

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

ISSUE 666  
9 September 1983

20p

## Talks will not stop the Tories...

# TUC Must Lead Not Plead

ALL THE talk by the Tory government and the press about economic recovery has not stopped the avalanche of redundancies in British industry.

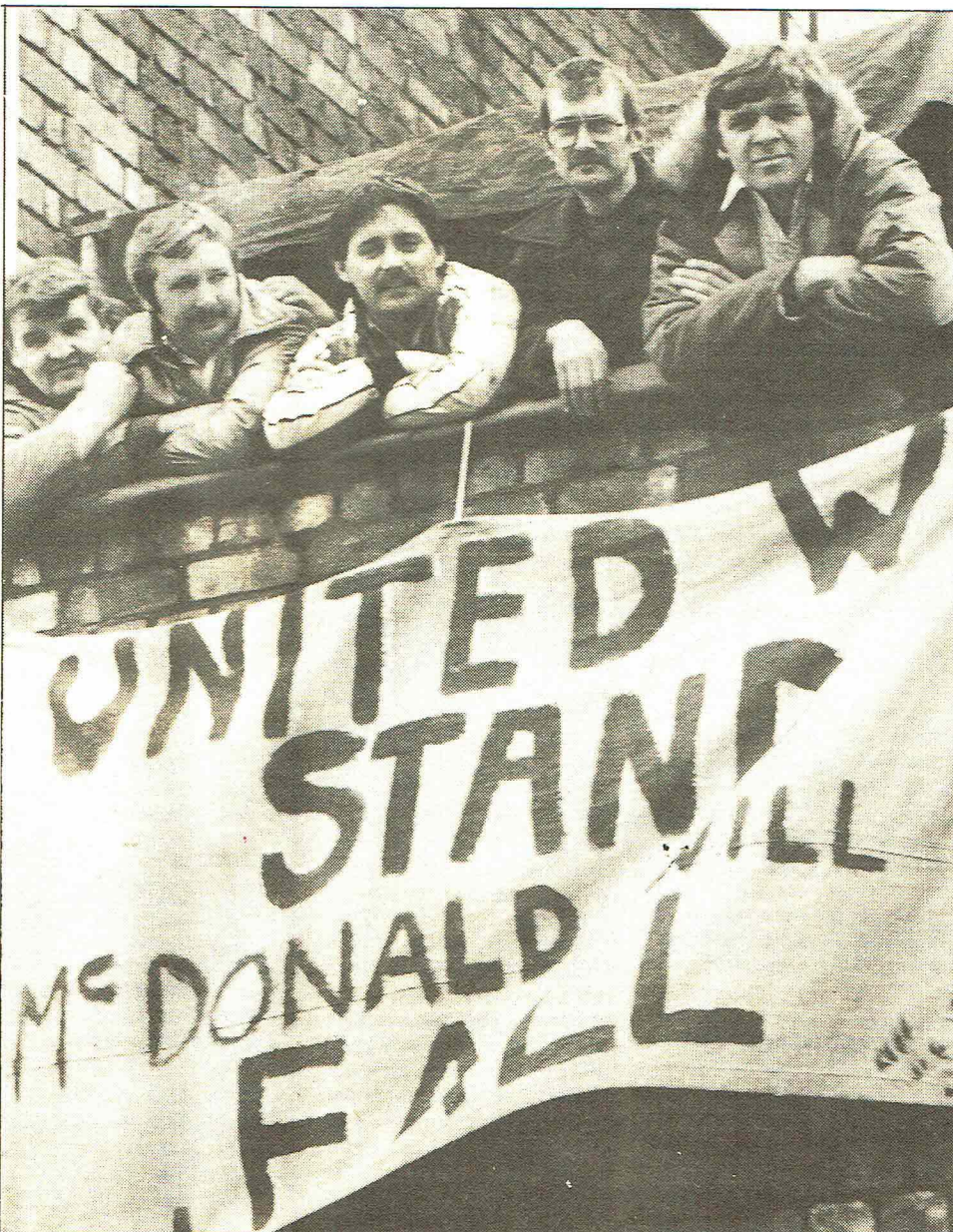
The unemployment figures have taken their first feeble fall in four years. The boom-slump cycle of capitalist economies has entered a short boom period.

But there will be no explosion of investment and new jobs from the British bosses.

During their half hearted boomlet, the capitalist class seem to have no intention of slowing down their programme of redundancies. Firms which were once industrial giants are becoming dwarfs; for example Raleigh bikes are jettisoning another 600 jobs.

John Brown Engineering paid their ex-chairman £180,000 as balm for losing his job, then callously announced mass redundancies with a copper handshake for hundreds of the workers who have produced their gas turbines and their wealth for years. The latest British Rail five year corporate plan calls for 17,000 jobs to go. The biggest rail union, the NUR has pledged to fight the loss of 3,000 jobs in British Rail Engineering where BR announced a victory.

CONTINUED ON  
BACK PAGE



Workers at Greenings Warrington fought against their bosses' plans for redundancies, and gained a victory.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

## Rallying for Socialism



Photo: Militant

Speaker at the 1982 rally against the witch hunt.

**THIS SATURDAY, 10 September, around 3,000 Labour activists will pack into the Wembley Conference Centre to attend the first Militant National Rally.**

The rally has been received with enormous enthusiasm, which reflects the confidence of supporters of *Militant* in the battles against the witch-hunt. It will protest against the expulsion of the Editorial Board, the attempt to ban the *Militant*, and the bureaucratic organisational measures of Labour's right wing.

At the beginning of Stalin's savage purges and show trials of the 1930s Leon Trotsky proudly proclaimed: "The motor force of progress is truth and not lies." The distortion of the political ideas of *Militant* by the right wing and the lies manufactured by the Tory press

will fail. The rally will show how the rank and file of the movement will have no truck with the repression of ideas and McCarthyism.

Already, every blow against *Militant*—against Labour's Marxist tradition—has rebounded on the witch-hunters by increasing our influence and sales! Historically, the days of the right wing—the influence of big business in the Labour Party—are numbered.

With the critical years that lie ahead, and the convulsions of capitalism in its death throes, more and more the working class will see the need for a thorough going break with capitalism.

Marxism stands to make a leading impact on these events. Yet to do this requires a more frequent *Militant* and a mass circulation. These themes will be taken up at the rally by the two speakers from the Editorial Board, Peter Taaffe and Ted Grant.

Continued on Page 3

**Saturday 10 September, 10.30am.  
Wembley Conference Centre—**

National demonstration  
organised by Chile, Nicaragua  
and El Salvador Solidarity  
Campaigns.

Sunday 11 September, YS  
banners assemble 12 noon  
Clerkenwell Green. Rally in  
Trafalgar Square.



Militant Forum

**CHILE—what next after  
September 11th?**

- ★ No alliances with the capitalists
- ★ For a Workers Government!
- ★ For a revolutionary General Strike to Overthrow Pinochet.

2pm Saturday September 17th, Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, London E2. (near Bethnal Green Tube Station.)

**THE LABOUR** movement must unreservedly condemn the destruction of the Korean Airlines 747 jumbo jet last week, with the loss of 269 lives.

Workers could not fail to be touched by the television newsreel of the bereaved relatives of the air-line passengers, grieving over the waters of the sea north of Japan, and it is not necessary to join the hypocritical chorus of Reagan, Thatcher and company, for them to be appalled by the attack upon the civilian air-liner.

The Russians have now admitted that they destroyed the airliner. But it now seems more than probable that KAL jumbo jet was being used for electronic or photographic surveillance of that sensitive part of the USSR.

There has been no explanation yet as to why the civilian aircraft managed to stray hundreds of miles from its course, a unique error for a 747 jet, with three separate guidance systems.

The Korean pilot, a veteran with 10,000 hours flying experience would be unlikely to make such enormous navigational blunders, on a moonlit night, on a course he must have known like the back of his hand.

It would not be the first time that NATO or Warsaw-Pact countries have used an apparently civilian aircraft, ship or "fishing boat" for electronic surveillance.

The two super-powers are constantly monitoring and logging the military activity of each other, using the most ultra-modern satellites, ships, aircraft and ground-based radar.

Reagan's own outburst against the Soviet Union has been considerably deflated by the revelation—three days afterwards—that the USA had a spy-plane in the vicinity at the same time that the 747 was destroyed.

The *Daily Express*, one of the most rabid right-wing papers, earlier this week made the comment that both sides must "come clean". The same newspaper is now speculating that the KAL 747 was indeed a spy-plane.

The story circulating in Washington and London, according to the *Express*, is "that the Korean plane, on a commercial flight, was carrying spy cameras."

"Some diplomats, the *Express* story goes on, "claim that the Americans—like the Soviets—have for years been using some civilian airlines for photographic missions over sensitive territory.

**No justification**

"The US is believed not to use its own airlines or those of major Western nations. Usually a country which is economically or politically dependent on Washington is selected to 'volunteer' for overflying particular sensitive areas. South Korea would be a natural candidate."

No doubt the Russians, keeping all comers away from the area where the plane went down, will produce the spy equipment from the wreckage, if it is there.

But even if the Boeing 747 was a spy-aircraft, there would be no justification whatsoever for its destruction, along with the 269 lives aboard. If Moscow represented a genuine

# Russian jet attack- -US Hypocrisy



socialist government, it would base its defence on the support of the labour movement internationally, and not on the same kind of military machine and secretiveness as is shown in the countries of capitalism.

But rather than lean on the support of workers around the world, it is clear that the Russian bureaucracy is contemptuous of the views and feelings of the international labour movement.

South Korean regime, to whip up a campaign of anti-Russianism and anti-"communism".

Reagan has been waiting for just such a pretext to drum up support for his policy of military intervention in Central America, in the same way his predecessor, Jimmy Carter, was able to use the issue of American hostages in Iran to bolster support for his policies at that stage.

## Militant

EDITORIAL

After first of all denying that anything untoward had happened at all, there was at last only a grudging admission from Moscow that there had been an incident, and then a further admission that Russian military aircraft had fired "warning shots" at the 747. Later still, it was finally admitted that the aircraft was destroyed.

Moscow's refusal to discuss the issue, openly, honestly and promptly, has only reinforced the views that workers already have about the bureaucracy in the USSR, that it is interested first, second and last in its own position, power and prestige, rather than the interests of the labour movement internationally.

What is worse, the incident has given the Reagans and Thatchers a field day, using the apparent callousness of the Russian bureaucracy as a scarecrow against "socialism". It has allowed Reagan and all kinds of reactionary right-wing regimes around the world, including the totalitarian

The hypocrisy of Western governments is indicated by the fact that there was nothing like the same press campaign and outcry when Israeli jets shot down a Libyan airliner in February of 1973. The Libyan Boeing 727, on a regular civilian flight, flew over Israeli occupied Sinai in error and was destroyed with the loss of 104 lives, including most of the French crew. The Israeli government, while immediately accepting its own responsibility and expressing its "deep sorrow" and regret, at the same time tried to justify the act on military grounds.

**Great damage**

The labour movement is obliged to present its own independent position on such issues, taking as its starting point what is in the best interests of the working class internationally. The attack on the Korean jumbo jet has given an opportunity for the

press in the West to throw dust in workers' eyes and confuse socialism with totalitarianism, and has therefore done great damage to the interests of the labour movement. Socialists have no alternative but to condemn the attack.

**Reactionary regimes**

But it is equally important that workers are careful not to join in the same chorus of condemnations that emanates from Washington and Downing Street. The administration of Reagan in America and the government of Thatcher in Britain blatantly support some of the most reactionary and murderous regimes in the world, such as those in South Africa, Chile, Argentina and El Salvador, which have wantonly murdered not 269, but thousands of their own civilian population.

American imperialism waded through blood in Vietnam, and is now prepared to do exactly the same to protect its interests in Central America. For Reagan and Thatcher to masquerade as the world's champions of "freedom" and "humanitarianism" is to turn logic on its head.

**Military arsenals**

The whole issue only serves to underline the need for the labour movement to rid society of the rotten Stalinist, bureaucratic regimes in the East and the crisis-torn capitalist regimes in the West, both of whom have vast military arsenals.

Both the Stalinist bureaucracy and the capitalist class are able to use the constant threat of "aggression" as a means of confusing and cowering their own working class. In that sense, they rely upon one another, each protecting its own position, power and prestige.

The only guarantee of peace and safety on a world scale will be the establishment of a World Socialist Federation, and a planet free from the diplomatic and military friction between the super-powers, which was in the final analysis the cause of this air disaster.

# Role call vote defeats witch-hunt

**THE EAST Kilbride CLP General Management Committee has rejected the register and expulsions of the Militant Editorial Board, by a clear, decisive majority.**

Yet at a recent Executive Committee meeting it was decided to recommend by a 11 votes to 3 the implementation of the NEC ban on *Militant*.

Further, all 18 members of the executive committee were mandated to vote for this decision, whereas on previous occasions when the register and expulsions were considered, a free vote of EC members was allowed.

The Labour Party Young Socialists responded to the ruling, and, at a meeting of 23, a resolution opposing the NEC instructions was passed unanimously, and sent on to the September 4 GMC.

Unfortunately, the LPYS having submitted this motion as an emergency, the chairman ruled it out of order on the grounds that the relevant NEC meeting was in July, whereas the YS motion was put forward in September. Nevertheless Bob Wylie, a leading supporter of *Militant* in the West of Scotland, moved a motion from the floor against the EC recommendation, and consequently against the instruction of the NEC.

**Conference**

Arguing for a continuation of the CLP's former position against witch-hunts, Bob explained that the ban had no basis in any conference decision. The history of the Labour Party, it was pointed out, has often seen attacks on the left by the right, always using the battle cry of "party within a party"—from Ramsey MacDonald, who used it against the ILP in the 1920s, to the Gaitskellites who used it against Aneurin Bevan and *Tribune* in the 1950s.

The main arguments of those supporting the EC were either that "this is not a ban of the *Militant*, you can sell it outside the meeting", or that the NEC was the sovereign body of the Labour Party between conferences.

Other comrades again pointed out that there was no

basis in any conference decision for this ban, and one GMC delegate argued, although he did not agree with *Militant*, that bans and proscriptions were no way to deal with political differences. The paper's supporters, he said, had earned their right to participate and sell their papers by the tireless work they had done for the Labour Party in the last general election alone.

**Roll call**

Afraid of any "consequences" of refusal to obey the NEC instructions, some delegates moved a "roll-call" vote. Despite a motion against a roll call vote being carried by 22 votes to 15, the chairman ruled that it would be held since a third of the delegates were in favour.

The eventual result of the roll call was a narrow victory for the left against the EC and NEC instructions by 22 votes to 19. However, in securing that result two *Militant* supporters on the EC broke the EC mandate by voting against the motion.

After the motion was announced, therefore, the chairman ruled that these EC members automatically forfeited their places and that there would be an election of these posts at the next General Management Committee.

**Proud record**

Nonetheless, the GMC decision has kept up the proud record of the Labour Party in East Kilbride of being opposed to bans and proscriptions—a position made clear on three separate occasions last year, with three different motions. It is to be hoped that this decision means that the General Management Committee can now concentrate all its energy on building the party and fighting for socialism against the attacks of the Tories.

This GMC decision will probably be in line with most of the other parties in the West of Scotland which seem set to follow the lead of the Glasgow District Labour Party in rejecting the instruction of the National Executive Committee to ban *Militant* and withdraw facilities from its supporters.

By Jeanette Wylie  
(Delegate to  
East Kilbride CLP,  
personal capacity)

**LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE GREETINGS**

Show that your Labour Party, trade union branch, LPYS, Women's Section supports socialism, not witch-hunts. Advertise in *Militant's* Labour Party conference issue.

- 3cms (15 words) . . . . . £4
- 6cms (25 words) . . . . . £6
- 1/16 page . . . . . £10
- 1/8 page . . . . . £20
- 1/4 page . . . . . £40

Make cheques payable to *Militant*, and send to Circulation Department, *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN by Tuesday 20 September.

# Politics of the sewer

**REACHING DEPTHS to which even John Golding has not ventured, Conor Cruise O'Brien last week linked Marxists in the Labour Party and socialists on the shop-floor with adults who sexually molest children. (The Observer, 4 September)**

O'Brien was not crude enough to say they were the same people. He has a more 'subtle' approach—implant the idea that all these people should be equally beyond society's pale.

In the guise of an 'academic' discussion on 'witch-hunts', he continually linked paedophiles, who are in favour of sexual rela-

tions with children, to Marxists: "Paedophiles are to the Campaign for Homosexual Equality as Trotskyists are to the Labour Party... In each case the group concerned has come under attack. But in each case also, there are good reasons why it should come under attack."

In a nauseating display of sophistry, O'Brien implies that Marxism can be as abhorrent as paedophilia. Having made a 'connection', he then proposes a remedy: "People who profess certain opinions should be kept out of certain relevant places, like the shop floor and the school room".

The connection is bogus, but O'Brien's calm, academic front, shields a

defence of class interests. Justifying the expulsions of socialists from industry he states: "It is not irrational for employers, or workers, not to want people who seem likely to put the factory out of business and the workers out of jobs."

What rubbish. It is not socialists who have created mass unemployment. It is the bosses who have refused to invest, and their system which leads to economic crisis.

