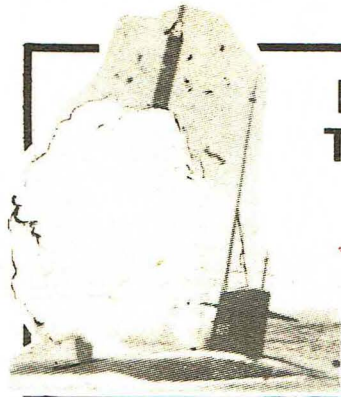


# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 653  
1 June 1983

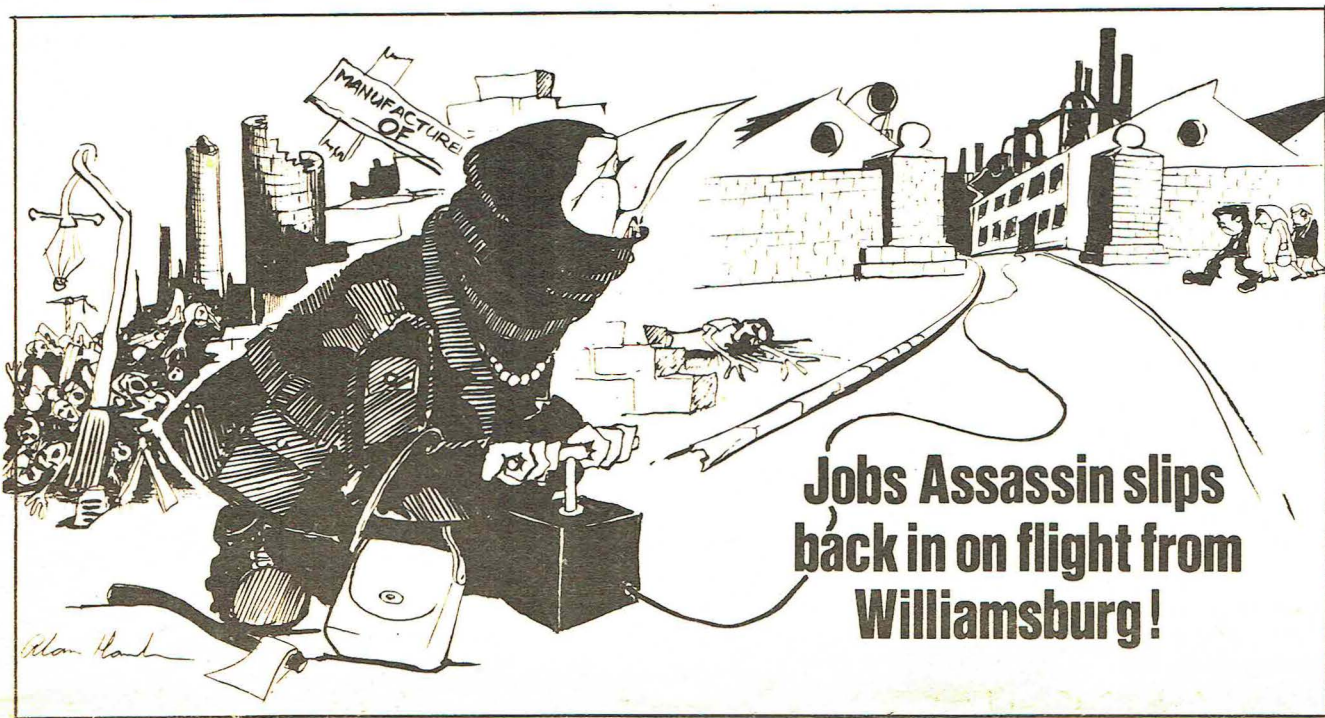
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DEFENCE;  
The Tories'  
Priorities

Centre  
Pages

## END THATCHER'S DOLEFUL YEARS



Jobs Assassin slips  
back in on flight from  
Williamsburg!

Unemployment  
the real issue

EVERY DAY under the Tories 1,395 jobs have been lost but the Tory manifesto has the nerve to claim that, "after four years of Conservative government, national recovery has begun."

What rubbish. Try telling that to the millions of people in the country who want a job and can't get one.

The official figures show 3¼ million on the dole. But if you include the people on special schemes like the Youth Training Scheme, and those who don't even feel it worthwhile claiming benefits, the real figure is five million.

"National recovery" they call it! When over 1.3 million under 25 year olds are registered unemployed, more than the unemployment for all age groups in May 1979 when the Tories first took office.

Long term unemployment

By Lesley  
Phillips

has shot up. Now well over a million have been out of work for a year or more, of whom 350,000 are under 25. More than one in two of workers under 18 who have left school are either unemployed or on YOP schemes. This is recovery?

The election on 9 June gives us the opportunity to give Thatcher and her slaughter house government their own cards. If working people are to have a hope for the future, then the Tories and their crazy system will have to go.

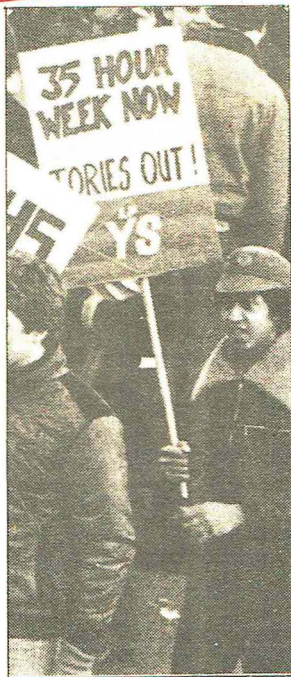
What can be  
done...

ALL REPORTS expect the dole queues to carry on growing.

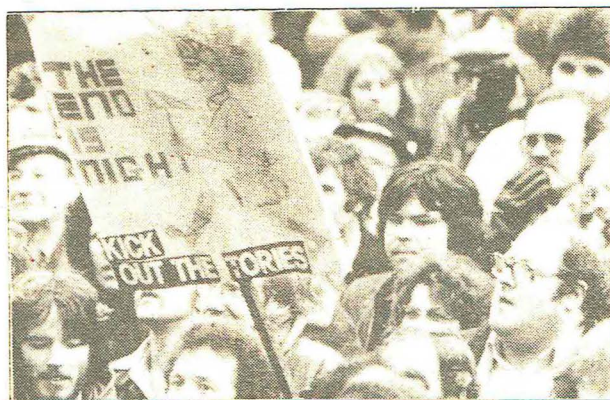
But that is a ridiculous situation. Every day under the Tories, there have been 312 fewer houses started than before the election, with housebuilding, particularly in the public sphere, at a post-war low, while there are 260,000 more unemployed building workers since 1979. The next Labour government must fight for a programme of useful public works to build the much needed schools, hospitals, and housing destroyed by the Tories.

It is also ludicrous that workers in Britain have just about the longest working week in Europe, averaging about 43 hours for those "fortunate" enough to have a job. The next Labour government must implement a 35-hour week with no loss of pay to create around a million jobs.

The Tories are looking for more massive job losses in the railways where one of the extremists who thought the



Serpell Report "too mild" has been suggested as Sir Peter Parker's successor as head of British Rail, and in the mines and steel. All cuts in these vital basic industries must be reversed and a big investment plan implemented.



...and how can  
we pay for it?

BUT MANY voters are asking, where's the money coming from?

£17 billion a year is frittered away just keeping workers on the dole queue instead of in a decent well paid job. Enough money is wasted on arms to provide the equivalent of an extra £20 a week for all families. At least 30% of the productive capacity of the country is unused, which could generate £70,000 million of extra wealth.

But all of this can only be harnessed when planning, in-

vestment and jobs don't depend on a capitalist making a fat profit. The nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies in Britain under workers' control and management, in other words Clause IV of Labour's constitution, would make possible for the first time socialist planning of the economy and investment for the future in the most vital industries and services.

Vote Labour on 9 June and join the fight for socialist policies. Under capitalism the future for all of us is more doleful years.

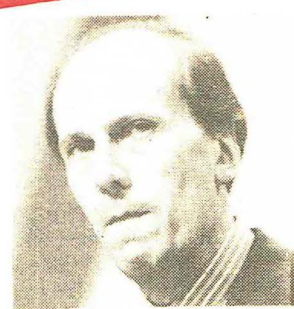
The Tories'  
excuses

THE TORIES wash their hands of all responsibility for this sad situation.

First of all, creatures like Tebbit still claim that the problems are due to "excessive wage demands" in Britain. But labour costs in Britain are very low. In 1981 it was estimated that, out of 17 top Western industrial nations, only Spain, Ireland and Greece had lower wages. The labour costs per hour were: Sweden £6.03, West Germany £5.49, France £4.37 and Britain £3.51. In the 1950s, British wages were far higher than those in countries like Germany.

Three out of five of today's unemployed have been in the category "general labourers and other manual workers". They were not amongst the highest paid workers. One of the biggest drops in industrial output and in jobs was in textiles, leather and clothing which fell 31% in the Tories' first three years. Yet that industry was among the poorest paying of all.

The biggest cause of unemployment was the dreadfully low rate of investment by the capitalist class in productive industry, down



Norman Tebbit, Unemployment Minister.

28% over the Thatcher years and predicted by the bosses themselves to go lower still in 1983.

The Tories also claim that unemployment was due to the world wide recession but a House of Commons Treasury Committee, chaired by leading Tory backbench MP Edward Du Cann issued a report last week claiming that only half the rise in the dole queues was due to world factors, the rest was due to government policies. The British economy, owned by profit hungry business chiefs who have neglected investment and governed by the Tories who worship the profit system, is in ruins. Kick out the Tory wreckers.

# VOTE LABOUR



## Jim Callaghan's stab in the back

**CALLAGHAN** "lost us the election in 1979 with his five per cent wages policy and he could be costing us this one." These words, by Labour Party NEC member Alex Kitson, will be echoed the length and breadth of the country in branches and meetings of the Labour Party.

James Callaghan's intervention in the election, denouncing Labour's programme on unilateralism, can only be interpreted, in the bitter words of the Labour candidate in Cardiff Central, as "a stab in the back for Michael Foot and for the Labour Party." The

speech gave the Tory-dominated press an enormous fillip and once again gave them the excuse to tuck the real issues in the election, like unemployment and living standards, away in their inside pages.

Callaghan complained afterwards that he was "only addressing his constituents", but there cannot be any doubt that the attack on Labour's programme was well planned. Two days before the speech was made, Jim Callaghan's press office was already contacting the media and on the day of the speech itself, a number of journalists were given advanced copies of the text, with the added suggestion that they take special note of those sections devoted to defence.

Callaghan's speech, of

course, is not a unique stab in the back. On the contrary, it forms part of a pattern of denials of Labour's election programme by the right wing, not least by former Labour prime ministers.

Harold Wilson, was given nearly thirty column-inches in the *Daily Mail* to denounce the Labour Party. The *Daily Mail* is probably the most rabid pro-Tory newspaper in the current election campaign, so biased against the Labour Party, in fact, that by a majority of five to one, its NUJ chapel members passed a resolution critical of the partisan line of the paper.

Undaunted by the editorial company he was keeping, Harold Wilson gave an interview under the headline "Where my party has gone wrong", mainly denouncing

the move towards socialist policies in the party, but including the ritual denunciation of *Militant* supporters. Party members will be entitled to ask if Sir Harold was paid for this "exclusive interview" used by the *Mail* against the Labour Party and, if so, if he donated his gains to Labour's hard-pressed election fund.

### Ranks determined

In contrast to the determination and fight being shown by the rank and file of the Labour Party, sections of the leadership seem, at best, to have given up the fight and at worst, to be actively working for a Labour defeat. Some right wingers

are already preparing further statements, critical of Labour policy, for after 9 June.

Thus, it has been reported, the right wing organisation that goes under the name of the Labour Committee for Trans-Atlantic Understanding is now preparing a press release to be issued after the election, blaming the defeat—for that is what they expect, and some of them want—on Labour's unilateralist policy.

The Labour Committee for Trans-Atlantic Understanding, it should be pointed out, is financed by NATO, an organisation fundamentally opposed to the labour movement. Those Labour right wingers associated with this body have never accepted Labour's unilateralist policy,

nor have the majority of them ever accepted the rest of Labour's programme, on economic or social policy.

The alibis that the right now have on the drawing board will cut no ice, however, with the majority of Labour Party and trade union members. The grass roots of the labour movement have no time for excuses just now, because, unlike some of their "leaders", they have not given up the election and they will be fighting right up to 10 pm on the 9th.

They will have even less time for the alibis after polling day. Those who have stood aloof from the battle, or have actively conspired to help the enemy cannot expect any sympathy from the troops afterwards, no matter what the outcome.

## Tories' smear campaign in Bradford

**LABOUR** activists in Bradford North have been angered by the Tories media campaign which has tried to distort the views of their candidate, Pat Wall, in a full page advert in some of the national press last week.

Workers have not forgotten the confidence tricks pulled by Saatchi and Saatchi in the 1979 election, when their posters emphasised unemployment and living standards. Now, without anything to say at all on these issues—because whatever they did say would draw attention to the Tories' disastrous record—they are looking for any suitable diversion.

### Socialist society by democratic means

The Tory adverts quote, in a grossly distorted manner, a speech by Pat Wall, 18 months ago. They attempt to show that Pat is 'anti-democratic'. The same smears are churned out daily by the Tories' tame Fleet Street hacks, elected by, and responsible to no-one but the millionaires who buy them.

What the adverts do not say is that the speech was made in a *debate* when Pat was *defending* the notion that it is possible to use Parliament to bring about a democratic socialist society. It was in answer to a question about what would happen if—as in Chile in 1973—the judges, army chiefs and police chiefs tried to prevent a democratically elected Labour government from carrying out its programme by undemocratic extraparliamentary action, that Pat Wall made the remarks about these anti-democrats being sacked.

Rather than advocating 'civil war' when he spoke, Pat made it clear in the debate, as he has always done, that he is against individual terrorism. He explained, however, that if unemployment continues to mount, then civil disorder

would ensue, as a result of the bitterness and alienation of millions of youth.

Exactly the same point has been made by other Labour candidates and even by Tories like Ted Heath. Only urgent action to eradicate poverty and unemployment, Pat argued, would ultimately remove the possibility of social disturbances.

The Tories are the last to parade themselves as the guardians of democracy. The whole history of the last hundred and fifty years shows the Tories fighting a vicious rear-guard action against all the democratic changes that have advanced society in that time. It was the struggle and campaigns of the labour movement not the philanthropy of the Tories that provided the impetus for even the popular vote.

The Tories have shown scant regard for the democratic rights of workers anywhere on the planet. They have rushed to provide financial, military and moral support to some of the most bloody and murderous regimes, like those in Chile, Argentina, and South Africa. In the last ten years, these regimes have murdered tens of thousands of workers fighting for democratic rights.

### Eastern Europe not "socialist"

The only time the Tories bleat about 'democracy' overseas is when it comes to Eastern Europe, presenting the totalitarian regimes there as a warning of what "socialism" means. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth. These regimes are a monstrous caricature of genuine socialism.

But the struggle of workers in these totalitarian states, like in Poland, in recent years, does not have the slightest connection or similarity with the policies and philosophy of Toryism. Workers in Eastern Europe will continue to fight for democratic rights, but they will not be seeking a return

to capitalism, long-since abolished in these states. Instead the workers will win what their counter parts in the west also seek—the establishment of genuine socialist democracy, something a million miles removed from the sham democracy of Toryism.

THE CAMPAIGN against Labour had little effect in Bradford, judging by the

2,000 people who turned up to hear Michael Foot, Arthur Scargill and the local Parliamentary candidates, including Pat Wall.

The atmosphere was electric in the packed hall and as people were taking their seats, those already seated yelled, "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, Out! Out! Out!" If anyone had any doubts about Labour being able to win on 9 June, those doubts were dispelled immediately

upon entering the hall, such was the mood of confidence and determination in the meeting.

Pat Wall was the first speaker, but when introduced, he couldn't speak because the applause went on and on and on.

"This election is not only the most important since 1945," he quipped, "but in some ways the most confusing. I have participated in a number of joint meetings at

factory gates with Max Madden (another Bradford candidate), and now both our agents are being inundated with demands for Max Wall posters! Perhaps at the end of it we can do some funny walks.

### Distortions and dirty tricks

"The opinion polls and the media tell us that the Tories have got a commanding lead, yet they seem far from confident. If they were so sure why do they further polarise British society with their relentless campaign of lies, distortions and dirty tricks?

"...But the distorted adverts and loaded headlines cannot hide the reality of life to millions of our people. More than four million seeking only the elementary dignity of a job of work, the 3,000 school leavers in this city chasing some thirty jobs.

