

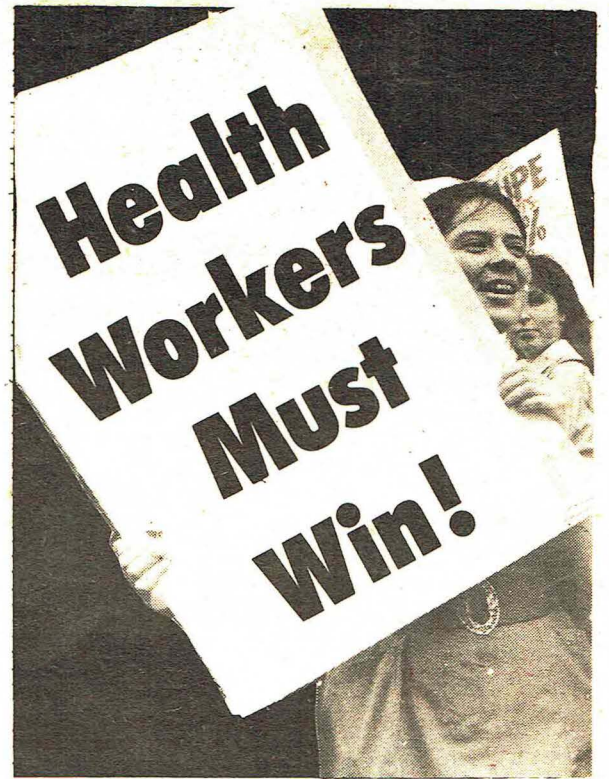
Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

3,343,075 REASONS FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES



See pages 19, 20

TGWU Executive Rejects Register

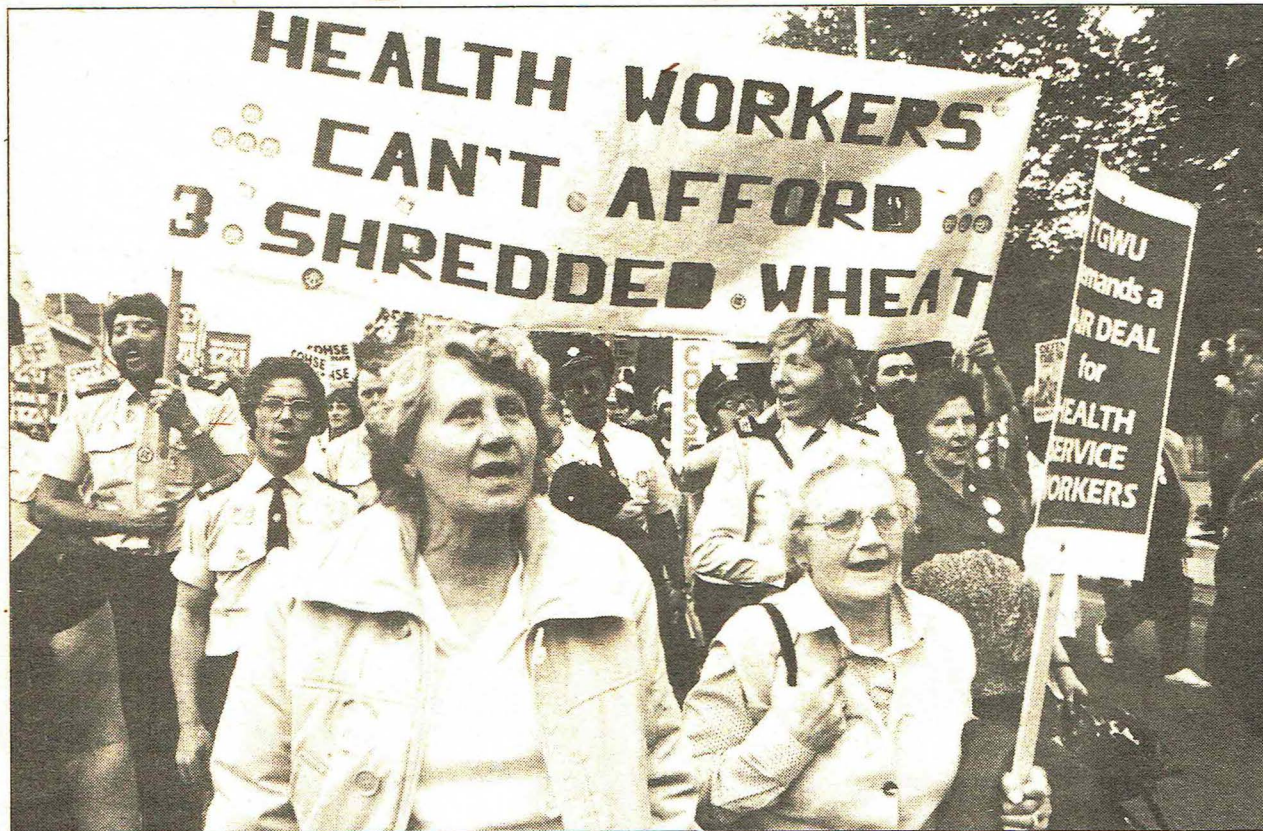
The General Executive of the Transport and General Workers Union voted last Tuesday to reject the Hayward-Hughes enquiry document that recommended the establishment of a register of non-affiliated groups. This important decision, by the Labour Party's largest affiliated union will be seen by Labour Party conference delegates as yet another indication of the fact that registers with their implication of expulsions and witch-hunts, will not be acceptable to the broad majority of Labour Party and trade union members.

of what can be achieved by Labour if it turns out to the electorate on a bold socialist programme.

It is traditional for the Liverpool District Labour Party to hold a pre-conference rally when party conference is held in Blackpool. This year the theme was 'Fight the Tories, not the socialists', and speakers included Tony Benn, local MPs and prospective Labour candidates. 20,000 leaflets were distributed.

The ranks of the movement want a fight against the Tories, not witch-hunts. This was clearly shown at the Labour Party rally in Liverpool on Tuesday night on the eve of the September 22 events. It was an example

It was the biggest rally ever—a tremendous 3,000 people attended the rally, not just activists but ordinary Labour voters. A magnificent £1,600 was raised for Labour Party funds. This is what can be achieved if Labour turns out to the people—instead of turning in on itself in a purge of the socialists who are building the party.



A small section of the 150,000-strong march of NHS and supporting workers in London

“I never buy any clothes. I never use the buses. Just use my bike.

And I only go out on Saturday to the pub and disco.”

Those four

sentences sum up the social life of teenager Berni Hannaby from Newcastle, who has been unemployed since she left college in July 1981.

Your teens are meant to be the best years of your life when you begin to shape out your future. In Thatcher's Britain '82, unemployed youth instead face an ever despairing cycle of mere survival on the dole, with little future.

The past year for Berni has been one of fruitless searching for work. She left college with two 'O' levels

and CSEs and a nursery nurse qualification. The first interview she had was for a child minder, including general cleaning and skivying. The wage? £18 a week.

Since last year, at the very least she has applied for about two jobs a month. More recently she wrote off to 15 jobs. The last interview

CONTINUED ON
BACK PAGE

Become a

Militant

Supporter

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 E8 3PN
Tel. 01 986 3828

Labour's Conference '82

FIGHT THE TORIES NOT THE SOCIALISTS

See inside pages 9-12 Labour Party Conference feature. Page 15 Lebanon Massacre.

Why Conference Must Reject Register!

The proposed register of non-affiliated groups in the Party must be decisively rejected by the conference. It will open up a Pandora's box of purges, expulsions and witch-hunts which will inevitably grow to encompass many groups and individuals on the left.

Some of the supporters of the register have couched their arguments in careful constitutional terms, but there is no doubt that the right wing of the Party are out to stifle ideas. "It is totally wrong," John Golding declared, "for supporters of Lenin and Trotsky to be standing as Labour Party candidates."

The hypocrisy of the witch-hunters was nowhere better expressed than in the breath-taking statement of Labour's Gower candidate Gareth Wardell, who said, "The Labour Party has become a more moderate and tolerant Party since last year; part of that tolerance is to get rid of those elements that believe in dogma."

But the attack on 'Militant' is not taking place in a political vacuum. On the contrary, it is the result of the movement of the party rank and file to the left over the last three years. It was the policies of the Right, Party members believed, which led to the massive disillusionment among Labour voters—something that still lingers to this day—and the 1979 election defeat.

Despite fundamental weaknesses in Labour's Economic Strategy (see centre pages), the demands for more radical policies in housing, health, foreign and defence policy, etc., shine through again and again. The Labour Party rank and file have become increasingly impatient for real social change and their expectations of the next Labour government are correspondingly high.

As if to emphasise their impatience, the grass roots of the party have won historic victories in bringing their leadership and Parliamentary representatives under greater democratic control. In the teeth of the most bitter opposition of the same people now launching the witch-

hunt, the membership won the right to re-select their candidates and, through the electoral college, to have the determining say in who leads the Party.

Politically, therefore, the right wing have been on the retreat since the general election defeat of 1979.

Some of the Right, of course, were not prepared to see 'their' party change, and they stabbed it in the back with the formation of the SDP. But other right wingers still in the Party have the same fundamental political outlook as those who deserted. They were in the same cabinet as the SDP leaders from 1974-79, they spoke on the same right-wing CLV (Campaign for Labour Victory) platforms and they shared the same views.

They have not left the Party, but they show the same implacable opposition to the leftward moves and the democratisation that have taken place. Like the SDP traitors, the right wing remaining in the party would sooner have the Party destroyed by purges and witch-hunts than have it become a genuine, mass-based socialist party.

Denis Healey and James Callaghan have already made it clear that they would be happy to see the Labour Party in coalition with the SDP after the next election. The Right are conscious of the fact that a Labour government with a clear majority would come under the unrelenting pressure of the rank and file to carry through lasting reforms—the party membership will not allow a re-run of 1974-79.

It is for that reason that the Right are launching their campaign against 'Militant' and the Left. They are not prepared to be a part of a genuine socialist government—they would defect themselves to the SDP rather than do

that—and they are trying to stamp out left-wing opposition to their "coalitionist" policies before it grows.

Despite being "against a witch-hunt" in words, Michael Foot, Neil Kinnock and others on the NEC will be supporting it in practice if they support the register. A right-wing dominated NEC will spare no effort to expel all those leading 'Militant' supporters they can, followed by the employees of 'Militant' followed by the PPCs who support the paper, followed by those members who sell and read the paper, followed by those who oppose other expulsions, and so on, and so on.

Later on, it will be Tony Benn who will be the scapegoat and in the end, Michael Foot himself. A witch-hunt will always develop a remorseless logic of its own.

Michael Foot, in his article in 'Labour Weekly' on 10 September, alluded to the French Socialist Party as one which had successfully operated a register. What he did not state was that there exists inside that party a bureaucratic and intolerant regime, which, for example, does not even permit its young socialists the right to elect their own leadership.

It would have been better if he had referred instead to the Australian Labour Party or the Italian Socialist Party where different currents and tendencies are freely tolerated.

It is already clear, even before the conference has approved the Hayward-Hughes report, how the right wing will interpret the register. It will be directed

only against the Left, while suitable loopholes will be available to the Right.

Already 'Militant' has been singled out: the paper has already been given until 21 September to register, while everyone else has been given until 31 December.

It has been made clear by the Right and by Foot himself that failure to register (and 'Militant' has already been told that it is, in fact, ineligible to register) will lead to expulsions. But what about other groups that fail to register?

At the recent NEC Organisation Sub-Committee meeting a decision was taken to refuse—for the moment—the application from the Labour Friends of Israel because it is financed from abroad. In the ensuing discussion about what would happen if they did not register at all, one NEC member remarked that



Alan Hardman 22/9/82

"they may have to be excluded from the Labour Party diary." Big deal.

But Jim Mortimer has made it clear that many right-wing organisations will not be required to register at all. His letter to constituencies stated that the register would not apply "to organisations which include both members of the Labour Party and persons who are not members of the Labour Party."

This leaves the Labour Party in the ludicrous position of banning groups that consist of long-standing, loyal and hard-working party members, yet tolerating party pressure groups that include Tory MPs, businessmen, international tycoons or representatives of the Pentagon.

The Labour and Trade Union Press Service, funded by NATO and including right-wing MPs and trade union leaders will thus not be expected to register. The British Atlantic Committee, financed by the Tory government, also includes Labour MPs and it also will be free from the requirement to register.

In other words, to campaign for socialist policies—even as an unregistered group of "friends" to use Jim Mortimer's own expression—is to court expulsion. But campaigning alongside the most bitter enemies of the Party, against Party policy, is deemed acceptable. The register will thus turn logic on its head.

Neither is there any truth to the argument that the register will bring about 'openness' in the Party. As has been said, the semi-

secretive right-wing groups will remain so because they will not need to register.

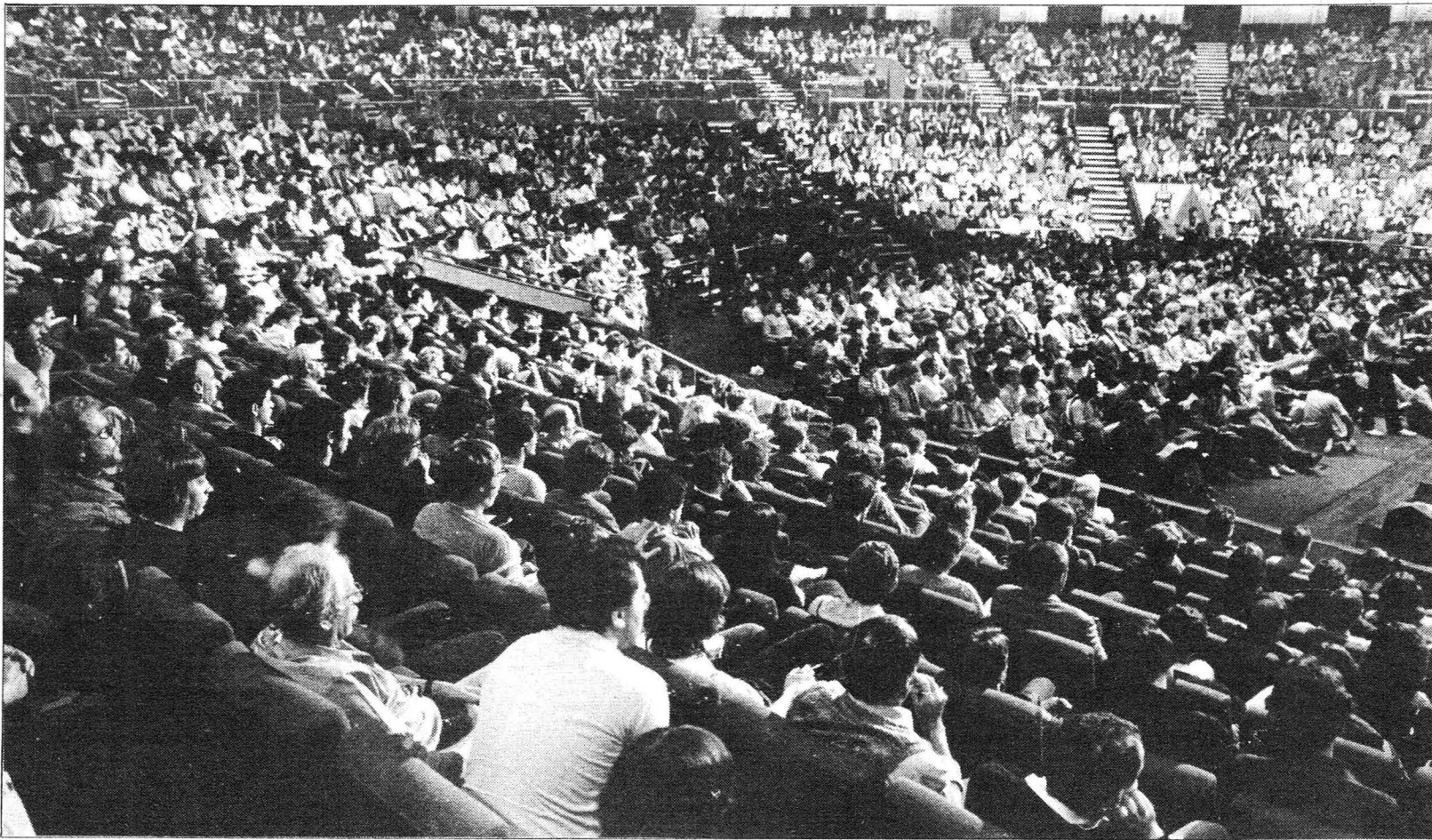
But even groups like the right-wing Solidarity will be dealt with secretly by the NEC. This group has finally admitted in its application to register, that it has members, separate finances and paid organisers. Yet when the issue was raised at the last meeting of the NEC Organisation Sub-committee it was made clear that the submission of Solidarity was to be "confidential". The mass of Party members will not see any new "openness" from Solidarity.

The overwhelming weight of evidence makes it abundantly clear that the register will be used to police only the Left of the party, while the right wing will carry on as before.

In the 1950s, the witch-hunts against the Bevanites, including Michael Foot, were a contributory factor in keeping Labour out of office for thirteen years. During those witch-hunting days, the right wing were fed secret reports on the Left by the regional organisers of the Labour Party—"MI5-style dossiers" as Ian Mikardo recently called them. If the right wing have their way, those totalitarian days would return.

The rank and file of the Party must therefore throw out the proposed register. The gains of re-selection and the electoral college must be defended; the moves to the left in party policy must be supported, and the attempt of the discredited right wing to decimate the party rank and file must be decisively rebuffed.

**CONFERENCE
MILITANT MEETING**
**'No Witch-hunt. A Socialist
Programme for Labour'**
**Tuesday 28 September
6.30 pm**
**The Pembroke Hotel
North Promenade**
Speakers:
Peter Taaffe (Editor)
Ted Grant (Political Editor)



Organised in the most difficult period, the Labour Movement Conference against the witch-hunt last week was nevertheless a massive display of rank and file opposition to the intended witch-hunt. Photo: Dennis Doran.

Scottish campaign against witch hunt

Glasgow's North British Hotel last week hosted the Labour Co-ordinating Committee (Scotland) pre-conference rally entitled 'Policies not proscriptions'.

Just over sixty people heard several leading left-wingers within the Scottish Labour Party outline their opposition to the introduction of the register.

Dennis Canavan argued that, "Party policies are being clouded over by the argument and debate on the register." He went on to attack the apparent double standards being applied to groups within the party. "It is groups on the left that are under scrutiny and not those on the right, for example the Bilderberg group with which

Denis Healey has been associated."

"It will be a sad day," he continued, "if certain tendencies are stamped upon because the NEC or other groups find their ideas unacceptable." Dennis concluded by pointing out that many of the present policies of the Party—for example unilateral disarmament—began as minority ideas supported by a minority of the Party.

Indeed, for many years, Michael Foot amongst others stood opposed to party policy on this issue.

Regrettably, the LCC (Scotland) had refused to have a 'Militant' speaker on the platform on the grounds that the level of political differences between the LCC and 'Militant' precluded the possibility of a united campaign.

It is unfortunate that the

'Militant' was therefore not given the opportunity to put across its point of view at what was otherwise a useful rally in the campaign to halt the witch-hunt.

By Stephen Wright

(LPYS Scottish Committee)

In central Scotland two of the three CLPs have passed resolutions totally condemning the witch-hunt of socialists from the Labour Party.

These two, West Stirlingshire and East Stirlingshire Clackmannan, have also decided, at their last GMC to refuse to comply with the register and send it back to the General Secretary.

The actions are being supported by Dennis Canavan, the West Stirling MP. He has taken up the matter in correspondence with Michael Foot.

While the right-wing of Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth CLP seem intent in conducting a witch-hunt of their own, there was a general feeling from the delegates to hear the Militant point of view. The next GMC will have Bob Wylie to put the Militant case.

