

The price of Tory government...

A JOB LOST EVERY

MINUTE ...and £10,000 invested abroad

The Tories have done more damage to British industry than German bombers could do in the last war in twice the length of time.

Since coming to office, they have been responsible for a leap in the levels of unemployment to an all-time high: an increase, in just over three years, of 1.9 million in the number signing on. In other words, Thatcher has thrown away one job for every 50 seconds she has been in office!

The measures announced this week by Tory spokesmen in the Commons—Howe, incidentally, making his first statement on the economy in four months—showed a staggering callousness in the face

of the declining living standards of millions of workers and the collapse of the British economy. All the promises of an upturn have been unfulfilled. There are even some speculations of a further

By John
Pickard

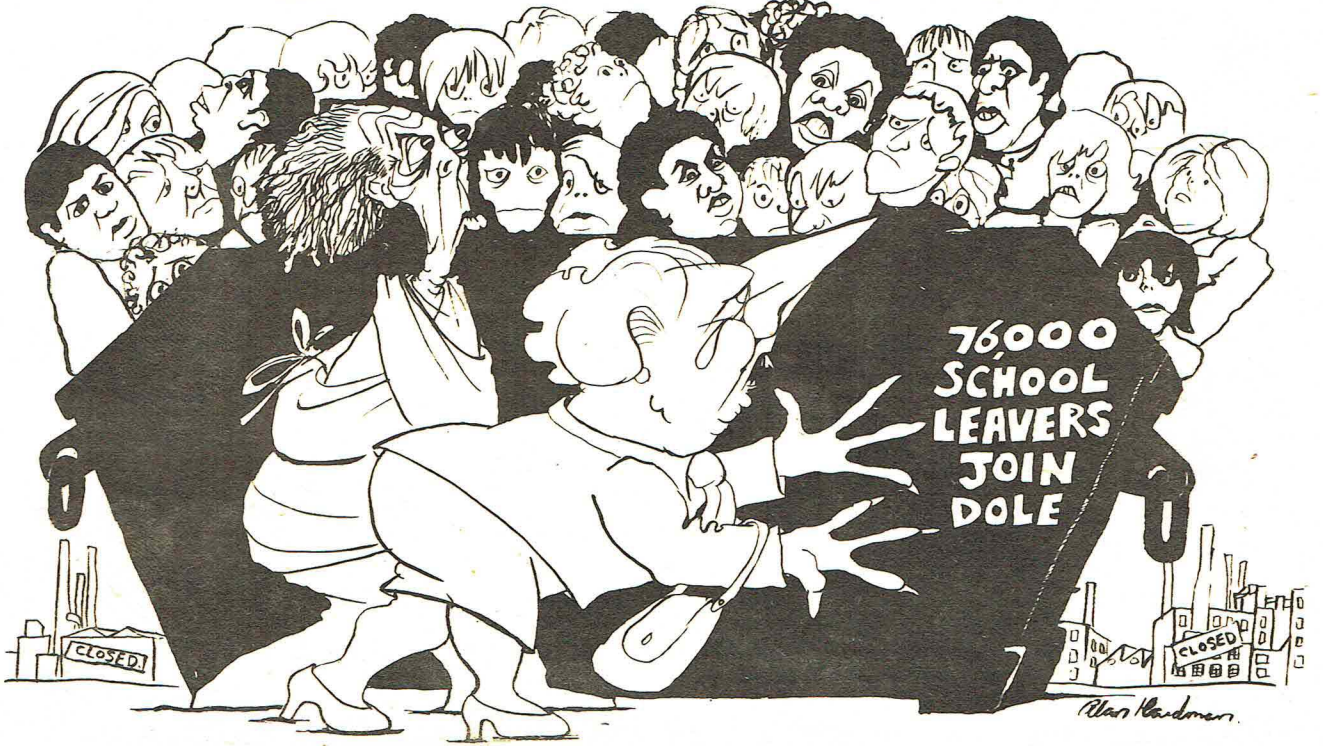
deepening of the recession. "Key areas of manufacturing industry fear that they are on the brink of a fresh dip into recession" writes the Financial Times Industrial Editor: (27.7.82) "For the first time in more than a year some chief executives are no longer confident that industrial activity has flattened out and is bumping along the bottom."

The future for the economy and jobs is desperate. Even the idea peddled by Thatcher that industry has increased its productivity is largely illusory—because the weakest and least productive sectors have closed down, lifting the 'average' rate of productivity. New investment for the future is still falling—investment in

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OH THE TRAGEDY OF IT SIR KEITH

THE DREADFUL HEARTRENDING TRAGEDY OF IT...



...HOW LONG MUST WE WASTE CASH EDUCATING THESE PEOPLE?

Asbestosis Cover-Up

Angry and worried—that is the reaction of almost 2,000 workers at TBA Industrial Products (a subsidiary of Turner and Newall) to the allegations made in the TV programme "Alice a fight for life".

The Shop Stewards Committee demanded a mass meeting of the workforce this week with senior management and directors replying to the many issues raised in the programme. A few months ago TBA had its first factory stoppage in over 10 years, Union leaders are forecasting a repeat if the company do not offer facts and reassurances.

"We want positive answers from the company or there will be positive action", said Bob Trotter the District Secretary of the Amalgamated Textile Workers Union.

The programme showed statements by a former company doctor, Doctor Geoffrey Morris that 58% of workers at TBA had the first signs of lung damage and that one in four of TBA workers had strongly suspected cases of Asbestos. The list of

By Tom Stott

(former GMWU Shop
Steward Turner and
Newalls, personal
capacity)

names shown on the programme has shocked many people. Some are still working at the factory and were at home watching the programme.

Yet five years ago the same company doctor, had stated "Asbestosis has been virtually conquered at last. No one who has been employed at this factory since 1953 has asbestosis.

50% of workers
were affected
by Asbestosis

A spokesman of the company, a Mr Norman Rhodes, a director and General Manager of TBA Industrial Textile division, has denied the allegations of the TV programme: "What I would say is that it has never been our intention to mislead our workforce about the degree of risk in working with asbestos. The implication is that there has been a cover-up, but there is

no question at all of a cover-up" (Rochdale Observer, 24th July)

Yet the programme raised issues that cannot be ignored.

An early study, which helped establish the so-called "safe levels" of asbestos, claimed that only 8 out of 290 workers showed signs of asbestosis. But later examination, in 1979, of these same 290 workers, found that 50% were affected or showed signs of asbestosis.

During my time as a Shop Steward and Safety representative at TBA's Rochdale Factory there were a number of occasions when dust monitoring gave results far in excess of the so-called safety limits. The industry itself admits a 50% error factor in counting dust fibres.

On one occasion, in the department where I worked, there was a dust reading of 18 fibres per millilitre, a figure high enough not just to stop the job but to stop the factory. However this result took three weeks to travel from the health physics section through management and finally to myself as safety rep.

Eventually, after dressing up the operative into

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How long will Tories last....

How long will the Thatcher government last? Last week, Thatcher told backbench Tories that she intended to soldier on until at least Autumn 1983.

A vital factor in determining the date of the next election, however, is the position of the Labour leaders. Thatcher's is still the most unpopular government since the crisis years of the 1930s. If the Labour leaders were prepared to campaign for bold socialist policies and rally support from all sections of the workers, the Tory government could be brought down. Why should millions of workers endure another year or more of mass unemployment, poverty level wages and social benefits, and attacks on elementary democratic rights?

But the right-wing Labour leaders have a completely exaggerated idea of Thatcher's strength. They do not believe in socialist policies, and have no confidence that the working class is capable of fighting to bring about real change. Unfortunately, this view is shared, at least in private, by most of the left-wing Labour leaders as well.

Such a pessimistic view undoubtedly lay behind the refusal of the TUC 'Inner Cabinet' to support the ASLEF workers when the membership of other unions were clearly ready to take solidarity action. Some of the lefts in the TUC leadership, like Moss Evans, unfortunately acquiesced to this lamentable abdication of responsibility.

Many Labour MPs and Trade Union leaders apparently believe that the Falklands war has enormously boosted Thatcher's support in the country. Clearly, success in the Falklands, enhanced Thatcher's standing, at least for the moment. But why is it that the serious spokesmen of the capitalist class, like *The Times* for instance, strongly advised Thatcher against a khaki election?

They warned that after the 1st World War Lloyd George snatched a snap victory in the 1918 General Election only because many of the soldiers had not yet returned to vote. After the 2nd World War, moreover, Churchill, the 'great war leader,' was overwhelmed by a landslide Labour victory in 1945. Victory against Nazi Germany was one thing, but the workers and demobilised soldiers then wanted a change in society.

The Times warned Thatcher against trying to cash in on the war, which would produce a reaction against the Tories, particularly as the human cost of the war became clearer to people in Britain. And they warned, that whatever the issue the election was called on, it would be the burning social and economic grievances of the workers which would come to the fore in the course of an election campaign.

And what success can the Tories claim in solving the dire problems of British society? Even from a

capitalist point of view their economic policies are a complete failure. Thatcher admitted to backbench Tories that the economy was still on a 'plateau'.

Is 'plateau', however, the right word? The stagnant economy is more like the bottom of the Grand Canyon—very broad, dead flat, and reaching for as far as the eye can see.

Thatcher, emboldened by the meekness of the Labour leaders, may be determined to soldier on for another year. But no serious economist believes that unemployment will fall. The only question is whether it will rise by half a million or three quarters of a million.

Millions more workers will be pushed down into absolute levels of poverty as they feel the full effects of cuts in living standards and social benefits.

Nothing has really changed in the cities. Continued cuts, as our articles on pages 8 and 9 show, have made the situation even worse. In the last few weeks there have been clashes between the youth and the police in Toxteth, Brixton, and elsewhere. It cannot be ruled out these will be further explosions like last year's riots.

General strike not ruled out

And there will undoubtedly be big industrial battles. The TUC's refusal to back ASLEF was a blow to the whole Trade Union movement. But the magnificent strike of the hospital workers, who are not prepared to accept the Tories' derisory offer, is an indication of the combativity of large sections of workers. Moreover, any slight recovery of the economy (gross domestic product may grow by 1% this year), and particularly any recovery of production, will revive the industrial combativity of workers.

It cannot be ruled out, that if Thatcher takes on some of the big trade union battalions, like the miners for instance, that the situation could even flare up into a general strike. The TUC leadership's role in the ASLEF dispute, however, is a warning of what could happen.

The TUC might be pushed into calling a general strike but the fear of mobilising the Labour movement and their inability to give the movement conscious socialist aims would mean that they would, as in 1926, try to call off the strike as soon as possible, whatever the result.

The involvement of millions of workers in mass



1981 Labour Party Conference

Photo: MILITANT

.... depends on Labour Movement

class action, however, whatever the immediate outcome, would raise the struggle to a new and higher level.

Nevertheless, with the prospect of a general election in the coming year, the attention of most workers will be concentrated on the political plane. If the Labour leaders fought the Tories with class policies the Tories could be politically massacred in a General Election.

Facts, figures and arguments, explaining the responsibility of big business and the Tories for the collapse of British capitalism and the gross inequality and class nature of their policies, would arouse enormous anger against Thatcher's government.

But Labour must put forward a socialist alternative. There is no scope left for reforms within the diseased framework of British capitalism. Just as the Callaghan-Healey government of 1974-79 began the cuts and monetarist policies, so a new Labour government attempting to manage capitalism would be forced to continue the present cuts and monetarism of Thatcher.

Yet the right-wing Labour leaders have no intention of campaigning for socialist policies, or even for the radical reforms accepted by party conference. They have no confidence in winning a majority for Labour and are therefore attempting to prepare the ground for a possible coalition with the SDP/Liberal Alliance.

They imagine that they would be able to steer the economy out of crisis. They are not, however, very optimistic about the reforms.

They clearly expect enormous criticism and opposition within the movement. That is why they have launched an assault on the left, particularly on the Militant, whose supporters they want to purge from the party.

They recognise the role of Militant as a catalyst, crystallising a clear left-wing with cohesive policies within the Labour Party and the Trade Unions.

If they succeeded in purging Militant, they would undoubtedly attempt to reverse the gains of the last few years, particularly reversing or blocking the reselection of MPs and establishing firm control of the party by the right-wing parliamentary leadership in conjunction with a handful of right-wing Trade Union leaders.

Even Michael Foot's position is far from safe. This former left winger has allowed himself to become a prisoner of the right who are using him to do their dirty work now, but as soon as he has fulfilled his purpose, they will throw him overboard like an empty shellcase.

Right cannot succeed in long-run

There is no doubt that this is already being discussed by the right-wing in the corridors and bars in Westminster.

The ability to effectively fight the Tories and the right of Marxists to campaign for their ideas within the movement are therefore intimately connected.

In the long run the Right cannot succeed. The ranks of the Labour Parties and the Trade Unions will not allow Marxist class fighters to be emptied out. They will not tolerate the reversal of democratic reform within the party, and the positions of a number of right-wing Trade Union leaders on whom the right of the PLP relies for its support at conference are far from secure.

The deepening of the crisis in Britain and the

radicalisation of more and more trade unionists will bring about big changes in a number of unions which have been bastions of the Right.

In the short run, however, if the Right succeeded in implementing bans and carrying out expulsions, it would have a very damaging effect on the Labour Movement. It is therefore urgent for the whole of the movement to mobilise against the witch-hunt, giving the maximum

possible support to the Labour Movement Conference on 11th September and making sure that the Right is defeated at the forthcoming party conference.

The more quickly and decisively the labour movement rejects a witch-hunt, the better it will be able to attack the Tories and force an early election. Workers do not want the Tory government another year: they want them out, and the sooner, the better.

Labour Conference agenda

The 518 resolutions submitted by Constituency Labour Parties and affiliated unions for this year's conference in general reflect a further shift to the left among Labour's ranks.

Despite the enormous press campaign against 'Militant' in the last few weeks, the right wing can muster only two resolutions which "...endorses the recommendations made by the National Executive Committee arising from the enquiry..." as APEX put it.

On the other hand, 23 out of the 30 resolutions listed under 'Party Unity' and 'Register of Non Affiliated

Organisations' clearly reject any witch-hunts, including ACTT (Cinema and TV Technicians) which "...opposes all bans, proscriptions, witch-hunts and proscribed lists in order to allow, and in the belief that, continuing democratic debate must operate freely within the Labour Party."

It is clear from the resolutions that Labour's ranks are overwhelmingly opposed to the policies of the right wing. It is because they are being defeated on policy that the right are resorting to organisational moves against the left, but they will not be able to stop the march of Labour's rank and file towards socialist policies.



Don't stand on the side-lines...Defend Militant!

I am prepared to help in your campaign to defend the paper and stop the witch-hunt.

Please send me details of how I can assist.

Name.....

Address.....

Rush to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London

Readers' Meetings bigger still

Biggest ever Militant readers meetings in four towns—that's the 'effect' that the campaign of the right wing and press against Militant has had.

In Manchester 230 came to hear Ted Grant, and contributed £236, while Liverpool the following night managed 20 better, when 250 turned up (this following meetings in nearby Huyton and Birkenhead attended by 130 and 180 two weeks ago), and managed a collection of £237.

Moving on from Liverpool, Ted spoke at a meeting of 60 in Stafford, and 70 in Stoke, home of right wing MPs John Golding, John Forrester, and Jack Ashley.

At the other end of the country, a meeting of 15 in Folkestone was none-the-less enthusiastic, with the audience unanimously agreeing to attend regular

By Militant Reporters

readers meetings, and to actively campaign for socialist policies. An indication of the thirst for socialist policies in the 'Tory' south was summed up by three who travelled 40 miles from Maidstone, and said they'd do it anytime to hear the ideas of Militant. Although most of the meeting were unwaged (and an ASLEF member on strike) the collection raised £21.

