

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

FALKLANDS CRISIS

Pages 2 and 3

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Pages 4 and 5

TORIES ATTACK LIVING STANDARDS

...for health workers

By Hilary Lewis

'Nurses in Sheffield are very angry. They are so angry that some of them are talking about all-out strike action.'

These angry words from P McNulty, COHSE steward at Middlewood Hospital, Sheffield, sum up the mood of NHS workers.

The NUPE branch at Sheffield Northern General had already voted to step up the industrial action in order to reach a quick successful settlement. For the first time all the unions in the NHS are taking joint industrial action.

This was seen in Sheffield today, Monday, with a 2 hour stoppage being held to enable members to lobby a meeting of the Area Health Authority. The offer of 6.4% for nurses and 4% for auxiliary staff has been rejected as inadequate and divisive by the unions.

This was made clear at the lobby, where there were shouts of "Maggie out!" and "What do we want: 12%!"

It has been calculated that NHS workers need £30 per week more to bring their standards of living back to the 1974 level. The 6.4% wage offer means a net in-



No one is more interested in the welfare of patients than Health Service workers but the Tories are forcing them to take action to defend their living standards. Photo: Militant

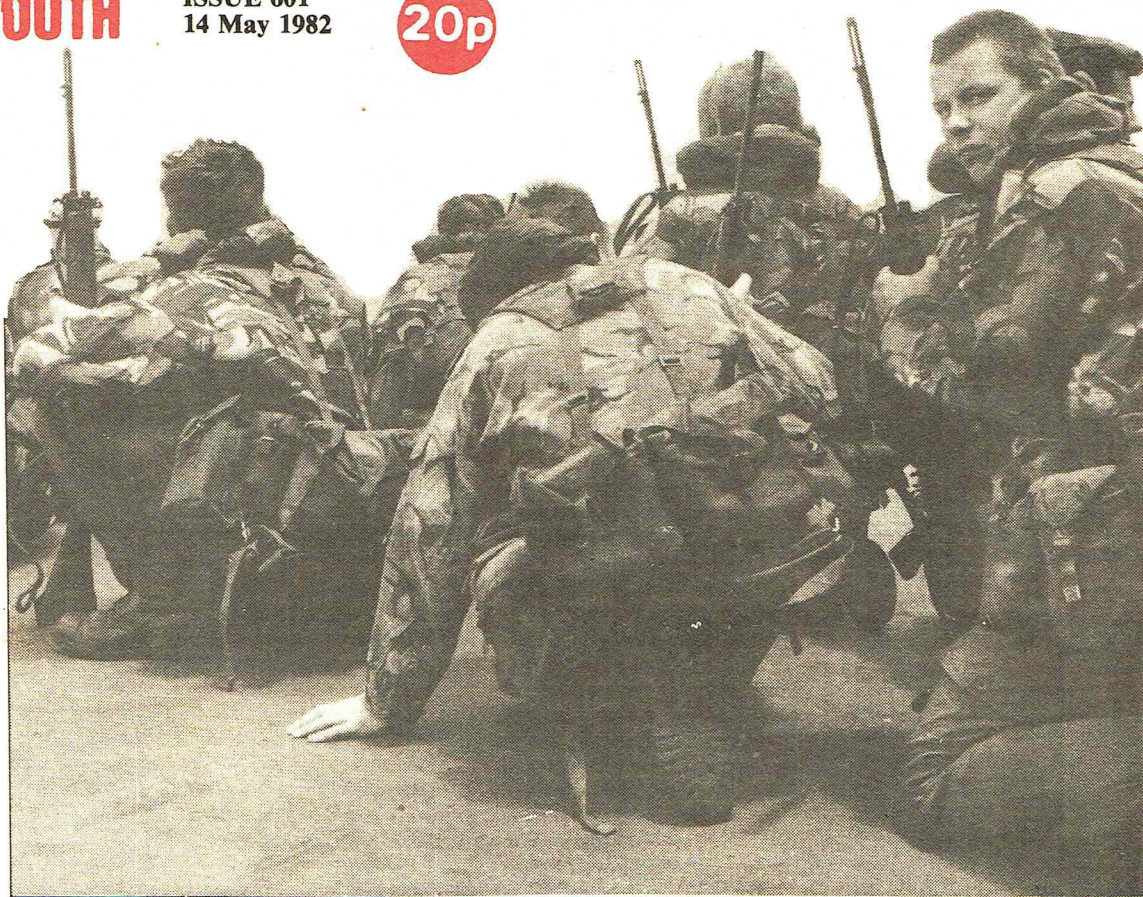


Photo: PA

...for armed services

Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor. It's all the same to Thatcher when it comes to grinding down the living standards of working people, while at the same time giving the best hand-outs and tax concessions to the rich.

The miserable pay offer to the workers in the National Health Service would still leave nearly half of them with pay below the official government poverty line. But even the ranks of the armed forces are not immune to the policies of Thatcherism.

Even as she is sending soldiers and sailors off to war in the Falklands, the Tories are cutting into the living standards of the 'ranks' while giving the biggest pay rises to the officers. The new army pay rises, for example, give a mere 4% to army privates—a rise of just over £3 a week—and 9% to a brigadier, an increase of £37 a week.

The class divisions within society that are faced every day by working people are also reflected in the armed forces. The top officers, in effect, have their own 'servants,' better accommodation, better food (wines etc), and in civilian life, better jobs, than the 'ranks'.

The pay rises given to some officers are not very much different from the gross weekly wages of the men in their command. Like their well-off counterparts in 'civvy-street', the officers will have reaped

By Denis Doran

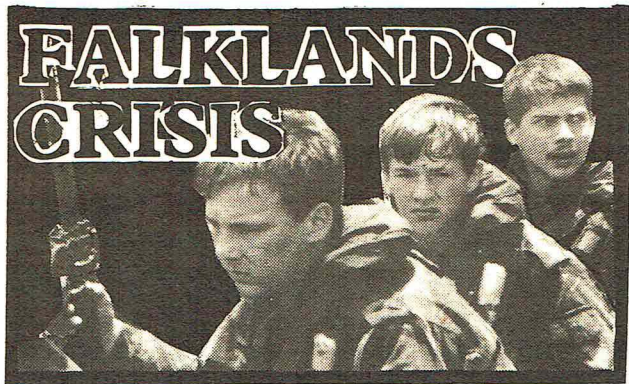
rich rewards from the Tories' tax-cuts in the last three years, while their subordinates will have lost more on the roundabouts than they gained on the swings.

Ordinary servicemen, like civilian workers, will have to pay extra taxes in the form of increased NI contributions, etc, and these easily balance the increase in wages. But in addition, service personnel will now have to pay extra charges for their food and accommodation.

The current food charge is going up by £1.54 to £13.23 a week; accommodation for married servicemen is going up by over £1 a week and for the first time married servicemen unaccompanied by their wife and family will pay £5 a week food charge. In what must be the understatement of the year, the correspondent of the Financial Times commented, "Overall, the pay awards are unlikely to be popular with armed forces personnel—par-

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BACK PAGE

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In launching the Task Force, now apparently poised to re-invade the Falklands, the Tories have shouted loud and long about the necessity of struggling against "fascism".

Coming from the Tories this is utter hypocrisy. The Tory government helped to arm the Argentine Junta over the course of the last few years.

Many of the Tories' friends in big business, made millions of pounds in profits from the provision of armaments not only to the bloody Junta in Argentina, but to equally vicious regimes in Chile, and elsewhere in Latin America. Until the time of the invasion of the Falklands, the Tories were quite happy to trade with this regime.

The labour movement must condemn the Argentine Junta and the invasion. The capture of the "Malvinas" has done absolutely nothing to further the national economic or democratic interests of Argentine workers. It is not a war for the 'national unification' of Argentina.

Faced with growing opposition at home, this Junta, with the blood of 20,000 workers on its hands, launched the invasion in order to divert attention away from its own crimes and from the collapse of the Argentine economy. The Junta have attempted, in the beginning successfully, to use the national flag of Argentina as a prop with which to stabilise their tottering regime.

Tory hypocrisy

The labour movement in Britain and internationally, unlike the hypocritical Tories, have always opposed the Argentine Junta, along with similar regimes in Chile, South Africa and elsewhere. At the time of the 1978 World Cup, socialists and trade unionists brought to the attention of workers in Britain the horrors faced by their Argentine brothers and sisters.

It is only the labour and trade union movement in Britain which can honestly claim to have fought for the interests of the Argentine workers in the past.

But if the Tories have their way they would be happy and relieved—whatever the outcome of the war—if General Galtieri would stay on in Argentina, or if a new military Junta would take his place, like "Britain's friends", the torturers of Chile. The Tories are not in the least bothered about the interests of the Falkland Islanders, Argentine workers or British workers.

They have waged war for

By John Pickard

the last three years on the living standards, the wages and the 'social wage' (welfare state) of the British working class. The Tories are fighting in the South Atlantic only in the interests of British big business, for oil, for mineral rights, for fish protein and especially for their dented, but all-important prestige.

War always carries with it enormous dangers, horrors, bloodshed and suffering, but it is not from a "pacifist" standpoint that workers will judge this war. If it were in a just cause, workers would be prepared to make great sacrifices, to give their "blood, toil, tears and sweat".

No support whatsoever can be given to Thatcher and the Tory government in the conduct and in the course of this military adventure. Workers may ask, "what about the interests of the Falkland Islanders, what about the Argentine Junta?" Neither the Junta in Argentina, nor the Tories in Britain are capable of conducting their home policy, or indeed their foreign policy, in the interests of workers.

That applies with equal force to the issue of the Falklands. Only the workers' movements, both in Argentina and Britain, can solve the crisis, in the interests of the working class.

Some on the Left of the Labour Party have raised the demand that the fleet should be withdrawn and the issue settled by the mediation of the United Nations.

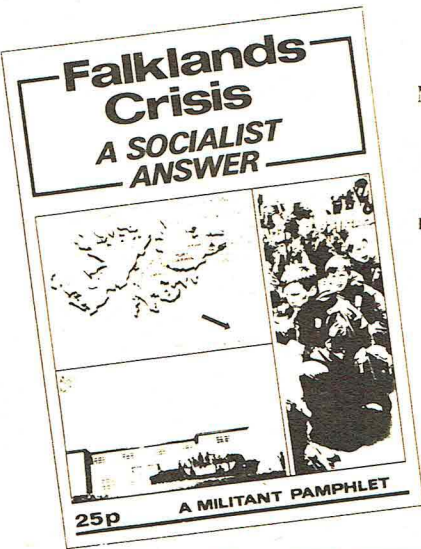
But the UN has never been a basis for settling crises of this kind. Galtieri is now in such a position that he dare not climb down, even against the economic and diplomatic pressure of the USA, the EEC and Japan. He is a long way from being one hundred per cent confident of an Argentine military victory, even with the (limited) support of other Latin American countries, but he is afraid to back down because that would hasten and indeed guarantee his own downfall.

No United Nations formula that involved an Argentine withdrawal is likely to be acceptable to the Junta. But by the same token, no UN formula that did *not* involve such a withdrawal would be accepted by Thatcher.

The British UN represen-

Labour must demand General Election NOW

HMS Invincible



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issue which involved the vital interests of one of these main powers, the Security Council would be paralysed by the veto.

UN intervention in the past (except in Korea, which was a special case, where the Russian representative boycotted the council and so declined to use his veto) has only ever been carried out with the mutual consent of the five main veto powers.

Workers cannot put any confidence and trust in organisations like the UN, which do not represent them. Workers must look to their own strength and organisations to solve question in workers' interests. If the Left leaders call for a UN settlement, they are calling for the impossible, for a utopia, and in doing so they are dodging the main issue.

The same applies with equal force to the slogan of "Withdraw the Fleet". Workers can give no support whatsoever to Thatcher's government in war any more than in peacetime.

To demand "Withdraw the Fleet" simply begs the question of who will withdraw the Fleet and on what basis?

The central struggle of Labour must be to ensure that the options of war and peace, to despatch or withdraw the fleet, etc, are really available to workers—through a government that would be committed genuinely to the interests of workers at home and abroad, a socialist government.

If there were a socialist government that would look at all these issues from the standpoint of the interests of workers, then the whole question of the Falklands crisis would take on a qualitatively different form. It would be possible then to avoid war and to settle the issue fraternally with the Argentine working class.

The main thrust of Labour's strategy must be to kick out the Tories. Workers must therefore fight in Britain, for a government that represents the interests of workers in order to make a serious impression upon the labour movement in Argentina.

Workers' solidarity

Labour's leaders must abandon their policy of dithering along behind the Tories and come out clearly for a General Election. If a campaign were fought on clear socialist lines, with Labour clearly explaining the issues, then, unlike in the local elections, Labour could win a crushing majority.

Labour must fight for the return of a socialist government, committed to the public ownership of the top 200 industrial companies, the finance houses, with compensation only on the basis of proven need, and the establishment of a democratic plan of production.

Only a Labour government which is fighting unmistakably and implacably in the interests of British workers at home can even begin to represent the policies of British and other workers internationally. Such a Labour government would be able to appeal to the soldiers, sailors and workers in Argentina to overthrow the Junta there.

The fact that Britain and Argentina are now at war does not mean that workers can look upon Thatcher in any war differently to before. For the sake of the 4 million unemployed, for the sake of those in slums and on poverty wages, and now, we would add, for the sake of the workers of the Falkland Islands and Argentina, workers must struggle to remove Thatcher, the Tories and their whole system.

"Our husbands weren't given any choice"

INTERVIEWS with wives of sailors on HMS Sheffield, HMS Invincible, HMS Arrows, taken the day after the Sheffield sunk.

"The general mood (of the sailors' wives) is of despondency. Most wives are expecting more bloodshed, we are just waiting to hear which ship will be next. We feel for the families of the Argentinian sailors too, they are in the same position as us, after all we're all human beings.

I don't like this "officer and gentleman" business though, when the British officers invited the Argentinian officers to dinner, just after they'd had the men shooting at one another in South Georgia. That just shows they're all the same sort—Tories, or worse."

"I think most of the men are just hoping that it will

be over soon. They've been working long hours on the ships and the conditions can't be good. On the Invincible the messes are very overcrowded with Marines sleeping on the floor.

They've been issued with dog tags, for identification if they get killed or badly injured and they've filled in their wills. My husband's will arrived in the post the other day."

"We've got to do something, we're not going to sit back and let the ships be sunk one after another. I wouldn't be proud of my husband dying for his country, there's nothing to be proud of in this country any more—look at the unemployment.

Our husbands weren't

given the choice, they had to go, they would much rather be at home with the kids. I don't think people have a glamourised attitude to war any more, it's not like the last war when people were still getting over the days of the Empire. At least, that's how it seems from the old films etc.

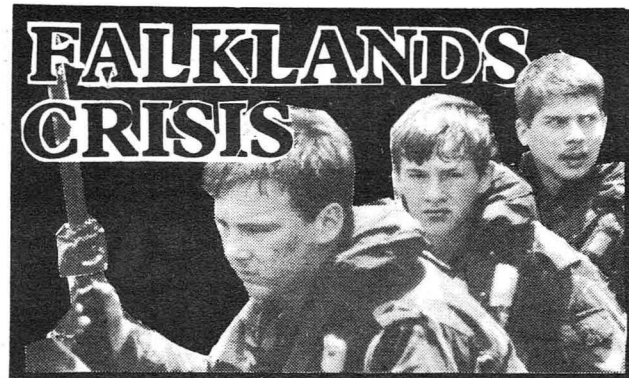
Most people have joined the Navy for a job and training, not to fight a war—lots of blokes haven't got much choice anyway, if there's no other jobs available, the Navy is the only way of getting a job."

Commenting on the statements of Peter Griffiths (Tory MP Portsmouth N.) one serviceman's wife said "I thought it was terrible, him going on about the wives keeping up a brave face, and their husbands haven't died in vain. Why doesn't he go there then and

take Maggie Thatcher with him?

