

Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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20p

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Conference reports and comment
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Latin America feature—
Pages 10 & 11.

LABOUR MUST UNITE!..

Expelled five: We'll be back!

THE PRESS and Labour Party members outside the conference were probably perplexed by the cheerful attitude of the Editorial Board when they emerged from the conference on Monday afternoon.

The five were not surprised that the vote had gone in favour of their expulsions, but there had been a warm response from delegates, and they had left with an enormous wave of sympathy.

The real Labour Party, the active party membership, voted against expulsions. 80% of CLP delegates and a number of trade union delegations voted in favour of their appeal.

In some trade union

delegations, individuals said that they were ashamed that their union vote had been used to enforce expulsions by leaders who had never consulted their members on the issue. Leaving after the vote against the appeal, the five expelled received a standing ovation from a big section of the conference.

It is clear that Labour's ranks are totally opposed to this attempt to defeat socialist ideas through bureaucratic repression. *Militant* has wide support throughout the labour movement. The five expelled made it clear—despite the vote—"we are more confident than ever. We will be back!"

(SEE PAGE 9)

"THERE IS an overwhelming desire for unity within the labour movement", Peter Taaffe, editor, declared to this year's conference *Militant* meeting.

"But this unity, to ensure the defeat of the Tories next time round, must be built on socialist policies.

"It cannot be based on the ditching of the radical policies adopted by the conferences of the past years.

"People must find it incredible", Peter continued, "when workers are facing horrendous problems under Thatcher's government, that the Labour Party conference should be discussing the expulsion of socialists.

"Millions of workers are looking to Labour Party conference for a lead, for a way out of the problems facing them. Labour supporters want a return of a Labour government, but they understand we need a new type of Labour government.

"This week, Roy Hattersley said that the Labour leaders had become "disconnected from ordinary Labour supporters". But why?—as a result of 17 years of post-war Labour government under the leadership of the right wing!

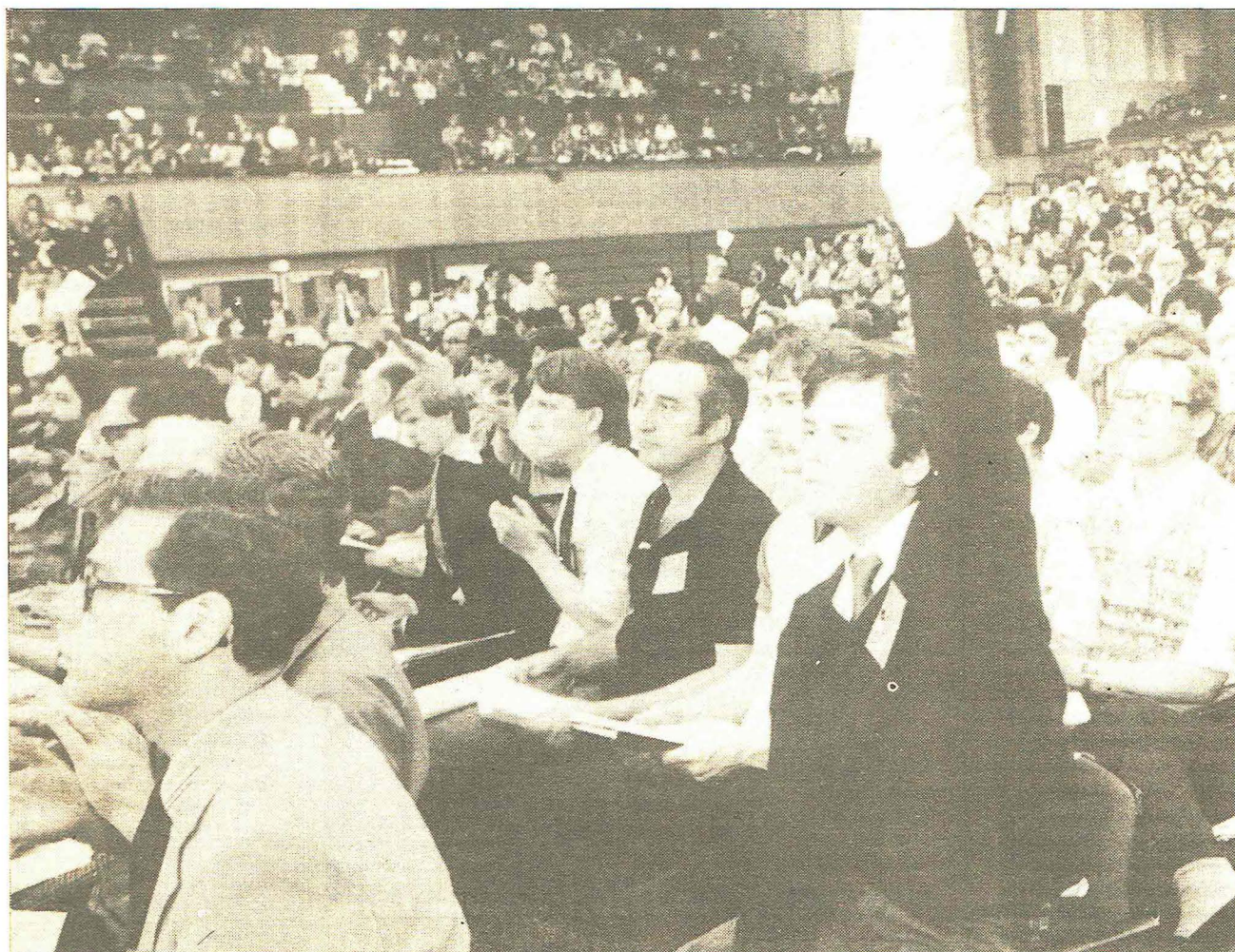
"The next Labour government will inevitably come to

office against the background of an even deeper crisis in British society. This week, for instance, John Golding said that the implementation of a £100 minimum wage would be impossible. What is this if not an admission that fighting for further substantial reforms for working people are impossible within this present system?

"It is no longer possible for Labour to manage the capitalist economy on the basis of Keynesian economics, for them to 'spend their way out of the crisis'. This was the lesson of the 1974-1979 government.

"The only way to solve the problems of working people is on the basis of taking over the commanding heights of the economy. The next Labour government must implement Clause 4, part IV of Labour's constitution through the nationalisation, with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need, of the big monopolies and banks which have a stranglehold over the economy.

CONTINUED ON
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Delegates at Labour Party Conference 1983. The defeat in the last election has led to a determined drive for party unity—but not at the expense of radical policies.

Photo: Denis Doran/Militant

...on socialist policies

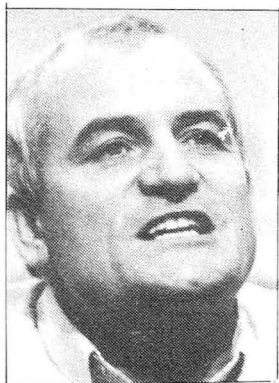
WHY DID LABOUR'S VOTE SLUMP?

THE MONDAY morning session of the conference discussed Labour's huge election defeat.

Tony Mulhearn, Liverpool Garston, moved a composite calling for a socialist campaign. He summed up the problems when he asked: "Why did Labour's vote slump to 27% despite the massive unemployment under Thatcher's government?"

Tony showed that it was not because Labour's policies were too radical. The working class had not changed. There were now 4 million unemployed, as Britain's manufacturing base had declined. But Fleet Street had been able to make much of the divisions in the party due to witch hunts and attacks by leading comrades in the Labour Party.

In Liverpool, though, Labour's vote went up from 42.7% in 1979 to 47.3% this year. Liverpool Broad Green constituency was won by the third largest swing in the country, and it was won on a socialist programme, even though 60% of the houses in the constituency were privately owned.



Tony Mulhearn

Two main problems were raised on the doorstep. Firstly, that the last Labour government had doubled unemployment. Secondly, workers were asking "what would Labour do to solve the problems?"

Deficit financing was no solution. The only real answer was a socialist plan of production. A socialist campaign had to be translated into decent housing, increased living standards and more real jobs. The next Labour government would have to break the strangle-hold of the capitalist economy.

A campaign on this basis would snuff out the SDP and take power from the Tories. Paul Green, Sheffield Heeley, said that the Garston resolution was the only one to demand an ac-

tive campaign by the leadership and the rank and file in the community and in the workplace.

Paul compared the mass abstentions of unemployed youth in particular in the elections, with the 96% vote in his part of the engineering industry in September 1982 to strike in support of NHS workers. Paul pointed out that similar active campaigns were needed from the Labour Party.

Other delegates pointed out how the unemployed, the low-paid, and slum dwellers wanted action, not the committees to water down policies that other resolutions in that session called for.

Mary Crimmins, Cardiff Central delegate, a public sector worker who works with old people, pointed out the cuts that affected her job and the services where she worked. Labour had to support the NHS against the Tory cuts. Composite 53, from Garston, was the only one which spoke of campaigning this year as opposed to some time in the future.

Speakers in support of the other composites spoke in general terms of increasing Labour's authority and professionalism, but many delegates felt that these

resolutions were concentrating wrongly on setting up committees to report in a few years time, and these reports would probably be in favour of jettisoning policies which the press and the ruling class told us were unpopular.

In his summing up, John Golding for the NEC, admitted that it was not Labour's rank and file that lost the election, but the leadership. The policies of the Labour Party and their translation lacked "positive appeal". But Brother Golding rejected composite 53 on the grounds that we had to start, with what "we" (presumably meaning the capitalist system) could afford.

The NEC disagreed with Garston that the witch-hunt had spoiled Labour's election strategy and objected to the resolution because it called for nationalisation with workers' control and management. Perhaps John Golding ought to consider what Clause 4 part 4 means in present day terms.

It was the Garston composite which gained the enthusiasm of delegates, but the NEC recommendation and the block vote of the union leaders meant the resolution being heavily defeated and the two trade union composites being passed.

Conference reports
by Roger Shrives
Photographs by Denis Doran



"No more expulsions and no more witch-hunts" demanded newly-elected NEC member Joan Maynard (above) when she appeared on Tuesday's "Newsnight."

SRI LANKA SOLIDARITY

THE international debate will be one of the most crucial at Labour Party conference this week. A vital part of the responsibility of the British labour movement is to give support and solidarity to the trades unions and the political parties suffering repression in Sri Lanka.

A statement was issued recently by 17 Sir Lankan trade unions at a meeting of their federation the GCSU (the civil service union). Below are extracts from it. It demonstrates that the labour movement, despite the recent atrocities and repression, has not been crushed.

The New Socialist Party (NSSP), with which these unions are connected, has appealed for funds from the British labour movement to help in the struggle to overthrow the reactionary UNP government and restore democratic rights.

"The inhuman pogrom unleashed from Colombo on 24 July, later spreading across the island, took a heavy toll in lost lives and resulted in the loss of

livelihood for tens of thousands of workers. A vast number of plantation workers lost even their homes. The looters destroyed factories, homes, shops and vehicles. More than 50 Tamil prisoners were brutally murdered within their very prison cells.

The undersigned trade unions we belong to unequivocally condemn these callous and violent acts which have brought shame upon this country... It is also clear in this situation that the continued proscription of the JVP, NSSP and CPSL is entirely without reason. We disapprove utterly attempts to impute blame on the above three parties for this pogrom. We are absolutely confident that no left party was connected with these inhuman acts...

...Therefore, we demand that the proscriptions on the three parties be lifted, that the party leaders who have been arrested consequent to the proscriptions be released and that the charges against party activists and trade unionists be dropped."

Donations and messages of support should be sent to: NSSP, 6 Ockendon Road, London, N1.

LIVERPOOL FIGHTS CUTS

IN TUESDAY morning's debate on local government the main question asked was how to fight the Tory attacks on vital services such as housing.

David Blunkett, the leader of Sheffield Council and the delegate from Sheffield Hills borough made a rousing speech.

"The Tories attitude", he said, "was that local authorities could do what they liked, as long as they carried out the Conservative Party policy. They used restrictions on local governments to raise finance, to try to force cuts on local authorities."

But the main controversy of the debate was over how Tory plans could be stopped. Phil Rowe, Liverpool West Derby, emphasised the importance of avoiding the choice between cutting services and raising rates.

The cutbacks had already meant the disappearance of 100,000 local government jobs, 18,000 of them teachers. The Labour movement has to stop any further cuts, but we should avoid pushing the burden on workers shoulders by rate rises, which gave no new services, but merely compensated for Tory cuts. The bill should be sent to 10 Downing Street.

The Labour movement must mobilise and force government spending on what we need, force government spending away



Derek Hatton, catching Chairman's eye

from Tory schemes, such as... at. Labour won Liverpool Council by a fighting policy in May.

Andy Clachers, Edinburgh West, spoke of the need for a massive campaign in workplaces, union branches, and Labour Parties. When the Lothian Council incurred the wrath of the Scottish Office in 1981 15,000 workers marched on a one-day strike in Edinburgh. Unfortunately, the campaign was isolated to one city and failed. Local

authorities, Labour Parties and trade unions nationally have a responsibility to take on this government.

Derek Hatton, the deputy leader of Liverpool City Council and delegate from Liverpool Broadgreen, told Conference how Labour had won 23 out of 33 city council seats at the May elections. Since then the council had created 1,000 new jobs and stopped 1,200 redundancies planned by the previous Liberal council. Rents, which had shot up under the

Liberals have been reduced by £2.00.

The Labour Council had re-established services that had been decimated. But Labour had inherited an £8 million debt and needed another £30 million for their policies. Local authorities need the support of local government unions.

Liverpool Council had organised a work-time meeting of 850 shop stewards and workers representatives who gave full backing to the Council in the fight against the government. The Council also need a huge campaign to mobilise the electorate.

But the fight needs to be united by all Labour authorities. Liverpool's demonstration on the 19th November is a vital step to launch this campaign.

Eric Heffer, replying for the National Executive, agreed that local authorities need a united fight and needed to use extra-parliamentary activities. The NEC supported the resolution defending the GLC and local authorities' rights to set their own rates. Unfortunately, they opposed the West Derby resolution on the grounds that "logically", the Council could not refuse rent and rate rises and stop the government from making the cuts, unless there was a Labour government. However, the feeling of many of the delegates was that the West Derby resolution was the way forward for the Labour movement.

Support young

Willie Griffin (LPYS National Chairman) issued an appeal to delegates and visitors at Labour Party Conference to support the joint LPYS/YTURC "Young Workers Assembly" in Manchester on December 10:

"I charge Thatcher and Co. with the murder of a generation of youth. This Tory government has destroyed the lives of countless thousands of working class youth.

They have driven many youth to drugs, alcohol and even suicide. They see working class youth today as nothing more than cheap

labour. For their children, nothing is too much trouble. No expense is spared to ensure that they lead pampered lives of luxury and idleness. But when it comes to the rest of us—they don't give a damn. Thatcher and Tebbit will cry no tears over the swelling of the dole queues last week by over 157,000, an increase comprising mainly of school-leavers who now, unable to find work, face the prospect of eking out an existence on their £15.40 a week dole money.

This government will lose no sleep over the introduction of the Youth Training Scheme—the Youth Train-



Health workers lobby the conference during Tuesday's NHS debate. Conference pledged full support.

The leadership results

HOW THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTED (%s)

	Leadership			
	TUs	CLPs	MPs	Total
Kinnock	29.042	27.452	14.778	71.272
Hattersley	10.878	0.577	7.833	19.288
Heffer	0.046	1.971	4.268	6.303
Shore	0.033	0.000	3.103	3.137
	Deputy			
Hattersley	35.237	15.313	16.716	67.266
Meacher	4.730	14.350	8.806	27.886
Davies	0.000	0.241	3.284	3.525
Dunwoody	0.033	0.096	1.194	1.323

AFTER THE election of the leader and deputy leader at the Sunday session of conference, a joint statement was issued by Terry Fields MP and Pat Wall, announcing their withdrawal from the list of nominees to the constituency section of the NEC.

There was every indication, the statement explain-

ed, that there would be a very close vote in that section and that a split left vote could allow the election of right wingers. In the best interests of left unity, therefore, they decided to withdraw their own nominations, giving the maximum vote to the left candidates in the section.

The new NEC

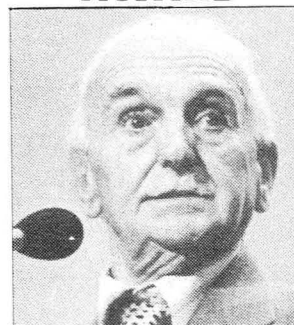
(1000's of votes)

Trade union section	
Kitson	5758
McLuskie	5704
Hough	5091
Cure	4756
Clark	4532
Evans	4471
Turnock	4381
Sawyer	4032
Haddon	3823
Ambler	3483
Tierney	3441
Hoyle	3351
CLP section	
Benn	554
Heffer	538
Skinner	513
Meacher	482
Blunkett	322
Richardson	321
Wise	290
Women's section	
Boothroyd	4834
Clwyd	4740
Short	4341
Dunwoody	3992
Maynard	3793
Treasurer	
Varley	3583
Socialist societies	
Evans	37
LPYS	
Steve Morgan	(elected at LPYS conference)

More reports
pages 8 & 9

CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

MERIT AWARD



Ernest Kavanagh.