The right wing campaign is also building support for Militant in areas where the

voice of Marxism was until recently rarely heard. 35 people attende the first ever meeting in Leamington in Warwickshire, while a similar 'first' meeting attracted over 40 in Stourbridge, which is being followed up by a discussion group, with its first meeting on 'What is Marxism.'

"Marxism need not stand cap in hand begging for admission to the Labour Party. This is my party and they cannot for long keep me out." Charlie Montgomery, a life long fighter for Socialism in the Labour Party and the EETPU was speaking in Edinburgh, at one of three successful public meetings held last week.



Labour right wingers, like James Callaghan at a recent meeting of Cardiff South East CLP, are, at best, luke warm in their support of NHS workers. But the same Labour leaders devote hours of speeches and acres of press publicity attacking Militant supporters in the Labour Party—who do back the NHS workers. Photo: D Doran.

At another meeting, in Dalkeith, it was reported that when a door-to-door paper sale was carried out eight Militants were sold at the first ten houses, a sure sign of the interest in the paper.

Altogether, 80 attended the three meetings and £150

was raised in cash and IOUs.

One thing is clear from the Militant readers meetings that have taken place and attracted record attendances up and down the country—the more the right wing attack Militant, the more determined will

become the support for Marxism, both among Labour Party members and within the trade union movement. Militant readers meeting and Marxist discussion groups are organising in your area—let people hear the real voice of Militant not the lies of the press!

TGWU demand 'no witch-hunt'

In March the General Executive Committee of the T&GWU opposed witch-hunts, bans and proscriptions, so when Alex Kitson, T&GWU representative on the Labour Party NEC, voted for the Register, many areas of the T&G responded angrily!

The 1/724 branch, for example, wrote to Alex Kitson: "a majority of the Labour Party NEC supported what we can only

describe as a witch-hunt...our most serious concern in this matter is that you were one of the majority...as a member of this union holding high office we thought that you would have been aware of our union's total opposition to witch-hunting...and would remember the damage that such bans did to our union..."

Kitson's own area, Scotland, (Region 7) have passed a resolution opposing the Register. Hull Docks Shop Stewards are opposed to the Register and are sponsoring the conference on September 11th.

Merseyside ACTTS District Committee also

passed a resolution calling on the GEC to "instigate opposition to such a register and to strongly recommend to our 1982 LP delegation accordingly."

No doubt many other TGWU members and branches will take up this demand. Why not arrange to get a Militant speaker for your meeting? And send delegates from your branch, shop stewards committee, district committee and regional committee to the September 11th Conference.

A determined effort can turn the T&G policy statement of March '82 into a cast iron commitment to reject the Register.

LONDON LABOUR EC OPPOSES REGISTER

The Greater London Labour Party Executive has followed its past decisions in opposition to witch-hunts, by overwhelmingly passing 4 resolutions at its recent meeting.

One resolution, moved by 'Militant' supporter Bob Labi declared: "This executive committee deplores the NEC's decision to accept the 'Militant tendency report' and to set up a register of 'Non-Affiliated groups'. The register will only act as a means of licensing the opinions which party members are allowed to hold and silencing those members whose views most anger the Party leadership.

"We believe that these decisions will distract the attention of party members from fighting the Tories in

the run up to the next General Election.

"We call on all our affiliates to oppose the Register's creation at the party conference.

"Furthermore we call on all CLPs to refuse to cooperate with any attempts to expel socialists from the party as a result of this report and the register."

An amendment to a similar motion, which attempted to delete opposition to the register was defeated by 20 votes to 4. Bob Labi's motion was carried by 22 to 5, following on from which a motion to sponsor the September 11th Labour Movement Conference, and to send 5 delegates was carried by 16 to 7.

Another motion which

noted "with concern the apparent refusal of the NEC to investigate the activities of state funded bodies, such as the 'Labour and Trade Union Press Service' and the 'British Atlantic Committee' within the Labour Party," was carried with 20 votes in favour, and only EETPU representative, John Spellar voting against, although a number of 'lefts' abstained, arguing that 'tactically it wasn't the right time.'

These decisions which mark a clear and decisive stand by the Greater London Labour Party must now be taken to the rank and file of the Labour Party and Trade Unions to build support for the September 11th conference, and opposition to the witch-hunt.

LABOUR MOVEMENT CONFERENCE

SUPPORT GROWS

Support for Militant's campaign against the Register continues to flood in.

Richard Balfe Member of the European Parliament, sent a letter of support (plus £10). Thanet West (Ron Hayward's CLP) voted 15 to 4 against the Register! Michael Foot's ward, Town Branch of Hampstead CLP also voted (18 to 3) against the Register.

Even John Golding's area, Newcastle Under Lyme District LP has opposed the witch-hunt. A meeting of 80 members of the London Press branch of EETPU voted against the witch-hunt with only 4 abstentions.

However, the Conference on September 11 provides the best opportunity to express your organisation's



opposition to the Register. We have already been notified of several hundred delegates but the drive needs to be stepped up.

As well as Tony Benn, Ray Buckton is sponsoring the Conference. Doncaster ASLEF have decided to send a delegation. No doubt many ASLEF branches will do the same when they are approached.

During August many factory visits and factory gate meetings are planned.

Supporters in Manchester held factory gate meetings at GEC's in Openshaw (17 present) and Trafford park (10 present). How about your area?

More good news came in this week from Heywood & Royton CLP where right wingers had privately boasted expulsions were their target. Unfortunately for them the rank and file feel differently—they voted 22 to 11 against the Register and expulsions of Militant supporters.

In the days ahead the campaign must go into top gear. The Wembley Conference Centre holds nearly 3,000 people, the best reply to the right wing will be to fill the Centre to bursting point with delegations.

Make sure your organisation gets into the first 3,000!

MIKE WADDINGTON

Please send credentials for delegates (maximum 5 per organisation) on behalf of (name of organisation)

I enclose a cheque/PO for (£1 for each credential)

My organisation agrees to become a sponsor of the conference (tick if applicable)

We would like a speaker (tick if applicable)

Name

Address

Return to Labour Movement Conference, c/o 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Letter to Michael Foot

Many Labour Party members have written to Michael Foot expressing their outrage at the witch-hunt. Below we print extracts from one such letter (unfortunately, shortened through lack of space) from Mr Idwal Isaac, a former supporter of Mr Foot:

Dear Michael Foot,
For well over twenty five years, and that is a fairly long period, I have trusted and admired you as a sincere custodian of the beliefs of socialism—but not any more.

At the moment of writing I feel a deep sense of outrage at the decision of your Executive to, in effect, proscribe the Militant Tendency. You have, because it would not have been carried without your consent, set up the mechanism for a witch-hunt.

I think you need reminding that witch-hunting, as a political expression, was first legitimised (if that is the right word) by the activities of Senator McCarthy. Its method is understood to be to accuse opponents of crimes they have not committed in order to reinforce a shaky orthodoxy.

I wriggled with embarrassment to hear you on TV

Eye, June 24, 1982, call the Militants a "conspiracy" within the Labour Party.

It was an incredible performance; after all, no one apart from Nye Bevan, had suffered the abuse of being conspiratorial within the Labour Party more than you. And here you were supporting the very methods of McCarthyism against a group that supports the last Conference's main policies; yet closing your mind to the actions of some of your Shadow Cabinet colleagues who do not support them.

"You were smeared, villified and branded as an extremist"

As I listened, I recalled the Socialist League, of which you were a member. Do you remember what you wrote about William Mellor, the Marxist-Trotskyist editor of the Daily Herald? You wrote that he was the "granite-like conscience of the Socialist League." You were smeared by the Labour Party leadership, you were villified and branded as "extremists".

And there was no place within the Labour Party for the Socialist League. Why? Because the group's aim was to convert the Labour Party into a tough, left-wing party, to convert it from the limp gradualism

left behind by Ramsey MacDonald.

There was John Strachey, who wrote the classic Marxist book, 'The Coming Struggle for Power'; as you know, he was War Minister under Attlee. Today, under your leadership, he would have been proscribed.

There was Frank Owen, once editor of the Evening Standard, who was a close personal friend of yours; would he have enjoyed your confidence today? After all, he was a self-proclaimed Trotskyist.

I need not remind you that the Fifties, just like today, was a period of almost paranoid criticism of the 'left'; when Gaitskell alleged that "about one-sixth of the CLP delegates appeared to be communist inspired." You replied that, "Senator McCarthy himself had never attempted a more vague, more unprovable, and therefore more despicable smear."

Since the day you became leader of the Labour Party, I have watched your metamorphic progress from a radical socialist into what is known in today's political jargon as a moderate democrat.

I am not a Militant, nor am I a Trotskyist, nor a Leninist; only an ordinary member of the Labour Party. But of course I have read much of Trotsky's writings, even Lenin's, and have studied, as apart from just 'read', Marxism to some extent.

I am wondering, at this

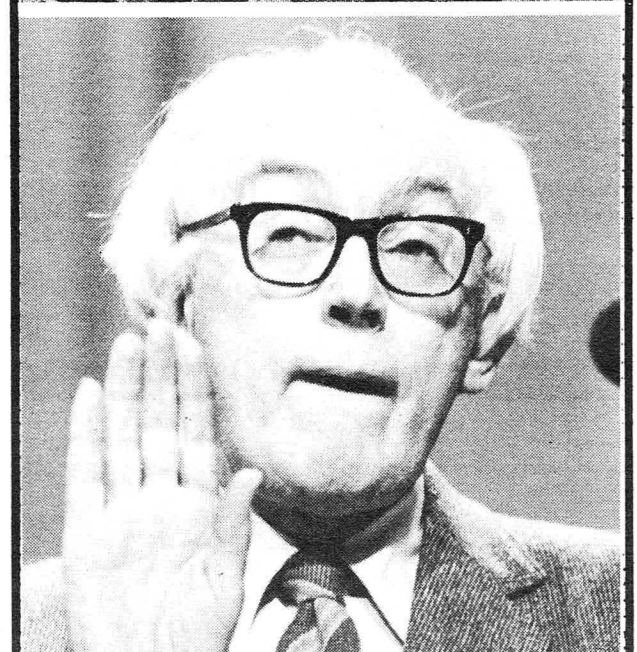
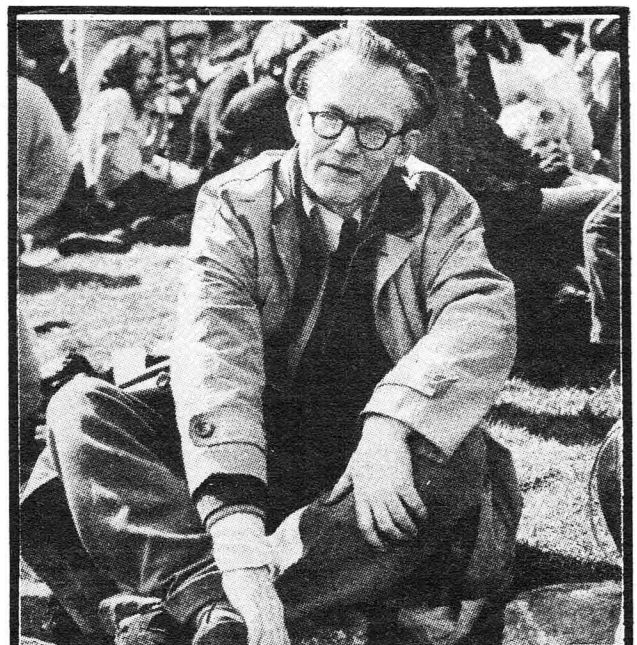
point, whether I have written more than enough to get myself proscribed?

Let me quote part of Trotsky's 'Vision of the Future,' which mentions something about the freedom I have been writing about. Trotsky wrote:

"Capitalism has outlived itself as world system. It has ceased to fulfil its essential function, the raising of the level of human power and human wealth. Humanity cannot remain stagnant at the level which it has reached. Only a powerful increase in the productive forces and a sound, planned, that is socialist organisation of production and distribution, can assure humanity — all humanity — of a decent standard of life and at the same time give it the precious feeling of freedom with respect to its own economy."

Let me conclude by saying that I think you are a prisoner of the 'right' in the Party. But you still have a chance to redeem yourself if you were to free yourself from their shackles and attack the real enemies of socialism within the Labour Party. You would not just be surprised, you would be astonished, at the support you would get if you called off the pending witch-hunt and turned on the real enemies; who are your enemies as well.

And make no mistake about it, once you have served their purpose, they'll throw you over-board



Michael Foot the Aldermaston marcher (above) and the Party leader trying to hold back the growth of militant ideas.

without ceremony—they won't even bother to give a canvass shroud. You are back to where Gulliver was in the beginning, but you haven't the time for persuasion; if you don't act quick-

ly and decisively you'll remain trussed up until they dispose of you.

Yours sincerely
Idwal Isaac
Maesteg
Mid-Glamorgan

'The waste bin is the place for totalitarian ideas' - FOOT IN 1960

We have carried in previous issues of the *Militant* descriptions of the way Labour's right-wing attacked Nye Bevan and other lefts in the 1930's and in the 1950s.

The witch-hunting did not end there, of course, and ironically, it was Michael Foot, now leader of the Party, who was the main butt of right wing attacks in the 1960s.

Twenty-two years ago, on June 15th, the same *Daily Express* which is today urging that *Militant* be kicked out of the Labour Party, carried a banner headline, "PUT FOOT ON TRIAL." The article underneath recorded "yet another row" inside what the writer called "the ailing, desperately divided Labour Party."

It seems that Sir Thomas Williamson, then General Secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union was denouncing the "vicious wreckers", ie Foot

By John Pickard

and the Left, who for three years had been "denigrating party and union chiefs." The executive of his union, it was reported, declared that because of "Tribune's organised campaign against the party leaders, official Labour Party policy, and certain trade unions and their leaders, the traditional relationship between Labour Party and trade union movement is in jeopardy."

The GMWU executive called on the Party NEC to make a special study of "the basis on which the

DAILY EXPRESS

No. 18,678 WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 1960

Weather: Cloudy; rain later

Labour's row spreads with a demand from one of Britain's key trade unions ...

PUT FOOT ON TRIAL



Sir Thomas Williamson slams into the attack: We are worried about the future of the Labour Party

'Wreckers must be stopped'

future loyalty and unity within the party can be ensured." The present day witch-hunting of the trade union right-wing and their threats to withhold finance are not, it seems, new. Williamson, sorry...Sir Williamson, even offered to put "detailed evidence" before the NEC. Shades of Underhill...sorry, Lord Underhill.

But while Sir Thomas Williamson attacked Michael Foot: "I think his mouth will get him into real trouble one day", Michael Foot gave back as good as he got. "Some people have tried to interfere with Tribune's right to publish what it wants", he said, but "We have no intention of changing." (full statement see insert.)

Michael Foot was in trouble again on later occasions. In 1961, for example, five Labour MPs had the whip withdrawn—effectively expelling them from the PLP—for the crime of voting against the Tory defence estimates when Gaitskell and the right wing leadership wanted only to abstain.

The five were Emrys Hughes (South Ayrshire), William Baxter (West Stirlingshire), Sydney Silverman, SO Davies and Michael Foot. Because Emrys Hughes and William Baxter were MPs for Scottish seats, their credentials for the Labour Party Scottish conference were withdrawn, provoking a storm of protest from the CLPs and trade unions.

Michael Foot, described as the "managing director" of Tribune, replied to the attack of Sir Thomas Williamson in these terms:

"Some people have tried to interfere with Tribune's right to publish what it wants. We have no intention of changing."

