

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

NO TO
WITCH-HUNT!

See pages 2, 3, 8 & 9

Labour Leaders must...

EXPULSION OF THE TORIES

By John
Pickard

The attacks on the supporters of *Militant* in the Labour Party will bring no relief to the millions of workers suffering from this Tory government.

Tucked away in the inside pages of the papers this week has been the grimmest of all reminders of the economic chaos of Thatcherism. Unemployment, according to the official figures, is rising again over the three million mark. In reality, the unemployed number well over four million, taking into account all those who for one reason or another do not register.

While the Tories are happy to send young people to their deaths in the Falklands, they are not prepared to offer them any jobs at home. Over 100,000 new school-leavers joined the dole queues last week, adding to the hundreds of thousands already facing the Tory dead-end. What an indictment of Tory society!

Nurses and health service workers cannot get a decent living wage out of this government, yet Nott, the defence minister, insists that the huge costs of the Falklands war be *extra* to the already massive arms expenditure.

The Tories are more concerned about spending £14 billion a year on armaments of mass destruction than they are on paying a proper wage to those who look after the old, the sick and infirm.

Thatcher's lame comment that the unemployed



Photo: Ian Morris

Cuts in health, education and social services. Mass unemployment. Industrial collapse. Increased taxes. The Tories are wreaking havoc with workers' living standards. But now the Labour Party right wing want to wreak havoc on the Labour Party rank and file.

figures were "unwelcome" has got to be thrown back in her face. *She* is unwelcome. *The Tories* are unwelcome. *Their system*—the economics of the madhouse—is unwelcome.

The leaders of the Labour Party should be launching an all-out attack upon the Tories and their big business allies who are

intent on destroying all the gains in living standards built up in the post-war years. Labour must demand that there be NO RETURN TO THE 1930s. The Tories must be chucked out!

But Labour Party members and supporters will be horrified that the right wing leaders of the

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WHY RAILMEN ARE STRIKING

Rail workers are fighting back. Enough is enough, and we have got to act now to safeguard our futures.

Last month, workers in British Rail engineering works, like Shildon and Horwich which are threatened by BR and the government, demanded national action to save their jobs.

This week, London Transport tube workers have taken action against the effects of Lord Denning's attack on London Transport.

Now, from 28 June, NUR members will be on the first indefinite rail strike since the war.

The British Railways Board and the Tory government have declared war on the living standards, livelihoods and hard-fought gains of every railworker.

"Insult to the NUR" is the headline of the latest 'Transport Review,' the union's journal and that is the only

By Dave Hardy
(NUR, Nottingham &
District Rail Branch)
personal capacity

way to describe the Board's derisory offer.

The 5% increase upon basic pay is about half the rate of inflation, well below the rail union's justifiable claim for a 12% rise. Furthermore, it comes after several years of lousy offers which have seen the value of railworkers' pay fall by some 35%.

To add insult to injury the Board's offer depends on acceptance of a whole string of productivity demands aimed at slashing manpower and increasing the workload for those left with a job.

In a blatant blackmailing threat, the Board say that if we don't accept all their productivity strings the offer will be withdrawn.

Also, in a very dangerous development, BRB have now issued a circular to managers: "Emergency Administrative Arrangements in connection with NUR strike."

This circular is a scabs' charter. It says "staff reporting for duty will be expected to perform any duties within their capabilities." That presumably means even those staff whose union hasn't yet called them into action.

Most serious of all, one clause states, "Should employees report for work and ignore the strike decision of their trade union, and this leads to their expulsion from trade union membership, the Board would regard this as unreasonable...and would not accept loss of trade union membership as cause for dismissal."

Here is a frontal assault

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-not party activists

The Real Motive For Right's Witch-hunt

The report on *Militant*, commissioned by the National Executive Committee, has opened the door to Labour's right wing to seize their chance to launch an attack on the socialist rank and file of the Labour Party.

The experiences of the last few years have pushed the rank and file of the Labour Party to the left. There has been no conspiracy to change the attitude of thousands of Labour Party and trade union members, except perhaps the conspiracy of the Tories and big business to hammer the living standards of working people.

Labour's right wing arrogantly behave as if they bear no responsibility for Labour's election defeat in 1979, and subsequent by-election defeats, but in reality, the very opposite is true.

It was they who controlled the Labour Party for the best part of three decades. It has been their policies which over a long period disillusioned many Party members, many of whom left in droves during that period.

It was the policies of the right wing which dominated the Labour Party in the government of 1974-79. Beginning with massive support and enthusiasm, and a promise to introduce "fundamental and irreversible changes in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people", that Government ended by cutting workers' living standards and creating enormous disillusionment.

Once again—as in 1964-70—the crisis of capitalism forced the Labour government to postpone its reforms and move to counter-reforms. Under the pressure of big business, that government ended with public expenditure cuts (eventually totalling £8bn.) and an incomes policy as the main elements of its economic policy.

Despite three previous years of incomes policy, and the explicit objection of TUC and Labour Party Conferences, Labour Prime Minister Callaghan insisted on sticking to his 5% pay norm in the Autumn of 1978, provoking the massive and wholly justified opposition of low paid unions in the so-called "winter of discontent". In the 1979 General Election, the Tories were able to capitalise on all those issues on which the Labour Party itself should have fought—against higher taxes, higher unemployment and lower living standards.

It was bitter disappointment and disillusionment with Labour—still lingering to this day—that led to the defeat in 1979. Faced with cuts in living standards under the Tories, many workers are still sceptical about Healey, Hattersley, Shore, and all the others who along with those now in the leadership of the SDP—Owen, Jenkins, Williams, Rodgers etc.—were the architects of cuts in living standards from 1974 to 1979.

The right wing and their friends in the SDP lost

Labour the last election. No one had heard of the *Militant* at that time.

The experiences of those Labour years and the last three years of Tory government, have been the locomotive force behind fundamental changes in the Labour Party. The rank and file of the labour movement have increasingly seen the need for a serious struggle against the Tories and the system they represent.

But that has meant changes; not only in Labour's policy—hence the swing to the left in recent years—but also in organisation.

Labour Party members have not been prepared to tolerate any longer those who used the party as a stepping stone to a cosy career, only to stab it in the back later on. They were not prepared to tolerate Members of Parliament who were becoming increasingly out of touch with ordinary workers.

EDITORIAL

The Right have found the ground shifting beneath their feet in recent years and they are now desperate to reverse the process. They have already begun the job of watering down Labour's economic and social policies.

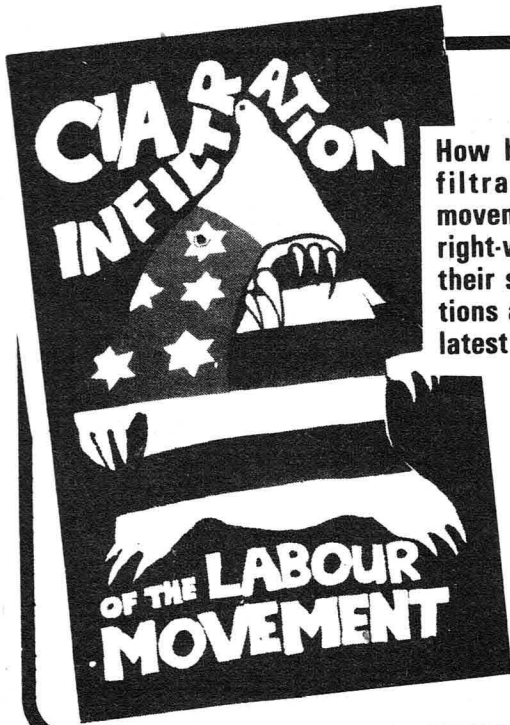
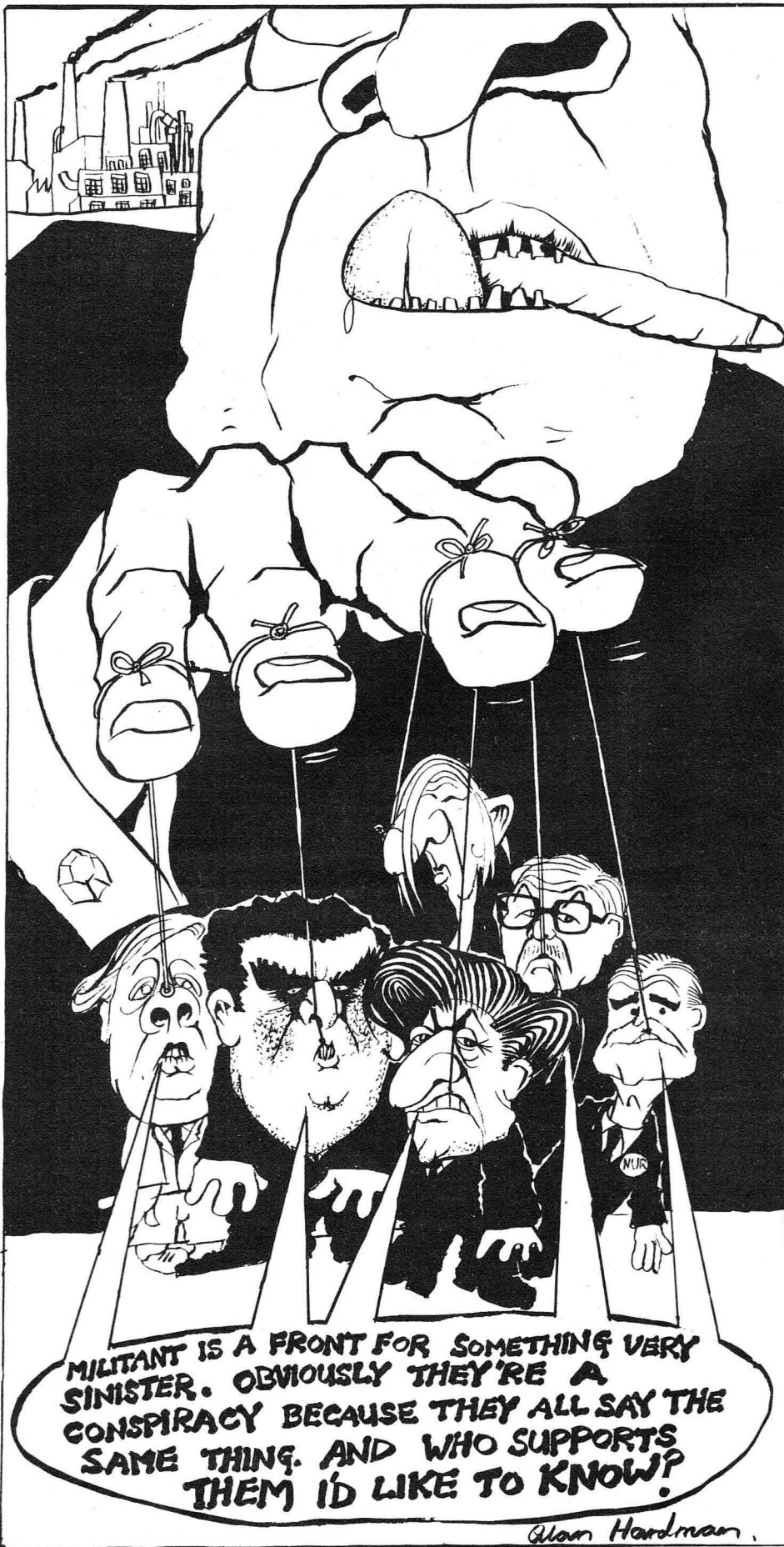
Labour's programme '82, published only last week, had a preamble added to it to make it clear that "a Labour government could not possibly implement all the policies contained in its first term of office." (*Financial Times* 18 June 1982)

The Preamble was inserted, according to the *Financial Times* political correspondent, "at the insistence of the Shadow Cabinet which was concerned that the Left might have used the programme to commit a Labour government to introducing impractical policies."

The right wing are also fighting hard to re-introduce another incomes policy—suitably disguised as "economic priorities"—as a central feature of Labour's economic policy.

In terms of economic policy, there is no fundamental difference between Labour's right wing and the SDP. Indeed, many on the right of the Labour Party have already publicly canvassed for the formation of a Labour/SDP coalition after the next election.

In the event of Labour being the largest party, but without an overall majority, those on the right of the Party would willingly form an 'unofficial' coalition



How has the American CIA infiltrated Western labour movements? Where do Labour's right-wing organisations get their secret funds? These questions are taken up by *Militant's* latest pamphlet (£1 post free).

Send cash with orders to
World Books,
1 Mentmore Terrace,
London E8 3PN.

with their friends in the SDP. If that happened there would be fury within the rank and file of the Labour Party: all their efforts and endeavours would have only produced, in effect, an SDP government.

Militant and other left groups and campaigns in the party would act as the catalysts to the rank and file opposition to coalitionism and for that reason *Militant* and the Left have to be silenced. The attack upon *Militant* and its supporters is a pre-emptive strike by the Right to gag the most determined and consistent advocates for socialist policies and democratisation of the party.

The organisational issues involved (Clause 2 of the Party Constitution) are merely the pretext for what is in fact a political attack on Labour's rank and file, and if the attack on *Militant* were to succeed, it would be followed by the hounding of the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, the London Labour Briefing, and then upon Tony Benn.

Michael Foot has clearly come under pressure from the right wing, who have threatened to ditch him as Party leader if he does not stand up to the Left. But if the Right succeed in disabling the Left, they would at a later stage ditch Foot in any case.

The Right are prepared to risk the disaffiliation of dozens and perhaps hundreds of Constituency Labour Parties, and the disaffiliation of trade unions—to create civil war in the Labour Party—rather than to see the adoption of socialist policies. Some right wingers may have already decided to defect to the Social Democratic Party at a later date, and they also would like to leave as much wreckage behind as possible.

Labour activists will be absolutely horrified at the witch-hunt of the Right and the support given to it by some Lefts. No matter how they try to justify their actions, they will go down in Labour history as witch-hunters like those in the 1950s who could always 'justify' their hounding of the Bevanites.

But the witch-hunt will never succeed. *Militant* supporters will fight tenaciously for their right to put forward their ideas and policies as Labour Party members. Moreover, they will gain the support of the vast majority of Labour and trade union activists.

With their help, *Militant* supporters will continue to work for the Labour Party, to recruit workers into it, to canvass for it, and, above all, to argue for socialist policies within it.

Marxism has always been a trend of opinion in the Labour Party—indeed it was the major trend in its early days—and no amount of bureaucratic diktats will drive Marxism away.

At the end of the day, Marxism and the paper *Militant* will emerge even stronger as a tendency within the Labour Party than is the case at the present time.

'Solidarity' organisation holds national rally

By Militant reporters

A recent ticket-only meeting of the right-wing Solidarity group in London, described by one of the main speakers, Peter Shore, as its first 'national rally' was attended by members of Solidarity from different parts of the country.

As would be expected at this present time, all the lies and innuendo of the Tory press against Labour's left, and the Militant in particular, were repeated by one speaker after another. Shore denounced the so-called "totalitarianism" of the left and then went on, in the same totalitarian manner of every other speaker, to demand the expulsion of Militant supporters beyond the "frontiers" of the Labour Party.

In reality, it is these right wingers who try to introduce Stalinist methods into the Labour Party; those you cannot silence by argument, silence by bureaucratic expulsion.

To justify his attacks upon the left, Shore resorted to the same distortions used by the capitalist media, and at one point stated an outright lie. Referring to Pat Wall's speech, he said Pat called "for his comrades to prepare for civil war should Labour win the next election." (see below)

The other main speaker, Roy Hattersley, followed where Shore left off, trotting out the old familiar accusation that the left were actually in favour of a Labour defeat. Premature announcements of a Tory victory at the next election, he said, were "the wishful thinking of some socialists".

The description of 'right wing', he went on, was being used now for "anyone who wants to win the next election". Not a word from Hattersley about the fact that it was the Right who lost Labour the election in 1979, and let Thatcher in. Not a word about right-winger Bob Mellish who in practice fought against official Labour candidates in the recent local election.

Throughout the course of this Solidarity meeting, there were frequent references to the **Solidarity Organisation**. Even Hat-

tersley stated clearly, "We are the organisation for ensuring that Labour wins the next election." Organisation they may be, but a guarantee of a Labour victor they certainly are not!

Ron Hayward and David Hughes, in their Report on the Militant Tendency, made a reference to the Annual Militant Sellers' Rally. When told that the rally was private "because they (Militant) had no confidence that the press would report fairly their activities," the General Secretary and National Agent pooh-poohed the idea: a "flimsy excuse", they called it.

Perhaps now they might turn their attention to Solidarity, which is quite clearly an organisation and which also turfed the press out of the 'closed session' of their 'national rally'.

During this closed session, there were many much more pointed remarks and suggestions about building the Solidarity organisation. "We need a coherent policy and an organisation," said one speaker. "Militant is the focus at the moment," said another, "But what about the alphabet soup of organisations like the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy, Labour Liaison '82, etc?"

In his reply on behalf of the National Steering Committee of Solidarity, a spokesman insisted that Solidarity must become a "national organisation", representing the regions. A network of Solidarity supporters needs to be built up, he went on, in the Labour Party and trade unions.

Rank and file members of the Labour Party will look with eager anticipation to see if there is a committee of enquiry into the organisation, principles, membership and financing of Solidarity. Do they agree with Clause IV, part 4 of the Labour Party constitution, for example? If the 'Register' of approved groups is set up, it will be interesting to see if Solidarity applies to the NEC, if they will supply details of their real "aims, officers, employees, membership and accounts" as the 'Militant Report' recommends. We doubt it.

face violence in Britain, we will face bloodshed, and the possibility of civil war and the death and destruction that would mean.

"But it is not the Marxists in the labour movement who stand for violence. It is not the revolutionary transformation of society that would lead to violence in Britain, it would be those people who are not prepared to break the power of the ruling class, who are not prepared to speedily transform society."

What Pat Wall actually said at the Bradford meeting, which the capitalist press based their 'Civil War' scare stories around, was that a socialist transformation could happen peacefully, but he warned that if we failed there was the threat of violence and reaction from the ruling class, as has been shown historically.

Pat said, "We believe that it is possible to transform society peacefully in Britain...We either transform society, or reaction will organise. We will

Why we are standing for NEC



Ray Apps (above) and Pat Wall



Photos: MILITANT

We are standing for election to the NEC and are seeking the support of your CLP.

We stand in support of socialist policies; to reaffirm the right of CLPs to select the candidates of their choice; and in total opposition to a witch-hunt in the Labour Party.