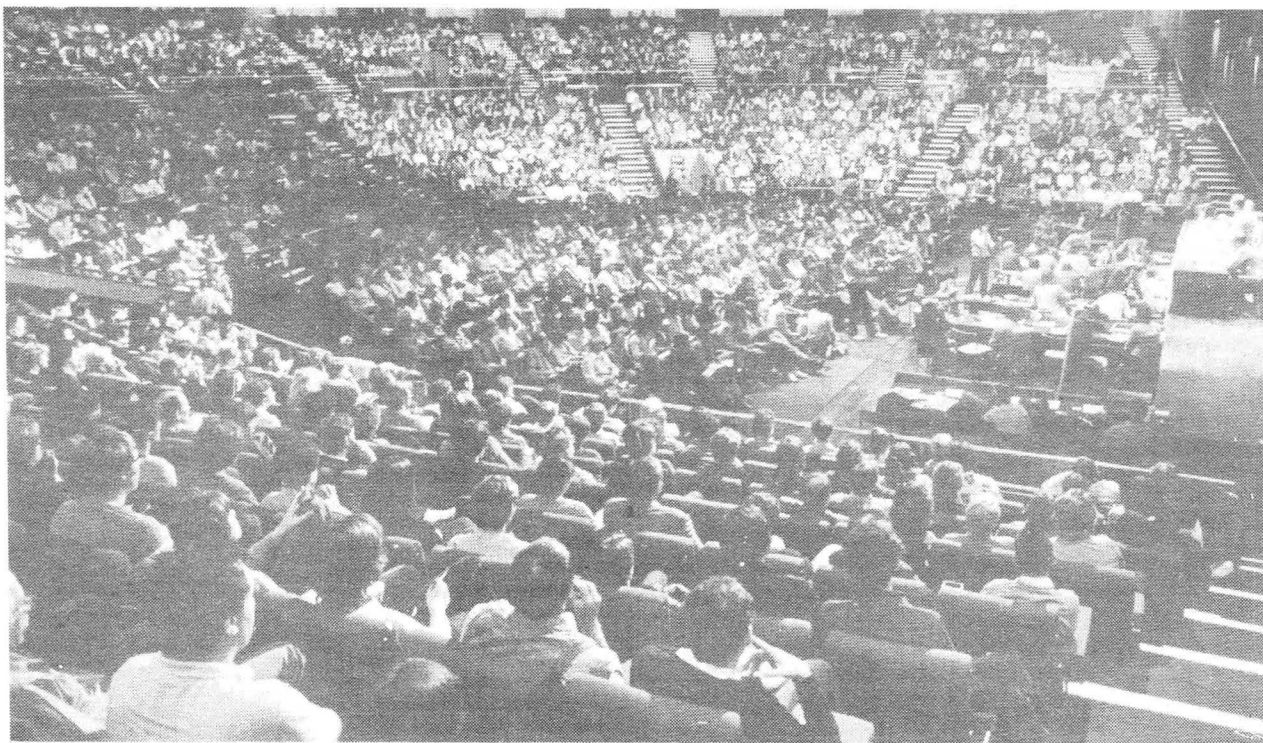
O'Brien's support for the ruling class is clear. His only criticism of the witch-hunt of socialists in the Labour Party is that it hasn't gone far enough: "The Labour Party leaders can be faulted not for hunting witches but

for lack of stomach for the chase."

Yet sometimes the mask slips, and the hysteria underlining his outlook slips through. In one place he even manages to link "the PLO, Sinn Fein, the *Labour Herald*, the *Militant*, Paedophile Information Exchange, the governments of El Salvador, (and) South Africa". All them are equally worthy of condemnation.

After such a display of hysteria, of clear class backing for the bosses, one question remains. Why do the leaders of the AUEW engineering union, parade him with such pride as their guest columnist in the monthly union journal?

By Jim Chrystie



Section of audience at last year's Wembley Rally against the witch-hunt.

Photo: Militant.

(Continued from front page)

Internationalism is a central core of Marxism. And in this year of the Centenary of Marx's death, the *Militant* takes great pride in welcoming Marxist veteran, Anton Nilson.

Anton, represents a direct link with the greatest traditions of the international labour movement. He is possibly the oldest living

comrade to have participated in the Russian Revolution and remained true to his ideals.

Anton, who will be 96 in November, was active in the Young Socialists at the beginning of the century. In 1908-9 he participated in the Swedish general strike and, when a number of strike-breakers were killed, was sentenced to death.

This was reduced to life imprisonment, and, in 1917 after massive international

pressure by the labour movement, he was released and left for Russia to give his service as a pilot to the cause of the October Revolution.

The Bolshevik government had only a few hundred planes at its disposal, most of them being used on the Baltic Front. It was here that Anton was elected commander of the Red Army Air Force, and decorated for bravery by Trotsky. "We spread millions of leaflets over the White fronts to win the masses of soldiers there," he recalls, "We had an enormous influence".

Anton met all the leaders of the revolution and was a close friend of Zinoviev and Killontai. He recalls Trotsky's influence at the time: "Trotsky was enormously popular in the Red Army. He organised it. What a powerful character he had! I know they are spitting on him because of Stalinism. I will never do that."

## Memories of Lenin and Trotsky

"Without Trotsky, Lenin would never have managed this revolution. Trotsky was the tactician, the militant, with an enormous capacity to organise. But without Lenin, Trotsky never had the theoretical knowledge which was needed to lead the people.

"Lenin and Trotsky complemented each other as one person. And this saved the revolution. The others,

Bukharin, Kamenev and all the others, Radek, Stalin as well, they were like an appendix. But it was Lenin and Trotsky who formed the anchor.

"The Russian people put their faith in them, and they got that because of Lenin's enormous loyalty towards Marxism. Yes, it was so delightful... unique to live through a revolution like this."

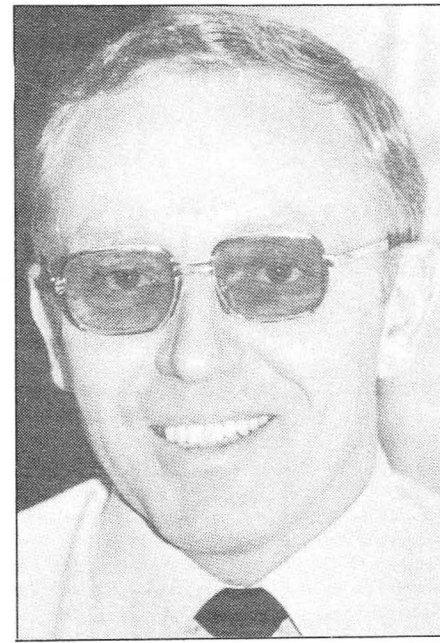
## German Revolution

Anton was also in Berlin for a few months during the German Revolution in the 1920s.

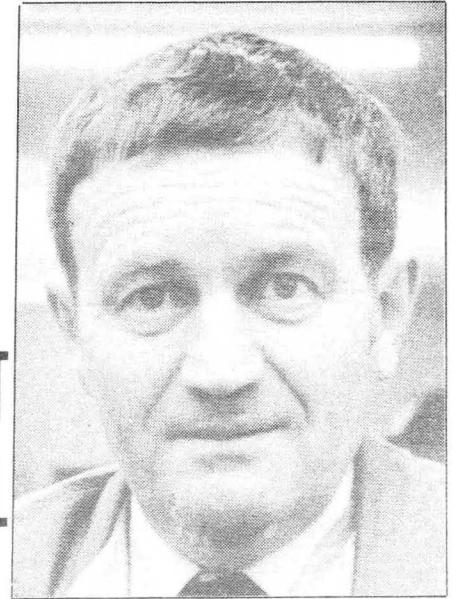
Other speakers at the rally will include, from the Parliamentary arena, Dave Nellist MP and Terry Fields MP, who is standing in this year's election for Labour's National Executive Committee. Photographic displays have also been arranged on the "History of *Militant*", the "Life of Karl Marx", and also "Lenin and Trotsky". During the lunch hour, archive films will be shown.

The Rally will be followed at 5.30 pm by a showing of the award winning film, *The Battle for Algiers*, which vividly portrays the struggles of the Algerian people against French imperialism in the 1950s and '60s.

By Rob Sewell



**TERRY FIELDS**



**PAT WALL**

## 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.

## MILITANT DAILY SPECIAL BUILDING FUND

A NUMBER of supporters of *Militant* are setting up a special Building Fund with the purpose of acquiring the premises necessary for the production of a daily Marxist newspaper.

All the necessary formalities have not yet been completed and we cannot begin to collect money at the moment. However, the sponsors of the Building Fund will be appealing at the Militant Rally on 10 September for individual PLEDGES to give the Building Fund a powerful launch. We aim to announce a stunning amount already promised before the end of the Rally.

You can help ensure that a Marxist daily becomes a reality. With special once-off donations of £50s, £100s, and even £1000s from

readers—and potential—the Building Fund will be aiming at a target of £150,000 by 1984.

Think NOW of what YOU can forego to help us make this historic leap forward. Special pledge forms will be distributed at the Rally. If you are attending, fill yours in there and then! If not, ask your local Militant seller for a form or just send in your own promise.

All pledges are redeemable at any time—the sooner the better and preferably well before 1984. We will let you know as soon as the Fund is officially opened and ready to receive your cash. Remember, the sooner we get a Marxist Daily off the ground, the sooner we can see the end of the Tories and their system.

# £7000 Needed Each Week!

By Kath White

A NIGHT out for the family is becoming more and more infrequent. With average earnings falling and the cost of living rising, it has definitely become something of a luxury.

Not only are the Tories forcing more and more working people onto the breadline they completely ignore the vast number already in poverty.

If we are to continue the campaign against the Tories the donations we receive each week are vital. It is only your money, your sacrifice, your contributions, which have brought us so far already and can guarantee the socialist fightback in the future.

We are still way off target—we need £36,000 to reach our £50,000 target—in five weeks! You have helped us raise £10,000 a week in previous quarters. Help us prove we can do it again.

We have received some excellent donations again this week: £157 collected at a public meeting held in Middleton, £88 raised at the public meeting at East Midlands summer camp, £59 from Littlehampton Labour Party Young Socialists after their GMC passed a resolution of protest regarding the ban on *Militant* sales, £10 Selly Oak NUS, and £5 Hull North Labour Party Young Socialists. Edinburgh supporters raised over £8 from an appeal sheet and an appeal sheet at Isle of Wight GMC raised nearly £5, and thanks to Rosyth Dockyard, Fife £3.

Thanks to Gary Doman

## BECOME A MILITANT SELLER

AFTER THE holidays working people will be looking to the TUC conference for answers to the decline in living standards and the attack on their rights by the Tories.

How badly we need a workers' voice at the present time! The lap dogs of the bosses the Fleet Street dailies loudly proclaim the propaganda of the Tories, while at the same time announcing the demise of the labour movement.

We, at *Militant*, are not at all depressed, but even more determined to fight for socialism for not only are our ideas gaining a hearing in every sector of the workers' movement but each week sees new areas open up for sales of our paper. This week has seen a new order of 25 per week in Wrexham, a new order in London and increased orders from as far apart as Teignmouth (Devon) to York.

If you would like to become a seller of *Militant* contact our sales at TUC conference, our stall at the 'Rally' or contact us directly at *Militant* Circulation, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or telephone 01-986 3828.

By Dave Farrar

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 8 October
Eastern	1011		2400
East Midlands	566		2650
Humberside	219		1450
London East	916		3100
London West	449		1950
London South	775		2700
Manchester & Lancs	1101		3000
Merseyside	668		3300
Northern	804		3500
Scotland East	663		2000
Scotland West	406		2700
Southern	1029		3700
South West	322		2000
Wales East	182		2000
Wales West	236		2300
West Midlands	585		3150
Yorkshire	808		3300
Others	2553		4800
<b>Total received</b>	<b>13292</b>		<b>50000</b>

## TOTAL THIS WEEK: £1,580

(Sheffield Heeley LPYS,) over £70, £10 (a German tourist), £8 J Gallacher (Wood Green ASLEF, Nottingham), £5 John Adams (Chapelhall, Scotland), J Harrison (Nottingham) £5, £3 Patricia Cortes (Ventnor, Isle of Wight), M Donadini (Nottingham) £3, F Nichols (Birmingham) £2, Varsha Gohil (unemployed, Leicester) £1, £1 B Winwood (Birmingham), K Stump (Worthing) £1, Sara Liddell (CPSA Poole) £1, John Jennings (Attercliffe LPYS Sheffield) 75p, Hazel Lake (Basingstoke TGWU) 50p

and N Walters (school student, Leicester) 30p.

Remember whether you are sending us pennies or £'s every donation counts. *Militant* has been built on the pennies so do not underestimate the value of any donation you send us. Kidderminster raised £33 from a social—every area should have one organised by now.

Whether your area is good at organising bazaars or raffles, arranging socials or jumble sales, or even holding a sponsored event; run, walk, dance, stop smoking

etc, the main thing is to get organised now. With five weeks to go a well arranged event will be a BIG fund raiser—and that is what we need—FUNDS! Whatever you are good at turn your talent into money—for the Fighting Fund.

We have proven time and again that *Militant* supporters are the only ones who know how to raise money. We are the only ones with a programme that does not just talk about socialism but fights for it.



Above photo of camp available £1 (inc p&rp) from Roy Davis, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea.

## South Wales Camp

THIS YEAR'S South Wales *Militant* Summer Camp was a huge success both socially and politically. Over 250 adults and 50 children, the biggest camp ever, took full advantage of the glorious sunshine (always guaranteed) and activities provided by the camp organisers.

Ted Grant introduced the two brilliant sessions on "War and Peace" and "Marxism and the Labour Party" with the contributions from the floor highlighting the clarity and confidence of Marxism on these subjects. Brian Beckingham gave a graphic analysis of the Colonial Revolution and Rob Sewell

and Bob Edwards, both standing in at very short notice, gave excellent talks on the "American Labour Movement" and "Marxism opposes Individual Terrorism".

While parents were listening to these political sessions their children were being entertained in the crèche by the camp video and numerous other games, which shattered the nerves of the crèche team.

The children fancy dress saw some amazing improvisations with over 40 different costumes on display and "Militant Building Worker", Emma Edwards, collecting £56 for the fighting fund in her bucket to add to the £309 collection which was raised

the previous evening. The Sunday night cabaret was an hilarious political pantomime where our hero Ted Dickinson-Doyle, fireman from Merseyside struggled to become the first workers' MP.

The press have also become regulars at our camp (apart from the local *Evening Post* who refused to pay the £10 entrance fee) and were astonished at the organisation and exemplary behaviour of the campers. But while the press may have been disappointed, no-one else was, and many people have already told us that they will be back next year.

By Alex Thraves

# 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

MAIDSTONE: Friday 16 September at 7.30 pm at Brickmakers Arms, Perryfield Street, Maidstone. Speaker: John Pickard on "Middle East Crisis".

CAMBRIDGE: Tuesday 13 September at 8 pm 'The Way Forward for Labour'. At Community Centre and school Fulbourn Old Drift Cherry Hinton.

PRESTON: "Fight racialism, fight unemployment!" Speakers: Javed Iqbal (*The Struggle*—Pakistan socialist paper) and a speaker from the Newham 8 Defence Committee at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20 September at RAOB (Bus Club), Ribbleson Lane, (near the prison), Preston.

SOUTHAMPTON: "The Fight Against the Tories" St. Matthews Church Hall, St. Mary's Road, Southampton on Monday 12 September.

### CLASSIFIED

WORKSOP: Debate: Joe Ashton MP v Lynn Walsh (*Militant* Editorial Board) organised by Worksop Trades Council at Worksop Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday 23 September.

TURKEY Solidarity Campaign Rally: "A Nation Behind Bars" at Stoke Newington Town Hall, Stoke Newington Church Street, London N16 at 2.30 pm on 10 September.

BLACKBURN LPYS, Public Meeting: speakers from Newham 8 Defence Campaign and Javid Iqbal from Manchester LPYS on Thursday 15 September at 7.30 pm at Bangor Street Community Centre, Bangor Street, Blackburn.

BOW & POPLAR LPYS Public Meeting, "No to Privatisation" at 7.30 pm on Thursday 15 September at Bromley Public Hall, Bow Road (Nearest Tube: Bow Road). Speakers: POEU NEC Member, Myrna Shaw (Tower Hamlets Health Workers' JSSC), Chandra D Gupta (LPYS Regional Committee).

BETHNAL GREEN & STEPNEY LPYS, Social: Hayfield Pub (Mile End Road near Stepney Green Tube), Saturday 17 September, 7.30 'till 12.

HAYES *Militant* Barbeque. Eat Joe's delicious kebabs and burgers. £2 (£1 unwaged). 8 pm Saturday 17 September. Phone Julia on 01-845 9660 for details and tickets.

VACANT FLAT Forest Gate, London E7. 1 double room £30 pw, 1 single room £15 pw + damage deposit + 1 months rent in advance. Contact Jane or Mark 01-552 3204.

FOURTH PERSON to share house Hendon area, own room, £21 pw. Phone Tom, 959-7138.

RE-ADVERTISEMENT AMBULANT male, disabled comrade, requires nurse for holiday. Medical attention need: minimal. Contact Iain Campbell, Carlisle (0228) 21068.

Will the girl who phoned Iain in Carlisle on Sunday 7 August, please phone again. Developments since that time mean he now has need of a nurse from 1-7 October. Other inquiries welcome.

FLAT AVAILABLE sharing with comrade. £12 per week. Four miles outside the Polytechnic of Wales. Brychan Davies, 20, Davies Street, Porth, Rhondda, Mid Glamorgan. Phone 0656 63502.

### WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Southern Weekend School

24 & 25 Sept. Clockhouse Community Centre, Defiance Walk, Woolwich, London SE18

Sessions on: The Family, Women and the Colonial Revolution, Positive Discrimination, Role of a Trade Union Activist, Low Pay and the Minimum Wage. Details of venue and speakers will appear in later issues.

### LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS 1-DAY RALLY ON

## BLACK YOUTH IN BRITAIN 1983

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER 1983  
CENTRAL HALL LONDON SE1.  
STARTS 10am.



★ FIGHT BACK AGAINST THE TORIES!  
★ WORKERS UNITY AND SOCIALISM!

P&F Leaflet No. 150 Walworth Rd., London SE17

Above leaflets available from A Bevan, Labour Party Youth Officer, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17.

# Scottish YS forge union links

**YOUNG PEOPLE especially are threatened by Tory attacks on wages and working conditions and their plans for industries like coal and British Telecoms.**

The Labour Party Young Socialists in Scotland aims to be at the forefront of the campaign to defend the conditions of youth in work by fighting hand in hand with the trade unions.

In Fife, the LPYS have developed strongly in the past period. Many of the members are now industrial workers from the mines and factories, who are now taking the ideas of the YS into their workplaces.

Lochgelly YS in Dumfermline East Constituency is a good example. Two young miners who are members of the YS from the local pit are organising a meeting of young miners in the Fife area.

The meeting will be on the theme of young miners and the labour movement, with

speakers from the YS, the NUM, and other labour movement bodies.

During the election YS members met leading shop stewards in the factories. One example was an EETPU shop steward at the Rosyth Docks. He was so impressed with the YS that he arranged a meeting of young workers in the docks, which took place last month.