I dare say the people who make this demand would like to have as little free discussion in the Labour Movement as

they sometimes seem to have in their union.

Tribune says what it likes about the policies of the Government, the Labour Party, and the various trade unions.

I imagine that if the National Executive of the party believe in freedom—I hope they do—they will put this proposal in the wastepaper basket, which is the place for all Totalitarian ideas."

The Scottish NUM executive unleashed a blistering attack on the sanctions: "The recent by-elections" it said "should be a warning that the present leadership, in fighting to overturn conference decisions, is undermining the unity of the labour movement and playing into the hands of the Tories. We would remind the leadership that the Labour and Trade Union

movement was developed to fight and vote against Tory policy, not support it."

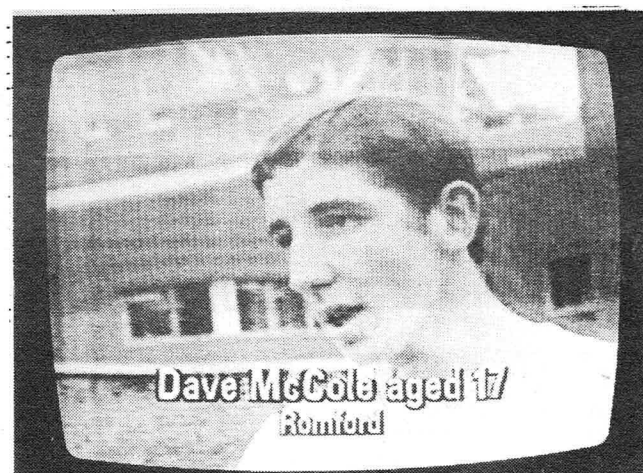
In opposing the new witch-hunt against the *Militant* and the left, the Scottish area executive of the National Union of Mineworkers is being true to its own fine traditions. In upholding the attack on *Militant*, Michael Foot, unfortunately, is not.



Mark Spence aged 19
Birmingham



Ellen Coady aged 18
Kingsbury



Dave McCole aged 17
Romford

Record Response to YS Broadcast

Last Wednesday's Labour Party Broadcast on the problems facing Britain's youth has met with a phenomenal response.

The programme which featured interviews with LPYS members and an appeal to join the Labour Party Young Socialists, has already prompted a flood of membership applications.

The decision to announce a telephone number at the end of the broadcast was a brilliant initiative. Over 600 calls were answered on the night of the broadcast alone.

After allowing for a number of cranks: several Mrs. Thatchers; a John

McEnroe from Wimbledon; and an irate Rear-Admiral who phoned 8 times; there were nearly 500 genuine applications to join the party.

Two-thirds of these were YS age—proof in itself that, given the resources to get our message across, the potential for building Labour's youth movement is boundless.

It can't be said, however, that everyone in the Labour Party was entirely happy with the programme. In the week before screening there was a running battle over its contents.

Certain senior Labour Party officials attempted at one stage to have the interview material strictly edited, deleting any and all mention



Karen Simms aged 21
Tottenham

of politics. They insisted that the Young Socialists taking part were to comment only on the problems they faced, not the solutions!

A particular point of dispute was the subject of YOPS. The LPYS were keen to spell out the justified criticisms of the Youth Opportunities Programme, ie that it provides

little real training; that the allowance is a pittance; and that very few trainees secure a permanent job as a result.

Labour's own research department, on the other hand, were working behind the scenes to tone down the criticisms of YOPs which they argued were 'unfair' and 'one sided'.

To their credit,

UB40—the reggae band whose music was used in the broadcast, backed the LPYS all the way. They agreed that the complaints against YOPS should stand and that the interview footage which had been spliced should be reinstated. In fact they made it a condition for the use of their soundtrack.

By Laurence Coates

(LPYS rep on Labour Party NEC)

It is worth pointing out that one of the disputed pieces of film which was rescued from the cutting room floor was part of an interview with Ellen Coady, an LPYS member, calling for a £20-a-week grant for all school and college students at 16.

Labour's youth have succeeded in getting this vital reform written into

'Labour's Programme '82' and are campaigning to ensure its inclusion in the next Labour manifesto.

In the broadcast, Neil Kinnock gave a pledge that a grant of "at least £20" would be introduced by the next Labour government. This will undoubtedly have made a big impact on working class youth watching the broadcast. There were even cases of youngsters phoning in after the programme to ask if the grant was available now.

The message to LPYS branches is clear—following the success of this broadcast, our campaigning activity must be stepped up.

Many of those who applied to join the youth section have already been contacted. The possibilities for building the LPYS, and defeating right-wing attempts to hamstring the youth in the party, are tremendous.

Croxteth School Occupied

Croxteth in Liverpool has 94.6% youth unemployment!

An official survey six months ago found that only 84 of the area's 1,556 youth between 16 and 18 had full time jobs, 527 were unemployed and 945 were on YOPS schemes.

Many of the houses on the modern estate are damp, decayed and even rat-infested....Empty property including tower blocks and maisonettes are left to become vandalised and infested.

There are few basic amenities on the estate, there is no shopping estate; no bank; no police station; not one public toilet.

The only youth club and night class facilities are based on Croxteth Comprehensive School, which as we reported last week is under threat of closure. The closure is being resisted by a parents' occupation.

The parents suffered a setback last week when an

electricity board official posing as a teacher crossed the picket line and turned off the power supply. This action however has only made the community even more determined.

A meeting of Croxteth Community Action Council (CCAC) was told that trade union support is now growing and a demonstration is now being organised by Liverpool Trades Council.

If the closure goes ahead the CCAC intend to re-open the school themselves, as a 'community free school'.

The LPYS have been actively involved in the occupation from the start for they know that if this school closes the area of Croxteth could easily follow the same course as Toxteth last year.

This school and the other threatened schools in Liverpool will only be saved when society is rid of Tories and Liberals forever.

PREPARE FOR 16 OCTOBER

In London, youth have had enough, and the demonstration against the Tories in Liverpool on October 16th will give them a chance to shout it out.

The Regional committee of the LPYS in London is determined to reach its target of taking 1,000 youth to the demo, which will be the biggest event we have ever undertaken. A train has been booked to take everyone and the campaign has been launched to get people committed to going, and to raise finance.

LPYS organised 2,000 strong lobby of Parliament



An appeal letter has gone out to Trade Unions and Labour Parties asking for delegations and asking for sponsorship to pay for the tickets of unemployed people who want to go.

Around London, the Regional Committee members are planning to speak at the local YS Branches to discuss the political importance of this event and the potential to build, encouraging YS members to visit Trade Unions in the workplaces to follow up the appeal.

Just as important however is to ensure that schools, youth clubs, Colleges, YOP schemes are all approached and meetings

arranged to explain our demands and to convince youth to go on the demo and join the LPYS.

If you look at the conditions people face in London, this shouldn't be a hard task. For one thing, youth unemployment is rising faster in London than anywhere else. What a claim to fame! A YOP trainee summed it up when she said "If things don't change, then there will be war; we can't go on like this".

The fares have gone up, the housing waiting lists are so long that they are put on to computers, schools are under staffed. Even in the so-called great metropolis,

most areas have few or no leisure facilities and where they do exist they are too expensive for ordinary youth to go to.

What an existence! And the future? Well, most people don't talk about that. Yet go up to the area around the Bank of England and watch the City Gents prance about like twits, thinking they're the cats whiskers, discussing the virtues of Thatcher in their delicatessens and wine bars.

Yes, it's definitely time for us to tell Thatcher what she ought to do. Get prepared for 16 October!

By Anne Beales
(Chairman London LPYS)

YS SUMMER CAMP NEXT WEEK

31 July—7 August at Bracelands Campsite, nr Coleford, Forest of Dean, Gloucs. (nearest BR station, Lydney). Cost £20. Bring tent, sleeping bag, cooking utensils. Food available on site. Contact A. Bevan, 150 Walworth Rd, London SE 17 or at site.

Militant

PUBLIC MEETINGS

What we stand for

PORTSMOUTH: 29 July, 7.30 pm, Labour Party Rooms, 84 Kingston Crescent. Speaker to be arranged.

BURNLEY: Thursday 12 August, 7.30 pm. Speaker: Pat Wall. Venue: The AUEW Rooms, 16 Hargreave St., Burnley

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

PETERBOROUGH: Thursday 29 July, 7.45 pm, Neighbourhood House, Cromwell Road, Peterborough. Speaker: Sean McCartney.

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



Playboys of the western world

What would you do if you came across a group of adult men, dressed as priests, torch bearers and woodland nymphs chanting to a 40ft effigy of an owl: "Oh thou, great soul of all mortal wisdom, owl of Bohemia, we do beseech thee, grant us thy counsel"? Run a mile, pass cautiously by on the other side or give a ring to the authorities to check that no dangerous lunatics are on the loose?

You need have no cause for alarm, it would probably only be US President Reagan, Vice-President Bush, Defence Secretary Weinberger, and Secretary of State Schultz. They are all members of the exclusive, all-male, 'Bohemian Club', for the very, very rich, who meet up for three weeks in summer for what late President Hoover called "the greatest men's party on earth". The effigy of the owl, whose burning starts the party, is called "Dull Care".

But it is not all play at these parties. It was here in 1927, that the rich businessmen persuaded Hoover to run for President. And it is here that businessmen renew or make top level connections. Re-assured?

"By their friends shall you know them". 1

"I regard the loss of his executive seat as one of the most depressing acts of irresponsible voting at a Party Conference for a long time". Roy Jenkins on Dennis Healey being voted off Labour's National executive in 1973.

"By their friends shall you know them." 2

Roger Carroll, political editor of the Sun has a new job. He had left the Sun before, in 1978, to work as Callaghan's speech writer for the year before the general election. Afterwards he returned to Fleet Street. He has now left again, to work full-time for the SDP, editing the party's new paper.

Free lunches

"The Childrens Defence Fund in the US is trying to figure out how many lunches could be kept in the budget if the army brass could be persuaded to give up \$1.4m allotted for their pets and another \$6.7m for servants and private Pentagon dining rooms."

—Reprinted from 618 EXPRESS
Journal of Transit Union, Division 618, Providence, Rhode Island

From the mouths of children...

On the last programme of the children's TV—"What's happening", one of the questions was "Who is the chairman of the British Railway Board?" A twelve year old boy was first on the buzzer and replied "Sid Weighell"! Did he know something we don't?



50 YEARS AGO

On 9 July, 'Militant' reported how the police gassed American machine tool workers who were striking for a living wage. It follows a long tradition in USA of repression of workers, when they move into action. In the summer of 1932, National Guardsmen, with fixed bayonets, tossing tear gas and smoke bombs ahead of them advanced through Langleville Illinois to clear the way for 200 scabs, who were trying to break a miners strike. The miners were refusing to accept a reduction in their wage from \$6.10 to \$5 a day.

Just 'an act of kindness'

Hammersmith Labour party urgently needs funds to help pay for an election court case which had contested a Tory candidate's victory.

Prior to the May elections, Hammersmith and Fulham Council was controlled by the Tories in alliance with Liberals.

During the period of this council there was no building of council houses and purpose-built new accommodation begun under Labour control, was sold without ever being let to those on the council waiting list of over 10,000.


Social service budgets were slashed and, as always the young, the elderly and the disabled particularly suffered the effects.

After the May elections, although Labour made gains, Tories maintained control of a council of 25 Labour 23 Tory and 2 Liberal councillors. The Tories obviously needed to use the Mayor's position, with the casting vote it confers on the incumbent, to remain in control.

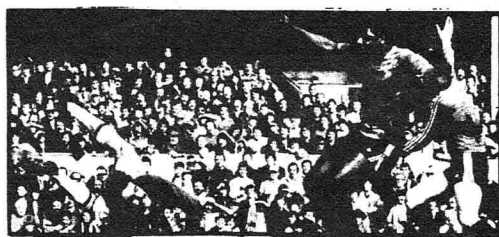
During the election campaign one Tory candidate whose recent election to the post makes him a 4 times Tory Mayor—gave away 1,200 free tickets to a Queens Park Rangers football match. The letter (shown here) was circulated to schools and a similar offer was made to Tenants Associations for the match—six days before polling day.

The Tory won a previously held Labour seat in Worholt ward by 89 votes with the other two seats in a three member ward remaining Labour. Hammersmith North Labour Party felt that they could not allow this to go unchallenged and the following, reprinted from a Party appeal, explains the events which followed.

"The Labour candidate, Josie Wicks, petitioned the Election Court to have the



From
COUNCILLOR WILLIAM C. SMITH, J.P.
TELEPHONE: 01-748 3020



Dear Parent,

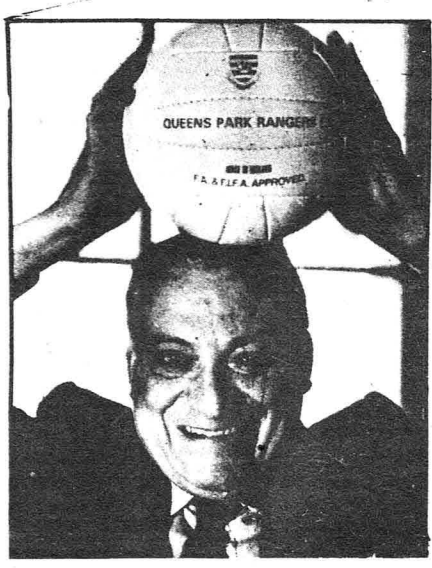
Q.P.R. v BOLTON
1st May, 1982

I am pleased, through the generosity of the Directors of the Club, to invite your Son/or Daughter, to the League match which is to take place at the Rangers Stadium this Saturday, 1st May. THIS LETTER IS THE TICKET OF ADMISSION, and should be shown if required when attending the match.

Pupils from many Hammersmith schools have been invited and it is anticipated that more than 1000 young people will attend. Teachers and Parents will also be present and will act as stewards. If, however, you wish to accompany your child, you may do so, and this letter will also ADMIT YOU WITHOUT PAYMENT.

ADMISSION WILL BE AT THE WEST END OF THE SOUTH AFRICA ROAD ENTRANCE (REFERRED TO AS THE SCHOOL END) AND ALL GUESTS WILL BE SEATED. PLEASE ARRIVE BETWEEN 2PM and 2.30PM.

Best wishes,
Bill Smith



election declared void on the grounds that the Tory had attempted to 'treat' the electors, contravening the Representation of the People Act.

"The Election Court was presided over by the father of the Conservative candidate in the 1979 General Election in Hammersmith North. In his judgement of the case, Tory hopeful's father said that the suc-

cessful Tory Councillor's "governing principle was an act of kindness, unwise in the circumstances by certainly not corrupt," and he awarded costs against the Labour candidate.

"We took the case to the Election Court to try to stop this sort of practice becoming widespread, and to prevent any Tory who has the means or the access to wealth and privilege from

being able to get votes by distributing largesse."

The party now faces estimated costs which could be in excess of £10,000. The London Regional Council of the Labour Party have circularised all affiliated bodies for assistance. Donations should be sent to: Hammersmith Defence Fund, Hammersmith North Labour Party, 446 Uxbridge Road, London W12 0NS.

BOOK REVIEWS
ELECTION MANIFESTOES 1900-74

This is an excellent book which should be used by comrades to refute the ludicrous right-wing arguments that Marxists are infiltrating the Labour Party. It shows how the ideas of Marxism have made an important contribution to the building of the Labour Party.

The 1900 manifesto of the Labour Representation Committee had a list of twelve demands summarised as: "The object of these

measures is to enable the people ultimately to obtain the Socialisation of the Means of Production, Distribution and Exchange, to be controlled by a Democratic State in the interests of the entire Community, and the Complete Emancipation of Labour from the Domination of Capitalism and Landlordism, with the Establishment of Social and Economic Equality between the Sexes."