The need for a mass socialist Labour Party has never been greater. The lives of millions of workers and their families have been blighted by mass unemployment and a calamitous fall in living standards. Now the Tories are sharpening their knives for an assault on the trade unions.

We stand for a concerted campaign around socialist policies to force an election and drive the Tories from office.

However, rather than conduct such a campaign against our enemies, the right wing of the Party seem intent on a witch-hunt against the Left, particularly the supporters of *Militant*.

This would have disastrous consequences for Labour. It would split the party wide apart, wrecking any hopes for a united struggle around socialist policies—the only way to defeat the Tories and their Liberal/SDP shadows.

We believe that the resolutions passed at Annual Conference must be translated into reality. A 35-hour week with no reduction in pay; a guaranteed minimum wage; a massive increase in spending on health, housing and education—these must be the demands of a determined struggle by the whole labour movement. However, we must learn the lessons of previous Labour governments which attempted to introduce reforms whilst remaining within the confines of a decaying capitalist system.

At the insistence of those who really run society—the banks, the CBI and the monopolies—the reforms

promised were abandoned.

To avoid the same pitfalls a future Labour government must break the grip of these parasites. That is why Clause IV part IV of our party constitution has immediate importance.

Only by taking over the 'commanding heights' of the economy, facilitating the drawing up of a socialist plan of production, will it be possible to implement and maintain such radical reforms.

We believe that the right of CLPs to select parliamentary candidates of their choice must be defended. There can be no 'second class' members of our party.

We firmly believe that the attack launched against the supporters of *Militant* is just the first strike in a campaign against the whole left. It won't stop at that. Many on the right want to undo all the gains of recent years allowing greater democracy within the Labour Party. They would like to jettison the radical policies adopted by Annual Conference.

To defend these gains and fight any attempted witch-hunt, it is essential that NEC members who stand for building a fighting socialist Labour Party are elected.

It is with this view that we appeal for the support of all Constituency Labour Parties in the elections to the NEC.

★ For a mass, democratic, socialist Labour Party to defeat the Tories!

★ For rank and file representation on the NEC!

★ For the right of CLPs to select the candidate of their choice!

★ Defeat the witch-hunt!

PAT WALL
(Shipleigh CLP)
RAY APPS
(Kempton CLP)

Go onto the offensive

By the
Circulation
Manager

As expected, the capitalist press and their shadows in the labour movement have hurled a mountain of lies, slander and abuse against *Militant*.

They make no mention of *Militant's* views or policies, as they are frightened of the response our ideas get.

However, this campaign against us can be turned on these witch-hunters. We must go boldly onto the offensive. This immediate period must be used to decisively step up our sales and get our ideas into every corner of the labour movement. We appeal to every supporter to order more papers and conduct a special drive. Map out the industrial estates and factories in your area that could be approached. Ask your mates to take a

few papers into work to sell. Sales must be organised in every shopping centre throughout the entire week. Every labour movement meeting must be covered and estate sales stepped up.

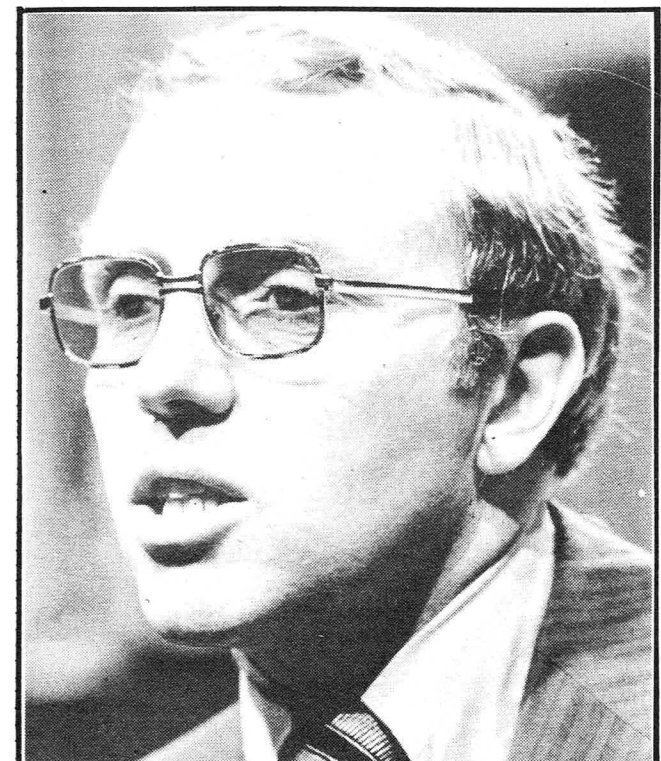
Supporters must organise mass public meetings immediately to explain our case. Meetings should be planned in every town and city.

Fine examples are already coming in of what can be achieved. In Teesside where local supporters have circulated 250 labour organisations with back copies of the paper, an invitation to attend a rally against the witch-hunt, and an appeal to invite a *Militant* speaker.

Already in Leeds, the following Labour Parties have invited a speaker: Harehills, Chappel Town, Hunsford, and Harrogate.

An audacious approach is being taken up in Manchester with factory gate meetings planned.

In Brighton last weekend, a mass canvass was



Militant supporter Terry Fields is also standing for the NEC, in the trade union section, nominated by the Fire Brigades Union.

Photo: MILITANT

carried out resulting in 50 names being taken of people waiting to join the Labour Party, 29 for the LPYS, and 110 *Militants* sold.

The right wing are going for our throat. It is a last

ditch attempt to root us out of the Labour Party. They have thrown down the gauntlet; we must pick it up and launch the biggest campaign that the labour movement has ever seen to defend the *Militant*.

Defend Black and Asian workers

The twelve Asian youth in the Bradford 12 conspiracy trial have been found not guilty. Black and Asian workers and the labour movement generally will rejoice at this news. It marks a defeat for the infamous conspiracy laws.

The twelve youths were arrested in the period of the summer riots last year, and charged with 'conspiracy to make an explosive substance with intent to endanger life or damage property.' Although no major riots had taken place in Bradford, police based their action on the discovery of 38 petrol filled milk bottles.

This case demonstrates how the capitalist class use the conspiracy laws for their own political ends. All the twelve youths picked up by the police were members of the United Black Youth League who had played an active role in campaigns in the area.

The police said the petrol filled bottles were to be used in a 'copy-cat' riot against police and buildings. But of the twelve, only one defendant, Tarlochan Gata Aura, said he was responsible for the devices. The court was told that a left-wing book shop had been tipped off about a raid into the area by skinheads. Aura did not have time to mobilise the community in defence of the area, and intended to "erect a shield of fire in the road" as a last resort to keep the invaders out.

The court heard that the day before an Asian family had been burnt to death in Walthamstow, and the weekend before, skinheads had rampaged through Southall.

An important lesson to come out of this trial for the labour movement is the danger for the black and Asian communities from racial attacks. The labour movement must, as a matter of urgency, come to the aid of these communities which must not be allowed to stand alone. In the long term it is only the labour movement that can erase the threat of racist and fascist attacks from society.

The danger of the conspiracy laws was shown in the trial. Proof is weighted

against the defendants. In this case it was based upon 'voluntary statements'. During the trial it was seen how the police got their 'voluntary' statements. When the twelve were arrested in dawn raids, they were held for 48 hours without any access to friends. Saeed Hussain spent the night in a cell with three others with only a wooden bench between them. He claimed he was struck three times before interrogation.

In court, police admitted that Ishaq Kazi alternatively had been promised 'credit in court' and threatened 'punishment as ringleader', and that he was 'shaking like a jelly' when he signed his 'confession'. Ishaq had been fasting during Ramadan before his arrest.

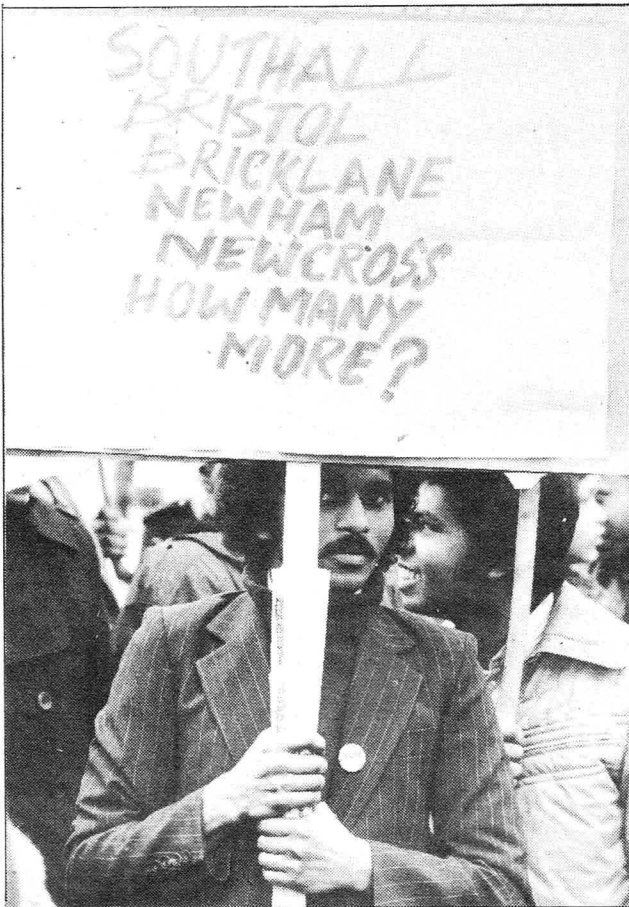
Intimidation continued after the 'confession'. A typical example was that of Jaesh Amin, the first to be acquitted. During the nine months awaiting trial, five weeks were spent in custody, the rest of the time under curfew being banned from all political meetings. This was the treatment meted out to 12 innocent youths whose only 'crime' was to be political activists.

It was only because a movement developed around the case, which exposed the truth, that these youths were saved from serving long prison sentences.

The conspiracy laws have not just been used against Black and Asian youths but the labour movement too, such as the Shrewsbury pickets case in 1973 where trade unionists received long prison sentences.

The Bradford case, although a victory, must be a spur to the labour movement to fight for the repeal of the reactionary conspiracy laws, and must strengthen the struggle against police harassment.

An Asian protest against racial violence during the New Cross march last year. The labour movement cannot leave Black and Asian workers to fight racist attacks alone. Photo: Militant.



Bradford 12 acquitted

LPYS Black Youth Conference
3-4 July, starts 11.30 am
GLC County Hall, London

Speakers include: Anwar Ditta, Paul Boateng, New Cross Action Committee representative, Bob Lee, Laurence Coates (LPYS) and international speakers including representative from the African National Congress

Also films: 'Blacks Britannica' and 'Blood ah goh run'

Leaflets and information from: A Bevan, Black Youth Campaign, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17

Support our cause with donations

The youth lead the way when it comes to donations to Militant's fighting fund from Labour Party members. Bermondsey and Dulwich Young Socialist branches both made excellent donations of £30 each. Hot on their heels was Poole LPYS with £20.

Wallsend LPYS members collected £10 on the coach to a demonstration in Shildon, while a fiver came in from West Bromwich West LPYS. Also thanks to LPYS members F. O'Loughlin and K Halliday, as well as a donation from Birmingham Ladywood LPYS.

Not to be left behind, Labour Party members have donated. Militant sup-

porters in the Chester-le-Street Labour Party raised £11.40 with a raffle for Atlee's book, 'The Labour Party in Perspective'. And donations also came from M Wells (Yardley LP) and S Wimbhurst (Dartford LP) as well as £1.50 from James Neilson (North Lanark CLP). As James commented, "...a further £1.50 donation in support of Militant and your cause within the Labour Party." Follow these examples and show your opposition to the witch-hunt with a donation to the fighting fund—better still, make it a five or tenner donation to help us build the "paper that supports our class".

MILITANT PUBLIC MEETINGS

What we stand for—
fight the witch-hunt!

(where no venue details, see your local 'Militant' sellers for information)

WALES

SWANSEA: Mon 28 June, Dynevor School, 7.30 pm. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant), Alec Thraves (AUEW, personal capacity)

PORT TALBOT: Mon 5 July, 7.30 pm, Oakwood Lane Community Centre. Speaker: Alec Thraves (AUEW, personal capacity)

BRIDGEND: Tues 6 July, 8.00 pm, council Chambers, Bridgend. Speaker: Alec Thraves

NEATH: Wed 15 July, 7.30 pm, Gwyn Hall. Speaker: Alec Thraves

MAESTEG: Thurs 8 July, 7.30 pm, Maesteg Cricket Club. Speakers: Alec Thraves, Ian Isaacs (NUM, personal capacity)

LLANELLI: Tues 13 July, 7.30 pm, Llanelli Labour Club. Speaker: Alec Thraves

CARDIFF: Wed 30 June. Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor) Royal Hotel, St Mary's Street, 7.30pm.

BEDWELLY: Mon 5 July

PONTYPRIDD: Wed 21 July, YMCA, Taff Street. Speaker: Lynn Walsh (Editorial)

EBBW VALE: Fri 9 July, Leisure Centre. Speaker: Tony Saunois

CWMBRAN: Mon 12 July

SCOTLAND

GLASGOW: Sun 27 June, 7.30 pm, Ingram Hotel, Ingram Street. Speakers: Andy McMahon MP, Tommy Brennan (shop steward, ISTC Ravenscraig), Bob Wylie

STIRLING: Wed 30 June, 7.30 pm, Cowan Centre, Stirling. Speaker: Bob Wylie

GLENROTHES: Friday 25 June, 7.30 pm, Glenrothes Labour Party public meeting, 'What Militant stands for', Auchmuty Tenants Room

LONDON

BATTERSEA: Thursday 1 July, 8.00 pm, Battersea LP Rooms, 177 Lavender Hill. 'Support the Health workers' Speakers: Arthur Hautot (sen. COHSE steward, St James) and Maggie Pountain (NUPE steward, Charing Cross)

CROYDON: Thurs 15 July, 7.45 pm, Ruskin House, Coombe Road

CRICKLEWOOD: Wed 14 July, 7.30 pm, Anson Hall, Cricklewood NW2

WEST LONDON: Tues 6 July, 8.00 pm, Ealing Town Hall, The Broadway, Ealing. Speaker: Rob Sewell

EAST LONDON: Wed 30 June, Altmere School, Altmere Ave (off Barking Road), East Ham. Speaker: Rob Sewell, 7.45pm.

HACKNEY & TOWER HAMLETS: Thurs 1 July

CAMDEN & HARINGEY: Thurs 1 July

LEWISHAM: Mon 12 July

PADDINGTON: LPYS meeting, Wed 30 June, 7.30 pm, 21 Star St (5 mins from Paddington BR Station). Speakers: Jeremy Corbyn (NUPE), Sue Pearce (NUPE) and Anne Beales (LPYS)

THAMES VALLEY
READING: Thurs 1 July, 7.45 pm, AUEW Hall, 121 Oxford Road, Reading. Speaker: Dave Webb (Hackney Sth LP)

OXFORD: Thurs 1 July. Speaker: Willy Griffin

SOUTH

FOLKESTONE: Wed 14 July, Harvey Hotel. Speaker: Steve Morgan

BRIGHTON: Tues 29 June, 7.45 pm, Labour Party HQ, 179 Lewes Road. Speaker: Ann Jones.

NORTHERN

SUNDERLAND: 'The Labour Party after the inquiry...Democracy or a witch-hunt?' Tuesday July 6, 7.30pm at the Democratic Working Men's Club, North Bridge Street, Sunderland.

JARROW: Tues 22 June, 7.30 pm, 'The Britannia' (opp Town Hall), South Shields. Speaker: Margaret Reavey

TEESSIDE: Mon 5 July, 7.30 pm, Room 9, Stockton YMCA. Speaker: Brian Ingham

DARLINGTON: Tues 29 June. Speaker: Bill Hopwood.

NEWCASTLE: Sun 4 July, 7.30pm, Bridge Hotel. Speaker: Brian Ingham.

NORTH WEST

BIRKENHEAD: Wed 7 July
HUYTON: Tues 6 July

FARNWORTH: Wed 30 July, 8.00 pm, Little Hulton Labour Club, Manchester Road West

STRETFORD: Mon 12 July, 8.00 pm, Old Trafford Centre, Shrewsbury Street, Old Trafford

LIVERPOOL: Mon 19 July, AUEW Hall, Mt Pleasant. Speaker: Ted Grant, 7.30pm.

WEST MIDLANDS

BIRMINGHAM: Tues 6 July, 7.30pm, Dr Johnsons House, Bull Street, Speaker: Tony Saunois.

ALSO: Sat 26 June, 12 noon. 'Engineers against the witch-hunt'—meeting for all AUEW members, at Old Bulls Head (next to Digbeth Civic Hall), Digbeth, Birmingham. Speakers (all in personal capacity): Jack Collingswood (Convenor, Cannon Industries), Tom Smith (Deputy Convenor, BL Self Changing Gears). Chairman: Warren McDivitt (Convenor, Lucas)

COVENTRY: Wed 30 June, 7.30 pm, 'Queens', Primrose Hill Street, Coventry. Speakers: Tom Smith (Sec, Coventry SE LP) and Glyn Robinson (COHSE)

EAST MIDLANDS

LEICESTER: Wed 30 June, 7.30 pm, Dixie Arms, Vaughan Way. 'Militant and Parliamentary Democracy'

YORKSHIRE

PUDSEY: Wed 7 July, 7.30 pm, Pudsey Labour Rooms, Greenside (main road near ASDA). Speaker: Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council). Chairman: Mick Johnson (Pudsey LP)

HULL: Mon 5 July

SOUTH WEST

BRISTOL: Wed 7 July, 7.30 pm, Wagon & Horses, Stapleton Road. Speakers: Ron Thomas (PPC Bristol NE), Tony Saunois

GLOUCESTER: Tues 6 July, 7.30 pm, Labour Party Rooms, Barton Street, Gloucester. Speaker: Bryan Beckingham

SWINDON: Wed 30 June. Speaker: Bryan Beckingham

PLYMOUTH: Tues 6 July

Send details of your local Militant Readers Meetings. Must arrive by first post Monday morning. And send a report of how your meeting goes!

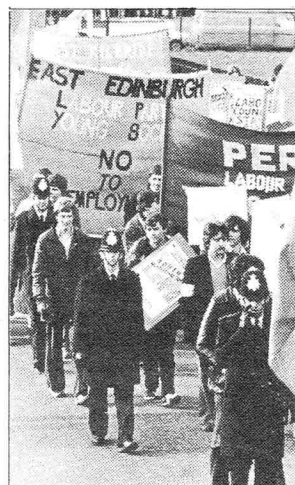
"WHAT WE STAND FOR" leaflets and posters now available to advertise local Militant public meetings. Write to Circulation Dept., 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-986 3828 for details. (Don't forget to advertise your meeting in Militant, too!)

