

## Local Elections May 5

# CLEAR OUT THE TOWN HALL TORIES

...housing and  
services slashed  
**-DON'T GIVE THEM  
A SECOND CHANCE**

Voters in England and Wales will have the opportunity on 5 May of electing over 12,000 councillors, responsible for local housing, transport and community services.

With a General Election looming, the results of the local elections will be seen as a barometer for the general election.

The Labour party has a real opportunity to campaign for socialist policies and demonstrate the havoc that Tory policies have caused in local government. The local and national issues can be clearly linked. Just look at the Tory record.

### ★ Privatisation

The Tories boast a 'bright new dawn', for the contractors maybe, but not for the people who rely on the services.

In Wandsworth, private contractors Pritchards were fined £7,665 for 1,894 default notices in the first six months. The level of default was up to six times higher than the level at which the council could have cancelled the contract. Instead Tory-controlled Wandsworth introduced 'penalty free zones'. Pritchards' tender had claimed they could do

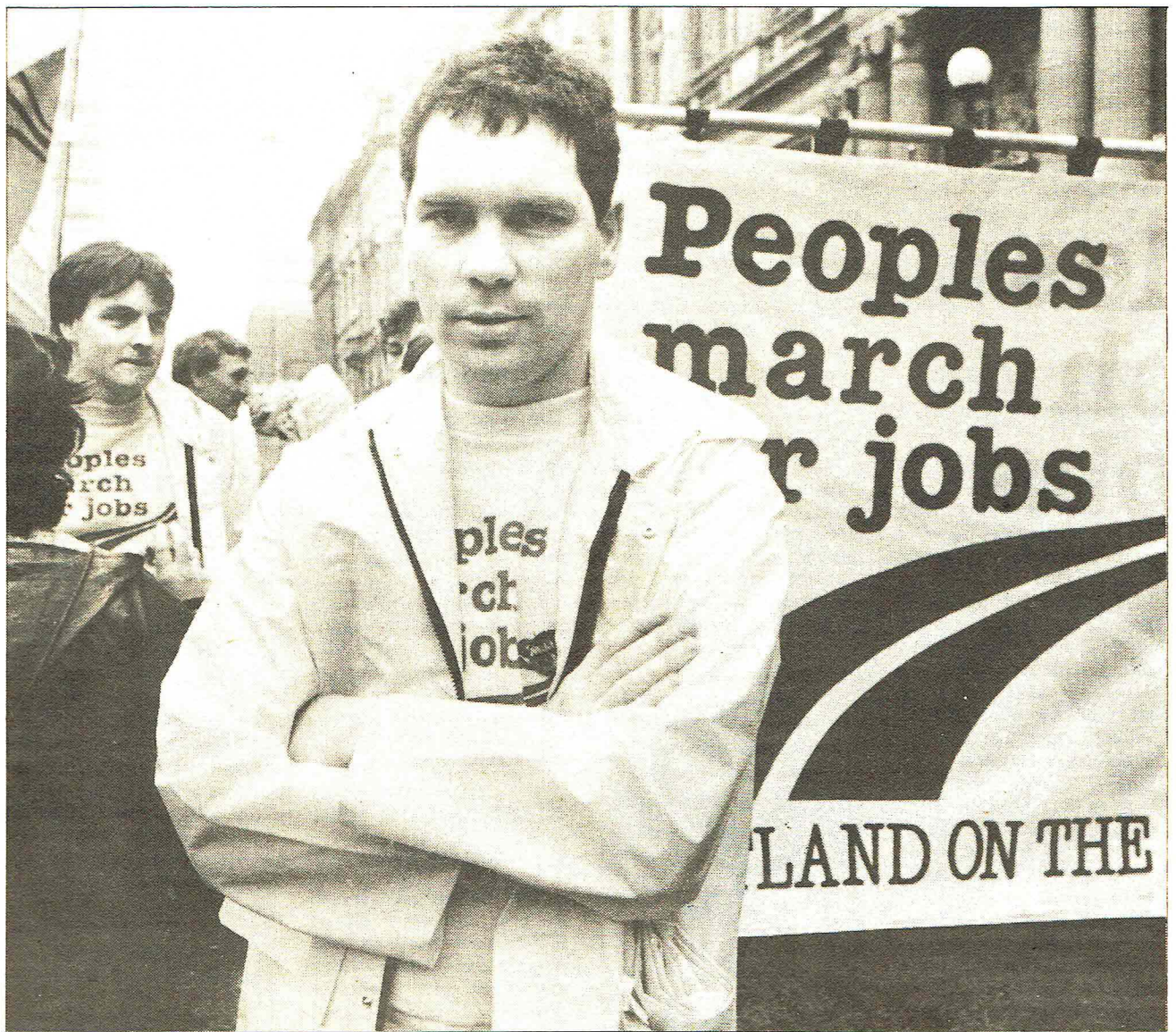
By Heather Rawling

the work with 65 employees but now they have to employ 85 and have added half a million pounds on to the contract.

The private contractors at Eastbourne, after two months, had to increase their workforce by 50%. Their work was so poor that the Tory controlled council had to increase its own inspection staff by 50%.

What a waste of ratepayers' money. Yet when a council's spending is considered "unlawful" or "excessive", the district auditor has powers to apply for a court order to surcharge members responsible for the expenditure. All cases taken up over the past 50 years have been against Labour councillors. Whereas it is wasteful to increase spending on social services, it is not deemed "wasteful" or "excessive" to arrange knock down prices in deals with developers or private

Continued on back page



Ali Hughes with the People's March for Jobs '83 banner as the march prepared to set off from Glasgow

Photo: Militant

## Unemployed are on the march

ALI HUGHES, one of the sixty marchers who set off from Glasgow on the People's March writes:

"We've had a really good response for the march so far. In Barrhead, people came out of the houses and shops and just stood and clapped.

"In Kilmarnock, it look-

ed as if the whole town had come out to greet us. There was a couple of pipe bands and every trade union you could imagine seemed to be represented with banners and posters.

"The only disappointing aspect of the march so far has been the attempt to keep it "non-political". Some of

us were chanting "Maggie Out!", but one of the stewards suggested we stop. The organisers seem so keen to keep it a "broad based" campaign that almost every rally seems to be addressed by a minister!

"A band with the name of *The Scheme* is following the march all the way south,

playing at socials organised at the various stops. They are a Glasgow band, made up of working class youth from the housing 'schemes' and, because of their political songs, they have become very popular among the marchers."

See page 5



# The wider significance of Cowley

**THE STRIKE** at Cowley will have served as a warning to BL management and to the employers in general, even though the workers were denied the victory that could so easily have been theirs, if their national union officials had followed different tactics.

78,000 jobs have been lost at BL over recent years and after the sacking of Derek Robinson the rights of the trade unions on the shop-floor were severely cut back. BL management obviously thought they could get away with anything and they must therefore have been taken aback when the spontaneous strike broke out at Cowley, even including workers who were newly recruited from the dole queues.

The issue has not been fully resolved: BL managers claim they have an agreement to do away with the washing-up time, but the workers say otherwise. Once having gone back, it would be hard for the workforce to come out again over the same issue, and that is the biggest danger of a month's "cooling off" period, but at least they are not going back with their heads down.

BL workers have flexed their muscles for the first time for years, and with new-found confidence, they will be seeking to re-establish basic rights and conditions on the shop floor. "They will no longer be able to treat us like animals", as one Cowley workers put it.

This dispute, however, also raises wider issues that go beyond the immediate interest of the Cowley workers.

## Shop floor trade unions intact

Against the pessimists and the Jeremiahs of the labour movement, who could only see devastating defeats after every industrial confrontation, *Militant* has argued throughout the recession that the basic organisation of the trade unions on the shop floor remain intact. Workers will only take so much pressure by management: sooner or later, there will be a reaction, a spontaneous explosion from the shop floor.

Even the *Financial Times*, in a recent editorial, referred to "intense frustration on the shop floor", and, noting the outbreak of disputes at Cowley and elsewhere, warned employers against driving their workforce too hard. "A confrontational approach to management", it commented, "has undoubtedly worked in the short term. But it is as well that other, more participatory approaches have not been totally abandoned." (April 6 1983)

What makes the Cowley dispute so particularly significant is the fact that it has taken place in an industry with a saleable product and plenty of orders, something that did not go unnoticed by the workforce. The 78,000 workers sacked by BL do not all have to get their jobs back to restore the morale and confidence of the workforce—it is quite enough that the order books are full and that any workers

are being taken on at all.

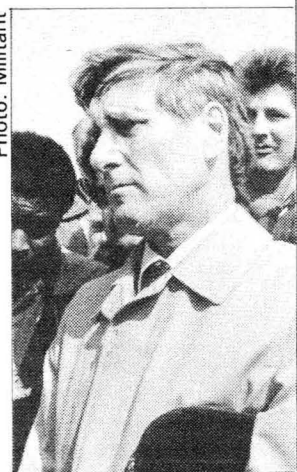
The more that key industries and the economy climb out of recession, without necessarily returning to the pre-recession levels of production or employment, the greater will be the likelihood that workers will take the opportunity to take back what they have lost.

## Mood of industrial workers

"The workers at Cowley", the *Financial Times* complained, "have raised an indelicate wider question for the Government about the durability of gains (gains, of course, for the employers—Ed.) won through an exceptional increase in the jobless total."

This may seem on the face of it to be in contradiction to the strike figures due to be published soon by the Department of Employment. These will show that in the first three months of this year, recorded stoppages in industry were running at about 60 a month, an all-time low. Moreover, most of these were in the public sector.

But the mood of the working class cannot be gauged by the strike figures alone, important though they are. Together with the bald statistics showing the number of strikes and the numbers of workers involved, it is necessary to examine which groups of workers are in struggle, what their social weight is within industry, what are the aims of the strike and what effect their struggle would have on other workers. In this respect, the car industry plays a key role, especially in engineering.



David Buckle, full time official of TGWU at Cowley

The significance of the Cowley dispute, therefore, should not be underestimated, especially when put alongside other, smaller, disputes in BL, the four-week strike at Ford's Halewood, over the sacking of a worker for alleged vandalism, as well as a threatened strike at Vauxhall which achieved some success over shift changes. The sudden strike of thousands of steelworkers in South Yorkshire took the BSC management as well as their

own union leaders by surprise, and also stands in contrast to the acceptance of steel redundancies in previous months.

Indeed, it would seem that the figures of the Department of Employment may understate the number of disputes in industry. A correspondent in the *Financial Times* commented, "Engineering companies in some of Britain's traditional manufacturing areas are beginning to be affected by more union disputes than at any time in the last two years."

"The Engineering Employers Federation", he goes on, "believes the upward trend is a sign of shop-floor frustration and greater resistance to enforced redundancies and low wage settlements." (April 23 1983)

The increase in disputes, the EEF noted, was especially marked in those areas particularly badly hit by redundancies in the past, the North West, and the West Midlands. Before the recession the West Midlands area of the Engineering Employers Association recorded an average of 40 disputes a day. This fell to 2 or 3 last year, but has recently risen again to about 12 a day.

Even in areas where the increase in disputes has not been significant, employers have complained of a spate of "petty niggling squabbles and minor disputes" and, the *Financial Times* correspondent commented, "Some officials believe that signs that some companies may no longer be at rock-bottom have helped to fuel unrest."

All these developments: the recovery of the confidence of workers on the shop floor, a greater willingness to fight for their rights, an increased pressure on the union tops from the shop floor, are still at a low level. Their impact should not at this stage be exaggerated.

But neither should these processes be glossed over. They are an inevitable feature of the weak upturn now underway in the economy, indicated by the CBI's forecast of increased orders and output.

## Weak upturn will peter out

The partial recovery of the economy will make no difference to the long-term organic crisis within British capitalism. An economic 'boom' of 2 per cent will not be enough to raise production and lower employment to pre-recession levels, and it will peter out in any case within two, or three years at most.

But in the short term, an upturn in the economy will have a significant effect on the psychological outlook of workers, beginning in key sectors of industry, and then affecting other workers even in more backward areas of the economy. The workers will move to recover all the ground lost in the last four years.

Beginning with niggling, spontaneous strikes over management dictatorship and petty issues, the workers



Workers at Cowley leaving Tuesday's mass meeting

Photo: Militant

will gather new confidence to take on the bosses over more important issues like wages and conditions. In that sense, the strike and the outlook of the workers at Cowley has an important significance for all workers.

Thatcher and the Tories will soon be seeking a mandate for another five years in office: and it is not rule out that they could be re-elected. But if the Tories imagine

that they could have four or five years of relative industrial peace, then they will be in for a rude awakening.

Failure of the workers on the political, Parliamentary, plane, moreover, will only heighten their determination to fight on the industrial plane. The election of a new Tory government, in other words, will mean a big increase in the struggles and strikes of organised workers,

putting the 1970-74 period in the shade, and perhaps posing the question of a general strike.

The Cowley dispute is a harbinger of future mass struggles in industry. Like a dark cloud, growing, but as yet "no bigger than a man's hand", it points to enormous storms ahead, if the Tories come back to office.

## Left nominations in POEU

SINCE 1978 the POEU conference has regularly sent two well known *Militant* supporters as delegates to the Labour Party conference. Just less than half the delegation (of 15) is made up of elected lay members at conference.

The Broad Left supporters elected are always met with fierce opposition from the right wing. They are elected on their record rather than patronage from the union tops.

Despite the climate of

witch-hunting generated by such as POEU-sponsored MP John Golding, there has been no drop in support for *Militant* supporters standing as delegates this year. In fact the number of nominations has increased.

*Militant* supporters Phil Holt and Donald McDonald have gained most nominations, Phil with 50 (a sixth of the total branches) and Donald with 47. The nominating bodies include a high proportion of large branches. The nearest right wing rivals only received 37 nominations, mainly from

smaller branches.

In the nomination to the TUC, the Broad Left also topped the poll with Lol Williamson and Dave Ward both getting 44. This shows that the witch-hunt against the left in general and *Militant* in particular is not gaining ground in the POEU.

It seems that POEU branches have a great deal of confidence in the job done by the Broad Left candidates. These are the highest numbers of nominations anyone can remember for individual candidates.

## Militant weekend school

AFTER very successful Marxist Weekend Schools held in London in the last few years, *Militant* is this year organising two schools at the beginning of July, one for the South, in London, and one for the North, in Middlesborough.

Courses this year will again include an Introduction to Marxism, covering philosophy, economics, and historical materialism. Also

planned are courses on internationalism, covering the history of the Internationals, Marxism and the British labour movement, and the Permanent Revolution.

Book now and start saving to ensure you are able to attend one of these key educational events.

The London school will be held on 2/3 July at Queen Mary College Student Union, and the provisional cost will be £6.

The Northern School will

be held on 9/10 July at Teeside Polytechnic, Middlesborough, and the provisional cost will be £5.

There will be reductions for the unwaged; and crèche facilities will be available.

Details of the courses and other features of the schools will be announced in *Militant* soon. Full details and reading lists will then be available on payment of the booking fee.



# LPYS PLEDGE CAMPAIGN ACTION

**THE FIRST** meeting of the new LPYS National Committee took place last Saturday.

The main discussion was on preparations for the general election, expected in June, which are now getting underway at every level.

Nationally, the LPYS are taking up Denis Howell's offer at the LPYS conference that at least one million leaflets should be produced to advertise Labour's commitment to pay 16 and 17 year-olds in full-time education a £25 a week grant. A *Youth for Labour* pamphlet is being printed to be sold in the campaign.

Regionally a number of Youth Campaign Committees are being set up. In Scotland a Youth Campaign Committee, based on the LPYS Regional Committee has been set up. As well as writing to all CLPs urging them to involve youth speakers in the election campaign, the Labour Party in Scotland are also writing to Schools, Colleges and factories offering speakers on Labour's youth policy.

At a local level LPYS branches should now be following the example of Gateshead East by getting agreement from Constituency Labour Parties to: 1) Produce a youth leaflet drawn up by the LPYS in conjunction with the constituency youth officer; 2) Organise youth rallies with the PPC speaking and 3) Have youth speakers on every platform at Labour Party public meetings during the election campaign.

LPYS branches in Manchester have written to local schools offering speakers and in East Edinburgh the LPYS participated in a debate with the Young Conservatives and Young Liberals at a local school. A "mock election" is being organised and Labour's youth are confident of winning an overwhelming

**Willie Griffin**  
(LPYS Chairman)

majority.

Unemployment and disarmament will be the two most important issues in the general election and the LPYS is fully involved in campaigns on both these issues in the next few weeks. The LPYS NC fully supports the YCND festival in Brockwell Park on 7 May. LPYS branches, particularly in London, have been organising local meetings to publicise and take youth along to the festival.

In Glasgow LPYS branches have been showing *The Peace Game* (produced by the government to counter *The War Game*, and available free) which has attracted many youth and provided the basis for lively discussion. The May edition of *Socialist Youth* carries a front page headline **YOUTH B4 BOMBS** to sell on the demo and win youth to the ranks of the organised labour movement.

**Branches support People's March for Jobs '83**

LPYS members as far apart as Cornwall, Rotherham and East Lothian, as well as many others, are demonstrating against unemployment with the **People's March for Jobs**. The march is planned to end with a monster demonstration in London on 5 June.

The LPYS National Committee are calling for a national mobilisation of Young Socialists' branches on that day. Locally, branches are fully supporting the march.

In Leeds a feeder march has been organised to meet



LPYS members on the march at last year's demonstration against the Tories' 'Youth on Poverty' schemes. Photo: Militant

up with the People's March on May Day and in Kent a three day march from Snowdown to London is being organised by Labour's youth with the support of the NUM and NUPE.

The National Committee began its work in what will probably be an election year, with great enthusiasm, but also with the determination to make sure the LPYS plays its full part in kicking the

Tories out.