Again in 1910, "You are again being asked to return

a majority pledged to remove the House of Lords as a block in the working of our Constitution."

In 1931, after the traitor MacDonald had left to form the National government, the radicalisation of the party is shown by the Labour Party Manifesto talking about "the impossible task of rebuilding Capitalism." Time and time again in the early manifestoes of the Labour party, the Socialist aspirations of the pioneers of the movement are shown.

But look at the Manifesto put forward by Macdonald and the 'National Labour' supporters in 1931 was "We must pull together" and "National Unity essential". It sounds very like statements made recently by Bill Sirs and Roy Grantham, when they called for coalitions after the next General Election.

Finally, the true class nature of the Tory and Liberal parties can be seen in their manifestoes, with policies designed to benefit the ruling class at the expense of the workers. Used properly this book is a marvellous weapon, although at £12 it is very expensive. However, most libraries should keep copies.

STEVE BLACK reviews British General Election Manifestoes 1900-74 compiled by FWS Craig

BALKAN WARS-Trotsky

Reviewed by DAVE FARRAR

When I started to read this book the Falklands War was just a glint in Mrs Thatcher's eye. Since then all the horrors of war have been brought home, but this book expounds eloquently on whose interests capitalist wars are fought and who pays the cost. The word 'Balkanisation' is now part of the English En-

cyclopaedia but anyone wants to understand the cauldron that this part of the world was before world war one should read this book. But this book is also

marvellous entertainment, as Trotsky was working for a Kiev radical newspaper and so the style is very lively and informative.

The Balkan Wars 1912-13 by Leon Trotsky

Price £5.70 (incl. P&P), from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

BAN THIS SURE, STEADY KILLER

'You might as well fight when you are alive 'cos you can't when you are dead.'

These were the last reported words of Alice Jefferson as shown in last week's Yorkshire TV's devastating report on asbestos.

By Ronnie Sookhdeo

The disclosures of a horrifying increase in asbestosis amongst workers and in particular the harrowing account of Alice's last days, stricken with a disabling form of asbestos cancer and her courageous fight for compensation, sent shock waves throughout the industry.

In many asbestos-related industries there were calls to management to give greater assurance over safety standards. Post Office workers and bus garage workers in London staged walk outs. In one Bradford factory, Mintex workers went on strike and were only persuaded to return when the company promised an immediate inspection of the work place. Moreover, many unions have already called upon their sponsored MPs to pressurise the government for an inquiry.

Almost overnight £9 million were wiped off the share prices of the two firms featured in the programme—Cape Industries and Turner and Newall. Cape Industries have already been indicted by a US court in the last week and ordered to pay the 52 workers, whose health had been seriously impaired, a staggering £32.8m.

Predictably the two companies have counter-attacked by claiming that they were not aware of the allegations, made in the programme and that they did not think they could be substantiated. They also claim that conditions in the factories conform to present regulations.

But how safe is asbestos? What were the regulations and how were they derived?

Exposure to asbestos has long been known to produce a roughening and thickening of the lungs—called fibrosis or asbestosis—which results in a painful tightening of the lungs with loss of breath, eventual total disability and death. When the demand for asbestos rose at the turn of the Century, evidence began to accumulate linking asbestos with these ailments.

By 1918, enough was known about the hazards of asbestos to persuade US and Canadian insurance companies to stop selling life insurance policies to asbestos workers. It was only in the 1920s that asbestosis was seriously studied and

in 1931 designated a notifiable disease with victims able to claim compensation. But it was not until the 1950s that it was publicly revealed that asbestos workers ran a ten-fold risk of contracting cancer.

Increasing public awareness of health and safety issues combined with the growing number of cases of asbestosis and cancer, plus detailed reports of American studies linking low levels of exposure of asbestos to cancer, forced the government to launch an inquiry.

The study was done on 290 workers at the Turner and Newall factory at Rochdale by the Company's own doctors and scientists. The results were published by the British Occupational Hygiene Society (Bolts).

Mentally-handicapped youngsters have been sent to work with asbestos, assembling car gaskets, without masks, protective clothing or special ventilation—all for £2 a week. Aged between 16 and 26, the youngsters from the Elliman Avenue training centre in Slough worked on a contract for Cooper Payen, a subsidiary of Turner and Newall.

Twice, in 1970 and 1971, Slough's medical officer intervened to stop the practice, but work with asbestos for gaskets continued, although in a less dusty form, at least until 1977. In 1976 one of the 60 trainees died from throat cancer; no survey has been made of the health of the survivors.

It was later discovered that five out of the nine members of Bolts were employed by the asbestos industry. The report ignored cancer effects and suggested that only one worker in a hundred exposed to two fibres per cubic centimetres for fifty years would contract asbestosis.

On the basis of this solitary study and with no verification from the trade unions, the government proposed a safety limit of two fibres per cubic cm for all workers working with asbestos. It was later shown that the method used to determine the dust counts

were inexact by scientific standards.

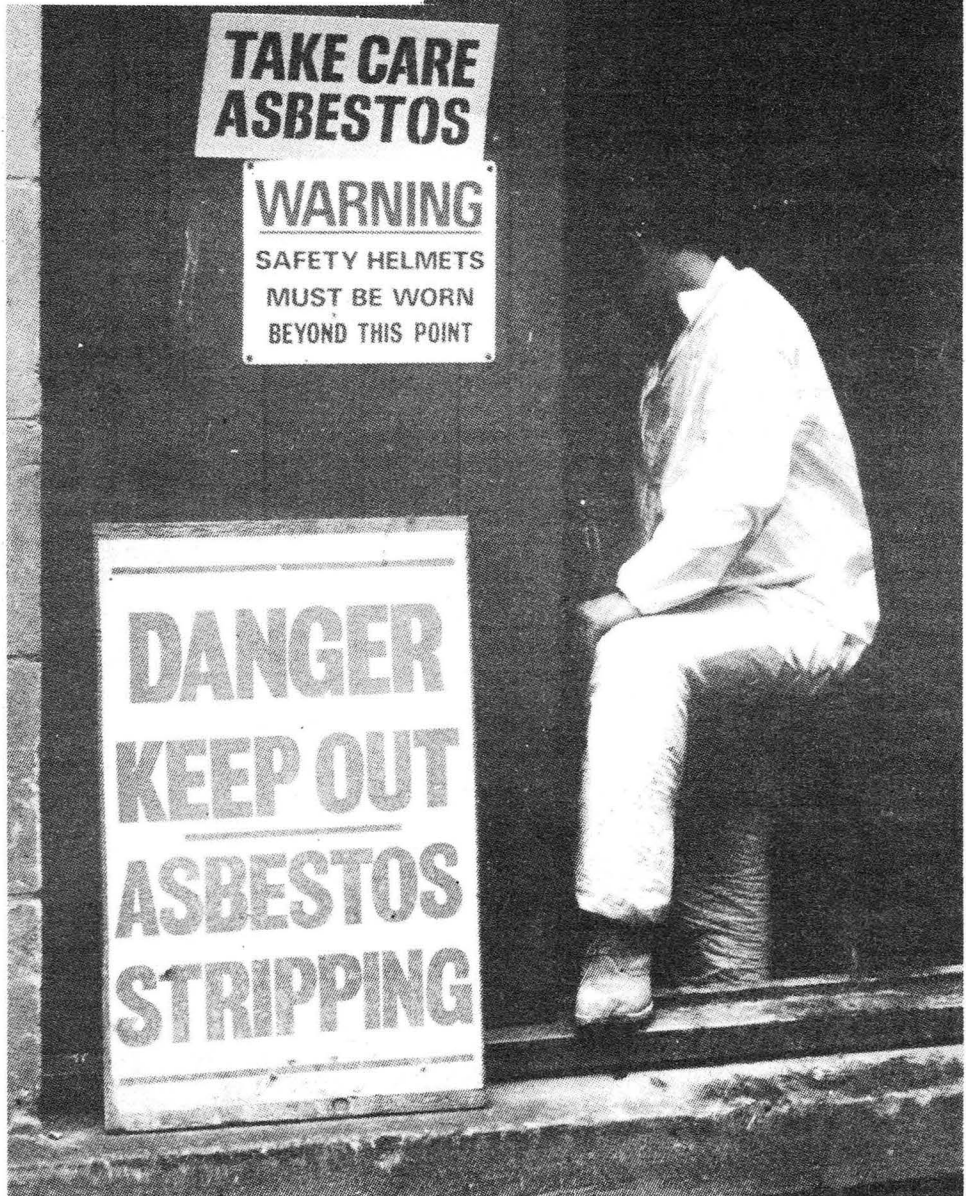
And by 1972, a greater number of workers from the critical study had contracted asbestosis and there was a sharp increase in lung and abdominal cancers amongst workers exposed to lower levels of dust. It was also found that workers who smoked increased their chances of contracting the disease eight-fold.

Further discrepancies were revealed and the Advisory Committee on Asbestos was forced to re-examine the original report. The Committee reported in October 1979 and their findings became highly controversial as they supported the existing safety limits of asbestos at work and in the home, on the grounds that as yet there was insufficient data relating the prevalence of asbestos-induced diseases to the doses of asbestos received.

They rejected an outright ban on asbestos and instead initiated three different control limits for the three forms of asbestos. These levels have been the target of enormous criticism by the trade unions on the grounds that they relate in general to an 'average' healthy male working eight hours a day. It does not take account of the cancers associated with asbestos—only of asbestosis.

And even where the levels are being exceeded (where they are monitored) there is no legal power to force management to do anything. Indeed under the present regulations employers are under no obligation to divulge information on new research findings to trade unions, their members or to the government.

A poignant feature of Yorkshire TV's film was Alice being helped up the steps to Leeds Crown Court to sue Cape Industries. Yorkshire TV's researchers found sixteen people in Rochdale who died from asbestosis but had something else on their death certificates like heart



Lancaster Moor Hospital. No helmet or protection is being worn

Photo: A Wiard (Report)

attack or bronchitis.

It was only through the persistence of a widow about the post mortem results of her husband that this practice was exposed. Indeed, the television researchers began their investigation by consulting the death columns in local papers. In cases which were acknowledged "Thank you to TBA (Turner Brothers asbestos) for the flowers," they sent for the death certificates. The majority of the widows interviewed received either an ex-gratia payment of £12 per week from TBA or nothing at all.

There have been claims

The largest series of claims in the history of insurance is now in the offing as victims of asbestosis file suits. The 'Financial Times' (26 July) estimated that by the end of the century claims could total a staggering £85,000 million. Already insurers at Lloyds are involved in over £15,000 legal actions. In the United States, individual claims range from 30,000 to 700,000 compensation.

that attempts were made to exert pressure on past research in order to play

GMWU women on strike at NE London Polytechnic against working in asbestos dust, 1977

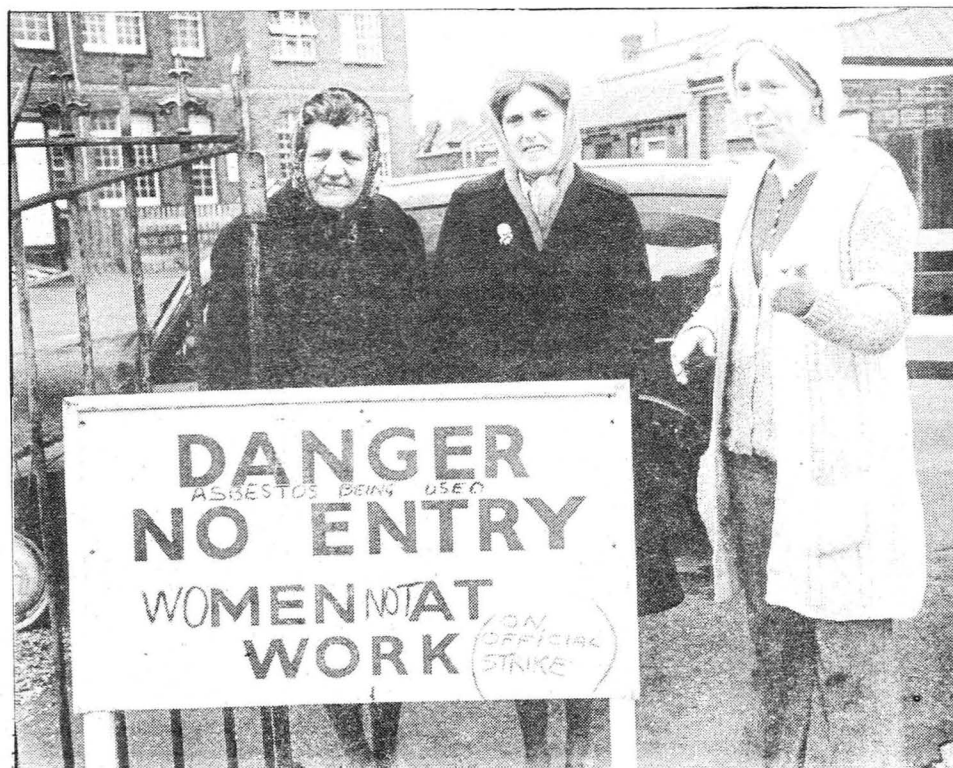


Photo: J Sturrock (Report)

down analysis of the high incidence of cancer amongst workers. In other industries employers have claimed that the recession has cut into their profits and have urged the government to scrap the Health and Safety at Work Act altogether.

It is for all these reasons that workers in the asbestos industry must take serious note of the current situation and be prepared to make the strongest representation to their union to reinforce the TUC call for replacement of all asbestos products with safe alternatives. It is clear that there is no such thing as a 'safe' limit.

Sweden and Denmark have already banned all manufacture and any use of asbestos. The trade union movement must now call for a complete ban on the use of all asbestos.

In terms of compensation, they must demand free and open access to the medical records of all workers exposed to asbestos, to re-examine death certificates together with a legal obligation of the company to submit all research findings. Cancers associated with asbestos must be included in the term 'notifiable disease,' instead of just asbestosis which is eligible for compensation.

Alternative jobs must be found for asbestos workers. There should be immediate studies to cost the introduction of alternatives to asbestos to make sure that possible substitutes are themselves completely safe to use.

INNER

Thatcher's attitude to the crisis in the Falklands was in marked contrast to her response to the crisis in Britain's cities.

When the world wide power and prestige of British capitalism was at stake in the South Atlantic, Thatcher immediately despatched the Task Force to retake the Islands, "however much it costs". Yet when Brixton, Toxteth and other cities erupted last year, with riots which reflected better frustration with unemployment, a slum environment and dead-end prospects, Thatcher asserted, "we can't spend our way out of this crisis".

Whereas the Tories were immediately prepared to commit £1,000 million to sending the Task Force, with probably the total cost amounting to double that, they were not prepared to reverse the drastic spending cuts which have particularly devastated the inner-city areas.

Monetarist policies, which together with police harassment had provoked the rioting, would be continued.

Later, however, it appeared that some of the Tories had second thoughts. Some of Thatcher's less blinkered co-

No new houses or real jobs created

orts, like Whitelaw, urged that some action should be taken to avoid further social explosions. Heseltine and his "circus" of top civil servants, bankers and businessmen were dispatched to Merseyside to assess the damage and come up with some "solution".

Having toured the riot torn streets of Toxteth, Heseltine announced his miraculous "conversion". More, he conceded would have to be spent on the inner-city areas. Soon he was boasting that national spending on the government's "Urban Programme" would rise in 1982 to its highest ever level, £270 million, with spending concentrated in the worst areas.