YOUTH AGAINST THE DOLE

Motherwell and Wishaw LPYS have organised a demonstration in Motherwell for this Saturday, 26 June. Under the banner of 'Youth against the dole', the march will form up at 12.30 pm in Motherwell's Civic Centre.

It is the latest in a long line of activities which this LPYS has organised. Until three months ago there had never been an LPYS branch in this constituency but through successive campaigns we now have a membership of about 30. We are confident the event will produce more recruits for the LPYS.

Speakers from the labour and trade union movement include Dennis Canavan MP (West Stirlingshire), Tommy Brennan (ISTC), Frank White (LPYS Scottish Chairman) and Bob



Wylie for 'Militant'.

Also to ensure that the event goes with its utmost success and enjoyment for all there will be rock bands and other musical entertainment provided during the afternoon.

TASK FORCE WIVES COUNT TODAY'S SACRIFICE

When some Task Force wives held a small celebration for the end of the Falklands war, there was no flag-waving. Many were still desperately worried about their husbands and very concerned about the lack of information about what was actually happening.

"This is only half a celebration," one woman said, "it won't bring back the blokes who have died." "I don't care who's won what," another added, "as long as the others get back all right."

Many wives were worried about whether their husbands had been injured. Apparently the information from the MOD has been so sketchy that families have been told of servicemen "badly injured" and then told they were unharmed; others are seeing their husbands and sons on the television wrapped in bandages, before they they know anything about it.

Husband still stunned

Very little mail has come from the Task Force and most wives believe this is for more than "operational reasons". They suspect that the real story of what it's like to be on a ship on fire, or to have to pick up survivors from a burning sea is too horrific for Thatcher's purposes at the moment. She just wants to hear "Rule Britannia", not the reality of what she sent those men to.

One woman, whose husband was on the Sheffield, told me he's still so stunned about the things which have happened to him that she has to treat him like one of the kids. Another "Sheffield wife" said her husband is back at work, but he just sleeps all evening and doesn't want to do anything.

The wife of a sailor on the 'Invincible' has been phoned by the 'Daily Express' and asked for her comments on the fact that the police had announced that they would be dropping charges against some of the Task Force personnel who had been involved in minor offences before they left.

"I told them about that article in the 'Militant' a few weeks ago," she said, "where an unemployed youngster had been imprisoned for stealing some sweets. What about the unemployed? They should drop the charges against them! I don't suppose they'll print it though," she added.

Even though the fighting has stopped, the wives are still continuing with weekly

meetings to discuss their problems and support each other. Many still hardly sleep at night, worrying whether their husbands have been injured.

Mark Thatcher was only "lost" in the desert for a few days. These women have lived with this for months, with only the BBC and the MOD's version of the truth to rely upon.

By Alison Hill
(Gosport CLP)

SURVIVOR'S FEAR

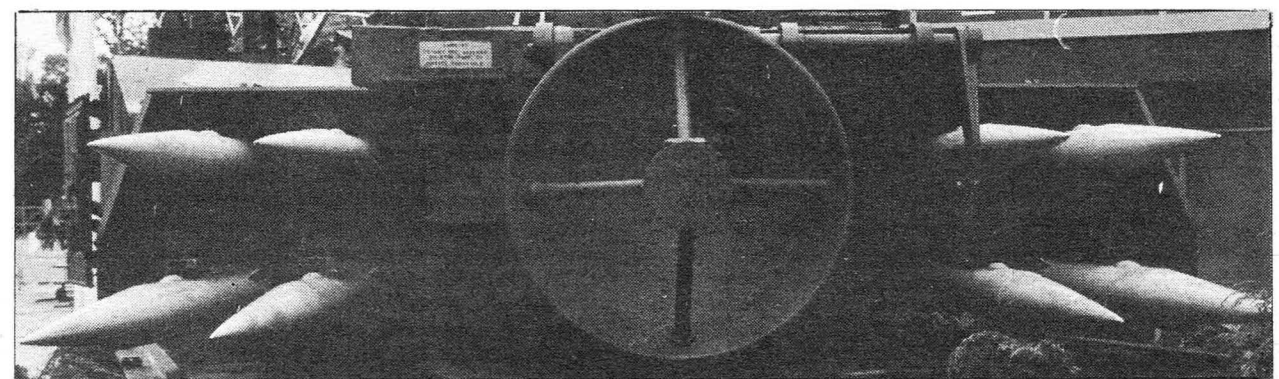
'Words cannot express how I feel about the lads who died.

I heard the bombs drop. There was a bang—like compressed air escaping—then all hell broke loose. We tried to patch up the damage, but the bombs had struck right on the water line. Then I heard the cry 'abandon ship'.

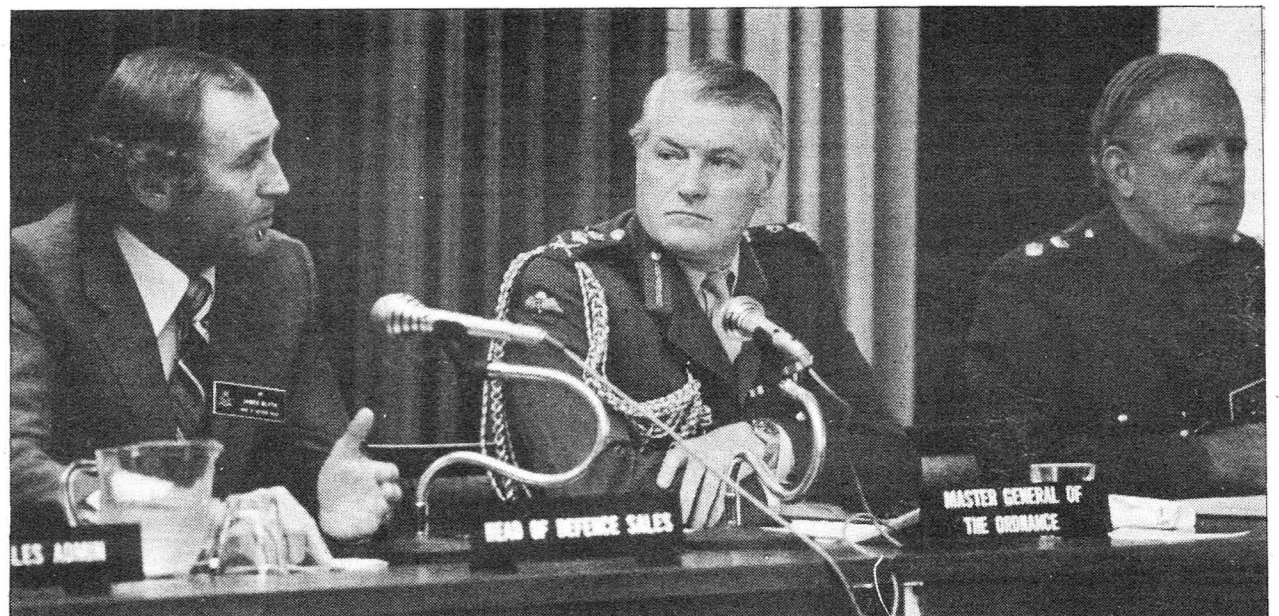
I reckon the Falklands war was a waste of time. It's only a lump of rock. I don't know much about politics but with the state this country is in, the politicians would have been better off spending all that money on jobs or the health service.

It certainly wasn't worth all those lives. The first thing I thought when I came home was, Is it worth staying in the Navy? But the way unemployment's going I might as well stay on.'

Engineer Barry Skipp, from HMS Coventry (sunk in Falklands with nineteen dead) report in 'Waltham Forest Guardian', 18 June 1982.



Making money from armaments at this week's British Army Equipment Exhibition for foreign buyers. Defence Secretary Nott has singled out the Rapier ground to air missile system (above) as having been shown in the Falklands to be of particularly good value. Since the war began, British Aerospace, manufacturers of Rapier, have seen their share prices rise by 10%. (Below) Defence officials (l to r: James Blyth, General Leng Lt. Col Arthur) who are trying to get more orders for British firms in the world arms traffic, estimated to be worth £24,000 million a year. Military dictatorships, such as Brazil, have flocked to the display. Even Argentina was originally invited.



SECURING TOMORROW'S PROFITS

A group of military chiefs, businessmen and Tories have wasted little time in trying to make lasting political capital out of the Falklands war. A letter appeared in the 'Daily Mail' (2 June) from the British Maritime League, a group formed earlier this year to reverse cuts in the Royal Navy and also to protect other merchant and fishery shipping.

The signatories include:

Lord Hill-Norton, Admiral of the Fleet who was chairman of the Military Committee of NATO from 1974 to 1977. Since 1980 he has also been president of the Defence Manufacturers Association. This body comprises 250 manufacturers of equipment, specialised components and

materials for defence purposes. It organises study groups and exhibitions and advises firms on arms sales, making representations to British and foreign governments (including military juntas).

Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, Controller of the Navy 1971-75, like Hill Norton involved with the Navy East of Suez in the '60s, the twilight days of British colonial power. He was later chairman of British Shipbuilders from 1977 to 1980, making warships among other things.

Sir Ronald Swayne, managing director Overseas Containers, a consortium of three large shipping companies operating 40,000 container ships world-wide. The vice chairman of the British Shipping Federation and previously chairman of

an EEC-wide Association of Shipowners, he shows his concern for democracy by membership of the UK-South African Trade Association.

The fourth Earl of Kimberley, mainly there for decoration, ex-Liberal turned Tory is on the House of Lords Committees on both defence and UFOs! He has an interest in big game fishing, especially shark angling.

Keith Speed, Tory Navy Under-Secretary, who resigned over naval cuts despite a massive rise in military spending at a time of cut-backs in all other expenditure and James Wellbeloved Labour renegade and now SDP MP. Also signing the letter, though, were Patrick Duffy, Labour MP for Sheffield Attercliffe, and the

General Secretary of the EETPU, Frank Chapple.

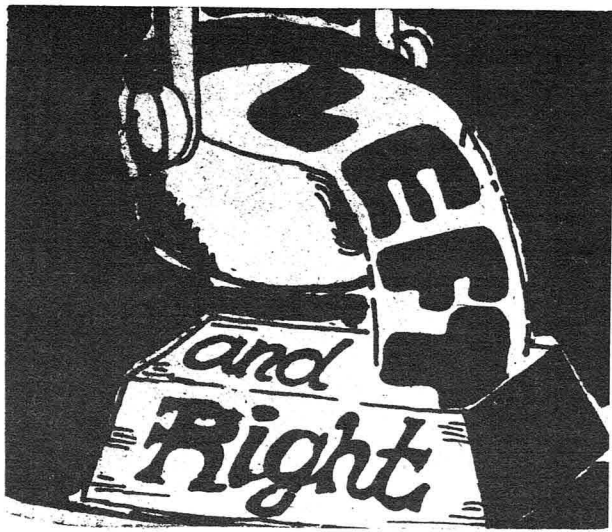
For the Tories, businessmen and Admirals the Falklands war has been a godsend, a prime opportunity to boost profits, to show the importance of the Navy defending capitalist interests. In this battle for profits, the role of Duffy and Chapple is one of camouflage, making it appear that their campaign has concern for the interests of all seafarers, rank and file sailors, trawlermen, merchant seamen on appalling wages and conditions, and in defence of ordinary people's interests.

Far from it. This body will look after the defence of the power and prestige of British capitalism while the brunt of wars such as the Falklands is borne by the

economic conscripts in the Navy, and by the working class through more taxes. They will defend trade routes to South Africa, the profits of container ships and the blood money of arms dealers.

Will these admirals and shipowners fight for union rights for naval personnel, for a real solution to the decline of fisheries? Will these Tories defend the jobs of workers for fighting the decline of naval bases like Chatham Dockyard? Of course not. The labour movement must ensure that its leaders join that fight, the fight for socialism, not join hands with the bosses in this con-trick.

By Roger Shives



A billion Dollars isn't what it used to be

When Texan oil millionaire Nelson Bunker Hunt tried, together with Arab businessmen, to corner the world market in silver in 1980, he ran up debts of \$1,825 million. His off-hand response was that 'a billion dollars isn't what it used to be'. Stephen Fay's new book, *The Great Silver Bubble*, reveals that the Bunker Hunt family had borrowed so much, that their debts were threatening the ninth largest bank in America, the First National of Chicago. So they had to be given more money to pay off their debts.

That's the logic of capitalism. Speculate for profit—not invest to meet needs—and get bailed out if you run into trouble. Bunker Hunt summed up his philosophy: "Money has never meant anything to me. It was just something that if you wanted to spend, you would have it. The most important thing is to have a spiritual environment in this country which will mean that we will keep the money we make."

Profits before 'God and nation'

The Church Commissioners seem to be doing their best to live up to the jibe that the Church of England is the Tory Party at prayer. Their annual report last week, which revealed that their 1981 income was £91.1m, showed its 'patriotism'.

Over the last twelve years, the church's investors have been moving out of UK industrial and commercial equities and into finance and overseas equities. Whereas in 1970 95% of their portfolio was in UK industrial and commercial equities, last year this had fallen to 57%. In the same period, UK financial equity has risen from 5% to 15% and the overseas portfolio from nothing to 28%.

So although the leader of the Church of England may play the patriotic drum and support the Falklands task force, when it comes to profits, the Commissioners behave just like other Tory capitalists and go where the pickings are richest.

The paper that exposes their boys

"CND. Is it all a Russian con-trick?" asked that well known investigative journal, 'The Sun', on 18 June. It was just one of many press attacks on the CND since the big march earlier this month. Presumably the Ministry of Defence spokesman, the living 'speak your weight machine' Ian Macdonald, fresh from his Falklands exploits, is now returning to his role in co-ordinating anti-disarmament propaganda, and has been sending out duplicated "information" sheets to the Tory press.

But the 'Sun', of course, takes it one step further. Under the heading, "Lefties who run peace campaign". Heading their lists of "lefties" exposed is Brigadier Michael Michael Harbottle, general secretary of Campaign for World Disarmament. Before his retirement, he ran the United Nations "peacekeeping" force in Cyprus in the late '60s. Next week. The Kremlin's spy network in the Vatican.

50 YEARS AGO

"Britain is great again," was the imperious acclaim from Thatcher last week after the victory on the Falklands. Clearly nostalgic for the days of British Empire, let us remind her what kind of democracy ruled over black and Asian people. To keep its repressive hold upon India, British imperialism had in its jails, fifty years ago this month, 80,000 political prisoners, according to the Indian National Congress.

Even the British Raj admitted the presence of 26,000 political prisoners. If Amnesty International had existed in 1932, one of its main targets would have been that chief colonial jailer—Great Britain.

'Missing'... see the film!



Chile Solidarity picket of Chilean Embassy

Photo: L Sparham (IFL) (ii)

Make sure you see this new film now out on general release. It tells the true story of Charles Horman, the easy living middle class son of a US business man who disappeared during the military coup in Chile in 1973.

The film shows the efforts of his (originally) politically naive father (played by Jack Lemmon) to trace him. The film is worth seeing on two counts. Firstly it brilliantly portrays the terror of a military coup.

The well reconstructed and believable scenes leave a lasting impression; women are suddenly dragged from a bus queue for the crime of wearing trousers—publicly soldiers rip the trousers into makeshift skirts, the packed football stadium full of workers awaiting execution or imprisonment, the helicopter gunship that moves in after curfew to attack protesting workers, to the applause of the rich well fed viewing the scene from a rooftop restaurant.

Throughout the film, secondary to the main dialogue, helicopters drone above, sirens wail and

repeated staccato machine gun fire bursts out. All this helps create the claustrophobic, demoralising aura of the coup, leaving the audience sweaty palmed and jumpy.

This sets the background to the story. Horman's father arrives in Santiago confident of 'sorting it all out' and sincere in the belief that the US embassy staff are doing all they can to help him. His 'all American' attitude conflicts with his son's wife (Sissy Spacek).

She understands the full meaning of the coup and knows her husband disappeared because of his accidentally witnessing America's organisation and aid for the coup. The film follows the father's growing realisation of this fact, and his anger and disbelief at the US Embassy staff's collusion with the Chilean military in covering up his son's arrest and disappearance.

The film makes no attempt to explain how the coup came about or why the left wing government of Allende failed to meet this threat, as this is not its aim. It is an excellent film and the best to come out of Hollywood for a long, long time. It is an indictment of the role of US Imperialism in Latin America, and aptly timed with the growing in-

or read the book

If you can't afford the visit to the cinema, then I would urge you to get a copy of the book. It is understandably a more detailed background to the 'Horman affair', giving figures for military aid and economic support both during the Allende term of government and Pinochet's junta.

The American 'Publisher's Weekly' described it as "a shocking, bizarre, perhaps unique story that poses sharp questions about US political, military and diplomatic conduct overseas." An understatement. The film and the book, whilst made from a story that personalises the issues

in an understandable way, does however pose broader questions, possibly summed up appropriately by Charles Horman's mother who stated:

"I've learned some very important things. Chile is not going to be an isolated incident. Italy and France will elect Marxist governments some time in the future. Other Western countries will follow. We can't be allowed to do to them what we did in Chile. I've learned the hard way. People who are loved can be killed."

By David Churchley
(Glasgow Cathcart CLP)

volvement of the US government in El Salvador. In an unprecedented action, the US State Department published a lengthy 'reply' to the charges.

The film is aptly timed for Britain too. While the Tories have declared war on the 'Argentinian fascists,' the Chilean regime are their allies. 'Missing' will help hammer this hypocrisy home!

By Bob Wade

MILITANT PAMPHLET
'Lessons of Chile'
Marxist analysis of 1973 coup
Price 50p (+ 20p p&tp)
from World Books
1 Mentmore Terrace
London E8 3PN

Make the most from your post

Postcards aiming to take a satirical bite at the heels of capitalism, have been printed with the help of socialist playwright Trevor Griffiths. Griffiths is one of a small radical group called Counter Cards, which wants to put forward ideas the reactionary press often shies away from.

As Pontefract artist Brian Lewis explains: "We felt the need to bring out a number of cards which were in a radical tradition, because it seemed this was one method of conveying ideas and was an alternative to the sort of traditional media which tends to be dominated by the right wing."