"...We need no lessons from the Tories about freedom and democracy, what freedom and democracy we have, we had to fight for against their big business backers and their 'kept press'. We are democratic socialists, we stand opposed to all dictatorships and all one-party regimes.

### "A world without poverty, hunger and fear"

"Along with the pioneers of the ILP, founded in this city, we stand for a new socialist society, a world without hunger, without poverty and without fear. A world in which our children can live in peace and harmony and develop their talents to the full."

During his five-minute speech there were six bursts of applause, and when he finished the audience rose to its feet in a standing ovation.

By Militant Reporters

### AND NOW, THE THOUGHTS OF SIR IAN GILMOUR

**"Conservatives do not worship democracy. For them, majority rule is a device...**

**Majorities do not always see where their best interests lie and then act upon their understanding.**

**For Conservatives, therefore, democracy is a means to an end and not an end in itself. In Dr Hayek's words, democracy 'is not an ultimate or absolute value and must be judged by what it will achieve.'**

**And if it is leading to an end that is undesirable or is inconsistent with itself, then there is a theoretical case for ending it."**

IAN GILMOUR, CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR CHESHAM AND AMERSHAM.



## LIVERPOOL MASS CANVASS

OVER 220 people turned out on the second of the mass canvasses in Broad Green, Liverpool May 23. Particularly noticeable was a large number of trade unionists prepared to turn up to help get a workers MP elected to Parliament. A group of about 30 GMBATU council workers canvassed in Kensington ward as a result of a successful GMBATU stewards' meeting where Terry Fields spoke.

Apart from this group there were also small groups of active trade unionists from the POEU and other unions.

## LABOUR GROWS IN FINCHLEY

FINCHLEY in North London, Mrs Thatcher's constituency, may be a safe Tory seat but there are good signs for the future. One party member helping out in the area recruited eight people to the Labour Party during one evening's canvass. They will join a ward party that already has 250 members!

## ELECTION '83



## ON THE DOORSTEP BRIGHTON

"If Thatcher gets in for another 5 years it will be war. Things aren't too good as it is."

—Myron aged 19, Brighton.

★ ★ ★ ★

"The prospects for youth are bleak. I'll definitely be voting for Labour and Rod Fitch. The main thing is a 35 hour week. Also, a £100 minimum wage. It's a must. Not only for myself. I'm not too badly off. But for others and for the pensioners."

—Brian aged 19, working as a butcher.

★ ★ ★ ★

"I got 8 'O' levels and now the only job I can get is opening envelopes. I pay £32.50 a week to live in this dump, with one room, a kitchen, a bath that you have to share that doesn't even work and a toilet you could catch herpes from. It's no wonder young people turn to crime faced with these conditions. I'm not registered to vote. But if I was I'd vote Labour."

—Wilf Smith, Brighton.

★ ★ ★ ★

"I was voting for the first time in 1979 and I voted Conservative because I thought with a woman in charge she might understand the problems of ordinary people and housewives. But it's not true. At the moment I'm 75% for Labour, and 25% for not voting."

—Corina Marshall, one of a large number of former Tory or Liberal voters considering changing in Brighton.

## COVENTRY

In Coventry last weekend I canvassed one street where there was only one person working.

One woman from Scotland told me that her husband had taken the Tories' advice and moved to get work. The whole family uprooted themselves to come to Coventry where her husband had a job lined up. The job only lasted *one day* before the firm went bust and he's been unemployed ever since.

The next house I went to, a mother with four children under the age of twelve told me that her husband, a railway worker, worked 50 hours for a take-home pay of £62 a week. Recently he hurt his back at work and they were £30 a week better off on sickness benefits. They were having beef on Sunday for the first time in ages. They just laugh when the Tories come on television and tell us we're better off with them.

Needless to say both these people support Labour and their candidate for Coventry South East, Dave Nellist.

By Clive Heemskirk

★ ★ ★ ★

One old West Indian worker in Coventry said, "I'm appealing for all blacks to vote Labour—to vote Tory is as good as voting for Enoch Powell and the National Front. Never mind what the Tories said about blacks being British. That's only to get our black votes. Don't fall for their trickery. When they say that we're British they never treat us that way and they never will."

★ ★ ★ ★

"The thought of another five years of that woman made me feel that I should help the Labour Party get elected." Saying this a woman donated £50 to the campaign fund to help Dave Nellist to be elected MP in Coventry South East. "Working for the education department I've seen the situation of the young people deteriorate to an appalling level." She has agreed to work for the Labour Party during the campaign, any way she can. Anyone who wishes to donate money to the Coventry South East Election Campaign should send cheques made payable to: T Smith (Election Account), and send to Tom Smith, 30 Coundon Road, Coventry.



On the platform at the Liverpool meeting—Terry Fields, candidate for Liverpool Broad Green, Pat Phoenix, star of *Coronation Street*, and Tony Benn. Photo: Militant

IN SPITE of the meeting being at 5 pm in the afternoon, a packed hall of over 300 people greeted the arrival of Tony Benn in Broad Green, Liverpool at the invitation of the local Labour Party, on Thursday 26 May at the NUR Club in Kensington. Also on the platform was Terry Fields, Labour candidate for Broad Green, Pat Phoenix—alias Elsie Tanner from *Coronation Street*—and Anthony Booth, plus Councillor Derek Hatton in the chair. Pat Phoenix said she was there because she was "a member of the Labour Party and believed in a Labour Party".

Terry Fields outlined the crimes of Thatcher and the Tories as well of those of the bosses' second XI—the Liberal/SDP Alliance. Tony Benn began a speech by saying he was, "proud to be on a platform with Terry Fields". He then went on to explain how the Tories were attempting to use the spectre of mass unemployment to make the working class afraid to fight back. The same was true for Michael Heseltine's claim that CND was "naïve". He urged the people to overcome any fear they had and stated that, "once confidence flows back into the working class in Britain then no power on earth can stop us." The atmosphere in the meeting was electric, with sporadic applause and shouts of approval given to the main speakers.

# Stars shine for Labour

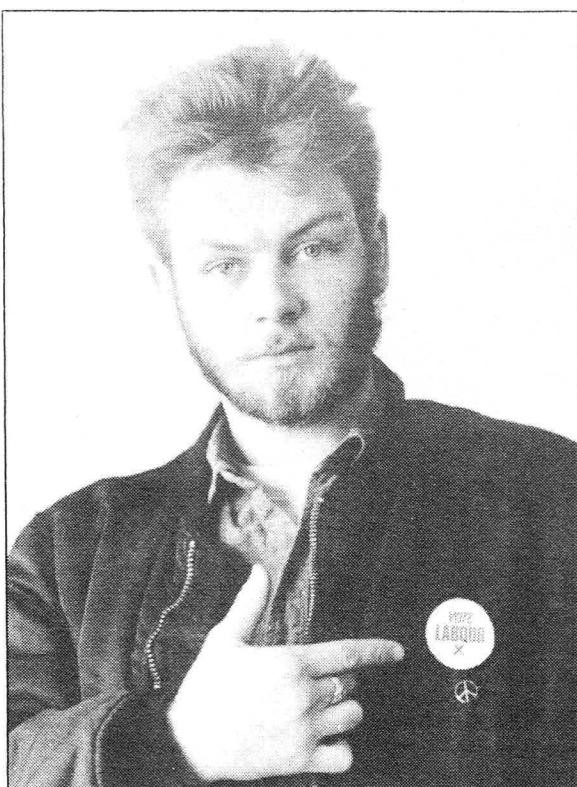


Photo: John Woulfe



CARL and Suggs from *Madness* (above) will be voting Labour on 9 June—in the next issue of *Socialist Youth*, the paper of the Labour Party Young Socialists they will be explaining why in a full interview.

And they are not the only "famous names" supporting Labour. The band UB 40 vote Labour as do many stars from stage and screen: Bill Owen (Compo), Miriam Karlin, actresses Glenda Jackson and Dame Peggy Ashcroft, Prunella Scales (yes, blue-rinse Sybil from *Fawlty Towers!*), Colin Welland, David Yip (the *Chinese Detective*) and actor Hugh Manning. Also Doris Speed—Annie Walker from *Coronation Street*—will join co-star Pat Phoenix and be voting Labour on 9 June.

And Spurs players Garth Crooks, Tony Galvin and Steve Perryman are not only voting Labour—they are out canvassing for the party in Dulwich, London.

## 'Get rid of Thatcher'

"IF OPINION polls tell the truth then we may as well forget tonight and go home." This was the opening remark of a member of the Labour Party in Swansea just before our first canvass.

Not knowing quite what the response would be we were pleasantly surprised by the result. We must have canvassed 200-300 houses and overwhelmingly the reply was, "get rid of Thatcher—I'm with you".

At one door we were met by a housewife who said that while she would be voting Labour she hoped they would start to really act in our interest. The husband then joined her saying that he had ripped up his Labour Party card some 15 years ago because of the antics of the right wing.

Before we had a chance to explain our ideas he was telling us about the "two Liverpool lads" on TV during the

Labour Party conference. "They were brilliant—and those are the people you are trying to expel", he said in disgust. After half-an-hour's discussion he once again decided to join the Labour Party and as he put it, "so that I can help return the party back to working people".

The message is clear from this canvass—Thatcher must go. But Labour must not make any false promises but

carry out a socialist programme.

That night 10 people joined the Labour Party in the new Uplands Ward of Swansea West, which according to the Tories is the most marginal seat in Wales. We intend to prove the Tories wrong, by getting a big majority and also building the party for the future.

By Roy Davies  
(Swansea Labour Party Youth Officer, personal capacity)



# BACK WORKERS FIGHTING FUND

## THE TORIES have been considering setting up their own "fighting fund".

However the secret report, published in 'Time Out', will not be for the benefit of workers, surprise surprise. It would be set up for employers and used as part of the Tories plans, "for curbing the economic power of trade unions." (Times, 25 May).

According to Thatcher most of the report has been discarded. But why should we believe her this time? It is clear that if returned for another five years the Tories would implement policies to try and wreck the workers' first line of defence, the trade unions.

We cannot allow the Tories to get away with this. But if we are to defeat them and their policies we must

build up our own fighting fund and show that workers are prepared to fight to retain what is rightly theirs. Our fighting fund is a workers' fighting fund, built by workers, for workers.

With the polling day almost upon us we have every opportunity to build. A public meeting at NUPE National Conference raised £151, FBU National Conference MRM £80 and members of NAI Go (Dental Estimates Branch) donated £11.

The Summer draw tickets are going very well, with one supporter at FBU National Conference selling £48 worth of tickets and a supporter in Southampton selling £29. Have you bought any tickets yet? How about buying a book as your way of making a contribution to our campaign fund?

Thanks to some supporters this week who donated their tax rebates to the fighting fund. Have you just had a tax rebate? How about making a donation to the fighting fund?

Thanks this week to T. Oram (Lambeth) £26, a regular donor (Walton) £15, K. Moore (Selly Oak NUS) £5, S. Renshaw (Leeds ASTMS) who donated his £5 rate rebate, C Burns (Birmingham TGWU) £2, R. Bartlett (Leicester) £1, T. O'Neill (Metro NUR) £1, B. Durkin (Wythenshawe) who has promised us £1 a week, C. Holland (Eastleigh Constituency Labour Party) £1, F. Wilson (Sevenoaks) £1 for his paper and R. Loneyman (Woodhouse Park) 50p, Mr Paton (Old Aged Pensioner, Tyneside) 50p.

Appeal sheets have been going round; supporters raised £15 in Gateshead and an "Election Appeal" raised over £11 from Bracknell supporters. Fund raising events have had a lot of success this

**THIS WEEK: £2,099**

week, a jumble sale (Pollok) raised over £81, a disco (Stirling) £72, a sponsored swim by M. Barwood (Brighton) £42, a sponsored run by a supporter (Riverside Liverpool) £33, a Video Night (London) £7, an FA Cup swindle raised £6 in Bracknell, whilst Ashington supporters collected £1.78 using rattling tins and Sandwell £1.30. Remember every penny counts.

Every area should be encouraged by all these efforts to go ahead and plan their own event now. But, please keep the money pouring in. Actual donations are what we need most.

By Kath White

# ads

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

## PRE-ELECTION MILITANT MEETINGS

- TUESDAY 31**  
**SWANSEA:** Speaker: Ted Grant at 7.30pm at YMCA Llewellyn Hall, Swansea.
- WEDNESDAY 1 JUNE**  
**LEICESTER:** Speaker: John Pickard at 7.30pm at "DOREF" (formerly Dixie Arms) Vaughan Way, Leicester.
- THURSDAY 2 JUNE**  
**EDINBURGH:** Speakers: P. Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*) and John Kegsie (Convenor, Robbs Shipyard) at 7.30pm Edinburgh Trades Council, Pricardy Place.  
**BASILDON:** Speaker: Peter Jarvis at 8.00pm in Room 4, Pitsea Leisure Centre.  
**GRIMSBY:** Speaker: Jane Hartley at 8.00pm, Central Library, Town Hall Square, Grimsby.  
**STEPNEY:** See local sellers for details.  
**WATFORD:** Speaker: Tony Saunois. at 8.00pm, Watford Trades Union Hall, Woodford Road.
- FRIDAY 3 JUNE**  
**GLASGOW:** Speaker: P. Taaffe (Editor, *Militant*) at 7.30 pm at McClellan Gallery.  
**MANCHESTER:** Speaker: Ted Grant at 7.30pm at Manchester Lecture Theatre, Poly Library, Oxford Road, All Saints, Manchester.  
**BURY:** Speaker: Lynn Walsh at 8.00pm at "Old Bluebell", Bell Lane, Bury.  
**BIRMINGHAM:** Speaker C. Doyle at 7.30pm at Doctor Johnson's House, Bull Street, Birmingham City Centre.  
**BRISTOL:** Speaker: Bryan Beckingham at 7.30pm in Central Hall, Old Market.
- 3 JUNE (CON)**  
**PLYMOUTH:** See local sellers for details.  
**SOUTHWARK:** Speakers: Leslie Phillips (LPYS National Committee), Peter Jarvis at 8.00pm, St Albans Hall, Penton Place, SE 17.  
**BARKING:** Speaker: Ed Bober. See local sellers for details.
- SUNDAY 5 JUNE**  
**STOCKTON:** Speaker: Dave Cotterhill at 7.45pm at YMCA, Stockton.  
**LEEDS:** Speakers: Ron Sedler (Labour candidate Leeds NE) and Bob Lee (Black Socialist Youth) at 8.00pm at Grand Theatre Studio Room.  
**SUNDERLAND:** Speaker: Lynn Walsh, at 7.30pm at Shelter Deck, Kings Road, Southwick, Sunderland.  
**HULL:** Speaker: Keith Dickinson at 8.00pm at Springbank Community Centre, Wellington Lane, Hull.  
**BURNLEY:** See local sellers for details.  
**NORTH SHIELDS:** See local sellers for details.  
**GATESHEAD:** See local sellers for details.  
**NEWCASTLE:** at 7.30pm at "Gingerbread", 214 Westgate Road, Newcastle.  
**SCUNTHORPE:** at 7.30pm at Central Community Centre, Scunthorpe.
- MONDAY 6 JUNE**  
**BETHNAL GREEN:** Speaker John Pickard at 7.30pm at Sporting Life pub, Wilmot Street, E2 (off Bethnal Green Road).  
**NOTTINGHAM:** Speaker Keith Dickinson, at 7.30 pm, International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road, Nottingham.

# Doubling our sales

By Dave Farrar

Militant SELLERS ALL over Britain and Ireland are redoubling their efforts to get the Tories out, stop the Alliance con-merchants and get a Labour government elected on socialist policies. In so doing they are at least doubling their sales.

Glasgow leads the way with a tremendous response, but is closely followed by North East Scotland and Lothian. In fact, in Edinburgh West the sellers have trebled their sales, thanks mainly to a canvass in the constituency. Other areas to report good sales are Central Fife, Perth and Dundee.

West Wales sellers report that their sales have doubled and expect that they will go up even further. As reported last week sales in East Belfast are very encouraging in the election campaign. A record sale was reported on the Isle of Man, at the UCW conference



Canvassing Liverpool 22 May.

Photo: Militant

where, after an unintentional plug by Neil Kinnock, the sellers sold 100 papers in 1 1/2 days.

Workers up and down the country are reading our paper for the first time and one place worthy of note is Drax B power station where

a seller sold 90 in two weeks. Militant campaigns weekly for a socialist Britain but we would like to be a daily and with your help it can be done!