This, however, is a drop in the ocean compared to the problems—and compared to the cuts which Heseltine, using his new

Feature by Lynn Walsh

powers at the Department of the Environment, has imposed on local authorities.

Heseltine's claim that more resources are going to the inner city areas is nothing less than hypocrisy.

The ineffectiveness of the Tory measures is quite apparent from areas like Toxteth. The measures initiated by Heseltine are little more than window dressing. Most apparent are the efforts to clean up the environment, plant trees, and other "conspicuous" environmental improvement. **But no new houses are being built and no real, permanent jobs are being created.**

About 1,000 school leavers and young people are currently kept off the streets of Toxteth by the Youth Opportunities Programme. But this is virtually insignificant when about 95% of the 16 to 18 year olds in the area are unemployed. Only about 84 of Toxteth's 1,556 school-leavers, according to the latest figures, have full-time jobs.

In the Granby and Abbercrombie wards in the middle of Toxteth the male unemployment rate, according to the 1981 census figures, was 35%, twice the Liverpool average. Since then the situation has undoubtedly deteriorated.

There are no official figures for unemployment amongst black and Asian people. But local communi-

ty workers estimate that 60% to 70% of young blacks have no jobs and no places on training schemes.

Under Heseltine's scheme there are plans in Liverpool 8 for such projects as a small firms workshop, new technology and business skills training centres, building and renovation schemes, and urban development and action grants designed to lure private enterprise into the area.

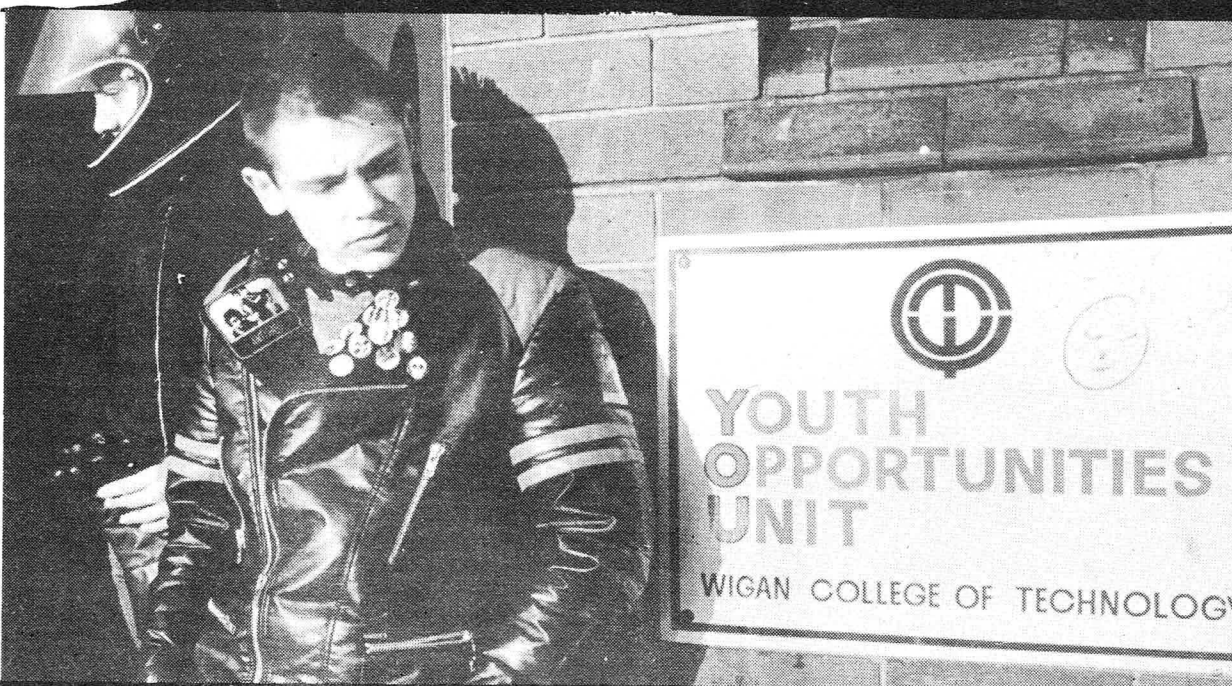
But how many jobs will they really create? At best it will be in the region of dozens. Yet even if Heseltine could somehow conjure up 1,000 or 2,000 jobs, it would only make a small dent in the unemployment figures.

From June 1980 to June 1981, for example, the number of workers signing at the Leece Street employment office rose by 3,000 to 21,000. Over a period of a few years it is claimed that Liverpool created 4,000 new

jobs through factory industrial investment grants. But at the same time it lost over 10,000 jobs through factory closures and redundancies.

These figures make it quite clear that Heseltine's projects and, in fact, the whole Tory "urban programme" is little more than a cosmetic exercise.

Capitalist decay is returning inner city areas to the barbaric conditions of the industrial revolution



SYMPTOM OF CA

MEXICO

Each year of the present decade, the prospects for the working class in the advanced capitalist world look grimmer. But the downtrodden masses of the Third World are going through an absolute nightmare as their already miserable conditions worsen still further.

In Mexico, after 60 years of capitalist 'democracy', the conditions of the workers and peasants are as bad as they were under the landowners' rule at the beginning of the century. Today 35 million people (50% of the population) are undernourished according to official figures. There is a shortage of 5½ million homes, and only 23% of all houses are considered fit for human habitation.

The Mexican Congress of Labour estimates that 13 million people never eat meat, 25 million never drink milk, and 14 million do not consume eggs. 60% of water consumed in rural areas is polluted.

The IMSS (Mexican Social Welfare Institute) estimates that, daily, an average of six workers die, 23 are crippled and 2,000 are injured through accidents at work or through illness contracted from working conditions.

Between 1970 and 1976 Mexico had the highest population growth of all the Latin American countries, but also the lowest rate per capita of food production. Food production dropped by 0.8% during this period whilst the average growth for the whole continent was 0.5%.

By the end of the century, the population is expected to grow from 70 million today to 100 million. Two-thirds of the current population is under 18 years of age whilst underemployment stands at 40%.

With millions of youth reaching working age each year, in the not too distant future the majority of the country's population will not have a steady job.

Wages have dropped

This is one of the reasons why workers' wages have dropped by 22% from 1977 to 1981 (official figures), falling by 9.3% in 1980 alone. Union estimates show an even worse decline.

This scandalous situation exists despite the present oil boom and the industrialisation which the country is undergoing. 70% of the population now live in urban areas, as against 30% in the 1930's. Nevertheless, the deficit in trade with the USA grew by 230% in 1979/1980, which partly explains the deteriorating social conditions.

The oil boom has strengthened Mexico's links with the advanced capitalist world, making its economy more vulnerable to changes in the Western economies.

According to figures released by the World Bank, Mexico has had a

much superior rate of growth since 1978 than the average for the advanced capitalist nations, as a result of increasing oil exports.

But while earnings from oil exports increased enormously during this period, the cost of manufactured goods and other products imported from the advanced nations was higher, outstripping the value of oil exports—to the extent that Mexico today "boasts" the second highest foreign debt in the world after Brazil (the other Latin American country which has experienced an "economic miracle" recently).

The country had a deficit of \$450 million after the first three months of 1981. One month later it had increased to \$753 million, according to the Bank of Mexico. An even more rapid debt explosion is now expected. Non-petrol exports are likely to fall due to lack of competitiveness, and the protectionist measures imposed in the advanced countries on Third World goods.

Mexico's manufacturing exports dropped by one-third from the beginning of 1980 to the beginning of 1981.

With the quickening increase of the foreign deficit expected in the coming years, the living standards of the impoverished masses are bound to fall even further.

Even economic booms in Third World countries have taken place at the expense of the workers, as the case of Brazil clearly shows. Similarly, in Mexico, since the start of the boom in the mid-70's, the working class has suffered an official drop of 22% in real wages.

Mexico's populist Governments have always granted minor reforms and wage concessions to the working class (which has grown enormously through urbanisation of the peasantry) in order to appease the labour movement. But these reforms have been taken away again in the form of price increases. Inflation today stands at around 35%.

Mexico has been considered a relative stable country by Latin American standards, mainly due to the role of class collaboration played by the trade union leaders. The official trade unions are affiliated to the PRI, the 'party of the Mexican revolution' which has been in power for the past 50 years.

The Mexican revolution was carried out by the workers and peasants but led by the national bourgeoisie. The constitution outlines the right of workers and peasants of access to industry and land, but at the same time emphasises the leading role of private industry.

Oil boom hasn't solved workers problems

By a Latin American correspondent

The revolution is supposed to be constantly in practice, especially land reform. But in every rural region of the country, land occupations and peasant warfare take place between different communities struggling for survival.

Meanwhile, the trade union leaders have ensured through their support of the Governments' austerity plans that workers' wages are kept down. Fidel Velazquez has been General Secretary of the CTM (Confederation of Mexican Workers), the main trade union confederation which is affiliated to the PRI, since 1941. That was the last time elections were held for the post, and he was the only candidate contesting it.

In the course of the struggles of the past 40 years in which the leadership has always held the movement back, many unions have disaffiliated from the CTM

Basis for an independent party of labour

and other smaller government-affiliated confederations to form their own independent trade unions, such as the electricians and large sections of railwaymen. Traditionally these are two of the most important and most militant sections of the Mexican labour movement.

These unions could form the basis for the creation of an independent party of labour, which will attract workers belonging to the official government unions in the coming years, as all sections of the labour movement move into struggle.

The oil boom has temporarily managed to stem the tide of social unrest which broke out in the mid-70's, when the electricians gave a lead to other sections of the movement in a fight for better wages. That movement was violently suppressed by the police and army and was followed by the start of the oil boom which temporarily saved Mexican capitalism as new illusions were created among the workers that such a boom would eventually improve their conditions, if only they made a few more sacrifices.

Once again, the government leaned on the trade union leaders to help foist such illusions on the workers. But five years later, workers' living standards have dropped at a greater rate than at any other time during the post-war period.

Once the working class realise that the boom will not fulfill their expectations, it will explode, as in Brazil, where the workers had similar illusions during the economic miracle and have only recently formed their own Labour Party



Building a road in Veracruz state. Of Mexico's 18 million workers, 45% do not have a steady full-time job.

following the heroic struggles of the metal workers in 1980.

The CTM leaders are aware of the danger, and are beginning to feel the pressure from below. Fidel Velazquez last year appealed to the government to try to slow down inflation: "The rate of inflation is growing by 2% per month due to the attitude of management who are provoking a break-up of the social balance and will be responsible for future unrest."

In fact there are signs that the labour movement is beginning to move into action. There has been a significant increase in the number of strikes in 1981. There have been many pro-

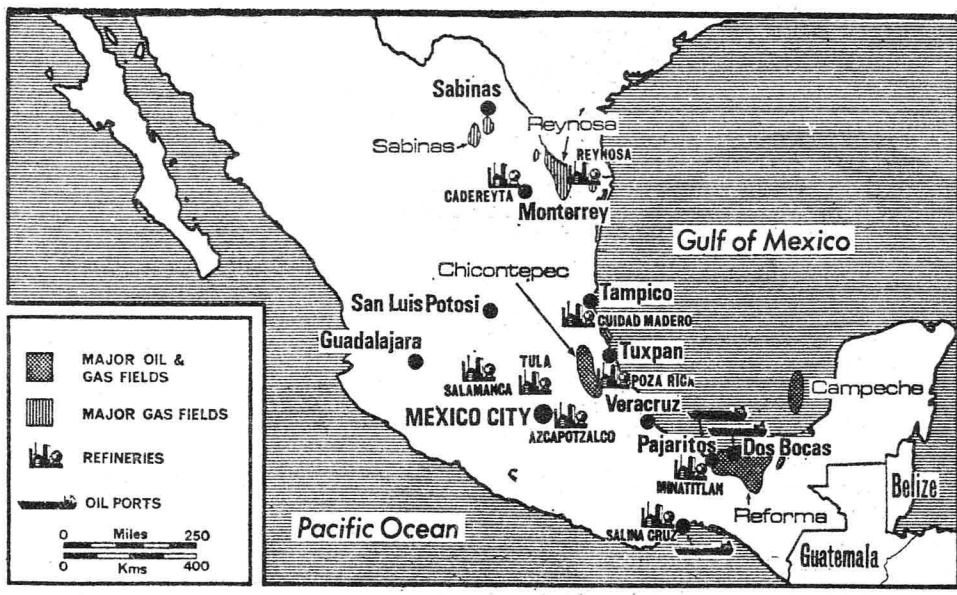
tracted struggles, although mainly isolated ones, such as the 17,000 miners of Chihuahua who were on strike for 64 days during May and June demanding a reduction in the retiring age, better working conditions and higher wages.

At May Day demonstrations in Mexico City, 1.5 million workers belonging to the Government-affiliated confederations demanded a 35% wage increase.

Mexican capitalism cannot offer the working class a way out of their nightmare and misery. The oil boom, coupled with growing social problems, will drive the working class to look for the socialist transformation of society in

the 1980's. If they are to succeed, the trade unions would have to be united around their own independent party of labour with a Marxist programme capable of overthrowing capitalism and establishing a socialist plan of production under workers' control and management.

A socialist Mexico would be as an enormous beacon, not only for the workers of Central and Latin America struggling to overthrow the continent's most vicious military regimes, but would also have great repercussions on the development of the class struggle in the USA, where millions of Mexicans live and work.



Torture in Sri Lankan jails

The Prevention of Terrorism Law was passed by the UNP Government in 1979 supposedly for one year's duration only.

The ostensible reason for this draconian law was to combat what the government designated as terrorism, particularly in Northern Sri Lanka allegedly by militant Tamil youth. The operation of this ruthless law was later extended for further periods and it has since been made permanent.

In practice this law has been a licence for terrorism by the armed forces. There are now about 100 Tamil youth in Army custody under this law which allows detention for 18 months without trial.

The youth in custody continue to be tortured in diverse ways. Some of them, whom the government was compelled to produce in the Supreme Court following applications for writs of habeas corpus—have told extremely dreadful tales of how they are being tortured—before being returned to the same torturers.

Quite a few have declared that they would prefer to commit suicide.

Judging from their statements they are virtually condemned to slow death by the armed forces. The following are some of the methods employed by the military, often after stripping their victims naked:

- 1) Both hands tied and the person suspended from a beam;
- 2) Hanging the person upside down with a gunny bag drawn over the head and pulled up to the waist and fastened. Then he is suffocated with the fumes of burnt chilis which he is forced to inhale;
- 3) Chili powder (used for making hot curries) smeared all over the person's body including the genitals;
- 4) Thrusting an iron bar into the rectum;
- 5) Inserting thin iron rods into the penis;
- 6) The person made to lie prostrate on a bench and beaten on the back and the soles of the feet after inserting chilis into the nose.

The government has lately decided to arm itself with more powers under the Public Security Act, ostensibly to deal with so-called

By A K Annamalai
(District Secretary NSSP, Jaffna.)

"rabble-rousers" who are said to be out to create racial disturbances. But the real reason is to put down the island-wide opposition to the government which is fast reaching bursting point.

On President Jayawardena's own admission, his government is unable to bring down the cost of living. But all the governments brutal repression, on which it depends for its survival, will only exacerbate the national question in particular and the country's economic problems in general.

This government has failed miserably to solve the problems of the Tamil nation though it piously promised to do so at the 1977 Elections. On the contrary, these problems have only been intensified due to repeated racial riots, police-army rampages and destruction, constant encroachment on traditional Tamil territory, and uninterrupted, wilful discrimination in the fields of education and employment.

On the other hand, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), which pledged to adopt measures for the establishment of a separate, secular socialist state for the Tamil nation, has taken no meaningful steps in that direction but is content to negotiate with the government and to passively give the government time to implement its promises.