ON SATURDAY night, Ernest Kavanagh, an ex-railwayman and Leeds councillor was enthusiastically applauded when he received a Labour Party Merit Award.

He joined the Party in 1923, and recalled the big disappointments of his life, starting in 1924, when, after Labour took office, socialism was not achieved during the lifetime of the government. Again after the 1945 landslide, when although Labour did a good job, the millenium didn't arrive and no action was taken against the commanding heights of the economy.

Another disappointment was the Tory victory in 1983 after 4 years of Thatcher's attacks and the failure to obtain nuclear disarmament. "If we gave five years of socialism" Ernest said "there would never be a Tory government again. Labour had to tell the facts to the people in simple language". This went down well.

TRIBUNE

TRIBUNE MPS Norman Atkinson and Robin Cook, and ex-MPs Albert Booth and Stan Newens were the panel at this year's "Brains Trust".

When the East Kilbride delegate, Bob Wylie, asked the panel their views on the witch-hunt, and the banning of *Militant*, and asked why the members of the Tribune group didn't universally follow the *Tribune* paper's consistent opposition to the witch-hunt, some replies staggered the audience.

Robin Cook said that *Tribune* did not tell Tribune MPs how to vote. He then proceeded to repeat the myths of the Tory press about separate organisation, membership of a so-called "5th International" and a separate policy and platform. He called the expulsions a "heroic error" and said *Militant* played on the concern of the labour movement for civil liberties, which, he claimed, *Militant*

had no real concern for.

This unworthy smear, trying to associate the *Militant* with Stalinism rather than Marxism was made stranger by his claim that the Kinnock/Hattersley "dream ticket" which he supported would bring unity to the Labour Party.

AIRFORCE RED?

ANY OLD colonels strolling past the Labour Party conference in Brighton on Sunday would have had a heart attack, thinking the reds had finally taken over.

As a RAF cadet band paraded past the Metropole Hotel, Labour headquarters for the conference, they broke into *The Red Flag!*

SOLIDARITY

AT THE right-wing Labour Solidarity Group meeting on Sunday morning Roy Hattersley claimed that many voters had said "I've always voted Labour, but...". He thought that the "but" was due to left policies; many of his audience considered they were due to Hattersley's failed policies.

Two visitors from Gateshead told *Militant* "We

used to have John Horam, now in the SDP, as our Labour MP. If you close your eyes with these two it's the same voice, the same accents and the same rubbish as policy."

Ironically, considering the meeting was ostensibly on increasing democracy, through one member one vote, no time was allowed for discussion.

workers assembly

ing Swindle—designed to drive down youth wages, which will see young people working forty hours a week and more for a £25 pittance of a weekly allowance and with no guarantee of a job at the end.

This government of the rich and privileged parasites who own, control and run society is driving our generation back towards the workhouse and they must be stopped.

The Labour Party Young Socialists stand firm in our determination to put an end to Thatcher's rampaging. We believe that the fight to drive the Tories from office must begin now.

We call on every section of the labour movement to support Young Workers' Assembly in Manchester on December 10 as the first step in our campaign to defeat Thatcher and to return a Labour government committed to socialist policies."

* Introductory leaflets, trade union letters, posters and stickers are now free to LPYS branches from 150 Walworth Road, London SE17. Specialised leaflets aimed at YTS trainees, young miners, young engineers, young building workers, young health service workers, young shop

workers and youth in Telecom will be available shortly and orders should be placed for these now.

The Assembly is being organised on a delegate basis with a maximum of five delegates per trade union branch, shop stewards committee and YTS scheme that is trade union organised and one delegate for each LPYS branch, Labour Party branch and all other organisations.

A delegation fee will be charged of £2 per delegate. Visitors tickets will be available at £2 each as well. Credentials are available from LPYS/YTURC at the above address.

Last week to rush donations

WITH LESS than one week to the end of our Fund's quarter, we have the great task of raising £23,000.

In the past our readers have always responded to appeals for cash. We need the same response now. We need every reader to meet the challenge of achieving the overall target of £50,000 by rushing donations straight away.

In the light of the decisions taken at Labour Party Conference it becomes even more vital that we raise the money. Never has there been more of a need for a daily socialist paper. It is up to all of us to ensure that we have the finances to bring out a

daily Militant.

Our books stay open until Tuesday 11 October so there is still time to send in your money for this quarter. What we need now are big donations. A last minute drive in every area could see massive amounts collected.

Give your answer to the right-wing expellers. Show them that they cannot prevent us from growing in strength. If you have confidence in the policies of *Militant* then back us with cash; tenners, fivers, pounds, pennies. Every bit helps.

This week we have had some excellent donations reflecting the activities of Militant supporters up and down the land. From the highly successful Southern Militant "Womens' School" we have received £61.05. In Swansea a **Readers Meeting** raised a marvellous £88.85. Is there a meeting organised

in your area?

In South Yorkshire a "Militant Olympics" and social raised £49.80 showing what a bit of ingenuity can do. From Scotland, where a couple of readers entered the Glasgow marathon, we have so far received over £100 in sponsorship money.

We have had a number of donations from LPYS branches showing the support for our ideas from the youth. Ensure that your LPYS branch makes a large donation to the Fighting Fund this week.

Individuals who contributed this week include Phil James (Vauxhall LPYS) who gave £65 to help us fight the witch hunt. £10 came from Phil Neale (Halesowen) and £7 was given by Rob Cousins (Dagenham LPYS) and Ian Marsden (Brent). Our call for fivers has had an excellent response with the following sending them in:

Andy Bennason (Brent), R Cunningham (Wallasey CLP), Jim Thompson (West Kilbride), S Imong (Erenchay Hospital, Bristol), A Simpson (Eastville), Martha McCartney (Bridgetown) gave £5.20.

Two councillors gave money this week: P Bahia (Southampton) £3.50, and Tony Martin (Burnley) £1. Thanks to T Walker (Nottingham TGWU) £4, Tony Taylor (Leicester West CLP) £3.60, and to all those who sent in £2 among whom were C Steven (East Kilbride LPYS), Mr and Mrs Arnold (Nottingham pensioners), Ian Marsden (Brent), F Moran (Birkenhead CLP) and Steve Lawton an unemployed reader in Walsall. M Carson paid £2 for the paper.

Remember, whatever amount you can give helps. So even if you can only afford a small amount, do not hesitate to send it off. Those who gave £1 include Steve Wilson (Brent), Richard Winks (Sheffield LPYS) and J Sutton (Birkenhead). Stuart Andrews (Maidstone) gave 60p and Ron Tomsett (Malling CLP) gave 50p.

This is our last chance to make this quarter's target so look to every possibility of raising money: Impromptu parties (they're always the best), rattling tins, paper extras. This week sees the start of many University terms so make sure you ask any students you know to make a donation.

Make the last week a record week. Finish the quarter off with a massive amount and give our enemies a real shock.

By Nick Wrack

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 8 October
Eastern	1639		2400
East Midlands	1101		2650
Humberside	643		1450
London East	1725		3100
London West	880		1950
London South	1602		2700
Manchester & Lancs	1811		3000
Merseyside	1569		3300
Northern	1435		3500
Scotland East	1149		2000
Scotland West	888		2700
Southern	2185		3700
South West	723		2000
Wales East	494		2000
Wales West	1681		2300
West Midlands	1289		3150
Yorkshire	1680		3300
Others	4465		4800
Total received	26958		50000

Needed: £23,000 by 11 October

THIS WEEK: £1,480

Build a better future!!

THIS WEEK we have had a further £5,000 pledged for our Building Fund. Our readers are determined that we move into bigger and better premises to keep pace with our growing influence in the labour movement.

Supporters in Stoke and Staffordshire have promised a further £840 on top of the £660 pledged at the Wembley Rally. This amount included £150 from Dave Ready and £100 from Steve Martin who is unemployed.

The response to the fund has been tremendous with many different ways of finding the money reported to

us. People are selling prized possessions; musical instruments, jewellery (even items that have been in the family for generations), paintings and even model train sets!

But the campaign has only really just begun. With nearly £55,000 raised in three weeks we are off to a flying start. However, if we are to raise the full £150,000 then the momentum must be kept up.

See if you can match the commitment shown so far by our readers. If you can then we shall very soon see *Militant* housed in more suitable premises.

COVENTRY SOUTH EAST CLP sends greetings to Labour Party conference delegates
Forward in the struggle for Marxist policies

BOW and POPLAR
Labour Party Young Socialists

Fight the cuts:
Poplar 1920's: Liverpool 1980's
Forward to socialism!

Socialism is NOT just a word!
Socialist action to smash Thatcher
WARBRECK LOCAL LP

PECKHAM CLP
MILITANT SUPPORTERS send fraternal greetings to LP delegates

Fraternal greetings from OLD SWAN LABOUR PARTY

BROADGREEN CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY —
"Moderates who have got up off their knees" —
Send fraternal greetings to the Labour Party conference

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 MEETINGS

AFTER THE PARTY CONFERENCE
GLASGOW MILITANT PUBLIC MEETING:
"Which way now for Labour?"
Speakers:
Terry Fields MP, Jackie Galbraith (Scottish LPYS)
on Tuesday 11 October at
PARTICK BURGH HALLS
(off Dumbarton Rd.)

ABERYSTWYTH: Thursday 6 October at 7.30 pm at Red Cross Hall, Vulcan Street, Aberystwyth. Speaker: Brian Lewis on "What Militant Stands For".

BRISTOL: "Which way forward for Labour?" at the Crown Tavern, Stapleton Road, on Thursday 6 October 1983, 7.30 pm. Speaker: Bryan Beekingham.

EAST HAM: "The future of the Labour Party". Speaker Tony Saunio. Fellowship House, St Bartholomews Road, East Ham. Monday 10 October 7.45pm.

CLASSIFIED

LONDON Militant social, Saturday 15 October 7.30pm. Goldsmith College, New Cross. Admission 50p. Disco, bar.

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes for the future to Caroline, Jeremy and their seven pound baby son from Brent and Barnet Militant supporters.

CONGRATULATIONS to Heather Rawling and Steve Score for their son born last week. The start of the third generation of Labour Party activists!

COVENTRY: Tuesday 11 October, 7.30 pm. "What now for Labour?" Speakers: Dave Nellist MP, Keith Dickinson (Militant Editorial Board) at Vauxhall Tavern, Days Lane, Hillfields, Coventry.

DISCO

Proceeds to the fighting fund

7:30pm Friday 14 Oct

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE PUB
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE RD. SE1
(Near Waterloo station)
PRICE ONE POUND
Late Bar

Militant Student NOW AVAILABLE

Articles on grants, NOLS and fighting the cuts. Essential reading for every student. Only 10p (plus p&p). Order from *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

ACTON LPYS Chartbuster Disco. Saturday 8 October 8-11.30. Ruskin Hall, 16 Church Road, Acton, W3. Tickets £1. Ring 01-845 9660. On door £1.50.

MILITANT S. WALES SUMMER CAMP
Good quality tapes available (90 minutes) on following:
Ted Grant: War and Peace
Bryan Beekingham: Colonial Revolution
Rob Sewell: US Labour Movement
Cost £2.25 per tape inc P&P from J. Harris, 15 Sterle Avenue, Poole. Tel: (0202) 685305

LPYS/TRADE UNION DAY SCHOOL
SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER
POOLE, DORSET
Morning: "Fighting Privatisation" —
Speakers: Colin O'Callaghan (editor, Spark & POEU Overseas Telegraph branch);
Dave Booker GMBATU (Bridport branch)
Afternoon: "Tebbit's Law" —
Speaker: Nick Bradley (NUPE District Officer, Kent)
Film: "Look Back At Grunwicks"
Venue: Parkstone Trades and Labour Club, Woodlands Hall, Ashley Road, Parkstone, Poole. All welcome.

SEND YOUR PLEDGE NOW

I/WE PLEDGE A DONATION OF £ TO THE BUILDING FUND FOR A MARXIST DAILY.

I/We wish to see as soon as possible the appearance of a daily labour movement newspaper based on Marxism to combat the lies and distortions of the bosses' press and to end, once and for all, their vicious system.

Name

Organisation

Address

Return to: Building Fund,
c/o Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRIVATISATION

Public Meeting Organised by:
BRITISH TELECOMS UNIONS COMMITTEE
(BT International)

SPEAKERS: PHIL HOLT (POEU)
JEREMY CORBYN MP
JIM MCGREGOR (NUR)

THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER at 6.00PM
AT CONWAY HALL RED LION SQUARE, WCI

ALL WELCOME

Bromley cut-backs

THE NATIONAL Advisory Board established by the Tories is set to cut a massive 13% off the budgets of polytechnics and higher education colleges.

Courses will be closed and more students packed onto the remaining ones. Standards will drop with three year degree courses being replaced by short or part time courses.

There is also a shift away from humanities and social sciences towards science and technology—not by opening new courses but by shutting down the arts side.

The NAB was set up by the government so they could wash their hands of this dirty work, coaxing councils and colleges to take responsibility for suggesting ways of cutting back.

However, our Tory council in Bromley rushed into full co-operation with the government cuts, as can be seen by Bromley's overstretched local schools. Ironically the council offices themselves are housed in a disused teachers training college.

At our college, Ravensbourne College of Art and Design, the councillors on the NAB rejected the college's offer to close its Television Technology course—housed in a crumbling building that would have moved anyway. Instead the Tories want the Fine Arts department closed and the TTC moved into its building.

But the Bromley council was lobbied by the television companies with an offer of half a million to develop the course. After the decision to close the Fine Arts department was made, the head of the Education Committee resigned after it was revealed that he had vested interests in the television industry!

However, the students are fighting back with petitions, letters and a temporary occupation of the admin block. What the campaign has so far proved is that there is a willingness by students to defend their colleges.

By Richard Flanagan
(Deptford LPYS & Ravensbourne College of Art)

200 at LPYS

NEARLY 200 people turned up to hear Ken Livingstone, leader of the GLC at a public meeting organised by Wallsend LPYS.

The name-sheets revealed that for many it was their first political meeting.

In three weeks prior to the meeting over 25,000 leaflets were distributed to schools, colleges, factories and housing estates in the North Tyneside area.

Jane Harker, chairman, opened the meeting and pointed out how there is no hope of a future for youth in Tory Britain and the alternative is to organise with the LPYS and campaign for socialist policies.

Ken Livingstone highlighted how Thatcher and the Tories were elected by only 42% of those who voted. He endorsed con-



Photo: Denis Doran

Students demonstrate against education cutbacks in London earlier this year.

Students Fight Education Axe

Liverpool victory

LAST YEAR students with children had to leave Central Liverpool FE College because there were no crèche facilities.

Immediately the students' union and Labour Club began campaigning for a crèche to be situated in the college. Because of building planning permission etc we decided that this was a long-term objective and instead decided to accept an offer from the local Poly crèche whereby they would provide a place for ten children full-time from our college. The cost was £3.50 a day (£2.50 paid by the college authorities, £1.00 paid by the students' union).

But this year the Principal of Central College decided to withdraw this facility and would in fact not subsidise the crèche places at the Poly. This left two alternatives:

—the parents concerned would have to pay £18.50 per week themselves if they wanted a crèche place. On a meagre grant of around £23 per week this was impossible.

—leave college. We, the students' union, made sure this second option would be impossible. We decided to fight this decision.

First day back at college we immediately set up a provisional crèche in the back of the college canteen, supervised by students who gave up their free time and free periods. We then realised we could not fight alone on this issue and sought help and assistance from the labour and trade union movement.

This resulted in letters of support from individual trade unions (all the trade unions in the college gave us

full backing) and LPYS members came down to the college to help. The Labour-controlled city council also gave us full support and asked the Principal to reconsider his decision—he refused.

meeting of the students on 20 September outlining a plan of action addressed by Councillor Harry Smith who informed us that an extraordinary meeting of the Board of Governors could be called and had the power to reverse the Principal's decision. Harry, and Dominic Brady (Labour councillor and governor) managed to do this the following day. After a lobby of the meeting the councillors' came out to tell overjoyed mothers and students that the board of Governors had reversed the Principal's decision. We have ten places at the Poly crèche again.

By Vinnie McInerney
(Central College Labour Club)

Welsh campaign

THE WORK of Welsh Labour Students for the coming academic year is already well under way.

Carrying on the unrelentless and previously unchallenged campaigning work of last year's regional committee, we've produced the fourth Welsh Labour Students newsletter, highlighting the YTURC campaign for YTS trainees in Wales, as well as over 100 WLS posters and several thousand leaflets calling for mass recruitment into the college Labour Clubs in Wales to lead the fightback against Tory attacks on higher education.

We have also been instrumental, through working in close liaison with the LPYS Regional Committee, in building for the Young Workers' Conference, organised by YTURC, in

Swansea on 19 November; and making provisional arrangements for a joint WLS/LPYS weekend school on Education in Aberystwyth on 3-4 December.

