

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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## ASLEF Fight is our Fight

# DERAIL THE TORIES!

By Stuart  
Hammond

(Stratford ASLEF)

The Tories are engaged in a war again—this time their targets are the health and railway workers. The railway battle began in earnest again on 3 July with the start of an all-out ASLEF strike.

No one can doubt the seriousness of the situation. Under attack are jobs, wages and conditions. Even the closed shop and the railway unions themselves are no longer safe from the British Railway Board (BRB) who, backed all down the line by the Tory government, are intent on driving down the living standards of rail workers.

BRB boss Parker and his cronies seem to think the meagre savings through this productivity scheme will persuade the Tories to plunge massive investments

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## SEND CASH TO FIGHT WITCH-HUNT

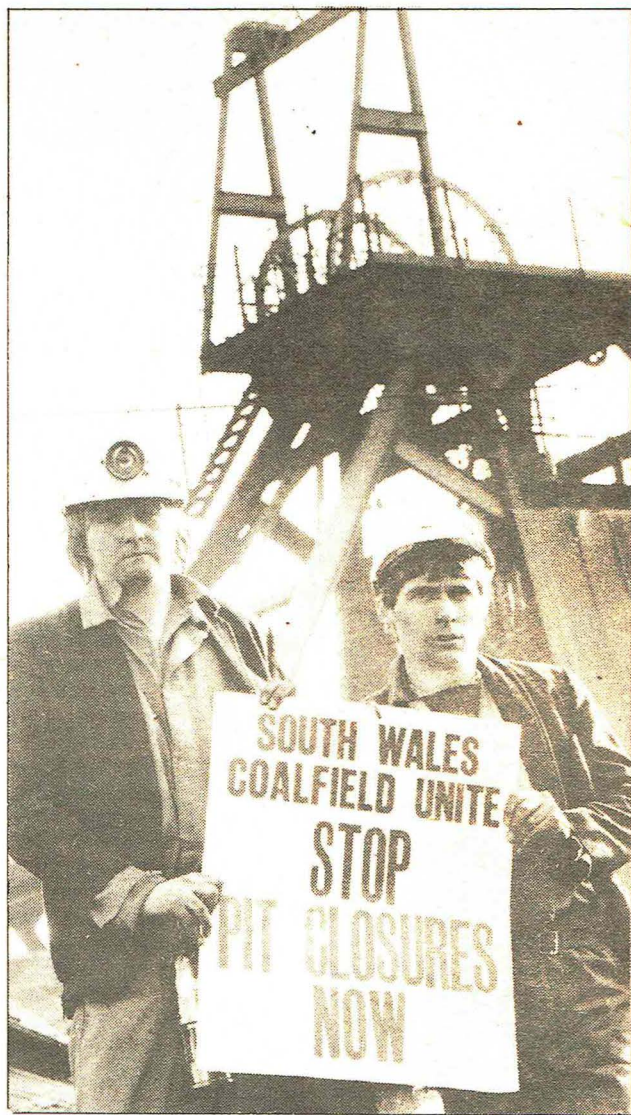
Another two thousand pounds has come in since the weekend for Militant's fighting fund including an excellent £267 from delegates to the National Graphical Association conference. They know only too well the type of coverage trade unionists and socialists get in the millionaire press!

We've had £100 from a reader in Wales, collections and donations from Hull West, St Pancras North, Brentford and Isleworth and Feltham & Heston LPYS Branches, and cash from meetings in Stirling, Oxford and Farnworth, Lancs.

But we still need an all-out effort to reach our £35,000 target.

The running total as we go to press is well over £26,000 and we still haven't added in the proceeds of the Militant Summer Draw. But there are new attacks on us every day! Show the right-wing and the mass media what you think of them!

Put your support in cheque/PO form in the post today (payable to 'Militant'). Send to Militant 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. And if you've raised any money for us over the week-end, let us know how much by phoning 01 986 3828.



The NUM conference in Inverness has come out for a minimum wage. It also decided on industrial action to stop pit closures.

## Miners Prepare to Battle

By Dave Cotterill

The miners are all set to struggle for a minimum wage of £115.

The overwhelming mood at their conference in Inverness was that the claim is totally justified, but that unity of purpose must be forged in order to achieve the claim in full.

The miners fully understand the severity of the situation. It will bring them into direct conflict with the

Tories. The point was made repeatedly that if the union failed to gain backing on this issue, it would give the green light to the National Coal Board and the Tories to attack the working conditions of miners all along the line.

In Arthur Scargill's words a campaign will have to be waged throughout the coalfields "the like of which has never been seen before."

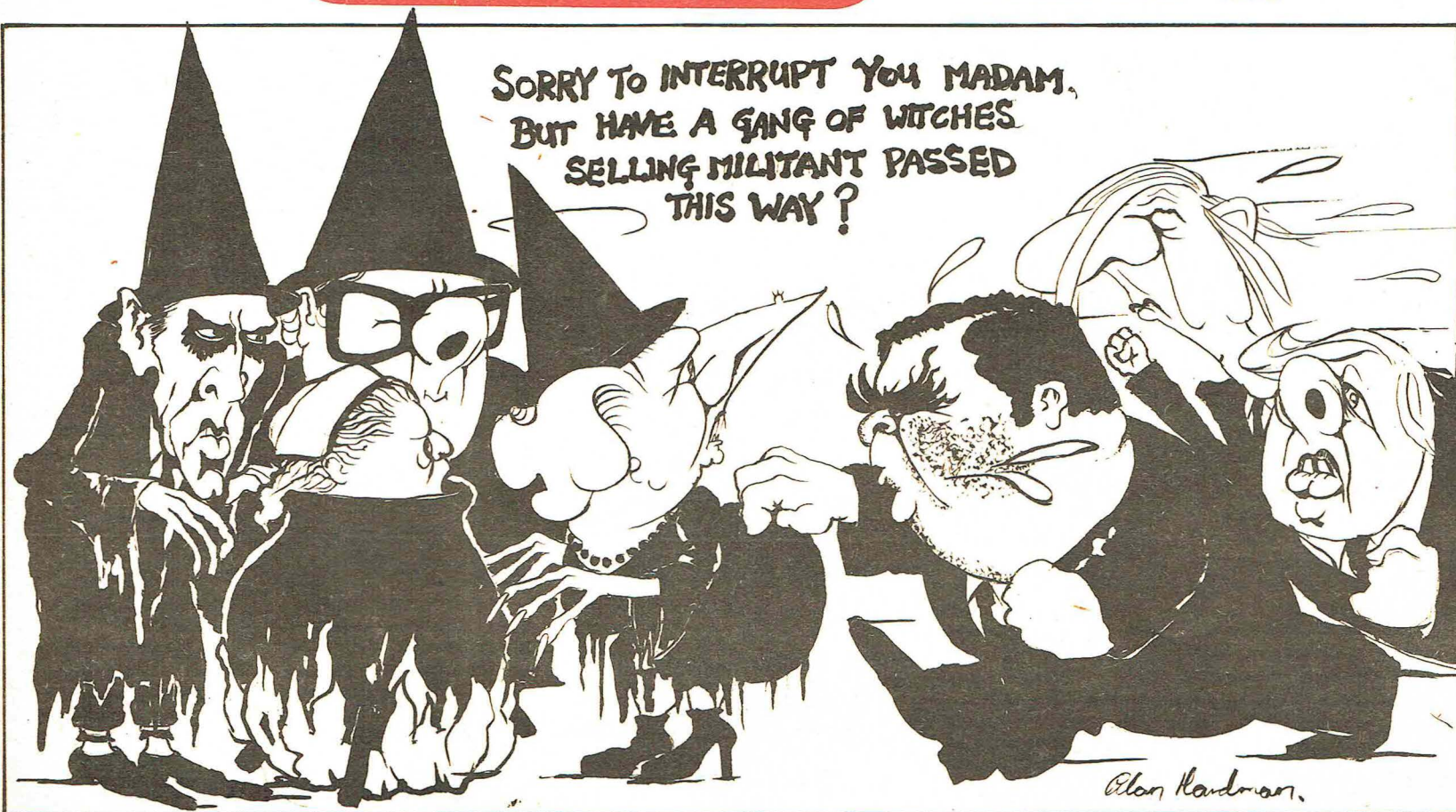
All decisions taken so far indicate that the election of Scargill as President has produced a new mood and a new confidence in the ranks of the NUM. There is no doubt that this conference could prove to be an historic event, opening up an entirely new phase for the NUM.

A fighting programme has been outlined at the conference. Linked to the central demand for increased wages, is the need to "oppose all pit closures and take industrial action to save Snowdown colliery."

Linked to this will be a campaign to achieve a 4 day working week, originally recommended by the Sankey Commission in 1919. As Arthur Scargill pointed out, this measure together with early retirement at 55, would result in the creation of at least 50,000 jobs in the coal industry.

Conference voted through changes in structure for the NUM marking a radical transformation for the union. In Arthur Scargill's words, "it will become a campaigning union." On this basis the NUM is bound to take the issues to the membership, by organising meetings, rallies, and issuing regular leaflets and publications.

The leadership of the NUM has also now committed itself to defeating Tebbit's Bill and to supporting other workers in their struggle against the Tories. Specifically the NUM is to push for the reconvening of the Triple Alliance National Conference. The new leadership of the NUM will act as a breath of fresh air within the labour movement as a whole.



# Militant

## The Witch-hunt and Labour's Left

Apart from the 10 NEC members who voted against the adoption of the Hayward/Hughes report on the Militant Tendency there has been generalised opposition on the left in the Labour Party against the expulsions and purges implicit in the report.

Many left Members of Parliament, pressure groups and trade union leaders have expressed their outright opposition to the new Register which would in effect threaten the democratic rights of all left groups and campaigns within the Party.

It seems likely that many left groups will refuse to register. The Campaign For Labour Party Democracy has already announced that it will refuse. They have been joined by the Labour Co-ordinating Committee (Scotland), the Labour Committee on Ireland, Socialist Organiser, London Labour Briefing, and the Labour Abortion Rights Campaign.

Many Labour Party members will echo the words of Tony Benn, when he said "I've been a member of the Party for 40 years and can't accept that I can only be a member of the Labour Party if I am approved by the National Executive Committee."

But despite the opposition of many lefts and the overwhelming opposition of the rank and file of the Party to a purge (see supplementary list below) the opposition to bans and expulsions has been expressed, rather unenthusiastically by some sections of the left, and indeed some 'lefts' support the new bans.

It is a sad irony that the Tribune Group of Labour MPs voted last week by 23 to 20 to accept the Hayward/Hughes report, considering that the Tribune Group of MPs was hounded by the right wing in the 1950s and was accused itself then of being a 'party within a party.'

The decision of the Tribune Group to stand aside while the right wing witch-hunt the left will only further weaken its stature among the activists within the Labour Party. Even the newspaper *Tribune*—now much more critical of the Labour Party leadership under its new editor—has described the Parliamentary Tribune Group as being 'dead.'

"The truth is that, since the election of Michael Foot as leader many Tribune Group MPs have been co-opted into the establishment. Of the 23 who voted last week to endorse the



purge more than half were front bench spokesmen." (*Tribune* Editorial 2 July 1982)

But many Labour activists will also be disturbed at the attitude of some left groups which, while opposing the witch-hunt in words, adopt an ambivalent attitude towards the Register and the threatened expulsion of *Militant* supporters.

It should not be forgotten that the idea of a 'register of groups', which has now been accepted by Ron Hayward and David Hughes, and which opens the door to purge of all 'non-registered' groups, was put forward in the first place by the Labour Co-ordinating Committee. Two weeks ago the LCC issued a statement in which they called upon Party members, Constituency Parties, trade unions and other groups to end "the procedural manoeuvring which has now racked the party" for the last 3 years.

### EVERYONE MUST REGISTER—INCLUDING GROUPS OF 'FRIENDS'

Despite the opposition of large layers of the Labour Party membership, the Labour Party's new General Secretary, Jim Mortimer, has lost no time in going about the business of setting up the Register of authorised non-affiliated groups.

A letter from Walworth Road has been sent out to all CLPs and affiliated organisations, asking for their co-operation in carrying out the terms of the NEC decision of June 23rd.

The letter makes it clear that the NEC has "a clear duty to enforce the constitution" and repeats the whole of clause II part 3. Jim Mortimer states that a Register is being set up "forthwith", and that "the decision of the National Executive Committee on eligibility for registration shall be final."

The letter explains that organisations like CND and the NCCL are not included in this dragnet, but "it does apply to any organised group of Labour Party members who operate as friends or pressure groups for other causes." (our emphasis) There is no doubt that the "guidelines" men-

We would argue that it belittles the aspirations and efforts of hundreds of thousands of trade union and Labour Party members, to describe the achievement of re-selection and the election of Labour leader by an electoral college as merely "procedural manoeuvres." And to use this expression to describe the extensive totalitarian witch-hunt sought by the right wing, would be to seriously underestimate the real aims and intentions of the witch-hunters, who see the attack upon *Militant* as the beginning of a wider attack upon all left groups within the Party, including the LCC.

The Labour Co-ordinating Committee (Scotland) has also issued a statement in which it says it "rejects any proposal which would lead to witch-hunts, proscription or the register as proposed by the NEC." But the same statement repeats all the scurrilous attacks of the right wing against the *Militant*.

It condemns the *Militant* for its supposed "dishonesty in refusing to openly concede its organisation nature," and even suggests that the registration of *Militant* should be allowed, because this would seriously endanger "other more honest factions" on the

left. Similarly, although the *Morning Star* has come out against witch-hunts in words, a recent Editorial would suggest that the Communist Party is only against a general witch-hunt of the left, and not against a specific witch-hunt of *Militant* supporters:

"The right-wing will certainly use the Ultra Left (the Communist Party describe *Militant* as Ultra Left—Ed) as a stick with which to beat the left as a whole. The register is the form this is taking at the moment.

"But why should other groups be subjected to registration, and the investigation which this must involve, when there is not even a prime facie case that they have broken rules?"

"If there is evidence that the Militant Tendency is in breach of the rules let that evidence be made public. Prove the case.

"If it is then thought necessary, the Labour Party's rules are adequate enough to deal with *Militant* without a register which opens up the spectre of witch-hunts and internal conflicts within Labour's ranks."

Many rank and file Labour lefts, and Communist Party members also will be horrified by these remarks which they will see as support for an attack on *Militant*. What other interpretation can be put on this disgraceful *Morning Star* Editorial other than an invitation to the Right wing to witch-hunt the *Militant*, so long as they did not go beyond that?

But the editorial writers of the *Morning Star*, and the LCC (Scotland) would be making a fatal mistake if they thought that the Right would be happy with the expulsion of *Militant*. There is no doubt that *Militant* at the moment is the main target. But the right wing, in reality, want to turn the clock back inside the Labour Party.

They want to attack all the democratic gains made by the rank and file in the last 3 years, and turn back to the right wing policies of previous Labour Governments. They want to make the Labour Party a safe place for the SDP traitors to return to.

If they succeed in a witch-hunt against *Militant*, they will then begin a wider attack upon all the other left groups and individuals within the Labour Party.

The witch-hunt of the right wing must be opposed. But it will be opposed all the more successfully, if the Labour Lefts would show a determined and unambiguous opposition to the proposed Register and to the hounding and expulsion of *Militant* supporters and other lefts.

## A LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE 11th SEPT

"Fight the Tories, not the Socialists"

Sponsors include:

Wavertree CLP; Brighton Kempton CLP; Bradford North CLP; Isle of Wight CLP; Coventry South East CLP; Bradford District LP; Bakery, Food and Allied Workers Union Executive; Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee, TGWU Sussex District.

And in personal capacity: Bob Wright (AUEW); Les Huckfield MP (NEC); Joan Maynard MP (Vice-Chair, Labour Party); Jo Richardson MP (NEC); Ernie Roberts MP; Ken Livingstone (GLC leader); Kevin Roddy (CPSA President); Rod Fitch (PPC Brighton Kempton); Terry Fields (PPC, Kirkdale); Derek Hatton (PPC, Wavertree); Tony Mulhearn (PPC Toxteth); Dave Nellist (PPC, Coventry South East); Terry Harrison (PPC, Edge Hill); Cathy Wilson (PPC, Isle of Wight).

Speakers will include: Ken Livingstone (Leader of the GLC); Les Huckfield MP; Pat Wall (twice selected Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Bradford North); Terry O'Neill (President of the Bakers Union and Candidate for the NEC); Peter Taaffe (Editor of *Militant*) and other leading figures from the labour movement.

Delegates (maximum 5 per organisation, £1 each delegate) are invited from CLP/LP branch/trade union branch/shop stewards committee/LPYS branch/tenants association.

Further information/application for delegates to LMC, c/o 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

### THE LIST GROWS AND GROWS

The List of labour movement organisations that have opposed the witch hunt grows and grows. In the last week it has been reported to us that the following bodies passed resolutions in one form or another against the witch-hunting of *Militant* supporters:

Brighton LP carried by 70—2.

Woolwich LP (former right wing MP John Cartwright has defected to the SDP) carried by 68—2.