Disenchanted with the TULF, certain sections of the Tamil youth broke away from its youth wing and formed themselves into a rival youth movement. Sporadic acts of violence, including the killing of police and army personnel, bank robberies etc, have been going on for some time in the North.

The Security forces mounted an island-wide man-hunt for some of the most wanted Tamil youths. Some militants fled to Tamil Nadu (South India) through fear of apprehension and torture by the armed forces. Some of them were recently apprehended by the Indian Police and the Sri Lanka government has been endeavouring to have them extradited.

Despite official admissions of 15 deaths under torture and 14 executions since the coup, Amnesty International claim there have been at least 70 deaths in this period. Over 100,000 political prisoners (for the 'crime' of being suspected

The Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) was the first political organisation in Sri Lanka which stated unequivocally that those Tamil youths should not be extradited to Sri Lanka. The NSSP opposes the torture of these youths just as much as it is opposed to individual terrorism, robbery etc. in the name of political action.

All these tragic incidents stem directly or indirectly from—

(1) the present UNP Government, betraying the Tamil Nation more than any previous Government in this country;

Working Class Upsurge

(2) the incapacity of the TULF to launch a concerted struggle to win the rights of the Tamil Nation, and its aversion to linking its struggle with that of the working class and the downtrodden masses of the whole country.

Even though some setback was caused by the sadistic break-up of the general strike of July 1980, the working class has revived. The wave of strikes in the plantation sector, the on-going eight month-old strike by the Paranthan Chemicals Corporation workers, and the recent lightning strike in the port of Colombo in which even the pro-government union participated, are clear indications of the struggles steadily spilling over.

Right now, the plantation sector (tea, rubber and coconut estates) is poised for a major confrontation. The workers (mainly Tamil labourers) are still on daily pay despite the lapse of over a century since South Indian Tamil labour was imported into this country to provide cheap labour to the plantations of the then British Imperial regime.

Even today, their wages are a pittance. Moreover, they are not provided with work for more than about 18 days in a month. The net result is perpetual poverty, squalor, disease etc.

In May this year there was a successful two-day token strike by plantation workers. The ongoing agitation in that sector is inexorably leading to a major



Sri Lanka—a playground for the rich...while workers toil long, hard hours for a pittance.



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If you fly Sri Lanka to India, Singapore or Bangkok on an individual fare, you can now enjoy a relaxing stopover en route. Sri Lanka for a remarkably low price.

For centuries, our Paradise Isle of Sri Lanka has been the favoured resting point for travellers heading west or east. And with the introduction of...

showdown soon. Another one-week token strike is already on the agenda.

But no-one can rule out the possibility that another bloody racial holocaust will be set in motion by vested interests to intercept such a showdown and push the workers' forces into disarray. The recently formed

Committee for Workers' unity (CWU) must push ahead with its programme for setting up a National Workers' Council (equivalent to the British Trade Union Congress) so that broad-based working-class action could be launched to counter divisions induced on racial lines.

The country's general economic problems and

state repression have reached such monstrous proportions under successive capitalist governments in this country, particularly under the present Jayawardena regime, that all oppressed sections of the people should unite forthwith, first and foremost to overthrow the present arch-capitalist Government.

state repression have reached such monstrous proportions under successive capitalist governments in this country, particularly under the present Jayawardena regime, that all oppressed sections of the people should unite forthwith, first and foremost to overthrow the present arch-capitalist Government.

TURKISH GENERALS TIGHTEN THEIR GRIP

It is less than two years since the Turkish military junta seized power in September 1980. The aim was to suppress the movement of the masses and to crush further social unrest as a result of desperately low living standards for the working class.

In October 1981 all existing political parties were abolished and only one legal trade union exists, the TÜRK-İS—a pro-junta organisation whose leaders include a government minister in the junta.

There is no genuine trade

union activity allowed and no right to strike. The traditional mass trade union federation is the DISK (Revolutionary Labour Unions Confederation), of which 52 leaders were put on trial in Istanbul last December. They face the death sentence if they are convicted for the crime of promoting the interests of the working class.

Despite official admissions of 15 deaths under torture and 14 executions since the coup, Amnesty International claim there have been at least 70 deaths in this period. Over 100,000 political prisoners (for the 'crime' of being suspected

of being involved in political activity) have been subjected to torture and degrading conditions in the junta's prisons.

The generals have made many changes in the state structure. The latest proposal is a draft constitution which gives the President stronger power and, among other things, enables him to dissolve Parliament whenever he chooses. According to the *Financial Times* (19 July) he could "...declare a state of emergency, ratify or veto Government decrees, partly or wholly reject legislation."

The junta hope to pacify

the angry mood of the working class by introducing so-called democracy by 1984. But parties based on 'communism' will be illegal, as will be 'political' strikes.

The Turkish labour movement has militant traditions. It has been involved in many struggles for political and economic rights.

In June 1970 over 100,000 workers took part in demonstrations in defence of the basic right to organise. Massive May Day demonstrations took place in 1977 and 1979.

In 1979 there were 126 strikes involving 21,000 workers and the loss of

1,100,000 working days; in 1980 there were 220 strikes involving 84,000 workers and the loss of 7,700,000 working days! It was under these conditions that the junta seized power.

The Turkish labour movement, despite the terrible repression, will fight back against the junta, and against the high unemployment and low living standards. 40% of the work force is organised in a union, and this will grow as working people are increasingly forced into struggle.

In fact, the junta's need for police-state powers is a sign of their crisis and isolation—there is no mass sup-

port for the regime and capitalism could not survive on the basis of democracy.

For this reason the junta will be unstable and will be swept away by a future wave of mass struggle, when the working class has recovered from the blows of the past two years.

By Suri Krishnamma



Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Become an OAM — Old Aged Militant!

Dear Militant,

I hope more and more of us pensioners will join Mr Bowden (letters, 16 July) and help *Militant* to 'carry the banner of socialism'. Thousands of us, in the armed forces, worked to get the 'soldiers vote' for Attlee and Bevan. We wanted our children to grow up in a civilised, truly democratic Britain.

Since then, year after year, we have been sold out by the Labour right

wing and here we are today still struggling to protect the civil liberties even of our grandchildren!

The shock of the betrayal of the ASLEF drivers is enough to make us give up in despair and cynicism. What use was it all? What can we do now?

Yours is, as ours was, a young people's movement; age and infirmity are overtaking us. But we must not give in. We

can at least help with money.

Many like me on supplementary cannot manage more than £5 a month, but let us at least send that. We shall have the private satisfaction of setting an example to those other OAPs, the geriatric moaners who never did their own thinking and now talk about the 'good old days' and vote for the unspeakable Thatcher.

And when it gets hard

going think of our comrades who were killed helping to remove right wing governments in Italy and Germany. Surely we owe it to them as much, as to our grandchildren, to do what little we still can to prevent our own country going down that way. I enclose my first monthly contribution.

Yours fraternally
An old aged pensioner.

We want to build party membership, not expel people

Dear Comrades,

The South East Leeds CLP in the post war period was controlled by the right wing. But in the last decade, especially the last four years, the SE Leeds CLP has moved to the left with new blood joining its ranks, mirroring what has been happening nationally in the Labour Party.

Earlier this year it de-selected its right wing MP and replaced him with a left winger who supports party policy and is determined to see it implemented. It has

opposed every attempt at witch-hunts in the last few years and has opposed the proposed register and refuses to expel anybody. It is sending two delegates to the September 11 conference.

Also in September it is launching a membership drive in the largest ward of the constituency where the right wing have allowed the membership to fall below 20! This has resulted in Liberal gains in local elections.

The message is let's build party membership, NOT expel people and drive new members away.

Yours fraternally
Alan Turner
SE Leeds CLP, personal capacity.

Anger at the TUC decision

Dear Comrades,

After the recent decision by the TUC to endorse the Tory government's and British Rail Board's attack on ASLEF, many ASLEF train drivers will be bitter about the "sell out" and direct their anger against trade union leaders who attended the meeting, especially the General Secretary of the NUR who played a treacherous role throughout.

Active rank and file labour and trade union members will realise that personal vendettas are not the answer, but will continue to campaign for policies to defeat the Tory government and its capitalist allies who are the real culprits. Many rank and file members will also realise that any form of witch-hunts that will mean the expulsion of such active campaigning ideas such as *Militant* puts forward will mean further set backs for the working class in the future.

Yours fraternally
Dave Hardy
Nottingham West CLP.

Reversal of roles

Dear Comrades,

On entering a newsagent one Saturday to buy a copy of the *Daily Mirror*, a familiar voice was coming out of a radio that was on. It was former LPYS representative on the Labour Party NEC, Tony Saunio, speaking against the witch-hunt. I asked the shop keeper if he could turn it up so that I could listen to it. I noticed that the

shopkeeper was listening also and at the end of the interview I told him I was a *Militant* supporter and he bought a copy of the paper from me.

So, instead of me buying a capitalist paper, the ideas of socialism resulted in a papersale to the shop keeper! Forward to the day when *Militant*, in hundreds of thousands, will replace capitalist papers being sold in shops.

Yours fraternally
John Considine
Tower Hamlets LPYS.

Defeat the right-wing in the unions too

Dear Militant,

I am writing to you as a member of Bridlington branch Labour Party and also secretary of the NUPE local government branch and, in a personal capacity, a supporter of *Militant*. What has made me write to you is the sell out of ASLEF by the inner cabinet of the

TUC, the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Not only do we want rid of the right wing of the Labour Party but also the right wing of the TUC leadership. The NUR want rid of Sid Weighell and must call for the resignation of Peter Parker and the Railway Board and for the railways to be run under workers control.

Yours sincerely
T Barker
Bridlington.

Buzby hits worse-off

Dear Comrades,

The 5% increase in telephone call charges recently announced by "British Telecom", will hit workers hardest. The unprecedented rise in the cost of telephone calls which has taken place under the Tories has nothing to do with 'exorbitant' wage demands on the part of workers in either the UCW or the POEU. On the contrary, the lowest grades of telephone operators have not kept up with inflation and have suffered from redundancies.

This latest unnecessary increase in charges is a deliberate attack on the working class. The vast majority of calls made by those with a phone at home are local ones to friends and relatives mostly: those using

office phones in businesses or government departments are much more likely to want to make regular 'long distance' calls.

The Tories, through British Telecom are reducing the cost of 'long distance' calls and say that they intend to use the extra revenue raised by again increasing the cost of local calls to pay for computerised teleprint-out machinery which will be used by big business. This means that

we are paying directly for privileges granted to rich businessmen.

Finally, it has been announced that a call to Directory Enquiries will in future have to be paid for; this means a sharp rise in the telephone bills of those who use Directory Enquiries, specifically because they are unable to read a directory. Short sighted elderly people, and in particular the blind who have no access to brailled direc-

tories, (these would not be profitable to produce and therefore are not issued), regularly use Directory Enquiries.

This policy is totally consistent with Tory strategy; "Attack the weakest and poorest in society", all in a desperate attempt to boost their profits.

Yours fraternally
Michael J Higgins
Bromsgrove LPYS

Consultant's concern

Dear Comrades

At the beginning of the health workers' dispute, two consultants were interviewed on TV about the effects on patients.

They said the action was unjustified and would mean cancelled operations and long waiting lists. As if this wasn't already the case!

This brought to mind an incident several years ago, when I was in hospital. A patient in my ward had come in for an eye operation. He was very tense and nervous about the operation and told me he had been in hospital several times in the last few years with depression and nervous problems.

The operation was supposed to take place on Sunday afternoon, but when he was taken into the operating

room there was only one porter and the consultant refused to help lift him onto the operating table. When the effects of anaesthetic wore off, he was told he would have to wait until another day for the operation.

So much for patients' welfare, and for that matter, overmanning in hospitals.

Yours fraternally
Stephen Hoare
Bolsover CLP



Lord Matthews' press attacks workers as unpatriotic 'wreckers'. But his Cunard Company refuses to build the replacement to Atlantic Conveyor in Britain because it's too expensive. Profits before patriotism.

A lesson in the role of the Tory press

Dear Comrades,

The class nature of the press has been clearly revealed in the recent attacks on the *Militant*. Every activist in the movement recognises that the ruling class has used the newspapers, radio and television in an attempt to frighten workers and drive the ideas of Marxism out of the Labour Party.

However, it is perhaps difficult for new readers to fully appreciate the unfavourable biased nature towards the labour movement shown by the media. I know that when I first came upon *Militant* I was sceptical about claims that the press deliberately distorts the affairs of the movement. A couple of hundred issues later, together with considerable experience as a union branch secretary, has taught me that *Militant* is completely correct!

The DHSS section of CPSA recently consulted members on whether they were prepared to take all-out strike action to fight cuts. The members in my branch decided that they were not.

When I was asked by a reporter from the *Leicester Mercury* if I was disappointed at the result, my reply was that I was disappointed that members, at this stage, were not prepared to commit themselves to an all-out strike to fight cuts. However, when the cuts began to bite over the next two years, then perhaps members would be prepared to take this action. Unfortunately, the tragedy would be that there would be far less members left to fight. The reporter also asked for details of the numbers involved in the cuts.

When the subsequent article appeared, my comments had been truncated to read: "I am disappointed that members did not see all-out strike action as the only way of fighting cuts. Altogether 9,000 posts will be lost nationally and Leicester will get a proportion of these but perhaps then they will be prepared to fight."

My words had been

distorted to appear totally cynical of the membership! It is clear that the sub-editor's intention was to try and drive a wedge between the branch leadership and the rank and file. In other words, the bosses classic tactic of divide and rule.

My response was to write to the paper requesting "right of reply." However, perhaps not surprisingly, my letter correcting the inference has not been published.

I also sent another letter to the *Mercury*, responding to criticism that incidents of rudeness and unhelpfulness towards claimants were on the increase. In this letter I made it clear that the branch shared the concern, but pointed the blame at the Tories for cutting staff at the very time more demands were being made on the system.

The letter was published. However, by the use of subtle editing the "sub" made it appear that I was making two separate and distinct points. Taken out of context (as it was) it appeared that I was laying the full blame for these incidents on my members. Again the intention was clear: divide leadership from rank and file, and in addition portray DHSS staff in a bad light to the general public. The manager of my own office has already tried to use this distorted letter to isolate me from my members. He has clearly been aided by the so-called 'impartial' press!

However, in capitalist society the press is far from impartial. Four millionaires own the entire Fleet Street press with its thousands of subsidiary local papers. The Labour Party and trade unions will never get a fair hearing whilst the media is so undemocratically run.

Only when the press is under democratic workers control and management, with all trends of opinion (except fascist) having access to it, will the affairs of the labour movement be reported accurately. Since this will only happen under socialism, I say roll on the socialist transformation of society!

Yours fraternally
Tony Church
CPSA (DHSS), Leicestershire
personal capacity.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target Oct 9th.
Eastern	107		2,000
East Midlands	125		1,800
Hants & Dorset	176		1,300
Humberside	74		1,100
London East	150		2,100
London West	88		1,000
London South	428		1,500
Manchester & Lancs	352		2,000
Merseyside	206		2,100
Northern	96		2,500
Scotland East	29		1,300
Scotland West	19		2,300
Southern	83		1,700
South West	39		900
Wales East	32		1,000
Wales West	34		2,000
West Midlands	170		2,000
Yorkshire	191		2,500
Others	197		3,900
Total received	2596		35,000

ads

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

Classified

South Africa—13,000 black goldminers struggle for a living wage! South African Labour Education Project presents: "We Live Like Dogs"—the struggle of black migrant miners on the South African mines. Available for hire from SALEP, 28 Martello St, London E8 3PN. (Tel: 01-241 0434). £12 to LPYS branches/Labour Party Women's Sections. £16 to other labour movement organisations.