The first of four sets of cards so far produced comprises paintings by Lewis and his fellow artist, factory worker David Prudhoe,

from the 'Featherstone Disturbance' exhibition.

Over the last two years, through their 'People's History of Yorkshire' exhibitions, they have tried to show the oppression of the working class in capitalist society. Seven paintings based on this clash between striking miners and troops—two by Prudhoe and five by Lewis—are now out as postcards.

Lewis's satirical drawings of the Monarchy make up the second set of Counter Cards' current crop. They all take a very uncomplimentary view of the unearned fortunes of Britain's Royals. One depicting Princess Anne smiling benignly over an unemployed worker says: "If today's unemployed were to march four abreast from Jarrow to London, the last four would not have left when the first four arrived in Buckingham

Palace. Princess Anne's tax-free civil list allowance is £106,500."

Posters from past plays by the radical 7:84 Theatre Company are reproduced as the third series of cards, including a well known play 'The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black Black Oil,' which was dramatised for television.

Trevor Griffiths' latest play for television, 'Oi for England' is the theme of one illustration in the last of the present Counter Cards series entitled 'Protest and Survive.'

All four cards in this series have strong anti-nuclear and anti-Tory messages, with one bearing the simple but effective slogan, 'Maggie Maggie Maggie, Out Out Out.'

Each card costs 15 pence and the job lot of 24 cards is priced at £3, with 30p post and packing on all orders. Orders and inquiries should



The caption on the reverse side of Brian Lewis' picture of the Queen Mother reads: "Many of today's 3 million unemployed will never find another job. Old Age Pensioners are taxed on any earnings above £2,010. The Queen Mother gets a tax-free civil list allowance of £306,600."

be sent to Brian Lewis, 17 Linden Terrace, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF8 4AE.

By an NUJ member

RAILWAYS

Decades of

By Bill Esmond
(Nottingham No 2 NUR)

The first indefinite strike of all NUR workers since 1926 looks set to begin this weekend.

The British Rail Board pay offer, described as an insult by union leaders, is far more than that. Along with their proposed new rosters for train drivers, BRB have declared war on the rail unions.

The Board and their Tory controllers are foaming at the mouth. Parker's "letter to fellow employees" claims the strike will ruin the railways. What breathtaking hypocrisy!

For 30 years, the railways have been ruined by governments kowtowing to business interests, demanding the railway should pay their own way, but making a mint out of cheap freight charges!

Our self important, overpaid "fellow employees" in the boardroom were willing hatchet men, announcing endless cuts and closures from their air-conditioned offices, while half a million rail jobs disappeared and wages remained at rock bottom level.

Not one of the major railway problems can be blamed on rail workers. The Low Pay Unit report in 1980 reported our average working week was 54½ hours, and "railwaymen still find themselves near the bottom of the pay league 17 years after Beeching" when railwaymen were promised the draconian cuts in services would be rewarded by high wages for those remaining.

Lack of investment and crippling interest charges have shackled the industry ever since the overcompensation of the old owners in 1948. They have not only held back modernisation but even adequate maintenance of the existing system, tracks, signalling etc. The government say if we want these things, they must be paid for by job reductions, wage cuts and worse conditions.

They want any union resistance to be answered by those unions being smashed. This is what they tried with ASLEF this year and are now preparing for both ASLEF and NUR. Sir Peter Parker, supported by the Tories says BRB is prepared to withstand a 3-month closure of the railways! The Tories intend to use this battle to defeat every worker in the country by breaking the strength of the unions.

It is only by forcing a complete retreat by the government that we can avoid a return of the days when railworkers sweated round the clock on virtual starvation wages.

NUR's strategy against these attacks, though, has been to give concession after concession in jobs and conditions in a joint approach with BRB and the government. In return we were supposed to receive investment into the system to guarantee our future.

Many railworkers ex-

pressed grave doubts about this strategy, in branch meetings and particularly in the pages of *Militant*. We were reviled as 'unreasonable' or even as 'wreckers'. We warned that negotiation with this government was a dialogue with the deaf: to negotiate jointly with the BRB was to argue with the ventriloquist while using his dummy as our advocate!

The closure of C&D parcels (losing 6,000 jobs) the loss of guards' right to a fixed 8 hour day, the introduction of "open stations", a low basic wage which forces many railwaymen to claim family income supplement, every possible concession was given

No more concessions

But the board, encouraged by this, only want more; one man operated trains with the loss of 3,500 guards jobs; 5,500 redundancies in the workshops; flexible rosters for drivers and more cuts in services.

In return as *Transport Review* shows (4 June) no investment in electrification; no real increase in subsidy; no investment in new electrical multiple units; no new locos or freight wagons. The only things to materialise are of course

BREL: Defend jobs

Many workers see the withdrawal by BR of their threats to close BREL works as a victory. Certainly their decision resulted from the angry reaction of workers in BREL which led to a strike threat from the NUR.

But we have to look carefully at the new proposals to spread voluntary redundancies throughout all BREL works. At Temple Mills, East London, the workforce is already down to what must be a minimum for the works to be viable.

A large response to the call for voluntary redundancies would mean the closure of such works. Some people suspect that may have been the real intention all along.

cuts; perversely known as 'productivity.'

The NUR leaders' strategy is in ruins. The only arguments this government will understand are empty stations, silent engines and rusting rails.

Last year's strike was averted by an agreement which only postponed the inevitable battle. Concessions may even now be made of a minute wage increase, in return for further concessions in jobs and conditions, but this would only be papering over the walls of an industry with rotten foundations.

The strike must go ahead and we must win. Defeat would give the green light to the Government to savage every worker and industry in the country.

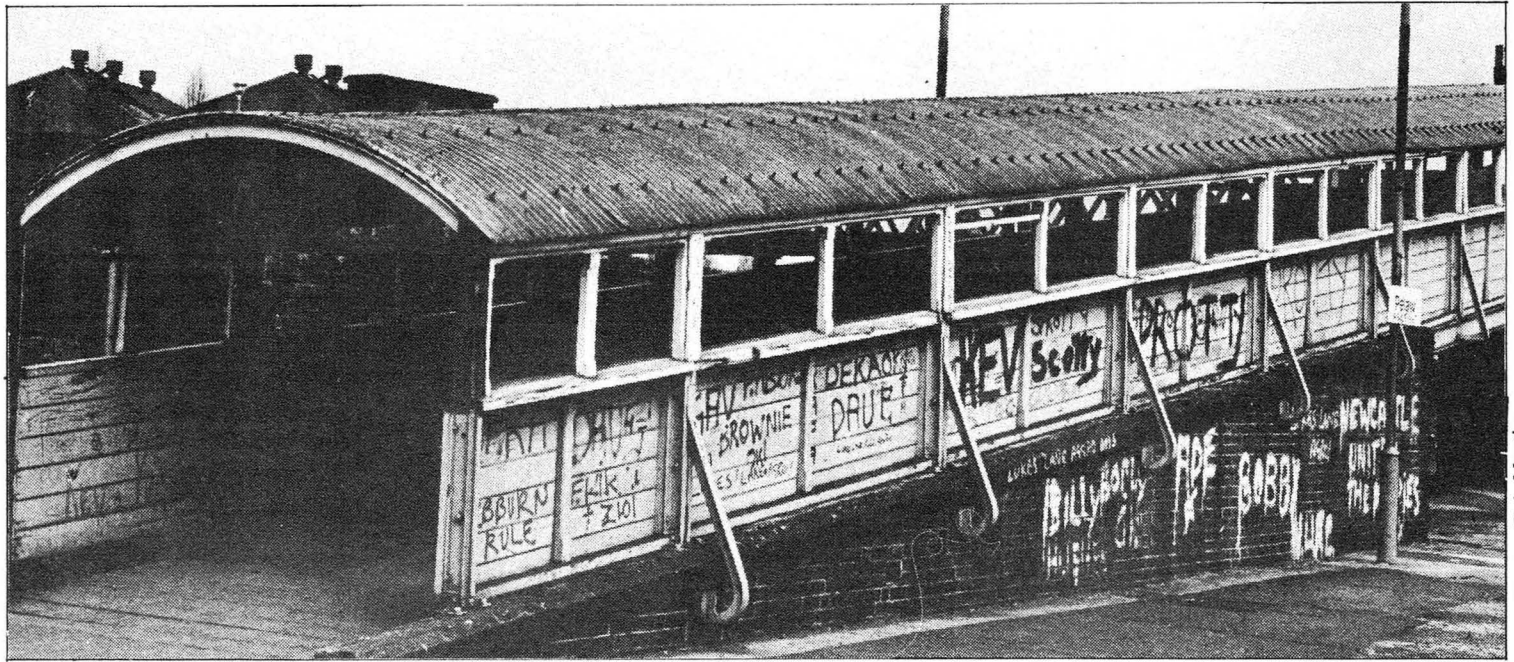
Even the most ruthless of Governments can not defeat our class if we are well organised and determined. Our union was born in bitter battles against ruthless governments and employers, as in the 1911 strike which led to the government and railway company surrendering within two days of the strike being made official.

The railways still transport 70% of coal and steel supplies. Early last year, despite the government's boasts that they had six months coal stockpiled, they capitulated to the miners' rapid strike preparations even before official action had been called.

The NUR EC must link the fight for jobs to the need for a basic minimum wage. Any weakening on either demand can only disillusion workers and strengthen management's hand. Although we can understand that workers with only a few years left at work think of taking what they see as the best they are going to get, we must point out that jobs lost will never be recreated.

The only way to stop the workforce being eaten away until closure becomes inevitable is for the rail unions to show they can defend our future as a viable industry through the strength of the labour and trade union movement.

By Mike Cleverley
(NUR Leyton No 2)



A deserted station in Tyneside. The promises of the Beeching report of good wages and high investment for remaining lines have come to nothing.

neglect



The high technology of the '80s co-exists with ancient rolling stock and low wages.

The Government rightly fear this strike too, linked to other disputes, will bring to the surface all the accumulated resentment against the Government throughout the country.

All the preparations of strike committees, picketing, appeals to other workers in the area, particularly in the steel and coal industries are crucial for our success. The Triple Alliance must be used positively, building links at local levels not just to prevent scab transportation of steel or coal, but if necessary, for industrial action.

Unity of all unions and grades in the industry is also needed, and past feuds and resentments must be forgotten. Above all we need determination on the part of our national leaders! If one tenth of the energy wasted in vilifying ASLEF and hounding 'Militant' supporters and other left-wingers in the NUR had been shown by some of our leaders in fighting our real enemies we should not be where we are today.

The rail unions were organised to fight for a transport system in the interests of the whole of society with decent conditions for its workers. To get this and safeguard our future, we must be prepared to fight a bitter battle.

Preparing for action

The recent meeting of the Sheffield and Chesterfield District Councils of the NUR correctly devoted a substantial part of the agenda to the question of strike preparation.

In this area much preparatory work have already been done. District strike headquarters have already been arranged in conjunction with the Centre Against Unemployment in Sheffield.

Premises are being made available on a 24 hour basis with telephone access, an essential factor in effective co-ordination.

The District Strike Committee will be made up of one delegate per branch and will have the responsibility of co-ordinating the work of the Branch Strike Committees and with the immediate task of providing pickets within their own areas and also for a picketing pool under the direction of the District

Strike Committee.

Branch Strike Committees are being asked to elect their own sub-committee to contact the branches of the ISTC and NUM with which each branch is twinned to ensure supportive action is forthcoming right from the start of the strike.

By the weekend, Branch Strike Committees will have met and reported to the Executive Committee of the District Council so any outstanding details can be finalised. A mass meeting in Sheffield on 26 June will relay all the details relating to strike organisations, picketing, strike benefit payment and social security claims to the membership as a whole.

If this level of organisation is reflected in all districts the membership nationally can be confident in the devastating effectiveness of the strike.

By Geoff Bright
(Tinsley Branch NUR)

Photo: Tish Martha

Photo: Militant

RANK AND FILE OPPOSE PURGE

At one time or another over the course of the last twelve months, literally hundreds of meetings of the labour movement have expressed their outright opposition to the witch-hunt being initiated by Labour's right-wing.

LONDON

CONSTITUENCIES:

Barking, Leyton, Romford, Newham North East, Newham North West, Ilford South, Islington South, Hampstead, Brentford & Isleworth, Paddington, Hammersmith, Surbiton, Upminster, Peckham, Hackney Central, Streatham, Dulwich, Richmond.

London Labour Party Regional Executive (20-4), Newham North East Womens Section, Gascoigne Ward (Barking).

EAST MIDLANDS

CONSTITUENCIES:

Nottingham East, Nottingham North, Chesterfield (Varley's CLP), Leicester East, Leicester South, Lincoln, Derby South, Nottingham West, Rushcliffe, Carlton, Bolsover, West Derbyshire, Beeston.

SCOTLAND

CONSTITUENCIES:

Rutherglen, Edinburgh East, Glasgow Central, Pentlands, Perth, West Stirlingshire, Edinburgh North, West Renfrewshire, Cathcart, Springburn, Govan, West Lothian, Provan, Bothwell, Louth, East Fife.

Edinburgh District Labour Party, Stirling Council Labour Group, Scottish Labour Party Conference, Stirling District Labour Party, Arbroath Ward LP, Lothian Regional LP EC, South Edinburgh LP.

EASTERN REGION

CONSTITUENCIES:

Harlow, South Herts (Brian Stanley's CLP), Basildon, Huntingdon, Braintree, Sudbury and Woodbridge, Watford, Hitchin & Letchworth, South East Essex. Eastern Region Labour Party Executive, Eastern Region Conference.

SOUTH WEST REGION

CONSTITUENCIES:

Totnes, Salisbury, Swindon, Torbay, Bristol West, Bristol North East, Bristol South East, Kingswood, South Goucs., Westbury, Bath.

South West Labour Party Conference.

WEST MIDLANDS REGION

CONSTITUENCIES:

Coventry South East, Perry Barr, Selly Oak, Stafford and Stone, Kidderminster, Coventry North West, Hereford, West Bromwich West (Betty Boothroyd's CLP), Bromsgrove and Redditch, Erdington, Coventry South West.

West Midlands Regional Conference.

NORTH WEST REGION

CONSTITUENCIES:

Salford East, Bootle, Crosby, Garston, Walton, Toxteth, Wavertree, Hazel Grove, Kirkdale, Ashton-under-lyme, Blakely, Rochdale, Farnworth, Ardwick, Stockport South, Edgehill, Ellesmere Port, Salford West, Burnley, Middleton and Prestwich, Moss Side, Blackpool South, Stockport North, North Fylde, Blackpool North.

Liverpool District Labour Party, Liverpool City Council Labour Group, Manchester City Labour Party, North West Regional Executive.

WALES

CONSTITUENCIES:

Ebbw Vale (Foot's CLP), Rhondda, Cardigan, Caerphilly, Llanelli, Wrexham, Brecon and Radnor, Cardiff North.

Llanelli Womens Council.

NORTHERN

CONSTITUENCIES:

Newcastle Central, Sunderland North, Sunderland South, Newcastle North, Teeside Redcar, Middlesborough Thornaby, Stockton, Darlington, Whitby, Blyth, Gateshead East, Kendal, Barrow, Wallsend.

YORKSHIRE REGION

CONSTITUENCIES:

Hull East, Sheffield Heeley, Leeds North West, Leeds South (Rees's CLP), Leeds North East, Leeds West, Peenistone, Sheffield Park (Mulley's CLP), Leeds South East, Hull Central, Wakefield, York, Pudsey, Bradford North, Bradford South, Bradford West, Shipley, Rother Valley.

Sheffield District Labour Party, Bradford District Labour Party, Wyke Ward (Bradford).

SOUTHERN REGION

CONSTITUENCIES:

Portsmouth, Brighton Pavillion, Brighton Kemp-town, Havant and Waterloo, Thanet West (Ron Hayward's CLP), Eastleigh, Gosport, Tonbridge and Malling (Frank Chapple's CLP), Arundel, Isle of Wight, Eastbourne, Hastings, Reading South, East Grinstead, Littlehampton Ward.

TRADES COUNCILS

Deeside, Middlethian, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Bradford, Swansea, Havant and Waterloo.

SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEES

Hull docks, Redpath Degrot Oil Rig Construction, Knowlsley NALGO,

Tower Hamlets Health JSSC, International Harvester Bradford, Ford Bridgend, GEC Openshaw.

TRADES UNIONS

TGWU
General Executive, Swansea District, Llanelli District, Hillingdon Council Branch, Manchester 6/514 Queens Road Bus Branch, 7/200, TGWU Mobil (Region 6), 6/612, 6/522, Region 6 Executive, 6/93, Suffolk Regional Conference NUAAW (Now part of TGWU), Sussex District, T Lucas Branch, Alcoa Swansea, IMI Swansea, 3 M's Swansea, Fords Bridgend, Clapton Bus Garage, 4/112, 4/55, 7/17/157 (Glasgow).

AUEW

Swansea District, Sheffield District, Brighton No 11, Glasgow District, Ecclesville No 1 (Bradford), Manchester North District, Clydebank DC, Ystalafera, Swansea No 1, Swansea No 4, Swansea No 6, Swansea No 10, Luton, Manchester N Shop Stewards Quarterley Meeting, Tass: Oxford and National Conference.

FBU

Merseyside Committee, National Executive Committee, A Division Strathclyde, West Derby Fire Station, Ken Cameron General Secretary.

NUM

South Wales Executive and Conference, Scottish EC, Brynlliw Lodge (S Wales Area).

ISTC

Teeside, Ravenscraig.
POEU
Post Office Railway, Swansea, London North Central Internal.

ASTMS

No 4 Division, Liverpool B&I Committee, Southampton Insurance, Southampton Branch, A199 Branch, Yorkshire Region (No 7 Division), Leeds University, East London Medical, Divisional Council 15 (East London), Hayes/Middlesex Branch.

UCATT

Uxbridge, Bradford builders, UCATT National Conference, PGO 76.

EEPTU

Bootle, Glasgow, Swansea.

GMWU

National Conference, Wandsworth, Liverpool No 5.

UCW

London Overseas Telephone No 1, Garrick Branch Committee London, Farraday French Branch Committee London, Wood Street Branch Committee London.

NUPE

Merseyside DC, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Avon Social Services.

USDAW

Swansea Private Trades, London Metropolitan, National Conference.

BFAWU

National Conference, Terry O'Neill (President), Manchester DC.