As a result of this hard work the memberships of the Labour Clubs of Gwent CHE, Pontypridd Tech and South Glamorgan IHE are already bigger than past years. Half the memberships of Gwent and the Welsh College of Music and Drama Labour Clubs are also party members.

For any details of posters, leaflets, newsletters or meetings, contact: David Jones, 16 Stacey Road, Roath, Cardiff.

By Mark Brake
(Secretary, Welsh Labour Students)

ference policies and pointed out the failures of past Labour governments for not delivering the goods. He came out against expulsions and witch-hunts launched by the right wing and said this was the reason he couldn't vote for Kinnock in the leadership election.

Next speaker was Jeff Price, secretary, USDAW branch F 180. Jeff said it was only the strength of the organised labour and trade union movement that could defeat Tebbit's laws. He urged all workers at the meeting to put pressure on the TUC to organise a fight back against the Tories and not enter into a dialogue with the deaf.

Closing the meeting was Ted Garret, MP, Wallsend, who called for unity inside the party and condemned expulsions.

Over £90 was collected to help pay for the cost of the meeting and sixty names were taken of people interested in joining the Labour Party.

By Dave Metcalfe
(Wallsend LPYS)

'Blame Capitalism, not us!'

By Jackie Walsh
(Hackney North LPYS)

SHARON MAYNE and CASEY GALLOWAY are both members of Hackney North Labour Party Young Socialists. Sharon is at college, Casey is unemployed. They explained why they would be going to the "Black Youth in Britain" rally organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists on 22 October.

Sharon: "I went to the Black Youth Rally last year and really enjoyed it. It was there I first came into contact with the ideas of the LPYS."

Casey: "I think it's important for people to go to the rally. I agree with the aim of the YS that the only way to fight racism is by uniting all workers. The Newham 8 demonstration was really great. At first I thought there

might be some trouble. But when I went along I could see it is only through the whole community—black and white—coming together that we're able to defend ourselves from racist attacks."

What have the Tories done for black youth?

Casey: "Absolutely nothing. Thatcher takes the easy way out by blaming blacks and making us a scapegoat for the problems in society."

Sharon: "Racialism is a symptom of the society we live in. It's not something that white people do for the sake of it. It's capitalism that breeds racialism."

Casey: "A lot of my friends have been on schemes like YTS. They offer very little training and the

LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS 1-DAY RALLY ON BLACK YOUTH IN BRITAIN 1983

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

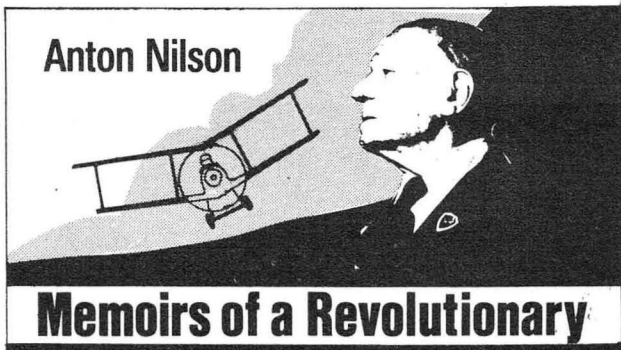


money is the same amount as the dole. I don't know anyone who's been on a YOP or a YTS and has been offered a proper job at the end of it.

"Not enough is being done by Labour nationally in taking up the problems facing black youth. The LPYS is doing a good job though.

The hardest thing is actually convincing people. That's what we have to do.

"Everything in society is controlled by the bosses. Especially the press. So we have to use the Black Youth rally and events like this to get people along and explain ideas."



Anton Nilson

Memoirs of a Revolutionary

This third part of the political life of ANTON NILSON deals with his arrival in Russia in the autumn of 1918.

TO GET to Russia we had to go over the Baltic. It was mined and somewhat dangerous, as the First World War was still going on.

I had no money for a cabin, so I had to sleep on the deck in a hammock.

A German warship collided with us and damaged our ship, but luckily we did not sink and we went on to Kronstadt.

I travelled with the Secretary of the Zimmerwald Peace Conference, who knew Zinoviev (the Russian revolutionary leader). When we arrived in Leningrad we were invited by Zinoviev to spend the night at his place. He and his wife lived very simply. At the meal there was just a bare table, no forks, and all we had to eat was bread and tea.

He was very well informed about the Swedish labour movement. I wanted to immediately go and join the Red Army, but Zinoviev said it would be advisable to learn some Russian first. Two Danish comrades who had gone straight to the front had mistakenly been shot as spies.

I joined the Red Air Force. My first duty was a patrol during the first anniversary celebration of the October Revolution.

Millions came from the countryside; there were massive demonstrations with red banners. It had been a total social revolution, with great depths of support. The whole city was totally overcrowded with people; pilots flew above the crowds, sending out leaflets.

There was a big meeting at the Tsar's Summer Palace, and my commander asked me to speak. I did not want to because I was badly dressed, but in the end I had to. I spoke about the revolutionary situation in Sweden, the war and the need for sacrifice.

At first I was going to be posted to the Volga front, where up to 80,000 Czechs had gathered in counter-revolution. But the orders were changed. During the celebrations, my commander came up to me and said that Hindenberg had gathered an army of 30,000 and was threatening the revolution. So we received new orders to meet this threat.

It was very poor at the front. There was little food,

Into the Revolution



Red Army recruitment poster.

and dead horses littered the streets. The war went on all winter. We took Riga by the new year.

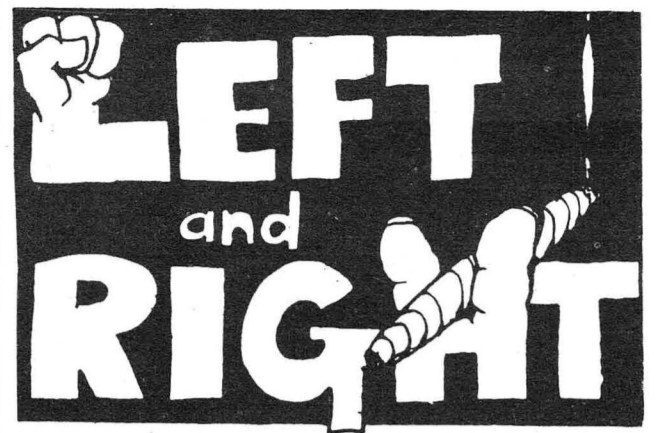
On the insistence of my Russian colleagues, I took command of the air force on the Baltic Front. Outside Riga were units of the British fleet, who issued almost daily threats that they would bomb and shell the town, if we did not leave.

During that winter, my Russian colleagues asked me to join the Bolshevik Party. I replied that I had no papers

and I needed two people to recommend me. I said "you don't know me, I am from Sweden".

But I did have my Swedish Young Socialists membership card. They took my card and said they would look into it. Fourteen days later they came back and said I was elected to membership of the Bolshevik Party, on the programme of the Swedish Young Socialists.

Next week: Civil War.



Each-way accountants

One firm doing especially well out of the Tories' plan to abolish the country's metropolitan authorities are the accountants, Cooper and Lybrand. The six councils under threat, have commissioned them to prepare a report to show if there would be any savings if councils were abolished. The report will cost £40,000.

Cooper and Lybrand will not have the wisdom of one of their senior partners, David Hobson. He has just retired from the accountancy firm. But he will see the report. For he has just taken up a post as political adviser to the prime minister.

Tories take over bank

Last week the Tories put a bank under public control. The Hang Lung Bank in Hong Kong was taken over to stop it defaulting on its obligations. The Hong Kong colony is currently in an economic nosedive, because of the worries about China taking over the colony when the lease runs out in the 1990s.

Of course the Tories plan to return the bank to private hands as soon as possible. But they moved swiftly to the defence of their class; emergency legislation was rushed through the Hong Kong legislature. Perhaps the Labour leadership could take a leaf out of the Tories' book, and be as decisive in the defence of our class.

Thatcher's Japanese award

On the same day that Dunlop announced they were sacking 1,000 workers and selling their tyre plants to a Japanese firm, the prime minister got a very special award. It was from the Japan Design Foundation, for services to industry. Patriotism may all be very well when it comes to whipping hysteria for war in the Falklands, but the Tories never allow it to get in the way of profits.

Actions speak louder than words

"The Alliance for a fairer Britain"? Not if you judge them by how they acted at their party conferences. Liberal Party leader, David Steel stayed at the Majestic Hotel (cost £42.25 a night, single room, bed and breakfast only). Clement Freud MP was a peg lower, staying at the Crown, £35 a night, with English breakfast a snip at just £5.25. Lower down the scale however, the ordinary delegates were not so fortunate; some of them rented a converted barn and others camped.

The same two-tier Britain was seen at the SDP conference. Whilst rank and file delegates were given college accommodation, the leadership ensconced themselves at a nice plush hotel, where they could have undisturbed chats with their media friends.

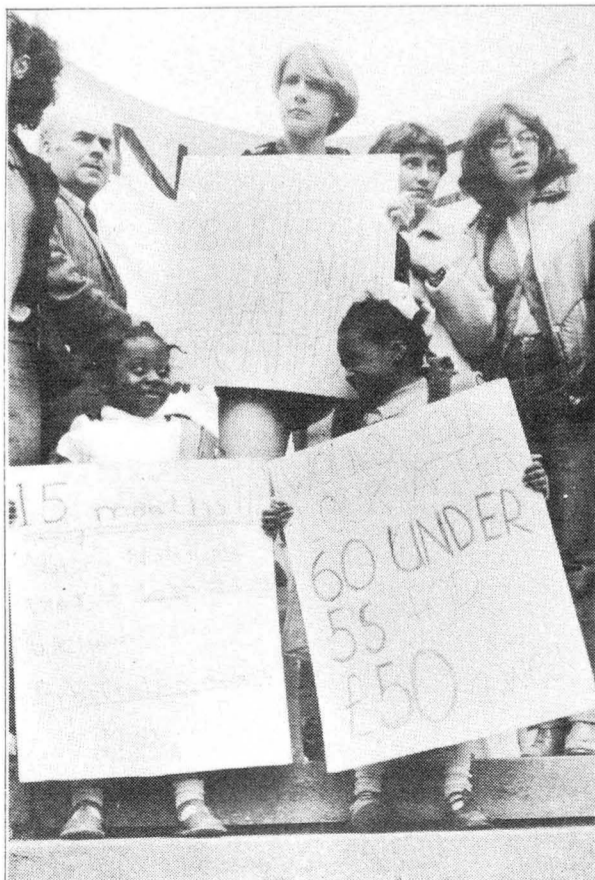
Unionise part-time women workers

IN THE campaign towards the TUC Women's Day of Action, 29 October, particular attention must be paid to the problems facing part-time women workers.

For they really are in the worst position of all. 40% of women workers are part-timers. They often work unsocial hours, take home lower wages and suffer worse conditions than full-time workers. Employers prey on the insecurity of these women, telling them they are lucky to get any kind of job.

On average, part-time women workers get an hourly rate of only 60% that obtained by full-time men, and 80% of full-time women workers. Employers like having part-timers because they have fewer rights; can be easily sacked and are often non-unionised.

Even the rights part-timers have previously enjoyed are now being eroded by the Tories. If you are sacked and want to appeal to an Industrial Tribunal, you must now have worked for at least 52 weeks; it had previously been 26 weeks. Clearly laws alone cannot safeguard women's rights. Union organisation is the key. Part-time women workers must be won to the union movement and the trade unions must really fight for their rights. It must be a feature of the TUC campaign.



Most part-time women workers get a pittance. (Above) Nursery nurses dispute.

Some areas are organising for 29 October. A rally has been organised in Greater Manchester, on 26 October, with speakers from a local Labour Party Women's Section and local trade unionists. They are producing a leaflet for the event, with each women's section and LPYS branch adopting

a factory or workplace where many women work. This lead must be followed around the country—it is an excellent opportunity to recruit working class women to the trade unions and the Labour Party.

By Gill Porter (Peckham LPYS)



The Gathering Seed, BBC 2, Wednesdays

A PROMISING serial is currently running on BBC 2 titled *The Gathering Seed*.

It portrays the lives of the Henshaws, a working class family of Irish descent in a Northern town just after the second world war.

It is not another nostalgia saga, but concentrates on the struggles of the eldest son, Joe. At this stage in the series he and his grandfather Jim, both building workers, are on strike against the 'lump'. They are battling against scabs, police and a Labour council indifferent to the use of non-union contractors in the building of corporation houses.

This series (so far!) is different from the usual run-of-the-mill stories of the labour movement, when the main character starts off as a good socialist only to end up as a cynical careerist—ie *When the Boat Comes In*. Instead Joe wants to escape from the drudgery of his working life, but sees doors closing all around him. With the help of his grandfather and his Labour councillor girlfriend he is beginning to realise that socialism is not an abstract idea but a necessity.

SECRET FILES

Thousands of further education students enrolling for the new academic year may have wondered what secret files, kept on them throughout their education are like.

Recently a lecturer went off for five minutes, leaving my file on the desk. Unable to resist the temptation, I picked it up and read it.

Everyone who has heard of these files will have wondered what was in them, but reality is shocking. Punctuality, appearance, how well you get on with other students—all graded from A to E. but the worst parts are the comments—very frank, very honest and very derogatory (in my case at least).

It contained both the 'secret' parts and the 'official' parts churned out in 'end of term reports' for parents. Both are written by the same teachers about the same students, but, comparing mine, it was as though I

had two separate personalities!

Any active political affiliations are reported in the files. These files must form the basis of any references from the college authorities to potential employers. The dangers are obvious—what employer would take on someone, in a time of recession who has known left-wing views and is, therefore, a strong believer in trade unionism?

This example, and worse ones, which could probably be given from the blacklists of active socialists held by groups like Economic League, exposes the hypocrisy of the Tories' talk of 'freedom of expression'. The Students' Unions must link up with the labour movement, both locally and nationally, in a campaign to 'open the files' to parents and students alike so that we are told the truth.

By an FE Student

Nurses forced to break staffing laws

WARDS ARE almost always understaffed. I've been on a ward with only one other nurse and had to give out drugs on my own.

By law, two fully trained nurses must be available to do this job. If the General Nursing Council found out, I could have lost my job and never nurse again.

I've come home and cried because of the way I'm treated and how I have to treat the patients.

There's no doubt cuts in the NHS will cause deaths and make working in the NHS intolerable.

I used to work on a psychogeriatric ward with twenty eight patients. Only six of these old people's beds had cot-sides. We asked for more again and again, but were always told all the nurses would be getting new "American style" uniforms! There was a meeting on our ward and I asked "What's more important—stopping patients falling out of bed, or new uniforms so's we're all walking around looking like models?"

Serious injury

In the end we didn't have the uniforms on our ward at least—but while all that was going on, fifteen patients fell out of bed and got serious injuries.

By a Coventry Nurse

At Christmas our ward was given £10 extra to spend! Voluntary services were relied on for any Christmas trimmings. It was left to the nurses to put in £1 per week from their own money, to make sure the patients could have some presents and a drink.

It's quite common to go on an early shift and be told "no one's coming this afternoon." So you take a two hour break and then do another seven-hour shift. Patients' lives are at risk twenty four hours a day because of short-staffing.

On psychogeriatric wards some patients are inclined to wander about and damage themselves or other patients. One night a very aggressive patient started doing this. One of the nurses on duty put him in his chair and tied him up.

When I came on the ward in the morning, he'd gone blue in the face. When she was disciplined, the nurse said, "What am I supposed to do? There was only me



Photo: Militant

Understaffed, and working long shifts, nurses face an often intolerable situation worsened by the latest savage cuts.

and one other nurse on here!"

Hundreds are on the waiting list for our psychogeriatric unit. Yet at Walsgrave hospital in Coventry, there's a brand new assessment ward, one side of which they "can't afford" to staff.

Used for Angels

All it's been used for is to film "Angels"! I'd like to know where the TV company's money is going! Two psychiatric wards are also kept closed for the same reason.

When I started nursing ten years ago, it was a really old

hospital, but the standard of nursing care was very good.

Nurses used to go to work because they were interested. Now they're just holding on and getting the money.

The year I passed my exams, only one girl failed. Now there's a very low pass rate. Student nurses know that whilst twenty-six from one hospital may take the exam only three out of those who pass will get jobs. But if they fail, they will work there for up to eighteen months longer.

So what would you do? Because I spoke my mind, I found myself being put under pressure. At one time I had trouble at home and

needed to take my holiday during the school holidays because of my little boy. The nursing officer tried to prevent this. He even suggested I couldn't both work and bring my son up right.

Cuts kill

I blame the situation on the present government. I can see cuts affecting my son's education and the work of a friend of mine who is a home help.

Recently, I saw a picture of a missile that costs £19m compared to a kidney unit that would cost £6m. Don't they care that they're spen-

ding money to kill people which could be spent on keeping people alive?