IRISH Labour Youth 1st Annual Socialist Summer Camp, Forest Park, Portumna, Co Galway. Sat 31st July to Fri 6th August. Rallies, seminars, films, music, dancing, quizzes, sport and swimming. Leading speakers from labour and trade union movement.

Militant supporter has room available in mixed house—West London. Phone 579 7884, 6-6.30pm

Accommodation wanted. Unfurnished flat in London, willing to share required from September 1982. Contact Mark Perkins Oxford: 44644

T&G YOPS/LPYS Disco, Jaks Band, Thurs 5 August Cosmo Club, Francis St., Leeds 7. 9.30pm to 2am. Waged £1.50, unwaged 70p.

40; extra-large—42-44. Red motif on white, yellow, sky blue, bottle green, navy, black (+sweatshirt grey and mid-blue). Cost: £3.25, sweatshirts £6.75 (both prices include postage and packing). Plain T-shirts and sweatshirts also available, deduct 25p from price. Send cheques and postal order to R Harris, 35 Westminster Court, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1UR. All proceeds to Fighting Fund.

"NO WITCH-HUNT BUT SOCIALIST POLICIES"

T-SHIRTS and SWEAT-SHIRTS. Sizes and colours for small—32-34; medium—34-36; large—38-

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'.

GREET LABOUR'S CONFERENCE

Get your Labour Party or YS branch, trade union or shop stewards committee to place their greetings to Labour Party Conference in the pages of Militant. This year more than ever Militant needs your support.

Rates for greetings:
Semi-display: 3 column centimetres £3
6 column centimetres £6
Display: one-sixteenth page £10
one-eighth page £20
quarter page £40

Closing date for copy is 14th September, but send your greetings as early as possible to the Circulation Department, Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Defeat the witch-hunt.



Fight back with the official defence badge, 20p each or £13 per 100 or part thereof. £1.50 p&p from Val Pearce, 16 Wagbullock Rise, Bracknell, Berks.

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

SOCIALISM IS ALL YOU CAN AFFORD

THIS WEEK: £1,625

By Derrick McClelland

What price socialism? Or put it the other way round, what is it costing workers not to have socialism?

In Lambeth, a Tory and Social Democrat/Liberal Alliance has taken control from Labour at the recent local elections, on the casting vote of the outgoing mayor. As a consequence, council rents will be going up by an average of £2.50 per week from October, spending on social services and housing has been cut by millions of pounds, and the Tories are promising to pay off their supporters with a 'refund' from the rates.

Unfortunately, Lambeth is not an isolated case. All over the country workers, the unemployed, sick, elderly, single parents, etc. are suffering at the hands of the Tories and the Alliance. This is the price of not having socialism. Fortunately, there is something you can do about it. Get active in your union, in the Labour Party, and fight for socialist ideas. And support the paper that supports you.

This week we have received £1626, taking us to £2596, which is the best ever start to a new target. Our thanks to all who have given this week, including:

UCATT Liverpool No 2 £10, NGA Liverpool £7, AUEW Hull No 12 £10.

C Worsley Southwark £60, I Taylor £50 (part of £88 collected at Croydon readers meeting), C Peckham £17 & J Mulrenan £20, both Peckham LPYS, I Hackett Ealing £15, L Smith UCW London £8.80, K O'Connor £10, 2 fortunate workmen Lerwick £10, R Davies Gwent CLP £10, T Pitcher Woking £6, M Oldfield U/E Leicester

£10, R Balfe MEP South London £10.

P Smith & P Medhurst £10 for laying a lawn.

£5's: S Craven IOW, E Steins Poplar, B Dawson Bermondsey CLP, J McGuinness Lochgelly, J McGuckion Lambeth, Adrian Lambeth, R Gibson Snowhill, K Sharp U/E Hatfield, J Dillon Garston.

I Priestley Melton Mowbray FTAT £3, P Campbell Bootle CLP £3, D Morgan Manchester £3, B Wells Liverpool £1.40, P Singh Leicester £1.19, L Brighton Wakefield CLP £3.60, J Warnes POEU £1.20, D Musker POEU Bootle £2, F Moran Birkenhead CLP, J Ellen France £2, J Clark

Maidenhead £4, H Robertson Essex £2, M Hanford Blackpool £2, J Hebblethwaite Leeds £2, R Peakman Beckenham LP £4, Bermondsey LPYS £2.50, P Clarke Abercromby LP £2.

£1's: J Osbaldeston U/E Blackburn LPYS, P Scholer, Anna, D Sullivan, G Dommey, all Isle of Wight, P Gibbons Liverpool, J Roberts Wirral, C McKinley Glenrothes AUEW, A Firth BREL Eastleigh Works, J Harrison Camden CPSA, R Bylon NUR & Secretary Camden Trades Council, T Door Euston NUR, S James NEL Poly, T Baugh Birkenhead CLP, J Hall Exeter, N Bathurst Devon, S Smith Dundee, R Lochore Corby UCW, P Edwards Torbay LPYS, B Gamlin Blyth LP £0.80.

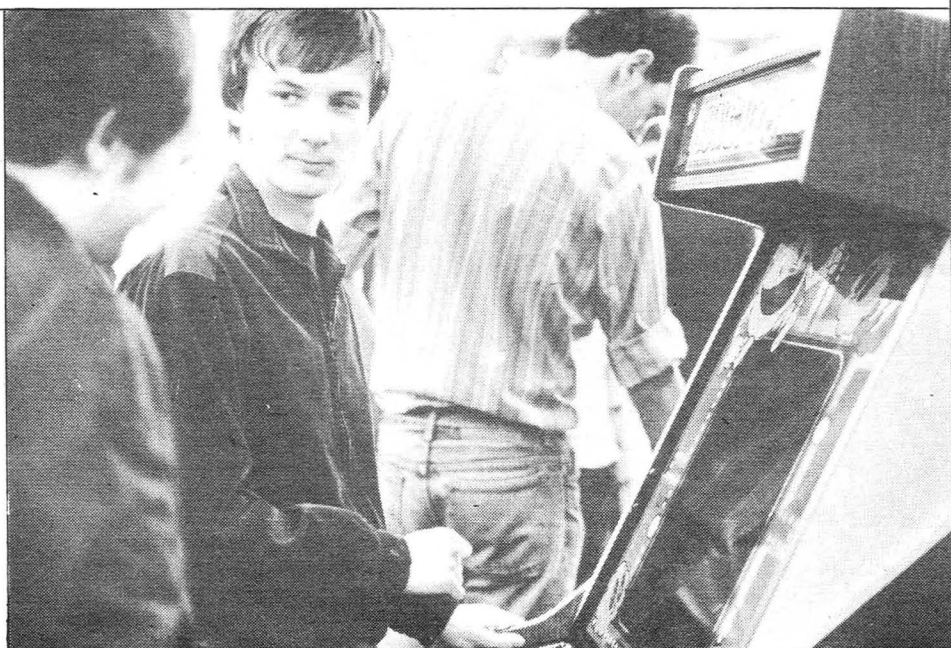
Collections from: Brentford & Isleworth LP £3.78,

Heathrow BA Cargo T&GWU £5.20, Hillingdon Local Authority manual workers £8.72, St Pancras North EC, Tolpuddle Rally £40, Wickham CLP, £2.23, Dawley Ward LP Telford £3.30, Dulwich CLP £1.60.

Readers meetings: Blyth £3.20, Bracknell £9.04, Birmingham £50, Leamington £15.95, Wakefield £3.80, Manchester £158, Bootle £22.62, Cricklewood £29.82, Lewisham £44, Blackpool £11.65, Blackburn £28.23, all after expenses.

We have made a good start, but the Tories are still there. If you have not given a donation yet, send one off now. If you have, thanks, but keep the money coming. The Tories have all the machinery of society on their side, we have only what we build from our own sacrifices.

Boredom drives many youth to play the Space Invaders. Photo: D Doran.



Industrial Reports

ASLEF-Prepare for future battles

CHRIS NASH of Hertford East ASLEF spoke to Militant

"We were shocked by the TUC. How Murray can go on the television and say that it wasn't a defeat and that ASLEF did the right thing I don't know."

"I don't know why they should let us down like that. They have done what the BRB and the Tories couldn't do, they've got us back to work. They have been prepared to side with

the BRB and the Government. It's a horrible thing to say, but the TUC bottled out.

"When you see Len Murray and the others, they must live in a different world. Some of them just expressing a personal point of view, because we had enormous backing from the members of Chapple's union and others."

"All the worry we've given Parker these past few months and after he goes in with the TUC he comes out

and says he'll have breakfast—eggs sunnyside up! It's unbelievable the TUC should take a decision for us, for standing up for ourselves, something they should have done several years ago.

"Weighell has been one of the factors in our setback. I don't think that Buckton could have done much else. If we'd been dismissed from the TUC we'd have been an outlawed union."

"We feel bitter because

we could have won. Once the BRB threatened to sack us, they had used their ultimate weapon. What could they do other than send us to jail? We were prepared for the strike to go on for several more weeks.

"All those who were prepared to go back had gone, all we had to do was stick together. Once we'd done that, the sacking notices would have been just scraps of paper. Now we are back, the LDC's are going to have to do the hard

work, because these rosters are unworkable, the breaks don't fit in or anything.

"But we are all closer now. Any co-operation with management is finished. There are no industrial relations on the railways. They've shown they're prepared to sack us as though we are nothing, men with thirty or forty years' service."

"It won't be so much a war as guerilla warfare. But if BRB think they can wipe the floor with us, then

they've another think coming. Every utterance from Rose and Parker drives us further together. It's better even than any speech by Ray Buckton.

"I feel bitter but stronger now, like I've been given a new lease of life. Maybe in ten years time people will look back and say this was the turning point for the trade union movement. Things have got to be changed."

RECALL CONFERENCE

"We have lost the battle but the war continues". That was the mood of ASLEF's recalled AAD (conference) on 27 July.

After a mammoth 9-hour session with the suspension of standing orders twice, a policy was agreed to reaffirm ASLEF's commitment to the preservation of the guaranteed 8 hour day, but in view of the circumstances, authorising the executive committee to enter into negotiations on

the basis of the Railway Staffs National Tribunal decision and recommendations and safeguards.

The rosters would be worked under protest, and as the agreement will be made under duress, ASLEF does not consider itself under such responsibility as it would normally assume "for smooth operation of an agreement reached with the British Railway Board".

We must ensure, though, that the fight against BRB

productivity proposals is not left just to individual members and LDC's where there is danger of severe disciplinary measures by BRB and victimisation of the most active members.

Every branch, LDC and district council must insist that our Executive Committee should seek at national level the earliest return of the guaranteed eight hour day. The EC must prepare industrial action in the very near future as the BRB tries

By Jim Sharkey
(Polmadie ASLEF)

to impose further cuts in our conditions, with a propaganda campaign in the union and in the wider labour movement to expose the BRB plans.

In light of the role played by the right wing TUC leaders, we must call on workers in all other unions to keep up pressure for the support of ASLEF in future struggles.

FBU Resolution

The resolution below was passed unanimously by the NEC of the Fire Brigades Union on 21 July.

"The National Executive Committee of the Fire Brigades Union condemns the attitude of the General Council and in particular the decision of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the TUC not to support ASLEF during their industrial action.

"The statements made by the General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen during the

dispute towards the leadership of ASLEF should be totally and publicly condemned by the Trade Union Congress.

"We challenge the statement allegedly published by the TUC that in the event of the ASLEF Executive Council not accepting the recommendation of the F&GP Committee they risked suspension from the TUC.

"This and the decision not to recommend a return to work and acceptance of Flexible Rostering in the face of the threat of closure and sackings by the British Railways Board and the Government is a complete abdication of the TUC's responsibilities to the whole of the Trade Union movement."

DE LOREAN OCCUPATION, BELFAST

This weekend, the occupation of De Lorean motors in Belfast which has been in progress since 26 May was temporarily halted to allow cars for the American market to be worked on.

But the threat of closure which prompted the occupation still hangs over the workforce and shop stewards say that, if at the end of the six week period, there are no guarantees of secure jobs, the occupation will recommence.

DENNIS TOURISH of Militant Irish Monthly spoke to JACKIE FITZPATRICK of the DeLorean Joint Shop Stewards Committee.

JF: "Early in February the company announced the need to limit production by laying off 1100 people. We had 2500 workers here at that time, and accepted these lay offs. We believed those laid off would get compensation under the Employment Protection Act but they didn't get a penny.

Things deteriorated rapidly, and on 18 February it was announced we would have to close altogether. A receiver was called in and paid our wages for a time while the hunt for an alternative buyer was started.

We believe that the company was underfinanced. You don't create a modern

car plant and a trained workforce of thousands on the cheap.

There was a lot of money in John De Lorean's American operation, which is run as a separate company from that over here. He had it well tied up, able to invest money in his American operation and leave the company here in jeopardy.

Exactly how much may have been transferred to his American operation we don't know. No information has ever been given to the shop stewards.

Political considerations have prevented the Government putting in enough capital or taking over the factory themselves. Tory monetarism means setting a level of public spending and if something goes beyond that you close it, whatever the consequences.

A report on the company by Coopers and Lybrands said it was viable with a slightly trimmed workforce. Even if it wasn't viable as a producer of sports cars our workforce and production facilities could switch to something else. But the Government doesn't seem to want to know."

Our occupation has had a great effect. Even if all our demands are not met the occupation has been a success. It has raised the trade union consciousness of all our

members, and also the sense of solidarity we feel with fellow trade unionists, particularly the health workers.

Unity between Catholics and Protestants has been an essential part of what we're doing. Both sections have been involved in the sit in and a lot of understanding has grown up."

MIM: There are negotiations with a consortium about taking over. But there will be no more guarantee with them than there was with De Lorean that your jobs would be secure.

JF: This is true. But every worker in a capitalist society faces these problems. It is unfortunate that the future and economic well being of working class people should be decided by Tory ministers and US whizz kids.

Jobs not redundancy payments is what we're after. Redundancy money runs out and you're left with the dole. At the same time if we do finish up with say 1000 workers we will insist on compensation for those made redundant. To day a week's wages in lieu has been our lot."

All messages of support and above all financial donations should still be sent to: De Lorean shop stewards committee, De Lorean Motor Company, Dunmurry, Belfast.



Harwich workers lobby the negotiations at Sealink's London HQ, 9 July.

SEALINK HARWICH: NO JOB LOSSES, NO WAGE CUTS

Harwich seamen are striking for their livelihoods. They have been forced into this position by one of the most "Hawkish" managements in the Public sector.

They are threatening that 250-300 jobs will go after December and that there is a 23% wage cut.

Services have already been reduced by the closure of the Harwich-Zebrugge route, and at the same time the services to the Hook of Holland have been nearly halved.

This is why over 500 NUS Members at Harwich are

now striking and occupying 6 ships in Parkestone quay. The 11/12 Maningtree T&G branch are refusing to cross picket lines.

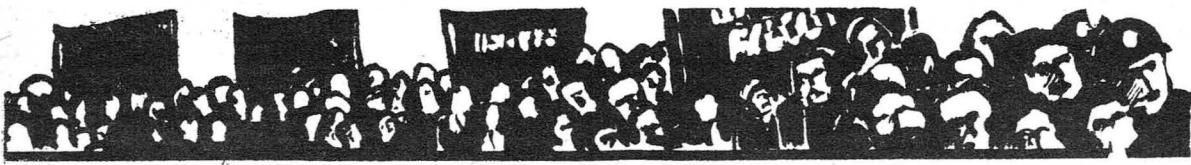
Support was pledged last Thursday by delegates of a National meeting of the National Union of Seamen.

