

## Hindle strike, wives say...

# "These Wages Won't Pay Our Bills"

"How can our husbands work for a wage that doesn't even pay the bills?"

This is how Mary Holland summed up the position of the workers at the Bradford firm of Hindles—on strike now for 19 weeks.

By Bernadette Gilmartin

(Bradford West LPYS)

Mary was speaking at a public meeting organised by the Hindles' strike committee, with the wives of the strikers.

While Tebbit and his chorus of Fleet Street echoes rail at the trade unions and try to bind them with new legislation, more and more sections of the working class are realising the vital importance of the unions—and strong fighting unions as well.

John Hindle, owner of the factory, thought he could undermine the strike by sending intimidating letters to the wives of strikers. These wives are now organised in support of the dispute.

Once a week the wives and children go down to the picket line and have succeeded in turning away lorries that had previously gone into the factory.

### Determined to win

For many it is their first taste of industrial struggle. As Mary said, "When I heard about the strike before, I thought it was about nothing, things like tea breaks. It's a different kettle of fish when you're on strike yourself."

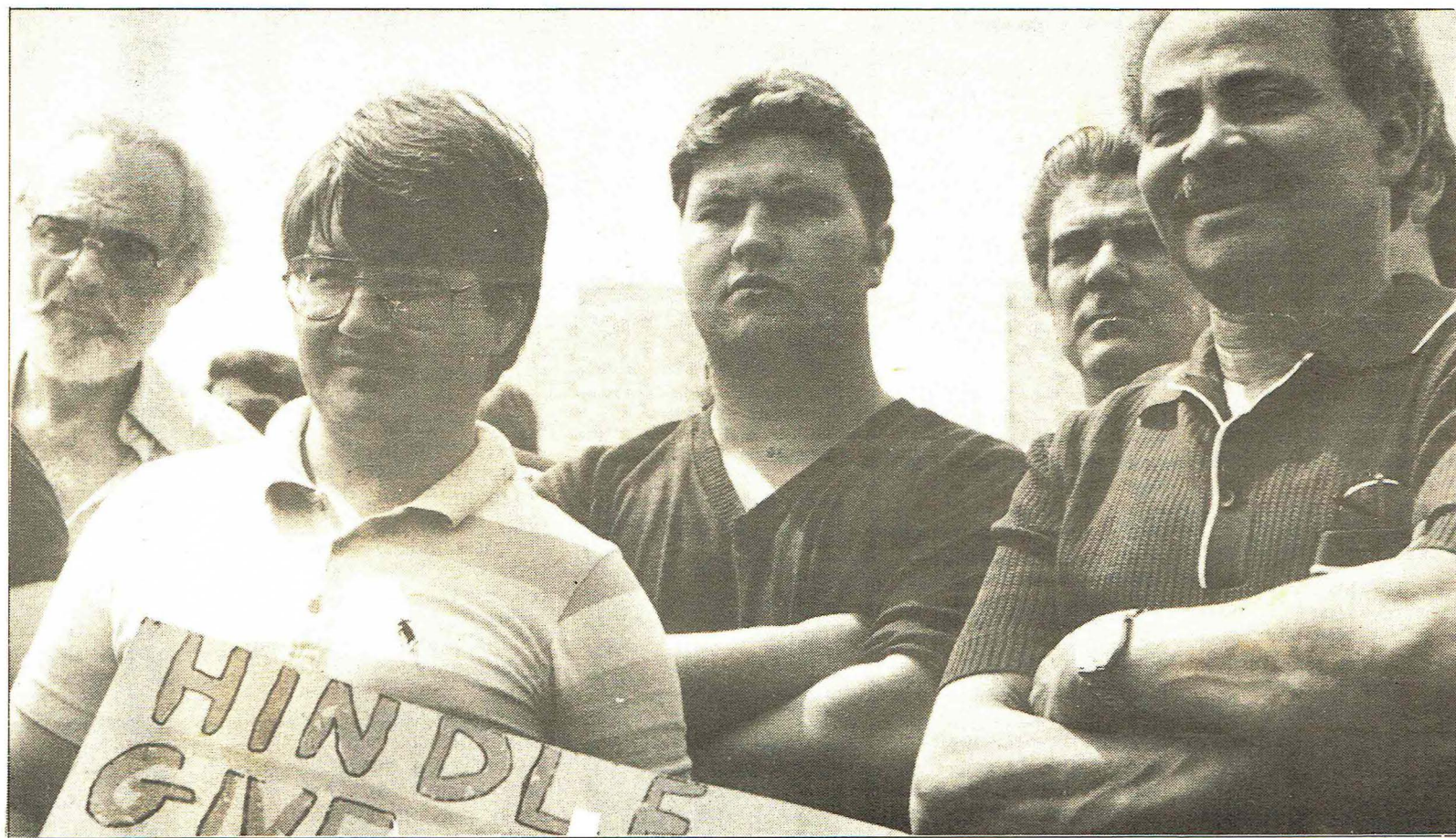
The families have also had a taste of the humiliations that strikes bring. Mary described the hardships they faced, having to claim free school meals, having to do without and waiting in dread for the quarterly bills.

But despite these difficulties, they are determined to win.

"We have to stand up and be counted. All we want is to hold our heads high, and have a decent life for our kids and ourselves. Mr. Hindle is trying to deny us that."

What is needed, however, is a matching determination from the national union leadership—who came under fire at the meeting. "Terry Duffy has forgotten what it's like to be a workman and to

Continued on page two



2,000 workers in Bradford stopped work recently to support Hindles strikers. The dispute has full support from the workers' wives. The AUEW and TUC leaders must give the lead to win this strike and to put Tebbit in his place. See also editorial, page 2.

## SRI LANKA: Armed forces condone mass murder

The last few days has seen the worst ever level of communal violence in Sri Lanka with an enormous wave of attacks on the minority Tamil population in the country.

Flames and dense

smoke from the capital city of Colombo could reportedly be seen many miles away after the looting and burning of Tamil homes and stores by racist elements in the majority Sinhalese community and horrific attacks on individual Tamils.

In the British House of Commons Labour MP Dave Nellist condemned

the attacks, demanding a debate after a report in the *Daily Telegraph* a few weeks back had said that the government of JR Jayawardene had asked for Whitehall help in training his security forces.

As with the USA in Central America, governments of the advanced capitalist states are prepared to support reac-

tionary third world regimes to protect investments which to them are more valuable than any lives or human rights.

President Jayawardene protests to the Western capitalist press that he has been "easy going" in his treatment of the oppressed Tamil minority. But there is little doubt that his government is prepared to tolerate such

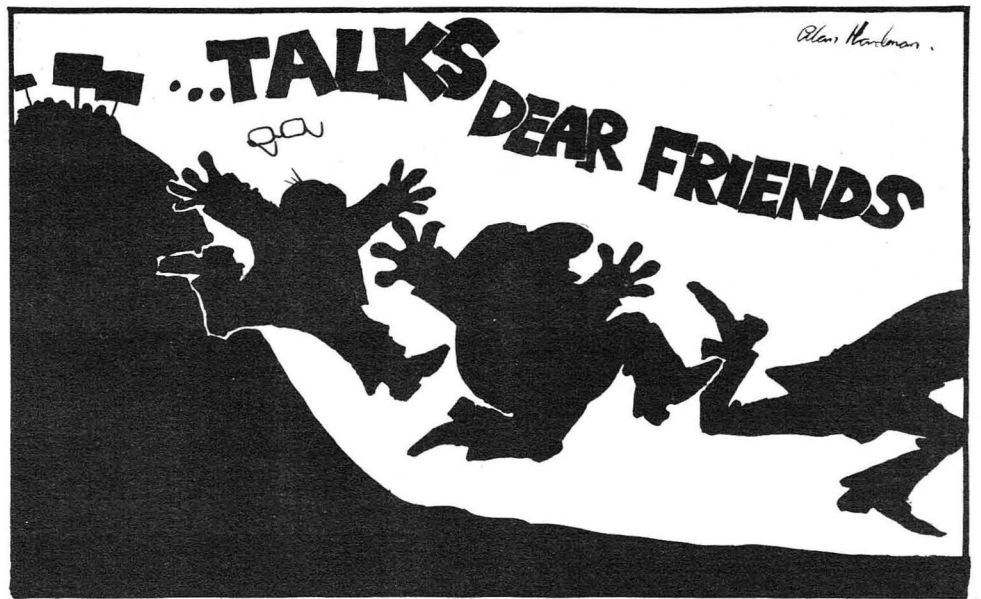
violent attacks.

Firstly, they can be used to "divide and rule" the masses in this very poor country, a trick well learned from Sri Lanka's former British colonisers. Secondly they welcome the smokescreen of a 'Tamil threat' to build up the state's repressive forces, although they probably want to keep the pogrom within certain limits to stop the complete break up of Sri Lanka.

The government, in line with past dictatorial practices, imposed a 15 hour curfew and called up reserve forces and police. But noticeably *The Guardian* reported that police units were not sent in until well after the rioting

Continued on back page





# No to TUC - Tebbit Talks

TUC leaders have decided to open talks with the Tories on their new trade union legislation. This is a serious mistake, and will hamper the ability of the movement to resist Tory policies on all fronts.

Talks with Tebbit will become a substitute for leading the organisations of the labour movement into struggle against the government. But it is precisely now that this is most urgent.

The government is preparing for bitter confrontation. Enormous cuts in projected public spending have been announced. Unemployment benefits are being greedily scanned for savings. It is to facilitate these measures that Norman Tebbit is finalising yet more legislation against the unions.

## Militant

For Tory plans to succeed on the economic front, they need to weaken the trade unions. Talks with Tebbit will simply prove a monumental dialogue with the deaf.

TUC leaders should look back to 1979, when repeated letters from Len Murray seeking talks drew a blank. The Tories were not interested in discussions then, but in proceeding with their anti-working class programme. If they talk now it will only be to make the TUC leaders share responsibility for the big business policies being pursued.

It is precisely for this reason that Tebbit is opening the way for discussions. They will serve as camouflage for him. The Tories want a cloak of legitimacy to cover their attacks on living standards.

Tebbit is seeking a way of weakening public service strikes—perhaps by outlawing industrial action for key workers.

While zealously safeguarding the enormous donations being made by big business to the Tory Party he is determined to cut the unions' contributions to Labour.

The TUC cannot barter away hard-won rights on these fronts and then summon the rank and file to action. Minor concessions may be made, but they will be little consolation and no

replacement for the rights of the past.

The real role for the TUC now should be one of implacable opposition to the Tories. TUC leaders should embark on a dialogue with the rank and file, explaining the full implications of Tory policy and preparing for battle.

Right-wing union leaders have drawn blind conclusions from Labour's defeat in the election. It is true that a large number of trade unionists voted Tory. But the right wing have decided that this can only be reversed if they talk with the government, attempting to get whatever token concessions they can, in the belief that a Labour government is now remote.

Precisely the opposite is the case. Many workers voted Tory in confusion, disorientated by the TUC's refusal to give a clear lead in recent years. Without a proper strategy to defeat the Tories, or a socialist programme to deal with the crisis of capitalism, it was inevitable that Thatcher's publicity machine could score well. This cannot be changed by blurring the issues now.

The first necessity is to abandon attempts at reconciliation with the Tories—a suicidal pact between the hangman and his victim. The TUC should launch a tremendous campaign of explanation throughout the labour movement, detailing the real implications of Tory policies. Preparations for the fight against the Tories should be begun.

This would involve supporting all groups of workers engaged in struggle, rather than the type of sell-out witnessed last year against the ASLEF workers. Those whose jobs are now threatened by privatisation in the NHS and British Telecom should receive the full backing of the TUC.

Regardless of whether Tebbit succeeds in enmeshing the TUC leaders in talks, his proposals cannot hold back the anger of working-class people. All talks will be destroyed in battle after battle on the crucial issues of jobs, privatisation and cuts.

This process must be assisted now, with the TUC abandoning the proposed talks with the Tories, instead drawing up battle plans to defeat them.

# Labour Leadership - Support Heffer

Last week's desperate threats to split from the Labour Party by unnamed right wingers shows the absolute depths they are reaching.

By a Militant reporter

Egged on by the Tory press they are blindly lashing out in an attempt to ensure Hattersley's victory in the current Labour leadership battle.

With the leftward move of the Labour Party so the right wing's total opposition to Labour's fundamental socialist foundations is increasingly exposed.

They dream back to the days of the capitalist boom of the '50s and '60s when they could etch out a few reforms for the workers from the bosses' millionaire class. They fail to understand the entirely different nature of the crisis ridden capitalist society of today, where reforms become counter-reforms.

They interpret workers' disillusionment—with past right wing Labour governments and the right wing's present ineptitude in leading a bold fight back against the Tories today—as the rejection of 'left-wing policies'.

So, in today's leadership contest both Shore and Hattersley are demanding the junking of Labour's socialist policies.

Hattersley heralds the 'mixed economy' i.e. capitalism, as the policy for a future Labour government, yet in the same breath explains it would be unable to deliver the goods! He wrote in *The Times* (July 25) "We must be wholly frank about the potential recovery. Overstating the speed at which we can put



Neil Kinnock: he has not been consistent in defence of left policies and supported the witch-hunt.



Roy Hattersley and Peter Shore (below) both want a return to the failed policies of the '74-79 Labour government.



## HINDLE GEARS

From front page work on the shop floor" Mary Holland said.

A united, national stand is needed.

Hindle is blaming "militants" for the dispute. The only extremist in this fight is Hindle himself. He is now considering "fining"

the workers £20,000 for "loss of production" during their brief occupation of the plant.

This employer must be taken on by the TUC.

This is not the only long lasting dispute in the engineering industry. For over three months now workers at Unit Superheaters in Swansea have been

fighting the British Steel Corporation's forced redundancies and faced a closure threat from the employers.

But both of these disputes could be won with firm action from the AUEW and the TUC leadership. While Tebbit and the Tories want to weaken the unions, the rank and file will be pressing for stronger, more effective



Eric Heffer: the rank and file of the labour movement should support him in the election of a new Labour Party leader.

sion of the five members of the paper's editorial board.

Asked by *Tribune* (July 15) whether he supported further expulsions he said, "I don't think it's to be ruled out..."

The only candidate for the leadership that can claim to consistently represent the left is Eric Heffer. Despite some fundamental disagreements with *Militant*, he has wholeheartedly opposed the witch-hunt and stands for the implementation of Clause IV, Labour's socialist clause in its constitution.

As he told *Tribune* (June 24), "I have absolutely set my face against any expulsions of anyone...I don't believe in expelling anyone for their views. If we have arguments in the party they have got to be settled by proper democratic discussion and not by administrative methods—that smacks of Stalinism."

The ranks of the labour movement must give their support to Eric Heffer; and similarly to Michael Meacher in the deputy leadership contest, who has consistently opposed the witch-hunt and stood by conference policies.

The leadership elections are not a matter of personalities but policy decisions for the future of the Labour Party—a chance to decide whether the party repeats the mistakes of the past or goes forward on socialist policies.

unions to protect their jobs and living standards.

Mary Holland sums up the position that the strikers took, "It may be a Hindle factory today but it will be your dispute tomorrow."

Messages of support etc, to Hindle Strike Committee, c/o AUEW Headquarters, 1 Claremont, Great Horton, Bradford.



# Rally against party ban

**FOR THE past four months Wythenshawe Constituency Labour Party has remained suspended by Labour's National Executive.**

The arbitrary decision to suspend of the officers, the executive and General Committee of our party came to a head after a series of bitter battles between left and right, stretching back over a number of years.

The work done by party activists, *Militant* supporters and the Labour Party Young Socialists in recruiting working class people into the party has been attacked by the right-wing.

One of the right-wing complained in a scurrilous

letter to the NEC, "For the past fifteen to eighteen months, the hard left, including members of our ward, who openly admit to membership of the Militant Tendency (!) have been recruiting the unemployed, those living in poor council housing, anyone who has a grudge with life or the Labour controlled council, into membership of the branch."

The shift to the left has undoubtedly been accentuated in an area where male unemployment now stands at a staggering 25%. The right-wing however claim that *Militant* supporters have deliberately 'infiltrated' wards. This simmering feud came to a head in February this year when the left took 'all the officers' positions and won a majority on the executive at the AGM. A *Mili-*

*tant* supporter topping the poll in the trade union section outraged the right so much that two days after the AGM, a LPYS meeting at which Lynn Walsh was due to speak was banned from council property on the specious grounds that the meeting would lead to disorder!

This unprecedented ban however backfired on the right-wing and has only increased interest in and support for the ideas of Marxism in Wythenshawe.

Indeed *Militant* supporters and party activists are busy building for a rally on July 28 when Terry Fields MP will be speaking. Street meetings, factory gate meetings and estate sales have been planned in a mini-Broadgreen style campaign.

An estate sale in one ward involving three *Militant* sup-

porters produced 17 sales in just over an hour.

Already two wards have unanimously passed resolutions to go to party conference demanding that all Labour MPs follow Terry Fields' example and live on a worker's wage.

So despite the ban on our party the mood is one of defiance and anticipation of a marvellous rally on July 28. Events in Wythenshawe have shown that despite bans and witch-hunts, Marxism only gains support. Indeed it has only served to strengthen the resolve of party activists to elect genuine fighters for the working class, and not self-seeking careerists.

By Martin Lee  
(Wythenshawe CLP,  
personal capacity)

# London Labour must fight Tories

**THE Greater London Labour Party Executive Committee has taken a number of decisions of importance to the labour movement throughout London.**

The Labour controlled Inner London Education Authority has been in dispute for several weeks with the NUT's Inner London Teachers Association (ILTA) over the question of compulsory redeployment.