FTAT National conference. Rochester and Chatham CLP, Southampton CLP, Newcastle West CLP, Hackney North CLP, Uxbridge, Acton, Hendon North, Hayes and Har-

lington, Ravensbourne, Norwood, Brent South, Newham NW CLPs (all in London). Wokingham CLP.

TGWU Region No.1 Power and Engineering Trade Group, TGWU 1/347, 1/238, Coventry AUEW No.25, Keresley AUEW, Leeds District Committee AUEW, Harlow AUEW.

USDAW: Manchester CWS Packing, Newcastle, Ashby United Biscuits, Hertford and Bedford Holding, Weetabix, Blackpool Woolworths, Liverpool Retail Dry Goods, East Kent General, West Kent General, Northampton General, Ipswich General.

ASTMS: Hayes 627, Brentford, North East London Medical.

POEU: Potteries, Manchester North.

EETPU: Dundee Plumbers, Edinburgh Plumbers, St Mary's Hospital JSSC, D Ayres Jones JSSC (Swansea).

Basildon Trades Council.

### "Remove No. 10 witch"

Arthur Scargill's Presidential address given at the beginning of the conference categorically rejected the witch-hunt currently being waged against the *Militant*.

He declared that "we can eliminate unemployment and give hope to millions only if we equip the Labour Party with a socialist policy and ensure that policy is implemented following its election.

"I believe this union be equally clear and unashamed about its support for real socialism. We should

declare our total opposition to any witch-hunt inside the Party, the only witch-hunt needed is the one to remove the witch in Number 10 who has almost destroyed hope for millions of people.

"We need unity, not division, given unity around Clause 4 of the Labour Party's Constitution we can, and will win the next General Election."

This message must be taken up by rank and file miners and pursued within the Constituency Labour Parties.

### When Labour published 'Communist Manifesto'

The Labour Party in 1948 republished a special edition of the *Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels to celebrate the centenary of its first publication. In its forward, written by the Party, it explains that "the Labour Party acknowledges its indebtedness to Marx and Engels as two of the men who have been the inspira-

tion of the whole working class movement." A new appreciation was written for the Party by Harold Laski in which he stated, "its character is unique, not only because of the immense scope it covers in its intense brevity. It is a philosophy of history, a critical analysis of socialist doctrines and a passionate call to revolutionary action."

# Swansea ban on Militant supporter

Around 70 people attended the meeting of Swansea Labour Association (combination of two CLP's—Swansea West and Swansea East) on July 1st and one of the first issues raised was a reply from the Regional Secretary of the Wales Labour Party, Hubert Morgan, to material sent by a number of left wing delegates on the Labour Association to the Enquiry on the Militant Tendency.

After some discussion it was plain to see that the right wing on the Association had decided to earmark not only the Militant supporters, but the left in general for a possible witch-hunt. It was noticeable that Hubert Morgan had sent no other material to the secretary, bearing in mind that a number of prominent members of the local branch of *Solidarity* were instrumental with our local MP Alan Williams in compiling evidence for the enquiry.

The next item of business was a number of resolutions sent in by various trade union branches and wards protesting at the withdrawal of Alec Thraves' credentials

## By Swansea Militant Supporters

and demanding his reinstatement as well as a letter from Alec Thraves himself stating that he was prepared to abide by local and National Labour Party rules.

The Chairman refused, to the astonishment of delegates, to allow any of the items to be read out. When asked for a reason, the chairman replied that it was now in the hands of the National Executive Committee.

Another delegate argued that Comrade Thraves should be allowed in the meeting and the Association should await the decision of the NEC, but was howled down for saying this. Immediately another delegate asked the Secretary to read the letter and pointed out that at the previous meeting of the Labour Association the chairman stated that Alec Thraves could only be allowed back in the meeting if he handed in a written guarantee that he would abide by local and national Labour Party rulings. Many supporters of the Militant knew he had in fact done this and made this obvious

to the chairman and the Association, but the Secretary shook her head and said this was not the case.

Reference back was then moved on this part of the business. The EC recommendation stood 36-30, a pyrrhic victory when you consider that everybody on the EC is mandated to vote in favour of the EC resolution. Needless to say there were a number of left wing supporters who had to vote in favour. Without this ruling the right wing would have been defeated on this issue.

Perhaps the most important part of the meeting was the discussion on the resolutions to be sent by the Labour Association to Labour Party Conference. There were 13 resolutions on the Agenda, the EC gave their two recommendations. Then one by one branch ward delegates spoke on their respective resolutions.

We then came to the Townhill branch which recommended "conference urges the Labour Party to bring back proscription". A number of delegates from Townhill Ward were present but declined to speak on it and when the votes were asked for, no one voted in favour.



After discussing with health service workers during the recent day of action, three health service branches (NUPE, COHSE, NALGO) agreed to have a speaker from Militant.

Recent remarks by Terry Duffy, President of AUEW, threatening to withhold AUEW cash from the Labour Party unless action was taken against Militant supporters, was condemned at the last meeting of Swansea's AUEW shop stewards quarterly.

A letter was received from the shop stewards committee of "D Ayres Jones", criticising Duffy's remarks and requesting the District Committee to write to our Executive Council in

order to find out on whose authority was Bro Duffy making the statement.

This resolution was unanimously passed by the shop stewards quarterly along with the support of the Swansea District Committee and the Number 2 branch of the AUEW, who congratulated the Ayres Jones shop stewards committee for taking such an initiative.

This decision only confirms what most AUEW members already feel: our

union leaders should stop attacking socialists in the Labour Party and concentrate their efforts on defeating the Tories and the Engineering Employers, who are destroying the livelihoods of many of our members.

**Ken Armine**  
(AUEW shop steward  
Swansea, personal  
capacity)

## WORKERS WILL NOT TOLERATE PURGE

Some of the right wing in the Labour Party are under the illusion that the hounding out of Militant supporters will be a swift and painless operation, something that the party rank and file will acquiesce to. But nothing could be further from the truth.

Judging by the mail received and the reports sent in, there is an overwhelming feeling of revulsion, among Labour's grass roots membership, against a return to bans and proscriptions, no matter how much it is dressed up as a 'Register.'

One comrade from Don Valley CLP, wrote to us and his local paper as well, giving vent to his indignation: "I've been a socialist all my life," he writes, "and a member of the Labour Party since 1974. In all that time, I've never bought a copy of Militant. I buy Labour Weekly every week.

"In view of the recent decision by the Labour Party NEC, it is now my intention to start buying Militant on a regular basis." (From Peter Judge.)

Another indignant Labour supporter wrote last week to the Daily Mirror,

asking why there was all this fuss over the Militant: "They support the socialist policies adopted by the Labour Party conference last year," he said, "and so do a lot of ordinary working people like me. We are fed up with right wing Labour governments going only part of the way." (M Wright, Plymouth.)

Peter Shore's speech, in which he referred to the Labour Party's 'Red Guards' prompted a letter to Militant all the way from Australia. "Dear Red Guards," it reads, "Please find enclosed a clipping from today's edition of the Sydney Morning Herald. You sound like ghastly people. Please find enclosed £1 for some of your literature."

Reports nearer to home show clearly that ordinary workers, especially those outside the ranks of the Labour Party, are not in the least convinced by the petty arguments about Labour's Clause II part 3 ("Clause what?")—they see the attacks on Militant for what they really are: a political purge, a witch-hunt against opponents that cannot be beaten by argument.

Jeff Price, in Newcastle,

reports that "during the health service day of action on Wednesday, three health service branches (NUPE, COHSE, NALGO) agreed to have a speaker from Militant to explain what has happened. Workers on the picket lines were appalled at what they saw as a wholly divisive move. They have

**"I used to think the Labour Party was too right wing. Now I'll join to fight the Right"**

seen in the dispute that unity is the one thing that has helped them more than any other and that this must also apply to the Party.

"One woman worker told me that she could not see how the Labour Party could convince people that it was democratic when it was expelling members."

One Militant supporter

was out canvassing for the Labour Party on the night of the Nationwide story on Militant, and a woman said she had just seen about Militant on the TV. She used to be a Party member but had let her membership lapse as she thought the Party was too right wing. She not only bought a paper and agreed to rejoin the Party to fight the Right, but got her daughter to join the LPYS.

Sharon Pandolfo of Blackley Labour Party spoke to W Birtwhistle, chairman of his NUR branch and a delegate to the recent NUR national conference. "The witch-hunt resolution on the agenda of NUR conference will not get anywhere," he said, "either in the union or in the Labour Party—no matter which way the vote goes. Nobody, including the leaders of the NUR are in a position to take that kind of action against socialist policies and principles...I've been an active member of the NUR for 35 years and a devout member of the Labour Party. I don't want to see the party wrecked, but I refuse to sell my socialist principles in the name of unity."

## Trade Unions oppose register

Rank and file trade unionists facing Tory attacks on their living standards are coming out strongly against any witch-hunt. At the recent Post Office Engineering Union Conference, four of the seven delegates elected to represent the union at this year's Labour Party conference were left wingers. Two of the four were long-standing and well-known Militant supporters, Phil Holt and Donald McDonald, elected with 45,647 and 48,796 votes respectively.

At the recent conference of the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union, a resolution was passed which "calls upon the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to end witch-hunts within the Party and direct all effort to unity and victory at the next election and further calls for maximum support both from the GEC and from all branches and members for measures designed to achieve the return of a Labour government

dedicated to socialist policies".

Health workers, who are in the frontline against the Tories have expressed their anger at Labour's right wing. The Joint Shop Stewards Committee of Paddington and North Kensington District Health Authority, at their AGM on 28 June, condemned the new Register as a first step towards rolling back the recent advances in democracy and stated "At the present time the labour movement should concentrate on fighting our enemies the Tories, and not witch-hunting socialists in the Labour Party".

They have written to Militant to express their appreciation of its coverage during the current dispute for a decent wage. A similar condemnation of the witch-hunt has been agreed by Gateshead Central branch of the public sector workers union, NUPE, in a resolution they have sent to Gateshead East CLP.

It is Militant's clear and unequivocal support for workers in struggle, which has won it support within the labour movement. Undoubtedly in the weeks ahead such support will be further expressed in resolutions, delegates to the September conference (details this page) and a determination to ensure that Labour is a campaigning party for socialist change.

Perhaps the most ludicrous claim from the right-wing is that radical left-wing policies are unattractive to the electorate. Last year in Brighton Kempton and this year in Liverpool, where 'Militant' ideas are strong in the Labour Parties, there were record swings to Labour at the local elections.

And two new books show the contrast—that it was right wing policies which lost Labour the 1979 general election.

In November 1976, when 'Militant' was no more than a gleam in the sunsights of, then Reg, now Lord, Underhill the Labour government capitulated to the demands of the International Monetary Fund. In the eulogistic biography of her late husband, Susan Crosland writes that Tony Crosland, a Labour Cabinet Minister came back from one meeting and told her:

"For the first time I wonder if the government can survive. Jim intends to say to our backbenchers: 'You can accept the cuts or you can have Mrs Thatcher.' Even if the government survives, does it make such a difference if Labour measures can't be implemented? What the press cannot understand is that this is the most right-wing Labour government we've had for years."

Tony Crosland argued that there should be some cuts, but not on the scale envisaged. But when it was clear that his argument

might carry the day against the wishes of Prime Minister Callaghan and Chancellor of the Exchequer Healey, Crosland backed down because such a crucial pair 'shouldn't be beaten.'

So he allowed other right-wingers to implement their

By Chris James

disastrous attacks on the living standards of ordinary people. Yet the consequences of cuts and curbing wages by a Social Contract were spelled out at the time.

According to Susan Crosland's book, he told the Cabinet in 1976, that "The cuts would massacre the industrial strategy. So far as trade unions were concerned, Jack Jones might agree, but the public sector would not. Without the public sector unions the Social Contract, already deeply damaged by the effects of the cuts on rents and so on, would collapse." (p377)

Two years later this all came true in the 'winter of discontent' protest by the public sector unions. At that time they got pilloried by the press, the Tories and some government Ministers and right wing Labour leaders. But it had been the right wing's failure to begin the 'fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth in favour of working people' promised in the 1974 election Manifestoes, which had forced the lowest paid in society into action, many for the first time.

The disillusion of such workers is brought out in another recent book, a collection of academic essays on the 1979 election ('The

## Labour's Right-Wing...



In the recent biography of the late right-wing Labour Cabinet Minister, Tony Crosland, he is quoted as predicting in 1976 that the cutbacks and curbs on wages would lead to unrest amongst public sector workers. When it came in the 1978-79 'winter of discontent' strikers were denounced by Labour leaders. (Above) Health workers picket outside the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hackney

Photo: MILITANT

## 'Admit' they lost the last election

Politics of the Labour Party' ed. D Kavanagh). Professor Crewe, director of British Election Study, begins his analysis with why Labour only got 36.9%, its lowest share of the total

votes for nearly fifty years. He shows that the heaviest swing against Labour occurred amongst manual workers, and especially amongst the younger generation of workers.

Nothing could be clearer. It was not Marxists, or left-wing policies which lost Labour support amongst the electorate. It was right-wing policies, which were unable to match up to the

crisis facing British capitalism, and therefore had to turn to counter-reforms and attack the living standards of workers, which brought about disillusion and defeat.

## 'SOLIDARITY' LAYS DOWN CONDITIONS

When members of that right-wing 'party within a party', the Labour Solidarity Campaign, decided to hold one of their private meetings in St Helens, they only allowed Labour party members entry if they agreed to two conditions. Firstly they had to sign a statement agreeing with the expulsion of Militant supporters from the Labour Party, and secondly they had to support the aims of Solidarity.

According to The Times, 29 June, about twenty members of St Helens Labour Party's General Management Committee were not allowed entry to the meeting after they refused to sign such statements. So far there has been little condemnation from Labour's NEC of this right-wing organisation, which by the same standards of the Hayward/Hughes report, clearly operates in breach of Labour's Constitution.

There are no calls for an inquiry into their 'centrally organised caucus'. Yet last week in the aftermath of the NEC attack on Militant, their head office sent a circular to its members, with a 'recommended' resolution on how to continue the

witch-hunt against the left.

In St Helens, such has been the anger against the right wing organisers (one of whom was reported to have given a private document to Granada TV, shown on television, listing the names of trade union delegates to the CLP) that action has been taken against five of Solidarity's leading local members. One has been expelled, another suspended, and other three have been severely suspended.

Whilst understanding the feelings which led to such moves, the only Militant supporter on the GMC did not support this action. Referring to the expelled member, he said "I supported his right to be a member of the Labour Party because we can deal with our problems within the party and be a mass party for the working class."

Organisational methods, bans and proscriptions are no substitute, and only play into the hands of those on the right, who wish to reduce the party to one where the 'thought-police' control. The left has nothing to fear from open and honest discussion of ideas; only the right wing stands to gain from a return to the McCarthyite days of the '50s.

## Attacks arouse support for Marxism

### READERS' MEETINGS

The more the right wing of the Labour Party and their Fleet Street friends attack the Militant, the more interest they arouse in the ideas of Marxism. This has been well illustrated by well attended and enthusiastic Militant Readers meetings throughout the country.

Wales was once synonymous with the right wing of the Labour Party. That is not the case today. Cardiff saw its largest readers' meeting ever, with 140 people attending to hear Militant editor Peter Taaffe and Andrew Price of Cardiff SE Labour Party. At the meeting, where Andy described how the area's regional Labour Party organiser had used tapes, secret interviews and films to discredit the Militant, an excellent £440 was raised for the fighting fund.

Earlier, at the Wales Regional Labour Party conference in Swansea, two Militant meetings were held, with Ted Grant ad-

ressing both. At the first, 'Britain in crisis', 65 delegates and visitors attended, the same number that went to hear Roy Hattersley MP address the right wing 'Solidarity' conference meeting.

Three nights later, Ted spoke on the Falklands to an audience of 120. At the two meetings £246 was raised.

A splendid Readers Meeting was held in Newcastle, last Sunday (July 4), when over 100 attended to hear Brian Ingham, and John Baker who is standing for election to the executive of the NUR. Speaking in a personal capacity, John outlined the present railway disputes. From the floor there were contributions on how to build the LPYS and a young miner discussed the role the NUM could play in the rail dispute. £127 was raised for the fighting fund.

Excellent discussions were matched only by excellent contributions to the fighting fund at meetings in Stirling, Leicester, Hackney and East Ham, where in all a total of £428 was raised!

Down on the south coast, Militant supporters in Brighton caused a stir in

their local newspaper when they held a readers meeting. Over the water on the Isle of Wight the role of the Labour MPs was the main theme of discussion, and although only two of the audience were actually employed, the meeting still managed to raise £30!

In Coventry 40 attended with £81 collected. And in Swindon a good discussion followed the area's prospective parliamentary candidate for Devises leaving a letter for the meeting. In it

### SALES AND FINANCE

Up and down the country, the response of workers to the witch hunt has been one of increasing interest and support for the ideas of Marxism. 120 copies of Militant were sold during a 'weekend of action' in Brighton, while in Scotland 37 copies were sold on a housing estate in the town of Cowie, while in Fife supporters sold 40 copies on the Ballingry estate before they ran out.