Dozens of trade union branches and shop stewards committees have been contacted over the witch-hunt while TGWU (Stirling Automotive branch) have written to the TGWU Executive regarding the actions of Alex Kitson on this matter. Local party branches have come out against a purge, as have Stirling

District Labour Party and the Labour group on the council.

Militant supporters in Stirling have increased their paper sales and leafleting to advertise regular public meetings. To back this up we have organised what should be an excellent social night.

Hamish Imlach, one of Scotland's best known folk singers is appearing for us in an "oppose the witch-hunt" folk night. The venue is Stirling Miners Welfare and support is provided by local folk artists. The date for this event is Thursday 7th October at 8pm. (Tickets £1; phone (0786) 71445.

By Jim Newlands

(Stirling, Falkirk and Grangemouth)

Labour's victory in Gower

Labour's success in the Gower by-election will be welcomed by working people throughout South Wales. The Tory vote was decimated, cut by almost 6,000 votes from the general election.

Gwynoro Jones, the SDP candidate who ditched the Labour Party after failing to get the party's nomination, also had nothing to smile about after coming a poor second and not even "cracking the mould" in Wales.

Despite Labour's victory, its majority was reduced yet again to 7,200 and underlines the problems facing Labour in the run-up to a general election. As expected, Labour's extreme right wing in the form of Roy Hattersley, blamed 'Militant' for Labour's share of the vote dropping 10% compared with the last

election.

Far from being terrified of 'Militant', the electors in Gower hardly knew an election was taking place due to Labour's low-key campaign where Gareth Wardell, the Labour candidate, refused even to debate the party's policies against his Tory/SDP opponents.

On one of his many walkabouts the Labour candidate was accompanied by a local press reporter who was surprised that nobody questioned him over the activities of 'Militant' and "extremism". Mr Wardell had to admit that the question "only occasionally crops up".

The 'opposition' to 'Militant' was apparently so great in the Gower that at Roy Hattersley's election meeting over 30 papers were sold and at Michael Foot's meeting over 60 copies were enthusiastically snapped up.

But as Gareth Wardell

pointed out, he was a tolerant and moderate candidate, who had decided that after what he had read about 'Militant' he wants them all expelled from the party. Incidentally he added to the press, "I can confidently say there are no 'Militant' supporters in Gower."

This came as a bit of a surprise to 'Militant' supporters in the Gower villages of Reynoldston, Bishopston, Loughor, Penlleger, Pontardawe, Pontardulais, Gwaun-cae-gurwen and Gorseinon who had been out canvassing for Labour during the past weeks.

One older 'Militant' supporter who came to assist the campaign from Swansea canvassed for ten hours one day and was shocked to read in the evening paper on his arrival home that Mr Wardell wanted these "infiltrators" kicked out of the party.

Gareth Wardell joined the Labour Party in 1974. That particular 'Militant' supporter has worked for numerous elections for the party and has been a Labour Party member for over 50 years. In other words he has been infiltrating the Labour Party with his extreme views since 13 years before the Labour candidate was born!

The right wing's attempt to blame 'Militant' for Labour's poor performance in Gower will not carry any weight amongst the rank and file. Labour's right wing had the ideal candidate—a young university lecturer, parachuted in from another constituency to a safe Labour seat, campaigning on the witch-hunters' charter of expelling all 'Militants' and ignoring any references to socialism.

The lesson of the Gower is clear. Labour must not attempt to out-moderate the

SDP but must campaign on a bold socialist programme which will give the electorate enthusiasm to come out and vote. The localised lacklustre orientation of Labour's campaign was highlighted after the election result was announced.

When Swansea Sound radio asked the newly elected Gower MP for a victory message for his constituents, his reply was, "Drive home carefully, the fog is extremely bad!"

The only way Labour will get itself out of the fog is by defeating this witch-hunt against 'Militant' and by campaigning energetically for a socialist alternative to the Tories and their apprentices in the SDP.

By Alec Thraves

(Swansea AUEW, personal capacity)

LETTER FROM RON BROWN MP

To the Editor,
Militant

Dear Comrade,

Because I was speaking at a meeting in support of NHS workers I was unable to attend the special conference against the register. This must have also been true for other MPs who had similar commitments. The point I am making is that party activists at all levels are opposed to the right-wing's attempt to introduce a proscribed list in a new form—a move that can only divide and weaken the struggle against the Tories.

Keep up the fight.

Yours fraternally

Ron Brown MP (Leith)

"Peace breaks out"

"Peace broke out momentarily between Labour and the SDP last night in Bedford Square", wrote the Evening Standard gossip columnist last week. The occasion?—a cosy little soiree celebrating the launch of Hugh Stephenson's new book (He is editor of the New Statesman, at one point in danger of being taken over by the SDP-ites) on the rise of the SDP. Mingling among the guests, including SDP leader David Owen was our very own Roy Hattersley, enjoying himself along with the rest of them.

Bedwelty CLP spurns NEC lefts

The delegate to party conference from Bedwelty CLP, the seat of NEC member Neil Kinnock, has been mandated, we are informed, to vote in the NEC elections only for Neil Kinnock and Joan Lester. Obviously the majority of the delegates do not feel that the other lefts on the NEC or other left candidates are worthy of their support.

Michael Foot said...

"Socialism without public ownership is nothing but a fantastic apology." Daily Herald, Dec. 28 1956

"Is the Labour Party seeking power for the purpose of extending public ownership to such a degree that the nature of our society is seriously transformed? This surely, is what the possession of the commanding heights of the economy ought to mean." Tribune 1959

"Clause IV stands unimpaired and undiluted. That is the fact and no one can deny it." Tribune 1960

"I'm not in favour of any secret plan for taking over people's industries. I'm in favour of what HG Wells called the open conspiracy." Weekend World, September 1976

"There is nothing wrong with being a Marxist. Their point of view is essential to democratic debate." Daily Telegraph 1977

The 1982 Trades Union Congress in Brighton was the fourth to take place under the Thatcher government. Four years of increasing misery, hardship and the strain and poverty of mass unemployment.

Four million workers, which even the economic pundits admit is the real figure of out of work. Such is the Tories' twisted and bitter logic of 'economic recovery'.

It was against this backdrop of constant and unrelenting Tory attacks on living conditions and democratic rights that the 1,163 delegates representing 105 affiliated trade unions gathered.

Many important decisions and advances in policy were made, especially a clear decision to reject and fight against the Tebbit anti-trade union proposals, and a rejection of incomes policy.

The Tories realise they have to smash the unions to permanently remove the obstacle to their plans to drive down wages and conditions and boost profits for their paymasters in the boardrooms. Hence Tebbit.

But the working class have struggled and won gains such as the NHS, welfare services, and other reforms to ease the burden of capitalist inequality. They will never give these up without a fight.

This came across loud and clear to the government at the TUC, where a motion expressing 'outright opposition and resistance' to anti-trade union laws, to be primarily 'carried out industrially and not in the courts', was overwhelmingly carried.

"Ignore the law and if the Tories attempt to use it then defy the law" was how Arthur Scargill, to thunderous applause, summed up the attitude of delegates.

A landmark in the history of the TUC

The Conference decision, passed without dissent, to back a statement from the TUC General Council calling on union members to stop work for at least an hour on September 22, was rightly recognised, in the words of Geoffrey Drain, NALGO leader, as a "landmark in the history of the TUC. It is the first time since 1926 that the General Council has taken a lead in mounting an industrial dispute."

It is only this 'muscle' that will move the Tories. This has been made abundantly clear in the course of the Tories' rule. Reason, justice and negotiation are merely brushed aside as weakness by Thatcher.

But whilst this is indeed a landmark, it is one which has taken nearly four months to materialise. Furthermore, it is only by the magnificent tenacity of the health workers, in the most difficult circumstances, over a prolonged period, that has produced from below sufficient pressure on the TUC General Council to give a partial lead.

It has to be said that the fighting speeches from the rostrum and the feelings of the rest of the movement have not been given the leadership that is necessary in this dispute, a crucial one for the whole of the working class.

It is this apprehensive and hesitating approach that brings home the fundamental question before all workers—the burning need for firm and resolute leader-

ship to counter the uncompromising methods of the bosses' government.

As Ann Jones said, in giving fraternal greetings from the Brighton Trades Council to the Congress, "we want a leadership that is as loyal to our class as the Tories are to theirs."

The TUC leaders should have called a 24-hour general strike

Undoubtedly Len Murray and other trade union leaders want to see a successful conclusion to the health service battle and the earliest return of a Labour government. But the job of leadership is, once the feelings of the rank and file have been made clear, to direct this as forcefully as possible to bring the speediest conclusion.

Yet the General Council called on all affiliated "to give maximum support to NHS workers on that day" (Sept 22) but then called for "stoppages of at least an hour...some can do more. We shall welcome that."

Thus the responsibility for 'maximum support' and action is pushed back onto individual unions. An instruction should have gone out for a 24-hour general strike with full backing from the TUC and immediate and further action should the Tories attempt to victimise trade unionists from the smaller, weaker unions. Individual unions or sections must not be left to fight in isolation.

Many activists feel very frustrated at a leadership that says 'If you take action we will support you', but then when one section does take action, as ASLEF did, that support is not forthcoming!

It was this dilemma that created such a subdued mood at the Congress. Even the lobbies that take place every year outside the Congress were well down on previous years, as workers reflect on the setbacks and the victories that could have been won.

Yet the power of the trade unions remain intact. Despite mass unemployment the proportion of organised workers remains steady at 53 per cent of the workforce, with a total TUC membership of just over 11 million. This is a fall of over half a million in a year.

But the public employees were an exception, increasing their union membership. What a crushing refutation to those who claim that industrial action puts workers of joining a trade union. On the contrary, whilst the private sector has taken a battering, it has been public sector workers who have gone into struggle again and again, and by doing so have shown the attractive power of the trade unions as indispensable instruments in defence against the Tory attacks.

Move to end 'dialogue with the deaf' defeated

The irreconcilable interests between the ruling class and the working class

TUC The power is there - leadership needed

By Wayne Jones

also came to the fore in the debates around the economy.

An attempt by the left was made to end a 'dialogue with the deaf' inside the so-called consultation machinery of the National Economic Development Council. As Ken Gill of AUEW TASS quite rightly pointed out, "Cosy chats with your executioner are incomprehensible to our members."

It was clear that to leave the NEDC and other such bodies would be a further realisation that mobilisation not negotiation was the only way to win concessions from this government.

But the move was lost by two to one. The fact that on all fundamental issues the Tories had ignored completely the submissions of the unions and was trying to render the trade unions ineffective by law, did not convince the majority of trade union leaders.

Once again incomes policy was rejected and the

Incomes policy 'of any government' rejected

delegates refused to agree "to any discussions on pay restraint with this or any other government."

Far from a blow to the election of another Labour government, as Sid Weighell, NUR general secretary, stated, it is quite the opposite. Incomes policy under capitalism means one thing and one thing only—reduced living standards and increased profits. This was the irrefutable fact of life of the last Labour government and it was this that lost Labour the last election.

As Joe Marino, general secretary of the Bakers Union, explained, unless public ownership and democratic workers' control are introduced, then the bosses could continue to circumvent government policy

and deny reforms.

To achieve and fully implement the urgently needed reforms passed in the economic motions, such as a 35-hour week, retirement at 60, higher pensions, proper health and safety, more investment, a massive increase of public services and an end to unemployment, it would mean a fundamental change in society and the introduction of a socialist planned economy.

Despite right wing, democratisation will accelerate

More than ever now it will be up to the rank and file to impress its aspirations on the TUC leaders, especially as the General Council will no longer be democratically elected by the whole of the Congress at the conference. This will now be replaced

by a system of automatic representation of those unions with over 100,000 members, meaning that 83 unions of less than this figure will elect 11 places on to an enlarged General Council of 54 members. This will mean a shift to the right in the political outlook of the Council.

Nevertheless, it will only serve to accelerate the process of democratisation within the individual unions, as the members seek to ensure that their representative is accountable to their wishes.

Also the succession of Frank Chapple to President of the TUC is hardly encouraging to workers looking towards the TUC for leadership. However, despite these setbacks, the remorseless pressure of the crisis of capitalism will ensure that the building of a fighting democratic and socialist trade union movement will continue.

MIDLANDS WANTS MAGGIE OUT



The Burton-on-Trent leg of the Midlands Peoples Jobs Campaign march into Birmingham on Saturday. Photo: Militant

In unprecedented scenes, 1,000 workers massed outside the Longbridge plant to welcome the Hereford leg of the Midlands People's March for jobs. Led by the marchers, they broke into the Red Flag and Internationale and clenched fists.

"I doubt anything like this has happened since the general strike in 1926," said Midlands marcher Richard Evans.

Mike Higgins, another marcher, from Bromsgrove,

By John Woulfe

added, "It was a terrific response as the workers are on short time and face layoffs."

The five legs of the Midlands march, which set off last week to meet up for a mass demonstration in Birmingham city centre on Saturday, received support from local people all the way.

Chris Fernandez, marching on the Derby leg, said, "We received a pretty good reception all the way, except when we passed out-

side Repton public school. There was a lot of mickey-taking, but the public school boys couldn't get the better of us.

"Even the police, at least on our leg, were quite sympathetic. One policewoman told me she had been unemployed for a year before joining the force, so she knew what we were going through. Although she enjoyed the job, she agreed it was really the only route left open for her."

But while the issues were quite plain to people who met and applauded the march, the organisers of the march, led by West Midlands TUC, carried their efforts to keep the march "non-political" to ridiculous

lengths. On some legs, marchers were angered by being made to sign a statement pledging that they would not sell 'political' papers, wear 'political' badges or even chant 'political' slogans! The now traditional slogan of 'Maggie—out' was changed to 'Maggie, Maggie, Maggie—jobs, jobs, jobs!'

Fortunately when the march reached Birmingham and was joined by 1,000 for the mass demonstration, the chants and cries of the people made it clear to the TUC organisers what they wanted. They didn't expect Thatcher to give them jobs, the past three years have proved that: they wanted Thatcher 'out, out, out!'

SUPPORT OCTOBER 16th YOPS DEMO

Following the riots that shook the cities of Britain last summer the LPYS—in an attempt to channel the energies of youth into the labour movement—launched the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign.

The 1982 NEC report praises the work of YTURC. It says since the campaign was launched, "nearly 20,000 YOPs have been recruited into trade unions".

The LPYS are further congratulated for organising "the highly successful mass lobby of Parliament on Thursday, 25th February, when over 3,000 young people from all over the country gathered at the Festival Hall, London. "In connection with the lobby, a delegation of six met employment secretary Norman Tebbit and presented him with a declaration agreed by the rally denouncing his so-called 'New Training Initiative.'"

"The campaign has undoubtedly played a major part in forcing Tebbit's retreat in his original proposal for a compulsory £15 a week scheme."

The need for union organisation on YOP schemes was bought home in March when the accident figures for the previous nine months disclosed that 2,652 accidents were reported on YOP schemes; 32 trainees lost part or all of a finger, toe or foot, 34 suffered eye injuries and 453 sustained fractures.

Five youth died in accidents on their schemes in these nine months.

These youth were not even entitled to the government death grant of £30 because they didn't have 25 paid up insurance stamps.

Sandra Butchart was a YOP trainee at 'Camperdown Zoo' in Dundee; tragically she was killed in a road accident. Her mother, on finding out she wasn't entitled to a death grant, wrote to Mrs Thatcher summing up the family's feelings;

"We feel there is something very wrong with a system which can allow young people to be written off in this way."

It is to end this type of tragic situation that delegates should support resolutions 289, 290 and 292 which call for measures, including union rates of pay and guaranteed jobs for all YOP trainees, that would offer youth a future.

The LPYS is the most outgoing campaigning section of the party. Last year over 1 million leaflets were produced nationally by the LPYS National Committee against the Tories and SDP.

The Young Liberals conference met at the same time as the Young Socialist conference over the Easter weekend. They of course gained more publicity, despite the fact that while only 50 attended the Liberal conference, over 2,000 young people attended the biggest and best LPYS conference ever.

The NEC report outlines

how the LPYS has grown in recent years. "There are now 483 branches, compared with 465 in 1981, 444 in 1980, 416 in 1979, 395 in 1978 and 356 in 1977. Active membership of the LPYS is now over 10,000 for the first time in nearly 20 years."

An indication of the response socialist ideas will get from youth was given when over 500 young people applied to find out more about the LPYS, within 24 hours of seeing the Labour Party broadcast "On behalf of the Youth of Britain."

Labour's youth have shown how socialist ideas will build the party.

The LPYS and YTURC are again stepping up the fight against the Tories and to get youth organised in the labour movement. There has been no let up in the Tories' attempts to force youth into 'industrial conscription' on to the YOPs and other schemes.

The latest 'scheme', the New Youth Training scheme, will employ 350,000 by September '83. It will use young workers as cheap labour throwing older workers on the dole. David Young, the MSC chairman, in charge of the scheme explained how it worked, to a meeting of employers:

"Here is an example, an employer takes on five young people. Two of them are normal intake and three of them are extra. He gets five times £1,950 which equals £9,750 per head. And all five can play a productive part in the activity of the company. To my mind there is no work-experience better than work itself."

The Labour Party Young Socialists are at present organising a national Youth Against the Dole demonstration in Liverpool, on October 16th (see this page).

We have national backing from the NEC, as well as CPSA, NUPE the Bakers Union, TGWU No 6 Region, Yorkshire NUM, as well as hundreds of unions locally.

Almost 1 million leaflets have been produced for the demonstration including special leaflets aimed at black youth, young workers, healthworkers, YOP trainees and 16-18 year old students. Branches are campaigning up and down the country organising cavalcades, recruitment caravans, days of action, public meetings...the list is endless. It is through campaigning on the streets and in the workplaces that the LPYS is building amongst youth.

While the right wing are calling for witchhunts and expulsions, the LPYS nationally aim to recruit 5,000 young people to the party in the next month.

Delegates can best step up the fight against the Tories and the witch-hunters by fully supporting the Youth Against the Tories demonstration.

GIVE YOUTH A FUTURE!



YOPsters and LPYS members pack out the Festival Hall, London, on 25 February, during the highly successful YOPs Lobby of Parliament. Photo: Militant

All systems go for D-Day

The build up for the October 16 demonstration is gathering momentum.

A successful week-end school held by Northern Region LPYS worked out plans to get youth to the demo. Already six coaches have been booked but the 90 people who attended the school were confident they would quickly be filled and more coaches required. The School also included a delegation of Northumberland miners, who were enthusiastic by what they saw at the school and intend coming on the demo.

In Glasgow LPYS members have booked a 'magic bus'—an open air double decker decorated with banners and red flags and music. They intend to travel around different estates organising street meetings and canvassing door to door signing up youth.

In South Sheffield, after LPYS members spoke, a youth club decided to book 25 places to the demonstration.

Union support is proving to be fantastic. TGWU 5/447 branch sent us £10, TGWU 5/440 branch £25.

Health workers received the special leaflet appealing for support for the demo enthusiastically. Undoubtedly the links that the LPYS have built up with healthworkers will result in scores of delegations from hospitals coming to the demo.

Thanks also to the WWA (Weavers, Winders

By Militant reporters

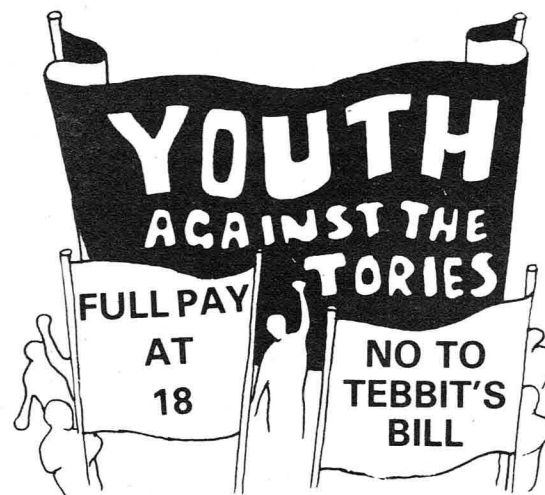
and Wappers Association) in Blackburn who sent us £20.