This matter has for many years caused considerable resentment amongst teachers, as it has been imposed by local education authorities with little or no regard to teachers' personal circumstances, causing great inconvenience and disruption to their lives.

The new left leadership of ILTA recently met with ILTA asking for an introduction of *voluntary* redeployment. ILEA indicated that they were not prepared to introduce it this year on grounds of cost.

The leader of ILEA, Frances Morrell tried to defend ILEA's position at the London Labour executive. Submitting a report, which scandalously included an article by an SDP councillor attacking ILTA, she said the teachers should not be attacking 'socialist' ILEA at a time when the Tory government was planning its abolition.

But Frances Morrell's stand that to meet the teachers' demands would be so expensive that it would incur penalties from the government, indicates a continuation of a common problem with regard to the leadership of the Labour Party in London.

They understand that to support the teachers' demands would pose a direct challenge to the Tories. Yet the ILEA leadership have to their disgrace, tried to retreat and indeed attack its own workforce rather than confront the government.

Indeed, Frances Morrell made an attempt to play off the teachers against the manual workers in ILEA,

saying to meet the teachers demands would cutback resources for manual workers.

The Executive Committee unfortunately accepted Francis Morrell's interpretation of events and voted by 19 votes to 11 to endorse her report. All seven *Militant* supporters on the executive opposed it.

The executive also discussed a proposal for the Greater London Labour Party to sponsor a joint meeting with Sinn Fein MP, Gerry Adams. This was opposed by Bob Labi (Constituency Section, Area 2) who argued that while not being against a *debate* with Adams, the labour movement should not give him an uncritical platform.

Eddie McParland (Constituency Section Area 4) pointed out that Sinn Fein was a wholly nationalist party, and had campaigned in the general election on a sectarian religious basis against 'nationalist' bad housing and 'nationalist' unemployment. The proposal was voted on and resulted in a 17-17 tied vote. Arthur Latham in the chair declared the proposal "not carried".

The meeting was adjourned and then continued on 25 July, where it discussed the general election results in

London. It was observed that Labour won only 26 out of 84 seats in London with under 30% of the vote. There was a lengthy discussion during which *Militant* supporters emphasised the need for the Party to aim its recruitment towards working class people in the city.

The Executive then went on to discuss the question of how the Tories' plans to abolish the Greater London

Council, ILEA and London Transport (as presently constituted) should be fought. This issue will be the most important matter facing the labour movement in the coming months and a clearly worked out campaign will have to be fought involving the full weight of the labour and trade union movement.

By a Militant reporter

## Militant Rally

'MARXISM IN OUR TIME—  
SOCIALIST POLICIES FOR LABOUR'

SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 10.30-5.30

(Followed by the film *Battle for Algiers* until 7.45 pm)

WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON

Speakers include:

Ted Grant (Political Editor, *Militant*)  
Peter Taaffe (Editor)  
Anton Neilson (Former Red Army pilot)  
Terry Fields MP  
Dave Nellist MP  
and others

Tickets: £2 (£1 unemployed)  
Order from MILITANT RALLY,  
1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

# Ranks reject witch-hunt

**IN A shock defeat for the right wing, 37 resolutions which strenuously opposed the witch-hunt have been accepted by the Organisation Sub-Committee of Labour's national executive.**

Significantly, the right wing have a crushing majority on this committee, yet John Golding was the only one of their number to turn up. With most of the discussion likely to be on the lessons of Labour's defeat, perhaps the right-wing felt they had nothing to contribute.

Unfortunately the resolutions were later rejected by the full NEC meeting on

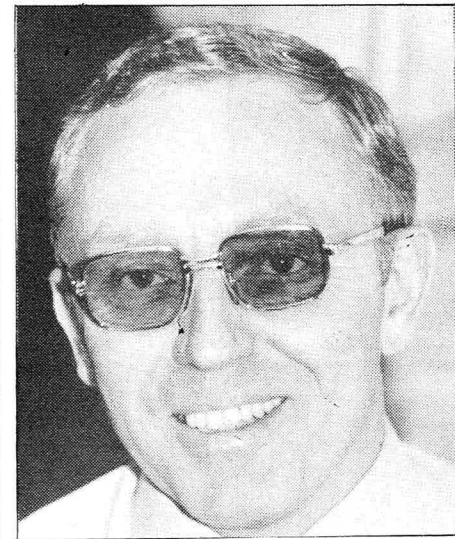
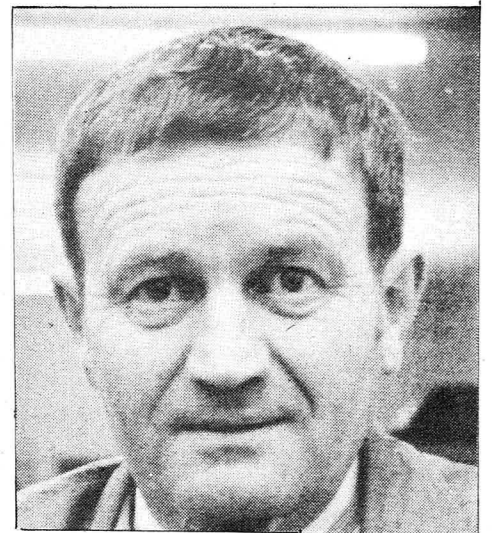
July 27, but the resolutions, such as the one reprinted below and signed by ten CLPs, show the real mood of the party rank and file:

"This CLP is outraged at the continuing witch-hunting activities of the NEC, activities which can only aid and abet the enemies of the labour movement. With a General Election possibly only weeks away, the over-riding task facing Labour is to unite in a drive to defeat the Tories.

"Instead of preparing seriously for the task, the NEC seem preoccupied with expelling the five members of the Militant Editorial

board—all longstanding party members—and possibly other members from the party. This course of action, unforgivable at any time, is nothing short of lunacy in a pre-election period. We deplore the fact that considerable time and resources are to be devoted to preparing "evidence" against loyal party members instead of organising for a Labour victory in 1983. We demand that the NEC—charged as it is with leading the party into an election campaign—immediately abandon this disastrous course."

PAT  
WALL



TERRY  
FIELDS

## MARXISTS STAND FOR NEC

**TERRY FIELDS MP and Pat Wall have been nominated by their constituency parties to stand for election to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party.**

Terry Fields has been a fireman for 26 years until his recent election to parliament where he won with a 4% swing to Labour. He was a member of the Fire Brigades Union executive, 1977-83 and was their nominee last year to the NEC, where he secured 1.3 million votes. He has been a member of the party for 16 years.

Pat Wall has been a party member for 33 years, standing as the Labour candidate in Bradford North during the election. He is President of Bradford Trades Council, and is a previous candidate in the constituency section for the NEC, last year receiving 103,000 votes.

They explain why they are standing:

For our party, and for working people as a whole, this year's Labour Party conference and the executive it elects will play a crucial role.

As in the days of Labour's early pioneers, we believe that the urgent task facing us today is to turn our movement outwards. A campaign, the like of which the party has never seen before, must be launched immediately, to defend the interests of working people and to explain our socialist policies.

A 35-hour week with no loss of pay; a national minimum wage; a massive scheme of house-building and other useful public works; unilateral nuclear disarmament—these must be the demands of such a campaign.

Above all, we must campaign for the implementation of our party's socialist clause; 'clause four'. If the next Labour government is not to be bullied and black-mailed by bankers and industrialists into abandoning its programme—as has happened in the past—then the power and influence of these parasites must be ended.

The next Labour government must translate 'clause four' into reality. The nationalisation of the economy's "commanding heights" must be the cornerstone of our economic policy.

Those who have argued this case consistently, those who have argued for socialism to be put firmly back on the agenda, have now become the target of a witch-hunt in the party.

The bitter experiences of Labour's election defeat has shattered completely the lie that expulsions would win the party "millions of votes". In fact, the opposite has proved to be true. The attack on the supporters of *Militant* served only to divide our movement at precisely the time when a united struggle was most needed.

We are confident, however, that the message at this year's conference will be that the constituency and trade union rank and file want more socialism, not less. Let's insure that along with decisions for radical socialist policies, this year's conference elects an NEC which truly reflects the wishes and aspirations of the party.



# £50,000 by October 8th

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 8 October
Eastern	162		2400
East Midlands	83		2650
Humberside	23		1450
London East	168		3100
London West	89		1950
London South	158		2700
Manchester & Lancs	89		3000
Merseyside	82		3300
Northern	82		3500
Scotland East	100		2000
Scotland West	86		2700
Southern	151		3700
South West	21		2000
Wales East	7		2000
Wales West	30		2300
West Midlands	58		3150
Yorkshire	199		3300
Others	1197		4800
<b>Total received</b>	<b>2784</b>		<b>50000</b>

## Don't delay our daily

IN PRACTICALLY every film and TV programme on American big business, executives have a notice on their walls saying "Do it now".

There's not much we can learn from the methods of the people who market Cockroachburgers and instantly obsolescent cars but that slogan's not bad.

Don't wait until the last minute. It applies to *Militant's* finances too. Don't wait until the end of the quarter, give to *Militant* NOW!

The £2784 we've received so far has been the best start to a new 'quarter' for some years. Generally speaking, the average weekly total doubles after the first two weeks as comrades who've made a special effort at the end of the previous quarter once again start to collect cash for us.

We need every penny, every fiver. The way the discussion on industrial and political issues are going in the trade unions, we need all the resources we can get to report these fully in *Militant* and in special *Militant* trade union pamphlets.

We're happy to report that thanks to your efforts over the last two to three months, we've managed to obtain extra assistance in the coverage of industrial news, and with YOUR con-

**THIS WEEK**  
**£2,784**

tinued help we intend to increase our capacity to do so still further.

This quarter, our "Others" column has gone ahead quickly, assisted by IOUs given in at TU conferences being redeemed, while Eastern, London South and Yorkshire lead the rest of the field. An excellent £119 from a meeting in Grays, Essex was responsible for Eastern Region's good start, while a meeting at Rotherham at which Ted Grant spoke raised £93 (which includes £15 from Drax Shop Stewards). Together with discussion groups in other parts of Yorkshire, and individual donations such as £10 from J Hepplethwaite (Leeds 14), that accounts for the Yorkshire total.

Some cash from London South missed the dead-line for the last quarter, and so has been added on to this one: if anyone was thinking of making a donation then but didn't, now's your chance! Some (including

Scottish supporter Bob Wylie) will be entering marathons—the least all us non-runners can do is sponsor them to the hilt!

Thanks also to Scunthorpe readers who raised £65 (before expenses) when Ted Grant and Dave Nellist MP spoke at a meeting, and to all who contributed to collections at discussion groups in Coventry. Over £16 was collected on a Lancashire minibus to the Northern Weekend School, and LPYS branches such as Newcastle Central had one of their regular whip-rounds for us. Thanks also to Childwall Labour Party (Liverpool) members for after-meeting collections.

Trade unionists to assist us this week included ASTMS members, POEU members attending a discussion group, extras on sales from Longbenton, the Tolpuddle Rally, Torness Engineering Site collection (£6.50 this week), expenses passed on from members of EETPU, NALGO, Musicians Union, £30 from a Blackpool trade unionist, and £3 contributed by members of TASS in the Manchester area.

Are you selling copies of *Militant* at work? Would your mates like it to be a Daily (maybe with sports, TV coverage and so on as well as political news)? Are they prepared to help us gather the resources needed for such a project? Do it now! ASK THEM TODAY!

# ads

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

## Militant Readers' Meetings

**MANCHESTER** Militant Readers' Meeting. Speakers: Terry Fields MP and Phil Frampton. Starts 7.30 pm, Thursday 28 July at the Newall Green Pub, Greenbrow Road, Wythenshawe (on the 101, 310, 293, 294 bus routes).

**MIDDLETON:** Militant Readers Meeting. Thursday 18 August, 7.30pm, Middleton Civic Hall, Long St. Chairman: Councillor Leo Deace. Speakers: Terry Fields MP, Margaret Creear.

**EDINBURGH:** Speakers: Ted Grant (Political Editor, *Militant*), Dave Nellist MP (details from local sellers) Postponed until further notice.

## CLASSIFIED

**SOCIALIST BANNERS**, hand painted by skilled artist. LPYS, LP, TU, orders to Tony McKenna, 19 Ashgrove, Musselburgh, East Lothian, Scotland. Sample photos available.

**AMBULANT** male disabled comrade requires nurse for holiday. Medical attention needed minimal. Contact Iain Campbell, Carlisle (0228) 21068.

## FOR HANDICAPPED READERS

Cassette tapes with two issues of *Militant* (one each side). Available fortnightly. £3.50 per quarter, £13 for year. Write to: 'Militant Tapes', 26 Aston Terrace, Harehills, Leeds 8, or phone 0527 73795.

**HALT** repression in Sri Lanka! Tamil workers can be the link to revolution in all South Asia. 7.30 pm 29 July, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Public meeting called by Spartacist League (01-278 2232).

## SOUTH WALES MILITANT SUMMER CAMP

August Bank Holiday  
Friday 26 August - Monday 29 August

For the eighth time we are organising our highly successful camp in the beautiful surroundings of Horton on the Gower Coast (10 minutes' walk from Port Eynon and Horton beaches).

It will provide not only an excellent introduction to the ideas of Marxism, but also a superb holiday for the family. Price £10. Write to 181 Hanover Street, Swansea SA1 6BP.

## Northern Weekend School WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 August 1983  
at the Textile Hall, Bradford

Sessions on:

The Family

Speaker: Leslie Holt, Liverpool Women's Council

Women & the Colonial Revolution

Speaker from SALEP (South African Labour Education Project)

Positive Discrimination

Speaker: Margaret Creear, Rochdale Women's Council

The Role of a Trade-Union Activist

Speaker: Doreen Purves, CPSA, Executive Member DHSS Section and Secretary Newcastle Central DHSS Branch.

Low Pay and the Minimum Wage

Speaker: Sheila Woodhead, Rochdale Women's Council

Bradford Textile Hall is on Westgate, very near the City Centre.

The school will open at 10.00 am on Saturday morning and the sessions will start at 10.30.

A crèche will be provided.

Booking fee for School: £2. Book now (or ask for further information) by contacting Margaret Creear, 11 Hadden Way, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. Telephone: (0706) 842702.

A Southern Weekend School with the same topics will now be held in London on 24 & 25 September.

## Take out an order now

TWO news items this week have an immediate significance. One is that the Tories are planning a further 200,000 job cuts in the public sector. The second is that there have been further discussions on the need for a labour movement daily paper.

These two items are inextricably linked, as more than ever the message must be got across not only that the Tories must be stopped but that the organised labour movement has the power to stop them.

In the next few months *Militant* supporters will be raising the finance and gaining the necessary regular sales to make our paper more frequent and eventually prepare for a *Daily Militant*. Every one of our readers can help us.

Do you know someone who will become a reader or a seller? Ask in your LP, TU or LPYS, get your stewards' committee, or union branch to take out an order. These can be supplied sale or return (minimum 5). Contact your local sellers or phone 01-986-3828 or write to 1, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Photo: Mark Pinder



Keep the sales of *Militant* booming in the summer holiday period.

## INQABA YA BASEBENZI

Journal of the Marxist Workers Tendency of the African National Congress.

New issue. Special 56 page issue on ZIMBABWE perspectives and reports. Subscription rates for four issues including postage of £3.20 from BM Box 1719 London WC1N 3XX





Police move in on a youth during the spontaneous counter-picket of the Tottenham NF meeting on May 3.

## Stop NF march

AS MILITANT goes to press, it appears a month long public order ban has been served by the police on the Tottenham area of North London for a month.

This Saturday, July 30, the fascist National Front were to hold a provocative march through the area. This is a continuation of the situation that followed the NF 'election meeting' in the area during a GLC by-election on May 3, which provoked a furious, spontaneous counter-demo of over 1,000 angry local youth. In the melée that followed, 35 youth were arrested, including members of the LPYS.

The NF say they called the banned march in protest at the 'death of a white patriot'. The NF claim one of their members died because of the counter-demo, although he died the day after from a heart attack.

This mock outrage extends only to their own ranks of course—they have a callous disregard for the scores of defenceless black and Asian workers who have met their deaths

in the dark of the night from the petrol bombs and knife blades of racist thugs, inflamed by NF poison.

It is clear that the police have banned the march for fear of the hurricane of anger it would unleash amongst local youth, similar to the scenes of May 3.

Youth in the area, especially black youth, have faced continuous police harassment, one example being on the Broadwater Farm estate where a defence campaign has been launched following the arrest of four youths on the estate. Had the NF march gone ahead of course, like the NF's May 3 meeting it would no doubt have received massive police protection.

Although the march has been banned, LPYS members will carry out their normal campaigning work in the area, urging local youth to join the struggle for socialism, to end the capitalist system that creates the breeding ground for racism and fascist ideas.

By a Tottenham LPYS member

One reader who lives in an area where the National Front thugs take a pride in anonymous, cowardly attacks, passed onto *Militant* a typical example of the filth they peddle, printed below. The 'letter' was sent to the father of a white girl who has a black boyfriend. The young girl concerned now buys *Militant* and has expressed an interest in the LPYS.