At the same time a number of labour movement organisations have sent donation as well as passing resolutions. Clowne Ward (Bolsover CLP) sent £5, TGWU 1/238 (Aircraft

he argued the 'Kinnock line' saying the 'leaders' of the Militant should leave the party etc. Although he unfortunately could not attend the meeting, a thorough discussion followed on the points raised.

These are just a few of the many meetings which have been taking place throughout the country. Has your area had a Readers Meeting? If it hasn't set one up now, and if it has, send in a report!

Cleaning and Handling, B. Airways) sent £10. Supporters in Blackley CLP raised £11.70 after a resolution opposing witchhunts was carried at a constituency Labour Party meeting. Last but not least, in Thatcher's home patch, the newly established Finchley LPYS branch collected £1.50 after discussing and passing a resolution opposing witch hunts.

By 'Militant' reporters



# BLACK YOUTH FOR SOCIALISM



The struggle of black youth was discussed in detail at the LPYS Black Youth Conference at the weekend in London. About 130 attended the event at County Hall, to take part in the discussion on many subjects and hear speakers, such as Leila Hassan of the New Cross Massacre Action Committee.

The conference marked the beginning of a recruitment campaign by the LPYS to urge black youth to join with the labour movement, with emphasis on the current YOPs campaign, preparing support for the YOPs demo in Liverpool later this year. A social was held on Saturday evening at Brixton Town Hall.

The photos show (left) Chandra Dasgupta opening the conference on behalf of the LPYS and (above) one of the many sessions at the conference. Photo: Denis Doran (Militant).

## MILITANT PUBLIC MEETINGS

What we stand for—  
fight the witch-hunt!

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

### LONDON

**LEWISHAM:** Tues 13 July, 7.30 pm, Davenport Hall, Davenport Rd., Catford SE6. Speaker: Dave Farrar

**SIDCUP:** Fri 16 July, 8.00 pm, St Johns Hall, St Johns Road. Speaker: Tim Harris (Erith CLP)

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

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

**CAMDEN:** Thurs 22 July. Speaker: Bob Labi (London LP exec.)

**WATFORD:** Thur 29 July 8pm, Watford Central Library, Speaker Bob Labi (London LP exec.)

### SCOTLAND

**EAST LOTHIAN:** Tues 20 July. Speaker: Rob Sewell. Tranmare Hotel, Haddington Road, Tranet.

**DALKIETH:** Thurs 22 July. Cross Keys Hotel, Hight St. Speaker: Rob Sewell.

**EDINBURGH:** Wed 21 July. Trades Council, Picardy Place. Speaker: Rob Sewell.

**ABERDEEN:** Mon 9 August

**DUNDEE:** Sun 8 August

### SOUTH

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

### WALES

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

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

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

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

**CWMBRAN:** Fri 23 July, 7.15pm The Old Assembly Hall, Victoria St.

### NORTH WEST

**MANCHESTER:** Sun 18 July 7.30pm, Sydney Building, Polytechnic Students Union, Oxford Road. Speaker: Ted Grant (Political editor)

**PRESTON:** Fri 9 July, 7.30 pm, Labour Rooms, 98 Deepdale Road. Speaker: Julie Taylor (Liverpool City Councillor)

**BURNLEY:** Thurs 12 August. Speaker: Pat Wall.

**ROCHDALE:** Tue July 13, 7.45pm The Castle, Manchester Road. Speaker: Willy Griffin.

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

### WEST MIDLANDS

**STAFFORD:** Tues 20 July. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

**STOKE:** Wed 21 July, 7.30 pm, Victoria Hall, Hanley. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

### YORKSHIRE

**BRADFORD:** Wed 7 July, 7.30 pm, Textile Hall, Westgate. Speakers: Lynn Walsh (Assistant Editor) & Pat Wall (Bradford Trades Council President).

**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)

**SHEFFIELD, CHAPEL TOWN:** We 14 July 7.30pm, Commercial Hotel, Station Road, Chapel Town. Speaker: Mick Foster (Grimsby Labour Party)

**HULL:** Wed 14 July 7.30pm Co-op Hall, Charles St. Speaker: Pat Wall (President, Bradford Trades Council).

### EASTERN

**HARLOW:** Thurs 22 July. Speaker: Bob Edwards.

**STEVENAGE:** Thurs 29 July, 8.00 pm, Committee Room 1, Stevenage Leisure Centre. Speaker: Steve Glennon.

**CANVEY ISLAND:** Wed 21 July 8pm. Labour Hall, Lionel Road.

'Witch-hunt '82 poster' (reproduction of Alan Hardman's 'football' cartoon). 1 for 20p + 12½p p&sp. 5 for £1 + 50p p&sp. 10 for £1.50 + £1 p&sp. 50 for £11 inc. p&sp. From Nicki Westcott, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

# Summer Camp -nae bother

How would you like to spend a week in the Forest of Dean with 600 'political moonies' or with 'Mao's Red Guards'. According to Denis Healey and Peter Shore this is what Labour's Youth represent.

If you want to find out what we really stand for then come to the LPYS Summer Camp '82.

Peter Taaffe will be debating with a representative of Solidarity (a party within a party?) on 'Marxism and the Labour Party', while John Golding has been invited to debate the proscribed LPYS pamphlet *The Ideals of October*.

Andy Bevan is speaking on 'Socialism and Religion', Tony Saunois on 'The life of Trotsky', and there are many more.

The LPYS are not only the most enthusiastic fighters against the Tories we're also the most enthusiastic when it comes to having a good laugh. The sports and social life at the camp is brilliant—you won't get another week like it and it only costs £20.

Gary Armstrong of Gateshead East LPYS summed up what he thought of last year's camp; "It was great. What did I like best? The meetings, the club night, the sport; I really enjoyed everything. What got me the most was the atmosphere. There's nae bother."

"You've got people here from all walks of life, but there's no hassle. Everyone's on an equal footing." Don't delay book now for a week of socialism.

For details contact Andy Bevan, 150 Walworth Road, London SE 17.

By Willie Griffin

## Support us with cash

Labour Party members are showing their opposition to the witch-hunt by sending donations to the *Militant* fighting fund appeal.

Clowne LP (Bolsover) sent us a donation of £5, and collections were taken at or after meetings in Stoneycote (Leicester), Blackley (Manchester), Glenrothes (Fife) and Wallsend.

## Militant increases votes

The day after the National Executive of the Labour Party voted for a witch-hunt, there was a by-election in a ward—a Tory stronghold—in Margate.

A Tory victory was certain but the expected Labour vote was around 100 votes. With two vacancies on the council two Labour candidates stood, one of whom was Barry Lewis, a *Militant* supporter. The other Labour candidate polled a respectable 108 votes while Barry secured

## Bedwelty apology

In our issue dated 18th June this year, we reported a £10 donation from "H Morgan", mistakenly described as "the secretary of Neil Kinnock's CLP, Bedwelty". Mr Gwyn L James who is secretary of Bedwelty CLP has asked us to "withdraw this statement". It was Bro. M Morgan—secretary of

A special message for young trade unionists. If you want to come along to the camp, why not see if your union will sponsor you? Last year a number of young trade unionists were paid for by their organisation. Ask your shop steward or branch secretary or raise the matter at your union branch meeting.

### ● When is it?

A week starting Saturday 31 July until Saturday 7 August 1982.

### ● Where is it?

At the Bracelands Campsite, near Coleford, in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. The nearest railway station is Lydney.

### ● How much does it cost?

£20—and that includes the camp fees, your admission to films, discos and other events. The use of a full range of sporting equipment from cricket to volleyball is free!

### ● What do you bring?

A tent, sleeping bag, stove, cooking utensils and enough food for a week (there is a store on the camp site). Bring a complete change of clothing, wellies and a kagool, just in case it rains (although socialist planning should take care of that!)

### ● What about the kids?

Bring them—they have a better time than anyone else! There's a professional crèche provided. And there's ponytrekking, swimming and lots more to keep them happy. Children under 12 are only charged £10.

LPYS branches to send collections or donations included this week Enfield (£9), Tower Hamlets (£20), Hartlepool (£6), Motherwell and Reading South, while students who support us at Totton Vith Form College (Southampton) and in Totnes (thanks to A Stark and others) also sent donations.

149 votes.

His ideas were well known to the electorate as throughout his campaign nearly 50 *Militants* were sold. This election shows yet again that having a *Militant* supporter can increase the vote—in this case by 38%.

By Jimmy Haddow

(Youth Officer Thanet West CLP)

Machen Ward in Bedwelty—who made this generous donation in a personal capacity. This was a genuine mistake on our part based on the information we had at the time of publication. We apologise to Mr James and Mr Morgan for any embarrassment this may have caused.



### A flourishing trade

When socialists demand to see the accounts of major companies to see where the bosses' profits get to, you can hear a heart-rending appeal for mercy 'All the company's secrets will get into the hands of our opposition.' In fact, 'secrets' are probably few, as industrial espionage is a flourishing trade between rival capitalists, often on an international scale.

In the USA, two Japanese companies, Hitachi and Mitsubishi, have been accused of paying \$648,000 for the secrets of IBM's computers and of the software that instructs them. The FBI set a trap after a number of volumes of a confidential IBM document, the Adirondack Hardware Design Book went missing. On their return an FBI 'contact' claimed they had been through the hands of a senior engineer at a Hitachi factory.

Allegedly, Hitachi were also prepared to offer American company executives nearing retirement \$40,000 a year for information. Almost certainly, Japanese companies are not alone in their determination to acquire information about their rivals' plans. For the capitalist class the profits justify the means.

### Hallucinations in the middle of the road

In the television programme 'The Police and the Public' (see review this page) the interviewer creates an imaginary situation for a police constable, on the question of who he would decide to stop and search. Creating the scene, the interviewer says, "The white youth has got long hair, hippy beads, wears a Vote SDP badge and a 'Legalise cannabis now' T-shirt. All the signs of a pot smoking degenerate don't you think?"

The PC didn't agree on the term 'degenerate' but agreed the youth was possibly a pot smoker! Unlike the PC, Militant would never accuse SDP members of taking drugs, although their belief that they are the 'new force' in politics could be due to hallucinations. But as for being 'degenerate', in the political sense, well...

### A cure not a disease

"As one (opposition) MP said privately... 'Norman Fowler seems determined to radicalise the health service unions like Mrs Thatcher did the civil service. If you want Trots on the COHSE executive, you are going the right way about it' wrote Michael White, parliamentary correspondent of Health and Social Service Journal (produced for management in the NHS) on 17 June.

When some resident nurses face a 69p per week decrease in wages as a result of the Tories 'new improved offer,' you could get 'Trots' on the Royal College of Nursing executive! For the 'Trots', ie. supporters of Militant are not a nasty symptom of food poisoning, as the familiar press abbreviation for 'Trotskyists' implies, but socialists sickened by capitalist and Tory priorities. We're not a disease—we're the cure!

### Understandable confusion

Shirley Williams of the SDP has got the reputation in the Tory press of being absent minded. Party members who remember her happy days with Labour will know she always had that difficulty—thinking she was an electoral asset even after she'd lost Stevenage, forgetting conference decisions and Clause 4 of Labour's constitution. In fact she quite often seemed to forget she was in the Labour Party at all.

She got over that problem by leaving it, but she still has memory problems. One day recently she was due to speak at a lunch organised by the London Europe Society at London's St Ermins Hotel at 1pm. She eventually arrived breathless at 2pm and gave her speech. She was late because she had thought the lunch was at the equally plush Cafe Royal and had turned up there instead. When one has so many free banquets to go to, one can so easily get confused, can't one?

# 'The police and the public'

A three-part television programme next week, 'The Police and the Public,' gives an insight into the thinking of the police. In some parts this is an eye-opener for labour activists.

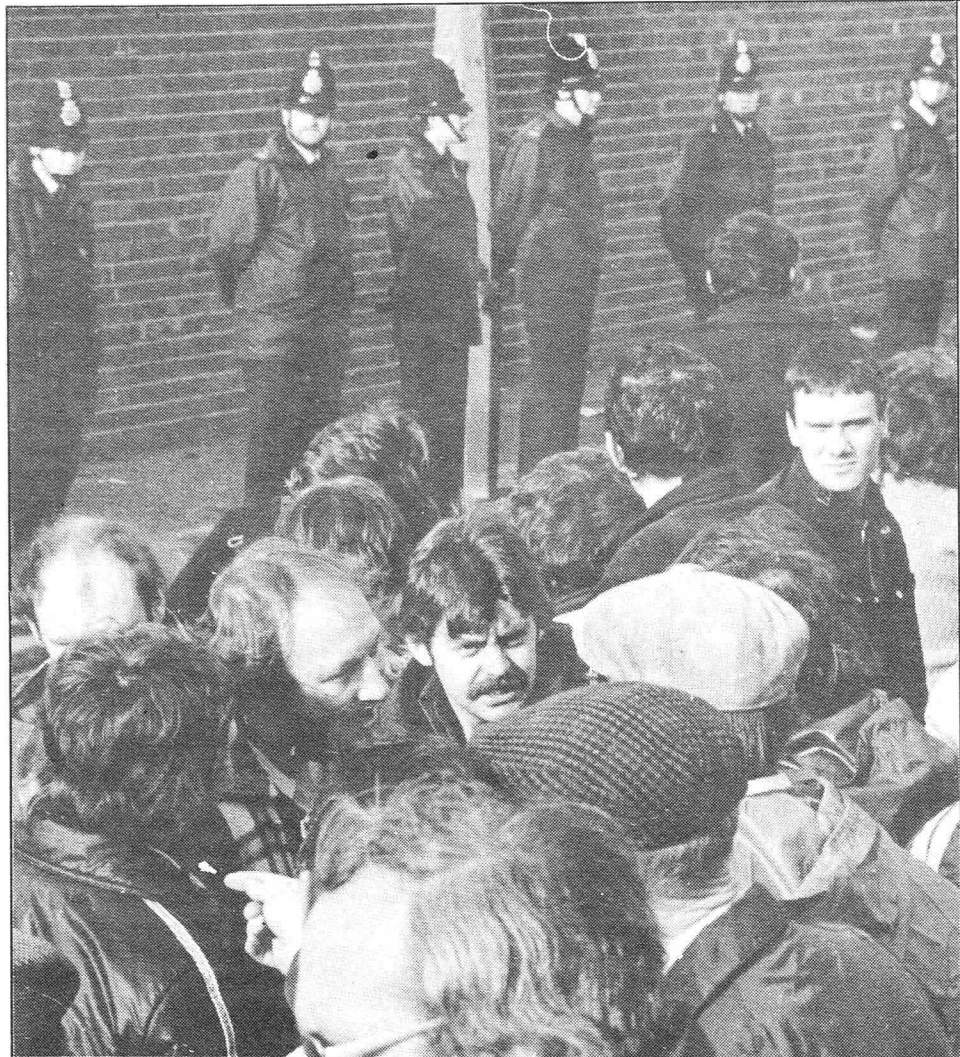
Police officers from constables to Commanders, along with community representatives and lawyers are given hypothetical situations—closely related to real life situations—by a 'moderator' who takes the floor.

Of course, sitting under the spotlights before millions of viewers, the police officer may be tempted to give different replies to the action they would take in reality. Hence Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable in Merseyside, answers to one question, "I personally would be in favour of merely cautioning a user for a small amount of cannabis." This will be news to some Liverpool youth!

The first programme, 'The Decision to Prosecute' carries a warning for trade unionists, when it deals with the question of picketing. Jack Dromey of the TGWU represents the union point of view, in a situation directly related to Laurence Scott.

Significantly, the police appeared not to be interested in the Tories' 'sixth picket' law. What the police said was that they would decide on a number, and if it went over that figure they would arrest Mr Dromey because he was the man in charge!

More alarmingly, Mr Dromey was told by Metropolitan police commander Richard Wells that if he threatened a lorry driver who said he would cross the



Police cordon off pickets at Lawrence Scotts factory last November while a helicopter carrying men in commando gear took Polaris parts from the factory. Photo: John Smith (IFL).

line with union disciplinary action, the commander considered it "intimidation"!

However, the makers of the programme explained at a preview that when they held a rehearsal with policemen from different constabularies, their attitude was more lax. It appears that the Metropolitan Police have a much harder line on strikes and disputes.

The second programme, 'Until proven guilty' is about a wages snatch and is mainly cops and robbers

stuff, although it gives an interesting insight to police attitudes on a prisoner's right to see a solicitor, assaults in police cells and wrongful arrest.

The third programme, 'Public Order,' deals with football policing, dealing with youth gangs on Bank Holidays, and a march through an immigrant area by the 'National Movement' ie. the NF or some other such fascist group, although it deals mainly with the machinery to obtain a ban on the

march.

The programme is neither anti- or pro-police but gives an insight into the state machinery. The conclusions socialists would draw, which were touched upon by Gabrielle Cox of the Greater Manchester Police Committee, was that there was clearly insufficient control over the police who in many cases were a law unto themselves.

By Bob Wade

## STRICT BUSINESS LINES -

By ROGER SHRIVES

Sir Peter Parker, the chairman is public-school and Oxford-educated, and receives £60,000 a year. He has had little connection with the railways.