Yorkshire NUM have booked two coaches (see letter). In Humberside the LPYS have booked coach space for over 200 and one branch in East Hull has raised over £400 from union donations.

In West London the EMI shop stewards committee are sending a delegation to Liverpool and sponsoring unemployed youth who want to go.

With less than 4 weeks to D-day (Demonstration day) if your LPYS branch hasn't yet contacted union branches and factories for support, then don't waste any more time—start arranging visits now!

LPYS Labour Party Conference Meeting



Thursday 30 September, Imperial Hotel Ballroom, 7.30 pm. Speakers: PAT WALL, LAURENCE COATES (LPYS representative on the NEC)

Yorkshire miners back march

The Yorkshire area of the National Union of Mineworkers sent the following reply to LPYS National Committee member John Goodby, after he approached them for support for October 16:

Further to your letter of the 19 August, I am very pleased to inform you that this had the consideration of my Council Meeting held on Tuesday 31 August, when the following minute was passed:

"That after a full discussion on this matter it was agreed that two buses shall be booked to convey our newly-appointed young committee members to this demonstration, under the control of two Executive members from each of the four Areas. The General Secretary to also circulate branches urging other young members to attend this demonstration and that if there is, as a consequence, a reasonable response, then permission to engage extra buses is hereby given."

I trust you will find the Minute self-explanatory and we are arranging accordingly.

Yours sincerely,
O. Briscoe
General Secretary
Yorkshire NUM

WAVERTREE CLP greets the 1982 Labour Party Conference
We believe the Party should embark on a programme of fighting Tories, not socialists within its ranks

Blackpool South CLP welcomes Conference delegates
No proscriptions
No witch-hunts

Fraternal greetings to Labour Party Conference from Militant supporters in Southampton Labour Party Young Socialists

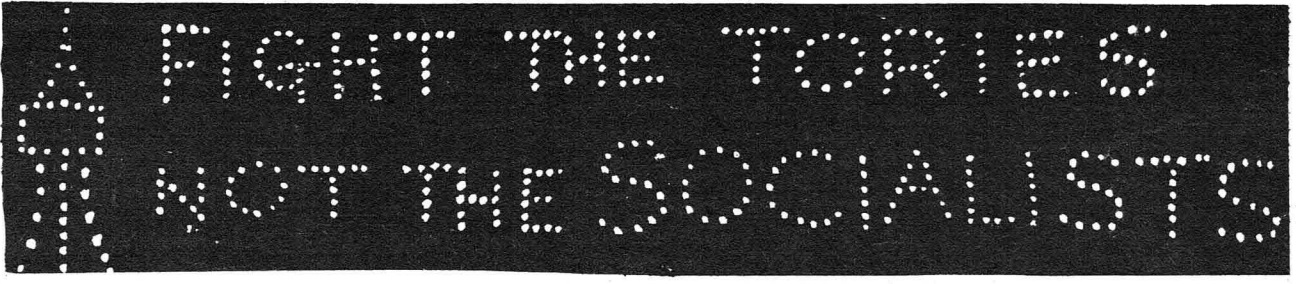
Grimsby and Cleethorpes LPYS say Give youth a future Fight for socialism

Bognor LPYS greets delegates Labour without socialism will always be in opposition

WOKINGHAM CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY send fraternal greetings to conference Forward to socialism

North Fylde LPYS Defeat the witch-hunt! For a socialist Labour Party!

Isle of Wight LPYS/ Newport and East Cowes Labour Party Branches demand: Fight the Tories not the Socialists



Manchester Wythenshawe LPYS
He who has the youth, has the future
Defend Militant!
Defend LPYS!

Southern Region LPYS Committee greets Conference
★ Stop the witch-hunt
★ Pat Wall & Terry Fields for the NEC

Support the witch-hunt Hunt the witch at No 10 Harlow LPYS

Tower Hamlets LPYS say 'No prison, no fines for trade union activities.' Smash Tebbit's Bill

TENANTRY BRANCH BRIGHTON LABOUR PARTY Welcomes Labour Party Conference Fight the Tories not the socialists

Wokingham LPYS send fraternal greetings to Labour Party Conference Outlaw the Tories!

Labour's Conference '82

Fraternal greetings from Tameside and Oldham Militant supporters

Keith Albison
Teresa Bond
Roy Cheetham
Terry Malpas

John North
Bob Pounder
Abdul Rashid
Reg Sidebottom

Eddie Thorpe

Fraternal greetings to comrades at LP Conference
Defend the Militant!
Build Labour's Youth!
Attack the Tories!

Mick Whale (NC); Harriet Stevens (Avon);
Brendan Kelly (Avon); Theo Simon (Devon);
Dave Staples (Gloucester); Tom Harman (Devon);
Ron Hodgetts (Somerset);
Steve Coward (Dorset); Steven Smith (Wiltshire)

South West Labour Party Young Socialists Regional Youth Committee

Littlehampton Labour Party says our slogan for the next election is **EXPULSION OF TORIES, RECRUIT SOCIALISTS!**

Sunderland Militant supporters greet Labour's Conference

Ryde Branch Labour Party greets fellow socialists at Conference
No witch-hunts
No registers

No witch-hunts fight the Tories not socialists!
Gosport LPYS

MILLBROOK WARD SOUTHAMPTON CLP
United we stand, divided we fall
No expulsions

Sheffield Labour Party Young Socialist branches send fraternal greetings to 'Militant'
No expulsions!
No registers!
Witch-hunt the Tories!

Fraternal greetings from **THORNTON-CLEVELEYS Labour Party**
Unite to defeat Thatcherism

Marine Branch Brighton Labour Party say 'No to the Register'

Greetings to all delegates Youth looks to Labour for socialist policies, not witch-hunts. Give youth socialist programmes, not pogroms
Littlehampton LPYS

Conference greetings from **Coleraine Young Socialists**
Protestant & Catholic workers unite to end sectarianism
Forward to socialism

BILDON WARD (Shipley) greets Conference and calls for no expulsions of socialists from the party

More conference greetings on pages 8 and 13

COVENTRY SOUTH EAST LABOUR PARTY
Defend the right of constituencies to choose their own candidates

Sunderland North and South LPYS
Fight the Tories not socialists
Conference must reject any witch-hunt

Greetings from **LINACRE BRANCH, BOOTLE CLP**
Build a mass socialist Labour Party
Kick the Tories out

BROCKHURST WARD, GOSPORT:
Reject the Register, fight the witch-hunt!

CALE GREEN BRANCH STOCKPORT SOUTH CLP
Greetings to socialists everywhere
No expulsions!
No witch-hunts!

WASHINGTON MILITANT SUPPORTERS send fraternal greetings to 1982 Labour Party Conference
NO WITCH-HUNTS!
Fight the Tories, not the socialists

Greetings to Conference 1982 and to all comrades committed to socialism
CHILDWALL WARD LABOUR PARTY

Greetings from **Brighton Labour Party Kemp Town and Pavilion CLPs**
Workers of the world unite!



**Support Party policy
Let's work together to get
Britain out of the EEC**
**Richard Balfe Alf Lomas
Richard Caborn Tom Megahy
Barry Seal**

The 'Red scare' is nothing new

The distorted quotations used to smear Pat Wall, and 'Militant' supporters in general, with advocacy of violent revolution are not new.

Exactly the same 'red scare' allegations were made by the Tory press against Professor Harold Laski, the academic Marxist chairman of the Labour Party NEC, during the 1945 election.

Laski was accused of advocating violent revolution after an election rally at Newark in June 1945. The allegations were made first in a local paper working in collusion with the Conservative electoral agent who had heckled Laski at the meeting. They were then taken up by the *Daily Express*, which also took charge of the defence of the paper against the libel action taken out by Laski.

Despite the fact that both

By Ian Hunter
(Sacrison Labour Party)

the papers and the Lord Chief Justice kept saying that this was not a political trial, Laski was fiercely grilled for his political opinions. The papers' defence was that they were not guilty of libel even if the jury decided that the words quoted had not actually been spoken—because, they claimed, they were the sort of thing that could have been expected from Laski! And this defence succeeded—the papers were found not guilty and costs were awarded against Laski.

This was the 'Daily Express' lawyer in action; "Look at him... You know that some people can be very rude to others... They can

sneer at some of our old institutions which have been the glory of our Empire: Law, Justice, all that we hold dear. He thinks nothing of them... why does he want to go and hurt people by saying things like that."

But what was it that Laski was saying?

In court he retorted to his inquisitors, "I have argued consistently through all (my) books that opposition to a Labour government is an opposition that will come from the right... if a change in Great Britain from capitalism to socialism could be accomplished by constitutional means, no one would be happier at that result than I. But I fear that on the record of history such a change is unlikely."

"...the State is, by nature, an instrument of coercion used by the class which owns economic power to impose its outlook on the community... there is no evidence to show that such a class peacefully abdicates from the possession of State-power."

"Those who say that the working class does not want revolution are perfectly

right. But it does desire economic security and an increasing share in the gain of living. It will not consent to the surrender of its expectation of these without using its power to pursue an alternative road."

"Socialists must strive with all their power to secure by peace the purposes of Socialism, but they must not rely on the possibility that in all cases peace will be preserved. In the event of peace being threatened it is desirable to be prepared beforehand."

"Pretty clearly, a Labour government, if it meant business, would have to take emergency powers to deal with any financial or industrial sabotage. Let anyone consider for a moment the mood in which crisis like Ulster or the General Strike were approached by men such as the late Lord Birkenhead or Mr Winston Churchill, and he will find it difficult to insist upon the certainty of peace."

When have these questions been put more clearly by a front-line Labour spokesman? And, this page of history answers those today—not just the Tories but their echoes in the Labour Party—who would question the validity of Marxist analysis and perspectives as a legitimate current in the Labour Party.



So now we know

Ever wondered why the Young Conservatives are reluctant to meet the LPYS in public debate? Perhaps the Bath LPYS have the answer. They challenged the YCs to a public debate and received this reply: "...there was a time when a debate would have been of use to the electorate, but now with the drift of the Labour Party to the left being so pronounced, there cannot be any joining of minds... the era of Butskellism or consensus politics which was once said to have existed between our parties has now disappeared, with the lurch to the left that has taken place in the Labour Party... One of the main functions of belonging to a political party is to persuade the electorate of our cause. It is our belief that there are more positive ways of doing this than to debate with your group." So now we know.

TORIES TURN ON UNEMPLOYED

How far will this Tory government go to track down social security 'fiddlers'? Earlier this summer, three fearless social security investigators launched a spectacular raid on the Isles of Eigg, Rhum and Canna.

For the mere sum of £500 they took off in a hired helicopter, to swoop (not snoop) on the claimants on the Islands. The ferry to Eigg costs £5 return!

The raid was successful. A crofter on Eigg was discovered to be claiming £1.60 per week more than he should have been. The crofter has since died.

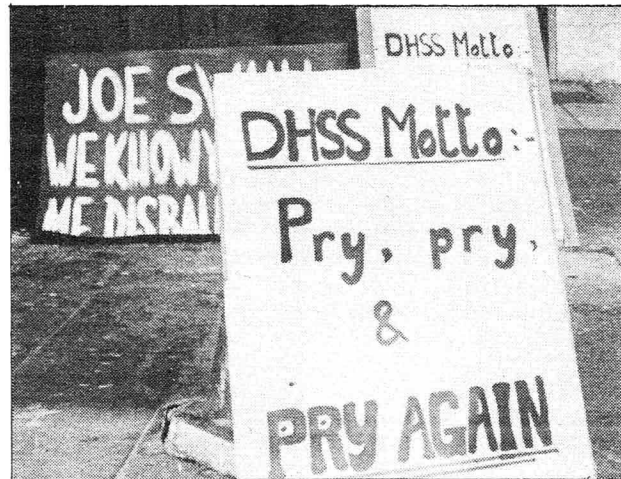
Last month, 40 people were arrested in Bournemouth for alleged Social Security frauds. The recent arrest of 286 people in Oxford should set the alarm bells ringing for the whole of the trade union and labour movement.

The Tories want to make people afraid of claiming the benefits they are entitled to. Its another way of cutting public spending and making workers scared stiff of the dole.

The claimants arrested in Oxford were denied their basic legal rights. Those arrested had their finger prints and photographs taken.

The 'New Society' quotes one woman who had gone down to the bogus DHSS office, set up by police in a school, not to claim but to look for the man she lived with.

"As soon as I got inside, I could see he wasn't there, so I turned to leave and this bloke said 'You can go out this way if you like'. I went the way he said, and sudden-



Placards placed by claimants outside the Archway DHSS office last week. Archway has been chosen by the Tories' 'new' Fraud Squad—the Special Claimants Commission—from which to carry out their operations.

ly I was surrounded by policemen.

"They asked where my giro was. I said I hadn't got one, I'd come looking for my friend. It made no difference. I was still arrested and photographed. The place was crawling with policemen. There were police dogs in the yard."

The 'Daily Mirror' reported that one claimant, Michael Connolly, rushed from his doss house in Oxford to his home in Wigan as soon as he heard that his mother was very ill with breast cancer.

After two weeks he returned to Oxford, where he was looking for work, to be one of the 286 arrested.

He admitted not telling social security of his change of address for those two weeks, and therefore receiving £67.20 on false pretences. The Oxford magistrates said they would treat him mercifully because of his clean record and the special circumstances. They sent him to prison for 21 days.

Claims that there was a massive organised 'swindle' in Oxford, totalling as much as £1.5 million, are fraudulent themselves. A survey issued by the Oxfordshire branch of the National

Association of Probation Officers following the arrests, revealed that the cases taken to court involved a series of relatively petty fraudulent claims by a particularly vulnerable group of homeless people.

The real swindlers have apparently got off scot-free—the greedy landlords that exploit DHSS claimants to the full. The Campaign for the Homeless and Rootless, (CHAR) has been campaigning for years against what it calls "the unscrupulous funding of Rachmanism by public money"

Paddy Coulter of CHAR explained in 'New Society' that, for example, lodging charges, which are high to begin with, in comparison with 'fair rents', can be augmented by crowding several people into one room. In one place at Shepherds Bush, five people were found to have been sharing a single room and paying £25 each which they paid from their Social Security.

The DHSS discriminate between those who have an address and those who do not. A claimant of no fixed abode is entitled to £18.60 per week for daily meals. But those with an address can

claim up to £67 per week, although in practice most of these claimants get no more than their meals plus £7.70 for accommodation i.e. £25.20 per week.

A landlord who offers an address takes a rake off of about £10 per week out of the claimant's benefit. One boarding house landlord in Oxford was said to be making £2,000 per week out of such payments. Many landlords charge about £5 for a letter to the DHSS to verify a claimant's address.

The real scandal is not that some claimants may have claimed a few pounds more than they were entitled to, but the fact that they are homeless or living in terrible overcrowded conditions, not to mention being unemployed.

But it is hypocrisy for the Tories to claim they are 'protecting public money'. Besides the fact that those sent to gaol will 'cost the taxpayer' more than if they were paid a decent rate on the dole, what about the millions lost through tax evasion? It is estimated that a third of British companies—200,000—break company law every year by not filing accounts. Have we seen the prisons packed full of company executives? No chance—in 1979 for example only 823 directors were taken to court, being fined an average of £228!

The Tories have recruited 1,000 extra SS fraud investigators to prevent fraudulence amounting to, they claim, £50 million. Yet the Society of Civil and Public Servants have estimated that if 1,000 extra staff were put in Customs and Excise, between £300-400 million lost through tax evasion could be recovered!

It is not the unemployed who should be on trial. It is Thatcher and along with her all those well-fed, sponging parasites of the bosses' class who should be in the dock.

Tories back workers' control?

"This Conference calls on the government to give to the unions lock, stock and barrel the nationalised industries with the words 'Now you make it work'." This is the conference resolution from the Manchester Blackley constituency... Conservative Party! Observant readers may have noticed the Tories' customary light satirical touch.

It's difficult to imagine Thatcher "giving" anything to the working class. 'Militant' supports nationalisation with minimum compensation on the basis of need. The Tories' idea of nationalisation is with maximum compensation on the basis of greed. They might try to sell the industries to the unions.

If workers really did control the nationalised industries, not Tories, businessmen and bureaucrats, just think of the effect of exposing the way nationalised industries are used by private industry for their own ends. No more cheap transport for the bosses, no more Edwardes and Parkers to 'experiment' with union-bashing and flexi-rostering. It would be enough to make the Tories lose their sense of humour.

Meanwhile in Strasbourg...

Gloucestershire county council intend to axe the provision of school meals in their primary schools. Poorer children at present receiving free schools meals would be provided with a packed lunch bought from private firms. Meanwhile in Strasbourg a champagne party is being held to celebrate the European Parliament's 30th anniversary. Cost—£70,000. Perhaps they are hoping to reduce the wine lakes?

50 YEARS AGO

The 1932 Labour Party Conference provides a useful lesson for those 'left-wingers' who argue that there should be a register of groups within the party. In October 1932 a circular announced the establishment of the Socialist League. Signed by Tawney, Cripps, Atlee and Laski, (amongst others,) it stated: "The purpose of the organisation is to unite in its membership active socialists within the Labour, trade union and co-operative movements for the following purposes: a) to work out the practical details of a comprehensive socialist policy b) to press for their adoption as part of the Labour Party's programme c) to work for the election of a Labour government which will carry them into effect d) to work as members of their trade union and co-operative societies."

The Socialist League was tolerated for a time; Atlee and others quit it, but when the right-wing felt strong enough they turned round and banned it expelling its members. The same would happen to groups to-day who registered.

Fraternal greetings from SWANSEA BRANCH POEU MILITANT SUPPORTERS
No to the witch-hunt! Fight the Tories not the socialists!

From supporters of 'Militant' in Port Talbot Branch, Tobacco Workers' Union
 Introduce socialism, not witch-hunts

'Militant' supporters in Cardiff South East CLP (home of Witch-hunter General Callaghan and the National Organiser of 'Solidarity') extend fraternal greetings to unregistered socialists everywhere
 ★ No links between Labour MPs and Merchant Bankers

Fraternal greetings from Neath LPYS
 Stop the witch-hunt now!

SWANSEA NALGO SUPPORTERS send socialist greetings
For a one-day general strike United we stand Tories out!

Kick the Tories out—not socialists!
 MILITANT READERS IN EBBW VALE AND TREDEGAR

CYNLAIS AND YSTRADGLYNAIS Ward Militant supporters send fraternal greetings to Conference
Forward to Socialism

Fraternal greetings from Ystradglynais District Labour Party to conference
 A fight against the witch-hunt is a fight against the Tories

Fraternal greetings from Aberystwyth LPYS
 The Tories will always be lower than vermin

EBBW VALE LPYS Defend 'Militant' Purge the Tories!

GOWER CLP MILITANT SUPPORTERS

send fraternal greetings to LP Conference and wish to announce that contrary to rumours of their demise we are still there fighting for socialism

Fight the Tories, not the Socialists

YMLADDWCH Y TORIAU, NID Y SOCIALAIDD
 Labour Party Conference Greetings
 CYFARCHIAD CYNHADLEDD
 PLAID LLAFUR



TOWER COLLIERY NUM SOUTH WALES

calls on delegates to stop the witch-hunt

★ Fight the Tories — not the socialists

★ Only socialism can provide a future

Militant supporters in GOWER CLP call for a fight for the election of a Labour government committed to socialist policies

South Branch (Cardiff SE CLP) send fraternal greetings to socialists everywhere on the eve of Labour Party Conference

Fraternal Greetings to delegates from the Welsh Labour Students Regional Committee
 Defeat the witch-hunt!
 Forward to socialism!

