

### 1979 POUND WORTH 65p TODAY ...

# Tories - Party of Poverty

Margaret Thatcher is the last person to boast about her government's record on inflation.

By John  
Pickard

Since the Tories came to office, prices have risen by a massive 53 per cent. In other words, the May 1979 pound is worth only 65 pence today.

The Tories cannot complain about the "world economy" for their price rises. Their policies in the last four years have involved a conscious effort to boost unemployment to attack living standards—but it shouldn't be forgotten that in the first two years of Tory mis-rule, there were other measures, no less deliberate, calculated to put up prices.

A month before the 1979 election, Mark Carlisle, Tory spokesman, denied a Labour Party claim that the Tories would put up the cost of school meals by 10p. "We have no such commitment", he said. Within nine months of taking office, the price was put up 10p and stands today at 50p, an increase overall of 100 per cent!

Thatcher herself, in April 1979, announced, "We have no intention to raise

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## 'I don't know what I'll do if she gets back in'

One Liverpool woman, Mrs Lee, described to Labour Party canvasser Cheryl Varley, how she tried to cope, with her husband unemployed and three children:

"My husband lost his job three years ago. He worked as a mechanic at a local garage until it went bankrupt. We just never expected him to lose his job because he's a trained mechanic and we thought he'd always have work; so we had nothing saved."

"We just can't manage on the dole money. The kids need shoes but just haven't the money. We get £80 fortnightly and when it arrives on the Thursday I rush over to the supermarket to spend about £30-35 on groceries."

"I get a big sack of potatoes to make them last

so we have something. It causes murder because he can't even afford a drink once a week.

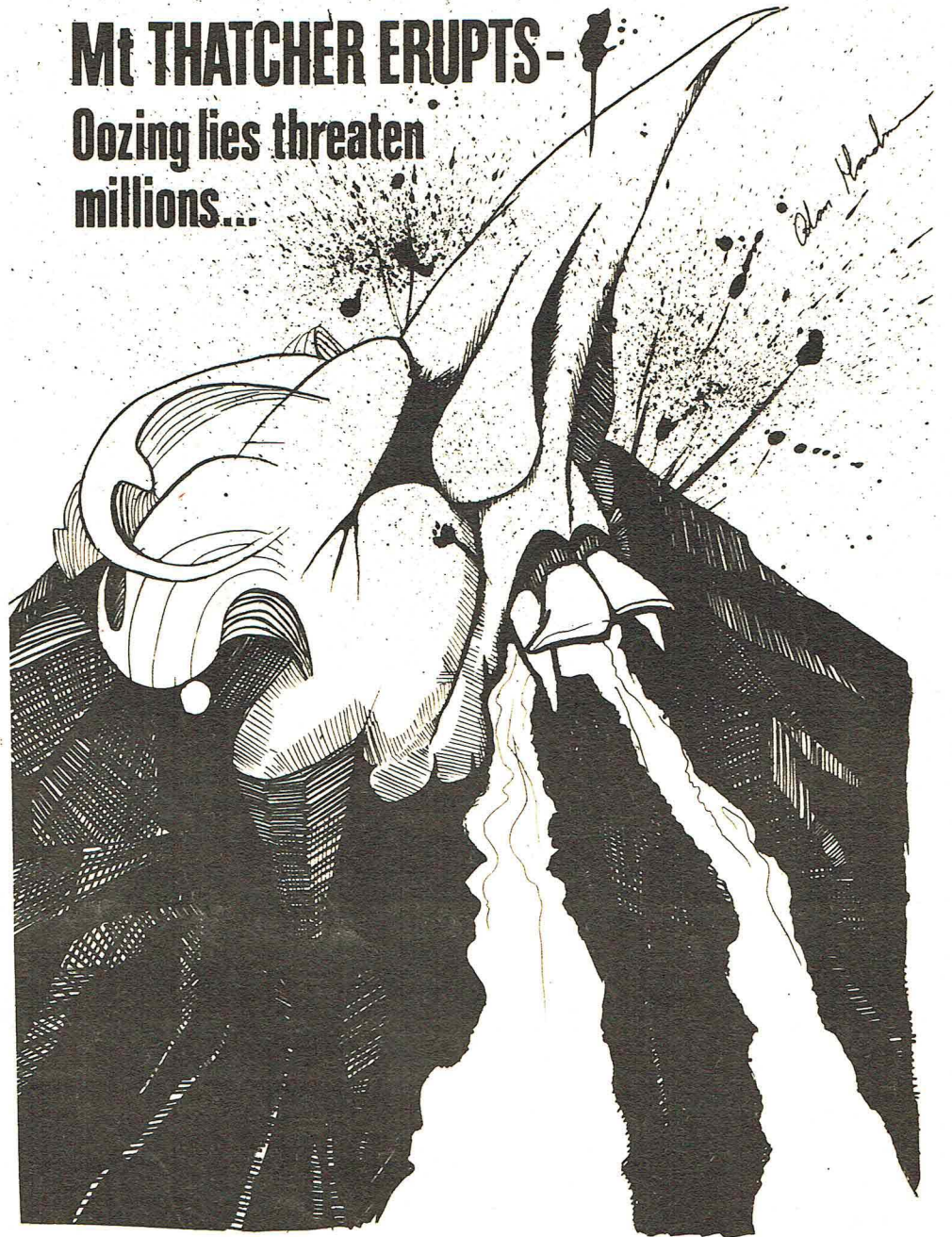
"The kids see their friends going on holidays and they want to know why they can't go, and what can I tell them? Every year I tell them 'next year'."

"It's got to be the stage where I'm looking around the house for things to sell. It's just a vicious circle of debts. I had to start getting things from the catalogue because the kids needed school uniforms and things."

"I mean, you can't send them without, but clothes are so expensive. I'm fighting a losing battle all the time, the bills are never ending."

"God, I don't know what I'm going to do if Thatcher gets back in."

Mr THATCHER ERUPTS -  
Oozing lies threaten  
millions...



## Workers' Candidate in Northern Ireland

THE NORTHERN IRELAND Labour and Trade Union Group will be standing a candidate in East Belfast in the General Election.

This is a major step forward in advancing the ideas of socialism in Northern Ireland. We are confident about the campaign and promise to be on every doorstep in the constituency to discuss with as many people as

By Lucie MacShane  
(East Belfast Young Socialists, Labour and Trade Union Group)

possible, to explain the alternative to Toryism and bigotry.

The Labour and Trade Union Group has fought consistently over the years within the labour movement for the creation of a Labour

Party, based on the trade unions, to give the working class an alternative to the sectarian parties which dominate politics in the North.

We have called for the leadership of the trade union movement to fight elections, both local and general, in order to serve the interests of the mass of the working people here, who are not interested in Green or Orange Tory Parties, but who year

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# VOTE LABOUR JUNE 9

# Militant

## Figures can't lie - but liars can figure

A LETTER from Market Opinion and Research International, promoting their polling services, states that "newspapers usually publish only those parts of the poll they consider most newsworthy."

What most Fleet Street papers regard as "newsworthy", of course, whether it involves polls or other material, is anything damaging to the Labour Party.

Public opinion polls now form part of the standard armoury of the Tory press, to be regularly deployed against the left, the trade union and the Labour Party.

The current general election polls, published with monotonous regularity, are not so much designed to publicise a balanced view of real opinion, as an attempt to intimidate Labour supporters into thinking that they have no chance, to convince long-suffering voters into believing, almost, that their hatred of Toryism is an isolated view, unrepresentative of the majority.

Labour workers have got every right to be suspicious of these polls, some of which show the Tories an incredible 21 points ahead. The polls give substance to the old adage... "figures cannot lie, but liars can figure".

If the Tories are so popular, workers ask, how is it they failed miserably in so many by-elections in the last four years, losing quite a few deposits in the process?

If they really are 21 points ahead, as the TV Eye/Harris poll would have workers believe, how were the Tories only 6 points ahead in the local elections, even excluding Scotland, one of Labour's strongholds?

Some of the opinion polls are blatantly biased. Thus, Tony Benn complained last week about a telephone poll conducted on behalf of the Sun newspaper in his new Bristol East constituency. Of eight questions asked, Tony Benn complains, five were about him and none about the other candidates.

Telephone polls are not new: they have been given headline treatment on several occasions in recent years, although they leave out that substantial part of the population of lower-paid

workers who do not have telephones, nearly a third of households, a majority of whom will probably support Labour.

Sometimes, the polling samples go from the sublime to the ridiculous. Thus, at the start of the Darlington by-election campaign, BBC Newsnight viewers were treated to the silly spectacle of an interviewer asking questions to waltzers at a Darlington school of ballroom dancing! They may represent a cross-section of TV producers, but it hardly represents a general cross-section of the population.

Even when the more 'reputable' polling organisations have taken more 'representative' samples, the press and TV, as the MORI letter indicated, use only the results they want. When the campaign to expel Militant supporters was at its height, BBC Nationwide mentioned a poll apparently show public support for action against the Militant, yet they did not even mention that the same poll showed a clear majority of the public against expulsions.

Most of the recent polls have been published without taking any account of those

who have yet to decide which way to vote, or who have refused to answer. This prompted a Newcastle University professor of statistics to write to *The Times* about the use of such misleading figures. The total figures, he noted sarcastically, were 99 per cent for each poll, "which suggests a degree of commitment seldom seen outside the socialist countries".

Leaving aside the completely false association of the East European regimes with socialism, the professor is otherwise correct. Polls that show 99 or 100 per cent commitment are leaving out completely that proportion of undecided voters which varies, according to the pollsters themselves, from 5 to anything up to 40 per cent.

From a similar stage in the 1979 election campaign up to polling day itself, an estimated one quarter of all voters actually changed their decision as to which party they would support, and although the final result put the Tories 7 per cent ahead of Labour, there were even at that time a few wild polls showing the Tories apparently 21 per cent ahead.

All the evidence 'on the ground' in the canvasses and campaigns, shows a huge accumulation of bitterness towards the Tories, yet the media seems determined to cover it up.

What the polls also tend to hide is the enormous volatility that exists at the present time. The idea of 'fixed' blocks of votes, with a small percentage of 'floaters' in the middle is completely false.

Millions of votes are there to be won by the Labour Party. Millions of workers are profoundly disillusioned, not only with Thatcherism and the Tories, but with all the 'old politics'.

The scepticism that still exist towards the Labour Party is rooted in the policies and methods of previous right-wing dominated Labour governments. Notwithstanding the position in the polls, Labour can win the election and win well, if they put forward the right policies in the right way.

Workers would respond to a Labour campaign that really broke away from the traditions and methods of the past. The results in the local elections in Liverpool are a pointer to the way the

Labour Party should be campaigning nationally.

Labour has presented the most radical manifesto since 1945, a manifesto supported by the overwhelming majority of the rank and file, and outlining a whole number of vitally necessary reforms in health, education, social services, transport, and so on. Labour have given commitments on unilateralism, the EEC and to reduce unemployment, by a massive programme of expansion, to a million within five years.

But the Labour leadership must make it clear that there will be no room for permanent reforms within the confines of the crisis-torn capitalist economy. The rebuilding of Britain will only be achieved on the basis of fundamental social change, with a break, in other words, from the wasteful and wanton capitalist system. That is the message the labour movement needs to hammer home in the campaign.

In the final analysis the main determining factor in the election will not be the polls, but the willingness of the Labour leadership to offer a programme that will inspire workers and show the only way forward for society.

## Doubting Thomas' smear campaign

MIKE THOMAS, one of the first Labour MPs to defect to the SDP in 1981, is clearly getting very doubtful of his prospects of keeping his Newcastle East seat.

He got his election campaign off to a desperate start with a clumsy smear campaign against *Militant* and the local Labour Party. His attack wholly concerned with discrediting the party which had got him into parliament (and most likely to turf him out) was obligingly reported at length in the local paper, the *Evening Chronicle*, under the headline 'I name the militants—Democrat'.

### 'Infiltration' claim

The newspaper article reports that in 'a strongly worded attack' Mr Thomas claimed that the local party was heavily infiltrated by militants, and criticised city council leader Jeremy Beecham for not standing up to 'extremism'. He suggests that two former Labour Party councillors in Newcastle East had been forced out by, or had resigned in protest at left wing influence.

Unfortunately for Thomas, both councillors deny this suggestion. One of them lost his seat through ward reorganisation and denies any left wing plot. The other said he had resigned his seat for personal reasons.

The main target for Thomas's attack was long standing *Militant* supporter Councillor Ken Sketheway, who was Labour Party secretary and agent when Thomas was selected for the seat in 1974. Thomas, in a crude attempt to bolster his image, says that "under threat of my resignation as their MP, the party removed this man from under his position but left him as a councillor.."

Ken Sketheway told the paper that Thomas had never threatened to resign, but had ganged up with the right wing to vote him out.

"I am quite open about the fact that I support the ideas of *Militant*," Ken Sketheway told the *Evening Chronicle*, "because *Militant* is a Marxist paper, and I am a Marxist."

"To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to debar Marxists from being members of the Labour Party, but there is something to debar Conservatives under the guise of Socialists—and that is what Thomas is."

Other *Militant* supporters 'named' in the paper pointed out that they made no secret of supporting *Militant*, and that Mike Thomas, man of integrity, had known of their views when they had worked for his election—before his desertion.

By Militant reporters



The People's March leaves Glasgow on 23 April.

Photo: Militant

## Peoples' March - against Tories

THE PEOPLES March for Jobs '83 is being applauded by worker wherever it goes, as it winds its way down to London in its nationwide campaign against unemployment.