DEAR MR .  
I HAVE DEAP REGRET IN  
INFORMING YOU ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER  
WHO IS BEING SEDUCED BY  
A GROUP OF RASTAFARIANS, AT HER OWN  
REQUEST, THE NAME OF THE TRIBE IS  
HER SO CALLED FRIEND MISS  
IS MAINLY THE REASON  
FOR SUCH A LET DOWN IN A RESPECTABLE  
FAMILY LIKE YOURS, YOUR ONCE LOVING  
DECENT DAUGHTER WHO WAS ONCE A VIRGIN  
MAY ALSO BE ON THE PILL TO HIDE  
HER SHAME AND DISGRACEFUL BEHAVIOUR.  
SHE HAS NOW BECOME ONE OF THE  
MUD LOVING SCUM OF BIRMINGHAM.  
I RECOMMEND YOU TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER  
MOST SEVERELY, HAS IT MAY INTERRUPT HER  
FUTURE AND MENTAL BALANCE, SO PLEASE  
DEAL WITH THIS MATTER ACCORDINGLY  
OR WE WILL. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN  
YOURS SORROWFULLY  
N S F

## Last chance for YS camp

WITH the Tories' election victory in June, this year's Labour Party Young Socialists Summer Camp is one of the most important events on the YS calendar. It is our first national meeting since the election where we can look at the lessons of Labour's defeat and prepare the LPYS for the coming battles against the Tories.

There are various sessions such as "The role of a Socialist Youth Organiser" or "Organising a YS branch", as well as other key issues concerning all socialists such as "The lessons of Chile", "South Africa" and "Trade union rights for the armed forces".

But the whole camp is not only geared towards political organisation; it is also a holiday with football, swimming and many other activities taking place, not to speak of the night life which includes film shows, club nights and discos.

With only very few days left to book, every LPYS branch should try to raise last-minute donations from CLPs, union branches and

individual Labour Party members, so as to ensure that every YS member can get along despite their lack of finance.

This year's camp is as im-

portant as ever, because of the need to show a lead amongst the youth and to build the LPYS as a fighting force in the labour and trade union movement.

### LPYS SUMMER CAMP 1983

**Saturday 30 July-Saturday 6 August**  
**Bracelands Campsite, near Coleford, in**  
**the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire**  
**PRICE: £25 for adults; Children under 12**  
**£12.50 (under 3s FREE)**

**Bring a tent, sleeping bag, stove and**  
**cooking utensils. Food can be bought on**  
**the site from the LPYS campshop or**  
**bring your own.**

**BOOK NOW! For further details write to**  
**LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.**

## Huntingdon YS

**AT ONE of the best ever**  
**Huntingdon LPYS**  
**meetings, two brothers**  
**spoke of their experiences**  
**on YOP schemes.**

One of them had asked his supervisor if he could join a union. He was told to go and ask the boss. The boss told him YOPsters were not allowed to join a union!

The other brother worked on a YOP scheme on a farm. He started off as a general farm worker but in the end he had to cook the boss's breakfast as well. Luckily, his employment officer told him not to go back when he complained about this.

On another YOP scheme

he sometimes had to work from 9 am until 7 pm. His boss left him to look after the place—answering phones, cleaning out houses and many other jobs for at least 50% of the time.

One of the brothers at his first political meeting said he'd only come along for a laugh, and had even thought about joining the SDP. Now they were both thinking about joining Labour.

If Huntingdon, a real rural Tory stronghold, can hold such a good meeting then the LPYS has everything to gain in other areas.

By a Huntingdon  
LPYS member

## TU School success

AT OUR recent trade union youth school we were all told to work hard and play hard. So we did. We arrived on the Monday lunchtime and after registering we sold eleven papers in the bar.

Later in the week we arranged a *Militant* meeting with a first-rate speech from Julie Harris. A number of the youth trade unionists were keen to join the LPYS, and one senior steward down

for the TGWU Advanced Stewards' Course wanted to know more about *Militant*. £30 was collected for the Fighting Fund and a list of names interested in future activity. To all trade unionists under 30-years-old I would recommend them to go next year.

By Mike Wright  
(T&GWU Shop Steward,  
Plymouth)

## 'Grin and bear it' YS told

Claims that privatisation would mean the creation of more jobs were greeted with open laughter at a public debate between the LPYS and the Young Tories, in Uxbridge, North West London.

The 40 supporters of Uxbridge LPYS, compared to the Tories' nine, derided such comments from the two YC speakers.

### Tory speaker

The second Tory speaker gave the audience even more laughs than the first. He claimed that we had to be "realistic" if British industry was going to be allowed to 'recover' (!). We were told that "economies" (new word for cuts) had to be made in public expenditure and that in the meanwhile we would have to "grin and bear it".

In complete contrast, Willie Griffin enthusiastically outlined the policies of the LPYS showing graphically the waste and destruction the Tories had caused.

The second LPYS speaker, Steve Field, gave the Tories a taste of what "reality" actually meant for unemployed people like himself. He recounted how the last time he went to the job centre, one job on offer was in the Falkland Islands, and there was also a franchise offered for a shoe-cleaner at nearby Heathrow airport.

### Real hatred

During the time allowed for questions from the floor, young workers' real hatred of the Tories was shown.

One YS member sarcastically commented that he was pleased to hear that the Young Tories' optimism for the future resulted in a policy of "grin and bear it". He said that the only problem was that the 5% of the population who had the wealth were grinning while the rest of us had to bear it!

What was interesting about the debate was the singular lack of enthusiasm that the Tories showed when speaking—they were certainly not fired by election success.

All YS members came away from the meeting even more convinced than ever of the correctness of our ideas. This was underlined by the fact that three people applied to join the LPYS.

By Simon Kaplan  
(Uxbridge LPYS)



# Cracking under the strain



IF YOUR holiday started with a traffic jam caused by road works, then send your post card of complaint to the government. For the poor state of Britain's roads is a direct consequence of their diverting more freight of the railways and onto the roads, and allowing heavier lorries without spending the necessary investment.

Roads originally designed to last twenty years are cracking up after four or five. All the major motorways are afflicted with road repairs. Currently the M1 has ten road-

works, the M5 nine, the M6 nine etc.

In the Dover area, Alan Smith, the county surveyor, says that the volume of heavy goods has increased a thousand fold since 1970. Earlier this year a Parliamentary Select Committee criticised the lack of investment to cope with the enormous weight of heavy goods vehicles.

Greater Manchester's County Engineer, Eddy Naylor, estimates that if the government spent 5% more on the base and surface of motorways, it would double their

road life. But the government is keen to cut back. Not just on motorways but on all roads.

This means that whatever the weather there can be problems. In the winter if cracks and potholes are not mended, frost can cause damage which requires major structural repair. And the recent heatwave, has led to the concrete surface of some motorways cracking up.

## Serge — Marxist novelist

Serge writes with conviction, for he was himself a Marxist and exiled oppositionist. Born to Russian parents who had been exiled to Brussels he started political life as an anarchist. But the 1917 Russian Revolution won his immediate support, and he went to Russia to join the Bolsheviks.

From its inception in 1923 he was a member of the "Left Opposition." Like Trotsky he continued to defend the revolution, but opposed the Stalinist bureaucracy and wanted a return to the original ideas of workers' democracy.

Isolation of the revolution to a backward country exhausted the working class, and ensured the opposition's defeat. Many capitulated. Serge did not and endured the full range of Stalinist persecution, including Siberian exile.

His book, then, is written from the inside. It is set in Chernaya, a fictional Siberian town used as a dumping ground for political opponents by Tsars and then Stalin. All types are there but mainly suspected oppositionists.

In exile, overwhelming fear and uncertainty exists. Despite this a group of five meets regularly, analyse events and hope for victory. Serge captures a whole society held in vicious check by the bureaucracy's strong arm tactics.

Deprivation exists everywhere. People queue for bread that is often not there, distorted production targets collapse and scapegoats are crowded into packed cells. Old and tired bureaucrats, beaten intellectuals, militant and determined workers, harassed police chiefs about to become victims of their own repression—these illuminate a revolution in retreat, and the resistance to it.

Serge himself escaped the coming purges by chance. A campaign abroad for his release secured his exile on the eve of the first mass trials and murders. His book shows an opposition still struggling before the slaughter, with dim contacts maintained and standing as the physical inheritors of the revolution's real traditions.

Increasingly, the hopes of the opposition are shown through the character of Rodion, an exiled worker, full of fight. It is this which makes *Midnight in the Century* such a worthwhile book.

Serge wrote books of men in prison, revolutions successful and defeated and of people awaiting death in the purges. They all contain a remarkable optimism, because he preserved his will to struggle. Rodion incarnates this will, this belief that new struggles are inevitable.

There are no false dawns in this book—but no eternal defeats either. Its author plainly foresees new struggles and fresh forces. So too will his readers

**DENNIS TOURISH (South Belfast Labour Group) reviews 'Midnight in the Century' by Victor Serge**

## LEFT and RIGHT

### Cartoon Book—no joke for jobless

Britain's four million jobless may find a new cartoon book less than amusing. The book called *101 uses for the unemployed* shows them, as traffic bollards, bookcases and hat stands. This tasteless idea was bought from America, and millionaire publisher Anthony Blond thinks, "it will go down rather well". We just hope Thatcher and the Tory cabinet don't get hold of it—Tebbit's work experience schemes are enough of a joke already.

### Framing a life from a strand of hair

Is baby Lize Venter's hair thick and curly, thin and wispy or somewhere in between? Although less than one month old, this is the most important decision that will ever be made in her life.

For Lize Venter is an abandoned baby in South Africa. And babies are not human beings first and foremost in that

society. They are classified members of racial groups.

Until it has been decided which racial group she belongs to, her life is in limbo. So Major General Neethling of the South African Police has had the police's forensic laboratory working flat out. Using "scientific and anthropological tests" dating back to the beginning of this century, Major General Neethling has ruled that baby Venter's hair is coloured.

So her life has been decided. She will have to move out of the whites only hospital where she is currently being looked after and consigned to all the second rate facilities, which Coloureds, Blacks and Asians suffer in apartheid South Africa. Next time the Tories talk about defending freedom internationally, ask them about baby Venter and why they are financing apartheid.

### Hedging their bets over General Election

As the general election loomed closer this year big business decided to take no chances. They poured money into Tory coffers and hired pollsters to assure them of victory. Then they sent a record amount of money out of the country. After all, why take chances? £1.25 billion went abroad in the first quarter of 1983—£250 million more than the same period last year. This year will be yet another record for money leaving the country. Sacrifices in the national interest, for big business, means that workers give and they take.

## TV Labour history

**MARTIN COOK (Folkstone LPYS) reviews *What Went Wrong*, Channel 4, Saturdays 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

THE FIRST of three-series dealing with the history of the British movement, dealt with the events of the whole period leading up to the landslide victory of 1945.

With a title like *What went wrong?* I was very dubious at first but was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the interviews and the way in which they vividly portrayed the poverty, hardships and tremendous community spirit of the old working-class areas.

The problem was that the programme covered so much ground and, therefore, only had a couple of minutes to show events such as the Russian revolution and the 1926 General Strike. However, the attitude of the people actually involved to these events came out very well. The old activists told how the whole of the British working-class was excited and enthused by the movements in Russia in 1917.

Totally vindicating the arguments of Marxism, an ex-ILP member, commenting on the defeat of the 1926 General Strike, said: "The general feeling was that we

had been betrayed by the right-wing elements in the TUC." A really outstanding scene was the photographs of North-East miners, during the course of a bitter strike, setting up their own pits where everyone pulled together for the common good and the production run by fully democratic committees, "without a boss in sight". Who said workers' control and management won't work!

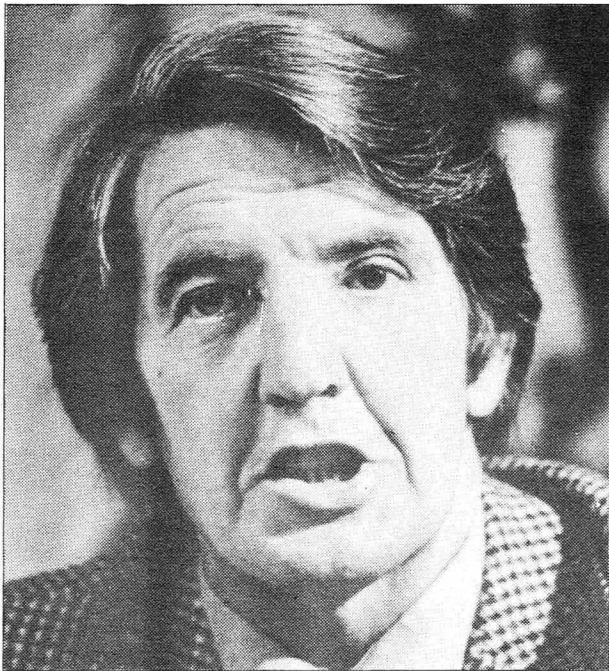
The victory of 1945 was seen by many as the final glorious victory for socialism—"the millenium had arrived" as one old Welsh lady put it. The next programme will examine the reasons why mass unemployment have returned and the final episode will take the form of a studio discussion. They should be interesting, but will probably have to be taken with a pinch of salt. But I'm only guessing—watch it and find out.



# Avoiding the tally-man

FOR YEARS capitalism worldwide has profited from the misery of the masses in third world countries which are ruined by worsening terms of trade for raw materials compared to manufactured goods, and crushed by debts to world banks.

Now the corrupt capitalist regimes in countries like Brazil and Mexico, after years of trying to stave off revolution through borrowing, are blackmailing their former friends, the blood-suckers in the banks. They are making international big business' flesh creep with the thought of revolution if they are forced to repay quickly, and threatening a total moratorium on debts. In a Commons speech last week Denis Skinner MP exposed the crisis and hypocrisy of the Tories.



Denis Skinner MP

long ago. Now they are forming a cartel. Several Latin American countries are getting together and saying "We'll pay back our debts, or not all, on the basis of what we say. We will put our terms to the IMF. We owe that much money that we can call the tune." They are bound to call the tune since Brazil has a 120 per cent inflation rate, riots in the streets. There is also the possibility—I put it no higher—of Governments being elected in Latin American countries such as Brazil, Venezuela, Chile or Argentina with a mandate not to pay. Nearly all the parties there which go to the starving people experiencing massive inflation will get a mandate not to pay.

## Investments abroad

It reminds me of the tally man coming round the streets where I used to live—I suppose that he still does—when we would knock on the doors to tell the neighbours that the man was coming to collect their debts for a few paltry clothes and a bit of furniture, and to tip them off not to pay. Little did I realise, when I told the man that my mam and dad were not in and could not pay this week, that in a small way I was saying that they were rescheduling their debts for a week.

The morality of the working class was that they wanted to pay the following week, or at the end of the year, but in the casino economy where bankers thrive, the morality is different. They do not say "My mam and dad cannot pay this week". Now we have reached the point where Brazil and several other countries are telling the bankers in no uncertain terms, "We are playing your game. We will pay you back when it suits us".

Set against this background, there is no doubt that the crisis is upon us, and it cannot be solved by being tinkered with. The

casino economy proliferates in Britain as well as abroad, because it is still easier to lend money at 12 per cent. interest.

One need only look at the City columns in the *Sunday Telegraph* or other newspapers to find massive advertisements telling British people to invest their money in America, Japan or elsewhere. Just before the general election, Aitken Hume was asking British people to invest £500 or £1,000 in an American technology fund, saying that there was a crisis in Britain and that one would get a better return on money invested in America. That is called waving the British flag.

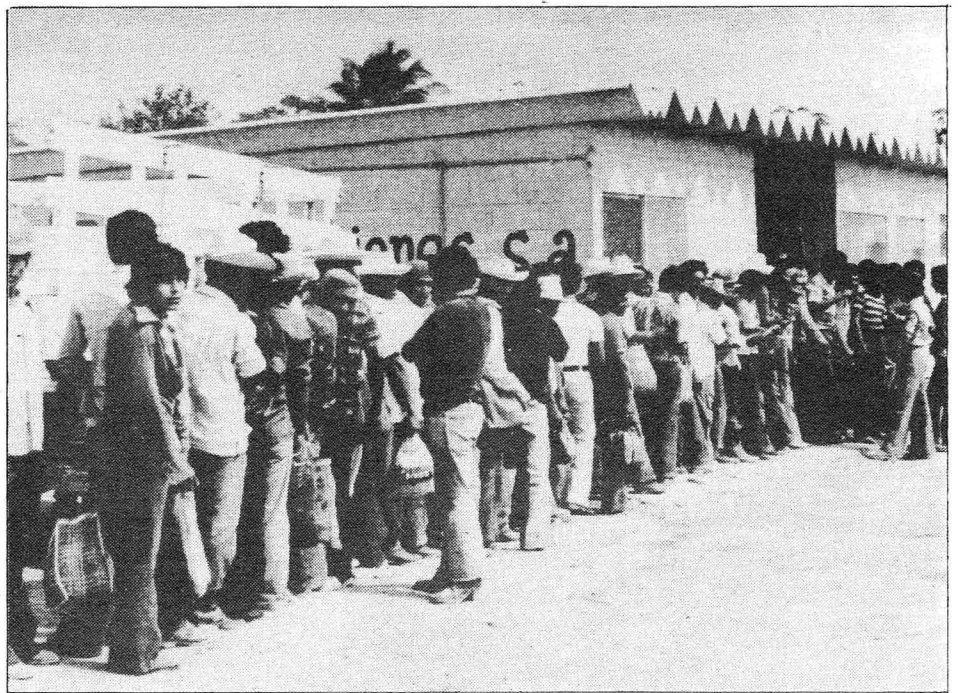
We shall be told later tonight, when my hon. Friends speak in the debate on the Coal Industry (Borrowing Powers) Order, that the real crisis in Britain is due to the miners trying to get a substantial wage increase. We shall be told the economy is in a mess because we have too many pits, and that some of them should be shut.

But the real crisis is not in the pits, on the railways or in the areas of the industrial economy that have been savaged by the Government and run down to a great extent. The real crisis is in the international and domestic banking scene.