Sell our paper on your canvasses, to your neighbours, to your work mates!

Contact Militant Circulation, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-533 1822 8.00am 8.00pm daily.

STOP PRESS: One seller sold 108 in one week in Southampton, anyone do better?

## TARGET—£50,000 BY JULY 9.

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 9 July
Eastern	551		2700
East Midlands	559		2600
Humberside	326		1300
London East	670		3300
London West	548		1650
London South	1271		2500
Manchester & Lancs	672		3000
Merseyside	621		3400
Northern	470		3550
Scotland East	302		2100
Scotland West	719		3000
Southern	790		3150
South West	429		2000
Wales East	275		1500
Wales West	286		2100
West Midlands	403		3100
Yorkshire	492		3400
Others	1949		5000
<b>Total received</b>	<b>11,334</b>		<b>50000</b>

## POST-ELECTION MILITANT MEETINGS

(further details from local sellers)

- SATURDAY 11 JUNE**  
**TYNESIDE:** (7.30pm at 'The Bridge', Newcastle.)
- TUESDAY 14 JUNE**  
**PLYMOUTH, POOLE.**
- WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE**  
**TROWBRIDGE, STONEHOUSE, SUNDERLAND, SE LANCASHIRE, CLEVELAND** (at 7.30pm, AUEW Hall, Borough Rd, Middlesborough)
- THURSDAY 16 JUNE**  
**LEICESTER** (Speaker C. Doyle), **EDINBURGH, CARDIFF, SWINDON.**
- SUNDAY 19 JUNE**  
**WASHINGTON**
- TUESDAY 21 JUNE**  
**ROTHERHAM, SWANSEA, CHESTER-LE-STREET.**
- WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE**  
**WYTHENSHAW.**
- THURSDAY 22 JUNE**  
**KINGSWOOD.**
- FRIDAY 24 JUNE**  
**HUMBERSIDE:** (Speaker P. Taffe, at Springbank Community Centre, Wellington Lane, Hull).
- MONDAY 27 JUNE**  
**LONDON:** (Speakers P. Taaffe, E. Grant at Friends Meeting House, Euston Rd.)

## CLASSIFIED

- EASTERN Regional LPYS Rally. Luton 4 June cancelled.
- MILITANT Marxist Weekend Schools.  
 LONDON 2/3 July Queen Mary College Student Union.  
 NORTHERN 9/10 July, Teesside Poly, Middlesbrough. Fuller details future issues.
- BENEFIT NIGHT FOR MILITANT FIGHTING FUND**  
**SATURDAY 4 JUNE, 8 PM TILL LATE**  
 Thames Polytechnic, Woolwich. Live bands: Red Seven Normil Hawaiins. Bar extensions. Further info + advance tickets from Andy (302 1496). £1.50 in advance or £2 at door reductions for UB40
- INAUGURAL Meeting. Labour CND West Taunton CLP Meeting Rooms. 24 East Reach, Taunton. Sunday 26 June, 2.30pm. "Protect Composite 81". LP members only.
- WRITE OFF THE TORIES WITH US**  
 Militant bios with slogan: "Read Militant, Tories out, Labour to power on a socialist programme." Normal price 20p (plus 20p p&p). Bulk orders: 10 at £1.30 (post free).



## 'SOCIALIST YOUTH'

17,000 copies of the LPYS paper *Socialist Youth* have been printed especially for the general election, with the headline "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie...Out! Out! Out!"

All branches should be ordering extra copies for use on canvasses and street sales. Order from LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17, or phone Andy Bevan (National Youth Officer) on 01-703 0833.

Photomontage right is centre pages of this month's *Socialist Youth*.

## BRADFORD

THE MOST dynamic campaign in Bradford has been organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists. Days of Action are being held every Saturday with a cut-out of Norman Tebbit placed in the centre of the street, and a megaphone is used to stir the crowd and organise street meetings.

Wherever we go canvassing, hoards of young Asians from eight to fourteen years of age surround us asking for Pat Wall stickers, and chanting "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, out, out, out". A youth speaker is included on every platform outlining the disaster of Tory Britain for youth as well as every factory gate meeting, where the response to the LPYS has been enthusiastic.

Asian youth have joined the YS helping in canvassing the Asian areas of Bradford Moor and Bowling, where language problems arise. The LPYS are the shock troops to get Labour and Pat Wall elected.

### MASS CANVASS

Saturday 4/ Sunday 5 June. Meet at Main Committee Rooms, 2a Hallings, Bradford (opp. Telegraph and Argus Building) 10 am both days.

Public meeting: Tuesday 7 June at 7.30 pm. Speakers: Arthur Scargill, Pat Wall at: Eccles Hill Upper School, Bradford.

On polling day, report to Main Committee Rooms (above). We have an urgent need for cars. Any queries ring Main Committee Rooms (0274) 727229.

## BRISTOL

AT HERTFORD SCHOOL, in South Bristol, Chris Stone an LPYS member, standing on the YS programme received 26 votes in a mock election held amongst sixth formers. The Tories received 14 votes and the SDP scrapped home at 9 votes, only 1 more than the Raving Loonies!

90 people attended a public meeting held in the Lawrence Hill area of Bristol, addressed by Tony Benn and Matt Reed of the LPYS. This was a good turnout in an area which had not seen a Labour Party public meeting since the last election, and where the leaflet had only been delivered the day before.

Bristol East Labour Party, in their campaign to get Tony Benn elected, are organising 14 local meetings, all of them with youth speakers; a women's meeting with a YS speaker speaking alongside Glenda Jackson and a youth rally at Transport House, Victoria Street at 11 am on Saturday 4 June. The speakers will be Tony Benn and Matt Reed. This will be followed by a demonstration with support from the Young Socialists from all over the South-West region and a mass canvass of the working class areas of Bristol East.

The Muslim community in Bristol-East have held a meeting and decided en masse to vote for Tony Benn as the only means of fighting Tory racist laws.



## Labour's Youth Say -

# IT'S OUR FUTURE - THATCHER OUT!

## CLYDESIDE

**"OUR GENERATION is finished, we have no future. Everybody should get a chance to get a job and a wage." That was the statement given to a canvasser in the Queen Elizabeth flats in one area of Glasgow.**

The two 16 year old boys were in the process of shooting heroin into their

arms. In the Gorbals area and in the whole of the constituency LPYS meetings will be held to try and change the attitude of youth in that area into one of hope for the future.

It is hoped that on the Saturday Mrs Thatcher herself will make a guest appearance, helping ourselves and canvassers to get even more support. This will all be part of the general activities of the YS not only in that area but in the whole of Glasgow to gain support for Labour.

In Linwood during the week over a hundred workers heard George Docherty, the candidate for Inverclyde put the case for socialist change in Britain. A major youth canvass has been organised with a double decker bus going into his area on 5 June.

In nearby Paisley, the YS there had over 50 in attendance.

In a neighbouring constituency in Glasgow in Pollok a 37 year old car worker, who had never voted in his life and was laid off in 1979 from the Linwood factory, told how he has only worked three months since being made redundant.

"I blame the Tories", he said, "their system is rotten, it must go."

One worker there said to a canvasser, "The problem is that a large section of the leaders of the Labour Party want to be Labour-Tories instead of Labour Socialists.

"I'm voting Labour and it breaks my heart to think the Tories might get in. Surely the way things are it's crying out for the Labour leaders to campaign for socialist change."

## COVENTRY

**MARGARET WEARE, a member of Warwick and Leamington LPYS, mainly composed of school students, explained why her YS are helping in Dave Nellist's campaign in Coventry South East.**

"One in six places at Polytechnics and University has gone under the Tories, we are worried about our future as students. A mainstay of our election campaign is a £25 a week grant for all sixteen to eighteen year olds in full time education.

"Education past the age

of sixteen should not be a luxury. Easily the greatest percentage of young people continuing education past this age are from middle-class backgrounds. The grant enables far more working class youth to further education.

"Even hardened Tories at my school do not agree with the Tory idea that grants should be repayable loans, and others are prepared to vote Labour over the question of grants.

"But the first time youth voters are not going to be satisfied just with election promises by the Labour Party. Dave Nellist will be a major voice of Labour's youth in Parliament because he is closely involved with the LPYS.

Young workers are at the fore. Even at the pensioners rally of over 300, where Michael Foot and Rod Fitch spoke which really launched the campaign, over 25 people signed up to help in the campaign, including 5 aged under 26. All told, well over 50 young people have already signed up to help in the campaign. Unemployed youth have been coming into the Labour rooms, offering to help.

Kemptown "Youth for Labour" meetings have been organised every Friday at 8 pm. Over 25 attended the first meeting, organised at 4 days notice. The local LPYS is confident of attracting scores of new members in the next fortnight and building the Young Socialists.

## BRIGHTON

**THE YOUTH campaign in Brighton Kemptown is well under way. The Labour Party have produced a special youth leaflet and a letter to young voters from Labour's candidate—Rod Fitch.**

All the public meetings have a youth speaker on the platform. Three LPYS members spent 2 full days going through electoral registers for the last four years, to get a full list of all first time voters. Over the next week we plan to deliver a letter and newsleaflet personally and discuss with all young people why they should vote for Labour's socialist candidate.

The election campaign is now gathering momentum.

By Willie Griffin

## Mass Canvasses

### BRIGHTON KEMPTOWN

Canvass 4/5 June. Meet at Labour Party Headquarters, 179 Lewes Road, Brighton. 10.30 am.

Rally Sunday 5 June at the Dome, Brighton 2.30 pm. Speakers: Moss Evans, Rod Fitch, plus others. On polling day report to LP HQ as above.

### COVENTRY S.E.

Canvass on Sunday 5 June. Assemble by 10.30 am at Ward HQs: St Michaels Ward, 30 Coundon Road; Cheylesmore Ward, Cheylesmore Community Centre, Arundel Road; Lower Stoke Ward, Pinley Community Centre, The Moorfield, Stoke Aldermoor; Binley and Willenhall Ward, The Chase Infant School, Willenhall. On polling day report to ward HQs.

### LIVERPOOL BROAD GREEN

Canvass Saturday 4/ Sunday 5 June. Meet at ward HQs. Saturday 4 June 10 am for canvassing and street activity into the afternoon. Sunday 5 June 10.30 am for canvassing until 4 pm.

Tuebrook Ward, 2, Lower Breck Road, Liverpool 6; Kensington Ward, NUR Club, Deane Road, Liverpool 7; Broad Green Ward, 24 Pilch Lane, Liverpool 11; Childwall Ward, 29 Abbeystead Road, Liverpool 15; Old Swan Ward, 85 Fitzgerald Road, Liverpool 13.

Liverpool District Labour Party Rally. Saturday 4 June. 7.00 pm. Arthur Scargill and Liverpool candidates at St Georges Hall, Lime Street.

On polling day report to allocated ward HQs or ring Central Committee Rooms on 051-264 9116.

### BERMONDSEY

Especially need help in Abbey Ward. Canvassers go to 3 Eastwell House, Weston Street, SE.1. 6pm every evening. All offers of help ring 01-237 3457.

### BRISTOL EAST

Saturday 4 June 11.00am: Youth Rally at Transport House, Victoria Street, Bristol. Speakers: Tony Benn, Matt Reed (LPYS NC). 1.30-5.00pm: mass canvass. For further details of canvassing contact Transport House.

### TYNEMOUTH

All offers of help to: Robin Jamieson at Labour Party Rooms, 14 Saville Street, North Shields. Tel: North Shields 581584.

### NEWCASTLE CENTRAL

All offers of help to Jonathan Upton at Committee Rooms, NUPE Offices, Southend, Fernwood Road, Jesmond. Tel: Newcastle 814217.

### STOCKTON SOUTH

All offers of help to Committee Rooms. Tel: (0642) 552277.

### LANGBAURGH

All offers of help to Committee Rooms. Tel: Guisborough 38267.



# TRADE UNIONISTS FIGHT FOR LABOUR

**IN MANY areas the trade union movement has come to the aid of the Labour Party.**

Factory meetings have gone extremely well. At **Lucas Aerospace**, Bradford, over 40 workers attended the meeting chaired by Walter Rendell, senior shop steward. Pat Wall said, "Working here I'm sure many of you must be worried about Labour's proposed defence cuts, let me give you a further pledge. Before any cuts are made, before any worker becomes redundant, I will fight to ensure that alternative, useful and necessary work is found."

At the meeting at **GEC Chornduary**, chaired by Ken Butler the deputy convenor, Pat Wall addressed over 50 workers.

He said, "If this meeting had been held a year ago 600 more workers would have been present because that's the number of redundancies you have suffered in the last twelve months."

Repeating his pledge only to accept the the wage of a skilled worker, Pat joked, to much laughter from the workers, "I appeal to you to push your shop stewards, go for a higher wage settlement because as your wage goes up so will mine."

Factory meetings are being arranged in other areas too. At a plant in the **Renolds chain in Manchester** one shop steward said, "We need to get Thatcher out because if she gets in again we're really in it. She's stamping on the workers' heads—even the miners. It will be great if we have a factory gate meeting. We'll leaflet and get all the workers there."

## Donations roll in for Bradford North Labour Party

A young gas worker walked into the **Bradford North** campaign headquarters the other day and he asked if he could make a donation to the campaign fund. He left, after handing over a cheque £20 from **Bradford bus workers**, and 60 **Labour Party** members donated £250.

Donations for the campaign have been £10 from the **British Pensioners Trade Union Action Association**, £20 from Bradford bus workers, and 60 **Labour Party** members donated £250.

At the first public meeting £35 was raised, £400 from **SOGAT** members and £100 from Pat Wall's **ASTMS** branch, plus countless smaller individual donations.

In **Brighton** donations from the labour movement to Labour are also pouring in.

£375 was donated by **SOGAT**. **GMBATU** have pledged full support. And the **POEU** and the **UCW** have formed a Joint Campaign Committee to fight for Rod Fitch the candidate who

**By Militant Reporters**

supports their struggle against privatisation.

Also the **NHS** unions along with the **AUEW** (who have donated £200) have set up Campaign Committees.

There have also been very large donations from individuals in the party. One pensioner has donated £100 and two members of the party have donated £200 each. £20s and £5s are beginning to flood in, with many personal messages of support to Rod.

Many of the older party members have had to think very hard to remember when they have had such a mood developing within the constituency for victory. One stalwart in the party—**Nobby Clark**—who's first in every morning—reckons that we're on a winner and with others is prepared to put money on Rod.

## Tory attitude to young and old

Similarly in **Coventry**, pensioners have been to the fore in support for a socialist Labour candidate. At the Coventry branch meeting of the **British Pensioners and Trade Union Action Association** the candidate, **Dave Nellist**, debated with his Tory opponents.

Questions were taken from the floor. "What about the death grants," was the first question, "thirty pounds is nowhere near enough."

The Tory candidate replied "It's all a question of priorities..." At this glib answer a large part of the audience rose to their feet in anger, with one pensioner threatening to lynch him! It was pointed out that by the time the Tory priorities get around to death grants (payments to relatives to ensure a decent funeral) it will no longer be applicable to many of those present!

The Tory's attempt to prove that pensions under Thatcher had gone up faster than prices, had the pensioners on their feet again. "Where do you shop?" "What about our gas and electricity bills and food?"

**Dave Nellist** commits himself to supporting the pensioners' "declaration of intent" for a single person equivalent to one third of the average earnings and a married pension equal to one half. He urged the pensioners' movement to help him push a Labour government to introduce it as soon as it is elected.

As for the Tory hopeful in **Coventry South East**, **Dave Nellist** said, "The Tory candidate's opening statements on the death grant was a matter of priorities—he captures the Tory attitude to workers young and old.



A worker collects for Labour Party campaign funds at a factory gate meeting at a Renold factory in Bradford, in support of the Labour candidate Pat Wall. Photo: Militant

**Pat Wall** Labour candidate for **Bradford North**, and **Max Madden** candidate for **Bradford West**, addressed an open air lunch time meeting of 150 workers at **Carter Gears**, part of **Renold**. Women and children from the surrounding estate and and passers-by joined the crowd.

Over a 100 hospital workers and more listened from the hospital windows

as Labour candidates **Bob Cryer** and **Pat Wall** in **Bradford** spoke on the need to ensure a Labour victory on **June 9** to defend the **NHS**, Labour's greatest achievement ever.