She might go on about pride and stiff upper lip now, but she didn't mind crying on TV when she thought her son was lost in the desert. I wouldn't have minded joining those people on tele in Buenos Aires the other night—tearing up Thatcher's photos and stamping on them!"

"You can't be sure of anything any more—anybody who votes for this Government now after this must be mad. They've even reduced the overseas allowance, and if my husband's wages go down any more we'll have to give up our house and go back to a quarter (A Navy house or flat)."



Truth - The first casualty of war

Although the old saying shown in the headline is correct about the media coverage of the Falklands, even this is not good enough for the Tories.

Tory MPs have attacked the BBC, and the more rabid tabloid rags (no doubt with an eye on circulation figures) have attacked their counterparts for being unpatriotic; even accusations of treason are being banded about.

Thatcher has complained that the press has not put the 'British case' "fully and effectively" enough for her liking. No doubt Thatcher and the Tories would like the naked jingoism that has filled the pages of the likes of the *Sun* and the *Daily Star*.

The *Sun* in particular in its attempt to whip up support for the war and isolate those who show even the slightest opposition to the war, prompted *The Times* to say it would make "Senator McCarthy blush". The *Mirror* went further and called it the 'Harlot of Fleet Street', saying since the crisis begun the *Sun* had fallen "from the gutter to the sewer".

The *Sun* has been by far the worst offender. "We simply cannot conceive the mentality of a man who would find pleasure in the loss of any human life, friend or foe." So proclaimed the *Sun* editorial (10 May) attacking an 'unnamed' Frenchman who praised the technology of the French weaponry that destroyed HMS Sheffield.

This is incredible hypocrisy coming from the *Sun*! This yellowest of the Fleet Street gutter press has revelled in the losses suffered by Argentine soldiers and sailors.

'Gotcha!' screamed the headline of its early edition greeting the sinking of the *Belgrano*. After the shooting down of an Argentine troop-carrying helicopter, the bombing of Port Stanley and the attack on a

spy ship, 'Wallop' cheered the *Sun* headline.

Perhaps its sickest obscene act was the antics of its journalist with the Task Force who wrote 'Up yours, Galtieri' on a sidewinder missile which the *Sun* later claimed destroyed an Argentine plane and its crew. All this was accompanied with pathetic flippancy in its coverage, ranging from promoting underwear to infantile xenophobic 'anti-Argie' jokes.

The *Sun* was rivalled by the so-called 'Labour' paper, the *Daily Star*, which amongst other jingoistic nonsense, urged: "Britain must throw the invading Argentines into the sea..."

But for all the sudden piousness of other sections of Fleet Street over the likes of the *Sun*, all the papers—some in a more roundabout way—have backed the interests of British imperialism. All unquestionably take as gospel the statements made by the Ministry of Defence.

The *Mirror* group, having commendably attacked the *Sun* for its ravings, then gives its usual column in the *Sunday Mirror* (9 May) to Woodrow Wyatt who proclaims, "This war is worth dying for" (but we won't see Wyatt in the front line!). They may take a longer path but they reach the same conclusions.

Usually the Tory press are united in the interests of capitalism, especially when it comes to attacking the labour movement. But the varying editorials over the Falklands represents the hesitancy and unwillingness amongst sections of the ruling class to throw all behind the Thatcher wing of the Tories. They do not want to lose credibility by giving total support to Thatcher. Sections of the capitalist class think that despite momentary enthusiasm for Thatcher generated by the Falkland crisis, electorally the government is doomed.

By Bob Wade

See article on *Mirror's* attack on *Militant* page 5.

Argentine workers pay for crisis

Even before the present crisis, the economy of Argentina was in a mess. Astronomical inflation, combined with a deep recession was biting deep into the living standards of workers.

The wealthy have been trying for the last month, with some success, to take their money out of the country. The result has been a massive run on the peso which stood six weeks ago at 9,000 to the dollar and which now in the black market is only worth 20,000 to the dollar, and an increase in the money supply of almost 50 per cent in April alone, pushing inflation up to around 200 per cent.

But the new emergency economic policies of the Argentine government will only make the position of ordinary workers even worse. The peso has been officially devalued, taking the currency a bit nearer its black market value, and special taxes have been put on petrol, cigarettes, alcohol, and some other items.

"While most Argentines are probably prepared to pay up now, to help the war effort," the *Financial Times* correspondent commented, "in the long run the latest increases in taxes, particularly on fuel, are likely to have a serious impact on the cost of living."

Bus drivers in Buenos Aires have an average wage of about £140 a month, schoolteachers just over £90 and conscript soldiers a miserable token of £7. The Argentine trade union federation, the CGT, has already demanded of the government that "the workers are not made to carry the burden of the



Repression on the streets of Buenos Aires. Over 20,000 people have 'disappeared' since the junta came to power in 1976.

crisis." The ground is already being prepared for the overthrow of the Junta. There is no doubt that if there is a military defeat or a diplomatic climbdown, then the Argentine workers will exact their revenge of the military junta which has bl-

ed them dry over recent years.

"A line of 60 tired-looking men wait to be interviewed for a cleaning job. One, Oscar Gayuna—a 27 year-old mechanic with four children—has already been out of work for two months. He has to travel

three hours each way by bus every day to get into the city centre to look for a job."

This could be Glasgow, Liverpool or Birmingham, but, in fact, it is the description, by the *Financial Times* correspondent, of an unemployed queue in Buenos Aires.

FRENCH SOLDIERS DEMAND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On the May Day march in Paris, 30 soldiers marched in their uniforms, demanding the election of officers and the reduction of the period of military service.

Council Elections

Liverpool

The right-wing of the Labour Party will no doubt try to blame 'Militant' for the party's poor showing in some areas. They should be pointed to Liverpool!

The Liberal control in the city received its most stunning blow in the local election on May 6. Smithdown Ward, birthplace of the Liberal revival in Liverpool, the ward that first sent the Liberal wonderboy David Alton to the city council, and who later became the Liverpool Edgemoor Liberal MP, was won by Labour. This was just one of the Labour Party's gains from the Liberals in Liverpool.

Liverpool has been highlighted in the Tory press as the capital and stronghold of the 'Militant Tendency'. Well, Labour in Liverpool did better at the polls than the party nationally, particularly where we had 'Militant' supporters as prospective parliamentary candidates.

Sir Trevor Jones, leader of the Liberals, had confidently predicted to win an overall majority at the elections. But as the 'Liverpool Echo' stated, the City voters clearly rejected the anti-Marxist campaign, and the 'Daily Post' went on to say the Liberal's campaign flopped at the elections. This must have sickened the Liberal Party, who undoubtedly carried out their dirtiest campaign for many years.

In many wards, huge orange hoardings on the gable end of houses spelt out their main slogan; 'Marxist out—Liberals in!' But with the help of the Liberals, never before have Marxist ideas been so thoroughly discussed on the doorstep!

The gutter tactics were an attempt to create a smokescreen for the policies of the Liberals and their period of Liberal/Tory control, which has meant for example increasing rents and 4,000 jobs lost through

By Liverpool 'Militant' supporters

education cuts.

It wasn't just the Liberals who took a hammering. The SDP lived up to its cruel nick-name of the 'Sudden Death Party,' by being completely wiped out! The new party fought seven seats in Liverpool, and got very poor results. In Pirrie Ward, in Walton, they expected to win, but in fact the SDP/Liberal vote declined into third place behind the Tories, with the Labour Party receiving a massive majority.

Similarly in Netherley, where 'Militant' supporter Heather Adams stood, again the SDP candidate was beaten into third place. But it wasn't just in the Labour seats that the Labour Party fared well.

In many Liberal-controlled wards, the Labour Party decreased the Liberal majority tremendously. For example in Kensington in Edge Hill, the Liberal vote decreased, from the last city council election in 1980, by 1,000 votes, and the majority was reduced to only 65.

Also in Picton, which is the safest Liberal seat in the country, the Liberal vote was again reduced by over a thousand votes.

In Toxteth, again the results of the Labour Party are very encouraging. Despite a massive drive and campaign in Gramby ward by the Liberals, Labour increased its vote and held on to the ward. In Aigburth ward, which is an area of better housing, the Labour vote went up by 30%.

But the best result must be in Dingle, where the Labour Party won the seat from the Liberals, and where the Labour vote increased by nearly 300 votes!

This hasn't come about by accident, but as a direct

result of the active campaign carried out by the Labour Party, particularly since Tony Mulhearn was selected as the PPC for Toxteth. Two successful mass canvasses have already taken place, one specifically in the Dingle ward itself.

In Kirkdale the best result was in Breckfield ward, where the Liberals have controlled the seat for the last five years. Here the Liberal majority was reduced from 1,100 votes in the 1980 election, to 193 votes. The Labour vote increased by 577 for 'Militant' supporter John Mackintosh, a NUPE steward. This was despite the Liberal campaign, where ten different leaflets were distributed in the ward, within six weeks, with not one of them having a single line of policy. In contrast, Labour organised weekly paper sales and regular newsletters especially after the attacks against the PPC Terry Fields.

Labour campaigned around the issues of rent increases, education cuts and stood firmly on the policy of the District Labour Party of no rent rises, no rates rises, and the reversal of all education cuts.

In Wavertree, all the Labour votes increased, and Paul Astbury, an LPYS member, was elected to the council, despite the hysterical Liberal campaign against him. In Old Swan, the Labour vote increased, but the Liberals held onto the seat as the Tory vote completely collapsed. In Childwall which is a very strong Tory ward, again the Labour vote increased, and a very successful Labour Party rally was held, addressed by Derek Hatton, the Wavertree PPC, the five ward candidates and a LPYS member. Altogether in Wavertree nearly 100 names were collected of people interested in joining the Labour Party.

In Broadgreen, Wavertree, there was a significant increase in the Labour vote

in an area which has been neglected for years, where some parts of Broadgreen have not been canvassed for over 12 years. The Liberals actually accused Labour of trying to confuse voters in this ward, by standing a candidate with the same uncommon name as the Liberals' candidate—Smith!

In Abercromby, in the Scotland Exchange constituency, the Labour Party won the seat from the Liberals, actually defeating the Deputy Lord Mayor. And in Clubmoor again the Labour Party won the seat from the Liberal Party. Unfortunately the Labour Party lost two seats in County and Arundel wards. Both had previously been Liberal seats. However in both the wards the Labour vote increased, but in County the result obviously suffered by the smear campaign from the Liberals and the fact that a writ had previously been issued against candidate Pauline Dunlop and her agent Ted Mooney.

It can be seen that the results for the Labour Party have increased dramatically where local parties canvassed for some months, arguing the lies of the Liberals, and explaining the socialist policies of the Labour Party. But another important factor is the involvement and support by many local authority workers.


At a meeting of the District Labour Party after the election, it was clearly spelt out that the campaign shouldn't stop here. Wards should select their candidates quickly and organise recruitment drives, leafletting and canvassing for the next election when Labour can take overall control.

The situation is that Labour is the majority party with 42 seats on the council, but still the Liberals and Tories between them have 57 seats. The District Labour Party therefore took the decision not to take the position of Chair-

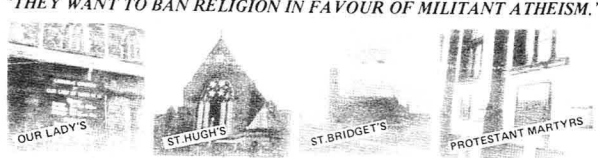
LIBERALS OUT LABOUR IN!

BE UNDER NO ILLUSION...

THE MILITANT MARXISTS WHO CONTROL LIVERPOOL LABOUR PARTY WANT TO ABOLISH THE QUEEN. THEY CALL FOR CIVIL WAR AND BLOOD ON THE STREETS. AND THEY SAY THEY WANT CONTROL OF THE POLICE. EVEN MICHAEL FOOT HAS CALLED FOR AN INQUIRY INTO THEIR ACTIVITIES.



AS THE LIVERPOOL ECHO RECENTLY REPORTED.....
"THEY WANT TO BAN RELIGION IN FAVOUR OF MILITANT ATHEISM."



That means the closure of local churches and church schools. THE OLD LABOUR LEADERS MUST BE TURNING IN THEIR GRAVES. The Choice on Thursday Next is a Liverpool run by Militant Marxists or the Liberal Alliance. If you oppose these fanatics who have wrecked the Labour Party and now want to do the same to Liverpool, please vote for the Liberal Alliance. You can also help by signing this form and bringing it with you when you come to vote.

MAKE IT BERT HERRITY TO WIN!

Published by Frank Brown, 19 Rutland Road, Liverpool 7.
Printed by Print Centre, Unit 6, Haysley Street, Liverpool 8.

To the Rt. Hon. Michael Foot, M.P.
We demand an urgent decision on the inquiry into the Militant Tendency and its revolutionary activities in Liverpool and for the Labour Leadership to disassociate itself from the policies outlined above.

Signature:

Address:

PLEASE BRING THIS WITH YOU WHEN YOU COME TO VOTE ON THURSDAY NEXT

A typical example of the red-scare leaflets put out by the Liberals in Liverpool. Such is its concern for the welfare of the Labour Party, it includes a tear-off slip to be sent to Michael Foot, calling on him to disassociate himself from the "policies outlined above" (but it's a tear-off slip?) and calls for an "urgent decision on the inquiry into the Militant Tendency". This shows how the antics of the right wing of the Labour Party in pressing for a witch-hunt plays into the hands of the opposition capitalist parties. Fortunately the workers of Liverpool saw through the Liberal smears.

manships of committees on the council, which would mean being seen to carry out the Liberal/Tory policies of cuts, redundancies and rent rises.

It was felt, however, that there must be an immediate statement by the District Labour Party pointing out why they weren't taking control, particularly to the local authority unions. This will maintain a unity between the Labour Party and organisations like the joint shop stewards committees, which have been invited to

send representatives to the Labour Group.

The District Labour Parties must now turn out to workplaces, trade union branches and shop stewards committees. Circulars should be sent round the estates, pointing out the position of the District Labour Party which will be very important in the run up to the next election.

Then we will succeed in seeing a Labour controlled city council, adopting socialist policies that Liverpool so desperately needs.

Militant Editorial

Despite four million unemployed, falling living standards and generally disastrous economic policies, the Tories held on, in fact registering a net overall gain of a handful of seats, in last week's council elections.

An important feature of the results was the failure of the Liberal/SDP Alliance to make any significant advance. The Social Democratic Party, especially,

flopped where it expected to do best. Nationally, it showed a net loss of some fifty seats and workers were especially keen, it seemed, to vote out those SDP councillors who were elected previously as Labour and then subsequently defected.

The SDP expected to do especially well in London but they only managed to win a meagre 123 seats in the capital, out of nearly 1,800. The best they achieved was to hold the balance of power between Labour and Tories in some councils.

Because the SDP had

control of the Islington council, there was no way that the local Labour Party could avoid taking the SDP head on, as has been done in previous Parliamentary by-elections. Islington is a former Labour stronghold and because of the complacency of the old right-wing Labour Party (dominated by those who defected to the SDP) some workers were not canvassed properly for years.

In this election, every ward was canvassed, sometimes several times over. Even on the eve of poll, when the SDP brought

out a last-minute leaflet, the Labour Party was able to bring out a quick reply and have it delivered to every house in the borough.

That kind of bold campaign, explaining who the SDP are and what they represent, and taking Labour's policies to the doorstep would almost certainly have won for Labour some of those by-elections like Hillhead and Croydon.

No doubt the right wing of the Party will now be sifting through the results of the elections to find suitable muck to throw at the left. It is indeed a scandal that the

Labour Party did not make massive gains in these economic circumstances.

But for many workers, what still weighs very heavy in their minds are the experiences of 17 disappointing years of post-war Labour governments. The last Labour government, dominated by the right wing was responsible for £8 billion in public expenditure cuts and a wages policy that created enormous bitterness and disillusionment.

The right wing nationally have utterly failed to take on the SDP because these Labour defectors like

Rodgers, Williams, Owen and Jenkins have the same fundamental views, and were in the same government as Labour's present right wing. In addition, many Labour councils are agreeing to carry out Tory government cuts, or they have banged up the rates, or both.

