.

But Student Unions must build for victory by a thorough campaign and take any plans for action to

the unions in the colleges and to other public sector workers. Students will not lightly move into action, facing disciplinary action, unless there is a prospect of victory.

This was shown by recent events at Leeds University. Without any sustained preparation an indefinite occupation of the Administration Block was launched. Over 200 students were initially involved.

But the futile tactic of indefinite occupation, without any clear aim or orientation to the labour movement, meant that active support soon waned and the University Authorities felt confident to act by closing the (unoccupied) Wages Department, trying to divide students and campus workers.

At the same time, some lecturers, despite opposition from the AUT Branch, threatened to abandon courses if the occupation continued. The Tories (and the SDP!) successfully mov-

ed that the occupation be ended.

But this need not mean the end of the campaign against the cuts. Plans should be drawn up to make the NUS 'Week of Action' (1-5 March) a massive show of strength by campus workers and students. Nationally the NUS must approach the unions to discuss possible strike action on National Demonstration Day (5 March).

The Authorities are at the moment confident of being able to deal with opposition to the cuts. At Manchester University police were called to break up a peaceful picket of the University Senate—the body which decides how to implement the cuts.

They would not be so confident if faced with action by the campus workers backed up by the mobilisation of thousands of students!

NOLS members of the NUS Executive must also

commit NUS to campaign for students to vote Labour in May's local elections and fight to commit Labour to oppose the cuts.

If Universities are to be forced to go into deficit, NOLS must campaign for Labour's NEC to pledge the next Labour government to wipe off any deficit and interest charges incurred by Universities as a result of defying the UGC cuts.

Keith Joseph, as Industry Secretary, was defeated by the miners in February 1981 over pit closures. A determined, united campaign by campus workers and students can give him a similar welcome as Education Secretary and be a first step to the defeat of this Tory government.

By Steve Johnson
(Leeds University Labour Club)
& Clive Heemskerck
(NOLS NC, Militant supporter)

Needed - A voice for Labour

"In August I got so bad. The water and the rats were running through. I was going to take all my pain killer tablets but I was worried that if I didn't do the job right the doctor wouldn't give me more". (*Guardian* 26 January)

These words, spoken by a 43 year old housebound woman in the Moyard Estate, Belfast, (nicknamed "suicide estate") show the despair of people who have to put up with some of the worst housing in Europe.

Unemployment in Northern Ireland stands at a staggering 114,000, or one in five of the working population. Of these 18,500 are under 19. The figure can only get worse. If the DeLorean car plant closes, 2,600 jobs will disappear at a stroke.

This appalling situation cries out for a solution. Yet workers in the North have no political voice of their own, no Labour Party to fight the green and orange Tories who share responsibility for this crisis.

That is why Trent Polytechnic Labour Club has organised a Conference on Ireland for February 13.

In the last 12 months factory occupations against redundancies, demonstrations against cuts, and rent

increases and by students for a decent grant have united Catholics and Protestants. That unity and determination we have to build on.

Toryism cannot solve unemployment or slum housing; their only 'solution' is repression. Nor can any of the sectarian groups like the UDA or Provisional IRA. On the contrary, the Provo campaign of individual terror, has only increased sectarian tensions and led to a strengthening of repression.

A Labour Party campaigning for jobs and decent housing and against repression could win the support of Catholic and Protestant workers alike and transform life in the North.

We have organised our conference to bring home to members of the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) the urgent need to establish a Labour Party based on the trade unions. We urge all Clubs to send a delegate and as many visitors as possible. Labour Party members are also welcome.

By Leo McDaid
(Trent Polytechnic Labour Club)

Trent Polytechnic Labour Club CONFERENCE ON N IRELAND

Saturday 13 February, Lecture Theatre, Byron Building Trent Poly Student Union, Shakespeare St, Nottingham

Registration at 11 am. Two sessions:
- 'Divide and Rule: Background to the Present Crisis'
- 'What Future for NI? debate between Clive Heemskerck ('Militant' supporter, NOLS NC) and a NOLS Officer Social in the evening. Accommodation available if requested. Labour Club delegate credentials (£1.50) and Visitors' credentials (75p) from Trent Poly Labour Club, c/o address above

Build the Young Socialists!

Following the rule change at last year's Labour Party Conference affecting the formation of LPYS branches, a new set of regulations for LPYS branches was approved by the January meeting of Labour's NEC.

These regulations which put the rule change into effect, mean that obstacles which in the past have been placed in the path of young party members wanting to form a Young Socialists branch have been removed.

The regulations were not passed without some attempts to delay a decision. Right wingers such as John Golding, supported by Neil Kinnock, argued that CLPs should first be circulated for comment, even though the issue had already been decided by some 1½ million votes at annual conference.

The most important among the approved regulations, which should be a big boost to the establishment of new branches in the next few months, are the following;

•The Constituency Party General Committee must make a decision to form a branch of the Labour Party Young Socialists and define the area the branch is to cover. The General Committee cannot refuse to form a branch if there is a desire to form one.

•The Constituency Secretary or other CLP officer or officers as agreed by the General Committee shall convene the inaugural meeting of the branch on a suitable date as early as possible. The date shall be notified to Regional Office with at least fourteen days notice.

•A Regional Officer (or someone deputed by the Regional Office) shall be present at the inaugural meeting. If no regional officer can attend on the date notified by the General Committee the Regional Office shall deputise a responsible officer of the party instead.



Hospitals run down? Blame the left!

From the riots to the rail strike, 'extreme left wingers' tend to get the blame for most things these days. Now it seems we are causing trouble in the inner city hospitals. In a report on health care in inner cities by the Royal College of General Practitioners, its author Dr Keith Folden discovered Liverpool and Glasgow hospitals are having great problems. Not so much from the cuts it would seem, but from 'extreme left-wing attitudes'. Why, Dr Bolden was shocked to find in Liverpool that "doctors have to compete with cleaners and orderlies for parking space". What a tragedy. Dr Bolden would do better to call for the reverse of the cutbacks and adequate resources for the NHS. And if health workers were involved in the planning of hospitals and the government provided enough money for them to be built properly, there would be parking space for all.

Bosses leave a bad taste

The Holy Father Roadshow will be rolling into Britain in June, and the sharks of big business are all set to make a packet. The Pope's visit will be marked by an avalanche of souvenirs—ballons, T Shirts, tea towels etc—and for those who feel really lowly and humble, they can celebrate the glory of God by buying a gold Garrard watch with little silver Papal heads inset, for £1,000. But devout Catholics who buy these knick-knacks thinking the money is going to the Catholic church are wrong. The business side of the visit is being organised by the International Management Group, which consists of 43 firms. They say their cause is to ensure that things that are 'bad taste', are not licensed for sale, and has nothing to do of course with their desire to have a monopoly over the whole market. And their terms for Papa? His church only gets 10% of the profits (not that they are short of a few bob with their vast treasures of worldly goods stored in the Vatican). All the rest goes to the 43 firms, who, given the thousands who will flock to see the Pope, will make a tidy sum.

No 'Moscow Gold' for us!

Militant has often been accused of wanting an Eastern Bloc style police state in Britain and being financed with Moscow gold. Well, this is what the Stalinist bureaucracy in Hungary think of 'Militant'. It is a word-for-word translation from the official Communist Party political journal, 'Magyaroszag', commenting upon recent events in the Labour Party: "Since the beginning of November there is an enormous pressure on Michael Foot to step up [action] against the 'militants' who are hiding in local Labour Parties. At best they are simple Benn-believers, at worst they belong to the pale Trotskyist coloured Militant Tendency. It is painful but true, that in a good proportion of the local parties they are the most influential. Also they bloody seriously think that the Labour Party has to change from an attractive party of (an) all social strata-broad church-to a radical socialist organisation, which not only wants to defeat the Tories, but has definite policies...!"

50 YEARS AGO

With the Tories trying to drive us back to the 'good old days' when profits were large, it is worth recalling that their system deprives millions of the most basic right of all, the right to live. A report published fifty years ago this month showed that in a working class district of Manchester more than one in ten babies died before they were one year old. In St Clements ward, Ancoate, infant mortality was 169 out of every 1,000 births. In nearby more prosperous suburban Didsbury it was down to 49 out of every 1,000.

Since then workers have won the National Health Service and other reforms so that the tragedy of infant mortality has been greatly reduced, but early death still strikes down disproportionately upon the working class. The class system dominates from the cradle to the grave.

Don't applaud SDP

Some alarming insight into the thinking of Labour's right wing is given by Bill Sirs, General Secretary of the ISTC, in the February issue of the steel union's journal, 'Banner'.

Sirs hails the Bishops Stortford conference between the TULV (Trade Unions for a Labour Victory) and Labour's National Executive as a great turning point in the Party's fortunes. Bill, however, is hardly overflowing with optimism.

"There is now a chance," he writes, "that the Labour Party could win the next election. Just a chance. We now have to explain and propound the alternative policies which we have formulated."

Nowhere, however, does Bill Sirs spell out exactly what policies he means. The fact that he is less than wholeheartedly enthusiastic about the radical policies included in 'The Socialist Alternative' adopted at last October's Labour Party Conference is suggested by the next bit of his Editorial.

This is headed 'Congratulations to Shirley!' In spite of his desire to see a Labour government returned, he says, "it would be churlish if we did not offer congratulations to Shirley Williams on her victory at the polls in the Crosby Constituency."

But wasn't it rather 'churlish'—to say the least—of Shirley Williams to have deserted the Labour Party when she found herself defeated on major issues of policy? Is it not outright treachery for



Bill Sirs, General Secretary of the steelworkers' union, ISTC. Photo: Militant

- Fight them!

Shirley Williams to have then stabbed the Party in the back and joined a new centre party deliberately promoted by big business and the media to put an obstacle in the way of the return of a majority Labour government?

Apparently, Shirley is redeemed in Bill Sirs' eyes by the fact that she is "a tough, redoubtable, but very fair politician" who will now be bringing back to the House "all her acumen, commonsense, and flair."

Then Sirs gets to the real point: "We cannot write off the SDP, who could well be part of a coalition with Labour if Labour fails to clinch a decisive victory."

The 'Banner' article has already brought a strong protest from Roy Hughes, MP for Newport and chairman of the Parliamentary

Labour Party's steel industry group. He has written to Sirs reminding him that the ISTC is affiliated to the Labour Party, condemning the praise for Williams, and also pointing out that in Newport five Labour councillors who are ISTC activists are being opposed by SDP candidates.

The 'common ground' between Labour's right wing and the SDP

Like many right-wing members of the Parliamentary Labour Party, including Jim Callaghan and Denis Healey, Bill Sirs seems to have already conceded in his heart of hearts that it is unlikely that Labour will win an overall

majority in the next general election.

The right do not know how to fight the SDP—because the policies they really support are virtually indistinguishable from the Social Democrats. Their main aim, therefore, is to maintain as much 'common ground' as possible with the SDP on key economic and other policy issues.

This defeatist attitude on the part of the right of the PLP and trade union leadership is not shared by Labour's ranks or by the active workers in the trade unions.

They know that the defeat of the Tories, the defeat of the SDP, and the return of a majority Labour government depends on an active campaign—appealing to working people on a class basis, and with fighting socialist policies.

Big Brother in the Classroom

The sole purpose of education under capitalism is to produce docile and efficient servants for the ruling class.

Thus thought Lenin, and obviously if the products of the school are going to be passive and docile, their teachers need to be so too.

Several weeks ago during a dispute with my Headmaster, I needed to take a phone call. The Head told me to use his room.

Halfway through the phone conversation I noticed on the desk a file bearing my name! In the file was a newspaper clipping, going back several years to when I, as local NUT president, was involved in fighting education cuts. I also spotted a leaflet advertising a talk I gave last autumn.

My union was called in and we confronted the Head with the material and asked why it was being kept in my official file.

The Head's reply was that it was just a bit of a joke at my expense. Growing angry with himself for letting the

By a NUT member

file fall into my hands, the Head then let slip that also in the file was a report on a Labour Party Young Socialist public meeting which I chaired in 1979. We asked if we could examine the file ourselves. He declined, saying he would let the union secretary come and do so, thus saving himself time for a little laundry!

Investigation was restrained by procedure

I complained to the school governors. After some initial reluctance, the union supported me and the governors body met to consider my grievance. I

conducted my own case using my Regional Official as an adviser and witness.