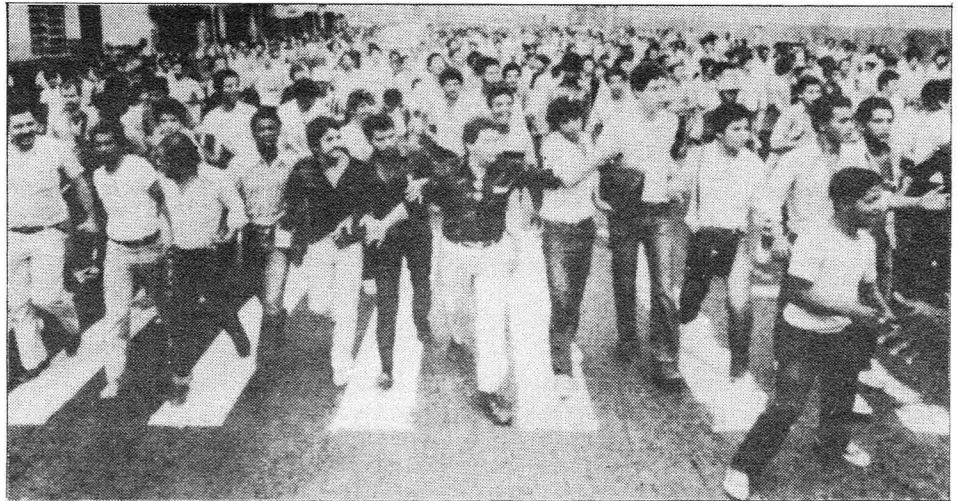
It will continue for as long as it is possible to make money out of money, investing at high interest rates, and not having the capacity to invest in industry at rates of 3 per cent. or 4 per cent...

This is not a crisis of our making. It has nothing to do with Socialism, and no Opposition Member need feel guilty about what has happened.

The system of market forces and monetarism, as exemplified by the appeal in the House to get this Bill through, show only too well that they have now burnt themselves out. We are beginning to see that the system that the Government support and operates cannot deliver the goods at the end of the road.



The jobless in Mexico. Victims of capitalism.



Riots in Sao Paulo, Brazil, persuade the world's banks not to push too hard.

## Teenage pregnancy The class facts of life

"ALMOST ALL teenage mothers are working class. Young mothers have far higher perinatal mortality rates and their babies are smaller than average.

"Many of them had been through the worst housing conditions, living in bed and breakfast accommodation before the council found them their own flat. Not surprisingly, two out of five of them had suffered depression during the first year after the baby's birth." (*Guardian*, 11 July)

This was just one of many findings in a recent survey carried out by the Institute of Social Studies in Medical Care. Although the report highlights the severity of the situation—"teenage motherhood is now at almost the same level as it was in 1961"—Some quarters have gone as far as to suggest that working class women set about getting pregnant in order to "achieve adult status".

Pauline Crabbe, Vice-chairman of the Brook Advisory Centre says: "I hate to see young girls rushing into marriage and maternity. Their expectations are usually unrealistic and rarely fulfilled.

"But perhaps they are being more realistic than we sometimes realise. These working class girls have no future or prospects and marriage and motherhood is by far the most important thing that is likely to happen in their lives."

Having been a teenage mum myself and as a working class woman, I think those comments are patronising and insulting, not only towards working class wo-

men but to all working class families, as it suggests we're as thick as two planks of wood through school but come 16 we've suddenly acquired a role in society as baby machines!

The reason I became accidentally pregnant at 16 wasn't because I envisaged a rosy glamorous life of motherhood but due to the fact that although contraception was available the doctor who interviewed me at the Family Planning Clinic spent 2 minutes explaining the advantages of the pill and 10 minutes repeating the disadvantages. She even warned that I might get a blood clot, walk out of my door one morning and not come back.

I never have for one minute regretted having my daughter, but then I was

lucky in that I received a lot of financial and practical help from my family in raising her.

But is it any wonder that many working class mums are suffering from nervous exhaustion, mental breakdowns as a result of squalid living conditions, poverty and mass unemployment created by a rotting clapped-out system in which we have to bring up our kids. While the likes of Princess Diana can leave their children with private nannies while they go jet-setting or yachting around the world, for working class women just working out the price of a meal is a strain.

By Jackie Walsh  
(Hackney North LPYS)

## Having a baby in style

DID YOU know you can now have a baby in style? And that the food in the hospital may be "much too good", according to a recent article in the *Times*, describing the private Portland Hospital in Central London. One mother sang the praises of this purpose built £7.5 million private hospital, financed by "City Investors" and backers from the Persian Gulf.

The article showed the devastating and disgusting difference between private patients in this hospital who pay £160 a day for one room or 5 nights for £930 (what a bargain!) and NHS patients in a NHS hospital who rely on decimated and run-down public services to deliver their babies safely. Furthermore, the £160 paid by the private

patients excludes para-medical services, drugs, dressings, not to mention the consultant's fees. And if you are unfortunate enough to have a caesarean it could cost a mere £1,770!

Do we need further proof of how the Tories and their class intend to ensure their health, at the expense of working class who fought long and hard for a proper, free NHS. It's essential that the whole labour movement should actively fight against the cuts and closures in the NHS and fight for a modernised, efficient NHS which benefits all of the working class.

By Hazel Flynn  
(NALGO)  
& Trilly Patel  
(NUPE)



**“During the lifetime of great revolutionaries, the oppressing classes meted out to them constant persecution...After their death, attempts are made to convert them into harmless icons, to canonise them.”**

These celebrated lines of Lenin were written with Karl Marx in mind. But the current spate of sickly verbiage about Gandhi—no friend of the labour movement but still a leader of one of the greatest national liberation struggles in history—underlines once again their truth.

The heirs of those who mocked and persecuted Gandhi, and shot down his followers, have not only canonised but mercilessly exploited him.

Where is the capitalist politician today who does not approve of “passive resistance”, “civil disobedience” and “non-violence”—at least for the struggles of previous generations? How shamelessly they distort the history of Indian independence to justify these ideas.

The investors who financed Sir Richard Attenborough’s multi-million epic will certainly be spared the need to practise the virtue of austerity.

Any shrewd film producer would see that the world’s two biggest cinema markets are the English-speaking audience (Britain, North America, Australia, etc) and India, where every village has a booming cinema. To make a film about Gandhi was a masterstroke.

Moreover, the Indian government, eager to resuscitate the old myths in these days of corruption, scandal and social unrest, has specially lifted the entertainment tax on this film to reduce ticket prices and ensure colossal audiences. Indira Gandhi personally vetted the screenplay and it has been dubbed into all the Indian languages.

### Historical distortions

It is therefore necessary for workers to learn the truth and to guard all the more vigilantly against the historical distortions of a film as professionally well-made as this.

The Indian writer Salman Rushdie, author of *Midnight’s Children*, commented that the film “sanctified” Gandhi and “turned him into Christ”—“an odd fate for a crafty Gujarati lawyer”. It “omits Gandhi’s fondness for Indian billionaire industrialists... It shows us a saint who vanquished an empire. This is a fiction... it is as if Gandhi, years after his death, has found in Attenborough the last in his series of billionaire patrons... And rich men,

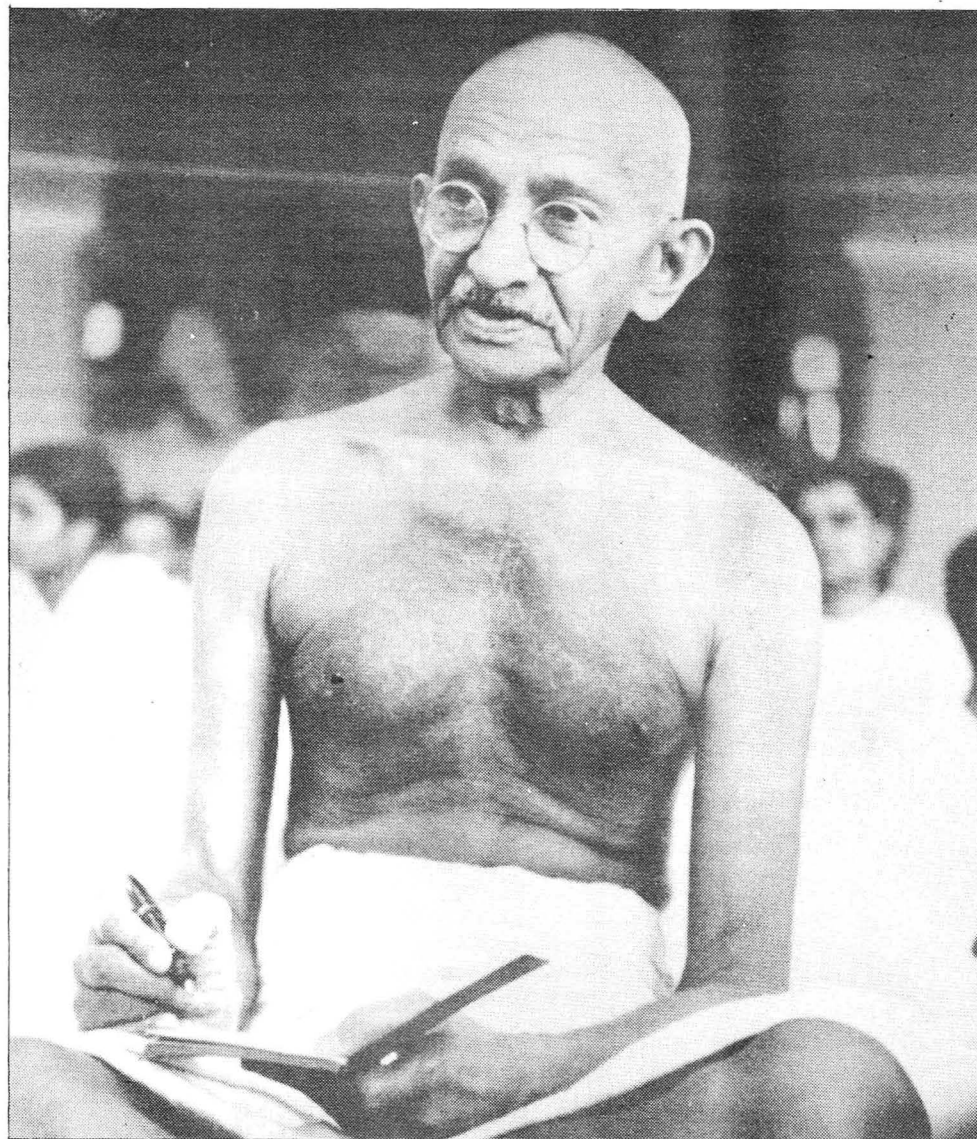
By  
**Roger Silverman**

like emperors, have always had a weakness for tame holy men.”

India won its freedom not because Gandhi girded himself in a piece of sack and sat in the road, fasting, praying, abjuring carnal pleasures, oozing goodness and shaming the British Empire into it. While Gandhi waited in his palace prison, penning plaintive letters to the Viceroy, the Indian masses launched a tremendous campaign of strikes, demonstrations, occupations, mutinies, guerilla action, sabotage, armed revolts, and popular uprisings which paralysed the administration. Whole areas were effectively liberated from British rule from 1942 onwards.

The end of World War II in 1945 created an unprecedented revolutionary climate, not only in the colonial world but also in Europe. Fearing a rash of mutinies like those following the First World War, the British Labour Government hastily demobilised the troops—radicalised and war-weary.

Revolution stalked the Indian sub-continent, but it was unthinkable to impose the colossal occupation force that would be needed to suppress it. If world imperialism had to stand by helpless as landlordism and capitalism were overthrown in China (also by



Mahatma Gandhi

methods that were hardly “passive”), what chance could there be of maintaining the direct colonial occupation of India?

25 years later, American imperialism found that it still could not rely on its troops to hold down tiny South Vietnam. It was this new postwar balance of forces that spurred onward the colonial revolution which has transformed the planet. Hence, the urgent cable wired to Downing Street by General Alexander: “if we don’t concede independence we won’t hold India for three days!”

If the Communist Party of India had not slavishly served the needs of the Moscow

**The film Gandhi had enormous publicity and was commercial success. Gandhi became a media hero. But its independence not through Gandhi’s ‘passive’ but a militant campaign by the Indian masses.**

# GANDHI

works of Western writers like Ruskin, Emerson, Mazzini and Thoreau. He wrote to Count Tolstoy in Russia, who was by now wearing a peasant smock. Tolstoy in his turn found his inspiration not in the soul of the Russian muzhik but in the writings of earlier counterparts further west.

What linked these thinkers of America, Europe and Russia to the political activist of India? Trotsky explained that “Tolstoy’s philosophy of non-resistance to evil by violence was a generalisation of the first stages of the muzhik (peasant) revolution... Gandhi is now fulfilling the same mission in India, only in a more practical form.”

### Preached passivity

The peasants, lacking as yet a confidence in their own mass power, find expression in enlightened representatives of the old ruling classes, who make impassioned warnings and appeals to the rulers to curb their appetites for fear of provoking a violent response from below. Tolstoy the enlightened aristocrat, Gandhi the heir to a dynasty of Prime Ministers of his native principality, even Luthuli the chief of an African tribe, all preached passivity to the exploited and restraint to the exploiters.

But what effect did Tolstoy have in ridding Russia of Tsarism? What is the lasting legacy in the fight against apartheid of Luthuli the Nobel Peace Prizewinner? How many people have even heard of him 20 years later?

It was not due to Gandhi’s pious words but to action by the millions that India was liberated.

In preaching “passive resistance”, Gandhi expressed the capitalists’ fear of a violent mass movement that would blast them into oblivion.

Tolstoy wrote to Gandhi: “The same struggle

bureaucracy and suspended the liberation campaign for the course of the war, it would have become the natural leadership of the Indian revolution. As it was, British imperialism happily subsidised the CPI to the tune of Rs 13,000 a month while imprisoning the Congress leaders.

But for this peculiar combination of circumstances, Gandhi would appear as a mere marginal footnote in the history of the liberation struggle, an interesting historical phenomenon but nothing more. Gandhi’s positive role was to help to instil a national consciousness, fight Hindu/Muslim communalism and give a sense of dignity to the

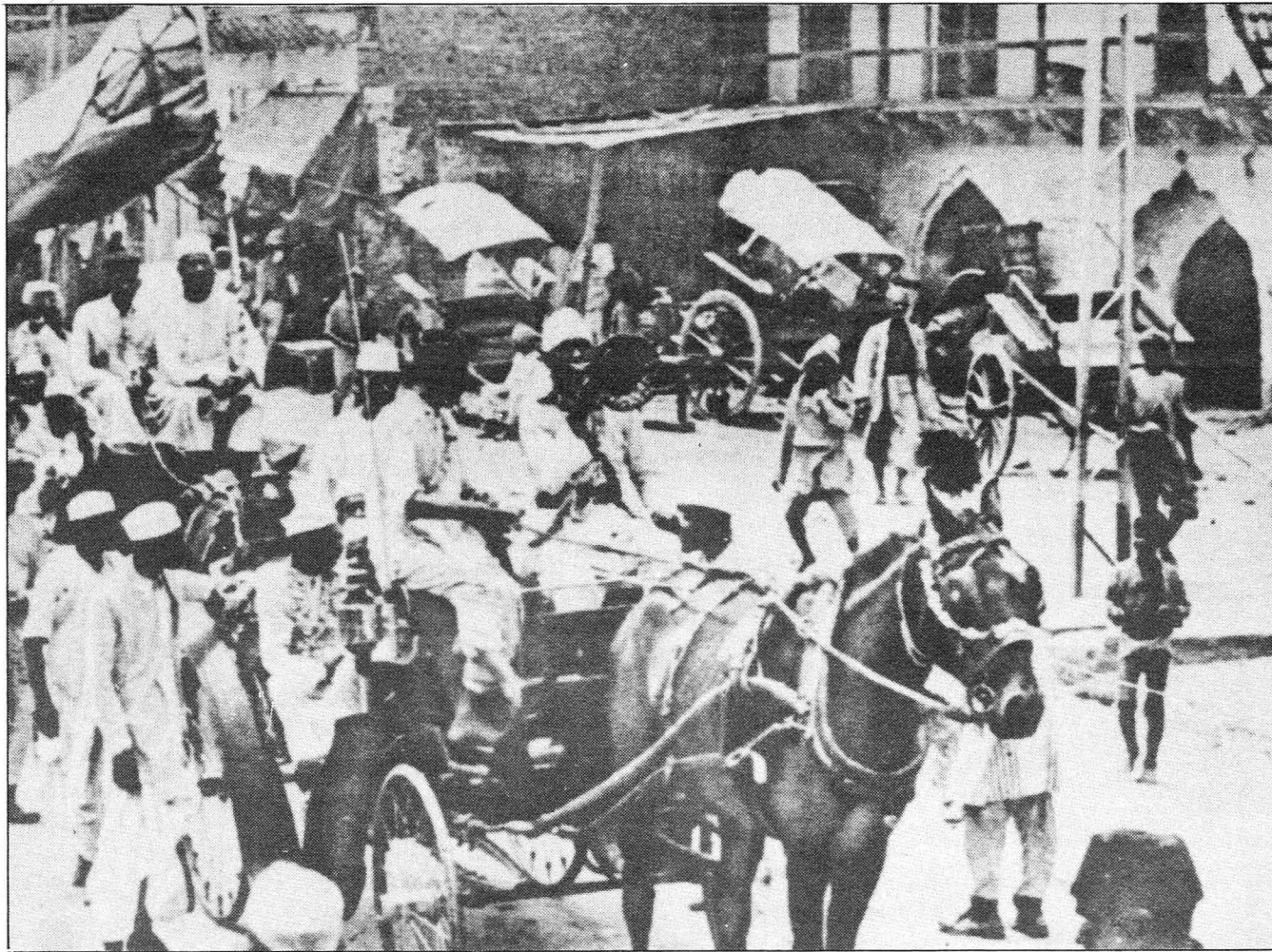
“untouchables” (the harijans or “children of God” to use his patronising word).