In fact, in the local elections, in some cases the right wing were openly working against Labour candidates. In Bermondsey, it was largely through the support of 'Labour' MP Bob Mellish that three 'Independent Labour and

The Lessons of May 6

SDP hammered!

Islington

Labour scored a great victory in Islington. Despite the treacherous defections from the Labour Party which gave the SDP its first council, and the defection of the area's three Labour MPs, the Islington electorate returned a Labour council by 51 seats to one SDP.

The two Tories lost their seats and the one SDP seat is going to the electoral court. In an example of the worst form of treachery George Cunningham, MP for Islington South who when he defected adopted the label 'independent', sided with the SDP the night before the election. In a leaflet and in the press, he called on voters to vote SDP.

But the result was clear—in the three Islington constituencies the SDP came a charred third.

All election day Labour Party tellers found local people coming out in their thousands to show support for the Labour Party. One woman aged 65 told me, "I've waited 20 years to vote against this lot!" Another woman said, "I don't know whether I should vote Labour this time, not while you threaten socialists like the *Militant* with expulsion!"

Working people of all ages showed in Islington and Camden their disgust with this Tory government and with the SDP traitors. They clearly showed they want a Labour Party that is going to return to power with socialist policies.

So in Islington it is goodbye to the SDP and Tories, and welcome a return of a Labour council.

By Pat Edlin

(Islington CLP, personal capacity)

Birmingham

Despite record Midlands unemployment and drastic reductions in grants to local government under the Thatcher government, the Tories received a significant

Tenants Association' candidates were elected against genuine Labour.

Party members would also have been surprised and angered at the statement of Roy Grantham, right wing leader of APEX, only a week or so before the elections, when he advocated a coalition between Labour, the SDP and the Liberals after the next election, in the event of a 'hung' Parliament.

On the other hand, where socialist policies are brought clearly in to the light of day, as happened in Labour's campaign in Liverpool, then Labour makes gains.

The correspondent in the *Observer* commented that "Liberal/SDP strategists



Throughout the build-up for the council elections on 6 May, LPYS members fought hard to return Labour candidates. Here, LPYS representative on the NEC of the Labour Party, Laurence Coates, addresses a May Day rally in East London. Photo: Militant.

boost in recapturing control of the Birmingham council, the largest district council in the country.

Labour's representation had slumped by 11 to 53 seats, giving the Tories an overall majority of three. As for the SDP, they have no councillors at all. Labour's gloom was brightened just a little by the defeat of all five of the sitting councillors who had defected to the SDP. The Liberals also fell back slightly, to just 4 seats.

The Labour vote in general held up, but undoubtedly the Tories were able to rally more of their supporters than usual at a local election, to 'back the flag' over the Falklands war.

But what was there to rally Labour voters? There was a clear hostility in some Labour homes particularly to Michael Foot for the lack of any clear position on the war—supporting Thatcher's sending of the fleet, refusing to join in talks with her, then opposing the fleet being used.

And what of the local Labour leadership? Under the Labour city council rent went up £1.70, rates went up yet cuts still went ahead in services, like the abolition of school milk just weeks ago.

For a large number of

were confounded by the Alliance's failure to capture Liverpool, where they campaigned from a position of strength... They may be confounded, and Labour's right wing silent about it, but it is clear that Labour's capture of four Liberal seats in Liverpool was due to the bold way in which the SDP/Liberal Alliance was taken up.

It is still a scandal that the Labour Party were not able to make great headway against one of the most unpopular governments since the war, even allowing for the 'Falklands Factor' which represented not so much support for Thatcher's policy at home, as support for the servicemen she has sent overseas.

Labour voters anti-Toryism is not enough. Only a determined socialist stand on unemployment, public spending cuts, and on the war can guarantee Labour's success.

By Jeremy Birch.

Bermondsey

In the council elections in Bermondsey, unfortunately the three independents who stood in the Riverside ward were elected. Incredibly they had the backing of 'Labour' MP Bob Mellish and Reg Goodwin, former Labour GLC leader, against the official Labour candidates.

But in the Riverside ward the Social Democrat candidates were hammered. It is clear that the 'independents' were only victorious after the Labour 'veneer' given to them by Mellish and Goodwin.

Sid Howard was one of the Labour candidates for Riverside. He said, "My

Many workers are bemused by the vacillation of Labour's leadership over the issue: one minute seeming to support the Tories, and the next putting up on the brakes. If Michael Foot had come out decisively against the Task Force from the very beginning, then it would have been impossible for Thatcher to have dispatched it in the first place.

Indeed, a bold campaign by the Labour leadership at that point would have probably had a good chance of forcing a general election and pushing the Tories out.

As it is, Michael Foot has got the worst of both positions: he has appeared to give support to the sending of the fleet, but he opposed its use; he then supports the

wife Nell and I have been members of the Bermondsey CLP for nearly forty years. My father and uncle were active members before the first world war. Nell and I gave up two nights a week organising the bingo to get money for the party. At every election we took a week off work to get Bob Mellish elected.

"Now he stabs me and the party that gave him everything in the back.

"This shows his type's contempt for the working class. In the good old days as far as the right were concerned the party was an election machine. In my ward in 1970 we had seven members meeting in an old girl's front room.

"I became ward organiser and with the help of some younger members built up the ward to 250 members at the last count. When the younger members became active the right started calling them left wing extremists. I feel this is because they saw the end of the gravy train.

"Some of these people are more interested in the perks of position than fighting for the class they represent.

"Now these apologists for capitalism call for witch-hunts and expulsions."

By Bob Law

capture of South Georgia, but advocates no further action; he demands a 'cease-fire' and then accepts as a condition that the Argentines must withdraw—something they clearly will not do. To many workers, this looks like dithering, no more no less.

Workers are looking for a real alternative to the unending cuts of the local authorities, the rates and rent rises and the redundancies. Even despite the existence of a 'Falklands Factor'—something by no means permanent—it would have been possible, had the Labour Party nationally fought as it did in Liverpool, that massive and sweeping gains could have been made.

Mirror attack - we reply

Editorial Statement

The 'Daily Mirror' in its denunciation of the 'Sun' newspaper's treatment of the Falklands crisis is to journalism what Joseph Goebbels was to truth. Even Pravda would blush to be bracketed with it" (8 May 1981). This statement applies with equal force to the 'Mirror' in its most recent attack on 'Militant'.

Without a shred of evidence to substantiate its lies it accuses 'Militant' supporters of resorting to a "dirty tricks campaign against political rivals" (11 May). The rest of the article is a tissue of similar lies and falsehoods.

The hysterical accusation that 'Militant' collects "secret files on the private lives of politicians and union officials" may be applicable to 'Mirror' journalists, the capitalists and the right wing of the Labour Party and trade unions but it is not the method of Marxism.

This paper and its supporters deal only with policy, programme, method and ideas. By that method alone 'Militant' has gained the support of workers in the labour movement.

We have answered the charge that we receive money from "sinister sources" hundreds of times. Yet the 'Mirror' allegedly quoting from a dossier compiled by right-wing Labour

MPs against 'Militant' states: "Further evidence says that £24,000 of 'Militant's' income in 1980 was traced as coming from revolutionary groups in America and Belgium."

This figure of £24,000 is plucked out of the air and is a complete fabrication. Every penny we receive comes out of the pockets of our supporters, trade unionists, shop stewards, Young Socialists, etc. We don't receive any financial support from the CIA—unlike some organisations backed by the right wing of the Labour Party—or from Moscow, from Libya, from America or Belgium.

The capitalist press and their echoes within the labour movement are prepared to use every "dirty trick" including "black propaganda" in their campaign to drive 'Militant' out of the Labour Party. They will not succeed in their aims but only in further discrediting themselves in the eyes of workers.

The 'Daily Mirror' gave some excellent advice in relation to the 'Sun': "What would be more useful would be if the 'Sun' was compelled to carry an official government announcement on each copy: "Warning—reading this newspaper may damage your mind." The same announcement should be affixed to the 'Daily Mirror' itself.

Welsh students get Militant!

The Welsh Labour Students (WLS) Conference at Pontypridd on 2nd May saw a significant victory for the ideas of Marxism.

In the election to the WLS place on the NOLS National Committee of the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS), 'Militant' supporter Terry Hopkinson won by 12 votes to 9. 'Militant' supporters were elected to the major positions on the Regional Committee with the biggest majority, 16 to 5, going to a former shop steward, Andrew Murray (Swansea University).

The Conference also provided an insight into the real nature of the so-called 'Clause Four' student grouping which has had the leadership of WLS for the past few years and still leads NOLS.

The Regional Committee Report revealed that the Editor elected last year as a 'Clause Four' supporter, had joined the SDP! The Treasurer, again a 'C4' supporter from Aberystwyth University, had established a 'Labour Solidarity' society in opposition to the Labour Club!

Many Labour students who support the NOLS leaders are undoubtedly sincere in their attachment to Clause 4, Part IV of Labour's Constitution which embodies the socialist aspirations of the labour movement.

But events such as these, coming after the revelation of the secret collusion

against the 'Militant' between right winger Roy Hattersley MP and John Dennis Labour's Student Organiser, reveals how hollow the claim is of the NOLS leaders to stand with the left of the labour movement.

The victory at this Conference opens up the potential for a joint campaign between WLS and the LPYS in the FE and Tech Colleges.

Such a fighting, socialist leadership of Labour's youth in Wales will have an enormous impact not just on the youth and working class students in Wales, but in the whole Britain, not least in the struggle to transform NOLS itself.

By Carole Warren
(Vice Chairperson, WLS)

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL 1982. Saturday 26th June/Sunday 27 June. This year's School will be held at Queen Mary's College, Mile End, London E1. Courses will include: Introduction to Marxism, Latin America, History of British labour movement, Women and the struggle for socialism, Permanent Revolution and colonial liberation. Full details will be announced next week. Book the date now!

The other side of the bar

I got the sack from my job although there had been no warnings, no complaints about my work and I had never been late. I was ill.

But people don't get the sack for being ill these days do they? Certainly not the first day of ill-

ness? But then I work—or rather I did work—part time, in a pub.

The brewery relies on workers like me. That one pub employs 15-20 people on a casual basis, and only two staff work as much as a 26 hour week. They can get away with wages of £1.31 an hour, hiring and firing on the spot, and shocking conditions.

There is no sick leave, never mind sick pay; no holiday pay; no maternity leave. Last time I was pregnant I had to leave. Then I was taken on again as soon as I could do an evening's work.

That also meant I hadn't worked continuously for long enough to qualify under the employment protection laws.

With three children and a husband paid a pittance by the civil service, it was a question of necessity for me to work in the evenings, even though it meant total disruption of social and family life. We were supposed to work Sunday lunchtime, New Year's Eve and Boxing Day.

For most people, going to the pub is a social occasion. A drink, a chat, a laugh. The reality is a bit different if you work there.

At busy times there would be five of us crammed in the space behind the bar. It was worst at "last orders." You would try and remember where the drinks were, what they each cost, and the different places for putting money for food, cigarettes and drinks.

By Pam Wrightson

(Ardwick Labour Women's Section)

You were stretching up for glasses kept on shelves almost beyond reach, bending down back breakingly low for bottles, opening them, measuring spirits, pulling pints, remembering what fancy names meant, keeping the sums in your head, trying hard to ignore other customers clamouring for attention, keeping your balance on a floor slippery with spilt beer and always of course keeping the plastic smile on your face.

After an hour or so the air was thick with tobacco smoke and lung cancer an occupational hazard. When

you went home you felt disgusting—your hair stank and your clothes stank. And though we were gasping for breath, drinking—even water—behind the bar was strictly forbidden.

The boss operated on the assumption that we were all thieves. Allowing us to drink made it easier, he reasoned, to fiddle the till, and to be consistent even water was banned. He even abolished our 10 minute break.

Some customers assumed that women who worked in pubs were fair game for all manner of personal attentions. These might be limited to comments about all parts of our anatomy or sex life, but often enough included actually pinching and grabbing.

You would be expected to treat this with good humour. Complaints could lead to unpleasant scenes and no guarantee that the landlord would back you up.

The brewery exploited and hassled the landlord and he passed it on to us. It was getting worse as business slackened off. Peo-

ple just don't have the money these days to spend it in the pub.

But it was hard to organise a union, because most workers were in other unions in their day time jobs, or afraid of getting the sack from the pub.

Yet it is only by organising that pub workers and other exploited workers will be able to improve things. Even when the law is on our side, it is the strength of the union that is decisive in defending our rights.

If I wasn't desperately worried about money I'd have been delighted to lose my job. As it is I'm now doing the rounds of all the local pubs looking for work.

As soon as there is a rumour that one of the bar staff has left, dozens of low paid and unpaid workers are down at that pub hoping to get their job. And increasingly, unemployed workers desperate enough for the few hours work available are there too.

T.V. Reviews

Don't miss
'STRIKE'

Granada's excellent drama-documentary of the birth of the Polish 'Solidarity' movement is based on hundreds of interviews with the workers themselves. If you missed it when it was shown at only a few hours notice last December, it's on again.

'Strike—the Birth of Solidarity', MONDAY 17 MAY, 10.30pm ITV.



'Jerusalem's Army'

The struggle waged by the organisations of the working class against unemployment during the last century is something most school history books accidentally forgot to mention. Yet nothing could be more relevant to today's school-leavers.

'Jerusalem's Army' (Central TV, 1 May) was a good introduction to the subject using music, drama, poetry and newsreels to show some of the reality behind the

mere statistics for the last hundred years.

By Derek McMillan

The attitude of the ruling class was shown quite clearly, beginning with a discussion between Ricardo (the classic capitalist economist) arguing that mass unemployment lowers wages and lower wages mean higher profits, Malthus (the Victorian

scientist) arguing that the lower classes must be dissuaded from breeding, and ending with Sir Keith Joseph reiterating exactly the same arguments in slightly more subtle language.

Extracts from the debate on the Poor Law Amendment Act showed well-fed Tory MPs explaining why the workhouses should be as obnoxious as possible to discourage the workshy, echoed by the activities of the Means Test investigators.

The other consistent theme was the way in which the anger of the unemployed can erupt into violence, beginning with the breaking of the windows of the Carlton Club in 1891 and ending with coverage of the Brixton riots. But the film also showed how that anger could be used constructively in the Hunger Marches and the Jarrow Crusade.

The power of the workers' organisations—the programme suggested without going into details—could be used to create a planned economy in which unemployment would no longer exist.

'Nye Bevan'

The life of Aneurin Bevan whose political battles have important lessons for the labour movement today was the subject of a recent BBC TV play by Paul Ferris.

Born in Tredegar, South Wales in 1897 Bevan's early involvement with the labour movement was as a syndicalist fighting to stamp out company unionism and establish the South Wales Miners Federation. He became more involved in political struggles after the defeat of the 1926 General Strike.

During the 1930s as MP for Ebbw Vale Bevan brilliantly demonstrated how a socialist should use parliament as a platform to express the anger of the mass unemployed. In the 1945 Labour Government Bevan was responsible for the introduction of the National Health Service. In the 1950s he was the centre of a witch-hunt organised by the right wing who wanted to expel him and his supporters from the Party.

Unfortunately having seen Gaitskellism defeated at rank and file level in the movement towards the end of his life Bevan sought a compromise with the right wing. He shattered the faith many of his supporters had in him when he changed his position on nuclear weapons in favour of Gaitskell's.

This play could have been the subject of a serious analysis of any of these themes. It could have sought to explain to the generation to whom Bevan was only a name the battles he fought on their behalf.

The play did come of this. Indeed he dealt with the major political questions in a largely superficial manner, sometimes being more concerned about gossip about Bevan than in his political ideas.

One partial exception was the establishment of the National Health Service. Here the mass support this important reform received

was well portrayed as was the selfish and reckless attitude of the British Medical Association.

Yet the play failed to even mention the tooth and nail opposition of the Tories to the NHS and their full support for the extra-parliamentary opposition of the BMA. The play did, however, bring out Bevan's insistence that the Health Service should be free and that private practice should only continue on a temporary basis. The present devastated condition of the Health Service with the scandal of private medicine flourishing would horrify Bevan if he could see it today.