Neither I nor the governors were able to question the Head directly—he had a fellow headmaster to conduct his 'defence'. The Head's mouth piece tried to justify the report on the LPYS meetings on the grounds that I had said slanderous things about the Head. I denied that and pointed out how the report had been produced by members of the Young Conservatives. Anyway, if this was really true, the Head should have sued me rather than put unsubstantiated reports on secret files.

My Regional Official added that the union had warned the Head about improper material in files several years ago.

The governors, all Labour asked some pertinent questions, but were somewhat constrained by the 'procedure' being rigorously

applied by the Education Officials at the meeting. The disciplinary procedures that management can use against teachers is very black and white, but the complaints procedure that we can use against them is ambiguous. The procedure's inadequacy is reflected in the fact that it hardly ever used.

The attitude of one or two old Labour right wingers on the governors surprised me; they were too infected with the 'don't rock the boat' attitude.

The eventual outcome was for the governors to ask the Head to undertake to show me everything that is on my file now, or put on in the future, with me having the right to comment. But the main point that I wanted establishing, that keeping political records is just not on, was sidestepped. If I want that made explicit I will have to go further up the procedural beanstalk.

VICTORIES IN LEEDS

Tebbit's solution to unemployment flying over the three million mark was to call on workers to show restraint in their pay demands.

Yet on the same TV programme that Tebbit made these remarks, new towns were covered, showing Coventry. It was no longer a 'City of Skills and Opportunities,' but a crumbling ghost town with even major shops closing as workers can no longer afford the goods on display.

Over the last two years Leeds has found itself in a similar position. Our basic industries, textiles and engineering, have both been hammered by relentless redundancies. All this has been used by the employers to drive down wages.

With the Tories in power, Leeds now finds itself with 40,000 workers registered unemployed. In this climate, it has only been the local trade unions which have provided an alternative.

The fight-back started with the dispute at Sulzers Engineering, where a work force of 300 AUEW members fought a four-week strike in order to win an increase of 10.2%.

By Jon Ingham
(Leeds AUEW
No 6 branch)

Sulzers had recently moved to a brand new £22 million factory that was purpose built for manufacturing large-scale pumping equipment.

Since the strike ended over two months ago, rather than mass lay offs and redundancies management have laid on extra overtime and are screaming to finish orders. Five special pumps in particular are heading Alaska where the river is only open for one month in the year.

The impact of this victory has been consolidated with, for instance, new apprentices seeking out the convenor to join the union.

Following hot on the heels of Sulzers, Leeds saw the total walk-out of 900 workers at Kirkstall Forge. Immediately, the Forge workers were pitted not against local management but against GKN, the parent company who were aiming to follow the government line of 4%.

No doubt spurred on by the victory at Sulzers, the Forge workers began erecting elaborate picket shelters and launched an appeal to the movement. In



The picket line at Kirkstall Forge during the strike by 900 workers against the GKN bosses

the few weeks the appeal was out, over £2,000 was collected and used for running the picketing.

The resolve of the workers was, however, in no way matched by the right-wing union leadership of the AUEW. After three weeks the union's executive ordered the District Full-timer to call a mass meeting over the heads of the shop stewards and to recommend a return to work.

Hundreds of workers poured into the town hall for the mass meeting. While listening to the executive's recommendation (accep-

tance of less than the original offer) they voted to support their own shop stewards, who by 19 to 3 were recommending that the strike be continued until an acceptable offer had been received.

This attempt by the AUEW right-wing executive backfired in two ways.

Firstly, that within a week management had collapsed and Leeds was to see a second victory in its major industry, engineering. On this occasion £14 rises were notched up (over an 18 month period).

Unlike Tebbit's pipe-

dreams on unemployment, workers of Sulzers and Kirkstall Forge had defended their wages and therefore jobs in the retail trade, and further, by direct action, both groups of workers had achieved the 39 hour week.

Secondly, the victory at Kirkstall Forge underlines the catastrophic advice given by the AUEW national leadership. If it had been followed, it would have meant not only lower wages but also clauses on productivity and future loss of jobs. It is up to the engineering union to base itself on these

victories.

Unlike the national strike of 1979 (conducted on only two days of the week) both these disputes were fought all-out. In the case of Sulzers, urgent orders were help up. In terms of the Forge, production was quickly brought to a halt at many other factories which became short of the axles made in Leeds.

If our national claims were pursued in the same manner then two million engineering workers could bring the entire British industry to a halt and force the employers to concede decent wages and hours.

Undoubtedly, such a lead could galvanise ordinary workers throughout industry.

In Leeds, for instance, 16 workers walked out of Medasil (Surgical). This management, which would not tolerate unions, had just sacked a worker who had accepted a meagre 5% increase, but was not sufficiently happy enough about it for management's liking! He was issued with a letter stating this and he was, therefore, demoralising his fellow workers.

All the shop floor walked out in support of this victimised worker and the entire workforce, mainly women and previously unorganised joined the GMWU and picketed the factory.

Within 24 hours, and after a few post office vans had refused to cross the picket line, management held a meeting with John Payne, the GMWU full time organiser. Having turned to the unions the workers were delighted to find their workmate reinstated, union recognition granted, and, further, full pay for the day-and-a-half on strike.

British Rail's Victorian hangover

Newcastle Central Railway Station was built in the heyday of the river Tyne. When coal, steel and heavy engineering were the basic industries, most of it began its journey on the railway, through Newcastle.

By Vince
Haywood

(NUR, Newcastle)
personal capacity

with many men working 60/70 hours a week in order to make up a decent take home pay. Staff who leave are rarely replaced, thus increasing the work load for those left behind.

All this added to the anger at the recent press reports, which claimed we are overpaid and underworked. One young railway worker told me that in 1980 he worked a 7 day week which included five 12 hour shifts. For this he took home the princely sum of £62! Wage anomalies mean that cleaners on the new Tyneside Metro can earn more than an ASLEF driver. No wonder morale is low.

The BR bosses are now trying to drive a wedge between the two main rail unions. Unfortunately this

seems to be helped by the attitude of the leadership of the biggest rail union, the NUR. Guards in Newcastle feel angered over the acceptance of flexible rostering, they see a future of worsening shift patterns, reduced safety levels and longer hours. Posters advertising a meeting that Mr Weighell will address have been torn down or defaced.

12,000 jobs have already been lost, with another 24,000 to go by 1983, and many now feel that compulsory redundancies will be announced.

Bosses sponge off the nationalised industries

The railways could provide the answer to the energy problem, reduce road traffic, give people the freedom to move around the country cheaply. Instead, like Newcastle's Victorian Central Station, the railways stand as a grim reminder of the past. It is used by industry, many of them its former owners, and all those who live like lice off the nationalised industries, as another easy way of making money at the workers' expense.



The Newcastle Central railway station—built in the heyday of the industrial revolution, it is now a shell of its former self
Photo: Militant

On January 30 1972, a Civil Rights march through the Creggan and Bogside areas of Derry ended in the atrocity now known world-wide as "Bloody Sunday"

Towards the end of the march, as a rally was beginning, members of the 1st Battalion the Paratroopers stormed into the area, firing indiscriminately at almost every civilian target they could find.

By the end of the day thirteen unarmed civilians had been shot dead. Many more had been injured. Immediately the army tops attempted to disguise the truth. Conflicting reports of the casualties were issued. Lies were spread about "gunmen" provoking the carnage by firing at troops.

But the scores of statements of eye witnesses soon established the truth. There were horrifying accounts of soldiers firing from the hip into crowds of fleeing teenagers and of bodies being dragged "like lumps of meat" by the hair and thrown into army vehicles.

These are excerpts from just two such statements: Fulvio Grimaldi, an Italian journalist, explaining that he had witnessed atrocities in many countries, said "I have seen many civil wars and revolutions and wars. I have never seen such a cold blooded murder. Organised, disciplined murder. Planned murder". He goes on, "I saw a young fellow who had been wounded, crouching against the wall. He was shouting "don't shoot, don't shoot". A paratrooper approached and shot him from about one yard.

"I saw a young boy of fifteen protecting his girlfriend against the wall and then proceeding to try and rescue her by going out with a handkerchief and with the other hand on his hat. A paratrooper approached, shot him from about one yard in the stomach, and then shot the girl in the arm".

Another eye witness, Matthew Connolly, saw some of the killings. "I was standing at the corner of Patrick Street when a young fellow of sixteen or seventeen was shot and fell in front of me, he was shot fairly high up in his chest...at this time the fellow was not dead. As we went forward to help him, automatic fire riddled the rubble...about a minute later John Wray crawled with his head down towards the boy who had been hit, he got to within a yard of him, when a single shot hit him. He was dead.

"A youth tried to move towards the bodies, but only got out into the open and he was shot...we ran into a courtyard that was blind to the soldiers. More shots rang out and three fell beside each other. Two had gunshot wounds and the other had a heart attack, he later died..."

Soon after these murders the Government set up an official enquiry under Lord Widgery which attempted to whitewash the behaviour



Above right: The start of the peaceful Civil Rights demonstration
Below: How it ended

TV Cens

The British capitalists, through their control of the media, regularly distort and twist the news to their own purpose, the almost daily attacks upon trade unionists being the clearest example. But the media bosses are also highly selective about what they want people to know (or not to know) about Northern Ireland, as can be seen by yet another banning of a TV broadcast, not even about Ireland as such, but about the press coverage of Ireland.

The Campaign for Free Speech on Ireland has only now been told, more than

Bloody Sunday

10 YEARS ON

By Peter Hadden

of the troops. Today, ten years on, it is the living accounts of those who were at the receiving end of this terror, not the distortions of this enquiry, which present the facts.

Coming as it did, only six months after the introduction of internment, Bloody Sunday provoked an unprecedented mood of fury amongst the Catholic population North and South. In the South there was a one day general strike as part of a spontaneous movement of protest. A

huge crowd in Dublin marched on and burned the British embassy.

In Newry, one week after the deaths, a huge crowd of 60,000, from North and South, marched in protest and in defiance of an intimidating military presence and a cordon of steel which the army had placed around the town.

Bloody Sunday, and this wave of anger, was the last nail in the coffin of the Stormont Parliament. Shortly afterwards it was prorogued and direct rule

from Westminster began. Since then every attempt to recreate a local political forum has collapsed. Direct rule continues.

Throughout the decade since Bloody Sunday, the one consistent element in the policy of the ruling class has been their ultimate reliance on army repression of which the Derry atrocity stands out as only the most naked example.

Thirteen deaths in Derry will remain as a monument to the inability of the ruling class in Britain to solve the

problems of Northern Ireland. On the basis of capitalism these problems are insoluble. It would take the emergence of a class movement uniting Catholic and Protestant workers to break the vice of poverty and of repression.

The tragedy of the aftermath of Bloody Sunday was that the mass outrage of a whole section of the community, North and South could not find such a class expression. Sadly, the official organisations of the labour movement in the North remained silent throughout this upheaval.

As a result, a generation of youth in the Catholic areas embittered by internment and by murder on the streets could see no other means of fighting back but by turning to the methods of the Provisionals and, at that time, of the Official IRA, both of whom were conducting a military campaign.

It then appeared to many of the Catholic youth that the "quick" and "easy" solutions of the bomb and the bullet represented a way forward. Marxists at the time warned that these methods of individual terror would prove futile. Only the working class using its traditional methods of mass action is capable of chang-

ing society.

Individual terrorism ultimately leads to isolation and defeat. Far from weakening the state, and resisting repression, it provides the government with the very excuse it needs to vastly increase repression.

The experience of the Provisionals over more than a decade has confirmed these points. Last year, ten hunger strikers died in the H-Blocks, another monument to the intransigence of the British Tory Government.

Sectarian Assassinations

Most of these were in their early teens at the time of Bloody Sunday. They then were driven into the Provos because of a lack of an alternative. Their lives and the lives of many others like them were wasted in a military campaign which will never, and can never succeed.

Individual terror in any industrialised country is doomed to defeat. In Northern Ireland it is doubly ill-fated because of the sectarian division amongst the working class. The stepping up of the Provo campaign in 1972 provoked a mood of fear and anger in Protestant areas. This was capitalised

Labour's NEC moves towards A Policy for Youth

The Tories are slashing the number of apprenticeships open to youth by 10,000 a year. More and more youth are wallowing on the dole or being "conscripted" into rotten slave labour jobs. Tory minister Norman Tebbit is now proposing a new youth training scheme that will force youth to work for £15 a week (or 37½p per hour).