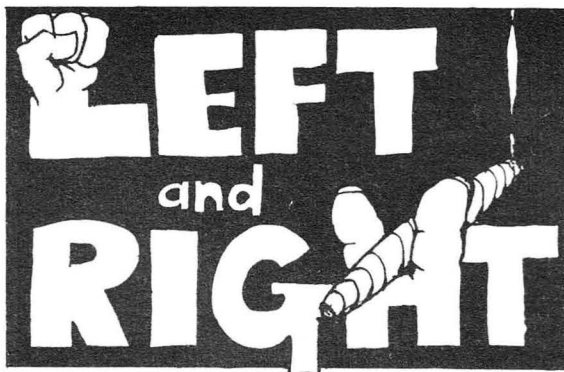
At the very same time as this meeting took place, **Thatcher** herself was eating fish and chips in a shop just outside the hospital.

A hospital cleaner, her job now at the mercy of a

private contractor, was cheered when she shouted out, "I hope they choke her!"

**Kevin Mullins**, a shop steward in the hospital, explained to the workers how lucky they were that it was such a sunny day, since the hospital management had refused to allow the meeting to take place inside. He said, "so much for democracy and freedom of speech."

At **Renold, Thornbury, 90** workers gathered at the factory gates and dozens more listened from the windows to **Pat Wall** during their dinner break. The reception was excellent. Proving once again that despite the lies and distortions of the capitalist press, socialist ideas once explained will win the mass enthusiastic support of working people.



## 'Communist' supports NATO

The **Communist Party of Britain** states in its Manifesto its opposition to nuclear arms in Britain and to **NATO**. But their paper the *Morning Star* quotes without comment the Italian Communist Party leader, **Enrico Berlinguer's** statement in favour of **NATO**: "The Atlantic shield helps avoid the imposition of a regime in Italy like the one in power in the Warsaw Pact countries" he claimed.

Until a few years ago, of course, Western 'Communist' Parties supported the type of undemocratic regimes found in Eastern Europe and Russia. The only real defence against Stalinism is the fight for workers' democracy in the Stalinist states and the fight for socialism in the capitalist countries. **NATO** defends no-one but the ruling class. **Berlinguer's** statement is one more confirmation of **Trotsky's** prediction nearly sixty years ago that Stalin's theory of "socialism in one country" would lead to the "nationalist degeneration" of the Communist Parties with each of them supporting the interests of their own country's capitalist class.

## A Mars a day...

The press have been claiming that the Tories have a 12% lead in the **Black Country**, with up to 30% of the unemployed solid in support for **Mrs Thatcher**. However, a short letter in the *Wolverhampton*

*Express* from unemployed worker **Kevin Law** showed the real attitude of unemployed workers in this area: "I am writing to tell you and your readers of my plan to build **Wolverhampton's** first space shuttle to take me and the other unemployed to **Mars**, in search of a job.

"If **Thatcher** gets in power again, we'll stand more chance of a job on **Mars** and perhaps even some employed will come with us. So bring some sandwiches and flasks."

## Home rule for Grimsby

The **SDP** seem to have very little to offer, if you go by their election addresses. One such example is **Paul Genney**, **SDP** candidate for **Grimsby**. Half the leaflet is taken up with his personal details. Not only is he a barrister and a dentist, he tells us he is also a founder of the **British Fisherman's Association** (what the law and dentistry have to do with fishing he doesn't quite explain). He is also **National Bridge Champion** for 1982—just the qualifications you want to understand the needs of the **Grimsby** working class. His policies are very few but he does pledge to defend **Grimsby** from the "oppression from **Hull**."

## 'I wanna go home'

Remember those days a year or so ago when "Labour was finished" and the only hope for the working class was the **SDP**? Ah, nostalgia! Well those days are well and truly gone and perhaps realising this, **SDP** councillor (formerly **Labour**) **Ray Millerchip** in **Birmingham** wants to rejoin the **Labour Party**. He says of the **SDP**, "A lot of the policies they were putting forward were already in operation and others simply weren't possible. I don't think the **Alliance** is going to make any impression in **Birmingham**..."



# Election campaign round-up

## Brighton campaign

THE JOKE among canvassers in Brighton Kemp-town before the FA final was that judging by the posters on people's windows, the election was between Labour and the 'Seagulls'!

Before Brighton and Hove Albion's sad defeat, cup fever gripped the town. The Labour Party Young Socialists took part in the occasion by producing a special leaflet titled 'Show Maggie the Red Card'.

About a dozen YS members met at 8 am last Saturday to distribute the leaflet as fans left from the Goldstone football ground. The response was mixed.

On the one side a large number of fans welcomed the leaflet—having a good laugh at the cartoon. One sign of our support was when we leafletted the Manor Hill estate later that morning. One woman put up



Brighton Kemp-town Labour candidate Rod Fitch shows Michael Foot around a hospital hit by Tory cuts

a leaflet slap-bang in the middle of her window, which was plastered with blue Seagulls posters, scarfs and pennants.

On the other hand a number of fans at the football ground met us with cries of, "Don't you ever give up? Football has nothing to do with politics". It was only afterwards we found out that most of the fans with cup final tickets were season

ticket holders. But how many low-paid or unemployed workers can afford season tickets?

Even in the allocation of cup final tickets the class nature of society was shown up. On the ITV cup final show they had a celebrities' bar inside the stadium, with Jimmy Tarbuck and Rod Stewart, who only come to Brighton for a few hours every year.

## Why I'm a Socialist

JOHN MUTTON, shop steward at the City Engineers, gave his reasons for joining the Labour Party and supporting Dave Nellist in Coventry South East:

"It was when I worked as a senior stock-man on a farm. Seeing the farmer in a Range Rover and the farm-hands in beat-up Vauxhalls I saw that things were wrong. But it was not until I went to the City Engineers that I became actively involved.

"The conditions there were deteriorating and I realised that something must be done or things would rapidly get worse. Because of my involvement in trade union activity I realised that other aspects of life were tied up in it.

"The cuts over the last five years have meant that from 172 on the shop floor we have gone down to 151 with 21 dust carts instead of 41—and we have to do 6,000 more properties.

"In the same period senior management had doubled from four to eight.

"When we had a dispute other sections of the council workers backed us, but when we asked our trade union officials to print some leaflets and posters they said it would take a fortnight. One person who did help us was Dave Nellist, who got a load of leaflets printed for us overnight.

"When my mate who has voted Tory all his life found that Dave Nellist was standing in his constituency, he assured me that he would vote Labour for someone who would stick his neck out for the workers. I think that kind of attitude, although not prevalent amongst all workers, indicates that honest fighters will be supported.

"Workers are not getting the full benefits of their labour. Someone else is getting it. The only way that I can see workers benefiting is by workers' control and management. Have a say in their destiny, and stop the profits being used for the rich to get fatter and lazier."

Report by Clive Heemsker

## Keep on walking, Dick!

WHEN giving out Labour posters the other day some LPYS comrades came upon the Smartly Dressed Party, in the form of Labour renegade Richard Crawshaw MP, giving out his election address.

His leaflet explained he was the official Liberal/SDP Alliance candidate for Liverpool Broad Green. He even quotes an extract from a letter to the chairman of the Liverpool Liberal Party from David Steel and Roy Jenkins saying, "so far as we are concerned Dick Crawshaw is the Alliance candidate for Broad Green." Unfortunately for Dicky, Richard Pine and some of the local Liberals don't agree

and are standing against him.

The leaflet stands out as lacking in raising politics whatsoever. Instead of listing his policies, the leaflet lists Dick Crawshaw's hobbies. "Hobbies include free-fall parachuting and long distance walking. He once held the world record for non-stop walking 255 miles. Has raised £35,000 for charity in a long distance walk."

As one elector said, "the last thing he did was a sponsored walk across the floor of the House of Commons!"

"The Tories have really been shown to be hypocritical over the NEDC reports. My husband used to be a docker, he's been unemployed for three years. When he left, there were five hundred men working with him. Now there are only fifty left. What we need in Broad Green is a Labour representative who will fight for ordinary working people."

—Housewife in Childwall

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A word from the opposition in Liverpool Broad Green. Tory canvasser: "People shouldn't be educated if there aren't any jobs for them. Besides, many of them don't deserve jobs and they get enough to live on on social security."

Liberal canvasser: "I don't think anything of our candidate and in fact Labour's campaign is good and I won't blame voters voting for Labour."

"I don't know what will happen if the Tories get back in, if Thatcher wins, you might as well close Liverpool down. It's already like a ghost town. Just look at what happened at Tate and Lyle and Meccano.

"The papers go on about Militant infiltrating, being a threat to democracy. The real traitors have always been the established figures like Anthony Blunt. I'll be voting Labour as I have done for the last fifty years."

—Pensioner in Childwall, Broad Green

## BRADFORD

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"An unemployed mate of mine climbed up a pole to raise money for charity, he had to stay there for as long as he could, and you know what? His dole was stopped because he was unavailable

for work. The Tories have got to go!"

—Unemployed graduate

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"I think it's about time Labour spokesmen really took the Tories on over taxes. The other day we were told that if Labour wins the general election we will lose our tax concessions, well the truth is very different.

"In 1979 I had £19 stopped out of my wages. With the so-called Tory tax concessions, four years later with the same size wage, £29 is stopped.

"They not only take more tax out your wage packet, but there's tax on petrol, tax on beer and there's double VAT. The Labour leaders should really expose the Tories on this."

—Jack Barrols, Idle Ward

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"Pat Wall, he's a good bloke. He must be if the local paper goes on at him all the time."

—woman on Green Gates estate

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"We're Labour" Canvasser: "Then why have you got an SDP poster in your window?" Reply: "I'll kill her, it's my bloody daughter winding us up!"

—worker in Ravenscliffe

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The opposition to Labour in Bradford must know something Labour doesn't. One anti-Labour man canvassed claimed he had 'voted SDP all his life'!

## What their papers say

You would have thought that with manufacturing trade going into the red for the first time since the industrial revolution, it would be a newsworthy item. But not when the bosses control the press and there's a Tory government in power facing a general election. The day following the announcement of the trade deficit (May 28) the *Daily Mail*, *Daily Mirror*, *Times* and *Daily Express* all leapt upon the "IRA Jackal" as their main story, while the *Daily Telegraph* declared "Thatcher out for bumper win". The *Guardian* carried the same story. True to form the *Star* and *Sun* ignored Britain's manufacturing collapse and went for more juicier titbits. The *Star* had a strange tale about "Hippy guards" while the *Sun* carried a headline "Naughty" and told the enthralling story of a young man (yawn) who was told off for kissing Lady Di... (zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz). Coverage for the economic story rated little over four column inches in any of the press. If a Labour government had been in power of course, we would still be hearing about this economic disaster now.

However, sometimes the truth is so bad that the Fleet Street papers have to report it. At least some of them. The recent devastating report on Tory economic policies by the National Economic Development Council was correctly described by the *Daily Mirror* as: "Gloomy report slams claims of recovery". Even the *Daily Express* admitted—at least by Tory reckoning—that it would be a "Bumpy road ahead to recovery". Not so the *Daily Mail*. They just couldn't face the truth. Their headline to their version of the story read, "Britain is on the up and up!"

The *Daily Mail* has gone completely OTT in this election not even being satisfied with their usual biased reports. Instead the paper has become a virtual alternative to *Conservative Newline*, the official Tory party newspaper. This has not been without resistance however. At a meeting of the *Daily Mail* office chapel (branch) of the NUI a vote carried by 6 to 1 condemned the editorial stance taken by the paper.

The Tory press are upset about the mass turnouts at meetings addressed by Michael Foot. As far as they are concerned it has nothing to do with the groundswell of support for Labour. No, according to the *Daily Express* (28 May), the packed halls that greet Michael Foot are because "...the meetings tend to be made up of loyal Labour supporters, and many of those flock to see him have come to get themselves on TV". So now we know.

## ELECTION '83



## ON THE DOORSTEP

### LIVERPOOL

One man, in Tuebrook in Broad Green, said, "We need to get Thatcher out. My wife and I were supposed to be going on holiday on 5 June, but we're putting them off a week so we can vote against her. We're voting for Terry Fields."

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City Council employees in Liverpool Broad Green have been sticking election bills to lamp posts for the Labour candidate, Terry Fields, while they work sweeping the roads. One worker told the *Liverpool Daily Post*, "Terry's a good working class man. All the senior stewards have decided to go around canvassing for him."

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# Tory Defence Priorit

**Every family in the country will on average be paying £20 in taxes every week this year to finance the Tories' military plans.**

The £16,000 million spent on the military is one-third more than that spent on education. Since the Tories came into office they have lavished money on 'defence' and cut back on social expenditure.

Real military spending has risen by 23%, while that on housing has fallen by 55%, and that devoted to education by 6%.

Before the end of this century, if current trends are maintained, Britain will have stockpiled warheads containing ten tons of TNT for every man, woman and child in the country.

And what will they be defending? An industrial wasteland and mass poverty. Already the Tories have doubled the numbers living in 'official' poverty over the last four years; seven million people are now getting supplementary benefit.

## Arms manufacturers profit

What is the Tories' answer? It was given by Chancellor Geoffrey Howe in his mini-budget of November 1981: "We are doing something to help this country. We are spending more on defence."

About the only people to benefit from this 'help' have been the arms manufacturers. Even before the Falklands war, their shares were on the rise.

Since the war their value has rocketed, with speculators anticipating the rich pickings to be made from replacing ships, planes and military equipment. For example, Plessey's have seen their shares rise on the Stock Exchange from 383 on the day the Argentine junta invaded the Falklands, to their current price of 645.

Arms manufacturers never lose a war. British Aerospace and Phillips UK make key parts of the French missile Exocet, and have profited from the increase in orders after the sinking of the Sheffield and Atlantic Conveyor.

The defence and arms industry is the largest in the country and is subsidised at taxpayers' expense. £6,000 million out of the 'defence' budget goes directly to the arms manufacturers.

A Commons Committee has discovered that

By Colin Barber

over £75 million in 'excess' profit was made by arms manufacturers last year. In the limited number of cases they studied, they found one manufacturer who was making 176% profit on one order alone. It is a colossal waste of talent and resources. Over 50% of the country's scientists work in the defence industry.

The Tories have tried to ring the alarm bells over defence jobs, but they have thrown jobs away. Their expenditure on new weaponry has not led to new jobs. Since 1979 their policies have resulted in 50,000 job losses in the Ministry of Defence and associated industries. About 10,000 Royal Navy personnel received their redundancy notices as the Fleet sailed to the Falklands.

The Tories have also tried to play on workers' genuine desire to protect their lives, their families and livelihood. But who seriously thinks that the Soviet leadership is casting envious eyes on Western Europe? Do they really want to take on another 250 million people, including some of the most militant, democratically organised and powerful workers in the world?

The totalitarian regimes in the East have enough trouble holding down their own workers, like in Poland, without adding to their burdens. Any attempt to keep the working class of Western Europe in check would result in mass opposition that would threaten the bureaucracy's rule inside the Soviet Union itself.

## Best form of defence

But if workers consider that 'defence' is necessary, then there should at least be something worth defending. Workers have no interest in protecting a system that puts 3 million on the dole, that allows old people to die of hypothermia, that throws its youth on the scrap heap, that leaves the vast majority of all wealth and economic power in private hands. A socialist system would be worth defending.

Moreover, it would offer hope to workers



everywhere: it would completely undermine the grip that the bureaucracy has on the Russian workers. Their excuses for maintaining large armaments would carry no weight. A socialist Britain would act as a catalyst to the spreading of socialism internationally.

If a defence industry is necessary, then it should be nationally owned and utilised genuinely for the national interest. The industry should not be a private goldmine for a handful of millionaire shareholders.

The defence industries should be nationalised, under workers' control and management: they should be integrated and harmonised with other related industries like engineering, shipbuilding and electronics and in this way production can be switched from armaments to socially useful products without any loss in jobs or worsening of workers' conditions.