Without this there could be no independence struggle. But it was neither Gandhi’s pacifist saintliness nor Lord Mountbatten’s squeamish liberalism that ended British rule. That needed a revolutionary mass struggle. It is a historical paradox that the very intensity and maturity of India’s revolutionary crisis brought to the threshold of power a figure who belongs to the most primitive phase of the revolutionary movement.

Gandhi owed his ideas, not to any heritage of “Oriental wisdom” but to his reading of the



## a huge com- t India won resistance'



The 1922 "Gandhi Day Parade" in New Delhi. Supporters just out of prison marched round seeking support for his policy of civil disobedience. The subsequent retreat of the Indian CP from the liberation struggle strengthened Gandhi's hand yet further. He was able to express the indignation of the masses at British rule and win their support.

of the soft against the harsh, of meekness and love against pride and violence, is making itself felt every year." Gandhi liked to quote from the revolutionary English poet Shelley:

*And if then the tyrants dare  
Let them ride among you there,  
Slash and stab and maim and hew,  
What they like, that let them do  
With folded arms and steady eyes...  
Look upon them as they slay  
Till their rage has died away.  
Then they will return with shame  
To the place from which they came.*

The delusion that "meekness" can "shame" the ruling class belongs to the epoch of the very earliest awakenings of the masses, who do not as yet feel a sense of their power to shape their own destiny.

Gandhi saw it as his mission to lead the right wing of Congress and protect capitalist and even feudal property. In 1922 the leadership of Congress advised its members "to inform the peasants that withholding of rent payment to zamindars (landlords) is contrary to Congress resolutions and injurious to the best interests of the country."

In 1934 Gandhi assured the capitalists: "I shall be no party to dispossessing the propertied classes of their property without just cause...You may be sure that I shall throw the whole weight of my influence in preventing a class war." He was supported by the giant monopoly capitalist Birla and other billionaires.

Only such a figurehead, in every respect the opposite of the capitalists themselves—emaciated, austere, ascetic, humble,

democratic, idealistic—could rally the masses in their support. The beneficiaries of his will-power and guile were the greedy, obese, vulgar moneybags who so nauseated him. In abandoning fine clothes for his famous loincloth he expressed an aristocratic disdain for the upstart rather than revolutionary hatred of exploitation.

Imperialism could be beaten only by a united mass struggle. Marx explained that "India was conquered with Indian troops". It was necessary to imbue the population with an Indian national consciousness and declare war on provincialism and particularism, the vested interests of the maharajahs, the religious, caste and linguistic divisions so sedulously fostered by the British, pastmasters of the art of "divide and rule".

The fighting forces could only come from the ranks of the poor and downtrodden. The narrow, intellectual, cosmopolitan base of those aspiring for a modern capitalist nation, for a social development unencumbered by the wretched medieval heritage, could have nothing other than a democratic, secular and even "socialist" identity.

Congress leaders came into collision with the collaborationist wing of the bourgeoisie, represented by the twin communal forces of the Muslim League and the Hindu RSS which between them ravaged the infant nation in its cradle, partitioned India and assassinated Gandhi.

Gandhi began with an outlook moulded by British imperialism. "They treat us as beasts," he complained in South Africa, "they class us with the kaffir." (Kaffir is the equivalent of "nigger") The future pacifist and agitator against untouchability demanded the recruitment of an In-

dian army to fight in the "Kaffir Wars", and in the front line at that!

Much later he confessed that "the British Empire has certain ideals with which I have fallen in love." To the end he hoped to prove the "worthiness" of the Indian people to be "trusted" with independence.

His pacifism was ambiguous and loaded against the oppressed. Mountbatten confirms that "Gandhi was not against soldiers and sailors, because controlled force as used by armies

favourable conditions—a potential home market of nearly 700 million, and a world boom—can be found, not only in the survival of all the old barbarities—caste, communalism, feudalism and bonded labour, etc—but in the remorseless erosion of Indian exports on the world market, and now the rapid destruction of industry on the home market too. This spectacular failure is reflected in the virtual extinction today of any national consciousness, and the threat of the Balkanisa-

pilot, replaced him as the most powerful man in India. But Rajiv will be as successful a politician as Sanjay was a pilot!

The content has evaporated. Only the shell of an Indian nation remains. Two generations of decline led from Mahatma Gandhi the saint to Sanjay Gandhi the crooked playboy. Only the united working class of the entire subcontinent can prevent a reversion to barbarism.

The working class will listen to Gandhist homilies at its own peril. Louis Fischer, describing Gandhi's hunger strike on behalf of the millhands, writes: "The millowners were intimidated because they had a deep affection for Gandhi, and when they saw his selfless sacrifice they may have felt ashamed of their own selfishness."

Workers may be forgiven a certain scepticism. Only this year textile mill workers in Gandhi's native Gujarat, despairing of their mill ever reopening, assembled with their wives and children by a lake side and tried to commit mass suicide. That is the last word in Gandhism.

Apart from a few such isolated remnants, however, the legacy of "passive resistance" has almost completely disappeared. Even some of the disciples of Gandhi have turned to other methods.

Audiences watching *Gandhi* recently in a big cinema theatre in Madras rushed out screaming with panic because the "harijan" supporters of Dr Ambedkar, incensed that their champion did



Gandhi outside his office in Pretoria, S. Africa.

and navies was at least preferable to the uncontrolled violence of the mob." He urged Jewish victims of Nazism, however, to accept their fate with "forbearance".

The transfer of political power to Congress by British imperialism in 1947 would seem on the face of it to refute the theory of Permanent Revolution. Didn't the bourgeoisie of a colonial country succeed in winning power and developing industry?

The answer, after 35 years of the most

tion of India.

All that the national bourgeoisie can do to hold India together is hark back to the golden days of Gandhi and Nehru, like an old man trying to recall his first romance. "The world's biggest democracy" has spawned a new dynasty.

Indira Gandhi, daughter of Nehru with her magic surname, openly groomed her son Sanjay to succeed her as Prime Minister. When he died in an aerobic joyride, his brother Rajiv, a non-political airline

not appear in the film, had made their point by letting deadly rattlesnakes loose in the auditorium!

The Indian working class as a whole has discarded pacifism. Compare the magnificent Bombay textile strike, the biggest strike in world history! The Congress politicians preach non-violence, brotherhood, homespun rustic values, while the bosses speak in another language: police massacres of striking workers, communal pogroms, horrific atrocities against the villages of rebellious labourers.

For their part, the workers in town and country have shown heroic defiance. In the six years 1977-82 more days were lost in strikes as a proportion of the labour force than in any other country in the world. They are creating a new and more virile tradition than Gandhi's.

### Primitive natures

Jack London's revolutionary hero Ernest Everhard in the novel *The Iron Heel* was preparing to address a meeting of American capitalists. "In your recent encounters," he told his girlfriend, "you failed to shake the masters. If you come, I'll shake them for you. I'll make them snarl like wolves. You merely questioned their morality. When their morality is questioned, they grow only the more complacent and superior. But I shall menace their moneybags. That will shake them to the roots of their primitive natures. If you can come, you will see the caveman in evening dress, snarling and snapping over a bone."

That is one reason why the film of Gandhi has won so much praise. Appeal to the capitalists' consciences and they will dab their eyes and glow righteously. Appeal to their intellects and they will sneer. Threaten their profits and they will howl! That is the lesson learned by workers all over the world.

It is Gandhi's misfortune that he has become the mascot for the most venal and parasitic capitalist class in the world. Sir Richard has done him no favours by making this film. Gandhi does not belong to the age of the final conflict between class barbarism and the new world. It is time to let the man rest in the peace he yearned for:



# JAPAN

## 'Miracle' hit by slump

**WHEN Yasuhiro Nakasone was sworn in as Japanese prime minister last November the Kyodo News Agency claimed "Japan is now under a new fascist rule".**

This was undoubtedly an exaggeration, but Nakasone is an unpleasant defender of his nation's capitalist rule.

There are now 840 groups with 120,000 members in Japan who want to see the Emperor restored with all his powers. "Mr Nakasone himself is godfather to at least one of these groups, some of which don military uniforms, to parade through Tokyo streets blaring anti-soviet and anti-Chinese slogans" claims *The Guardian*.

Nakasone says Japan's constitution (imposed in 1946 by the Americans) is artificial. "We must let (true) democracy bloom which is rooted in correct nationalism". He believes more should be spent on military spending and "I believe that true independence is impossible as long as a nation chooses to depend in large measure on the military power of another country for its own territorial security".

### "Police cabinet"

Nakasone's cabinet is known as the "Police Cabinet" as four former police officials are members, including Mr Akirahatano as Justice Minister. He suppressed many demonstrations in the 1960s and is a violent opponent of the perfectly legal Japan Communist Party (JCP).

Local elections in April 1983 saw the main capitalist party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) losing to the Socialist Party (JSP) and JCP in Hokkaido and Fukuoka—the heavily industrialised northernmost prefecture of Kyushu island. These results caused dismay in the business world. Nakasone's right wing views were soft-pedalled and the general election which has to be held by June 1984 put off.

Nakasone and the LDP decided to test the temperature of the water through the recent triennial Upper House elections. The LDP, in power since 1955, increased its majority by three seats (to 137). The Socialists lost four seats (44) and the Communist Party gained two (14). The results, however, did not provide Nakasone with the overwhelming support he hoped for.

Firstly, the turnout at 57% was a post-war low. With a new voting system (where every elector has two



Prime Minister Nakasone—unpleasant defender of capitalist rule.



Ex-premier Tanaka faces serious corruption charges—Nakasone was nominated by him.

votes; one for a local prefecture and one cast nationally for a party) the LDP scored record lows with 43% of the votes in category one and only 35% of the votes in category two. Three new parties are represented with four seats polling together about 4.7 million votes.

Couple this with the electoral bias in favour in the LDP (eg in the 1976 election the LDP won a seat with 37,000 votes whereas the JCP lost one with 147,000 votes) and its surprising that there is any opposition at all!

However, the LDP face major problems—not least from within its own ranks. On 12 October this year, the courts will sentence ex-PM Tanaka for corruption—Nakasone is a Tanaka nominee and the shock waves are expected to be considerable—further pushing down the support for the LDP. Nakasone's major problems, however, are in the crisis his government inherited.

### Manufacturing giant

All over the world, capitalist manufacturers have looked in awe at the rise of Japanese industry. It has been calculated that last year manufacturing production in Japan and the low wage economies of Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and South Korea could have been three times as high as that in Europe and the USA together.

The Japanese bosses tend to encourage a feeling of superiority over their European counterparts with their huge economic and social problems.

But the question the *Sun-*

*day Times* asked in an article last October headed "Japan: is the miracle over?" is answered, "Japan is not what it was economically" said the *Sunday Times*, while *The Times*

### No escape from crisis

pointed out that the country's "debt per capita is higher than any other industrialised country except Canada. It now stands at \$315,000 m (about £183,000 m)".

The steel industry is now operating at 60% of capacity and ship building at a mere 20%! The aluminium industry expects to shed 7,000 of its 11,000 employees in the next ten years. The Japanese steel workers have just accepted their lowest pay increase for 27 years. Overall, exports are expected to fall by 12%—the first "negative growth" rate for thirty years!

The Jōgo Shosha, the large trading companies who handle about half Japan's imports and exports are in trouble. The second largest company Mitsui, made its first loss for 35 years (mainly due to the Middle East market declining due to falling aid revenues), the third largest, C Itoh & Co, saw its profits fall 59.3% and the largest company Mitsubishi is whittling down its 15,000 workforce—in 1981 they took on 450 graduates whereas in 1982 they took only 300.

### "European symptoms"

A career guidance counsellor at one Tokyo school said: "Job offers this year are down at least 40%. I've lost confidence in advising youngsters about their future."

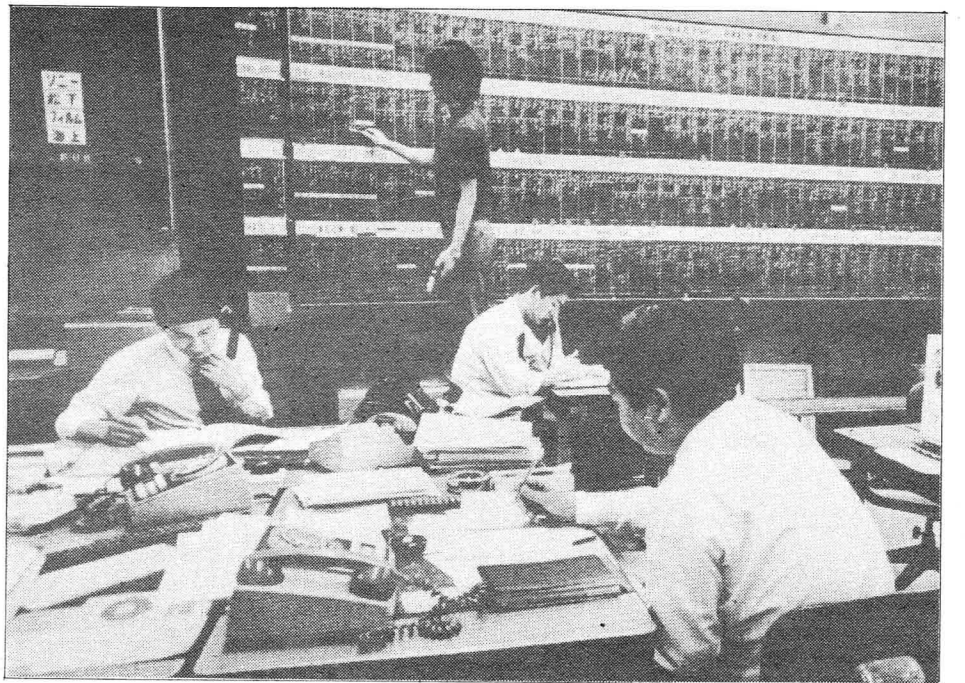
Social problems are on the up. Police are regularly called to schools nowadays to suppress outbreaks of violence. "The national suicide rate is now higher than it has ever been since the late 1940s! Japan, with almost 20,000 deaths last year, was second only to Hungary", (*Daily Express* 20 May).

No capitalist country, even the strongest, escapes capitalist crisis as the USA found to its cost in the '20s. The swing to the right in the LDP and the disillusion of the working class especially the youth, are the "European symptoms" in the country that has been made by its competitors, a honorary member of the "western world". Nakasone may sit more securely, yet he is perched on a time bomb.

By Mike Waddington



Chemistry students in Kyoto. The high technology industry brings profits to the brokers (below), but can't prevent the world capitalist crisis putting the brakes on Japanese big business.



## Hell on conveyor belt

**KAMATA Satoshi started work at a Toyota plant in Japan in 1972. He was immediately given a number 8818639. He was producing the cars which now run off Toyota's assembly lines world wide every six seconds.**

He was a seasonal worker in the years just before the oil crisis hit Japan hard; the start of the first world wide recession since the second world war. Since then, seasonal and temporary workers have been largely replaced by robots but No 8818639's story of life in what he called the "Factory of Hell" in a book he wrote later are still accurate.

On the transmission assembly, cases speed past a worker on a conveyor belt,

where Satoshi had to attach gears on the cases and fix them with bolts.

"Once the line starts moving at 6 am, transmissions to be assembled continue flowing exactly every minute and twenty seconds without stopping for five hours until 11 am. I should say not exactly but cruelly.

"When the line stops at 11 am, everybody throws off his gloves and immediately leaves his position. Washing off the grease stuck to their hands, they rush to the toilet to empty bursting bladders. Then they run to the dining hall 100 meters away.

"The line starts moving at 11.45. Since we have to arrange supplying parts 10 minutes earlier, there is no time to really rest. The line stops at 2.15 pm. Stay 30 minutes for overtime.

"Went back to the dorm after walking for 40 minutes

hardly moving my legs which were like lead. Utterly exhausted. Is this the life of a worker for the auto maker which boasts itself as No 1 in Japan and No 3 in the world?!"

The "dorm" mentioned is the dormitory provided by Toyota to house workers, it is about four square metres for a young single worker, shared with one other person. While he was working there, he estimated the speed of the line to have been shortened by six seconds to a minute and fourteen seconds.

One worker commented, "No matter how much the line speeds up, workers try very hard to keep up with it. Once the workers get used to the speed, the line goes faster." That is the basis for the success of the Japanese motor industry, hell on a conveyor belt.



Japan's car industry. Pushing workers' endurance to the limit.



# YTS HEALTH AND SAFETY ABUSED

THE RECENT *TV Eye* television programme turned the spotlight on the appalling health and safety standards on the Youth Opportunities Programmes.

It explained how in the past year alone there have been seven deaths and 300 injuries on YOP schemes.

The *TV Eye* programme featured Mr Richard Cain, father of 17-year-old Derek Cain who was killed in an industrial accident on a YOP scheme at a local factory.

Mr Cain spoke to *Militant* giving his impressions of the *TV Eye* programme and explaining his fight against abuses of the government training schemes.

The recent *TV Eye* programme highlighted the negligence of the Tory government, in respect of health and safety on YOP schemes. Do you think the programme highlighted the problems properly?

Yes. It really put across to viewers the tragedy and heart-break caused when young people are killed on the schemes. However, I wasn't happy about the interview with the Manpower Services Commission official. He was given too much rope to say what he wanted, without being challenged sufficiently. Their figures prove that health and safety on YOP schemes is being neglected.