It is against this background that the YOPs Trade Union Rights Campaign has been getting huge support for its lobby of Parliament. At the same time, the Labour Party NEC has produced a new policy document called "16-19 Learning for Life" and has asked affiliated organisations to submit comments by April 9th.

A flood of resolutions from LPYS branches and unions should go to the NEC, on this important policy statement, welcoming the document but extending and developing the demands further.

The main proposals in the document are:-

- "The introduction of a student traineeship, where all 16-19 year olds, whether in full time education, at work, or unemployed, will have the right to receive systematic education in the form of a student traineeship.

- "A comprehensive "tertiary" system of training and employment for 16-19 year olds. ("Tertiary" implying the next level beyond Primary and Secondary education).

- "Setting up of tertiary colleges, rather than 6th form colleges, that can offer both part-time and full-time courses for adults as well as young people.

- "Existing 6th forms must offer a wide range of options at different levels of study in part-time as well as full time courses.

- "Local education authorities would be given powers to use private schools for 16-19 provision within the maintained sector.

- "All young people on full time education courses should receive an "education maintenance allowance" which should meet their needs and increase the staying-on rate in education after 16.

- "Military training for the unemployed or a National Community Service for all young people should be opposed.

- "Young people on YOP should receive an allowance which is far higher than the current allowance and which should rise with increases in average earnings.

- "Young people, especially those who leave school, should immediately receive Supplementary Benefit on finding themselves unemployed.

- "No 16-19 year olds should be charged tuition fees."

The Labour Party document contains a lot of

By Willie Griffin
(Secretary YTURC)

useful information on apprenticeships, Youth Opportunity Schemes and further education. It is a big step forward because for the first time the Labour Party has a policy on the problems of youth, and for that reason alone the NEC must be congratulated by the labour movement.

The document has partially taken on board the demands of the "Youth Charter" which was launched by the Labour Party Young Socialists last Autumn and which has gained wide-spread support.

The refusal to implement military training or compulsory community service and the decision that all school leavers who are unemployed should get Supplementary Benefit must be fully supported.

The demand for a student traineeship where all school leavers will receive either a job with training or a place in full-time education with a living grant has been put forward by the LPYS for many years. Likewise, the demand that YOP trainees should "receive an allowance which is far higher than the current allowance" is welcome, but it needs to be specified and expanded.

But the YOP Trade Union rights Campaign believe the NEC statement should have gone much further.

MSC forecasts two-thirds unemployed

YOP trainees should get as a minimum:-

- * Trade Union rates of pay (16-18 year olds earn an average of £55 weekly).

- * Trade Union control and supervision of schemes.

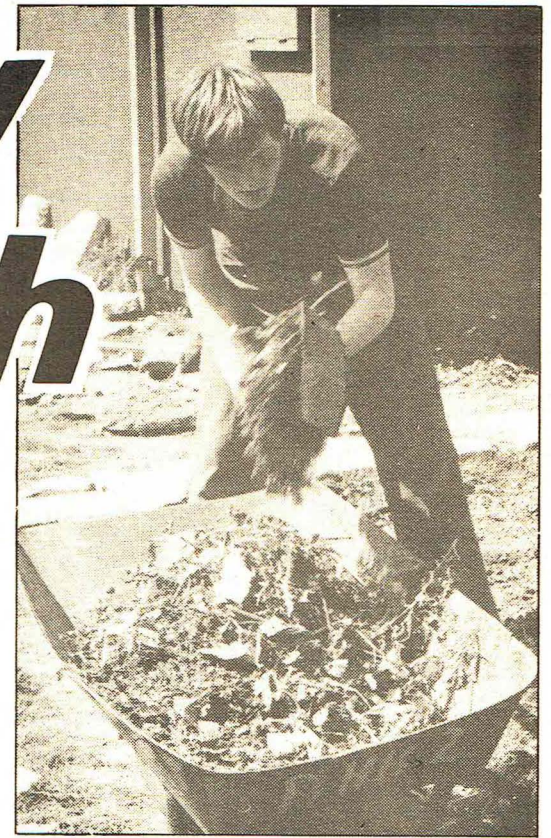
- * A 35 hour week.

- * Five weeks paid holiday.

- * A guaranteed job for all trainees.

These demands, being fought for by YOP trainees at present, should be the norm for all future trainees in any tertiary comprehensive system. Otherwise, despite the best intentions, any new youth training scheme would end up seeing trainees being used as cheap labour.

The above programme of the YOPs Trade Union



Youth doing heavy manual work will get only £15 a week. Photo: Militant

MSC Forecasts of Unemployment among youth under 18

Year & quarter	Total (thousands)	% of labour force under 18
1981		
Q1	349	34
Q2	482	51
Q3	684	51
Q4	557	47
1982		
Q1	501	48
Q2	598	63
Q3	777	58
Q4	632	54
1983		
Q1	553	54
Q2	636	68
Q3	800	60
Q4	644	55
1984		
Q1	553	54
Q2	622	67
Q3	778	59
Q4	622	54

Source: MSC Progress Report, July 1981.

NB: these are policy off forecasts, i.e. including those young people who should appear as registered unemployed if Special Programmes were not operating.

Rights Campaign is a very moderate one indeed, if the money now spent on nuclear weapons, jet fighters, and so on was put to more beneficial use. Cutting arms spending by one thirtieth would give every YOP trainee union rates of pay, a 35 hour week and 5 weeks paid holiday a year. The biggest weakness in the Labour Party document is that it does not explain how every trainee would be offered a guaranteed job. After all, what is the point of training and education unless there is the prospect of a proper job at the end of it?

The document simply says that Labour's Alternative Economic Strategy would produce expansion in the economy, leading to an increase in jobs for the age-group. "With an expanding economy under a Labour government employment/training premiums should be paid to employers to recruit young workers."

Does that mean that capitalists, like those running De Lorean, would have their profits propped up for the honour of creating a few jobs? Or does it mean, as it should, accountability, control and monitoring of public investment?

This year, despite a small

increase in industrial production, unemployment is forecast to rise—especially amongst school leavers. Only 1 in 3 will have a chance of getting work.

The MSC forecasts that for the next four years an absolute majority of school leavers will be unemployed—in some instances up to two thirds! (See table).

Even the massive £8,300m increase in public spending advocated by the TUC, while it would be a welcome step, would create at best a half a million new jobs. Yet according to the TUC itself 4,900,000 new jobs are needed by 1985.

Under the profit system our generation faces the prospect of mass unemployment with all the misery and despair that goes with it. On the basis of capitalism—private control of the economy—there is no answer to unemployment.

Labour's NEC must fight for socialist policies—the nationalisation of the commanding heights and a democratic plan of production—as the only means of providing real training and jobs for youth.

Decent training and conditions with proper jobs won't fall from the sky into our laps.

Youth must fight to get organised industrially in unions to end bad conditions at work.

Youth must also get organised politically in the Labour Party Young Socialists, the youth section of the labour movement.

It is the Tories who decide that YOP trainees should be paid only £25. It is the Tories who are increasing spending on arms while proposing for youth a cut in pay to a miserable £15 a week. That is why we must fight to kick out the Tories and their system and return Labour to power on a socialist programme.

The mass YOPs lobby of Parliament is the first step in a massive campaign to get youth organised to oppose Tebbit's slave labour plans. The Labour Party Young Socialists call on all youth—whether on a YOP scheme, at work, school, college or unemployed—to down tools and join the lobby where the palace of Westminster will be deafened by the cries of **Tories out!**

Worship

two years after having been accepted, that their application for an Open Door programme is, after all, being vetoed by the tops of the BBC.

It was in November 1979 that the programme's selection committee, including independent observers representing the public, approved the application by a large majority. This has now been overruled by the Director of News and Current Affairs, the Managing Director of Television and the Controller of BBC2.

The Campaign was founded in 1977 at a public

meeting addressed by a number of journalists including Jonathan Dimbleby, and it has since published a booklet listing 28 TV programmes which were banned, censored or delayed—the total is now nearer to 40.

In a statement following the banning of their Open Door programme, the Campaign correctly concludes that "the BBC has banned the programme for political reasons," adding that "the BBC's decision ironically demonstrates the very practices the Campaign was set up to oppose."



upon by the leaders of the emerging Loyalist Paramilitary organisations, men like the recently assassinated John McKeague, who on the night of Bloody Sunday, declared on TV that it should be called "Good Sunday".

Led by such statements, the Protestant paramilitary backlash began in earnest. 1972 will also be remembered as the year when sectarian killer gangs had their hey-day. Before the first anniversary of the Derry murders 89 Catholics and 38 Protestants had been killed by sectarian assassination squads.

What followed Bloody Sunday was a nightmare of sectarianism and repression. Yet it need not have been so. Bloody Sunday occurred at the time of the first miners' strike against the Heath government. Two years later the miners unseated this government.

These two historic strikes showed that it is mass action, particularly industrial action, which can achieve results. Had the labour and trade union movement in Northern Ireland intervened to attempt to lead and direct the opposition to Bloody Sunday along class lines things could have been different.

The trade unions could

have fought to unite workers against repression. A class movement would also have been capable of appealing to the rank and file of the army, most of whom are driven into uniform by the lack of jobs in Britain and stand apart from the specially picked and trained "elite" found in regiments such as the Paratroopers.

Today it is neither sectarianism, nor the false methods of the Provos, but united class action which is required in Northern Ireland. In the ten years since Bloody Sunday the working class of Britain and Northern Ireland have been brought closer together.

Areas of Britain have experienced rioting and police repression. Once again the working class are faced with an offensive but by a Tory government even more vicious and reactionary than the Heath administration.

Ten years on it is clear that revenge for the 13 deaths in Derry will be achieved by the working class in Britain and Ireland fighting together to throw out the Tories and their system, the system which spawned the Paratroopers and whose survival hinges on the massacre of innocent workers.

POLAND — bankers nightmare

The crisis in Poland has thrown the Western bankers into panic.

Poland is years behind on its repayments on the accumulated loans from the West of \$27,000 million, and at this rate the debt will be double in four years.

One banker called this "the worst banking crisis since the war". Another said that a default by Poland would be "the financial equivalent of nuclear war".

Already Poland's debt service ratio—i.e. the percentage of foreign exchange earnings needed to repay the interest and principal due on outstanding debts—has reached near to 30%. When the equivalent figure for Italy reached 10%, in 1974, a ban was imposed on further loans.

Bankers in confusion

But the countries of COMECON in Eastern Europe—Rumania, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, etc.—have amassed a staggering total debt of \$80,000 million. All the signs are that sooner or later they will have to negotiate a rescheduling of their debts, thus throwing the banks into greater confusion.

The irony is that in the early 1970s, when Gierk—frightened by the rising of the workers of Gdansk, Sczenia, and other Baltic shipyards—adopted the desperate tactic of frenzied borrowing for the import of Western technology, diverting agricultural produce for the increasingly precarious Western market—the banks were scrambling over each other to lend Poland cash, and were given full guarantees and encouragement by their governments.

Their reasons for being so keen to give financial 'aid' to allegedly 'communist' governments are even more ironic.

The colossal tide of 'petro-dollars' (oil surpluses of the OPEC countries since 1973) has penetrated into the West, particularly into property and finance companies.

The oil cash that poured into the Western banks was recycled as loans to property speculators, holders of glutted raw materials, bankrupted companies needing cash for redundancy payments, nationalised corporations, municipal authorities, and above all to the governments of countries in crisis.

Vulnerable position

A recent article in 'The Economist' reflected the panic of the capitalists at what they pessimistically fear could happen once this bubble were to burst:

"If this overborrowing were ever punctured, there could be crashes in property prices from California to Hong Kong, in companies from Detroit to Seoul, in state corporations from Milan to the North Sea, in

By Roger Silverman

overstocked materials from Oregon timber to Nigeria oil, in Government credit from Washington to Tokyo, in financial consortia and their clients everywhere. The downward multiplier from all that could make 1929's little local stock market difficulties look like a controlled parachute drop."

How did the banks come to find themselves in so vulnerable a position? A revealing article by Anthony Sampson in 'Newsweek' began by relating the cautionary tale of Zaire. With a quarter of the world's copper and half the cobalt, plus diamond resources, and with copper prices soaring in 1973-4, Zaire was the 'Brazil of Africa'. Hundreds of millions of dollars were loaned.