COST	TORIES' CHOICE	A
£2,500m	= One 'Trident' Submarine	= £1 ben
£180m	= One Type 42 Destroyer	= Eigh
£8m	= One Harrier Jump Jet	= Sixt
£3m	= One Lynx Helicopter	= 120
£100,000	= Salary three Generals	= Sal
£7,000	= One anti-tank missile	= One

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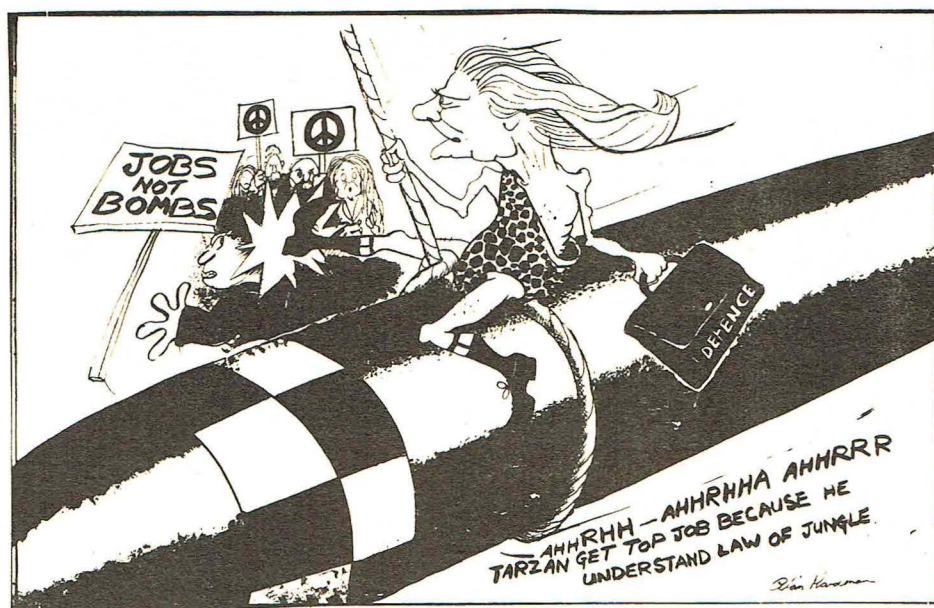


**TERNATIVE**

**week on all child  
 fits for 5 years**  
**new District Hospitals**  
**ten new primary schools**  
**new council homes**  
**y ten teachers**  
**teen nurses**  
**kidney machine**

**Militant**  
**STANDS FOR**

1. Cancel Trident. Use the £8,000 million saved to finance a massive programme of useful public works.
2. For a massive reduction in arms spending. Re-equip the yards and factories affected to produce alternative products as part of a plan of production.
3. Nationalise the entire armaments industry under workers' control and management with compensation on the basis of proven need, to abolish war profiteering and to enable the planning of alternative production.
4. Ban Cruise from Britain and link up with the labour movements of Belgium, Holland, Denmark and West Germany to mount an international campaign.
5. For unilateral nuclear disarmament.
6. Support Labour councils which refuse to take part in hood-winking the people through civil defence exercises designed for nuclear war planning. Use the cash instead to carry out propaganda against the arms race.
7. Trade union rights for service personnel, the right to form democratic soldiers' committees to deal with welfare, the abolition of courts martial and the right of servicemen to refuse to be used to break strikes. The right to leave the armed forces after the normal period of notice required in civilian life.
8. No limitations on the trade union rights of junior defence civil servants, and labour movement control over military bases.



**Smear campaign on CND**  
**worthy of Goebbels** By Lynn Walsh

**Under Thatcher's orders, the Foreign Office and Ministry of Defence are engaged in "the most concentrated government propaganda campaign to be launched in Britain in peace time." And this comes from the Tory Sunday Telegraph.**

The Tory leadership has been shaken by the growing protest against the build up of nuclear weapons, and especially the decision to buy Trident and allow Cruise missiles to be sited here.

**Dirty tricks**

When Heseltine moved to the Ministry of Defence he set up a special department (known as DS19) to counter CND and the anti-cruise missile campaign and to justify the Tories' £16,000 million a year defence policies.

Imagine the howls of protest from Fleet Street and the Tories if a Labour government launched a similar official campaign, using public funds, to explain the need for an extra £16,000 million to be spent on schools, hospitals, housing and welfare services!

However, "this burgeoning Whitehall apparatus of political persuasion" (as the *Sunday Telegraph* puts it) is only part of it. Running parallel is the Tories' own propaganda machine, based on the Tory Central Office and run by Harvey Thomas and Winston Churchill.

In the last few months, it has become clear that the Tories' anti-CND campaign has been working hand in hand with the so-called Coalition for Peace through Security (CPS). This is undoubtedly a propaganda machine worthy of Dr Goebbels and has resorted to a number of dirty tricks.

Churchill vehemently denies that the Tories are involved in the CPS's campaign to smear CND. They have had to admit, however, that Tory Central Office distributes CPS material. And Churchill does not hesitate to justify their ultra-

right arguments.

CPS has been most conspicuous for trailing aerial banners, with slogans like "Kremlin sends congratulations", across peace movement demonstrations. Accompanying the pilot on some of these flights has been Julian Lewis, one of CPS's main organisers. Lewis is better known to Labour Party members for his disruptive use of writs and legal action to try to prevent Newham NE Labour Party from democratically de-selecting Reg Prentice, who subsequently went over to the Tories.

In this general election, Lewis is standing as Tory candidate in Swansea West.

In its campaign to discredit and smear CND, CPS has used some scurrilous methods.

CPS has churned out leaflets claiming that CND are "Communists, Neutralists, Defeatists," using the CND logo with the peace symbol altered to represent a hammer and sickle. Crude stuff.

**Crude forgery**

Even cruder was the smear campaign in the West Region. CND activists received copies of what purported to be a letter on Soviet Embassy notepaper from the assistant naval attaché, Captain Georgi Machkovsky, to Dan Plesch, the CND West Region organiser. It congratulated CND and expressed "a special admiration for the skilful way in which you gloss over topics which reflect badly on the USSR..."

The letter was a crude forgery. CPS leader, Holihan, denied any Coalition involvement in the hoax, but defended it as a legitimate form of political comment, "good tongue-in-cheek British humour."

The "Coalition" has undoubtedly been involved in a campaign against Mgr Bruce Kent, CND's general secretary. In March, Kent was warned by Cardinal Hume that he might have to step down if CND became too "political". This warning, however, was followed by a vicious attack on Kent by Mgr Bruno Heim, the Pope's ambassadorial representative in Britain.

In March 1982 the CPS invited British industrialists, military figures and right-wing Conservatives to a conference on "American campaigning techniques...fund-raising and opinion-forming". In a letter to company directors appealing for support, David Trippier MP, who chaired the Tory back-bench Defence Committee, said:

"The Coalition For Peace Through Security is bringing to this country some of the key figures whose mastery of these new methods helped ensure victory for the Republican Party in the contest for the control of the White House and the Senate..."

**Following Reagan's lead**

Speakers included a serving US State Department official and six other US speakers who had worked in right-wing lobbying campaigns.

The conference was funded by a Foundation which is never short of a few hundred thousand dollars to finance right-wing political campaigns.

The Tories are determined to continue Britain's so-called "independent nuclear deterrent". In reality, it is entirely dependent on US weaponry and US policy. The Tories' defence policies are subordinated to worldwide strategic interests of American capitalism, to which British big business is increasingly subservient.

Unable to admit the real interests they seek to defend, the Tories are concentrating on trying to smear the opponents of their nuclear policies. As their military policies have fallen into line with the Reaganite policies of American capitalism, the Tories have opened the door to ruthless, Reaganite methods of propaganda borrowed from the extreme right-wing representatives of American big business.

And there can be no doubt that the importation of these methods has been helped by substantial funds from the mysteriously financed Foundations which never spare any expense in promoting the interests of the American ruling class throughout the world.



# FRANCE

As part of their election propaganda, the Tories have been pointing hypocritically at the rioting and the economic crisis in France, claiming that "socialist policies" have caused them.

In this article our Paris correspondent explains the real background to the turbulent events in France over the last few weeks, and outlines the *real* lessons that workers in Britain need to draw.

IN THE first united demonstration of the French working class movement for 4 years, May Day saw a magnificent display of the power and vitality of organised labour.

120,000 workers took to the streets. From La Gare de L'Est to La Place de la Bastille, workers showed their defiance of the hated 'patronat' the French 'CBI'—the handful of millionaires who are dismantling the economy in the interest of profit.

The mood was militant, confident and determined, and workers sang the 'Internationale'. In their various chants and slogans, they rejected racialism, rejected 'austerity' as a solution to the crisis and demand instead that "the bosses must pay!"

## May Day ignored by press

This great demonstration, together with its red flags, banners, regalia and singing, was marked in the pages of the capitalist press by only a few sarcastic comments. The headlines and TV coverage concentrated their attention upon a small rally of about 200 reactionaries organised by the PRR (the main capitalist party) with the participation of a number of small extreme right-wing cliques. Intended as a 'counter-demonstration' to the workers' march, this event was a complete flop.

Two days later, on 3 May, the PRR together with the SNPMI (Small Employers Organisation) called a "General Strike" of shopkeepers and small businessmen as a 'warning' to the government. At the same time, the right-wing students at universities in Paris (Malakoff, Sorbonne) organised another demonstration.

## Right-wing students

Again, the turnout was derisory. The bulk of the demonstration was not, as the press claimed in France and abroad, "the ordinary man in the street", but what the French workers call "La Jeunesse Dorée" (the "gilded youth").

Very few shopkeepers responded to the call, unless they were obliged to do so. In fact, the 'local independent, shopkeeper' who the right-wing claim to represent, is a largely mythical figure in modern times.

The capitalist paper, *Le Monde*, recently revealed how the vast majority of

Parisian corner shops are in fact owned and controlled by the big chain-store networks. On 3 May orders were given from above to the shopkeepers to close on that day.

The arrogant, rowdy and contemptuous upper-class youth on the demo were spoiling for a fight. Insulting the police and by-standers, the extreme-right riff-raff among them were hoping to spark off some incident which might give their miserable parade some notoriety. The police were attacked. A small riot broke out, quickly dispersed by the police.

Jacques Chirac, the PRR leader and the Mayor of Paris, said afterwards that he thought the violence was 'unfortunate', but an "understandable expression of popular (!) discontent with the left-wing government."

Again, on 11 May, the upper-class students marched again. What was particularly noticeable on this occasion was the lack of sympathy of by-standers for the demonstrators, who were opposed to the government's reform of the education system.

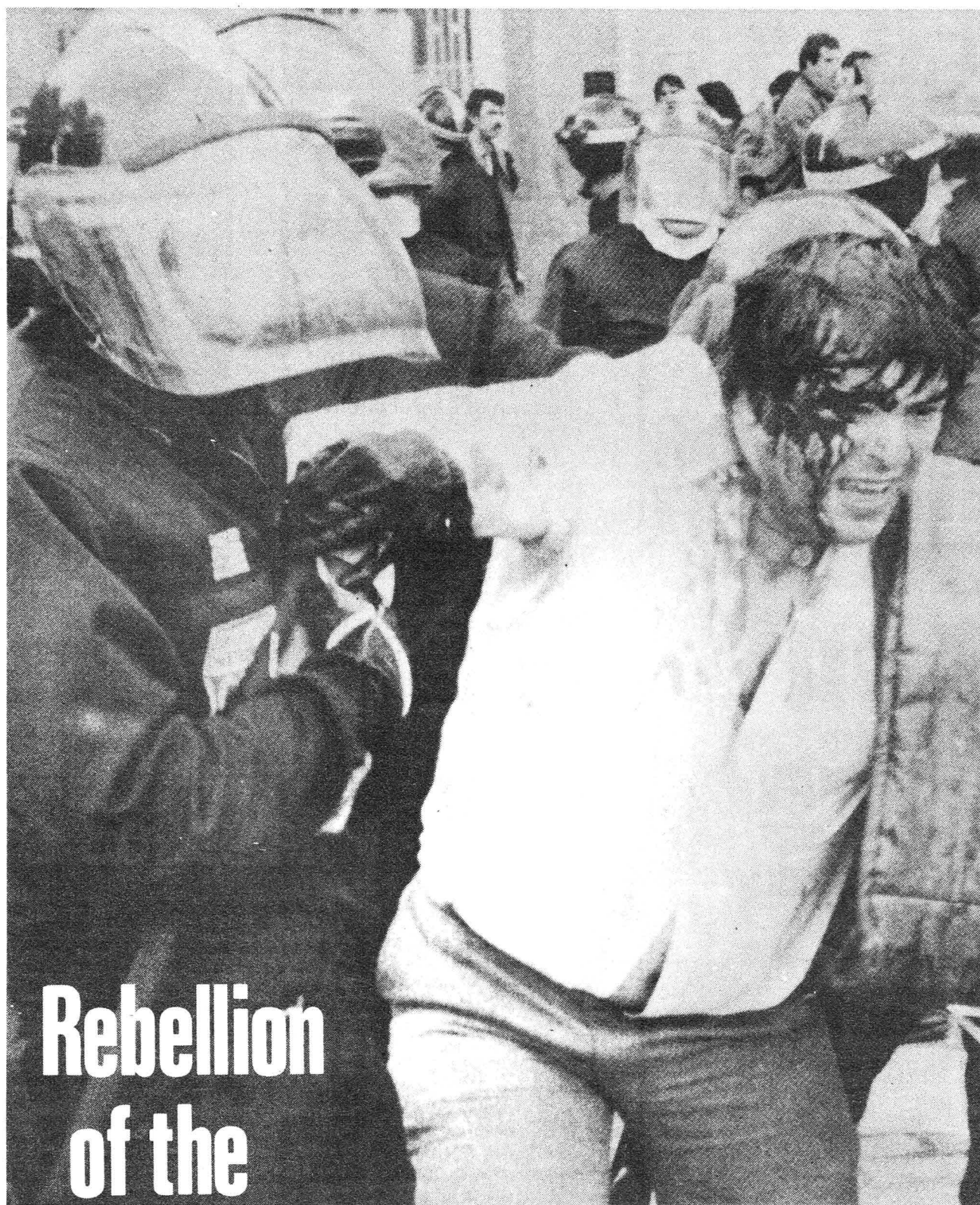
At Montparnasse, as the demonstration filed past, a group of women, by no means working class in appearance, shouted to the marchers, "you can talk! Your place is assured!"

At the time of the Popular Front in the 1930s, the ruling class had massive Fascist leagues, comprising hundreds of thousands of members. The Latin quarter of Paris, with its student population, was a stronghold of the extreme right.

Today, the majority of students are sympathetic to the workers' organisations. If the recent demonstrations show anything, it is the extreme weakness of the right in modern France.

However, whilst it is necessary to put these recent events in their proper context, it would be foolish to ignore their symptomatic importance. The recent municipal elections showed a significant shift to the right. Many workers, disappointed with the results of 2 years of the Socialist-Communist government, did not turn out to vote.

Far from carrying out the "socialist transformation of society" they spoke about before coming to power, the leaders of the left government have not even succeeded in raising the average standard of living of the workers. After an initial period of reforms, including higher wages, a 1-hour reduction of the working week, a fifth week of paid holidays and the nationalisa-



## Rebellion of the gilded youth

Vicious treatment by the police is not a new development in Paris, but the press have played up the attacks on right-wing youth to give the impression of a popular revolt against Mitterand.

★ Unemployment is now higher than at the time of the left victory in 1981.

★ Inflation is running at 12%.

★ Real wages are falling.

tion of 5 major monopolies, the Socialist-Communist Government has been forced into retreat.

The early reforms, welcome enough in themselves, did not deal with the root cause of the problem. In 1938 the CGT (Confederation Générale de Travail) trade union federation estimated that the French economy was effectively in the hands of 90 big industrialists. Today the levers of economic power are controlled by an even smaller minority.

Far from developing the economy, these big

monopolists are now systematically destroying industry. The decisive control of big monopoly capital remains a fundamental obstacle to all social and economic progress. While their power remains intact, even the most audacious policies of reform will sooner or later come to grief.

Having no perspective of breaking the power of big capitalists, the socialist government has obliged itself to mould its policies to suit their profit interests, as shown by the recent package of draconian 'austerity' measures.

The lesson for the British working class is clear. Any programme which is aimed at seriously improving the lot of working people and really solving the problem of mass unemployment, must include decisive measures against big business control of the economy.

From Philippe Roland in Paris

## SRI LANKA Narrow defeat for Marxist

THE RIGHT-WING United National Party of President JR Jayawardene won further election victories in the parliamentary by-elections and council elections held on 18 May in Sri Lanka.

However, Vasudeva Nanayakkara, one of the leaders of the Sri Lankan Nava Sama Samaja (New Socialist) Party, narrowly missed becoming an MP.

Vasudeva fought in the rural Eheliyagoda constituency which he represented in Parliament between 1970 and 1977. In 1970 he had been elected as a member of the old Lanka Sama Samaja Party, which he later left to help form the NSSP.

These 18 by-elections were in constituencies which had been defeated in last December's referendum on whether the next general election should be postponed until 1989. Like the referendum, this campaign was fought against an increasing background of police repression and attacks by UNP thugs on opposition supporters.

Vasudeva lost by 754 votes, the results being NSSP 23,174 votes, UNP 23,928 votes. But it is likely that this

result was determined by the fact that, at the beginning of the voting the NSSP polling agents were driven out of three polling stations by UNP thugs.