Unfortunately however, some of the marchers have been thrown off the march for the crime of chanting anti-Tory slogans. They could not, quite rightly accept this dictate of the march organisers and didn't think Thatcher and Co could be let off the hook so lightly especially in an election period.

One of the marchers, Ali Hughes a member of the

LPYS, spoke to *Militant* reporters in Manchester, before he and three others were thrown off the march.

"I'm an unemployed miner and I've been out of work for over 3 years. The Mid and East Lothian Trades council sponsored me to go on the People's March because they saw it as helping the fight against unemployment by building a campaign to defeat the Tories and return a Labour government committed to socialist policies."

"We have received a very good response in many areas such as Leyland in Lancashire, where the car workers came out to greet us. In Manchester about 800 workers joined the march to

Stockport.

"However I don't feel the march has had the impact it should have done. The march organisers, who are mostly members of the 'Communist Party' say that it should be a non-political demonstration—yet all the marchers are issued with a free copy of the *Morning Star* every day! They have now threatened to throw people off the march for chanting slogans like "Maggie Out", but how can you have a non-political campaign against unemployment? In the middle of a general election this march could be a brilliant opportunity to rally workers to defeat the Tories."

## Liverpool loses feudal relic

THE NEW Labour controlled council in the city of Liverpool have decided that the pomp and waste associated with the title of Lord Mayor should be done away with.

At its first council meeting, to the howls of anguish from the Liberals and the Tories, the Labour majority abolished the title and elected a council chairman with a greatly reduced allowance, in its place.

When the Liberals were on the point of gaining control of the city in 1972, they issued a leaflet which drew attention to the fact that the annual cost of the mayoral cars, carriage and horses and 'hospitality' was about £25,000. Since the Liberals have had control, those costs have risen to the astronomical sum of £90,000. The Labour council have cut the total allowance down to only £8,000, having consigned the gold chain to a museum.

The Liberals, as hypocritical as ever, tried to move the abolition of even the reduced allowance "to be used to fund three jobs for the unemployed", no doubt to create the impression they were concerned about the community but that was after they had already voted against the abolition of the expensive office of Lord Mayor.

By a Militant reporter

# COVENTRY: Tories offer despair

Report by  
Clive Heemskerk

**"SUMMER OF DESPAIR"**. This was the heading in the *Coventry Evening Telegraph* when it reported on the prospects of this July's 3,000 school leavers.

On the basis of last year's figures only one in ten of Coventry school leavers will get a job by 1984. There are still 5,000 16-18 year olds either unemployed or on so-called training schemes such as YOPS.

Tebbit's cheap-labour Youth Training Schemes will be virtually the only thing on offer to the school leavers. One young voter told us that her catering scheme was worse than being at school. In the college part she was subject to petty discipline. And at work she got low pay and few rights.

Others left school at Easter without taking their exams. Many hoped that by leaving at Easter they could find jobs before the summer "stampede" began. But out of the 339 early leavers, only 50 have found jobs.

On the other hand, some of these school students, realising that they have no prospects of a job, left early so that they could immediately claim supplementary benefit. Thanks to a



But Dave Nellist's campaign has brought the chance of a socialist alternative. Above: a worker at GEC buys a *Militant* from a canvasser. Photo: Militant

penny-pinching rule introduced by the Tories in 1981, school leavers who leave in July cannot register as unemployed until September.

Many young people are turning out to help in Labour's campaign. Labour is campaigning for a £25 a week grant for all sixteen to eighteen year olds in full-time education.

Fearful for their future, more and more people are

drawing socialist conclusions. So much so that Coventry Tories are making efforts to prevent the People's March for Jobs from making a full impact in Coventry when it passes through in 22 May.

There is a proposal from the Labour group for the West Midlands County Council to sponsor events around the People's March for Jobs in the West Midlands. This has been at-

tacked by the Tory opposition leader.

Coventry last year saw an average 550 redundancies every month. At GEC, where former Tory Cabinet Minister Lord Carrington is chairman, 1,190 jobs were lost during 1982 in the Coventry branches alone—although profits rose by £43 million in the last six months. That's the Tory priorities—Labour is fighting for the socialist alternative.

## Sick Tory stunt



Mildmay Hospital, Shoreditch, London. Photo: Militant

The sickest election joke so far must be the Tories' attempt to film in a hospital they are trying to close down. In January Mildmay Hospital in Tower Hamlets, East London was closed to patients. On Monday 16 May, the Tories tried to take over one of the abandoned wards, bring in actors, and use the cosy scene in one of their political broadcasts to show how much they cared about the Health Service.

When staff, who have been fighting to keep the hospital open, heard the news, they confronted the

local management. Oliver Victor, Tower Hamlets NUPE branch Secretary, explained, "The very people who are forcing the hospital to close are using it for their own political propaganda—we cannot allow that to happen."

When the Tories realised that all the smooth skills of their ad-men could not glide over this, their film crew beat a hasty retreat. And symbolically enough, the future of this NHS hospital, will finally be decided by the Area Health Authority on election day itself, June 9.

## Firemen support Terry Fields

Firemen are playing a prominent role in Terry Fields' election campaign. Whilst the firemen's union, the FBU, do not have a sponsored MP, Terry is on the FBU executive. Strathclyde FBU are sending members to work for Terry.

In Merseyside a circular has gone round the union's branches asking for volunteers. Last Sunday, twelve

firemen turned out in uniform to canvass for Terry.

Many other trade unionists also turned up to help. There was a marvellous mood and people were enthusiastic about supporting Labour with a campaign poster stating that Terry was standing as a workers' MP on a worker's wage.

## "I will only accept a worker's wage"

Militant interview with Terry Fields, Labour candidate in Broad Green, Liverpool.

Militant: "What are the main issues?"

Terry Fields: On the doorstep you often hear the cry 'you're all the same'. Well in Broad Green I aim to restore the confidence of the electorate in an MP who is committed to carry out his pledges, who shares their experiences and who lives their lifestyle. If elected I will only accept the wages of a skilled worker, and donate all the rest back to the labour movement.

"In Liverpool the twin fight has been for a Labour council and for a Labour government. We've got the first, now we're going to win the second. It is the only way to solve the major problems facing ordinary people—



Terry Fields

unemployment, housing, prices, and disarmament."

M: "What should be the priorities of a Labour government?"

TF: "First tackle unemployment. The Labour government should take a

# BRIGHTON- pensioners back socialist campaign

**THE LABOUR Party headquarters in Brighton Kempton has become the centre of activity for hundreds of activists from Brighton and the whole South East.**

The campaign is run and organised by local Party workers with help from those from other areas prepared to spend a few days or even weeks in Brighton and they are very well received. On Saturday and Sunday an estimated 400 people were involved in leafletting and canvassing.

In one day nearly the whole constituency was leafletted and on the following day approximately 50% of the constituency canvassed. Street meetings and paper sales have proved hugely successful with hundreds of papers being sold.

At the street sale last Saturday over 70 papers were sold, thousands of leaflets snatched up and over 30 names and addresses were taken of those willing to help with the campaign and join the Labour Party Young Socialists. On Sunday a Youth Rally was held with 200 people attending.

But it's not only the youth who are taking up the programme on which Rod Fitch and Labour are standing. "I'll be voting Labour" said an elderly woman who bought a paper, "so you should be smiling when you're selling the *Militant*."

Many of the old and sick in Brighton are being given the first real chance of voting for a socialist MP through a well organised campaign to help them get their postal votes. "Nobody will stop me voting her out!" One old woman said "even though I'm bedridden."

Another 80 year old, asked if she wanted a postal

vote, said "no thanks I don't need it, I'll be the first one down there in the morning, I've been waiting four years for a chance to get her out." Yet another old age pensioner admitted never to have voted Labour before, but would this time because of Rod Fitch's campaign for pensioners rights.

A youth, sitting in Churchill Square, said he had been unemployed for over a year now and he supported Labour. "The real and most important problem that a politician should tackle" he said "was unemployment. I wanted a job as a motor mechanic but I'm either too young, too old or got no experience."

John Sillit, canvassing for Labour, commented "One of the poorest sections are retired people, and 23% of the population here are retired. Old people tell us how cold they are in winter being unable to afford to keep warm."

"Since the Tories broke the link between pension and earnings, a pensioner couple are losing £2.25 a week, single pensioners £1.40. Also this year pension increases at two percent below the rate of inflation will cost a married couple £1 a week, these measures plus the deferment of the 1980 benefit increase by two weeks gave the government £600 million and they probably gave it to the rich in the form of tax concessions and other schemes."

"It is the elderly who suffer most when services are cut. As far as the Tories are concerned working class people who have laboured all their lives become a burden when they get old."

"People on pensions have as many reasons to kick out the Tories as have you or any other section of society and this is showing through on the canvass returns."

leaf out the book of Liverpool City Council which is putting into train an immediate programme to create an extra 1000 jobs in the city. If the Labour government did this it would create confidence amongst workers. The main priority must be to carry out in full its manifesto and not renege on any commitments."

### Unions support

M: "What help have the labour and trade union movement promised to help you win Broad Green?"

TF: "After the local elections there is great confidence we can win Broad Green. The Trade Unions for Labour Victory (TULV) is playing an important role. Senior trade union officials of the TGWU, GMBATU,

National Union of Seamen, UCW and UCATT have been designated to work here.

"My union, FBU, are giving magnificent support in this key marginal. The GMBATU have offered a room in their regional offices which is situated in the Broad Green constituency, as a headquarters of the local Labour Party during its campaign. GMBATU stewards at Cammell Lairds have promised to send a busload of stewards into the constituency to help in the campaign. Other workers facing the threat of redundancy have said they will help."

"Six weeks ago, Broad Green constituency did not exist. Now we can create history, by electing a workers' MP here to represent the working class."

# TARGET—£50,000 BY JULY 9.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 9 July
Eastern	300		2700
East Midlands	339		2600
Humberside	293		1300
London East	394		3300
London West	494		1650
London South	1060		2500
Manchester & Lancs	458		3000
Merseyside	415		3400
Northern	354		3550
Scotland East	212		2100
Scotland West	403		3000
Southern	421		3150
South West	286		2000
Wales East	176		1500
Wales West	130		2100
West Midlands	278		3100
Yorkshire	265		3400
Others	215		5000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>6492</b>		<b>50000</b>

## A pressing need for money!

YOU won't read the socialist case in the 'popular' (gutter) press. None of them wants Britain to leave the EEC, get rid of nuclear weapons or support a socialist plan to restore full employment.

And you can't even afford to advertise in those papers—full page adverts cost about £20,000.

That's why it's important to build up the socialist alternative. We are asking our readers to give us the equivalent of two 'advert' pages by polling day. Unless we get that £40,000 in, we are not going to be able to campaign so effectively against the Tories and for our class. We don't get our money from rich individuals, big companies or foreign organisations but solely from ordinary people, workers and supporters in the labour movement.

This week we'd like to thank Labour Party members in Openshaw, Walsall North, Bradford North, Thanet, Alston LP (Penrith & Borders CLP), Mossley Hill, Colindale, Leicester and Felling and Wallsend (Tyneside). An excellent £63 came from a *Militant* meeting in Hull and £36 in Ryde, IOW, where the prospective candidate is again Cathy Wilson, standing on a socialist programme. Tins have also been rattled at meetings, marches and demos.

At work, we've had contributions from shipyard workers on Tyneside, engineering workers on the Torness site, Scotland, and from members of TGWU 5/909 and 5/826 Branches (£25) in the West Midlands. Smaller amounts from workers at John Moores, Waterloo station (Merseyside) and stewards and TU delegates (who've put in their expenses) show that they know the benefits of socialism.

Young Socialists in Keighley sold stickers for us, and comrades in Macclesfield sold jumble. Northern region young socialists sent us donations and collections from May Day, and Bermondsey LPYS have been taking regular collections for us. Labour students, particularly in the Northern region (again!), have also

Total since last week  
£2,076



*Militant* sellers with an unlikely ally in Newcastle. Make sure Thatcher gets smaller and *Militant* gets bigger.

sent us donations: thanks to Newcastle Marxist Association and others.

Individual contributions included a Turkish seaman (\$10), someone in the Royal Navy, R Adam (Whitley Bay), four Grimsby supporters, D Etheridge (Ipswich), Mrs Usher (Wallsend LP), Stan (a retired Staffs miner), Birmingham AUEW, TGWU and NUS members; P Snyder (Hillhead YS) and D Neale (Kelvingrove YS), S Marsh (hospital patient in Glasgow), C Edwards (single parent, N London), Mrs Weston (Dalkeith), Castlemilk sitters-in, M Taylor (Scunthorpe LPYS), a Falkirk pensioner, S Warwick (Bracknell: £1 per week promised), and two Leicester nurses (L Furniss COHSE and S Anderson RCN), who

are only a small number of the many people who sent us cash this week.

As our new appeal sheet makes clear, *Militant* stands and fights for the return of a Labour government with as big a majority as possible. But we also need to reach thousands more on a regular basis who will be seeing *Militant* for the first time during the election campaign, and that means extra newsprint costs, freight charges, bus fares and so on. If you are a new *Militant* reader how about sending us a donation, however small, it all helps. Send cheques or postal orders to *Militant* Fighting Fund, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN, or see your local seller.

By Steve Cawley

## Your campaign needs *Militant*

"HOW to kick out the Tories?" "How to get a Labour government committed to socialist policies?" Those are the burning questions of the day, and *Militant* has the answers! That's why we had to double our print run last week.