The Tories want privatisation of the NHS which will mean a health service as in America—where the rich can afford health care and the slum-dwellers can't. They say there'll be insurance schemes, but I can't afford a life insurance, let alone health insurance!

When Thatcher had her veins done, it was quick easy and private! My mum was on the waiting list for two years. Her operation took two hours and she was in agony afterwards! I want to see a Labour government that I hope will care about these things.

Benefit snoopers - bully boy tactics

"YOU'RE COMING off benefit or I'll screw your pelvis to a deckstand."

This threat to a claimant from a Specialist Claims Control officer is just one of the many examples of the intimidatory tactics used by the SCC, compiled in a report by the civil service unions.

This report was presented to a special conference of the Society of Civil and Public Servants and the Civil and Public Services Association on 24 September. The conference clearly exposed how the Tories are using SCC snoopers to intimidate the unemployed off the books.

The examples of SCC harassment in the report go from the horrific to the ridiculous. Just two examples:

"The wife of a claimant was accused of doing paid domestic work. Her sister's baby had in fact very recently died, her sister's father had...been killed in a car crash; and her sister's mother committed suicide. She was therefore visiting

her sister every day...and helping her out.

"The allegation of working...followed two home visits when she had not been in and was accompanied by a threat of stopping her husband's benefit...the threat was not implemented although by this stage the claimant and his wife were both upset."

In the second case, a male single parent was accused of

working, seemingly because he was out when an investigator knocked and was not seen to leave the house during the time it was watched by the investigator. He was called to the office saying his money would be stopped if he did not do so.

At the office the man explained he killed time by taking his child to school, walked the dog etc and the reason the snooper didn't see him

was that he always used the back door! He has not had any more trouble from the SCC.

The report also shatters the Tories' claim that these snoopers are saving taxpayers' money. There is in fact no significant increase made to the savings already achieved by traditional methods of DHSS fraud investigation.

Indeed, the report shows

that in many cases the 'savings' figures arrived at by the SCC after knocking a claimant off the books is estimated by multiplying the figure by 52—the number of weeks in a year. This assumes the claimant will not be returned to the books in that period.

By Bob Wade

Growing opposition to special squads

THERE IS growing opposition in the labour movement and civil service unions against the introduction of new snooper squads to harass the unemployed.

The Specialist Claims Control teams (see *Militant* issue 665) were set up to frighten claimants off the unemployed register. A recent government circular claims that these teams will look into "suspicious circumstances".

The aim is to obtain a written statement proving fraud by a claimant, or to

have the person sign off. But the government are not seriously concerned with the small amount of fraud in this area—they are using SCC as a means of reducing the unemployment figures.

The scheme is the mastermind of Tebbit's right hand man, Alan Clark, Tory MP for Plymouth Sutton. He claims, "There have been alarmist stories about how they are going to interrogate people; this is absolutely groundless."

But the unemployed will gain little comfort from

these words. A similar fraud squad within the DHSS was recently criticised by its own management—for "...telling lies, to try and trap claimants to make: incriminating statements, not to claim they are from another government department, or to press a claimant to say he no longer wishes to claim benefit if he does not wish to do so..."

However, this is not just a matter for the civil service unions but should be taken up by all trade unionists. Clark has stated that he is

prepared to publicly defend his policies, and this has been taken up by Plymouth Trades Council who will meet him in debate.

It is time the trade union movement put a stop to the anti-working class legislation and kick out this most reactionary government.

By Bob Reed
(CPSA, DOE &
Plymouth Trades Council)

YTS death toll

ANOTHER YOUTH has been added to the grim toll of young workers killed on government training schemes. David Brookes, a 17 year old from Tyneside, died last month after falling 60 ft down a disused mineshaft while on an outdoor training scheme.

Over the past three years of these schemes, 17 youth have been killed and over 3,000 injured. With the Tories now expanding them through the introduction of YTS, the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign is stepping up its campaign to ensure decent health and safety measures.

On 27 October Richard Cain—whose son Derek was killed on a YOP course in Sheffield—will be joined by Dave Nellist MP, Young Socialists and members of YTURC in a lobby of the Manpower Services Commission in London.

YTURC will also be lobbying delegates at this weeks Labour Party Conference to build support for this campaign.

LEFT Labour conference 83

Expulsions- But conference holds on to radical policies

THERE IS clearly an overwhelming mood of unity at this year's Labour Party Conference.

This is undoubtedly given special intensity by the fear of Labour's ranks that the Tories could get in again at the next General Election.

The feeling is that the Labour Party must put its house in order to ensure the defeat of the Tories next time.

However, the activists of the Party are not prepared to cover over the experience of the last general election campaign. Particularly in the debate on the campaign, but in other debates as well, there has been an underlying mood of criticism of the right-wing for their conduct of the campaign and their attempt to retreat from many of the policies included in the Manifesto.

There is a feeling that the unity must not be achieved by ditching the radical policies adopted in the last few years. In the NEC elections, this was reflected in a marginal swing to the left, which has at least reversed the swing to the right which took place last year.

In the leadership elections, the big majorities for Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley, the so-called "dream ticket", undoubtedly reflected the desire for unity. Many delegates, and in some cases reflecting the

result of consultations with Party members and trade unionists, felt that the "dream ticket" was the best way of resolving the recent conflict between the left and the right and putting an end to the turmoil in the Party.

But the limited support for Eric Heffer in the leadership contest, and especially for Michael Meacher as deputy leader, also reflects the failure of the left to mount a campaign, especially amongst the rank and file of the trade unions.

The Kinnock camp organised throughout the Labour Party and unions to get support for Roy Hattersley as deputy leader. Many delegates have noted the fact that Roy Hattersley has been reported in the Press as opposing many of the policies on which the leadership should be standing as a result of conference decisions.

But criticism of the right wing's conduct of the election campaign, particularly the attacks on Labour Party policy at the height of the campaign, has not been suppressed during conference. In Monday morning's debate on the election, in

particular, there were strong feelings of anger at the role of the right.

On the other hand, there was an enthusiastic response to the contribution from Liverpool delegates who explained the way the election was fought on Merseyside, which achieved a 2.5 swing to Labour in the area, and a 4.5 swing to Labour in Broadgreen. In intervening in the debate, the right-wing never once took up or commented on these contributions.

The debate and decisions throughout conference in no way justifies the idea that Roy Hattersley's election as deputy leader indicates a new wave of support for his policies. The zero vote for Peter Shore in the constituency section, when Shore stands on policies that are not significantly different from Hattersley's, is a better measure of the real lack of support for the policies of the right.

"Dream-ticket" pre-empted serious debate

On the other hand, the enormous enthusiasm for Dennis Skinner's contribution at the end of Tuesday afternoon's debate, indicates the strength of support that remains for a bold socialist approach. Dennis Skinner was formally giving the NEC's recommendation that a resolution on pensions should be remitted.

However, his arguments were a devastating attack on the Tories' policies and a brilliantly effective argument for radical socialist solutions. This resulted in the resolution being passed, and

a massive ovation for Dennis Skinner's speech.

The campaign for the "dream ticket" was really an attempt to pre-empt a thorough debate on the policies represented by the different leadership candidates. By campaigning for the ticket in advance, on the basis of an appeal for unity, both Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley, and the people who were behind them, hoped to push to one side the underlying arguments over policy issues.

But the whole point of the leadership election, which was a key reform in party democracy, was to ensure that the leadership would be accountable to the whole party and would maintain support for conference decisions. The party ranks will not tolerate an attempt to take policy out of the hands of conference, and have election policy and strategy decided entirely by the leadership of the party.

The right wing are trying to insert qualifications and conditions into policy statements, in order to give the leadership a 'line of retreat' an avenue, in other words, to dilute down the policy. But the feeling of the party ranks is opposed to that.

In the debate on defence, for example, it was clear from the discussion and the overwhelming agreement on the resolution endorsing past policy, that the membership of the party still have, in the big majority, a unilateralist position.

In the NEC election there was a swing to the left, with the number of left-wingers on the NEC going up from 9 last year to 11 this year. This undoubtedly reverses

the disastrous swing to the right which took place last year.

However, once again, it reflects the lack of a campaign by the left-wing within the rank and file of the trade unions.

On the question of the five members of our editorial board, the NEC obtained an endorsement of their action. However, it was clear from the mood of conference that they have achieved a completely pyrrhic victory.

The five members of the Editorial Board received an enthusiastic and sympathetic response from conference.

The members of the National Executive rightly feared the response they would get from conference in arguing for the endorsement of expulsions. At the NEC meeting before the debate none of the NEC members was willing to volunteer for the task of replying to the appeals. The task was passed round the table like seals passing a ball from one to another.

Union tops ignored rank and file

In the end, Jim Mortimer had to take on this very unpopular job. However, in replying to the case which was put he completely failed to answer the direct questions that the five posed, or to answer the case that was made against the expulsions. (see report opposite)

In reality the five won the argument and scored a moral victory in the conference. If the issue had been decided on a show of hands it is not likely that the NEC would have won the day.

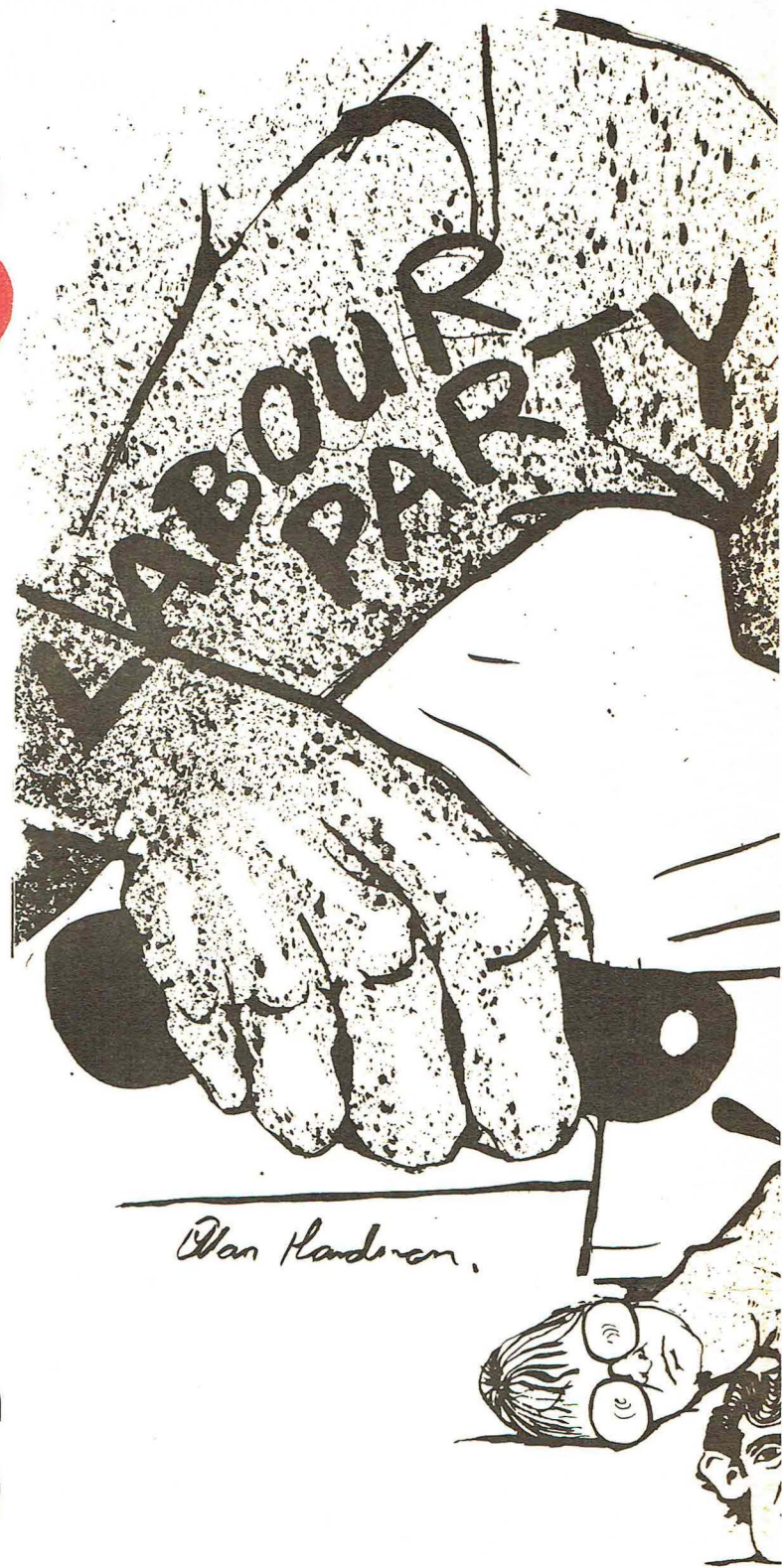
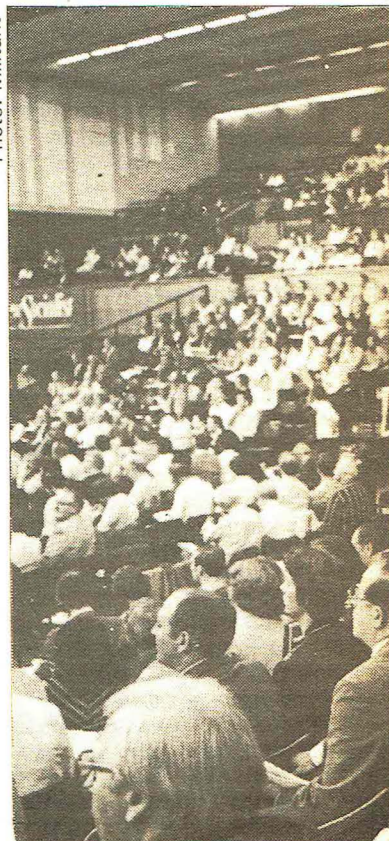


Photo: Militant



Private Session: "We Will Be Back"



THERE PROBABLY isn't a court of law in the world in which the defence has to state its case before the prosecution outlines its charges. But that was the format of the private session that dealt with the expulsion of the five members of the *Militant* Editorial Board. The first item, therefore, consisted of the appeals of the five themselves.

Peter Taaffe began by describing how he had been a member of the Labour Party for 23 years. "For most of that time", he said, "I have been a committed Marxist".

Although his point of view had been in a minority for almost the whole of that time, he went on, it had not stopped him for working for the Labour Party in seven general elections, including the last one when his house had been used as a committee room.

Peter denied in advance the organisational charges that would be made by Jim Mortimer, but quoted the words of Nye Bevan, at the time he was expelled in 1939:

"It seems to us dangerously rigid to describe an organised effort to change party policy as an organised attack on the party itself. Such a view must result in so handicapping legitimate criticism as fatefully to cripple the forces of progress within the party."

To frequent applause from the delegates, especially in the CLPs, Peter went on to denounce the expulsions as a political attack, having nothing in reality to do with organisation. "Otherwise", he argued, "why not propose the expulsion of supporters of Solidarity? Why not expel Frank Chapple, who supported the SDP candidate in North Islington?"

"You can have unity," he continued, "or you can have a witch-hunt... but you can't have both... The expulsion of the five will not be the end of the matter—we will demand rehabilitation." (Applause)

Lynn Walsh told conference that he had been in the Labour Party for 19 years. He went right through the history of the action of the NEC against *Militant*, declaring that the expulsions "can neither be justified by the constitution, nor by the Register."

Militant had applied to it, when the Register had been approved by conference, he said. The Editorial Board had answered all the NEC's questions, asked what changes the NEC wanted to make in the alleged structure of the paper and had even offered to negotiate. Yet the application was never once considered by the NEC.

Dropping the Register, Lynn explained, the NEC had turned instead to the old discredited system of bans and proscriptions to use against *Militant*, a system

specifically abolished by the 1973 Labour Party conference.

Referring to the enquiry into *Militant*, Lynn told delegates how one-sided it had been. "We have never been allowed," he said to applause, "to see one piece of evidence against us."

The so-called hearings at the NEC, he went on, were kangaroo courts. "There were no charges. No evidence. No questions. No discussion. The NEC were merely executing a pre-determined sentence."

"But," he said finally, "ideas will never be defeated by organisational means." (Applause)

Keith Dickinson was the next speaker. He joined the party, he said, in 1957, and since then had held every ward and most GMC positions. Defending the views of *Militant*, he stated: "The day a party ceases to discuss political differences honestly is the day that party dies." (Applause)

Keith pointed out that although the attack on the paper was supposed not to be based on political ideas, half of Jim Mortimer's speech at the 1982 conference had been an attack on the alleged political viewpoint of the paper.

Keith explained, the views ascribed to *Militant* on unilateralism, for example, were wrong: the paper had always supported the policy. "I spoke myself in support of CND even as long ago as the 1960 Labour Party conference when the then leader Gaitskell suffered his famous defeat." (Applause)

Photo: Militant



Russell Tuck, retiring NEC member.

Clare Doyle, in her speech, emphasised the strong traditions of Marxism in the labour movement, including her own union GMBATU. "Our ideas," she said, "have as much a place in the party as those of the people who want to expel us, perhaps even more so."