By 10 am, when the NSSP had been able to re-inforce its supporters and get its agents back inside these polling stations, apparently large numbers of people had voted. Clearly you could not have a free vote when thugs of one party are controlling some polling booths!

Overall the UNP won 14 of the 18 by-elections, losing 3 to the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (the main capitalist opposition party) and one seat to the MEP (a very small party which combines 'left' phrases with hostility to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority).

However the good vote for the NSSP shows the response it is possible to win for a clear revolutionary programme, and proves that the UNP's recent run of election victories has not crushed all opposition.

By a correspondent



# AUSTRALIA

## After Labour's honeymoon...

AUSTRALIA'S most powerful union leaders, heads of big business, and top politicians from both Federal and State parliaments, gathered for almost a week in a unique summit meeting in Canberra in April.

The purpose was to come to general agreement on the problems facing the Australian economy and attempt to get broad overall approval of the government's approach to dealing with them.

The delegates at the summit were presented with a paper containing projections of the Australian economy for the next three years and a series of different "scenarios", methods of tackling the problems, which were then discussed. However the change in the unemployment level, presently at 10%, offered by the three scenarios only ranged from a fall of about 1.5% to a rise of 2%.

As the *National Times* said, "...in all the material presented by the Government, the unions, the businessmen and the States, no solution was proposed which would make a major impact on unemployment."

The "scenario" favoured by the government seems to have won general agreement. It entails wages rises of 3 to 4 per cent this year followed by indexation, but would produce no reduction in unemployment over the next two years and only a slight fall in 1985-86.

The summit paper acknowledged that once someone was in a position of long-term unemployment it was very difficult for them to break out of it. It is estimated that there are nearly 260,000 Australians who have been registered unemployed for six months or more. The number of people receiving unemployment benefits for a period of six months continuously has increased almost 35 times since 1975!

The paper also said that the March 1983 unemployment rates were almost 30 per cent for female teenagers and nearly 25 per cent for male teenagers and were likely to increase. This appalling statistic alone underlines the need for the government to seriously re-think its policies.

Accepting this situation as something over which they have no influence, as they appear to do in the summit paper, is a damning indication of the shortcomings of the outlook of the 'Labour' administration.

In a telling statement, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Hayden speaking on the Labour Government's prices and incomes policy said, "If it fails the only alternative will be to revert to very tough fiscal and monetary measures."—in other words policies like those of Margaret Thatcher, which have proved so disastrous for Britain.

Bob Hawke, the Labour Prime Minister is a clever

and astute politician currently enjoying great popularity amongst Australian workers. However, it is obvious that this popularity will wane, particularly amongst the youth of the country, if the projections outlined in the summit paper are the best he can offer them.

Hawke gained a reputation in certain quarters during his years in the trade union movement as a "miracle worker", someone who could successfully settle industrial disputes when both sides seemed totally deadlocked. Indeed Hawke himself must be expecting a literal miracle if he believes that he can get a lasting agreement between the two fundamentally opposite sections of the community, the workers and big business, whose interests totally contradict one another.

### Conflicting interests

The cracks are beginning to show. Shortly after the summit the *Financial Review* in a front page story stated that, "Big business has thrown aside the consensus pretensions of the summit and is challenging the Federal Government's wage policy..."

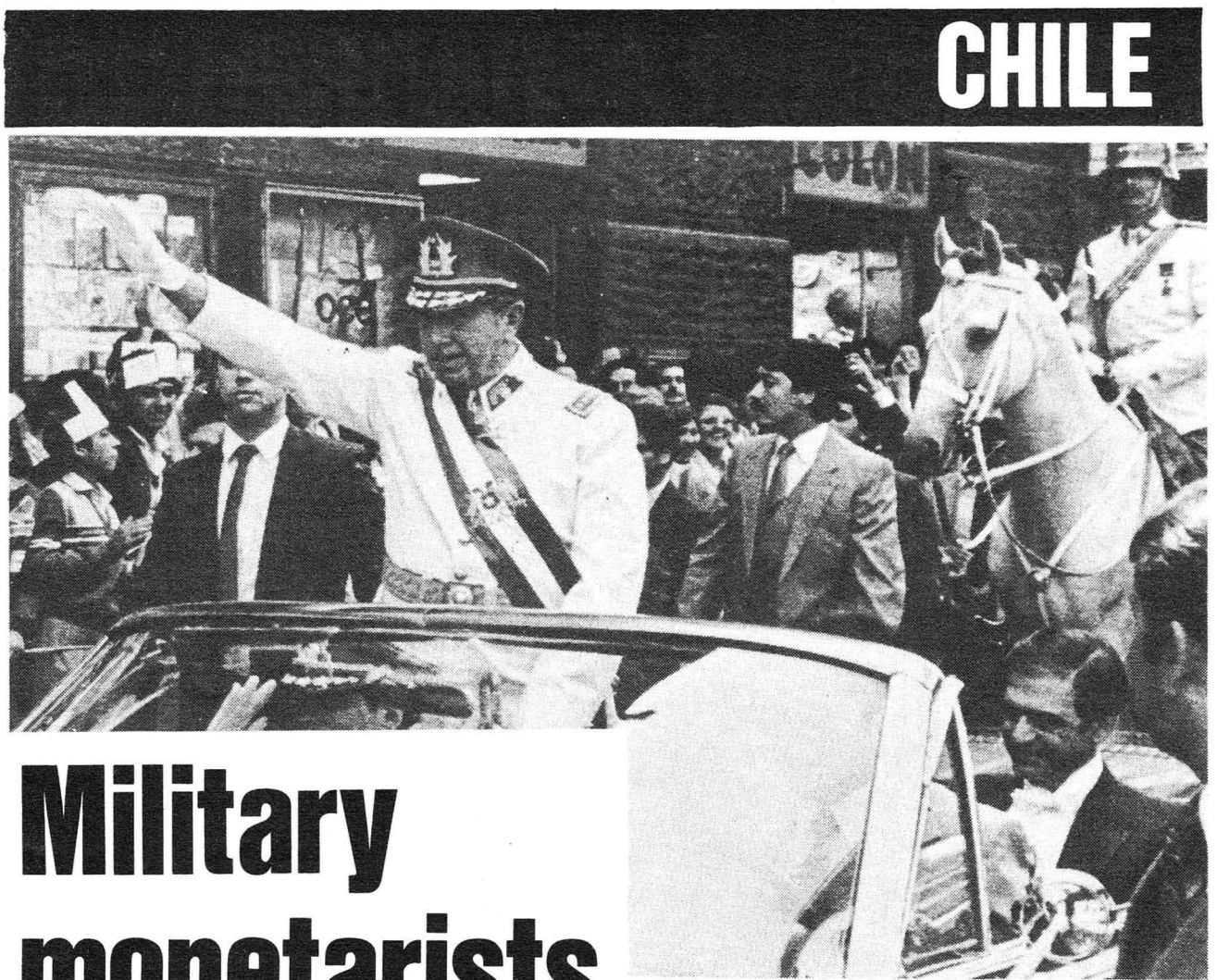
Meanwhile, the same newspaper also reported that "ACTU (Australian Congress of Trade Unions) officials and Government Ministers have spent an inordinate amount of time defending the policy and cajoling the Builders and Labourers Federation, the Electrical Trades Union and the Transport Workers Union to see the line. And this is in a recession, supposedly the easiest time to impose wage restraint."

A statement from 12 building unions expressed concern at the employers' stance saying, "They seek to change the document from one that is designed to protect the workers from the crisis into one that seeks to have the workers carry the main burden of the crisis."

The fundamental truth to the matter is that despite all the talk, under the present Labour Government the basic system remains—the capitalist system. And so clearly, despite the Government's undoubtedly good intentions, the summit unity will inevitably fall apart, the euphoria of Hawke's "honeymoon period" will disappear, and the basic conflicting interests of the workers and big business will become apparent again.

It will then be up to Hawke and the Labour Government, supposedly the representatives of the working class, to decide whose side they're really on.

By Paul True in Australia



President Pinochet. All the paraphernalia of stage managed welcomes in Chilean towns cannot hide the regime's growing isolation.

# Military monetarists have failed

**AFTER 10 years of monetarism the Pinochet regime in Chile is in deep trouble.**

By a Chilean socialist

Chile now has the biggest per capita debt in the world: US\$17 billion over 11 million inhabitants. There is an official figure of 32% unemployed; strict government control over the banks; hundreds of industries bankrupt; farmers owing nearly 90% of their assets, including this year's production, to the moneylenders; copper prices at a low point, etc.

All the organisations which only yesterday appeared to support the dictatorship have been decomposing.

Judges now try to justify their non-interference with the government's repression by what they call "judicial independence" from the actual process of repression. Generals now try to form links with the "democratic opposition". Right wing parties which supported the coup, like the National Party, are now mixing with the Christian Democrats and the more "moderate" labour groups like Proden (Pro-

ject for National Development).

These developments have accompanied the revival of the working class, totally undermining the Pinochet regime.

Earlier this year half the country (from Santiago to the south) was filled with people protesting publicly in big rallies and demonstrations. Many were detained, others sent into exile. On May Day there were clashes as well.

### Day of protest

This was followed by what has been reported as the biggest protest against the regime since the 1973 army takeover. 11 May was a day of protest throughout the country called by the Confederation of Copper Workers (CTC) against the regime's social and economic policies.

Originally the call was for a general strike, but the mobilisation of troops and police led the CTC leaders to call it off. But the workers' spirit of rebellion was still there. On 11 May the CTC workers kept silent while on their shifts, but workers everywhere went onto the streets to protest, to denounce and shout against the government.

### Government violence

The regime replied with its institutionalised violence. Hundreds were detained in football stadiums as troops raided the working class areas of Santiago. Many are being tried before military tribunals. Two youngsters were killed during the Santiago demonstrations, Victor Rodriguez Celis, aged 15, and Andres Feuntes Sepulveda, a

22-year-old taxi driver.

Not only were there protests in the working class areas; in middle-class circles, where the 1973 coup was originally welcomed, housewives protested with empty pots and pans while car drivers sounded their horns for 5 minutes at 9 pm.

The 11 May protest has been followed by the formation of the CNT (National Workers' Command) by trade union leaders calling for a return to democracy. The new organisation, including the copper miners and four other trade union federations, represents nearly all of Chile's organised labour and 30% of the total workforce.

The Chilean generals have failed. They have been unable to permanently crush the working class. Their monetarist economic policies have brought Chile to the brink of disaster and alienated their previous supporters.

### For a socialist Latin America

Now increasingly they are isolated in South America as even their brother generals in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Uruguay are retreating in the face of the working class. A revolution is already unfolding in Argentina as shown by the 40,000-strong demonstration against the junta in Buenos Aires on 20 May. The recent events in Chile show that Chile is not far behind. Great opportunities will open up in the coming period to overthrow capitalism once and for all and to establish the traditional aim of the Chilean Socialists of a Socialist Federation of Latin America.



Christian Democratic Party president Gabriel Valdés one of the signatories of the so-called "democratic manifesto" by the "liberal" capitalist opposition coalition PRODEN.



# EAST BELFAST - VOTE LABOUR



Mrs McConnell and children at their home in Newtonards Road

Private rented accommodation is a bigger sector in N Ireland than in Britain. In Belfast it took 26% of households in 1978. Tory 'private enterprise' produces conditions like these, whilst Tory cuts hit public sector housing. Well over 30,000 people are on the housing waiting list, which grows by 2,000 a year.

The Northern Ireland Labour & Trade Union Group's East Belfast election campaign is in full swing.

In the heartland of working class East Belfast (Newtonards and Shipyard area) almost every house has met us with support for Labour and socialist ideas.

*Already our campaign has shown the potential for a socialist Labour Party in Northern Ireland.*

If the trade union leaders set up a party that fought all the main seats in Northern Ireland and was seen as a party that could beat the Tories and bigots, East Belfast and

**"I'll vote Labour provided it's straightforward Labour, none of this wishy washy Lib/Lab stuff."**

—T&G lorry driver in Knockwood Estate.

other seats could be won by Labour.

Plans are being made to intensify the campaign over the next two weeks. Alongside the manifesto, 10,000 copies of a special leaflet will be distributed. An average of forty

By John Morrison and Lucy McShane

copies of *Militant* are being sold nightly to people who say they are Labour voters.

As for the lie that the protestant working class is a privileged group that can never be won to socialism—this is refuted by nearly every working class voter we call on.

An example of housing conditions in the solidly protestant Newtonards Road, speaks for itself.

Mrs McConnell approached Muriel Tang, the Labour and Trade Union candidate (see interview opposite, p.13) to investigate her appalling housing conditions.

A representative of the fire authorities had visited the house and stated that the electric wiring and the fire-place made the house a death trap.

A public health inspector from Belfast City Council also made a visit to the house, reaffirmed that view and also said that the dwelling was unfit for human habitation

on public health grounds. But he would not issue a closing order on the house.

Elizabeth, Mrs McConnell's daughter, is on a continual course of antibiotics to counteract her chest infection caused by the dampness and it's likely that the rest of the family will suffer accordingly.

**"I voted for the Unionists for fifty years and they have done nothing for me. I'll consider Labour this time."**

—Pensioner in Cregagh Estate.

dingly as the conditions deteriorate.

Mrs McConnell has to use candles for lighting because of the dangerous state of the electric wiring. Water pours through the ceilings when it rains, the floors are rotting.

*Working class protestants and working class catholics have the same, common problems.*

The house is owned by Judge Gibson, although the estate agent denies it. The landlord had the audacity to try to increase Mrs McConnell's rent from £7 per month to £11 per week—a 500% increase!

She stopped paying her rent in protest and was told she would have to go to court.

Now the agent states that repairs cannot be done because the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, sole public housing authority for Northern Ireland, are putting a vesting order on the area. This could take months.

The feeling in the area is anti-Tory, pro-working class. People are looking for a candidate with policies to give them back pride in themselves, a job with realistic wages and a future for their children.

Our campaign has shown that the working

**"When I heard that Labour was standing here I was not going to vote for them because of them expelling the Militant. Seeing you here with the paper I will vote for you."**

—Another pensioner on Cregagh Estate

class would welcome an alternative to the sectarian policies employed by the "Orange" and "Green" Tories, whose policies at present divide them.

## Letters

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

MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

### Lesson for MacGregor

Dear Militant

Now that MacGregor has become safely established in the NCB headquarters a significant change of attitudes has become apparent.

At a management and union joint meeting recently, the board referred to what they called "a surplus of craftsmen in the Durham area."

The Durham Mechanics' Association executive were astonished to hear the board formally say, "In the next year there will be 46 apprentice fitters and 43 apprentice electricians without jobs at the end of their apprenticeship."

It seems that MacGregor does not understand the policy of this union on the question of redundancies.

He will learn, however, to his cost in the near future, a whole range of policies put forward by the membership of this union.

The workforce has kept its part of the bargain in the "plan for coal"; the board must keep its part of the bargain.

Yours  
Kevin Gallagher  
Durham Mechanics Association  
Monkwearmouth Colliery

### Cheap at twice the price

Dear Comrades

We are now entering one of our most important periods. We have at last got a real chance to throw the Tory rats off a sinking ship.

I know this will be a time of great expense for *Militant* so I'm enclosing five pounds (tax paid) for our fighting fund and I urge every reader to do the same.

It's a small price to pay for socialism. Here's to a June 9 victory.

Yours  
Thomas Kerr  
T&GWU 7/200  
Govan LP

### 75 and still fighting

Dear Comrade

After a successful *Militant* readers' meeting in Rochdale one of our many new readers is Tom Fletcher age 75.

Tom has been a socialist since he was twelve, when he was forced to work in a mill from 6 am till midday then attend school till 4 pm.

His socialist views were strengthened in 1937 when after seven years of unemployment he walked to Birmingham from Rochdale for work.

In Birmingham he went to

the Salvation army, who turned him away because he had no money. He went to sleep on the railway station where a rail worker helped him out with some food and a place to spend the night!

The next day at the employment office the workers, hearing where he had come from, made up a food parcel for him.

Tom points out that it was workers who helped him, and it is only the workers that can unite and change this system.

Fraternally  
Alex Pandolfo  
Rochdale CLP

### Double glazed

Comrades

A friend of mine who recently found employment working for a double glazing firm, was told he would earn a flat rate of £100 (basic) per week plus expenses toward a car (which was essential for the job) as well as any commission he would earn as a rep.

When he started, he did get a basic adequate wage, and put some money toward a car, only to find he is in a situation where he hasn't got paid for three weeks, receiving only £20 toward the car which doesn't even settle the petrol bill!