The rallying call from the National Committee to every LPYS branch is **Stop the Tories—Youth for Labour—organise for the general election now!**

**PRESS  
DISTORTS  
IRELAND  
DEBATE**

The morning after we arrived back from the LPYS conference, the Newcastle *Journal* carried a front page article condemning a minority opinion expressed at conference regarding support for the IRA.

Myself and Bob Harker, an ex-British soldier and a delegate from Gateshead East LPYS who spoke in the debate, drew up press releases and went around to the *Journal* to put the record straight.

They must have been expecting our arrival, because someone was sent down immediately to see us. However, it seems they had already decided they were not going to print our point of view because the reporter who spoke to us did not even have a note pad and pencil. She said that our point of view did not constitute a new angle on the story! What a shame when the truth is not news!

After we left, the paper must have felt pangs of conscience because later on that night the deputy editor phoned me and spent twenty minutes trying to justify why he was not going to carry our statements.

I pointed out that they printed a story regarding a minority opinion in the LPYS. Nine paragraphs out of ten were spent condemning YS support for the IRA while only one sentence in one paragraph stated that the YS as a whole is opposed to terrorism.

If they wanted a story on the LPYS why did they not report our actual policies? Why did they not report Bob Harker's views as an ex-British soldier, that neither sectarianism nor the presence of the British Army is going to solve the problems of Northern Ireland. That only a trade union based Labour Party with socialist policies to unite Catholic and Protestant workers can solve the 'Irish question'.

The deputy editor's only answer was that "man bites dog" makes better copy than "dog bites man". This obviously means that when you can distort and discredit the ideas of socialism—do it. When you can't—ignore them. As it happens they did print a five paragraph story tucked away on page seven—so much for equal prominence and putting the record straight. This episode again shows the vital need for a daily *Militant* to get the real ideas of socialism across to the youth and workers of Britain.

**By John Hird**

(Gateshead East LPYS and NC representative)

## Labour may lose 2 million votes

STUDIES BY the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys in 1981 show that as many as two and a half million adults in Britain may not be registered to vote by the time of the next election.

Figures show that in some of the inner London boroughs, the proportion of the adult population outside the register might be as high as 14%, while the lowest, in areas like the South East of England, have 4%. An average of 4,275 adults in each constituency will have no vote.

Moreover, an examination of the missing votes shows that they are overwhelmingly concentrated among youth, the unemployed and the ethnic minorities—in other words, among groups who would be mainly sup-

**By John Pickard**

porters of the Labour Party.

A staggering 23% of 18-year old youths who have just become eligible, have not registered to vote. In inner London, this figure reaches as high as 59%.

Nearly a third of the immigrants from the 'New Commonwealth' countries are not on the register and among the black and Asian unemployed youth, the figures are twice as high in some areas.

Among unemployed under 30 years old, 47% will not be able to vote, and even among those older, 21% will not be registered.

Part of the blame may lie in the cuts imposed by the Tory government on local authorities. The Registration

Officers are not responsible to the local councils, but the work of compiling the registers is funded by the local authorities and there may be a strong temptation to cut corners and use cheaper methods.

The Social Survey Department of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys recently discovered that in many areas canvassers are not used to compile the register and instead the forms are distributed only by post, relying on the voters to reply by post. Inevitably huge disparities will arise, especially where there are language problems and where there are multi-tenancies or shared accommodation.

But a big part of the reason for this massive non-registration must also lie in the absolute frustration and despair that is felt, especial-

ly by the unemployed and the youth. The promise of years on the dole, or a 'cheap-labour' YTS job for most school leavers is not exactly designed to fire the unemployed or youth with enthusiasm for the virtues of Parliamentary democracy.

**A clear socialist alternative can overcome despair**

The scale of the non-registration carries also a warning to the Labour Party. In the face of vicious attacks in living standards by the Tories, and ever-increasing dole queues, workers should be presented with a clear alternative by the Labour Party—an alternative that would inspire

them with the determination to register and fight for a change of government.

It is understandable that workers should be angry and bitter at the measures of the Tory government. But campaigns by the labour movement—and the perspective of real socialist change—would be enough to overcome any despair or unwillingness to register.

The boundary changes are already a handicap to the election of a Labour government, and the loss of two million unregistered 'Labour' votes makes the position clearly worse. But in the final analysis, it will be the willingness or otherwise of the Labour leadership to fight on bold socialist policies which will determine whether workers are sufficiently motivated to turn out in their millions to register and to vote Labour.



# Spring into action

When Thatcher tells us that there is no money, she means for the workers. But there is obviously still plenty of money for the rich.

Directors' pay rose by 25% between 1979-81, according to *The Times*. Richard Giodano, of British Oxygen, gets £579,000 a year. He is not making any sacrifice in Tory Britain.

But the donations we receive each week are a real sacrifice. They come out of the pockets of hard up workers and the unemployed, as a testament to the commitment of our supporters to see a real socialist society.

Special thanks this week to a BIFU member who donated £500 this week as part of his redundancy.

Supporters who attended the public meeting in Basildon raised over £62, including a £20 promise from the YS. Tony Quinn, a supporter from Shettleston, asked everyone in his office to donate their coppers and raised £15. All our supporters should follow his example.

Thanks to Pete Gunn (Secretary, Salford Labour Party Young Socialists) £10, Stevie Dunn (Glasgow) £6, Harry Browning (Llanelli) £6, and all those who donated fivers: T Grever (Hull), P Tutty (Bootle), M Martin (unemployed, Glasgow), A Sinclair (Biddulph Labour Party, Stoke) £5, S Martin (Stoke) and T Church (CPSA, Leicester).

Thanks also to Charlie Steven (Glasgow) £3, K Jones (Shropshire) £2, members of Hull AUEW No 12 Branch £2, Helen Short (Derby) £1, John McAuliff (Bethnal Green Hospital) £1, Robin Wareing (student, Fleetwood) £1, Steve Brown (Ashington Labour Party Young Socialists) £1, Mick Mulheren (Sevenoaks LP) £1 and H Gopal (YOP worker, Hendon) 90p. Thanks to all those who gave £1 for their paper this week; R Adams, N Hanney, R Bartlett, T Corral and E

By Kath White

Hasman all from Leicester, A Woodward (Ashby NUHKW) B Simmons (Maidstone UCW) and A Bainbridge (Keighley LPYS). Thanks finally to Doris Harris (Barnet) 85p, A Judd (Nottingham) 60p, R Quigley (Keighley AUEW) 20p, C Holland (Reigate CLP) 40p, C Peat (Nottingham) 30p, and S Best (Keighly COHSE) 20p.

**THIS WEEK: £1,775**

Remember the pennies build *Militant* as well as the £'s and are often more of a sacrifice to those of our supporters who are very poorly paid. But keep the donations pouring in; whatever you can afford, it helps us build.

Only a few weeks gone, but we are slipping behind target already—help us get back on target over the next few weeks. If we catch up now the rest of the quarter will be easy.

With the summer coming, now is the best time to organise a summer fête or a sponsored walk or how about organising an outing for supporters in your area? Plan your outdoor event now so that as well as being a good fund raiser it will also be well organised.

The summer draw is coming soon. First prize is video equipment worth £400 and second prize, a portable colour TV worth £200. Tickets should be available within the next few weeks.



## Good morning Britain GET MILITANT!

Over recent weeks the newspapers have revelled in the difficulties of the commercial breakfast TV company TV-AM. They are budgeting for a £6 million loss and two of its investors have reduced their investments from a book value of £1,500,000 and £773,000 to nil and £1 respectively.

Our paper is unable to call on these capitalist interests but only its sellers, readers and supporters in the movement to get our support across. Indeed the two largest wholesale/retail chains have refused to allow *Militant* to be sold in their shops as it "wasn't profitable"!

Other papers on the left get large donations from union executives but some unions will not even let us take out paid adverts in their union journals! Despite this we go from strength to strength due to our tireless sellers up and down the country and our swelling readership amongst ordinary working people.

What can you do to help? Become a seller of *Militant* or find more sellers in your area. If you are willing to help contact: *Militant* Circulation, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, or phone 01-986 3828.

By Dave Farrar

# ads

NEW RATE CLASSIFIED: 10p per word, minimum 10 words. SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres. All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

## MILITANT MEETINGS

**MAIDSTONE** Militant Marxist Discussion Group. 'War and Peace'. Thursday 12 May, 8.00 pm, at Wheelers Arms, Perry Street, Maidstone. Speaker Chris Jones.

**HALIFAX** Marxist Discussion Group. Fortnightly Wednesdays, beginning 6 April at 7.30 pm at AEU Club, St James Street, Halifax (near bus station). For more information phone Phil Crossley, Halifax 822814.

**MAIDSTONE MILITANT SUPPORTERS:** Maidstone Marxist Economics Day School. Speakers Mick Brooks and John Edwards, at Wheelers Arms, Perry St, on Sunday May 8th, 10.30am to 5.00pm.

**NORTH EAST** Marxist Discussion Groups:

Benton: Details Ged Grebby, 0632 662374.

Wallsend: Contact Ed Waugh, 0632 341284.

North Shields and Whitley Bay: Contact Robin Jamieson, 0632 523441.

**WOOLWICH** Militant May Day Meeting

Speakers: Roger Silverman and Hashida Davé (Editorial Board, *Hartal*). Tuesday 3 May 7.30 pm. Woolwich Town Hall, London SE18.

**BRISTOL MILITANT MEETING** "Socialism or Nuclear Annihilation?" at 7.30 pm at the 'Swan', Stokes Croft, Bristol. Speaker: Peter Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*).

**BLACKWOOD** Marxist Discussion Group. Telephone Blackwood 220051.

**POPLAR** Militant Discussion Group. Ring 01-515 1718 for details ALL WELCOME!

**CARLISLE:** Marxist Discussion Group held fortnightly. For further information contact: Ian Campbell on Carlisle 21068.

## CLASSIFIED

"ANIMALS AND POLITICS" PUBLIC MEETING

Friday 29 April at 7.30 pm at County Hall, London SE1. Speakers: Ken Livingstone, Valerie Veness, Tim Smallwood.

All welcome! Enquiries: British Union for the abolition of Vivisection, 143 Charing Cross Road, London WC 2H. Telephone: 01-434 2512 or 01-734 2691.

**NEW MILITANT LEAFLET**

Out now! It's an election year special. Advertise your local readers' meeting with this new leaflet. Free, from 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

### MILITANT PAMPHLETS

'Capitalist Crisis or Socialist Plan', by Andrew Glyn, £1.20 'Marxist View of History', articles by Lenin, Marx, Trotsky, 50p

'General Strike', articles by Trotsky, Taaffe, Grant, £1.20 All prices include p&p. Orders to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

**STICK WITH MILITANT**

Yellow advertising stickers 1,000 for £11; 500 for £5.60; 200 for £2.30. Send cash with order, cheques payable to Militant. From Militant Circulation, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Left Book Club books. Over 80 available. Offers to Box No 69, Militant. Proceeds to Fighting Fund.

On the centenary of Marx's death, 14 March 1983, Peter Taaffe spoke in Swansea on the relevance of Marxism today, and of Militant in the labour movement. Tape cassette available £2.25. Orders to D L Davies, 10 Page Street, Swansea. Profit to Militant Fighting Fund.

**WRITE OFF THE TORIES WITH US**

*Militant* bios with slogan: "Read Militant, Tories out, Labour to power on a socialist programme." Normal price 20p (plus 20p p&p). Bulk orders: 10 at £1.30 (post free).

**NEW POSTER**

Historic 'Murmansk poster featuring Bolsheviks' appeal to British troops who invaded Russia after the revolution. 25p each (+ 15p p&p) or 20 for £3 (including p&p).

Available from E Phillips, 66 Sprindale Road, Broadstone, Poole.

**SNOWDONIA:** Bed and Breakfast in comfortable cottage. £4.50 nightly, £28 weekly. Telephone Llanberis 870062.

## TARGET—£50,000 BY JULY 9.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 9 July
Eastern	43		2700
East Midlands	107		2600
Humberside	73		1300
London East	132		3300
London West	146		1650
London South	621		2500
Manchester & Lancs	113		3000
Merseyside	117		3400
Northern	30		3550
Scotland East	25		2100
Scotland West	60		3000
Southern	141		3150
South West	39		2000
Wales East	14		1500
Wales West	22		2100
West Midlands	25		3100
Yorkshire	61		3400
Others	5		5000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>1775</b>		<b>50000</b>

## Militant Steelworkers' national meeting

'The attacks on the steel industry and the fight back'  
Main Hall, Centre Against Unemployment  
Bridge Street, Sheffield  
(behind Bridge St bus stand)  
Saturday 7 May, 11 am-5 pm  
Speakers: Mike Sutton (AUEW steward)  
Chris Weldon (ISTC)  
(Both in personal capacity)



# Labour Students: Socialist Leadership Needed

Recent announcements by a number of college authorities show that, once again, hall of residence fees will be raised by a greater amount than the increase in the 1983/84 grant.

This is yet another blow to the living standards and conditions faced by students.

Students' real housing costs now bear no reality to the 'housing element' of the student grant, which itself has been consistently eroded during the four years of Tory rule.

Moreover, the Tories appear determined to curb the ability of students to resist these attacks through action by their student unions. The authorities at Manchester Polytechnic have recently withdrawn £4,500 from the student union for organising an occupation against the cuts in November last year.

But unfortunately not one of these issues were discuss-

By Kath  
McDonnell  
(NOLS National  
Committee member)

ed at the recent National Organisation of Labour Students Conference, itself held at Manchester Poly! Instead the conference spent its time listening to appeals from club delegates who had been arbitrarily excluded from the conference by the NOLS leaders.

In the three months before conference, 20% of the clubs affiliated to NOLS were "investigated" by the NOLS leaders, and over 30 delegates ruled out. Of course they had the right of appeal to the conference—

but by excluding these delegates, the NOLS leaders had a large enough majority to ensure that most of these appeals were defeated.

NOLS leaders were pleased to see *Militant* supporters from Oxford Poly, Central Liverpool College and Kent University at NUS conference (and without those votes Tommy Sheppard of NOLS would not be NUS vice-president of Education). Yet at NOLS conference those same individuals were ruled out as delegates from their clubs!

The Labour Party NEC Youth Committee has decided to launch an enquiry into the conference. But, according to the *Times Higher Education Supplement*, the NEC inquiry will not look into these issues but into "allegations that the Militant Tendency tried to disrupt NOLS conference". Nothing could be further from the truth! On one occasion conference time was lost as the Labour Party Student Organiser, John Dennis un-

constitutionally suspended the conference when a majority vote of the conference had removed his ability to speak twice against every appeal made against his Credentials Report. Consequently there were only four political debates throughout the whole conference.

## The reason why

Why did the NOLS leaders need to resort to blatant organisational manoeuvres to secure themselves a majority and stifle debate? The reason lies in the crisis facing the NOLS leaders resulting from the victory of the NOLS candidates at the Easter 1982 NUS conference.

As students have moved into activity against the Tory attacks they have looked to NOLS, as the student section of the Labour Party, to link their campaigns with the power of the labour movement—the only way

students can be successful in their major campaigns. That explained the defeat of the right-wing 'Left Alliance' leadership of NUS, a coalition of Liberals, independents and 'Communists' in March 1982. Students responded to the slogans of the NOLS candidates for "links with the trade union and labour movement" and "activity—more of it".

But what has been the experience of one year of a NOLS leadership of NUS? They have organised demonstrations and 'days of action'. But so did the 'Left Alliance' leadership of NUS. There have been four major demonstrations of over 15,000 students since November 1981. But crucially the NOLS NUS leaders have failed to take the issues facing students to the ranks of the labour movement. Consequently the Tories have felt confident to continue their attacks on higher education. Despite the determination of students to

fight, no major concessions have been won by the national action of NUS.

However the other consequences of the failure of the NOLS leaders to fulfill their promises has been the increased support for the ideas of *Militant* inside NOLS. *Militant* supporters have consistently advanced a serious strategy for achieving successes on the issues facing students from the grants and cuts campaign to attacks on student unions themselves. That was the political reason why the NOLS leaders had to rely on organisational manoeuvres to 'secure a majority'.

But students will continue to look for the answers to the problems they face. If *Militant* supporters continue to intervene in the student unions, the Labour Clubs, the occupations and the protest meetings then the opportunities will be there to ensure a socialist leadership of a mass, democratic NOLS campaigning on the real issues facing students.

## Peoples March For Jobs

### Kent LPYS show the way

By  
Martin Cock  
Folkestone LPYS

The labour movement in Kent has taken a great lead in organising a march for jobs to meet up with the People's March For Jobs coming down from Glasgow, in London on 5 June.

We in the 'soft South' have been badly hit by the crisis and the rise of large-scale unemployment. In Kent, there have been recent closures and redundancy threats at Chatham docks, Snowdown colliery, Bowaters and numerous other small firms.

The initial idea for the march came from an LPYS member in Gillingham and a conference of the labour movement in Kent and South-East London attracted over 30 delegates from trade unions, Labour Parties and LPYS branches.

*Militant* supporters at the conference argued for a 'Labour's March for Jobs' to move the issue of unemployment away from the "non-political" arena. We also called for a strong,

democratically elected steering committee of six. As a result of this clear class programme, *Militant* supporters swept the board in the votes for both the name and format of the march and the election of the steering committee.

We will be marching for five days, starting from 1 June, and passing through all three pits in the Kent coalfield, the Chatham dockyards and areas of South-East London. Social events and rallies with leading national and local labour movement speakers are being planned in each town where the marchers will stop overnight.