As far as the fund-raising of *Militant* was concerned, she repeated what has been printed in the paper and related to meetings hundreds of times in the past—that all the money *Militant* raises comes from the 'fivers', pounds and pennies of ordinary Labour Party and trade union members.

"If the Labour Party

adopted our ideas with the same 'evangelical' zeal," she said, "it would have no problem at all raising funds or winning elections."

Clare also pointed to the political nature of the attack, by drawing the delegates' attention to the fact that there were no measures being taken against right wing MPs associated with publications financed by NATO.

To applause, Clare ended with a side-swipe at all those right wingers who have made a good living out of the Labour Party, "We are not in the movement," she said, "for careers or personal gain. Our enemies fear us because of our success." (Applause)

Ted Grant, the final speaker of the five, started by saying it was a very sorry

day for the Labour Party. "... A sorry day, when the party is discussing expulsions instead of ways of getting rid of the Tories."

"It was a disgrace," he went on, "that the four or five NEC meetings before the election were taken up with discussing the witch-hunt, instead of the Tories." (Applause)

Michael Foot, Nye Bevan and even Jim Mortimer were all expelled in the past, Ted pointed out, and whatever the result of the vote here today, the five would continue to work for the Labour Party and for its victory at the next election.

"Marxism cannot be separated from the Labour Party," he said defiantly, "We will be back!" (Applause)

NEC Reply

Jim Mortimer's speech, after the appeals of the five, was taken up largely with all the old accusations of 'a party within a party', but not before he had praised the personal qualities of his predecessor, former general secretary Ron Hayward, and national agent David Hughes, in order to garner support for the so-called Hayward-Hughes report into *Militant*.

He claimed that the NEC was observing the "principles of natural justice", carefully omitting to mention that, had it not been for the threat of court action, the five would have been expelled on his recommendation, last November, without even the token hearing they were given. He gave no adequate explanation, either, as

to why the enquiry 'evidence' was not shown to the five.

Despite heated argument and objections from a number of delegates, the conference chairman, Sam McCluskie, ruled that there could be no discussion or debate. In such cases "it is tradition, if nothing else", he said.

Against the wishes of their own rank and file, and often against the express wishes of their own annual conferences, the trade union general secretaries had most of the votes against the five already tied up and each separate card vote (one for each of those expelled) showed a majority for expulsion of about 5.1 million to 1.6 million.

Witch-hunt debate

AFTER the expulsions, resolutions were taken dealing with the NEC ban on *Militant*. Composites 58 and 59 and resolution 122, expressing opposition to bans on the paper and calling for an end to witch-hunts, were all moved. Another, composite 60, was ruled out of order (after it had been moved) because it called for the reinstatement of the five, along with another resolution, number 108, for the same reason.

Replying for the executive on these issues, Russell Tuck managed to get himself into a real tangle. He called for the resolutions to be opposed.

There is no witch-hunt, he said, to the derision of many delegates. "You can't halt something that has not yet started." That little word "yet" only further antagonised delegates.

The NEC, he went on, didn't want to stop people reading or buying *Militant*. "If they want to read or buy the paper outside, that's their business."

But when shouts from the conference were raised about the *Morning Star*, Tuck

replied weakly that it was not considered, because "it was not brought to the attention of the NEC".

Delegates by now were also shouting, "what about the Fleet Street papers, the *Sun*, the *Express*?" "We might have to take the same decisions about some of these," came the limp reply.

"The decision", Tuck declared, at last, trying to get a grip on something that sounded like a coherent policy, "is only about providing facilities for the sale of the paper on Labour Party premises."

But there was really no need for a clear and honest argument from the platform. Once again, the trade union general secretaries, with scant regard to the views of their rank and file, used their block votes to defeat the resolutions, by majorities similar to those for expulsion.

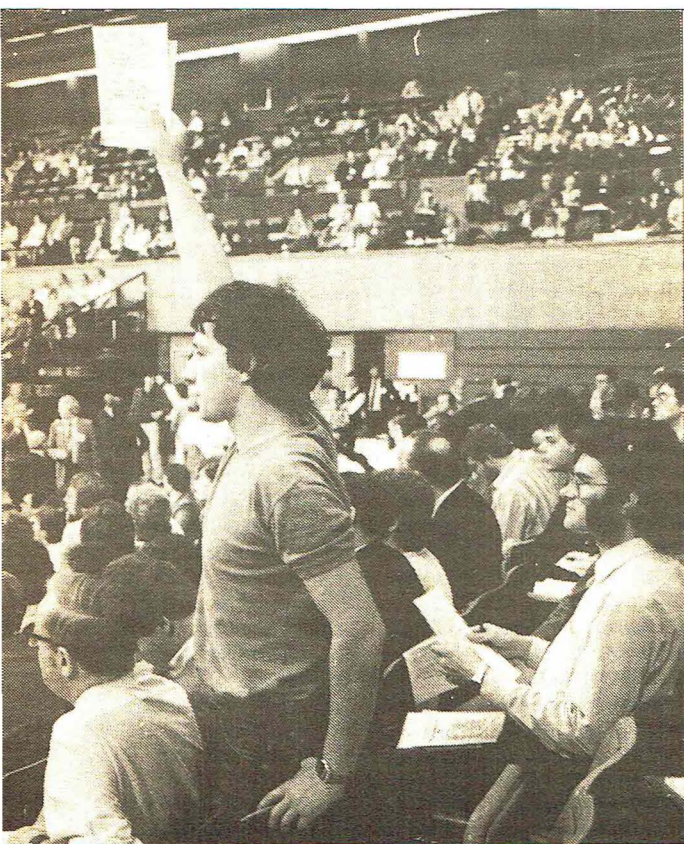
The first private session for six years, and the first one dealing with expulsions for nearly thirty, ended, leaving a bad taste in the mouth, and the certain feeling that the issue was not dead... not by a long way.

the overwhelming mood of the activists is one of total opposition to the attempt to defeat the ideas of *Militant* through bureaucratic expulsions. As the five left the conference hall, a significant section of the delegates gave them a standing ovation.

When it is remembered that last year spokesmen of the right like John Golding, Dennis Healey, Roy Hattersley and Terry Duffy, were talking of the expulsions of hundreds, or even thousands of *Militant* supporters, the upholding of the expulsions of only five members of the Editorial Board is really a big defeat

for the right-wing. In arguing for the expulsions to be upheld, Jim Mortimer was obliged to make clear, that as far as he was concerned, there would be no question of further expulsions of *Militant* supporters.

Despite the expulsions, the conference can have given no great lease of life to the right wing in the Labour Party. On the contrary, Marxists can have every confidence that support for their ideas—real socialist ideas—will grow in the future. It is only a matter of time before the five are re-instated.



Latin America

Argentina

Report from
Buenos Aires

The rebirth of the workers' struggle

THIS is an eye witness report of the wave of strikes and demonstrations which have swept Argentina.

The labour movement in Argentina has been showing its strength in the last few months. In 1976 when the military junta seized power they thought they had destroyed all opposition—especially the fighting traditions of the Argentine workers. They were very much mistaken.

Since this article was written, the country's two labour confederations, feeling the mood of anger amongst the workers, have fixed the date for the general strike for 4 October, just 26 days before the first general election since before the coup.

We will be publishing further articles analysing political developments in Argentina and other Latin American countries in forthcoming issues.



Buenos Aires night-life—police arrests and harassment of protesting workers.



Still from *The Blood of the Condor*

Latin American Films on TV

A SEASON of films from Latin America starts on October 5 on Channel 4. It includes four feature films from Brazil, Bolivia, Cuba and Chile to be shown in *World Cinema* on Wednesday nights, and four documentary programmes in *Eleventh Hour* on Monday nights.

These documentaries in-

clude nine films from Argentina, Cuba, Chile, Colombia, Brazil, Puerto Rico and Nicaragua. They deal with a variety of subjects from surviving in shanty towns to peasant struggles.

Some of the series will be known to British socialists, such as the excellent *Battle of Chile* and *Blood of the Condor*, others are un-

familiar, but should be interesting.

Two documentary programmes, *Cinema of the Humble* (*Eleventh Hour*, October 10), and *The Long Road* (October 17), mainly concerned with the history of radical film-making in Latin America, introduce the season.

LATIN AMERICA is suffering the terrible consequences of the crisis of capitalism.

The military juntas which rule the majority of the continent have gone into crisis one after the other, showing their inability to resolve their countries' serious economic problems.

In the past year or so, opposition political parties in Argentina have come more and more into the open, even though the government is still in military hands under General Bignone.

People have lost their fear of criticising the government since the Falklands war. Political debate is no longer limited to the inner sanctums of parties and unions but has spilled over into the streets and may now be overheard in every bar and at every bus stop.

The military government has bled white one of the potentially richest countries in the entire world. Argentines have a saying that their fields are so fertile that "what men destroy by day, the earth makes good by night". But despite the natural abundance of the earth, most of the population eke out a miserable existence in the direst need.

On the outskirts of Buenos Aires, barely separated from the federal capital by the Avenida del General Paz, several million men, women and children live in the most inhuman conditions the mind can contemplate.

These districts of the poor, known as the "villas miseria" (misery townships), are made up of slum dwellings knocked together out of scraps of cardboard, dried mud and old bits of wood. Just to take a walk through these shanty towns is sufficient to show the most unwarlike observer the atrocious limits to which the decay of capitalism can lead.

Education economies

I was told by the inhabitants of these areas how children can perish for want of adequate medical attention; how when it rains, roads become an impassable barrier of mud; how children cannot get to school, either because it is too far away, or simply non-existent.

One woman teacher, speaking of the problem of education, stressed the utter lack of economic resources. Funds always arrive after a delay of months and school children go hungry because school meals cannot be served as there is no money.

On innumerable occasions teachers are compelled to decide which children in their charge shall eat and which shall not. Often the food the children get at school will be their only meal all day.

On reaching their twelfth birthday these children, having completed primary schooling, will have to go out into the world and fight for a crust of bread as best they can, taking any job, from night-time paper selling to begging on the streets.

However, the conditions of those living in the towns themselves are hardly any better. Rents are sky high, accounting for 50–70% of the average wage. So several families, sometimes as many as five, are forced to live under one roof.

Often the landlord will

evict sitting tenants with the aim of increasing the rent. If the occupants refuse to get out, they are beaten and kicked out, either by the police or by professional thugs hired by the landlord.

This situation has sparked off a widespread movement of tenants and squatters who take over empty properties despite the violent repression they receive—not just from the police but from the army as well.

Argentina's working class have to face many problems, one of the most important being the low level of wages, still further depressed by a relentlessly rising inflation rate (which has hovered around 300% over the past twelve months). So scandalous has this problem become that there are even endless jokes on the subject on television screens.

Food rationing

In August, when the Argentine Minister of the Economy went to Washington to request a new loan from the International Bank, one TV comedian impersonated the Minister's secretary in conversation over the phone with the Minister. When the Minister asked if anything of note had happened in his absence, the secretary told him, "Oh yes minister, inflation has not gone up for the last ten minutes".

Every fortnight, sometimes every week, prices rise. This phenomenon, known as the "tarifazo", means that in the first six months of this year, some goods have gone up by as much as 900%, although the average is nearer 150%.

Wages are spent in the first twenty days of each month. Housewives have now become real experts in rationing food. In this, the homeland of beef, millions are unable to buy meat.

At the time of writing, a wave of strikes is taking place, affecting layer upon layer of workers—even the police, as in Córdoba and Rosario. The workers are fighting for a wage of 3,000 pesos (today the average is 1,200) but even 3,000 pesos would not be enough to live decently.

The trade union leaders—bureaucrats to the marrow of their bones—have next to no control over the strike movement, a fact which compels them to consider calling a general strike as a means of snatching back the reins of the movement.

Socialist objectives

The workers seek to solve the problem of trade union bureaucracy through struggle. To this end, they are electing a whole new layer of fresh young factory delegates, newly arrived on the scene of battle, who will greatly facilitate the task.

They have even gone to the lengths of occupying a trade union headquarters in San Martín (Buenos Aires province), kicking out the former leader from a posi-

tion he had enjoyed for 30 years, as a result of his open collaboration with the military junta.

A Peronist worker in this union told me their aim was to "transform the trade union into an instrument of struggle at the service of the workers, because to be a Peronist also means to be a socialist, and therefore to defend the interests of the working class is the principal objective".

Throughout the country, there exists a universal hatred of the military junta. Not a single strike or demonstration passes where the participants do not shout anti-government slogans.

The demands include: "Paredón, paredón, contra los militares que vendieron la Nación." (Up against the wall with the generals who sold the nation) and "Se va a acabar la dictadura militar" (The military dictatorship is going to end).

The military regime is terrified by the present situation as it can see a sombre warning of the future awaiting them. The capitalist class, the police and the army perpetrated many crimes against the population under the cover of the dictatorship. But what most occupies the minds of the people is the demand to clarify the fate of thousands of missing persons, kidnapped, tortured and murdered during the reign of terror. These are commonly believed to have numbered more than 30,000.

The military junta fears that after the elections on 30 October, the authors of these atrocious crimes may be brought to justice.

Accumulated fury

During these years they carried out a 'dirty war' against anyone who might be connected with political and trade union activities, against anyone who was unpopular with the military regime. Moreover, the repression affected not only adults but even thousands of children disappeared—or were born in captivity.

The accumulated fury of the workers and the Argentine people has reached a new high point. The government fears that pressure from the masses will force the application of legal measures against the perpetrators of these crimes and that the leaders of the Peronist movement (Luder) or the Radical Party (Alfonso) will be unable to prevent it.

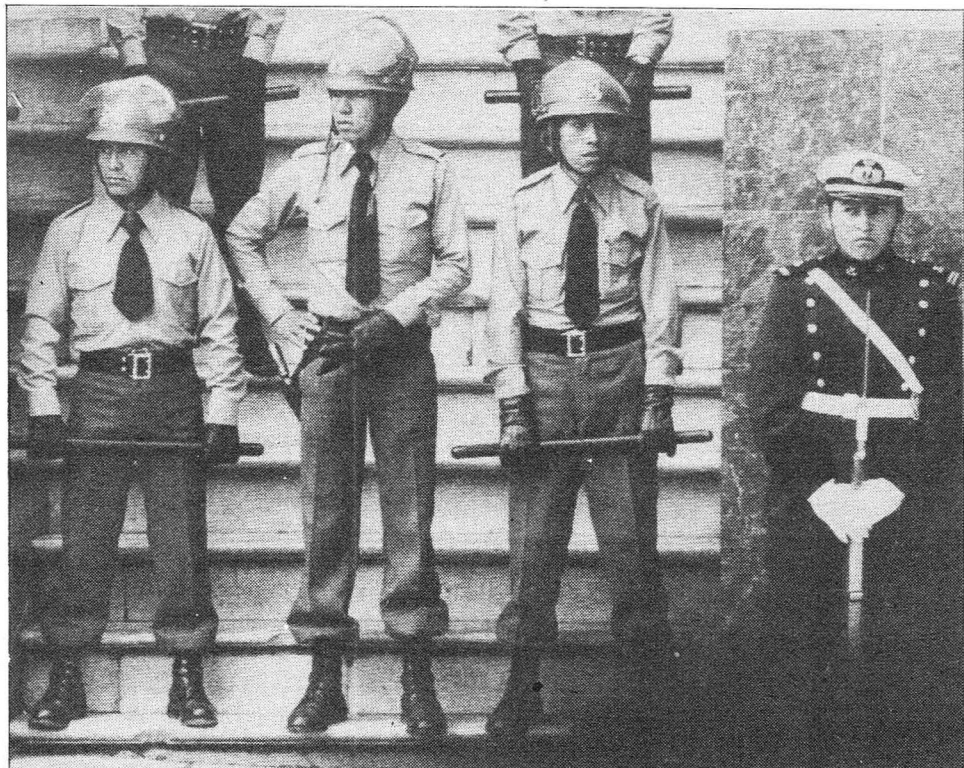
For all these reasons, they have been working out a law, allegedly to "amnesty" all those who committed crimes "for political reasons" in the last period. Clearly, those most favoured by this will be the military and the police.

The prisoners who still remain in jail, estimated at no more than 2,000, have already said that they do not wish to be "amnestied" under the generals' law, in letters smuggled out to different political and civil rights organisations.

In the last analysis this would be a self amnesty law for the army officers. This is something to make anybody's blood boil. The murderers want to turn judge and jury of their own

Continued on Page 11

Latin America



Police in Bolivia's capital, La Paz.

Bolivia

Only the problems are growing

Bolivian tin miners have a life expectancy of thirty.

JUST UNDER a year ago, twenty years of almost uninterrupted military rule in Bolivia came to a close.

Various army-based regimes, usually propping up reaction but sometimes pushed into radicalism, were all desperately unstable as they tried to solve the problems of the third world capitalist countries.