We've already had a great response including a new order from Fareham, and the Labour candidate in Worthing has taken out an order for 20 papers a week to use in her campaign. Use the *Militant* in your campaign and not only pick off the Tories but pick up sales for us!

Elsewhere we've had record sales at union conferences with hundreds being sold at CPSA conference and 70 being sold of the first issue at IRSF conference. Our sellers were also prominent at the NUR mass lobby in London last week as well as giving out leaflets and selling *Left Lines*, over 50 papers were sold.

We are also looking for the best seller during the election, keep a check of the number of papers sold each week and we will print the best one we hear about. Make sure that Thatcher comes out of this election smaller and *Militant* bigger! For bulk orders of *Militant* write to 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-533 1822 any time between 8.00 am and 8.00 pm any day during the election.

P.S. During the first week of the election Sunderland sellers set the pace, selling 300 papers.

# 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.

CARLISLE Marxist Discussion Group held fortnightly. Ring Carlisle 21068.

BLACKWOOD Marxist Discussion Group. Telephone Blackwood 220051.

POPLAR *Militant* Discussion Group. Ring 01-515 1718 for details. All welcome.

MARXIST Discussion Group in Bury/Oldham/Rochdale. Ring: (0706) 359827.

HALIFAX Marxist Discussion Group. Phone Phil Crossley, Halifax 822814.

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.

### CLASSIFIED

## ELECTION! ELECTION!

Advertise your election meetings in *Militant*. See above for rates.

FELTHAM *Militant* supporters' Rugby Club wishes to take on world. Anyone interested please phone Staines 52270.

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*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).

MILITANT Circulation Department contactable during general election DAILY from 8 am to 8 pm on 01-533 1822.

DON'T canvass without one! *Militant* badges available. Many titles. Contact: Val Pearce: (0344) 21858 or Martin Pearce 01-946 2955.

UCW *Militant* Supporters send fraternal greetings to UCW conference. Tories Out.... Tebbit Out.... For a Socialist Labour government.

South Wales 8th  
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Summer Camp

South Wales *Militant* Summer Camp  
August Bank Holiday  
Friday 26 August-Monday 29 August  
For the eighth time we are organising our highly successful camp in the beautiful surroundings of Horton on the Gower Coast (10 minutes' walk from Port Eynon and Horton beaches). It will provide not only an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism, but also a superb holiday for the family. Price £10. Write to 181 Hanover Street, Swansea SA1 6BP.

ELECTION! ELECTION!  
Advertise your mass canvasses in *Militant*. See above for rates.

# YOUTH FOR SOCIALISM

## FOUR years of Tory government have been a catastrophe for working class youth.

Forty per cent of the unemployed—1,200,000—are under 25 and the best the majority of school leavers can now hope for, is a place on one of Tebbit's slave labour £25-a-week dead-end schemes. One in six university and polytechnic places is being cut by the Tories.

Throughout the Tories' term of office, Labour's youth movement, the LPYS, has been to the forefront of the struggle against their reactionary anti-working class policies. Now a general election has been called, the LPYS will spare no effort in the fight to drive them from office.

Half a million leaflets have been produced by the LPYS nationally in conjunction with the Labour Party aimed at winning the youth vote. One hundred thousand stickers will also shortly be available. LPYS branches should now ensure that their constituency parties place orders for this material as soon as possible as part of the campaign to inspire youth to support the Labour Party.



The LPYS election leaflet, now available £5 per 1000 from the Labour Party, 150 Walworth Road, London SE 17.

Across the country the campaign on the ground is already well under way. In Scotland, LPYS election meetings have been agreed and organised in the majori-

ty of constituencies in Glasgow. A number of major youth rallies are to be held and there will be youth speakers on the platforms of most of the other major

Labour Party rallies as well.

Twenty thousand LPYS stickers are being produced for the campaign and an election campaign bus has been booked to help organise mass canvasses in the marginal seats. A special LPYS recruitment poster has been produced and is to be distributed by the Scottish Labour Party to every constituency for display in the Labour committee rooms.

## Campaigning nationwide

In Wales, LPYS members in the NUM have set up a "Young Miners for a Labour Victory" campaign with a view to producing an election leaflet and organising meetings for every pit. The aim is not only to get young miners to vote but also to actively campaign to defeat the Tories. Plans are also in hand to set up similar campaigns among young civil servants, young health workers (with a leaflet produced jointly with NUPE) and young steel workers.

Throughout the country mass canvasses of LPYS

members are being arranged for most of the marginal constituencies. In the South West for instance these are to be organised on a regular basis in the Bristol East constituency, the seat being fought by Tony Benn.

Mass canvasses have also been arranged in the seats of Glasgow Hillhead, Glasgow Cathcart, Edinburgh East, Stirling, Dundee East, West Renfrew & Inverclyde, Manchester Withington, Stockport, Liverpool Broadgreen, Sheffield Hillsborough, Keighley, Nottingham East, Nottingham South, Birmingham Selly Oak, Luton, Portsmouth and Brighton.

Youth have most to fear from the return of a Tory government. We can be confident that through campaigning around bold socialist policies then the LPYS will play its full part in winning youth not only to vote Labour in the general election but also to active membership of the LPYS in the fight for socialism in the future.

By Nick Toms

## MASS CANVASSES

### BRISTOL EAST:

11am, Sunday 22 May. LPYS street meeting and mass canvass. Eastville Market. All offers of help please contact Transport House, Victoria Street, Bristol. Tel: 293032.

### BRIGHTON KEMP TOWN:

10.30am Sunday 22 May. Meet at Labour Party HQ, 179 Lewes Road, Brighton.

### COVENTRY SE:

Sunday, 22 May:  
In St Michael's Ward, meet at 30 Coundon Rd at 10.00am.  
In Lower Stoke at Stoke Aldermoor Community Centre, The Moorfields at 10.00am.  
In Cheylesmore Ward at Cheylesmore Community Centre, Arundel Rd at 10.00am.

### LEITH:

Tuesday 24 May and Tuesday 7 June. Both at 6.45pm at the Trades Council, 12 Picardy Place (opposite Playhouse Theatre).

### EDINBURGH SOUTH:

Tuesday 31 May at 6.45pm at Gilmerton Miners Welfare Club, Newtoft Street, Gilmerton Crossroads (buses 3, 8, 31, 32)

### ISLE OF WIGHT:

For all details of campaign and canvassing, contact IOW Labour Party, 10 Fairlee Road, Newport. Tel (Newport IOW) 526318.

### BROAD GREEN, LIVERPOOL:

Saturday 21 May meet 10.00am, 2 Lower Breck Road, Tuebrook (TV available to watch cup final). On Sunday 22 May meet 10.00am, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant for Youth Rally, to be followed by mass canvass. Public meeting, Thursday 19 May at 7.30pm at St Cecilia's Primary School, Snaefell Avenue, Tuebrook. Speakers: Terry Fields, (Labour candidate) and LPYS speaker.

### BRADFORD NORTH:

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 May. Both days meet 10.00am, at 2a Hall Ings (opposite Telegraph and Argus building). Tel: 727229.

### TYNEBRIDGE:

LPYS canvass Thursday 19 May. Meet 6.30pm, Gateshead Metro.

### GLASGOW:

LPYS "Campaign Bus" will be touring marginals on Saturday 28 May. Volunteers for help contact: F Curran 041-771 8961.



## YOUNG MINERS CAMPAIGN

The "Young Miners for a Labour Victory" campaign set up by LPYS members in the South Wales miners' union has been backed enthusiastically by the South Wales miners' president, Emyln Williams. Two major rallies are being organised by the campaign—one for East Wales in Tredegar on 26 May with Des Dutfield (NUM), Richard Morgan (LPYS) and Michael Foot speaking and one for West Wales with Emyln Williams (NUM), D Morris (PPC) and Richard Morgan (LPYS) speaking; the date and venue for which have still to be arranged.

Eight pit-head meetings have also been arranged to date and the NUM has indicated that it would be prepared to pay for the leaflet for the campaign. This example should be taken up by LPYS members in every industry in the campaign not only to defeat this hated Tory government but also to build a mass membership of the LPYS.

"YOU'VE got to vote Labour in this election. Thatcher goes on about Victorian values and that means going back to live with your mother. I must vote Labour to keep my flat because I'm on the dole and my rent is paid by the DHSS and if the Tories win, they might cut the money and I won't be able to afford my flat."

—25 year old, Kensington Ward.

"I'm voting Labour because I'm working class. Anyone who is against war, I'll vote for them. We should have an international federation of ordinary people and if anyone threatened war, we should shoot them."

—Pensioner, Old Swan Ward.

"The Liberals came in the past and promised us things, but once they got our votes they never came back

## On the doorstep - Broad Green

again."

"There should be no financial gain for MPs. They should represent people because they want to. You're right about MPs living on the average wage of a skilled worker."

—Comment of one woman to a canvasser, telling her about Terry Fields' pledge to live on the wages of a skilled worker.

On the Whiterock Estate in Kensington Ward, Terry Fields explained to one couple how he would only accept a worker's wages. When the husband heard this, having already agreed to take one poster to put up in the window, he said, "We'll have two posters instead of one! One for upstairs and one for downstairs."

## Building the party

# VOTE LABOUR

FOR A WORKERS' M.P. —



— ON A WORKERS' WAGE!

# VOTE FIELDS

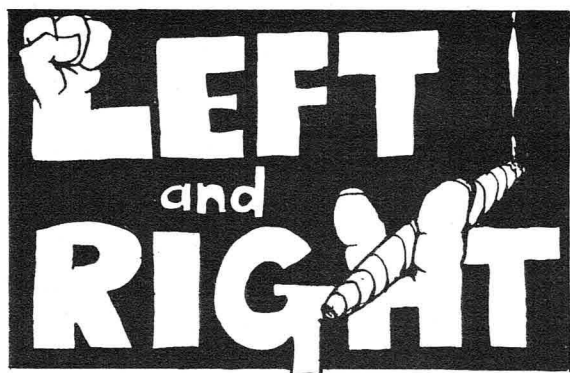
The election poster produced for Terry Fields. The Liberal poster also proclaimed their candidate, Richard Pine, to be "a worker—a winner". Pine is in fact a personnel director of a chemical firm!

MOST Labour Party branches in Broad Green constituency have experienced a growth in membership following the recent successful local election campaigns in Liverpool, where Labour gained control of Liverpool City Council.

In Broad Green ward, where a *Militant* supporter defeated a sitting Liberal councillor, the local Labour Party recruited 16 people—14 of them turning up at last week's ward

meeting and asking to work for Terry Fields in the general election.

Most workers in the constituency see the need to defeat the Tories and fight for a Labour victory. One SOGAT FOC, for example, turned up yesterday, asked to start selling *Militant* and become active in the Labour campaign. This is just one example of the potential that exists to build the Labour Party based on socialist policies.



## Unite and Fight?

The Liberal Party are not exactly doing their best to inspire the youth vote to turn-out in support of the policies they cobbled together with the Slowly Disappearing Party.

Vice-chairman of the Young Liberals, Mike Harakin, has taken one look at the Alliance's manifesto and retorted, "Young people would do just as well staying at home on 9 June if they go by the Alliance manifesto" (*Daily Mirror*, 17 May).

Liberal leader, David Steel, no doubt doing his bit for party unity, said in reply, "It will be just as well if the Young Liberals stay at home." And this is the party that is going to "unite the nation"?

## Abuse of power

Gas and power chiefs cut off 95,000 households in nine months last year, but broke the hardship rules in 94,000 of them. That's the result of a survey by the Child Poverty Action Group and the National Right to Fuel Campaign. They also claim that a third of the boards did not even know the rules. One board allowed a family to run up a £2,000 debt and then wanted them to pay it back at £30 a week from a total income of £68! Pensioners, people on very low incomes were being disconnected when they shouldn't have been. Can we now expect the Tories to launch a tirade against power boards' infringement of the rights of the individual?

## Pandora's wedding box

One person unlikely to have his power cut off is Jocelyn Stevens the publishing tycoon. He's planned a little party for the wedding of his daughter Pandora to man-about-town Charles Delevingne next month. 900 guests will attend a dance at Stevens' house on the banks of the River Test in Hampshire. Part of the river will be covered with a dance floor, and pink champagne will be served by waiters wearing pink, ordinary champagne, naturally enough, by waiters in white. Music will be provided by the fashionable Lester Lanning Orchestra. At about 2 am the bride and groom will shove off down the Test aboard a punt disguised as a white swan, on the first stage of their journey to the Caribbean for the honeymoon.

## A sliding scale of binges

Wining and dining form an essential part of the international diplomatic ritual. The amounts spent on visiting dignitaries can perhaps be taken as a rough guide to their relative importance in the eyes of the government. King Khalid of oil rich (and reactionary) Saudi Arabia had £43,799 of the government's hospitality fund spend on him, while the Deputy Minister for foreign trade of the USSR was only worth a paltry £2,433. Incidentally, the lunch for visiting heads of state at the Royal Wedding was a snip at £11,543.

## Without comment...

Romford Young Conservatives are getting down to Tory election work. A report of their May meeting was carried in the *Barking and Dagenham Advertiser*, (May 13): "A man who says he died 2,000 years ago gave a talk to Romford Young Conservatives recently, Captain Arthur Flowerdew, 80, claims he was killed in the ancient city of Petra, in Jordan, in a previous life. Chairman of Romford YCs, Andrew Rosindell said later: 'It was an interesting evening. Captain Flowerdew showed us a slide of the spot where he believes he was killed'."