Already support is flooding in from CLPs, LPYS branches and trade union organisations. To give an example Tunbridge Wells General Committee, on hearing of the march, immediately donated £10 towards the costs and set about arranging a coach from Tunbridge Wells to meet up with the march.

The South-East region of the TUC has unfortunately

refused to support the march. The general secretary has circulated the trades councils instructing their members not to support us. They say it will split the movement.

But we believe that the demonstration will help to build support for the people's march which will not be marching through Kent. Our march will meet up with the main march in London. The NUM and NUPE have agreed to support our demonstration in Kent.

We are convinced this march will be a tremendous success. It can, and will, be used as a platform to get across the ideas of socialism to ordinary people. We are no longer prepared to sit idly back and watch the slaughter of jobs and industry in Kent carry on.

All comrades in the surrounding areas should come along. Contact Helen Gasking, 18 Duncan Road, Ramsgate, Kent (phone 0843-586782)

## 'No Politics'... Communist Party

"...it would be counter-productive to campaign on a narrow anti-Tory platform. Chanting 'Maggie Out!' may satisfy the marchers but it does nothing to convince the doubting onlookers."

You probably think this is a statement from the Liberal Party, but you'd be wrong. It's the latest advice from the Communist Party to the People's March for Jobs. They go on: "The CND has built a mass influential movement without being anti-Tory or calling for jobs through an alternative economic strategy. We must do similar on unemployment

and jobs."

No doubt the marchers and workers who join in or watch the procession will see through this "advice" and plant the blame clearly where it lies—on the Thatcher government and the bosses' system. The march will have its desired effect only if the need to overthrow the system which causes misery to millions is clearly stated.

In what will possibly be the run-up to a general election the opportunities for mobilising mass support for the Labour Party and real socialist policies to defeat unemployment will be in-

creased enormously. The People's March must be used to focus all the pent-up anger of workers against Thatcher and show Labour as an alternative with policies that strike at the heart of the rich man's system.

The fight against unemployment can only be achieved by attacking the Tories and their class. To the faint-hearted of the Communist Party we say:

- ★ "End unemployment"
- ★ "Tories out!"
- ★ "Labour to power on a socialist programme!"

By Dave Webb



This weekend (April 30 - May 1) the Glasgow People's March reaches Carlisle and Pentrich, and the second leg from Keighly reaches Leeds and Wakefield. A third leg sets off from Hull on May 1.



# LEFT and RIGHT

## Return of Colonel Blimp

Colonel Blimps are not dead. They are foaming at the mouth, having seen the film *Gandhi*. Their house paper, the *Sunday Telegraph*, has been inundated by back bench Tory MPs and former members of the Indian Civil Service complaining that the film shows British rule in the wrong light.

What has particularly aroused their wrath is the decision to show the Amritsar massacre. At Amritsar, in 1919, General Dyer, without warning, opened fire with machine guns on a peaceful, unarmed gathering of Indian men, women and children. They fired 1,650 rounds, and killed or wounded 1,516 people. At the time the Blimps gathered round Dyer and raised £26,000 for his enforced retirement.

They still come to his defence today. William Beynon Tory MP for Buckingham, told the *Sunday Telegraph*, 17 April, that the film's account of Amritsar was, "totally wrong. I don't think the film paid enough tribute to the enormous work that the British did."

The editorial in that week's *Sunday Telegraph* went further. It attacked the film's director, Richard Attenborough for "traducing his own country's imperial past". It concluded: "If pandering shamelessly to America's anti-colonial prejudices is the only way to save the dying British film industry, then perhaps resurrection is not such a good idea after all."

## Sleepy success

If you want to be rich, successful and famous then forget the class struggle. A five year 'University study' of top people in Europe and America has found that it is nothing to do with bosses making money out of workers. The bosses' success is built upon one factor and one factor alone; lack of sleep. Top people can do with as little as two hours sleep a night, (which perhaps explains some of their subsequent decisions). It took these academics five years to discover this. It would take a worker five minutes to point out that the reason the rich don't need so much sleep is they don't have to flog their guts out to make a crust like the rest of us.

## Flexibility

Workers are constantly being told that if they want to keep their jobs and achieve even a half-way decent standard of living, then in future they are going to have to be more "flexible". But perhaps we have not realised just how much is demanded.

East Midlands Airport recently advertised for a handyman. More than 200 people applied: and they were each given a list of the thirty-five different tasks they would be expected to perform. These included runway repairs, sewer maintenance, welding, scaffolding, plumbing, hanging doors, installing electricity and telephone cables, tending boilers, mending windsocks, and industrial painting.

How could any one person have the skills to do all these jobs safely? Both his own safety and other people's would be at risk—this is an airport! The pay offered to this miraculous person was £105 a week, gross.

## Fifty years ago

Tory councillors don't change their spots. They are as reactionary as they can be. And in the 1930's that was quite a lot. As an example look at Bristol City Corporation's budget for 1933. One million out of their four million pounds expenditure went straight to the moneylenders, in payment of debt. They then introduced cuts in social provisions. This meant there was only £2,218 on milk for needy families. This was about one-third the amount spent on the Lord Mayor, £6,118, and in case there was any discontent over their policies, the amount spent on police was upped to £252,210. Sounds just like Tory priorities to-day, locally or nationally.

Documentaries on China are rare and eagerly awaited. Unfortunately Granada's series of three films, *Inside China*, can only be given a limited welcome.

It appears to accept too much at face value and whilst providing a fascinating glimpse of life within one commune, does not explore the contradictions and problems raised.

The first two films concentrate, at an individual family level, on life within a commune seventy miles from Shanghai. As one in five of the world's population live in a Chinese Commune, obviously no programme can portray "a typical life". The particular commune chosen to film is one where the regime have launched their latest experiment to stimulate economic growth.

The contrasts with life before liberation in 1949, are graphically brought out. One woman tells of how her parents considered killing their fifth child, a girl, because girls were seen as an economic burden. "If a girl is born your roof will lower three feet" was then a common expression.

As the interviews in the films illustrate, women now play a much more active role in society. In the past, one woman explains: "women relied on husbands to live. Men said, 'you'll get money, stay at home, light stoves, and watch the babies'."

"So women's brains died. After liberation they went out and met people. Before, women only met women while washing rice, just nodding their heads without speaking to anyone.

"Since they could go out, women power has grown. As for equal pay and work, there's still a struggle."

The particular commune filmed is quite prosperous. Televisions, stereo radios appeared to be common. Wedding gifts to one couple, whose marriage provides a central focus of the first film, totalled £700.

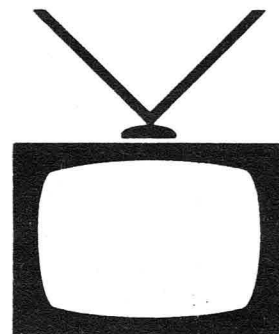
How typical this is of conditions elsewhere is, at least open to doubt. The film team rightly do not attempt to generalise from their limited experience.

But they do hint at the dilemma which is developing in this new model commune. Apathy towards the Communist Party is widespread. So to help boost production, individual plots have become the norm.



## INSIDE CHINA

By Jim Chrystie



## Review

Land is allocated by the commune depending on the size of the workteam. After growing enough to fulfill their basic requirement for the commune, the surplus is allowed to be sold, by the individuals, for cash.

The problems this raises are not examined. Stronger more efficient teams, could become economically and politically dominant. Worse still, it seems that the practice of killing girl children has returned. The state encourages couples to have only one child, and so some families are ensuring that only stronger male children survive.

Apparently since this film

was made, new restrictions have been introduced, as "problems" have arisen on this new model commune. Unfortunately criticisms of the new policy are not raised, nor put to their Chinese interviewees in the film.

This has been the continual dilemma for information from China. No sooner is one 'model' praised, than it is denounced as "reactionary". But despite these limitations, these films are worth watching and provide a fascinating account, at a human level, of life inside one Commune.

The third film is separate from the others. It looks at one of China's national

minorities, the Kazakhs. It is a lively reflection of life amongst this tribe of nomadic horsemen, who live in the far north-west, between Mongolia and Tibet. Like the other two films, it concentrates on the life of a certain family to tell its tale of change and conflict since 1949.

The first film, *Living with revolution* was shown on 27 April. The second, *The newest revolution which features the experimental individual plot system* is on Wednesday 4 May 9.00 pm ITV. *The Kazakhs of China* is on Wednesday 18 May 9.00 pm ITV.



## REGGAE ROOTS

Radio One has begun a new series on Sunday nights tracing the origins of reggae and the West Indian influence on music internationally today. But unlike other Radio One attempts at history, this is not just a collection of old numbers or simply a question of personalities; it is very much a history of the oppression of West Indian workers.

The presenter, poet Linton Kwezi Johnson, does not hold back in tracing the struggle of West Indian workers, from the African

slave trade of the last century to the police harassment of the underground clubs in Britain today.

The past two programmes have shown the early influences of West Indian music describing the conditions faced by the plantation slaves. With a strict rule that they could not speak while they worked, they communicated by song, as singing was allowed. Sometimes for example, the leader would sing the details of one of the secret meetings organised by the slaves to plan their resistance, right under the noses of the slave drivers.

Heaven knows how this programme got through the BBC censors, but as it has—tune in and enjoy it.

'From Mento to Lovers' **Rock** with Linton Kwezi Johnson, Radio One, Sundays, 9pm.



## THE FLYING PICKETS

By Bob Wade

Very good, very clever and very funny. That's the 'Flying Pickets', a band with a difference. A five piece band, they use the 'acapella' style—singing without instruments, using their voices

to create a full sound.

They mainly perform early sixties Mowtown and Phil Spector songs, injecting humour into some of them—such as the lead singer performing Smokey Robinson's 'Tracks of my Tears' without his dentures in.

The band were formed out of the 7:84 Theatre group and their socialist humour shines through. For example, describing themselves as the 'lads who ran the creche on HMS Hermes' they attack the jingoism of the Tories over the Falklands with a rendition of the Four Seasons's number 'Walk like a Man'. In the performance I saw they held a collection for the DC Thomson fighting fund, where newspaper workers are struggling for union recognition.

Watch out for the Flying Pickets in your area.



**WELSH AUEW  
BROAD LEFT**  
Throw a spanner in  
Duffy's works—build  
an active National  
AUEW Broad Left

**LIVERPOOL LP  
WOMEN'S COUNCIL**  
Labour women—  
Fight the cuts!  
No to witch-hunts!  
Kick out Thatcher!

**WOLVERHAMPTON  
SOUTH EAST LPYS**  
say implement Clause  
IV now for a socialist  
transformation of  
society

Teach Sir Keith  
Joseph a lesson!  
Expel the Tories  
at the next election  
**MYNDDBACH SCHOOL**  
*Militant supporters*

**BLACKBURN Militant  
supporters**  
Fight the witch-hunt—  
no expulsions  
Labour to power on a  
socialist programme

**READING NORTH LPYS**  
"We thought Mortimer  
was a village near  
Reading until we  
discovered the  
witch-hunt"

\*\*\*\*\*

**OXFORD Militant  
supporters**  
Victory to the Cowley  
workers. Victory to the  
workers internationally.  
BL management and the  
Tories out in 1983

**GATESHEAD EAST  
Militant supporters**  
Socialist policies +  
Socialist candidates =  
Tories out and Labour  
to power

Fraternal greetings  
from **DENNY  
LABOUR PARTY**  
No expulsions  
Forward to a socialist  
Labour Party

Fraternal greetings to  
workers everywhere  
from the Shop  
Stewards' Committee  
(EETPU, GMBATU and  
AUEW Construction  
section) and workers  
at Torness Power  
Station  
Labour to victory on a  
socialist programme

\*\*\*\*\*

.....  
**STOCKPORT  
Militant  
supporters say**  
Fight the Tories,  
not the socialists  
Labour to power on  
a socialist  
programme

**STEVENAGE**  
Militant supporters  
Spring clean with  
socialism—dust off  
Clause Four and  
sweep out the Tories

.....  
May Day greetings  
from **PRESTON**  
Militant supporters  
Stop the witch-hunt—  
Unity is strength

**DERBY Militant  
supporters send**  
fraternal greetings  
to Militant readers  
and workers  
everywhere  
Defeat the witch-  
hunt!  
Fight the Tories!  
Forward to  
international  
socialism!

A bold socialist  
programme for a  
Labour victory  
Greetings to all  
Marxists from **STOKE  
LPYS branches**

.....  
**NORTH AVON**  
Militant supporters  
send fraternal May  
Day greetings

Forward to socialism  
and workers' unity  
with greetings from  
**HUDDERSFIELD AND  
BRIGHOUSE**  
*Militant supporters*

**NOTTINGHAM  
UNIVERSITY LABOUR  
CLUB sends May Day  
greetings:**  
No expulsions!  
No witch-hunt of  
socialists!  
We will fight until we  
achieve our aim  
International socialism  
and world peace  
**SOUTHAMPTON LPYS**



**Mr Len Thomas—the man who put  
Tebbit where he belongs: locked out  
and in the dark—sends fraternal  
greetings to all real socialists  
FIGHT THE TORIES,  
DON'T EXPEL REAL SOCIALISTS**

**ROCHDALE**  
*Militant supporters*  
25% of the Rochdale  
population live below  
the poverty line  
Sack Cyril Smith  
Sack the Tories  
Vote Labour

**GORTON CLP**  
End unemployment  
Tories out  
Labour in with a  
socialist programme

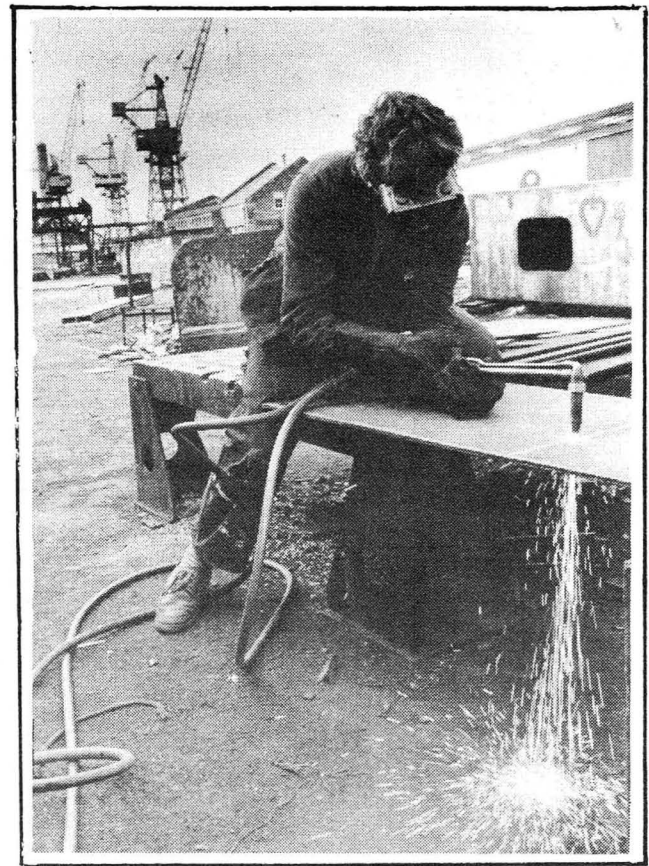
=====  
May Day greetings  
from **Bootle Militant  
supporters**  
'Workers unite—you  
have nothing to lose  
but your chains'

**CARLISLE Militant  
supporters send**  
comradely greetings to  
all who are fighting the  
Tories and not socialists  
Forward Ever  
Backward Never

\*\*\*\*\*  
Fraternal greetings to  
*Militant*, newspaper  
of the British  
Marxists, from  
*Inquaba Ya*  
*Basebenzi*, journal of  
the Marxist Workers  
Tendency in the ANC  
of South Africa  
For a socialist Britain  
and South Africa  
Workers of the world  
unite

.....  
May Day greetings  
from **Preston Militant  
supporters**  
Stop the witch-hunt—  
Unity is strength

.....  
**MIDDLETON AND  
HEYWOOD Militant  
supporters**  
May Day greetings  
Forward to a socialist  
Britain, a socialist  
Europe and a socialist  
world



**CAMMELL LAIRD  
MILITANT SUPPORTERS**  
say save shipbuilding  
Labour to power

**SOUTH SHIELDS  
MILITANT SUPPORTERS**  
Mayday, Mayday  
SOS  
Save Our Shipyards

.....  
**MAESTEG Militant  
supporters send**  
fraternal greetings to  
all comrades fighting  
the oppression of  
capitalism

May Day greetings  
from  
**PLYMOUTH  
Militant  
supporters**  
Scuttle the Tories  
and SDP  
Labour to power  
in '83

**AMMAN VALLEY**  
Militant supporters  
Reverse '5'  
expulsions—make the  
Tories redundant

.....  
**May Day greetings from  
MILITANT TEACHER**  
Save our schools!  
Expel the Tories!  
Forward to socialism and a  
proper education for all

**BASILDON  
Militant  
supporters**  
"Workers of the  
world unite"  
We can't afford to  
lose the fight  
Tories out!  
Labour to power on  
a socialist  
programme

May Day greetings  
from **BOURNEMOUTH**  
Militant readers  
Labour to power on a  
socialist programme

-----  
**YSTRADGYNLAIS**  
Militant supporters  
Expel the Tory  
witches, not  
socialists

.....  
**May Day greetings to  
all Militant readers**  
Fight for socialism  
and the *Daily Militant*  
**BISHOP AUCKLAND,  
DARLINGTON AND NEWTON  
AYCLIFFE SUPPORTERS**



- ★ Trade unions for socialism
- ★ Union rights for armed forces
- ★ Jobs not bombs

**MAY DAY GREETINGS**

John Ship    Paul Cooper    Sue Roberts  
Secretary    Chairman    Organiser

CPSA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
CENTRAL LONDON BRANCH  
(All in a personal capacity)



**The Swansea Branch of the  
Post Office Engineering Union  
sends fraternal greetings to  
trade unionists everywhere**

CPSA DHSS NORTH  
FYLDE CENTRAL  
OFFICE BRANCH  
sends fraternal May  
Day greetings to all  
trades unionists

May Day greetings  
from SALFORD  
TRADES UNION  
COUNCIL  
Support the People's  
March for Jobs 1983

.....