Now the crisis in the profit system has affected all areas of the capitalist world. Not surprisingly, Bolivia's economic and political in-

stability has increased. The last military ruler, General Meza, lasted only two years of savage repression before a virtual insurrection by the workers brought about his collapse.

For a duration, there was a strong possibility of civil war. This was avoided, at least temporarily, and elections were held, won by a Popular Front government under President Hernán Siles Zuazo, comprising the Communist Party, the centre left MNRI and the conservative Christian Democrats.

There have already been three Zuazo cabinets in just

eleven months of Popular Front government. The government now face a strike by 5,000 tin miners at the most productive state-run mine, demanding pay rises of 41% to keep up with inflation which is now reaching 300% a year.

The miners are insisting that the government resist the demands of the International Monetary Fund for cuts in food subsidies and devaluation.

The Bolivian workers and peasants have revolutionary traditions going back many years, but they were prepared to give the new government the benefit of the doubt for a while, to give them time to show they intended to carry through reforms.

But Bolivian capitalism is in no fit state to grant im-



provements for the masses. Debts total \$4 billion in a country with a population one-tenth the size of Britain. Only the tin mining magnates, who are multi-millionaires benefit from the mineral wealth.

Bolivian indebtedness

The most profitable and powerful capitalists deal in death, in the production and smuggling of cocaine. One such racketeer, Roberto Suárez, has a fortune of \$400 million, laundered through cattle ranches.

Suárez's lawyer said, "Bolivia is a very poor country. You can buy an awful lot of people for a few million dollars." Any useful development of Bolivia on capitalist lines is out of the question.

Agriculture is in a crisis; only the problems are growing. A drought this summer forced many hungry peasants to stream into the capital, La Paz. These huge slum shanty towns swelled the urban poor while the food to feed them went down by half.

The IMF restrictions were the last straw which caused the new movement of workers and peasants. The world's money lenders may yet be the most "revolutionary tendency" in the world, sparking off angry protest movements throughout the poorest nations in particular.

Attacks on already meagre living standards led to a demonstration called by the Bolivian TUC, the Central Obrera Boliviana (COB) in La Paz, in protest against austerity moves and coup threats.

They called for postponement of payment of debts, a tactic which the government has partly complied with, following the examples of Brazil and Venezuela. The COB called for union involvement in running industry, particularly the

mines which provide 80% of the foreign income.

This demand caused panic among the ruling class and was firmly turned down, with Zuazo accusing union leaders of being left wing demagogues.

Peasants have followed the workers' lead and they threatened road blocks unless the government provides tractors, seeds and irrigation equipment to help them after the drought.

The COB leaders also promised "fury and desperation" if any new military coup was tried. Bolivia has a long history of coups, (indeed it holds the world record) and of insurrections, where, each time, leaderless, the workers have been defeated, resulting in new and bloodier military juntas.

In the 1950s the Estenssoro government implemented land reforms, but was overthrown by the military. In the early 1970s a radical General Torres carried through other reforms but when the right wing generals overthrew him, he refused to trust the working class and peasantry enough to arm them against the potential dictator.

But all the bayonets and bazookas in the world could not make a capitalist Bolivia stable, as the numerous crumbling military regimes since prove.

The lessons of the not too distant past must be absorbed. The workers and

peasants of Bolivia have the strength, in tandem with their fellow workers in the more industrialised countries of Latin America, such as Argentina and Chile, to take power from the capitalists.

It is the only way out of the endless cycle of blood-thirsty generals and drug trafficking millionaires who have trampled on Bolivia's impoverished masses.

By Tim White
(Hackney South and Shoreditch LPYS)

An opinion poll in the spring of this year showed that sovereignty of the Malvinas (Falklands) was only sixth in a list of issues that Argentines found "worrying". Whereas only 9% thought it their greatest concern, 58% were worried about making ends meet, 46% with unemployment and 30% with inflation. (The Times, September 29)

In the town of Itabira in Brazil, 1500 people, mainly women, seized food from market stalls. In North-East Brazil, 1,000 women forced the mayor of another town to distribute food from stocks. In Sao Paulo food stores and supermarkets were looted. In all, in the last six months, 400 supermarkets, bakeries and food stores have been looted in Brazil.

Argentina

From page 10

crimes and logically, the only verdict conceivable would be to let themselves off!

The law of "self-amnesty", as it is known in Argentina, was not long in provoking an angry rejection by the populace. On 19 August a big demonstration was held to protest at this law called by the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo and human rights organisations. It was supported by most political parties opposed to the military regime.

Depending on which paper you read, the press reported a turn out of between 35,000 and 50,000 but anyone who was there knows that the true figure was far higher. Thousands of demonstrators carried placards with photographs of missing members of their families. Each photo was a mute accusation against the army officers.

It is difficult to convey in words the burning anger of the demonstrators who shouted slogans against the government and demanded that it produce the missing

persons. The tail end of the demonstration had not yet begun to move when the first contingents were already arriving in the Plaza del Congreso, the final objective of the march, where various communiqués were read out in the name of different parties and organisations opposing the "law of amnesty".

This was one occasion when the police did not dare to put a ring around the Palace of Congress, as they always did on previous occasions. They confined themselves to keeping discreet vigilance along the march's route and to flying over the heads of demonstrators in a helicopter.

Young workers

Once again, the streets of Buenos Aires echoed with anti-government slogans as marchers demanded the missing people be handed over and the authors of these horrible crimes brought to justice.

An outstanding feature of the demonstrations was the massive participation by workers, such as the building workers' contingent. The

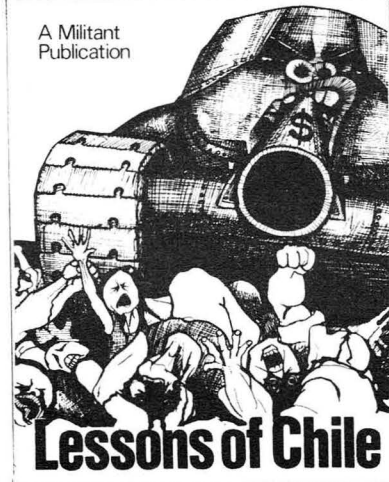
youth too were out in force, above all the Young Peronists who gave a good showing of their ability to bring out large numbers on to the streets.

Not even the blindest of the blind could fail to see in this march against the "self-amnesty" law the real basis of the working class and the masses of the Argentine people crying with one voice "for an end to military rule, crimes and misery".

The fight has begun for an Argentina in which the interests of the working class come first and last, a fight which will start with the overthrow of the junta but will not cease until the imperialists, capitalists and landlords have been expropriated and the wealth of the Argentine nation returned to the Argentine people—the real nation of workers and peasants.

The setting up of an Argentine workers' republic will herald the victory of the socialist revolution on the whole Latin American continent, a giant step in the direction of the socialist commonwealth of the entire world.

A Militant Publication



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



Thoughtful management

Dear Comrades,

While leafletting for the debate at Workshop between Lynn Walsh and Joe Ashton, I visited John Shaw's Wire Ropes. I asked to see the shop steward or any union official, and a gentleman introduced himself as Mr Shaw.

I asked to see the union secretary or shop steward, he immediately demanded the reason for my request. I showed him the leaflets advertising the forthcoming

meeting and asked for it to be placed on the union notice board. "All notice boards on these premises belong to the firm" he said, and then went on to explain that all political material had to be vetted by the managing director and that he doubted if this kind of leaflet would be allowed. How thoughtful of modern management to censor reading material thus saving the workers the time discussing or reading anything other than what the management thought worthwhile.

Yours fraternally
 Ian Whyles
 Workshop

Nation of Androids

In the *Daily Mirror*, the so-called socialist paper, there was a story about an eighteen year old girl who did not get a job because she had a slight limp. I have reached the conclusion that under the Tories we must all now become a nation of androids.

In the name of humanity what next! Are we now to have a hit list of people who have some slight impediment? It seems to me that it has been decided that the scrap heap is not yet large enough, what better way to hurry it along its merry way. I did not write to the *Mirror*, I was so angry and disgusted.

Yours fraternally
 Mrs Anne Ursell
 Sittingbourne

Irish history

Dear Comrades,

In the 665 issue Eileen Herron, at the beginning of her article ("Ireland for Beginners—no place to start") regretted there apparently being no book that (adequately) explains Ireland's historical troubles.

Perhaps I can be of some help here. An excellent book published by Gollancz 1972 and written by P. Berresford Ellis titled "A history of the Irish working class" (ISBN 0575 00626 9) traces Ireland's history from celtic communism until about 1971. The book has 326 pages, has notes on each chapter, a bibliography and index.

Right throughout the book are quotations from historical documents. But far from these inclusions making the going tedious as is quite often the case with other, pro-capitalist publications regarding Ireland, Ellis makes intelligent use of these extracts.

The book's preface praises James Connolly's "Labour in Irish History" as a Marxist classic "...It being the first work to record and analyse Irish history from a socialist standpoint..."

This book must be one of the best (if not the best) works on the working class of Ireland. I feel sure that the book is in public libraries.

Yours fraternally,
 A.J. Downes
 Caerphilly

Abortion reply

Dear Comrades,

I write in reply to Paul Hillier's letter on abortion. The essential point of the abortion argument is that by denying women the right to abortion you are condemning thousands of women to the misery of unwanted pregnancies.

Many unwanted pregnancies occur because of circumstances beyond individual women's control, such as rape, failure of contraception, or simply lack of education.

It seems completely unfair to force them to endure a nine month pregnancy (with



While the Tories push ahead with massive arms spending, hospital queues lengthen.

State of health

Dear Comrades,

I write this letter to you because I don't think the *Sun* will print it. I read a quote from the *Sun* asking health workers where they thought the money was going to come from to stop the cuts in the NHS.

As a health service worker

I think the writer's priorities are wrong. He seems to think it's all right to let people die, so long as government spending is cut.

If one person dies because of the cuts can he say it was worth it? If 8,000 health workers are on the dole it will cost £80 a week each in lost tax and dole costs. Most health workers don't earn

that much anyway.

When you have a government that works for profit and not need, they prefer to throw money away on nuclear weapons than spend the money on badly needed services.

Yours fraternally
 John T Talbot
 NUPE, Leicester

Animal experiments

Dear Comrades,

Millions of animals are used in experiments by private industry for the sake of marketing a product for profit, rather than for the general health and welfare of workers and their families. It has to be accepted that without experiments on animals many of the drugs now available to combat deadly diseases like pneumonia, tuberculosis and polio could not have been developed. However, the majority of research in pharmaceutical industry today is not into conquering diseases but safe areas that are sure to make a profit like copying an existing drug, to get round the patent laws.

20% of all animal experiments are said to be for the protection of consumers or workers in industry, and clearly such Acts as the 1968

Medicines Act and the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act should be defended. However much of the safety testing is on new products such as cosmetics and shampoos where the development of the majority of these products is totally unnecessary. Alternative methods of safety testing should be developed to minimise the number of animals used. However industry is unlikely to invest in such long term projects, as they are only interested in marketing a product at the minimal developmental costs.

The use of animals in research should be monitored by the workers in the industry, and the labour and trade union movement, to ensure that animals are properly safeguarded. Under a socialist plan of production the resources will be available to investigate alternative non-animal methods.

Yours fraternally
 Ann Banister

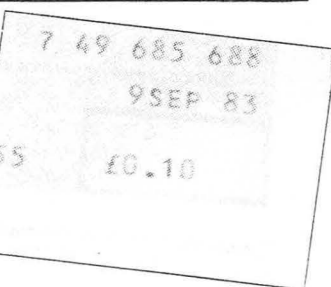
Two bob bonus

Dear Comrades,

I'm one of the millions that the capitalist system cannot afford to employ. Consequently I await the arrival of my Giro cheque eagerly on a Tuesday morning knowing it's all I shall receive for the week.

Last week I had a special surprise, my normal cheque on Tuesday, and another on Thursday. The second cheque, sent by first class post, was for ten pence.

I'm told that it costs 27½p just to process each Giro



cheque. This is just another example of bureaucratic inefficiency within capitalism. A system that allows millions of workers to be idle, and supported by an inefficient state apparatus.

Yours fraternally
 M V Crossland
 Rotherham

More on Daily Militant

Dear Editor

I am a regular reader of your fine paper but was wondering.

When it becomes a daily would it benefit from other subject matter eg. sport, car-

toon, crossword, etc.

Although other newspapers have sunk to the bottom of the journalistic pit, I can see no harm in a paper of mainly socialist news with other topics as a side salad.

Yours fraternally
 M King
 Southampton

Crack of the Tory whip

Dear Militant,

Recently I asked an MP what his reaction was to the setting up of a daily workers' paper, to counteract the biased Tory press.

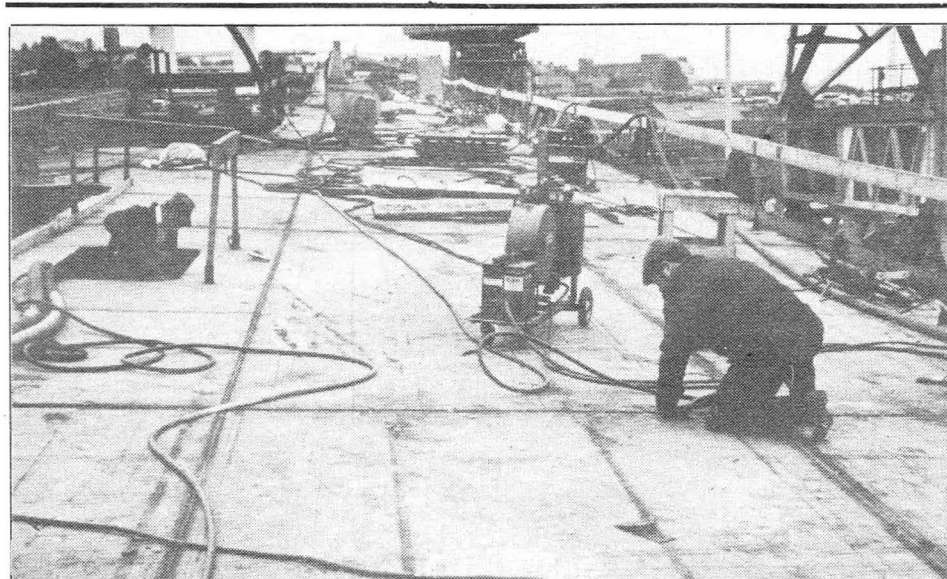
His reply, even for a right winger, stunned me both in its ignorance and naïveté. He replied that he felt that on the whole we got a "fair crack of the whip" from Fleet Street.

He suggested the money would be better spent encouraging people to buy home computers which he felt would replace newspap-

ers in a few years anyway.

Examples exist daily of how distorted the reporting of strikes have become. There can be no doubt of the necessity of a workers' daily. But it looks like it will be a *Daily Militant*, because the Labour leaders have no stomach for the fight, and indeed have little desire to oppose the lies in the papers of their friends and whip crackers.

Yours
 Colin Fox
 Motherwell South LPYS



Are shipyards to become "mere assembly points"?

British shipyards—redundancies loom

Dear Comrades,

As part of the attacks on the working class, management at Cammel Laird have attempted to roll back the gains of previous struggles. They tried divide and rule tactics during a recent welders' dispute and failed.

Then boilermakers in the GMBATU walked out over sub-contracting. This is a vital issue with 1,400 redun-

dancies looming and small firms falling over each other for work. Shipyards could become mere assembly points.

The company has now put forward a plan to 'save the yard'. If accepted this would mean a return to pre-war conditions.

Since nationalisation pay in shipyards has sunk from fourth in the manual pay

NHS charges for pain relief

Dear Comrades,

The dreadful state that Tory policies are putting the NHS into was brought home to me when I was talking to a long-standing Labour Party member at a GMC. This woman has a bad back which has recently been relieved by a "black box" device which emits vibration and eases the pain.

She went back to the hospital and was asked how long she had the device. "About five weeks" she replied, and the consultant said, "well you can keep it for another six weeks and then we'll have to ask you if you want to buy it." He told her it cost £150 and when she told him she didn't have the money, he just said, "why can't one of your family buy it for you?"

This woman has refused to buy the device on principle, she believes pain relief should be free on the NHS, but that means the machine will be taken away from her in six weeks and she'll be back on drugs, which will cost the NHS more in the long run. The benefits of new technology under capitalism are obviously solely for the benefit of the rich.