Then the cost of oil quadrupled, copper prices slumped, and the economy was shattered. By June 1975, interest payments stopped. The banks re-scheduled the debt... and still no money arrived. A special IMF task force came...and then withdrew. A World Bank mission was set up, under the leadership of a Dutch economist. But when Mobutu's soldiers broke into his house and raped his two young daughters, the mission left. Now the banks accept that they won't see their \$4,500 million again!

Sampson commented; "Zaire was only an extreme example of the bankers' perilous adventures." It was the same from Peru to the Philippines, Jamaica to Korea. The banks had to keep on lending more and more of the money deposited by the oil sheikhs to avoid a default on repayment by the borrowing nations.

"Most bankers were happy to keep on the merry-go-round which allowed everyone to keep on making a profit provided they did not ask for their money back..."

"The concept of bankruptcy has no real meaning for a nation, for since the days of imperial gunboats the creditors had not been able to seize a nation's assets...The country and the bank were becoming locked into each other. It was like the old stories of the spendthrift heir and the money-lender who became dependent on each other. But most of these debtor countries were never likely to inherit a fortune, and there was now no equivalent to a debtor's jail."

The bankers burned their fingers badly in Iran. What better client could there be than the Shah, with his oil wealth, his booming economy, his huge modern army, his fiendish secret police force? When the Shah was overthrown, the American banks froze Iranian accounts in retaliation—thus, incidentally, helping to provoke the hostages crisis.

The bankers were alarmed. They were learning the need to study perspectives. To whom to lend their money with any certainty of repayment?

Let us go back to Sampson: "There was something inherently comic about trying to measure the immeasurable...How could these immaculate men wander inconspicuously in the souks of the Middle East or drink in the shebeens of Johannesburg? How could they calculate whether Bangladesh or Sri Lanka was the more ripe for revolution?"

Aid to watchdog governments

The problem is that the terms of trade are inexorably squeezing the 'third world'. The real value of its exports (excluding oil) slumped by 20% between 1970 and 1975 alone. In Latin America as a whole, it takes two years' exports to pay for one year's interest on loans.

For political reasons, aid has to be given to prop up the watchdog governments of these countries, guarding Western assets—in Latin America, Africa, Asia...But precisely in these countries the capitalists risk losing everything. The record \$6,000 million loan recently given to India is behind the new draconic anti-strike laws and the recent one-day general strike which followed.

Now any major default could provoke a calamitous financial crisis—e.g. in South Korea, Bangladesh—or Brazil, which owes \$60,000 million and has an inflation rate of 110%.

Hence the 'progressive conclusions' drawn by certain 'enlightened' capitalists. One director of the Chase Manhattan bank stated quite crudely: "A country that doesn't redistribute its wealth is a bad risk...We'd rather lend to a country that's already had its revolution!"

Another American banker, commenting mournfully on the recent rush to pour money into the Stalinist states, explained that "there was a general perception in the market that planned economies were much better able to control their balance of payments than other countries," adding that it was assumed that the USSR would always be there in the last analysis to pick up the bill.

Hoping to wriggle out of the effects of capitalist contradictions by exploiting the relatively stable economies of Eastern Europe, the bankers have only added to the already crushing burdens on their own shoulders all the extra weight of bureaucratic mismanagement, wastage and corruption.

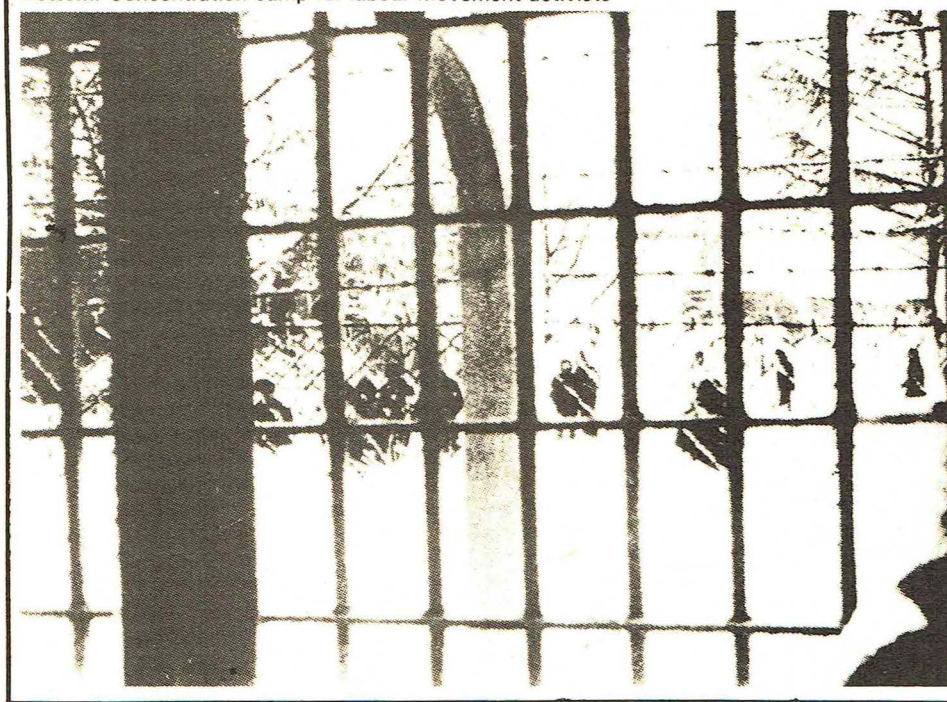
Feeding off each other

The bankers heaved a secret sigh of relief at the imposition of martial law in Poland—yet another sign that the capitalists and the Stalinist bureaucrats feed off each other, and that the workers East and West will need to sweep out both of these obsolete dinosaurs to establish a rational and harmonious world socialist federation.



Jaruzelski (right) and his predecessor Kania

Bottom: Concentration camp for labour movement activists



Polish workers pay for crisis

Under the blanket of martial law—now in its eight week—Polish workers got their first taste of General Jaruzelski's "economic reform".

Food prices trebled or quadrupled last week. 'Compensation' was limited to pay rises of 750-1,900 zlotys (£4.80 to £12.50) on wages of 7,000 zlotys (£46) per month, and a revaluation of savings by 20%. Through these price increases, vast amounts are being sucked from the workers' pockets to help pay the bureaucracy's debts to Western banks.

These measures could only be enforced under the guns of the military. Industry has been placed

under the control of military commissars and a government spokesman admitted that key sectors such as mining "would not function" without military staff at present.

This military stranglehold on the working class is the lynch-pin of Jaruzelski's "economic reform". On this basis, with substantial economic aid from both East and West, the bureaucracy can restore production to 1980 levels after an initial period of "confusion and turbulence", as an aide to Jaruzelski put it.

In the short term, with the crushing of Solidarity, the workers have been thrown back, and effective resistance has been made

impossible. But all the tensions caused by bureaucratic mis-rule will remain. Hatred of the regime cannot be wiped out, as was shown by the youth uprising in Gdansk on 30 January and the workers' protest in Wroclaw against the price rises.

In Poland, there can be no return to the relative stability of the past, which had been based on rapid growth of the planned economy. The deepening crisis of Stalinism will ensure that Jaruzelski's return to 'normality' will be temporary and uneasy, preparing the way for new explosions of working class struggle in the next few years.

Romania

Symptoms of the 'Polish disease' are increasingly breaking out in other countries of Eastern Europe.

Romania's debts to Western bankers have now reached a point where it is no longer able to meet its creditors' demands.

More than \$3 billion of debt service payments are falling due this year. But with an estimated \$1.2 billion last year's payments still outstanding, the Romanian debts may have to be rescheduled.

OUT SOON

- ★ In Defence of October by Leon Trotsky
- ★ Stalinism and Bolshevism by Leon Trotsky
- ★ Cuba—an Analysis of the Revolution by Peter Taaffe

Order from: World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace,
London E8 3PN

On 15 January, *Militant* published an article by Roger Shrikes, "Stalinism Lives On", dealing with developments in the USSR and the East European states since Krushchev's de-Stalinisation speech at the Soviet Communist Party 20th Congress in 1956.

It showed how the same bureaucratic clique still held power in these countries.

In a letter (published on 29 January) Comrade E. Hughes accused *Militant* of rivalling the Reaganite Cold Warriors in criticising Russia. He took the writer to task for saying that "Through his (Stalin's) determination to personally conduct the war he was responsible for many of the 20 million war dead". Comrade Hughes said that it was the heroism of Russian workers in the Second World War which defeated fascism, and claimed this was due to Stalin.

In fact Comrade Hughes' misquotes the article. Roger Shrikes' original article read "...before and during the war, the 'infallible' Stalin not only executed most of the experienced fighters in the USSR military general staff but through his trust in his criminal pact with Hitler and his determination to personally conduct the war, was responsible for many of the 20 million Soviet war dead."

Comrade Hughes arguments, and his failure to mention the mass purges of the '30s and the Hitler-Stalin pact, are taken up by some of our other readers.

Dear Comrades,

Comrade Hughes talks about Stalin being "at the helm" during the war, but he forgets to mention that this helmsman nearly sank the ship.

No-one in his right mind denies that there were incredible deeds of heroism by the Russian workers and peasants in defence of the first workers' state—in

desperation some infantrymen threw themselves into the path of oncoming Nazi tanks to blow them up with hand grenades. But Stalin's policies made these heroic sacrifices necessary in the first place.

Comrade Hughes' most significant omission is in dating the struggle against fascism as 1933-1945, thus ignoring Hitler's rise to power.

The policy of the German Communist Party—and the Comintern—at this time was one of extreme ultra-leftism. Communist workers were taught to struggle against the Social-Democratic workers as being 'Social Fascists'. This created an unprecedented and disastrous split in the working-class movement.

This allowed Hitler to come to power without a shot being fired against him by the strongest labour movement in Europe.

Hitler's ultimate defeat does not blind us to the criminal policies which allowed him to come to power. If we do not learn from history—as Comrade Hughes has failed to do—then we are doomed to repeat its disasters.

Derek McMillan
East Grinstead

Dear Comrades,

A study of the facts shows that the Soviet Union was victorious *in spite of* Stalin.

Having discarded any reliance on international working class support, Stalin in 1939 signed a pact

STALIN AND THE FIGHT AGAINST FASCISM

with Hitler.

By 1941, when Hitler was planning to invade Russia, Stalin was supplied with a mass of evidence to confirm this. Soviet spy Richard Sorge sent a message on 15 May 1941 warning of the invasion between June 20-22. He also forwarded the German order of battle.

Stalin was also supplied with other evidence. On 6 June the Soviet Intelligence Agency reported 4 million German soldiers massed on the border. Admiral Kuznetsov reported on 13-14 June that all German ships had evacuated Soviet harbours.

On June 12 Richard Sorge telegraphed "I repeat nine armies of 120 divisions will attack on a wide front at dawn June 22, 1941".

Also on the very eve of the attack General Zhukov, Chief of Staff reported that a German sergeant major had crossed the battle line with the plan of attack.

Stalin chose to ignore this advice, and even when the first attacks were reported he believed it was a "provocation".

When the scale of the invasion became clear, Krushchev relates in his memoirs. Stalin said "All

that Lenin created we have lost forever." Stalin at the height of the invasion retreated to his villa, and could not be contacted. Such was Stalin's role "at the helm" at the start of the Nazi invasion.

Richard Knights
Liverpool

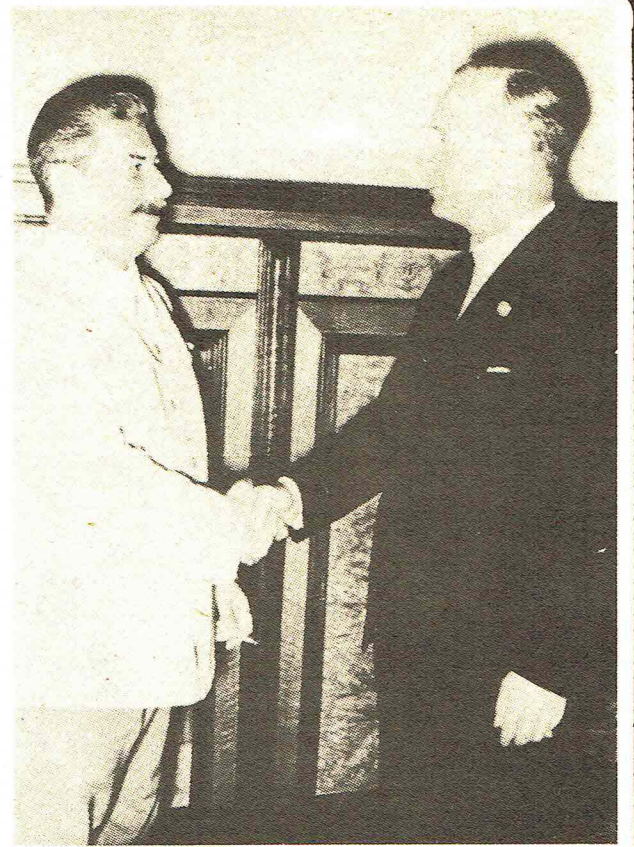
Dear Comrades,

The Russian workers and soldiers *did* fight heroically against Hitler's armies. Not *because* of Stalin, but *despite* him. It was Stalin, after all, who signed the Pact with Hitler in 1939 which was ended only by the Nazi invasion of Russia in 1941.