My son Derek, and the sons of Mr and Mrs Lewis, and Mr O'Brien, were all killed on their YOP schemes within the first three weeks. Under the new Youth Training Scheme, a three week induction period is supposedly to be introduced. Yet MSC have known about the need for an induction period since reports they produced 18 months ago.

I understand that another lad was killed this year, in April 1983. Why haven't they put new safety measures into operation before now?

Do you think the introduction of the Youth Training Scheme (YTS) in September will lead to any improvements in health and safety?

No. I think youngsters will face double the risk because they will be on schemes for twice as long. I understand that on some of the schemes to be introduced, jobs are to be rotated every three months—young people will be put to work on different machinery at least four times. I find it hard to believe that the three week induction period will apply every time they change jobs.

I understand that you have a copy of an official report about the law relating to YTS. As you know, at the moment YOPsters aren't covered properly by the Health and Safety at Work Act—will this change under the Youth Training Scheme?

No. In fact I will quote from the report: "It is unchanged from the position under YOP. The accident insurance and injury benefit scheme which is run by MSC under YOP will continue for unemployed trainees under Youth Training Scheme".

The official report classifies young people as unemployed trainees then?

That's right. The government puts YTS forward as work for one year, but still classifies youngsters as unemployed. Of course they will still deduct the number of trainees from the unemployment register!

What are your plans for the future?

I intend to take the Department of Employment, Mr Tebbit and the MSC to court for negligence in the case of the death of my own son. I also intend to continue to collect information about abuses on YOPs and YTS schemes. I am currently playing an active role on the Youth Commission's working party on Sheffield Trades Council, which is attempting to stop abuses of trainees.

## NALGO back union rates

THE campaign to get trade union rights and rates of pay for youth on government training schemes received a boost in June when the local government union NALGO passed a resolution supporting these aims at its national conference.

However, the union's national executive passed this resolution onto its National Service Conditions Committee for 'examination'. Many

NALGO activists felt the executive could have taken a more positive stand on this issue.

Even so, due to rank and file pressure, the union's National Local Government Committee and the National Universities Committee have decided that rates for trainees in these sectors should not be the government's pitiful £25 a week, but the proper trainee rates



Photo: D. Doran

Trainees strip a former Leyland plant in South Wales of floor boards to be used in a MSC scheme to renovate a stately home. Not a safety helmet in sight.

## It cost a YOPster his life—it cost a boss ½% of his annual turnover.

DEREK CAIN, aged 17 died last year when working on a YOP scheme with the firm Plumbs in Sheffield.

He died after being struck on the head with the blade of a paper bailing machine. The blade, 11 inches long by three-quarters of an inch thick had spikes rotating like an aircraft propeller. He was unsupervised and later found dead at his machine. The *TV Eye* programme told how the firm were found guilty of breaches of the Factory

Act. However, they did not report the amount Plumbs were fined.

The Factory Acts that the firm broke and its fines (which all have a maximum limit of £1,000) were:

- Factory Act 116, section 14—dangerous machinery. **Fined £400.**
- Act 161, section 3—temperature too cold to work. **Fined £100.**
- Act 162, section 2—no cut-out switch to stop machinery in the case of emergency. **Fined £400.**
- Act 163, section 1—

good health keeping non-existent. Cleanliness non-existent. **Fined £200.**

- Act 165, section 3—management had duty to supervise young people on their premises but had failed to do so. **Fined £500.**

- Act 166, section 7—failure to register the firm with the Health and Safety Executive so safety had never been checked. **Fined £500.**

The firm which only employs a total of 17 people, had a "gross turnover of £500,000 for

1982". Yet it was only fined a total of just over £2,000 with only £45 legal costs. Mr Cain said he thought this was disgusting.

What's more, on the same day that Plumbs' case was reported in the local paper, the *Sheffield Star* on page 3, its front page reported how a pub was being fined for being 'dirty'—they were fined £7,500.

By Dave Milson  
(Secretary, Sheffield Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign)

The Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign was launched by the Labour Party Young Socialists in 1981 to campaign for union rates of pay and conditions for YOPsters, and now those on YTS schemes. If you are interested in joining or helping with this campaign, write to YTURC, c/o LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

AN excellent new pamphlet has been produced by the Labour Research Department entitled *Youth Training—a negotiator's guide*.

It is directed particularly towards those who will be involved in negotiating with managements when the YTS is introduced in September—shop stewards, full-time officials, Trades Councils, and regional and national trade groups. It provides checklists which negotiators can use to try and ensure that the schemes benefit the trainees and are not used simply to provide a cheap labour force.

The pamphlet also graphically illustrates how, if no action is taken by the labour movement, YTS will be used by the Tories and the employers.

The pamphlet costs £1 (including p&p) from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

70p  
Labour Research Department

## Youth training —a negotiator's guide





# Letters

VIEW? COMMENT? EXPERIENCE? CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO  
MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Workers must control media

Dear Comrades,  
Whilst watching the news on BBC1 I saw John Golding spout off his usual claptrap about a "Militant Tendency plot"! "Well fair enough," I thought, "this boring witch-hunter general has a right to his own point of view." And knowing that we have a wonderful, unbiased media (as they say) I was looking forward to hearing a reply from either a POEU Executive member or someone who supports the ideas of *Militant*. However, our wonderful media it seems didn't have the time—perhaps because they needed the time for

## Dole benefit

Dear Comrades,  
The one good thing to come out of my husband being unemployed for a year is that he has been able to spend a lot of time with our five month old baby. Many men miss out enormously by working all hours, and then being too tired to enjoy their children. Likewise, women at home get tired through never getting a break from the kids, or perhaps having to hold down a job at the same time. Forward to the 35 hour week, obviously, but with socialist planning and new technology the working week could get smaller and smaller, liberating men, women and children.

Yours sincerely  
S. Harman  
Sheffield

## The real costs of NHS cuts

Dear Comrades  
I was walking home with my mum when we came across a woman that appeared to be very poorly. She looked as if she was about to pass out looking very pale and unsteady on her feet.  
We asked if she would like an ambulance but she shook her head. She said she would be all right very shortly. So we stood by as the woman in her thirties recovered a little.  
As she came round she explained that she had had a baby two days ago but in-

stead of staying in the full five days, the hospital discharged her supposedly to save beds or relieve the burden from an understaffed and over-worked ward.  
She explained how her husband couldn't afford to have time off work to help her with shopping, cleaning and looking after the other two children.  
I was very shocked with all this and horrified. I have two children of my own and I am expecting another in two weeks. Having children knocks a great deal of energy out of you and for two or

report on the developments inside Parliament. I then turned the TV over to catch the ITN news, in the hope that we might hear a reply to this allegation. As it turned out there was no mention of this subject. Instead the climax of the news was another "stop press" report of one of those guardsmen's horses, followed by a tea party at the palace—WOW!  
The working class people must control the press and the media so we can report the real news in an unbiased way.

## Looking for the Labour Party

Fraternally,  
Bob Harker  
Gateshead East LPYS

Comrades  
"Will you join the Labour Party? He agreed enthusiastically", says Fred Gent (Letters, 8 July).  
I completed the application form in *New Socialist* (LP magazine) and sent it off with cheque, on May 5.  
Eventually I received a reply from the Labour Party acknowledging my application and saying, I quote, "If however, in a month's time you have heard nothing, I would be grateful if you would let me know."  
I have heard nothing but I'm £2 worse off. I don't think you can join the Labour Party.  
Yours fraternally  
EHC Harris  
Worthing

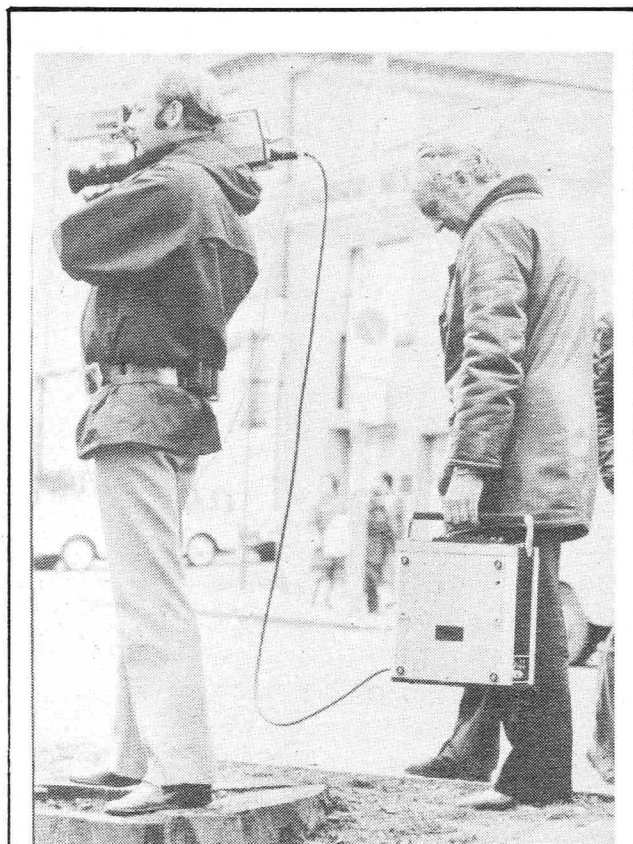
## Peers support

Dear Comrades  
A news item on BBC TV the other night was about Thatcher creating new hereditary peers.  
There was an interview with some character from the "British Aristocrats supporters club" or at least he sounded like that (he could have been a spokesman from Debretts).  
He, of course "was delighted" that hereditary peers were being created once again; "it was about time that we got away from the Harold Wilson idea of a classless society and all that rot".  
There you are Harold, Hugh, Dick, Anthony, Woy, Dennis, James, etc, etc it's not just us "loony lefts" who recognise the realities of capitalism.  
Yours fraternally  
Bill Mullins  
Birmingham

## Poverty wages

Dear Comrades,  
One must give Mrs Thatcher credit for standing by her Tory principles, if one accepts that the ideal Tory society is based on the business law of "supply and demand".  
There is a move to reduce dole money because of the differential between dole money and low paid jobs. Why is it we never hear of a move to raise wages to a reasonable level? What the bulk of the population fail to realise is the British workers work the longest hours in the worst conditions, for the lowest wages and the shortest holidays, in the industrialised countries. I know this for a fact as I work on the continent a lot and the people there do not believe me when I tell them the wages and conditions in the UK.  
Yours sincerely  
R.B.Hill  
Stourport on Severn

three weeks care has to be taken not to stand outside in the cold for too long for fear of catching an infection of the womb.  
At this point I remembered that Thatcher was in for another spell. I felt very angry that the Labour right-wing took to expelling socialists and attacking *Militant* rather than lead the way forward in exposing the Tories' glossy media campaign and the SDP's back-stabbing efforts.  
Forward to socialism  
Julie Smith  
Coventry SE LPYS



Police monitoring a Brighton anti-fascist demo

## Police expand 'intelligence' machine

Dear Comrades,  
The Humberside Police authorities are currently installing a new £1,400,000 computer system financed by the Home Office. Leading police officials have welcomed the new computer stating that criminal detection will be greatly improved. West Yorkshire police officers have blamed the failure to catch the "Yorkshire Ripper" on the lack of computer facilities. Yet, the Police National Computer is reputed to have the capacity to store information on every single adult member of the population. The information held on the PNC contains the national criminal records, the national finger-print collection and records on drivers and vehicles. If this one computer alone was utilised during the Ripper case then undoubtedly this criminal would have been caught much sooner.  
The Humberside system, with 70 terminals connected

to the PNC will not only contain criminal records and details of all events reported to the police, but will also store "intelligence" information on people of interest to the police. The potential use of this computer in combating crime is to be subordinated to the collection and storage of information on trade unionists and socialists.  
It is completely legal for the Tories, in the interest of profit, to close down whole factories and break up whole communities, bringing fear and despair for the future to working people—creating the conditions where crime and greed flourish. Yet, if working people get organised to defend jobs and improve living standards, their lives are investigated and they are spied upon as criminals.  
Yours fraternally  
Ray Duffin  
North Hull LPYS

## COHSE progress

Dear Comrades,  
I was interested to read in issue 658 of the problems experienced by the LPYS comrade at COHSE conference being told to remove all *Militant* pamphlets from his bookstall. As a delegate to the conference, I was not aware that our organisation had a proscribed list of publications, but if it did have, then top of the list should be the Tory rags which dominate much of the paperwork at conference tables. May I, as an individual, apologise for this reactionary act of one of my misguided comrades. I would however point out that when those who feel threatened by our ideas, behave in this way, then it is a good sign that the ideas are

getting through.  
The fact is that a number of the policies contained in the *Militant* pamphlet *What We Stand For* were debated at conference and found an echo in the minds of delegates. This was born out by the sales of papers and pamphlets on the door, but more important was the feedback from many delegates who approached myself with statements like "You've got some good ideas, keep it up", "it's refreshing to hear some clear thinking from the rostrum." *Militant* supporters in COHSE will continue to apply the ideas of Marxism to the future struggles of health workers.  
Yours fraternally  
K Mullins  
(personal capacity)

## YTS scheme cheers up boss

Dear Comrades  
My boss came up to me last week with a big smile on his face and announced that he was going to take on a YTS worker. He said he wouldn't have to pay a single penny in wages, but that it was very unfortunate that he would have to lose the YTS worker for four weeks of the year as they have to go on some training course.  
But he cheered up again by reminding himself of the jobs that he could give to the new worker—fetching and

delivering parcels, adding up columns of figures, making the tea and so on, jobs which need no training at all. But Thatcher's plan to keep youth off the streets by using them as cheap labour will backfire on her and her big business friends. Here will be another school leaver who will quickly see the need to join a trade union, as the only way to fight the Tories and their system that can't offer youth a proper job.  
Yours fraternally  
Judy Beishon

## Tories and the common people

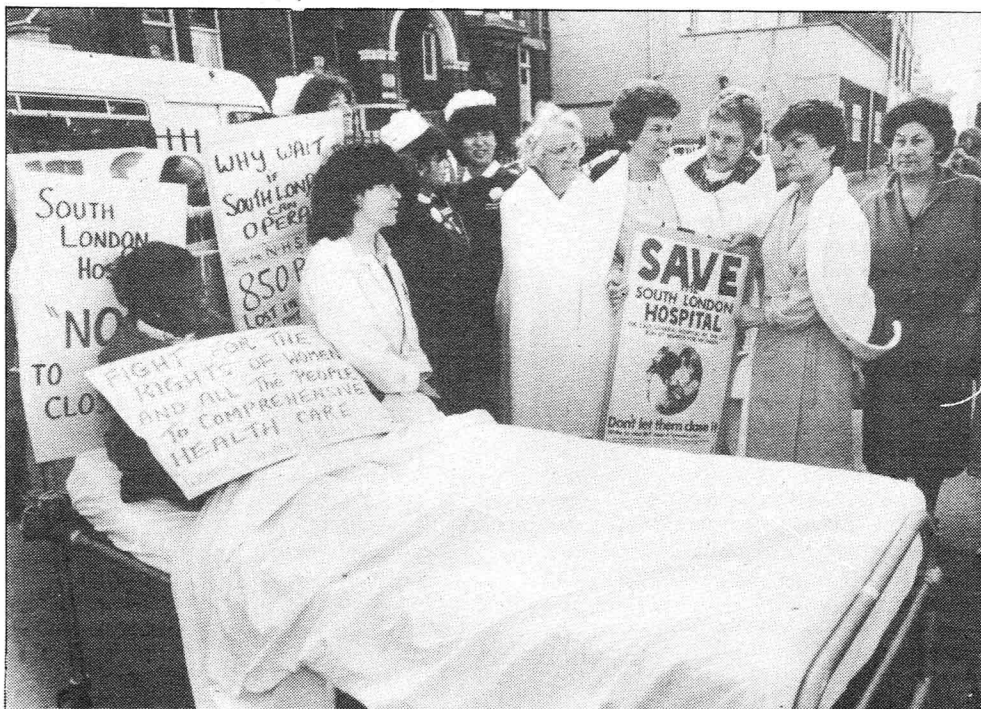
Dear Comrades,  
Wary of stepping above my station I bought the "top people's paper", *The Times*, recently. On the back page I read of a Mr. John Stokes (Con) backbencher, who, after voting for hanging, cuts and wholesale warfare on working people needed assurances that "the Government will not cease to protect the poor and unimportant in our society (ie. you and me), and never forget that we are the House of Commons who represent the common people as well as the intellectuals and progressives" (ie. him).  
Now I know that if I pull my belt in and buckle down, one day I can cease to be "poor and unimportant" but rise to be "intellectual and progressive", just like the neanderthal reactionaries that haunt the lobbies of flogging, hanging, and discipline for the youth.  
Yours fraternally  
Simon Dennison  
Wimbledon CLP

## 'Housing benefit'—eviction

Dear Comrade  
The new scheme whereby rents of those on Supplementary Benefit are now being paid by the local council has been used by some private landlords as an excuse for evicting unemployed tenants.  
I myself have been served a 'notice to quit' by my landlord for the princely sum of £33 (three weeks' rent).  
As I have only been receiving my rent from the council every four weeks I had no alternative but to go three weeks in arrears with my rent.  
I will join with other comrades in redoubling our efforts to remove Thatcher and her cronies. To quote Terry Fields MP, "A militant is only a moderate who has got up off his knees".  
I for one have taken his advice.  
Yours fraternally  
Gerry McKinley  
Birkenhead CLP