BRADFORD  
TRADES COUNCIL  
sends May Day  
greetings to workers  
in Britain and  
throughout the world

GMBATU  
Boilermaker Skilled  
Section, Sunderland No  
2 Branch  
MAY DAY GREETINGS  
"Syndicalism lives"  
President                      Secretary  
Tony Carty                      Jimmy Hall

May Day greetings  
from T&GWU 5/909  
ROVER SOLIHULL to  
the trade union and  
labour movement

Make May Day  
1983 the last year  
of office the Tories  
see

ASTMS 507, LEEDS  
sends greetings to all  
workers  
No witch-hunts  
throughout the labour  
movement

Forward together  
Socialism—forever  
TGWU 1/874  
BRANCH  
LITTLEHAMPTON

**ASTMS Liverpool Shipping  
& Freight Branch 618**  
  
Fraternal May Day greetings  
Fight the Tories not socialists  
Reinstate the five and return a  
Labour government committed  
to socialist policies

**FIRE BRIGADES UNION  
No 9 REGION  
MERSEYSIDE AND CHESHIRE**  
  
Fraternal greetings to all  
members of the labour  
movement  
**Socialism is not just a word**

MID & EAST LOTHIAN  
TRADES COUNCIL  
Gi's a future  
Gi's a Labour  
government which will  
achieve lasting socialism  
and peace

Fraternal May Day  
greetings from  
USDAW BLACKPOOL  
WOOLWORTH BRANCH  
Labour to power on a  
socialist programme

TGWU 1/1347 BRANCH,  
SUSSEX sends greetings  
to all socialists  
We call on our union to  
abide by the decision of  
our Bi-annual Delegate  
Conference to oppose  
witch-hunts and expulsions.  
We call for the  
reinstatement of the five  
members of the Militant  
Editorial Board.

SWANSEA *MILITANT* SUPPORTERS  
send fraternal greetings  
to workers everywhere  
★ Expel Thatcher and the Tories now!  
★ Reinstate the Five with full honour!

May Day!  
May Day!  
Privatisation  
threatens NHS  
Public sector  
unions unite and  
fight Tory cuts  
Greetings from  
ASTMS, NE London  
Medical Branch

May Day greetings  
from BLACKPOOL  
TRADES COUNCIL  
Unity is strength  
For peace, jobs and  
freedom

May Day greetings to  
fellow trade unionists  
Tories out—Labour to  
power on socialist  
policies  
ARUN DISTRICT  
TRADES COUNCIL

**The *Militant* supporters  
of Swansea and District  
Trades Council  
send fraternal greetings  
to all trade unionists**

Support the Labour  
Party socialist policies  
and wish them  
success in the next  
Parliamentary election  
LLANELLI  
TRADES COUNCIL

Caerphilly LPYS,  
Rhondda, Cardiff North  
West, District Councils  
Labour to power in  
Wales

**DEFEND BRITISH TELECOM**  
Liverpool Internal Branch says  
**Hands off BT  
No hiving off  
Re-nationalisation without  
compensation  
Stop the witch-hunt**

Phil Holt                      Dave Burgess                      Brian Armstrong  
Secretary                      Chairman                      Financial Secretary

**BAKERS FOOD & ALLIED  
WORKERS UNION**

- ★ Unite to oppose the anti-working class Tory legislation
- ★ Unite to destroy the Tory attacks on the trade union movement
- ★ Unite against witch-hunts in the Labour Party

J Marino                      T O'Neill  
General Secretary                      National President



# Local Government Elections

## THE TORY RECORD

More than two-thirds of a sample of homeless families in London surveyed by SHAC complained of ill-health arising out of their experience of homelessness.

- 43% of the survey were one-parent families and 56% were unemployed.

- In 1980 62,420 families were accepted as officially homeless.

- Housing expenditure has been cut by over 50% compared with a 5% cut in overall public spending.

- New house building hit rock bottom in 1981 and there were only 21,493 council starts in the first nine months of 1982.

- The average council house rent in England shot up by 19% last year to a record £13.50 according to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

- Tory controlled Stratford council is forcing tenants to pay up rent arrears by sending their cases to a local newspaper.

## EDUCATION

The Tory government's local authority cuts are destroying the intentions of the 1944 Education Act. The number of three and four year olds in nursery classes is to be cut from the low level of 40% in 1980-81 to the even lower level of 35% in 1983-84.

- Under the Tories the price of school meals had doubled to 50p in most Tory local authorities.

- About 10,000 teaching posts were axed between September 1980 and September 1981 yet one in five children are still in classes of more than thirty.

- Under the Tories, unemployment among school leavers has more than doubled over three years



Keep our school open! Supporters of Croxteth School demonstrate against its closure

Photo Militant

# TORIES AND LIBERALS WRECK SERVICES

Tory controlled councils have devastated local council services. The Liberals stand as the "community politicians" but their record in Liverpool shows that they are just as bad as the Tories. Once in power, their concern for "community politics" has disappeared out of the window. This article by Derek Hatton, a Labour councillor in Liverpool explains:

● Liverpool corporation under Liberal and Tory control has destroyed more job opportunities than any other single employer in Liverpool. Five thousand jobs have been lost in the last 6 years and in the next 12 months another 2,000 are to be cut.

- ★ The Community Enterprise Programme scheme on day-to-day repairs of Council housing have been further reduced with the loss of 150 jobs. 200 more will go after 6 months making a total of 350.

- ★ If the privatisation of the refuse service goes ahead a further 400 jobs will be lost.

- ★ 196 teaching jobs in primary and secondary schools will go in September and the polytechnic will lose 80 lecturers next September.

- ★ The works department is to introduce a policy of layoffs for the men. This is a return to casual labour.

- ★ The Liberals proposed to bring in private contractors to do cleaning and portering work at the polytechnic, together with private catering services which means job reductions.

- ★ £400,000 worth of cuts in discretionary awards means 850 students will not get places in our further educational establishments.

- ★ The County Council, under Labour control are building a new laundry in Vauxhall for people of the area. The city councillors cut out the money for the running costs so the laundry can't open.

- ★ £1½ million has been cut out of the already depleted maintenance of public building projects.

- ★ £500,000 has been cut out of the advanced further education courses, e.g. the course for the diploma of veterinary technician goes. This is the only course on the subject in the North West of England. Town planning courses for students at the poly will now completely close down.

- ★ The only item where there has been an increase is in the Lord Mayors Allowance which is £1,000 up, i.e. 12% increase.

- ★ There are more secret meetings and decisions made by 3 party spokesmen without reference to the city council since the Liberals have been in office than ever before. This was supposed to be the party which talked about open government.

- ★ The Liberals have closed down more community organisations by withdrawing their grant than any other political party.

- ★ The Liberals encourage Barratt's to build houses and flats to solve Liverpool's housing problem. But look what it has done for Barratt's. Dividends in Barratt's went up last year by 24%. Sir Laurie Barratt's returns on shares went to £141,000. Then he had a 40% increase in his stake—£127,000. His total income was £268,594. No wonder he can afford to fly around in helicopters.

- ★ Liverpool's record in social services in 1982 tells the same story—school meal charges up by 45p to 55p. Maintenance budget for schools cut by £1 million. £2.5 million taken away from higher education. Community facilities cut back dramatically. Remedial teaching service curtailed. Support for Croxteth Comprehensive withdrawn against the wishes of the community. Rents for school caretakers increased. 200 teaching jobs lost. School books and stationary spending reduced by £1½ million. Courses closed down.

**Not much of a record is it? Vote Labour back in on a socialist programme and fight to reverse the cuts.**

# Housing nightmare - eat or pay the rent

"Behind a bush in a car park at Skipton Street, Elephant and Castle, a lonely middle-aged woman died in February. She had been sleeping on a pile of rubble wrapped in a padded jacket with mitts on her hands. The desolate car park had been her home for the night." (London Standard, 13 April 1983)

This is just one of hundreds of thousands of situations showing the absolute despair of homelessness in Tory Britain in 1983. While the Tories and their class have condemned almost half a million building workers to

the dole queues, over three million homes in Britain have been declared unfit for human habitation and another 1.2 million people are crying out for the basic right of a place to live.

The Standard report was a devastating indictment of Tory Britain. "Every night under the railway arches in parks, behind hoardings or crouched beside ventilation hatches there are hundreds of homeless people trying to sleep. Even more have to sleep on friend's floors, in derelict buildings or vegetate in Dickensian doss houses."

In other words, 50,000 people in London are without a secure roof over their heads. 15,000 people are being accommodated in Salvation Army Hostels

Most council house waiting lists mean a wait of anywhere up to 4 to 5 years

By Jackie Walsh  
(Hackney North LPYS)

for single people and 2 to 3 years for engaged couples waiting to get married. Even if you're pregnant, emergency accommodation is no longer automatically available. You have to have had your baby before your application for a house can be considered.

is even worse for council housing. The enforced sale of half a million of the best council houses since the Tories came in, has further reduced the chances of less well-off tenants being rehoused in decent accommodation.

Tower blocks and high rise flats are a death-trap—especially for children or the very old. Not only are many

damp, rotting and lacking basic repairs inside, but the isolation is enormous.

For many working class families and particularly for single parents the low level of supplementary benefit has given them the choice of either eating or paying the rent!

But cheap rents and decent housing are possible. While the Tories spend billions on nuclear weapons there are enough bricks stock-piled and building workers on the dole to provide a home for every man, woman and child in Britain.

The labour movement should take up the initiatives of LPYS branches in Stockport and Wythenshawe. In Stockport, on the initiative of the LPYS, the labour movement has launched a "Decent Homes for All" campaign.

In the local council elections and with a General Election looming ahead, Labour must campaign on a bold socialist programme to defeat the Tories and end rotten housing conditions. Labour must oppose all council house sales, and fight to restore the Tory cuts in council-house building. All council rents must be frozen.

It would be possible to do this, without raising rates, and build a million new houses a year if socialist policies were adopted. The crippling interest charges that force local councils to pay most of their housing budget to the money lenders are an enormous burden. If the banks and insurance companies were taken over, these debts could be wiped out, and housing planned for need not profit.



# THE GROWING STOR

May Day is the occasion when the labour movement traditionally rededicates itself to the struggle for socialism, internationalism and class solidarity.

These slogans are not based on some kind of utopian ideal to be realised in the dim and distant future. Nor are they merely the subject of holiday speechifying as the right-wing leaders of the labour movement imagine. They naturally flow from the position that the working class finds itself in under capitalism.

It was Karl Marx who pointed out that the great historic merit of capitalism was to develop the productive forces—science, the organisation of labour and technique—which now makes it possible through a socialist world, for the first time in human history, to abolish want and privation from the planet. Through the medium of the international division of labour and the world market, capitalism bound the whole of the world together with iron hoops.

However, it did this in a contradictory fashion, by also developing the national state as well as the world market. The national state, played a progressive role in the infancy and development of capitalism.

Now, together with the private ownership of the means of production, by a handful of monopolies, the nation state is a colossal barrier to the further development of society. In developing the forces of production the capitalists also developed its own grave-digger, the working class. This class moreover, as Marx pointed out, is the only class which is capable of transcending the national barriers which capitalism has erected, and unifying the whole planet.

In most of the post-war period the real socialist and internationalist message of May Day was blurred by the right-wing reformist and Stalinist leaders of the workers organisations. Capitalism appeared "to be delivering the goods". The leaders of the labour movement restricted themselves to criticisms of the more glaring deficiencies of the system.

## Post-war boom ended

Not even the spokesmen of capitalism can now pretend that their system is capable of satisfying the requirements of the peoples of the world. The post-war economic upswing came to an end in 1975. We have just passed through the most devastating crisis since the end of the second world war.

Two and a half years ago the *Sunday Times* wailed "The World Economy is breaking down". *The Times* commented, "the European economies are out of control. Recession is ravaging Western Europe, but worst of all, at the same time, inflation rampages ahead. We

live in a period of turbulence, disillusionment—a time where even those in power feel powerless".

Unemployment stood then at 24 million in the OECD area alone—that is the advanced capitalist countries. Now, 32 million working people are officially unemployed in those countries. With this has come poverty on a scale unequalled since the 1930s.

"More than 30 million EEC nationals are living in poverty, according to official statistics. More than 3 million of these chronic poor are in Britain where they amount to 6.3% of all households" (*Guardian* 12th October 1982).

In the citadel of world capitalism, the USA, nearly 20 million, more than during the days of the great depression, are out of work or "under-employed." (*Financial Times*) The American department of labour says that there are 12 million unemployed but it no longer attempts to count the millions of "discouraged workers", who have given up job hunting.

## Rejects of Reaganism

On the day that Reagan gave his 'State of the Union' speech to Congress, one black worker commented to an audience outside, "I see one fifth of a nation ill-housed, ill-nourished. That is the state of the union. Millions are out of work, out of hope and out of choices. That is the state of the union. Millions of Americans are groaning under the weight of economic adversity. That is the state of the union." (*Financial Times*, 8/2/83)

"Tent-cities" have sprung up on the outskirts of many major cities of America. The rejects of Reaganism, with no job, home and very little social services have been found to be living under the bridges of Los Angeles and other cities in America!

Many of these, according to the *Financial Times*, "only a few months ago were stable responsible people who had homes and jobs—but their world collapsed around them".

There is hardly a major or even minor capitalist power which is unaffected by the recession of the last three years. In the past the British right-wing Labour leaders could point towards Sweden or West Germany as models for their alleged "moderate" policies.

Yet there are 2½ million unemployed in Germany and the economy dropped by 1.2% in 1982. Moreover, it has the fastest increase in the rate of unemployment in Europe. Thirteen years of "sensible" right-wing social democratic governments were incapable of inoculating Germany against



Workers demonstrate support for socialism in France

## Peter Taaffe, Editor of Militant, reviews the performance for the countries of the advanced capitalism

the plague of capitalist crisis.

Instead, it paved the way for the return in the recent elections of the right-wing Christian Democratic government of Kohl. In no sense was this a rejection of "socialism". On the contrary, it signified the massive disillusionment in the leaders of the German Social Democratic Party to carry through policies in the interests of the working class.

The rise of the German Greens Party is a symptom of the coming storms in Germany. "The wind blows the tops of the trees first". The Greens who themselves offer no programme to solve social problems, have nevertheless drawn support, in the main from the disenchanted middle-class youth and even a section of young workers profoundly disillusioned by the performance of right-wing Social Democratic governments.

## Unparalleled tension

The right-wing government of Kohl will undoubtedly attempt to unload the burden for the crisis on the shoulders of the German workers. This will usher in a period of unparalleled tension between the classes in Germany, the likes of which have not been seen since the 1920s and the '30s, inevitably pushing the SDP

and unions to the left.

In Sweden also, a former model for the right-wing Labour leaders in Britain, unemployment has reached record levels. The 'socialist' government of Olof Palme, moreover, is attempting to apply a milder form of Thatcherism and Reaganism with cuts in state expenditure, devaluation, etc.



Ronald Reagan, following the path of Thatcher

The labour movement has extended a fund of credit to the new socialist government. However, this will not last forever. Opposition to Palme's right wing policies will grow within the workers' movement.

Another expression of the changed economic situation

facing capitalism at the present time is the sharp and bitter struggles over trade between all the major and even minor capitalist powers in the past few years.

What holds the capitalists back from an open trade war, especially between EEC, Japan and America, is the understanding that at this stage it would result in a massive contraction of the world market, and would shipwreck the first beginnings of a world economic upswing, endangering their system.

However, all kinds of disguised and not-so-disguised tariff measures have been taken by virtually every capitalist power, to limit the damage to themselves and impose the burden of the crisis on the shoulders of their rivals.

Internationally the capitalists have abandoned their post-war creed of Keynesianism and have embraced to a greater or lesser extent Monetarism, the policies of Thatcherism and of Reaganism. Keynesianism, i.e. deficit financing, boosting state expenditure etc., from being one of the factors in the world economic upswing, has turned into its opposite.

As its capitalist critics have pointed out it undoubtedly contributed to the massive piling up of the syphilis of inflation, which

threatened Britain, America and other countries with a Latin American rate of inflation, with all the political consequences that flow from that. Therefore, the capitalists have reverted to the orthodox capitalist measures of the past, used in the nineteenth century and the 1930s.

## Monetarist policies worsened recession

This, however, has enormously reinforced the recession of the past 3 years. Through monetarist measures the capitalists have attempted to cut the living standards of the working class—thereby boosting profitability and at the same time eliminating inflation from the system.

However, they've got the worst of both worlds. Unlike the 1930s they have at one and the same time deflation, cuts in the living standards of the working class, and also inflation.

The recession has led to increased competition between the monopolies both on a national scale and on the world market. It is this which has led to the rate of increase in prices coming down. But no capitalist economist seriously expects that inflation can be completely eradicated from the system.



MS



# May Day



## perspectives t world

In fact, with the first beginnings in 1983 of a small upswing in production will come a rise in inflation throughout the whole of the capitalist world. Also, there will undoubtedly be a resurgence of an embattled and embittered labour movement.

Internationally, the capitalists have used the recession to "put the boot in" to the working class. We have had the assault of Edwardes on the workers in British Leyland. This has been paralleled by mini-Edwardes' at local and plant level throughout Britain.

Reagan, successfully, broke the strike of the Air Traffic controllers in America. The fear of unemployment has been used as a whip to take back some of the gains which the working class made in the long economic upswing of the post war period.