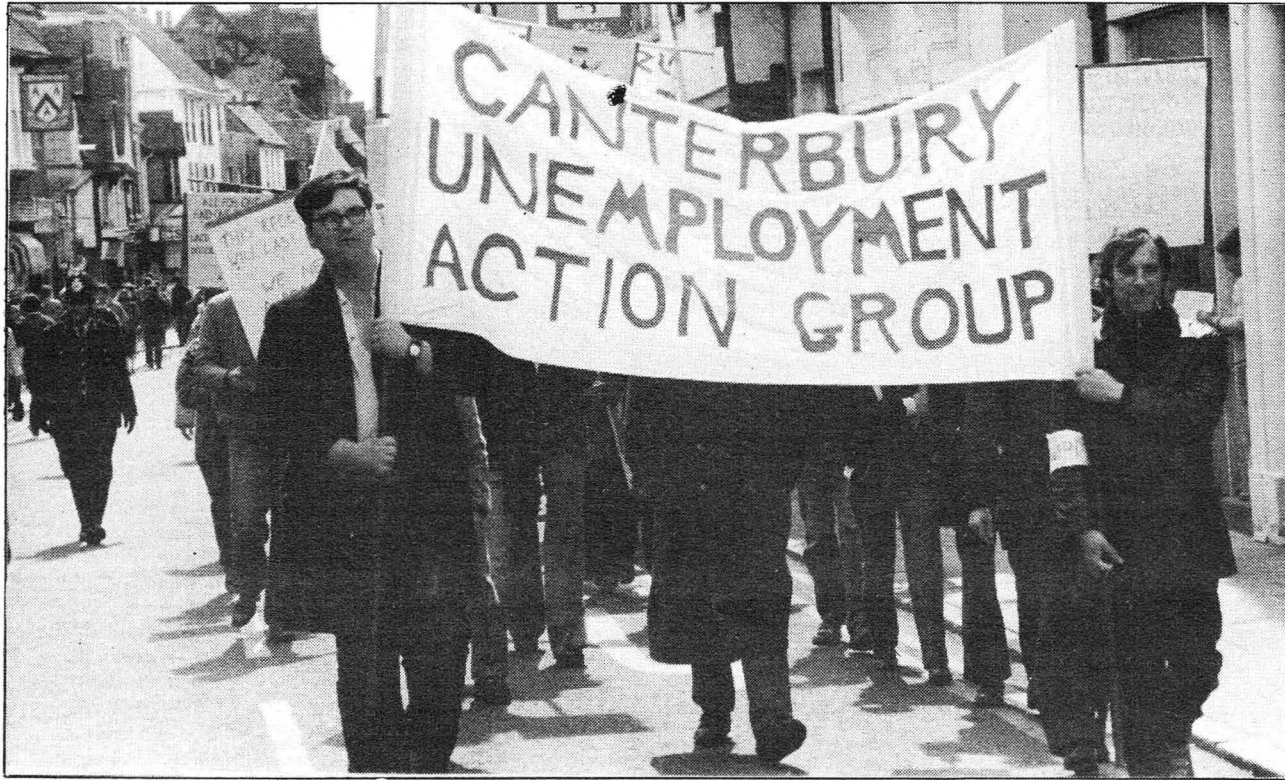
The stormy events of the 1950s in which the Gaitskellites, who enjoy a majority in the Parliamentary Party, attempted to purge the constituencies of Bevanite support was subjected to very poor treatment. At its best the play portrayed the dispute as a clash between the middle class and working class in the Party; at its worst to a personality clash between Gaitskell and Bevan.

The fact that Bevan was nearly expelled from the Party, that CLPs were closed down, that the right wing could only resort to organisational measures to defeat the political arguments of the Bevanites were all left out.

Some of those who supported the moves to expel Bevan in the 1950s now favour organisational measures against 'Militant' supporters. Both Callaghan and Healey supported the expulsion of Bevan in the 1950s. That is why those who did not experience these battles should study actually what happened. Unfortunately Ferris's play largely failed to explain any of the mighty events in Bevan's life.

By Andrew Price
(Cardiff South East CLP)

'Kent isn't working'



Don't move South for work. Since the Tories came in, unemployment has risen 213% (i.e. higher than the national average). Above: marching for jobs, Canterbury 1981

Eric Segal, Secretary of the Kent Labour and Trades Union Action Committee was interviewed by S Bewick Canterbury CLP.

The call for a conference of the labour and trades union movement in the Kent area developed out of a number of threatened redundancies and

closures across the district: Chatham naval dock yards, Snowdown Pit, Ashford Engineering works and many in the public sector.

Leading trades unionists in the area were brought together for a meeting to discuss the situation in Kent. It was agreed at that meeting that individual closures needed to be taken up in the wider movement to organise a united response against the de-industrialisation of the Kent area.

After passing a resolution calling for a conference the local LP and TU branches were approached. Over 40 delegates arrived at the next meeting from all but a few of the CLPs and most of the largest trade unions: TGWU, AUEW, NUM etc. A decision was taken to establish the Kent Labour and Trades Union Action Committee as a vehicle to express the feeling of the rank and file labour and trade union membership.

We did not see ourselves as substitutes for the leadership of the movement. We think that the local bodies of the TUC and the LP

should organise a conference. However, given the failure of these bodies to mount any campaign in the south-east area to date we were quite willing to go ahead ourselves on the basis of the support we had

This conference is being sponsored jointly by the Kent area Trades Union Council, Southern Region TUC and South East Region Labour Party and the Kent County LP. It must be seen only as a start and not as an end in itself. In fact a number of resolutions to this effect have been sent in to the committee responsible for the con-

ference.

The conference must be the touch paper to further action on the issue of unemployment and Tory policy. We need a lobby of parliament with a one day stoppage of labour in the Kent area to get the message firmly across to this government that the present levels of unemployment are totally unacceptable. This must be used by the labour and trades union movement to mount a full scale attack upon the government calling for its removal and the return of a labour government on a socialist programme.

LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE AND RALLY

Saturday 15 May 10am—4.30pm

Speakers include:

Jack Collins (Secretary Kent Area, NUM)
Shareen Blackall (YOPs Trade Union Rights Campaign)
Tom Pendry MP (Spokesman on Regional Affairs)

Organised by Kent Campaign for Economic and Social Advance.

Sponsored by: SE Region TUC, Kent Association of Trades Councils, Kent County Labour Party, S Region Labour Party.

AT MAIDSTONE CORN EXCHANGE

Everyone welcome. Plenty of time for discussion.

It was hardly surprising that LPYS branches in Kent had a terrific response from our recent week of action.

The South, and Kent in particular, has been hit hard by the recession. Unemployment in Kent has risen at a faster rate (213%) than nationally. With 11% out of work and only 2,281 vacancies that means there's over 24 people chasing every job.

So if anybody from Coventry or Liverpool is thinking of taking Thatcher's advice and moving

down South to find work—forget it!

The situation is even worse for youngsters. In 1980 there were 1,117 unemployed youngsters registered at the Careers Office competing for just 313 vacancies. Two months ago the number of vacancies had dropped to 117 and the number of young unemployed had risen to 4,388.

That's why the LPYS is now growing at a faster rate than ever before. In our week of action, council estates, shopping centres and dole queues were leafleted; schools and factories were visited, and street meetings and demonstrations took place in some parts of the county.

In Chatham, a public meeting attracted over 60 people. New branches have been formed in Aylesham and Tunbridge Wells.

The Labour Party Young Socialists will be fully represented at this weekend's Maidstone Conference and will be urging every young trade unionist there to join the LPYS in its fight to kick out the Tories and their system; and replace it with full employment and socialism.

By Helen Gasking

46 Years a 'militant'

Olga Scholes, forty-six years in the Labour Party, was interviewed by Cathy Wilson, PPC for IOW CLP

My first memory is the General Strike.

I was six years old; we had to live in the bedroom because we had no fuel, and when my parents couldn't find any rubbish to burn we would climb into bed to keep warm.

My mother had to bathe our eyes each morning before we could open them, and scurvey—we had that all right. All that for what? For someone called Thomas to sell the miners out.

I have seen my father, a tradesman, trudge the streets looking for work: any kind of work. I have seen him humiliated by standing outside the shipyard while the foreman came along and picked men for a day's work.

More often than not, he was left standing alone while everyone around him was chosen. Why? Because he was a socialist, and a union man.

Days he did get work, I had to take his dinner at 12 o'clock down to the shipyard. He didn't have time to come home, he was on piece work, so every minute counted.

I'd sit until he'd finished his meal and his shirt would be sticking to his back with



Not the middle of the nineteenth century, but women sorting coal in Wigan in the 1930s.

sweat. Riveters those days used hammers, not machines.

People in those days if they had no means had to go to the Board of Guardians for help. After they had sold what furniture they had, they had to go before the Board of well-fed, well dressed, so-called benevolent do-gooders to see if they could get anything.

If they were lucky they got a food chit (no money). I remember them telling my uncle that the children didn't need shoes, plimsolls were good enough for them. That was 1936.

I remember the Means Test and the riots that took place. What were those men and women if not 'militant'?

Other memories are of an uncle, a merchant seaman,

who was put in irons at Churchill's order during the General Strike. I remember being told that my mother had a spot on her lung through not having nourishing food.

My uncles and cousins marched from Jarrow to London. I recall seeing Swan and Hunter's shipyard desolate, grass growing, while ships were being repaired and made in Ger-

many. Pig iron left Birkenhead docks in 1939 just before war was declared. But despite war, profits still had to be maintained, regardless of whether that same pig iron rained down on Birkenhead in the bombing. We got it returned all right, but not in the ships.

In 1945, after all our hopes, we saw a light at the end of the tunnel, but not

for long. We got some nationalisation, a health service, by that other rebel who upset party politics, Nye Bevan, who would still be pilloried if he was alive today.

Then came Gaitskell, and suddenly Labour became the goal of intellectuals and university lecturers.

We in Birkenhead had a beaut of an MP (Edmund Dell) or so we thought until 1977.

When it came time to prove himself fighting (in Western Shiprepairs closure) he disappeared. When he was in Britain he was always "too ill" to attend any protests. Dell was forced to retire by us on Merseyside, and suddenly the man was fit enough to take up a position in a Merchant Bank.

My message to the young ones is—never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. Strike now for fundamental changes. I spent 46 years hoping for them—instead of making them happen.

Don't be put off by promises, they've always been broken up to now. Be 'militant', be a good socialist, have the courage to be called 'militant', it is a badge of change for the common man.



GLOBA

**Book review by
Mark Brake
(Pontypridd LPYS)**

Mass starvation, on a more massive scale even than today. World energy shortages. Deforestation and ecological catastrophe. Tens of millions in city slums, leading the collapse of urban services. This is the official perspective of capitalism for the year 2,000.

In 1971, the Club of Rome, an informal association of industrialists, scientists, economists and planners, created a sensation in the developed world with the publication of its report, 'The Limits to Growth.'

The report argued, on the basis of computer modelling, that limited physical resources and unchecked pollution would impose inevitable barriers on the progress of economic growth for the world's population.

Furthermore, the report argued, population would not stabilise in the near future, but would tend to overshoot to an ultimately unsustainable level and then, finally, collapse to much lower levels.

The reaction of the capitalist classes was predictable. Some argued that technology was bound to

come to the rescue of our 20th-century growth assumptions. Others maintained that predictions of shortages had been made since time immemorial and that, therefore, these predictions must be equally false.

Anxiety for the long-term prospects of the planet have remained very much alive since, and, five years later, President Carter commissioned a study on the probable changes in the world's population, natural resources and environment during the remainder of this century.

The result of the study, a 766-page 'Global 2000 Report to the President' was published in the closing months of the Carter administration, and is now published in this country.

Although the study was made in 1975, the general impact of the report—that 'serious stresses involving population, resources and environments are clearly visible ahead'—is as relevant today as when it was commissioned.

The report comes to the most alarming conclusions:

"If present trends continue, the world in 2000 will be more crowded, more polluted, less stable ecologically and more vulnerable to disruption. Serious stresses involving population resources and the environment are clearly visible ahead. Despite greater material output, the world's people will be poorer in many ways than they are today."

"For hundreds of millions of the desperately poor the outlook for food and other necessities will be no better. For many it will be worse. Barring revolutionary advances in technology, life for most people on Earth will be more precarious in 2000 than it is now—unless the nations of the world act decisively to alter current trends."

Furthermore, the report continues: *"the time for action to prevent this outcome is running out. Unless nations collectively and individually take bold and im-*

aginative steps toward improved social and economic conditions, reduced fertility, better management of resources and protection of the environments, the world must expect a troubled entry into the 21st century."

Carter's civil servants are clearly worried at the prospect of 'disruption' leading to the loss of their precious resources, and even they concede the consequences of the present trends of the capitalist stranglehold on the Third World. However, there is no technological fix, as some 'experts' would have us believe, which can singlehandedly solve this worldwide crisis of capitalism, and no amount of pious posturing from Carter's (or Reagan's) 'humanists' will alleviate the plight which hundreds of millions of people in the Third World face under capitalism and landlordism.

The world's population between 1975 and the year 2000 is expected to increase from 4 billion to around 6.35 billion. Secondly the world's population will be growing faster in the year 2000 in absolute terms than it is at present. Almost all of this rise will occur in the developing countries of the Third World which will then account for almost four fifths, or 80%, of humanity.

Almost half of this 2.2 billion increase in population in the final quarter of this century, will live in cities. By 2000, 10 cities of the underdeveloped world will have populations of more than 12 million, with Mexico City top of the list at 31 million (half the present population of the whole of Britain), and almost 400 cities having population of above one million (see table).

The current conditions in those underdeveloped nations were reported two years ago by the Brandt Commission. Already, 15 million children die each year in the 'South'; 800 million are absolutely destitute; and up to a quarter of children die before the age of 5.

However, the report does not tell us that 'over population' is essentially a case of too many people with too little access to the means of production and consumption. This is a political problem.

To adopt family planning policies that simply aim 'to stop the poor from breeding' is to treat the unequal distribution of wealth and power as if it were a

biological problem rather than the direct result of the capitalist system.

In the Third World children are usually the only resource that starving villagers can rely on—the rest is owned by the rich. Birth rates do not fall until living standards improve—or until poverty is so great that new children are more of a burden than an asset.

Clearly, then, under the existing economic stranglehold of imperialism the developing world will face even more severe conditions. The growth of cities in the Less Developed Countries will place unprecedented pressure on sanitation and other public services. Already, the fastest urban growth occurs in uncontrolled slums and shanty towns, where sanitation is practically non-existent.

Indicative of this fact are the 3 million inhabitants of the world's largest slums in Mexico City. In order to keep pace with growing needs, the equivalent of three Londons will have to be built to house the people of Mexico City.

The underdeveloped countries will have to triple urban services during the next two decades; but *"the chances of this happening"*, the report says, *"are unlikely at best."*

Unlikely, that is, under capitalism.

The report continues by drawing the conclusion that the world's population cannot be fed adequately in the year 2000. Not that there isn't enough food produced in the world today to feed everyone—there is.

The problem is that, as with wealth, there is no equitable distribution of food on a global scale, and even more importantly, the distribution and use of land in the Third World is based only on the interests of landlords and capitalists. World food output will rise, it is estimated, by 90% (compared with a 50% increase in world population) but most of that increase will go to the advanced capitalist countries which are already well fed. In some areas, by 2000, there could be a "calamitous" drop in food per capita.

What the report fails to indicate in clear terms is that there is no lack of food or land or raw materials or energy but that the poor are denied access to them. In many cases it is basically a question of who owns what:
★ **Food.** The world grain trade is controlled by five private corporations: Continental Grain and Cargill (US), Bunge (US-Brazil), Louis Dreyfus (France) and André (Switzerland).

GRIM FUTUR

GLOBAL 2000

★ **Energy.** Seven private oil companies control the petroleum industry: Exxon, Mobil, Gulf, Shell, Texaco, Standard and BP.