## Suppression of whole family

Dear Comrades  
I would like to tell you about the suppression of a whole family under our so-called humane Tory government. The man of the house is on an invalidity pension and they have four children all of primary school age. To be able to keep a roof over their heads and clothes on their backs they decided to take in homework—they make Christmas crackers. Their working day starts at 7.30 am through until 10.30 pm with a target of 500 boxes a week. When their children arrive home they work for two hours alongside their parents. If they don't they don't get paid at all. I was under the impression that they had abolished child labour! If you add together the time making crackers and the time it takes to clean the house and look after the family the mother is now working more than eighteen hours a day.  
Yours fraternally  
Karen Sneddon  
Tunbridge Wells



The cost of NHS cuts and loss of beds is needless human suffering

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)



# NHS UNDER ATTACK

By Annette Green SEN  
(NUPE nurses shop steward, personal capacity)

**WEAK, demoralised, crippled, dying. You think as a nurse I'd be used to words like these, but I'm not referring to any of my patients.**

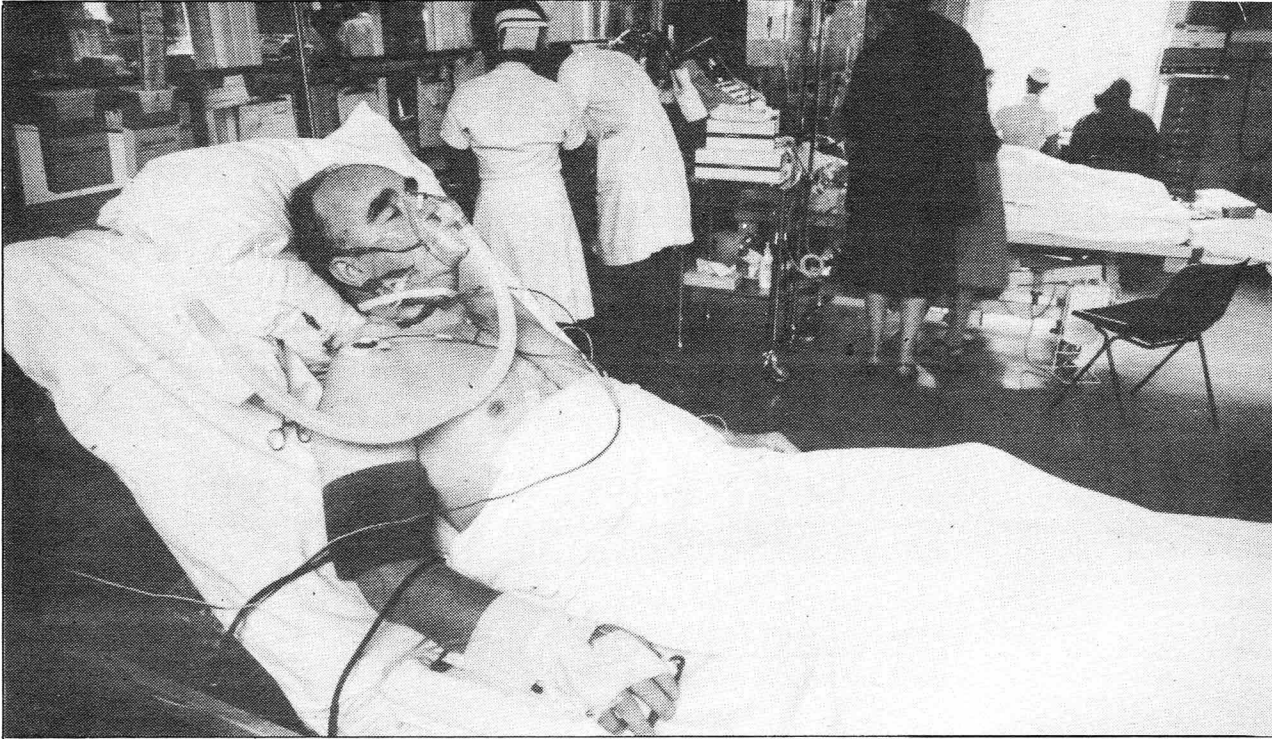
I'm talking about the whole National Health Service, a service that is being deliberately starved of funds, run down in every field, for the sake of the Tories' dream; Privatisation and to hell with the working class.

At present, I'm a nurse in Dreadnought Seaman's Hospital, in Greenwich. I say at present, because there's no guarantee I'll be working there or anywhere else, before long. My hospital is one of four of the seven hospitals we have in the Greenwich area proposed for closure.

This seems even more incredible when you take into account that ten years ago we had 14 hospitals serving an ever growing community. And the community is still growing, with the Thamesmead housing development continuing to expand along with new development sites at Woolwich.

In October 1982, the District Health Authority brought out a Draft Outline Strategy, covering 1983-1992. They would like to call it a 'ten year plan'. I call it, plain and simply a cuts document.

The government have told the District Health Authori-



The cardiac unit at Brook Hospital in Greenwich. Two years ago this was threatened with closure. Now the Greenwich area is to be left with only two District Hospitals (minus important units) and a geriatric hospital. Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

ty that they are to save £2 million. Their answer? Dreadnought Seaman's Hospital to close. St. Nicholas, a refuge for the aged, to close. Goldie Leigh, where outstanding care is given to mentally handicapped children, to close. British home for Mothers and Babies, a hospital that led the field in maternity care, not only closed out sold as well.

That leaves one geriatric hospital and two general, the Brook and Greenwich District hospitals, although Greenwich District is to have the Accident and Emergency Department closed, leaving one casualty to serve the whole of the Greenwich Area.

The government's argument for £2 million to be cut in Greenwich alone is simple. Greenwich is currently 22%

above the National Revenue Target. They say we are 'over resourced' for our needs. As a nurse, I find this hard to believe. Only last month, when on duty I had to keep a new patient in a corridor with screens around her, until I had finished laying out a body and washing the bed, before she could be admitted. If they think we're over resourced, in what state is the rest of the health

This time last year the health unions were in the middle of their long and hard battle with the Tories to secure a 12% pay increase. Despite the determination and preparedness to fight shown by the rank and file workers in the National Health Service, the dispute was unsuccessful mainly due to the inadequate tactics and direction given by the leadership, especially that of the TUC.

A year on, health service shop stewards explain how the Tories are now pushing through their massive cuts in the NHS, and how it is up to the labour and trade union movement to defend the service.

a louder voice, that we do not accept the run down of the Health Service. Perhaps that is a childish dream, to expect the members of our health authority to lift a voice in protest, for fear of losing their jobs. Well, if they seem prepared to put a tail between their legs, I'm definitely not!

In writing this article, I hope to bring awareness of what is currently happening in my own area, but it doesn't stop there. Do you know how your own areas are coping, or will you only find out when you're in need of a hospital bed and find there aren't any?

## Unite and defend the service

We are all 'consumers' of the NHS, it is 'owned' by us all. We therefore should have the right to take part in any decisions. If you owned a car and found out your neighbour had sold it without your knowledge, you'd be screaming blue murder! Well that's exactly what this government is doing with our NHS.

As a nurse I can only keep a patient living with the help of the whole team, we can do nothing if they switch off the life support system. Similarly the NHS needs as much support from the labour movement and the community as it can get if it is to survive.

# Get organised and fight back

By Adrian O'Mally and Mick Griffis  
(COHSE Shop Stewards, Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield)

WE ARE general porters at Pinderfields General Hospital in Wakefield. It was during the health workers' dispute of last year that we both became more active within our union COHSE.

We felt that both nationally and locally the health unions had not been organised as well as they could be, with often one union working against another.

Whilst the strike was on, the ancillary staff (domestics, laundry, porters, etc) were the workers most actively involved. Nurses wrongly believing that if they took action their jobs would be at risk, this being indoctrinated into them by the RCN from the moment they began their training. Also it was thought that Sisters etc would make their lives intolerable if they took action.

During the strike the management employed private contractors to do our work. The laundry was done by a private firm and was

returned in appalling condition.

Our own portering duties were done by management. When they were called upon to take bodies to the mortuary, they decided that something would have to be done about the terrible way in which bodies are collected from wards in an old noisy tin box and then transported to the mortuary in an old electric truck which is also used for all other jobs, ie transporting rubbish, soiled laundry, medical equipment and furniture. This is very ironic considering we porters have been pushing for a new truck for years!

Following the dispute, morale among our membership was at an all time low. But the pay dispute paved the way for another battle which could be even longer and threatens the whole of the health service—the Tory cuts.

Therefore after talking to our work mates and seeking their support we were nominated and accepted as stewards one month after the

dispute.

As shop stewards we believed we would then have more say over what was happening, over the running of our service. The issue of the cuts to the NHS soon proved to us what little control the workers actually have over the running of the national health.

The effects of the cuts in the already pitifully low hospital budget can be seen everywhere with most wards being short of vital equipment and understaffing common. A lot are having to rely on charity and the good intentions of staff to provide a barely adequate service.

Alongside these departments with inadequate budgets are the more fortunate departments who, because money can't be kept from one financial year to the next, are forced to spend any surplus cash before the end of March. This bureaucratic madness results in corridors being full of arm chairs and filing cabinets, while patients are left with ever-lengthening waits for

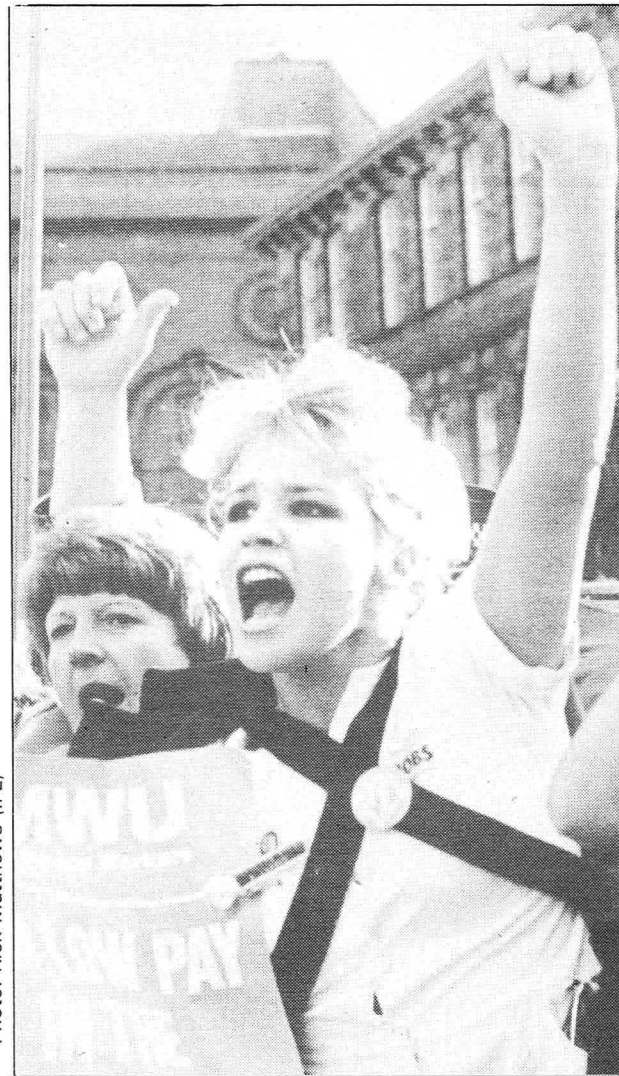


Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

A nurses protest in last year's pay campaign.

treatment.

While during the dispute the unions were criticised by the consultants for not caring and making patients'

waiting lists longer, the management have now announced that the one orthopaedic ward is to be closed down. The concern over

the waiting list is now obviously not as high.

Another cut to be made is the proposed closure of Snapethorpe hospital which was only saved after a long campaign by the trades council and the health unions a couple of years ago.

This shows to us that the present NHS is a sham. The people in charge are not interested in the needs of the working classes for a good health service. They are the same bureaucratic Tories who supported Thatcher and would like to see the health service privatised.

The fight to save the whole NHS can only be fought by the workers, for it is us who stand to lose most if the service is disbanded. Against all odds the health service unions must get organised and fight these cuts. Only when the workers of all the different departments have a constructive role to play in the running of the health service will it operate as a good service geared towards working people's needs. At present the management are constantly hitting us with petty rules and regulations directed against us for their own benefit and without consultation with us. They have even gone against the law by not providing us with a union office, thus preventing organisation and communication. We will not be deterred though, we will get organised and inform all workers of what is going on.



# Industrial Reports

## FLEET STREET'S ONLY ANSWER

THE SEVEN week dispute which has stopped publication of the *Financial Times* (FT) reached the top trade union forum of the TUC this week. Media coverage of the dispute amounts to little more than propaganda against Fleet Street workers, concentrating on the high wages and plans to print the paper without NGA members.

The anger and frustration of the men can be summed up in the words of one striker: "We have been denied the right to negotiate our own terms and conditions".

The background is that SOGAT 82, whose members are employed as machine assistants, concluded an agreement with the FT management after a three-day stoppage in October last year.

The company are attempting to impose the consequences of this new comprehensive deal on the NGA. Comprehensive deals in the past meant either men or customs and practices were sold for cash benefit. To their credit the NGA machine managers, who are

at the centre of the dispute, are trying to maintain and improve manning levels.

The SOGAT 82 deal, if implemented would also have altered the present differential. This was set at 19½%, after discussions with ACAS in May 1981.

Differentials have caused much antagonism in Fleet Street. The only solution is for the unions to come together and negotiate joint agreements. This would be made easier if the two unions amalgamated.

Amalgamation is now essential. Managements have been willing, in the past, to pay the price demanded to ensure their papers came out with the latest news. Now they are more cash conscious, and with new technology—much stronger.

Management are circulating rumours that they will transfer the whole FT contract to German printers who normally produce European and American copies. The German unions have promised full support.

NGA President Bryan Griffith said at a recent chapel meeting that the Germans agreed they would

print only what their contract allowed, 60,000 copies and 16 pages. If these found their way to Britain they would then stop completely.

German laws have special provision for breaking contracts. During *The Times* dispute they were fined £80,000; the NGA paid.

Of course, management could do nothing if NUJ members refused to prepare scab copy for transmission.

It seems from press reports that the *Financial Times'* main ally is the TUC. Len Murray's role has been to mediate between management and NGA. His energies would have been more profitably spent with the unions—hammering out a new joint claim and then presenting this to management.

Having recommended that the NGA return to work, Murray has now placed the dispute in front of the TUC. The outcome will not be known before this issue goes to press. If the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is accepted, the NGA will be formally warned.

If the NGA does not ac-

cept their decision they could be suspended. It seems from previous statements that the NGA National Council will reject the TUC decision.

The management hope that along with suspension there will be a recommendation that other unions should help republication because of the threat to employment.

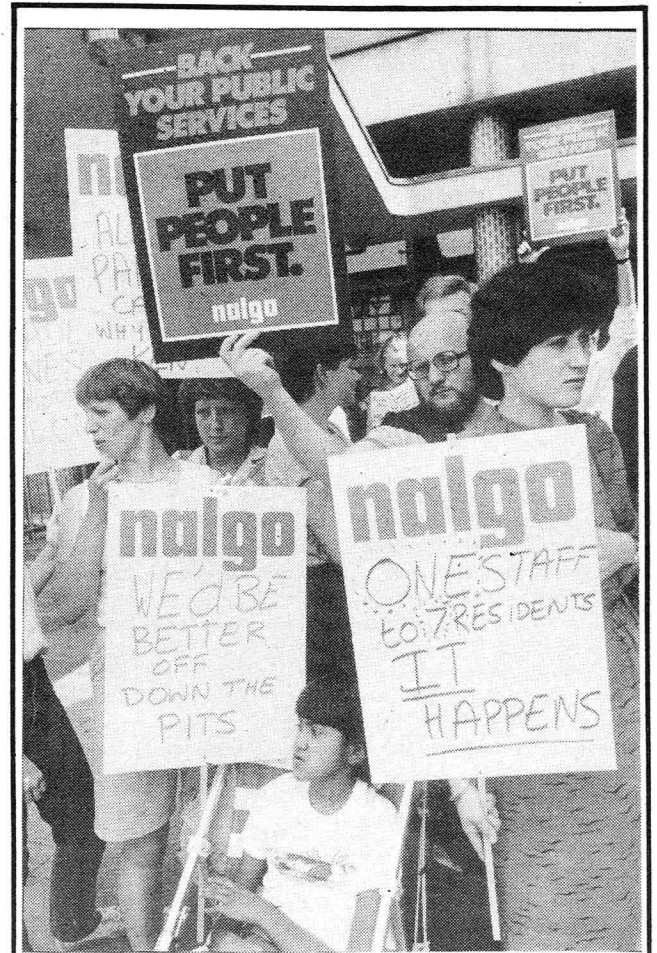
Such action would only further the bitterness and rivalry between the unions.

A solution to the problems of Fleet Street lies with the unions. A united strategy, with a programme that exposes the role of the media in attacking the labour and trade union movement, is required.

This should be linked with demands to democratise the press by taking its facilities into public ownership and then sharing resources on the basis of the amount of support gained in society.

Only such a policy could solve the problems of Fleet Street and lay the basis for a truly democratic and free press.

By Pete Jarvis



Newham NALGO members lobby their council social services headquarters in protest at staff shortages and disciplinary action by management at Balaam Street Mentally Handicapped Children's Hostel. Management caved in on both issues. Monica Hurst, NALGO shop steward, said "It's been a complete victory—a vindication of our action."

## Victimisation over NHS solidarity

BILL ASHTON of UCATT was convenor steward on Harry Mills building site Pimlico, during the NHS dispute.

He and his members took action on every call for solidarity. They withdrew their labour and joined the National Health Service Pickets at Westminster Hospital, and gave financial support to the ancillary workers at St Thomas' hospital during their nine month strike.

On September 22 1982, the TUC day of action, the site prepared for a four day stoppage. All unions on the site including the EETPU responded to new TUC President Chapple's call for support of the NHS workers.