However, reality always has two sides, as Marx explained. The working class has been hardened. The first signs of an upswing have been the outbreak of strikes in Cowley and Fords in Britain. The workers are determined to take back what they lost during the recession.

This weak economic upswing in 1983-4 will not restore the world capitalist economies to the "golden era" of the 1950s, 1960s and

early 1970s. In Britain, for instance, while the economy could increase by 2% this year, at the same time, it is expected that unemployment will increase by a third of a million.

A permanent and mass pool of unemployed has been created which will last now as long as capitalism continues. Thatcher, Reagan and capitalism as a whole can only make the same promise as one of Lewis Carroll's characters: "I can do nothing for you my dear, I cannot of course do nothing at this precise moment, but I do hope to be able to do nothing for you very soon".

Even during the coming 'boom' capitalism will be incapable of using all the resources which had been built up by the labour of the working class. At most, 80% of the productive capacity of Britain, America, Germany, Japan etc. will be used. During the recent slump only 70% of industry was used. The steel industry in America, for instance, is working at barely 40% capacity.

This is the most glaring evidence of the incapacity of capitalism to further develop industry and society. Capitalism has moved from an era of economic upswing to one of economic and social instability.

The new economic upswing can only last two or three years when it will give way to an even deeper and more prolonged slump. In this decade, or the early 1990s capitalism could once again experience an even greater slump than 1929-1933.

The last three years have shown the tremendous simmering discontent within the ranks of the working class. Undoubtedly the conditions have been created for social revolutions in a number of countries in Western Europe—particularly in Southern Europe at the present time.



Right-wing German leader Kohl. His way to victory was paved by the failures of the SPD

However, if revolution is the locomotive of history, as Marx once pointed out, then faulty leadership is like a colossal brake. All workers should ponder the significance of the historic victory of the workers' organisations, gaining over 50% of the absolute vote in the elections in Spain, France and Greece in recent years.

With a bold and far-sighted leadership, these elections could have undoubtedly served as a starting point for the peaceful socialist transformation of Europe, which would be the

first step towards the socialist transformation of the globe.

With a tremendous fund of credit and goodwill the Mitterrand government, when it came to power in France, could have swept away French capitalism. Instead, Mitterrand engaged on a programme of piece-meal reform.

### Early French reforms

In the first period, undoubtedly, reforms were introduced. Increases in pensions, a minimum wage, cuts in the working week and a boost in public expenditure were implemented. The Left of the Labour Party in Britain hailed the record of Mitterrand. His government carried through the nationalisation of the banks, and also significant sections of industry.

A significant section, 37%, of French industry is now in the hands of the state. This still leaves the main levers of economic power in the hands of the capitalists. Mitterrand launched a policy of boosting public expenditure, which in turn was expected to lead France, and thereby the world, out of recession.

The consequences were a rise in inflation. Big business also carried out a campaign of concealed sabotage. This in turn has led to three devaluations of the Franc and the virtual cancelling out of the reforms carried through in the first period.

The abandonment of the "Mitterrand experiment" was summed up in the recent "austerity measures" imposed by Mitterrand. There has been undoubtedly a waning of enthusiasm and support for the government from workers and the middle class.

The Right seized the opportunity in the first round of the recent municipal elections to launch a campaign—the aim of which was to prepare the ground to later topple the government and ultimately Mitterrand. Sensing that "their government" and their conditions were at stake, the working class rallied to the Socialist and Communist Parties in the second round of these elections.

However, if the present Socialist/Communist government remains within the framework of capitalism it will face inevitable shipwreck. There is tremendous discontent within the ranks of the Socialist and Communist parties that the government has not gone far enough.

There is no way forward on the basis of "a mixed economy". With the worsening of French capitalism's situation, tremendous pressure will be exerted on Mitterrand by the workers to go much further.

If the government lasts its full term, demands will be raised for a replacement of right-wing ministers by those more susceptible to the pressure of the demands of the rank and file. But if they



In the past, right-wing labour leaders praised the 'miracle economy' of Germany. Now the recession has crept towards Germany, opening up social fissures. Above, police retreat from youth rioting over homelessness in West Berlin, 1981

feel their position endangered the French capitalists will not restrict themselves to merely "constitutional" opposition.

France is a country where the class struggle has always been fought to a finish. Moreover, the French ruling class has never hesitated to resort to "extra parliamentary measures" when they feel their interests are in jeopardy, as was shown by De Gaulle in 1958.

There was a very revealing incident in the National Assembly recently. M. Vivien (spokesman for the right wing Gaullist Party), referring to the leader of the French CP in the Assembly, said "Duclone and I have a good relationship. But in the interests of France I would be ready to cut his throat tomorrow".

The French capitalists would be prepared to "cut the throat" of millions of French workers, not just a few leaders, to preserve their system.

There is no question of a coup, to be attempted at this

stage in France. The relationship of forces are overwhelmingly against the ruling class. Moreover, the French capitalists would not engage in such a risky adventure unless they felt that their whole existence was at stake.

They hope to use the inaction of the Mitterrand government to demoralise the masses and pave the way for a right-wing government at a later stage. If, in the Assembly elections in three years time, a right-wing government is returned, they hope to force a confrontation with Mitterrand, which could compel his resignation.

### Relationship of forces

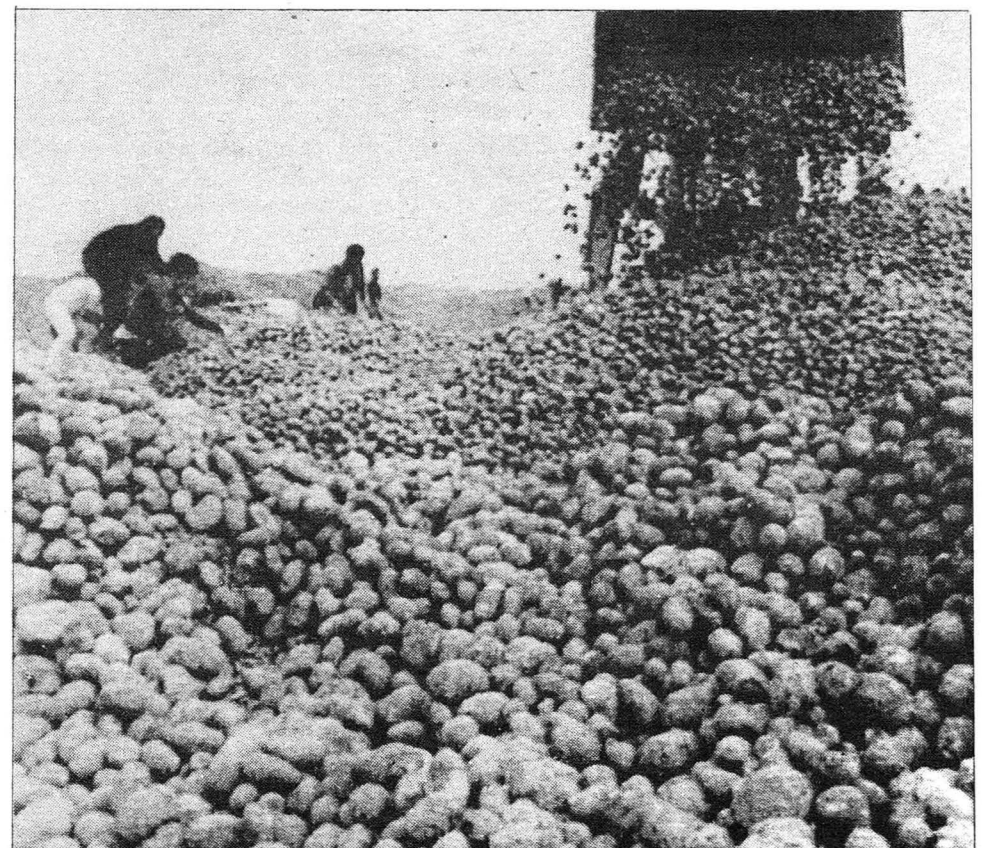
Such a development, however, could be prevented if the rank and file of the Socialist and Communist Parties adopted a clear socialist and Marxist perspective. This would involve the nationalisation of

the assets of the handful of families who control most of the industry and the introduction of a real socialist-democratic plan of production.

A similar, only more urgent, warning has also been given to the Greek workers in the past period. On the 27 February there was clearly an attempt at some kind of military coup by dis-contented right-wing forces within the Greek army.

The grounds for this had been created by the failure of the PASOK (socialist) government to implement decisive socialist measures since they came to power in October 1981. Despite all the promises of Prime Minister Papandreu, to introduce sweeping socialist measures and the eviction of the Americans from their bases in Greece, this has not yet been carried out. And yet, if anything, the opportunity for a decisive break with capitalism was greater in

Continued overleaf



A potato mountain in France—institutions such as the EEC have not freed the Western capitalist countries from tariffs and trade wars



# Growing storms



## May Day

Continued from page 11

Greece than in France.

The wave of enthusiasm that greeted the victory of PASOK, in the October '81 elections reached down to all layers of Greek society. One million workers demonstrated one month after the government came to power, commemorating those murdered during the polytechnic occupation under the regime of the Greek colonels nine years earlier. Soldiers marched in uniform in that demonstration!

Committees have been formed in the armed services. And yet the present socialist government has dared not touch the Greek officer cast, permeated as it is with reactionary and pro-fascist elements. To do so would be to put into question the very existence of capitalism itself.

### PASOK leaders fail to purge armed forces

Trotsky pointed out that the officer cast is rightly considered by the ruling class as the ultimate defence of "private property", of capitalism. Therefore, to purge the Greek army of the torturers and reactionaries inherited from the regime of the colonels, would involve challenging the very existence of capitalism itself. This, the PASOK government is not prepared to do.

But its inaction threatens its own long term existence and that of the Greek working class. The events of the 27 February are a severe warning. At the same time it shows the colossal difficulties facing the Greek capitalists at this stage in going over to military intervention.

As soon as the rumour of a coup reached the rank and file of the Socialist and Communist Parties they flooded into the offices of their respective parties and unions. The workers would undoubtedly have been prepared to fight. The memory of the horrors perpetrated by the colonels regimes is still fresh.

Most significant of all was the unreliability of the troops in the barracks. Therefore, the February movement was not a serious attempt at a coup by the Greek ruling class.

### Southern Europe today—Northern Europe tomorrow

The Greek workers have painful and recent experience of a military dictatorship. They will not easily succumb to another and more vicious regime of Greek colonels.

History has shown that an ill-prepared coup which fails can provide a whip which can drive the working class and the labour movement even further towards the left. Undoubtedly, if the PASOK government would have us-

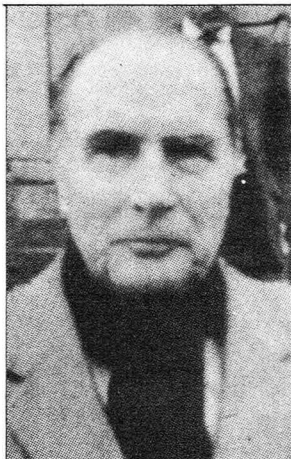
ed the events of 27 February to explain their significance, that could have been the starting point for the socialist transformation of Greece.

Instead, Papandreou and his spokesmen covered up the events! They pretended that there hadn't really been a "serious" attempt, for fear of rousing the indignation and movement of the Greek workers and peasants. They still have the figure of Karamanlis, the President, with his power of veto, to choose the "less painful" and less dangerous method for dismissing the Papandreou government when they consider the time ripe.

It is the rank and file of PASOK, and especially the Marxist opposition within its ranks fighting on the basis of a clear programme and perspectives, which can arm the Greek workers for victory in this coming storms in Greece.

The developments in Southern Europe are a harbinger of what will take place in Northern Europe and indeed throughout the whole of the capitalist world in the next decade. Capitalism can offer no way forward for society.

The yearning for change has reflected itself in the coming to power of Socialist/Communist Party governments in Southern Europe. However, there is no way that the reforms promised by the leaders of the labour movement can be permanently effected within the confines of their feeble capitalist economies.



Mitterrand—working in a capitalist framework

However, if the past three years has seen a worsening in the conditions of the working class of the advanced capitalist world, it has been an absolute nightmare for the "undeveloped world".

The period of the post-war boom, a boom for the advanced capitalist countries, was a period of wars, revolutions and social upheaval in the underdeveloped countries. Time after time, workers and peasants in their millions and tens of millions took the road of struggle to find a way out of the impasse of capitalism and landlordism in China, Vietnam, Southern Africa, Latin America, etc.

In the recent period, the growing crisis in the economies of the advanced countries has heaped even greater economic and social burdens on the Third world.



German steelworkers fight against redundancies—unemployment in Germany is now 2.5 million

The era of the 'death agony' of capitalism will therefore bring enormous upheavals and explosions in the underdeveloped world, surpassing the struggles of recent decades.

In Africa, Asia and Latin America, where the majority of mankind is to be found, landlordism and capitalism has demonstrated its complete incapacity to satisfy even the most elementary demands of the masses.

All the figures to indict the system have been furnished by the spokesmen of world capitalism themselves, in the Brandt commission and in other reports. The horrendous figures for poverty, unemployment, disease, illiteracy stand as a monument to the bankruptcy of capitalism. Society organised on a socialist basis could overcome all these horrors.

The economies of the European Stalinist states developed in the post war period, because of the ad-

vantages of the planned economy, despite the enormous incubus, in the form of mismanagement, waste and incompetence of the bureaucracy. But the very development of the economies of Eastern Europe have meant that the totalitarian bureaucracies have increasingly become an absolute, rather than a relative fetter on the development of society.

### Poland and the East

As the events in Poland indicate, workers in Eastern Europe will come into conflict with the interests and the position of the bureaucracy. Workers will move inexorably in the direction of *political revolution*: the overthrow of the military-police bureaucracies which blacken the names of Marx and Lenin, to establish



Thatcher—monetarist pathfinder

democratic regimes based on workers control and management of the economy and the state.

In all the three different sectors of the world; in the advanced capitalist world, in the Stalinist world and in the underdeveloped world, crises

are developing simultaneously. The conditions have therefore been created for a world movement of the working class which will dwarf even the movements of 1848 and the movements which followed the 1917 Russian Revolution.

The 1980s will be marked both by revolutionary explosions in the different areas of the world and also by attempts on the part of the counter revolution to crush these movements. Through victories and defeats the working class will find a way to the ideas of Marxism which is the only weapon capable of ending the nightmare of capitalism and Stalinism and ushering in the rational organisation of the planet on a socialist basis.

This is the message, one of determination—steadfast struggle and yet optimism, that Marxists should bring to the labour movement on May Day, the day of international workers' solidarity.

## A good introduction to Marxism

When I was 16 and first became interested in socialism, I considered myself a Marxist, though had not read and didn't know anything about Marxism. To try and rectify the balance I started to read one of the world's worst books by a so-called authority on Marxism called the *Theory and Practice of Communism* which was extremely right wing and left me none the wiser. Then I tried to read *Capital* by Marx, which I loaned from the local library and got as far as the second page before giving up.

It was only a year later, after reading *Militant* and some pamphlets by Trotsky,

that I began to understand Marxism. The point of all this is that many socialists find their introduction to Marxism just as confusing, but now a gap has been bridged for all workers seeking a basic introduction to Marxism in the form of the South Wales Bulletin of Marxist Studies pamphlet: *What is Marxism?*

This booklet reprints all three earlier supplements of the South Wales Bulletins of Marxist Studies in a special edition to mark the centenary of Marx's death. With a new introduction, this pamphlet is an easily understood, excellent basic start to understanding the

three main tenets of Marxist ideas: Dialectical materialism, Historical materialism and Marxist economics. It aims to satisfy the thirst that more and more workers are showing for the ideas of Marxism as they search for a means to overcome the horrors of capitalist crisis.

The introduction to the pamphlet points out that; "It was for workers that Marx and Engels wrote and not for clever students and middle class people... moreover, and this should be emphasised, the worker who acquires by patient effort an understanding of Marxism will turn out to be a better theoretician than most

students just because he can grasp the ideas not merely in the abstract, but concretely as applied to his own life and work".

The pamphlet is not intended to be a complete explanation of Marxism and all its aspects, but is an easily read, well laid out introduction that all workers wishing to learn more about Marxism will appreciate. The pamphlet costs £1.20 (inc. p&p) and is available from Roy Davies, 181 Hannover Street, Swansea.

Ken Smith reviews *What is Marxism*, South Wales Bulletin of Marxist Studies Pamphlet.



**Socialist greetings**  
 —no expulsions  
 —no witch-hunt  
**Les Huckfield MP**

The *Militant* Editorial Board  
 send May Day greetings to all  
 those in the labour movement who  
 are fighting for our reinstatement  
 to the Labour Party

Ted Grant                      Peter Taaffe  
 Lynn Walsh                  Keith Dickinson  
 Clare Doyle



**ECCLESHILL BRANCH**  
 (Bradford North)  
 Labour Party  
 Fraternal greetings  
 For a socialist Member  
 of Parliament in  
 Bradford North

•••••  
**BRANCH No 1**  
**LLANELLI CLP**  
 Sends May Day  
 greetings to all  
 Militant readers  
 Tories out in '83

**ARUNDEL CLP send**  
**May Day greetings**  
 to all socialists  
 Forward with  
 socialist policies for  
 a fair and just  
 society!  
 No to expulsions!  
 No to witch-hunts!