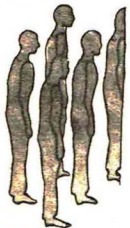
★ **Metals.** Six aluminium producers control bauxite production: Alcoa, Alcan, Reynolds, Kaiser, Anaconda, and Revere. INCO (Canada) and Le Nickel (France) dominate the nickel industry. The oil companies are assuming control of the copper trade.

★ **Sea.** Six mining consortia have been formed to exploit the ocean's beds mineral resources.

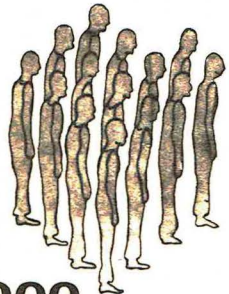
★ **Land.** Worldwide 30% of landowners own 80% of the land. The large landowners are the least productive.



1950



1975



2000

Each figure represents 100 million slum-dwellers in the Third World.

The development (or lack of it) of the capitalist world's resources is dictated by imperialism, through multinationals, who will control an estimated 80% of all production in the capitalist world by 1985.

These 'monopoly capitalists', have built their position on cheap energy, cheap materials and cheap labour, supported by the diplomatic and military power of the imperialist states.

The major ecological problem identified by the report is the very rapid decline in the world's forests. Currently, approximately 1/5 of the world's land surface is covered by forests; but at the present rate of deforestation—an area half the size of California per year—the forests are likely to be reduced to one sixth of the world's surface by 2000.

Deforestation on this

scale will lead to many major problems. Firstly, the people of the less developed countries depend heavily on wood for heating and cooking what food they can get. Collecting wood fuel is a full time occupation for some.

In other parts, eg. the Ganges plain of India, wood shortages force the poor to burn animal dung and crop wastes, otherwise used for land fertilisation, with disastrous effects on the productivity and health of their arable land.

Secondly, deforestation will also lead to "extensive erosion and will destabilise waterflows, adversely affecting the agriculture on which a quarter of the world's total human population depends."

In the tropical zones of Africa and Latin America, deforestation will lead, in many cases, to the loss of nutrients, and to reduction of the soil quality, essential for the recovery of the forests. Desert encroachment can be anticipated in parts of nearly every continent." Again the inferences are crystal clear. The longer the world economy is based on capitalism, the greater is the danger of a total ecological collapse. The sooner production-for-profit is replaced by production-for-need, the better are the chances of human survival.

In a planned socialist economy it would be possible to achieve an harmonic relationship between human society and nature. In *Capital*, Marx warned that capitalist production "disturbs the circulation of matter between man and soil and prevents the return to the soil of its elements."

The Global 2000 study's energy projections for the year 2000 do not indicate an early relief from the world's energy problems. The report outlines the fact that world petroleum production will peak before 2000 and that a world transition away from petroleum dependence must take place, emphasising the confusion in which the capitalist investors find themselves in with regard to future energy directions.

It is suggested in the report that higher oil prices will encourage the adoption of alternative fuels and technologies.

However, the energy situation presents yet another impending crisis for capitalism since the apparently safe alternatives, provided by a thousand years of reserves of coal and the projected nuclear power programme, are now seen as increasingly dangerous future energy options.

Despite recent advances

in reducing air pollution in many industrialised countries, air quality is likely to worsen as increasing amounts of fossil fuels (especially coal) are burned.

The nuclear power programme also presents insurmountable difficulties, with the risk of radioactive contamination of the environment, due to nuclear power accidents, increasing in likelihood with the increased use of nuclear power. The massive problems, as yet unsolved, associated with radioactive wastes are amply indicated by the fact that some of the by-products of reactors have half-lives 5 times as long as the period of recorded history!

Faced with these alarming and potentially disastrous problems with the future development of world energy availability, one has to conclude that massive investment, at a hitherto unprecedented scale, in alternative energy technologies (including solar, geothermal, wind, tide and water powered technologies) is necessary.

Such massive investments cannot be provided by the meagre piecemeal contributions of private investors, but require the facilities of state investment through the nationalisation of the necessary industrial and monetary resources and processes conducive to technological progress in these alternative technologies.

Due to the growth of population, shortages of water will be more frequent and severe than today; moreover, deforestation will destabilize water flows, while irrigation and the use of pesticides and fertilizers will contaminate fresh water.

The report sees the possibility that these conditions may even lead to outbreaks of war. "The world will be more vulnerable to the disruptive effects of war. The tensions that could lead to war will have multiplied. The potential for conflict over fresh water alone is underscored by the fact that out of 200 of the world's major river basins, 148 are shared by two countries and 52 are shared by 3 to 10 countries. Long standing conflicts over shared rivers such as the Plata (Brazil, Argentina), Euphrates (Syria, Iraq) or Ganges (Bangladesh, India) could easily intensify."

What are the conclusions workers can draw from this?

From the standpoint of capitalism, the Global 2000 report shows horrors without end, a catalogue of disasters and catastrophes. But for the mass of the population of the underdeveloped countries the nightmares already exist.

Even in the period of the 1950s and 1960s, a period of boom for the main capitalist countries, there was an inexorable and agonising squeeze on the living standards of the world's hundreds of millions of poor. Today hundreds of millions linger on the brink of starvation; hundreds of millions more are condemned to illiteracy, disease and early death.

What for the West has been a period of relative 'stability' and 'harmony' has been one of uninterrupted social distress in the Third World, punctuated by wars, social upheavals and revolutions.

The authors of the Global 2000 report have looked into the future and seen—from their own class standpoint—what Marxists have also anticipated: that the increasing economic and social crisis in the underdeveloped world will lead to even greater upheavals in the future. The instability of the past three decades will be as nothing as the generalised crisis of the capitalist world makes itself felt in the weakest countries in the chain of capitalism—in other worlds in the least developed countries.

Revolutionary explosions in the colonial and ex-colonial world will be inevitable as the hundreds of millions of workers and peasants seek a way out of the impasse of capitalist and landlord social relations. The established order will be challenged time and time again. But in addition, to challenging the basis of capitalism in the Third World, these social explosions will undermine social stability in the main metropolitan countries of capitalism.

The authors of the report bleat about the dire necessity of "the nations of the world" to take "bold and imaginative steps", but this merely begs the question. Marxists see all these questions from a class standpoint. It is not a matter of the better or more efficient application of science, or biology or agronomy, but a question of social relations, of class relations.

What obstructs the rational development and use of resources is, on the one hand, the private ownership of the means of production, and that particularly means in the underdeveloped world, the ownership and use of land. On the other hand, development is also held up by the straight-jacket of the separate national interests of capitalist classes and the Stalinist bureaucracies.

Global 2000 presents a perfectly accurate perspective for human development on the basis of capitalism and landlordism. But that means that there is also another perspective: for the socialist transformation of society.

The fight for socialism is clearly the only possible fight for humanity in general.

Every eighteen months, a million million pounds are spent on arms around the world. If these resources were used for the benefit of society and if, in addition, the world's resources were properly planned and utilised for social use, then what is looming as a nightmare for capitalism can become its opposite. Global 2000 can become the beginning of a dream: of a society that for the first time allows humanity to raise itself to its full height.

E OF CAPITALISM

BOOK REVIEW
by Peter Davies
'ISLAND IN CHAINS'

By Prisoner 885/63
Indes Naidoo

This book graphically outlines the reality of apartheid repression in South Africa.

In 1963 Indes Naidoo, a member of the African National Congress, was sentenced to ten years in prison, which he served on Robben Island, the notorious prison island just off the coast of South Africa. The book describes the conditions he and other political prisoners faced there.

For example, one prisoner, for protesting against the harsh prison work, was buried up to his neck in the ground, and left for hours in the baking hot sun.

The authorities organised continual assaults, beatings and torture on prisoners. One warder, Head Warder Delpont, is described as follows:

'He was a total terrorist who never lost a chance to beat us; he took pleasure in hearing prisoners scream...'

Much of the book explains how the prisoners organised together to fight for better conditions. Aware of the vital need to keep in touch with world affairs, they risked solitary confinement to get hold of newspaper, to relay the news to their fellow prisoners.

Their first major act of collective defiance was a hunger strike. After six days, the authorities agreed to meet a committee elected by the prisoners; and some concessions were given.

Naidoo comments: 'How permanent would be the gains, we did not know. But whatever the authorities did to us, they could never take away your sense of victory or our sense of power.'

Following this strike, and international pressures on the South African government, more concessions were granted, allowing the prisoners to organise recreation and education classes. But it was necessary to organise two further strikes during Naidoo's time on the island, to continue the battle for better conditions.

On his way back from the island, just before his release, he met two prisoners from the Black Consciousness movement just starting their sentences. He told them that there is only one way to get through, and that is to remember each and every day that they are political prisoners fighting for a just cause; that they must always stand together and never lose sight of their goal. This is the message of the book.

The book does not go into the wider issues of the struggle to overthrow apartheid and capitalism in South Africa. Nevertheless, it is a clear indictment of the South African regime and provides valuable information for trade unionists in arguing the case for solidarity with our South African fellow workers.

MAY DAY

around the world



Violent scenes on May Day demonstrations throughout the world reflected the crisis of the capitalist as well as the Stalinist countries, and the tense and angry mood of workers around the world.

Perhaps the biggest protests took place in Poland, where demonstrators numbered 50,000 in Warsaw, and a similar number in Gdansk.

Jaruzelski's military regime were clearly worried by a possible explosion of anger from the workers on this international workers day. 1,000 political prisoners were released, and the curfew was lifted temporarily in an attempt to pacify the protesters.

Many demonstrators openly displayed 'Solidarity' badges as they marched in defiance of martial law. But the 'concession' are only temporary and superficial, and there will undoubtedly be a further clampdown on workers' leaders.

Two young demonstrators were killed and 80 injured in Oporto, Portugal, when police dispersed the crowds with rifle fire and batons. The Communist controlled Portuguese General Confederation of Labour (CGTP) has called a general strike in protest. In Spain, 6 were taken to hospital as police tried to stop the workers' parades.

Football thugs in Frankfurt, chanting "Sieg Heil" and other fascist slogans,

By Suri
Krishnamma
(Erith & Crayford LPYS)

attacked an otherwise peaceful march of West German workers, leaving 138 injured.

Throughout Japan, demonstrators totalling 1 million took to the streets calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and in Dublin there was a march of 5,000 along with other smaller demonstrations throughout Ireland.

Rally in Zimbabwe

A rally was also held in Harare, Zimbabwe, only to hear Prime Minister Mugabe call for patience and discipline from the workers.

In the United States there were nearly 80 arrests, 42 in Atlanta and 36 in Los Angeles where the demonstration was officially banned.

The bosses' press, as always, has played down



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY: A delegation of Japanese local authority workers on the May Day march in London

these protests, and labour leaders internationally have made no real effort to organise effective and united action against the common problems of unemployment, cuts and mounting attacks on living

conditions and trade union rights in country after country. Yet workers have shown that they will not be beaten into submission.

Be it in the face of military repression in Poland, or mass unemploy-

ment in the west, the workers will continue to fight back. There can be no halt in the struggle for the socialist transformation of the world.

French labour on the march

The May Day march through Paris was an impressive display.

In leaflets and in spoken word the militants of the French working class declared their solidarity with the workers of the world. Strikers from Renault (Flins) and Citroen (Aulnay) took advantage of the occasion to reconfirm their determination to win their demands.

But for all the red banners, the chanting, the defiant slogans, May Day 1982 finds the French labour movement at a low ebb. It is almost exactly a year since Mitterand's momentous presidential victory; yet none of the basic problems facing the French workers have even begun to be solved.

Unemployment is higher now than on that great day of 10 May 1981. In the first three months of this year, prices rose by 14.5%—more than in the whole of last year. A year of disappointed hopes accounts for the low turnout of 70,000 demonstrators.

Matters were not helped by the refusal of the second biggest trade union organisation, the CFDT, to march together with the other labour organisations.

Many CFDT militants went along to the other demonstration anyway,

From Marcel
Coupeau
in Paris

leaving the CFDT entertaining a very thin crowd of five hundred people in the Place de la Bastille with balladeers and disco music. No march was held by the CFDT.

The split in the labour movement is ostensibly over the issue of Poland. The leadership of the CFDT, which is more inclined than the CGT to co-operate with the increasing 'moderation' of the Socialist-Communist government, is trying to gain support at the latter's expense on the issue of Poland.

This will not succeed. The Polish question will not take attention away from the issues of jobs, hours and wages in France. These problems are too pressing.

This is especially so since the CFDT itself has not taken the question of Poland seriously. The leadership only demands 'Self-determination for Poland', whatever that may mean.

The slogans offered by the CGT leadership, and the Socialist and Com-

unist Parties who marched together with the CGT, were equally void of any real content: 'For liberty', 'For human rights', 'for the well-being of all', etc. This was the main weakness of the day, and of the leadership offered to the move-

ment in general. The absence of a fighting socialist lead was responsible for another striking feature of May Day in Paris—political sects, hundreds of them, on the march. Soon enough the move-

ment will overcome its present experience of the Socialists and Communists in power. This will prove a great school for the French working class. They will repair the weakness at the top, and finally sweep away the profit system forever.

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1918 LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Three cheers for Trotsky

The 1918 Labour Party Conference is famous for the adoption of Clause 4 part 4—socialism—as its objective.

Reference is often made to Clause 4 as evidence of the great effect the Russian Revolution led by the Bolsheviks had in Britain.

What is not publicised so much is that the 1918 Labour Party Conference was attended by a Bolshevik, Maxim Litvinov, who addressed a meeting of the delegates on the eve of the conference.

With the help of the Labour Party Library and the British Museum we have found evidence of the great effect the Russian Revolution and the Bolsheviks had on Labour. Litvinov (the equivalent of an Ambassador in Britain) wrote an article in *The Herald* (Labour's newspaper) on the Saturday before the conference:

"The Russian Revolution, with its dash and vigour, has become the focus of the hatred of international capitalism, and now the prolongation of the war, in addition to its former imperialistic aims, has another aim—to crush the Soviets and the Revolution. And so the Russian workers are not only fighting their own battles, they are fighting your battles too, and they will succumb, they must succumb, unless the workers in other countries come speedily to their help..."

"...Workers of Britain—peace is in the balance! The Russian workers appeal to you to join them in their efforts to turn the scale. Labour—speak! Join us in our fight for Labour's solidarity! Workers of Europe unite!

Bolsheviks writing in the party press? Something the right wing would obviously prefer to forget in these days of attacks on 'Marxist infiltrators'.

Unfortunately for the right wing the delegates at Party conference seemed to regard Litvinov's message

By Mike Waddington

as being very relevant to their situation. Litvinov addressed a meeting of delegates on the Tuesday night before conference opened on Wednesday. The ILP newspaper, *Labour Leader*, (24 January 1918), takes up the story.

"...It was at the evening meeting, when the delegates assembled in the Albert Hall to welcome the foreign delegates, that the first clear indications were given of the rising spirit of the British labour movement. It is hard to write soberly in description of its enthusiasm...The *Red Flag* opened the meeting, and the cheers were called for the Russian Revolution and for the International, and were given with enthusiasm. When a delegate shouted 'Cheers for Peace!' the hall rang with the response.

"When the foreign representatives filed onto the platform with some of the official of the Labour Party a cry from the audience, 'Cheers for MacDonald!' evoked a spirited outburst, and was followed by cheers for Trotsky..."

Revolution

"M Litvinov followed (Huysmans), and the delegates rose from their seats in the unbounded enthusiasm of the greeting.

M Litvinov introduced himself as: 'a refugee who now stands before you in the unusual role of a representative of his government. We have no longer to protest against the friendship of your government with the government of the Tsar...'

Briefly sketching the history of the Russian Revolution and of the rise to power of the Bolsheviks (which he said was "an object lesson to the weak-kneed moderate socialists")



The Labour Leader, January 24, 1918

M Litvinov remarked, "how ridiculous it was to hear from the lips of responsible statesmen in this country that the Russian people rose to carry on the war successfully! It was a first class lie..." This pronouncement was received with a hurricane of cheers!