## Fifty Years Ago

The elitism which runs through to-day's SDP—Liberal Alliance leadership is nothing new. Their worries and concerns, as befits their lifestyle is a million miles away from the problems confronting ordinary people. It was the same fifty years ago.

In the spring of 1933 the Liberal Peeress, the Countess of Oxford, widow of Asquith, a Liberal Prime Minister, proclaimed: "You cannot cure unemployment, but much could be done to alleviate it if the schemes are not too grandiose. The square I live in was buried in snow and slush for days, and every doorstep dangerous, yet not one unemployed man was engaged to clear it". Asquith's biographer, Roy Jenkins may not use quite the same lofty rhetoric, but his remoteness from ordinary people is the same.

# Brighton tenants support Labour

Diana Stanfield, a tenant on Whitehawk Estate, Brighton, spoke to Eric Segal.

"IF THE Tories are re-elected none of us will be better off. It will be an absolute disaster. The estate will deteriorate and I don't believe they'll abolish rates anyway.

Rod Fitch will represent the working class. Left-wing ideas are necessary.

The Tories are making it easier for working people to get HP or to borrow money so when things get bad, workers can't afford or are frightened to complain or go on strike.

There's nothing here for the kids. The houses are damp, but the Council say its only condensation, and they've sent out official leaflets about it telling us how to cope.

They say, for example, (1) that we've got to keep fires on all day and (2) we mustn't have too many baths. How can kids not have baths? Especially 9 and 4½ year olds?

There's a play-school on the estate. But it costs £20.00 a week to keep the kids there full-time and the Council subsidy for single parent families has been withdrawn. I have to keep the kids in the house. One kid round here was run over in the road about 6 weeks ago. There's nowhere that they can play safely.

It costs 76p in bus fares just to get to the shops. To get to the town it costs well over £1.00. And the shop on the estate with food and other things costs much more than the town prices. For example a tin of cat food costs 10p more than in the

town. With no facilities who do you blame? The Government or the Council or both. Rod Fitch is different. He's prepared to help. And he's interested. He'll come into your house and discuss your problems.

We've never seen the Tory MP up here. He might shed a few tears for the pensioners a few weeks before the election but once he's elected he disappears. Anyway, how can someone living in this style with his money etc. know how to live on coppers?

My husband's working, so we're lucky. But it's terrible seeing people who can't afford to buy things like fruit and things for their kids. My husband said last night, "all a working man wants is decent living conditions, a home, a holiday once a year and enough for a pint." He said you're frightened sometimes to go into a pub in case you see your mates there and you haven't got enough money to pay your round.

When the Labour Party get in they'll have a big mess to clear up, with 3½ million on the dole. The most important thing is to get people to work. My 9-year old said, 'I wonder if I'll get a job when I leave school'.

Yet even if he stays on and gets qualifications he won't get a job. They seem to forget that youth are the future. There'll be no hope if Thatcher gets in. It'll be 5 years of poverty. But I'll be spending every minute helping to get the Labour Party



Diana Stanfield and her daughter Jane

back in.

A year ago I started a job cleaning just for extras and a bit of pin money. Now even with my husband working we can't do without the money.

The Tories are devious towards the working class. If she gets in I'll give her 6 months before the country's on its knees. It will be an absolute tragedy. You can't stress that enough.

The TV and the papers are all Tory propaganda in their own homes. They don't want you to get near the truth and that's why they're so against you.

I was selling *Militant* to my neighbour and she's a single parent. But she couldn't afford to pay. So I gave her my copy after I read it.

I came back to ask her what she thought of it. She said: "I don't know what all the fuss is about. I thought this was all Labour Party

Policy".

It's important that for the election that we all pull together to see a Labour Government. We need more left-wing MPs.

I used to pick up the national papers and just turn to the TV pages first. Now I turn to the political pages and also I buy a *Militant*. Although I vote Labour I'm far more critical now of whom I'm voting for, what they're saying and what they're standing on.

I also thought I'd found something new and different with *Militant* but I've just found out from my mum and dad that they were active left-wingers. *Militant's* not new but it's good finding out that I'm not on my own and I'm quite normal.

We are above the poverty level but all it means for us is that I can afford a cigarette and my husband can afford to "have a pint."



Whitehawk Estate: "Forgotten Valley". The Tories forget the youth most of all.

Photo: Militant

## Forgotten Valley

This is an interview with Robbin and Barbara Poole, who live on Whitehawk estate and they're talking about their estate.

"THE TORIES said that the rents were pegged for Alborne and Swan Borough flats. But the gas charges have gone up. The gas company say their prices are pegged and the council say it's for the maintenance of the gas boilers. In other words it's another form of rent increase.

We've complained about the damp in the houses for

about 8 to 9 years. And only now have the Tories decide to strip the roofs and re-felt them. I don't know where they've got the money from all of a sudden, just a short time before the election, but we've been told the houses are coming down within three years.

The uncertainty about when the houses are to be pulled down—and generally about the demolition programme, and the council's apathy, rubs off on you. It means that you don't want to decorate or anything.

If you get a chance to move before your time you won't get any help from the council—that is compensation for moving.

Rents and Rates are rising regularly. Rents over the past three years I think have risen by about 116%. We've

got a thousand houses coming down in this area—Whitehawk—and there's 1,600 going up in the same space. The Tories are destroying the community and are just building another ghetto in its place.

The kids, when they go to Secondary School, choose a school that they want to go to and if its not in the local area they have to go by bus which costs in our case 84p for each child—that's for three kids every day. So it's quite a lot of money. No help from the Social Security especially now that I'm on the dole.

The kids also have got no amenities except the boys youth club which was closed down for a while anyway. How can you blame kids that are unemployed and frustrated when there is van-

dalism? It's just a vicious circle.

On our estate they reckon unemployment to be about 75%. It's not just the North that's badly hit. Even the local youth employment scheme only advertises in selected areas.

We've got the Brighton yachting Marina which is a pond at the bottom of the ward which workers aren't allowed to paddle in, and the race course, and Roedean public school. But this is one of the most deprived areas of Brighton.

The Tories on the Council up till now, have always had an in-built majority. Whitehawk is like Brighton's forgotten valley. They've swept all their problems there but the people's spirits are never broken."

# BRADFORD - Worse than the thirties

BELOW, *Militant* reprints the speech made by Pat Wall, Labour Parliamentary candidate for Bradford North, in an address recently made to Labour Party workers following his formal adoption as candidate:

“This election is the most serious and important since 1945, when the election of the Labour government led to the post-war reconstruction of Britain and the massive expansion of our health, education and welfare services. The problems we face today are even more serious than 1945 and in many ways worse than those experienced in the hungry '30s.

Merely to blame the situation on the world recession is to say that we must forever be the victims of the blind workings of market forces and to say that our living standards and the future hopes of our children will be decided by international finances and large multinational companies, most of whom are based outside these islands.

As a socialist, I cannot accept that it is beyond the wit and intelligence of Man to solve the problems of hunger, poverty, unemployment or the even greater problems of peace and war.

Here in Bradford North, 30,000 are unemployed; there is 50% male unemployment in some of our own housing estates.

## Unemployment restricts lives

Yet, frightening as these figures are, they are as nothing compared with the toll of human misery that unemployment brings to our people. Mass long-term unemployment brings broken homes, battered wives, neglected children, more violence on our streets, more burglary and crime in general and for millions years of grinding poverty.

The unemployed, along with old, the sick, the dis-



With mass unemployment, Tory Nationality Acts, capitalism offers little future for Bradford's youth.

Photo: Militant

abled and single-parent families are forced to lead restricted and often isolated lives on poverty incomes which prevents them from fully participating in the economic, political, cultural and social activity of our society.

## Socialist Planning

It is absolutely vital that the very first task of an incoming Labour government should be to launch a massive programme of useful public works to begin to reverse the intolerable lengthening of the dole queue. And that through socialist planning we should seek to rebuild the wealth-producing section of the British economy.

This government has cut the real level of payments to the unemployed, the sick, threatened to 'claw-back' from the pensioners and is considering a vicious attack on women and children by introducing 'means testing' into the payment of child benefit.

This government of hard-line right wingers has trebled council rents, doubled the price of gas and reduced its grants to local government, placing additional charges

on already over-burdened rate payers. This government of hard-faced bigots condemned many of our black fellow citizens to second-class citizenship, divide families and threatened more deportation.

The next Labour government faces enormous tasks. Re-building a shattered economy, restoring the cuts and expanding our health, education and welfare services, abolishing nuclear weapons, opposing all forms of authoritarian dictatorship throughout the world by championing the struggles of the poor, the hungry and the oppressed.

Ninety years ago a small group of dedicated socialists, mostly Marxists, founded the Independent Labour Party in this city. A group which included such giants as the Jowett, Keir Hardie and Frederick Engels, all



Pat Wall

believed in a fundamental and radical socialist transformation of society.

In the main they were poor working men and women who gave their lives

and what little finance they had in the struggle to better the lives of their fellow workers. Not one of them would have expected that they had a divine right to any public office or position.

Socialism stands for all that is best in life, for replacing fear by hope, narrowness and meanness by generosity and compassion, poverty by plenty, exploitation by co-operation and jingoism by comradeship.

It is the rank and file of the labour movement who will win our victory, having returned myself and the majority of Labour candidates to Westminster. You must insist that there is no back-sliding in our socialist convictions, that we work just as hard for our people as the Tories have for the wealthy over these past four harsh years.

## 'Tories don't want to know'

FRIDAY 13 May was unlucky for steel foundry workers employed by Holcroft Castings and Forgings Ltd, a subsidiary of the Renold Engineering Group.

The foundry has been closed down as part of the Lassard Brothers scheme for rationalising the industry. Only twenty workers were left in a foundry which at one time employed between 400 and 500.

Workers at the foundry blamed the closure on company policy, including short sighted and short term borrowing. They believe that finally the banks pulled the plug on the company and that the management have decided to use the Lassard Brothers scheme to take the money and run.

One worker said, "Its an excuse to get out". The convenor, Bill Conroy, said that

at his age, 53, he did not think he would find another job and it would be ten years before he got anything like the standard pension. He thought that in the coming election there would be a North, South split and that it would be hard for Labour to win a majority.

## Investment in South Africa

He wrote off the SDP completely, saying that they had no chance. He believed that it would be 50-50 between Tories and Labour.

He also stated that Ben Ford standing as an Independent would receive no support.

Another of the workers, Bob Simpson, said "After 15 years in that place I'm glad to be getting out". He blamed the management of the Renold company for its lack of investment in the firm,

saying investment had gone abroad, particularly creating jobs in South Africa where no union organisations were allowed.

Bob could not see any solutions to the problems of the working class whilst a Tory government was in. "They just don't want to know about workers," he said. He also attacked Ben Ford, saying that he was "cutting Labour's throat by standing as an Independent."

One of the moulders being made redundant, Arthur Taylor, said he had been for another job at a builders merchants. This man is 42 and had worked for over 20 years at the Holcroft foundry. Yet he was offered a month's trial at £40 a week and the management said that if he was "satisfactory", this would then be increased to £60 a week. He was appalled that he was being paid "boys' wages for a man's work", and said that this was typical of the present attitude of the Tory government to working people.

By Pete Watson

What  
their  
papers  
say

"35,000 jobs lost if Foot wins." So screamed the *Daily Mail* front page on May 16. According to the Tory rag, the Japanese car giant Nissan would abandon its plans to set up a plant if Labour wins the elections. However, it is only towards the end of the article on page 2 that the *Mail* admits that the proposed Nissan plant would in fact employ only 5,000—the remaining 30,000 jobs, the *Mail* claims, would allegedly be in the supply industries.

What hypocrisy! What about the 2 million jobs already lost thanks to the economic doctrines of the Thatcher government? More to the point, Nissan themselves have dismissed the *Mail's* claim as "utterly groundless" (*Morning Star*, May 17).

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The *Mirror* says it will call on its readers to vote Labour, yet at the same time its sister paper, the *Sunday Mirror*, still gives acres of newsprint to the reactionary Woodrow Wyatt, who comes out with such gems (May 15), as "...Moscow wants Labour to win" and that things are getting better because "at least our unemployment is no longer going up so fast as in the 23 major (western capitalist) countries." However, the fact is that Britain's unemployment is 4% higher than France or Germany, 3% higher than the USA, and 11% higher than Japan.

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The only other two capitalist papers who have hinted at Labour support are the *Sunday People* (owned by the Mirror group) and the *Daily Star*.

The *Daily Star* says "it hasn't made its mind up" yet about who to support. However, is owned by Sir Victor Matthews.

As it is unlikely that this multi-millionaire has been won over to socialism, if the *Star* does go for Labour it will be purely—like the *Daily Mirror*—to keep in favour with its predominantly working class readership. Socialism can be good for business.

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While the *Daily Star* deliberates over Labour, its sister paper, the *Daily Express*, has no such qualms. On May 16 their page 2 article cried out "Secret Reds on way to the Commons". They quoted Labour renegade, now SDP member, Neville Sandelson who talks of 'Militant Tendency conspiracies' etc.

He also moans that these Militants will be taking seats in parliament "in considerable numbers". You see, when a 'moderate' stands for parliament, carefully playing down his business links, and directorships and he is elected, that's democracy. When a *Militant* supporter stands and is elected—quite clearly outlining the policies they stand for—why, that's a conspiracy.

## MILITANT MEETINGS

### SUNDAY 29MAY

BARNSELY: at 7.30pm at Victoria Hotel, Sheffield Road, Barnsley.