West Wales USDAW Militant supporters
No witch-hunt Fight the Tories on socialist policies

Fraternal greetings from Cardiff North LPYS
 'Fight the Tories not the Socialists'

Fraternal greetings to delegates from TGWU 4/117 branch, Gorseinon

★ Fight the real witch, Thatcher
 ★ Leave Militant alone

No witch-hunt For a socialist NEC Bedwelty Militant supporters

Swansea LPYS asks Conference to fight the Tories and support trade unionists in struggle

Cardiff South East LPYS send fraternal greetings to all unregistered socialists at '82 Conference—no to expulsions—we will fight on—take heed Jim!

SWANSEA Militant supporters say 'No expulsions, no persecution, fight the real enemy! Fight the Tories and their class!'

Fraternal greetings from NEATH AUEW MILITANT SUPPORTERS

Swansea Ford Militant Supporters
 Ford workers everywhere support Militant
 ★ No witch-hunts
 ★ Fight the Tories

LLANELLI Militant supporters
 Defeat the register We need socialist policies, not witch-hunts!

Expel the Tories not the activists
 RHYL AND DISTRICT LPYS

WEST WALES AUEW BROAD LEFT

Rank and file engineers oppose witch-hunts. For a socialist leadership in the AUEW and the Labour Party

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Emergency! Save the NHS

Last week some of Thatcher's most obnoxious advisers unveiled their vision of the future of the National Health Service. If they have their way it won't have one.

The Central Policy Review Staff (The Think Tank)

presented to the cabinet proposals for spending cuts which apart from ending government subsidies for all higher education and cutting back on the few halfpennies paid in social security they recommend complete abolition of the NHS, replaced by health insurance schemes.

This week, the working class get a chance to put forward a real alternative to this Tory hell. There are over seventy resolutions at Labour Party conference on the NHS after a year of cuts, growing private medicine and of course five months of the pay dispute.

Hardly any area can have escaped at least the threat of cutbacks. Oxfordshire District Health Authority are being forced to cut £2.25 million this year with jobs and services lost, and hospitals and wards unused. Already more than 50%

of women needing abortions are forced on to the private sector. How long before every form of treatment will depend on the fatness of your chequebook?

Resolutions condemn the new laws operating from 1 October which introduce a form of passport control in hospitals, a vicious racist measure from the Tories. Resolution after resolution condemns also the growing privatisation of the health service, the long standing low pay and the incessant cutbacks.

Parties point out the findings of the Black Report which show glaring differences in health provision and mortality rates between the working class and the better off. Oxford Labour Party say that apart from fighting cuts etc there should be radical restructuring of resources in favour of

preventive medicine and primary health care and the restructuring of health authorities to make them more accountable.

Hull Central call for a return to the principles of Bevan, free care at the point of consumption and for control of the health service by workers in the industry.

Heywood and Royton among others raise the need for a campaign to defend and expand the service. "Patients are left to die because of lack of beds and equipment such as kidney machines, yet pharmaceutical industries make millions out of the NHS by overcharging for drugs..."

"The NHS was created by the pressure and struggle of the labour movement and the whole weight of the labour movement must now be brought to defend the NHS against these attacks.

"Conference calls for united action by all health service unions—with the full support of the TUC and Labour Party to stop these cuts, to prevent closures of wards and hospitals, to secure a decent wage for all health service workers and force the Tories out of office.

"Conference demands—
 a) cuts must be stopped and all cuts restored and plans for expansion made
 b) full manning and equipping of all services
 c) abolition of all private medicine and all health service charges
 d) nationalisation of pharmaceutical industry and medical supply industry
 e) national wage of £90 a week for all NHS workers
 f) a Labour government committed to socialist policies to expand the NHS and provide a decent stan-

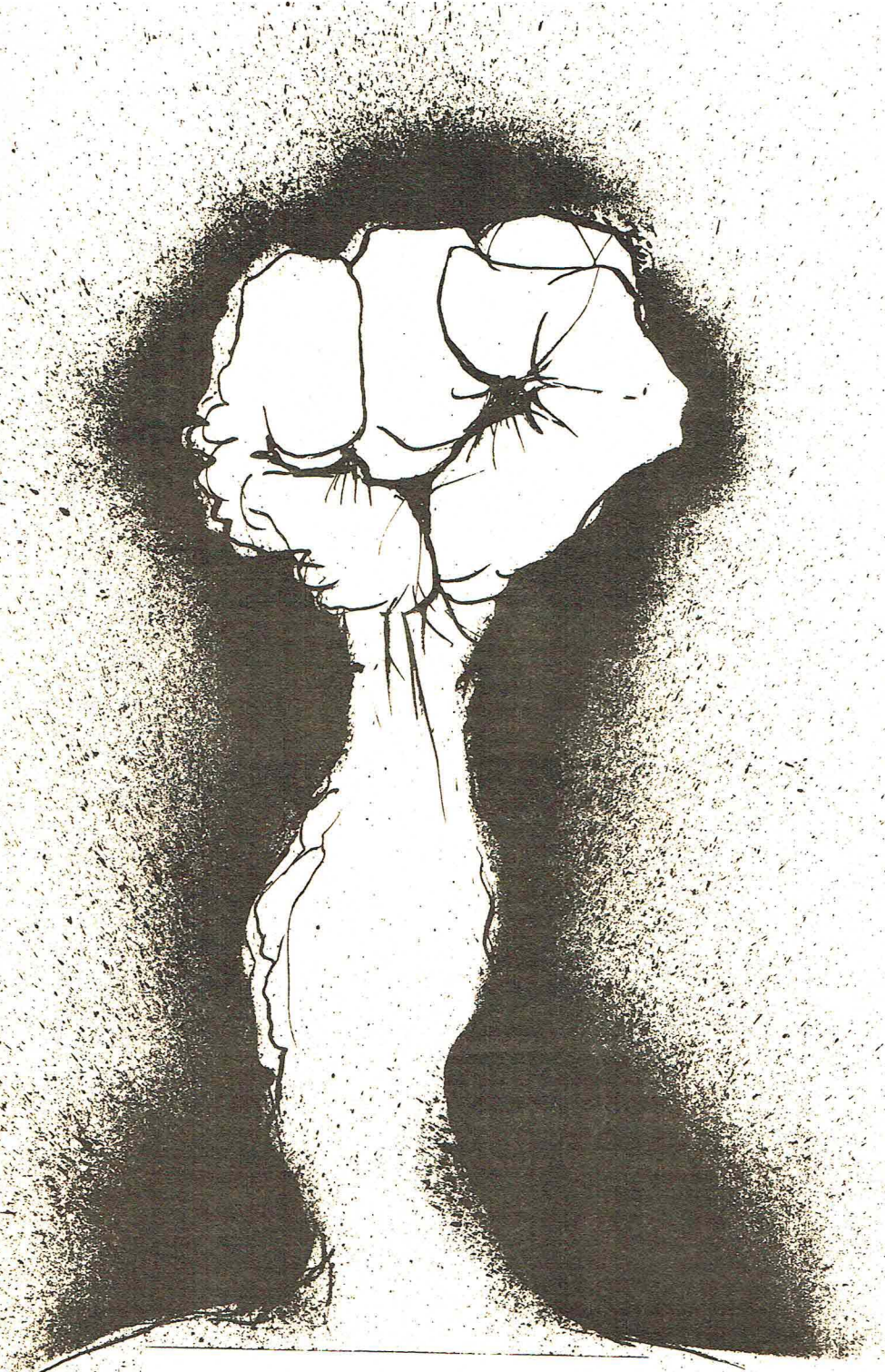
dard of health care." Doubtless all delegates will see the 22 September day of action as the start of a campaign which will not stop at the pay issue. The 'Think Tank' and Labour's conference resolutions show that for workers, socialism or capitalism is a life or death question.

By Roger Shives

Full report on NHS dispute page 19, 20

Labour's Conference '82

FIGHT THE TORIES
NOT THE SOCIALISTS



Socialism or War?

There are now between 40,000 and 60,000 nuclear warheads in the world's arsenals, divided between the West and the Soviet Union. Most of them have a greater destructive power than the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

How many times can the world be destroyed? Yet the strategists of US imperialism claim the Soviet Union's modernisation of its SS-20 missiles represents a new threat. Reagan

has decided that US spending on weapons and equipment will rise by 16% a year in real terms in the 1980s, a higher rate of spending than during the peak of the Vietnam war.

By Lynn
Walsh

If Reagan's plans are implemented, military spending will account for 37% of its total Federal spending by 1987. This will be paid for by savage cuts in social spending and the slashing of workers' living standards.

Reagan's example is being loyally followed by Thatcher. The Tories are continuing the so-called "independent nuclear deterrent" with the Trident missile system. Now

Continued on page 12



Asian women demonstrate against the Nationality Act last year. Photo: Militant

END RACIST LAWS

By Bob Lee

The NEC's pledge that a future Labour government will give the 'highest priority' to tackling racism and discrimination will be welcomed by the labour movement.

Labour's Programme '82 recognises the potential danger of racism to the labour movement: "We believe racial hatred is a serious threat both to the community in which it breeds and the unity of working people."

Black workers have always been forced to bear the brunt of unemployment and bad housing, but today's economic crisis, coupled with this reactionary Tory government, have considerably worsened an already intolerable situation.

But the vicious attacks of the Tories have not simply been confined to bringing down the living standards of black and white workers.

Black workers have faced blatant repression

The Tories have unleashed a succession of vile racist campaigns, as part of a deliberate and calculated attempt to divide the working class to try and isolate blacks from the rest of the labour movement.

These racist campaigns have gone hand in hand with a steady intensification of the vicious regime of "internal controls". Blanket raids by police and immigration officers in search of so-called illegal immigrants and the checking of passports in

schools, hospitals and welfare offices show the scale of harassment and intimidation of the black population. It is against this background that the NEC have formulated a new, radical programme to eliminate the worst excesses of Tory racism.

Programme admits past failures

Under 'Labour's Programme '82' the next Labour government will be committed to repealing the Immigration and Nationality Acts. Labour's future legislation "will not discriminate on grounds of race or sex, and will be in accordance with the highest standards of human rights and civil liberties."

The programme also calls for a bold political offensive against racial disadvantage. There is to be more monitoring and scrutiny of government departments that deal with the ethnic minorities, to be supervised by a specially appointed senior minister.

These measures are to be linked to a government sponsored nationwide campaign of education to combat the prejudices of white people.

But, while these measures are a welcome step in the right direction, they do not amount to a fundamental break from the practice of previous Labour governments. Labour's policy will still be based on the spurious notion that immigrants are a

burden on the system. How else can the policy of retaining stringent immigration controls, admitting workers "only in exceptional categories" be interpreted? The document also falsely draws a link between unemployment and immigration.

Instead of scrapping immigration controls altogether, the next Labour government will retain the apparatus of special tribunals, deportation, administrative detention etc.

The programme correctly rejects the use of arbitrary quotas to combat racial disadvantage, but fails to put forward a clear alternative.

Overall, the programme goes nowhere near far enough to end the naked repression and crushing deprivation faced by black workers. Despite the assertions to the contrary, these proposals, especially with regard to immigration control, will be discriminatory in practice.

Solutions cannot be found under capitalism

But it would be completely wrong, however, to regard the racist character of some aspects of these proposals as the conscious intention of the Labour leadership. Rather, it flows inevitably from Labour's strategy of attempting to find a solution to the problems facing workers, black and white, within the framework of the decrepit capitalist system.

The only policies that can truly tackle the problems of racism and social deprivation are the policies of socialism, on the basis of the abundant wealth that would be created by a socialist plan of production, which could lay the real basis of workers' unity and create decent housing and jobs for all.

Labour's Economic

Never before can working people in Britain have been in more need of a genuine alternative economic policy from their organisations, the Labour Party and the trade unions, to the unrestrained misery of Tory monetarism.

A record 4 million people are now unemployed including 1 in 2 of this year's school leavers. According to the European Commission 1 family in 7 still lives in poverty. And 1¼ million of our children are in families condemned to exist on supplementary benefit.

And still the capitalist class are not satisfied. They demand more than their pound of flesh. Chancellor Howe is now calling for a zero percent wage norm in the next pay round and the CBI Director General demands pay restraint "forever".

Active workers in the shops, factories, offices, or on the dole will be looking closely at this year's Labour Party Conference to see if such a clear alternative emerges. But they don't just want the obligatory attack on the Tories, the sympathetic phrases for the poor and vague promises that "come the next election all will be changed". They've heard it all before.

They want to be confident that Labour's programme will be far reaching enough to solve the problems of a society in crisis. This time they want to be sure that a Labour government will really remove poverty and bad housing, and that for the unemployed it really will be "back to work with Labour".

Thatcher has created economic wastelands

In this light Party members have a responsibility to critically examine the policies outlined in Labour's Programme 1982 and the joint NEC/TUC document "Economic Planning and Industrial Democracy", both of which will be presented to this year's conference.

No delegate will be in any doubt that the next Labour Government faces the severest challenge possible. It will inherit the devastation of the British economy.

In the now permanent world economic instability, all the historical inadequacies of outdated, undercapitalised British industry are being exposed. And if that was not enough there have been three years to date, of wanton destruction of major parts of the economy by the Tory vandals.

The facts and figures recording this catastrophe are well detailed in these reports. "Since May 1979 the nation's output has fallen by 6%, manufacturing production has been cut by nearly one fifth, manufacturing investment has plummeted to the lowest level for twenty years, and a record number of companies has gone out of business."

Taking manufacturing industry by itself the decline is

By Jeremy Birch

even starker. 4 million jobs have disappeared since 1966, 1½ million of them since the Tories' victory in May 1979. Labour's Programme confirms the long held view of Militant that "over the years we have seen the decline of leading industries and the decay of once thriving industrial centres. Overall our industries have failed to match our competitors in their level of investment, their speed of innovation and their ability to adapt to changing world conditions."

The meaning of Thatcherism is to offload the burdens onto the shoulders of working people. The policy of high interest rates and tight credit was designed to boost profitability at the expense of jobs and living standards. Unprofitable firms could go to the wall, and the unprofitable parts of profitable concerns would be lopped off, while the rising number of unemployed would be used as a weapon to intimidate the employed into accepting lower wage deals.

The fall in the number of strikes as well as the record fall in living standards show that temporarily the Tories have scored some successes. And profits did respond. While still being below pre-recession levels, they rose 10% between 1980/81.

But at what a cost! The September week's break in BL's Longbridge plant and at Fort Dunlop was extended by 3 weeks with warnings of further rationalisation and short time working.

The recession has still not bottomed out. So lame have

Labour's Programme inevitably means that the laws of the capitalist market will continue to operate

British industries become in the hands of the capitalists that Thatcher's call to "stand on your own two feet" has maimed many of them permanently.

Not one real manufacturing firm is to be found among the 25 companies that have registered the highest growth in earnings since 1976.

In the final analysis it is the wealth created from production, from manufacturing industry, that pays the wages of the entire working class and foots the bill for health, welfare and education. Yet Britain is ceasing to

be an industrialised nation.

It is an illusion to think that service industries—transport, catering, banking, distribution, administration, etc.—could fill the gap left by manufacturing.

Predictions of continuing recession have forced the CBI—initially avid supporters of Thatcherism—to demand some relief. They have been using an injection of £1,800 million into the economy, especially in capital projects, construction, etc. to boost orders for some of their members. But with the memory of the Heath-Barber reflation of 1972 the CBI's programme is exceptionally modest and would only have the most marginal effect on unemployment.

Internationally and nationally, capitalism has entered a drawn-out irreversible decline. It has contracted a terminal disease. No prescriptions hold any real cure. With whatever government in office, however well intentioned the leaders, no lasting answer can be found to low growth, unemployment and declining services while the profit system is allowed to remain intact.

Thatcherism has failed. But mere "expansion" of the economy by increasing the amount of money in circulation would fuel the fires of inflation.

Labour's programme 1982 takes up the challenge "A bold socialist programme is needed: one which measures up both to the scale of our problems and to the nature of industrial and financial power."

It hopes to reduce unemployment to 1 million within a 5-year term. In addition a whole number of worthwhile and urgently needed reforms are outlined.

The NHS budget is to be increased by 3% a year. Every Local Education Authority will be required to provide nursery education for all 3 to 5 year olds. £1,100 million will be spent on raising child benefits to £7.25.

Unemployment benefit and pensions will be increased, rents will be frozen for a year and a commitment is given for "a 35-hour week

without loss of living standards."

No Labour Party member would argue against these vital reforms. But the truth is that Labour's programme falls far short of the 'bold' approach that it sets for itself. "The common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange" is only seen as "our long term goal". The aim is to try to tackle the long term decline of industry, mass unemployment and increasing poverty, while allowing the ownership of most of the economy to remain in the hands of big business.

A DECISION BREAK WITH CAPITALISM IS VITAL

The laws of capitalism will therefore continue to operate. The conscious planning of resources, which is only realisable within a fully nationalised economy, will still elude the labour movement.

So how are the increases in benefit and extra cash for social services etc. to be afforded? Labour's Programme sees them as part of a "substantial reflationary programme of additional public spending and selective tax reduction, financed by public sector borrowing".

But how can deficit financing on this scale not be inflationary? Even the Cambridge Economic Policy Group, who have always been used by the supporters of the Alternative Economic Strategy to give their ideas academic respectability, have begun to question the validity of reflation.

Their recent Economic Policy Review could only anticipate a fall in unemployment to 2 million, after 7 years of expansion, and that at the price of 18% inflation!

They have also looked again at the demand for import controls, the other major plank of this strategy. They now accept there would be "quite heavy retaliation against UK exports because other countries are also suffering recession. This retaliation is one reason why we are less optimistic now about bringing unemployment down."

But protectionism is again part of Labour's Programme, and its real nature is not masked by describing it as "planned import

growth".

Labour's Programme tries to cover itself, by attempting to answer the critics of import controls. 'Militant' has consistently argued that demands for import controls have nothing in common with the internationalism of the labour movement, and with protectionist tendencies growing throughout the capitalist world, import controls are playing with fire. In a trade war none would win but the weaker economies like Britain would certainly be the losers.

Labour's Programme recognises the danger and seeks "to minimise the risk of damaging retaliation". But it then accepts that Britain is one of the most vulnerable for "nearly a third of what we produce is sold overseas compared to only one tenth for Japan and the USA."

But the NEC itself does not seem really confident that its "programme of economic expansion, a powerful industrial strategy and measures to plan our trade" would be sufficient to meet the needs of the workers. Erstwhile left winger Neil Kinnock—a likely future Education Secretary—has already stated that not all the Tory education cuts could be reversed within the lifetime of a new Labour government.

The education section of Labour's programme contains no guarantees on Tory cuts except for school milk and meals. There is not even a commitment to any figure for class sizes.

Even in the field of benefits—Labour's pledges to the low paid, unemployed, single parents, the old and the sick, etc.—"choices will still have to be made about priorities for the increases needed to implement our policies in full are very substantial indeed."

Depending on where they come in Labour's list of priorities, many families will still have to wait in the queue before the promise to "rebuild our social services, to make major improvements in social benefits and to eliminate poverty." That's the penalty they must pay for the unpreparedness of the NEC to take on the power of British capitalism.

Labour's strategy points towards a new Social Contract and wage controls

Most alarming of all is the hint of a new round of wage restraint. Regular income policies since the war under Labour and the Tories have not controlled inflation, reduced unemployment, regenerated industry or raised up the low paid. They have only undermined the living standards of the working class.

Peter Shore, the likely future Chancellor, gave his unqualified support to wage restraint when speaking at

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Michael Foot addressed this mass Labour rally in Glasgow last year. As Prime Minister he would have to address himself seriously to their problems and needs. Photo: Militant

tracted to develop industry. But after all that, what guarantee is there that these profits will be used to open new factories and to employ more workers?