(Litvinov continued) "principles which mean the death of Imperialism have been asserted in such a way as to shatter the effect of the whole capitalist war. If the negotiations do not end in peace, a revolution in Germany—and, perhaps, let me add, somewhere else—" at this point M Litvinov was interrupted by vociferous cheering, indicating that the delegates gathered the full significance of his

remark—"may come within range of immediate possibility."

In his final appeal he said; "The Russian workers are fighting an unequal fight against the Imperialists of all the world for democratic principles honestly applied. They have begun proceeding for a general peace, but it is obvious they cannot finish it alone, I would say to the representatives of British labour, 'speed up your peace'". (*Labour Leader* 24 January 1918).

The ovations for the Bolshevik contrasted starkly with the reception for the leader of the Second International, Vandervelde, "There was a silence that could be felt at many parts of his speech." There can

The right wing of the Labour Party today attempt to denounce the ideas of Marxism as something 'alien' to the movement. But a look at Labour's history shows the reverse

be no doubt that the Bolsheviks and the Russian Revolution were received by British labour with great enthusiasm—despite again what the right wing would wish the history of Labour to be.

It is our job to uncover these forgotten pages from

Labour's past to remind the party and trade unions of the influence of Marxism on the movement and we can be confident cheers will again be heard for Trotsky when Marxism is adopted as the programme of the labour movement.

PRESS VENOM: 1918 style

All socialists know the way the capitalist owned press in this country is used to discredit the labour movement.

Whether it is the Labour Party standing in elections or a trade union in dispute, no holds are barred by the Tory press in pouring out scorn, abuse and distortions. So you can imagine the unprecedented heights of hysteria reached by the Tory press at the time of the Russian Revolution.

An insight into this period can be found in Andrew Rothstein's book, *The Soldiers Strikes of 1919*. Although mainly dealing with the wave of strikes and mutinies in the British Army following the First World War, it shows how British capitalism tried unsuccessfully to build support for a military intervention to put down the Russian Revolution.

British capitalism understood the consequences for this country should the socialist revolution in Russia be successful; as Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, stated with trepidation, "Here we had a great inflammable industrial population." Rothstein writes; "The government did its utmost

to mobilise the press on its side through the 'usual channels'...The press supporting the government responded loyally not only by continuing to print a mass of horror stories about the Soviet regime but also by taking up in its leading articles the new theme on which Ministers had decided..."

Leading politicians, Liberals and Tories alike, gave the press plenty to get their teeth into. Sir Henry Wilson in 1918 declared; "Our real danger now is not the Boche, but Bolshevism." The then Liberal, Winston Churchill, told an election meeting in Dundee, "The Bolsheviks hop and caper like troops of ferocious baboons amid the ruins of cities and the corpses of their victims."

These outbursts were music to the ears of the Tory press and they followed suit: "...hordes of savages are descending upon civilisation; the scourge of the Huns was not worse" screamed the *Western Morning News* (January 4, 1919), a typical example.

The 'free' press of Britain devoted thousands of column inches distorting the facts. A class appeal to the workers of the world not to aid their imperialist powers

in intervening in Russia by the new infant Soviets was described in the *Daily Telegraph* (January 1, 1919); "It makes no secret of its desire to infect as much of civilisation as it can reach with its own venom".

Outright lies were told about the intervention of the British Army coming to the aid of the White Army against the Bolsheviks. The *Tory Morning Post* (21 December 1918)—"we must face the fact fairly and frankly that we are at war with the Bolshevik government of Russia. That government has murdered British officers and cruelly ill-treated and imprisoned British subjects". This was untrue—there were no British casualties until the invasion into Russia, yet British forces at Murmansk had aided the White army in killing and torturing Bolshevik workers.

Distortion and lies were not only the property of the Tories. The Liberal supporting paper, the *Daily Chronicle* (January 2, 1919) told how the 'Bolshevik menace...aims at overrunning and disintegrating the liberated peoples (of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) before they have got on their feet." What was actually happening at

that time was that soviet governments were set up in these countries but were being attacked by the forces of imperialism—Polish and German forces were invading Lithuania, German forces with the aid of a British Cruiser squadron were attacking Latvia, and the same British ships were aiding the attack by Finland on Estonia!

Whole issues of *Militant* could be filled with the horror stories the Tory press churned out—they even claimed the Bolsheviks had 'nationalised women'! But for all their efforts, they failed. There was no support amongst British workers for such a war—not only because of war weariness after four years of horrific imperialist war in which millions of young workers were butchered but because of a wide basis of support amongst the labour movement for the ideas of the Russian Revolution.

In the same way, despite all the attacks of the Tory press today, they cannot arrest the growing re-birth of socialist ideas within the labour movement, as it marches towards the socialist transformation of society.

By Bob Wade



Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

NOLS

Dear Militant,

I was amazed to read the comments of comrade Clive Heemskerck in the issue of April 30th. Comrade Heemskerck, being one of the NOLS National Committee members during the year, has witnessed the biggest growth NOLS has ever seen. Labour students up and down the country have been the ones leading the cuts campaigns, with demonstrations, pickets and occupations. Students have responded to this by returning Labour student union executives up and down the country, with NOLS winning an overwhelming victory for our politics within the National Union of Students.

We have consistently fought for socialist ideals, and we are winning our arguments. This year's NOLS conference gave its reply by supporting the motion on NUS that I moved by a majority of 102 to 69—a far bigger majority than most votes, and indeed voted me in as NUS officer with 97 votes to the 58 of the *Militant* candidate. There is no doubt that this will be a growth year for Labour Students, and any comrades wishing to get involved should contact me via NOLS at the Labour Party headquarters. NOLS is a fighting organisation and in the next year will become more so.

Yours fraternally,
John Mann,
NOLS
National Committee

Students demonstrate for a living grant at Hyde Park on March 5 Photo: MILITANT

Clive Heemskerck replies; As my article on 30th April clearly states, *Militant* supporters welcome the victory of the NOLS candidates in the NUS elections. We have every reason to. It was *Militant* supporters at the 1979 NOLS conference who moved the motion, opposed by the NOLS leaders, which committed NOLS to stand independently in NUS.

But the victory of the NOLS candidates occurred despite the NOLS leaders. John Mann states that "Labour students...have been the ones leading the cuts campaigns". At a local level that is largely correct. In many cases Labour Clubs have been to the fore of local campaigns, in the face of the Tories, Liberals, and SDP students. But what lead has come from the NOLS leaders?

At the September 1981 National Committee meeting the NOLS leaders proposed a motion stating: "NOLS should attempt to prevent this move (ie the SDP joining with the Liberals in the 'Left Alliance'). In particular, we should...attempt to initiate joint work around...anti-cuts work...and other areas where our policy is substantially similar."!

While Labour students at a local level fight to defend the fortress, the NOLS leaders open the gates to the enemy! In the NUS elections, the major NOLS leaflet urged support for a 'Left Alliance' candidate against a Labour Party member, Sarah Veale. [This was one NOLS backed can-



didate who lost!) It boasted about the fact that NOLS was standing just 7 candidates for 19 positions.

Such facts entirely justify the contention in my article that the "NOLS leaders seem to look with trepidation at the prospect of leading NUS...facing...attacks by the Tories and in response, thousands of angry students demanding action..."

Militant supporters would be prepared to work unstintingly to support the NOLS leaders were they to stand for a NOLS majority on next year's NUS Executive. If only they had enough confidence in their policies to be prepared to stand!

Students will move into the Labour Clubs looking for an answer to their problems. This will arrest the decline of NOLS which has seen the number of delegates attending NOLS Conference fall from 201 in 1979 to 179 in 1982, with 22 Labour Clubs out of the 91 affiliated to NOLS last year, failing to re-affiliate by the February 1982 deadline.

When this occurs *Militant* supporters will be on hand with the confidence to fight for socialist policies—free from the Liberals, SDP, "Communist" Party and other "progressives" of the 'Left Alliance'!

Yours fraternally
Clive Heemskerck

Management try to stop health workers' action

Dear Comrades

On 26 April the Confederation of Health Service Employees held a demonstration outside the main gates of St Helens Hospital, Hastings. The demo was part of the national campaign against the divisive and insulting pay offer of 4-6% of the Tory government.

St Helens Hospital is a 400 bed acute medical, surgical, geriatric and paediatric hospital serving Hastings, Rye and Bexhill area.

The action was to be a walk-out for an hour by all COHSE members not directly involved in emergency care of their patients. This action in no way would have been detrimental to the care of the patients. However, the management in a concerted effort to foil the action took the following steps: held a Sisters' meeting to which senior ward staff had to go (at the same time as the hour's stoppage); changed off-duty so that wards were only covered by a skeleton staff anyway; threatened staff with a docking of two hours' pay if they attended.

When a worker 'got on his bike'.

Dear Comrades

A mate of mine and his wife have been unemployed for two years. They have a young baby and they live in a very small community in mid-Wales (they originally moved there to find work). They have often come to stay with us in London while the husband looked for work.

The cost of the return journey from Wales, using his old banger, was about £25. They slept on the floor in our front room, most times for eight days at a stretch. The husband would then return to Wales to sign on and collect his giro, which was £80 a fortnight. He would then come back to London once more and look for work.

He applied for 150 jobs and got one reply for an interview, but because his banger broke down and he had no money for a bus and train journey, he never made it.

The strain began to tell in our household with four adults and three children living in such a confined space plus the fact that we were always skint.

Last week he had an interview for a job and was due to start work on the Tuesday. As soon as he knew of the interview he rang the unemployment office in Wales explaining that as he would probably be starting work soon, was it possible to sign on the dole in London thus saving £25 on the journey to Wales. "Of course you can, but you will still have to return to your house in Wales to pick up your giro as it is not possible to send it to your new temporary address and

In the event 26 members, mostly off duty, attended the demo and told a disbelieving press their actual present wage. Many nurses do not like the word 'strike' but if frequent stoppages such as this that do no harm to patients are carried on we may achieve something.

However, because this government is pledged to a destruction of the health service and to forcing all health care for the working class into a Dickensian-type workhouse, the only way for a fair and just health service is for the next Labour government to have a clear programme to revitalise the NHS and provide free health for all.

Further, they must close down all private health centres and expropriate the vast amounts of capital in private health insurance schemes and build new hospitals, employ more primary health care workers (to prevent illness), buy more kidney machines and heart bypass machines. The fundamental thing that Labour must do is to provide health care to those that need it not just those who can afford it.

Yours fraternally
Simon F Tyler
State Enrolled Nurse
COHSE, Steward
Secretary
Hastings LPYS

in any case you would have to come back to cash it." He blew up but did not give up!

He went to the unemployment office in Uxbridge to arrange to sign on and having waited for two and a half hours was told that he would have to go back to Wales if he wanted to sign on or off and "Anyway, what are you doing in Uxbridge? If you are drawing your money from an office in Wales, you should be available for work in Wales." He bit his tongue and walked out.

The following day we went on a paper sale in Uxbridge. We met the other comrades and we sold 18 'Militants'. My mate sold his first copy and I believe he was more overjoyed at that accomplishment than the fact that he had at last got a job! He has been waiting for a council exchange to London for two years now but Tory controlled Hillingdon refused to join the mobility scheme. So for the time being he will have to pay the rent on the house in Wales and commute there and back every other weekend to do the shopping for his wife and child (nearest shops ten miles). His car tax runs out this week.

To Thatcher and her mob of incompetents from my mate and his wife—thank you for all the pain and suffering and for splitting the family! And to all those so-called 'socialists' who have no faith in the capacity of our class to struggle against all the odds to win democratic control of the wealth we produce, we say—try fighting with your fellow workers for a change!

Yours fraternally
Wally Kennedy
TGWU 854
Branch Secretary
Personal capacity

Bonapartism old and new

Dear comrades,

General Galtieri "is a soldier's soldier, a man who jokes, swears and drinks with the best" according to *The Times* (16/4/82). The man who was responsible for the 'disappearance' of 20,000 workers, "courts popularity". "On February 12, for example, he invited 1,500 government officials to the small town of Victoria in La Pampa province, in central Argentina, to celebrate its centenary. He also invited 10,000 townsfolk, who happily consumed 11,000 quarts of wine, 2,500 sausages, 6,000 rounds of bread and several hundred boxes of tomatoes." It was a populist gesture, even though he made them pay for it and he ensured that the affair was dutifully reported by the Argentine press.

He is following the example of an earlier military-police dictator, Louis Napoleon Bonaparte. The nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte I, he became Emperor of France in 1852.

Karl Marx described how he built his support in the army; "To begin with, he treats officers and non-commissioned officers in his Elysée apartments to cigars and champagne, to

cold poultry and garlic sausage. On October 3 (1851) he repeats this manoeuvre on a still larger scale at the Satory army parade...on October 10 a section of the cavalry raised the shout: "Vive Napoléon! Vivent les saucissons!"—Long live Napoleon! Long live the sausages! (The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte, p 65).

Unfortunately for Galtieri, the Argentine working class is much stronger than the French working class of 1852. It will take more than sausages to head off revolutionary movements in the 1980s.

Yours fraternally,
John Dale

How the bosses are sinking the merchant fleet

Dear Comrades

As a serving officer in the British Merchant Navy I would like to say how lucky it is for the 'Thatcher' regime that the Falklands crisis should happen at present.

Had the Argentine Junta held back a little longer the Carriers Hermes and Invincible would have been out of service and sold respectively; I wonder if the big

drums of national pride would have beat so loudly with no task force in existence? Or would the government re-site their nuclear weapons and threaten their use?

The Falklands crisis highlights that this government is bankrupting the nation for a nuclear deterrent, or defence which defends no one but threatens the destruction of us all.

Thatcher and her brass heads must be crowing now that attention has been diverted from their equally destructive economic policy, but to most seamen the hotch-potch of a Task Force highlights one frightening fact, and that is that the British merchant fleet is now in rapid decline.

Had the Argentines delayed their aggression for a year or two I'm sure that we would have had to use ships flying flags of convenience to carry troops and provisions! The reason is that the British ship owners have allowed the British merchant fleet to be run down to a fraction of what it was only a few years ago.

There has been massive unemployment throughout the industry both for Ratings and officers, and if the decline continues, very soon there'll be no British Merchant Navy.

The ship owners have sold and scrapped their ships and re-invested their

money in foreign flag ships, with overseas cheap labour. At the same time there are companies who although investing in new ships (Crescebt Shipping for example) are manning them with greatly reduced and non-union crews.

There is no future for British seamen under this government and they should not under any circumstance assist Thatcherism and its imperialistic aims or the Falkland problem.

The next Labour government should nationalise the shipping industry as a matter of urgency, otherwise a major national asset will be lost to this country.

Yours fraternally
Cyril Thornton
Blackburn CLP

Programme apology

Dear Sir,

I should like to apologise for a misprint in our programme notes about Julian Silverman, the musical director of our production currently showing at Theatre Space. We incorrectly stated that he was musical editor of *Militant* when in fact he is musical editor of *City Limits*.

Yours sincerely,
Angelique Rockas,
for New International Theatre

BUILD MILITANT!

Last week we celebrated the 600th issue of the 'Militant'. In our first edition, published for October 1964, we launched a Fighting Fund with a target of £500. Within six months we had begun to rent a tiny office and had raised £97.1s.9d for the fund.

At the end of 'Militant's' first year it had raised £150 and a national raffle was launched for a book worth 4 guineas!

By 1971 the efforts and sacrifices of readers up and down the country had enabled us to move into "our own" premises, acquire a press and other equipment and produce a fortnightly paper and completely under our own steam! But the demands of the 'Heath era' on the resources of a Marxist paper were enormous. The £1,000 we aimed to reach for 1971's Fighting Fund then gave us the capacity to produce a weekly...and so the story of 'Militant's' rapid growth went on.

Compare those early days with the situation today! In the first quarter of this year we raised £32,397 for 'Militant's' Fund, enabling us to go ahead with new typesetting equipment. The latest national raffle is for prizes worth £700! We are now use a printing press that is capable of running off a daily paper!