His background was the private sector, having been previously chairman of Bookers Engineering and Industrial Holdings, a section of the Booker McConnell empire.

He had directorships or chairmanships in investment concerns like Curtis Brown and Dawnay Day, engineering multinationals like Renold, the Rockware glass and plastic multinational and wharfing firms like Victoria Deep Water Terminal. He is also a member of the British Airways Board. His general pro-capitalist principles are more important than his understanding of, or commitment to, the needs of the railways.

The deputy chairman Michael Bosworth was a partner in the accountants Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, well respected in the City,

being consulted by many leading firms. Some firms are likely to be very pleased at his control over British Rail Investments. Investment in the railway is minimal but he supervises the hiving off of subsidiaries to the private sector.

The part time members are Michael Posner, public school and Cambridge, formerly deputy chief economic adviser to the Treasury under the last Labour government and a consultant to the International Monetary Fund.

Lord Caldecote, Tory peer, chairman of the huge Delta group (Delta Metals etc) and of Finance for Industry Ltd, which handles loans along with the big clearing banks. This Old Etonian's connections with the railways are remote as previously he has been assistant manager of Vickers Armstrong Naval Yard, Deputy Managing Director of British Aircraft Corporation and President of the Society of British Aerospace Companies.

Other interests included directorships of English Electric (before it was taken

over by GEC), Consolidated Gold Fields and Lloyds Bank. His sailing, shooting and Athenaeum Club world is a million miles from that of BR's staff or most of its customers.

Sir Robert Lawrence, chairman of BR Property is a colonel, a freeman of the City of London with interests in the National Car Parks Ltd and a big building group. Like Lord Caldecote, he is reputedly an anti-union hard-liner.

Robert McLeod is joint managing director, Ben Line Steamers and director of Scottish Equitable Life Assurance. Prudence Leith, director British Transport Hotels, has her own catering concerns, while Simon Jenkins, political editor of the Economist was a member of the Tory Bow Group and is on the board of Faber and Faber, the publishers.

With backgrounds like these, who can be surprised if the Board are willing puppets of a job-slashing, union-bashing Tory government?

# Keir Hardie's speech on royal birth

Socialists have long opposed the institution of monarchy. On the same day eighty years ago as the future King Edward VIII was born, 251 miners died in an explosion at the Albion colliery, Cilfynydd, in South Wales.

When a Liberal MP proposed on 28 June, 1894 that a 'congratulatory address' be sent to the Queen, Keir Hardie, later to become the first leader of the Labour Party, rose from his seat in the Commons to oppose:

Mr. KEIR HARDIE—  
Mr. Speaker, on my behalf

and those whom I represent I am unable to join in this public address. I owe no allegiance to any hereditary ruler (interruptions) The resolution, Sir, proposes to congratulate Her Majesty on the birth of a son to the Duke and Duchess of York.

It seeks to elevate to an importance which it does not deserve an event of daily occurrence. I have been delighted to learn that the child is a fairly healthy one, and had I had the opportunity of meeting its parents I should have been pleased indeed to join in the ordinary congratulations of the occasion. But when we are asked as a House of Commons representing the nation to join in the congratulations, then in the interests of the House I take leave to protest.

There is one aspect of this question which concerns the House of Commons. A Minister of the Crown is required to be present on this interesting occasion. It is a matter of small concern to

me whether the future ruler of the nation be the genuine article or a spurious imitation.

We have the right to ask what particular blessing the Royal Family has conferred upon the nation that we should be asked to take part in the proceedings today. We have just heard it said that Her Majesty had ruled for over half a century. I would correct that, Sir, by saying that Her Majesty has reigned but has not ruled.

Then, there is the Prince of Wales. What high dignity has his Royal Highness conferred upon the nation?

Colonel SANDERSON (Armagh)—I rise, Sir, for the purpose of moving that the hon. member be no longer heard.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE—I was about to observe that I know nothing in the career of the Prince of Wales which commends him especially to me. Sometimes we get glimpses of the Prince at the gaming tables, sometimes on the



Keir Hardie, writing in *Labour Leader* (30 June 1894) "The life of one Welsh miner is of greater value to the British nation than the whole Royal crowd put together from the Royal Great Grand-mama to this puking Royal Great Grand-child."

racecourse. His Royal Highness is Duke of Cornwall, and as such he draws £60,000 a year from the Duchy property in London, which is made up of some of the vilest slums. (Cries of "Question.")

Mr. SPEAKER—The hon. member must keep to the terms of the resolution.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE—I

will bow to your ruling, Sir, and proceed to the subject of the resolution. We are asked to rejoice because this child has been born, and that one day he will be called upon to rule over this great Empire. From his childhood onwards this boy will be surrounded by sycophants and flatterers by the score (cries of "Oh!

oh!") and will be taught to believe himself as of a superior creation. ("Oh! oh!")

A line will be drawn between him and the people whom he is to be called upon some day to reign over. In due course, following the precedent which has already been set, he will be sent on a tour round the world, and probably rumours of a morganatic alliance will follow (Loud cries of "Oh!" "Order!" and "Question!") and the end of it all will be that the country will be called upon to pay the bill. (Cries of "Divide!")

As a matter of principle, I protest against this motion being passed, and if there is another member of the House who shares the principles I hold I will carry my protest the length of a division. The government will not find an opportunity for a vote of condolence with the relatives of those who are lying stiff and stark in a Welsh valley, and, if that cannot be done, the motion before the House ought never to have been proposed either.

If it be for rank and title only that time and occasion can be found in this House, then the sooner that truth is known outside the better for the House itself. I will challenge a division on the motion, and if the forms of the House will permit, I will go to a division in the hope that some members at least will enter their protest against the mummery implied in a resolution of this kind.

No one else was prepared to vote with Keir Hardie, and then as now, a sycophantic message was sent to the Royal Family.

## "But why are you a socialist?"

When you're sitting in the pub talking with your mates, and someone's listening to your arguments about why it's important for workers to join the Labour Party, or for trade unionists to support the railmen, sooner or later you'll get asked why you're a socialist.

On the face of it, that's a relatively easy question to answer—if you've got all night to do it in. You can tell the guy how you were just eight years old before you realised why your parents moved from their terraced house into a council house, six years earlier. They'd had a third child but only two bedrooms, and couldn't afford the mortgage for a bigger house, so they had had to move.

Then you must have been about eleven when you learnt that religion was a waste of time. You'd been going to chapel since you were old enough to be dragged along by your brother, and because you thought it was the right thing to do if your parents wanted it.

Then, when you'd moved villages they'd sent you to church, as there was no chapel; you put two and two together and realised that church had merely been a way of keeping you

By Paul  
Etherington  
(Ardwick CLP  
Manchester)

out of your mam's way while she made the Sunday dinner.

Oh, and you could tell about how you used to go visiting your grandma and grandpa every Sunday afternoon when you were about the same age. She'd make the dinner for one o'clock prompt every time, but grandpa wouldn't roll home from the club until three.

"Keep your eyes on the men at the top"

Then, when he'd had his dinner (burnt from being in the oven two hours too long—but he daren't complain), or he'd bring his wife's justifiable wrath down upon him)—when he'd wake up and, seeing you there, tell you a tale.

His life had been one of fighting in the miners' union against at first, the colliery owners—ruthless men who cared little for the lives of men they sent to an early grave—and latterly, the Coal Board, themselves as ruthless in their deter-

mination to stop the men themselves having too much say in the running of the pits. And they were romantic, these battles he spoke of in a hallowed voice, certainly, but far more than that, there was a genuine hatred of the greed and incompetence that had cost men's lives.

But grandpa wasn't a miner now: he was chairman of the staunchly Labour county council, with his own chauffeur-driven limousine to bring him home from functions and county hall. You should have been proud of him; or should you?

You remembered how grandpa used to stand by the window at tea times, waiting for the big car to pull up, dreading the sight of his drunken form being steered out of the car by the driver. As she wiped the net curtain aside, she knew it wasn't right for a Labour councillor to be acting like that, succumbing to the temptations of the free drinks, cigars and foreign exchange visits that he did, and she suffered agonies about it. A nervous breakdown in fact.

Once he'd sat there, after his sleep and told you that his trip to Russia with the council had disillusioned him; he'd seen big cars for important men, just like here, and he'd seen inequality. 'That's got to be fought as well, son,' I remember he told me, but

he hadn't been able to continue the fight himself.

'Keep your eyes on the men at the top all the time.' When I was a little maturer, I translated that as the accountability that socialists demand, and which has gone astray in Russia since Lenin's time.

The guy in the pub's still listening, so you tell him about when you went to school in your teens. A comprehensive, mind you, but you still got streamed, in the good old-fashioned tradition, into top and bottom classes.

You'd gone on to do your 'A'-levels at Tech, where you had hardly any text books, overcrowded classes and no grant. But you did get a bus pass, mind you, which you could sometimes fiddle to go and watch the match on Saturday.

There was a departmental meeting, once, and you were the students' representative on it. You'd complained about one Sociology class having 25 students, only to be told that there was no question about getting another lecturer, as 50% of these would 'drop out'; not surprisingly, you'd replied, if the teaching was as inadequate as at present.

The final excuse was, well, the rooms were built to hold 25. So your prayers that night were that we'd have smaller classrooms under socialism!

You managed to pass

your exams, but didn't apply for University, as there wasn't much mention of that at the Techs, so you signed on. You met, for the first time, the bureaucratic apparatus of the DHSS. There were only two million of us 'dole scroungers' then (times were better?).

Ah, but strictly speaking you shouldn't be a socialist because you were lucky enough to get a job after just five months, working in a local psychiatric hospital as a student nurse. But, sad to say, for capitalism's sake, you don't have to be jobless to learn to hate the system.

Keeping some humanity

You soon find out that the anti-humanitarian arms of the system stretch all around you; you see the patient who has to sit doing nothing all afternoon because his paints have run out, and there had been no money to buy more. You see wards of geriatric patients with thirty of them to as few as two or three staff. And you meet attitudes and beliefs that are incredibly archaic—fostered by an administration who resent change as costly.

And you get the princely sum of £50 a week to bring home for working 4 out of 6 weekends, with alternate shifts of 7.15 to 1.30 and 12.30 to 9.30 every other week. You take the job as long as you can stand it, envious and happy for the small number of staff who manage to work there and retain some semblance of humanity (even though they risk losing promotion) under pathetic conditions.

You now get your chance to go to university. That's where I am now. Overdrawn to the tune of £150, with a hopeless promise of a pittance of a grant increase next year.

You meet a lot of folk whose upbringing hasn't taught them to appreciate their position and affluence; you remember a lot of your mates at college, on the dole, or working at night class, who've maybe just got a couple of 'A'-levels and have been told it's not good enough, and who'd give their right arm for the places that some of these people here have, but because of the cut-backs, they'll never get in.

By the time you've told him all this, it's probably closing time. They guy asked 'Why are you a socialist?', but you realise that you haven't begun to tell him. So you're leaving the pub, you sell him a 'Militant', confident that, when he's read it, he'll understand.

# M.P.'s BUSINESS INT

## Tories Represent the Rich

Workers have suffered unprecedented attacks on their living standards during the course of the last 3 years of Tory government.

Cuts in health expenditure, in education, and in the social services, have undermined the very fabric of the welfare state established in the first decade after the War.

At the present time, almost everyone of the major industrial disputes in progress has a defensive character, from the workers standpoint. In other words, the trade unions seek only to maintain the living standards and conditions established by workers over many years.

But while ordinary workers struggle to make ends meet day by day, there are no financial or social pressures on any Tory MP's. They can shout about "freedom of choice" in education and in health, because they, unlike the vast majority of workers, can afford that freedom of choice.

Even looking back to the election of 1979, it is clear from the character of the Tory candidates, that the Tory Party represents only a tiny proportion of the population.

Whilst only about 4% of the total population have attended public school, almost 60% of Tory candidates were ex-public school, nearly 13% from Eton. 44% of Tory candidates came from either Oxford or Cambridge and another 20% were educated at other universities.

The Tory candidates were not exactly dominated by the "horny-handed sons of toil." To be a Tory candidate it was a great advantage to be "something in the City."

162 were company directors, 61 were barristers or were otherwise connected with the courts, 46 were farmers, 30 from journalism or broadcasting, 8 stockbrokers, 9 merchant bankers, 12 accountants, 14 business consultants, 34 Lloyds underwriters or insurance brokers, and 45 in management and executive positions.

Of course, the typical Tory candidate is not averse to moonlighting. Many of the candidates combined jobs in the City and other legal or farming interests.

Not many Tory candidates presented themselves to the broad electorate as spokesmen of a tiny unrepresentative cabal of British businessmen. They invariably posed as men and women "of the people".

But not many "people" have the connections, for example, of Tory MP Keith Wickenden (MP for Dorking). He could be taken as a useful guide to Tory connections.

He is listed in Andrew Roth's book, *The business background of MPs* as Chairman of European Ferries Ltd, and its subsidiaries

(holding company for Townsend Thoresen ferries and other companies including merchant bankers Singer and Friedlander, Atlantic Steam Navigation Co. Ltd, Felixstowe Dock and Railway Co. Ltd, Stanhope Steamship Co. Ltd).

This common man of the people, is also vice-chairman of Television South—the company now holding the ITV franchise in the Southern area—a director of Brighton and Hove Albion Football Club, of



Cascom Ltd, Harbour Developments Ltd Guernsey CI, Keystone Investment Co. Ltd., and almost 50 other companies.

Considering the fact that Keith Wickenden manages to hold down 50 or so jobs, it would be interesting to see what he had to say in his election manifesto about unemployment!

But Keith Wickenden is not that unusual. The vast majority of Tory MP's are connected either by marriage, or directly, with big business interests, and it would be impossible to quote here all the connections which are listed in Andrew Roth's book. (*Parliamentary Profiles*, paper back £12).

When it comes to the Government it is clear that Thatcher's Cabinet is not only one of the most vicious anti-working class Tory Cabinets this century, it is also one of the wealthiest.

Michael Heseltine, busy slashing expenditure available to local authorities, is listed as the owner of a 30 acre farm near Banbury in Oxfordshire. He is a shareholder in Haymarket Publishing Group, J Pridmore (Swansea) Ltd, Bastion Properties (Property), Yoke Developments (Property), Kensington Freeholdings (Property).

What ever may be the problems faced by workers

in the inner-city slums, or council tenants unable to have repairs done because of public expenditure cuts, it is clear that none of these would apply to Michael Heseltine himself.

It is not unusual for Tory Cabinet Ministers to drop their directorships, as long as they are members of the Cabinet. But it is no less unusual for ex-Tory Cabinet Ministers to take up other directorships once their term of office in the Cabinet has come to an end.

Geoffrey Howe is listed as an ex-director of AGB Research Ltd, Sun Alliance and London Insurance, London Assurance, Associated Business Programmes, Alliance Assurance Co. Ltd, Sun Insurance Office, and EMI Ltd.

During one of the miners strikes under the Heath government, Tory Minister Patrick Jenkin advised us all to "brush our teeth in the dark". This very profound policy statement was representative of the Tories economic strategy in the face of the industrial and social chaos which they themselves created.

No doubt it was Patrick Jenkin's other equally profound comments which made him at one time or another the director of Bakelite Xylonite Ltd, Tilbury Contracting Group Ltd, Royal Worcester Ltd, (Pottery), Continental and Industrial Trust Ltd. He was also an executive from 1957 to 1966 of the Distillers Company Ltd.

Keith Joseph, another of the wealthy men in Thatcher's Cabinet, is ex-chairman of Bovis Ltd, (family firm of builders) and ex-deputy chairman of Earnings Investment Trust. Gentleman Jim Prior, farms a mere 380 acres at Old Hall, Brampton. He is ex-chairman of Aston Boats Ltd, Boggis Machinery Ltd,

and ex-deputy chairman of Avon Cosmetics Ltd.

John Nott is listed as being the farmer of a 130 acre farm in Cornwall, a shareholder in Andrew Hydraulics International Ltd, (he was its chairman from 1976 to 1979), and ex-chairman of Imperial Eastman (UK Group) Ltd. He was also director at one time of Clarkson International Tools Ltd. He is also an ex-merchant banker having been general manager of SG Warburg and Co. Ltd. (Merchant bankers).

Margaret Thatcher herself, the original humble grocer's daughter, is not exactly on the breadline. Her husband Denis Thatcher was planning director of Burmah Oil, a director of Chipman Chemical Co. Ltd, Atlas Preservation Co. Ltd, (this was a family firm sold to Castrol in 1965 for more than half a million pounds), Castrol Oil Co. Ltd, Edwin Cooper & Co. Ltd, Halfords Ltd, Quinton Hazell Ltd.

Compared to the money that 'our Denis' no doubt earns, Margaret Thatcher's own ministerial salary is something of a sideline.

Opinion pollsters are fond of asking loaded questions like "do you think the trade unions represent the interests of the nation" or "do you think the trade union leaders represent their members" and of course the newspapers are fond of publishing the inevitable results.

But the pollsters never ask the question "do you think that Tory MP's with 50 company directorships are representative of the nation?", or "would you expect a Cabinet full of millionaires to represent your interests?"