### THURSDAY 2 JUNE

EDINBURGH: Speaker P. Taffe (Editor *Militant*). See local sellers for details.

BASILDON: at 8.00pm in Room 4, Pitsea Leisure Centre. GRIMSBY: Speaker Jane Hartley. See local sellers for details.

### FRIDAY 3 JUNE

GLASGOW: at 7.30pm. Speaker P Taffe (Editor *Militant*) at McClellan Gallery.

MANCHESTER: Speaker E. Grant (Political Editor *Militant*). See local sellers for details.

BURY: Speaker L. Walsh (*Militant* Editorial Board). See local sellers for details.

BIRMINGHAM: at 7.30 at

Doctor Johnson's House (next to Lewis'), Bull St, Birmingham City Centre. Speaker C. Doyle (*Militant* Editorial Board)

BRISTOL: at 7.30pm in Central Hall, Old Market.

SWANSEA: See local sellers for details.

PLYMOUTH: See local sellers for details.

NOTTINGHAM: See local sellers for details.

### SUNDAY 5 JUNE

MIDDLESBROUGH: See local sellers for details.

TYNESIDE: See local sellers for details.

LEEDS: at 8.00pm at Grand Theatre Studio Room. Speakers Ron Sedler (Labour Candidate Leeds NE.) and Bob Lee (Black Socialist Youth).

SUNDERLAND: See local sellers for details.

HULL: at 8.00pm at Sprinbank Community Centre, Wellington Lane, Hull.

# BRITAIN IN



## TORY DISASTER

## The vultures move in

*"We have done more to roll back the frontiers of socialism than any previous Conservative government."*  
—Margaret Thatcher, 1982.

It wasn't any concern for ideologies that made the Tories butcher the public sector industries, but to make greater profits. The profitable sectors have been sold off, allowing the bosses to push up prices. The other ailing sectors—failing because they were starved of investment—have been allowed to go to the wall, regardless of the social consequences, such as in the steel industry with the 'deaths' of whole towns, e.g. Corby and Consett.

The nationalised industries have been butchered. Since 1979 jobs have been cut and redundancies have rocketed:

- British Steel:** 82,300 jobs lost since 1979.
- British Shipbuilders:** 20,266 gone since 1979.
- British Airways:** 20,241.
- British Rail:** over 30,000.
- Electricity Board:** 6,226.
- National Coal Board:** over 35,000.
- British Leyland:** 14,000 jobs have gone in the axle division alone.

- British Airways:** shares and subsidiaries to be sold off.
- British Gas:** oil interests and showrooms to be sold.
- British Leyland:** profitable subsidiaries to be sold.
- British Rail:** shares in Sealink and more property to go.
- British Shipbuilders:** shares to be sold.
- British Telecom:** to be denationalised, with majority of shares sold off.
- Electricity Board:** private generation of electricity proposed.
- Computer Aided Design Centre:** all shares to be sold.
- Forestry Commission:** to be sold off outright.
- National Bus Company:** profitable sectors to go.
- Post Office:** subsidiaries to be set up and then sold.
- Property Services Agency:** contracting out to be introduced.
- Royal Ordnance Factories:** to be 'commercialised'.
- Vehicle Testing Centre:** to go to Lloyds Insurance brokers.

*"In 1979 I was at an independent grammar school and voted Tory. But being on the dole has convinced me to vote Labour. Tory policies are very easy to believe, if they are the only thing that you hear. But to see what they mean, you've got to see how the other side lives."*

*"And now I'm on the other side. If the Tories are elected, with their policies I'll never get a job. I might as well give in—at least with Labour I've got some hope."*  
—Janice Foster, age 22, been unemployed 1 year 10 months—only ever had one temporary job, clerical worker, Windscale.

By Bob Wade

## Money goes abroad

*"Great international companies are demonstrating their faith in Britain's future by choosing this country under a Conservative government as the location for major expansion. This is the way to get thousands of extra jobs for Britain."*  
—Margaret Thatcher, 1981 Tory Party conference.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Since 1979, the top UK based multinationals have cut their UK workforce by 307,200, increasing their overseas workforce by 38,000. Foreign based multinationals have cut 61,800 jobs in Britain.

Since the Tories dismantled exchange controls in 1980, money has flooded out of the country as the bosses search for greater profits. Money channelled for investment abroad is more than double that invested in industry at home.

Far from attracting the multinationals to invest in the country, British capitalism has been a disaster for the private sector. Companies going into liquidation—and the thousands of jobs that go with them—are up a massive 165%.

Last year company liquidations stood at 12,039. Personal bankruptcies are up 60%. 66 major companies—many of them household names—have closed down, with their brand names being taken over by other firms, or in most cases, disappearing forever.

*"There is much talk of industry rising like a phoenix from the ashes. But what if we are just left with ashes?"*  
—Reg Parkes, former chairman, West Midlands CBI, 1980.

*"As I look around this region I see nothing but ashes."*  
—Reg Parkes, 1982.

Britain is in crisis. It is facing its biggest economic slump in 60 years with the worst total of unemployment ever recorded.

In the post-war years Britain rapidly became the sick man of western capitalism, and with the coming to power of the Tories in 1979 this process has been speeded up.

Steel production is always a key to the state of an industrialised country. Yet Britain now only produces about 14 million tonnes—less than Belgium or Spain.

A fifth of manufacturing industry has collapsed. Production has slumped with output falling in the last four years by 19%. Even in the great depression of 1929-31 output only fell by 12%.

*Militant* has always explained that Britain's lack of competitiveness compared to other western capitalist

countries was not, as the Tories proclaim, due to the 'lazy British worker', but the lack of investment pumped into the country's ailing industries.

In 1978 in Britain, for every worker in the manufacturing industry £874 was invested in new machinery compared to £1,419 in the USA, £1,558 in Germany and £3,642 in Japan. Since the Tories came to office in 1979 that British figure has fallen by a third. Investment is now at its lowest level since 1959.

The Tories will boast in the election that there is now a surplus of £4 billion in the national balance of payments. But this is artificial. It is based almost entirely on oil, which will not last forever.

In terms of manufactured goods, for the first time for 150 years the country is importing more than it exports. If it wasn't for the black gold there would be a £8 billion deficit! Far from bringing in new prosperity for the country as the capitalists shouted from the roof tops, North Sea oil has provided a life jacket for the ailing economy to cling to.

## DOLE - the boom industry

*"The degradation of unemployment is like a malignant cancer. It starts deep in your stomach and gives a sick gut feeling. Then as time passes its poisonous germs canker your heart, and your spirit."*

*"Hope, happiness goes, replaced by utter hopelessness, despair and no will to go on. Finally your brain is racked and tortured by frustration and goes into a trance-like state where it can absorb no more. No more worrying how your kids are going to be fed, if you're going to be destitute next week."*  
—Steve Keen, made redundant from Reed Paper and Board, in Kent, in January 1981.

*"Since the Tories have taken over there are no jobs. Under the Tories you must have qualifications for any job—people like me without any qualifications haven't got a chance of a permanent job. I just want to live without having to struggle to make ends meet but with the Tories in power that's impossible."*

*"Young people need de-*

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# Put clause four into practice

*"To secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service."*—Clause IV, part 4 of Labour's Constitution.

Clause IV, the socialist linchpin of Labour's constitution, is as vital today as it was in 1918 when it was adopted. *Militant* supporters in the Labour Party have always argued that today's interpretation of the clause would entail nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, the multinational giants that control over 80% of the economy. With the multinationals nationalised, under workers' control and management, with compensation on the basis of proven need, the economy could be planned and geared towards the needs of society and not the whims of the profit system.

The Tories, the bosses and their parrots in Fleet Street continually tell us that the country is broke, "there's no money in the kitty", etc. to explain unemployment and low wages. Yet in reality the country is awash with money—it's just being wasted in totally non-productive areas or squandered on the rich.

Take unemployment. It costs a staggering £17 billion a year to keep the unemployed on the dole. That is the madness of the capitalist system—it has a wealth of resources and a wealth of idle hands, yet it cannot connect the two and put them to work on socially useful production, such as the building of more hospitals, schools etc. The taxes collected on North Sea oil have been frittered away, mainly to pay for unemployment. As Michael Foot said, "We have £20 billion in oil tax revenue yet nothing to show for it."

Another area of wasted money is on arms expenditure. The Tories suffer the delusion that Britain is still a super-power. They have pushed up arms expenditure so that Britain is second only to the USA and USSR on money spent on weapons of destruction. This year the Tories are spending £16,000 million on arms—converted into Family Income Supplement, that could mean another £20 a week for each family.

These vast sums are just from the taxes imposed on working people—if last year's tax concessions to the rich introduced by the Tories were reversed, it would have meant, in terms of Child Benefit, another £1 a week per child for just under the next five years.

Then there's the massive profits of big business. Last year the banks and finance houses made £1,550 million in profit. Rather than lining the pockets of the millionaires, this could have built 61,920 council houses.

At present under capitalism, 30% of the economy is not being utilised, it's lying idle. If put to work this could generate £70,000 million, or £30 a week for every person in the country.

The list goes on and on. But nationalising the commanding heights of the economy would not just mean that the wealth produced by an ailing capitalist society could be redistributed fairly. It would mean that industry and production could be properly planned with long term investment to take the economy forward, rather than today's backward march of the capitalist system. Only under a socialist planned economy can the workers have their rights guaranteed—the right to work, the right to a home and the right to a decent standard of living.

## Youth opportunities

*"When attending the local DHSS office to claim supplementary benefit after having been unemployed for a year, the counter clerk asked for my initial. 'N' I said, 'N for nobody' she replied."*—unemployed youth, West London 1981.

Youth have been in the frontline of the unemployed. A huge 40% of the jobless are under 25. In the past two years, the number of long term unemployed has risen to 312,000.

The Tories have a total disregard for the future of youth, and have failed to invest in the future of British industry through destroying proper training facilities for young people.

One in two school leavers this year have no job to go to. The level of apprenticeships have fallen by 60% since 1980—this is less than half the level of apprenticeships there were in the late 1960's. Indeed, the Tories have consciously

sabotaged the industrial opportunities of youth by abolishing 16 of the 23 Industrial Training Boards.

The Tories are driving youth onto their new Youth Training Schemes, an extension of the Youth Opportunities Programme. The Tories have dressed the YTS up as giving youth training in a skill. Yet in reality, only one in three of the 460,000 youth to be pushed onto YTS will have a chance of a job.

And the pay is at an even lower level than apprenticeships—£25 a week, a pittance. Over the past four years this is the highest level YOP/YTS 'wages' have reached, although originally

Norman Tebbit wanted YTS pay to be a mere £15. However, in real terms, YOP/YTS pay has depreciated by 16% since 1979.

In reality, the aim of the Tories is to produce subsidised cheap labour for the bosses, tempting them to take on Trainees instead of permanent employees at normal rates of pay, thus pushing down the level of wages.

**Much of the factual material for this feature was taken from *Thatcher's Britain—A Guide to the Ruins*. This excellent reference book is available for £1.50 plus 20p postage from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.**

apart from Spain, Britain has the highest unemployment, as percentage of population, than any other industrialised country. In 1979 the working population was 23.107 million. Last summer it was 20.974 million, a fall of 9.2%.

Officially unemployment is at 3.2 million. But when those on government training schemes, those who do not claim benefit and those adjusted out of official figures, such as those over 60 who now do not have to register at the dole office, are taken into consideration the figure is nearer 5 million.

Unemployment has devastated whole communities. Not just in the traditional blackspots such as Strabane in Northern Ireland, with unemployment running at 40%, but areas new to the dole such as Ilfracombe and Pembroke Dock, where it is 30%.

ent accommodation like a flat or a small house without high rents. There must be couples splitting up because of not being able to find accommodation. It's also important for young people to have places to go, but what's the use of plenty of discos when you can't afford to get in?"

—Unemployed woman, Brighton 1983

## GREECE

## Workers tell government

## 'Keep election promises'

**IN ATHENS** during the first week of April, workers employed by five major construction companies gathered to present their complaints and demands to the government.

The five companies concerned have either gone or are going bankrupt. Not only do 5000 workers face redundancy, some workers are owed as much as five months pay!

Within the space of 24 hours the workers' demands developed from simply asking to be paid, calls for no redundancies, the opening of the books to see where the money has gone, and the nationalisation of the construction companies. They are demanding that the government sets up a state-run construction company to carry out government contracts and utilise the skills and energies of the workers.

The PASOK government rejected these demands, saying that such action would cause conflict with the employers!

Yet 18 months ago prime minister Papandreou's PASOK government was elected with a decisive majority to carry out just such radical socialist measures. Since then the working class have been continually demanding that the government pushes ahead with its election programme, whilst the government itself has continually retreated—under the pressure, threats and blackmail of big business.

The government's reaction to the building workers resembles the retreat over nationalisation of the pharmaceuticals industry. Having correctly stated that nationalising the drug companies was a necessary step in fulfilling the election pledge of establishing a free national health service, the government circulated a letter to the companies concerned—asking them if they'd like to be nationalised!

Not surprisingly the only ones to say 'yes' were those going bankrupt—provided the government took over all their debts. At the first hint of opposition from the multinationals the government dropped all talk of nationalisation.

Government retreats in every area of its manifesto, the introduction of wage controls and the devaluation of the drachma have pushed the workers into action. With not the slightest hint of a lead coming from the top, relying solely on their own energies and initiative, the Greek workers have forced the bosses to break the pay laws.