But how do we get the additional staff and larger premises needed for a more frequent newspaper?

There is no new formula! In 1982 as in 1964 a workers' paper has to appeal to workers; it has to rely on pennies and pounds from vast numbers of supporters.

We welcome the 10ps regularly donated to our paper by the unemployed as the fivers from our supporters in work. They serve notices on our enemies to pack their bags—the Tories, the bosses and the friends in the media and the right of the Labour Party. So the tenners promised this week by two unemployed readers in the Isle of Wight should scare the pants off them! 60p collected by Totten Sixth Form College to fight Thatcher should be an omen to them as well.

No less than £25 in small donations was collected in Portsmouth on the local May Day march and outside the dole office last week! The potential is there; you only have to ask!

The best example last week was set by 'Militant' supporters at the Welsh TUC. They gave large donations from their expenses and asked fellow delegates to do the same. Result? The very grand sum of £262!

Special thanks to A Thraves £72, M T Davies £50, L Evans and K Edwards £30 each, K Walsh £15, E Burges £10 and ACT Hames £5. We are looking to 'Militant' supporters at every union conference to follow their example, but especially the CPSA members meeting this week. S Atkins of Southampton donated £20 from ASTMS conference expenses.

Other trade union donations included £6 from the GMWU Race Relations one-day conference, £3 from Manchester (Blackley) TGWU and £4 from London POEU supporters. CPSA members in Glasgow

By Clare Doyle

gave a total of £6.51, some of them just 30ps, but they all add up! Hundreds more trade unionists must be appealed to each week to help build 'Militant'!

The record of the 'Militant' in championing the fight of youth for socialism over 18 years is second to none. Every Labour Party Young Socialist should be asked to show their appreciation—by contributing to our funds. This week's examples: East Kilbride YS sent £25.78 raised through a disco, Hull West sent £10, Edgbaston and Dunfermline £5 each.

Members of Newcastle West LPYS gave 49p one week and 82p the next, Blackley £1.60, Slough £1.04, Chester 70p and Littlehampton Young Socialists were amongst those who contributed to the £20.50 arriving from that area—"collected after meetings". Why not adopt the same habit in your YS?

Special thanks this week to: C Goldie (Sheffield) for £40, R Crawford (Walthamstow) for £20, A Rosser (Poole) £25, S Nalley and M Lindsey (Lambeth) £12 each, K Smith (NUPE Hull) £10, B Fee (EETPU Hull) £8, S J Chandler (Southampton) £6, E and M Dinsdale (Camberley) £7, and H Kerr (Fallin LPYS) £5. Special mention also for Abby and Joe Wardleworth (aged 6 and 8) who gave 94p from their pocket money.

From strength to strength

Others who have contributed amounts from £1-£4 included: P Greenfield and L Tice (Hull), G Butler, A Graham, S Harrington and M Smith from around Southampton; M Waldron (GrobbyNUAAW), D Turner (Gillingham) and B Snodland (Tonbridge); M Dobson (Grimsby TGWU); J Oliver (Doncaster); C Smith (W Bridgeford LPYS); E Small (Ebbw Vale); K McMillan and unemployed D McCulloch of E Kilbride; D Clarke and S Wilson of Dunfermline (LPYS and COHSE); M Jackson, M Daley and T Corral of Leicester; 'A Wallsend supporter' and Dieter Janssen from Mannheim, West Germany.

Many thanks to these and all those who have contributed this week. The £1,551 total is ten times that raised in the first YEAR of 'Militant's' existence! And, as always, it comes from a wide variety of sources—Readers' meetings, collections during May Day activities—marches, socials, "lunches", stalls, and selling badges and stickers.

Help us to get back on target by more than doubling our weekly income! Help carry on the fighting tradition of the 'Militant', defeat the witch-hunt and see 'Militant' go from strength to strength.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	342		2115
East Midlands	275		1765
Hants & Dorset	263		1250
Humberside	200		1075
London East	340		1960
London West	156		1060
London South	246		1415
Manchester & Lancs	124		2020
Merseyside	296		2290
Northern	324		2760
Scotland East	167		1345
Scotland West	320		2375
Southern	547		1760
South West	55		885
Wales East	105		945
Wales West	238		1355
West Midlands	289		2120
Yorkshire	264		2505
Others	416		4000
Total received	4967		35000

CONSISTENCY GETS RESULTS

MILITANT SUMMER RAFFLE

Over £700 worth of prizes to be won
Tickets (10p) available from local 'Militant' seller over next week.

**THIS WEEK:
£1551**

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

ads

MILITANT MEETINGS

GOSPORT: 'The Falklands Crisis—the socialist answer'. Wednesday 19 May, 7.30 pm, Gosport Labour Rooms, 145 Brockhurst. Speaker: Alison Hill, Gosport CLP

TOBACCO WORKERS UNION CONFERENCE: 'What does Militant stand for?' Chair: Chris Williams (Executive, Tobacco Workers, personal capacity). Speaker: Lesley Holt (Kirkdale CLP). On Thursday 13 May, 7.30 pm, at the Secular Hall, Humberstone Gate, Leicester Town Centre.

COVENTRY Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Falklands War, what now?' Speaker: Jim Hensman (Press Officer, Coventry South East Labour Party). Thursday 20 May, 7.30 pm, Hare and Squirrel, New Union Street.

CLASSIFIED

Finance workers' Broad Left AGM, Saturday 15 May, 11.00 pm, County Hall, London. All BIFU members welcome.

May Day Rugby Result:
West Wales LPYS—4pts;
East Wales LPYS—52 pts.

NORTHUMBERLAND:

Wed 26 May, 7.30 pm, 'The Communist Manifesto and its relevance to today's struggle', at Blyth YMCA.
Wed 30 June, 7.30 pm, 'Southern Ireland today', at Blyth YMCA.
For further information contact P D Marsden, 94 Disraeli Street, Blyth.

STOCKPORT: 'Which Way Forward for Labour?' Speaker: Phil Frampton. 7.30 pm, Tuesday 18 May, 'The Brookfield', Wellington Road, Stockport

SHEFFIELD Militant Public Meeting: Falklands crisis: The Socialist Answer. Speaker: Gordon Nardell—Leeds LPYS. Friday 14 May, 7.30pm. At: Station Hotel, The Wicker, Sheffield.

KENT'S 3rd MILITANT WEEKEND SCHOOL

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, 5 and 6 JUNE

"Excellent accommodation meant I could concentrate fully on the discussions—great value" was how one visitor summed up last year's event.

The combination of a first-class hotel plus lively debates makes this weekend by the sea an ideal chance for those who want a pleasant break. (This is especially true for families.) This year with three varied subjects we believe that with £7.50 (same as last year) covering all costs we are giving tremendous value.

Programme:

Saturday 2.00-4.00 speaker from South African Labour Education Project and discussion on South Africa
Saturday evening: beach party
Sunday, 10.00 am-12.30 pm: Margaret Crear 'The role of women in the labour & TU movement'
2.00-4.30 pm: Poplarism—Eric Segal (Folkestone CLP) (George Lansbury and the Councilors' Revolt)

Cost:

Bed, breakfast and evening meal + 3 sessions only £7.50 (unwaged £6.50, nominal charge for young children).

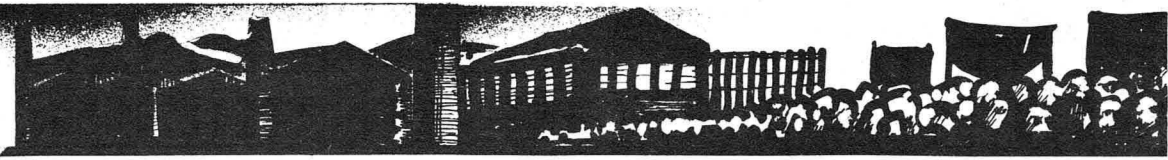
Creche organised, please specify age, numbers etc.

Cheques/POs made payable to:

B Lewis, at conference address: Selby Hotel, 7 Union Crescent, Margate. 0843-24309

**Harlow
Militant Supporters
remember
Ian Burge
Tireless fighter
for socialism**

Industrial Reports



CPSA - Members determined to fight attacks

This year's CPSA conference showed the fighting mood of delegates with the decision to fight and campaign on new technology.

They were determined to fight the loss of jobs that new technology threatens for their members and rejected the interim new technology agreement.

Conference answered a challenge for a card vote by Alistair Graham, newly elected General Secretary of the CPSA with a massive majority against the deal.

This debate reflected the polarisation between the

By Brian Ingham

mood of pessimism of the union leadership and the mood of determination of activists to resist the Tory attacks on pay, manning levels, conditions and union rights.

Conference began with the NEC being severely censured by an overwhelming majority for the lack of action in the last pay campaign and decided that the 1983 pay campaign would be started by a special pay conference to draw up a claim and plan strategy.

This motion was moved



Delegates vote at CPSA annual conference for measures to protect their jobs and living standards. 200 delegates attended the CPSA conference Militant Readers' Meeting and donated £2,065 to the fighting fund. Photo: Militant.

by Kevin Roddy from Washington Child Benefit Centre, the Broad Left candidate for presidency of CPSA.

In all the major issues, large majorities have been obtained for left policies on pay, clerical restructuring and other issues.

At the time of writing, the election results in the CPSA are not known,

though rumours and counter rumours are rife. The delay in the results has caused a slightly subdued mood in some debates as delegates are unsure whether there would be continued right wing leadership which would once more ignore conference decisions.

A victory for the Broad Left in the NEC and

Presidential elections would bring new hope to delegates who have pointed out the lack of lead from the present NEC in debate after debate.

Even if victory is denied the Broad Left, the mood will be there to redouble efforts, to pressurise the NEC and national leadership to keep to union policies and fight for victory next year.

A struggle we must win

The decision of the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) to call for a one-day nationwide strike of health workers on 19 May will be a great step forward.

It will provide a much needed national focus in the struggle against the government's insult of a 4% pay offer, and will be the kind of united action to give the Tories the "short sharp shock" which they are so fond of prescribing for the working class!

The day of action will be the more effective the more workers it involves. A well planned one-day strike with

an efficient emergency cover should preferably hold several meetings so that all workers can attend, including pickets and emergency cover staff, with another meeting at the end of the 24 hours to vote to stop the action and inform management that victimisation will not be tolerated.

It should be made clear that unless the government concedes the 12% claim, further action will be taken. The call should also come across for a mass demonstration in support of the claim, calling for active help in the dispute from the labour movement as a whole.

By Sue Pearce

IPSWICH

Debbie Ward, Ipswich NUPE Health Branch Secretary, spoke to David Mitchell.

The militant mood of health workers is growing and a recent meeting of the health unions showed that workers have learned from previous workers struggles that in order to ensure victory they must unite.

They don't want to be made an example of like the civil servants were and be defeated and confidence lost. All the health service unions must unite and not be allowed to be divided.

Debbie Ward said: "If we are all together the bosses can have as many volunteers or scabs as they like—their's no way they'll get past us."

Auxiliaries are being offered 4% and trained nurses 6%—it's the old divide and rule of the Tories. There is to be a demonstration on 22 May through Ipswich with speakers from the labour

movement, with leaflets to consolidate public support.

OLDHAM

Over a thousand health workers took strike action in Oldham on 10 May with emergency-only cover, and hundreds of workers turned up for picketing.

They were sent to the town centre, and gave out over six thousand leaflets by eleven o'clock in the morning. Pickets managed to turn away all lorries with the exception of those carrying food and essential supplies.

Later in the day three pickets, one from ASTMS, one from NALGO, and one from NUPE, were arrested after a senior nurse, not belonging to any of the unions, drove through the picket line at high speed.

She then called the police from inside the hospital and the three pickets were taken away. The EETPU branch at the hospital have already settled their own pay claim but voted unanimously to

give a day's pay to the strike fund.

By Margaret Creear

COLCHESTER

Work-to-rule and walk-outs began in Colchester hospitals as low-paid staff took action in support of their claim for a 12% pay increase.

The action cuts across all departments, such as domestics, nurses, porters and occupational therapists, united in rejection of the ludicrous offer of a 4% increase.

Support our fight for higher wages for all low-paid workers throughout the NHS. March with us on 15 May. Assemble at Severalls Hospital at 1.30pm to march on Colchester Town Hall, via Turner Village, Essex Hall and Essex County hospitals.

By a nursing assistant at Essex Hall Hospital for the Mentally Handicapped

SOGAT Conference

Unity is strength. That was the clear feeling of members of the print union SOGAT when they voted recently for amalgamation with another major print union, NATSOPA.

Now that the ballot has given the go-ahead to produce the biggest union in the print industry, SOGAT members, meeting at their biennial delegate conference this weekend realise that trade unionists need unity now more than ever before.

Resolution 135 at the conference points out the need for one union in the industry to fight the jobs danger threatening all print workers.

Unemployment has now reached record level and further closures and job losses loom over us regularly.

New technology, which could be used to the benefit of the working class is more likely, under capitalism to be used for the benefit of the bosses' profits, at the cost of jobs.

Unfortunately Resolution 140 on new technology does not clearly point out how to fight to get the benefits for workers. A major campaign to ensure the introduction of a 35 hour week, as outlined in resolutions 118, 119, 120 and 121 which could be won by our strengthened union, would not only offset the effect of new technology but even create new jobs in the industry.

Resolution 177 on the Alternative Economic Stra-

tegy from the NEC contains a number of vital reforms that must be supported. However it fails to come to grips with the strategy of a future Labour government to plan the economy as it makes no mention of nationalisation.

Resolution 181 on the other hand clearly spells out how the next Labour government can tackle the mess that working people face by a commitment to 'socialist policies and an irreversible change in society in accordance with clause 4 of the Labour Party constitution' ie. by nationalising the commanding heights of the economy under workers' control and management.

By Brian Gilliland (Delegate SGD West, personal capacity)

Austin Packaging

Workers at Austin Packaging in Bromborough in Merseyside, have occupied their plant in a fight to save 300 jobs. Support for the occupation by members of SOGAT and the NGA is growing and morale is high.

Unilever, the multinational that owns Austin Packaging, made profits of £708.5 million in 1981. The Bromborough plant is one of the most efficient plants in the country.

SOGAT National Executive Council have already given the fight against redundancies official support, and instructed all its members to black all Unilever goods as part of their campaign.

As part of their campaign, the Austin workers

are calling for:

- 1) the fullest support for unions within or supplying Unilever
- 2) International links with all unions, which may be involved with transfer of Unilever work and the blacking of such work
- 3) The Labour Party to commit itself for the public ownership of organisations such as Unilever when they return to government.

Delegates to SOGAT Council must support the emergency proposition put forward by Austin Packaging workers.

Send messages of support to Geoff Barker, Joint Union Committee, Austin Packaging, 30 Donne Avenue, Bebington, Merseyside.

FBU

This year's conference of the Fire Brigades Union must rank as one of the most important in our history.

We have the responsibility to pass policies that will defend our members from Tory attacks on wages, jobs and trade union rights and safeguard our members and our fellow workers from the effects of cuts in public spending.

After our 1977 national strike, 1978 saw the introduction of the wage formula fixing firemen's wages relative to those of other workers. Last year for the first time the wage formula failed to keep up with inflation, and this year Tory plans for 7-8% deals, at a time of double figure inflation again threatens to drive down real pay.

The pay formula must not be seen as a once and for all deal never to be altered but a means to win improvements in pay and conditions which we must now consolidate and build on.

Our jobs and public safety are being put at risk by cutbacks and unfilled posts, where, for instance West Midlands are 100 short of Home Office approved staffing levels and the Fire Research station at Borehamwood is threatened by spending cuts or hiving off.

Delegates should support Resolution 109 which calls for all out action against the Tory government by the entire labour and trade union movement.

Union rights must also be defended. Tebbit's bill puts legal restrictions, for example, on workers in one brigade helping those in another who, are fighting redundancies.

We must not sit on the sidelines and let this bill be implemented. Conference should back Resolution 103 which calls for a campaign like that which destroyed Heath's 1971 Industrial Relations Act, including a national one day strike as a warning to the government.