OTHER TRADES UNIONS

COHSE Yorkshire Regional Committee, ASLEF National Conference, ASLEF Stratford, Nur Newcastle No 1, Paddington No 1, Euston No 1, NUSMW National Conference, NGA Liverpool Branch, FTAT Blackpool Clerical, NSMM Bradford,

SOGAT London Central, Terry Herbert (Assistant General Secretary), West Scotland Political Committee, CPSA Hackney/Tower Hamlets.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS
Hillingdon Co-op Party, London SEA.

Apart from all these bodies here, there are probably hundreds more committees, CLPs, branches and district and regional bodies the length and breadth of the labour movement which, when the issues are raised, would refuse to go along with a return to the witch-hunting of the 1950s.

Why the report n

The Militant Tendency Report produced by Ron Hayward and David Hughes for the NEC of the Labour Party must be rejected by the rank and file of the Party for what it is—a witch-hunters charter.

This report, of a little over 3 pages in length, must rank as one of the flimsiest ever reports produced for the NEC. But the conclusions drawn by the report could have an enormous significance on the future developments inside the Labour Party.

The report accuses *Militant* supporters of breaking Clause II section 3 of the Labour Party Constitution, and thereby invites the right wing controlled NEC to expell *Militant* supporters.

The only evidence alluded to in the report is that *Militant* "does receive regular weekly contributions from some readers" including some through bankers orders direct into its accounts. This, of course, is public knowledge and has been commented upon even by the Editorial Board of *Militant* itself, just as it is public knowledge that the right wing *Solidarity* group canvasses for and receives donations and contributions, also through bankers orders, from its supporters.

The report recommends that the Labour Party set up "a Register of non-affiliated groups of members to be recognised and allowed to operate within the Party", making it quite clear, however, that "the *Militant Tendency* as presently constituted would not be eligible to be included on the proposed Register."

What does this recommendation mean? There are pious comments about party democracy, for example

"we do not wish to curtail genuine discussion and debate by pressure groups within the party". Elsewhere, the Report states, "we fully support the sentiments contained in the Party leader's new year message 1982 against proscriptio lists, witch-hunts and expulsions."

But despite these comments, the report is a blueprint for purges and witch-hunts. The proposed Register of authorised groups is, in effect, a system of bans and proscriptions under another name.

Only one letter separates the witch-hunts of the 1950s from that proposed for the 1980s. An official proscribed list will be replaced by an official prescribed list. These new guidelines will mean that Clause II Part 3 of the Labour Party Constitution will be interpreted

Neil Kinnock, one of the NEC 'lefts' who voted for the enquiry into *Militant*



No matter how the right wing and

in the narrowest possible way, in order to stifle the campaigns and activities of the Left.

The report itself makes it clear that the General Secretary and National Agent came under pressure from the right wing of the Party. "Labour Solidarity Campaign of 62 Charles Lane, London NW8," the report says, "submitted a great deal of documenta-tion."

As has always been the case in the past, right wing groups inside the Labour Party will be tolerated. That is evident even by the fact that the NEC was charged to conduct an enquiry into *Militant*, and yet there has been no enquiry conducted into *Solidarity*, into the NATO-funded organisations inside the Labour Party, or into connections between Labour right wingers and publications known to be associated or funded by the CIA.

Solidarity's own publications make frequent reference to its own "members" and one recent *Solidarity* circular referred to the building up of "local organisations with a national delegate Conference in 1982." (See also, report on page 3)

There will be one set of rules for the Right and one for the Left. Left wing groups and campaigns inside the Labour Party will be vigorously policed.

In the March/April issue of *New Socialist*, Ian Mikardo described some of the policing activities of the National Agents Department in the 1950's. "A large part of the work of the National Agents Department, first under Len Williams and then even more under Sara Barker, was devoted to compiling exhaustive MI5-style dossiers on all the prominent left members of the Party.

Those dossiers contained clips of our articles and speeches and McCarthy-like guilt-by-association information on our relations,



Photo: Militant
The Tory Press try to present the Militant Report, Labour's rank and file will see it as an attack on all activists

must be rejected



Ron Hayward, who as National Agent burned the files and dossiers on the lefts

friends and associates. Some of this material was put together in Transport House and a lot of it was fed in by the Regional Organisers."

Many of the Regional Organisers of the Labour Party today go back to the Gaitskellite witch-hunting period of the 1950's, and, should the recommendations of the report be implemented, the Regional organisers would be used once again to police the left of the Labour Party.

It is significant that the report states "we asked the parties' regional organisers to submit reports on the activities of the Militant Tendency and its supporters. These replies were taken into consideration in compiling this report." It would seem from this report that the regional organisers already have new dossiers on Militant supporters and left wing activists in the regions.

Despite the submissions of the regional organisers to the enquiry not one Regional Executive Committee was consulted by its regional organiser and not one Regional Executive Committee was asked by the enquiry to submit evidence. It is also clear that the opinions of the Regional Conferences themselves, a majority of which have now

come out against witch-hunts, have not been taken into account.

If the recommendations of the report are carried through, all new pressure groups, campaigns, and ad hoc bodies within the Labour Party would be vigorously vetted. Those which are unregistered will be banned, their supporters risking expulsion or suspension from Party membership.

Those campaigns and bodies whose membership of the Register has been refused, will likewise have opened themselves to expulsion by having submitted lists of their supporters to the NEC.

The NEC's decision, according to the report, will be final. The recommendation does not even grant the final decision on the Registration of groups to the National Conference!

The net result of the Militant Tendency Report will be, as far as the right wing are concerned, a declaration of war on all left groups, campaigns and newspapers inside the Labour Party.

"It is not only the adherents of Militant who threaten the traditional fabric of the Labour Party" said *The Times* Editorial, "and it is right that a proper structure of discipline

Michael Foot's own Ebbw Vale CLP has opposed expulsions



should be established." The right wing of the Labour Party, like the leader writer of *The Times*, would like to see a totalitarian "discipline" introduced into the Labour Party.

"Militant and other suspect organisations should be allowed to continue within the Party only if they so transform themselves that their activities do not conflict with Labour's basic purposes" (*The Times* 19 June 1982). The Fleet Street bosses' press and the right wing see most things eye-to-eye. For both, the report is the beginning of a purge of the Labour Party, of all the genuine socialist elements.

In his article in *New Socialist*, Ian Mikardo describes how Ron Hayward told him and others that on the day he took office as National Agent "he found a four-drawer filing cabinet full of these dossiers, and burned the lot of them." But despite this, this report, above Ron Hayward's signature is paving the way for the accumulation of new dossiers and files on left wing activists inside the Labour Party.

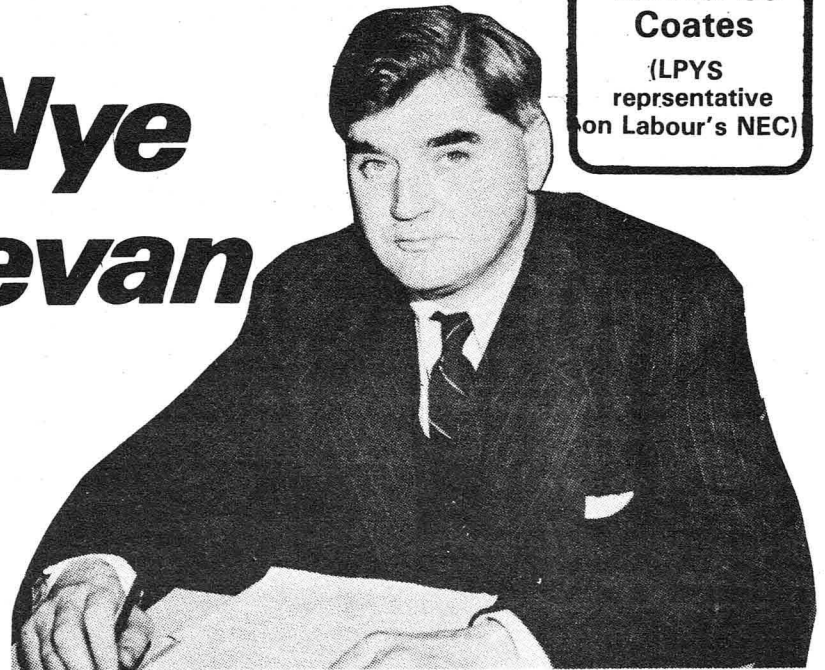
Labour Party members will not be impressed by the small print in this small document. The convoluted arguments about Clause II and the lame statements "against bans and proscriptions" will seem as nothing alongside the main principle of the report, which is that bans and proscriptions would come back.

No matter how the right wing and the Tory press try to present this Report, it will be seen by the rank and file of the trade union and labour movement as an attempted purge of all the socialist elements, and a return to the hounding of the Bevanites of the 1930's and the 1950's. For that reason, the overwhelming majority of activists will reject it.

When the Right expelled

By
Lawrence
Coates
(LPYS
representative
on Labour's NEC)

Nye Bevan



'Purges' against the left-wing are not new to the Labour Party. In 1939, for example, a previous witch-hunt culminated in the expulsion of leading left-wingers, Stafford Cripps and Aneurin Bevan, and in the disbanding of the National Advisory Committee of the Labour League of Youth.

The moves and counter-moves in 1939 indicate some lessons for today's fight to thwart attempts by the Tory press and Labour's right wing to exclude Militant from the Labour Party.

The 1939 struggle is full of ironies. One of Bevan's supporters then was a young Party member called Michael Foot. One of the active members of the League of Youth majority—on the receiving end of the purge—was young Jim Mortimer, who is now taking over as General Secretary of the Labour Party. Cripps, of course, was MP for the same Bristol constituency now represented by another leading figure, Tony Benn.

Since 1931, when Labour's first Prime Minister, Ramsay MacDonald, defected from Labour, a coalition government made up of Conservatives, National Liberals and a handful of Labour renegades, had been in office. Stafford Cripps, a prominent left-wing lawyer, had campaigned throughout 1937 and 1938 for Labour to abandon its support of the National Government's policy of non-intervention in the Spanish Civil War.

Along with the mass of Labour's left-wing activists, Cripps correctly wanted Labour to give active support to the Spanish Republicans' struggle against Franco's armies.

In January 1939, Cripps—who was a member of the NEC, elected in the new Constituency Section—was expelled from the Labour Party on the grounds that he had circulated a Memorandum to local Labour Parties and affiliated organisations advocating support for the Popular Front.

In March, the NEC warned three other Labour MPs, including Aneurin Bevan, and a handful of candidates and other prominent

members, that they would face expulsion unless they withdrew from the Popular Front campaign. On March 15, Aneurin Bevan wrote to the National Agent, G.S. Middleton, defending the position which he and the others had taken:

"The issue to which we desire to address ourselves and which is raised in your letter concerns the rights of members to advocate a policy to which the Executive is opposed. It is not enough to say that Conference has reached a decision.

●
Next week we will deal with the hounding of Bevan in the 1950s
●

The Executive has the duty to see that Conference decisions are implemented and certainly we do not seek to deter them from doing so. But individual members of the Party have the duty and privilege to attempt to change the decisions of the Conference, if they feel that circumstances call for such a change...

"What ways are open to members who wish to persuade the Party that such a change is needed? The declarations of the Executive are detailed and indeed almost universal in describing the limitations of Members. They are vague to the point of obscurity in describing what their liberties are.

"The reference in the resolution of the Executive to 'organised activity' is particularly difficult to understand. It was by the organised expression of minority opinion that the Party achieved its present position in the State.

It seems to us to be dangerously rigid to describe an organised effort to change Party policy as an

organised attack on the Party itself."

The National Agent's reply was to send Bevan a formal list of charges which have a very contemporary sound to them. Bevan was accused of:

"(a) The persistent propagation by self-appointed Groups of programmes and policies diametrically opposed to those of the Labour Party.

"(b) The organisation of a widespread public campaign in association with and supported by political parties ineligible for affiliation to the Labour Party.

"(c) The use of personal wealth to communicate wholesale with affiliated organisations.

"(d) The creation of machinery with staffs and offices throughout the country for the purpose of undermining the integrity of the Party and the authority of the Annual Party Conference.

"(e) The persistent making of speeches and the writing of articles which are abusive of the Party, in principle and policy."

Further letters were exchanged until, on March 27, Bevan was given an ultimatum; withdraw from the Popular Front agitation within 7 days or be expelled. On March 30, the National Agent wrote again to Bevan:

"In the circumstances, as you have ceased to fulfil the qualifications of membership, you are, in accordance with the decision of the National Executive Committee, hereby excluded from the Party."

The same NEC meeting which expelled Cripps in January 1939 also disbanded the Labour League of Youth National Advisory Committee. At the following Party Conference, Cripps' appeal against expulsion was lost and the League of Youth NAC's disbandment approved. One of the speakers in favour of disbandment was a young delegate from Leyton CLP named Reg Underhill.

Within a few years Bevan and Cripps were back in the Labour Party. Both, put particularly Bevan, are widely regarded, even today, as victims of a witch-hunt. No-one even remembers the names of the small-minded right wingers who kicked Bevan out.

GREECE

PASOK Government clashes with workers

By a
Militant
reporter

Seven months ago the Greek socialist party PASOK won a resounding election victory and became the first workers' party to form a government in that country.

PASOK's support leapt from 13% in 1974 to 50% last year, giving the left a crushing 60% majority. The flood of working people's votes was entirely due to the attraction of the most left-wing programme on which any European socialist party has won a general election.

The promised sweeping reforms on pensions, health, education, working conditions and hours, minimum wage rates and democratic changes in the state and trade union rights—all this really captured the imagination of the workers and peasants who want a fundamental change in society to sweep out poverty and the undemocratic manipulation of the country by a handful of millionaires.

This mandate for socialism completely answers the right-wing cynics of the Labour Party in Britain that we can't win the next election unless we water down our ideas and hide the socialist policies adopted by party conference.

As soon as the PASOK leader Papandreou introduced some of these measures the people stood by him enthusiastically.

Enormous crowds rushed into the streets when the election results were announced, with hundreds of thousands cheering wildly as the police gave up trying to enforce a ban on such celebrations and joined in. Since then the workers have surged into PASOK, swelling its ranks to 200,000—making it the biggest political party in the history of Greece.

Sharp turn to the right

On the other hand, the corrupt politicians of the misnamed "New Democracy", the conspiratorial army and police chiefs and their big business paymasters were paralysed with shock. For the ruling class it was an unmitigated disaster. "Dangerous expectations" of the unruly masses had been raised which couldn't be satisfied without endangering their profits.

Now, after seven months of PASOK rule, a balance sheet needs to be drawn. For already many activists in PASOK and especially in the trade unions are becoming disillusioned with their government as it comes under pressure from the wealthy few who still own the economy of Greece.

After the initial reforms Papandreou has made a sharp turn to the right. Faced with a catastrophic decline in investment, three years of economic stagnation and 24% inflation, he is desperately trying to reassure foreign financiers and appease the very Greek capitalists who got the country into such a mess.

Now, deeply embarrassed by the left-wing rhetoric he used to win the support of the workers, he is lavishing subsidies and grants on the capitalists, wooing western businessmen to increase investments—and profits—in "socialist Greece".

The much-vaunted radical plan to "socialise" most of Greek industry turns out to be no more than Harold Wilson's ill-fated "planning agreements". Not a further word about nationalisation under workers' control is heard from the PASOK leaders.

But the most blatant backsliding has been in the government's dealings with foreign powers. When Haig visited Athens last month, Papandreou agreed to break his election promises to pull out of NATO and to close down US bases in Greece, in return for an American promise of support in the event of an attack from Turkey.

Promises, it seems, cost nothing. As the *Guardian* observed, "Although showing no hesitation in striking poses drastically different from those of his allies, on such questions as Poland, the Brezhnev missile proposals and the Middle East, he has shown no haste to pull away from the Alliance."

The direct effects of this compromising attitude to the ruling class will be shortly felt in the pockets of every worker.

The rises in wages and pensions last year were desperately needed by a people who have suffered from ruthless attacks by the bosses and an inflation rate more than double the European average. But that inflation rages on.

Greek capitalism is too feeble to bear the cost of the reforms justly demanded by those who produce the nation's wealth. One company after another is going bankrupt, adding to the list of unemployed. Big business is on an investment strike to force the government to forget its election mandate and to carry out its bidding.

Unless PASOK makes a complete break with capitalism, the capitalists will break it. All the effects of the reforms will turn into their opposite. What the workers took through mass



The workers who come into PASOK will demand that Papandreou take decisive socialist measures

industrial and political struggles will be stolen out of their back pockets through price rises, taxes, cuts and incomes policy.

The workers have already started moving to stop this. A wave of factory occupations has swept Athens. Peasants are taking over big land-holdings (mainly owned by the rich Orthodox Church).

workers. But for the trade unionists who threatened 40 consecutive 24-hour stoppages it was an assertion of their determination to turn the fine words about "Greece for the people" into reality.

Every effort was made by PASOK's leaders to break this strike, irrespective of the democratic decisions of the workers themselves.

the government has rushed in the long-awaited bill to extend trade union rights, clearly to get some of the workers' pressure off its back.

In the case of the bus workers' strike in Athens, the high-handed, bureaucratic methods of the government and party officialdom resulted in the expulsion of five out of

the right wing will sooner or later be faced with this threat.

But these arbitrary and undemocratic methods of opposing the workers engaged in struggles which PASOK should be supporting—and would support if the "New Democracy" was in office—will only alienate and disappoint its followers. Inevitably, as the crisis of capitalism forces the government to retreat further from its programme, the workers who have come into PASOK will demand that Papandreou takes decisive socialist measures to transform society as the only way to guarantee reforms and improvements in living standards.

The union militants now bearing the brunt of the party bureaucracy's repressive measures will learn the lessons of this experience and will emerge in the leadership of a mass Marxist opposition to the programme of compromise and appeasement. This will provide a revolutionary alternative to the mass of workers in the Panhellenic Socialist Movement.

The present attacks against union militants are an extension of the vicious witch-hunts launched several years ago by Papandreou against the Marxist left in PASOK

Even the croupiers of the Athens Casino are picketing to demand its nationalisation! Everywhere the workers are taking strike action to demand the implementation of PASOK's election promises of nationalisation and workers' control!

But the employers are now insisting that the socialist government should play the role of policeman to its class, to use its authority over the labour movement to keep it under control. This fundamental conflict of identity—policeman or workers' champions—has to be settled by the party now.

In the recent bankworkers' strike Papandreou came down on the side of the management against the workers. For the government it was a desperate attempt to prove to the ruling class that they could discipline the

Papandreou scandalously used the mass media to spread false information about various bankworkers going back to work, and eventually expelled from PASOK leaders of the unions for not breaking the strike on his orders!