The still mounting tide of industrial action is encompassing ever wider layers of

From our correspondent in Athens

This cartoon from *Militant* in autumn 1981 is being borne out. The Greek working class have to tackle the problem of capitalist ownership of industry and reactionary control of the armed forces.



workers including those who previously accepted government retreats.

After months of being able to hold back the workers, the union federation at Olympic Airways were forced to call a 48 hour strike. Government rejection of their very limited economic demands left them with no alternative. The rank and file swiftly turned the Federation's timid demands into calls for the 10% of Olympic Airways employees who are on short term contracts to be given permanent contracts and for the workers to have a decisive say in the running of this nationalised concern. The demands are two more of PASOK's unfulfilled promises.

The handling of this dispute shows once again the sorry role of the "socialist" government and the leadership of PASKE. During the strike PASKE leaders issued both a leaflet that condemned the strike as unnecessary because the government was tackling the problems, and a circular threatening the strikers with expulsion.

So bitter was the rank and file opposition to PASKE's intimidation that a meeting of PASOK members working in Olympic Airways ended in a fist-fight!

Having intended to use PASKE as a means of policing the workers, of exploiting their loyalty to the government, Papandreou's plans have blown up in his face. Because of its blatant strike-breaking policies and the ham-fisted tactic of saying "obey or be expelled" to the membership, PASKE is rapidly losing control of many unions.

For these reasons control of the trolley-bus drivers' union was lost to the Communist Party (KKE). Papandreou is finding more and more that his government has only the narrow and unreliable base of the right-wing unions to lean on.

But workers are not turning to the KKE, who have been very reluctant to engage in industrial action, "leading" from behind when forced into action by union member. The trend is for workers expelled from PASKE to stick together and

form independent trade union fronts of their own.

One such front already controls the bus drivers' union. Another one is being formed at Olympic Airways and similar developments are taking place within the bankworkers' federation, where there is growing revulsion at PASKE's bullying tactics.

### Capitalists destabilise Greece

Aided by lavish funds the opposition New Democracy Party (ND) has taken advantage of PASOK's retreats to rebuild its organisation shattered by the 1981 election defeat. They seized the opportunities presented to them by the murder of George Athanasiades, publisher of the right-wing newspaper, *Vradyni* on 19 March, and a bomb attack two weeks later on a hotel where 80 ND members were holding a meeting.

Averof, the ND leader, immediately denounced the Athanasiades murder as a

political assassination. He blamed the government, accusing them of spreading hatred and encouraging terrorism. For good measure he also accused the government of "practising terrorism against every political dissident."

The funeral of Athanasiades was turned into a political event. Every wall was plastered with posters bearing his portrait and the slogan: "You are alive and leading us." Thousands of right-wingers flocked into Athens, punctuating the funeral service with chants of "down with the socialist junta."

Whilst Athanasiades' murder seems more connected with his passion for gambling than politics, the bomb attack in the northern town of Dhidimotikhon was an overt political act. A further development in the chain of events designed to create instability in Greece, the expert way in which the bombing was carried out suggests close co-operation between fascists and military circles. So far 13 officers and a sergeant have been ques-

tioned. Attempts by police officers to obstruct the investigation have been so blatant that the officer in charge has been removed.

Whilst the bomb attack is by no means the last act of intimidation by the right-wing, it is not just through terror that the ruling class are preparing. Recently the former ND prime minister Rallis published a book dealing with the last two years of his government. He is very careful to distance himself from Averof. It is rumoured that the book was written with the guidance of the president, Karamanlis. Having found it impossible to unseat Averof as ND leader, certain sections of the Greek ruling class are preparing to form a new party. Rallis' book is the beginning of attempts to separate the "radical-democratic" wing of ND from the extreme right wing headed by Averof.

The more astute representatives of the ruling class are terrified at the stance of Averof and his supporters. They fear that the working class may be goaded into mass action if the extreme right wing go too far. Their new party would act as a buffer, aiming to present itself as a "sensible" alternative to PASOK, attracting the support of those layers of society disappointed and disillusioned with PASOK's failures. It would offer itself as a haven for the liberals and careerists currently masquerading as socialists in the PASOK and parliamentary group.

Thus the ruling class will attack on two fronts: respectable, democratic party-political machinations, and terrorist intimidation.

Ignoring the obvious signs and forgetting the painful experiences of the past Papandreou recently sent a servile message to the armed forces on Independence Day. As previously reported in the *Militant*, his response to a coup attempt in February was to bend the knee and favour with promotions of officers closely connected with the Colonels' junta of 1967-74.

But whilst the government trembled in fear on Sunday 27 February, workers in the North of Greece had armed themselves and were patrolling the streets.

"Democracy is not in danger, it is very strong," claimed Maroudas, a government spokesman. But democracy is strong only if the working class is strong. And ultimately democratic rights can only be safeguarded with the socialist transformation of Greece.

The Greek ruling class watch with horror as a large vacuum is developing on the left. In an attempt to exploit the situation a new "socialist" movement has been formed by Panagoulis, a "left"-careerist previously expelled from PASOK.

This "socialist" party has no future. It can only be temporarily used to try and cause confusion amongst the less politically developed supporters of PASOK. Greece is on the brink of momentous struggles. The convulsions already beginning to take place in the trade union movement will be repeated with even greater force inside PASOK as the working class strive for the implementation of socialist solutions to their problems.

## IRELAND

## AUSTRALIA

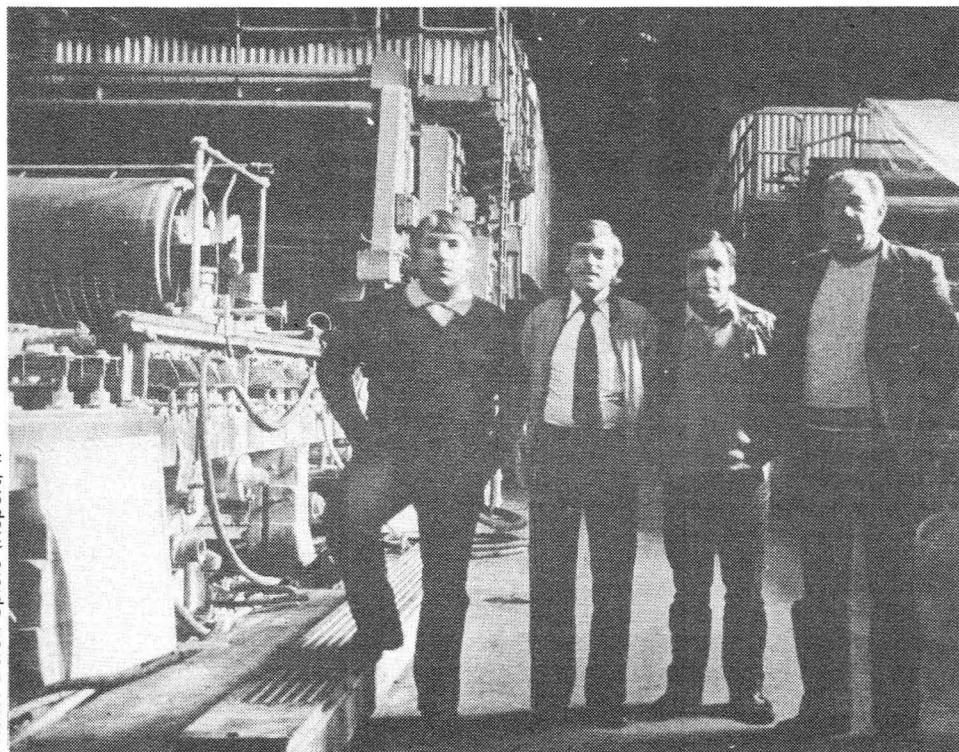


Photo: Derek Spiers (Report) II  
Last year's sit-in at Clondalkin Paper Mills, Dublin set a precedent now being followed throughout Ireland.

By Roger Shrivies

**THE BRITISH press has largely ignored recent developments in Southern Ireland where the working class are fighting back against the dole queue and the injustice of class society.**

Workers at Rank Flour Mills in Dublin and Limerick, Kingdom Tubes in Tralee, Carrigaline Pottery, Cork and Intertron in Ennis, Co. Clare are occupying their factories to save jobs.

An earlier sit-in at Clondalkin Paper Mills in Dublin for twelve months led to nationalisation and the saving of half the jobs. As an employers' magazine commented, "the sit-in tactic by early 1983 had achieved a certain respectability, and had demonstrated to be a sure winner. What was more natural than that it should be used again?"

"Multinational consortiums like Ranks are allowed to pull out, having bled what they can from the Irish economy. These companies have received massive profits augmented by large tax grants. It is time to call a halt," said a leader of the Dublin Ranks occupation.

### Occupations gain support

Workers have maintained occupation despite fourteen of them suffering imprisonment in February for their "crime". A Dublin-wide general strike made the government think again and the workers were released. Workers there are demanding the nationalisation of the company.

Official unemployment in the South reached 187,887 in April and a new unwanted record was set on 6 May when 1000 workers lost their jobs on one day. The Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Garret Fitzgerald has confessed that 200,000 on the dole could not be far off. That is why occupations have been so well supported both by the workers concerned and the labour movement generally.

On 13 April, 200,000 workers demonstrated

## S. Ireland - Workers in opposition

## Labour leaders in coalition

against Ireland's enormous inequalities in taxation. Businessmen and farmers pay little or no tax and get millions in grants, subsidies and allowances while trade union leaders have pointed out that a widow on £40 a week gets taxed.

The working class can hardly avoid paying PAYE and also have suffered for years from wage restraint as government after government imposed a "wage agreement". In recent months, there has been a queue of workers fighting to restore real wages. Power workers demanding a 22% rise forced the management into negotiation with the threat of a one-day strike. Gas and Aer Lingus workers may now be following suit.

The Finance Minister from the Tory Fine Gael Party, Alan Dukes has called on insurance companies to renege on their pay deals with employees, to keep in line with government pay policy. Other members of the ruling class prefer to try to get union leaders "co-operation".

Now in practically every threatened closure, workers consider the question of occupation. The Telectron factory in Tallaght closed on 6 May. Workers there only rejected a sit-in when management made severance pay conditional on going quietly. Even small-scale strikes

such as one at a psychiatric hospital in Co. Mayo show a polarisation in Irish society. Army catering staff were brought in when kitchen staff struck in sympathy with nurses.

### Class policies for Labour

In the heightened class atmosphere, the presence of Labour Party ministers in a cabinet dominated by the right wing Fine Gael party leaves a nasty taste in workers' mouths.

The Labour Party rank and file, the unions and the youth were angry when Labour leaders accepted government posts. Now the crisis of capitalism divides society more and more, demands for an end to coalition and for an independent class stance for Labour will become uncontainable.

For the best regular coverage of Ireland, North and South, read **MILITANT IRISH MONTHLY** Price 15p from your local Militant seller, or write to: **Militant Irish Monthly, 75 Middle Abbey Street, DUBLIN 1. Six issues £2. Twelve issues £4.**

# Australia - Unemployment hits the boom country

**"I CAME OVER from Corby when I was made redundant to give my family a chance out here. Now I am being made redundant at the age of 45, where do I go from here?", a steel worker at Port Kembla in Woolongong, New South Wales, asked me.**

Port Kembla, a vast steel works, is shedding 1,400 jobs this year on top of over 5,000 over the last 21 months as the crisis of capitalism reaches its tentacles out to the "lucky country" to dash the hopes of many workers from Britain and elsewhere of a stable job and a secure future.

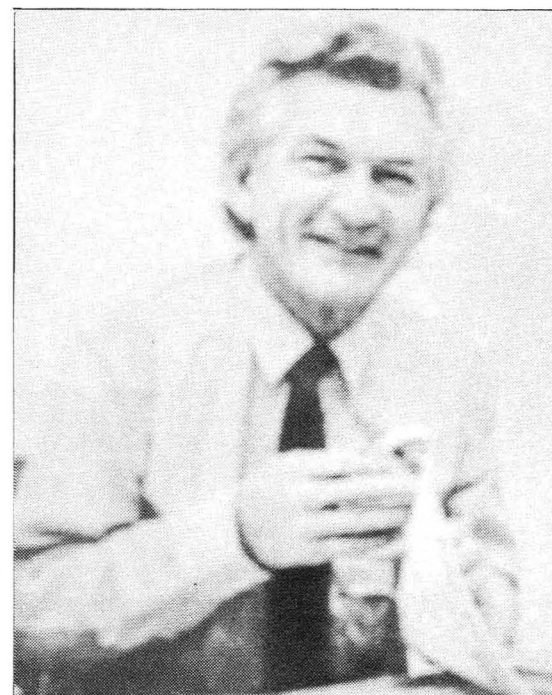
It was the growing realisation that the mineral wealth and wide open spaces of Australia could not guarantee decent well paid jobs that led to the victory of the Australian Labour Party under Bob Hawke at the polls on 5 March. The powerful Australian working class wanted a government that would act in its interest and not that of the multinationals.

Jobless figures in New South Wales show that the number of skilled building and construction workers out of work rose by more than 300% in the past two years, the next biggest rise being in skilled metal and electrical workers (over 250%) and 137% for rural workers. Over all, semi-skilled unemployment has doubled.