The answer contained within both documents is "to develop workers' influence over the management of industry and public services." But the circle cannot be squared. There is no more a single company-interest than there is 'one nation'.

The statutory powers to information, consultation and representation on boards of management, even "up to parity representation on the board", are still based on this spurious unity of interest. Do the TUC really expect management to concede equal say on the board without the most ferocious resistance?

To bring democratic accountability and planning to the economy as a whole, Labour's Programme draws up the most detailed schemes. A new Labour government would introduce a five-year plan to be modified by an annual economic review.

Labour's "planning agreements" of 1974-79 were a failure

But this concentration on institutions and mechanisms reveals that Labour's Programme believes that the key to economic revival lies in 'planning' and not in ownership of the economy. The capitalist market is by its very nature chaotic and unregulatable, hence the slumps and booms.

But Labour's Programme once again takes up the idea of planning agreements with capitalist firms, although again the name has changed to "agreed development plans". These will be negotiated with "leading companies in priority sec-

tors", involving issues like investment, purchasing, import penetration, etc.

The real intention of planning agreements is to compel or cajole big business to operate in line with the aims of a Labour government—for full employment and improved living standards—rather than with the aims of profit.

So financial support from the government will depend on successful negotiations of an agreed development plan. But the last Labour government's sole planning agreement was signed with Chrysler which also received £162 million in state hand-outs. Three years later it sold out to Peugeot and a new wave of redundancies has followed.

'Militant' argued at the time of the 1975 rescue for the outright nationalisation of Chrysler, indeed of any firm receiving government assistance.

What extra guarantees can workers expect from the new agreed development plans? In fact, Labour's Programme threatens that unless "companies participate constructively" in the planning process, a Labour government would assume statutory powers even to "purchase them outright". **Public ownership is seen here as a punishment for recalcitrant individual companies rather than the only means to real planning for the economy as a whole.**

Other measures of nationalisation are included in the Programme, but still of a very piecemeal nature. It promises "a publicly owned stake in each sector of industry, and the extension, enlargement and reform of the NEB", all at "fair compensation".

But even if one major company within each sector was nationalised the great bulk of the economy would remain in private hands and the rule of capital would be unaffected. The nationalisation of the big four banks which has been agreed by the NEC's Home Policy Com-

mittee is not in the Programme.

While this would be by no means sufficient it would mark a real turning point in the willingness of the Labour leadership to challenge capitalism. Instead the possibility of a "public stake" in banking is only mentioned as "being considered".

A Labour government on this programme will therefore still face all the obstacles of '74-'79 except that the economic problems will be that much worse. Capitalism will still retain the ability to undermine the government's economic policy, threatening a strike of capital, as was done even against the very moderate '64 government. Labour's Programme seems naively unaware of class realities and of who really wields the

and old age.

Those policies that are already becoming part of the programme of the labour movement would satisfy the vast majority.

For the lower paid, and those dependent on state benefits, £90 a week as the minimum. The 35-hour week as the absolute maximum for all at work. And an urgent programme of building houses, hospitals, schools and clinics and employing the labour to staff them, laying down the conditions for a genuinely civilised society.

As a start, this could be easily afforded by a real socialist economy. It is not lack of resources that stands in the way at present, but capitalism which is incapable of fully utilising them. This is inevitable when production is for profit not need, whatever government is in

explained that only by a fundamental and irreversible change in the ownership of the economy can people's minimum requirements be realised.

Only public ownership would give Labour real control

When 'Militant' therefore demands that the first legislation of an incoming Labour government should be the nationalisation of the 200 largest companies, it is not playing with numbers. Along with the banks and financial institutions, they control 80% of the economy. Public ownership of anything less would just not be sufficient to give Labour control over the running of society.

Planning and industrial democracy would then really mean something. Working people through their democratically elected representatives would be in direct control and management of their factory, their industry, and come to that their publicly owned economy. They would be intimately involved in deciding what should be produced, in what proportions, and how much of a vastly increased production should be devoted to investment or to health or to education.

The majority of the population would have the opportunity to contribute their knowledge and expertise to the development of society.

Labour stands at a crossroads. The Programme '82 fails to grasp the depth of the capitalist decline, so whatever its intentions, it would be completely incapable of providing any relief to working people.

Only the socialist transformation of society and the ideas of Marxism offer any meaningful alternative to the deprivation and despair of a capitalist Britain.

Merely by putting the unemployed back to work could create an extra £75 billion...£25 extra a week for each family

power in society.

There is no possibility of lasting reforms, so long as capitalism owns the decisive parts of industry.

So the ideas of Marxism within the Labour Party are not critical and distinct for the sake of it, but precisely because the policies of both right and left in the party are nowhere near sufficient to tackle the catastrophe awaiting British workers.

But what could a Labour government committed to full-blooded socialism achieve? Labour's Programme still speaks in the language of priorities. Yet working people don't demand much. Just a secure job, reasonable wages, a decent education for their children, and the guarantee that they and their families will be cared for in sickness

office.

Industry currently operates at just 70% of its capacity. With socialist planning, almost a third more could be produced, even with just the resources currently available.

Merely putting the unemployed back to work could create an extra £75 billion worth of production. Shared out it would represent £25 per week for each man, woman and child in the country. Rationally used, why would there ever be a need for waiting lists, for homes, hospital beds or jobs?

Think how Labour could inspire every confused or disillusioned voter, with these prospects. It is not a question of instant socialism, or a load of milk and honey immediately. But it must be

the Solidarity meeting at the TUC Conference. While the TUC carried a resolution opposing talks on incomes policy with any government, it also endorsed the TUC-NEC document which along with Labour's Programme wants a national economic assessment which would "embrace such issues as the share of the national income going to profits, to earnings from employment, to rents, to social benefits, and to other incomes."

Perhaps the hope is that the unions will voluntarily hold back in return for the rest of the package included in Labour's Programme. But wasn't that the original intention of the Social Contract? Len Murray, when launching the document 'Economic Planning and Industrial Democracy', hoped that with extra involvement in the running of industry, unions would behave "responsibly" and avoid another "winter of discontent".

So, despite all the talk about boosting demand to reinvigorate the economy, Labour's Programme is forced to accept the realities of capitalist economics. Profit is nothing but the unpaid labour of the working class. In capitalist society boosting wages to raise demand cannot but reduce profits. But then profits are the key to investment.

As Labour's Programme accepts the continuation of the present economic system it is compelled to accept wage constraint to ensure that sufficient profit is ex-

Labour's Conference '82

FIGHT THE TORIES
FIGHT THE SOCIALISTS

NEC ELECTIONS - VOTE FOR PAT WALL

The elections to the NEC this year are of crucial importance to the whole labour movement.

Workers and their families are faced with the most brutal attacks for generations. Unemployment has reached the levels of the worst years of the 1930s. Massive cuts in public expenditure are destroying all the past gains won by the labour movement in health, education, housing and social services.

With such a catastrophe laying before our movement the necessity for a united socialist struggle to defeat the Tory government has never been greater.

Yet rather than a fighting campaign against the Tories, the ranks of the labour movement have been offered a purge of the party membership by the current majority on the NEC. It is an insult to working people and the socialist objectives of our party!

If the witch-hunt is allowed to be carried through the results will be disastrous for the Labour Party. Those supporting a witch-hunt will be playing right into the



By Pat Wall
(Bradford North CLP)

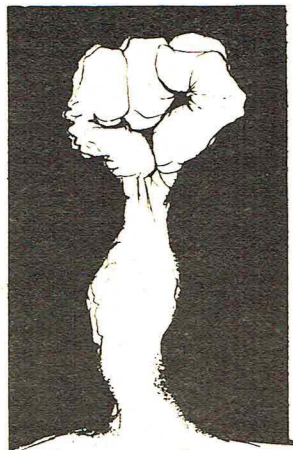
hands of the Tories and their shadows in the SDP. I am standing for election

to the NEC in order to fight such a disastrous path being taken. We need an NEC which is prepared to campaign on socialist policies and support the struggles of working people. One prepared to fight the Tories and not the socialists.

Policies agreed by conference, a 35-hour week, a guaranteed minimum wage, reversal of all public expenditure cuts and the introduction of a massive scheme of public works should form the basis of a campaign to build a mass Labour Party committed to fight in the interests of working people and their families. A Labour Party which stands for the implementation of the socialist objectives as laid down in Clause IV part 4 of the Party constitution. An objective which is not seen as a dream for the distant future, but for the here and now.

Past Labour governments have shown there is a necessity for a democratic socialist plan of production, as the only way to implement and maintain a programme of reform benefiting working people. The implementation of Clause IV part 4 is the only way to ensure that a Labour government is not turned into the instrument of big business for boosting profitability and slashing the living standards of working people.

It is on this basis that I am standing for election to the NEC, and ask for the support of CLPs to fight the witch-hunt and struggle to build a mass, democratic, socialist Labour Party, able to fight the Tories and secure the election of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.



Socialism or War?

Continued from page 9

estimated to cost £5,000 or £6,000 million, the price will undoubtedly multiply many times over.

This accumulation of barbarous means of destruction has provoked horror amongst workers, and especially among young people. Nuclear weapons, they feel, cast a black shadow across their future and across the future of humanity.

People are increasingly appalled, moreover, at the terrible waste of science, technology and productive resources. How life could be improved if the new technology was used to meet people's needs! In the underdeveloped capitalist countries, starvation, malnutrition and early death for millions could be wiped out using only a fraction of the £225,000 million plus squandered annually on weaponry.

The cynical calculations of US strategists have also sharpened opposition to nuclear weapons. Reagan's advisers openly regard Britain as "an unsinkable aircraft carrier" for their nuclear forces. A large proportion of Cruise and Pershing II missiles will be based in Britain. The State Department and the Pentagon clearly see Britain and Europe as the "theatre" of a "limited nuclear war", which some of the military strategists are mad enough to believe America could win.

The large number of resolutions on this year's agenda confirming the Labour Party's commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament underlines the strength of feeling in the labour movement. The Party's adoption of this policy is particularly a step forward in the light of the right-wing Labour leaders' previous support for nuclear weapons and American military strategy.

During the 1945 Labour government Attlee decided that Britain would build nuclear weapons without consulting the Labour Party or informing Parliament. Under the last Labour government a secret committee of Callaghan, Healey and two other ministers committed Britain to a new generation of nuclear weapons, without reference to the Party.

Yet would unilateral disarmament, if implemented by a future Labour government, be a real step toward securing world peace? Would such a policy—with the declaration of a "nuclear free" Britain or

even a nuclear free Europe—provide any immunity?

In reality, the threat of war, including ultimately the threat of nuclear war, will remain so long as the world is dominated by capitalism and imperialism. Under a system based on the exploitation of labour and the oppression of the majority of people, under a system riven also with national antagonisms, conflict is inevitable.

The ruling class will not abandon its military machine or the weaponry which they consider vital for the defence of their wealth and power. This is particularly true of the American super power, and it is an illusion to believe that if Britain abandons nuclear arms the United States and other powers will "follow the example".

Declaration of a nuclear-free Britain would not, any more than a nuclear-free Norway, remove the conflict between the super powers, US imperialism and the Soviet bureaucracy, which are based on rival social systems. While the fundamental antagonisms remain, both camps will prepare for the ultimate eventuality of war, inevitably basing their strategies on the most sophisticated and destructive weapons available.

If it came to war, declaration of a nuclear free zone would provide no immunity. It is no more realistic than imagining that Wapping, Coventry or Plymouth could have declared themselves immune from Hitler's Blitz.

Nor would the scrapping of Britain's nuclear weapons rule out the danger of their future use, even in Britain. As Kissinger has said, "the evil thought is there in men's minds." With the science and technique and the productive capacity the capitalist class could rapidly produce a new set of weapons.

West Germany and Japan are not nuclear powers. But who can doubt that they could quickly arm themselves if the capitalists so decided? Both these countries, for instance, have helped lesser powers like Brazil and Pakistan to develop a nuclear capacity.

"Only a world government could enforce total abolition," wrote *The Economist* (31 July) recently. However, as *The Economist* can envisage only a capitalist world government (an impossibility) they say it "would need nuclear weapons to do it"! Thus if rival national states stepped out of line—there would still be the threat of nuclear war.

Michael Foot, on the other hand, has recently said that peace must be secured through "the establishment of that international order which the world cries out for more than ever." But the idea of any "international order" reconciling the conflict between national capitalist states or between imperialism and Stalinism is entirely utopian.

The United Nations, which was intended to be such an "international order", was powerless to prevent even a relatively small war in the Falklands. For all the UN discussions and even the presence of a UN peace-keeping force, the Middle East is no nearer to peace than it was in 1948.

There is a crying need for a harmonious world order

which could guarantee lasting peace. But this could only be achieved through the socialist transformation of society in the United States and all the main capitalist states. It would also require the carrying through of the political revolution in the Stalinist states, overthrowing the ruling bureaucracy and putting power in the hands of the working class.

Then, resources, production and technology could be planned on an international basis and used to improve the living standards and to develop the culture of all the world's peoples.

That is why the call for unilateral nuclear disarmament does not, in itself, go far enough. It must be linked to a programme of socialist change.

In the first place, the call must be tied to a demand for workers' control and management of the arms industries, to take them out of the hands of the capitalist class. It must also be backed up with a programme for the transfer of weapons factories to socially useful production which would guarantee the jobs of workers in the industry.

Some of the supporters of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament argue that the fight for peace must take precedence over the fight for socialism. This implies that war, and especially nuclear war, is simply an excess as far as the capitalist class is concerned. A mass peace campaign (it is implied) should aim at persuading the capitalist class to take a more rational view of its defence, to put aside weapons of total destruction, thus giving us time to work for social change. But the danger of war will not be eliminated unless the class roots of conflict are destroyed.

Under the present balance of international forces, world war is not likely, despite the arms race. Nuclear war would not only mean universal genocide, it would be suicide on the part of the ruling class. Under present conditions, the enormous power of the working class, which has its organisations and democratic rights intact in all the main capitalist countries, acts as a powerful check on the capitalist class.

Only the emergence of fascist-type military dictatorships, freed from the normal restraints of the ruling class and unbalanced by the death-agony of their system, could contemplate nuclear war. Such regimes could emerge, however, only after a series of terrible defeats for the working class.

While showing the insanity of nuclear weapons and exposing the horrendous waste involved, the priority of the labour movement must be to arm the working class in Britain and internationally with a programme and perspective capable of ensuring the speedy transformation of society. A campaign for peace cannot take precedence over the struggle for socialism. It is the ultimate threat of nuclear annihilation, if capitalism is not destroyed, which makes the struggle for socialism even more urgent.

TU SECTION-VOTE TERRY FIELDS

Terry Fields, nominated by the Fire Brigades Union for the trade union section of the Labour Party NEC. Terry is an executive member of the FBU, and also prospective parliamentary candidate for Liverpool Kirkdale.



Blackpool Trades Council
Greetings to Labour Party Conference
Peace, unity for the whole labour movement



USDAW BLACKPOOL WOOLWORTH BRANCH
Greetings to Labour Party Conference
Witch-hunt the Tories, SDP, not socialists

WATERLOO ASLE&F extend fraternal greetings to those 1982 conference delegates and Labour Party members and trade unionists who supported ASLE&F in its recent struggle with the Thatcher government
Oppose the witch-hunt

Labour's Conference '82

CPSA Manchester Airport Branch send fraternal greetings to the Labour Party Conference. "We learn from the past to understand the present to go forward to the future"

Greetings to fellow delegates from 1/874 branch TGWU Littlehampton
Let conference make socialist policies, not socialist martyrs
The only witch we are hunting is Thatcher

THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION
greet delegates to Conference and calls upon the movement to defeat Tebbit's Bill

W DEAL
President

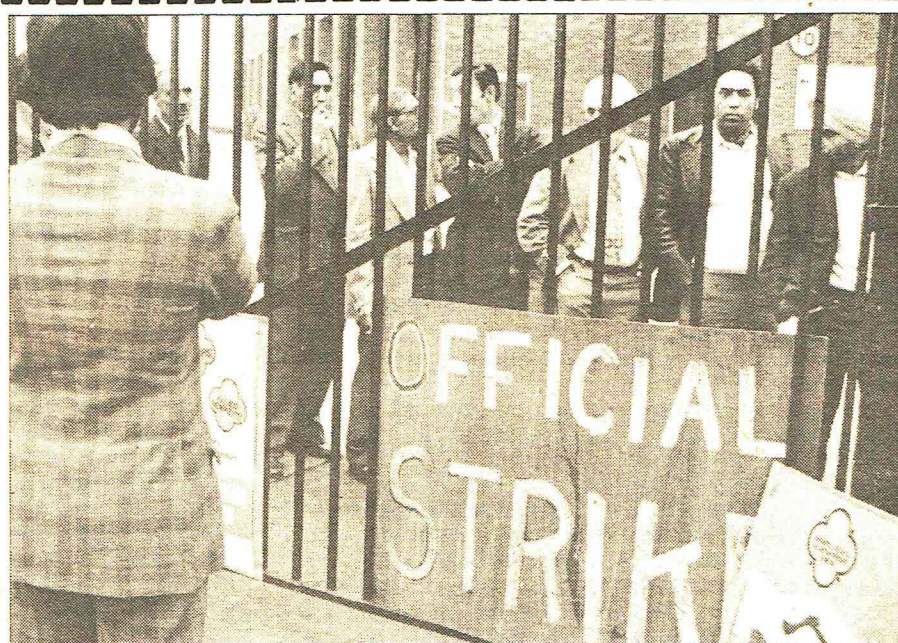
K CAMERON
General Secretary

Greetings from **BESWICK BRANCH AUEW**
For a majority Labour government committed to socialist policies

Fraternal greetings to all delegates
Manchester South
POEU British Telecoms

FAREHAM
Greetings from Labour/Co-op Councillors Win Owen, Harry and Joyce Burstow
We say no to witch-hunts
Support Militant
No conference delegate due to cuts

ASBSB and SW
SUNDERLAND
No 2 sends fraternal greetings to Conference
Forward with workers' control of industry and society



BAKERS FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION
AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL
FORWARD IN UNITY TO SOCIALISM

Joe Marino
(General Secretary)

T O'Neill
(National President)

THE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF BOILERMAKERS
SUNDERLAND No 1 BRANCH

Fraternal greetings to all comrades, to the 1982 Labour Party Conference

'No witch-hunt against any section of the party'

Chairman
Ronnie Quinn

Secretary
Steve Cullen

Fraternal greetings to all delegates from **SOUTHAMPTON FORD T&GWU BRANCH**

Jim Cavanagh
Chairman

Steve Stamford
Secretary

MERSEYSIDE & CHESHIRE FIRE BRIGADES UNION
NO TO WITCH-HUNTS
SUPPORT THE HEALTH WORKERS

CORFU

No 'Dream Island' for workers

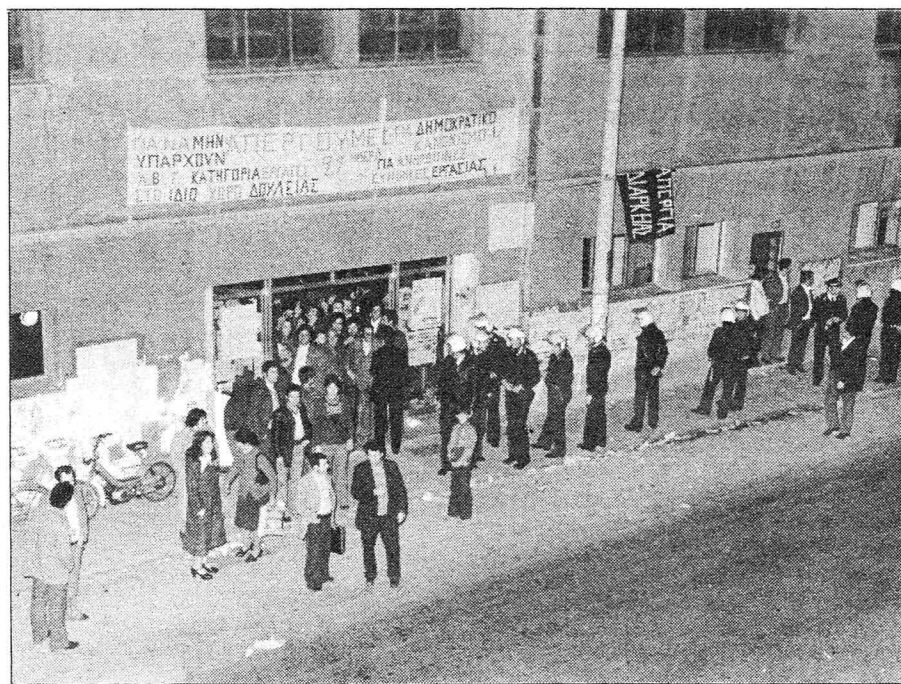
It is hard to associate the dreamy Greek holiday island of Corfu with mass support for socialism. But as two tourists this summer, this is what we discovered.