Stalin refused to believe what was happening at the time. He even had a German soldier, who had deserted to Russia, shot—for trying to warn the Russians about Hitler's plans to invade!

The invasion was made easier for Hitler because prior to the war, all the most able chiefs of the Russian armed forces had been purged. Many of them had been old Bolsheviks who had served in the Red Army in the early '20s.

Hitler was thus able to



Stalin with Nazi Foreign Minister Ribbentrop—shaking hands on their mutual non-aggression pact.

advance with relative ease right up to Leningrad and Moscow. The Russian people did not fight so tenaciously for Stalin, but to defend what was left of the Russian Revolution against Hitler's attempts to turn the clock back—installing private ownership of land and factories etc.

Western Capitalism hoped that Hitler's armies would defeat Stalin. This is why they delayed as long as possible in opening the Western Front, thereby allowing Hitler to deploy three-quarters of his resources in the East.

After the War, however, at the Potsdam conference of the victor states, Stalin said that he hoped that Churchill would win the British general election! It was then that Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill carved up Europe into spheres of "influence".

Under this agreement, for example, the revolution in

Greece was brutally put down, with the aid of Greek fascists, by British and US imperialism. Stalin lifted not a finger in aid of the Greek workers.

In exposing the truth about Stalinism, *Militant* does not aid the cause of Reagan or Thatcher, as Comrade Hughes suggests. On the contrary, by apologising for the crimes of the Russian regime, Hughes offers Western capitalists a great propaganda gift. He allows them to point to the crimes of past and present Stalinism and to say that *that* is what socialism really is.

It is not. We must say so and explain not only how the gains of the Russian Revolution were rolled back, but also how the world working class can retake them. This is what *Militant* does.

Steve Appleton
Leeds.

S.AFRICA: NATIONAL STRIKE OVER CELL DEATH

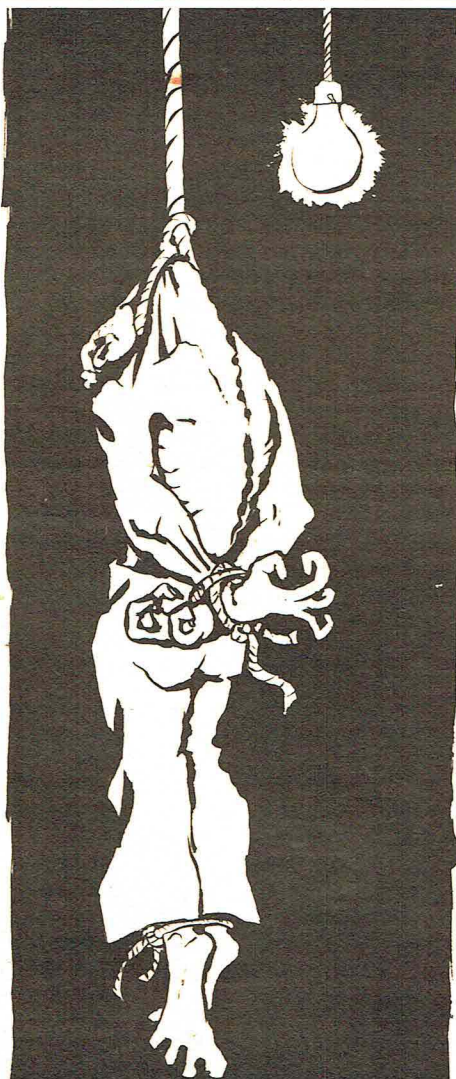
A half-hour national strike was called last Thursday in South Africa in response to the "suicide" of a trade union leader in the hands of the Security Police and the detention of other trade unionists.

According to first reports the strike was called by two major organisations of black workers, the African Food & Canning Workers' Union and the Federation of SA Trade Unions. The murdered man, Dr Neil Aggett, had been Transvaal secretary of the AFCWU and was one of 17 trade unionists arrested last November.

It is the first time in many years that SA trade unions have called a political strike. This marks a new phase in the deepening class confrontation between the oppressive racist regime and the growing black labour movement.

For years the regime has been launching attack after attack against the non-racial trade unions. Unable to crush them by outright repression and fearing to provoke a confrontation, it has resorted to arresting some union leaders in the hope of intimidating the leadership as a whole.

Now the death of Dr Aggett has brought the tensions to a head and could mark the beginning of a major fight-back by the trade unions, rallying the forces of all the black oppressed.



SUICIDE IN
DETENTION



Mass demonstration by Sri Lankan students organised by the Ceylon Students Federation and other groups in Colombo last month against the right-wing UNP government's plans for vicious education cuts. Under pressure the government was forced to withdraw its proposals.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



Police arrest Sheila Peacock, Secretary, Tottenham Labour Party, during 1978 anti-fascist demonstration

Police 1 — Brighton today

Dear Comrades,
In the light of recent media coverage of police accountability I would like to relate an incident which took place in Brighton last weekend 29-31 January.

During a break at the LPYS Southern Regional Conference I took a walk to the main shopping street. A man, the worst for wear for drink, was being "apprehended" by a policeman. Very little resistance was shown as he was in no state to struggle. But this did not deter the officer from pushing the man's head into a stone pillar twice before beckoning a nearby police car.

When the car pulled up the door was opened and the man was thrown head-first onto the rear seat. As this action did not have the desired effect, the officer decided to kick the man in the middle of his back three times. Finally the policeman got into the car and drove off.

As this incident took place in full view of the Saturday morning shoppers, it brought home to me the need for more democratic control of the police. Only when the demands put forward by the YS are carried out can we expect the public to have confidence in the police.

- * Full trade union rights for police.
- * The right to elect officers.
- * Full public accountability.

Yours fraternally
Malcolm Young
Sittingbourne LPYS.

Police 2 — Lessons of Saltley

Dear Sir,
Isn't it about time that the police become accountable to the local authority and restrained from continuing their political path of harassment, surveillance, and intelligence gathering on the unemployed, union officials, and generally any associate and members of any political party that threatens the capitalist system? It seems the policies of the police these days is to create as much trouble as is possible between left wingers and socialists generally.

Arthur Scargill has described what happened at the Saltley Gate picket (in the 1972 miners strike). "They (the senior police officers) said to us that we could only have twelve people on the picket line, and we said, no we're having all the pickets that we've got and more besides. So it was obvious there was a confrontation in the air..."

"If I tell you we had 180 arrested, it gives you some idea. I was black and blue. They were punching with their heels into the crowd, they were hitting with their elbows. They were in the crowds with plain clothes on, a copy of the *Morning Star* in one pocket and the *Workers Press* in the other shouting: "shove the bastards!" And as soon as you did you were arrested.

"They had telescopic lenses on top of buildings, filming the incidents. They had police officers changing their uniforms each day

with different numbers on them so you couldn't identify them. No question about this, it's quite true. In spite of assurances from the police that there would be no violence they were really putting the boot in!" (*Policing the Police* vol 2, p.169).

The police lost that day partly due to Mr. Scargill's cries to the masses, that came from the five directions of Saltley, of "when you get to the picket line stop, stop". For the government, the police chiefs in particular and heads of armed forces, Saltley was the stuff of which nightmares are made. Saltley forced the ruling class to re-examine its means of control and both the army and police were found wanting.

Today we see the police equipped with riot shields and all the tools of a paramilitary force, the police have learnt to be more sophisticated in their dealings with political factions that only want a fairer society for the ordinary person.

They use propaganda in vast amounts using computers to store information gathered from every force in the country on any one or anything that they possibly can use now or in the future. It's ironic that the ordinary person in the street, the taxpayer, supply the huge sums of money that they (the police) must have to control the very people that keep them where they are today.

Yours faithfully
D A Aubrey
Swansea

Hillhead before the war

Dear Sir
The entry of Roy Jenkins into the political arena of the Hillhead constituency of Glasgow interests me as I spent my childhood, schooling years and youth, in Hillhead.

Glasgow is a city ringed by hills cradling the Clyde. At the head of many of the hills live the middle classes with the working class tiered down the hillside slopes. On the ground between the main road and river was the site of many of the single apartment tenements, the slums which earned Glasgow the description of 'The Naples of Britain.'

The more affluent lived overlooking the poorer strata as they tend to do in death, with their crested graves marked by ostentatious imposing tombs.

I was born in 1909, and reached the secondary stage to have as my teachers, men returning from their horrific war experiences. They taught history with a strong bias towards social history.

The newspaper with the largest circulation was the *Daily Mail* and, daily it featured cartoons showing a bearded Bolshevik carrying a spherical black bomb with an ignited short fuse protruding.

My first memory of

'Ancient honour' or 'old-fashioned'

Dear Comrades
In the news recently you may have read about the company, Grosvenor Estates, headed by the Duke of Westminster, which is to buy from the government one of the most valuable plots of land in London for £23,700. The price is so low because the Duke's company is entitled to purchase the land for the amount it was worth 200 years ago, thanks to an agreement made then between the Duke's ancestors and the government.

Now the Tories have stated that this ancient deal will be honoured, so the Duke reaps another £20 million or so profit to add to the estimated £2,000 million he is already reputed

Speaking railmen's thoughts

Dear Comrade,
I am new to *Militant*, I received my second copy today, 29th January. I also had a fair talk with the man who delivered it. We talked and it was refreshing to hear that people are feeling and thinking in the same frame of mind as I.

I am in the NUR and following the present crisis with alarm for not only my future, but for thousands of other workers in the same predicament.

At 9 o'clock I put down my paper to listen to the BBC news. One particular news item amused me. It was in regards to French Railways, and their acceptance of the flexible rosters. The newscaster reported

socialism is when a Clyde shipyard shop steward and militant member of the Independent Labour Party hung a banner made from a turkey red blanket as an adornment for the processional route on the occasion of a visit by King George V.

My first recollection of Hillhead parliamentary election was when the sitting member was returned. He was Sir Robert Horne, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Director of Baldwin Steel. The name of a local street was changed from 'Clarendon' to 'Chancellor' as a glorious link with Sir Robert.

A local corner shop was converted into a Conservative, Unionist, Progressive, Junior Imperialist suite of rooms. In those times of depression and means-testing, the rooms became a rendezvous for social life to local youth.

Some of the meetings were organised as mock elections. Selected young Tories from 'Up the Hill' descended to develop their oratorical persuasive powers, with nearby local youth giving atmosphere as the guinea pig audience. The opposition was found by a young working class lad acting as the Communist candidate. A Communist victory was inevitable.

Yours faithfully
James Hall
Abbey Wood, London

to be worth.

Honouring old agreements, however, is not viewed with such importance when it benefits the interests of the workers rather than the multi-millionaires. It was only 63 years ago when ASLEF secured the 8-hour day from the old railway companies, and yet now because they rightly refuse to give up this basic, hard-won gain, BR management and the bosses' press accuse ASLEF of being intransigent and "old-fashioned".

Workers are seeing through such double standards and learning the lessons: the rich build on the wealth and privilege of their past—the working class must build on the struggle and sacrifice of theirs.

Yours fraternally
Rich Ke
Bridlington CLP

that the French government are pleased to invest in a transport scheme for the benefit of the workers, in the cities.

What infuriated me was that he explained that the new French advanced passenger trains "worked" as opposed to our own APT. Not content to criticize a revolutionary desing in rail travel, but to condemn the British workers of incompetence and bad workmanship. If our own government did not sell its country and worst its people down the river at every turn to make a profit, then the situation I have mentioned may never have existed.

I myself will support *Militant* as it speaks and thinks the way I feel.