Fraternally
 Alison Hill
 Gosport CLP

Labour and class

Dear Comrades,

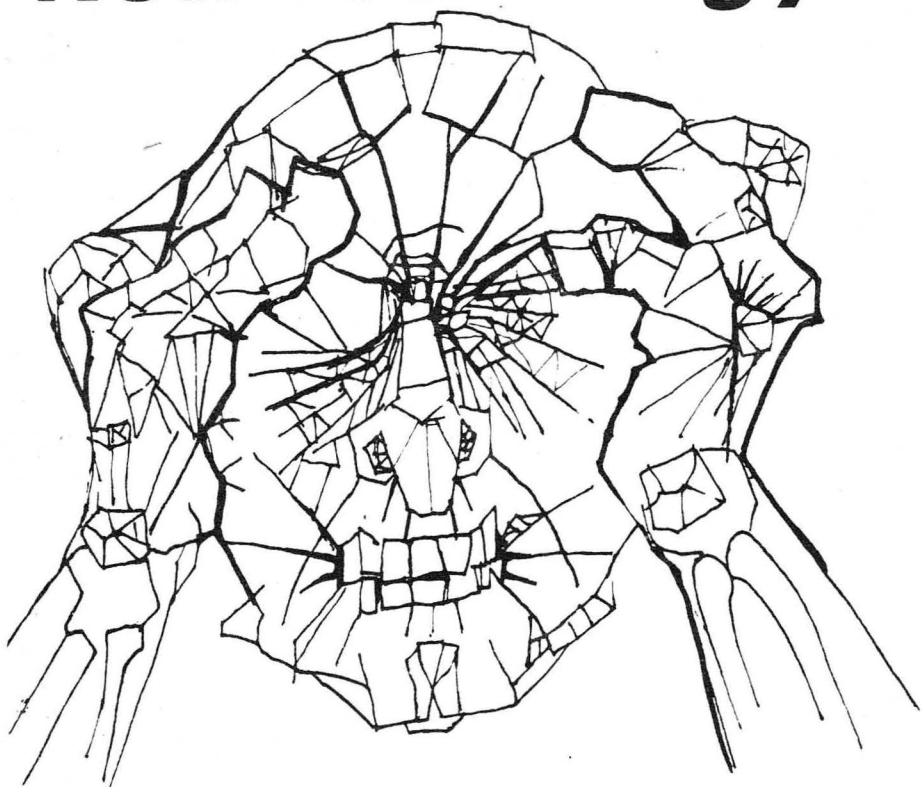
The Labour party was formed to represent the working class of this country.

The Labour Party has over the years, tried to represent other social groups within society and naturally so.

Other social groups should be represented by the Labour Party, but not to the extent that Labour policies, Labour actions in government are to the advantage of those social groups who are better off, who have more advantage than the working class.

Yours fraternally
 T Danville
 Grimsby

New Technology...



Potential to transform society

THE QUESTION is sometimes raised in the labour movement whether computers will lead to a nightmare situation of Big Brother control as in Orwell's novel, 1984.

Socialists are not starry-eyed about new technology.

The development of new missiles and other weapons is based on computerised electronics. Nearly one-third of all the money spent in Britain on research and development is squandered on arms. The exploration of space is prostituted to the needs of the generals in the Pentagon. Computerised laser weapons are now being developed so that military chiefs can play 'Star Wars' by remote control.

Technology should not be seen in isolation from society. It is not an independent force, nor is it neutral as far as the working class is concerned.

Science and technology cannot escape the economic laws of capitalism. The values of capitalist society are reflected in technology.

Yet technology is the greatest achievement

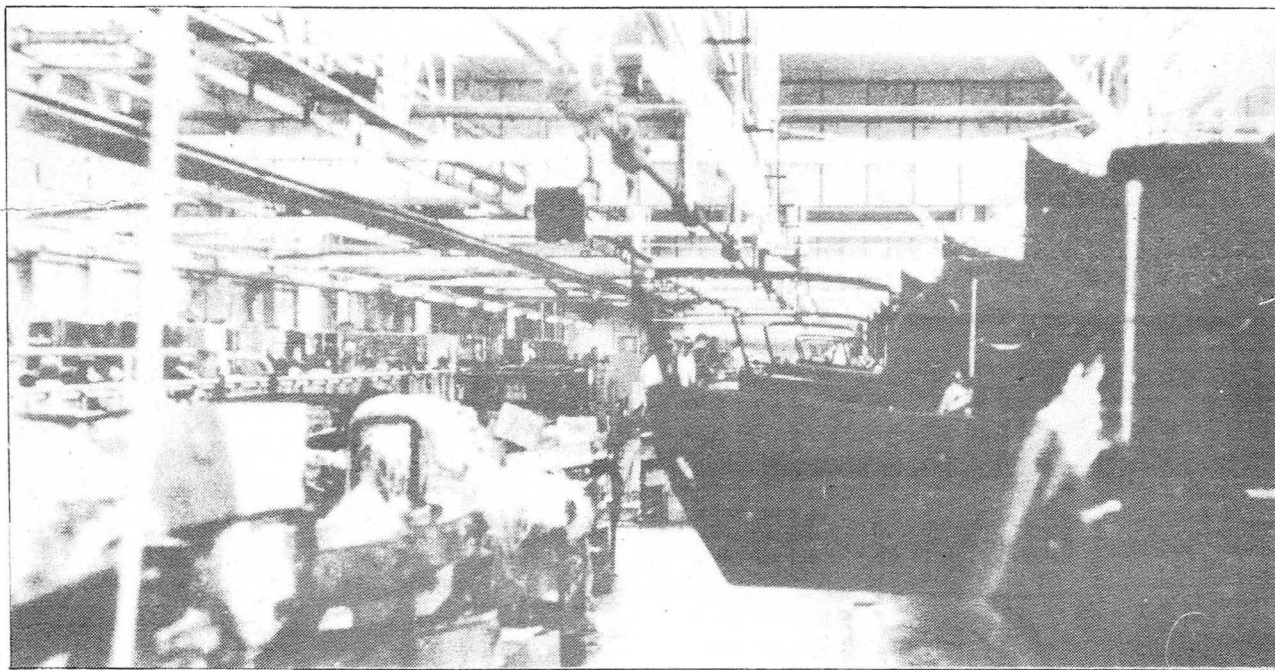
of humanity. The development of capitalist society would have been impossible without a pre-existing level of technical development. The building of socialism requires the technical resources inherited from capitalism.

Trotsky argued that "... technology is the fundamental conquest of mankind, although it has also served up to the present, as an instrument of exploitation; yet it is at the same time the fundamental condition for the emancipation of the exploited." (*Culture & Socialism*, 1926)

As the crisis of capitalism deepens in the 1980s, new technology will increasingly be seen as a threat to jobs, conditions and peace. The potential of new technology, however, to transform society for the better, has never been greater.

Computerisation could mean the freeing of millions to do creative work for the first time. Linked to a socialist plan of production this can become a reality, and humanity advance to undreamt of heights of prosperity and culture.

Oppression or Liberation?



Technology already exists to automate all soul destroying or dangerous jobs.

NEW COMPUTER technology has thrown thousands of workers on the dole queue and increased the exploitation of those in work.

Before the production line at BL Longbridge was computerised 16,800 workers made 145,000 cars. 9,500 workers now produce 250,000 Metros.

White-collar staff in the drawing office have been just as badly hit. When computer-aided design equipment was installed at Rolls Royce the company tried to impose the acceptance of shift work in order to exploit high cost equipment, and of work measuring techniques (quoted in *Architect or Bee* by M Cooley).

Expensive robots

The use of computer-aided design systems has grown rapidly. They make big cuts in staffing possible whilst being much cheaper than computerised manufacturing equipment such as robots.

Stresses and vibrations in the Ford Escort can be analysed by a single engineer in a matter of hours using a computer. The same job would have taken a team of engineers weeks to complete using manual methods.

The implementation of robot technology in Britain has been slow due to the enormous cost. A single robot with ancillary equipment can cost over £100,000.

However, other types of computer technology are already widespread; word processor and data handling systems in offices, computer-controlled machine tools on the shop floor and computer-aided design facilities in the drawing office.

Management are using new technology to justify their onslaught on the labour movement. Workers who oppose redundancies and attacks on conditions are called

Luddites and accused of holding society back.

Trade unionists will welcome computer technology that can do back-breaking and boring jobs if it leaves workers free for creative and socially needed tasks.

The technology already exists to automate all the soul-destroying or dangerous factory jobs. Raw materials and components would be monitored and stock levels maintained.

Material would be moved on a conveyor to a computer-controlled machining centre, which would do the job of all the old shop floor machine tools; lathes; milling machines etc. The finished parts could then be moved to the assembly area where the final product would be made by robots.

Research and development

Computers have transformed research work in science and technology. One example is the analysis of the stresses in very complicated three-

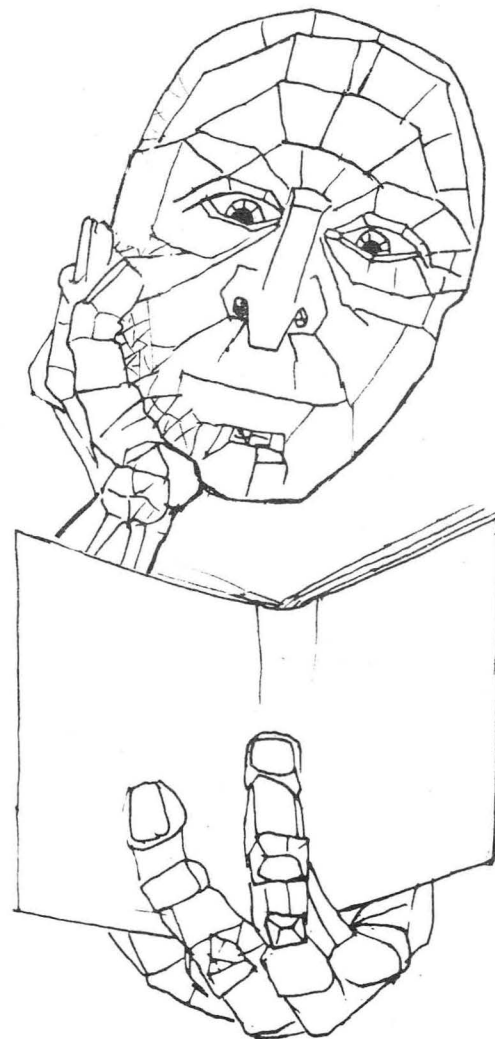
dimensional shapes such as human bones.

In the early days of joint replacement artificial hips sometimes broke in two. Today, with techniques such as computer analysis, the hip joint transplant is a highly successful operation.

Artificial hip joints, designed with the aid of computer programmes have transformed the lives of thousands of arthritis sufferers. The bone is subdivided into hundreds of individual elements and each studied separately. The computer is then used to process and join up the information, producing an overall picture.

A similar approach is being used to find the reasons for low back pain, which is top of the sick-leave league table.

The Alternative Plan, a document drawn up by the Lucas Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, shows how high technology used in the arms industry could provide equipment such as kidney machines and an advanced 'transport' for



disabled children.

An interesting aspect of the plan was the proposal to develop 'telechiric' (hands at a distance) devices which can do dangerous and intricate operations.

Lessons for labour

In the maintenance of North Sea oil pipelines they allow a skilled worker above the sea on a platform to use a pair of robotic 'hands' to check a pipeline by remote control with the same dexterity as his own hands. Telechirics can combine the power of robot 'brain' and the human brain to maximum effect.

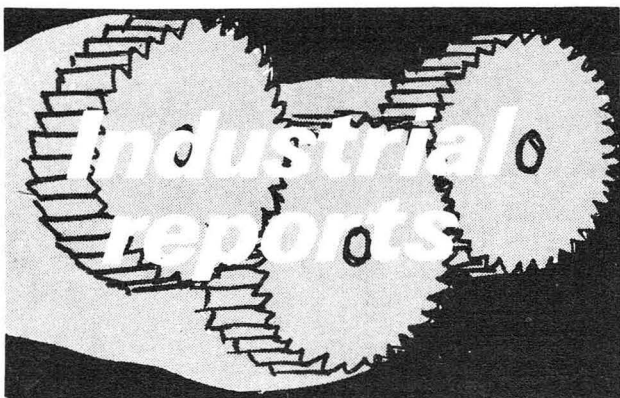
Lucas's response to the idea of producing socially-useful machines was to sack the main

author, Mike Cooley.

The labour movement must fight for control of the way computer and new technology is used, particularly opposing the introduction of the round-the-clock shift systems and work measuring techniques. GEC Rectifiers successfully fought the introduction of shift work when computer-aided design equipment was installed.

The introduction of new technology must be linked to the demand for a shorter working week, so that any labour-saving benefit is shared by all.

By Pete Dickinson
(Bow and Poplar
Labour Party)



VAUXHALL: What happened at Luton?

THE CALLING off of the national strike at Vauxhalls will be a bitter blow to those workers looking forward to the chance to break with low pay and deteriorating conditions, the hallmark of the past few years of depression in the car industry.

The end of the strike followed the decision at a mass meeting of the Luton workers on Tuesday to accept the management's offer.

Earlier, the Vauxhall workers at the Ellesmere Port plant had decisively rejected the offer, and 150 of them travelled down to the Luton meeting to lobby workers to make the same decision. The mass meetings at Ellesmere Port in Merseyside had been accompanied by large scale pickets with plans to picket Hartlepool docks to stop the import of General Motors' vehicles from Europe.

Such was the enthusiasm at Merseyside for the action that many wanted to travel down to Luton: as one striker said, "We could have filled coach loads. We had to leave behind as many as those that came." Their anger at conditions over the past few years was well summed up by one Ellesmere Port picket who said, "We've had our arses kicked these last four years. This is about more than money; pride is at stake. Men have been getting the sack for ridiculous little things."

As thousands of Luton workers arrived for the mass meeting, the Merseyside pickets handed out leaflets that were well received, and the mood seemed to be determined. Even the Tory press has admitted that with the upturn in car sales, especially by Vauxhall, the workers had regained their confidence and their power.

However, any group of workers going into action today have a number of serious factors to take into account, given the present economic and political climate especially in the manufacturing and engineering industries that have taken a hammering under the Tories.

As such, clear-sighted and resolute leadership is looked for. Yet the workers had seen senior officers of the AUEW intervening to derail the strike even before it had begun.

But even that does not fully explain the result at Luton. Only the week before both Luton and Ellesmere Port had decisively rejected the offer and management had already backed down on their demand for 14 and 15 month pay rounds and had doubled the pay offer, albeit still a pittance as the Ellesmere Port leaflet described it.

At Ellesmere Port the angry mood of the workers was channelled into action because of effective leadership, but at Luton where the same mood existed amongst the workforce this leadership seemed lacking.

Many Luton workers were angry on Tuesday at the way the platform conducted the mass meeting. Instead of the platform spelling out the recommendation of the Joint National Committee to reject the offer and ask for votes for and against this JNC recommendation, they instead asked for those for and against the offer.

This caused confusion.

By Martin Elvin

Workers who wanted to continue the strike began to cheer thinking it was still on. As confusion increased the vote had to be taken again. This time the vote was taken for the offer, which the platform considered to be large enough not to bother to take the vote against. Thus the mass meeting was told to return to work the next day.

Angry remarks from workers after the meeting went a long way to explain their feelings at the decision and the wider problems at Luton.

"There you are, report that" one worker shouted at me, pointing to a senior union official leaving the park with a police escort.

Another said, "You could see the way the things were going even yesterday when a number of shop stewards were not even on the gates picketing."

One telling remark was, "You could see and hear the difference between the way the platform were talking last Wednesday when they talked about 'fighting' and 'striking', compared to today when they were just soft as s..."

One bitter worker explained why he was not that surprised at Tuesday's events; "Why all the meetings? They already had a mandate from us to do what they liked. Last time we had an issue, they organised one meeting after another and we lost a lot of pay. Then when it came to action there was none."

However, despite this blow for the Vauxhall workers there were some positive aspects to arise from the dispute. The bosses' attempt to tie workers down with a 14 or 15 month round of pay negotiations instead of the standard 12 month cycle, which would mean pay negotiations at Christmas when there is a reluctance to take action just before a holiday period, was beaten back. And the workers did force a rise well in excess of what the Tories hoped would be the norm for the industry.

More importantly, the way the possibility of a national strike developed as it did—despite its unsatisfactory conclusion—shows the shape of things to come in this industry. Vauxhall workers at Luton and Dunstable, which also rejected the strike, now face the task of learning the lessons of the dispute, comparing the action and tactics taken at their plants, to that of Ellesmere Port. Vauxhall workers must now organise, linking up with fellow workers throughout the Vauxhall and General Motors industry. Central to this task will be to secure leaderships in their respective unions that are prepared for the tasks ahead; leaderships that are capable of achieving victory.



Photo: John Smith (FL)

The action by Residential care workers continues. Above, workers picket Moorfield House in Swinton. Here, 18 members of NALGO have been taking action before the national dispute arose, having been on strike for six months, picketing 12 hours a day.

Life on picket . . . and down the pit

THE YORKSHIRE miners have returned to work (a full report on the strike will appear in next week's issue).

However, one incident during the strike showed disputes are not all anger and bitterness. Dave 'Bub' Buttle of the Dodworth Colliery told *Militant* how he and other NUM pickets kept themselves amused by laughing over the lame excuses given by those workers who wanted to cross the picket line.

The winners were a couple of blokes who said they had to go in and cover up a big

hole. They were frightened someone might fall down it. But everyone else was on strike!

Another was the man who said he had to go in to check if his boots were all right. He had dubbed them the day before and he was worried they would thaw out and crack.