On every vacant wall between the Tavernas, hotels and adverts for water skiing, graffiti proclaimed in large green letters: 'PASOK 55%', hailing the election victory of the Greek socialist party last year.

This percentage of the vote, alongside the 11% for the Greek Communist Party (the KKE) marked a landslide for the left on Corfu. Support was not just found amongst workers in the areas newly industrialised by the tourist industry, but even in the remotes peasant areas. In a village of less than 500 people perched on a mountain top, or on the beautiful, distant island of Paxos, we found local PASOK headquarters!

Locally and nationally, enthusiasm for the PASOK victory has been represented with mass recruitment to the party. In Corfu, out of a population of only 100,000, the party now has over 2,000 members!

However, as *Militant* reported in the 25 June issue, that enthusiasm amongst the party ranks is turning to anger with the backtracking of the PASOK leader Papandreou and the Party bureaucracy. They are sacrificing the popular elec-



Athens 1978: riot police threaten trolley workers' strike. Fascist elements still remain in the police and civil service.

tion programme in the face of pressure from Greek capitalism and US imperialism. Opponents within the party, especially amongst the trade unions, have been expelled.

It would be wrong to paint a picture of despair amongst the membership, however. While we were in Corfu the left won a majority on the regional executive at regional party conference.

This enthused local members. As a local PASOK member put it, "On the Greek mainland the average vote for PASOK was around 48%. In Corfu, where we are a left party, we achieved

about 55%. That gives us a mandate to criticise."

Advances have been made in cutting out the profiteering 'middle men' from the island, who leached off the peasant farmers and small family businesses. But the workers and peasants were still awaiting the election promises of annual wage rises linked to inflation, 'socialisation' (workers control of industry) and state control and intervention in the tourist industry.

The latter is of particular importance for Corfu. The largest employer is of course the hotels, which employ 10,000 workers, who with

their families make up a quarter of the population.

But with the failure of Papandreou to carry through PASOK's programme after nine months in office, the bosses and speculators of Corfu have regained their confidence and have gone on the offensive. In the hotels sacking are being carried out, hours pushed up and job security threatened.

The speculators and land grabbers are moving in unchecked. The beautiful landscape is being scarred as new villas and hotels are thrown up. The profiteers make a killing out of the 200,000

British tourists who visit Corfu every season.

Many British tourists who found their holiday accommodation half built sarcastically renamed Corfu the 'New Benidorm'. PASOK members also have long term fears for the crystal clear blue Ionian sea as pollution regulations are increasingly ignored in the bosses short sighted grab for profits.

Profiteers linked to junta

Besides the economic instability resulting from this influx of speculation (one Newcastle couple told us how in their two-week stay their hotel management changed three times!) the workers are particularly incensed that those raking in the millions are linked through a line of bribery and corruption to supporters and even members of the Greek military Junta of 1967-74. Very little of the vast sums involved end up in the Greek, let alone Corfu economy, but are directed abroad.

The bosses, besides making fortunes for themselves, hope to demoralise the Corfu workers. As the local PASOK member explained, the actions of the PASOK government are undermining the left wing Corfu party. But he stressed there was still support for PASOK's programme and workers would back the party and government if PASOK's pro-

gramme was pushed through.

However the rank and file workers realise they do not have forever to implement their demands, especially with the memories of the Junta still fresh in their minds. Local PASOK members have fears of Papandreou being another Allende and Greece a European Chile.

Amongst the demands put forward by the left was the urgent need for fascist elements still within the civil service and police—who are undermining and sabotaging government policies—to be removed. Also, they want the Greek military present in strength in Athens, under the pretext of 'manoeuvres', removed and sent to the less dangerous destination of Saloniki.

But while PASOK members are recognising dangers such as these, it would be wrong to leave the reader with a bleak impression. The election victory has swelled PASOK's ranks nationally to 200,000, making it the largest party in Greek history. With PASOK in power, the political struggle is now on a higher plane. The new ranks of working class activists, as in Corfu are becoming fierce critics of Papandreou's government and will bring increasing pressure on it to implement its policies, rather than act as a policeman against the class it purports to represent.

By Bob Wade and Maureen Hinks

REVIEW 'WE LIVE LIKE DOGS'

The horrifying conditions facing black workers in the gold mines of South Africa are graphically shown in the slide-tape show, "We live like Dogs", produced by the South African Labour Education Project.

Gold plays a key role in propping up capitalism and the apartheid state in South Africa, providing 48% of exports. Capitalists throughout the world, investing in South African gold mines, benefit from the super-exploitation and cheap labour there.

All the problems and difficulties facing workers in South Africa are shown in the slide-tape show. The migrant labour system, the pass laws, the military style working conditions are all used to try to crush the workers, and stop them organising together.

The slide show follows the experiences of a typical black worker in the gold mines, forced to leave his home and family because he can no longer make living from the land. It illustrates how com-

mon problems and experiences force the workers to organise as a class and fight together for better conditions.

Despite all repression, between 1973 and 1979, 55,000 black miners were involved in clashes with the bosses and the state. These struggles have continued since then; in July 1982 there were fresh battles with the authorities at five gold mines.

The frightening figure of 542 black and 21 white miners killed in accidents in 1979 shows that 'where labour is cheap, life is cheap.'

For a 5½ day (60 hours underground) week, black miners earn £14.70 a week (July 1981). White miners earn £160 a week.

Black workers face enormous opposition from the ruling class in organising independent trade unions in South Africa. Yet over 300,000 workers here are now organised in independent unions.

A key task now is to lay the basis for a mass fighting union of the black miners.

The building of concrete links and support by the labour movement internationally for the independent non-racial trade unions in south Africa is vital if the battles ahead are to be victorious for the working class. SALEP supports this struggle, in providing socialist educational material for the workers' movement.

The presentation of the slide-tape show I attended, with a speaker from SALEP, prompted an excellent discussion about the development of the trade union movement in South Africa. Any labour movement organisation will find this show a valuable education for their members. It can be booked from SALEP, and should be used as widely as possible to help build support for the growing struggles of the workers in South Africa.

By a Tower Hamlets Labour Party member.

Slide-tape show on the black miners' struggle in South Africa

The slide-tape show can be hired from SALEP, 28 Martello St, London E8 (Tel 01-241-0434) £5 + postage LPYS

branches. Other labour movement organisations: £10 + postage. Speakers are also available.

Support South African dockers

The threat of strike action by 1,000 black dockers in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, with the possibility of international support, is causing convulsions among SA bosses.

The dockers, organised in the General Workers Union (GWU), have been on a go-slow for the past few weeks over the refusal by SATS (SA Transport Services, which controls the state-owned railways and ports) to recognise their union. (See *Militant* 617.)

Local bosses, who have already recognised the GWU, fear all-out strike action after the sacking of 400 dockers by SATS. The privately-owned SA Stevedores Ltd. are trying to

initiate 'peace talks' between the GWU, SATS and the Department of Manpower, who publicly support SATS.

British dockworkers and other trade unionists can help the GWU dockers in particular, and the independent trade unions in general, by establishing direct links with these workers as the most effecting basis for solidarity.

A firm commitment to action along these lines by the Labour Party would be an enormous boost to the SA African workers' morale.

Messages of support to: General Workers' Union, Benbow Building, Beverley Street, Athlone, Cape, South Africa.

SRI LANKA: Socialist election campaign

Nomination papers have been filed for the coming presidential election in Sri Lanka on behalf of Vasudeva Nanayakkara of the Nava Sama Samaja Party. Other candidates include Hector Kobakkeduwa of the SLFP, the main opposition party whose leader, former Prime Minister Mrs Banderenaik, has been barred by law from taking part in the campaign.

The leaders of the other left parties have refused to support the NSSP's call for a single candidate of the left to stand on a socialist programme. As a result, only the NSSP will be able to speak for the workers and peasants of the island whose living standards have slumped disastrously under the regime of J.R. Jayawardena.

Very successful NSSP rallies have already been held up and down the island, attracting thousands of people. Further reports will follow in coming issues of *Militant*.

The Palestinian people have experienced great agonies and sufferings in the course of the last three decades. But few can compare with the cold-blooded and ruthless brutality of the massacre of 1500 men, women and children in the Chatila and Sabra refugee camps in West Beirut last week.

Families were herded into the street and mown down. Tiny children were shot as their parents desperately tried to shelter them. Old men and women were murdered out of hand. Workers throughout the entire world have been horrified by the revelations of these killings.

No matter how much the Israeli government tries to weave a web of evasions and lies around the events, they will not avoid their own responsibility for the massacre.

It was Israeli soldiers who went into West Beirut and secured the camps 'in order to prevent bloodshed'; they controlled all the accesses to Sabra and Chatila. It was the Israeli Cabinet which took the decision to send Christian militias—in reality Israeli auxiliaries, armed and supported by Israel—into the camps to "purge" them, to use the expression of the Israeli army announcement before the massacre. Finally, it was the Israeli army which stood by as the massacre took place, as homes were dynamited and as mass graves were dug by bulldozers.

The Begin government is no less culpable over these bloody events than the militiamen who wreaked havoc and death in the camps. Not only did the Begin government prepare the conditions for the massacre and allow it to happen, but the past record shows that these barbarities are an inevitable extension of official Zionism, of the policy of the Israeli ruling class towards the Palestinians.

In Israel itself Arabs are juridically, economically and socially second-class citizens in their own homeland. In the occupied areas, Palestinians have seen their economy deliberately strangled as part of government policy, with half their land confiscated for a thirtieth their number of Jewish settlers. On the West Bank, Arab political protest has been met with the bullets of the Israeli army and the bombs of Jewish terrorists acting with impunity alongside the occupying authority.

In Lebanon, Israeli tanks, warships and aircraft have pounded civilian areas with phosphorous and shrapnel bombs, causing untold civilian casualties. After this record, the attempted show of concern by the Begin government looks like a black joke.

In Israel, the massacre will have a deep and permanent effect. Begin does not and never has represented the outlook of the majority of Israeli workers. He has successfully played upon the fear and feelings of insecurity of Jews (especially those 'oriental Jews' who originally came from Arab states) to pursue a policy of unremitting hostility to Palestinian interests.

But political attitudes in Israel have begun a pro-

By John Pickard

found change and this process will be accelerated by the Beirut slaughter.

For many workers the Israeli state has become a living nightmare. The economy is in a mess. The \$18 billion foreign debt will be aggravated by the \$2 billion extra that the war will cost, and this year's balance of payments deficit estimated at \$4 billion.

Inflation is now 130 per cent. More than ever before, Israel relies upon US aid—equivalent to \$600 per Israeli per year—to survive. Inevitably, the burden of the crisis is falling more and more onto the shoulders of workers.

There is no apparent end to the economic sacrifices they have to make: defence expenditure rockets, along with their taxes, government indebtedness and inflation.

After six major wars, including two in Lebanon, the Israeli state is no nearer now to a permanent peace than it was in 1948. How much more sacrifice will be necessary, workers are asking. When will it end?

For many workers the new war in Lebanon has come as a final straw. Rather than protect northern Israeli towns from PLO rockets, (a move supported by the mass of Israelis) Begin has sacrificed the lives of hundreds of Israeli soldiers, not to mention the Lebanese and Palestinian losses, in order to



Workers around the world have been appalled by the revelations of the massacre. Photo: Popperfoto

Begin responsible for Beirut massacre



PLO supporters demonstrating outside the US embassy in London. Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (IFL)

In Israel, the massacre will have a deep and permanent effect. Begin does not and never has represented the outlook of the majority of Israeli workers.

install his own government in Beirut.

Already, during the war, there was an unprecedented growth of anti-war protest, involving even serving soldiers. Anti-war leaflets and newspapers circulated among the troops. One leading officer resigned rather than lead his armoured unit any further into Beirut.

Marxist lead is needed

Now, the news of the Beirut massacre will enormously increase the opposition to Begin. Even the President of Israel, Navon, has demanded a commission of enquiry into the events as Israeli war correspondents and newspapers daily reveal the extent of Israeli army involvement in the whole business. But Begin remains entrenched in his ideological bunker, determined to ride out the storm.

Nevertheless, the stunning revelations of the last week will be seen to have been an important phase in the development of Israeli politics.

There is no doubt that if there were a Marxist lead given by the Israeli Labour Party today the mass of workers who now support

Begin could be won away from the reactionary dead end of Zionism, to a policy of internationalism and socialism, for a Socialist Federation of the Middle East.

Outside Israel the hypocrisy of Begin is matched by the crocodile tears of the western capitalist powers who have never displayed any serious interest in the well-being of the Palestinians in the past.

The peace-keeping force in particular looks like a sick joke: having ensured the rapid withdrawal of PLO militias, the Italian, French and American troops withdrew eleven days ahead of schedule, leaving the camps at the mercy of the Israeli and Christian forces. This should finally dispel any lingering illusions in "peace-keeping" forces or United Nations intervention to resolve social and national contradictions.

Palestinian workers will not forget the role played by the imperialist governments. Nor will they forget those Arab leaders who in the past have cynically used the Palestinian issue when it has suited them, as a useful diversion for their own opposition at home, while leaving the Palestinians to their fate in Lebanon, or, like King Hussein in 1970, slaughtering Palestinians themselves.

Reflecting the outrage of many Palestinians, Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, has called for "revenge". But it would be a fatal mistake if sections of PLO or its affiliates were now to begin a new phase of anti-Israeli or anti-Jewish terrorism.

Even despite the horror of the Beirut massacre, a new wave of Palestinian terrorism would only strengthen the hand of the Begins and the General Sharons in Israel: it would drive Israeli workers into the arms of the most reactionary representatives of Zionism, and would set back the struggle of the Palestinians for social and national emancipation.

A settlement of accounts must take place: but that must mean an unremitting struggle against all the rotten reactionary Arab regimes in the Middle East, who are no less the enemies of the Palestinians than Israeli capitalism itself, as well as a struggle against Zionism.

The policies and methods used by the PLO in the past have led from one disaster to another: terrorism, diplomacy with the Arab powers, patronage by reactionary Arab regimes—none of these will solve the problems of the Palestinian masses.

On the other hand, there has never been a soil more fertile for the ideas of class struggle, for the ideas of social revolution than in the Middle East.

Socialists in Britain must use the horrible events of West Beirut as the occasion to renounce the simplistic solutions of the Zionists and the Arab nationalists in the labour movement and seek instead to build support for the common struggle of Arab and Israeli workers against their common class enemies as the only genuine basis of a Middle East peace.

Neither Begin nor King Hussein, neither Sharon nor Arafat, but the Socialist Federation of Middle East States must be the slogan of the international labour movement.

Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN



Textile workers march against unemployment and the collapse of the textile industry in Leicester, 1980. Photo: Militant

Profits Before Health

Dear Comrades,

I was interested to watch a recent BBC TV programme about the lung diseases contracted by workers in the Lancashire cotton spinning industry.

This programme clearly indicted the bosses as murderers! Putting profit before the health and welfare of their workers, they have failed to install essential dust

extraction machinery. Workers, therefore, have died or become invalids quite unnecessarily. If that wasn't bad enough, they've murdered the industry!

The film showed very clearly that the bosses have chosen to squander the profits they've made, on their own personal pleasures. The industry has been left with a legacy of ancient run-down and unsafe machinery. The consequent high costs and low profitability make the British textile industry less

and less able to compete on international markets.

The film's revelations make Militant's analysis and demands more relevant than ever. There is an old expression that 'you can't plan what you don't control and you can't control what you don't own'. Let those who mock the Militant as simplistic provide an alternative for our demand for the nationalisation of the country's biggest industrial and financial companies. Put the economy under the

democratic control and management of the organised working class.

Half measures, tinkering with the system, can't shift fundamental power towards working people in a society dominated by about 200 gigantic multi-national corporations.

Yours fraternally,
David Brandon,
Peterborough CLP.

Chapple—The Voice of Sanity?

Comrades,

This year's Labour Party conference is set against the background of massive unemployment (especially amongst the youth), and declining living standards for the working class.

We also have an assault by the present Tory government on hard won rights of the trade union movement, and its attempt to reform the present corrupt capitalist system, so as to try to appease the working class into accepting further cuts in its defence of savage monetarist policies.

With 3 million people officially (and many more unofficially) unemployed, workers will be looking towards this year's Labour Party conference as an indication of its aims of achieving a truly socialist government of the future.

The trade union leadership has had to contend with an upsurge of rank and file discontent, which culminated in the ASLEF sell out by the TUC Finance and General Purposes Committee. Right wing trade union leaders (eg Terry Duffy) and Labour Party MPs (eg James Callaghan) have been forced to act and approve of limited TU action on 22nd September in support of National Health Service workers.

Because of pressure from the rank and file the leadership of the TUC are being forced to act in a more positive way. The way the right wing press portray right wing leaders can be seen by a recent Daily Express headline "The Silent Voice of Sanity", when the EET-PU leader Frank Chapple refused to sanction any action on this day.

Unfortunately, such people as Mr Chapple and other trade union and Labour Party leaders, will be calling for expulsions from the party of people who support the ideas of Militant instead of fighting the Tories.

Many rank and file members who attended last Saturday's conference at Wembley will now realise that the idea of Marxism is not just a "Flat Earth Scheme" dreamed up by some "wild eyed extremists". The planned socialist economy is the only way to defeat the capitalist system and bring tremendous benefits to the working class.

The Labour Party con-

ference must be used as a basis for these policies. Any attempt by the right wing to stop the spread of Marxist ideas will be seen by the working class as a means of keeping the present capitalist monetarist government in power.

Yours fraternally,
Dave Hardy
Nottingham West
CLP (Delegate LP
Conference 1982)

Support For Militant in Derby

Dear Comrades,

On the 30th July, we held a 'What We Stand For' Militant meeting in Derby. Jean Ward from NUPE spoke about the health workers dispute. She explained that this was not just a battle over pay, but to try and save the health service which has been ignored for years by different governments.

Tony Cross for Militant explained our policies and asked why has there not been an enquiry into the right wing and their friends like the CIA. Afterwards, there were a lot of questions from the floor. Although the meeting was small, (only 10 people came), over £40 was raised for the Fighting Fund. This was split with Jean for the Health workers on strike. Bearing in mind most of those at the meeting were unemployed, it was a great sum to raise.

Yours fraternally
Chris Fernandez
Derby

BBC bias

Comrades,

I have often heard that the BBC is governed by a charter which specified that balance was to be obtained in BBC programmes.

Having just heard Robin Day interview John Golding of Labour's NEC and extract statements from him like:

"It is clearly wrong for the followers of Lenin and Trotsky to be standing for parliament or local council as Labour candidates"

"Militant" is an organisation opposed to the constitution of the Labour Party"

I am moved to ask whether you will be allowed equal time to answer John Golding's points, or does "balance" mean the same as "biased" when it comes to comment on the opponents of capitalism so far as the BBC is concerned.