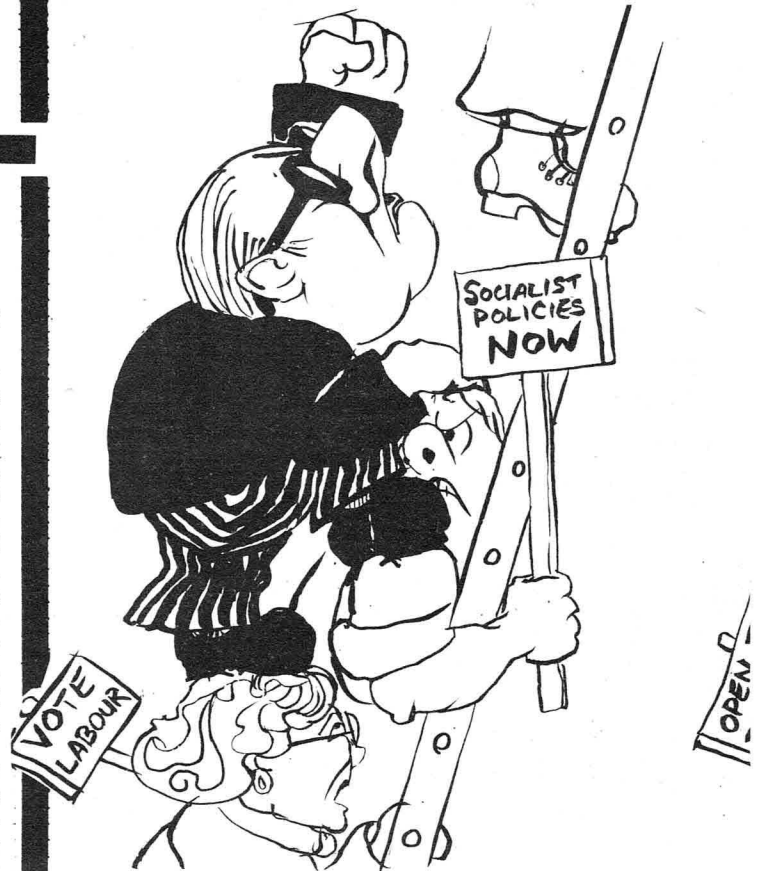
This is because there are one thousand and one threads that connect the Tory Party, and particularly its hierarchy, to big business, and exactly the same threads connect business with Fleet Street and the media in general.

A Tory government will represent no other interests other than the interests of big business. In general economic policy, social policy, industrial policy, foreign policy, and in all respects the Tory Party's interests are opposed to those of the vast majority of the population.

What Labour Party activists have to be concerned with is to ensure the election of a Labour government which is just as representative of the interests and aspirations of ordinary working people as the Tory Party is representative of the interests and the aspirations of big business.

By John Pickard

ONWARDS EVER  
ONWARDS COMRADES



# But Labour Represent

The Labour Party was originally founded to represent ordinary working people in Parliament.

It was built out of the sweat and sacrifice of tens of thousands of workers. Men and women who were prepared to devote not only time and money but their lives to build up their party.

Yet today many Labour MPs who 'represent' us are largely from middle class professions: barristers, solicitors, lecturers, and the like. Figures from May 1979 indicate that the largest groups in the PLP were: top of the list, university lecturers (26), followed by teachers (24), ex-trade union officials (23), barristers (22) and journalists (18). Those from managerial/executive background numbered ten. By contrast there were 9 manual workers, 17 miners and 16 engineers. The rest were made up in the main of consultants, solicitors, accountants, economists, doctors, personnel managers, etc.

Throughout the 1950s and 60s many from a middle class background joined the Labour Party not to fight for socialism but to seek a lucrative parliamentary career for themselves. Many obtained leading

By Rob Sewell

positions which were used to feather their own nests at the expense of the movement.

With the move to the left in the constituency parties some of these 'Neanderthal men' of the right wing split from the party: Prentice, Taverne, Mayhew, Marsh, Stonehouse, Brown, etc. Since then a new batch has left for the SDP: Williams, Owen, Jenkins, etc, hoping to preserve their Parliamentary privileges and income.

The rank and file still feel that the majority of the PLP continues to be dominated with people of this sort. Their life styles are completely divorced from ordinary working people. Many have sought 'respectability' and 'responsibility'.

We should not oppose middle class people being Labour representatives as long as they put themselves on the standpoint of the working class. But in practice, the PLP, representing a workers' organisation, has been largely taken over by middle class people who reject the workers' standpoint and the struggle for socialism.

Many rub shoulders with



# PERKS

ONWARDS COMRADES  
EVER ONWARDS...



# Why Should Workers

the Tory ranks in the 'House' as if the struggle against Big Business, the Tories and their system is a game. Many are not serious, and never have been, about changing society.

Many hob-nob with those in 'high society', but always behind closed doors—not for the rank and file to see.

As was recently confirmed, "the Department of Trade investigation into the John Stonehouse group of companies, (John Stonehouse was a Labour Minister—RS) drew attention to the way individuals (MPs) were induced through dinners in splendid surroundings of the Palace of Westminster to become directors of those companies." (The Listener, 3/12/81).

Many Labour Party members will be shocked by the incomes and interests that our MPs get. They will be astounded by the 'perks' and business-links that some Labour representatives have built up for themselves. These extensive links in Parliament and Government are boasted about in company brochures:

"Lloyd-Hughes Associates offer 'unrivalled links with and insights into the corridors of power', including development of contact 'at all levels, up to senior officials and Ministers'. They claim also to have 'master-minded' parliamentary campaigns; to have organised lunches and receptions attended by former Prime Ministers

Wilson and Heath, and by the Queen's Principal Private Secretary and top civil servants; and to have inspired questions by MP's 'to obtain information for our clients or to help in presenting their case'. That company is not alone in making such claims." (Listener, 3/12/81).

Leaving this aside for the moment, the basic MP's salary is £14,510. Added to this is a subsistence allowance of £5,099. Their office and secretarial allowance comes to an additional £8,819.

But as has been revealed, many, including Labour MPs, 'employ' their wives or are supplied with American politics students free of charge to act as secretaries or researchers. Apart from subsidised meals, MP's also get a travel allowance of 20p per mile by car and 15 free journeys a year for their wives to visit Westminster.

This works out at about £550 per week! Not bad for a week's work? No wonder the right wing are scared stiff about reselection!

The opposition leader gets a basic 'wage' of £26,572 plus allowances. At the same time a single pensioner 'lives' on £29.60 per week and no allowances.

Militant has always put forward the idea that Labour MPs should be on the same living standard as the workers they represent. Even with the most sincere of intentions, it would not be possible to accurately reflect the interests of workers with a salary and a

life-style way above the average.

There is an old expression that "one wage packet separates a worker from destitution" and it retains its force to this day. One unexpected misfortune—redundancy, illness, or even a large electricity bill—can plunge a working class family into a financial crisis.

As living costs are constantly rising and nibbling away at the purchasing power of the housekeeping money, there is, in working class homes, a permanent effort to make ends meet, never mind increase living standards. These anxieties

Right during the last Labour government.

But quite apart from the salaries of MPs, some get even bigger perks from TV and radio interviews and from publishing articles and memoirs—all of which are based in the final analysis on their position in the labour movement, not on their 'personal' talents.

Barbara Castle, for example, was reported to have sold her memoirs to the Sunday Times for £30,000.

Richard Crossman was paid over £17,000 for his. But the star prize went to Sir Harold Wilson who got £250,000 from the Times newspapers for his revela-

his relationship with Callaghan were raised (though, it must be stressed, there is no evidence of any impropriety on either side) when it was recalled: that in his 1967 budget Callaghan relaxed the hire-purchase restrictions on three-wheeled cars, one of the chief manufacturers of which was Reliant Motors, a Hodge subsidiary; that Hodge took Callaghan to meetings of the International Monetary Fund as a guest after he had ceased to be Chancellor; and that in 1971 Callaghan had proposed to the Labour Party Conference a fund-raising idea involving a motor insurance scheme, which might well have enriched the party but would also have enriched the Hodge Group, whose insurance was the brand under offer.

Julian Hodge's business ethic was not to everybody's taste, though there was nothing illegal about it. Granada Television devoted an entire programme to his links with a 'pyramid selling' operation known as 'Holiday Magic'.

In 1970 Hodge was knighted. At the end of 1973, pyramid selling was made illegal.

Between 1972 and 1974 Callaghan served as director of the Italian International Bank, formed by four Italian Commercial banks to exploit the international money market. When he was director of Labour Party Properties, it obtained a loan of £100,000 from IIB.

The loan was repaid, plus £50,000 in interest. By the end of 1978, according to the Labour Party Report, Labour Party Properties had accumulated a debt of nearly £110,000! Callaghan still maintains an investment of a cool £5,000 in millionaire Hodge's Bank of Wales.

We would not suggest, of course, that there has been any impropriety but Labour Party members do have the right to know what business links leading Labour MPs have.

Many other Labour MPs have extensive business interests which have been recently revealed in detail in *The Business Background of MPs* by Andrew Roth. As it explained by using an ironic quote:

"Against this background, it is clear that the Commons is increasingly inhabited by people with economic connections of

one sort or another. On 3 July 1965, when he (Callaghan) was Chancellor, he said of Conservative MPs who were fighting him over the Finance Bill:

"I do not think of them as 'the Honourable Member for X or Y or Z.' I look at them and say, 'investment trusts', 'capital speculators' or 'that is the fellow who is the Stock Exchange man who makes a profit on gilt edge'."

"I have almost forgotten their constituencies, but I shall never forget their interests. I wonder sometimes who they represent? The constituents or their own friends' particular interests?"

The labour movement is not interested in maintaining careerists in Parliament, who hob-nob with their Tory friends. The ranks of the Party want class fighters to represent them.

People who are prepared to constantly represent the interests of the working class and the struggle for socialism. We need people who are prepared to live at the same level as ordinary working people and not become divorced from them.

When you are getting £500 a week and more, how can you really understand the hardships and misery of the low paid and the unemployed? To live on such an income inevitably means to live on a very much higher living standard.

Under these conditions, with the best will in the world, the struggle to change society is not a burning question, but something that can be put off as "impractical" at present.

All Labour MPs must live on the average pay of a skilled worker, plus genuine expenses vetted by the movement. The remainder of the income above this level should be donated back to the Labour Party.

This would wipe out the Labour Party's massive deficit in a few months and would put a stop to careerists seeking to 'represent' our people.

It would mean that honest, self sacrificing working people would come forward—not interested in the 'rewards'—to really represent our class in Parliament. Then the party would have real fighters for socialism in Parliament under the democratic check of the rank and file.



Jim Callaghan had a suit made up of cloth with the letters 'JC' running right through it. Many workers cannot afford a suit.

and worries press down every day on working families.

Consider, on the other hand, the position of an MP. Living on a much higher salary means that the same bills and financial worries that bear down very heavily on workers can be brushed aside with one wave of a cheque book. The worries and pressures are just not there on anything like the same scale.

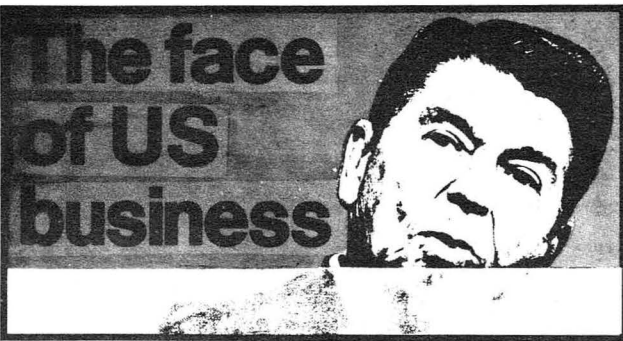
Those MPs who do put themselves on the same financial standpoint as workers will not easily accept a 5 per cent limitation on wage rises when inflation is running at 13 per cent—as Callaghan demanded with the support of Labour's

tions!

Then there is the income derived from directorships and consultancies to big business firms. Jim Callaghan, for example, has not done too badly. Owner of a 200 acre Upper Clayhill farm in Sussex and a small modern flat in Kennington, he was a director of Julian Hodges' Commercial Bank of Wales in the early 1970's (as was the Speaker of the Commons, George Thomas).

This episode was related in a book, "Callaghan: The Road to Number Ten" by Christopher Hitchens:

"Hodge had, indeed, been a lifelong supporter of and donor to the Labour Party. But questions about



## Sarah Green was 60 years old when she died in Providence, Rhode Island, after working for the company of Brown & Sharpe for 30 years.

When the strike began Sarah, in spite of being excused picket duty by the strike leaders, insisted on taking her turn on the line. After one six-hour spell she suffered a stroke and died.

This was her reward from a ruthless management after half her life had been spent helping them amass their profits. There was to be no peace and quiet in retirement for Sarah.

The 36 week-old strike at Brown & Sharpe has been deliberately provoked by management. When the contract ran out in October 1981 they offered a one week extension. Then they put forward their terms for a new contract on a 100% 'take it or leave it' basis.

In this contract they demanded the right to move workers around to any department and to any work they, the management, would decide upon. Union agreement has always been necessary up until now.

The union accepted 85% of the contract and asked to negotiate on the other 15%. The company refused. The workers rejected their ultimatum and the strike began on 19 October.

It is now the longest running strike in the USA. The 1,600 workers at this machine tool and measuring device plant are standing firm and are determined to win, in spite of the attacks made upon them.

As the strike developed, management began to recruit scabs and drive them into work under the protection of the police and the National Guard. At times up to 100 police have been on duty and the local units of the National Guard have been given riot control training.

### Seniority for scabs

Management stepped up their provocation in December by offering an even worse contract. In February they stated that on return to work the scabs would be given seniority over the strikers.

They also stated that all workers would have to sit medical examinations to determine whether they were fit to be employed or not and the company doctor's word would be final. These provocations came on top of the original ultimatum which began the strike.

The workers and the union have been convinced beyond any doubt that management deliberately caused this strike in an at-

tempt to break the union and at the same time save them from having to pay wages during the recession when the demand for machine tools is at a minimum. Net new orders of machine tools fell 61% between March 1981 and March 1982.

Faced with this attitude the strikers stepped up their resistance with a mass picket on 22 March. Up to 2,000 people took part. 100 of the picketers, mainly women, sat down in the driveway to the plant.

The police moved in with pre-meditated ferocity. And in what only can be described as actions more in keeping with a police state, they gassed the workers.

They pushed the gas-hoses up under the coats of the workers as they tried to cover their heads. After-effects are still being experienced by many workers.

The attacks did not end there. The next day the strikers were clubbed to the ground by the police.

Then a few nights later Earl Coffey, a 60 year old worker was shot and wounded by a scab while he was on picket duty. In contrast to their vigilance and decisive action on behalf of management and the scabs, it was a week later before police "protection" was provided for the night picket line.

### Longest current strike in USA

In spite of 36 weeks on the picket line, in spite of being gassed, shot at and clubbed, in spite of the economic hardship the strikes, members of locals 883, 1088 and 1124 of the International Association of Machinists are in a militant mood and confident of victory.

As IAM member Stanley Banach told me, "they are trying to bust the union but we will beat them." David Marciano, also on strike and a member of IAM was equally determined as he pointed to the turn-around in the company's fortunes in the 1970's. From a loss of \$5m on a turnover of \$57m in 1970, the company made a profit of \$14m on a turnover of \$227m in 1980.

David Marciano explained "This turn around was brought about by the flexibility given by workers and now the company wants more concessions, the right to lay off workers on their doctors' word and they are demanding an end to what they term the "oppression" of having to consult the union on work changes and moving workers within the plant."

This strike is of national and for that matter interna-

# AT - gas attack HOME on strikers

tional importance. Its progress is being watched by the Reagan administration and many employers. If they can succeed in busting the union here, they will further step up their anti-union campaign nationwide.

They also see it as possibly giving an opening to them to move against the Rhode Island State which allows unemployment compensation to strikers. New York and Rhode Island are the only two states in the USA which have these provisions.

Behind the management of Brown & Sharpe stand the employers nationally. Also the owners of Brown & Sharpe are shareholders in the only state-wide Rhode Island daily paper, the local TV station and in many of the state utilities.

One of the states two Senators, Republican John Chafee is a cousin of the Company Chairman Henry D Sharpe Jr. The conspiracy to break the union goes all the way to Washington.

In an effort to step up their action, the union has hired the New York firm, Corporate Campaign Incorporated. This is the firm which was involved in the successful campaign to unionise J P Stevens & Co. This firm developed as a response to union busting consultancies staffed by oily lawyers who hire themselves out to the employers.

While such pro-labour consultancies as Corporate Campaign Inc. can do useful research and provide information in relation to the links and finances of companies involved in

strikes they do not hold out any dependable method through which workers can fight and win their rights.

Only the power of the workers themselves organised through their locals and with the support of their fellow workers organised by their union and the local and state labour councils can guarantee the demands of working class people.

Whatever temporary gains here or there are won, the law and the courts as a whole are on the side of the employers. Any loophole which may be found by a smart labour lawyer will be closed by the courts and political parties of big business.