Yours fraternally
Peter K.....
Hayes, Middlesex

How to argue for socialism

Dear Comrades,
I joined the Labour Party in October 1979 and on attending my first ward meeting bought a copy of *Militant*. Being well up on what was happening inside the party (I was *Daily Mirror* educated) I knew the paper and its supporters were part of the left wing rabble, who had made it possible for Mad Maggie to gain victory earlier this year.

Against my better judgement I read the paper. Now two years and over a hundred copies later I still take it and make a small donation. My eyes were truly opened by the news, ideas and opinions expressed in the paper. I took every opportunity to pass on this newly aquired knowledge to friends and work mates with little or no effect.

They all agreed that capitalism was a totally unfair system. They all agreed the only answer was a transformation to a socialist society. But they did not believe that they had the power or ability to bring this about.

More distressing was their refusal to accept that it was their duty to do so.

I was beginning to lose hope, until a short time ago I read possibly the best piece of socialist literature ever written. *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* by Robert Tressle. Until now I was unable to express how I felt, but Tressle did it for me, all those years ago.

I had to keep reminding myself that the book wasn't written in the last ten years or so. It was all there! The reason for the country's depression was—foreign imports, foreign labour, greedy workers etc. The capitalists of today expound the same theories as their predecessors, and always will. I was so moved by this brilliant work, I had to write and through your pages urge people who have not yet read it to do so now.

To those of you who have read it I ask, have you persuaded others to do likewise? My copy is on loan now!

Yours fraternally
P Campbell
Bootle

We need more working-class MPs

Dear Comrades,
I am becoming very disillusioned with most of the leaders of the Labour MPs. I do not trust them one inch. Most of these so-called leaders will, in my opinion, become turncoats in the near future. What I would like to see is less middle class MPs who, in my opinion, are only there for the money, being replaced by working class MPs who know what it is like to be born into the working ranks.

Yours fraternally
Vic Archer, Stockton

Selective Politics

Dear Comrade,
In our factory we write up our union agenda then the foreman gets ten copies run off in the office. Last week the copies were a bit late in coming back from the office, but when we enquired about this we were told to report to the managers office. He then told us that if we did not change the agenda it would not be allowed up on the union notice board, as it was political.

On our agenda were two proposals, one condemning the attempts to bring in prescriptions and bans in the Labour Party, the other

calling for a freeze on rents and rates. We were told that the proposals had nothing to do with industrial relations in the factory so they were irrelevant. We tried to explain to the management that the union plus the Labour Party go hand in hand and that T&GWU RULE 2 (e), stated "The furtherance of political objects of any kind".

One of the managers then accused me of being to the left of Tony Benn, to which I replied that he was to the right of Ronald Reagan. He then said it was all the fault of the two workers who had been recently elected as delegates to Garscadden CLP, to which I replied that he was running the factory on the lines of the military

regime in Poland, by not allowing free political discussion. This seemed to upset them and the arguments started to get heated up a little.

It cooled down when one of the stewards asked, if politics had nothing to do with industrial relations, why were they always quoting the Tory governments' guidelines at the wage negotiations and why did the company (Smiths Industries) give money to the Tory Party? There was a silence and we were then told to go back to our machines.

Brian Christie
Branch Secretary
T&GWU 7/7/157
(personal capacity)

RALLY ROUND THE MILITANT!

"In *Militant's* fighting fund it is not unusual to see large donations from supporters.

"But one supporter, Tom Estella of Nottingham, deserved a special mention.

"Through illness Tom has been sacked from his job at the GPO; over a year ago he was knocked over by a police dog while on his round, injuring his back, and no-one will accept liability. Eventually, Tom received a meagre pittance as compensation, and at a recent *Militant* readers' meeting donated £100 to the fighting fund.

"Tom, who is married with a young daughter, is an example to us all who believe in the fight for socialism. Support the paper that supports the working class; let's see more donations like Tom's rolling in. Yours fraternally, A.E. Jones."

Thanks for this donation and many others that put East Midlands head of the other areas so far this year, but we're sure that comrades elsewhere will be doing their best to catch up—especially where *Militant* supporters have held successful 'What We Stand For' meetings.

£200 after expenses, and ignoring IOUs, has come in from Manchester, and £100 from the meetings at the London LPYS Conference, £96 from Bradford, and another £250 after expenses from smaller meetings in Dalkeith, Grantham, York, Bath, Bracknell, Poole, Canvey Island, Enfield, Erith, Sefton, Stevenage and Harlow. Thanks to everyone who contributed, and don't forget to redeem those IOUs!

Thanks to TGWU Branch 5/909 for £20, Bradford Branch of National League for the Blind & Disabled for £5, Hillingdon LPYS Branches £10, fivers from Bath and Grantham LPYS branches, and smaller collections in other LPYS branches, including Clydebank. Eight Hillingdon LBC workers, (including M Franch £2 and K Cocklin £1) sent us £7. Are there any other groups of workers

Area	Received	Target 11 April	
Eastern	228	2,040	This year's fighting fund target is set quarterly. The first quarter will end Sunday 11 April.
East Midlands	611	1,470	
Hants & Dorset	153	1,100	
Humberside	47	890	
London East	517	2,010	
London West	298	1,150	
London South	303	1,550	
Manchester & Lancs	455	1,550	
Merseyside	389	1,950	
Northern	353	2,350	
Scotland East	100	1,290	Get the money rolling in now to make it a record year!
Scotland West	296	1,980	
Southern	269	1,900	
South West	157	965	
Wales East	43	970	
Wales West	14	1,130	
West Midlands	170	1,980	
Yorkshire	566	2,290	
Others	26	6,435	
Total received	5055	35,000	

This week £1,846

who read *Militant* regularly who could make up a similar sum?

Thanks to D Musker (POEU, Liverpool) and A Millward (Twickenham) for £20 donations, D Brown (Glasgow) for a tenner and to C Hill (Bristol) for £7, fivers came from Scottish readers B&C Rice (Fife), V Wilce (E Kilbride) and K McCombes (Glasgow), and from G Cooze (Nottingham) and M Bounds (Leicester).

Thanks to S Hothi (Southall, TGWU) for £4, M Howie (Mayfield LPYS, Lothian) and M Bagan (Huyton, GMWU) for £3, and for £2.50 to P Swift (Leicester NUHKW). £2s from M Rafferty (Brodsworth NUM), A Tot-

terdale (FBU, Bristol), F Devine and P Gaffney (West of Scotland ISTC and NATTKE, respectively) and from N Ramsell (Leicester, AUEW).

Many £1 are received each week and we can only mention a very few: thanks to J Cheek (Secretary TGWU 3/17 Branch), P Moore (Leicester NUFLAT) and P Whitton (Erith LPYS). Expenses passed on from speaking and for TU duties amounted to over £50 this week, including £5 from Terry Fields, chosen by Kirkdale CLP as their candidate, and from Lawrence Coates (LPYS rep. on Labour's NEC) for a BBC Newsbeat interview.

We are sure there are lots

of new readers (and many older ones!) who've put their hands in their pockets for us for the first time at meetings up and down the country. But are you prepared to make it a regular habit?

If you are, then we should be able to look forward to a weekly total of over £2,000, which together with collections at big national events will get us to our target. But it's the regular small donations of 50p £1s and £2s and so on which have always provided the bulk of our cash.

Life isn't a series of conferences and rallies. But we want all our readers to 'rally round' for us each week!

By Steve Cawley

Militant sellers arrested

On 29 January, three sellers of *Militant* were arrested outside Mile End tube station in East London. The comrades were charged with obstruction even though we normally have six to eight sellers there and have never had complaints before.

To please the police we had earlier complied with their request to restrict sellers to one per news-

paper. When, however, the other paper sellers left we thought it was OK to have three (there were, beforehand, two other papers on sale). At about 6pm a detachment of police arrived and arrested three of our sellers although two of them had not even been warned.

The day after the police again restricted our sale at a local market moving on all but two sellers whilst allowing the SDP to have six leaflets and a stand.

The LPYS have a long tradition of street sales in Tower Hamlets and from

our sales we have recruited numerous members for the LPYS and the Labour Party.

We aim to set up a campaign to fight the cases of the three sellers arrested but we also will raise in the movement the need to fight this type of arbitrary police action and continue our regular recruiting and selling activity on the streets of Tower Hamlets. Please send donations towards legal costs to Tower Hamlets LPYS, 349 Cambridge Heath Road, London E.2.

By Dave Farrar

Defend our hard-won democratic rights!

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

ads

"What We Stand For" Meetings

PRESTON: Hear Peter Harris (Blackburn Labour Party) Monday 22 February 7.30pm. Preston Labour Rooms, 98 Deepdale Road, Preston Lancs.

WASHINGTON: Speaker: Brian Ingham (Militant Editorial Board) 7.30pm, Sunday 14 February. Oval Community Centre, Concord. For further details phone Sunderland: 653994.

SHEPTON MALLET Hear: Bryan Beckingham. Town Council Chambers, Great Osty, Shepton Mallet. 7.30pm, Thursday 11 February.

BRISTOL WEST: Speaker to be announced. Monday 22 February, 7.30 pm, The Swan, Gloucester Road.

NORWICH: Hear Kevin Ramage (National Chairman LPYS) Thursday 18 February 7.30pm, Labour Club, Bethel Street, Norwich.

NORTH SHIELDS: Hear Norman Hall (Wallsend CLP). Monday 22 February, 7.30pm, YMCA, Church Way, North Shields.

BARROW Militant Discussion Group. Wednesday 24 February, 7.30pm, Barrow Labour Club, upstairs lounge. 'Is Russia Socialist—a programme for workers' democracy'. Speaker: Dave Cotterill. All welcome. Plenty of time for discussion.

NEWCASTLE Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Militant, Parliament and Socialism'. Speaker: Terry Fields (EC FBU and Prospective PC Kirkdale). Bridge Hotel, 7.30pm, Sunday 14 February.

HEYWOOD Militant Readers' Meeting: 'What Future for Labour?' Speaker: Terry Fields (PPC, Liverpool Kirkdale and NC of the FBU, personal capacity). Tuesday 23 February, 7.30 pm, Kings Hotel, Market Place, Heywood, Lancs.

LONDON Irish Social

Saturday, February 20th, 7.30pm. CRUSHEEN as at LPYS Summer Camp, and other guests and stars at Fairholt House, Whitechapel Road (opposite Aldgate East Tube).

Tickets available from Anne Beales: (01) 474 6584, £1.50 and 50p unwaged (£2 at the door).

BOOST SALES!

By Dave Farrar

Paper sales in Hayes, West London, are going through the roof due to energetic campaigns by local 'Militant' sellers.

On one estate, sales have trebled due to a house-to-house 'back copy give-away', jumble collection and strike coverage. On another estate, sales have gone even better, quadrupling in fact, due to a consistent extension of a regular paper round. A new estate was begun last week.

Bus drivers and bus conductors have been eager customers, thanks to Lord

NUNEATON: Hear Wayne Jones, Sunday 14 February, 7.30 pm, at The Crown, Newtown Road, Nuneaton.

WEST LONDON 'Defend the Militant! For a mass socialist Labour Party'. Speaker: Ted Grant. Thursday 18 February, 7.30 pm, Anson Hall, Anson Road, Cricklewood NW2

GREENOCK: Thursday 18 February, Summerhill Primary School, Greenock. Local press for details. Further details: Bob Wylie, 03552-29082

HARLOW: Eastern Region LPYS Conference Militant Meeting: 'Tories out. Labour to power on a socialist programme.' Saturday 13 February, 6.30 pm. Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant) Stavanger Room, Harlow Town Hall.

BISHOP AUCKLAND Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Fight the Cuts'. Thursday 18 February, 7.30 pm, Two Blues Pub, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland.

MANCHESTER-Ardwick Labour Party Young Socialists Meeting: 'Fight for a future with Labour's youth'. Speakers: Bob Litherland MP (SOGAT), Simon Swinnerton (LPYS), John Byrne (AUEW District Committee; Prospective Longsight Councillor) Followed by 'Rock Against Thatcher' Disco. Friday 26 February, 7.00 pm, Slade Lane Neighbourhood Centre, Longsight.

NORTHERN REGION LPYS Conference, Cruddas Park Community Centre, Cruddas Park, Newcastle. Speakers include Eric Clarke (Scottish NUM), Harry Cowans (MP Newcastle Central), Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council). Starts 10.30 am, 20-21 February.