Despite an incredible 24-hour meeting to bully PASOK bankworkers' union leaders into submission, only 10 out of 200 gave in to the hectoring of the party bosses. In one union, where all the members of the Executive belonged to PASOK, Papandreou's supporters only managed to win a vote to end the strike by one vote—after three members resigned in disgust when it was announced they were expelled from the party.

But the rank and file remained solid until the government was forced to back down. As a direct result of this wave of strikes

seven PASOK members on the union Executive because they refused to accept an ultimatum to call off the strike—over the heads of the union members. As a result PASOK lost its majority in the union Executive.

For Labour Party activists in Britain there is a lesson in these developments. The present attacks against union militants are an extension of the vicious witch-hunts launched several years ago by Papandreou against the Marxist tendency in PASOK. The expulsion of individual Marxists, and of whole branches which refused to do the leadership's bidding, confirmed Papandreou in the policy of dealing with all opposition by administrative decree.

Unless the right wing attempts at witch-hunts are implacably opposed from the outset, all opponents of

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AFGHANISTAN

"Russians fight losing battle in Afghanistan."

This recent headline in *The Times* is typical of the capitalist press in the West, which has been predicting the imminent downfall of the Barbrak Karmel regime ever since the Russian forces invaded the country in December 1979.

Many of the press stories, supposedly based on "refugee sources" in Pakistan, bear all the hallmarks of CIA black propaganda.

However, more realistic reports in serious journals, including some reports in *The Times* itself, confirm the prognosis made by *Militant* at the time of the invasion: that the guerrillas, despite US backing, would not defeat the Russian and Afghan forces; and that the Karmel regime, stepping back from the excesses of the previous Amin leadership, would gradually consolidate its position through the implementation of economic and social reforms.

One of the most outrageous propaganda stories, publicly announced by the US deputy secretary of state, Walter Stoessel, in

Can the guerrillas ever win?

First part of a two-part article by Lynn Walsh

Nor had any border-area hospitals which have been treating Afghan sick and wounded found any such evidence.

Commenting on Stoessel's figures, Fishlock wrote: "reporters and other observers have learned that among the Mujahidin and other Afghans there is a

Russian anti-guerrilla propaganda poster



penchant for exaggeration and a willingness to tell a questioner what he wants to hear. It is also characteristic of Afghan testimonial that figures are precise as well as exaggerated, so that the figure of 3,042 dead has a rather Afghan ring to it."

Another favourite propaganda story is that Russian soldiers are so beleaguered that they hardly dare step out of their barracks: "No Russian," claimed another *Times* cor-

respondent, Karan Thatpar, "is welcome in Kabul, and they know it. For them almost every Afghan is in turn suspect. That is why the Russians live in special housing complexes, behind barbed wire and protected by their own security and armour. When they venture out, they prefer to do so in groups seeking the safety of their own number." (*The Times*, 3 March)

This kind of story was commented on by David Lomax (*Listener*, 18 March 1982) who visited Afghanistan earlier in the year to make a film report for *Panorama* (BBC 1, 22 March): "There have been repeated stories in the West that Russians off duty in Kabul are so frightened of having their throats cut in some dark corner of the bazaar that they either do not shop at all or else disguise their identity with glaring T-shirts bearing legends like *University of California*. This story is a particular favourite on the Western diplomatic cocktail circuit. To test it, I managed to escape from my guide one day, and spent many hours wandering all over the back streets of the city. I was taken for a Russian everywhere, but never once encountered the slightest hostility." (Our emphasis—LW)

Apart from the enforcement of the 10pm-4pm curfew, Lomax commented that "otherwise the presence of the military is not obvious, and the streets and bazaars are bursting with noise, dirt and activity of every kind." He remarked: "The atmosphere in the city itself was far more relaxed than I had expected."

to speak from the Casa Rosada balcony, the crowds filled up in the main square. The three stones at the Presidential Palace. 'Fight the English, not the people,' they demanded when tear gas was fired at them. 'We want the Malvinas not the dictatorship.'

Galtieri cancelled his appearance, and was overthrown in a palace coup two days later.

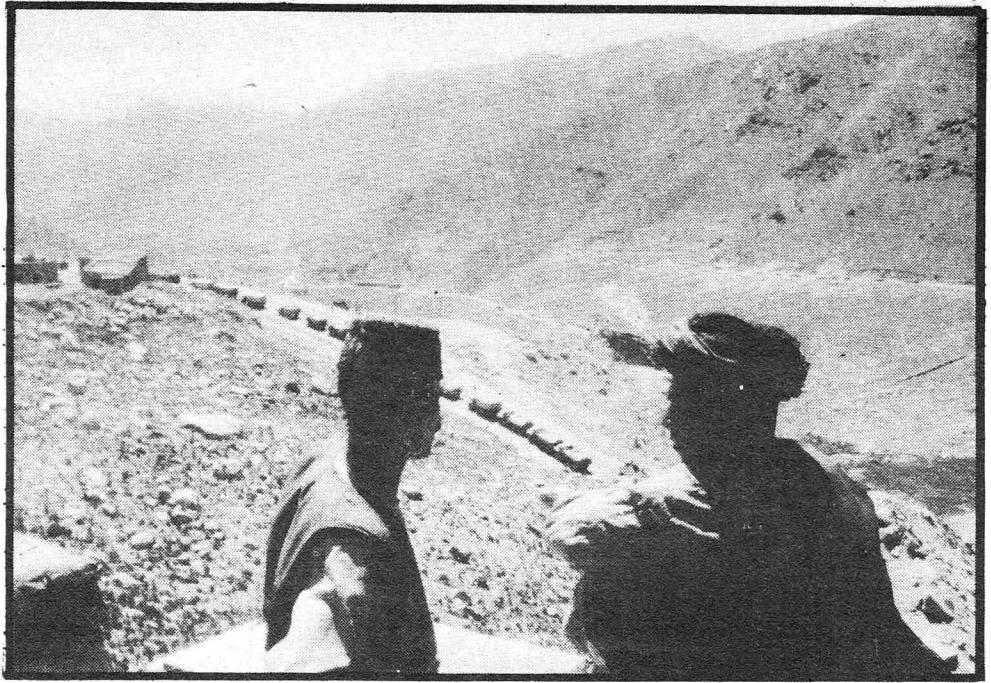
Divisions have opened up within the military on how to handle unrest. Some diehards are demanding the continuation of current policies. Others are calling for some change. Air Force chief, Lami Dozo, in trying to put on the clothes of a new Peron, has called for a political and economic programme of reconstruction.

But the disastrous position of the Argentine economy offers no hope of capitalist stability. The most optimistic assessment states that this year's trade

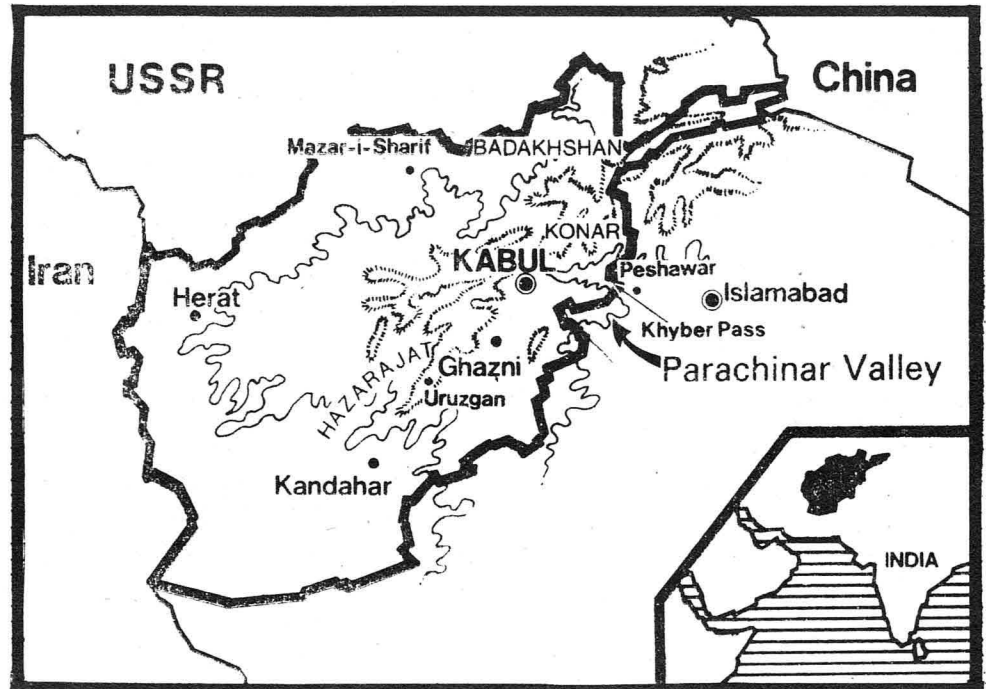
surplus will only cover one third of the interest payments on the foreign debt. Over the last year there has been a real loss of 30% in workers' incomes.

Inflation is expected to at least reach 200% this year, and the currency is continually being devalued. On top of this comes the economic cost of the war—two emergency taxes so far and more to come if the regime tries to replace lost equipment.

The war, which was meant to divert unrest about the economy, has now redoubled the anger. The crisis at the top of the armed forces reflects the political and economic crisis engulfing society. "This is a disaster" one Argentine businessman told the *Sunday Times* (20 June). And a politician commented, "This is the worst crisis since independence from Spain. What we have so far is only the beginning".



Russian convoy in the mountains



The guerrillas can harass the regime's forces but "they can never be much more than Geronimos".

All the signs are, that despite massive US backing, the guerrillas are no nearer to success than early in 1980. Under Carter, the US administration allocated \$20-\$30 million, and Reagan has undoubtedly stepped this up. Arms, paid for by the US, have been sent from Egypt and a number of other 'Islamic' countries.

Yet amidst numerous reports of guerrilla 'successes' and Russian problems, *The Times* (28 December 1981) carried an

unsigned article which boldly admitted that the guerrillas "can never win. That is they can never be instrumental in driving the Russians out." They could harass the regime's forces, but "they can never be much more than Geronimos."

Contradicting even their own reports on the Russians' inability to "control the country," *The Times* admits that "much depends on the meaning of control. The hinterland... has always been outside law and

government, the provinces of chieftains living by ancient codes of guns, feud, revenge and hospitality."

The Mujahidin are, in any case, divided into rival groups, which reportedly spend as much time in settling internal disputes as they do in fighting the Russians. Clearly, they are used as the cat's paw of reaction, manipulated both by the landlords and regional chiefs within the country and by the United States and its client regimes outside.

ARGENTINA

The failure of the junta's Falkland invasion has not only brought down Galtieri, but now threatens the continuation of military rule.

The air force and navy have withdrawn from the junta because the army insists on replacing Galtieri with another army leader. The other forces leaders fear that purely cosmetic changes will not quell the anger boiling over from below.

Already General Vaquero, who was next in line to take over from Galtieri, in an unprecedented act, chose retirement instead. He feared to face the wrath of the people.

When Galtieri announced last week that he was going

However the military chiefs manoeuvre they are unlikely to remain in power for long. Coupled with the economic crisis, there is now great bitterness at how the junta conducted and lied about the war. As the workers move against the junta, a new period of turmoil has opened up in Argentine society.

LEBANON

With Israeli troops surrounding the last Palestinian stronghold of West Beirut the war has entered a critical phase.

Israeli defence minister Sharon, a notorious 'hawk,' has increasingly taken over the running of the campaign and is personally in the field. His military objectives have never been fully discussed even in the Israeli cabinet itself, but his real aim, of annihilating the PLO and

smashing any Arab opposition in the way, has become clear.

As a cabinet colleague put it: "If he had it all his own way, he'd be on the way to Karachi by now."

But Sharon isn't having it all his own way. With 6,000 PLO members and 1,000 Syrian troops dug in in Beirut, there is no way of gaining a final military victory without a bloodbath. Thousands more civilians would be killed and Israeli casualties would be heavy.

Within Israel itself, alarm and opposition has begun to grow against this prospect. Many people consider the 214 Israeli soldiers killed by last weekend as too high a toll. A bloody battle for Beirut would provoke outrage.

Already the opposition Labour Party despite the leadership having policies only slightly different to Begin's, has opposed the taking of Beirut. A group of

academics have described the war as "unjust" and a "mass slaughter of Palestinians." Even a former ambassador to London has publicly condemned the war.

Such sharp and open dissent during wartime is unprecedented in Israel. It reflects the growing awareness that neither the foreign policy of the Begin government, nor its anti-working class domestic policies, can satisfy the aspirations of Israeli working people for a secure life.

With even Sharon's military success in doubt, a political victory for the Israeli ruling class that would suppress the Palestinian people's struggle for any length of time, is excluded. Only the working class, Jewish and Arab, can resolve the festering crisis through the struggle for socialist policies and a socialist federation of Middle Eastern states.



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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

'A Star is Torn'

Dear Comrades

There have been some excellent articles published in the 'Militant' recently, explaining the specific problems working class women are faced with under the capitalist system, the double pressures of pinning down a job and maintaining a family life, being a wife and mother, all things at all times.

The exploitation of women in the entertainment world is another example of how profiteers will manipulate anyone with marketable talent to provide an image to appeal to the public and make money.

I saw recently, at the Stratford Royal Theatre in East London, a musical dramatisation of the lives of eleven famous women singers, called 'A Star is Torn'. It followed the struggle against poverty, racism and the addiction, illness and injury that eventually killed them.

Robyn Archer, in a one-woman show, uses her

beautiful voice to its capacity singing a celebration to the brilliant, often underestimated and stereotyped, tragic stars like Billie Holiday. She was the black blues singer who caught the imagination of the public, but whose life of child prostitution, fame as a singer and death by heroin addiction paid the price, and she became a victim of stardom.

Other women featured were Edith Piaf, the elfin-like French prostitute who sang of poverty, hunger and love and became a legend who also died of drug addiction, and Patsy Cline, the American country singer, whose life ended in her early thirties in a tragic plane crash while on concert tour.

Many other women came to life in the performance, too many to mention. If comrades like blues, country and music hall singing, performed with panache, admiration and sympathy, watch out for 'A Star is Torn' if it tours your area.

Yours fraternally
Vicky Matthews
Hackney Central LPYS

The case for positive discrimination

Dear Militant

I strongly disagree with Lesley Holt's objections to positive discrimination for women (Militant, issue 604). She says it would reinforce the prejudices of politically backward workers, but positive discrimination is an essential part of any strategy to confront these very prejudices. How can these be better overcome than by having more women in the workforce, arguing their own case?

Instead, Lesley wants women to join with their workmates in the labour movement. I would totally agree, but just how does she think this will happen in trade unions dominated by prejudiced men?

An example from my own workplace illustrates these two fundamental points. There are only three female engineers working in the Central Telephone exchange in Aberdeen, compared with about sixty males. These women are continually harassed by

their male workmates who whistle at them, pat their bums, pull their bra straps etc.

They can do nothing since they are so totally outnumbered. They just try to laugh it off. I am sure if there were more women in the workforce (nasty positive discrimination!) they would have the confidence and power to stand up to this kind of humiliating treatment.

Lesley would say go to the union, but can you really imagine three women standing up in a union meeting to say that their workmates keep touching them up (you can just hear the laughter and cries of 'It's your own fault,' 'You shouldn't wear such provocative clothes' and far worse)?

Here again positive discrimination, promoting women forward onto the branch committee, would help a lot, though no one is claiming that positive discrimination alone would solve all the problems. At least we would hear women speaking for themselves.

Yours fraternally
Norman Bruce
Aberdeen

Go to hospital— and join the picket line

Dear Comrades

This week's 'Sunday Times' carried a heart-rending item tucked away between the gore of half a million Middle Eastern dead and displaced and Coalite's Falkland hell-fires.

It told the sad story of a 36-year-old woman "condemned to pain by NHS jargon". After four years of suffering, her 'cold surgery' had to be delayed, supposedly because of the health workers' dispute. However the article didn't ask why she had to wait until January of this year before the diagnosis which determined her proposed treatment was made, even though she claimed she had to give up a place at teacher training college because of her condition. So what were the dedicated doctors doing for her in the 3½ years preceding the diagnosis?

It's obvious the medical profession is now going to launch into a 'bring out your dead' campaign to turn public sympathy against our health workers. I recently received a letter from my GP suggesting I should go into hospital for a complete check-up; I appreciate his concern, but this comes after ten years of increasing discomfort and

useless (and occasionally harmful) treatment. I had to get through the past year (my last year of a degree course) suffering not only chronic pain which at times reduced me to tears but also bureaucratic depression through being ping-ponged between DHSS and my LEA, because there were no regulations to cover our circumstances.

I'm a mature student living away from home; when my husband finished the course he was on earlier this year, we were expected to keep two homes and two kids on £22.70 a week. My LEA has finally got round to re-assessing my grant for 1981/82, just in time to pay for the exam re-sits I'll probably have to do because the financial hardships alone played havoc with my health and made studying virtually impossible.

As for the medical hypocrisy, I can't really blame the one GP who has finally taken up my case.

Nonetheless, the only time I'll be going to hospital now will be to stand on the picket-lines—I really don't feel like being a chronic-pain pawn in a union-bashing game. And I'd advise any other mother wanting to get an education that her energies would be better spent working for the socialist transformation of society—capitalist education systems just don't have room for us.

Yours fraternally
Jane Leitch
Millbridge, Plymouth

Towards a new Jerusalem

Dear Comrades

Here we are in so-called "Free Britain" having just fought a war with a 'fascist dictatorship' in the South Atlantic. Yet compare the two sides.

In Argentina, there is vicious repression of the working classes and their organisations, with government controlled "death squads" allowed to perform their horrendous sick business at will, forcing the vast majority of people to accept the status quo of "all power to the few, at the expense of the masses". The ruling junta in their desperate search for the means of perpetuating this "dead end" hold on the reins of power, frantically thrash about from one manoeuvre to another hence their latest, the Falklands war.

For what unites people more than a national cause? What makes them forget their grievances, their pain and sorrow more than a so-called just war?

Yet, these dictators should beware, for the more they manoeuvre to overcome the contradictions within their society, caused by their policies of rank exploitation, the more certain is their fall, as the working class realise who is the true enemy and why they are being persuaded to fight such a war.