A YS speaker Gary Moyle, a SOGAT member, went along, and explained our ideas to an excellent meeting of 35 young workers. Gary received the

greatest success with over 15 people signing up to join the Young Socialists.

They are now confident of setting up a YS branch in the Rosyth area.

An interesting aside to the meeting was a comment from one of the convenors, who is also a Labour Party member. He said: "Remember to bring down your Militant to the next Labour Party meeting as nobody is going to tell me what I can and cannot buy."

The original EETPU steward in the docks was so convinced of the YS's ideas

that he is now selling ten copies of Militant in the dockyard. Along with other YS members, he is going to set up a YS branch in his home town of Kelty, which is also in Dunfermline East constituency.

**"Many of the members are now industrial workers."**

In Glenrothes, Central Fife CLP, with the biggest YS branch in Fife, links have

also been made with the trade unions. The branch now has a big proportion of young industrial workers. Many of the links were made before the election, when the YS organised a meeting around the struggle of the Timex workers against redundancies.

Every factory was visited and material distributed. 40 people attended, and the shop stewards from Timex said it was one of the best meetings that he had spoken at.

The YS is now organising a meeting opposing the

government's attempts to privatise British Telecom. We have contacted POEU branch secretaries and members to get speakers, and hopefully will have a good meeting, and play a helping hand.

Forging links between the trade unions and the YS is crucial. Many young workers are looking for an alternative to Thatcher; the YS is the only organisation that has this alternative. The YS should go to the factories and the docks, and show the unions that we are prepared to fight for working people.



Not just in Scotland, but all over the country, the LPYS has improved its contacts and support amongst trades unionists. Above: a YS member visits GEC in Coventry, during the General Election.



A section of the audience at last year's LPYS Black Youth Conference. YS branches should be working now to ensure a big turn out for the October 22 rally.

## Council Doubles YTS Wages

**THE TORY government's Youth Training Scheme (YTS) should be fully operational this month.**

Young people have given their verdict on YTS by refusing to take part. Over 400,000 people aged 16 and 17 should be on a scheme, yet the figure is well below expectations.

The decision by Norman Tebbit to refuse any increase in the £25 allowance has obviously influenced the minds of many youth not to go on a scheme. With the experience of thousands of other school leavers on the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP) this has added to the serious doubts of youth in search of a job.

But there are some glimmers of hope amidst the gloom. In Hackney the Labour Council is taking on 50 apprentices with the Direct Labour Organisation (DLO). The DLO builds and repairs council property.

For the first 12 months the apprentices will be on YTS. The £25 allowance will be 'topped up' to the young trade unionists rate of nearly £50. There will be proper training, with union supervi-

sion, in different building skills. At the end of the apprenticeship there will be a job in the DLO.

There is always the danger that Hackney and other councils will be pressured by government cuts to backtrack on some of the commitments—especially the right to a job at the end of a scheme.

Thatcher, Tebbit and crew are continually forcing councils (mainly Labour controlled) to cut back on their spending on services. Hackney was recently identified as the most deprived area in the country, yet this will not stop the Tories demanding more cuts in services.

Young people, who through lack of any alternative go on YTS, must join a union. They will then be in a position to fight against any backtracking on commitments from the council and also push for better conditions. They will get the backing from other workers in the union if there is any confrontation with their management over trainees' rights.

**Dave Buxton**  
(Hackney DLO Shop Steward.)

## Young Socialists plan of action

THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists held their best ever national organisational week-end school in London 3/4 September.

Every region in the country was represented by the 50 delegates. A major discussion was held on YTS. The main conclusion was that the Tories are clearly attempting to use YTS to drive down the living standards of all youth. The LPYS must campaign in three ways:

1. Defend existing apprentices' pay and conditions.
2. Organise YTS trainees in the unions to fight for union rates of pay.
3. Push for the labour movement to take up a campaign

**Nick Toms (Secretary YTURC) took part in a two-way debate on YTS with an MSC spokesman, broadcast live on LBC (London Broadcasting Company). The overwhelming majority of callers**

for real training and guaranteed jobs for youth.

The LPYS and the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign are leading the fight against cheap labour schemes.

An important step in the fight to defend apprentices and organise YTS trainees will be the Young Workers' Assembly to be held in Man-

chester on December 10. Trade union letters advertising the conference will be available free from next week.

The other major campaigns all the comrades resolved to build for, was the LPYS Black Youth Rally on October 22 and, the National Demonstration in London in support of the Newham 8

backed up the points made by Nick Toms attacking the YTS. Local LPYS branches should approach local radio stations to put forward the views of young people on YTS.

to be held on September 24. Leaflets advertising both these events are available free to LPYS branches. Branches should follow the example of LPYS branches in Manchester and Lancashire who have, with the aid of Asian organisation, organised a double decker bus to both events.

The most immediate event LPYS members are organising for is the second Chile Solidarity demonstration in London on Saturday 11 September. The internationalist spirit of the LPYS was underlined with a major discussion on Central and Latin America at the school.

# Soccer: Bosses put boot in

## ONCE AGAIN the soccer season is with us, and the media is full of the sport's difficulties.

Although attendances at matches are declining, the number of people playing the game in local leagues has never been higher. In fact soccer's problems exist exclusively at professional level.

Whilst the media concentrate on the effects of TV coverage, and so-called 'lack of skill', they ignore the main reason for declining attendances. Many unemployed and low waged supporters simply cannot now afford to attend matches regularly.

I used to follow Manchester United up and down the country. But being unemployed I rarely see them play nowadays. Not because I've lost interest, but because I can't afford it.

Soccer, like other industries, is suffering from the ravages of our decaying economic system.

### TOP CLUBS

AS IN other industries the trend towards a few dominant monopolies in soccer is clear. The rich clubs are getting richer, and the others are increasingly a "nursery", grooming players to be bought by the elite. New developments will see the gap widen.

Last season, whilst £36.5m came in through gate receipts, over £8m was given by sponsors, overwhelmingly to a few top clubs. This year shirt sponsorship will provide more money for the big clubs, now that they will be allowed to be shown in TV coverage.

The League championship is also being sponsored for the first time (£3m over three years)—but rewards are unequal. First Division champions will get £50,000, whilst the winners of the Fourth Division will only get £8,000.

Another benefit for the big clubs is that they will now be able to keep all the receipts from home games, whereas before 30% had to go to the visitors.

Hooliganism has also put people off attending matches. But why do young people get into bother at matches anyway? After trouble at a West Ham, Manchester United match in the mid '70s, West Ham's manager, Ron Greenwood, reportedly said that many hooligans were young people whom society had rejected.

He was right. In some ways, football hooligans are similar to rioters. Overwhelmingly young and working class, matches give them the chance to vent their anger at society, albeit in a negative rather than a positive manner. Socialists can in no way condone the senseless violence that occurs at football matches. But the background to hooliganism lies within society.

Fed up with unemployment, badly paid boring jobs, if they are lucky enough to have one, bad housing, and an overall lack

of hope for the future, it isn't really surprising that punch ups occur. In fact for many fans their weekly trip to the match is the highlight of their week.

An afternoon on the local 'kop' provides them with an identity and a sense of importance. They become part of a mass movement and feel the power generated by large crowds of like minded people. As far as I'm concerned the real hooligans in society are the Tories and the bosses.

The history of the professional game during the last forty or fifty years is very similar to that of British capitalism; both are now paying for a chronic lack of investment. Right up to the 1950's soccer attracted massive crowds. But where did the revenue from these crowds go?

It didn't go to the players. The maximum wage was still in existence. It didn't go on enormous transfer fees. Nor did it go on improving stadiums and facilities; this has only been done in the last 15 to 20 years, and many grounds remain in an appalling condition.

So where did the profits from Soccer's "golden days" go? Once again, as with British industry, the money went into the directors' pockets as profit. It wasn't reinvested back into the game.

Finally, at the very top levels, the professional game is becoming divorced from its working class support. Whilst most players don't make small fortunes from the game, those at the very top do.



Behind the game on the field, soccer is becoming increasingly more dependent on the sponsors, such as Canon, who this season have arranged a £3 million deal over three years to fund the Football League. But the big money from business mostly goes to the top clubs and high wages for the elite few, such as Kevin Keegan (top right).

Partly encouraged by the media cultivation of superstardom, top players such as Keegan, Robson, Nicholas etc. are able to demand enormous wages. They also enjoy large sponsorship and endorsement deals. The current England defender Kenny Sanson has a well publicised ambition to become a millionaire.

Really big clubs flaunt their wealth. Manchester United have a brand of champagne, with the club's name on it, in their restaurant.

The lives of the top 'stars' and their unemployed supporters bear no comparison,

But during earlier times this was not the case.

Derek Dooley, a Sheffield Wednesday player during the 1950's, has explained how he used to travel to and from home matches on the bus with the fans. A team mate of his, Dennis Woodhead, said, "in those days the players and the supporters were the same people. Footballers were admired, of course, but they were not a race apart."

### HOOLOGANISM

NOT NEW: In 1885 visiting Preston supporters were mobbed by Birmingham fans 'using sticks, stones, and bottles'. In 1909, Glasgow spectators tore up goalposts, pay-boxes and set fire to them in the middle of the pitch. The ground was not cleared till 7pm. In 1930 QPR's ground was closed because of attacks by visiting fans.

NOT PARTICULARLY 'BRITISH': Sports riots have broken out in Turkey, USA, Russia.

LINKED TO DOLE: Research in Leicester of 428 fans arrested for hooliganism, found that one in five came from one council estate, where unemployment is 35%.

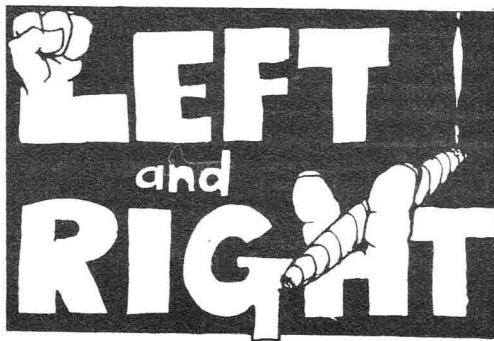
Whilst it would obviously be incorrect for socialists to call for the return of the maximum wage, there can be little doubt that the wages and life styles of football's elite few players and clubs, serve only to multiply soccer's problems.

But what attempts have been made by the clubs to remedy the crisis in the professional game. Have they attempted to seriously involve them selves more in the local community? Have they

interested in themselves, rather than the game, will we see soccer as it should be—a marvellous art involving, and enjoyed by, the whole community.

So let's hope that the next few years brings enormous success for both Manchester United and Marxism.

By Simon Duerden  
(Sheffield Central LPYS)



### Soulmates

The latest evangelist come to convert Britain to 'born again' Christianity has some very nasty friends. Luis Palau began his crusade in Trafalgar Square last weekend, and the campaign will peak next summer at mass rallies addressed by himself and Billy Graham.

Palau's greatest success to date has been in Guatemala where he won the soul of General Montt, who until his recent overthrow, ruled the country in a vicious repressive dictatorship. When questioned about Montt, Palau's reply was that Guatemala was 'no picnic' and that after all the enemies of the state were atheists. He thought it would be "the saddest day in many a century if the government of Rios Montt should fall under false pretences".

It is not known if Palau considers the recent US-backed overthrow of Montt, and the imposition of a less eccentric dictator, was such a 'false pretence'. But perhaps he should ask fellow evangelist Billy Graham. After all as a close friend of ex-President Nixon, he has very good political links with the right-wing in the US government.

### Why US befriended Barbie

It seems that the US government is still telling less than the truth about their protection of Klaus Barbie, the Nazi war criminal now on trial in France. They claimed that they hid him from the French and then arranged a new life for him in Bolivia, because Barbie had useful information on Soviet intentions in Europe.

This seems most unlikely. As Sam White, the London *Evening Standard's* correspondent in France pointed out, 2 September:

"Barbie spent the entire war as Gestapo chief in Lyons and could have known little about Soviet intentions in the East or anywhere else. The truth which the reporter tries to cover up is that Barbie was useful to the Americans not as an authority on the Russians but as an authority on the French. He could separate the goats from the sheep as far as the Resistance went and in that way would give the Americans much-needed leverage in the political affairs of post-war France".

In other words, the US government entered into an "alliance" with Nazis such as Barbie, against socialists, communists and working class activists, which had formed the backbone of the Resistance.

### How IBM lobby MPs

A fascinating glimpse of how big companies influence legislators is provided by IBM's background briefing for staff attending a lunch on 20 July for London MPs. Along with ten pages listing IBM's good charitable works to impress the Parliamentarians, the staff were given a pen portrait of the individual MPs attending.

Little is missed out. How should a member of staff react if subjects like the Middle East are raised? Perhaps it depends on who you are talking to. So John Cartwright is described as "anti-Trot, pro-Arab" whilst at the end of Ian Mikardo's biography is a "J", presumably for Jewish.

For Labour MPs, IBM make a sharp distinction not just between left and right, but how far left the MP really is. Guy Barnett, is listed as "soft leftist Tribune groupie" whilst Earnie Roberts "multi-cause hard left".

It mentions how many other free IBM lunches any MP has attended. One of their most favoured MPs is the Tory Under-Secretary for Education Peter Brooke. Secretly they, perhaps somewhat contemptuously describe him as "orthodox scion of loyal Tory peers, conformist", but then go on to mention his "numerous contacts with IBM".

Marxists often say that, under capitalism, whoever is in office, big business is in power. Perhaps IBM agree. After all their background briefing was drawn up by a Mr Wade, whom IBM call their "Government Programmes Manager".

### Special Branch moles

Every now and again the media indulges in a spate of red scaremongering. Moles of a different colour have been detected by the London magazine *City Limits*. It reveals that a number of ex-Special Branch police officers are now employed by Civil Service departments and private industry, often in a security capacity.

Special Branch is the 'dirty tricks' section of the police, which among other things, monitors political activists, photographs demonstrators, and collates information on 'subversives'. Ex-Special Branch officers are now employed by Standard Telephone and Cable, Plessey, British Gas and National Car Parks.

Of the 21 ex-SB officers on *City Limits'* list, 16 are working in security, the largest single employer being the Ministry of Defence. A much larger number of ex-CID police officers are also employed in government departments or private industry, again many of them in a 'security' capacity.

*City Limits* asked Feguson Smith, the head of Special Branch from 1966-1972, whether ex-SB officers use the information they have gathered when they move into private industry—"That's something you'd have to work out for yourself, I believe," was the reply followed by a dry Scottish chuckle. (*City Limits*, 2 September). We believe we can.

# "Where is Britain going?"

**FOLLOWING THE General Election result, the biggest electoral defeat that Labour has suffered since 1918, it is crucial for every socialist to understand the underlying social forces and contradictions within society.**

**Only then can we be prepared for the sharpening of the class struggle which lies ahead, particularly in the industrial field.**

From this point of view, Trotsky's book "Where Is Britain Going" written after the Tories landslide victory of 1924, is as topical today as when it was written.

He pointed out the consequences of Britain's decline from being the dominant world power. By 1924 Britain was falling behind the USA in the struggle for domination of world markets. Today the decline of Britain is such that it is 19th industrial power in the world.

In the past the ruling class, basing themselves on the massive profits accumulated from colonial exploitation, were able to grant reforms.

Trotsky explained: "The fear of revolution drove the British capitalists along the path of concessions and re-organisation as long as the material opportunities for British capitalism were or seemed limitless..."

"But in Britain's present radically altered position in the world, the threat of revolution is no longer capable of pushing the bourgeoisie forward. On the contrary, it now paralyses the last remnants of their industrial initiative. What is necessary now is not threats of revolution but revolution itself".



Leon Trotsky

Nowadays just as in the 1920s and 30s, the ruling class have given up any pretence of being 'social reformers'. More and more they are attempting to put the burden of the capitalist crisis onto the back of the working class in an attempt to restore profitability to their system.

However in their attempts to refute Marxism, politicians of the ruling class and many within the labour movement, claim that 'unlike Europe' Britain's tradition is not one of revolution, but of 'gradualism'. In the book Trotsky brilliantly destroys this myth.

He points out how, 'for us, it is enough to know that gradualness in various spheres of life goes hand in hand with catastrophes, breaks and upward and

downward leaps. The long process of competition between two states gradually prepares the war, the discontent of exploited workers gradually prepares a strike, the bad management of a bank gradually prepares bankruptcy".

Furthermore, Trotsky points out how any traits of 'gradualness' in past social relations in Britain were based on the most violent oppression in the colonies: "It would be interesting to know whether the seizures of India or Egypt can be interpreted in terms of the principle of gradualness? Is it now possible to draw from all this the conclusion that the greater the success with which Britain applied force to other peoples, the greater the degree of 'gradualness' she managed to realise within her own frontiers."

Other passages read as fresh today as when they were written: "The present government has a firm majority in Parliament. Consequently it is not excluded that it will survive in power for another 3 or 4 years although its term of office could prove shorter."

"In the course of this period the Conservative government which began with 'conciliatory' speeches by Baldwin will reveal that it has been in the last resort summoned to conserve all the contradictions and ulcers of post-war Britain...The radicalisation of the British working class will proceed apace..."

"All this will prepare the coming to power of the Labour Party. But we have every reason to fear, or rather to hope, that this process will cause much displeasure not only to Baldwin but to (the Labour leader) MacDonald too."

"Above all a growth in the



In his book, written after the Tory 1924 landslide, Trotsky predicted an increase in industrial conflict. Within two years Britain was engulfed in a General Strike. (Above) police charge strikers at the Elephant and Castle, London, May 1926.

number of industrial conflicts can be expected and along with this an increase in the pressure of the working masses upon their Parliamentary representatives. Neither the former nor the latter can be to the taste of leaders who applaud Baldwin's conciliatory speeches".

Within two years of this analysis Britain was engulfed in a General Strike. That strike was defeated, primarily because of the role played by the trade union and labour leaders.

The question of what programme and leadership the working class has is again crucial.

In 1983, like in the 1920s, Britain stands at a crossroads. But despite Labour's electoral defeat the historic election of two Marxist MPs and the steadily growing support for Militant shows the way ahead.

"Where is Britain Going?" is essential reading for every socialist to gain a deeper understanding of the period we are entering, and above all to see the underlying decay of British capitalism, and the

resurgence of the struggle of the working class, that will make the 1980s a decade of storms in society unparalleled since the 1920s.