Yours fraternally
Mike Cleverley
Leyton Labour Party

"Efficient" Ways to Pay the Sick

Dear Comrades,

'To study the rules and administrative arrangements for paying social security benefits for people in hospital and long-term residential care and, without incurring an increase in overall benefit payments, to consider legislative and other changes which would lead to more uniform arrangements and more efficient administration'

The above quotation is the terms of reference for yet another Rayner study within the DHSS. To start with, the study will look at the rules and arrangements for paying benefit for hospital in-patients, mental patients, Part III accommodation residents, hostels for the mentally handicapped and ill etc and without an increase in overall benefit payments, look at ways in which the arrangements can be more efficient.

Efficiency to Sir Derek Rayner invariably means cost cutting—and, therefore, the study won't be looking at improving the quality of life of the in-patients or residents because they must not incur any increase in overall benefit payments.

Will some benefits be cut to increase others? Will Peter be robbed to pay Paul?—or will yet another section of DHSS go to out side bodies i.e. Private Nursing Homes and all that entails, or to Local Authorities and District Health Authorities, without allowing them the extra monies to

deal with the problems of these people adequately.

The type of people that this study is aiming at are those who cannot look after themselves—they have to rely on the state. Many of them have no families to help them. But we all know that this government is hell bent on ridding itself of the welfare state. Who will look after the poor, needy and helpless then?

Sue Burrows
CPSA Barnsley
(personal capacity)

'Getting Back to Work'

Dear Comrades,

"Feel you're not getting anywhere? It may be that you're setting your sights in the wrong direction, or too high. Try making a list of what you require from a job and consider whether this can be modified in any way—for instance...PAY."

"If you have had a well-paid job before you might now be expecting too much pay. If you lower your sights a bit you may make your chances better."

No comrades, this isn't my advice but the splendid advice offered in the Manpower Services Commission pamphlet 'Getting back to work.'

Having been on the dole myself for over a year now, I thought I'd see what advice I could get from this pamphlet in getting a job. It's good for a cheap laugh (doesn't cost anything) but if

you want a job from it, forget it.

The pamphlet then says "We know that you have not been "fortunate" (my emphasis) enough to get a new job. You probably feel fed up with being unemployed. It may help you to know that most people feel like this after being out of work for a time."

What an absolute load of hypocritical drivel! Just take a look around the dole offices, hospitals and pubs to see that unemployment is not an accidental happening but is a direct result of the policies being pursued by Thatcher and the Tories today. What future for workers is there in Britain today? What's the use of taking a wage cut if the jobs aren't there in the first place?

In my original home town of Sheffield, the Sunday Times recently reported that there were over 7,000 under-18 year olds chasing just 26 vacancies. It's nice to see the "concern" being shown by the MSC, a government agency, at the effects of unemployment but who's responsible for unemployment anyway?

The blame for the four million unemployed in Britain today must be placed on the shoulders of the Tories where it belongs. Imagine asking a health worker to take a pay cut to get a job!

All the crocodile tears of Thatcher and the Tories about these "unfortunate" unemployed persons will never hide the fact that the only way to get rid of unemployment is through the socialist planned economy that Militant supporters stand for. All the

waste and misery of unemployment today can only be ended by kicking out the Tories and the system that they represent!

Yours fraternally
Berni Klose
Chairman N. Nottingham
LPYS

Bosses Rob The Workers

Dear Comrades,

Recently, at a well known chain store in Ramsgate, a young girl was given the sack the day before her wedding for the sake of three pairs of socks, even though the police didn't charge her and all the evidence points to the incident being a simple mistake.

Yet, in that same store, the manager has been systematically going through the merchandise putting up the prices. He has put an extra 10p on every item of cutlery, 3 or 4 pence on items such as tea strainers and tap swirls; all frypans, saucepans, kettles and teapots are now 10p more than they should be. Groceries, hardware, toilet rolls, etc. all have had unofficial price rises.

It would appear that it is perfectly alright to encourage staff to steal from customers, but the merest suspicion that you've stolen from your employer gets you the sack.

Yours fraternally,
H Gasking
USDAW Secretary

The 'Christian' way

Dear Comrades,

While listening to the wireless the other day, I heard a vicar declaring this foolproof way of dealing with sex offenders.

He said they should be castrated as this would make them calmer people. After all, it works with bulls and boars, so why not men? He said it would act as a deterrent as no man would be happy about having a small operation which could undoubtedly change his life.

The death penalty and short sharp shock treatment were supposed to be a deterrent, but I haven't noticed a

drop in murders and petty crimes. Desperate people take desperate measures.

Surely the vicar's method of dealing with crime is like closing the stable door after the horse has bolted? The only way of making people calmer (!) is by offering them a decent way of life. Society is to blame, not parts of the anatomy. Chopping little bits off is not going to make the problem disappear. Prevention is much more important than cure.

Yours fraternally,
Lynne Tice
West Hull YS

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target Oct 9th.
Eastern	1,027		2,000
East Midlands	759		1,800
Hants & Dorset	681		1,300
Humberside	573		1,100
London East	850		2,100
London West	412		1,000
London South	1,214		1,500
Manchester & Lancs	986		2,000
Merseyside	1,103		2,100
Northern	868		2,500
Scotland East	437		1,300
Scotland West	621		2,300
Southern	955		1,700
South West	271		900
Wales East	132		1,000
Wales West	1,496		2,000
West Midlands	787		2,000
Yorkshire	1,095		2,500
Others	2,907		3,900
Total received	17,173		35,000

Target £35,000 By October 9

The source of our money - YOU!

By Clare Doyle

In Labour Party Conference week, when the Tories are in total disarray and official figures recognise 4 million unemployed, a final assault should be launched to oust Thatcher from No. 10.

Yet those who have argued consistently for mobilising on clearly socialist alternative policies are being told they have no place in the Labour Party! No doubt the attacks on the Militant will reach fever pitch this week. Not least will be the repetition of old fairy tales in relation to secret sources of money!

The fact that Militant has not applied to be put on the iniquitous 'prescribed' list does not mean that we haven't explained over and over again, whenever we were asked, just exactly how we build our paper. Every penny and every pound comes from workplaces and offices and from bodies and individual supporters in the labour movement—some on special occasions and some on a regular weekly basis.

Special thanks to a reader in Edgell (Liverpool) who

sent £90, a student in Canterbury who sent £55, Tommy Birchall for £20, D Fletcher (Cathcart) and B Fee (Hull EETPU) for tenners and C Thorpe of Birmingham for £5.50. J Oldham a Stockport School Student saved 5ps and 2ps for months to be able to send Militant his £5.40. A. de Zoysa gave £6 and Dr. Y.S. Kaplan (Rotherham) £6.67.

Fivers given this week included those from T Foley (Bootle CLP), P Antoine (Tottenham YS), H Caldwell (Fallin YS), J Faulkner (Stockport) and T Houghton (ASOB Sunderland). C East (POEU) gave £4.50, D Bayle (Wokingham CLP) gave £4.60 as did C Allom a pensioner from Ryde. Another OAP, J Stevenson from Glasgow gave £1.20. A helper in the unemployed workers' centre in Dalkeith—M Thompson—no doubt had difficulty in donating £3 but the fight for socialism will only be won through struggle.

Literally hundreds of similar donations were collected in and around the Labour Movement Conference and on the buses and coaches from the area. Sandwiches were sold, raffles run

and Time of Arrival competitions organised for the journey home. Badge-sellers from Lambeth and Bracknell made over £154 apparently on that day.

Other fund-raising that has been taking place includes:—a sponsored swim in Edinburgh which raised £20, ticket sales in Toxteth £19, stall at Thamesmead Town Show £15.50, Film Night in Wandsworth £6, local raffle in Blackburn £6.20, sale of Militant shopping bags (?) in Wolverhampton (£2) and even the sale of tomatoes (in Reading) £3.95.

I Hunter in Sacriston charges for lifts in his car (£5.83) and 'Accommodation' in London cost someone £13 for the Militant's Fighting Fund! Socials in Rotherham, Bournemouth, Eastleigh, Bexley and the Wirral all contributed to our income as well as to supporters' enjoyment! Ian Newman of Humberside is aiming to complete the course of a local marathon (26 miles, 385 yards) with hundreds of sponsors backing him and Militant!

Public meetings in Bury, Liverpool and Bedlington (Northumberland) were the occasion of appeals for cash but many, many more big meetings will be taking place over the next couple of weeks as Militant explains where it stands. Bumper meetings must see bumper collections coming in before the October 9th deadline! Even small discussion groups can encourage new readers to begin financing the Militant. In Gateshead £11 was raised in this way, an example to be followed by readers in every town in the country!

A supporter in Crosby raised £5 from the constituency Labour Party and £2.80 from the Womens Section there. Another example to follow! Use the Defend Militant appeal sheets to help you ask for money. K

Harris in Chard gave £1 and wrote it on a sheet and then asked D Dale who is unemployed and B Fisher ASTMS to do the same. Giving to Militant catches on!

Some sellers in Reading were bold enough to ask pickets for help. They raised £1.70 for the paper that fights in support of every worker—against the bosses, against the Tories and against the old guard Right Wing in the Labour party and the unions.

The 'Young Guard'—the LPYS—continue to make their contributions—Clydebank (meeting on Socialism and Housing) £6, Stevenage £4.91, Newcastle West 85p one week, 88p the next. Don't worry how small the amount you can give is...but give it! It all adds up! S Foster and 'Vince' of Sparkbrook Young Socialists clubbed together to donate £2.44 and M Ennis of Reading LPYS gave all of £2.25.

We can only mention a small proportion of those who make a contribution to Militant. It will be even smaller in the next three weeks when we will be bringing in an average of £6,000 a week! Many thanks to all who give the £3s and £2s, the £1s and the pennies! But to those who have more—please let's see more 'tenners' and 'fivers'! We will be asking delegates and visitors to Labour's conference to contribute some of the larger amounts from whatever spending money they have.

Militant must not be allowed to be punished for its success. We will not give up publication of our weekly; in fact we will turn it into a real workers' daily. We will not sack our full-time staff; in fact we will double it...with your help!

Double our Fighting Fund total before 9 October. In that way we will prove that Militant cannot be crushed!

ads

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

NORTH EAST Readers' Meetings: 'Fight the Tories not the Socialists'.

Thursday 23 September, 7.30 pm: SEAHAM, Carlton Arms, Vane Terrace. Phone 0783 653994.

Sunday 26 September: WASHINGTON, Columbia Community Association.

Sunday 3 October: NEWCASTLE Bridge Hotel. Speaker: John Pickard.

Monday 4 October: TEESIDE. Columbia Club, 78 Church Road, Stockton. Speaker: John Pickard.

Wednesday 6 October: SUNDERLAND, The Central, 32 Bridge Street. Speaker: John Pickard.

NORTH EAST Marxist Discussion Groups.

ASHINGTON: Sunday 26 September, 10.30 am, Ladies Room, Ashington Leisure Centre. Further information ring Ashington 817092.

FOREST HALL: Sunday 26 September and then fortnightly. Details: Dave Metcalfe, 0632 665277.

NEWCASTLE West: Every Sunday. Contact Rob Lowther, 0632 775636.

NEWCASTLE North: Every Sunday. Contact Karen Walker, 0632 732959.

GOSFORTH: Every Sunday. Contact Rob Dennison, 0632 844918.

SANDIFORD: Every Sunday. Contact Gavin Dudley, 0632 652906.

GATESHEAD: Every Sunday. Contact Tom McGuinness, 18 Lumley Gardens, Gateshead. (Gateshead 783262)

WASHINGTON: Wednesday evenings from 22 September to 13 October. Details Washington 478424.

'Fight the Tories, not the socialists' meetings:

GWAUN-CAE-GURWEN: Welfare Hall, 7.30 pm, Tuesday 28 September. Speaker: Neil Williams (Llanelli CLP, personal capacity)

BRIDGEND: Tuesday 28 September, 7.00 pm, Council Chambers, Rhiw Buildings. Speaker: Brian Lewis (USDAW, personal capacity)

NEATH: Tuesday 28 September, Gwynne Hall, 7.00 pm. Speaker: Terry Hopkins

PORT TALBOT: Wednesday 29 September, Dalton Road Community Centre, Sandfields, 7.30 pm. Speaker: Roy Davies (GMWU, personal capacity)

SWANSEA: Thursday 30 September, 7.30 pm, the NE Dynevor School. Speaker: Andy Price (Cardiff SE LP, personal capacity)

YSTRADGLYNAIS: Welfare Hall, 7.30 pm, Thursday 30 September. Speaker: Brian Lewis (USDAW, personal capacity)

GOSPORT Militant Readers' Meeting: 'Defend Militant. Fight the Tories'. Tuesday 28 September, 7.30 pm. Gosport Labour Club, 145 Brockhurst Road, Gosport.

READING Readers' Meeting: 'No to witch-hunts'. AUEW Hall DC rooms, 121 Oxford Road, Reading, Friday 8 October, 8.00 pm. Speaker: Terry Pearce (Wokingham Labour Party delegate to LP Conference)

HAVANT Readers' Meeting: 'Fight the Witch-Hunt'. Speaker: Sue Atkins (Southampton LP). Thursday 30 September, 7.45 pm, Focus 230, Dunsbury Way, Leigh Park, Havant.

WEST OF SCOTLAND Militant Public Meetings. 'The Fight for a Socialist Britain'.

COATBRIDGE: Contact Jim McVicar, 041 773 0999.

CRAIGTON: Monday 27 September, Crookston Castle School, 7.30 pm.

BATH Militant Readers' Meeting. Thursday 7 October. Labour Party Rooms, Pierpoint Street, Bath. Speakers: Steve Smith (Delegate, Westbury CLP); Brian Ingham (Militant Industrial Correspondent)

BRISTOL Militant Readers' Meeting. 'Fight Tories—no expulsions'. Wagon and Horses, Stapleton Road, Bristol. Wednesday 6 October, 7.30 pm. Speakers: Brian Ingham (Industrial Correspondent, Militant); Sue Beckingham (Delegate to LP Conf from Bristol SE LP)

LEEDS Labour Movement Rally. Speakers: Cllr Neil Taggart, Bob Cryer MP, Pat Wall, PPC. 7.30 pm, Wed 6 October, Grand Theatre (Studio), side entrance.

PORTSMOUTH: 'Fight the Tories, not the socialists'. Thursday 7 October, 7.30 pm, Portsmouth Labour Rooms, 84 Kingston Crescent. For more details phone Howard Benfield, Portsmouth 699430

GOSPORT: 'Fight the Tories, not the socialists'. Tuesday 28 September, 7.30 pm, Gosport Labour Club, 145 Brockhurst Road. For more details phone Alison Hill, Gosport 25174

LOUGHOR: Tuesday 5 October, Institute Buildings, Lime Street, Gorseinon (Dole Office). Speaker: Alec Thraves (Swansea AUEW, personal capacity)

LLANELLI: Friday 8 October. Speaker: Muriel Browning (Conference Delegate, personal capacity)

MAESTEG: Wednesday 29 September. Speaker: Ken Smith. See local paper seller for details.

Classified

INTERNATIONAL RALLY Sunday 26 September, Renaissance Room, Winter Gardens, Blackpool, 3.30-7.00 pm stalls and exhibitions; 7.00 pm rally with speakers including Tony Benn, Judith Hart, FDR El Salvador, PLO, Southern African and Philippines; 8.30 pm social evening. Bar open from 5.00 pm. Organised by International Solidarity campaigns; CRS London Political Committee and Liberation.

LABOUR CAMPAIGN FOR GAY RIGHTS Fringe Meeting. 'Why the Labour Party should fight for Gay Rights'. Speakers include: Joan Lester MP, Ken Livingstone, Jo Richardson MP, Peter Tatchell. 8.00 pm, Tuesday 28 September. Venue: The Cliff Hotel, Queens Promenade, Blackpool.

CROSBY LPYS Social Event, 9 October, 30 Ashlar Road, Liverpool 22, 10.00 pm onwards, drinks half price. All comrades welcome

IRELAND—Labour's struggle North and South. Labour Party Conference Meeting. Monday 27 September, 7.00 pm. Speakers: Peter Hadden (Labour and Trade Union Group); Joe Higgins (Irish LP Executive, personal capacity). Chair: Eddie McParland (London Labour Party Executive) Venue: Kings Arms, Talbot Road, Blackpool.

SOUTHAMPTON: Monday 4 October, 7.45 pm, Conference Room, Civic Centre. Speakers: Ted Grant (Political Editor, 'Militant'), John Kelly (Southampton test CLP)

• 'Militant' Sales Drive •

Over the last few months we have had a tremendous response from the movement in defence of our ideas and the tradition of Marxism in the party. We are now calling on every supporter to take to the streets!

Up and down the country 'Militant' supporters will be holding street sales, dole sales, estate sales and factory sales during the week of the Labour Party conference and the following week. The September 22nd day of solidarity will give us enormous opportunities to get home the message of Marxism to thousands of workers.

Therefore we are setting a target of 10 sales per seller during the weeks 26 September—2nd October and 3rd October—9th Oc-

tober. This really is a minimal target and is already surpassed by many of our regular sellers.

Nevertheless massive sales of 'Militant' for these two issues will give the answer to the bosses and their shadows in the movement that our support comes solely from working people in ever growing numbers.

The added bonus is that as our sales grow so the way is paved for bigger and more regular copies of 'Militant'. Contact me at the address on this page for more information about our fortnight of action and how you can become an active supporter of 'Militant'.

By Dave Farrar

THIS WEEK: £1,643

Industrial Reports

HEATHFIELD'S PICKETS TIGHTEN THEIR GRIP

GMWU members locked out by Heathfield's management since 15 July are tightening their grip on the factory.

The picketing and the 'days of action' every Thursday are affecting supplies to the factory and boosting the morale of the strikers.

In particular pressure is being brought to bear on the customers of Heathfields in the cable industry, notably BICC and British Telecoms by getting the support of the unions in these firms to black Heathfields products. (Heathfields manufactures reels on which electrical cables etc. are wound.)

Unions up and down the country must ensure that Heathfield products are turned away or blacked during the duration of this dispute.

While many lorries are respecting the picket lines there are still a number of 'cowboy' drivers and firms, despite being informed of the dispute, crossing the picket lines; Thames Valley Carriers, Bennetts Ltd, Cadwallader Ltd, John Dee Ltd, W M Edge Transport Ltd, F W Lupson Ltd.

Action by unions in these transport companies to stop the movement of goods to and from the factory would have an uplifting effect on

the whole dispute.

Solidarity action from the labour movement on the days of action on 23 and 30 September is also vital. Last Thursday's mass demo outside the factory was a great success with Ford workers adding to the ranks of trade unionists and Labour Party members. Labour MP for Slough, Joan Lestor, addressed the demonstrators in the morning and pledged her full support for the dismissed workers.

As in previous weeks, the striking GMWU members had been subjected to management harassment and racist intimidation. Super-glue had been applied to the locks of the van used by the strikers, and management deliberately drilled holes in a section of the fire escape overhanging the factory gates in order to prevent the pickets being able to shelter against the rain.

However, such acts of vindictiveness cannot demoralise the pickets who are receiving increasing support from the labour movement from all over the country.

Donations to the hardship fund and messages of support are still needed and should be sent to: GMWU/Heathfield Dispute Committee, c/o GMWU, 105 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, London W7.

By Dave Carr

GEC redundancies

GEC with a money mountain of £1,000 million now want to make 1,500 workers redundant.

Such is the logic of profit, six hundred jobs to disappear in Hartlepool; 550 in Coventry; 350 in Scotland.

Falling orders from the Post Office for the out-dated electro-mechanical switching equipment is management's excuse. Due to lack of investment with the prospect of British Telecom being privatised, the future of GEC Telecoms looks for from healthy.