I know he works hard, yet financially he would almost be better off on the dole, as he struggles to keep the car on the road.

It's an all too typical story of life in Thatcher's Britain.

Yours fraternally  
Alex Warner  
Stalybridge

### Slipped off to the SDP

Dear Comrades  
Having just returned from the NUPE National Con-

ference I would like to take the opportunity, through your pages, to make an appeal to all NUPE members who read your paper.

All NUPE members, and your readers should be aware that Sue Slipman a full-time paid official of NUPE, is standing for the SDP in the Basildon constituency.

It is the weekly contributions of low-paid and poorly treated NUPE members that pay Slipman's £10,000 p.a. and provide her with a brand new car every year.

It is therefore disgusting that she has gone off on three weeks' paid leave to campaign for the SDP's repressive and reactionary trade union and incomes policies.

Yours fraternally,  
Geoff Martin,  
Sutton Area Hospitals  
NUPE.

### Dead end system

Dear Comrades

How dare the Tories tell us things are on the up and up when their system forces us to take out our frustrations on each other.

Children go missing and turn up dead somewhere. There seems to have been a lot of this lately. It makes you frightened to let your own out to play.

But the Tories aren't interested in our children until they grow up to be used as work fodder. And even then capitalism is so decrepit it can't do us the honour of putting them to work anymore.

Fraternally  
Lynne Tice  
Hull

### Slipping off...

Dear Comrades,  
With only three weeks to go to the general election we

have the disgraceful situation where the Chairman of the TUC and leader of the electricians union, Frank Chapple, is urging people to vote for an SDP Candidate.

During the NHS strike health workers received marvellous support from his union, all helping fight against the Tories.

One wonders why Chapple does not join the SDP with the other right wing Labour traitors.

But he knows where his bread is buttered—he would lose his fat salary in the labour movement.

He is a disgrace to the labour movement. As Trotsky said "the leadership does not always reflect the class."

Yours  
Kathleen Cruise  
Brent East LPYS

### Fighting school blues

Dear Militant

I am unlucky enough to live in an accursed, head-in-the-clouds Tory stronghold. The local MP has a 24,000 majority.

But I'm doing my bit for the cause of inequality by standing for Labour in my school's mock elections in June.

I read in the press recently that a top businessman got a £2,000 per week pay rise.

Could you also give a break-down of the £10 billion being wasted abroad by "our" businessmen?

By reading *Militant* every now and then I have gained insight into the alternative to unfair privilege and Tory Britain.

Wish me luck in my minor campaign—I'll need it!  
Yours faithfully  
Paul Spence

### Not so resolute

Dear Comrades

With the election only 4 weeks away the Tory campaign started in earnest at their Scottish Conference in Perth this week.

The highlight was the speech by Thatcher when she called for an end to Marxist-Socialist ideas in Britain.

But where was Maggie when the crowd was yelling "Maggie out" and "Jobs not bombs"?—She was nowhere in sight, she had conveniently slid in (or perhaps under) the back door of the hall, which was blocked off to the public in the biggest security operation Perth has ever seen.

Ronnie Cutting  
Perth and Kinross CLP  
Personal Capacity

### Youth need more room

Dear Comrade

Only one week into the election and already the youth are showing their anger and hatred of the Tories.

At one school eight young people signed up to join the LPYS after a *Militant* supporter spoke there. Another five have been signed up on paper sales and canvassing.

This really shows the potential—youth are prepared to fight for their future—and is a clear answer to those in the Party who throw up their hands and say people aren't prepared to fight.

If it carries on at this rate we will have to look around for a bigger room for the LPYS to meet in.

Yours fraternally  
Jon Johnson  
Newham South LPYS



## Two women fighting against the odds talk to Militant

# Muriel Tang

## Labour & TU Group candidate for E. Belfast



Muriel Tang

### ● When did you decide to stand as a candidate in this election?

One week ago. The Labour and Trade Union Group asked me if I would be interested in standing. At first I didn't think I could do it. But when I sat down and looked round at the mess that N. Ireland is in I said definitely, yes. I've taken three weeks unpaid leave from work. It will be a very lean time but I want to put all my energies into the campaign.

### ● What's the constituency like?

East Belfast is the first constituency you see when you are coming up the Lough in the Liverpool or Isle of Man boats. It is on the left-hand side where the giant cranes are. The majority of workers used, and I emphasise used, to work in the shipyards. The shipyards now are an industrial desert. In the last two or three years alone, over 3,000 jobs have gone. There will be another 500 men laid off this July. The street where I live is only five hundred yards from the main gates and the traffic used to be quite heavy up till last year. It was so heavy that a car once knocked down my little boy. Now there is no traffic going up and down my street.

This is a sad reminder that Maggie Thatcher has got rid of all the jobs. The attitude is, 'For the years we've voted as Unionists with the Tories— is this all the thanks we get?' As well as that, young people leaving school here have no jobs to go to. Instead they buy a plastic bag and a bottle of glue and hang around under the railway bridge not half a mile from where I live.

### ● Have you been active in the labour movement long?

Exactly one year. I am a night sister in the Belfast City Hospital and last year for eight months I was active in the health

workers' strike. I am a shop steward and assistant branch secretary of the COHSE branch, whose headquarters are in London.

What disgusted me was having to stand on a picket line in rain and hail, striking for a pay rise when other general services, especially the police and army got their pay rises automatically.

Maggie Thatcher, with her cut-backs and closures of hospitals has enabled management to say to nurses, 'If you don't like it you can lump it and go on the dole'. So a lot of nurses live in fear of losing their jobs. A lot of student nurses finish their three years' training in tears as they have no job to go to.

So I decided I would take a more active part. I had no interest in politics. I used to go into the ballot box and stand with a pin and close my eyes.

That was a result of the people who were standing. They were not interested in me. So now I myself am fighting.

### ● Do you meet any particular problems as a woman?

Yes. In N. Ireland women are treated even less as equals than in England.

I know of two cases where girls went to work alongside men, demanding equal pay for equal jobs. One was loading canned and bottled beer onto lorries. This girl was seventeen years of age, daughter of a friend of mine, and after two weeks the girl was frightened she would hurt her back, especially as she was pregnant.

The men refused to help her. They said she was 'equal'. She then discovered she was getting the heaviest jobs out. This is an ignorant way of getting rid of women as they don't want them. They see we are taking over in areas.

I'm pleased to see this year that five women are standing for election in N. Ireland. They are not of my party but it is an obvious sign that Irish women are not going to accept things the way we did before.

### ● Do you find attitudes to women better amongst socialists?

What I like about the Labour and Trade Union Group is everyone is equal. It doesn't matter whether you are male, female, married, divorced or living with someone or how many children you have. You are accepted for what you are and what trade union you are in. At times I had a lot of trouble unionising my unit and got a lot of support from my comrades. In our meetings it is the men that help out doing the creches.

### ● Do you expect to win the election?

I've been told not to expect to win the election. But I am beginning to wonder. A girl of fourteen years of age has joined the campaign. That's how young an interest in politics is starting here now.

In our canvassing in working class areas even my comrades have been surprised with the response. I think we can do well. If we get even a few hundred votes it will show that someone listened to us.

We hope to recruit many more to our Labour and Trade Union Group. If we do that, that alone will make me happy. You have to crawl before you walk, and this is only the beginning.

An important achievement already is that we are the only people capable of canvassing this area with a team made up equally of Protestants and Catholics. That is a victory already.

### ● Have you suffered any harassment during the campaign?

There is no harassment from the people in the streets. They are very happy to see us going about.

Being trade unionists our phones are automatically tapped. Since I started campaigning I have been followed by police I and Rovers with their little hatches open, and been photographed. This is nothing to what some people go through. So we are very lucky at the moment.

The army do not bother with the protestant areas of East Belfast. They are in and out of the Short Strands area of my constituency. It's the police who are on the streets of the protestant areas all the time.

In fact I think they don't know what to make of us because we are highly mixed and they are trained to keep us separate.

We are united, thank goodness, and go about our campaign very politely and quietly, which has been remarked on, and we've been very well received.

### ● What's the opposition in this election?

This is a traditionally Tory area, held by them for fifty years until 1974 when, because of scandals and business deals the voters turned to the candidate most likely to kick the Tory out. That was an individual called Steve Ross, the first Liberal MP here since the turn of the century.

We are up against tactical voting in the real sense of the word. They say, 'if we were anywhere else we'd be voting Labour, but we're voting Liberal to keep the Tory out'. Now that is beginning to be eroded, but the argument is still there.

### ● So do you think you have any chance of winning this time?

No, absolutely not. We've got no illusions at all. Our first job is to try and improve the vote. We want to give people the confidence next time— we may even be in another general election in a few months time.

Another thing is that we are now the biggest constituency in the whole country, something like 92,000 electors. At some point they're going to have to split us into two. Labour stands an excellent chance of winning the Medina side.

So that's the message I'm putting across. That at some point there will be, there must be, a Labour representative on the Isle of Wight.

### ● Do you think the response you get as a candidate is different because you're a woman?

There is still a feeling that perhaps it's not suitable for a woman.

But an awful lot more people know me now. I'm publicly working all the time, not just during the general election campaigns. So once I can get talking, particularly to women, we understand each other virtually immediately.

That's important because Labour's programme and Labour's policies and the



Cathy Wilson

ideas of socialism really do need time for explanation. Women are not prepared to give their support easily. They've heard it all before. But once they do get to know you and trust you then it's a different matter. They are far more radical in every way than any other voter I can think of.

### ● I understand you have a woman Tory opponent. How do you feel about that?

Her life is light years away from mine. In her propaganda she's trying to claim her family have lived here for fifty years. Well they've had a holiday home here for fifty

# Cathy Wilson

## Labour candidate Isle of Wight

years. In her introductory leaflet she talks about how happily married she is and mentions a very valued member of the family. This turns out to be her nanny. It then goes on to her hobbies and how she enjoys beach hockey and sailing in her spare time. The whole tone of the leaflet is one of smugness.

She ends up by saying that she wants to see more women in parliament. Well so do I, but I don't want them in the category of Virginia Bottomley.

She is simply being carried around the Island on the back of a lorry saying 'Vote for me, thank you very much', there isn't an element of policy or programme.

### ● So what do you think are the most important issues affecting women?

I would say unemployment. Unemployment has a direct affect if you are the wife in a family where you husband or kids are unemployed. The stress, the despair is being felt.

Women especially hate what the Tories have done. If we were only explaining the

human costs of unemployment I don't think we would be seeing the kind of opinion polls that we're seeing at the moment. Though they should be taken with a pinch of salt.

But also, we are living in an area where the transport is very restricted. To get to the mainland to take part in cultural, educational or leisure activities is very expensive. And now we're being threatened with privatisation of the ferries. What that will mean for the future— I don't know.

There is no support for women and single people. The housing situation is horrendous. There is no help or support if you are in trouble, if you're a battered wife or anything. We don't have any such thing as a battered wife refuge, which is again something I'm trying to promote. We have no centre where women can go and get help and advice.

I wish the Labour Party was strong on what Thatcher's got in store as far as the Family Policy Group ideas are concerned.

Every mother I've spoken to, the first point they make is child benefit— how much they rely on it. Now that is not means tested, it's there as a right. But if you look at other benefits which are means tested, the take-up is very low. I think it's only something like 10% of all women who are eligible for some kind of supplementary benefit actually take them up.



# Industrial Reports

## Baker's conference

THE BAKERS' UNION conference will be dominated by concern for the return of a Labour government.

The resolutions on the Labour government should be supported. The resolution from the Brighton branch shows a clear way forward.

The TUC-Labour Party Liaison Committee report will be debated. Although one would welcome many of the measures mentioned in the report, it assumes the multinationals will play to the rules as they see them. In reality this will not be the case.

The resolution on wages this year sees the same formula as previously being proposed. However under

the formula the lower grades (mostly women) have seen the differential growing between grades. The resolution from the Bristol District Board seems to remedy and restore a balance between grades.

There are several resolutions on grading calling for a reduction on grades. The resolution from South London and Kent calling for a reduction to three grades should be supported.

The question of redundancy is on the agenda. The present policy of fighting redundancies is the correct policy and should be maintained. The resolution on the agenda accepts the principle that workers should lose their jobs is not in the interests of

our union and would be seen as a green light by the employers.

The resolution from Birmingham District Board on closure should be supported.

The resolution from the West Midlands District Board resolution 106, should be opposed because it intends to restrict open debate and democracy in this union. It's another way to purge ideas from our union and witch-hunt members if you don't agree with them.

By Kath Albison  
(Conference delegate,  
personal capacity)

## CPSA strikes

### Hackney

HACKNEY Unemployment Benefit Office and DHSS offices have ended a successful four-week strike.

Management attempted to impose a more frequent cycle for claimants signing on in an already overcrowded office. This was the spark which ignited an already volatile situation. Staff at Hackney UBO, already under pressure, walked out.

Despite a pig-headed and stubborn management the strikers have shown that

united and determined action at the right time can win the day. Backed by the local DHSS workers they defeated all management's dirty tricks, including the use of outside scab labour.

Management have agreed to act on the premises issue. Consultations will take place during alterations to the office and work previously planned to take six months will now be done in six weeks! They have also agreed to look closely at long term accommodation needs. The more frequent signing on arrangement will not be introduced until the office accommodation is improved adequately or new premises

are found.

After seven years of broken promises the staff took decisive action. There was tremendous solidarity within the office between CPSA and SCPS and from the local DHSS workers. "We see it as a total victory. Management have conceded all our demands. Our members are over the moon," said a member of the strike committee.

This dispute is a lesson to all CPSA members. In the next few months DHSS offices face savage cuts in their staffing levels. The only defence if present policy is pursued will be industrial action.

It should be remembered, with the election and Labour Party affiliation on the CPSA agenda, that only Labour has given concrete promises to overhaul the Benefit system and improve physical conditions for claimants and staff.

Trade unionists, and those concerned to defend the service we provide, should give full support to the planned strikes of DHSS workers in Toxteth and Bellvale. Liverpool offices, against staff cuts which have taken place.

By Bill Boyle  
(Tower Hamlets and  
Hackney CPSA)

## Basildon

FOLLOWING a successful campaign to stop persistent use of overtime to hide staff shortages, staff at DHSS Basildon demonstrated their anger and frustration on Friday 20 May.

Ninety staff walked out upon the announcement of the loss of 19 jobs later this year.

There are more than 11,000 people unemployed in Basildon. Nearly all rely on supplementary benefit to survive.

From the overall complement of 260, a total of 136 staff deal with supplementary benefit and related duties, but of these it is the 70 clerical officers who deal with the bulk of the work and not all these of these deal directly with the claimants.

This means that each supplementary benefit claimant can at present have approximately three minutes' attention per week discounting new claimants and enquiries.

These three minutes' attention per week are used to listen to the claimant's problem, diagnose the cause, decide on the remedy, complete the appropriate forms, re-assess the benefit entitlement calculation, decide the appropriate method of payment, obtain authorisation through the supervisor, and then implement payment!!!

Faced with these cuts the staff had little option but to demonstrate their anger and warn the people of Basildon that under prevailing conditions and the cynical policies of the Tories there will soon be no service worth providing at their local DHSS.

By Michael Holmes  
(Society of Civil and  
Public Servants,  
Basildon ILO)



POEU picket outside Bank of England in May in protest against government's plans to privatise British Telecom

Photo: S Cagnoni (IFL)

# POEU Defend British Telecoms

TORY PRIVATISATION plans for BT forced the National Executive Council to embark on a programme of industrial action to defend the industry.

This brought a magnificent response from the membership with many initiatives being taken by the branches involved in the selective action.

With the involvement of only a few branches the power and strength of the POEU was clear.

This success was achieved despite the POEU leadership's belief that industrial action is not the way to win or that the members won't take industrial action.

It was also made clear by the leadership that they saw the action only as a means of keeping the issue in the public eye and not as a means of defending the industry.

It was lucky for them that the general election was called, giving credence to the NEC's "battle in Parliament" delaying tactics.

However, even if the Labour Party win the election the union must be prepared to act to defend jobs, pay and conditions. Management are not going to give up their aggressive attitude—"militant management" was the phrase coined by Liverpool Power Branch.

Modernisation, profit centres, liberalisation, Project Mercury, we face attacks on every front.

We must take note of the revelations from the Institute of Directors that the reorganisation of BT and liberalisation is designed to break the union and lead to local pay bargaining.

The grades restructuring proposals and the YTS trojan horse are further indications of the direction management is taking.