Reviewed by  
Kevin Ramage

## BOOKS FOR SOCIALISTS

*Where is Britain Going*  
by Leon Trotsky, £1.25

*Germany—The Lost Revolution*  
by Chris Harman, £5.50

*Militant—What We Stand For*  
plus

*Tribune's Alternative Strategy—Capitalist Crisis or Socialist Plan*

£1

*The State—  
a Danger to the Labour Movement*  
85p

All prices include post and packing. Order from  
World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace,  
London E8 3PN.

## 'Germany - the lost revolution'

**"WITHOUT THE revolution in Germany, we are doomed". So said Lenin reviewing the prospects for the Russian Revolution. How close the actual revolution came to success is well documented in this book.**

World War I was brought to an end in November 1918 by revolution in Germany—starting in the navy in and around Kiel, and very quickly spreading throughout the country. Workers' Councils (or Soviets) sprang up—there was even one established at the Supreme HQ of the army!

Power actually rested with the workers!

News of the stirrings in Germany quickly spread to Russia. A Bolshevik, Karl Radek related the enthusiasm that greeted the news: "Tens of thousands of workers burst into wild cheering. Never have I seen

anything like it again. Until late in the evening workers and Red Army soldiers were filing past. The World Revolution had come. The mass of the people heard its iron tramp. Our isolation was over."

Those workers were ultimately destined to be disappointed. Power in Berlin was handed to the SDP under its 'safe', pro-capitalist leaders Ebert, Scheideman and Noske.

This leadership were never prepared to break with capitalism and were consciously prepared to ride out the enthusiasm of the working class until they would be able to assure capitalism's future.

Ebert was reported as saying: "I hate revolution like sin!" As a matter of fact Ebert's job was not made easy. The energy of the workers was such that even the so-called bastions of reaction in the army totally evaporated. The state machine collapsed.

As Ebert himself said, his position was uncomfortably like Kerensky's, before he

was over-thrown by the workers, led by the Bolsheviks, in October 1917. However there was to be no German "October".

Despite many opportunities over the next five years the working class never had an organisation, a mass organisation supported by the majority of the working class to concentrate its energies. Unfortunately due to the lack of such an organisation the capitalists were able to provoke sections of the revolutionary workers into premature action—only to be bloodily suppressed.

Critically in January 1919, the government staged a number of provocations which resulted in premature actions by sections of workers and their suppression by the Frei Korps (groups of irregular demobilised ex-officers and stormtroopers). The leaders of the new Communist Party, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, were murdered by the Frei Korps. It was a major setback for the working class.

Capitalism was however

far from stable, and over the next few years there were a number of occasions when the socialist transformation of society was possible.

One major weakness of the book is that Harman fails to analyse how and why the SDP grew in size fivefold from 1917 to 1919, and fails to discriminate between the leadership and the rank and file or how Marxists should orientate their activities accordingly. The book skirts around this point, perhaps because it does not fit in with Harman's views, as a leading member of the SWP, that mass socialist parties will not come from within the existing workers movement, but can be constructed from outside.

Yet overall the book provides a much needed codification of the German revolution. The book has its faults, but it nevertheless provides much needed information of what in capitalist education really is "The Lost Revolution".

Reviewed by  
Mike Waddington

## NEW MILITANT PAMPHLET

### THE STATE—DANGER TO LABOUR MOVEMENT

"ONE OF the major issues which divides Marxism from reformism within the labour movement is that of the state." This is how Peter Taaffe's series of articles begins.

The state for marxists, in the last analysis, rests upon armed bodies of men, which as a rule serve the interest of the economically dominant class.

How does this apply to the modern democratic state? Under what conditions can the state become relatively independent of the ruling class and maintain itself as a military-police dictatorship—what Marxists call bonapartism?

These articles are not just a restatement of marxist principles but

their application to the modern world.

Under Allende, Chile was, described as the "Britain of Latin America." Could Britain become the Chile of Europe?

Ted Grant's articles deal with behind-the-scenes manoeuvres in 1968, and the long-term possibility of a coup in Britain, unless the labour movement adopts a marxist programme.

Lynn Walsh deals with the tricky question of the police, in the wake of the 1981 riots.

Classic articles from Militant, all edited and updated in one handy pamphlet.

Reviewed by  
Mick Brooks.

# CHILE:

**All indications are that the tenth anniversary of the military coup in Chile, on 11 September, will be marked by a widespread mobilisation of the working class throughout the country.**

**Since May Day the monthly days of action which have been called by opposition groups in Chile have met with a growing response. Each day of action has shown that the Chilean workers are more and more prepared to move into open opposition to the Pinochet regime.**

These protests have shown just how isolated the regime is. It cannot rely on any sector of the population for support apart from a small group of extreme right wing politicians and some sections of the security forces. In Chile today, all classes are moving in opposition to the dictatorship. Even inside the armed forces there is open disagreement with the policies of General Pinochet.

Seeing Pinochet's inability to stem the movement of the working class, one after another of his old supporters, the people who backed the coup in 1973, have moved away from the regime. General Viaux, who in 1969 even planned a coup against the then Christian Democratic President Frei and in 1970 organised the assassination of the army commander Schneider, has today come out as a "democrat".

Viaux proclaims that he has supported the protests against the Pinochet regime and hypocritically adds, "the armed forces should never be used as a police force against the civilian population". The current airforce commander Mattei emphasised after the clashes around the last day of action that airforce personnel were not involved in the killings and shootings of protesting workers.

In an attempt to appear to democratise his regime, Pinochet has now introduced more civilian politicians into the cabinet. He has appointed as interior minister Yarpa, the former leader of the right wing National Party. Yarpa is now talking about bringing forward elections to Chile's congress from 1989 while keeping Pinochet as President until 1990.

Yarpa himself, before Pinochet's coup in 1973 was one of the main advocates of the Army stepping in to overthrow the Popular Unity government. In June 1973 he said, "civil war is a price we have to pay for overthrowing a dictatorship". After the attempted coup of 29 June 1973 Yarpa went to Santiago Airport to say goodbye to the fascists who led that coup as they left Chile to go into exile in Ecuador. Today Yarpa, like many other ex-supporters of Pinochet, is desperately trying to put on democratic clothes.

**The reason for this apparent change of heart is very easy to see. The events of the recent period have shown that Pinochet failed in his task of smashing forever the working class organisations. On the contrary the workers are showing themselves more and more willing to struggle.**

This has resulted in the majority of Chile's capitalist rulers deciding that it is necessary to introduce reforms in order to attempt to forestall the development of revolution.

The days of action have clearly shown that the working class in Chile is not just fighting for democratic rights. It is also fighting for revenge against a military dictatorship which killed 50,000 workers in the aftermath of the coup.

During the recent days of action, in the working class areas around Santiago the workers have erected barricades and attempted to drive the security forces out of those areas. These developments are foreshadowing the revolutionary upheavals which will occur once there is a break in the situation in Chile. It is this development which has struck terror into the hearts of the Chilean capitalists and also parts of the military.

The collapse of the Chilean economy last year further isolated the Pinochet regime. Most of the Chilean capitalists, alarmed by the crisis in the economy, began to oppose Pinochet's policies. Many sections of the middle class, who had been some of the most fervent supporters of the coup in 1973, moved into opposition to the regime.

This was clearly seen in the movement of the lorry owners. During the Popular Unity government, the lorry owners had been to a certain extent the spearhead of the movement against the government. The lorry owners had been mobilised by the reaction to cause maximum economic disruption in the fight to "destabilise" the Popular Unity government.

Now though, as a result of the economic crisis gripping Chile, the same lorry owners have been forced into opposition to the Pinochet regime. In June the lorry owners' leader Adolfo Quinteros, the same man who led the strikes against the Allende government, called an indefinite strike against the Pinochet regime; a clear indication of how isolated the dictatorship has become.

## Conditions for Revolution

Thus in Chile today we can see all the objective conditions developing for revolution. The working class has now recovered from its defeat of 1973 and is prepared to struggle against the regime. The middle class, sections of whom welcomed the coup in 1973, have now moved mainly into opposition against the dictatorship.

And, finally, the capitalist class which supported and sponsored the coup in 1973 are now in opposition to the Pinochet regime, both because of its economic policies and also because it has quite obviously failed to permanently repress the workers' movement. In this situation, it is only a matter of time before the dictatorship finally crumbles.

**The only thing lacking for the overthrow of capitalism is the workers' leadership consciously working for that goal.**

While the working class itself has set the pace during the recent days of action, the workers' leaders have on the other hand remained remarkably silent. From the outside it appears that the political initiative in the struggle against the Pinochet regime is coming from the Christian Democrat party, a party which supported the overthrow of Allende by Pinochet a decade ago.

The Christian Democrat led Democratic Alliance formally calling the Days of Action demands Pinochet's replacement by a joint civilian-military government staying in office for 18 months before elections are held!

But the Christian Democrats have only been allowed to don the mantle of leaders of the opposition, because of the refusal of the workers' leaders to spearhead the struggle themselves

By Bob Labi

against the Pinochet regime. When any of the Chilean workers' leaders have made any statement in the recent period, it has aimed at trying to achieve unity with the Christian Democrats, and in fact all those other forces opposing the dictatorship. It has been the leaders of the Chilean Communist Party which have most consistently put forward this position.

Last November the Communist Party leader Luis Corvalan broadcast to Chile, saying "we exclude nobody from the struggle against fascism, and have no intention of excluding anybody in the period after fascism is overthrown. We can and should come to an agreement with members of the entire opposition, including groups and sections that formerly acted against us in supporting the dictatorship, but are now going over to the opposition camp".

Earlier this year, Corvalan developed the idea further, "The Communist Party advocates a government representing all anti-fascist forces, we should participate in it directly or support it."

This policy of the Chilean Communist Party leaders is the same as they pursued in the period of Popular Unity. The Communist Party leaders along with Allende were generally on the right wing of the 1970-1973 government. In the final period of the Popular Unity they supported attempts to try to preserve Allende's coalition government by dropping reforms and seeking to achieve an agreement with the Christian Democrats, who at that time were moving more and more towards support for a military coup.

**By repeating the same policy today the Communist Party leaders show that they have learnt nothing from the experience of the Popular Unity.**

Allende's Popular Unity government was overthrown because the Chilean capitalist class could not afford the reforms which the government had granted and because they were fearful of the developing revolutionary movement of the working class, towards overthrowing capitalism and establishing a workers' democracy.

Today the situation in Chile is far worse than it was in the early 1970s. The economy has completely collapsed. Industrial production is now back to the level of 1966. Real unemployment is around 35%. As for agriculture, the area of land which has been cultivated has now fallen back to the levels farmed in the 19th Century! In this period, with the decline in the Chilean economy and the world crisis of the capitalist system, weak Chilean capitalism is even less able to afford the reforms which the Popular Unity attempted to establish in the early '70s. And it is this situation which is preparing the way for a new crisis when Pinochet is overthrown.

The Chilean working class are not just struggling to overthrow the Pinochet regime and win democratic rights. These are but a means to an end.

## Democratic rights

On the one hand Chilean workers want to exact their revenge on the military leaders and on the capitalists for the terrible repression which they suffered during the last ten years. On the other hand, at the very minimum they wish to use their regained democratic rights in order to secure an adequate standard of living, to secure the return of the social benefits they had before, and to seek a definite improvement in their lives.

It is precisely these demands which the Chilean capitalists will find very hard to grant.

The capitalist class will be attempt-



Pinochet glories in his stage-managed "welcome" in every to

# Ten years Pinochet blood

ting to restrain the working class. They will be prepared to grant reforms both in the political and social sphere, in an attempt to temporarily placate the workers' movement. But within a certain period, the capitalists will be forced to attempt to take back the concessions they had previously given. This will prepare the way for growing class battles.

Rapidly as a result of both the Chilean workers' historical experience and also as a result of their experiences in the new convulsions which society will be going through, workers will draw the conclusion that what is necessary is not simply the struggle for democratic rights but the struggle for the traditional goal of the Chilean working class—the socialist revolution.

For 50 years the basic propaganda of the Chilean Socialist Party has been that what is required in Chile is a socialist revolution. This propaganda has entered deep into the workers' consciousness. As a result of the workers' own experiences, this de-

mand will become call of the Chilean Unity period.

## What Kin

Tragically, how leaders, instead of enthusiasm, and cle situation to the w tempting instead t with sections of the course, the worke this up with talk o against Pinochet.

There can be no a need for unity in the regime. But th with whom and on thing to carry out Christian Democr such as the releas quite a different political bloc wi leaders.

The workers' le be reminding the

# Workers ca





...n and village he visits. But the ruling class are desperately seeking a new "democratic" form of rule as all sections of society now oppose the regime.

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...role of the Christian Democrats during the Popular Unity period and of their support for the coup. If now the Christian Democratic leaders have distanced themselves from the Pinochet regime, it is only because of the failure of that regime to carry out the permanent suppression of the working class and secondly because of the fact that the crisis has pushed the Christian Democrats' own supporters into opposition to the dictatorship.

The experience of the working class shows that a determined lead by the workers' organisations can draw behind it sections of the Christian Democrats' support. It should be remembered that when the Popular Unity was taking radical actions, it succeeded in drawing behind it significant sections of the Christian Democracy such as the Christian Left, who, when they broke away from the Christian Democratic Party in 1970, took with them 13% of the party membership into the Popular Unity coalition.

The unity which has to be built is the unity of the working class on a socialist programme. The working class can have no trust in the capitalist politicians or generals who feel the first gusts of a wind of change and now seek to distance themselves from Pinochet.

In particular, the task facing the leaders of the Chilean Socialist Party is to be true to the party's traditional position. That means, first of all, explaining the character of Chile's revolution, showing that only the overthrow of capitalism in Chile can guarantee and safeguard the democratic rights and the development of the country.

If the struggle for socialism is going to be more than mere rhetoric, mere words, then it is necessary for the Chilean Socialist Party to have a clear programme of action. That programme of action must be based first of all on the clear political independence of the working class, with no deals at all with any capitalist parties.

The essence of this position has been well summed up in the past Socialist Party Congresses. "Two concepts stand out clearly in the field of politics. The Communist Party insisted on the necessity of keeping a wide democratic

front or a national liberation front which would include, starting from the extreme left workers parties and also the central radical and Christian Democratic parties without excluding the eventual participation of certain liberal groups.

"This assertion was based on the traditional theoretical scheme... which outlined two big phases of revolutionary development in dependent countries: the democratic bourgeois stage and the socialist stage. By its very nature the first stage gives a principal role to the national bourgeoisie.

"We socialists, on our part, have lived through the experience of the Popular Front too intensively to ignore the processes used in those years. We began more and more to reach a new conclusion. That denies the Chilean bourgeoisie, as a class, any real possibility of leading the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal struggle, and even far less participating loyally in it... We socialists conceive the revolutionary movement as an uninterrupted and continuous process, which, carrying out anti-imperialist and democratic tasks will bring about the structuring of a socialist society".

These ideas are not new; they were the basis upon which Lenin and the

*The lessons of Chile* by Jorge Martinez.  
A Militant publication.  
Price 50p (+ 20p postage and packing) from:  
Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

**THE BRUTAL coup by the Chilean military junta ten years ago and the consequent murder, torture and imprisonment of thousands of socialists and workers, horrified workers throughout the world. How could the "Chilean experiment", the Popular Unity government of Allende be crushed so rapidly?**

**During the course of the Allende government, Marxists had consistently warned that alliances between the workers' parties and capitalist parties could only end in a catastrophe; tragically this analysis proved correct.**

**This document was originally published by the Spanish Marxist paper *Nuevo Claridad* five years ago, but it is far from being purely an historical document. In the growing revolution in Chile the lessons of 1970 to 1973 will be of enormous importance.**

Bolsheviks came to power in 1917, but they do provide the necessary guide to the course which must be followed in the coming Chilean revolution.

In the event of the Pinochet regime collapsing, either through enforced retirement or through popular insurrection, attempts will most likely be made to form a provisional government uniting all opposition forces. This is the trap which the workers' parties must avoid.

## Coalition trap

The ruling class will only want to form a coalition government in order to entrap the workers' leaders in the running of the capitalist state and in order to use the workers' leaders as policemen to control the movement of the working class. The capitalists will already have realised from the developments of the last few months that the overthrow of the Pinochet regime will lead to an enormous working class movement against the state machine and also enormous pressure for the implementation of workers' demands.

The downfall of Pinochet will produce a revolutionary situation. It is quite probable that there will develop dual power, with the working class attempting to rebuild its organisations, not just its parties and trade unions but also the industrial Cordones and the Peoples Supply Committees which before 1973 were embryonic organs of workers' democracy.

The Socialist Party must base itself on these bodies and use them as a springboard to socialist revolution.

The poison chalice of coalitionism must be rejected by the workers' leaders. There can be no trust in these latter day democrats, the capitalist politicians. They have only changed their policies because of their fear of the development of the workers' movement. There should be no doubt that if the occasion and necessity arises again, these same politicians will be prepared to carry through a new and even bloodier version of the 1973 coup.

The central lesson which has to be learnt out of both the experience of the Popular Unity and the last ten years is the need firstly, for the political independence of the working class. That does not mean that the workers reject support from other classes and other layers in society.

## No Political agreements

What it does mean is that the working class organisations, enter into no political agreements with those, like the Christian Democratic leaders, who are capitalist politicians who exploit the feelings and the aspirations of the layers they claim to represent. In any event, the inevitable radicalisation of the masses and class polarisation in Chile will completely undermine the basis of the Christian Democratic Party, in the same way that the UCD Centre Party in Spain, which formed the first 'democratic' government there after the death of the dictator Franco, has now been reduced to a zero.

The workers' movement in Chile has a great heritage. In the current period that heritage must be remembered. In particular it is the responsibility of the members of the Socialist Party to ensure that their party carries out its traditional programme.

It must be ensured that there is no 'unity' with the capitalist class, but that a 'workers' front' is built; that the Socialist Party propaganda clearly explains to the working class that only through the overthrow of capitalism is it possible to prevent the establishment of a new dictatorship in the future.

It is vital to learn the lessons of the other Latin American countries where there have been movements which have overthrown dictatorships but where, because capitalism was not overthrown, this has been followed by the establishment of new and even worse dictatorships.