The workers at Brown & Sharpe are fighting in the interests of all workers and oppressed people. A defeat for the employers here will

be a defeat for big business backers and their political supporters. A victory for the workers here will be a set back for the Reagan administration.

Messages of support must be rushed to the workers at Brown & Sharpe. The labour movement internationally are especially asked to send messages of support and solidarity to the workers who are fighting this multi-national with subsidiaries in Britain and West Germany.

Messages of support to: Stanley Banach, 95 Garfield Avenue, Providence, Rhode Island 02908, USA.

Donations to: Strike fund, Dist. 64 IAM, 78 Kenwood St., Cranston, Rhode Island, USA.

By ROBERT O'NEILL after discussion with strikers Stanley Banach and David Marciano.



Gas attack as women strikers stage sit-down protest. Photo: Duane Clinker.

## Trade tensions with Europe

With the world recession showing no sign of ending, political and economic divisions are beginning to open up between the different capitalist powers. Last month the US slapped duties upon European steel imports, because they received state aid.

In response the EEC has announced that it will take action against the US under the world trading agreement, GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs). The US now threatens to take action against European food exports, claiming that they are being dumped on world markets at ridiculously low prices.

The growing crisis has arisen because with little or no growth in the world

economy it is a matter of 'dog eat dog,' as each national capitalist class struggles to get as much of the world market as it can. One potentially profitable development is the £4 billion Siberian gas pipeline to Western Europe. Three European turbine makers, in West Germany, Italy and Britain, have contracts worth £581m; the Scottish firm John Brown Engineering has a £104m contract.

But this is now all threatened by the determination of the Reagan administration to wage economic war upon the Soviet Union. US officials argue that the Russian economy is now more vulnerable than at any time since the second world war. Last week they banned the

exports of technology for the pipeline, a ban which affected the European firms as they acquired this technology under licence from the US firm General Electric.

Immediately the British government issued an order which quashed the ban on British firms. Thatcher has warned the US administration that such action could escalate into a trade war.

But the Reagan administration has been careful not to carry its trade war with the USSR to the extent of harming its own backers. It lifted former President Carter's embargo on grain sales to the USSR.

Divisions are not confined to those between the USA and Europe. The French government opposes

Spain and Portugal joining the EEC, because their entry threatens French farming interests.

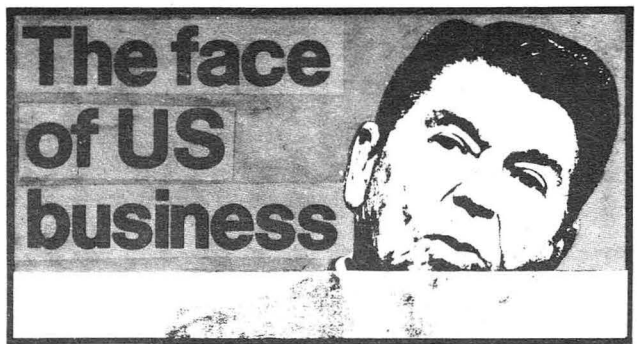
All these tensions reflect the changed nature of the world economy. During the period of the post-war boom, some barriers on trading across national boundaries were removed by agreements such as GATT, and in Europe by the establishment of the EEC. But now, in the continuing gloom of recession, the shutters are coming down, and each capitalist class turns to protectionism to safeguard its own national interests.

By COLIN BARBER



Training Cuban and Nicaraguan exiles in Florida, USA.

JIM CHRYSTIE reviews: "Under the Eagle: US intervention in Central America and the Caribbean" by Jenny Pearce. Published by Latin America Bureau, 1 Amwell Street, London EC1R. (Price, not including p&tp, £3.50).



# Using military and Mafia in Central America

**When Reagan came to power he loudly proclaimed that one of his main priorities was to keep America's traditional 'backyard' of Central America safe from creeping communism.**

**His 'no-nonsense-about-human-rights' policy was going to turn back the tide of guerilla revolt in El Salvador and Guatemala and restore the position in Nicaragua.**

He has not found it so easy in practice. For the uprising from below stems from the revolt against regimes which can only offer continued starvation and misery for the mass of the population. How this came about is well brought out in Jenny Pearce's book, documenting the different forms of intervention used by US capitalism to rule the region.

Firstly it took direct US military invasion to establish puppets. Writing in 1935, General Butler summed up his role as a US officer during the early years of this century:

"I spent thirty-three years and four months in the Marine corps. I served in all ranks from a second lieutenant to major general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for big business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short I was a racketeer for capitalism..."

"Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank to collect revenues in...I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras 'right' for American fruit companies in 1903."

The book shows that the dominance of giant American firms prevented the growth of a strong independent capitalist class in these countries. Three US companies (United Fruit,

Del Monte and Standard Fruit) own over 1,350 million square metres of the best land in Central America and control 70% of the banana trade, worth over \$2.6 billion.

Instead of industrialising, these small countries and islands became dependent on producing one or two crops for export. This has proved disastrous for the development of the countries' economies and left them exposed to the mercies of international recession and the forces of nature.

When Hurricane Allen swept through the Caribbean in 1979 it destroyed 97% of St Lucia's banana crop, 95% of St Vincent's, 40% of Granada's. US and British economic assistance was given to all the islands affected (except Grenada, because they had acquired a left wing government.)

**"A little escapee from death"**

The consequences of underdevelopment can be measured in the most basic right—the right to live. In Haiti 50% of children die before they are five years old. Pearce reports that a child of two is called a creole name which means 'a little escapee from death'.

Life expectancy is only 53 years but this hides wide discrepancies. Whilst 0.8% of Haiti's population grab 43% of the national income, 61% have to get by on \$60 a year.

Similar statistics are given for all the countries under US economic control. As his gangster's cut for allowing US firms to plunder Nicaragua, ex-dictator Somoza took a personal one-third share in all profitable business.

Pearce details the way America's business dictates US policy to successive incumbents of the White House. This is done partly through the Council of the

Americas (COA) and the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America.

The COA is especially powerful, with its membership consisting of 200 corporations representing 90% of US investments in Latin America. The COA has direct access to every executive branch policy maker in the US government, including the President.

The absence of a strong independent national

**Pushed into social revolution**

capitalist class in these countries means that when the peasants demand land, or workers strike for a decent life, they swiftly come up against US interests. The struggle for democratic rights threatens to become a social revolution.

When modest land reform threatened United Fruit's 550,000 acres in Guatemala in 1954, United Fruit conspired with the US government to arrange a coup and the government was overthrown.

But in Cuba the US administration miscalculated and actually pushed the popular movement along the path of social revolution. When the Castro-led guerillas overthrew the Batista dictatorship, Castro proclaimed that Cuba would seek a middle way 'between capitalism and communism'.

But the mass demand for change, combined with US attempts to overthrow his government, drove Castro to take over all foreign and business interests. The Cuban revolution proved traumatic for US imperialism. Only ninety miles from the US mainland, in the middle of its 'backyard', there was now a country which had ended the rule of landlordism and capitalism.

Successive US Presidents, Democratic and Republican, hired Mafia killers to try to assassinate Castro and used biological and chemical warfare against the Cuban people. When Reagan denounces 'terrorism' let him recall what Noam Chomsky wrote about US policy towards Cuba:

"Suppose that Fidel Castro had organised or participated in at least eight

assassination attempts against the various Presidents of the United States since 1959. It is safe to conclude that the *New York Times*, *CBS news* and the mass media in general would have portrayed him as an international gangster and assassin, who must be excluded from the community of civilised nations.

"But when it is revealed that the United States has made or participated in that many attempts on Castro's life it's just 'one of those things that governments do'.

"Suppose further that Fidel Castro had arranged for his agents in the United States to disperse various disease carriers in agricultural regions in an attempt to poison and destroy livestock and crops. Can one imagine the hysteria of the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Times* on the depths to which barbarian evil can sink under communism?"

"The United States actually did carry out such an act against Cuba, reported in the press in early 1977 as minor news item on the back pages—500,000 pigs had to be destroyed as a result of a deliberately spread viral disease. And according to a recent statement of a Canadian adviser to the Cuban government, as early as 1962 he was paid \$5,000 by a Defense Intelligence Agency representative to infect Cuban poultry with a viral disease.

"Editorial outrage over these claims has been modest to say the least."

Alongside of terrorism and repression went a new slant to US policy. In the 1960's Kennedy called for 'An Alliance for Progress'. Reforms that did not threaten basic capitalist interests, but could cut the ground from under the demand for fundamental change, were meant to be another means of preserving private property in 'the backyard'.

But this policy was a total failure. The circle could not be squared; capitalism could not tolerate democracy, land reform and workers' rights in Central America.

The book ends with a detailed account of the revolutionary wave sweeping through the region in the last few years. A battle against repression and mass poverty, which cost the lives of over 40,000 people in Nicaragua, Guatemala and

El Salvador where the guerilla war still continues.

On coming to office Reagan declared that El Salvador was 'in our front yard'. But he has discovered that it is not so easy to crush the developing liberation struggles. He cannot send in American troops, because of the opposition this would generate at home. He was planning to send in Argentinian troops, but this is now impossible after US support for Britain over the Falklands, apart from the instability of the Argentinian junta itself.

So Reagan will continue to give military assistance to the military regimes and work to destabilise radical regimes. Because of the policy of the leaders of the liberation movements to

base themselves upon rural guerilla warfare, rather than upon the urban workers in alliance with the peasantry, it is likely that the struggle in the region will drag out over years.

Solidarity actions by the international labour movements is essential to ensure that these regimes are overthrown as soon as possible. Pearce's book will prove extremely useful in this respect. Packed with information (sometimes too much, so the thread of explanation is occasionally buried in detail) it is nevertheless an invaluable source material for all socialists to find out more about how imperialism operates and why Central America is now one of the most volatile areas in the world.

In Nicaragua, under the US-backed Somoza regime, the bottom 57% of the population shared 15% of the country's wealth, 57% were illiterate, life expectancy was 53 and 46 out of every 1,000 babies died before they were one year old. Until overthrown by the Sandinistas in 1979, (below) the US backed this regime, as they feared that in the absence of an independent capitalist class, power would otherwise pass into the hands of workers and peasants.





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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E6 3E.

# Witch-hunt : You can't expel ideas!

Dear Comrades

I have been a member of the Labour Party for 12 years, and Secretary of my CLP for 7. My Prospective Parliamentary Candidate, Cathy Wilson, is a 'Militant' supporter and proud of it.

When I first came across 'Militant' I was opposed to it. I did my level best to defeat 'Militant' supporters, and to warn Party members against them, because I had seen sects come into the Party for what they could get out of it and then leave, a trail of wreckage behind them. I mistook 'Militant', because of my experiences within the Labour movement, for such a sect.

But they argued in a disciplined way to win support for their ideas. I was wrong, and I'm glad I lost that particular battle.

I came to see that 'Militant' supporters worked to build the Labour Party and LPYS, not for what they could get out of it but to give us a Party capable of fighting the Tories and developing a socialist programme which we had lacked. They worked when others gave up, some because they were dispirited by years of betrayal, some because they wanted a compliant, social democratic Party and not a socialist Party at all. If it had not been for 'Militant' supporters and the work they did, we would not now have a CLP here on the Isle of Wight, or in many other areas.

I do not want to see that work and that dedication thrown away. I will not sit back while the Party I've worked all my adult life for is hacked to pieces at the behest of a right-wing

majority NEC and the hack-writers of the 'Daily Mirror' and the rest of the gutter press.

And I will not see it all thrown away if the Labour movement unites against the witch-hunters, if this fight is taken to Annual Conference by the branches, CLPs and trade unions who reject the belief that you win arguments by shooting down all who disagree with you.

I have seen how the 'Militant' works, and I have nothing but admiration for it. For so long as I am Party Secretary, there will be no expulsions in my CLP, and I will fight for the rights of members who may be under threat elsewhere.

The 'Militant' did not start this war, but it must fight back. Take the arguments to the membership, to the branches, to the CLPs and trade unions, and the witch-hunt will be stopped—as it must be if democracy in the Labour Party, and therefore the Labour Party itself, is not to be destroyed. You will be fighting for every member of the Labour Party, and for the historical goals of our movement.

Yours fraternally  
Robert Jones  
Secretary  
Isle of Wight CLP

Dear Comrades

This campaign against the 'Militant' is so false. I was active in the Labour Party at nine years of age—chalking the streets, distributing leaflets, and at 14 I was a minor official, a district secretary.

Who are the heirs of the Labour Party? Ensor, in his excellent survey of the early

The following letter was sent by Chris Dunn of Spalding Labour Party to 'Labour Weekly,' in reply to an attack on the left by Joe Ashton MP.

Dear Comrades

In reply to Joe Ashton's desperate condemnation of Labour's left and 'Militant' (June 11). I can assure him of this; as long as he uses his privileged position of a full column on 'Labour Weekly's' letters page in paranoid attempts to vilify the left instead of making constructive criticism and condemning the Tories...he is guilty of the very crime he so falsely and venomously accuses us of.

In a small branch of the 12th smallest constituency, Holland and Boston, last year's membership effectively fell to less than 30. Since being made membership secretary in April '82 it has now risen to 47 and is still rising. As 'Militant' supporters, my collectors and I have been responsible for

convincing right wing members and SDP defectors to join or re-join the party.

We have no 'safe public sector jobs.' I am unemployed. Another is a dustman under threat of privatisation. Others work at Geests (who frequently undermine union rights by using scab gang labour), British Sugar, or are students. One supporter, in his late seventies, a dedicated left winger and mainstay of the local NAAAW (farm workers' union), left the party through disillusionment with the shortage of socialist policies in past Labour governments, and he was so overjoyed at our knock on his door that he rejoined immediately. As socialists in an extreme Tory area, we face a constant barrage of insults. To face them again from our so-called comrades in the labour movement is unfortunate to say the least...

Yours fraternally  
Chris Dunn  
Spalding Labour Party

European Socialist Movement written many years ago, makes it quite clear. In another book after the early 1930s defeat of the Labour government, Atlee had a joint article in this post election study, advancing basically the same ideas as the 'Militant'—calling for nationalisation of all the financial houses, banks,

and for a 'sovereign' House of Commons. He said that this was the 'essential mistake' of the Labour government, and they should have carried out these measures "on the first day"!

The co-author of the book was Cripps! Of course, later just before the war, they were about to expel even him. The right wing today

Dear Comrades

The ordinary Labour voters don't want bothering about witch-hunts. This is being foisted on us by potential SDPers in our Party, and by the 'divide and rule' capitalists and their media. It will boomerang on them, wait and see!

Yours fraternally  
Cllr Fred Bailey  
Bideford, Devon

Dear Comrades

Although I'm not a 'Militant' supporter, I enjoy the paper and realise the good you've done for the party as a whole. For this reason I abhor the NEC decision to start a witch-hunt, which will result in a persecution of all socialists in the Party. If we don't fight it now, it will be too late, so carry on being Militant!

Yours fraternally  
Robb Gregg  
Romford, Essex

want to create a left-of-centre SDP. In all my work collecting funds, on the knocker, flogging papers, chalking streets, etc, for the Labour Party, not ever did right wing members assist—but they did turn up when we had to choose the candidate!

All the very best  
Jim Jeane Wigan

Dear Comrades,

The calls for the expulsion of 'Militant' and its supporters from the Labour Party are (again!) being intensified by the ruling-class, via its media, and by its echoes on the right wing of the movement. And already some on the left are becoming faint-hearted at the prospect of these attacks.

Comrades, this surely is a time not for faint hearts, but strong nerve, and resolve on the part of socialists. As the crisis of capitalism deepens, and further attacks take place on us, because of it, the leftward move by the Labour Party and trade unions will continue and will not be checked by expulsions, bans, proscriptions or any other 'hocus-pocus' methods on the part of the right wing.

Do these people honestly believe that by expelling Marxists, that the ideas will be expelled with them? Do they honestly believe that the anger of the working class, at 3 million unemployed and all the miseries brought about by capitalism, can be "damped down" by attacking those who are fighting against that system?

The radicalisation of working people will take place and will continue to take place, regardless of whether 'Militant' exists or not. Movements on the part of the working class are sparked off by events and economic circumstances, not by "infiltrators".

Finally, I am an optimist (what else can you be in Thatcher's Britain!). I believe in the ideas of socialism, I have faith in working people and the youth, I have never at any time in my life felt more confident that what I am doing and what I am fighting for is right. I have never felt more confident that the ideas of socialism will be taken up by our class, and that capitalism will be dispensed with as "excess to requirements", and I have never felt more resolved to see this struggle through.

Fraternal good wishes to you

Dave Power.

Chairman, Wavertree CLP

## A different world

Dear Comrades

I see that the Royal Family are offering Lady Diana Spencer as a sop to the growing power they see in the working class.

We have been told that she 'defied' the Queen's ruling to have the baby in the State Apartments, and opted instead for a hospital [private of course]. I expect we are supposed to think she is just one of us really. Just a mum, wanting to do the things the way the rest of us do them.

Well, I would like to have seen her waiting for up to six hours in an ante-natal clinic, hot, tired, swollen and miserable and treated

like a lumpy obstruction to the specialist private practice. I'd like to have known perhaps if she was mauled over by one student doctor after another. When she went, in tears, after falling down a flight of stairs at 7 months pregnant, then told to go home and stop making a fuss.