•••••  
**BURRAGE WARD**  
 (Woolwich)  
**LABOUR PARTY**  
 No to expulsions  
 Reinstatement the  
 Militant Five  
 Forward to a mass  
 socialist Labour  
 Party pledged to the  
 overthrow of  
 capitalism

Fraternal greetings  
 from **ST JAMES ST**  
**BRANCH,**  
 Walthamstow LP

•••••  
**PENN HILL/CANFORD**  
**CLIFFS BRANCH,**  
 Poole CLP  
 Reinstatement the Editorial  
 Board  
 Kick out the Tories

•••••  
**LEEDS NORTH EAST**  
**CONSTITUENCY**  
 sends May Day  
 greetings to all  
 members of the Labour  
 Party

**BLACKPOOL NORTH**  
 CLP opposes the  
 expulsions, and sends  
 May Day greetings  
 to all socialists

•••••  
 Socialist greetings  
 from **LINACRE**  
**BRANCH,**  
 Bootle CLP  
 Put the Tories into the  
 dustbin of history

•••••  
 Fraternal greetings  
 from  
**GOSPORT CLP**  
 For a Labour victory  
 and a socialist  
 Britain

•••••  
**BINLEY AND**  
**WILLENHALL WARD**  
 Labour Party,  
 Coventry South East  
 send fraternal  
 greetings on May Day

•••••  
**CHILDWALL WARD**  
**LABOUR PARTY**  
 wishes all socialists  
 fraternal May Day  
 greetings

•••••  
**UXBRIDGE SOUTH**  
 Ward Labour Party  
 May Day greetings to all  
 socialists. Fight Tory  
 Victorian virtues of  
 poverty, war,  
 destruction, despair

•••••  
**LLANELLI Women's**  
**Council Militant**  
 supporters  
 General election:  
 Labour to power on a  
 socialist programme

**WAVERTREE CONSTITUENCY**  
**LABOUR PARTY**

sends fraternal May Day greetings  
 to all socialists  
 Fight the Tories, not the socialists  
 Labour to power  
 on a socialist programme

**CANVEY ISLAND**  
**COMBINED LP**  
 —opposes witch-hunts  
 —refuses to expel any  
 members  
 for association with  
 Militant

**GARSTON LABOUR**  
**PARTY** says  
 Expel the Tories, not  
 socialists  
 Campaign to  
 reinstate the  
 Editorial Board and  
 return to power a  
 Labour government

**MARINE WARD**  
 Labour Party,  
 Brighton  
**REINSTATE THE**  
**FIVE**

**MILLSBROOK WARD**  
 Southampton CLP  
 sends May Day  
 greetings to socialists  
 everywhere—fight  
 Tories not socialists

**Defeat the Tories!**  
**Defeat the witch-hunt!**  
**For socialist MPs—**  
**on average workers' wages**  
**Coventry (South East) Labour Party**

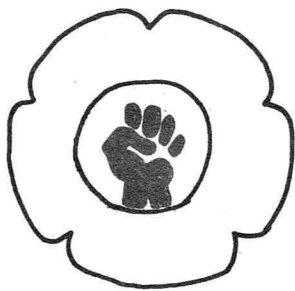
•••••  
**BILSTON, LOANHEAD**  
**& ROSLIN**  
**LABOUR PARTY**  
 (Midlothian)  
 send socialist  
 greetings to  
 comrades throughout  
 the world  
 Out with Thatcher  
 and Reagan  
 Workers of all lands  
 unite!

**SHIPLEY Constituency**  
 Labour Party  
 extends May Day  
 greetings:  
 For unity, not  
 expulsions  
 Fight the Tories

**VALLEY WARD**  
 Labour Party sends  
 fraternal May Day  
 greetings to fellow  
 socialists in the  
 labour and trade  
 union movement.  
 Unite on socialist  
 policies, no  
 expulsions

•••••  
**BROADGREEN**  
**WARD LP**  
 From four members  
 to 50 in three  
 years!  
 Build our party—  
 No to expulsions  
 Victory to Labour

\*\*\*\*\*  
**YORKSHIRE REGION LSCAW**  
 says:



**Oppose the witch-hunt!**  
**For socialist policies,**  
**a socialist leadership,**  
**and a socialist membership!**

For further information tel. Bradford 306665

•••••  
 Greetings from  
**TUNBRIDGE WELLS**  
**CLP WOMEN'S**  
**SECTION**

Get Ma Thatcher out,  
 socialist policies in  
 now

**UC SWANSEA**  
*Militant* supporters  
 greet *Militant*  
 May the *Sun* fall  
 and *Militant* rise  
 GIZ A DAILY!

•••••  
 "The Labour Party is  
 a crusade or it is  
 nothing"  
 (Nye Bevan 1953)  
 "Let us crusade  
 against Tories and  
 capitalism—not  
 against socialists  
 Reinstatement the Five"  
 (Littlehampton  
 Branch, Arundel CLP,  
 1983)

**SHAW AND**  
**LITTLEBOROUGH**  
**WOMEN'S SECTION**  
 Build a mass  
 socialist women's  
 organisation  
 For working class  
 unity and socialism

•••••  
**BLACKPOOL SOUTH**  
**CLP**  
 Forward to socialism  
 Peace, jobs and  
 freedom  
 No 'fudge' on  
 unilateral disarmament

•••••  
**WEST EDINBURGH CLP**  
**sends fraternal greetings**  
**to the labour movement**  
**Unity around socialist policies**  
**for a Labour victory**  
 •••••



**May Day Greetings from  
LPYS SCOTTISH REGIONAL COMMITTEE**

Willie Campbell  
Murdoch Carberry  
Tony Cox  
Frances Curran  
Eddie Donaghy  
Jackie Galbraith

Ali Hughes  
Stevie Lees  
Tremayne MacDonald  
Fraser Miller  
Georgina Rogan (Sec)  
Stephen Wright

**Workers of the World Unite!**

RHONDDA LPYS send fraternal greetings  
Save Steel  
Save Pits  
Kick the Tories out

CAMBRIDGE LPYS greetings:  
End the witch-hunt,  
kick the Tories out,  
forward to socialism

May Day Greetings from UC SWANSEA  
LABOUR CLUB  
Build a democratic NOLS  
for a socialist NUS

May Day greetings to the Marxist paper that cannot be put down!  
Forward to a Daily Militant  
LEICESTER WEST LPYS

Fraternal May Day greetings from Liverpool University Labour Club  
Reinstate the Five!  
No further expulsions!  
For a Labour victory and socialism in 1983!

ROCHESTER & CHATHAM LPYS  
Stop the witch-hunt  
Fight the Tories  
Forward to a Daily Militant

HENDON NORTH LPYS message to the NEC  
'Reinstate the Five'  
'Fight the Tories'

WEST LEWISHAM & DEPTFORD LPYS BRANCHES  
Decent jobs for youth not Youth Taming Schemes

Fraternal greetings from GARSTON LPYS to the true voice of the labour movement, with a pledge of support against the NEC's witch-hunt

May Day greetings Militant  
Continue the struggle for socialism and Labour victory  
WITHINGTON LPYS

GOSPORT LPYS  
Kronstadt-1917  
Gosport-1987  
Workers and sailors need socialism!

STEPNEY AND POPLAR LPYS  
No to rent and rate increases  
For a socialist housing programme

Comradely greetings from POOLE LPYS  
Reinstate the five!  
Fight the Tories!  
Forward to socialism!

SALFORD LPYS  
May Day greetings from "...the cradle of all great workers' movements"  
(Engels, 1844)



HALEWOOD LPYS send fraternal greetings to the whole of the labour movement world-wide  
Fight the Tories, not the socialists  
Workers of the world unite

MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM BRENT EAST LPYS

WEST DERBY LPYS sends fraternal greetings to all workers in struggle.  
Support Croxteth School occupation

LITTLEHAMPTON LPYS send fraternal May Day greetings to all comrades  
Onward to a daily Militant

Labour to power on a socialist programme  
Fraternal greetings from WATFORD LPYS

Forward to a Daily Militant

May Day greetings from North Hull, Holderness, East Hull LPYS  
Orchard Park Ward

TORIES OUT!  
Reinstate the Five!  
Fraternal greetings from GRIMSBY LPYS

SOUTHEND LPYS  
We're alright!  
We'll knock Tebbit off his bike!

READING EAST LPYS  
Dr Gerard Vaughn can't heal Reading's youth, slashed by Thatcher's axe. Red medicine needed urgently!

SALE & ALTRINCHAM LPYS  
Socialist greetings to workers in struggle  
Smash the witch-hunt  
Forward to socialism

Marxist ideas for 100 years  
Let's smash the Tories and end workers' fears  
SITTINGBOURNE LPYS

Fraternal greetings to workers and comrades nationally and internationally from EDINBURGH WEST Labour Party Young Socialists



## STOP THE TORIES LPYS National Committee

F Curran (Scotland)	L Kuriata (West Mids)
J Hird (Northern)	K Smith (Wales)
S Blackall (North West)	M Ried (S West)
J Hunt (North West)	A Allenby (Southern)
C Weldon (Yorkshire)	J McKay (Eastern)
J Fahey (E Mids)	L Phillips (London S)
L Coates (NEC rep)	W Griffin (London N)
P Mumford (Editor SY)	L McDaid (Asst. Ed. SY)

## YOUTH FOR LABOUR

SWANSEA LPYS demand real jobs for youth and a £25 a week grant for all FE students

YSTRADGYNLAIS LPYS  
End Tory rule in '83  
Socialist programme for Labour

BETHNAL GREEN & BOW LPYS say  
Defend the NHS  
from Tory attacks  
The NHS makes you well,  
the Tories make you sick!

UXBRIDGE LPYS send May Day greetings  
Reinstate the Five  
Stop the witch-hunt  
Forward to the socialist transformation of society

**Northern Region  
Labour Party Young Socialists  
extend their fraternal May Day  
greetings to all comrades  
Keep up the fight towards a  
united socialist society**



# JAPAN

When Cowley workers struck over the loss of six minutes cleaning up time, the media quickly condemned this as "bloody mindedness".

But Marxists realise that the bosses can only increase competitiveness and profitability at the workers' expense, whether by redundancies in favour of machinery or by speed ups or by such tactics as cutting out breaks.

Cowley workers are quite right to oppose any infringement by management of hard won rights. An article in the *Sunday Times* (17 April) correctly entitled "Diary of a Human Robot" shows how realistic fears of management's intentions are.

The article shows capitalist oppression on the assembly line over six months in the daily life of a Toyota assembly worker. Satoshi Kamata, a journalist, was a seasonal worker. In the words of the *Sunday Times*, instead of co-operation and easy company loyalty we're constantly bombarded with from the gutter press there is "mindless subservience, callousness and exploitation".

Satoshi Kamata lived in what he describes as an army barracks complete with uniform, stripes denoting grade and status, and a number which he was called by during his six months' employment. He detailed the sheer physical and mental torture of forcing workers to

By Margie Hughes

(Provan Labour Party)

conform to an ever increasing assembly line procedure, of being unable to speak, drink, smoke or even go to the toilet during a shift.

There is tremendous pressure to disregard personal safety to boost production. One worker died while repairing a machine during his lunch break as he was not allowed to do repairs during management's time. Another worker lost part of his finger using two machines in order to keep the line going.

## Bloodshed in the cause of profit

Equipment was old and under-maintained in 1972; some machinery was vintage 1938. Satoshi explained how workers were forced to attend retirement presentations during their lunch break and how at management discretion, lunch breaks were used to raise productivity and too many workers were crowded onto assembly lines causing physical injury from overhanging objects.

Toyota's generosity amounted to company housing, "tied cottages" of course, for the privileged few, but after ten years you were expected to vacate the premises for the new batch of workers. They only provided 4,000 such tied houses, the majority lived in com-



While the capitalists may applaud Toyota's high profit and production, the human costs of Toyota methods—suicides, injuries, fatal accidents—increase at a horrifying rate.

## The lesson of the 'human robot'

munal barracks and were denied the right even to have friends of whom Toyota did not approve.

The assembly procedure was shortened by six seconds while Satoshi was with Toyota. On returning seven years later, the plant's remarkable production time had been cut from 1 minute 14 seconds to 45 seconds.

A finished car rolls off their production line every six seconds and in Kamata's own words, 20 Toyota workers a year commit suicide, "Whilst management and the capitalist press may applaud Toyota's high profit and production records, the human costs of Toyota methods—suicides, injuries, fatal accidents and

occupational disease— increase at a horrifying rate".

Cowley workers are quite right to resist management intimidating tactics. Tebbit may consider this a "dispute not worth continuing". Musgrove, the Austin Rover chairman may think he can cow the workers into submission but the experience of

Japan shows how vital such a fight is to stop the bosses bolstering their profits through cutting workers living standards and endangering life and health.

The Japanese industrialists can not be too confident, either, that the workers in Japan will tolerate such conditions much longer.

## USA

## Fighting for a Labour party

John Reimann, the recording secretary, Carpenters Union Local 36 Oakland California, spoke to a *Militant* reporter about moves for a party of labour in the USA:

Movements for a Labour party have nearly always come about at the crest of a huge wave of rank and file movements by the working class. They never really develop in a vacuum.

The best example was during the 1936-7 sitdown strikes when something like 21% of Americans interviewed in an opinion poll said they would be in favour of a Labour Party and this was without any national lead either from union leaders like John L Lewis or the Communist Party which then had some influence.

The vast majority of that 21% would have been in the industrial unions, the CIO, and the working class generally.

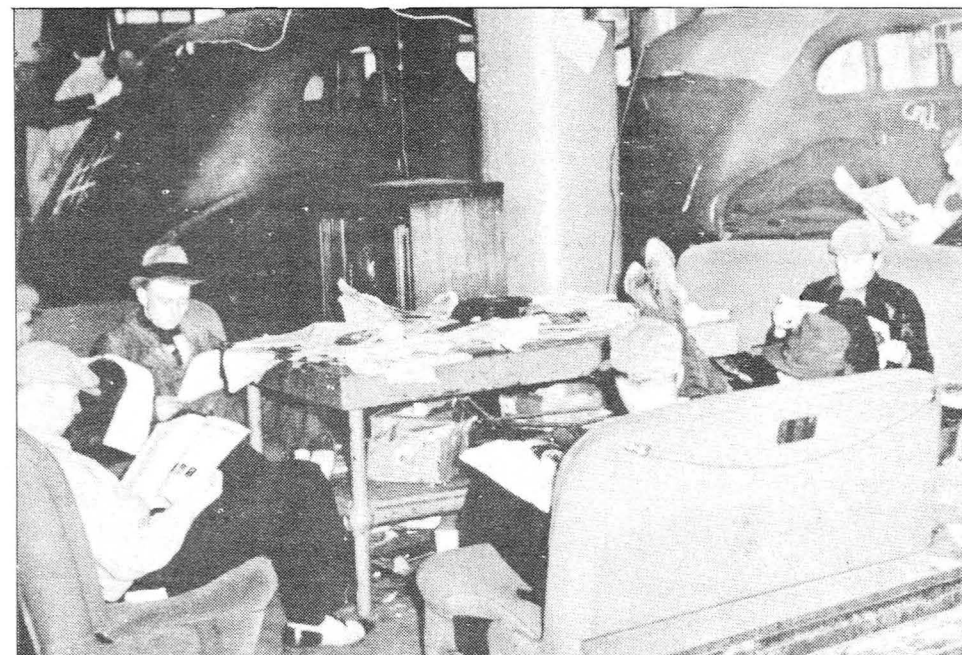
John L Lewis of the mineworkers made a broadcast in 1940 when there was a lot of tension and

dissatisfaction with the Democratic Party president Roosevelt and people expected him to announce himself as a candidate for President on an independent Labour platform. But instead he merely announced support for the Republican candidate Wilkie!

As there have not so far been major recent upsurges in the movement, the demands for a Labour Party have been mainly from the most aware section of the most fighting unions. There have been rumblings. For instance the Executive Secretary of the California State Labor Federation four years ago in a Labor Day message more or less endorsed a Labour party.

The Federation called a couple of conferences on "labor and politics" and the great bulk of speakers from the floor called for an independent party for the working class. The big demand will come when inevitably you will get a rise in the tempo of events.

There have been initiatives. Indirectly through my local (union branch) we organised the Bay Area Coalition for a Labor Party which worked for a little while but then kind of faded out. No national union



The sit-ins at US car factories in the '30s.

has yet come out fully for it. But in July there will be a national conference on the subject "should American unions form an independent labor party?"

It has been organised by Tony Masocci, former national director for health and safety for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic workers. He later ran for union president partly on a "Labour Party" programme and got about 48% of the vote.

The sentiment is there but many workers view it as

something of a pipedream at present because there isn't yet that driving force of massive class struggles to force into existence such a tremendous step.

Since Reagan came in there have been big mobilisations such as the Solidarity Day demonstrations but by and large the unions have been forced on the retreat in many ways. Many workers are still suffering the illusions built up from the '50s to the '70s in the boom, and also from the purges of the

McCarthy period which often removed from office any section which had any understanding at all of class struggle and labour solidarity.

The advocates of 'business unionism' took over. If you put forward even serious trade unionism let alone class policies not only do many of the leaders see this as a threat but many don't even seem to understand what you're talking about!

But over the past few years, workers have been

forced to make tremendous concessions, so-called "givebacks" and a lot of these illusions are beginning to shatter. It's only the start but there are more and more fighters elected to local full time union offices which would still have been unthinkable three to five years ago.

## Political form for fightback

You'd have to fight for a programme in the Labour party, but the important first thing would be its independence from the capitalists and for it to be democratically run under the control of workers. A Labour party would break up the old structure. When the Socialist Party was becoming fairly strong the Democrats and Republicans joined to run a fusion candidate for president, the first step to destroying one of the capitalist parties.

A lot of people think the American labour movement is dead but like other countries, it goes through its peaks and valleys, and the labour movement has been asleep during the prolonged period of prosperity.

But every time the movement has come under attack it has come back with tremendous fighting spirit and great vitality. It will be the same this time and it will take a political form too.