If the lessons of the past 13 years are learnt by the Chilean workers' organisations then it can be certain that the coming movement of the working class will finally result in the historic aim of their struggle, the overthrow of capitalism as a first step to the establishment of a Socialist Federation of Latin America as part of a World Socialist Federation.

# ...n't trust capitalist parties

## PHILIPPINES

Murder, torture .....

## Reagan's 'democratic' puppet

**FOLLOWING THE recent assassination of Benigno Aquino, the exiled liberal opposition leader, the world's press has turned its eyes briefly to the Philippines and the continuing rule of its dictator, Ferdinand Marcos.**

Aquino, imprisoned and exiled since martial law in 1972, spent the last few years in the USA where he had spoken out against the atrocities of the Marcos regime and its US backers.

However, Reagan's government probably looked to Aquino as a possible safe successor to the ailing Marcos and his wife Imelda whose excesses have begun to be an embarrassment to US imperialism.

The stark contradictions of wealth and poverty can be seen in the capital, Manila, where Imelda Marcos as governor, spent over \$400 million in giving the city a face-lift. The shacks and slums were bulldozed—to make way for fourteen luxury hotels and a "cultural centre" for rich foreign tourists and businessmen. The homeless poor have been forced to find shelter where they can. This can mean living in sewer pipes.

The country has long been run by some 200 wealthy families who rivalled each other for power. Aquino came from this kind of privileged background. To the workers and peasants whose lives are being ravaged by the horrors of capitalism, Aquino would not have effected any solution.



Opposition leader Aquino returns from exile—to face assassination. Massive demonstrations followed his murder.



While the media throw up their hands in horror over the shooting of Aquino, they neglect to mention the tens of thousands of Filipino people who have been arrested and imprisoned without trial, subjected to brutal mental and physical torture and even massacred by the official army or paramilitary organisations or behalf of capitalism.

The economic situation is catastrophic with a foreign debt of \$15,000 million and an unemployment rate of nearly 50%. Ironically the biggest export and dollar earner for Marcos is migrant workers forced overseas to find work.

With the collapse of many traditional export industries such as coconuts, sugar and bananas, Marcos has encouraged multi-national companies to invest with the promise of cheap labour.

There are no free trade unions, strikes are banned and rates of pay for industrial workers are kept low—as little as 85p per day when even the government agrees that the minimum requirement for basic necessities is £4.60.

However, Filipino workers have shown great courage in striking in support of fellow workers who have been imprisoned and tortured in their struggles for basic human rights.

Nearly 70% of the population are peasants, but these islands are rich in natural resources. Today they are being forced off their lands to make way for multi-national companies who are clearing large areas to develop palm oil plantations. If they refuse the pittance offered for compensation their homes are destroyed and they are either

shot or rounded up into "hamlets", small huts in the centre of towns which three or four families must share.

"Hamlets" are no more than concentration camps, closely guarded and subject to strict curfew. Those who still have land to farm may have to walk 12 kilometres from the hamlet, tend the land during the hottest part of the day and return to the hamlet before curfew at sunset.

They can no longer harvest enough to live on. Those who have no land will be forced to work for the multi-nationals for poverty wages with no union rights.

An estimated 70% of the population is mal-nourished and 74 out of every 1,000 children die before their first birthday. Overcrowding, lack of food and of safe drinking water ensure that gastro-enteritis and bron-

chial diseases are endemic.

There has though been open resistance on a mass scale by workers and peasants as well as the underground movements which continue to grow.

This opposition which Marcos has used as an excuse for indiscriminate murder and torture is now being taken up and supported by workers' organisations and human rights groups throughout the world. As the political and economic conditions in the Philippines continue to deteriorate so Marcos has stepped up his repressive measures, causing further problems for Reagan's government.

As well as vast business interests the US has over 20 military bases in the Philippines which could be used as springboards for American intervention in NE Asia,

Africa, the Persian Gulf and the Middle East.

It is not surprising that the US government fears any increased instability and are now anxious to find a suitable successor to Marcos, who will protect their interests and placate the people.

It is too late for that. Even the pretence of a democratically elected parliament would not solve the people's problems. Capitalism cannot afford to give the workers decent wages, restore the peasants' lands or remove the American bases.

The only solution for the Filipino people is to continue their struggle and with the support of workers throughout the world, rid themselves of their oppressors and capitalism.

By Pauline Wardleworth

## US workers challenge "double gate"

John Reimann  
(Carpenters Local 36  
Oakland, Ca.)

**THE FIGHT by American workers shown in last week's report of the telephone workers' dispute is not restricted to that industry. A report sent to us last month from California shows the problems they face.**

"Carpenters in Northern California have been striking against selected major contractors. The carpenters' contract expired June 15, and several major contractors have refused to sign a new one despite the union having already made major concessions on reduced pay.

## Union or non-union

Many of the struck contractors are, in fact developers who presently do not hire their own construction crews. Such struck companies as WSI and Ponderosa Homes arrange financing and

develop the project and then sub-contract out all work to other companies.

However, under the union's present agreement, they must subcontract out the work to union subcontractors. Should they fail they are responsible for paying the difference in wages plus the fringe benefits. If these contractors are able to go non-union, then they will be able to hire non-union subs, or even their own non-union crews.

## Secondary boycotts

An added complication to the struggle is the use of the "dual gate" or "double gate". Under the anti-union Taft-Hartley Act, 'secondary boycotts' are illegal. If a union has a dispute with a company, they may picket that company, but not another one doing business with them.

In construction, if a

building contractor buys non-union made cabinets to install on a job, the union may not legally picket the job and pull its members off since the dispute, technically, is with the non-union cabinet shop, not the contractor.

## Legal constraints

In the case of the "dual gate", courts have ruled that, where there is more than one contractor on the job (invariably the case), the unions may not picket the entire job (all of the contractors) if there is a dispute with just one contractor. All the main contractor has to do is set up a special—or "second"—gate for the exclusive use of the non-union contractor.

The workers may picket that gate only. The union construction workers go to work through another gate, where they are technically not crossing a picket line. Legally a union can-

not even advise members not to go to work in this case.

This system was established through court rulings some ten years ago, and has spread rapidly since then. It is probably the central tactic in destroying American building trades unions, and the union leadership has been unable to come up with a solution to it.

In this strike, developers have set up the double gate, but the unions are ignoring them and are picketing all gates, claiming that the legal theory doesn't hold in a strike situation. At present, the contractors are seeking a "blanket injunction" against the Carpenters Union to bar it from any picketing, under any circumstances, for as long as the injunction is in effect (which could be for years).

On the picket line, for the first time in many, many years, there have been several cases of

union trades workers going through the picket lines. This testifies to the low morale and confidence in the union, on the part of many members. (In addition, in several cases, the business agents of other trades are reported as having told their members to go to work). Several district council delegates in the Bay Area have called upon the union leadership to initiate a mass educational campaign to deal with this problem.

## Stonewalling union leaders

However, they have been met with nothing but stonewalling on the part of the leadership, who apparently fear an aroused membership even more than they fear the union busters.

In addition, also for the first time in over a decade, there have been numerous arrests as frustrated pickets are being accused of illegally

blocking trucks and the like. (No violence has been reported so far.) These arrests are testimony to the determination of a core of union members who could be used to build a real mass movement.

## Struggle inevitable

Unfortunately, the union leadership still seems determined to follow its policy of "business unionism" and lock the membership out of any real participation. Only a mass upsurge in the membership can protect the building trades unions. Such an upsurge is inevitable as the attacks continue.

If the union leadership leads and encourages it, it will be relatively soon and easier. If they continue to act as a roadblock, the struggle will be delayed and will be much more bitter. But the struggle is inevitable."

# Letters

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

MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Not so soft South

Comrades,  
In the past "the soft South" seemed to have been sheltered from the effects of the recession. In fact, with the recent opening of the new Pirelli cable factory in Southampton it seemed that "business was booming". However, within weeks of opening that illusion was shattered. Firstly with the closure of the Millbrook factory of Morgreen Metals Industries with the loss of 150 jobs, and now Senator Engineering is to make its entire shopfloor workforce

redundant. In fact a director of Senators (Chandlers Ford) factory, himself anticipated further redundancies in the Hampshire area:

"I think we have only just seen the beginning of the effects of the recession in the south", he said. Taken with the fact that more people are chasing fewer and fewer vacancies in Southampton, eg 5,000 people chasing 500 jobs at Asda's new superstore in Totton, means that things are not all rosy in the garden.

Yours fraternally  
Gavin Marsh  
Southampton LPYS

## Council housing—"right to buy"?

Dear Comrades,  
During the local elections one issue often raised on the doorstep was the "right to buy" a council house.  
Many think that while they've got work now, and been paying rent for a number of years, then if they buy their house now, maybe of the mortgage repayments will be the same as the rent. But that won't be the case in ten years time—when they may not have work to go to.  
So alongside our housing

demands we should demand a "sliding scale of rents" which would obviously benefit longer-term tenants and particularly those worse off (single parents, the widowed, pensioners, etc) and at the same time provide an alternative to those who only consider buying their house for economic reasons.

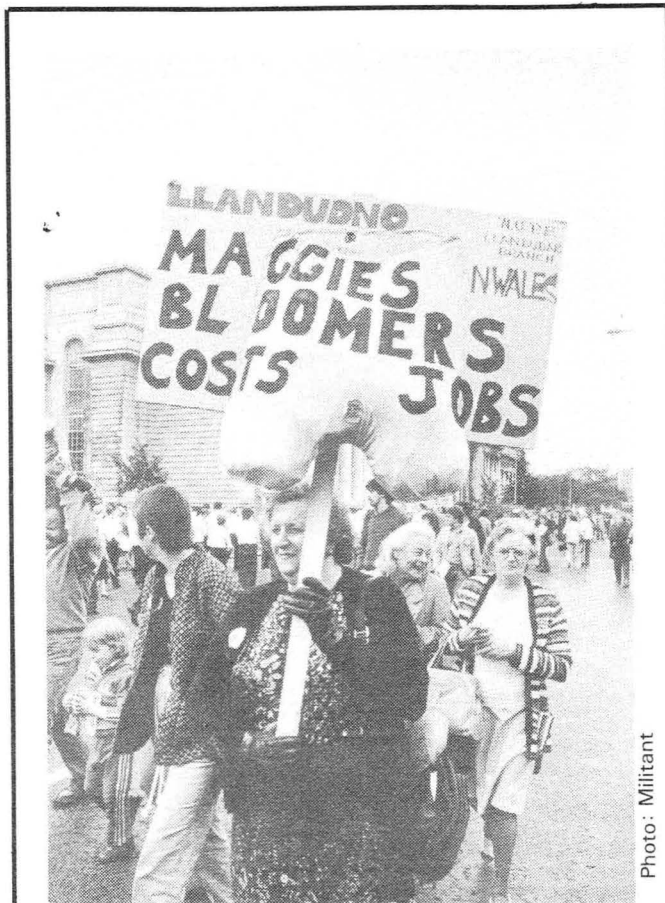
Yours fraternally  
Sue Harvey  
Brooklands Ward  
Wythenshawe CLP

## Guinness is good for who?

Dear Comrades,  
We, as workers within the industry, have seen through recent press releases exactly where Guinness's the so-called family firm, priorities lie. Just after the turn of this year all employers were offered the opportunity of "owning some of the company". Shares were to be offered with the prospect of financial rewards after five years... some hope.  
Then along comes the hatchet-man—Saunders—who earns approximately £100,000 per year—tells these same employees "let's have more jobs cuts". Since he joined the company, thousands have been thrown onto the scrap-heap.  
The latest round of job losses mainly affects the Runcorn and Park Royal plants. Here, although a lot of the work will remain, it will be hived off to private companies with the employed workers left to endure the terms and conditions that those companies are known for.

The workers employed by the company were again given a sharp kick in the groin a week or so ago when the company announced a £450,000 sponsorship deal with QPR Football Club. Only a couple of years ago workers employed at the Liverpool plant started a football team and approached the company for a donation to buy equipment, only to be told, "sorry we can't afford it". Its experiences like this that will remain in the minds of the workers when given a clear lead to change society.

Yours fraternally  
Tony Gavin and the rest of the workers at GEL, Liverpool.



Tory policies are bringing more and more working class women into political activity.

## Women's weekend school success

Dear Comrades,  
We would like to thank all those concerned for a well organised politically and socially, Northern Weekend School on Women and Socialism, held in Bradford 20-21 August.  
The five sessions, each one excellently introduced, with excellent contributions from the floor really hammered home the position of women under capitalist society and the need for women to be part and parcel of the struggle for socialism.

We would urge all *Militant* readers, especially women, to attend similar weekend schools and participate in discussions and share experiences where appropriate of women's struggles.  
We look forward to any new publications, especially relating to women's position at present under this Tory government.  
We hope this will be a regular event on the labour movement calendar.  
Yours fraternally  
Marlene Bewick  
Jean Thorpe  
Nottingham East

## "Too fussy" job seeker

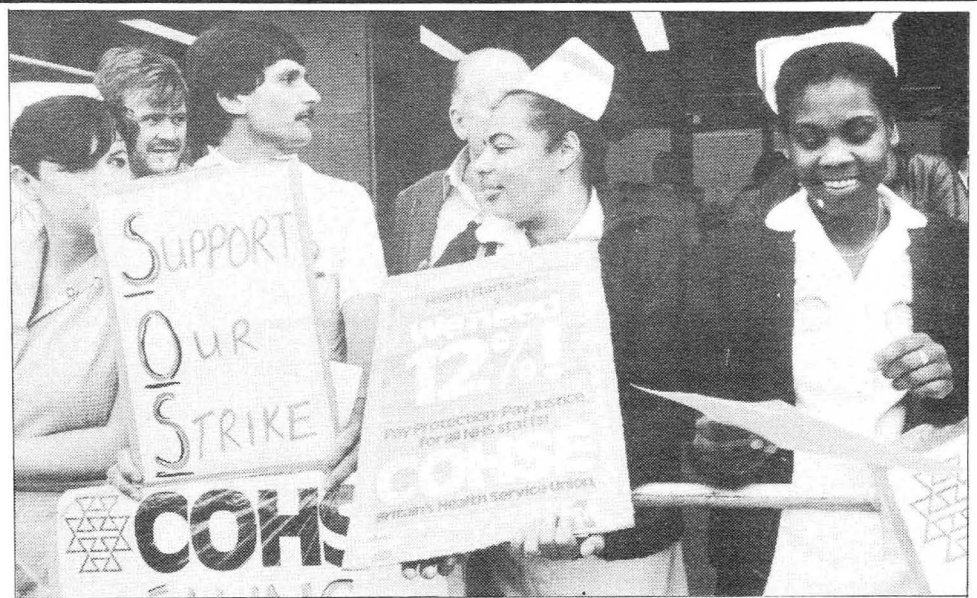
Dear Comrades,  
I used to work on a building site, but was recently made unemployed.  
I was asked to go for an interview and to fill out a form at the job centre.  
I was told by the clerk that I was too fussy and I was pricing myself out of a job. The clerk then went on to say I was too fussy because I wanted a career. If it was a job I wanted, then I could get one quite easily, "but a career! Nobody gets one of those today."

That's the difference under Tory rule between areas like Liverpool and so called rich areas like Reading. While in Liverpool there are no jobs or careers, to be found, in "Boomtown" Reading there are just con jobs with no future for youth under this present system.

Yours fraternally  
John Ennis  
Reading LPYS  
and UCCATT

## Thatcher's obsession

Dear Comrades,  
Browsing through my Oxford Dictionary the other day I came across the word MONOMANIA. Intrigued, I discovered that the meaning of the word is: obsession of the mind by one idea or interest. I thought how apt this word would be to replace Thatcherism.  
Yours fraternally  
Mike Dunne  
Chairman NUPE  
Hackney General Branch.



Health workers lobby delegates to last year's TUC at Brighton.

## Nurses' disgust

Dear *Militant*,  
I'd just like to express my disgust, not surprise, at the government's plan to once again attack the NHS workers by suggesting to exclude from any pay deal those workers who take strike action. No doubt the RCN are delighted by this,

however, as a student nurse at St James in Leeds and a COHSE union member I see this as just another attempt to take any muscle the NHS workers have away, leaving us defenceless and on rotten pay. Many other student nurses I work with find this idea disgusting, even some who would not have gone on strike. There is great

unrest in the hospital where I work, as the cuts are beginning to be felt. I'm sure if Mrs T. tries this trick then she'll have all the health workers to deal with together and not divided as she's had us before.

Yours fraternally  
A Lomas  
E Leeds CLP

## Heads or tails— youth lose

Dear Comrades,  
While Nigel Lawson's announcement that "hard times" have forced him to give up expensive holidays, trips to the theatre, and poker games (shame, shame), today's youth have the Tory axe looming over them in the form of proposals to cut dole by 30% to around £13. It seems as if the youth, who have borne the brunt of Tory attacks, are again going to get hammered.

The proposal not to pay rent for those who leave home will see many teenagers trapped in the home in a constant battle with their parents, the problems exacerbated by lack of money.

Yours comradely  
Neil Toyn  
Southampton LPYS

Dear Comrades  
Many people who've got youngsters unemployed and face the threat of their dole being cut may well take their kids to court to get them evicted for non-payment of rent etc.

Tories break up families. They think that while kids can stay at home they don't have to find work. They are shifting the burden of capitalist crisis onto families and unemployed. Appeal to them to join the Labour Party and LPYS to fight harder, organise better. There is no concentrated opposition to Tory attacks. We must arouse public anger.

Yours fraternally  
Alf Ackhurst  
Hornchurch CLP

## Low paid—living extravagantly?

Dear Comrades,  
I understand from reading the papers that not only is the Minister for Social Security cutting the housing benefit for all us low paid workers who got a measly tax-cut last budget, he is also looking at ways of stopping our rent allowance if we won't pack up and move somewhere cheaper!

Apparently, if you're living in a place that's got a little bit more than you actually need (like an extra bedroom? A garden? Your very own toilet perhaps?) then you could be considered

to be extravagant and your rent allowance would be stopped until you find somewhere worse!

I have decided to take these proposals to heart and am, at this very moment, looking over the list of grotty bedsits being advertised in the local paper. I just hope Dr. Rhodes Boyson is not after the same "room and share bathroom" as me—because round here the landlords rent to the higher bidder.