Then we turn to Britain, "land of democracy, home of the free". Can this be the same country where it is said that 5% of the popula-

tion own the majority of the wealth, where people can still die as a result of lack of investment in adequate medical facilities, where there are still homeless and hungry and where millions are condemned to the soulless drudgery of daily jobs they despise, in order to eat and keep a roof over their heads.

We only have to open our eyes and look around to see the truth of the situation. But to look isn't enough. If there has to be a war, then it must be a war against oppression, "the class war". The vast army of the have-nots against the oppressors, the parasites. We must snatch every opportunity to put our case, that the only way forward is socialism. The full-blooded kind that people who support papers like the 'Militant' expound. The kind of socialism that will bring true equality of opportunity, like freedom from want, the right of free expression, all this and much more could be achieved with socialism.

Although not a Christian, I have a love of the hymn "Jerusalem", a hymn written as a satire on the 'Two Englands', the England of the few haves and the England of the toiling masses.

Yet even such a hymn has been taken and abused by the ruling class. Yet one day, and I believe the time is not far distant, the working class will have their Jerusalem not only in England, but across the globe.

Yours in comradeship
M C O'Connor
Portsmouth

The stewarding at the National Conference of Labour Women

Dear Comrade

The recent National Conference of Labour Women at Newcastle adopted the kind of socialist policies that should kill stone dead the daft claim that women and women's sections are a conservative influence within the Labour Party (it is also significant that the Tories now have more support among men than among women!).

However, the Newcastle Conference also showed that the resistance to socialism inside the Party is producing desperate behaviour. As a local pro-

spective parliamentary candidate I received several complaints about the conference stewards' intimidation and ill-treatment of left-wing delegates—particularly those from my own CLP and neighbouring constituencies.

There were a number of disturbing incidents, including:

—Physical assaults on delegates and their children at a rally on 13 June. These occurred when several delegates left their seats to try to persuade stewards against continuing unnecessary violence in relation to 'Stop the War' protesters.

—One delegate was almost prevented from entering the conference on 14 June, and was subjected to an orchestrated stream of verbal,

political abuse by stewards, apparently in response to her supposed involvement in the incidents at the rally (the delegate concerned was not even at the rally!).

—There were threats to secure the expulsion of certain delegates from the Labour Party.

—An Asian member of the Party, who was seeking a replacement for a visitor's ticket which he had lost, was told by a steward that he was unwelcome—"don't come here telling us how to run our country!"

It seemed to me that these and other incidents formed a pattern of behaviour. Indeed, one prominent steward left me with the impression that her activities had been based on an antagonism towards the Left whom she saw as 'wrecking'

the conference, conspiring to win elections to the Conference Arrangements Committee, and seeking to undermine the Party.

Differences of opinion are one thing, but the blending of physical force with the pursuit of political aims against other members of the same Party is wholly repugnant. I hope that the promised inquiry into the stewarding, for which I and others have called, will be thorough and that steps will be taken to ensure a more careful selection and supervision of stewards at future conferences.

Yours fraternally
Nigel Todd
Prospective
Parliamentary
Candidate,
Newcastle North

Why we must fight

Dear Comrades

As a health service worker and a member of NUPE, I would like to express my opinion on the hypocritical 4% pay offer. I think it's about time all the lower paid health service workers like myself realised that the government and media are playing on our consciences in order to justify their large wage increases to other sectors—judges, top civil servants etc.

The truth of the matter is the health service is so short-staffed that the essential services can't be maintained without the working of overtime.

So brothers and sisters, let's be united in our stand for a decent living wage, and a well run, well staffed health service, which will care for the people who need it most... 'The working class.'

Yours fraternally
Gary Thompson
Blackpool South LPYS

Health workers are fighting for a living wage.



Northern Ireland horror weapons

Dear Comrades

About 18 months ago, a friend of mine, who I had known at school, joined the Army, and is now doing a tour of duty in Northern Ireland. When he was last on leave he told me about conditions over there, and especially about the 'riot control' methods in use every day.

Of course, most people are familiar with the plastic bullets the Army use. What is not so well known is that each soldier is issued with only three plastic bullets every time he goes on patrol. At the same time he is issued with a standard Army torch. The batteries are like any other 1.5 volt battery. Just the right size to fit into a riot gun. So when a patrol run out of plastic bullets to fire, a salvo of batteries make a handy substitute.

The damage a plastic bullet can cause is considerable. The effect a metal battery, travelling at over a

hundred miles an hour, could have on a person's head, doesn't bear thinking about.

Yours fraternally
Philip Bishop
Bath CLP

What is scientific socialism?

Dear Comrade Editor

Militant is not a bad paper. It does publish some interesting articles on Marxist analysis that are refreshing, devoid of useless rhetoric, not crude or insulting to the intelligence.

However what is meant by 'scientific socialism'? Ian Wells (letters, June 11) made a brave but limited attempt to define the 'scientificity' of Marx's dialectics yet came to a somewhat strange conclusion that Marxism isn't dogma. But surely truth is and can only be dogmatic otherwise it can't claim scientific status?

Yours fraternally
Student
Newcastle Poly

ads

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

MILITANT MEETINGS AND SOCIALS

BRISTOL Readers' Meeting. 'Socialist policies for the NHS' at Swan Pub, Stokes Croft, Bristol. Speakers from COHSE, NUPE, NALGO. 7.30 pm, Thursday 24 June.

CARLISLE Marxist Discussion Group Thursday July 8th, 7.30pm, NUPE office, 62 Lowther Street, Carlisle. "Marxism and the British Labour Movement", speaker Ray Physick. For further details phone Carlisle 21068.

CHESTERFIELD Militant Readers' Meeting. 'Tebbit and the unions—the fight for union rights'. Speaker: Dave Nellist (Labour PPC, Coventry South East). Thursday 1 July, 7.30 pm. Rooms 3/4, Market Hall, Chesterfield.

COVENTRY: 'Marxism—Labour and the Trade Unions' on Wednesday 30 June, 7.30 pm at the Queen, Primrose Hill Street, Hillfields, Coventry. Speakers: Glyn Robinson (full-time officer, Yorkshire and Humberside COHSE, personal capacity); Tom Smith (AUEW deputy convenor, SCG, BL, personal capacity). Chairman: Dave Nellist (Labour PPC, Coventry South East)

Food! Drink! Music! Lewisham 'Militant' social. All for only £1.50 on 3 July, 8.00 pm, at 27 Irford Close, St Norbert Road, SE4. Buses 184, P3, 122, 141, 171.

JARROW Marxist Discussion Group at 182 Charles Street, Boldon Colliery, Tyne and Wear at 7.30 pm. Sunday 27 June Sunday 4 July. For further information contact Kath Eglington, 182 Charles Street, Boldon Colliery.

Classified

Congratulations to Malcolm and Liz Emmerson on the birth of their baby Katherine Louise. Best wishes from all Coventry comrades.

CHESTER-LE-STREET Marxist Discussion Group. 27 June: 'Parliament and Socialism'; 11 July: 'Is Russia Socialist?' All meetings at Chester-le-Street Labour Club. For further details phone Washington 478424.

Festival of Socialist Youth at Guild hall, Newcastle on Friday 9th July, 7.30pm till midnight. Speaker: Dennis Skinner MP and 'Trial of Thatcher', performed by East Kilbride LPYS. Followed by disco and late bar. All welcome.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	985		2115
East Midlands	798		1765
Hants & Dorset	655		1250
Humberside	252		1075
London East	1109		1960
London West	515		1060
London South	779		1415
Manchester & Lancs	881		2020
Merseyside	810		2290
Northern	936		2760
Scotland East	330		1345
Scotland West	890		2375
Southern	1382		1760
South West	533		885
Wales East	307		945
Wales West	696		1355
West Midlands	1076		2120
Yorkshire	949		2505
Others	3627		4000
Total received	17510		35000

Help Militant! in time of greatest need

An avalanche of protest will be reaching the NEC of the Labour Party. Democratic socialists can have nothing to do with attempts to implement 'thought control'! The 'Militant' is accused of being 'totalitarian' and 'dictatorial', without a shred of evidence. Yet the Inquiry into our paper proposes blanket powers for the NEC to outlaw any campaign aimed at changing Labour's policies.

The comments of London reader Len Carrington express the feelings of indignation of numerous potential and actual Labour Party members. "If reading your paper disbars me from membership of the Labour Party, I would, of course, leave." We do not recommend this course of action—stay in the party and fight for all bans to be lifted is the way forward. But we do urge every reader to follow his example in making a donation to our Fighting Fund.

£2.50 from this retired trade unionist who has only just started reading the 'Militant' is a substantial pledge of support. We are hoping all readers will have the same reaction to the present attacks—send massive donations to help us fight back.

A special Appeal Sheet will be out after next week's NEC meeting but meanwhile make use of the cut-out form on this page to send your own contributions and get others to follow suit.

We need every penny! We have to answer every attack on the 'Militant' and its supporters. We need tens of thousands of leaflets, posters, letters, appeal sheets and pamphlets explaining 'Militant's' stance and calling for mass support.

We have to organise press conferences, public meetings, speaking tours to put our case against expulsions. Above all we have to have up-to-the-minute material in the 'Militant' itself to keep workers informed and armed for every battle they face.

By Clare Doyle

Last week we needed £19,000 in four weeks. Now we have half the quarter's total target figure to raise in just three weeks! To fight the witch-hunt and win, we will need to spend even more than our original 'budget'. That is why we are now appealing for every reader to raise or pay at least a fiver and sell at least two books of raffle tickets by 11 July.

Special thanks this week go to: a Newcastle reader for £30, R McGregor of Openshaw Labour Party and A Herbert (West London) for their £20s, and for tenners—M Waldheim (Rugby), B Straker (Cramlington Mechanics) and T Mulhearn (PPC Toxteth, part of TV fees).

Among those who gave fivers were: C Worsley (Dulwich CLP), C Bradshaw (Beswick), N Nosser (Openshaw YS), and D Patchett (TGWU shop steward, Coventry City Engineers). P Hens (Barking) gave £2.60 and £2s came from C Forman (Edmonton), F Anderson (Sunderland) and C Brady (AUEW Swansea), "to fight the witch-hunt."

Those who gave ones included: P Whittle (Putney), W Rosam (TGWU), N Hanney (Leics NUT), N Harris (Chard), A Waterworth (Newcastle), M Papenbron (Germany), L Sherwood (Scarborough), M Mulhearn (Liverpool), I Sith (Glasgow), A Block (Ipswich) and retired worker Mrs Arnold (Nottingham).

'Militant' has a fine and sometimes envied record on raising money. It gets its largest amounts from collections at meetings where

THIS WEEK: £1682

speakers arouse enthusiasm for the ideas and fighting spirit of the 'Militant'. That's how we raised the record £8,000 at this year's LPYS conference. The Militant meeting at Labour's Women's conference saw £168 coming in from delegates and visitors there and a meeting in Sheffield raised £32.

Much of 'Militant's' lifeblood actually comes from small amounts, e.g. donations made by school students from their pocket money—this week F Butler and P Hennessey 50p and 30p; £2.80 from Openshaw unemployed centre; £1 raised by B Riley during street sale in Leicester and £1.66 from a N Derbyshire sale; £1.31 on Workshop NHS workers' demo and £1.23 on sales at Notts NUM Gala; 'whip-rounds' after Labour Party meetings—Clowne £1.20, Brookfield (Preston) 50p and at LP Youth branches—Newcastle West 84p, Stockton 40p.

Other things done or sold for 'Militant' by 'enterprising' supporters included: Tyne Quay market selling £11.62; sale of "Hindustan" ticket (?) £8; spon-

sored jump £13; guess weight and time of arrival of Ingham baby (Leeds) £5; sponsored slim and run £18.24 and £4.75 respectively; "typing thesis" for £60 (Manchester); sale of bed £5 and washing machine also £5.

Fund raising of all sorts must be stepped up and kept up, including the raffle. But most important of all for the whole future of 'Militant' in the coming weeks will be the amount we can gather in the organisations of the labour movement itself (see report of Labour Party, trade unions and LPYS donations on other pages).

Where a meeting takes place a collection must be taken; wherever a resolution defending 'Militant' is sent to the NEC, we ask for a donation to be sent to 'Militant'; wherever an activist, a councillor, an MP, a shop steward or trade union leader expresses condemnation of witch-hunts, he or she must be asked to back up their statements with cash; wherever signatures are put to a petition, donations must be added! Help 'Militant' now at the time of greatest need.

BUILD 'MILITANT' SUMMER RAFFLE

For just 10p you stand to win a stereo system or a music centre! And there's eight prizes of books to the value of £25 in addition!

Don't be left out. Your Militant seller has the tickets now! But this is a limited raffle so first come, first served! Promoter: D Smith, 73 Armond Rd, Witham, Essex. Date of Draw: Saturday 10th July 1982, before which all unsold tickets, counterfoils and cash must be returned to Militant offices, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MARXIST WEEKEND SCHOOL Saturday-Sunday, 26-27 June at Queen Mary's College, Mile End, London E1

Courses include: Introduction to Marxism, Latin America, History of British labour movement, Women and the struggle for socialism, Permanent Revolution and Colonial Liberation. Booking forms available from your local Militant seller.

DISCO—FRIDAY
25th June, 7.30pm
Hayfields Tavern, 158 Mile End Road, E1 (near Stepney Green Tube and Queen Mary College)

IF YOU HAVE BOOKED:

ACCOMMODATION FRIDAY 25th & SATURDAY 26th: will comrades please report for registration between 6pm—10pm, to: Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green, London E2. Will comrades unable to reach Oxford House by 10pm please ring 986-3828 for directions to accommodation.

ACCOMMODATION SATURDAY 26th will comrades please report for registration before 10am to: Queen Mary's College, Mile End, London E1.

Please don't forget that you need to bring your own sleeping bags!

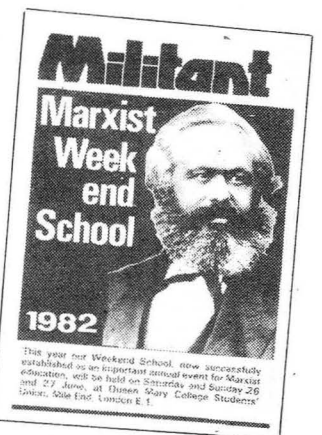
FIGHTING FUND DONATIONS

Cut out and send to 'Militant', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

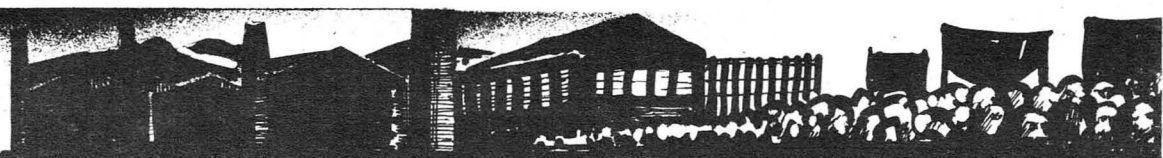
Enclosed is my donation of £..... to back 'Militant's' campaign against the witch-hunt.

Name

Address



Industrial Reports



NUR Conference 1982

Whether this week's rail strike goes ahead or not, this year's conference of the National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) will be the most vital for years.

All the attacks on railworkers make the transformation of our union into a fighting democratic organisation a burning necessity. A total of 23 rules alterations are proposed in this rules revision conference, no fewer than fourteen aimed at giving the membership greater democratic control over the decisions of the union and its officers.

Some proposals have

THE REAL FIGHT -against Tory attacks

over four times the minimum number of supporting branches (seven) for inclusion. Eighteen branches back Tinsley's proposal for a conference delegate from every branch instead of the present 77 delegates for about 177,000 members. This would bring us in line with unions of similar size.

Twelve branches support Paddington No 1 proposals for manifestoes on the canvassing material of presidential candidates. They propose the Head Office should distribute these but without the power to "authorise" them or not.

Twenty seven branches support Tinsley proposals for re-election of the General Secretary every five years, a further twenty support the similar proposals for Divisional Officers and thirty three branches sup-

port five yearly elections for Assistant General Secretary as proposed by London No 5.

A trade union needs democracy as a body needs oxygen and these proposals would really bring the NUR to life. Certainly many workers resent the role played by many officers in the flexi rostering dispute.

Acceptance of these rule changes (which the Broad Left played a vital part in) would not only put us in line with ASLEF but also keep up and build upon our old traditions of democracy.

The absence of demands for bans and proscriptions in the Labour Party is welcome particularly as resolutions from Euston and Paddington No 1 oppose the witch-hunt saying "This AGM considers that calls for expulsions from

the Party." They condemn the enquiry into Militant, calling for a fight against the Tories.

It is the Tories who are the real enemy, attacking our livelihoods over flexi rosters for instance. Two grades conferences have already rejected flexi-rostering, the Loco Grades and the Guards and Shunters. Sixteen branches and two District Committees back them in resolution 63. The AGM must reflect the views of those members affected by the issue.

This conference can hammer out policies which will put the NUR in the vanguard of the fight against the Tories and the horrific attacks they are implementing on the working class.

By an NUR
member

Rail dispute— solidarity the key

By Malcolm
Bryan

(NUR Nottingham)

Nottingham Trades Council has unanimously passed a resolution to support NUR's action for a wage deal without productivity strings.

The Trades Council President offered to call for help with leafletting and even picketing if needed. NUM and TGWU delegates told us after the meeting not to be shy in asking for help.

This dispute is not just about the derisory offer from BRB (in reality a mere 3%). More vitally it is about jobs and the future of the railways. If we accept these strings, we will carry on saving the BRB huge sums of money but putting our members out of work. For example 3,500 guards jobs

are threatened with disappearance.

It is good news that the triple alliance of rail, steel and mines is to be invoked. This will be a major step forward. Unity between workers will be vital if we are to cut across management attempts at divide and rule.

Freightliner staff not directly involved in the strike have already been told not to trunk traffic normally sent by rail. If railworkers stand together and get the support we have already seen promised we can win our dispute and safeguard our jobs and conditions.

No to scab post agreement

At a time when many workers are taking solidarity action in support of health workers, some union leaders seem more determined to stop the success of the other major national dispute, on the railways.

A recent circular from head office of the Union of Communications Workers (UCW) details an agreement between the union and Post Office management to handle mail affected by a national rail strike. The gist of this reads:

"...Aim: to ensure a continuation of all postal business services everywhere by the use of Post Office vehicles and staff resources to the maximum extent.

"That British Rail as a contracted normal carrier of Royal Mails be informed by this postal business of this agreed intention of the postal business to handle mails normally carried by British Rail if a national rail dispute takes place...