Attacks on pay, prices, services, jobs, rents; all are part of the Tories' attempt to shift the capitalist crisis on to workers' backs. We must see this conference as part of the struggle foreseen by the FBU's founders, in the union rule book.

"The FBU is part of the world working class movement and linking itself with the international trade union and labour movement has as its ultimate aim the bringing about of the socialist system of society."

By Dale Quinlavan (Merseyside and Cheshire FBU)

MILITANT READERS' MEETING Speakers:

Peter Taaffe (Editor, 'Militant')
Brian Gilliland (SOGAT SGD West, personal capacity)
Tuesday 18 May
West Cliff Hotel
Priory Road, Bournemouth

Industrial Reports

BREL-DEFEND EVERY JOB

Build the Triple Alliance

The NUR Shopmans conference takes place against the background of a massive programme of closures and redundancies by British Rail Engineering Limited (BREL).

In the plants threatened with closure or partial closure, the fight back has begun with walkouts and demonstrations in Horwich, Shildon and Swindon.

BREL have tried to bribe workers at other centres with the promise of transferred work from closed factories. This must not succeed.

Already workers at Glasgow have passed a resolution opposing these

proposals, as they understand that these closures will be followed by more cuts next year or the year after.

Many workers felt last year that when Ashford works was decimated, this was a necessary economy and just a "one off" closure. We now see what false hopes these were.

Now questions are being asked at Derby Locomotive Works where the training school is now earmarked for closure. Derby is also the only works which has not been offered transferred work from other closures.

Many workers now fear they will be the next in the pipeline and as we warned in *Militant* (30 April) the British Railways Board (BRB) will undoubtedly feel emboldened to cut even deeper if a fight is not taken

up by railway workers now.

The railway trade unions and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers, together with the other unions in the Triple Alliance, must immediately take up the fight against these cuts on the following programme:

★ No closures. All thirteen workshops must fight together to prevent the closure of even one shop.

★ No closure of training schools—for a guaranteed future for all apprentices.

★ No job losses through compulsory or voluntary redundancies. All redundancies should be fought. Selling our jobs would mean a ruined future for our youth.

★ For a massive programme of investment by BR including electrification. We cannot rely on a joint

approach with BRB puppets to beg their Tory masters for more money.

These people have no intention of putting one penny into the nationalised industry, but quite the reverse, to hive off the profitable parts of the railway system. Instead we must use our own strength and united action to force a massive programme of investment.

★ For an immediate 35-hour week. This measure has been on the NUR agenda for many years as a measure to save jobs yet in BREL only a 39-hour week has so far been conceded and this is on the basis of no loss of production. This is now a vital demand to stave off further redundancies.

★ End the contracting out of BR work to private owners. This would include

the ending of gross subsidies to private owners for building their own wagons while BR is forced to run as a subsidy to private industry.

★ For closer coordination between the different unions and between the works and shop committees of different works.

★ For a 24-hour strike of all NUR members on British Rail and subsidiary industries and Confed members in BREL workshops. A previous NUR AGM agreed a policy of industrial action to fight workshop closures.

The one day strike should be seen as a warning shot to BR and the government to show our determination and should be backed up if necessary by all-out strike to prevent these closures.

By Bill Esmonds
(NUR Derby Works)

Crossville Liverpool

On 6 May a driver at Crossville's Liverpool Edge Lane depot was booked off and sent home for obeying union instructions. He refused to drive a bus to another depot for repairs which should have been done in our own depot.

We are fighting to prevent work from leaving Edge Lane, because management want AUEW fitters to work overtime over the weekends without the labourers that they normally work with during the week. Management claim they cannot afford to do the work in Liverpool if it means bringing labourers in, but by taking buses across the Mersey, they have to pay tunnel tolls!

Fitters and labourers are allowed to do extra work as overtime over the water, but management do not consider that cost as excessive. Management are in reality attacking the Liverpool depot for what they term union "restrictive" practices. Their real aim is to remove conditions we have fought for over the years.

If they can do without fitters' labourers during overtime what will stop them during normal working hours? Will driving staff now for example be expected to wash and clean our buses out, and also to fuel them?

Only a sustained, united effort by the workforce, and a link with the other Crossville depots, explaining the need for solidarity, will stop this move by management.

By Dave Barnett
(TGWU)

Famous Names—Bosses' hypocrisy

Management at Famous Names Ltd, where the workforce are out on strike for decent wages, resorted to the old trick of sending a letter and ballot form to the workers asking them to return the form and vote for a return to work.

They received their answer very sharply when, at a mass meeting on 10 May workers voted overwhelmingly with 2 or 3 against to continue the strike!

Joe Reddick, TGWU steward, told me "at the meeting we explained how management's letter was false and misleading. They hypocritically talked about only being in existence as a company for 9 months, and how they regarded the company as one happy family.

"The company might have changed its name 9 months ago but nothing else changed. The same people are in charge, the same low wages and rubbish from the bosses.

"The mass meeting decided to refuse to recognise the ballot and then voted to continue the strike and set up the picketing."

Workers at the sister plant in Southport are also still on strike.

By Bryan Beckingham

BREL Swindon

Last Friday, May 7th, over 3,500 workers marched out of work and took to the streets of Swindon.

The placards and banners spelt out that the AUEW, T&GWU, NUR, EEUPTU, and the Sheet Metal workers would not accept the threatened 1,500 job losses. This fight has to be won, not only for BR workers but for Swindon as a whole.

The NUR sponsored MP, Peter Snape got full support when he called for the Triple Alliance of NUR, Steel workers and NUM to be invoked to win this fight.

We now have to see these words translated into action by union leaders both at the workplaces and nationally.

The Labour Party, and Trades Council, working with the workforce, should build on the enormous local support and mobilise to defend the threatened jobs, and the training school, and fight the Tory Government, through public rallies, collections and a labour movement support committee.

After the demonstration I spoke to three workers involved, Roy Hunt AUEW, Mick Kocur AUEW, and Gordon Clark NUR Shop Steward, "If the works half close then it will be completely closed in the future. The mood in work is for all-out national strike action. We cannot go alone, it has to be national, and united, to defeat the British Railway Board and the Tories.

"Some older workers lack confidence because of previous action in 1972, when a lot of lads went down the road. We must not let them play one off against the other. The works committee has met and are recommending to the May 14th Executive committee National all-out strike action.

"Previous policies of voluntary redundancies and early retirement with full



Railworkers gained enormous support in the 7 May demo in Swindon.

co-operation from the trade unions have been shown to be no way to fight for jobs.

"Last February, the unions agreed in the asbestos shop to introduce a 3 shift system from previous 2 shifts, and despite opposition from the workers involved, this was introduced. So since February, these workers have been working half as much again, in order to get booted out earlier.

"We can't allow one job to go".

BREL Horwich

The campaign to save the Horwich works of BREL is gathering momentum. The Horwich Joint Action Committee continues to build up support for the fight to stop the closure and redundancies. Car stickers, posters and badges are displayed throughout the town.

All the local authorities in the area are meeting to decide how they can aid the campaign. The Parliamentary Labour Party has pledged support. Pupils from local schools have

written to Parker demanding that the decision be reversed so that they may have some job prospects when they leave school.

The workers realise that petitions and lobbies alone will not win the battle, that's why Horwich moved the resolution carried at the national delegate meeting of Confed unions in the workshops.

The resolution called for strike action if BRB proposals on closures and redundancies are not withdrawn, and for co-ordination of the political and the trade union wings of the labour movement to fight for investment in an industry which is the backbone of the transport system.

The Horwich Joint Action Committee has set up a fund to finance the campaign, and pay for material and cover the cost of speakers visiting all sections of the labour movement and local community to rally support.

Send any donations and messages of support to Stan Davies, Horwich Joint Action Committee, 51 Fernhead Avenue, Horwich.

NUR Permanent Way grades conference

The Permanent Way, Signal Telegraph and Overhead Traction grades have undoubtedly suffered under BR management rationalisation programmes in the past years, through job losses and restructuring programmes.

While no national campaign took place against these programmes which committed certain grades to compulsory Sunday working, many workers are still unhappy.

Management also now set 'skill tests' to see whether workers will receive a higher grade with more money. While BRB are trying to reduce jobs and labour costs, workers rightly fear management will use this excuse to refuse workers higher grades.

There are also fears that BRB will try and bring back contract labour expressed in the resolution from Bridlington.

Mainly non-unionised private firms were able, in the past, to plunder BR's economy making massive profits while other parts of

the system were starved of finance. With the present crisis we must ensure that money is channeled into the industry rather than the pockets of company directors.

This also comes up with the resolution concerning the Mercury Telecomms network project which is planned to be installed through the railway cable system.

Although this work would be installed and maintained by railway staff, Project Mercury hives off the telecomms network into the hands of private companies who stand to make great profits out of it, to the detriment of the publicly-owned network and fellow trade unionists in the POEU.

Undoubtedly the lead in opposition must be shown by the POEU, but railworkers should be prepared to support united-action against this latest Tory asset stripping.

By Bob Russell
(Willesden NUR)

ASLEF: NO TO FLEXI ROSTERS

“An unworkable attempt at a compromise, which if introduced would quickly bring the railways to a halt.”

By Stuart Hammond
 (Stratford ASLEF personal capacity)

This was how Ray Buckton, general secretary of the rail drivers' union ASLEF greeted the long-awaited decision of Lord McCarthy's tribunal on proposed introduction of flexi-rostering for British Rail footplate staff.

In essence, the Railway Staffs National Tribunal (RSNT) decision says that ASLEF should agree to rosters of between 7 and 9 hours, even though it puts a number of 'safeguards' to protect footplate staff.

McCarthy is asking ASLEF members to make a compromise where no compromise can be made, namely to give up the 8 hour guaranteed day agreement.

The point cannot be em-

phasised enough; any departure from the guaranteed 8 hour day, through flexi-rostering, would be the thin end of the wedge.

It would give the BRB a green light to get us on shifts of between six and ten hours, and later of between four and twelve hours. And of course, all our shifts would bring the question of totally anti-social split shifts sharply into play.

The compromises asked of the BRB by the Tribunal are nothing like as fundamental. Even though, should the BRB undertake to guarantee all McCarthy's conditions, rosters would not be vastly different to the present situation. We have

to ask how long would these safeguards last?

In fact, the BRB would immediately set to work in scrapping them in future negotiations, in the same way as they have eased the conditions for single manning over the years.

The McCarthy report also says that the introduction of the new flexi-rosters should be subject to agreement at local LDC level, but it would be dangerous folly for ASLEF members to allow any national agreement in principle, in the belief that flexi-rosters can be resisted locally.

We must learn lessons from the NUR guards. Some guards' depots have had flexi-rostering forced upon them despite similar guarantees to those outlined by McCarthy. Although there have been numerous unofficial strikes these have had limited success, unfortunately, because of their

isolation.

Leaving agreement to local level gives management a golden opportunity to pick off depots one by one. Most railworkers have seen these tactics used time and again.

The RSNT decision should make no difference to ASLEF members' strong resolve to defend the 8 hour day. The six week struggle earlier this year showed our determination on this issue, so fundamental to footplate staff.

The Executive Committee should again be prepared to call into play the union's industrial muscle if that is what it takes to convince the BRB.

The message must be loud and clear from the branches from next week's Annual Assembly of Delegates and from the national leadership. No to flexi-rosters—defend the 8 hour day!

HEALTH WORKERS



FROM PAGE ONE
 crease of £1.44 a week for a third year student nurse, £1.53 a week for an SEN and £2.17 a week for a staff nurse. At the same time lodging charges are to be increased from between £1.20 to £5.83 per week.

The basic wage in the National Health Service, is £49.05. As it was said at the lobby, "6% of nothing is nothing!"

For ancillary staff the 4% increase means between £2.36 and £2.84 per week. But one member of NUPE I spoke to told me that her rent went up last month by £1.45, so she will only be 70p per week better off.

Support from the other health service unions in Sheffield has been good. As well as supporting 2 hour stoppages, NALGO is virtually working to rule, which means a lot of paper work is not being passed on.

The ambulance men at some hospitals are bringing patients in, but refusing to take any out. This is also seen as a way of protecting the numbers of beds in the wards.

There was a strong feeling at the lobby, that the fight was not only over pay, but against the cuts in general. Workers in the

health service have seen how the cuts have gone deep and the feeling now is that further cuts can only be made by making redundancies.

Already, through so-called "natural wastage" staffing levels have been reduced. At Middlewood hospital there are nearly 40 vacancies for staff nurses alone.

Low pay is also seen as a way of forcing nurses into private medicine, where they can earn over £100 a week. There are other moves to bring the private sector back, for example by contracting work out. In Sheffield this has been done for things like window cleaning, and it is now being proposed for hospital transport (not ambulances).

In other parts of Yorkshire, more and more student nurses are being made redundant at the end of their training. But the number of student nurses is not being reduced to any great extent. This means more and more that student nurses are just being used for cheap labour.

I was told that many student nurses had been refused permission to attend the lobby, because they, like apprentices, have been denied the right to strike.

A lot of nurses at the lobby were taking part in industrial action for the first time. They were worried about the welfare of their patients, but they came with the full backing of patients and visitors, many of whom said they wished they could take part in the lobby as well.

There was a mood of confidence and unity, and a belief that this time they would win. No health worker wants to take industrial action, but the Tory government has left them with no alternative.

Photo: Carlos Augusto (IFL)



The Tory victory in the council election was a serious blow for workers fighting against privatisation in Wandsworth, but the dustmen's strike continues backed up by sections of NALGO.

On 10 May, a thousand

workers marched in support of the dustmen, coming both from within Wandsworth and others from boroughs like Bexley, Lambeth, Merton and Camden.

But after their victory, the Tories will now plan to go on the offensive and the crunch

on this dispute will be coming soon.

To guarantee victory, the strike committee now will have to plan to escalate action into all out strike to bring the Tory council in Wandsworth to its knees.

On 12 May there was a successful mass picket by dustmen in Wandsworth. Workers in the technical workshops refused to cross picket lines and the majority of social services manual staff are now on strike.

ARMED SERVICES

FROM PAGE ONE

icularly the lower ranks." This pay package, which in effect means a cut in living standards, follows hard on the heels of Thatcher's other 'morale-booster'—the decision to reduce the overseas allowance of sailors from £4 to £1.

The class divisions within the armed forces show themselves in other ways.

Many workers and servicemen were appalled that after the recapture of South Georgia, the military commander of the Argentine troops and the Argentine submarine captain were wined and dined by the captain of the British assault ship.

The Argentine commander, Captain Alfredo Astiz, described by Spanish newspapers as 'the Executioner,' was head of an internment camp on the mainland where many trade unionists were held and

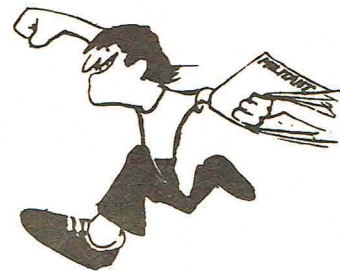
subsequently 'disappeared,' and was wanted for interview by the Swedish government over his alleged murder of a Swedish national in Argentina in 1978. The British government have ignored the Swedish requests to interview him.

Entertaining these Argentine officers—part of a vicious government which has strangled all democratic rights in Argentina—will have sickened even service personnel. When, they will ask, did the officers ever invite the ship's company to

dine with them? This behaviour, normal among 'brother officers,' is a complete refutation of the attempt by the Tories to present their campaign as a fight 'against fascism.'

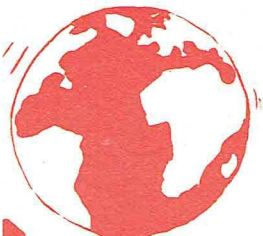
Despite all the bluster about 'national interest,' 'Argentine aggression,' 'Fascist regimes' and so on, it is clear that the Tories are no more interested now in the well-being of British or Argentine workers than they ever were, whether the workers wear uniforms or overalls.

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