Did she lie in pain, frightened and alone on a high, plastic covered bed under a battery of bright lights? And when she called for a nurse after two hours of bewildering agony did she receive a slap on the thigh [sore from injections] and ordered to stop a being a baby, upsetting the other

mothers?

And if her baby died [as a result of that very fall the baby having suffered a mild heart attack and broken his pelvis] would she then have sat in a long, open ward full of women who were feeding and loving their babies, with her nose buried in some book, tears falling off her chin, trying hard not to upset anyone?

I am not taken in by this ruse of the ruling class to fool us into thinking we could still have a monarchy under socialism—but I am reassured that they see us as such a threat that they feel the need to play act for our benefit.

Yours fraternally  
Margaret Pracy  
Brighton Kempton  
Labour Party

## A point about Marxism

Dear Comrades

I would like to make a brief point in reference to the letter from the Newcastle Poly student (June 25). He put forward the idea that Marxism is a dogma. This is a fundamental error which ignores the difference between dogma and doctrine. Marxism holds that there are no eternal truths. Marxism works from what is actual and resolves the contradictions in any system at any given time. Thus no principle can remain the same or have the same meaning throughout its existence. There is nothing

more constant than change. No dogma recognises the scientific analysis of ongoing changes in society.

Yours fraternally  
Paul Anderson  
Garthamlock LPYS

Don't 'get on  
your bike'—  
you might be  
late!

Dear Comrades

It seems that Norman Tebbit's idea of travelling long distances to find work has not been taken up by managers of local Job Centres. Last week I saw a

job in the Job Centre for a warehouseman. When I took the card to the manager he refused to even phone the employer to arrange an interview as the firm was too far from my home (six miles—two bus rides). He said that in his experience people would not get to work regularly on time, if they lived so far away!

Another example of the way the bosses can pick and choose during a time of mass unemployment was a job vacancy for a packer which required an 'O' level in Geography! Since when has knowledge of the Penines helped you pack and post a parcel!

Yours fraternally  
Nigel Waterfield  
Southall LPYS

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 July
Eastern	1298		2115
East Midlands	1003		1765
Hants & Dorset	861		1250
Humberside	350		1075
London East	2214		1960
London West	694		1060
London South	1107		1415
Manchester & Lancs	1221		2020
Merseyside	1065		2290
Northern	1189		2760
Scotland East	588		1345
Scotland West	1146		2375
Southern	1623		1760
South West	682		885
Wales East	455		945
Wales West	945		1355
West Midlands	1497		2120
Yorkshire	1267		2505
Others	5086		4000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>24291</b>		<b>35000</b>

# 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

GATESHEAD and surrounding area Marxist Discussion Group. Every Sunday evening transport available. Programme: 11 July Historical Materialism, 18 July Tribune's Alternative Strategy, 25 July Britain in crisis. For further details contact: Tom McGuinness, 18 Lumley Gardens, Gateshead. Ring Gateshead: 783282.

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.

CHESTER-LE-STREET Marxist Discussion Group. 11 July: 'Is Russia Socialist?' At Chester-Le-Street Labour Club. For further details phone Washington 478424.

PRESTON Militant Readers' Meeting: 'How to fight the cuts'. Speaker: Julie Taylor (Liverpool Councillor). Labour Rooms, 98 Deepdale Road, Preston. 7.30 pm, Friday 9 July.

ASHINGTON Militant Meetings. Sunday 11 July: 'The future of the Labour Party'. Sunday 25 July: 'The Falklands crisis—what next?' Venue: The Ladies Room, Ashington Leisure Centre. 10.30 am. All welcome.

## Classified

Militant supporters congratulate DUDLEY EDWARDS of Hove Labour Party and AUEW on his 76th Birthday on July 8th and 60 years as a class fighter.

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.

# Back us 100% at the end of half-year

Meetings have been held up and down the country to get over *Militant's* message: thanks to comrades at the Ipswich *Militant* meeting attended by delegates and visitors to the Eastern Labour Party conference and to those who put into bumper collections in Swansea, Cardiff, and Leicester (over £800 before expenses at these three alone we've been told is on its way), and to those in east and south London, Ryde, Sittingbourne, Coventry, Halifax, Middlesbrough, Chester-le-street and Gateshead.

If you want to make a donation, but are not sure how much you can afford, why not come to one of the meetings advertised in the *Militant* (see page 5) listen to our speaker and then see!

A Stafford reader has sent us £50, and a Sheffield supporter £35. Over £30 has come from Llanelli supporters, with £20's from D Massey (NW London) and R Phillips (Poole). £15's from Mrs C Mullins (Birmingham) and I Wilson (Strathclyde NALGO) were added to tenners from R Taylor (Brentwood NALGO), C Turner (Corby), C&R Rice (Fife), C Fox (Motherwell LPYS), G Wareing (Blackpool FTAT) and B White (Reading NUT) amongst others. A London student nurse, R Campbell, gave us £7.50, and J Mullarky (Birmingham) £6.80.

There are far too many fiver donations to mention them all, but we still appeal for more, hoping that many of our readers are selfless enough to give us cash without the guarantee of a mention in this column. (Receipts will of course be given on request). Thanks to J Hepplethwaite (Leeds), J Hull (Colchester), T Dixon (Ebbw Vale), D & J Lindsay (Dumfries/Galloway LP), T Tattersall (Morecombe), R Quigly (Keighly), and Scottish supporters H Young, R Patterson, S Wilson and R Martin.

Over £40 has come in

**THIS WEEK:  
£2,824**

By Steve Cawley

from a sponsored swim from East Scotland supporters, £13 from a barbecue, over £100 from parties and a social in Kidderminster, Barnsley and Southampton; and £24 from a Shipley picnic. Comrades in different areas sold books, plants and records for us, donated petrol money and mail order commission and sent cash from teas and coffees. A Bootle

reader forwarded babysitting fees whilst a Leeds reader cashed in some Co-ops stamps.

Tins were rattled on LPYS Days of Action, and on NHS demos and we've had money in both from meals and diets for *Militant*—an example of revolutionary dialectical fund-raising! We hope all our supporters will do their best to copy as many of these examples as possible. Readers who've given us less than a fiver are of course numbered in hundreds. Thanks to just a few: C Goudon (Wigston IRSF), J Lambowski (Newcastle-Ulme), E White (TGWU

shop steward Ryde), J Allen (TGWU shop steward), S Keen (Snodland), J Wild (Aylesbury), C Churchward (Exeter), J Ross (Glasgow), and S Foster (Birmingham student).

We ask all our readers to make a special effort this week, and to send us their donations straight away. There was a definite delay to the post with the NUR dispute recently, so make sure you get your donations rushed to us. Thanks for your help this quarter and watch this space next week to see if your area's line on our chart makes it a 100% Militant one!

## Change in workers' response to paper

Every Friday lunch-time for the last year we have been selling *Militant* at the Swan Hunter Wallsend shipyard. The response we received from the workers has differed depending on political circumstances at the time. Of course we get the usual abuse such as 'get a job,' to 'it's a good job you're not on commission.'

These comments we just shrug off, but the vast majority of workers acknowledge us in a friendly way and give verbal support when the paper carries anti-Tory headlines. Until the Falklands crisis the amount of papers we sold during the dinner hour

By ED WAUGH (Northern Region LPYS Chairman) & NORMAN HALL (Wallsend CLP)

ranged from 7 to 15, the latter amount being when Tony Benn was challenging for deputy leader of the Labour Party.

As a result of our consistency we have gained a lot of respect from shop stewards who go out of their way to distribute LPYS material inside the yards. Recently, the LPYS was conducting the 'Save Shildon Works Campaign' on Tyneside and we sent an appeal to the shipyards' joint shop stewards committee for financial help. They replied by donating to £100 to the Shildon Cam-

paign.

Throughout the duration to the Falklands Crisis there was an obvious mood among the workforce that the Argentinian 'fascist' junta had to be taught a lesson. This period saw us selling only 2-3 papers and we received verbal abuse from a few people.

For those who would listen we explained that the bosses would do the dirty on the workers after the war ended and this is coming true. One yard has closed and redundancies will follow soon.

Last week, after the much publicised NEC meeting calling a witch-hunt, the mood was fantastic. People who had bought the paper a few

## 7th South Wales Summer Camp

August Bank Holiday, Friday 27 August-Monday 30 August. For the seventh time we are organising our highly successful camp in the beautiful surroundings of Horton on the Gower Coast (10 minutes' walk from Port Eynon and Horton beaches).

It will provide not only an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism, but also a superb holiday for the family.

This year will be the best ever with increased facilities but still at a very low cost of £10.00. Meals and snacks will be provided at the camp but campers will have to bring their own tents etc.

Send money to South Wales Summer Camp, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea. Cheques payable to 'Swansea Summer Camp'.

## 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! Last week—only a few days left. Promoter: D Smith, 73 Armond Road, 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.

## 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 .....

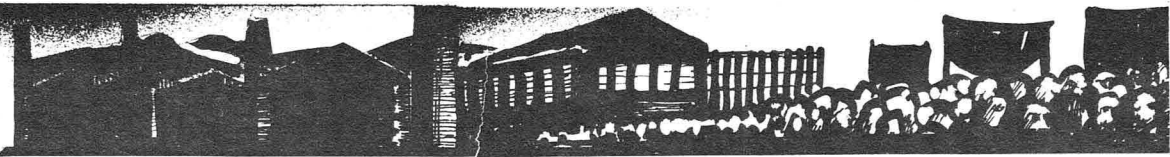
times in the past were coming up to talk to us and were appalled at the fact that the right wing wanted to expel us; one asked why these people never came to the yards to sell their papers to shipyard workers.

A couple of young lads approached us to ask what our policies were. When we explained the need for socialism they agreed with us but still wanted to know why the right-wing wanted

to expel us. Then we explained that the right wing's policies posed no threat to capitalism, and that some of them had a vested interest in the existing system. The expression on their faces when we explained this was of horror. They know who the real party wreckers were!

We sold 10 papers and raised £1.50 in a rattling tin for the fighting fund.

# Industrial Reports



## VICTORY TO THE HEALTH WORKERS

**Birac Lamson**

The shopfloor at Birac Lamsons in Stockport have been forced to strike because management are trying to dictate that turners do an extra 6 hours overtime a week. We have said that they can take on an extra turner instead.

The dispute started when the three turners refused to work overtime, which is hardly worthwhile at a company which pays £30 a week less than the average for engineers in our district, Stockport. When the managing director came up and interviewed us separately, Jim McCullagh still refused to do overtime and was sacked on the spot.

One lad's reasons were accepted. Then George Marsh, who had been at the company for over 30 years before the new owners took over was told that he would be sacked unless he got proof that he could not do overtime as his wife was ill.

When Jim was sacked we all came out in sympathy and got the support of our local AUEW district secretary. We have been out since 28th June and the management have refused to speak to the union.

All 11 of us on the shopfloor are in the union but the parent company, Crest-Nicholson who have 60 other registered firms are terrified of unions. Before we came out they told Jim that he would have to sweep up the factory floor because the directors were paying a visit. They had sacked the labourer and Jim, as a skilled man, refused. They said they would sack him unless he agreed. That is the way it is here. Last year we got 6 1/4% pay rise with no negotiations, not even an announcement, just extra money in the pay packet.

You have no say in this company. Now we are fighting back. Though the company is not in the Engineering Employers Federation we want the agreed 39 hour week and an extra 4 days holiday to bring us into line with other AUEW members in this area.

We are appealing for financial support but also for any workers in Crest-Nicholson companies to get in touch with us to join our fight to protect the working day and win our democratic rights.

Messages of support to Bernard Reagan, AUEW District Secretary, AUEW House, Wellington Road, Stockport.

By Chris Thomson, Albert Lynch & Jim McCullough (AUEW)

### Glasgow Hospital

After a magnificent demonstration of over 12,000 in Glasgow on June 23 supported by Miners, NALGO, Shipbuilders and the AUEW, workers in the NHS and workers in outside industry believe that at least a one day general strike is now necessary to win a full claim.

At my own hospital Stobhill, nurses and ancillary staff have canvassed massive support from local factories, railway depots and pits to support key workers who are on indefinite strike. Metal Box workers for instance have levied themselves £60 a week.

By JAN MCTAGGART  
(Glasgow Northern Hospitals Board)



Nurses could be worse off after the new proposed wage rises

Photo: MILITANT

### Workers defend Militant

The rank and file of the labour movement oppose the witch-hunt of 'Militant' supporters by the press and the right wing of the Labour Party and union leaderships.

And they are saying it with cash. Donations to our fighting fund this week include:

£20 from delegates at the ISTC conference, a £10 donation from TGWU 1/238 Branch (Airport workers), two £5 expenses passed on by CPSA members R Wilson and R Edwards (Norfolk), and £8.70 collected on an appeal sheet from shop stewards attending the AUEW Birmingham South Quarterly meeting.

### No joy for nurses

What does the government's new "improved" offer mean to NHS workers. Nurses have been given the extra carrot of 7 1/2% instead of 6% for the rest of the workforce.

But when you take into account numerous increased costs, many nurses would be worse off than now.

The 7 1/2% would give an extra £4.52 basic for a nursing auxiliary on the lowest point and £4.73 for a first year student nurse. For the lowest points of enrolled nurses, staff nurses and ward sisters, the increases could be £5.76, £6.40 and £8.09 respectively.

But you have to count against this extra tax, superannuation, insurance contributions (which went

up on 1 April) and meal charges.

Resident nurses face huge increases in lodgings costs too. NUPE have calculated that resident first year students would be 34p better off and staff nurses 1p a week richer (Don't spend it all at once!).

But resident nursing auxiliaries, enrolled nurses and sisters would be worse off by weekly sums of 63p, 30p and 69p respectively. This is before inflation worms its way into pay packets. Even if you're not resident, rents are likely to increase sharply.

And nurses are "lucky" compared to other NHS workers. Thanks, Mr Fowler, but no thanks.

### North East England

The health service workers' struggle continues, and in many areas, the mood is even more determined than

ever.

The amazing success of the 23 June one day strike was a great morale booster, particularly in areas where the dispute has received a firm lead.

In the North East division of NUPE, 80% of the hospitals have been on accident and emergency service only since week one of the dispute and this has been maintained ever since, with certain key sections such as stores, sterile units and laundries on indefinite strike for seven weeks.

The area plan to use the three day strike on 19-21 July as three days of activity, with NUPE members already visiting engineering works, pits, shipyards, to build up support so that there will be practically a regional general strike on at least one of those days.

Northumberland miners have agreed to stop work for three days and Durham miners are discussing this at a special executive. Regional demonstrations are planned on 19 July in Cumbria, 20 July in

Durham and 21 July in Middlesborough.

The TUC must use these three days to organise similar initiatives throughout the country, with massive rallies not just of health workers but of all workers against the Tories and their anti-working class policies.

As 'Militant' has stressed, the health unions should meet at least weekly to give a clear direction to the actions taken and this should be mirrored at regional and hospital level.

The constant barrage of anti-union propaganda must be met by regular mass meetings and a national broadsheet giving up to date information on the dispute.

There is now little doubt for most active trade unionists that the one day strikes, which have played a useful role, can not go on indefinitely. A national plan for accident and emergency-only cover, plus back-up action by other workers can win this dispute.

## CIVIL SERVICE PAY — Reject Megaw report

The report of the enquiry into civil service pay, chaired by Sir John Megaw has been sent to the Government.

From press leaks, the report apparently recommends a new system of pay determination for non-industrial civil servants, to replace the pay research system whose unilateral scrapping by the Government led to the 21-week strike last year.

The report recommends the replacement of all full annual reviews of pay and benefits by a 4-yearly

review. If this new review found civil servants were seriously behind in pay, 'catching-up' action could be spread over a further period of years.

Other proposals are:  
★ Within this 4 yearly review, there would be annual pay adjustments based on current outside pay trends.

★ A new Pay Information Board to carry out reviews but with outside management consultants collecting and analysing comparisons with private sector employers. Public sector organisations are to be excluded from the comparison

survey.

★ Set against these comparisons in negotiation would be an evaluation of market forces—the amount the Government needs to pay to recruit and retain civil servants. In a period of high unemployment they hope this would be very low. The benefits of index-linked pensions and job security would be deducted in the pay negotiations!

★ A new system of merit pay increases and bonuses to award individual performance.

★ The right to unilateral access to arbitration to be replaced by access only on

the basis of joint agreement.

The report is a direct threat to the living standards and interests of civil servants. The Council of Civil Service Unions has been correct to reject it but they have said they will enter into discussion on the report.

If there are discussions, the new Broad Left CPSA National Committee must ensure there are no secret deals by the Council and that the outcome will be put to the special CPSA pay conference in December.

In any discussions the union must put forward the

demands passed at various union conferences.

★ Annual pay review and the continuation of a national rate of pay.

★ A minimum living wage of £90 per week.

★ Unfettered free collective bargaining.

★ The abolition of incremental pay scales and the rate for the job.