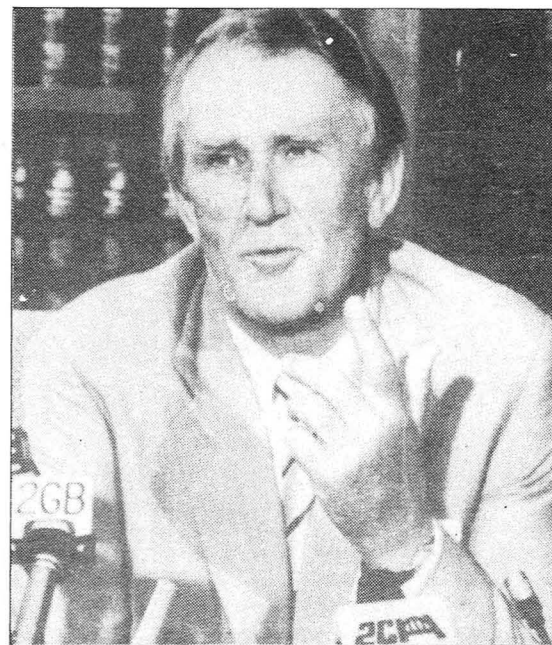
In early 1981 the then Liberal Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser halted the official unemployment figures because he said they "overstated" the problems. A departmental directive prevented regional offices of the Commonwealth Employment Service from counting even their own unemployment cards and used Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, based on a sample, which seriously underestimated the figures. Tebbit hasn't got a monopoly on such dirty tricks!

The steel industry nationally has put 15,000 workers on the stones since the middle of 1981. Leaders of the Federated Iron Workers Association have warned Bob Hawke to do something to prove his pre-election commitment to maintaining jobs in the steel industry was not just a hollow election promise.

In the transport industry which has lost 80,000 jobs in a year, employers are putting pressure on for short time work (on reduced wages of



Bob Hawke, Labour Prime Minister



Former Prime Minister Fraser. Stopped publishing unemployment statistics.

course), and are facing resistance from the unions. Building workers are on the attack, though, with rolling stoppages to demand the ending of wage restraint, in effect since December 1981 and due to end in June. They want real wages to be restored to that level and the immediate introduction of a 36-hour week.

The unions are even having to fight for minimum national standards for redundancy and for full consultation with the unions before firms are closed down. A firm in Victoria, Waltons, announced closure on one Tuesday in February and closed totally leaving 700 jobless on the Friday.

Young workers in particular are beginning to question whether Bob Hawke's methods will work. He has introduced a mini-budget, created 70,000 new jobs for six months on basically YOP schemes and asked people to tighten their belts as "times are not easy" and everyone must take a part in helping

Australia!

The country's top monopolies are just helping themselves, still making enormous profits despite the recession. It's only wage earners who are threatened with continuation of the wages stand-still for a few years.

The youth have no prospect of jobs, council accommodation is rare and expensive flats in the private sphere are for top earners only. The problems have been worsened as the drought forced workers from the country areas into Sydney desperately looking for any low paid jobs and living in hostels.

Unemployment on this scale is a new experience for most Australians but the demand which is being taken up gradually by the youth in the Labour Party and the unions for a socialist Labour government will grow out of sheer necessity.

By Ruth Herdman

# Letters

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

MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## CND and socialism

Dear Comrade,

As a regular reader of *Militant* and a member of CND, I was disappointed by Lynn Walsh's article in issue 649, which appeared to dismiss both the movement itself and the value of unilateral disarmament unless it is linked directly with the struggle for socialism.

Although I would agree that the question of unilateral disarmament cannot be divided off from the struggle for socialism, I believe that CND has a role to play in that struggle if only people would get more involved in the movement and take into it that very question.

To stand on the outside of CND is to turn your back on millions of workers who believe in CND's principles, particularly young people.

"Under the existing balance of international forces world war three is not about to break out", wrote Lynn Walsh. Again, I agree, but I believe the international situation is becoming more volatile, with countries like India, Israel and South Africa possessing nuclear weapons and far more becoming "nuclear capable" in the shape of Pakistan, Libya and Iraq. I believe at the present time these countries are a bigger threat to world peace than Russia or America.

I am also a realist/pessimist and believe that a nuclear "accident" has no respect for international situations. I would urge all *Militant* readers to join and play an active role in their local CND or YCND group.

Just as the question of disarmament cannot be separated (in realistic terms) from the fight for socialism, so *Militant* readers cannot, in my opinion, stand outside CND.

Yours Fraternally,  
D. Greenhalgh.

## Loyal David Owen

Dear *Militant*,

As a build up to Plymouth's local elections, both the Alliance and the Labour Party held walkabout rallies.

As MP for Plymouth Devonport, David Owen spoke on behalf of the 'Socialist Deserters Party'.

After his address me and Mike Wright (Labour candidate for Plymouth) approached him, and Mike quoted a TGWU rally in Plymouth Guildhall, 1980 where he said, 'I have always

## NT feel sick



Dear Comrades,  
I was pleased to hear of the resounding victory of the Liverpool Labour Party over the previous Alliance/Tory regime. It was a bonus to

hear that the Tory leader had lost his seat.

Even Norman Tebbit had to admit, on a radio programme, that it was clear the Labour Party's message had

been very popular with voters.

Yours fraternally,  
Michael A Sewell  
Scotland

Have you been out canvassing? Or just been canvassed and bought a *Militant*? Let us know your views and your experiences. It's your paper.

## Joe Stalin, SDP?

Dear Comrades,

Following from the 650 issue of *Militant* describing the scurrilous attacks of Liverpool Liberals on *Militant* supporters in the council elections, I have a story to tell. A friend of mine was thrown off the premises of

my college last week for selling the *Militant*. Presented with this order from the vice-principal we merely had to move 10 yards!

I later found out (and here I plead the absolute secrecy of a journalist's sources!) that it was a lecturer who had phoned the principal complaining of our presence.

That lecturer is an SDP supporter!

It seems that the party of the centre, of open-mindedness is petrified of free speech. When will the cry be raised, "SDP! Get back to Russia!"

Yours fraternally,  
Dermot Carney,  
Esther CLP.

## Daily Militant to your door

Dear Comrades,

In order to counter effectively the poisonous lies that are poured out day in and day out by Fleet Street it is essential to establish a socialist daily, in other words, a *Daily Militant*.

Last Saturday morning I took part in an estate sale with one other comrade for about an hour. In this short space of time, and in only one street, we sold 17 papers between us and collected two names for the Labour Party.

Only one person com-

plained about so-called 'bed-sit entryists'. The main complaints however were, "they're all the same", "they're only in it for themselves" or "Wilson did nothing for me".

Contrary to what the Fleet Street hacks always say, I didn't find any evidence to the effect that I'm an 'election liability'. On the contrary, many people we spoke to were undecided and said "now I've seen you son, I'll vote Labour".

Andrew Leachers  
West Edinburgh LPYS

## Thanks, Liverpool!

Dear Comrades,

Can I through your pages say a big 'thanks' to the comrades in Liverpool who gained a magnificent victory in the council elections.

The victory was a victory for socialism and for the working class. I felt ten foot tall, could scoff at the doom and gloom merchants that I come across.

I must try and take this smug grin off my face, but what you did was put theory into practice and got the support of the working class in Liverpool.

Your result will be a boost to the rest of the labour movement. Well done!

Yours fraternally  
Ruth Campbell  
Stoke-on-Trent

## Sell to the sellers

Dear Comrades,

I, like many other working class people in terraced housing, was until recently, sick and tired of the dozens of door to door salesmen and canvassers who descend upon us.

But my attitude has changed with the addition of an election poster to the front window.

First, a young woman selling insurance bought a paper, then today a salesman appeared. What he was selling I'm not sure as he was far more concerned with getting details of how to join the party and discussing the paper he bought.

So I hope you all take heart, and next time there is a knock at the door, take a paper to the door with you.

Yours fraternally,  
P.R. Hull  
Leicester West LPYS

## Political canvassing

Dear Comrade,

I canvassed recently for the local elections in Tunbridge Wells. My instructions were to ask people if they would be voting Labour and then record, yes, no, don't know etc.

During this canvass I met Karen, a young girl of 23. When asked she said no! She wouldn't be voting Labour.

Instead of noting a 'no' on my pad and walking away I asked why she wouldn't. The answer came that as she had been unemployed since August and her Dad had been unemployed for three years she wasn't going to vote at all.

We chatted about *Militant*'s policies and I sold her a copy of the paper. Since then Karen buys *Militant* regularly and has joined the Labour Party.

She's decided she'll be fighting for a Labour victory in the general election—but on a socialist programme.

Yours fraternally  
Gerry Jones  
Tunbridge Wells CLP

## Students and the working class

Dear Comrades,

As a member of Aberystwyth UCW Labour Club I was particularly interested to read the article on Labour Students' Conference (issue 648).

A few years ago Kitchen cleaning staff walked out in a strike against redundancies, leaving the student halls unattended. The college reacted by paying each student £1 for every meal lost, effectively breaking the strike.

In another incident one of the two sports-hall caretakers was made redundant, leaving one worker to look after two halls, at the same time.

The Tory/Alliance careerists who run the Student Union proposed that students should be charged for sports facilities to meet the College's cuts programme.

*Militant* supporters argued for the Labour Club to take up these issues, and to forge links between the club and the unions to fight the cuts.

Labour Club leaders ignored our proposals. They seem more interested in passing resolutions against the LPYS and yet more enquiries into 'infiltration' in the Labour Party.

NOLS, the student section of the Labour Party was not formed for its leaders to play at politics. It was set up to link students to the fight for a socialist society.

Yours fraternally,  
Frank Rae  
Aberystwyth

## Condoning violence?

Dear Comrades,

Although I do not support all of the views of your paper, I am a regular reader and I wish you success in your campaign to reinstate the 'five'. I did however, object to one of your articles last week.

The report on the fascist meeting in Tottenham seemed to condone violence by the thousand demonstrators against the handful of National Front supporters and also to criticise the police for their defence of the fascists.

It is one thing to offer 'no platform' by the means used by the brothers in the Council and the Unions but lowering this activity to violence does no one any good.

Action like this is all that is now drawing attention to this thankfully diminishing group of fascists. But had their been the death of one fascist this would have been the perfect excuse for the press to hammer the socialist movement.

Fraternally,  
Peter Whiteley.

## Booby prize

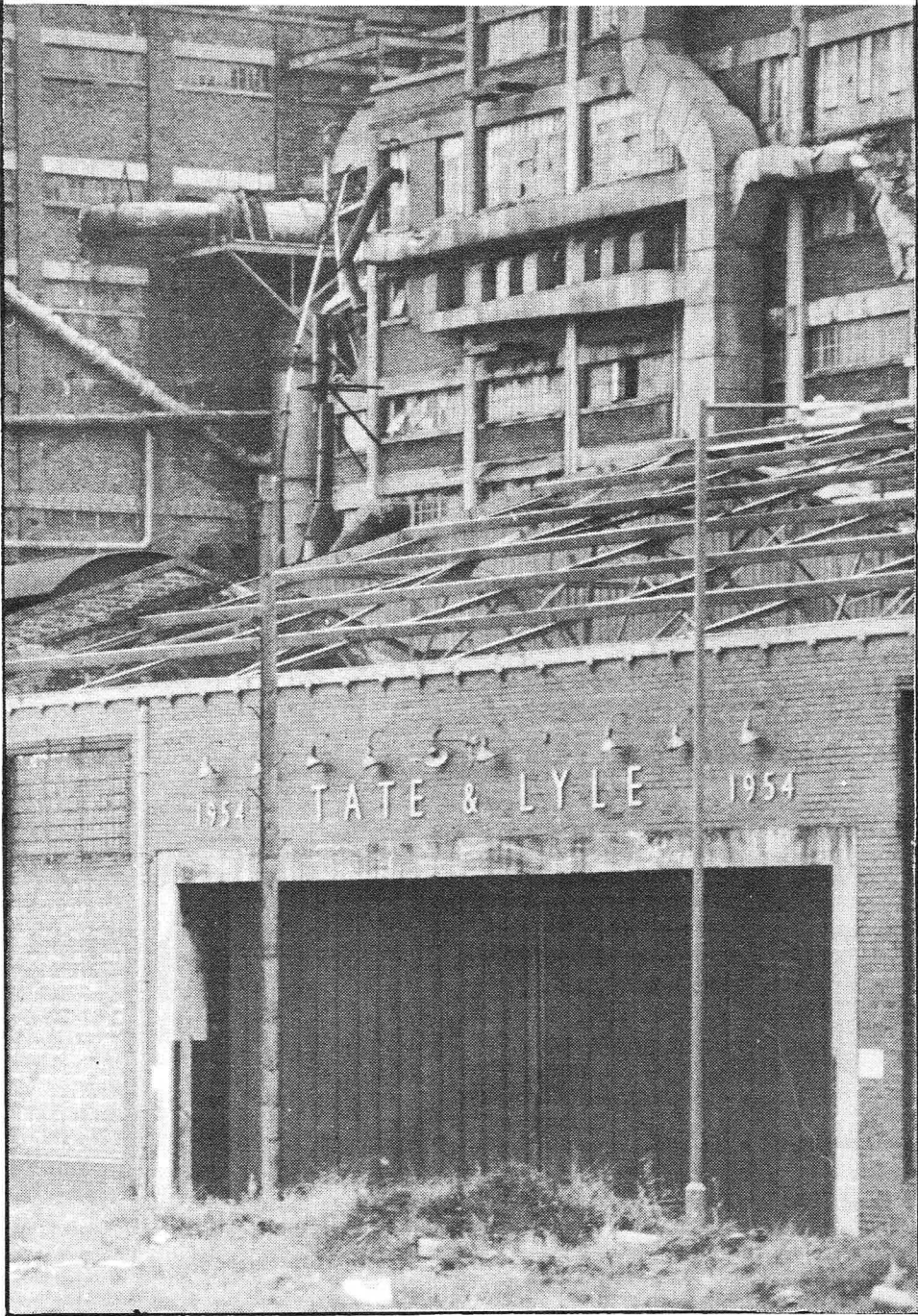
Comrades,

Listening to the news on radio today, I heard the following about a Select Committee report on parliamentary candidates: "Minor parties want the lost deposit in elections abolished altogether." Supporting this were the Liberal and Communist parties.