Yours fraternally  
Helen Gasking  
Thanet South LPYS

## Anarchist's view of nationalisation

Dear *Militant*,  
I follow the left's reactions to the Thatcherite policy of privatisation with increasing disappointment and despair.  
As an anarchist I have never had much faith in nationalisation—to me it just represents the transfer of control from one authoritarian body—the capitalist businessmen—to another—very often a capitalist government (sometimes Labour!).

Surely what we require is a more positive form of workers' control which in turn would create work of

real value and meaning, more leisure and hopefully (I have faith in the majority of the population) a more just and equitable society.

Therefore, instead of bleating about privatisation and striving to maintain the pathetic status quo of nationalisation, why are workers and the more radical unions not organising to buy their own industries so that they can become their own bosses and thus take the reins and control their own lives?

Yours chaotically  
Ian H. Lawes

## Biography appeal

Dear Comrades,  
During the late 1970s and the early 1980s my mother, Mrs Evelyn Lawton, became a regular supporter of the ideas of the paper and also supported *Militant's* supporters when they came under attack from right-wing Labour members. Her commitment to a militant form of socialism had its origins in her membership of the ILP's Guild of Youth in the 1930s (as Evelyn Husp). She rose to become its national chairman.

Since her untimely death in May 1982 I have pondered on the task of writing her biography. Could those who knew her then, or since, in the Co-operative Party, in the Yorkshire Regional Labour Party (she was twice its chairman) in the York Labour Party and at *Militant* supporters' meetings, please send me their observations of those times and struggles.

The movement's history and education can be enhanced by knowing of the contributions and activities of its past comrades.

Comradely greetings  
David J Lawton

## Revolutionary banners

Dear Comrades,  
When the new Musselburgh LPYS branch discussed having a banner made, chairman Tony McKenna offered his services. We were amazed at the result and delighted with the price.

By way of thanks, we placed an advert in *Militant* which brought several inquiries from all over the country, which shows the advantages of using a workers' paper.

Although Tony, as a self-employed signwriter, uses his paintbrushes to make a living, he has agreed to give 10% of any money made from banners to the Fighting Fund.

At this time, when it is so important to build the ideas of Marxism through *Militant*, many comrades are looking for ways of raising money. The talents of everyone, be they artistic, musical, vocal or organisational can be used to raise the vital pounds and pennies required.

Yours fraternally  
Peter Gillan  
Musselburgh LPYS



**"TALKS WITH this government are a dialogue with the deaf"**

Joe Marino, General Secretary of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union, summed up the feeling of many trade union rank and file members in the debate on the government's anti-trade union legislation.

He called for active TUC support for any worker singled out for attack by the Tory anti-trade union legislation, and explained that it would not be the general secretaries or trade union presidents who would be most at risk by Tory laws, but ordinary shop stewards and branch secretaries. "We've turned the other cheek for far too long", he said.

The need to stand up and fight against the Tories was echoed by other speakers in this debate. While the right-wing argued that it was possible to persuade the Tories to abandon or tone down their attacks on the working class, their argument was stripped completely bare in the course of the debate.

"We have to give confidence," Joe Marino declared, "to the union members—if you are arrested or if you are attacked then your union will back you and the congress will back your union."

Trade union members would be prepared to fight for their democratic rights, he explained, provided the labour movement would back them up. The determination to fight back that develops among the union grass roots should be reinforced, not thrown back in their faces by the union tops.

### Murray and oblivion

Len Murray has said that he will enter into "reasoned negotiations" with the Tories but he was not prepared to enter into reasoned discussion and debate on the BFAWU resolution. All he attempted to do was to contemptuously dismiss the resolution, saying "it's not to be taken seriously. We'll just dismiss them out of hand. It's the first step to oblivion, to nowhere."

Both Joe Marino and Arthur Scargill pointed out that it wasn't "reasoned debate and discussion" that defeated the Industrial Relations Act of Ted Heath or got five dockers out of gaol. It was a spontaneous movement from below by ordinary workers and the calling of a one-day general strike by the general council at that time.

Arthur Scargill also appealed to the congress: "We should stop crawling to the Tory government, stop collaborating with the Tory government". "Get off your

# Reasoning with the hangman

By Brian Ingham



Photo: Denis Doran

Len Murray, General Secretary of the TUC, has worked hard to pull the TUC behind the decision to talk to Tebbit. He bitterly opposed those who argued that workers will respond if they see a determined and convincing lead from the top. What does he have to say to workers fighting Tebbit's law in such current disputes as Highland Fabricators, Hindles and the Stockport Messenger?

knees and fight Tebbit" he told the general council. "That's the way to destroy him".

Ken Gill the General Secretary of AUEW (TASS) explained that Tebbit's confidence will be boosted by this "supine desire to discuss the length of the rope with the length of rope with the hangman." Larry Smith National Officer of the TGWU, also pointed out that by entering into negotiations with Tebbit there was a chance for him to pick the brains of the trade union movement and thereby fine-tune any legislation and overcome drafting problems and loopholes that would otherwise be there.

In no way whatsoever, therefore, would the labour movement gain from entering into talks with the Tories. As was explained, by Ken Gill, negotiations always end in compromise, and compromise on the hard won rights of the trade unions is impossible to justify. He demanded that "congress stand by our history".

The arguments for fighting Tebbit and for not entering into talks with the Tories decisively carried the day at the congress. But with the attitude of the general council right wing

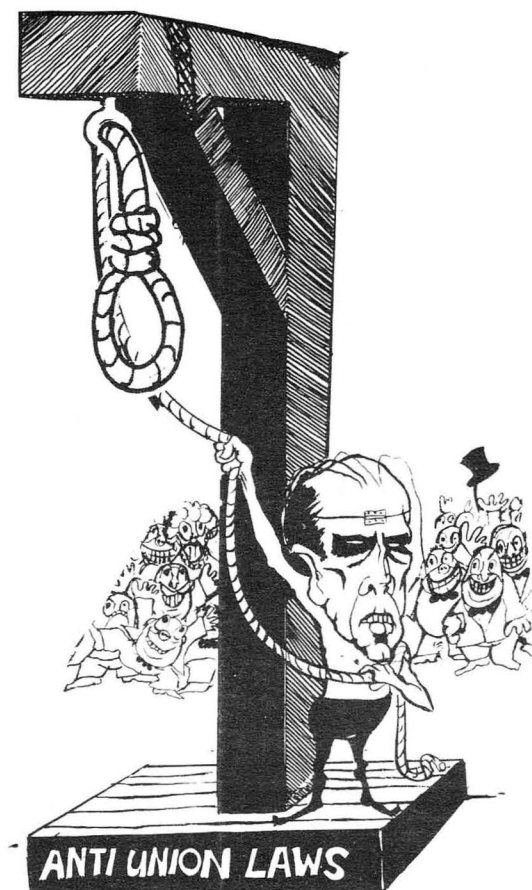
**Resolution of BFAWU:**  
**"Congress urges the general council to co-ordinate trade union action against Tebbit's anti-trade union laws so that no trade union will cooperate with any section of these laws and no union pays fines imposed under these laws. In the event of restraint on any union funds, or the arrest of trade unionists under these laws, the TUC should call a 24-hour general strike as the first step in solidarity action."**

and their total lack of confidence in the organised labour and trade union movement, congress voted by 6,934,000 to 3,590,000 for talks with the Tories

Len Murray's attitude was that the labour movement still had to convince a hell of a lot of trade unionists that the legislation is not only aimed against other trade unions but also aimed against themselves. But rather than entering into a dialogue with the trade union movement and campaigning to convince the rank

and file the TUC tops are only going to further confuse those workers already prepared and convinced of the need to fight the Tories.

The congress vote represented a serious setback for all those workers fighting attacks on wages, cuts in social services and the ever-mounting dole queues. The attacks on the trade unions, as Arthur Scargill pointed out, are an integral part of the attacks on the other rights of working people. The Tories need to destroy the trade unions to



destroy living standards.

The trade union leaders are attempting to reconcile the irreconcilable, in trying to match the interests of the working class and big business. Terry Duffy, in moving his composite motion calling for these peace talks with the Tories tried to claim that if Tebbit would listen to reason then "the extremism of some of the right and the extremism on the left could be done away with".

But the extremism of the right wing and the Tories arises out of the dire economic crisis of capitalism and the need for big business, as never before, to fight for their position and put their problems on the back of the working class. The strikes and "extremism of the left" that Duffy talks about are the response of ordinary people defending their rights.

Class struggle is written into the very situation that exists in British society. Resolutions and fine talks cannot wish that away.

The attitude of the right-wing trade union leaders at this congress shows they are a thousand and one miles removed from the day-to-day pressures and problems, fears and worries that haunt ordinary workers. Millions of workers throughout Britain have been looking for a way out of their problems and should find a lead coming from the TUC.

But the right wing leaders have failed them abysmally. This has been, perhaps, the flattest conference for years, with no urgency, no anger on the part of the right wing union leaders.

### Out of touch

The congress hardly seems to reflect any of the anger and frustration felt by workers. The decisions all seemed pre-arranged and the overwhelming mood was one of pessimism and resignation. This contrasted sharply with the attitude of ordinary workers, even with passers by on holiday or living in Blackpool.

It is a symptom of the fact that workers everywhere are looking for the organised labour movement, to show a way of avoiding the abyss that's opening up in front of them.

The TUC right wing have absolutely failed to live up to

their responsibility to give a direction to that mood and to the hopes of workers. This vote for "peace-talks" with the Tories represents a significant turn to the right on the part of the TUC.

The right wing union leaders have echoed all the fairy tales about the loss of power and influence of the trade unions. In reality they are fully conscious of the power at their disposal, but are frightened of using it.

The right have struggled this week to keep political and industrial questions separate—flying in the face of the entire history of the labour movement, which shows the trade unions were forced to create the Labour Party in order to fight back against vicious attacks from Tory and Liberal governments.

### New election method

They are attempting to dampen every serious industrial struggle today because they become immediately political. All the separate attacks which the working class face demand a generalised response and generalised answer.

A bold and audacious leadership is necessary, putting itself at the head of the struggle, but they have manoeuvred in an attempt to make the trade unions quieter and more peaceable.

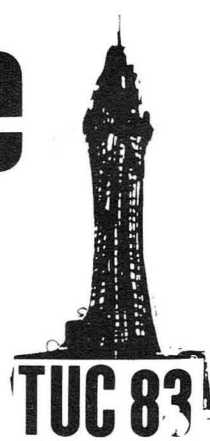
Another important setback has been the election of the new general council. The method of electing the trade union leadership was ended.

Now, instead of the entire congress voting for a new general council, according to different trade groups, 34 of the 51 new general council seats will be automatically appointed by the larger trade unions according to their size. Only a small minority of the new general council will actually be elected by congress.

In justifying this procedure right wing trade unionists condemned what they called the "patronage" of the larger unions. But what they have in effect done is to give the patronage, in the elections for eleven seats, to the largest of the small unions.

Patronage still remains therefore, but it is now in the hands of right wing unions who dominate in that sec-

# ...No reflection of rank and file



tion. There will also be an increase in the influence of the white-collar unions, at the expense of the industrially stronger blue collar unions.

This manoeuvring and the shift to the right has been further compounded by the decision to take away the separate affiliation of the Dyers and Bleachers and Agricultural sections of the Transport and General Workers Union and the separate affiliation of the Medical Practitioners Union, a section of ASTMS. Overall, it seems the right wing will have a huge majority on the general council after the conference.

Even with its old composition, the general council refused to give backing and support to the train drivers in their last struggle. There will exist a feeling, now, therefore, that the trade union leadership are consciously planning to abandon the members to their Tory fate.

But even if the union leaders refuse to give a lead from the top all their manoeuvring in the end will be to no avail. As under Edward Heath, with his Industrial Relations Act, a movement of opposition will break out and explode from below at a certain stage.

The trade union right wing can delay a bitter struggle against Tory policies, but they cannot stop it altogether.

In the course of the debate on the Tebbit legislation some delegates pointed to the rich history of the British labour movement, which over and over again has fought back in the face of adversity, often in the teeth of the passivity of their own union leaders.

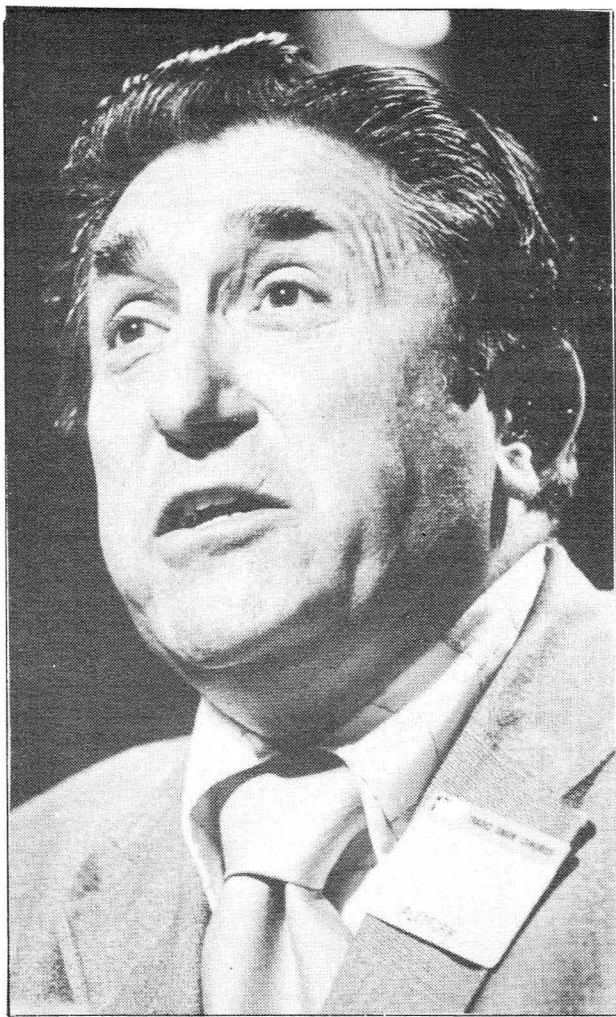
At the *Tribune* rally the presence of Jimmy Knapp the new general secretary of the NUR, on the platform, brought home how tenuous can be the hold of the right wing in the trade unions.

Only last year Sid Weighell seemed, like other right wing leaders, to be in a commanding and powerful position inside the NUR. He claimed to speak for the rank and file, to represent their aspirations. But once he was forced to depart then the desire for change within the NUR came flooding to the surface.

Jimmy Knapp explained, "The days when leaders of the NUR attack other railway leaders have gone for good," and he went on to say "the NUR won't tolerate or support any witch-hunt inside the Labour Party. We will be in the forefront of the argument against any further expulsions."

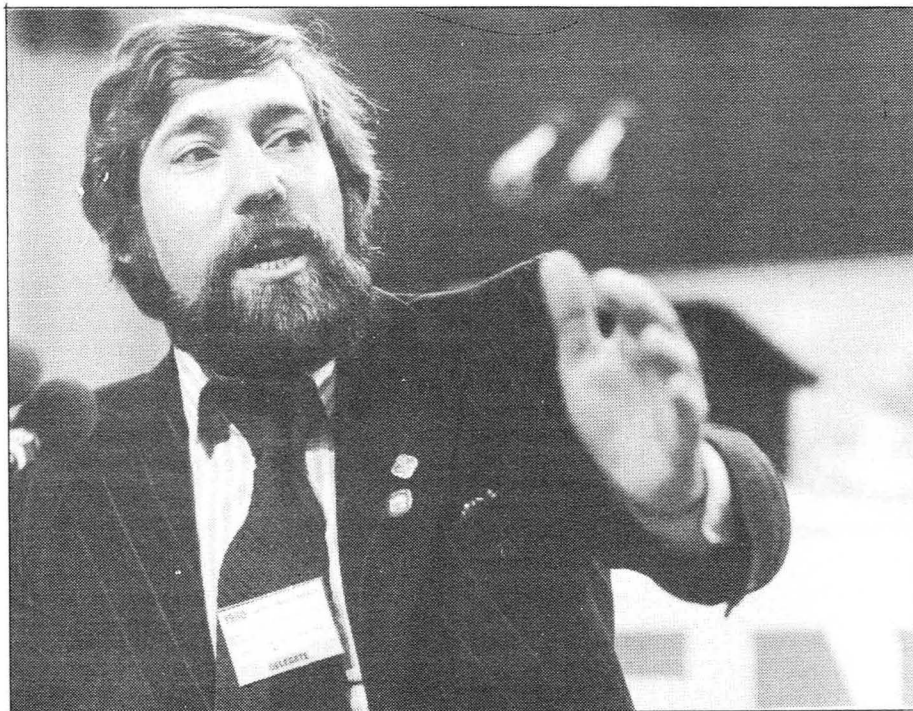
The changes that have taken place within the NUR will be copied in one union after another in the course of the months and the years that lie ahead. The task now, inside the labour movement, is for the activists on the left to turn to the factories, the offices, the mills, the pits and all workplaces to organise a powerful left movement in the trade unions.

If the trade union leadership refuse to give a lead from the top then the initiative must be organised from below, at regional, district and shop floor level.



Outgoing chairman of the TUC, Frank Chapple, urged the unions to go into partnership with the Tories. "Our duty is clear. We have to argue with government and build a partnership to revitalise the country," he said. The real voice of the right wing was heard as he accused the left of undermining "our freedoms" and "behaving like an obscure religious sect".

Joe Marino (picture and interview below) moved opposition to talks with Tebbit (see resolution on page 12)



**JOE MARINO, General Secretary of the Bakers Union spoke to Militant just after the defeat of the BFAWU's motion, calling for a 24 hour General Strike in the event of arrests or fines under Tebbit's anti-trade union laws.**

"Obviously we're disappointed at what's happened. But it's important that a motion like that goes before congress because it puts before the delegates and the wider movement all the relevant questions on how to oppose the Tebbit act. Because it will be seen, in the not so distant future, that talking to the Tories is no way out at all.

"When that's seen to happen, and when unionists are in trouble then the TUC will be forced to act as it was in 1971. You have to be clear that in 1971 there was pressure from the members that forced the General

Council to take that particular stance and the same will happen again.

"But the important thing about the resolution was that it put the issue clearly before the congress. We've got to carry on the argument both within the trade union movement and within the Labour Party as well, because this issue is not going to go away and sooner or later some employers are going to use this legislation.