NUS Port Committee Chairman Alan Petrie is confident that they are in a position now as never before to seriously approach the Dutch unions for international support. One prominent local NUS activist has been banned from Sealink premises under a selection of laws such as the 1840 Railways

Act and outdated shipping laws. Alan Petrie has described Sealink's behaviour as 'Rachmanism' when they are making a cool "50 grand" a day (over £1m every 3 weeks) in compensation for the St Edmund requisition by Thatcher for her escapade in the Falklands.

Messages of support and donations to strike fund are urgently needed! Please send to NUS 7 The Kingsway Dovercourt.

By EVAN PRITCHARD
& ANDY WHALES
(Colchester LPYS)



Industrial Reports

HEALTH WORKERS FIGHT ON

Swansea ≡ Bristol

"Maggie Thatcher doesn't know how much I hate her!"

Elsie Scott, NUPE shop steward for the domestics at Swansea's biggest hospital, told a Swansea LPYS meeting that in the dispute she is active from 5-30 in the morning to 6-30 at night, "without a mealbreak, mind you!" Every night there are more meetings because "we've got to stop that woman!"

Elsie spoke of the days before the NHS. You can't imagine it, you have to have experienced it. It was hard!" Elsie described how families ran up debts with doctors, going to ones who didn't know what was owed to the others, just to keep a loved one alive.

"When the National Health came in I was chuffed! It saved 2/6d a week out of my husbands wages. That was food for two days." Nye Bevan's policies had made a real difference to workers' lives. Now they are taking the last of that from us.

"As far as that woman's concerned, if the patients died off tomorrow, they'd be doing her a favour. We've got to have unity. We can't win on our own. What happened to ASLEF is disgusting. But it's Sid Weighell that's really lost, because he didn't even fight!"

Elsie insisted that pay was only part of the dispute. 60% of the issue is adequate funding for the NHS. This must be won. Elsie warned that the separate offer for the nurses is an attempt to split NHS workers, and is only concerned with pay. "Any nurses who go back for 7 3/4% aren't worth a light."

Elsie's experience is that most workers outside the NHS are supporting the action, but pointed out that individuals who spoke against it are gold-dust to the media, who always misrepresent workers' struggles.

Elsie praised the LPYS for their hard work on the picket lines and marches. The LPYS and AUEW Unit Superheaters have "done more than anybody to help the health workers." Now that Elsie had seen a YS meeting she knew that we aren't the monsters she had been led to believe, but the "most orderly of people." Elsie pledged her full support for the YS in the future, "Witch-hunt? Don't call it that! You're not witches!"

Elsie's message to the LPYS is "Don't change! But don't call that paper 'Militant'. Call it 'THE TRUTH!'"

By Julian Sharpe
(Swansea LPYS)

Paul Moorhouse of Bristol West LPYS spoke to **ELAINE TAYLOR**, assistant secretary of Brunel 708 Branch COHSE and a staff nurse at Bristol Homeopathic Hospital.

"As our action has continued management have become increasingly stubborn, for instance, stopping the bonus payments (vital for low paid workers) to 48 telephonists who have taken action. To show them we are not intimidated we organised a special day of action in support of these workers.

"Where I work, staff have been cut back, our requests for safety equipment are refused, even catering supplies such as teabags are limited so we have no leeway to give a cup of tea

to grieving relatives when a patient dies.

"The Health service is reeling under economies and privatisation. If we have another few years of Tory government, we shall have a definite two-tier system where Thatcher will get private treatment at the drop of a hat but the millions out of work will be forced back into an inferior system. That's what we are fighting.

"Support for our fight from workers like those at British Aerospace has been tremendous. I hope that after this dispute, Tebbit's bill will be in the dustbin where it belongs for trying to stop us showing our support for other trade unionists."

Hull

The three days of "intense industrial action" were extended to four in Hull with lab technicians striking on the Thursday while Laundry workers had a sit in on that morning in protest against the few scabs who had worked the previous day.

Earlier in the week, Drax Power Station was again brought to a standstill by flying pickets in nurses' uniforms. On Monday we leafleted local factories, and addressed NUPE Council workers at the Wilmington refuse tip who struck for 3 hours in support, leaving over two dozen dust-carts bumper to bumper unable to tip.

The next morning we spoke to the dustmen themselves, who voted overwhelmingly to strike from midday, and support our march in the afternoon.

In their orange overalls they were joined by the gasmen in their blues and delegations from most of the major factories in the city, swelling the march to over 2,000, the third massive demonstration in Hull in the last two months.

Speakers at the rally called for the TUC to give us more support than they had

Redhill

Over 250 NHS workers, supported by the local Labour Party and LPYS, marched through Redhill, Surrey, on 20 July. Support from the public was excellent with workers in offices, shops and a factory we passed stopping to come out onto the pavement to shout encouragement.

This was the largest labour movement march through the town in an area not noted for a history of trade union or Labour Party activity. Health Service workers in this area are determined to achieve their 12% pay claim despite com-

ASLEF, and call a 24-hour general strike of all affiliated members. In addition we want to see more Labour councillors and MPs on our picket lines to give us confidence that a future Labour government will treat us better than the last one.

CSSD workers at Castle Hill Hospital are now on indefinite strike, but the feeling amongst health workers in Hull is now that it's all or out or nothing.

Although the 3 days industrial action has been solid with increasing support from non NHS workers, the picket lines have been thinner and less optimistic than before, reflecting frustration with the protracted length of the dispute. The TUC Health Service Committee's call for 5 days action in nearly 3 weeks time could be "too little—too late."

Local stewards' and coordinating committees must step up the action immediately, and the TUC call a 24-hour general strike to win the full 12%.

By Alistair Tice
(NUPE Chairman, Hull Royal Infirmary)

ments that "the government's final pay offer is a fair one" by our MP George Gardiner—himself in hospital at the present time.

His assertion that "Certainly there is no more money to pay, unless the numbers of doctors, nurses and other staff are cut drastically" gains no favour from under-paid workers who recall the millions of pounds so recently 'found' to send the task force to the south Atlantic."

Richard Barnett, Secretary, Reigate Constituency CLP



Health workers on the march, 20 July. They are increasingly demanding a stepping up of action with emergency cover only.
Photo: Militant

Gillingham

A magnificent picket of over 50 on 19 July at Medway Hospital, Gillingham, including many "illegal" secondary pickets, turned away most non-essential staff and reduced cover to emergency only.

"Nothing has been stopped here that we think is emergency or absolutely essential, like medicine, but we have to make a stand. We're out here for a principle," said Jean Cane, a NUPE steward.

Some who did work went in because they simply could not afford to lose three days' pay, often being on as low as £57 a week. Some later took single days off as a gesture of solidarity.

Nine out of ten deliveries of non-essentials were turned back, and the few scabs had their numbers taken, to inform their unions.

The effectiveness of the picket owed a lot to the fact that NUPE and COHSE acted as one, showing the futility of attempting to divide health service workers.

On the Monday, nearly 2,000 construction workers from Isle of Grain Power Station struck in sympathy, and defied Tory anti-union laws by joining the pickets. When a reporter from "TV South" accused them of "inconveniencing the public" he was quickly reminded that they are part of the public, and only want to see their NHS colleagues get the reward they deserve.

The picket also saw

delegations from the NGA, SOGAT, UCATT, UCW and from NUR & ASLEF, who were keen to see no betrayal by the TUC leadership. Patients expressed support, one donating £5 to the Strike Fund, while two at a Chatham hospital joined the picket line still in their pyjamas!

Even the Police expressed sympathy. One wore a sticker saying "I support the hospital workers" and told pickets "personally you've got my whole support".

The pickets recognised the government as the enemy with its vicious anti-working class policies designed to boost profits. "They are definitely running down the National Health Service" said shop stewards Jean and Kathleen. "Management couldn't find any money for a new tin opener but they can buy new carpets, two cocktail cabinets full of drinks and a TV for the doctors' quarters.

"They refused to put a window in the X-ray room for 'security reasons', but put in a patio window for the doctors. Management accuse us of starving patients during the strike, but you should see the food they get. And they stick notices on left-overs saying 'contaminated, so do not touch' to stop staff getting any of it".

"One doctor broke a glass while he was eating and instead of getting another meal he took his plate to be X-rayed in case

any glass had got in it. That X-ray cost £15."

The management tried devious ways of breaking the stride. Non-essential supplies were smuggled in in private cars. They claimed supplies in the kitchens were running out and that a meat van, and a frozen food van had to be let through.

In fact they had known for weeks about the strike and deliberately did not lay in stocks, and in any case there was still plenty of dried food. After a vote of all pickets it was decided not to let meat and frozen food through the line.

In perhaps the worst "dirty trick" of all, they cut off the sick pay of NUPE steward Jean Cane, because she was on the picket, even though she had been off sick for quite a while before the strike.

Management threatened to give the unions "bad publicity" but, as Jean and Kathleen pointed out, "we always get a bad press anyway, so we don't care. We're out here for a principle".

After TV South broadcast a report of the picket on the Monday Jean Cane commented "it was a load of rubbish. They showed the interview they did with management, but they didn't show us putting our case! I'll never talk to them again".

By David Turner
(Gillingham LPYS)

Health strike... ALL OUT ACTION

VITAL

By Wayne Jones

The reports of the latest three days of action in support of the health workers' 12% pay claim show that the anger and determination to secure a living wage remains.

The government's contempt for the invaluable and essential job that health workers perform has been underlined by the offer of 10% to the police. This also exposes the Tories' hollow claim that nurses are a 'special case'.

Most workers have understood that it is the Tories' hard faced indifference to the health workers' demands that has caused the suffering to patients.

The Lancet, the authoritative voice of the medical profession has pointed out in its latest edition that government education cuts from university budgets, which prevent essential medical research, will have a far greater and longer reaching effect on patients and the service the NHS provides than the current dispute.

Nevertheless, as the reports also show, this mood cannot be sustained indefinitely on the present base of irregular selective action. Action must be stepped up now to indefinite all out action with emergency cover.

Yet another five days of action from August 9-13th, have been called by the TUC Health Service Committee but COHSE leaders have already made it clear that this will not mean an instruction to strike. But unless extended to all out action this will only lead to frustration and a loss of moral and confidence amongst many health workers.

This preparedness for struggle must not be allowed



Allowing only for emergency cover, the NHS workers must now be prepared to take all-out action to win their claim. Other workers will give them full support.

Photo: Andy Moore.

ed to dissipate in this way. Health workers have been reluctant to use the strike weapon because of the patients but the Tories have left little choice but to take this road.

If such action is not taken, a golden opportunity would be lost to defeat the Tories by mobilising the overwhelming working class support for the health workers.

But a great deal of this support is latent and left untapped because the TUC has not been prepared to give a firm directive to the affiliates. Magnificent as the solidarity has been, especially from the miners, it has only been a fraction of what is possible.

A massive national demonstration of health and other workers must be

organised to give a new impetus to the campaign following the five days of action. Having consolidated and lifted again the mood to fight the demonstration must be used to demand that the TUC launch a 24 hour general strike.

Every local strike committee, branch and shop stewards body involved in the dispute must inundate the health unions and the TUC with these demands to put unstoppable pressure on the TUC for decisive national solidarity action.

After the TUC decision not to support ASLEF it will only be the initiative from below and a massive wave of struggle building up a head of steam from the rank and file that can compel the TUC leaders to use the authority of the whole

official movement.

The Tories have shown in three years of attacks on the working class that they can be ruthless in the interests of the boss class. The leaders of the trade unions and the Labour Party must demonstrate clearly their commitment to fight in the interests of the working class so that the health workers score a victory for all workers.

But more than ever, mass pressure from the organised ranks of the working class must be exerted constantly to ensure that the power of the movement is successful.

- ★ All out now—with emergency cover.
- ★ National demonstration against the Tories.
- ★ Build rank-and-file solidarity.
- ★ 24 hour general strike.

the company. TBA claim the programme was one-sided but why did not TBA co-operate with the film?

Are TBA prepared to open the files and also to provide independent medical check-up for all who work there? These are some of the questions that must be answered. (see article p7)

factory but the official senior management line is that if anybody wants a shower it must not interfere with production and it must be taken in the workers own time.

In the aftermath of the documentary some TBA workers have inquired about redundancy. Some undoubtedly will leave

Asbestosis Cover-up

From page one

something like a spaceman with white disposable overalls, arms sleeves, hat, respirator and carrying out various tests on dust secretion, management agreed to fit an extraction system.

When someone starts at TBA they are given a booklet "what you should know about Asbestos and health" which admits in certain circumstances working with asbestos can be harmful to your health. Workers are given regular

lung function tests and X-ray checks.

However these tests are only taken once a year and the results are not given to the worker concerned! TBA are now beginning to move into alternatives to asbestos, such as glass fibre. This not only gives a nasty irritation to many workers but like asbestos it will take some years before the full dangers are known.

When glass is being used most workers like to take a shower afterwards. Facilities are provided at the

ONE JOB A MINUTE

From page one

manufacturing is expected to fall by a further 5% this year compared to 1981.

Not that the money is not always lacking: it is often spent overseas where there are cheaper labour markets to exploit.

Working class lads are expected to lay down their lives in defence of the 'national interest', in places like the Falklands, but upper class 'patriots' like Lord Matthews of Cunard are determined not to sacrifice a penny. For them the 'national interest' means only shareholders' profits.

The rate of exodus of investment funds has now reached the astronomical level of £4 billion a year.

Workers might like to contemplate what that means: for every 50 seconds that Thatcher takes to ruin the livelihood of a worker, one of her friends in Big Business is investing about £10,000 overseas.

The Tories and Big Business are throwing away the future jobs as well as the present. Even if the now optimistic forecasts of a one percent economic growth turns out to be correct for 1982, it will not stop unemployment from rising even higher.

Two thirds of school leavers will be wondering why they bothered to go right through with their education since they cannot get jobs. Whereas in the 1960s there were over 25,000 apprenticeships in engineering, for example, it is expected that this summer and autumn there will be less than 9,000 and many are being paid off before they are out of their time.

Set against this horrifying background, the measure announced by the Tory cabinet to 'alleviate'

unemployment are no more than palliatives. It is sick joke for one Tory Minister (Heseltine) to announce sweeping new cuts in local authority spending—inevitably leading to the loss of vital jobs—while on the same afternoon his sidekick (Howe) is announcing a scheme of 'community' work supposedly to take up some of the unemployed.

The suggestion to 'split jobs' will be met with bitterness and incredulity by workers. How does it benefit an unemployed worker to be given a part-time job? More to the point, how does it benefit a worker with a job to give up part of it?

The fact is that the Tory measures, like all their other measures to 'cut unemployment', are no more than statistical devices to take names off the unemployment register—to give the impression that the dole queue is shorter than it really is.

Workers have had enough of 'one-job-a-minute-Thatcher'. Every 50 seconds more of this Tory government is 50 seconds too long. The Labour and Trade union leaders have got a job to do and they must get on with it. The right wing of the labour movement should give up their efforts to expel good socialists from the Labour Party and concentrate their attention for a change on the Tories.

The Tories must be driven out. Workers need a new deal and they will not get it from the Tories or their system.

Only a Labour government, committed to fundamental socialist change, can offer a real future for working people: a future that does away with the anarchy of capitalism and the despair of unemployment.

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Papers for August

During the August holiday period, Militant will be published with a reduced number of pages. The issues of 6 and 13 August will be 12-page, and the 20 August issue will be 8-page.

There will be no paper on August bank holiday weekend (27 August) but the 16-page paper will return for issue 616 on 3 September which will cover the 1982 Trades Union Congress.

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