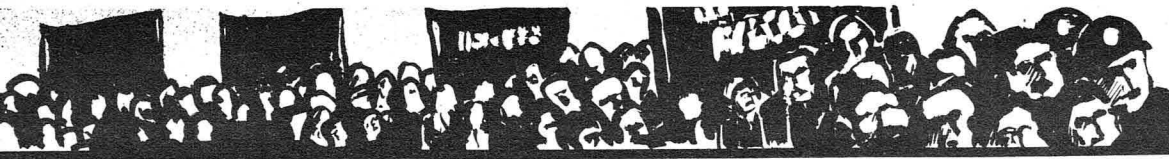
★ For membership and inter-union unity with no special merit pay increases, bonuses etc.

Recent years have shown civil servants that, agreed pay procedure or not, in the last analysis it is our preparedness to struggle

that will determine the outcome of pay negotiations and living standards.

The Tories will undoubtedly jump at the Megaw enquiry report as a further way to cut living standards. This issue should form an integral part of the CPSA's campaign for re-affiliation to the Labour Party.

By Dave San  
(Customs & Excise, Liverpool, personal capacity)



# Industrial Reports

## BR plans - the thin end of the wedge

I am a driver's assistant at Cricklewood Diesel Depot.

BR management had hoped to make certain trains one-man operation (OMO), i.e. with drivers but no guard on the new Electric Multiple Units stabled there.

Due to the dispute though these units have been blacked and there is now no training of drivers on these new units.

Management tried a limited service without guards leading up to the NUR strike, but the LDC (branch) put a blacking on the units. So now, no units were to be moved.

The mood of drivers here is militant. We are prepared to fight BRB plans to impose flexible rostering at certain depots. Footplate men are tired of being told to be more productive.

If BRB cannot produce diagrams that give us 8 hours work, that is their problem to solve. Management have multiplied over the years while the number of footplatemens has decreased drastically.

If BR want to be more productive look at people way up the management ladder.

How can BRB have the bare-faced cheek to tell us we must be more productive and flexible? We must already have the most flexible working known to man. I will give you an example of my roster:

**Week 1** Rest Day Monday. Tuesday-Saturday start 0405.

**Week 2** Monday-Friday start 1643. Rest Day Saturday.

**Week 3** Rest Day Monday. Tuesday-Saturday start 0600.

**Week 4** Monday-



ASLEF members know the dangers of flexi-rostering. BR's plans could set back working conditions for all rail workers

Thursday start 2200. Rest Day Friday. Saturday 2225.

We start early in mornings, mid afternoon, late at night. How can these be more flexible? We work anytime around the clock and earn a lot less money than the people on BRB. Workers are the backbone of the railway.

Most people at Cricklewood know the Tory government is the real culprit behind flexible rosters. It would have been mad for BR bosses to lose

£80 million in 17 weeks just to save £9 million by 1986 by working flexible rosters. Flexible rosters only create more paper work.

Drivers know that the first copy of the new flexible rosters will show very little change in shift patterns. But then slowly, the shift patterns will get worse and worse.

It may start off 7 hours a day one week and 9 hours a day the next, but then they will want the men to do 6 hours a day one week and

10 hours a day the next and so on. We have a deep suspicion they'll try split shift working as well.

Conditions ASLEF fought for before 1919 will be thrown away and management will have total control over railworkers' social lives and work patterns, and cause even more stress in marriages. This is only the tip of the iceberg. If the BRB get away with flexi-rostering, conditions, especially on the footplate will gradually deteriorate.

We must also unite with NUR guards and the ranks and file members of the NUR in our fight against the BRB and move towards creating one rail union for all railwayworkers, we must not let the Tories divide and rule tactics drive a wedge between us.

**By Stephen Norton**

(ASLEF Cricklewood)

### Manchester

Flexi-rostering would be a social and economic disaster. Already we work on a 24-hour basis and our shifts can be moved 2 hours either way. Now our wives won't know when to expect us home.

Union studies show that new schedules would mean us starting and finishing at different times every day of the week, every week of the year. Some days we would have to work an extra hour over our currently agreed 8 hour day without getting paid overtime rates.

This wage cutting exercise would lead, the union estimates, to wage cuts of up to £4 a week. The BRB also say if they introduce the scheme they will get rid of one in six, that is 4,000 drivers.

The Board will be putting passengers at great risk of accidents. Train drivers are now under great strain. In the days of the steam engine there were two in the cab; now you are on your own, taking all the decisions.

Studies of railmen in Australia and Hungary show high rates of stress on the nervous system and hearts of drivers.

What the board fail to point out is that their proposals will end flexibility on the railways. Drivers must have a certain slack on day to day schedules because of flexibility required by breakdown through signal failure, flooding, broken rails, train failure, subsidence, etc.

In last winter's cold weather, drivers worked up to 12 hours a day, missed breaks etc and showed the utmost flexibility to keep the rail service going. The railways rely on this co-operation, which the Board's threats could end. Without any slack on schedules, every minor problem will cause hold ups. Little wonder that even some of higher management are not supporting the Board's plans.

**By PETER GUNN**  
(Branch Secretary  
ASLEF no.1)  
personal capacity

### Plymouth

As ASLEF branch secretary at Laira Loco depot, Plymouth Les Kingwell explained: "there is not one train driver in Plymouth who wants to go on strike but we will all fight to keep the 8 hour day."

"No man in 1982 should work more than 8 hours a day. Many drivers have worked more than 30 years on the railways, we are not hotheads, all we want is the same conditions as everyone else."

The Board's threat to make everyone striking give up his ASLEF card before they return to work will cut no ice, as Les said "We are not going to give in to blackmail."

"Peter Parker is out to destroy ASLEF. We may have to tighten our belts

now, but even if we lose a pile of money, it's an investment for the future."

After Monday's mass meeting the mood was even more determined. As one drivers' assistant pointed out "the Board reckons to save £1.7 million through flexi-rostering per annum, but they have already lost £80 million through the strikes earlier this year. It is just an attack on the union, if they smash one union, then they will pick off one after another."

**JENNY STEER (Devonport LPYS) and MARTIN ELVIN spoke to ASLEF members.**

### Scotland

Scotland is 100% solid for ASLEF, the only trains being run are by NUR members. BRB claim that 5% of trains are running, but every rail worker can see that is utter nonsense.

Only three lines are running out of the Glasgow area, 3 of the smallest and least used. Ironically one of these will be closed next year by the Board.

In West Scotland a bulletin is being produced by the local ASLEF District

Committee to show the solidarity action from the labour movement, and any successes in picketing.

This bulletin was first introduced at the last strike and will be used for furthering this one. Copies of that bulletin should be sent to every area and every area should make their own bulletin.

**By JIM SHARKEY**  
(ASLEF Polmadie)

### Birmingham

John, an ASLEF picket at New Street Station told us: "It seems to be going well today. The blokes coming in don't realise they are doing their mates jobs. We explained this to them and the driver who came in today was turned away."

"The press have been giving us a false picture so the blokes sitting on the fence will come in and break the strike. We have had some support from COHSE and from 'Militant' supporters, and hope for more support from other unions."

**By Militant reporters**

### Bradford

"We object to the picking out of 35 branches to try out flexible rostering," Bradford Branch Secretary, Bob Wilson told Keith Narey.

"BRB are trying to introduce flexible rostering through the back door, hoping to divide the ASLEF membership."

"They are inviting local LDCs to accept flexible rostering at local level. It should be negotiated nationally. The BRB letter threatening ASLEF members' jobs, did not mention the 'no redundancy' clauses in the McCarthy report."

"When questioned the local BR manager admitted he had a letter from the Board instructing him to disregard these clauses. In other words, there were going to be job losses."

One of the ASLEF pickets said all ten items put forward by BRB publicised in every national newspaper had been investigated by ASLEF members and found to be completely untrue.

No consideration was being given for the safety or the convenience of workers on unsocial hours going to or from work, no special transport was arranged, which has led in Bradford to workers staying at their place of work an extra 3 to 4 hours in order to be able to take transport home in all types of weather.

No consideration had been given to the safety aspects of single manning of trains. ASLEF members compared this to the boredom of driving down a motorway with the consequences of falling asleep.

Another ASLEF shop steward Bill Dobson said "most loco men in this area have 40 years service in the industry and in all that time we had never before known changes in conditions to be forced from above by the BRB. This is a threat to the entire trade union movement. If it succeeded, the bosses would pick off other unions one by one. We have got to win this one."

Another ASLEF picket said "what we need is a stronger line from the TUC, this is an attack on the entire trade union movement."

The Executive of Bradford Trades Council will be putting forward a resolution of support for the railwaymen in their dispute. Picket lines were 100% solid for ASLEF. Only one train moved out of Bradford all day, run by NUR men who scabbed not only in this dispute, but in the NUR strike previously. The train was completely empty!

**Keith Narey**  
(Bradford West Labour Party) spoke to ASLEF members

### Rail strike - correction

In last week's Militant, the back page article "New rail battle looms" contained a mistake. The phrase "the NUR leadership refused to accept the (flexi-rostering) deal" at the beginning of the fourth galley should have read "the NUR leader-

ship too hastily accepted the deal".

This was an editorial error and not in the original article. Both Richard Shepard's articles on page 14 and page 16 were written in a personal capacity.

## Health Dispute...

# 'They won't push us about'

The Tory press have sunk to new uncharted depths in their coverage of the health dispute.

Squalid rags like the 'Sun' and the London 'Standard', which have supported the government cuts in the health service, now attack pickets at St Thomas Hospital for supposedly harming NHS patients, accusing them of closing a children's ward and preventing mail getting in.

By Clare Doyle  
(GMWU)

Micky Prendergast, Anna Thompson and Jim Gaughan, explained the true facts to 'Militant' reporters.

Jim Gaughan, NUPE senior steward commented: "On Friday management brought 40 sacks of mail across the picket line in their own van without telling us, and gave statements to the press making us look really bad.

"We had an agreement that we would allow emergency supplies if they would make no adverse comments to the press. It was they who closed down the children's ward without asking us if we would ensure it was kept supplied, which we would have done.

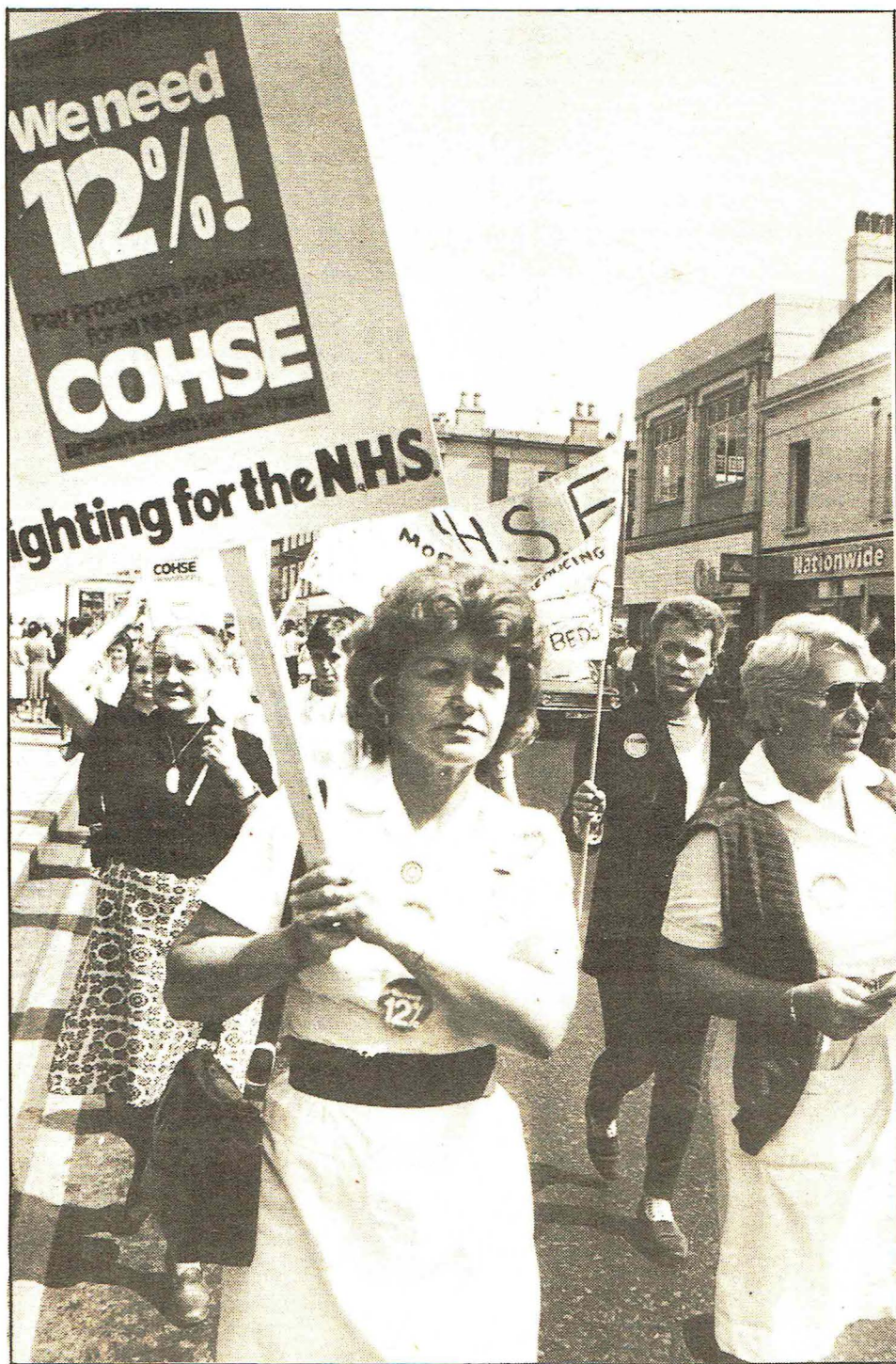
"How can we work with them? We have withdrawn from the monitoring committee and handed back our 'bleepers' so we can't be contacted. We may get bad publicity, but it can't be worse than we've had!"

Anna Thompson works in Central Sterilised Supplies Department, which along with stores, has been out indefinitely since 23 June.

"We always thought we 28 women weren't important, now we know we are absolutely essential for the running of the whole hospital...they're not going to push us about any more.

"Doctors have carried out 20 private operations in the Hotel Suite since 23 June and then complain to us they haven't enough supplies for emergencies!

"If Thatcher could find millions so quickly to convert QE2 for war why can't she find 12% for us! She



"We always thought we women weren't important. Now we know we are essential for the running of the whole hospital...If Thatcher can find millions for the Falklands war, she can find 12% for us!" Photo: Militant.

thinks it's a game, but I'm warning her, I don't have the mickey taken of me too long!"

Jim Gaughan added, "The tougher management gets, the more support we get from members. When they refused to let us have a meeting on the grounds, we

held it in Jubilee Gardens (beside County Hall) and more members turned up and lost pay than were going to before!

"Before today we decided on every delivery according to our agreements on the monitoring committee. Now they've gone against

us, we're stopping everything!"

The multi-million pound St Thomas is just across the Thames from the Houses of Parliament. The workers are determined to show MPs right under their noses, how they mean to win

## ASLEF Strike

Continued from front page

into the railway system. This investment is vital and has been missing for decades, but railworkers are at the end of their tether over productivity.

Over the years, we have seen thousands of jobs disappear on BR while pay has been abysmal. Time and again we have had hollow promises of a glorious future in return for productivity agreements.

For footplate staff, mostly ASLEF members, the crunch has come on flexi-rostering. Early this year, ASLEF members fought bravely in defence of the eight hour day. It was widely felt then that BRB and the Tories wanted to smash the rail unions, starting with ASLEF. But they totally underestimated the membership's opposition to flexi-rostering and their loyalty to ASLEF.

Unfortunately in the January dispute, despite the terrible threat which BR's plans pose to NUR members, the NUR leaders, particularly Weighell, played a disgraceful role. As ASLEF did not escalate the action then, BRB were let off the hook by referring flexi-rostering to negotiating machinery.

Now the fight is on again with a vengeance. The Tories could hardly believe their luck when, despite growing support from NUR members, NUR conference called off their strike after

one day.

Within hours, BR turned on ASLEF again and said they would implement flexi-rosters on 5 July, so ASLEF executive had no option but to call a strike, in line with conference policy.

A victory in this dispute is vital. If the Tories and BRB are allowed to win they will have broken the union—and others would follow. Defeat for ASLEF would embolden BR to attack the jobs and conditions of all rail workers.

The train drivers must win this battle. In order to win, ASLEF members must strive to fully involve NUR members in the strike action. Many NUR members are fully behind the ASLEF dispute. At St Pancras, for example, not one NUR member has crossed the ASLEF picket line.

The propaganda war is largely restricted to one side, management. A daily bulletin is vital both nationally, and locally, such as West Scotland ASLEF members have produced.

But above all, the Triple Alliance must be mobilised to give real strength to this dispute. If the TUC pull together all the muscle of the working class to back up health and rail workers with a 24-hour general strike, we can start the real battle and turn BR's execution threats into the death knell for this Tory government.

More reports inside:  
 ASLEF action around the country — p15  
 Who are the British Rail Board? — p6

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