"The government will take from this that there are some union leaders who aren't prepared to stand up and fight and we'll see more legislation against the unions, more attempts to shackle them, to destroy the only organisations that can stand up for workers in this situation.

"What we have got to do is to explain the need, explain the policy, explain the way forward and that will find an echo in the working class—of that we're com-

**The real voice of the labour movement is often louder outside than in the conference. Mark Avis talked to strikers from Hindles, Bradford, lobbying the TUC.**

ON THE first day of the TUC, two separate groups of engineering workers lobbied the delegates.

From Hindles Gears in Bradford, Stuart Firth and Malcolm Barker explained the background to the strike. "In February we went for a pay rise and it was refused. We went through all the proper procedure and they still refused. Then they sent out a letter to our wives saying that it was endangering our jobs and our workmates jobs.

"His only offer was 35 redundancies out of a workforce of 70, a full half of the workforce. We had a meeting and decided unanimously to go on strike. This was straight away made official by the AUEW.

"We've been out on strike since the 11th of March. We occupied the building and they got an injunction to get us out. The union advised us to come out which we did after 4 days. They tried to hit us over secondary picketing

twice, the first time the AUEW asked us not to picket; the second was against Hindles Reconditioners but we are still there.

"We have heard that they are going to sue us for £20,000 and the AUEW for £60,000 losses for four days of occupation. If he's making this type of money he can afford a small rise.

"The management have attempted to split the workforce by offering 'loyal' workers a 4% rise while the 27 still on strike have been told, 'lift the pickets and if I get some of

my customers back I might take some of you back on.

"We've come to the TUC to lobby to see if we can raise support from all the delegates. It's a direct attack on the trade union movement. He's been trying to smash the union for years now to make a name for himself."

Messages of support, donations etc., to 2, Claremont, Bradford, Yorkshire.



Arthur Scargill was the target of attacks by Frank Chapple and then Len Murray. Nevertheless, his warning that, "You do not obtain the best for your members by going to talk to someone whose intention is to execute", will ring very true in the face of renewed Tory attacks.

**THE NEW TUC general council will comprise 51 members. Here is a list of the new members. The following will take their seats because their unions have more than 100,000 members and thus qualify for automatic representation.**

Transport and General Workers' Union: A.M. Evans, D. Gray, W. Greendale, B. Nicholson, L.J. Smith. Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers (engineering section): T. Duffy, J.G. Russell, E.M. Scrivens, J.R. Whyman. General Municipal and Boilermakers' Union: F.A. Baker, D. Basnett, J.F. Eccles. National and Local Government Officers' Association: J.D. Daly, W.W. Gill, N.J. Steele.

National Union of Public Employees: R.K. Bickerstaffe, L. Stevens. AUEW (technical administrative and supervisory section): K. Gill. Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff: R.A. Grantham. Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs: C. Jenkins. Banking, Insurance and Finance Union: L.A. Mills. Civil and Public Services Association: J.A. Graham.

Confederation of Health Service Employees: D.O. Williams. Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union: E.A. Hammond. National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers: F.A. Snithies. National Graphical Association (1982): J.F. Wade. National Union of Mineworkers: M. McGahey. National Union of Railwaymen: J. Knapp. National Union of Teachers: F.F. Jarvis.

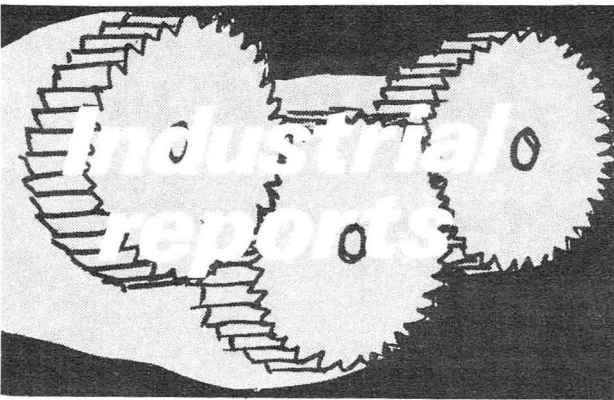
Post Office Engineering Union: B.C. Stanley. Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (82): W.H. Keys. Union of Communication Workers: A.D. Tuffin. Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians: L. Wood. Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers: W.H.P. Whatley.

**The following are contested seats:**

**ELECTED:** R.W. Buckton, ASLEF (Train drivers), 804,000; K. Cameron, Fire Brigades Union, 793,000; A.M.G. Christopher, Inland Revenue, 1,119,000; R. Garland, AUEW (Foundry Section), 775,000; C.A. Lyons, Transport Salaried Staff, 800,000; J. Lyons, Engineering Managers, 824,000; C.P. McCarthy, Metal Mechanics, 842,000; J. Morton, Musicians' Union, 769,000; A. Sapper, Cinema and TV Technicians, 785,000; W. Sirs, Iron and Steel Trades, 976,000; A.R. Smith, Tailors and Garment Workers, 929,000.

**WOMEN'S SEATS**

**ELECTED:** O. Davies, Public Employees, 7,054,000; A. Maddocks, Local Government Officers, 9,193,000; G. Morgan, AUEW (engineering section), 7,903,000; C.M. Patterson, Transport and General Workers, 9,106,000; M. Turner, Scientific Technical and Managerial Staff, 8,313,000; P. Turner, General and Municipal Union, 9,705,000.



**PICKETING AT Britain's toy factory in Waltham Forest, E London is continuing. Negotiations broke down again last week. Despite a proposed compromise by union negotiators on the three-hour reduction in the working week demand, management are refusing to budge. Ten pickets were arrested last week but there is no news so far as to when they will appear in court.**

## In Brief

**RESIDENTIAL SOCIAL** workers in NALGO have provided a lesson the Tories should take to heart. In pursuit of a similar working week and unsocial hours payments as elsewhere in local government they voted overwhelmingly for industrial action—in a **SECRET BALLOT**. The action starts on 12 September. They will be banning overtime and admissions to residential establishments.

A **COMMITTEE** of Shell and BP shop stewards reckon that over 7,000 jobs in UK refineries are under threat if an EEC report which sees a 40m-tonne cut in European refining capacity is acted on. The unofficial Oil and Petrochemical Industry Combine Committee is calling for a mass campaign throughout the country to prepare for industrial action to save jobs.

**BISCUIT FACTORIES** in Leicester and Liverpool owned by US firm Nabisco are to close early next year. The Huntley and Palmer baker in Huyton employs 750 and the Nabisco plant at Woodgate in Leicester, 450. The company claims to be planning £25m investment in the Aintree plant which they say will provide 200 jobs for workers from Huyton.

**SEVEN WORKERS** at Kiltdale Ltd in Cheltenham have been sacked after management drew up a hit-list of "known homosexuals" in the firm. Management claim the seven were not needed and deny victimisation (two are not gay), but the same day they contacted the job centre for more staff. The GMBATU is backing the workers.

**NATIONAL ENGINEERING** wage negotiations start next week (12 September). The Confed is demanding a 35-hour week, an extra seven days' holiday, better sickness pay, restoration of differentials and a "substantial" pay rise.

**THE TWENTY-THREE** week strike at Greenings in Warrington has finished. The terms have not been made public but stewards said that workers could return "with their heads held high". The dispute started over Greenings' plans to make 84 workers redundant.

**ANOTHER FAMOUS** ship-building name saw action last week. Faced with 500 redundancies, 1,750 workers at John Brown Engineering's gas turbine in Clydebank, voted to ban overtime and oppose the lay-offs.

# Thorn's intimidation backfires

THE DISPUTE at the Thorn EMI factory in Padiham, involving 700 AUEW members has intensified as a result of management's decision to sack thirty employees for allegedly breaking their contracts by taking industrial action.

The right to strike, fought for by trade unionists over many years, has to be defended and there will be no return to work until every worker is reinstated.

The strike, now over two weeks old, is a reaction to management's pay offer of 4% with minor fringe benefits, made against a background of a ground-swell in orders and a big increase in profits both for the Thorn Group as a whole and for its domestic appliances division.

Our claim for a double figure increase will in no way win back the reductions in living standard sustained over the past few years. There are still many workers on family income supplement after a full working week.

The Padiham site is the most successful of the gas divi-

sion and yet workers' wages are amongst the lowest in this section of the Thorn Group. Workers almost unanimously supported the strike call in a determined bid to end this cheap labour policy.

On Wednesday 31 August, when the strike was exactly one week old, management called the shop stewards into the factory to inform us of their decision to send out dismissal notices. They would not specify either the numbers or the individual workers involved. The following morning, it transpired that thirty people had received such notices, all of whom were on a six-month contract.

They are attacking the most vulnerable section of our membership, mainly young people engaged in their first job, some of whom had been unemployed for two or three years. All these workers must join a union under the closed

shop agreement and are bound by any union decisions. They have no more broken their contract than any other worker on the site.

The sackings totally backfired on management. At a mass meeting on Thursday 1 September, the workforce gave unanimous support for no return to work, and no discussion until every worker had been reinstated.

Picketing has been extended from preventing lorries entering the factory to stopping sales representatives and all other aspects of company business.

Donations and messages of support to Peter Longworth, 6 Barry Street, Burnley, phone Burnley 30464.

By Jason Hunter  
(AUEW shop steward,  
Thorn - EMI, Padiham)

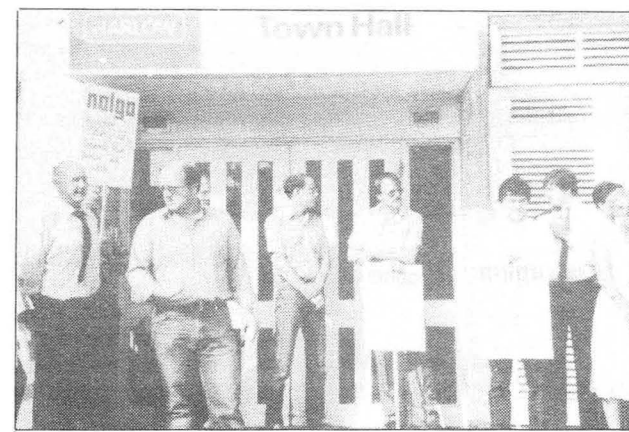
## Harlow's Labour council

FOR FIVE MONTHS Harlow NALGO has been fighting for the reinstatement of David Snell the Computer Manager, sacked for lending a piece of equipment not in use at Harlow to a neighbouring Authority.

Everyone knows that the lending and borrowing of equipment is a normal and essential practise in all localities and had been carried out quite openly by Harlow Computer Section long before David Snell arrived.

At first the union assumed, because the sacking was so ridiculous, that it was just a normal management mistake. But then the councillors endorsed the sacking at appeal with only the solitary Tory voting against.

The stewards committee with full backing from successive well-attended branch meetings and ballots embarked on a campaign for full reinstatement.



When it was announced that interviews to fill the post were to be held two months before the Industrial Tribunal the Branch decided that all-out strike action, the first in our Branch's history, was necessary.

Following a secret ballot and with full backing from national level, including full pay for the sacked member, the members involved gave a 100% response to the strike call.

Most attempts by management to get other members to overcome the effects of the strike have been met by members declaring their readiness to join the strike. In one incident a young girl, after being told to photocopy council agendas normally handled by striking printers, walked out and joined the picket line.

Everyone knows that David Snell was the victim of a frame-up. We also realise that if one member can be sacked on a trivial technicality then no member is safe.

The 80% Labour Council has recently torn up the Closed Shop Agreement, is threatening our

local Joint Job Evaluation Scheme (they say it is too generous), has slashed the manual workers' bonus, and just ruined an excellent refuse collection system by cutting back the crews from six to four in the interests of "efficiency".

This attack by the Labour Council on the unions, including restrictions on the UCATT and EETPU Convenors has galvanised the Joint Union Committee into action. Stewards from all unions hand-delivered letters to all Labour Councillors proposing a joint meeting before the dispute escalates. As one Councillor was told by a building workers' steward "It's not just NALGO defending David Snell but all the unions."

Labour Councillors have to realise that it's the Tories at county and government level they should be fighting, not their own employees.

By Danny Purton  
(Branch Secretary  
Harlow NALGO)

## AEI Cables, Bootle

**TWENTY-SIX** workers employed at AEI Cables (MIC Division), Bootle, part of the GEC company, are currently in dispute. Peter Glover of Bootle LPYS talked to some of the workers.

**What is the background of the dispute?**

The shop steward was told at 3 pm that because the electrician was off sick, the night shift was to be laid-off without pay.

**What are the issues the workers are fighting on?**

Basically, pay and conditions. Despite the vast profits being made by GEC, £607 million, the cable division of GEC is making £52 million. Workers are being

paid a basic wage of as low as £83 per week for 40 hours. All we want is parity with the workers in BICC, who make almost the same cable.

**What is the management's position?**

They offered the workers a 5 per cent pay rise, which was subsequently withdrawn when workers refused the offer. The employers refused the union offer of arbitration, and though progress was made with local management, this was foiled by the Divisional Director.

Donations and messages of support to, Strike fund Treasurer, 20 Glan-aber Park, West Derby, Liverpool 12.

## Alvis welding solidarity

LIKE OTHER COVENTRY factories, Alvis which makes tanks and other military equipment, has seen job losses, low pay rises and increased "mobility of labour".

Now management have attempted to give work on a new metal spraying process to an unskilled section of workers, rather than the skilled, and better-paid, welders.

The welders, members of NUSMCHDE and AUEW, were not even consulted and as a result have been on strike since the end of June.

At first management thought they could sit it out. There are only twenty-four welders, and the Coventry holiday fortnight meant that for two weeks in July the strike had no effect. Now they are not so confident.

All shopfloor workers are refusing to cross picket lines, and while white-collar staff are still working, they are not thought to be keen on welding.

The scene looks set for a long and bitter battle.

Up to the time of writing the strikers have received very little strike pay, averaging only £30 each. Only one union is paying out but this has been shared among the whole twenty-four.

Many face major financial problems, and the outcome of this dispute could well depend on which side can hold out longest.

Local MP Dave Nellist has donated £25, but much more is needed. Messages of support and donations to Alvis Strike Fund, c/o Ted Durrant, 26 Coundon Road, Coventry, CV1 4AW.

By Pete McNally

## British Gas

**TEN TO** twenty thousand jobs are under threat at the British Gas Corporation over the next few years according to a recent report by accountants Deloitte.

The biggest union in the gas industry, NALGO, is drawing up plans to fight a shorter-term threat—renewed attempts at closure of 200 gas showrooms.

The Tories are really busy trying to destroy this public service. Tory Energy Secretary Peter Walker is likely to be telling the Commons next month about plans to sell off British Gas oil interests.

They've already set up a company to form the basis of a public 'flotation', i.e. sale of newly created shares in the spring. Guess what it's called? Enterprise Oil. Guess where its offices are? The City offices of merchant bankers Kleinwort, Benson. Very enterprising.



Journal of Militant Supporters in NALGO Order from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Tce, London E8 3PN. 30p + 10p incl p&rp. No postage over 10 copies.



Tenants picket Roehampton housing office in protest at Wandsworth privatisation plans.

Photo: Andrew Moore

## Wandsworth Tories

WANDSWORTH COUNCIL plans to privatise housing management have provoked a determined response from tenants.

MIKE SUTER talked to Mrs CHRISTINE COX, of the working party committee.

The Tenants Association learnt of a meeting at Roehampton Housing Office between the Council and Grand Met to discuss privatisation of housing management.

The immediate response of tenants and workers was to organise a working party made up of a delegate from each of the Roehampton Tenants Associations and delegates from the unions involved, NUPE representing the caretakers, and NALGO the Housing Office

staff, and to form a picket to stop the meeting taking place.

Last Wednesday between fifty and sixty people with banners and placards assembled outside the Housing Office. However, no Grand Met rep turned up, so the picket was mounted the following day.

At 9.30 am a car pulled up with a surprised Grand Met representative behind the wheel. The tenants managed to stop him crossing the road and entering the building.

The whole affair has been shrouded in secrecy. Usually consultation takes place between the Tenants Association and the council, but this time no consultation has taken place.

As Mrs Munroe, a tenant from the Woking Close estate

said, "They are doing their utmost to subvert information to the tenants. The ideas which have been put forward in previous battles over privatisation have been to save money, usually by sacking of existing staff and to employ fewer staff, usually untrained, on low wages and in worse conditions."

An independent report out recently has shown that £3½ million has been underspent on housing in the area. Many tenants would testify to the shoddy work by outside contractors already carried out.

The working party have organised a lobby of the Housing Office every day this week, and are informing the whole Roehampton estate, some 8,000 homes which will be all affected.

## No deal at Nigg

By David Churchley

STRIKERS AT Highland Fabricators, Nigg, Easter Ross in N. Scotland, have rejected a deal worked out between management and union negotiators.

The mood of the meeting on Monday was one of anger and determination and this was made even clearer as the list of conditions for a return to work was read out by the convenor. Forecasts that the workforce would accept the package agreed upon by trade union officials and management were clearly out of touch. The mass meeting had only one member voting for acceptance of the measures!

The shop stewards preferred to recommend rejection, and support for their position was given by an estimated 1,800 workers.

Earlier in the day the workforce had been informed by

officials from the three major unions handling the dispute, the AUEW, the Boilermakers and the Electricians' union, of some of the points in the management's package.

Many of the points were already custom and practice in the yards along with additional points out, the development of the dispute itself being added.

The dispute has been presented nationally as the "orange juice" dispute. Workers in some of the jobs work in unbelievable conditions of 150 degrees centigrade where dehydration occurs.

Makeshift towers had been constructed so that workers could take a 10-minute break every hour to cool off. The towers were vital to the men's health. They had heating in the towers and this allowed them time to acclimatise outside the

conditions. Management took them down. Showers, on site now for twelve years, have been removed.

So far there is no sign of the strike being broken. Rab Wilson, the convenor, said "When we organised the original picket line six men turned out. Fortunately over 1,000 other workers turned out on the

day of the picket and stumbled onto the road as the buses arrived. We fully expect management to undermine Monday's decision. The lads are now on strike three weeks, money is tight, and we need national support and backing".

Unfortunately, one AUEW official stated after Monday's overwhelming decision that, "We have had a clear indication that it is unlikely that this dispute will get the backing of the union although we will be recommending it."