# Letters

**VIEWS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?  
 CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO**  
**MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN**

## 'Safety' of the system before public safety

Dear Comrades,

Today I was a witness to an accident.

An elderly woman was thrown out of the open end of a bus as it swung around a sharp corner.

Her face was bleeding badly, and some bones were

probably factored or broken because of the impact with which she hit the pavement.

It took 20 minutes for an ambulance to arrive.

In the meantime, it was possible for 3 police vehicles to arrive at the scene. There were 6 policemen present,

who were principally concerned with the details of the accident and not the terrible state of the woman bleeding on the pavement.

There are the Tory priorities—3 police vehicles were able to arrive before an ambulance. That's the result of

years of strengthening the forces of the police, while, the health service has had its resources slashed.

Yours fraternally,  
 Sue Kohn,  
 Brentford and  
 Iseworth CLP.

## Caviar on the cheap

Dear Militant,

After a school dinner of one gristly beef burger, a tiny bread roll, a few chips, and a few frozen peas, followed by a carton of pink, chemical, "whip", all washed down with a glass of best tap water, I sat back with my group of pupils in a special unit for disruptive teenagers to "relax" in front of *Pebble Mill at One*.

We watched, drooling, as Norman St. John Stevas prepared a "very simple" veal dish, after which he sat back with a glass of BBC champagne to tell a funny story.

When he was a minister in the Department of Education and Science, he attended a conference in Bucharest. Thinking that caviar was cheap in "Russia" (where did he



Jim Prior (right) 'In Belfast the Caviar's this big, Norm.'

learn geography?) he ordered portions all round.

When the bill came he discovered he'd spent the whole week's allowance for the delegation at one go.

Though hardly able to

learn geography?) he speak for laughing he recounted that he'd had to send to the DES for more money. "Margaret was cross, but we got it!"

The school's ancillary helper, not noted for her

socialist views, looked as though she'd been punched on the jaw, and the kids, for once, were stunned into absolute silence!

Yours fraternally,  
 Helen Mullineux, Havant.

## The Army made me

Dear Militant,

I read with great interest your article by Bob Law entitled "The Army made me a socialist".

When I joined the Army in July 1979 I was very much a Tory. However I had not been in long before I started to realise things were very wrong.

The first incident was when our basic training timetable was changed. I questioned my corporal about it, saying that I thought we had something else on that particular afternoon.

He looked at me and yelled, not more than an inch from my face, "Your are not here to think you little shit, in fact you are not even a human until I say you are."

I left the Army a socialist, indeed it made me one. However, many friends stayed in, mainly through fear of unemployment.

Socialists shouldn't be quick to condemn them as class traitors, as Bob Law rightly says.

Yours fraternally,  
 Tim Porteus,  
 Edinburgh.

## People's March

Comrades,

Can I risk a mild controversy by making some criticisms of the forthcoming *People's March*?

I am unemployed (with a family), and have been for a considerable period of time, and the last thing I want is to be made a showcase for charitable appeal, or to be made to feel the conquering hero, when at the end of the day I know I am back to square one, eating dirt.

The march in no way agitates for socialist perspectives or policy; has no power to analyse and face the root causes of unemployment; provides no forum for open debate; will not link up with unilateral disarmament; and cannot provide one job for one marcher.

I am stating the cold fact that passive TUC monitored exercises are not the way to fight against crippling unemployment.

Fraternally yours,  
 Alex Warner,  
 Tameside.



The people's March for jobs '83 started 23 April, the six sections converge in London on 3 June. The big demo will be 5 June.

## Giro delay

Dear Comrades,

As part of a drive towards postal economy, ministers have agreed to mount a national trial—commencing 8 June 1983—to test sending out contributory benefit girocheques (ie Sickness, Invalidity, Retirement and Disablement pensions) by second class post.

The estimated cost of this saving will be £350,000 a year. A pitiful saving when you consider that the government is considering paying £1 million tax payers' money to an American advertising company to try and stem the growth of CND.

Yours fraternally,  
 Sue Burrows,  
 Barnsley.

## Labour students

Dear Comrade,

As a Labour student, I would like to say that some of us still believe in socialism, and are opposed to the bureaucratic manoeuvring of the NOLS NC.

We were told we were disaffiliated from NOLS for owing £6.00, and that we could not go to the annual conference.

NOLS conference was then informed that we had not been disaffiliated but were not at NOLS conference because we had not completed the necessary forms. They were not in fact sent to us in time.

Socialism cannot be defeated by such manoeuvring. We would be pleased if any member of the *Militant* Editorial Board could come and speak to the club.

Yours fraternally,  
 Andrew J Oven,  
 Secretary,  
 Leicester Polytechnic  
 Labour Club.

## Running football

Dear Militant,

The Chester Report on football at no stage takes into account the views of ordinary terrace supporters who suffer appalling conditions on most smaller grounds.

I doubt if Sir Norman Chester has ever stood on uncovered terracing in rain and cold or used the disgraceful catering and toilet facilities found on most grounds.

The cost of attending a match with travel, programme and a snack is about £4. Cheap admission prices for the unemployed should be introduced at all grounds.

The Report's scapegoat for the serious financial position of most of the 92 Football League clubs is players' wages. While first division star players earn enormous sums, this is not so for fourth division players. Tranmere Rovers who nearly went bankrupt last year have only 8 full-time professionals whose basic wage is £110 a week.

The way to stop the decline of football in Britain is to end the grip of big business. The debts of all Football League clubs, totalling £37.3 million should be scrapped. The first division clubs alone pay £2 million interest charges per year.

The running of clubs should be taken away from businessmen and given to the supporters' clubs and football staff.

Yours fraternally,  
 Nigel Waterfield,  
 Ealing-Southall LPYS.

## In the blood?

Dear Militant,

When we were out canvassing my friend and I met a well-groomed woman who claimed to be Mrs Thatcher's cousin.

She started chatting and told us that she had experienced many years of hardship, but now owned her own business.

In spite of this she thought women should stay at home; she chose not to use a washing machine, and said it would benefit us all to make do with a low income while we wait for better times. This lady said the problem with the Third World was too much sexual activity (not a direct quote!).

While supporting Tory policy the woman said Mrs Thatcher should have stayed at home and should not even have the vote.

With friends like these, does Thatcher need enemies?

Yours fraternally,  
 Val Bennett,  
 Coventry.

## Steel firm closure

Dear Comrades,

In Ashton-Under-Lyme, the steel casting firm of H Broadbents is being closed down with the loss of 150 jobs, and Thatcher is paying the owners £1.1 million to shut down a factory valued at only £½ million.

The 'needy' owners, are a powerful consortium of bankers and loan sharks, with combined annual profits in their eighty or more companies of £125m.

The Tory screams about inefficiency and lack of orders are exploded for what they are, simply a propagandist ranting to brainwash the public. Broadbents have a full order book and an annual turnover of £4 million.

Yours fraternally,  
 John Shelvin.

## Mirror, Mirror...

Dear Comrades,

Front page news today in *The Times* is the sacking of the editor of the *Daily Express*, and his replacement by Sir Larry Lamb.

Who is the unfortunate Tory hack who has got the chop? One Christopher Ward.

Mr Ward's previous post was as deputy editor of that well-known "Labour" paper, the *Daily Mirror*. The same news merits two sentences at the bottom of page two of the *Mirror*, which omits any reference to Mr Ward's previous employment.

Yours faithfully,  
 Alan Harrison,  
 Walsall North CLP,  
 personal capacity.

## 'Two Steps' Correction

Dear Comrade,

Thank you for your review by Bob Faulkes of our book *Two Steps Back* (8 April). It should bring us much-needed publicity.

However, an error has inadvertently crept into the account he gives.

The quotation you give from the *Daily Worker* justifying Hitler's invasion of the Netherlands, "Britain Spreads War to Holland", is dated to 11 May, 1940 and not 11 October, 1940, as you have it (c.f. our book, p 68 and 73, n 34).

Fraternally,  
 Al Richardson,  
 London SW 17.





# Joe Marino of the Bakers Union speaks to Militant ... fighting redundancies

Redundancy is like a black cloud always hanging over us. It's been patchy in the bakery industry, we've not been attacked like steel or engineering but it's definitely got worse.

But something really bad could happen. We could wake up one morning and find out that one of the major companies has disappeared, like Spillers moved out of bread in 1978. While the industry is in private hands it will be like that.

There's a discount war in this industry with 30% being knocked off bread. This costs firms from £500,000 to £1m a month. That will last until one company falls out, then thousands of jobs will be gone and the one company left can practically chose their own price for bread.

Some time ago, the Co-op Mills group did a deal with RHM bakeries to get bread at 35% discount. We warned then this would have serious repercussions for Co-op bakeries. On 8 April our branch officials at Stechford Co-op bakery were told the company were triggering the 90 day statutory notice of redundancy and that in future the Greater Midland Co-operative Society would be getting their bread from Ranks.

We went to a meeting of members on the 9th and they passed a resolution to give union officials full backing of the membership to fight the closure. We met the company, who first ignored what we said about it being a short sighted policy for a Co-op. They said they were closing.

We pointed out that as soon as one company corners the market they can dictate prices. The Co-op produced figures saying they had been making a loss over the last year, but we pointed out that over the past four years they had made money which should have been ploughed back in investment.

The employers finally agreed to meet us again to discuss a plan being drawn up by our stewards to use these profits to keep open. We are also calling on the Co-ops to review all their buying policy so they are not dependent on the big capitalist outfits like RHF.

All this frantic competition has put more pressure on jobs as firms push for control of the market in a



Joe Marino, General Secretary of the Bakers Union

period of recession.

We have a clear policy of fighting redundancies. But we've changed our tactics a bit. It's not enough just to have the policy agreed by conference. You have to imbue in your membership a consciousness that they can fight successfully.

## Fight all the way

Of course we can't give a cast iron guarantee. The firms are still being run for profit, but you must give the assurance that you're going to put everything into the fight. So when we heard of a bakery in Nottingham threatening partial closure, we went straight up to the bakery ourselves and told the workers what the situation was. And for the first time in years there was a real decision to fight.

One bloke at the back of the meeting had worked before for Raleigh. He told me, "I was in the union and we got redundancies but we never saw the union. I thought this is it, I've had enough of unions."

"But look how different it is here, where people come down and explain it to you. If the union are prepared to come down and give us that support, we're prepared to fight redundancies. I wish they'd done that at Raleigh. All the blokes there would have fought."

We learned from that experience that workers want to see evidence that the union is giving support, par-

ticularly when there have been some bad cases in major national strikes of workers being let down.

The response was there to be tapped in what is normally called a moderate area. It was unanimous, "we'll have a go". Eventually we managed to save about 20 jobs there of the threatened redundancies. We showed that redundancies are not "inevitable".

The employers have used a terrible tactic which shows how little reliance you can put on the law. There's a requirement for statutory notice to be given, at first this was meant for discussions to alleviate redundancies. But what the employers are now saying is "if you go straight away, we'll pay you money in lieu of notice".

We've been pointing out for a start this is selling jobs but even if workers had no mood to fight, they were still depriving themselves of money. We worked out in one case if the workers had stayed until the closing date they would have been £300 better off as they couldn't draw dole money etc. We said you're being conned.

Our attitude is first you've got to fight, but if you're forced to negotiate redundancies at least make sure you get some guarantees in writing!

Not everybody's going to get this fantastic redundancy bribe. One girl at Turners had worked there for four years from the age of 16 but only got two years redundancy money because you don't get any until you are

18. She got hopping mad.

Someone in her position will not consider volunteering for redundancy but as Tony Carty said in his articles in *Militant* it is more difficult with older people who have spent their lives in a bakery for very little reward. It's more a question though of giving confidence of support and then building on it.

It's obviously not just a question of one branch and one union. The hardest part is to ensure you don't let the members down. You have to listen to the workers who are involved. It's their dispute and if there's a fight we'll contact all the other bakeries not just in that group but all of them.

We say to these workers it could be you next, you have a duty to support your colleagues in struggle, we can't sell these jobs, then we spread the support to other sections of the industry and other unions. In a way it's just basic trade unionism but taken seriously.

You mustn't be afraid of workers; you get the impression that some full-time officials are. Of course workers can make tactical errors but so can we full-time officials. We must show our support, not just hide away in our offices or in plush hotels with the employers. Whether its one sacking or a whole factory that's the kind of role you need to play.

As I said before, it's still a capitalist industry and we can't win every battle but we have the responsibility to fight all the way.

# GMBATU-For a real youth conference

After the first national conference of GMBATU Youth, 25 of the 35 delegates signed the following resolution. All the delegates who were asked signed though some delegates had already left conference. The resolution read:

"We...believe that a National Youth Conference is a major step forward in involving young people in the union's activity. However, we believe, that to make the conference more effective and more representative the following points must be adopted.

"(1) Annual Regional delegate policy conferences to be established in all regions. (2) The election of a youth standing orders committee, of youth

members, to deal with conference arrangements and agenda. (3) Resolutions to be taken at the National Youth Conference to establish a coherent policy for youth. (4) The election of a National Youth Committee, along the lines adopted by other unions such as AUEW TASS, to promote the activity of the youth in the union. (5) Resolutions and delegates to be sent from the youth conference to National Congress."

Many delegates agreed to take up these demands in their own branches and regions. The youth of the trade union movement will play a major role in developing fighting trade unions. But we need an effective, democratic campaigning youth section to channel the energy and activity of youth into this task.

# New mood in BIFU



Bank workers' strike in 1980

Just before the Banking, Finance and Insurance Union (BIFU) conference opened, the *Financial Times* reported that leaders of the union were considering "expulsions of individual members" for associating with the Finance Workers Broad Left.

But the mood of conference showed the leaders would be very foolish to launch a witch-hunt. Ossie Davis, a past president, in what is normally a formal speech of thanks at the end of conference said that after all his time in the union it wasn't the activities of the Broad Left that worried him but the decline in quality of the NEC!

Banking and finance are no longer safe careers with prospects. They are plagued with low pay, threatened jobs and the prospect of New Technology. This has forced changes in BIFU with a large number of younger activists demanding action.

On New Technology, conference passed by a big majority a resolution calling for

the union to "promote active resistance to the introduction of any new machinery" when redundancy agreements have not been negotiated with management, despite opposition from the NEC. A similar policy was heavily rejected last year.

A move to ensure that the general secretary be appointed indefinitely to the TUC General Council was defeated. He was elected just for a year, a big step forward for accountability.

There were victories for the right, with resolutions for unilateral disarmament being thrown out and a report on British banks' involvement in South Africa which seemed closer to Tory policy than international trade union solidarity, was passed.

But the fact that "political" resolutions were discussed in this "non-political" union, that 70 out of about 400 delegates attended the Broad Left meeting and 20 at a *Militant* meeting which collected £63 show the big steps forward in this union.

By John Bulaitis



# Industrial Reports

## 'RACING SERVICES' The bookie who backed a loser

A STRIKE for union recognition at Liverpool bookmakers "Racing Services", has now ended in victory for the TGWU, in defiance of Tebbit's laws. The strike, of full-time and part-time staff (mostly women) began a with a one-day stoppage on 9 April, when management refused to pay double time for Grand National day as agreed by previous owner—Manny Charles.

Mary Murphy, the sacked rep, described how she'd worked 20 years for Charles, and with other staff, received no redundancy payments on the understanding that changing owners wouldn't alter terms of employment.

With the introduction of new bets, extra duties and changed rates of pay, it soon became obvious that this was not the case. Double time was refused, even though Grand National day involved three times the normal work.

The following Monday, suspension notices were issued, accusing staff of breaking contracts without prior warning, and refusing to open premises when requested. In fact management had ignored all warnings. Some staff had never been given proper contracts and far from being requested to open the premises they'd been told that the strike was doing the boss a favour!

Management clearly underestimated the women workers determination, and the strength of their union—the intention being to use non-union part-timers to break the strike. With a picket on all seven shops unemployed members of the 6/612 branch of the Transport and General Workers Union were called to join the picket lines to persuade customers to bet elsewhere. The public response was excellent, resulting in closure of three shops and very little business in the others.

Finally, Tebbit's law was dragged in, with injunctions against staff and a claim for damages against the union. But the threat of escalation proved too great, and by 19 April the bookie was forced to admit he had lost his shirt. Legal action has been withdrawn and staff now have the right to elect shop stewards and have pay and conditions negotiated by their union.

The strike clearly shows that a woman's place is in her union and that when employed and unemployed are united with the support of the community, Tebbit's law is a non-starter.

By Graham  
Pacey

(Walton Labour Party)

## APEX conference

APEX CONFERENCE was a little muted this year, reflecting the loss of 30% of members in four years. Even so, one resolution referred to the National Economic Assessment and opposed it as a voluntary or statutory incomes policy. Unfortunately, this resolution fell.

This conference is dominated by a right-wing leadership which tries to make policy on the basis of executive policy documents and supplementary reports where resolutions on these subjects are treated as amendments, but some significant reverses were inflicted on the executive.

A resolution opposing postal ballots and legislative attempts by the Tories to impose them and another calling for recording of Executive Committee members' votes were passed against opposition by the EC.

Earlier in the conference, one delegate pointed out that 90% of Constituency Labour Parties had voted at 1982 LP conference against the Register and asked why was it that the front page of the APEX Journal immediately after was nearly all devoted to condemning *Militant* while not giving any coverage to attacking the Tories and the threat to jobs from new technology.

In reply, vice-president, Jean Travis, rather than answer the questions, launched a vitriolic attack saying more should be expelled, and went on about a party within a party and a conference within a conference. The leadership have no real answers to APEX members problems and seemed to use this debate as a smokescreen.