A picket was put on the site to discourage any scabs. At approximately 7.30 pm when a scab member of the EETPU attempted to break the picket line, it was alleged that Bill Ashton deliberately threw cement in-

to the scab's face, when in fact what really happened was an accident.

Bill Ashton was recently found guilty of Actual Bodily Harm on the basis of the judge's summation and evidence from two scabs who denied any knowledge of the TUC's call for a day of action.

Brother Ashton and forty of his members were made redundant exactly one week after the day of action. He is at present on the building employers' black list.

On being found guilty of ABH he was fined £500 or three months imprisonment. Trade unionists can support Brother Ashton by sending donations to pay his fine to: Terry Barrat, Pear Place 150 Waterloo Road, SE1. The appeal will provide speakers at any meeting to outline their case.

### WORLD SOCIALIST BOOKS

1 Mentmore Tce, London E8

The key to my cell by Des Warren £3 +50p P&P  
Story of a building worker jailed on conspiracy charges out of picketing during the 1972 national strike.

Political Action by Ann Taylor and Jim Fryth £1.75 +25p P&P. Trade Union Industrial Studies publication looking at politics and the trade unions.

## Needlers - open the books

ABOUT eighty people at the Hull sweet factory Needlers walked out last week when the company said it could not afford to give them a pay rise.

They were given a 5.2% rise last November on the understanding that pay would be reviewed this July. The GMBATU demanded the company open its books under a provision of the 1975 Employment Protection Act.

The company refused, claiming that such action would reveal trade secrets to competitors!

A full order book, and the

fact that the workers were having to work long hours overtime in order to achieve a living wage, aroused suspicion that the company had something to hide.

ACAS have been called in but the ability of company accountants to "cook the books" is renowned. Certainly anything that threatens the millionaire lifestyle of the Needler family, who for many years ran Hull City Football Club, will be fiercely resisted.

Two disputes in Hull reported by Alan Shadforth.

## Derry's John De Lorean

SPRINGTOWN Engineering workers feel they're up against Derry's version of John De Lorean.

Like De Lorean, their boss got big grants and then shut, leaving them high and dry (see *Militant* 15 July).

The thirty-one workers are occupying the factory to save their jobs. They are also keeping up a picket on a 'Cash and Carry' in the City Centre, which is owned by the same boss.

This business is alleged to have been used to channel money from Springtown Engineering.

ANTON McCABE talked to HARRY COYLE (AUEW):

"We have got 100% support from all the unions in the town. We have got great support in money—over £200 from factories and peo-

ple in the street.

One American trade unionist from Philadelphia came up to us on the picket line and gave us £10. This morning we got another £20 from a union branch.

The Trades Council and all the unions in the town are organising a mass picket on 26 July on the cash and carry at lunch-time.

I'd love to see a couple of hundred down here. Morale is good—we're still sitting in for all 24 hours."

A passer-by stopped and said to both of us during the interview; "I appreciate what you're doing—somebody has to show them up."

Support is still needed. Send any donations to: Springtown Occupation Fund, AUEW 2a Patrick St. Derry.

## Birds Eye bosses try it on

SIXTY-FIVE fitters and electricians in the AUEW and EETPU have been on strike since Friday 15 July at the Birds Eye Walls factory on Hessele Road in Hull.

Birds Eye is part of the Unilever Group, and this dispute has shown just how reactionary the management is.

The unions have been

negotiating for the last seventeen months for a cut in the working week to 39 hours. In return, the management wanted the men to work two of their half-hour lunch breaks each week, and even suggested they take their tea breaks at the end of the shift!

The bosses also want control of the overtime rota, at

present drawn up by the unions, and at one stage proposed the workforce operate continental shifts, working weekends on ordinary pay rates.

The blokes have struck at a crucial time, the start of the pea season when the production line works round the clock.

Although contract labour

has refused to cross the picket, managers have donned overalls to maintain machinery, and scabs have been used to transport the peas to cold storage.

Unfortunately, GMBATU members at the factory are continuing to load the scab lorries. But the strikers are unanimous in their resolve to stick it out.

There is no doubt that the re-election of the Thatcher government will encourage companies like Birds Eye to try and claw back all the concessions workers have gained over the years.

Messages of support/financial donations to Dave Kemp, AUEW shop steward, c/o 8 Churchill Crescent, Flinton Street, Hull.



# Industrial Reports

## POEU - Local battles, national campaign

A MEETING of London branches of the POEU representing some 40,000 members has voted overwhelmingly to escalate industrial action against Project Mercury and the privatisation of our industry.

This reinforces the recent National Conference decision to launch a campaign of selective industrial action and to refuse to interconnect Mercury.

The message from the new left-wing executive is clear. Now is the time to go onto the offensive.

The Tories plan to privatise British Telecom. The POEU is committed to industrial action to defend the industry and its members' jobs. The union has immense potential strength.

The interests of capital, who stand to gain most from the rape of Telecom, depend upon our labour for their communication. The POEU intends to remind them of that fact in no uncertain terms.

We must launch the fight and call upon the rest of the public sector to rally to our support.

The union has already been involved in limited action, in the LNTI and London City branches, against Project Mercury. Mercury is a government-backed and private, business-only telecom system designed to skim the cream from public industry. In order to func-

By Colin O'Callaghan  
(Overseas Telegraph  
Branch, POEU)

tion it needs to use the public communication network.

The POEU has refused to interconnect the parasite. Some connections have been made by senior management. At every stage scab operations of this kind have been met with a short, sharp retaliatory action from the POEU, with key sections of the members withdrawing in protest.

Despite BT's efforts Mercury is far from operational. Despite the quick and splendid response from the branches directly involved, however, it is now recognised that the campaign must be stepped up again.

The ability of the union to target its industrial muscle lends itself to selective industrial action. However, selective action will only prove successful if it is backed by the commitment of all the membership to take action if necessary.

Every contact in the wider labour and trade union movement must be rallied in support of this struggle.



Demonstration against Telecoms privatisation in October last year. Confrontation has been on the cards for some time. POEU needs to step up its campaign now.

### Wales

ON 15 JULY the Cardiff general manager informed all Cardiff area POEU branches of 255 job losses, 100 by natural wastage. For the other 155 "under existing practises and procedures there will be no productive work", as management so quaintly put it.

The reaction to this 'jobs surplus', has been an immediate overtime ban across the telephone area.

Last March POEU branches in Swansea telephone area were notified of 110 job losses (see *Militant* 8 April 1983). We imposed an immediate overtime ban and to date no one has lost their job.

All POEU branches in South Wales will now be imposing an overtime ban as an initial response to management attempts to lose man-

power through the use of a job security agreement and its clause 12, which offers early retirement (EVR).

Swansea branch meeting on 11 July reaffirmed our overtime ban and we are now calling upon all POEU branches within the Wales and Marches region to activate their previous resolution to support us with a regional overtime ban.

The fact that Cardiff have already instituted such a ban is welcome in Swansea and augurs well for our regional meeting on 1 August, when the regional ban will be

pressed.

We are aware that management are declaring "surplus manpower" in Manchester, Overseas telegraphs and that manpower problems are developing in the Midlands region.

The POEU NEC should be organising a national campaign to ensure that our membership is not left on its own to fight these management attempts to reduce manpower through the misuse of a job security agreement voluntary retirement clause.

A campaign for the 35

hour week will mean recruitment, not job losses! An instruction to all branches not to agree "surpluses" without NEC agreement, and a campaign alongside the anti-privatisation campaign to broadcast the message that under the Tories our jobs are constantly under threat would get a response from the membership.

With an NEC prepared to fight, attacks upon our job security would be defeated.

By Phil Lloyd  
(Swansea POEU  
Branch Secretary  
personal capacity)

### POOLE

AFTER a mass meeting 1,200 workers at Hamworthy Engineering in Poole walked out last Friday.

Since April management have been holding back on the latest wage settlement, a meagre 4%. Now they want to delay further, till September/October. The workers have decided enough is enough.

The bosses are trying to intimidate: after the recent

announcement of 2,000 redundancies at British Aerospace, Hamworthy are threatening that industrial action could mean closure. But an immediate overtime ban and one-day walk-out will show that workers aren't willing to have pay and conditions eroded indefinitely.

By Julie Harris  
(Poole CLP)

### 1500 off the buses in Manchester?

GREATER Manchester Transport workers face 1,500 redundancies because of Tory cut-backs.

The GMT Executive recently put forward proposals which included the introduction of one-man operations for all services including nights and football buses.

Greater Manchester County Council Transport Committee met last Monday. They argued that job losses can be achieved by 'natural wastage' and voluntary redundancies. More positively they also agreed a 3-year freeze on fares.

The full County Council has yet to agree these recommendations. Bus workers will welcome the decision to freeze fares as a means of attracting back passengers.

On the issue of jobs, County Councillor Roger Done told *Militant*, "We are still committed to a policy of no cuts and no redundancies. And I will be looking for a joint campaign by the Transport unions and the County Council when we are forced into a full-scale con-

frontation with the government, probably by the end of this financial year."

Preparations should now be made by both the County Labour Group and the GMT unions to ensure that the government does face determined opposition and the redundancies aren't carried through. One important

### Michelin, Fighting for weekends

THREE THOUSAND workers are out at the Stoke-on-Trent headquarters of the Michelin Tyre Company.

Management want the production workers to do a fourth set of continental shifts. This would mean working three weekends in four, for only a token extra payment.

Following protests by families and a one-day strike earlier in the year management threatened a lock-out "if the shifts were not accepted by the unions after the industrial shut-down in July".

The workers refused to be blackmailed and one thousand took strike action.

step towards this should be the formation of a joint shop stewards' committee uniting drivers and conductors with maintenance and administrative staff.

By John O'Mara  
(TGWU Queens Road  
Depot)

Management then laid off the remaining two thousand production workers.

This dispute can be won if the strike is escalated to include those production workers still working. Support from other UK Michelin branches could help guarantee a victory.

The four-set system has already caused industrial action at the Burnley plant. If management think they can implement this system by picking off each plant one by one, each shop one by one, then the unions should ensure that they all stand together.

By Dave Campbell

## Decisive days for BREL

DAVE EVANS (Liverpool NUR No. 5), candidate for the NUR NEC District 3 Workshop grades seat, argues a fighting strategy to save BREL jobs

CLOSURE of British Rail Engineering Ltd workshops at Shildon (Co Durham), Horwich (near Manchester) and Temple Mills (East London) are planned to coincide with departing BRB Chairman Peter Parker's final month at British Rail.

The rail and engineering unions must organise a no-holds-barred fight back now. The membership have nothing to lose, they either accept a hammering or fight back.

The NUR National Executive should be explaining to members at every BREL and Regional workshop that the closures will continue, ending only with the shutting down of most and the privatisation of what is left.

For the first time ever the BREL and Regional Workshops are being offered separate pay rises, with BREL getting less. It's obvious that the price for achieving an equal rise will be the acceptance of job losses.

In order to weaken the

resolve to fight back, management have offered all men under sixty years of age alternative work at one of the other works.

By moving, the men are only taking away jobs which should have been filled locally. What happens when that place shuts down, is everyone going to move on again? We can't go down that road.

The Board's decision to go ahead and implement the closures in order to save a claimed £30 million was made after they rejected alternative proposals from the NUR Executive offering savings of £25 million including the closure of Temple Mills.

That is a scandalous strategy. It could only be seized upon by the management as a sign of weakness and give them renewed confidence.

The NUR's policy is for a modern, expanding, electrified rail system. If the proposed cuts were implemented there would be spare capacity and losses at

the workshops, there would be more work than they could handle.

The policy adopted overwhelmingly by the AGM and the Workshops Conference is for total opposition to all closures and redundancies and for industrial action to ensure these demands if need be.

Once again some of our leaders are saying that this is not the right ground to fight upon, claiming that the members are not ready.

Many members are seriously asking what is the right ground? All the time the Board proceed, we are losing ground. The NEC are worried about the membership's response. It's up to the NEC to stop blaming the members and get out and prepare them for action.

In the meantime the Shopmen's Conferences should be recalled now to put further pressure upon the NEC and to thrash out a programme of action based upon clear alternative policies.



# Toxteth School Occupation

**HARRINGTON** Primary School in Toxteth, Liverpool, is being occupied by parents in an attempt to save the school from imposed closure.

Harrington is the only school in this rundown area of Liverpool 1, which faces extensive rebuilding of homes in years to come.

It is by no means a perfect environment, as Higson's Brewery have bought up all the adjacent land and the brewery now surrounds the school. Liverpool council, when the Liberals were in charge wanted to close it a few years back, and won approval with marvellous plans for a renovated school near the Cathedral, with two other schools. Closure was agreed on that basis.

After that agreement the Liberal council sold the land for the new school!

The other schools in the Cathedral school development found alternative solutions but Harrington was unable to do so and they are now in a dilemma. It is too small for the Department of Education to agree a new building for them and the closure notice is now expiring.

The new Labour council asked for an extension for 12 months to sort out the problems but to their horror this was refused. The school is now legally closed with the implication that the council would be acting illegally to maintain the school in those circumstances.

Unlike the Croxteth Comprehensive occupation, Harrington does not have to battle against the Council as the Labour administration have agreed that if parents occupied (as they did) they would be given every support. The occupation is already attracting a lot of support including help from the campaign at Croxteth Comprehensive.



In occupation at Harrington School.

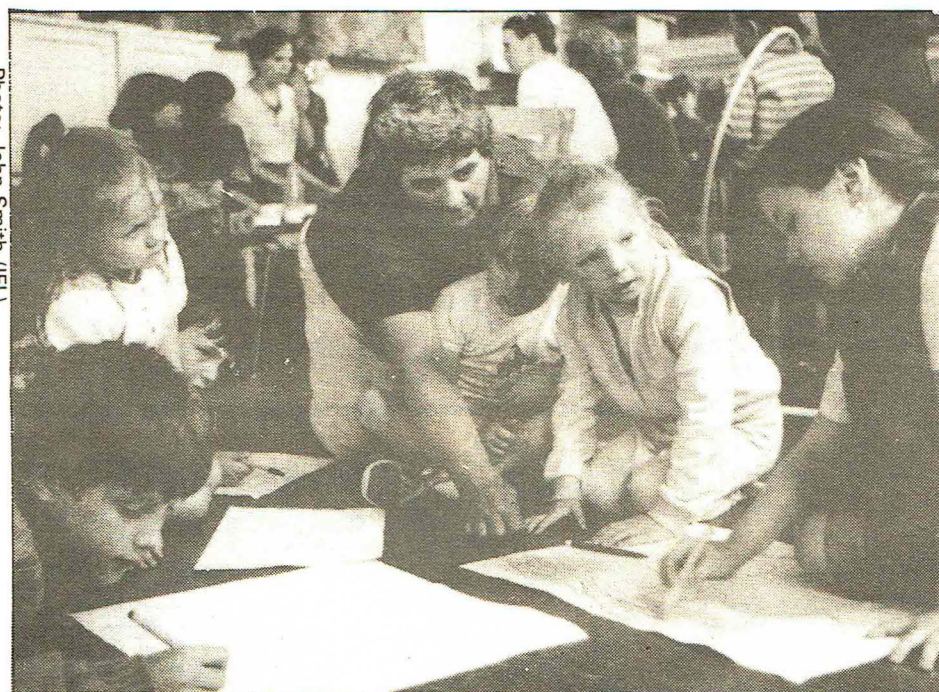


Photo: John Smith (FL)

## SRI LANKA

Continued from front page

started and were very late in stemming the arson and looting.

They delayed their threat to "shoot without warning" until after large sections of the Tamil community had fled. In fact the *Daily Telegraph* claimed that several army vehicles packed with troops drove through Colombo inciting the rioters with loud shouts of encouragement.

In a later incident, an estimated 31 Tamils were killed by Sinhalese fellow prisoners in a jail riot.

The violence has been growing for some months as the police and the army have stepped up the harassment of Tamils in the North. A recently released Amnesty International report condemned the torture, detention without trial and other breaches of human rights

caused by the government.

It has been alleged that three Tamil girls were kidnapped by security forces in the biggest Tamil city, Jaffna. One girl was allegedly raped and subsequently committed suicide. As revenge Tamil guerillas killed 15 soldiers on Saturday 23 July. This was just the excuse the Sinhalese chauvinists needed for their dreadful pogrom.

In his Commons speech Dave Nellist outlined the history of the would-be dictator Jayawardene, whom British and US imperialism had decided they needed and supported. He stressed that he did not support the individual terrorist methods of the Tamil guerillas and that the most pressing need was to build unity of the Sinhalese and Tamil workers and other oppressed people

around the basis of a socialist campaign.

The world capitalist crisis is having a dire impact on the poorest and most underdeveloped countries in the world. The desperate protectors of capitalism in these areas are relying on increasingly brutal methods to maintain their rule.

The bosses governments of the west have few scruples about supporting the bloodiest regimes.

Workers in Britain must show their opposition to this blatant butchery by Thatcher's vicious co-thinkers in Sri Lanka.

*A PROTEST is being organised outside the Sri Lankan High Commission at 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 (near Lancaster Gate tube) on Monday 1 August. For details ring Sam Segaran on (0865) 776515.*

**Militant**  
in  
**August**

For the next three weeks, issues dated 5, 12 and 19 August, *Militant* will be reduced in size.

There will be no issue of the paper on 26 August. *Militant* will return to a full 16 pages for the issue dated 2 September.

**Militant**

## WHAT MILITANT STANDS 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.

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Name .....

Address .....

### Sell...

I would like to sell . . . papers per week (minimum 5) on a sale or return basis.

Make cheques payable to *MILITANT* return to the Circulation Department, *MILITANT*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.