The same official also stated

that he would prefer a non-union and employed workforce rather than a unionised and sacked workforce. That sentiment is not in line with those of Rab Wilson, who said, "We have shown how to deal with Tebbit's law. It is disgusting that there are people in this movement who are willing to talk to him, there is no way that we should accept his law."

All donations and messages of support to T Walker, 54 Inverbreakie Avenue, Invergordon, Scotland.

By an IRSF member

## Workers' notebook

FROM AUGUST 1984, workers must not be exposed to more than 0.5 white asbestos fibres per millilitre of air, under new Health and Safety Commission regulations. This is half the present limit. In cement-making, alternatives to asbestos have been developed. But *New Scientist* (1 September) predicts that white asbestos in brake linings and textile manufacture will be more difficult to replace.

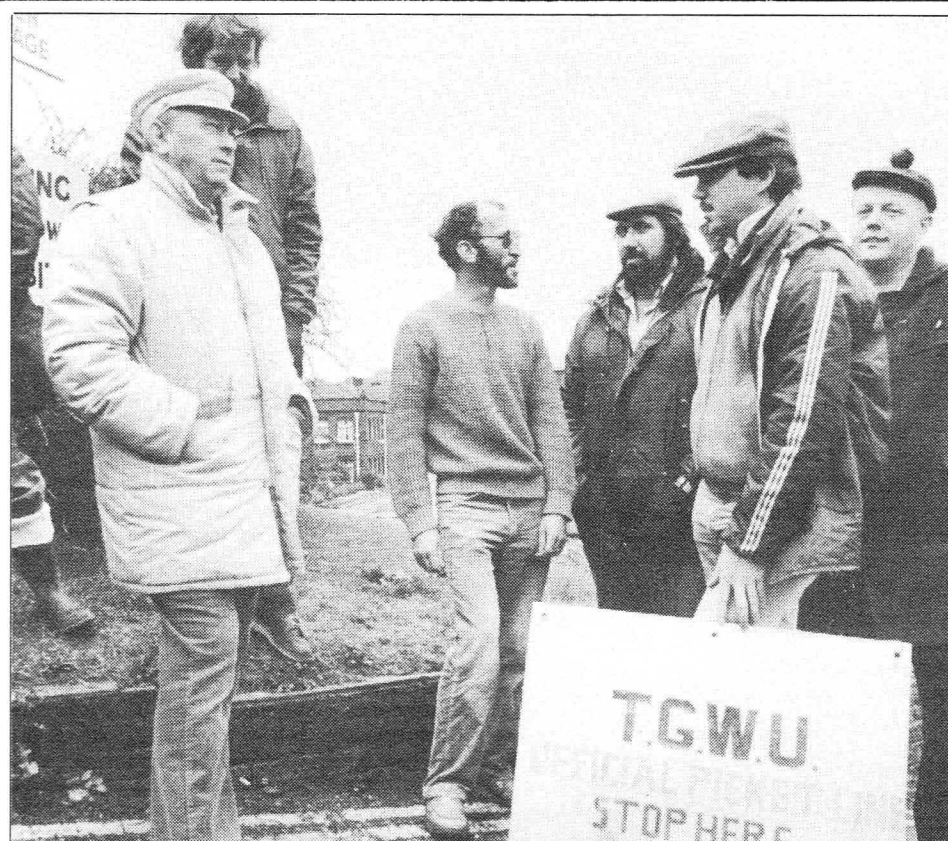
Workers in vehicle-building and components, in mines, docks and depots where industrial brakes are used on winding gear, and in the textile, will need to be vigilant in ensuring the new regulations are enforced. Even these levels, according to Swedish government research double your chances of contracting lung cancer.

THE SKILLS of 100,000 unemployed craft building workers will be lost for ever, according to *Homes old and new: a housing strategy for the 80s* by the Royal Institute of

British Architects. Building contractors have cut apprenticeships by 20% in just two years. Any upturn in homebuilding will come too late, for those now on the dole.

WAGES COUNCILS apparently employ 119 inspectors to investigate companies paying low wages. They manage to cover about 6% of firms each year—which means that each company is visited about once every 16 years. However, of 9,000 companies 'caught' paying unreasonably low wages in 1982, only seven were actually prosecuted.

FINES AGAINST companies in breach of the Health & Safety Act 1974 have so far never exceeded 16% of the maximum penalty. In 1977 the maximum fine which could be imposed was raised to £1,000 and by the end of 1979 the average fine was no more than £165.90.



Chloride workers on the picket line in Manchester.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

## Chloride union combine

OVER FOUR hundred workers at Chloride, Clifton Junction in Swinton came out on indefinite strike on 2 September.

Members of the T&GWU, they are resisting a wages scheme designed to divide the workforce and drive down wage rates.

Whereas employers frequently complain about the number of different wage rates on the shop floor, Chloride are proposing to introduce a bonus scheme which will effectively create five rates

of pay. This on a shop-floor which has had a virtually common rate system since 1968.

Management claim that combined with job losses, cuts in tea breaks etc, the offer will produce wage increases of between £10 and £21. However this would require a productivity increase of 30%. Even the £12 increase is seen as only obtainable by a few sections and likely to entail job losses.

An increase in basic pay

calculated on a site basis is being demanded. The determined response of the workers has led management to threaten the closure of the plant.

The need for a Chloride union combine meeting to determine a company-wide response is therefore urgent if this site is not to be picked off and management are to be convinced there is no chance of transferring work from Clifton Junction to any other site.

## Democracy and the IRSF

THE INLAND REVENUE Staff Federation (IRSF) has been in the news recently with the results of a survey of our membership by EPIC.

The EPIC report has its good points and it is only right that trade unions should seek to be responsive to the members' wishes. But it is quite clear that the idea behind carrying out this survey was to weaken the leftward trend in the IRSF.

The questionnaires were designed to obtain desired answers. As a result the IRSF rule book as proposed by EPIC and the Executive Committee would be perfectly acceptable to Norman Tebbit, whose whole aim is to weaken the power of the unions to defend the members' interests.

The proposal to introduce ballots of members in offices is acceptable only if those members are also part of the policy-making process. As it is the EC proposes to leave policy to branch meetings (whilst pointing out that branch meetings are poorly attended) but voting to the offices.

It is a somewhat hypocritical strategy when you remember they constantly attack conference decisions arrived at by branch discussion as not representative of the membership.

They have used this tactic

before. When the EC wanted a fight in the 1981 pay campaign mass meetings were held up and down the country. In 1983 when the EC had no stomach to fight, it opted for office meetings.

If IRSF members are successful in obtaining the demand for policy-making in the offices alongside the ballot box then the benefit of mass meetings—where all members speak freely—should not be overlooked.

Another question which should be asked is, if the IRSF leadership is so keen on democracy why has the demand for election of the general secretary been completely ignored? And why has it put off any discussion about the role of the office as a branch—with offices sending delegates to conference?

We must make it clear that even if these proposals are passed by the rules conference they will not stop the tide of anger that is growing amongst IRSF members in the face of increased workloads, falling standards and job insecurity.

The Broad Left has a vital role to play in arming the union with a fighting programme and leadership to defend our members.

## Stockport Messenger

AN INTERIM injunction under the 1980 Employment Act has been granted against the NUJ in the Manchester High Court to stop twenty-two journalists on the *Stockport Messenger* blacking copy in support of NGA members on the same paper.

The eight NGA typesetters have been out for eight weeks. They refused to accept non-NGA work from or send it to the owner's non-union firms in Warrington and Bury. The paper has been kept going by the owner and the other five directors, all NGA members!

The NGA are calling for blacking of the *Messenger* group of papers. Whilst the TUC is deciding to talk to Tebbit they might give some consideration as to how they can support this group of workers up against Tebbit's law.

Donations and messages of support to Graphic House, Greek Street, Stockport.

By Martin Lea

## Sub-contract strike at ESSO

ON MONDAY 5 September all sub-contract work at Esso refinery, just outside Southampton, came to a standstill. There are a number of small sub-contract firms, the main one being Bechtel UK, who have provoked the strike.

Sub-contract work is unpredictable and has little job security. Some of the firms at ESSO use a system of weekly contracts, whereby workers are hired and laid off from week to week.

The strike is 100% solid, with about 2,000 sub-contract workers out. They are fighting for a 7% pay increase, a 38-hour week and the introduction of a pension scheme.

Esso management claim it will be a long time before the strike affects production, but the workers on strike are determined to win. One GMBATU steward told me: "There is a militant mood. We're prepared to stick out here as long as need be. We're sick of being treated as second class citizens."

So far the Esso employees have not come out in support. Their backing is essential if a quick victory is to be achieved.

Send messages of support and donations to: Strike Committee, c/o 286 Ringwood Rd, Totton, FO4 3EN, Hampshire.

By John Flatley (Romsey and Waterside LPYS)

## Reed Board Mills Thatcham

WORKERS AT Reeds' Board Mills, Thatcham, have been locked out for refusing to work overtime. Management delivered a letter to all 415 employees stating that if they did not stop the overtime ban they would be locked out.

The workers voted overwhelmingly on Friday to carry on the overtime ban in support of a wage claim. One worker said: "It's stupid that the factory next door, owned by the same company pays their employees a third more than we get."

Another said, "how can they lock us out for working our full hours. There ought to be a law against it. Do you know for a basic 40 hours I only take home £60."

Management say that the mill cannot work at full production unless the workers return to their normal working hours, which is normally a 12-hour day including weekends.

Just six months ago they made redundant 60 people.

By Patrick Canny (Reading LPYS)

# SRI LANKA... Dictator's big lie policy

By Ed Bober

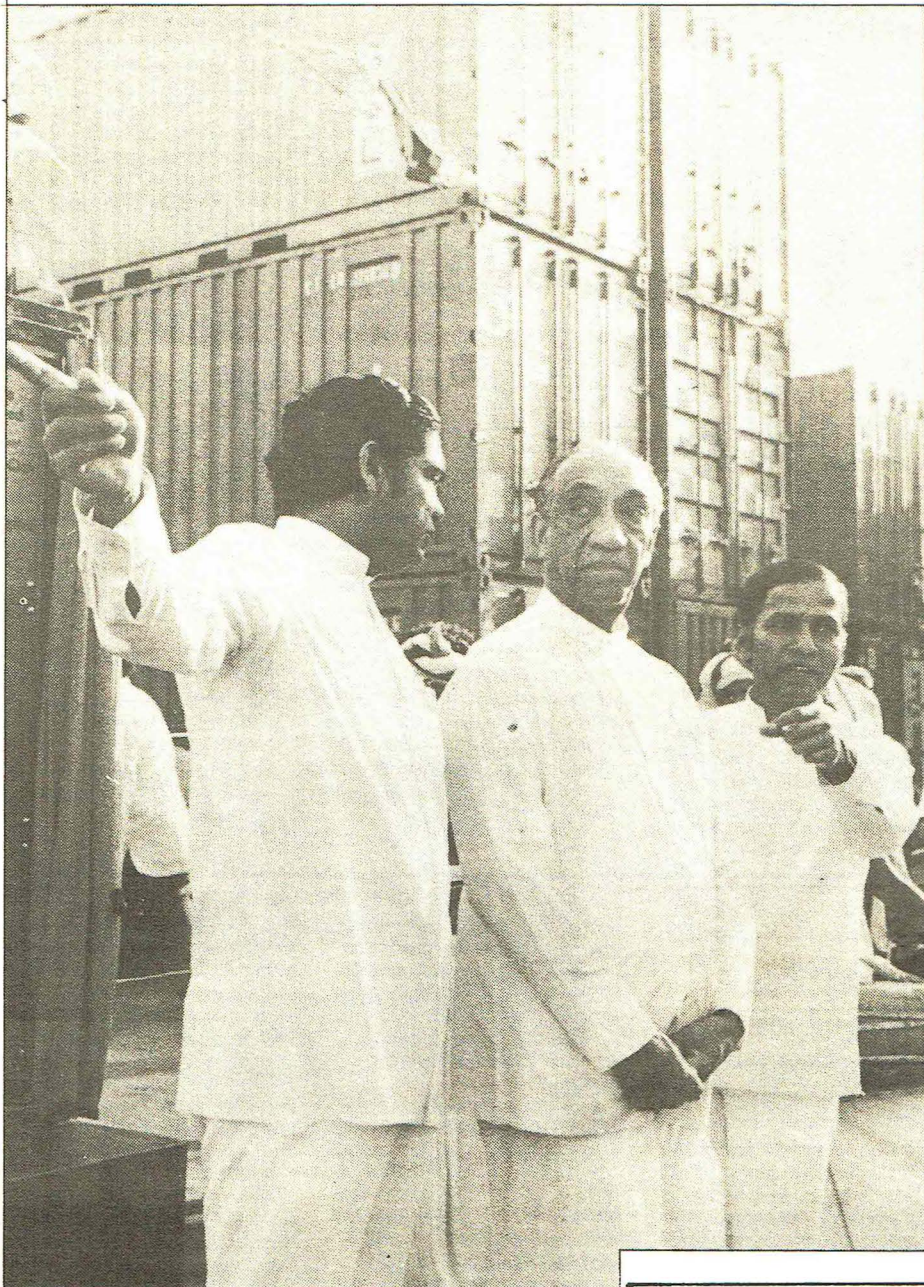
**THE SRI LANKAN government is intensifying its attempt to place the responsibility for July's racist attacks against the Tamil minority on the recently banned left wing parties.**

In particular the government is attempting to blame the Nava Sama Samaja (New Socialist) Party. President JR Jayewardene, in a TV speech at the end of August, denounced Vasudeva Nanayakkara, one of the NSSP's leaders, as "joining hands with the terrorists" and "preparing for some form of violence and disturbances" during August.

However more and more evidence is emerging from Sri Lanka which proves that leading members of the governing United National Party personally led the attacks on Tamils and Tamil owned property. The Sri Lankan government is blatantly carrying out a "big lie" policy. It is part of its plan to use the racial rioting to justify moving closer and closer towards a dictatorship.

In order to prop up the Jayewardene government the major imperialist powers have stayed silent about the savage attacks on the Tamils and the suppression of democratic rights. Indeed, there are unconfirmed reports that at this moment Sri Lanka servicemen are being trained in Wiltshire, which, if true, only serve to underline the support which the Tories are giving to the racist UNP regime.

This makes it all the more important that the labour



President Jayewardene, centre, is slandering left wing parties to hide his own party's guilt.

movement increases its protests against the situation in Sri Lanka and for an end to all collaboration between the Tory government and Jayewardene. Already some constituency Labour Parties have passed resolutions on this issue in an attempt to get

an emergency debate on Sri Lanka at the Labour Party Conference.

All messages of support and donations to the NSSP should be sent to NSSP, 6 Ockendon Road, London N1 3WP

**Nava Sama Samaja Party, Communist Party of Sri Lanka, JVP (People's Liberation Front) Joint Meeting**

**Protest Against Repression in Sri Lanka.**  
7pm Friday September 23rd, Friends House Euston Road NW1, (opposite Euston Station)

Photo: Militant

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## TUC LEAD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

anticipate buying any future locos and rolling stock through competitive tenders. Such a fight needs to be waged throughout industry—and to be led from the top of the labour movement by the TUC.

For there is worse to come. Management in the National Health Service have been told to "lose" 8,000 jobs by next March after recent government cuts. In the private sphere, the bosses incredibly predict they will cut investment by 5% in 1984 and a further 13% in 1985. These are supposed to be the "good times" before the next slump!

But the slight boom has made some workers more confident of standing up to the attacks of the government and the bosses.

At the GKN Pistons Plant in Northampton 65 AUEW members spent eight weeks on the picket line opposing a threatened 7% wage cut. Now management have done a quick about turn faced with a determined fight and conceded instead a 5% wage rise, agreed to talks on a new bonus plan and agreed to no victimisations!

Workers at Greenings in Warrington struck for 23 weeks over plans to make 84 workers redundant and forced the management to backtrack. At Thorns EMI in Padiham, Lancs, management threatened workers in action over a wage claim they would dismiss temporary contract workers, but workers unanimously voted to stay out and insist on no redundancies. (See page 14)

These examples and the action pending in British Telecomms and BREL give the lie to the claim that workers have just accepted mass unemployment and the lowering of living standards. In reality far more workers would actively join the battle for jobs if they felt confident of support from the entire labour movement against the mass opposition of employers, government and the hostile media.

The TUC leaders cannot hide from responsibility. If there was a unified struggle by all sections of the working class under the lead of the TUC, the Tory government and Tory employers would not be able to implement their plans.

But the TUC has also the responsibility to point out that every fight for jobs and living standards today must be a political fight. The trade unions and labour movement must put forward a real alternative to the capitalist system whose crisis has caused the massive rise in unemployment.

The fight must be for no more redundancies! For a 35-hour working week, with a campaign for a national minimum wage of £100. The unions must fight for a vast expansion of public services to cover society's needs for houses, schools and hospitals and for a Labour government elected on socialist policies as a major priority.

The TUC must stop trying to persuade the deaf Tory government they are wrong and start leading the fight against their destruction of our jobs and our future.

# TELECOMMS... Action continues—POEU NEC

**A MOVE by Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the POEU to call off the union's current industrial action failed last week.**

Bryan Stanley, returning to POEU headquarters from sick absence sent a letter to all NEC members calling a special National Executive Committee meeting.

He called the meeting in response to a letter from British Telecom

(BT) management, demanding an end to the action, an end to the POEU NEC's support of those branches involved in the action and the compliance of the union with the government's plans to privatise BT, thus threatening the jobs and conditions of thousands of POEU member—and the services of the public.

Bryan Stanley claimed that the action was illegal, unpopular, damaging to the interests of the union and pre-empting the union's special conference on 18 September.

However, this move was crushingly defeated by the NEC by an overwhelming majority which left Bryan Stanley isolated with less than a handful of votes supporting him.

The left argued that to call off the action, which is in line with POEU Annual Conference policy, would be taken as a sign of weakness, and encourage the government to press ahead with the break-up of British Telecom.

The NEC therefore rejected Bryan Stanley's and BT management's

arguments. The action against Mercury will be maintained, and the letter from BT replied to. At the special conference, POEU members will have an opportunity to examine the strategy, and re-enforce the existing policy which clearly states total opposition to Tory plans to privatise the industry, and backs opposition up with industrial action.

By Wayne Jones

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