Industrial Reports



In brief

Members of the Association of University Teachers at Warwick University are fighting the indiscriminate arrest of an AUT member. The man was held by campus security at the university bookshop, despite being able to prove the goods he possessed were his own. He was taken to a police station and held for several hours. This is the second type of incident since October. The AUT have organised a successful picket of the bookshop, which will remain until the security men have been withdrawn and the university authority establish a better security and disciplinary control system.

Stewards from the T&G, GMWU and NUPE met at a conference of the London Local Authority Joint Shop Stewards Committee (LLAJSSC) and discussed how private contractors were moving into the London boroughs, undercutting council jobs. The mood of the conference was clear—enough is enough. But the fight could not be isolated within individual boroughs, but with the LLAJSSC mobilising as many members as possible to fight these schemes. Steve McKenzie, Bexley NUPE secretary, adds, "The next step must be to extend the committee to all local authority trade unions, as it will only be by the united action of all unions in all boroughs that we will be able to fight off the threats, from big business and their Tory puppets, of privatisation."

Refectory staff at a Salisbury college have struck in defence of working conditions. The Wiltshire County Council, which has carried out many harsh cuts already, wanted the staff numbering 24 to be cut to 16, and reduce the guaranteed working hours, from 25 to 10, which would force the workers to take unpaid breaks when demand was low yet be severely overworked during students' coffee breaks.

Also, the working year would be cut down, with two weeks' unpaid leave. All 24 staff, members of NUPE, struck this week mounting a picket.

Workers at the Cookson & Zinn Ltd factory in Hadleigh, Suffolk, have walked out in dispute. The walkout was sparked off by two union members being suspended without pay for two days after refusing to work with a machine that was blacked. However, a two month old dispute over the introduction of the 39-hour week is at the heart of the dispute. This should have been brought in in November under the national agreement with the Employers Federation. Pickets have been mounted on the gates by members of the TGWU and the Boilermakers. Management have agreed to meet ACAS but the men will not return to work until the 39-hour week is achieved.

A picket was taken to hospital after an incident on the picket line at the Toutley council depot in Wokingham where dustmen are striking against redundancies. It is alleged the council's refuse supervisor drove straight at the picket line in a council Landrover injuring picket David Kinch. The dustmen have now added the call for the supervisor's dismissal to their demands. Messages of support to Alan Game, 44 Roycroft Lane, Barkham, Wokingham.

JOBS ONSLAUGHT GOES ON

"I worked at Meccano when the axe fell there. If I lose my job here it looks as though I'll have to move away from Merseyside to find work."

This was the reaction of Kirkby GEC worker Graham Sheppard to the news that even more jobs are to go in Liverpool. The Tories keep saying the 'upswing' is coming, that things are getting better. But in areas like Liverpool the relentless tide of redundancies and closures goes remorselessly on.

The Hygena group say they must shed 640 jobs.

Austin packaging, 300 jobs. And now GEC in Liverpool say 370 jobs must go.

Wally Brown, chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee and AUEW convenor at GEC told how in 1968/69, following a merger between English Electric and GEC, the firm employed 15,000 people on Merseyside in three factories! The English Electric is the only factory remaining now.

"We have attempted to fight over this period and if the latest proposals are implemented, at the end of 1982 the GEC labour force on Merseyside will be 1,660 people!"

Is GEC faced with financial difficulties? On the contrary, GEC has shown an increase in profits every year since 1969, including the current recession! The

current half year statement shows a further increase in profits of 31%.

In addition GEC's cash balances now exceed £800 million. Interest alone on this figure last year was £60 million.

The unions demand that some of this £800 million should be invested in Liverpool. The answer from GEC boss Weinstock and his board of directors is that any cash balances will be invested overseas.

"Michael Heseltine and his so-called 'task force' is supposed to be here to encourage investment in Liverpool," said Wally. "He appears not to want to know in this case."

**By Phil Greene
(Liverpool Walton
LPYS)**

Town faces massive loss of jobs

Lucas Aerospace have announced 1,050 redundancies in their Burnley factories.

This represents 35% of the firm's local workforce, and it will also mean job cuts for firms dependant upon Lucas contracts, such as Burnley Engineering Products.

The unions say they will fight the proposals, and put the blame for the present crisis firmly on the shoulders of Lucas management. Mr Phil Asquith, chairman of the Joint Shop Stewards Committee in Burnley explained that the present downturn in demand for aircraft components was predicted by

the unions as far back as 1978.

In the last 2 years, more than £6 million has been made in Burnley, making it the most profitable section of the Lucas Aerospace group. The workforce had argued that this should have been invested in the alternative products contained in the workers' Corporate Plan.

The Lucas Combine Shop Stewards Committee first put forward the Corporate Plan in the mid 1970s in response to threatened redundancies. After a union questionnaire to all the British sites, the workers came up with 150 alternative products, including a car engine that would reduce fuel consumption by 50%, and toxic emissions by 80%, and a road rail vehicle.

Since Lucas workers developed a strong Combine, and put forward the Corporate Plan, management have failed many times to impose compulsory redundancies. The Plan demonstrates the tremendous potential advantages of a workers' planned economy, showing how workers can find ways of developing the economy to meet human needs, at the same time protecting jobs.

**By Jason Hunter
(Burnley Labour
Party)**

IMI occupied

Workers at IMI Radiators in Shipley have occupied the three sites of their factory to force management to pay them a living wage.

Management were stunned by the speed and the planning of the occupation. This was shown by the production manager who rang up after the occupation began to ask workers if they knew that they wouldn't be getting paid!

The mood is a determined one. After a period of working to rule, the AUEW members at IMI decided to step up the fight against the management's feeble wage offer, which they estimate to be a cut of 11% in real terms in the coming year. At a mass meeting held on February 5 the workers unanimously voted in favour of action, with over 90% in favour of occupation.

The convenor, Roy Stebbens, said, "It is regretful that our members have had to resort to our present action; but when skilled men, who are top shop floor earners, are forced into a position where they have to claim state benefits to feed their families, the 4% offered is not enough."

All through the past period of short time working the engineering section of the IMI Group has been showing a profit. It is now time for them to pay a decent wage!

The workers at IMI at Shipley hope that other IMI plants which are concentrated mainly in Birmingham, will show support for their struggle, as will the

labour movement as a whole.

Messages of support and donations to: Roy Stebbens, 10 Southlands, Knoll Estate, Baildon, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

**By Pete Watson
(Bradford North
Labour Party)**

Notts miners

"Let the government see they have got the tiger by the tail."

This was the retort of Brian Walker from the Newstead pit in Nottingham to the latest anti-trade union legislation being brought forward by the Tories.

This spirit of absolute defiance to Tebbit's attempts to shackle trade union rights was the hallmark of the annual Nottingham Area Miners conference. An emergency resolution from Wellbeck pit called for the Area Executive "to organise a mass lobby of parliament in order to positively register our opposition to this biased anti-working class legislation." It started what was the best and longest debate of the whole conference of the second biggest coalfield in Britain.

The reluctance of Ray Chadburn, the Area President and defeated candidate for the national president, to put the motion before conference was overruled by the Standing Orders Committee. The motion was passed unanimously.

Every delegate recognised the importance of mounting an uncompromising campaign to defeat the Bill. Bob Moody, from Wellbeck,



John Macreadie secured 28,000 votes in the General Secretary election, and is now the Broad Left candidate for the Deputy General Secretary election

CPSA Broad Left

John Macreadie has been picked by the Broad Left within the Civil and Public Services Association to stand as the Broad Left candidate for the post of Deputy General Secretary. John has an excellent chance of winning. In the recent General Secretary election he polled 28,000 votes despite a scandalous press campaign against him, which alleged ballot rigging by the left despite not a single shred of evidence being produced. The elections will begin in the next few weeks, and CPSA Broad Left supporters must rally round John and immediately begin a hard united campaign, to ensure a victory for the left in CPSA.

made it plain that the working class would make any such laws unworkable.

This theme, echoing the fraternal address given the previous day by Arthur Scargill, left no room for doubt that Notts miners felt verbal opposition needed to be supplemented by action now, including a campaign of demonstrations and stoppages similar to the massive movement that stopped Ted Heath's Industrial Relations Act from being implemented.

This crucial point was rammed home by the delegate from Rufford who said, "If we don't have action outside Parliament to defeat this then everything we have fought for over the past two hundred years will be meaningless."

By Wayne Jones

Llwynypia

Workers at Llwynypia hospital in Wales are fighting closures. Early in 1980, the closure of the coronary unit was announced, with restrictions on admission. Some one with a coronary in the Rhondda now has to go to East Glamorgan.

The administrators also hoped to close the maternity unit.

The casualty department is only open in office hours. NUPE are campaigning against the threatened closure of the six local hospitals, which would be grossly unjustified. Long stay beds are essential in the Rhondda, because of the many elderly people living alone in the area.

Llwynypia was a training hospital for nurses for many years, but the General

Nursing Council has withdrawn recognition as nurses are no longer getting sufficient experience here. This has meant greatly increased travelling time for trainee nurses.

We started our campaign in 1980, and recently NUPE members have been on the streets in the shopping centres of Rhondda and Pontypridd. We held a march fully supported by local MPs and Labour councillors.

Despite these cuts, the health authority is proposing to increase the number of private beds available in local hospitals. This meets with 100% opposition from the unions at Llwynypia, because private medicine are not concerned with long-term care.

Carla Stalini (Rhondda LPYS) spoke to June Abdulhaman (NUPE shop steward, Llwynypia)



Industrial Reports

ASLEF strike...ASLEF strike...ASLEF strike...ASLEF strike... ASLEF strike...ASLEF strike...ASLEF strike...ASLEF

STEP UP PICKETING

As the ASLEF dispute enters its fifth week there have been some important developments in the blacking of goods normally carried by rail.

At the Stratford Depot in East London we decided at our last branch committee meeting to make sure that rail traffic was not transported by road from the Stratford Freightliner terminal.

This is one of the largest in the country, and handles hundreds of containers daily. Normally containers are transported 'long distance' by rail and only delivered by road locally.

We were concerned that on strike days the long distance 'trucking' of important consignments was being performed by road transport. So this week we mounted a 24-hour picket.

The picket was a great success. During the first shift (midnight to 6 am) we prevented a load from leaving for Manchester. About the same time another lorry arrived from Newcastle with an NUR driver. He was allowed to leave his load in

By Stuart Hammond
(Stratford ASLEF)

the terminal but he agreed not to pick up his return load and to return to Newcastle 'light'. He was very sympathetic to us and said that he had no idea that we were taking steps to stop the movement by road of rail traffic.

At 6 am the morning shift of NUR road drivers started work at the terminal, and their representatives were eager to meet us and offer assistance. After a discussion, they agreed to stop all 'trucking' of containers by road from Stratford and to see that NUR drivers from other depots did the same. They also asked their drivers on local deliveries to show their load sheets to our pickets.

The picket line was worthwhile in other ways. Unfortunately, one of our brothers was misled into attempting to get into work. He was not expecting to see a picket line. It turned out to



Photo: MILITANT

ASLEF pickets at the London International Freight Terminal at Stratford, East London, at the beginning of the dispute in January. Their efforts have been rewarded with solidarity from rank and file trade unionists

be the decisive factor in his decision not to sign on. In fact, after a brief discussion, he agreed not only to stay on strike, but also joined us on the picket line for a full shift.

This excellent response has really encouraged us. Action at local level, similar to that at Stratford, must be

taken in all areas. It is an important back up to appeals for solidarity at national level.

Another initiative taken in the London area is the involvement of the South East Regional TUC at the request of ASLEF to examine the areas of blacking traffic normally moved by rail. A

meeting of delegates from all ASLEF branches and trades councils in this area will take place on Friday 12 February at Congress House.

To end on a lighter note, we also had a chat with an Italian lorry driver who arrived at the picket line in the early hours. He was in-

terested in our strike, saying he had driven through Italy, France and Belgium on his journey from Milan, and had encountered a rail strike of some description in each country! Before he left he gave us all a drink of some kind of spirit he had distilled himself. Cheers to workers' internationalism!

Scots miners pledge support

In recognition of the support train drivers as a trade union had given to miners in the past the NUM will give support in any shape or form to any call for help on them by ASLEF.

So Mick McGahey, President of the Scottish miners, pledged the NUM's support at an open meeting in Glasgow on January 31, called by the Scottish District Council of ASLEF and attended by about 100 railwaymen. He attacked the 'popular' press for the way they had covered the dispute.