However, this year Denis Howell is standing down from the president's chair, much to the relief of delegates. Brother Howell's comments over the years help to create an atmosphere which discourages inexperienced speakers.

Perhaps significantly, the right-wing candidate Ken Smith who was elected received 48,942 votes with 36,313 to David Winnick, the left candidate. This compared to Denis Howell's vote of 70,000 last year. A process of change is taking place particularly among the younger first-time delegates and visitors.

The best omen for the future was in the *Militant* Readers' Meeting which had its best attendance ever of 31 mainly from the conference together with a fair number from Scarborough fresh to the ideas of Marxism, and the collection raised £156.



Photo: Denis Doran (Militant)

SHOP STEWARD Fergie Alexander reaffirmed that the conviction of the Timex workforce was as strong as ever. "Determination to save jobs is still there, and support from the movement is growing every day". A delegation of Timex workers visited Scottish

TUC conference at Rothesay last week receiving unanimous support from the delegates there. Timex management continue their scandalous approach by threatening to take action against workers in Block 5 of Timex after they took a

collection for the workers occupying the Milton plant.

"Messages of support to keep morale high are always needed," said Fergie. All LPYS, Labour Party and trade union branches up and down the country should show support by resolutions and

hard cash to Timex workers who are giving a lead to all workers in the struggle to save jobs.

Requests for speakers to G Sampson 32 Elgin Terrace, Dundee (Phone 0382 818452). Donations to J Kydd 81 Brownhill Road, Dundee.

## USDAW conference: Pay curbs won't stop poverty wages

"I TAKE home £43 a week working Saturday and spend £6 on transport," said one USDAW member at the union's Annual Delegate Meeting (Conference), showing the appalling wages of many members especially in retail.

The meeting reaffirmed last year's demand for a national minimum wage of £90 to lift workers out of this poverty. Delegates made it plain they saw this as a demand to be met next wage round, not a "target" for the future.

A call for a joint campaign with other unions in retail and distribution, GMBATU, TGWU and Bakers Union was only narrowly defeated. A proposition to commit the union to launch their own campaign was lost on the Executive Council's recommendation because it called for the higher figure of £95 and significantly because it opposed wage restraint.

Delegates showed how pay restraint has kept USDAW members low paid. Jeff Price, Newcastle F180, described it as "an albatross around our neck, rejected by Labour Party conference, TUC and voters in 1979."

ADM gave overwhelming support to the TUC/Labour Party document 'Partners in rebuilding Britain'. Delegates see the fight for a living wage, as with all their

demands, as bound up with the return of a Labour government, but some fear that the document's talk of a National Economic Assessment is wage restraint under another name. Though this was rejected by General Secretary Bill Whatley, he also said, "Wage policies are not all bad" and "We have to consider whether the size of a settlement will put workers out of a job".

The low wages of USDAW members and redundancies in companies like Woolworths and Littlewoods show restraint does not save jobs and must be opposed.

Conference agreed to oppose 24 hour opening with industrial action if necessary, and on Sunday trading, seen as a threat to working conditions and family lives, delegates voted for the EC's document "The Choice must be Hours". This calls for a Committee of Enquiry to review the 1950 Shops Act, but there is strong opposition to its proposal to open shops on the four Sundays before Christmas. As one delegate said, "Give the bosses four and they'll take the other 48."

The first two days show a fighting mood developing among more USDAW members to resist further attacks on wages and conditions. Seventy delegates and visitors attended the best ever *Militant* Readers' Meeting, and so far over £300 has been raised before expenses.

## Welsh Telecom workers prepare for action

IT IS NOT only in London that POEU members are being forced to take action to keep jobs.

Just 19 days after our dispute over job losses and the implementation of an over-time ban, POEU officers in Swansea were requested to meet members of the union's NEC at London head office.

Branch officers made clear they wanted job security of all members in Swansea restored with no job losses and this meant that the £1 million plus cut from the 1983-84 area budget must be given back.

The NEC agreed to make representations to the chairman of BT in Wales. The overtime ban, fully supported by all members in the Swansea Telephone area was to remain.

A special Wales and the Marches union regional council meeting was held on 22 April to consider the position regarding job losses. Each area (Chester, Shrewsbury, Cardiff and Swansea) gave a resumé of their area manpower plan for 1983-84. The general view was that whilst no area was yet in the same position as Swansea all considered that this was only a matter of time.

Cardiff branches had been told informally by area BT officials they had a projected surplus of over 100 jobs this year and another 100 next. However, the General Manager in Cardiff, refused to declare his surplus at least

for a few months in order to have the Telephone area's re-organisation plans implemented.

Cardiff branches were meeting BT management in a few days and would be pressing for a definite statement on jobs losses in 1983-84. Both Cardiff External and Bridgend branches were already committed to support a regional overtime ban.

Chester area produced statistics suggesting they were probably facing job losses and would be pressing management for a clearer statement. Shrewsbury area were unclear but Telford branch thought they might have to consider industrial action.

The following resolution of support was then carried without dissent: "This council declares full support for the Carmarthen, Haverfordwest and Swansea branches in their defence of jobs for POEU members arising from financial budgetary cuts. It further re-affirms its total opposition to the Jefferson 25% edict.

"Further, in the event of discussions between POEU head office and British Telecom's Wales and Marches regional management breaking down, branches are to be asked to support the Swansea area branches by introducing an overtime ban across the region."

By Roy Davies

(Swansea Branch Secretary POEU, personal capacity)



# Industrial Reports



An overwhelming vote for return, but not to return to the Victorian management methods of BL

Photo: Militant

## After Cowley goes back..

**“NOW AT LEAST, the management might begin to treat us like human beings again.” said one worker after Tuesday’s vote at Cowley.**

Strikers voted to return to work after the union leadership had agreed to BL management’s demand that no recommendation be made to the mass meeting. With local stewards effectively gagged there was no strategy advanced by the unions to win the strike.

As a result, Cowley workers have been given thirty days grace in relation to the six and nine minute cleaning up time. Management say they would negotiate with plant stewards over the introduction of “audited plant status” and the setting up of a grievance body to investigate complaints of the workers.

But, management have also reserved the right to unilaterally impose changes in work practice and production in the event of failure to agree with the unions.

### Ruthless management

Although prevented by the leadership of the AUEW and TGWU from recommending rejection of the offer, convenor Bobby Fryer, reported the advice of Cowley shop stewards who had unanimously rejected the so-called “peace formula”. Bobby Fryer confined his reported by saying that if audited plant status was introduced without agreement then further strike action would be supported by the T&G leadership.

This issue and related problems of working conditions have not disappeared—on the contrary, the more management attempt to screw down the workers, the more likelihood of a bigger

explosion of anger at a later date. Talking to the bosses’ media, management attempted to portray workers as being bloody-minded over a couple of minutes.

The reality is a million miles away from that sketched by leader writers of the Tory press. Workers don’t “cheat” BL of 45 minutes a week, since the cleaning up time which allows workers to clock out three minutes before the end of each shift is more than made up through increasing line speeds during the course of the day.

Moreover, before leaving the factory, tools have to be locked away and overalls removed. Even at dinner time overalls aren’t allowed to be worn in the canteen. Added to the time needed to queue for food, the difference is between having five minutes to eat your dinner or eight minutes.

Musgrove’s demand that the line should work “from bell to bell” shows the utter contempt management has for the workforce, implying they should behave like Pavlov’s dogs. Countless incidents have occurred showing management disregard for health and safety.

Steve, a Maestro worker, told us, “When the workforce for the new Maestro line was employed, of the 180 taken on, 80 left within the first week. Trainees were given two days to learn the job simply by imitating other line workers.

“There was no gradual increase in line speed either. New workers were expected to attain the same production levels as the most experienced track worker. Even when the company supplied faulty components for assembly, the line speed wasn’t reduced; workers had to rush around replacing defective parts.”

When he first saw the Maestro track, Steve continued, “it was going so fast I thought it was the M1. The

line is meant to go at a speed of 34 cars an hour but it often goes up to 38.”

Management made much play of the raising of the bonus ceiling and the implementation of audited plant status, but bonuses aren’t guaranteed. Already they fluctuate, based on what goes out of the gate. Despite management rage at the 6-9 minutes, they have on several occasions actually stopped the line to harangue workers on the need for better quality control.

### Willingness to fight

Job flexibility has taken on a new dimension in Cowley. Toilet cleaners have been put on the track and private contractors brought in. Toilets are often in a disgusting condition, some are unusable. In the rain it’s even worse—the ceilings leak and large pools of water often form. Moreover, the drains are sealed so when it rains the stench is choking.

Management have been ruthless in their drive for increased productivity. An older worker with 28 years as a driver was given one day’s notice to work on the track. If he’d refused he would have been sacked. When it was obvious he couldn’t keep up with the track speed the foremen verbally abused him and threatened the sack. The workers responded by downing tools.

Indeed, the lengths to which management have gone in their drive for productivity is almost comical. One worker was given a written warning for unauthorised absence when he came into work with a doctor’s certificate. His broken arm was in a sling at the time.

These counter-reforms introduced by management over the last two to three years could have been reversed if the Cowley strike had been victorious. The return

to work negotiated by Duffy and Evans has only delayed that prospect. The union’s national leadership should have come down to last Tuesday’s mass meeting to explain how they can’t achieve any more, rather than announcing it from a hotel near Heathrow Airport.

Indeed, the national leadership should have been regularly visiting Cowley, explaining how in the event of sackings they would have called out the rest of the BL combine, and used the union machinery to collect cash, especially through donations in BL factories where there was tremendous support for Cowley workers.

Above all they should have explained that by standing firm the workforce would have forced BL to back down. Moreover, the leadership should have explained the political nature of the strike by exposing the Tories behind BL management.

At a certain stage an all-out strike call throughout the BL combine would have had a tremendous echo of support linking in conditions at Cowley with those at other BL plants. The attitude of the union leadership at Cowley raises the need for an important campaign to be waged by the rank and file on the issue of union democracy, and rank and file control over negotiations.

Cowley workers have been denied their victory, but they have shown they are prepared to fight and as a result of their actions they have nailed the lie of Thatcher that workers have accepted the dictatorial methods the Tories describe as the “new mood of realism”.

By Dave Carr

## Lincoln guards derail Tories

**The tremendous response to the NUR strike at Lincoln depot will be sending shock waves all the way to the Railways Board headquarters.**

A guard at Lincoln was sent home for refusing to work on a ballast train lifting up a railway track on a section of line in Lincolnshire. The line from March to Spalding has been closed due to the BRB failing to spend the money necessary to repair track which is rusting away. So the NUR have blacked lifting of lines while negotiations continue on its future.

Immediately the guard was sent home all other Lincoln guards came out in sympathy, official backing was gained from the NUR and appeals were made to other depots not to work trains normally done by Lincoln guards. There was a great response so management sought talks with the NUR.

A week later Lincoln guards struck again when management tried to get another train out to move the line. Depots round about

refused to work lines to, from or through Lincoln, including workers from as far away as Cleethorpes, Grimsby, Sheffield and Nottingham.

The NUR called also for blacking of diagrams (rosters) altered as result of the dispute, so trains destined for Lincoln didn’t even start out! The Board even approached a Lincolnshire bus company to run a substitute service, but as their workers were organised by NUR there was no joy for them.

For the first time the Secretary of State for the Environment has ordered BR not to sell land over which the March-Spalding line ran, fuelling the feeling that the anti-rail fanatics want to pave it over and make it a road.

NUR members’ opposition in action is excellent and an example to be followed in the campaign which should now be stepped up against Serpell.

By Dave Hardy  
(NUR Nottingham and District)

## Marconi plead poverty

IN FAILING to agree over a pay dispute, workers at GEC Marconi Lincoln walked out on strike on 14 April.

Over 300 semi-skilled women workers were aiming for at least a £5 increase, but management’s final offer amounted to £4.30 with a £1 service increment for those with over two years service. Pickets were set up and all supplies vital to the factory were prevented from entering. Morale remained high. Peggy Bushly convenor commented, “All we want is a decent living wage”. Grades range from £73 to £76 for a 39 hour week.

On 22 April a meeting was convened by AUEW officials to recount the result of negotiations. AUEW District Secretary Ned Jackson said management still offered just £4.30 and the service increase but with £100 bonus for going on credit transfer instead of £50.

This, he said, was the maximum offer. The company were scraping the barrel to find the money. After heated questions from the floor the vote was put and the work-force agreed to return to work by about a three-fifths majority.

Many workers were bitter.

One picket commented, “what’s the point of being out on strike and then going back for the amount we came out for in the first place”. Another picket, Jacqueline Allen said, “the management treat us like monkeys. They offer us peanuts and expect us to take them”.

Many workers felt the union offered no real leadership. The officials accepted management claims of scraping the barrel. But, as one worker pointed out, the firm had recently taken on 250 workers, they had a good order book. Why didn’t the union official ask to see the books of Marconi and multinational GEC?

Preparations for an extended dispute seem to have been ignored, no strike fund was set up and AUEW branches were not notified except where raised by individual members.

AUEW members must join the fight to make our union the fighting organisation it should be.

By Dave Godson  
(AUEW Lincoln 15 Branch)

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE STEEL STRIKE

The three week strike by craft workers in South Yorkshire’s British Steel plants ended on 26 April after workers won the same concessions as members of the main steel union ISTC of no compulsory redundancies. The strike closed down the continuous casting plant at Aldwarke and Templeborough and other melting shops.



# Shildon and Fishburn Communities unite in fight for jobs



## Town Hall Tories out!

Continued from front page

contractors.

### ★ Social Services

The Tories have been most callous when it comes to the most vulnerable in our society. Local authorities have been asked to cut their social services by 7% hitting children in need, the mentally ill and the handicapped.

variation in your previous assessment." Wandsworth Council claim that Sharon's case was properly handled and that there were 300 cases of a more serious nature and they had to be put first.

Yet Wandsworth Council and the government could afford to give British Land, a property company, £5 million urban development grant. Last year their profits rose 32% to £6.3 million.

### ★ Housing

Housing expenditure has been cut by 50% compared with a 5% cut in overall public spending. This has had fatal results, according to an article in the *Mirror*.

Sharon Howell, mother of two babies, first applied to Tory controlled Wandsworth Council for a transfer in 1980 because of damp in her house which had a serious effect on her health. Sharon grew seriously ill with asthma but failed to get a transfer despite a doctor's note. The council consulted their own doctor who did not rate Sharon a priority case.

Four days after she died of an asthma attack in January this year, she received a letter from the council's medical officer who was "unable to recommend any

That's the reality of Tory Britain. That's what Tory controlled councils mean to working people. The cold statistics of cutbacks in new house building to a new all-time low of only 21,493 starts in the first nine months of 1982, despite 62,420 families and households accepted as *officially* homeless in 1980, mean misery, broken families, ill health and ultimately early death for thousands of working class people. The "right to buy your own home" means nothing to the homeless or those forced to live in slums.

So don't give the Tories any more opportunities to devastate local communities. Kick them out now. Join the Labour Party and fight for socialist policies.

## GREENING SIT-IN

Workers at N Greening Ltd, Warrington have always supported workers in dispute. They came out for the health workers on 22 September last and have used their special talents to make braziers for picket lines.

Now they have been forced to sit-in at their own factory. All 400 workers are now on strike after management put forward non-negotiable demands for 89 redundancies, selected by the bosses on their own criteria of "unacceptable timekeeping and absences", people "whose age, health, ability and performance or skill limit their future contribution" and the catch-all phrase "management selection for special circumstances."

Management also want to abolish negotiated holidays and subsidies, annual wage claims and the full time convenor. They want to close half the site with further redundancies within six months, with a rumour that "excess" machinery will be sent to South Africa.

Return the support Greenings workers have shown to our class's struggles with messages and donations to N Greenings JSSC Strike Fund, c/o L Blood, Treasurer, 26 St John St, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside.

Dave Clark (Deeside TUC) and Martin Booth (Talton CLP) spoke to A Conheeny (Convenor), L Blood and other stewards.



Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Workers demonstrate against the BR Works closure in Shildon. Now they are uniting with the Fishburn coke workers to save jobs

**On 28 April over 300 crowded into Fishburn Workmen's Club for a meeting to cement links with another community in struggle, Shildon.**

273 jobs at the Fishburn coke works are under threat as the Tory programme of industrial slimming assumes proportions

of community genocide in County Durham.

An area which boasted 119 pits in 1951 has only 19 today. The birthplace of modern industry is today

fighting for its life.

Closure of the coke works would increase male unemployment from 49% to nearer 60%. After the ambulance station and a nearby hospital the biggest employer of males would be the Workmen's club itself.

An enthusiastic reception was accorded to NUM President Arthur Scargill who, referring to the recent strike ballot set-back, said they could accept defeat at the hands of the membership but not the Tories. Miners' leaders have been similarly rejected in 1972, but that was a prelude to a transformation leading to the greatest victory of the working class in this country.

Scargill welcomed Jimmy Knapp's election as general secretary of the NUR and urged the workers at Fishburn and Shildon to build a fighting Triple Alliance.

The workers at Fishburn and those fighting the British Rail engineering closure at Shildon have taken the first steps in solidarity by the

formation of a trade union joint action committee and have organised a demonstration on Saturday 30 April in nearby Bishop Auckland with promises of support coming already from miners' lodges in the Northern region.

However, lasting success will only be achieved by extending the links to solidarity with the British Rail works and coking plants and pits threatened with closure. Even then it is just part of a wider battle to kick out Thatcher and monetarism, to return Labour committed to socialism.

Any messages of support and donations to the fighting fund against the closure of Fishburn and Shildon should be sent c/o Gordon Ramsay, 3 Front Street, Fishburn, Stockton, Cleveland. Also in London, there will be a demo on 11 May, of Shildon workers to lobby their MPs.

By Kevin Gent



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