No prizes will be given for the best reasons why.

Yours fraternally,  
Dave Hardy  
Nottingham South CLP

## TATE AND LYLE, LIVERPOOL



The deserted factory in Vauxhall, Liverpool

Photo: Dave Reed

# It would have been better to fight back . . .

**CHERYL VARLEY** talks to Sheila Boyd, ex-shop steward, Tate & Lyle's, about the closure of the factory in Liverpool's Vauxhall area.

1,500 workers have been made redundant. They told us on 22 January that the factory would close in April. But the threat hung over us for so long we never thought it would close.

We thought perhaps they might ask for more redundancies, but not that it would close. Tate's just decided it was going to close and that's all there was to it.

The effect was devastating. They told the stewards in the Centre Hotel, at the same time as they were telling the management. People came out from the meeting white faced, they couldn't believe it. Some stewards were crying, the managers were crying, everyone was crying.

Tate's was the heart of Vauxhall, there was no-one in that area that didn't have someone working there. Whole families, husbands,

wives, sons and daughters were thrown onto the dole.

We'd never had a strike there. We went along with everything they wanted. We changed the day and night shifts, people worked twelve hour shifts. A lot of us believed they kept trying to get us to strike, so they could close it down, but we did everything they asked.

Now I think it would have been better if we had had a strike, done something to fight back.

A lot of people thought there might be some chance of saving it. They got scared about doing anything because they might lose their redundancy pay.

The man from Tate and Lyles was on the news and said we'd all get good redundancy pay. I got £5,000 and I'd been there for 20 years.

There were people who actually cracked up. They had worked there all their lives and just didn't know how to go about getting another job. They didn't know what to say at an interview or

anything.

I couldn't get a job afterwards. I went for an interview as a packer and had to have an IQ test. My IQ was the highest and they were going to give me the job, but suddenly they turned me down. As far as I know it was because they found out I'd been a shop steward.

Until you're actually thrown on the dole you just can't understand how demoralising it is. People got frantic about getting another job. Most of them will never get another.

I left the Vauxhall area because I lived in Logan Towers and the rain came through the roof and kept blowing out the electricity.

Once the electricity was off all over the bank holiday and all the food was ruined. So we got a house and bought new furniture.

Twelve months before it closed, Tate and Lyle told us our jobs were secure and we'd be working there until we retired.

# TRADE UNIONS FOR LABOUR

By Wayne Jones



Photo: Mark Pinder.

NALGO members demonstrate against Liverpool's former Liberal administration. More and more, events are forcing white collar unions into political involvement Photo: Ian Morris

**"IF YOU join a union you join the labour movement" said the *Financial Times* recently.**

Their reporter had to hold an interview with workers in Preston to learn that lesson. But it's the view of millions of workers and their families.

This is a vital lesson as we enter the general election in which the political arm of the trade unions, the Labour Party, fights to kick out the Tories.

It's vital because if the Tories win they will wage war on our jobs, trade union rights and welfare state.

This nightmare has prompted the trade unions to collect a £2 million 'war chest' to finance the general election campaign of the Labour Party.

The Tories are backed by millions of pounds from big business which is handed over to Tory Party funds by unelected directors on inflated salaries, without any consultation with the workers who created these profits.

Yet they have the brass neck to accuse the labour movement of flouting of democracy in using the money of the trade unions for political purposes.

In one case a "member" of the NUM took the national union to court, accusing the leaders of illegality in making a "political" donation from the general rather than political fund, to help build the new Labour Party HQ.

## 'Political fund'

Since 1913 money for "political purposes" has had to be accounted for separately in a special "political fund".

Now the Tories have proposed further legal obstacles in a thinly disguised attempt to strangle the Labour Party financially.

They will not succeed. Trade unions founded the

Labour Party and have sustained it ever since. Trade unions have used their funds for political purposes since the 1860s in over a century of struggle.

Traditionally it has been the skilled and unskilled manual workers who provided the union basis for Labour.

Now the ranks of the labour movement are being swelled more and more by the white collar sections. Their struggles have increasingly forced home the lesson that trade unions have to take a political stand.

Yet harder lessons and more bitter struggles are to come. A management survey reported in the *Financial Times* (18 April 1983) made it clear that "the white collar sector is ripe for a major shakeout of the kind seen in recent years in manufacturing."

## 'White collar' unions moving to Labour

Political conclusions are increasingly being drawn. Affiliation to the Labour Party has been discussed in every major unaffiliated union in the last few years.

Virtually all the major non-affiliates are running campaigns which just happen to coincide with the election! They are very clearly anti-Tory.

NALGO, without a political fund and thus not able to make a direct donation to Labour Party, has nevertheless spent over £1m on a campaign in line with Labour Party opposition to public spending cuts and privatisation.

A NALGO ballot on affiliation to the Labour Party was lost last year. But that decision will be reversed as the membership increasingly face up to a harsh future under capitalism.

The majority of NALGO members now accept the benefits of TUC membership yet it took six ballots stretching over twenty years before this was achieved.

In CPSA even the newly re-elected right wing president Kate Losinska was forced to concede during the twenty-one week civil service pay strike in 1981 that "this particular government has forced us into a political position".

This union, the largest in the civil service, has just voted 135,202 to 52,865 to ballot on the setting up of a political fund and consequent Labour Party membership.

The forerunner of the CPSA, the Civil Service Clerical Association was forced to disaffiliate in 1927 by the Tory government's Trade Disputes Act.

The Trade Unions for Labour Victory organisation has called a series of pro-Labour meetings at forthcoming conferences of unions not affiliated to the Labour Party.

This is a welcome and overdue initiative but to ensure success one conference fringe meeting will not be enough. A real campaign must be conducted by the Labour Party and trade union leaderships jointly.

Every possible means must be used to present Labour's policy for job saving, expansion of the public services and regeneration of the economy.

But above all the members of unions like CPSA and NALGO will be convinced if they see the practical application of socialist policies by a fighting leadership.

In Liverpool a real incentive to support and join the party has been provided by Labour's willingness to actively support the unions against privatisation and cut-backs under the old Liberal regime. A new confidence was created in the local Labour Party. The results were seen in the local election victory.

This example of how to build mass support for socialist policies by linking up the two sides of the labour movement at every level must be taken up by the labour movement nationally.





# Cardowan Colliery Save our Pit Sack the Tories

ON FRIDAY 13 May the National Coal Board announced the closure of Cardowan pit (just outside Glasgow).

The immediate response from the workers was bitter anger and a resolve to fight to keep the Cardowan open.

Jim McKafferty, Cardowan Colliery NUM Secretary, and former Scottish Chairman of the Labour Party, spoke to Eddie Philips, Wheeler, Scottish chairman of the National Coal Board, explained at a special meeting a rehash of the 1969 proposals regarding Cardowan. The argument goes that there are no fresh resources; that the pit itself couldn't be worked; that there is bad ventilation and that other environmental reasons.

The real reason is political. It is a question of over-capacity in coal production as far as the Tories are concerned.

In response to this new assault a meeting was held the day before the actual official announcement of the closure and the situation was

put to the men at a pit-head meeting by the management. It was unanimously rejected as indeed it was at a membership meeting and a general meeting in Glasgow.

This will be a focal point in terms of the general election. Miners will be urged to vote Labour as a priority means of ensuring the retention of other pits. Also publicity will be undertaken on a wide scale.

In the meantime no direct action is being taken whilst the conciliation machinery is being used. The men are being urged to work normally. We are obviously looking for financial and moral support from the movement.

The recently published Labour Party manifesto for Scotland claims that Cardowan pit will be saved if Labour is returned to power.

John Smith, the Labour shadow energy secretary has also given this assurance and that is also significant because Cardowan is in fact within John Smith MP's constituency.

It should be made clear that as far as Jim McKafferty and as far as the miners are concerned, the battle to save Cardowan pit will continue whatever the result of the election on 9 June.



Scottish NUM banner on the People's March in April. The battle for jobs goes on. Photo: Militant

## TORIES— Party of Poverty

Continued from page one

prescription charges," yet they have gone up 600 per cent, from 20p to £1.40.

"We have absolutely no intention of doubling VAT," crooned Geoffrey Howe before the election. Within two months, it was all but doubled, rising from 8 to 15 per cent. That was a measure which alone put a full 4 per cent on the Retail Price Index.

"There is no commitment whatsoever", Francis Pym announced in April 1979, "to abolish the Price Commission." Three months later it was abolished. The removal of the Prices Commission, weak though it was, meant the elimination of the last vestige of any price controls.

The Tories took over an inflation rate of 10 per cent in May 1979. In their four years of office, it has averaged 13 per cent.

But of course, inflation does not affect the rich and the millionaire class which is so well represented in the Tory Cabinet. There is one law for the rich and one for the poor. As in law, so also in Tory economics.

Massive tax handouts have been given to the wealthy. The average businessman, on £45,000 a

year, will have had an increase in take-home pay of £120 a week, more than most workers earn to start with. Ordinary workers, on the other hand, are more heavily taxed than ever before.

Thatcher has turned low pay and poverty into official institutions. There are six and a half million people on supplementary benefits—the 'official' poverty line. There are another two million below that.

The meanest Tory trick of all was to make these benefits taxable: four fifths of those families poor enough to claim Family Income Supplement are now paying taxes.

The net result of this government's much-vaunted prices policy has been the re-introduction of poverty on a scale not seen since the inter-war years. *The Tories are the Party of Poverty.*

Even their current boast about lowering inflation to 4 per cent sounds hollow, against the enormous damage that they have done to living standards in the last four years.

Not that inflation will stay at 4 per cent. Even Tory economic spokesmen expect the level to rise to 6 per cent by the autumn and that is

probably an underestimate, since wholesale prices are already rising at well over 7 per cent a year.

The Tories have done enormous damage to the living standards of the mass of working people, but especially to the weakest—the old, the sick, the unemployed, and the low

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Continued from page 1

in and year out are left with absolutely no other choice.

But unfortunately, once again, the leadership of the trade union movement has failed to stand candidates or to launch a campaign within its ranks to form a non-sectarian political party that would represent workers.

Our slogan in the Labour Group for over a decade has been for workers' unity and socialism. We will therefore enthusiastically fly the flag for Labour, for working class unity, and for socialist policies in Northern Ireland.

The press and media will obviously highlight the sectarian nature of the election here, but the Labour and Trade Union Group, with its small resources will offer an alternative to working class people. Despite the absence of candidates from the official labour movement, we will gain an influence for our

paid. Now is the time for the Party of Poverty to be shown the door.

Labour will win the election if it boldly champions the interests and the needs of the low paid. For millions of workers, a Labour government, with socialist policies, is literally their only hope for the future.

ideas and our demands through the campaign.

We have chosen the constituency of East Belfast, the most industrialised area of the North. Like in all industrial areas, the Tories have axed jobs, housing, schools, hospitals and all the other services workers depend on.

The candidate who will be standing is Muriel Tong, the COHSE representative in the Belfast City Hospital where she works as a night sister in a geriatric unit.

Muriel played a leading role in the health dispute last year. She has a son, and is a single parent.

We will be launching our campaign on Saturday 21 May in the constituency and we will be putting forward to the people of Belfast a socialist programme as the only way forward today.

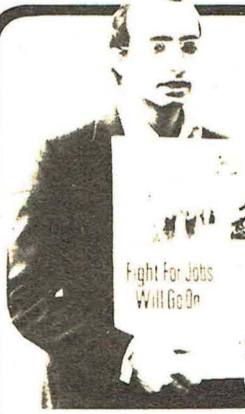
Any comrades in the British labour movement who would like to help our campaign financially should contact: Labour and Trade Union Group, 1 Waring Street, Belfast 1.

# Militant

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- ★ The immediate introduction of a 35-hour week without loss of pay as a step towards the elimination of unemployment.
- ★ Reversal of all Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works on housing, education, the health service, public transport and other services.
- ★ A minimum wage of £100 a week, including for pensioners, the sick and disabled.
- ★ Opposition to anti-trade union and other legislation that restricts workers' democratic rights.
- ★ Opposition to all forms of discrimination against women, black and Asian workers and minority groups in society.
- ★ Massive cuts in arms spending, now running at £15bn a year.
- ★ Unilateral nuclear disarmament.
- ★ An end to the devastation of basic industries like coal, rail and steel.
- ★ Workers' control and management in the nationalised industries, run by boards to be made up of one third of each of representatives from: the unions in the industry; the TUC, representing all workers; the government.
- ★ Opposition to dictatorship of the national press by a handful of rich press barons. Printing facilities should be nationalised and access given to political parties except fascists on the basis of their electoral support.
- ★ Nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, including the banks and insurance companies which control 80-85 per cent of the economy. This should be done through an Enabling Bill, with compensation based only on proven need.
- ★ A socialist plan of production, in which the enormous resources of the country are democratically planned for the benefit of the whole population.
- ★ Opposition to the capitalist Common Market. For a United Socialist States of Europe, as a step forward to a World Socialist Federation.

## WHAT WE STAND FOR



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