He added "we are not here to live to work. But to work to live, to enrich our lives, and the lives of our families."

He also pointed out that he would have to go a long way back to find another dispute that had the full backing of the Labour Party national executive and the TUC General Council; but this backing has to be transformed from words into concrete action. This is clearly a political attack on the railways, and on the whole of the nationalised industries through the puppets like Edwardes, Ezra, MacGregor and Parker.

He summed up on the Triple Alliance. If the labour movement stood united there is no power on earth that can stand against them, let alone defeat them. This must be the way to use the Triple Alliance, in a united struggle against this present government.

By David Chapman
(Glasgow ASLEF)

The train drivers are angered at BR's attempts to inflict flexible rostering on them. Jim Golding, secretary of South Wales and West of England District Committee of ASLEF, told 'Militant' why.

"What the general public don't understand is that really we already have flexible rostering. We are booked on at all times of the day or night with very short notice. We can have our booking on times altered by 2 hours either way.

"Recently in Bristol we were involved in a rostering exercise. They tried to improve the unsocial hours booking-on, by using an ex-

perimental roster with shifts ranging from 6 to 10 hours. They abandoned their attempts half way through. If they couldn't improve booking-on times with 6 to 10 hour rostering, then certainly they couldn't do it with 7 to 9 hour rosters!

The whole thing is an exercise to cut the workforce. It's introduction would result in total confusion over payment due and hours worked, as well as making life more unsocial.

"Locally, we have estimated that if the package of management proposals were accepted it would mean the loss of 70 jobs out of the 298 workforce. That is the reality and a similar fate awaits

the other grades if it is introduced.

"What has been significant is the number of requests from NUR members to join ASLEF. That shows the 'acceptance' from other grades for these schemes. I can only say that if the same attitude had been shown to the BRB from the leadership of the other rail unions as has been shown from the drivers, this dispute would have been a very short dispute indeed."

By Richard Sheppard
(Sec., Bristol Division
Track Machine
Operators LDC, NUR,
personal capacity)

Guards call 'day of action'

At a meeting of London Bridge of guards and LDC reps there was a unanimous mood of anger to the flexible rostering as agreed to by the NUR leadership. Speaker after speaker condemned the flexi-rostering on the principle that it would mean more redundancies, greater unsocial hours and less money for all guards concerned. Reps of various depots who had already taken industrial action on this issue stated that they had never seen the membership so angry.

Although action was thought necessary it could not be on the basis of depots coming out individually, but had to be a united struggle with all London and surrounding regions coming together on this issue. As was pointed out that because some of

the previous action was isolated it allowed the leadership to intervene, persuading some members into certain agreements not to take further action.

In response to this the meeting decided that as a first step a 'day of action' was to be called in the near future and to insure that as many depots as possible would take industrial action with a lobby of the union executive at Unity House.

What 'productivity' really means

Albert Reilly, ASLEF branch secretary at Birkenhead station has worked for British Rail for 31 years. In that time he has been in dispute for about 25 days, 17 of those in 1955.

For such moderation, the BRB have rewarded workers like Albert with massive job losses. ASLEF had about 78,000 members

in 1955, compared with about 27,000 now.

Railwaymen in Birkenhead have suffered their share. The ASLEF branch had 209 members when Brother Reilly became secretary two years ago, now they have 166; "Not one man has been taken on in that time."

Charlie Smith, LDC member, commented, "BRB say there will be no redundancies in the productivity package, but they said that when we went to single manning.

"BRB would repeat this if they thought they could get away with it. The Tories talk about things looking up, but to me things would be looking up if we were taking lads off the dole and ending the need for overtime. At present if Guards don't work rest days the trains won't run. Doesn't that mean that we need more men and decent wages?"

No room for complacency

The BR bosses, the British Railways Board, are making further attempts to split the railworkers apart by opening up gulfs between the two main rail unions.

This has so far been engineered by the BRB giving NUR drivers the 3%, yet withholding it from ASLEF members insisting that the pay rise was linked to productivity in the form of flexible rostering.

A further attempt at splitting the membership was made last week when an instruction was issued saying NUR drivers who reported for duty on Wednesday and Thursday are to be utilised to work trains.

This move gained most publicity at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire on 3 February where five NUR drivers were to have run a train service starting with the 13.40 to Marylebone. This deliberate attempt at strike breaking by the BRB was foiled because of an instruction issued by the NUR that members should not cross ASLEF picket lines. The first driver to sign on for duty arrived at the station, to be confronted by an ASLEF picket who politely asked him to support them and not cross the picket line. He agreed straight away and went home again

By Dave Phillips
(Stratford ASLEF)

—in fact none of the NUR drivers crossed the picket line.

But ASLEF members should not become complacent and think that the BRB will not try again. It has now become clear that the Tory government are behind the BRB and are going to try and break the union, and it won't stop there. Later on it will be other small craft unions. That is why ASLEF should use every means available to ensure success in this dispute.

ASLEF must answer BR's attempt to break the action with an all-out strike call

The two day strikes have so far shown that they are not effective enough. Instead of having the desired effect on the economy, it only upsets rail travellers. To ensure a victory ASLEF should call all-out strike, but also ensuring that we have support from other unions to make the strike effective with proper picketing and blacking action organised.

TLUCAS KINGSWOOD

Till we win We'll strike

Workers at T. Lucas in Kingswood are in a determined mood on the picket line. They are defending up to 53 jobs threatened by a management plan to move production of rusk to their plants in Birstwiche, Yorkshire.

Lucas is part of the giant Dalgety-Spillers combine that manufactures spice and rusk for food filling. Management claimed that moving rusk production to Birstwiche will improve output and efficiency.

Workers here point out angrily that none of the £2 million profit has been ploughed back into Kingswood to improve machinery and therefore improve output. They are having to pay through job losses for bad management and bad planning.

Colwyn Jones, Transport and General Workers Union Convenor pointed out that probably management's major consideration was that Birstwiche workers were only just fully unionised.

They get between £30 and £40 less for the same job as Kingswood workers, and the move is clearly an attempt to boost profits even further at workers' expense.

The Kingswood stewards

are contacting those at Birstwiche to reach agreement with workers there not only over manning levels but on pay parity.

The dispute initially involved the rusk men when they stopped production on Friday. Management however, seemed determined to provoke the workers. On Monday morning following a decision that no rusk would be produced or moved, management announced they would close down spice production as well unless work was started normally.

An almost unanimous vote stuck two fingers up at management! Now all the workers are out on strike till all the jobs are guaranteed. When asked how long he thought it would take one worker on this cold, but optimistic picket line replied "till we win."

The workers at T. Lucas have a proud history of supporting all workers in struggle. From Lee Jeans in Scotland, to Staffa occupation in London, they have been prepared to dip into their pockets and help.

The dispute should be made official, but messages of support and financial donations should be sent to Colwyn Jones, Transport and General Workers Union Convenor, T. Lucas, Moravian Road, Kingswood, Avon.

By Mick Whale

IRISH ELECTIONS

Photo: Derek Spiers (IFL)



Irish Labour Youth have been firm opponents of coalition. Now more and more Labour Parties agree with them

VOTE LABOUR! VOTE SOCIALIST!

Militant supporter Anne Wilkinson has been unanimously selected as Labour candidate for Donegal North East in the Irish general election.

Anne is secretary of the CLP, senior shop steward in the Courtaulds factory in Letterkenny, Chairman of Letterkenny Trades Council and Chairman of the Letterkenny branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. Donegal NE is a spread-out rural area in the North West of the country.

Anton McCabe of Derry Labour and Trade Union Party spoke to Anne after her selection.

On what basis are you standing?

I am standing on the socialist policies of the Labour Party. These are the only sort of policies that can solve the problems of

Donegal. I do not believe that Labour should have electoral alliances with right-wing parties like Fine Gael, like the coalition at present. In the past Labour has gained when it stood on its own and when it was in alliance it went down.

What are the problems of Donegal?

First of all jobs. We have over 20% unemployment; bad housing—there is the highest percentage of mobile homes of any area in the country, showing the problem is enormous; poverty; lack of amenities; lack of infrastructure.

There is no public transport for this vast area except the Lough Swilly buses, a private company. They provide a bad service with old buses, they run very infrequently and the fares are high which is a hardship to the people of this area.

What are the problems of young people?

There is virtually no hope

for them with little employment in the area. The problem was lessened slightly for a few years when a few factories were built but it is a massive problem now because immigration is cut off.

Working class policies

What have the other parties to offer?

The other two parties Fine Gael and Fianna Fail have no real answers because they are pro-capitalist. There is also a local politician called Blaney who can only offer right-wing politics, no different to the other parties, and using republicanism as a smokescreen.

Blaney was a government minister and has a long record as a right-wing anti-working-class politician. He was one of those who brought in internment in the South.

He now stands with a

vener of republicanism and is supported by the Anti-H-Block campaign which is in turn supported by the republicans and some small ultra-left groups in Ireland and Britain. But all these other candidates are people of great personal wealth and have little in common with the working people of Donegal.

How do you hope the election will go?

We hope we'll hold and increase the Labour vote, and get over socialist ideas and recruit people to the party and to Labour Youth.

The Labour vote here is small but it is a conscious, working-class vote for Labour. In Donegal Labour is standing on its own, not identified with any conservative party.

Unfortunately, because of the ambiguity of the national leadership, a lot of people don't fully trust Labour but we intend to push the national party down along socialist lines.

SUBSCRIBE



BRITAIN & IRELAND
 13 issues... £4.00
 26 issues... £8.00
 52 issues...£16.00

EUROPE
 (by air)
 26 issues... £9.00
 52 issues...£18.00

REST OF WORLD
 (by air)
 26 issues...£14.00
 52 issues...£28.00

DONATE...

I would like to donate £ . p each week/month to the fighting fund

Name

Address

SELL ...

I would like to sell ...papers per week (minimum 5) on a sale or return basis

Make cheques payable to MILITANT and return to the Circulation Department, MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

ASLEF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

ment for the 3% pay rise in January to the ASLEF members.

Charlie Rogers from the ASLEF Executive Committee explained that at no time had ASLEF or the BRB entered into talks on the 3% pay rise and productivity. This is proved by the minutes of the negotiations right through from August to December.

Yet the BRB would try to have us believe that not only had ASLEF done so, but that the consequences would be beneficial to all footplate staff!

The 'benefits' would be the scrapping of the guaranteed 8 hour day, with 9,000 redundancies! Introduction of rosters which would mean greater unsocial hours in an industry which already has the worst unsocial hours of all.

If these 'benefits' are introduced, we could find ourselves going back to the casual labour of the '30s, where work was meted out only on a day-to-day basis.

In the wake of Tebbit's anti-trade union Bill no union must be allowed to be isolated by the Tories and their cohorts in the media. Sid Weighell came in for special criticism for his statements criticising ASLEF.

Yet how many people know that Sid Weighell signed his name to an NUR circular saying that ASLEF are totally justified in their action and condemning the British Rail Board? No doubt he is extremely embarrassed by the support for ASLEF's stand because probably most of his own members oppose the flexible rostering agreed by

Weighell on their behalf.

Another speaker, Martin Flannery MP, drew a parallel between the media's attempt to create an inter-union conflict and the way in which they have been trying to destroy the Labour Party by calling for witch-hunts to be carried out against the left wing.

Les Huckfield, ASLEF-sponsored MP demanded that the Parliamentary Party stand up and be counted on an issue as important as this. If the Bishop's Stortford 'agreement' meant non-committal comments on issues such as this, then the price was too much to pay, he said.

At present ASLEF are at the forefront of the workers' battle against the Tories. They are giving a lead. If they are prepared to give a lead they must also be prepared to look to the unions' struggles in the past.

The steel workers did not hesitate to call all-out action, picketing all steel sup-

plies. Should we go the way of the civil service who, after 21 weeks of demoralising selective strike action suffered defeat?

For ASLEF this is not on. Already members are impatient over the two day stoppages. They suffer financially yet see victory no nearer now than at the outset.

Therefore all out action is absolutely necessary now! We must be prepared for 100% stoppage. The support of other trade unions, which is undoubtedly there, must be turned into positive action.

Black all goods normally carried by rail! Set up a strike fund! ASLEF are determined to win this battle. With determined action and with the mass support of the labour and trade union movement we are certain that we shall succeed.

By Tom Price
 (ASLEF,
 Corkerhill Branch)