The workers are caught in a vice. System X and other new equipment means a rapidly reduced work force, and no in-

vestment means being uncompetitive and more job losses.

The unanimous decision of the mass meeting of the joint staff unions to oppose redundancies is a positive step. This needs to be built on by involving the shop floor unions and in the other Coventry plants and in the other Telecoms and other GEC factories to fight the redundancies with work sharing without loss of pay.

Keith Baines and Nick Meinke (ASTMS reps) GEC Coventry.

Railway Workers' lobby

Members of the National Union of Railwaymen will be lobbying the recall AGM of their union at AUEW House in Birmingham on Wednesday 13 October. The conference will be discussing the Railway Staff National Tribunal (RSNT) decision on pay. Further details in next week's issue.



Pickets at Heathfields earlier in the dispute. Support for the days of action on 23 and 30 September is vital.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

MINERS- 6.25%? NO WAY!

No way will the National Coal Board's derisory 6¼% offer be accepted by the members of my pit.

All the board have succeeded in doing by adding insult to injury is to cause a lot of aggression amongst the men. There's been talk about another 2% being available

dependent on productivity deals, but we all know what that means, more pit closures and more redundancies.

We are determined to fight for better wages, but there's no chance whatsoever of miners selling jobs.

Any increase we get must be on the basic rate with no strings attached. The feeling

of my members is clear—if the board doesn't increase its offer this week we should call an immediate overtime ban and give full backing to our special delegate conference to prepare for industrial action.

If the Board and the Tories think they can successfully take on the NUM they are sadly mistaken.

We'll be fighting for the full claim and giving 100% support to our leadership.

By Tyrone O'Sullivan

(Lodge Secretary, Tower Colliery, S Wales NUM, personal capacity)

Save Croxteth school

This Monday, 20 September, parents and pupils of Croxteth reopened their local comprehensive school. They have been occupying it for two months after the Liberal/Tory controlled city council closed it down.

From the 465 pupils originally at the school, 200 enrolled to return to Croxteth this term, but in fact 360 pupils turned up in uniform! As there were only 8 qualified teachers on the site extra volunteer teachers had to be called in.

The assembly of pupils was addressed by Cyril D'Arcy, secretary of the Action Committee, who explained that the same standards of education and discipline would prevail at the school as had done before.

Maths, English, History and Geography will be studied up to 'A'-level in the mornings and in the afternoons other attractive options will be available.

However, the City Council threatened to charge the parents the annual rates bill of £25,000 and have told them that they will be liable to be sued if a child has an accident at the school.

The chairman of the city's education committee—Richard Kemp—has already

started a smear campaign against the school claiming that the Action Committee members who had leafleted and picketed Ellergreen school (two old age pensioners) in fact were intimidating parents trying to take their children there.

However, the Action Committee has always stated that they will in no way obstruct any parents rights to send their children to Ellergreen where the Croxteth pupils were supposed to transfer. An independent observer, a TV reporter from

Channel 4 has stated that he will testify that intimidation and threatening behaviour by the Action Committee did not occur.

On the Tuesday the number of children at Croxteth increased by 8 more pupils. Their parents had sent them to Ellergreen the day before, but when they heard that Croxteth was reopening they sent them to the free school.

At the moment there is still no heating, lighting or gas at the school, and more volunteer teachers are need-

ed. Financial donations are desperately needed at the school if the school is to stay alive.

We need the support of the Labour and trade union movement now more than ever to help keep the democratic right to educate our children in Croxteth.

For more information contact Cyril D'Arcy, 45 Finch Road, Liverpool 12.

Members of the Action Committee spoke to Ray Murray

Arlington House

Since 10 September, 56 members of the Transport and General Workers Union at Arlington House, Camden Town, London.

This is the largest hostel in Europe housing 1,066 men. The staff went on strike in April for union recognition. They won this battle but when they attempted to negotiate a wage increase in July the management Rowton Hotels refused to negotiate, eventually provoking the walk-out.

The workers are desperately under-paid with

the following wage scales (take home pay) in operation. Bed-maker, £28 for a 48 hour week; doorman, £36 for a 60 hour week; cook, £32 for a 50 hour week; canteen staff, £33 for a 60 hour week (this includes one 16 hour day) and toilet man, £27 for a 50 hour week.

The staff have to work 8 hours compulsory overtime a week. Although they get free bed and lodging (calculated by the company to equal £38 a week) it consists of living in cubicles, 7 ft by 5 ft, with poor ventilation, a bed and a chair and a box on the wall.

Following the walk-out, all the staff were sacked and the management evicted the union convenor on the 18th September. However, a court injunction gave him reinstatement to his accom-

modation for the next day. Although Rowton Hotels make £200,000 profit per year from Arlington House, they are now talking of selling it, seemingly because they do not want to face the cost of meeting improvements to the accommodation that Camden Council wish to enforce.

Workers are seeking support from staff at other hostels and hotels owned by the company.

Support on the picket line is welcomed and financial donations should be sent to Arlington House Strike fund, c/o Camden Labour centre, 8 Camden Road, London NW1.

Tom Barwise (TGWU Shop Steward at Arlington House) spoke to Ian Pollock.

Industrial Reports

GLASGOW

They came from mines, steel works, factories and shipyards but also from schools, post offices, civil service and universities.

More than 20,000 marched in Glasgow, with chants of "what do we want 12%" and "Maggie out". Passers by put money in collecting boxes. One carried a home made placard which silently said it all "We fought for the NHS. Don't let them take it away."

A driver from John Brown Engineering showed why he was supporting the NHS workers. "I went to Spain for my holiday and went down with heat stroke and dehydration. For three days in hospital they wanted to charge me 17,000 pesetas. "I did a runner, and jumped on the first plane I could. My cases are still over there! That's what Thatcher wants over here, charging us 17,000 pesetas for sunstroke. Say no!"

Clydebridge Mill steel worker Russell Cleary told Militant "It's our health service. The health workers are part of a campaign against Tory policies. Noises from Thatcher about 'loyal nurses' won't put bread in their mouths."

She might not hear our voice today, she's in Japan. But she can't hide for ever! She will hear the Triple Alliance when we go to Downing Street on 26 October to tell her where to go."

Three young lads from Knightswood, Donald 17, Robert 16 and Kiernan 16, all unemployed: "Thatcher is a Tory ratbag. The workers are definitely going to win this dispute. They've got the backing."

"We have given our names to the LPYS today. If you don't take an interest you get grubbed. It's our life, we need to get them out, get some real jobs, get rid of YOPS."

A group of women workers from Homes Mac Dougal "If this is breaking the law, then it deserves to be broken. Thatcher should stay in China, preferably in an archeological dig 60 feet down."

David Munro, SOGAT '82 West Scotland Branch: "Who wants to go to prison? We don't want martyrs but if the Tories want to make a fight of it, so be it."

Along with 8,000 printers, 2,500 bus drivers and underground staff were out. TGWU 7/84 branch Lardfield garage know why they were taking action. "If Thatcher gets back in we're going to have to pay for our hospital beds, and doctors visits."

Bill Craig, an NEC member of the Fire Brigades Union "We won't get rid of the Tories walking up and down the streets. We need a much stronger lead from the top." John Clark and John McGee, shop stewards at John Walker Distillery: "TUC leaders are dragging their heels. The rank and file are leading the leadership."

Sammy Barr, district secretary of the Boiler-makers told us "workers on

Clyde were unanimous one or two hours was not enough. 16,000 shipyard workers are out for 24 hours. Not a blow was struck in any yard in Scotland. That is how the Tories will be stopped. We will build from here."

Some, even medium-sized towns, had very impressive turnouts on rallies and demonstrations.

Wigan saw 5,000 with big turnouts from miners, workers at Great Universal Stores and the tailoring industry, a big turnout at Horwich works and a £1,000 donation from workers at Gullick and Dobson.

Chesterfield had 3,000 on a march through the town after sending 250 to the London demo. In Stevenage 1,500 marched, with over half the shopfloor workers at the biggest employer British Aerospace walking out.

In Tory towns like Margate and Folkestone there was big support, with the first union demo in Margate since the war. In Bournemouth over 1,500 marched. Cyril Smith MP, who waddled down from Liberal Party conference was allowed to speak despite the contrary decision of local trade unionists.

In Liverpool there were 20,000 on the NHS demo. The dockers were out, as were Fords Halewood, NALGO, USDAW and Littlewoods Pools workers who were on strike mostly for the first time.

YOPs workers came out in the Halewood area, marched seven miles to Sefton General Hospital and another three to the city centre. Speakers at the rally at the Pier Head included 'Militant' supporters Marie Harrison of COHSE and Tony Mulhearn who was cheered when he attacked the Tories and Labour's right wing.

The first class mood with chants of "Pay us more" was shown when a Tory angered by the demo passed in his fancy car. He was greeted with appropriate gestures.

On Tyneside the main industries, all engineers and shipbuilding were out, as were schools in Newcastle and Wearside and buses in South Shields. Flying pickets of NHS workers and 'Militant' supporters went to Marley Hill colliery where only three went in out of three shifts and Vane Tempest where a third went in initially but later decided to go home early.

All major hospitals were picketed from early morning with hundreds on duty at times and money has been flowing in. Three trains and numerous coaches were filled for London and a couple of thousand workers from all unions demonstrated in Newcastle.

Birmingham had no rally but three trains went down to London. Hospitals were on emergency only. Many unions helped in picketing with stewards marching from Cadbury's factory to Selly Oak. Most of the big

Millions join NHS protest

The TUC day of action has been a tremendous strike, thanks to the overwhelming feeling of solidarity with the NHS workers felt by other trade unionists. Strikes have been accompanied by demonstrations in many towns where there has not been similar activity for generations, or even in living memory. Had the call for support by the TUC been bolder and more decisive, had the TUC leaders not mumbled and vacillated over whether or not to call a strike, then the day of protest would have been even more massive.

But the ranks of the NHS trade unions must now prepare for further action, if Thatcher and Norman Fowler continue to deny their just claim. It would be

completely wrong for the TUC and health service unions to allow the Tories to ride out the storm of protest and allow the movement to go 'off the boil'.

NHS workers have now been in dispute since the last week of April. There must be plans made after this magnificent show of support to bring the dispute to a successful conclusion.

The NHS unions must now prepare for an all-out strike in the service, leaving only emergency cover. Trade unions in key sectors of industry must make plans to repeat their solidarity strike and to organise levies in support of NHS workers. The TUC must act now! Further delay will only weaken the dispute and waste the marvellous efforts of 22nd.

TEESSIDE

Management in Teesside showed their true 'concern' for patient care when they locked out ambulance drivers and crews. At the Middlesbrough General Hospital management said they wanted normal working or nothing at all. Also, the phones were cut off to the central sterile supplies depot, which has been occupied by staff.

MANCHESTER

Prestwich Hospital was down to minimum nursing and emergency only cover as workers from all the unions at the hospital, 500 workers in all, manned the picket lines at the hospital gates.

On the question of outside volunteers doing the work normally done by health staff, George Barr, NUPE branch secretary at the hospital, said, "We have had no approaches by any voluntary organisations to break the strike. If they move volunteers in we'll be out again tomorrow."

HACKNEY, EAST LONDON

"I'm really angry! All these people from other industries are coming out in support of us yet I'm not allowed to strike," protested a member of the Royal College of Nursing.

"Just listen to the sort of

work nurses like myself have to do. When I'm doing night shift I work seven in a row; each of eleven hours. Then there are five days off.

"I work three weekends out of four and normally an average of two late shifts per week from 1.30 to 9.30. My wage is £260 a month which includes £60 London weighting. God knows how they manage if they live outside London.

"Our lunch breaks are restricted to about half an hour and, being a student nurse, I cannot claim overtime."

Such conditions are a major reason for the overwhelming mood of solidarity towards the health service workers. Everybody knows the extent of care under appalling conditions that all health workers give to the rest of the working class.

The student nurse I spoke to works in one of the top training hospitals in London. It makes you wonder what conditions must be like for workers in smaller rural hospitals.

But the student nurse pointed out that it's also the destruction of the health service itself which is angering this section of workers. "Most nurses treat this just as importantly as their own wage packet—we're the ones who see the NHS disintegrating in front of us".

Dave Webb

Hackney North LPYS



150,000 workers demonstrated through London to show their opposition to Tory NHS policy. Here a section of nurses on the march applaud Rod Bickerstaffe, NUPE General Secretary, addressing the demonstration

factories are on a week's industrial holiday.

On a 600-strong 'feeder' to the mass demo in London starting from Hackney, a steward from the furniture union FTAT gave his members the choice of an hour, half day or full day strike. Overwhelmingly they chose the full day strike.

With at least 4,000 rallying in Manchester, 1,500 in Salford and hundreds more in smaller towns in Lancashire, the mood gave the lie to press stories about workers being unwilling to fight.

BRISTOL

The day of action started with workers from Rolls Royce clocking off at 2.30pm, followed by a march of local government

workers to the mass picket at the Bristol Royal Infirmary. Highlight of the day was a spontaneous march by health workers to the Regional Health Authority building. Nearly 4,000 joined the march, joined by several hundred T&GWU members.

SOGAT, dockers and dustmen took strike action, and every group of organised workers took strike action for an hour at least, many for a half day or full day. Every major factory in Bristol took some form of action.

Due to the 'Bristol Evening Post' not appearing as a result of action by printworkers, the editor approached Radio West asking them to read out his editorial, which attacked the

health workers, over the radio! However, this was stopped after the journalists' union, NUJ, threatened industrial action unless the right of reply was allowed to the health workers.

LEICESTER

An AUEW steward at Fox's Glacier Mints factory, Jim Talton, has been sacked after he brought three nurses into the works canteen to talk to the workers. The AUEW at the factory are now on strike demanding his reinstatement.

140 gas workers, members of the GMWU, took strike action for the day, as did highway staff and sweeper. Even Equity members at the

Haymarket Arts centre took action.

Some CPSA members in three unemployment benefit offices took action in advance of the time agreed—they were to come out at 3.30pm but struck from dinner time. In a serious incident at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, a nurse was knocked down by a car.

Labour Party Conference resolutions on NHS — see page 8 See also report on page 20

Militant

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'Tories Out' Says Day of Action

"I'm an unemployed worker. I fully support what these nurses are doing. My child was in hospital for 3½ years and got unstinting love, care and attention from all the hospital workers.

"My child died last year and even if they gave nurses and ancillaries twice as much that still wouldn't repay my debt."

This moving tribute from a worker to the chairman of a mass meeting in Derry reflected the feelings of workers throughout Britain and Northern Ireland.

But the Derry march which reached at the end 7,000 out of Derry's population of 60,000 showed both the depth of feeling and weeks of organisation.

Northern Ireland as a whole was solid. About 7,000 marched in Belfast and packed Grosvenor Hall to capacity as shipyards, buses, docks, airport and big industry crept to a halt. The meeting inspired comments like "the spirit of Larkin is alive again."

Large sales of Militant Irish Monthly reflected the mood as workers applauded calls for escalated action. This was the biggest meeting of any kind in Belfast since the sectarian rallies of the early years of the Troubles. In this demo though Protestant and Catholic areas were united and solid.

This was mirrored everywhere in the North with demos in all major towns. In Derry, weeks of preparation had brought together workers from all unions in planning support and it paid off.

Three thousand workers started marching from the West side to Waterside station. Cars tooted their support and the march was greeted by shoppers and shopkeepers. There were absolutely no sectarian incidents.

Local speakers at the rally gave facts and figures on



A section of the London march. Photo: Militant

wages and conditions and how the struggle was going. The crowd had by now reached about 7,000. Eileen Cullen speaking for the Northern Ireland Public Services Alliance mentioned the number of women workers involved and how well they had responded. Low pay is worsened in Northern Ireland by the higher cost of living.

Bill Webster of the Trades Council pointed out what an historic meeting this was, uniting the working class

behind the health workers and against the Tories. He pointed out the need for a political perspective. Workers would need to discuss the future of our class and how we could get workers' representatives in the House of Commons.

The mood was similar in many ways to that of Glasgow during the UCS occupation. The local Chamber of Commerce had turned down the Trades Council request for shops to shut in sympathy. But Bill

Webster made a direct appeal on the radio for pubs and shops to close. A number of pubs were in fact shut and shops displayed messages of support for the health workers.

The workers of Derry are determined to win. With a clear lead from the top, no force on earth could stop a victory for the NHS staff.

By Manus Maguire

3,343,075 REASONS

(From page one)

she had was two months ago. She's heard nothing since.

Berni's sister, 18 year old Teresa left school last Christmas and has fared little better. She has 5 O-levels. She applied for 50 clerical jobs. Nothing. She filled in a complete sheet applying for jobs at firms in Tyneside that the careers office gave her—about 100 in all. Nothing. Interviews have been few and far between. One job she was interviewed for has now been turned into a YOPs scheme for two people.

Like Berni, she tries hard to manage on the dole. "All the clothes I've got are from when I used to work part time in Prestos, and then I patch things up." She is now going to college "because I could see I would be on the dole for at least another year. Most of my friends have given up, and spend all their time doing nothing."

What hope is there for Berni or Teresa under the Tories? Tuesday's unemployment figures show another massive increase of nearly 50,000. Thatcher has marked up another record—over 3 million adults unemployed, the highest figure ever recorded. The official government figures of 3,343,075 out of work, are bad enough. But to that must be added the 700,000 who don't or can't register, as well as the thousands of youth who are conscripted onto YOP schemes and other short term measures.

The Tories have no answer, they are just letting capitalism run its logical course—profits and more profits and to hell with the consequences. It seems that

whenever they open their mouths to talk about 'prosperity being just around the corner', the unemployment figures go ever upwards.

That unhappy couple, the SDP/Liberal Alliance, have little to offer. At best they claim they can 'create one million jobs in the next two to three years'. What about the other three million on the dole? How long will they have to wait? And remembering Shirley Williams was the architect of the YOPs scheme, what sort of jobs are they offering—yet more workers on the poverty wages of £25 a week with little or no protection against employers?

The only future for society lies with Labour. This week's Labour Party conference has the opportunity to draw up a socialist strategy. It must reject the failed policies of past Labour governments and totally reject those right-wingers who are contemplating a future coalition with the SDP and Liberals, who have publically admitted they are incapable of solving the unemployment crisis.

The right wing, who seem more interested in expelling socialists from the party than fighting the Tories, will no doubt accuse Militant of sloganising, when we raise the demand to nationalise the commanding heights of the economy, the 200 or so monopolies that control 80% of the economy.

This is not empty rhetoric but a crushing necessity. Any other half-baked measures that attempt to operate in the confines of the profit system will founder in the tempest of the capitalist crisis. A socialist planned economy is the only hope for the future and the only system capable of supplying the simplest basic human right—the right to work.

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SUPPORT THE PAPER THE TORIES FEAR

The enemies of 'Militant' cannot accept the fact that our ideas arouse unprecedented enthusiasm amongst workers looking for a way out.

That was demonstrated a thousand fold at the Wembley Conference on September 11th and it will must and will be shown again by Militant supporters raising £35,000 for the

fighting fund this quarter—for the second time running.

But that will not be an easy task, being just half way to the target with only three weeks to go.

Already those workers we look to for support in the shop stewards' committees, trade union branches, Labour Party and LPYS branches have spent large sums of money in order to

demonstrate their opposition to a witch-hunt.

Just getting to London for the Labour Movement Conference was no mean feat for the activists and unemployed from far and wide.

During the collection they found themselves handing over £100s, £50s, tenners and fivers to see the fight for socialism stepped up.

Now we must appeal to

the same people and to those who didn't make it to Wembley to ensure that the paper that is bearing the brunt of the attacks on the left in the party and the unions has the cash to fight back.

There is no other source of finance that we can turn to! Fight the Tories! Stop the witch-hunt! Support Militant!