What gives cause for concern is the NEC's blind acceptance of management "assurances" about their intentions and the effects their proposals will have on all important issues.

The right wing mainstream group are equally blind to events and have stooped to divisive smear tactics against left NEC members.

We need to arm ourselves with a fighting leadership and a fighting programme:

- ★ Defeat BT re-organisation;
- ★ Control modernisation;
- ★ Defend national pay bargaining;
- ★ No de-grading measures;
- ★ No to YTS—defend apprenticeships;
- ★ For rank and file TU amalgamation;
- ★ Labour to power on a socialist programme.

## No rise for apprentices

LAST YEAR and again this year, new apprentices in British Telecom have received no increase in pay.

That is an effective drop in pay, because they were not included in the 1982 or 1983 pay negotiations, although the other POEU grades within British Telecom have received their pay rises.

The union leadership said that this means that the skilled workers have gained a larger rise than they might have done otherwise.

Skilled workers and unskilled workers alike have found this action by management and the unions totally out of order. When apprentices who work with me found out about this action some were threatening to leave the union.

I managed to stop them doing this by pointing out that it was an issue to be fought within the union itself—to obtain a leadership which would represent the membership as a whole.

Apprentices up and down the country are calling for POEU conference to pass resolutions against this action. One such resolution is put forward by the Post Office Railway and Postal Mechanical Branch.

By Chris Payne  
(Overseas Telegraph  
Branch, POEU,  
personal capacity)

## Shop steward victimised

Over 500 manual workers, members of GMBATU, AUEW and TGWU in the Eastern Area of North Thames Gas struck on Monday 23 May over the sacking of Bob Turner, who has been a well-respected steward at the Barking Road depot for many years.

All shop stewards in the Eastern Area are in favour of official action being taken by the total GMBATU

membership of the NTGB, and the procedure for this has already been initiated at branch level.

The seriousness of the situation can be gauged from the fact that thirty pickets accompanied Bobbie Turner to his appeal at Staines (HQ of the Gas Board).

"Look at Leyland after Robinson went: they sold him down the river and it was the thin end of the

wedge", said one picket.

Although the picket at Staines was really a solidarity gesture, they turned away a newspaper van whose driver refused to cross the line.

Messages of support to, and further information obtainable from: Bob Turner 01-476 8845.

By a Gas worker





# Industrial Reports

## UCW - Executive under pressure

UCW CONFERENCE has shown a changing union as the membership face more and more attacks on their conditions and on jobs.

Both the Post Office and British Telecomm are attempting huge cost-cutting exercises at the workers' expense. The present leaders find themselves unable to get the concessions of the past. More and more the management at every level is becoming intransigent.

As a result of this, UCW conference this week, again and again, overthrew executive committee recommendations and sent the executive committee back to fight for clear demands.

The week began with a motion of "no confidence" in the EC being passed, because they had gone against last year's conference policy.

The issue of accountability is gaining strong support in the UCW. At rules revision in Birmingham last year a call for five yearly elections was carried and conference rejected an attempt to

modify that this year.

Eddie Thorpe from Oldham received the support of about a third of the conference, when he moved a resolution calling for any wage rises of general officers to be in line with wage rises of the members.

After Neil Kinnock aroused conference with an anti-Tory speech, over £2,000 was collected for Labour's election fund.

Phil Waker from East London spoke to a successful resolution rejecting any moves for new technology without a campaign for the benefits to come to the members, and a shorter working week and no job losses.

The Post Office section of the conference, meeting on Wednesday, heard Trevor Harris from Ipswich urge conference to support full pay at 18. Although the resolution was unsuccessful

the General Secretary—Alan Tuffin—in reply congratulated Trevor and said the union's future was assured with such good young speakers.

He probably didn't realise Trevor was a *Militant* supporter and assistant editor of the Broad Left journal *Communique*.

On Thursday at the conference we saw the passing of an amendment calling for a gross 38-hour week against the present 43 hours.

At the British Telecom section conference their executive also was defeated on many issues. *Militant* supporter Alan Short and other Broad Left members made a decisive intervention in this conference.

220 *Militants* were sold and over £200 was collected for the fighting fund.

By Bryan Beckingham

## GMBATU Conference

**MOST MEMBERS of the newly amalgamated GMBATU would agree with the rearrangement of our first congress due to the general election.**

They would also approve of the spirit of the Executive Council special motion for unity to beat the Tories.

However, many will be astonished at the executive's recommendation that no resolutions from the branches should be taken at all—that all the more than three hundred resolutions should be referred back to the executive.

There will be no opportunity for the membership to discuss these motions before they are presented in the General Secretary's Report to next year's congress.

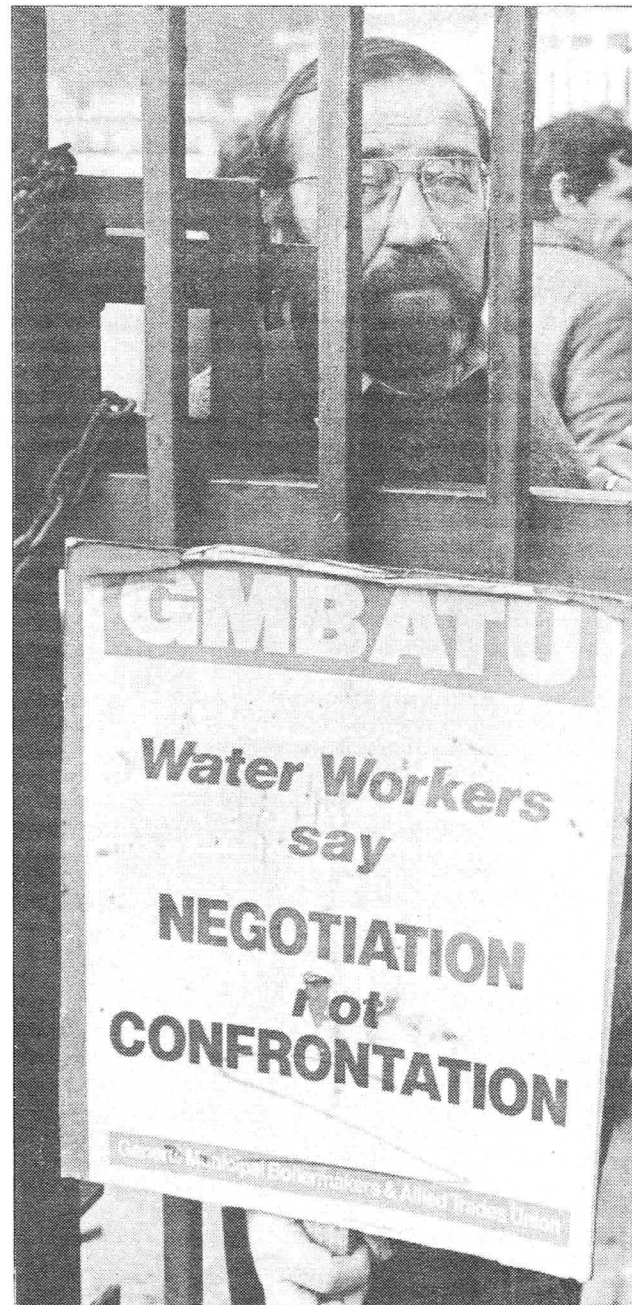
The past year has hardly been without incident for this union. The GMB has been involved in many major struggles. The NHS dispute last year; the water-workers' strike, the battle against privatisation by local authority workers and the continued run down of the shipbuilding industry.

### Hear members' views

The main lessons learnt over the past months must be discussed by the union's policy making body. The full-time officials should be anxious to hear the views of the membership in order to better represent and defend their interests.

Last year the union decided on a clear policy that all socialists prepared to work for a Labour victory should have the right to do so within the Labour Party. Yet the GMB representative on Labour's NEC has supported the witch-hunt of *Militant* supporters and voted for expulsions. Many activists no doubt intend to demand an explanation at congress.

The concern of the membership on this issue is reflected in the large number of resolutions on the agenda on this matter. Hopefully this message will be brought to the attention of our NEC representative, especially motion 243 calling for the reinstatement of the expelled members of the *Militant* Editorial Board. It is significant



GMBATU workers have been involved in major struggles over the last year. The lessons of these disputes must be discussed at conference. Photo: J Smith (IFL)

## Politics in FBU

THE PEOPLE'S March for Jobs must be turned into a massive political demonstration against the Tories on 5 June. The FBU are sending at least one coach from every region to London.

This was the message from Ken Cameron in reply to an emergency resolution moved by London at the FBU Conference.

The resolution was seconded by Mike Maher from Cheshire, who highlighted the scandalous

role of some of the march stewards, who have been trying to prevent the chanting of political slogans on the march and have even expelled marchers for doing so (See *Militant* 651).

A decision to set up workplace branches of the Labour Party at fire stations gives firemen and women a better opportunity to have a say in the Labour Party.

Labour Party branches should also take note of this decision and visit the fire

stations—assist them in setting up branches and advise them on organisational procedures.

A magnificent £350 was collected for Terry Fields, FBU EC member, who is standing for Labour in the election in Broad Green Liverpool.

There is an enormous amount of support for Terry's socialist ideas among FBU members, and many promises of assistance were also received.

## Unit Superheaters CLOSURE THREAT

**THE STRIKE at Unit Superheaters in Swansea took another sharp turn this week with the announcement of closure of the plant by the British Steel Corporation.**

Despite management's threats the strikers have been determined to prevent any forced redundancies and attacks on our union organisation. The tactics and attitude of BSC management have been deplorable. Refusing any negotiations, and after gaining a High Court order to remove the strikers from the plant, they have turned around and sacked them.

The 131 men now face the possibility of losing thousands of pounds of redundancy money, simply because they would not accept the dictatorial attitude of management.

The intention of BSC was to try and turn our factory into a hire-and-fire shop, with workers being given short-term contracts every month or even one week in some cases. If we had stood by and let that happen trade unionism would have been finished at Unit.

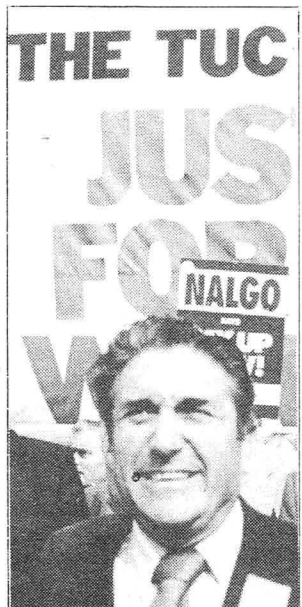
Though closure has been announced we are determined to fight on! Local support has been tremendous. On Wednesday evening over a hundred trade unionists crammed into the AEU house to show their solidarity at a meeting organised by the AUEW Broad Left.

However, support now needs to be sought nationally. Particularly amongst other BSC plants, because the implications of our strike are clear—if steel workers are not prepared to accept management's dictate then they'll be sacked!

This is a fight, not just for 131 jobs, but for our right to exist as a trade union movement within the British Steel Corporation. We are confident the labour movement will rally around us and help us gain a victory.

Messages of support and financial support to be sent to Fred Emmonds, 8 Bishopston Road, Bishopston, Swansea.

By Peter Thomas  
(AUEW Convenor,  
Unit Superheaters)



Chapple, 1983 TUC chairman

## CHAPPLE AND SDP

GLASGOW Central branch of the EETPU have passed a resolution calling for the political sub-committee to investigate Frank Chapple's recent statement of support for John Grant, an SDP election candidate.

It is recommended that the report should be sent to the NEC of the Labour Party.

## ...accountability the issue

cant that there is not one motion supporting the witch-hunt.

Similarly the executive will note the motions on unilateral nuclear disarmament and withdrawal from the EEC. Of course some of these motions will provoke disagreement and argument, which will be highlighted by the Tory press immediately before the election.

While accepting the need for the GMB to be seen to be united against the Tories, surely a pre-election unity congress could have been followed later in the year by a congress at which these issues could have been

discussed.

It is hard to believe that that is beyond the resources of the GMB to make such arrangements. Even under the present arrangements time should have been made for some of the motions from the branches to be taken.

As it is all the debates will be on reports on documents presented by the executive. Would it not have been sensible to have taken with the report on low pay and working time, motions from the branches on those two matters?

The opportunity could have been taken, in particular to reassure the membership that the GMB stands for total opposition to any incomes policy.

Next year the congress is to be extended and will also be a rules revision congress. In the meantime there will doubtless be many motions from branches to the executive opposing the lack of consultation with the membership partly caused by the curtailing of this year's congress.

By a GMBATU member

## Metal Box victory

METAL BOX STRIKERS in Hackney, East London, returned to work victorious after two weeks on the picket line.

Everyone moved from shift to day work will get £400. No one can be arbitrarily moved on to shifts. Twenty setters will get an additional £300 to buy out a shift meal break.

Management have also abandoned proposals to change manning levels.

"What won this strike, said Jim Wills, TGWU chair of the Strike Committee, "was the fact that everyone stuck together from the beginning. We went out 100% solid and that's how we're going back."





## WHAT WE STAND FOR

- ★ 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.

# Parasites' paradise

## TORIES RIP OFF PUBLIC ASSETS

By Roger Shrivess

**"WE HAVE done more to roll back the frontiers of socialism than any previous Conservative government,"** said Thatcher last October.

What she meant is that if the Tories' friends in big business think they can make a quick buck out of a publicly owned industry or service, they can have it, probably at knock down rates.

The Tory election manifesto shows that if they are re-elected they intend to carry on in the same way. "Our aim is that British Telecom—where we will sell 51% of the shares to the private sector—Rolls Royce, British Airways and substantial parts of British Steel, British Shipbuilders, British Leyland and as many as possible of Britain's airports shall become private sector companies."

What a nerve the Tories have got! These firms were nationalised because of their total failure under their old private owners. Now it seems that certain sections at least of these firms might be making a profit again, after millions of pounds of our money have been ploughed in, they want them back again!

Last week the Department of Industry report showed how the capitalist class, looking for the biggest possible profits, have deserted manufacturing industry. Manufacturing investment by the bosses has already slumped by 28% since Thatcher came to power, but they anticipate a further 4% drop this year, while the Tory leaders boast of a boom.

These are the people Thatcher claims will add new vitality to industry—the vitality of the graveyard.

They have made Britain, formerly workshop of the world into a deindustrialised area. As the balance of payments plunges into deficit, Britain is now importing more manufacturing goods than it exports for the first time since the industrial revolution!

Rolls Royce were nationalised in 1971—by a Tory government—within 24 hours of the threat of this prestige company folding. BL, which had eaten up numerous smaller car companies as a private firm, was grossly underinvested before it was nationalised.

Militant has always stressed the need for nationalised industries to be run through democratic methods of workers' control and management. Many state bodies, with capitalist chairmen like



POEU members and other trade unionists protest at the threat to Telecoms last October. Stop the Tory attack.

McGregor, are run like ruthless private companies.

But the Tory plans, of course, have no intention of "democratising" public industries. They want their rich friends to be able to gobble up the profit making parts and spit out the rest.

Many sales have already been made by the Tory government of big names like Ferranti, BP and ICL. In many cases they were sold for well below even the market price.

Half of the international telecom group Cable and Wireless was sold in 1980 for £224 million of which £35 million was returned to the company for investment. Two years later the shares

were worth £553 million, two and a half times the cost. In 1982 Amersham International chemical company made £15.5 million (34% of the official value) on the first day on the Stock Exchange, more than the company paid its staff in the whole year!

The Tories say they will sell shares to workers in these firms to "make everyone a capitalist". National Freight Company sold its shares to their staff but only after failing to sell them on the Stock Exchange. Their aim was to make workers cut wage demands by making them both employees and "employers". In fact fewer than half the work force own

shares and 132 top managers own a quarter of all shares.

In all the companies, initial enthusiasm for shareholding had died down. There were 158,000 shareholders in British Aerospace when it was half denationalised in 1981. By June next year the number was down to 27,000 and 143 large shareholders owned more than 60% of non-government shares. Only the rich are welcome in the shareholders' club.

Don't give the parasites the chance to eat up any more of the state resources. Kick the Tories out and make sure the next Labour government renationalises without compensation all assets ripped off under Thatcher.

### BROAD LEFT FOR RAILWORKERS CONFERENCE AND RALLY FOR LABOUR VICTORY

Speakers: Arthur Scargill (President NUM); Jack Lanwarne (NUR Divisional Officer, Midlands); Les Johnson (ASLEF Org Sec.); Terry Fields (Labour PPC, Broad Green, Liverpool)  
Saturday 4 June 11am, AUEW Halls, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool



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