"In the event of vehicles shortage—self-drive hired

vehicles will as normal be staffed by Post Office Postman/Drivers. If other than Post Office manned vehicles are considered necessary consultation between the parties to this agreement will be held before a decision is made."

The Broad Left in the UCW believe the struggle of railway workers is our struggle. Job losses, declining real wages, privatisation, the list of common problems is endless.

Our union should be publicising the rail workers' case to workers in our industry, not carrying out work which should be done by rail workers during a dispute.

Rank and file postal workers have won much respect from trade unionists for not crossing picket lines in recent years. UCW members should ensure our leaders keep up that tradition.

By a London UCW
Broad Left
supporter

TRADE UNIONISTS BUILD 'MILITANT'

Outstanding amongst many financial donations from trade unionists to keep Militant fighting, this week were:

★£257 raised at POEU National Conference (before expenses).

★£10 from GMWU No.180 Branch, Pilkingtons, (to back up their Union Congress decision to oppose witch-hunts).

★£5 from AUEW Leeds 26 Branch and £1 from D Walters. Convenor Kirkstall Forge in appreciation of material carried in Militant.

★Another £1 from an AUEW convenor in London, R Bates, to show which way he thinks the vote in his union should go! ★£23 raised at Militant meeting in Oxford on NHS Health workers' dispute, including £5 from its speaker

G Robinson, full-time officer of COHSE.

★Other Union conference contributions: EETPU, TASS, Hosiery and Knitwear.

★£14.50 from USDAW 'What we stand for meeting' in Leicester.

★Glasgow SOGAT members £4

★Individual trade unionists include; Mrs C Bent (Corby USDAW), two miners—T Surridge (Blyth) £1.40 and K Williams (Barnsley) 90p, J Montgomery (Edinburgh EIS) £2.50, J McSharry (CPSA Cowglen) £1.90, J McFoy (SCPS) £1.60 and R Davies (Swansea EETPU) union expenses.

Appeal in your trade union branch and to your shop stewards committee. Support the paper that supports your struggles.

A threat to council jobs and services hangs over Liverpool, where the Tory/Liberal Alliance are pushing for the privatisation of vital services.

The one-day strike called in opposition to this plan by council unions had a good response on 14 June with 18,000 on strike, including manual workers, craft workers, teachers, school meals staff etc. NALGO members also took part in a 2-hour stoppage.

Three thousand lobbied the council meeting. A resolution from the Labour group opposing privatisation was defeated with a Liberal amendment passed to move swiftly to privatise housing and cleansing.

The council have told their workers that they must become "cost effective" i.e. implement cuts in wages and manpower or they will go out to tender.

An all out stoppage is now likely when privatisation comes through, probably in July.



Photo: Ian Morris

NGA Conference

Recent amalgamations between NGA and SLADE and between SOGAT and NATSOPA mark an important step towards one union for the printing industry.

This is essential if we are to combat the threat of unemployment and the challenge of new technology. At the last NGA delegate meeting two years ago, the union seemed relatively unaffected by unemployment.

Now in some areas unemployment amongst NGA members is as high as the regional averages and many members being forced out will never find a job again in the industry.

With high unemployment and the job destruction they plan through their use of technological advances the

bosses feel the balance changing in their favour. This can only be fought effectively with a single, democratic union.

Some resolutions lay the basis for a fight back. The growing concentration of ownership and resulting redundancies is answered by a call "for the NGA to campaign with other print unions for a future Labour government to take such monopolies into public ownership, to be administered by a joint board comprising representatives from print unions, TUC and the Labour government."

Resolution 114 makes the point "that a fundamental change in press ownership is essential if democracy is to be realised, and believe this can be achieved by democ-

atically nationalising press facilities."

Further a resolution calls for "official support to our members to refuse to process any attacks of a scurrilous nature if they have been denied the right of reply." This action is long overdue, considering the filth printed daily about fellow trade union and labour supporters.

A firm stand is also called for against the Tories "to positively support all actions aimed at the reversal of current government policies and the complete restoration of all benefits lost."

Nine resolutions concern the decision to support the right wing candidate Healey in the Labour Party deputy leadership battle. London "condemns" this action when "candidates policies are placed against Association policy on major items facing the membership."

These policies and other

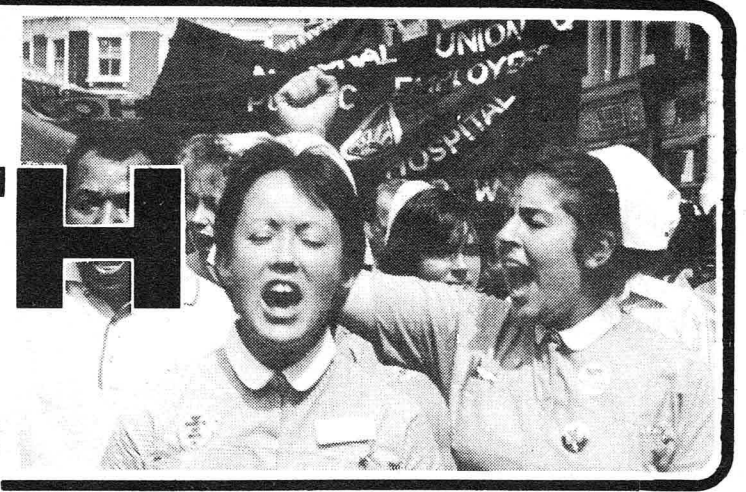
demanding a "aggressive campaign" for "more money shorter hours, sick schemes, pension benefits, better parental leave," would lay the basis to combat the coming offensive by the bosses.

The Times dispute is quiet at present, but undoubtedly Murdoch will demand more cuts when the time is right. Other national and provincial papers will join the attack.

The only answer is a united militant trade union and finally linking the movement's industrial strength to that of the Labour Party to change society so that instead of new technology being a nightmare for working people, it can lay the basis for a fair and just society.

By Peter Jarvis
(London Region NGA
personal capacity)

SUPPORT THE HEALTH WORKERS



South Wales

In a tremendous show of solidarity, 24,000 miners in South Wales backed the NHS workers by shutting down 36 pits on 16 June, and joined a mass demonstration of 10,000 in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

The mass demonstration was the highlight of another day of action by 40,000 Welsh Health Service Workers, joined by seamen, gas workers, electricity workers and local authority unions.

There was a mood of confidence by the workers that they would force the Tories to give 12% and bring Thatcher to her knees. Emyln Williams (President South Wales NUM), pointed out that the battle being fought by NHS workers today was similar to the fight by the miners who humiliated Heath's government in 1972 and 1974.

It was up to the miners now, followed by all the other unions, to come out and take united action to force Thatcher to concede 12%, and kick the Tories out.

Derek Gregory (Chairman TUC Health Services Committee), hit the nail on the head when he told the demonstration that the support the miners are giving the nurses today is the same sort of support the miners will need from the NHS workers in the battle against pit closures.

By Brian Lewis
(Swansea LPYS)

N. Ireland

Northern Ireland has been one of the most resolutely determined areas during the health workers dispute. This has continued with the plans being laid for 23 June strike.

Despite the overwhelming support for the one-day strikes, there is a widespread feeling in favour of more determined action, seen for instance in the call by Royal Victoria Hospital Joint Shop Stewards' Committee in Belfast for all out strike with just emergency cover.

Hospital workers see the slight increase in the offer by the government as a sign that they are weakening and they want to carry on to get the full 12%.

The health workers' strike has attracted mass support from trade unionists who not only show their sympathy with workers who find it difficult to take strike action but are



Support has grown for a one-day strike, but the action now needs to be stepped up to a national accident and emergen-

cy service only service, together with supporting action from other workers.

Photo: MILITANT

TUC: Call one day general strike

The mood of health service workers up and down the country is hardening against the Tories' insulting offer.

Their anger has been shown in picket line after picket line, demonstration after demonstration. Most of all it's been seen in the days of action which have brought into activity huge numbers of workers, many never previously actively involved in the trade unions.

The health workers' cause has already gained the support of miners throughout Britain and of

large sections of other workers, particularly where the local trade union movement has mobilised, as in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

But the response from different regions and different hospitals is still patchy and even in the most successful areas like Tyneside and Northern Ireland, it is clear that the tactic of one day strikes can no longer continue.

The health unions and the TUC should now give a clear direction to the

dispute by escalating action to a national accident and emergency only service. A number of hospitals in the North East have been operating near to this level on a localised basis but a national lead from the unions would give enormous strength and new life to the dispute.

The level of support among NHS workers and the echo they have received from the rest of the working class have already pushed the government to a slightly increased offer. The TUC

must back up the emergency only service in the hospitals with a one day general strike which would have a fundamentally different effect to the one day strikes so far.

If meetings are organised to explain the effects of this government's actions on all workers, the growing anger of workers could ensure a victory for the health unions and the beginning of the end of this anti-working class government.

also showing the growing mood of antagonism to the Tories.

At least partial stoppages are planned on the 23rd by engineering and shipyard strike.

Portsmouth

"The offer is absolutely worthless. I take home a basic of about £45, but with enhancements, such as working evenings and at weekends, it's on average about £55.

"Nursing Assistants are actually paid more than first year students, so if I started training I'd have to take a cut in wages."

"We've been promised increases for a long time—4% of £55 is a joke! Realistically to bring it up to a 'decent' standard of living we need a 50% increase—when you think of the pay rise for top civil servants and judges and then

workers (organised by the Confed) airport and gas workers, sections of electrical workers, bus workers and civil servants. ●

look at our offer, it makes me sick—for us to be forced to take strike action over an extra £2 or £3 a week.

"The work itself can be physically and mentally draining—when you have to lift patients on and off toilets, and in and out of beds and so on.

"I work a system of 7½ hour shifts, so some days I might finish at 9.15 in the evening and be on again at 7am the next morning. The nature of the work means you're constantly under pressure, which, depending on how you handle the situation, could lead to violent occurrences, or it

can deepen the anxieties of the patients, and I must be constantly on the ball. You owe it to the patients.

"Some days when you leave the hospital it's a great relief. When I get home I'm drained and need a time to recover from the pressures of the job. Very often I just fall asleep as soon as I get back.

"Sometimes I feel the need for a holiday, but it's absolutely impossible to save any money on my pay—in fact I find it very difficult to stay in the black."

What has been the response from other nurses and workers at the hospital?

"The Ancillary staff are a lot more prepared to take action and a lot more

unified in their support for action but there's a split between RCN and COHSE.

"However, on the one hand a lot of nurses, understandably, would never want to take strike action if it affected the care of the patients, whilst on the other hand, they all feel totally taken for granted by the government.

"The best prospect for the future is solidarity of support from other trade unions like the miners and steelworkers. The action by miners was greatly appreciated by nurses and shows hope for the future. It's good to see other workers prepared to show their support and sympathies."

A nursing assistant at St. James' Psychiatric Hospital, Portsmouth, spoke to 'Militant.'

South London

Health workers at South London Blood Bank have every reason to reject the Tories' derisory pay offer and go all out for the 12%.

For a 40-hour week Kelly Mannah, a lab assistant at the Blood Bank takes home £56, out of which he pays £30 to a private landlord. He and his pregnant wife are expected to live on the rest. A far cry from the lifestyle of another mother, the Princess of Wales.

Nothing stops the cost of living soaring. Rent increases are expected in August and fares have been pushed sky high by Denning and friends.

The Tories have "offered" Kelly 79p per week more to cope. He has to work long hours overtime, one day recently leaving home at 7.30 in the morning and returning at 11.30 at night.

The chief administrator at St Georges got an extra £4,734 a year to take him over £17,000 without a murmur of complaint. But when blood bank workers came out for a far smaller increase recently, a Margate doctor shouted it was "murder" when one of his patients died.

The workers had in fact co-operated with management to ensure there was enough blood for all the hospitals in South East England. The only thing that stopped the press-baying was that the hospital administrators had to admit that blood bank workers were not to blame.

We hear hardly a whisper in the press about the fact that the NHS is run on the cheap, so that sometimes a nurse is left with 20 psychiatric patients, or that unqualified staff have to do the jobs that should be done by qualified workers.

Where was the "concern" for patients when administrators locked out NUPE staff at St Georges who had planned a two-hour stoppage. The blood bank workers responded by coming out in support.

The conscience of the Tories is a seasonal animal. It only comes out when workers go on the offensive.

Kelly Mannah (COHSE Secretary, South London Blood Bank) and Paul Franck (St Georges NUPE) spoke to Tim O'Donnell

NHS DAY OF ACTION - A HUGE SUCCESS

“Fantastic,” “Totally unprecedented.” That was the reaction of health workers at the enormous response to the 23 June one day strike in the North East.

Thousands of health workers stopped for the day on Tyneside. A march of workers from just one hospital totalled 500. And other trade unionists have been rallying magnificently to support the health workers' struggle.

At one factory, NEI Clarke Chapman Gateshead, the boiler-makers union levied £3 per worker and donated £900 to fund the dispute.

As they did throughout the country, the miners stopped work. So did shipyard workers joined by trade unionists from engineering, railways, buses, the Gas Board, local government clerical and manual and many more.

Health workers' morale has been given a tremendous boost. At one Gateshead hospital, GMWU members who had not been involved in the actions before, sacked their shop steward's committee, elected another and decided to come out.

Picketing started at 5am this morning, and workers have found no trace of antagonism from the public, even from patients coming

By Militant Reporters

into the hospital.

In the North Tyne area two coaches of workers from Swan Hunter shipyard joined the pickets, while in Sunderland there was a big contingent from Austin Pickersgill.

At Preston Hospital North Shields, POEU members and Labour Party members joined hundreds of other workers. Even one policeman remarked that nurses deserved 20% not 12%.

Unfortunately some policemen at Sunderland Royal Infirmary have been less friendly. A NUPE porter Dennis McCain was injured when a policeman drove his car into his legs, while another NUPE member Angelo Ferry was hit by a police van as he spoke to another picket. The van, travelling at about 25 mph, refused to slow down.

Shop steward Patrick Hamilton thought the police were trying, un-

successfully, to provoke pickets by their actions.

Other areas of the country showed great enthusiasm, even in smaller towns like Wrexham, where a demonstration of 500

grew to 700 as passers by joined in a march from Mealor Hospital. There was great support from miners, water workers and local government employees.

There was a very large

turnout from nurses. But one porter pointed out the message: “The answer to the dispute is to step up the action. The TUC must also demand that all workers come out when we come

out.”
 - The stepping up of the action to an accident and emergency only service and the mobilisation of full support from other workers can win a great victory.



Workers on the picket lines are determined to win. The TUC should organise a one day strike in support of health workers. Further reports page 15. Photo: Militant

EXPULSIONS

Continued from page one

Party have launched their fire and fury against their own party rank and file, rather than the Tories.

Applauded from the sidelines by the very same newspapers which support the Tory Party and daily denigrate trade unions and working people, Labour's right wing have launched an attack upon good socialist members of the party.

The report into the Militant Tendency, which the National Executive Committee has endorsed by 16 votes to 10, recommends that the Labour Party have an 'official' list of acceptable groups, from which Militant would be barred. This is no less than the start of a witch-hunt against the whole of the party's left wing.

As we go to press it has been reported that a period of three month's grace will be offered, in order that Militant can comply with certain conditions required for entry on the official 'Register', but the right wing of the party have made their position clear on many occasions.

“I'm not saying there won't be any expulsions,” Michael Foot was reported to have said at the NEC meeting. What he meant was, “I'm saying there will be expulsions”!

The Right are prepared to plunge the party into a nightmare civil war, making a gift of the next election to the Tories and their allies in the SDP. Labour's rank and file will be appalled at

the prospect of purges and expulsions.

The move to support this witch-hunting report was supported in the NEC vote by Neil Kinnock, Joan Lester, Alex Kitson, as well as Michael Foot himself. Doug Hoyle abstained in the vote. Rank and file Labour members will now begin to question the 'left-wing' credentials of these NEC members who have allowed themselves to be used by the ultra-right and the anti-Labour Press.

“By your friends shall ye be known.” It will not go unnoticed that the same newspapers who today condemn health workers, railway workers and, indeed, all trade unionists, are cheerfully patting Kinnock, Lester, Kitson and Foot on the back for their attack on the left.

Labour Party members must be quite clear. This report must be rejected. There must be no policing of party activists: no totalitarianism in the Labour Party.

As Tony Benn remarked at the meeting, there must be no 'registration' of socialism.

The Tories are the main enemy: they and their system must be the targets of Labour's attacks. While the Tories are tearing the heart out of the living standards of working people, the right-wing of the Labour Party are planning to tear the heart out of the Labour Party. They must not be allowed to do it!

Older Labour supporters will remember that the attacks against the Bevanites in the 1950s gave the Tories

RAILWAYS

Continued from page one

upon the closed shop. But the government and the rail bosses will not get away with this.

As 'Transport Review'

says “The word game is over for the moment. Action is on the way.”

The NUR conference which meets from Monday, the first day of strike action, must endorse this strike and give a clear lead to the dispute, which cannot be restricted purely to the question of pay.

Our members are angry at the attacks constantly being made on us. We must use our strength now to fight against the 'productivity' strings which threaten our jobs such as one man operation, and threats to hard won conditions like the eight-hour day.

Full unity between the rail unions will win our dispute. We must fight to ensure finance for investment in the chronically neglected railway system so that we can really be assured of a secure future.

See articles page 7 and page 14

How Labour's rank and file will react to the witch-hunt

Dear Comrade,

Please find enclosed a cheque for £20 by way of a donation to Militant.

Whilst I do not consider myself a Marxist (I've never even read one of his books), I do find, as a socialist, that I agree with 90% of what your paper stands for. That's 90% more than the Tory press.

The remaining 10% concerns nuclear weapons. I do not agree that unilateral or multilateral disarmament offer realistic solutions at present. There is a third option and perhaps you would like to hear it sometime.

Meanwhile, I would ap-

preciate your sending me a standing order form in order that I may make a regular subscription of £1 per week.

In part I have taken this decision as a protest against the right wing's attempts to ostracise Militant. I joined the Labour Party because of Clause IV part IV, not in spite of it. In short, if there is no room in the Labour Party for the ideas of Militant, then there is no room for me.

Keep up the good work. Yours fraternally
 Cllr Leo G Dease
 Rochdale

the opportunity to stay in power for thirteen years! Working people cannot afford the Tory government a moment longer.

The Labour leaders must turn their attention to the

Tories; they must campaign and mobilise support for the demand for the resignation of the Tories and the return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.

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