But the best excuse of all was at the Park Hall site where a man said he had to go in and feed the pit cat.

As Bubs put it, "It's a good job you can have a laugh or you'd go mad."

AVON CUTS

ON OCTOBER 4 well over 600 mainly female school dinner workers met at a mass meeting in Bristol to discuss further industrial action to defend local services.

Avon County Council—which is Labour controlled—wants to implement cuts in hours but the workers will still have to do the same work in that time. NUPE officers, EVE ORPEN and ROSEMARY CURRY spoke to BRYAN

BECKINGHAM:

"Avon want to implement a 39-hour working week which for many staff will mean a 2½ hour cut in hours, and will have to work harder as a result, and services will deteriorate. Of the 3,000 employed about half will be directly affected."

"The meeting showed our members' determination to fight. The strength of feeling is very high."

OBITUARY

TONY McKENNA, Branch Secretary of the Brighton Bakers and Allied Workers Union, an active member of Brighton Labour Party and Militant supporter, died suddenly at the early age of 41 this week.

His untimely death has robbed the movement of an energetic class fighter. Tony gave his time and energy to fighting for ordinary working people and particularly against the attacks on the rights and conditions of those working in the modern sweat shops known as bakeries.

Tony and his members faced victimisation many times and, during the long, bitter bakers' strike of 1978, many of his members were arrested on the picket lines. It was during this dispute that a long-lasting, deep friendship and comradeship was formed between Tony and the local Militant supporters.

How we can still remember those long nights and early cold mornings standing on a bitterly exposed hill in Brighton outside the bakery.

Despite the setbacks, Tony was always confident in the future and went on to rebuild his local union branch. As recently

as August of this year, following a dispute at the bakery, Tony was given an instant dismissal. Over 100 of his fellow workers walked out in protest.

At this year's TUC conference, despite enormous pressures from the media and right wing of the labour movement, Tony seconded the Bakers' union resolution opposing talks between the TUC and Tebbit concerning the anti-trade union legislation. Despite Tony's involvement in the trade union movement, he still found time to be active in the Labour Party and spoke out against the expulsions. During the recent general election, Tony featured in the Kemptown election material, calling on his members to support our socialist campaign.

Our sympathies go out to Tony's family. The labour movement will always remember this good class fighter and we in Brighton will renew our struggles to continue the fight to build that socialist society that Tony worked so hard for.

By Brighton
Militant Supporters

DURING THE strike at the Westoe Colliery (see back page) MARGARET REAVEY spoke to two NUM members, NORMAN STRIKE and JOHN McIVER.

THE ACTUAL job itself hasn't changed much. It is still the case that a roof falling in is just a fact of life. Last week we had a collapse right beside us, but we just sat there and finished our sandwiches.

And we are still working hard. What has changed is that we are not getting the rewards anymore. It is impossible to make the bonus. The Board is really on the attack. They are lowering grades and shifting men around, good hard working men are being taken away from their mates and the jobs they know best. Many of the lads here have lost £20 to £30 per week.

In the seven years I've been at this pit, I have never known men so unhappy, so disgruntled, they are at the bottom.

We are being deliberately harassed, this is the new hard line of McGregorism. Management think the men won't fight, and won't back their leadership. But what happened here is like a dog in a corner—you can push him back so far, but then it will bite.

Westoe has never been known as a militant pit, but you have seen for yourself what is happening. The anger, the hatred towards the scabs. Whatever happens in the end, the scabs will be remembered.

The other week we had Giles Shore here, the Minister of Coal (or "Dole" as we call him). He said, "Westhoe is a goldmine," I agree—it is run by nuggets!

Before he arrived, you didn't dare stand still or you would be whitewashed. It's like bloody fairy land. They drafted loads of men, they repainted yellow lines and white lines in the car park replaced windows that had been out all the years I have been here, filled in pot holes that had been alright for us to cross.

They must have spent thousands. He was only here for a couple of hours. And him and the others all wore brand new overalls and donkey jackets. We have had to work in the freezing cold conditions, but can we get new donkey jackets? Can we hell!

We work for a so-called nationalised industry, pits are supposed to belong to the people but they are not. If we had our way, the industry would be run properly, you do that by listening to the men.

Silcock and Collings

WORKERS AT Silcock and Collings, who transport new Ford cars from the plants to showrooms, are now in their second month of strike action at Halewood, Liverpool.

Our strike stems from management's refusal to stick by agreed procedures. The company are out to smash the union using Edwardes' style tactics. They went over the heads of union officials and stewards, calling workers to attend meetings organised by management. Throughout the dispute the company have sent out letters claiming the union is responsible for the strike.

A meeting called by the TGWU was attended by the entire membership. Management, on invitation, also attended and actually began to admit they were in the wrong.

We seemed to be moving towards a settlement when the bosses suddenly threw in another issue—they wanted some new vehicles to be maintained by outside sub-contractors.

During our strike we have endeavoured to keep Ford Halewood plant operating rather than having Ford workers laid off. We have done this through our trade union contacts in the

plant and another transport company Tolemans, who agreed to move the cars to pounds for storage.

Now we've heard that Ford are trying to provoke strikes at Halewood to avoid having to pay lay off money if this strike continues. But it is entirely the trade union organisation and not our company that have kept the plant going.

By Dave Williams
(TGWU, Secretary, Shop Stewards' Committee, Silcock & Collings, personal capacity)

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Journal of Militant supporters in NALGO.
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British Aerospace

The cost of going private

ONE OF the greatest endeavours of the 1974-79 Labour government was the nationalisation of the four major aircraft industries and the creation of British Aerospace.

For the next four years BAe topped each of its previous year's achievements. In its last year as a nationalised industry its total sales increased by £396 million to £1,423 million and its export total was up 40% in value on 1979. It was therefore no surprise that the Tory government denationalised BAe, selling off over 50% of its shares in February 1981.

Many workers at the time became fearful of the future of their industry. The talk then of job losses and closures are all now a harsh reality. In 1982 1,200 jobs went at Bitteswell, Bracebridge Heath and Holme on Spalding Moor. In July this year a further 3,500 redundancies were announced; 2,000 jobs lost with the closure of Hurn, a further 445 in the Manchester Division, and another 1,000 jobs lost throughout the industry.

With denationalisation, BAe is run solely by the Board of Directors and the shareholders in the interest of private profit. It therefore has to compete in the world market, against such giants as Boeing and Mac-Donald Douglas.

Under nationalisation certain markets were secured. The industry to a certain extent could rely on backing from the government for further research and development and to link up orders with British Airways (then nationalised) and Rolls Royce etc.

The BAe chairman has frankly admitted that there is little

Shares sold off

hope of long term success in the civil and military fields without government backing.

Today the industry's funds are provided solely at the discretion of the shareholders. BAe's success is now only measured in increased dividends for the major shareholders.

The current job losses and closures are all part of management's "cost saving" exercise. They react to a shrinking market and fierce competition by closing, hoping that at some future date BAe can take part in a major project as a sub contractor with a massively reduced workforce.

The Tories' main con at the time of denationalisation was to offer workers free shares in their industry. Many workers thought that having shares would give them more say in the running of the industry. Yet even though the workers represent the vast majority of individual shareholders, workers have

By Frank Clayton
(Shop Steward,
BAe Woodford,
Manchester Division)

never had more than 3% of the actual shareholdings. With 75% of Aerospace workers based in those factories facing closure, the question is being raised of, "what use are a few shares without a job?"

But the other main reason why the Tories could denationalise BAe with little opposition was because of the way the industry had been run under nationalisation.

Although nationalisation was a huge step forward it must be said that there were many shortcomings. The "old order" still reigned; while there were improvements workers were still ultimately forced to use strike

What nationalisation should mean

action to obtain any real improvements.

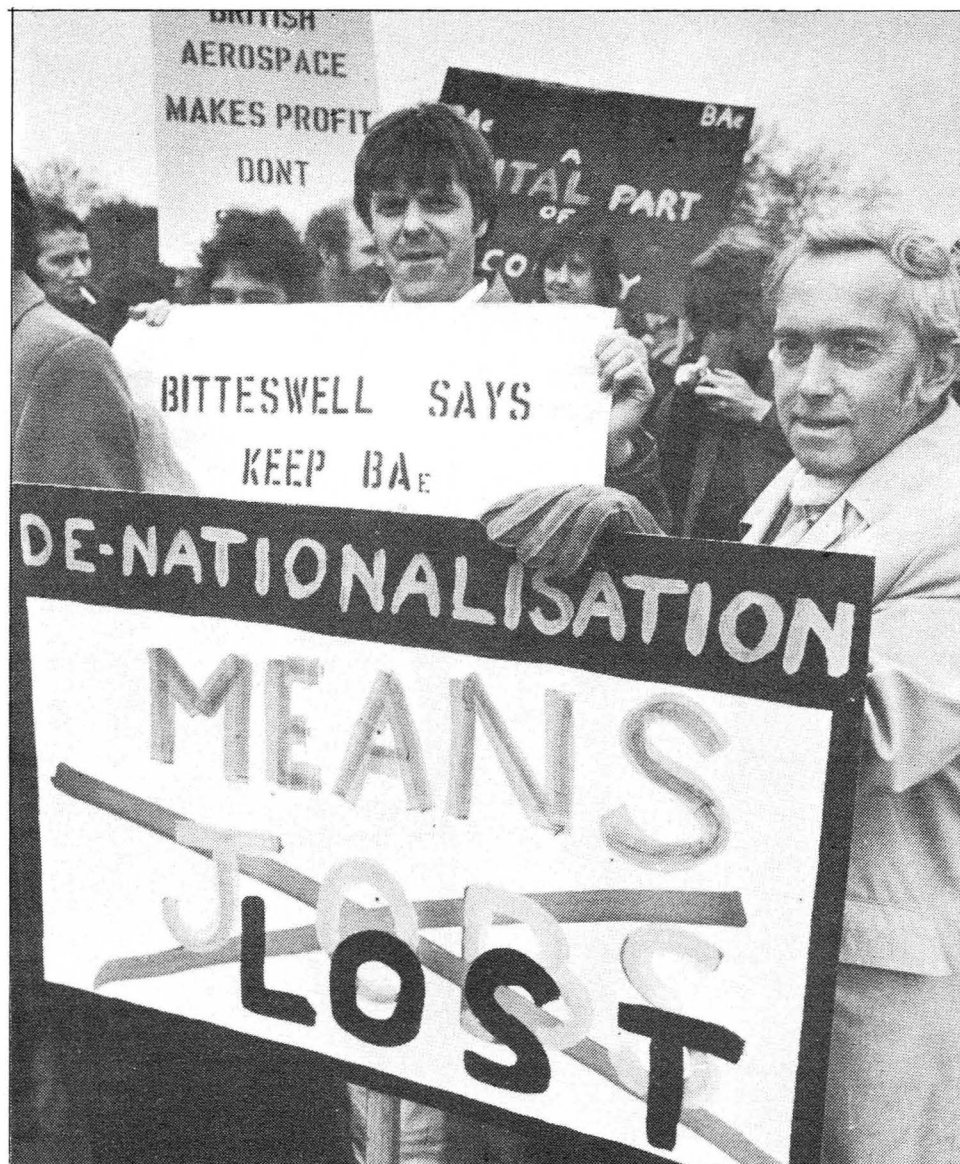
The only answer for BAe is nationalisation under workers control and management. We must fight all redundancies and resist all closures. British Aerospace makes massive profits—these should be used to save jobs.

A national policy to resist management should come from the Aerospace unions combine. Individual plant decisions will only aid management's plans. We must strengthen the combine by opening its meetings to more rank and file shop stewards. The combine should link up a national strategy with other unions in major industries involved—Rolls Royce, British Airways, Ferranti, GEC and Plessey etc.

Union leaders must boldly campaign for the return of a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and to save British industries. A renationalised BAe should be controlled by workers' representatives, the TUC and the government, each with an equal say in the running of the industry, instead of a few individuals using BAe for private profit.

Projects could be planned and financed by the government, and linked up with other major industries. Factory committees could be drawn up to work out the most efficient and democratic way of operating the industry.

Compensation would be paid on the basis of proven need—the workers in the industry would be fully compensated. Only then could BAe be run for the benefit of its workers and the nation. The Tories' present system offers nothing.



BAe workers from Bitteswell demonstrate against denationalisation in 1980. Photo: Militant

If at first you don't succeed...

HAVE YOU ever stood like lemons, with leaflets and papers outstretched whilst cars whiz by at 30 mph through factory gates?

British Aerospace in Poole, who have just announced massive redundancies, was proving almost impossible to leaflet.

With police signs either side of a narrow lane leading to the factory, stating no stopping, we found ourselves one morning driving through the works gates in the mainstream of the traffic unable to stop or turn. Enormous signs were everywhere, "Trespassers will be arrested".

As unobtrusively as possible, we sneaked back out.

What to do next? About half a mile away was a small roundabout. Surely cars would slow down there. Two days later there we stood like lemons, leaflets and papers shot round at speed, late for work.

Barring a leaflet drop by helicopter, the last resort was to try leafletting at a traffic lights about a mile away. Comrades, very sceptical and moaning loudly at 7 am one morning, stood on the islands and began to leaflet.

It was just brilliant. You had to be quick to nip in and out between the cars before the lights changed to green, but even then lots of cars were slowing down to get leaflets when the lights were green.

We were rewarded for persevering when even a Tory BAe worker, who is chairman of his local ASTMS branch, congratulated the YS on a well produced, well thought-out leaflet.

By Julie Harris
(Youth Officer,
Poole CLP)

London Press Branch EETPU

THE SITUATION around the London Press Branch, EETPU has now reached a critical stage.

After a six hour meeting the SOGAT '82 National Executive meeting voted by 17 to 16 to reject the TUC's recommendation for the breakaway members to return to the status quo and that the TUC should re-hear the whole affair. Effectively SOGAT '82 now faces possible expulsion from the TUC with October 26 as the final deadline. If this takes place Fleet Street will face a continuous inter-house struggle over who has supremacy of the hiring of labour, apprentices, etc between the SOGAT and EETPU.

Already a stoppage at the Sun has taken place.

The seemingly entrenched position can only be cut across by an all out attempt to win the hearts and mind of the ex-members. Attitudes of "never rejoining the EETPU at any price" have been mentioned by some, particularly from some of the branch leadership. But nevertheless this is what has to be done.

The Press Branch at its meeting on 27 September passed, overwhelmingly, a motion declaring the urgent need for reunification of the branch in fighting for wages and conditions in the industry and that disciplinary action against ex-members would not be supported.

These sentiments must be put across as part of an all-out effort to convince our ex-members.

In the discussion it was said that despite the major differences many members had with the EETPU—the way it was being run and its policies—the fight must be fought inside the union to change it.

Two sets of chapels and FOCs can only in the long run act in the interests of the employers who while acting the innocent part are already taking advantage of the situation.

Rumours of possible 'UDI' by the London Machine Branch (SOGAT) have been mentioned with a possible regroupment

around the old NATSOPA membership. If this was to happen it would guarantee open warfare in Fleet Street.

Expulsions of SOGAT could also drag its other members into a very difficult situation. SOGAT may reverse its vote. This would be welcome but the ex-members need to be convinced by argument and not just by decisions at the top used to bludgeon them into line. Around this issue is posed the urgent need to fight for real democracy within the EETPU.

By Bob Faulkes
(London Press Branch,
EETPU)

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In brief

THE DISPUTE at Thorn EMI in Lancashire ended last Friday when workers agreed—narrowly—to return to work after five weeks of struggle. The decision followed a stormy mass meeting addressed by both management and the shop steward. Management claimed major investment would be withdrawn with redundancies to follow if the dispute continued. A full report will appear in a later issue.

MILITANT SUPPORTER, Tony Church, has won the election for CPSA organiser in the DHSS Midlands Region. In the ballot held last month, Tony defeated the right-wing candidate by 916 votes to 828.

During the campaign the right-wing attempted a witch-hunt by sending a copy of Tony's election address to the rabid anti-union *Birmingham Evening Mail*. Unfortunately for them, this Tory rag was unable to do a "shock exposé". Tony's election address made it clear that he was a *Militant* supporter and stood as the Broad Left candidate.

NALGO HAS defeated an attempt to stop its members picketing a county council premises in Kent. A High Court judge last week refused to grant an emergency injunction sought against NALGO member Peter Pascall, to stop social services workers employed by the county picketing the council's supplies depot in West Malling. Three hundred NALGO social services members in Kent have been on official strike for eight weeks demanding the reinstatement of shop steward John Kirkpatrick, who was dismissed for taking part in a ban on admissions to family support centres.

BRO. LAURENCE Major of Doncaster Labour Party has written to *Militant* calling for support from readers for 34 workers on strike at Polypipe Ltd. after they joined the TGWU. Laurence said, "Polypipe is a place where workers rights are completely ignored with take home pay as low as £50 for a 40 hour week. Overtime is enforced with the threat of the sack and there are no canteen facilities." The strike has been made official. Send messages of support and donations to Polypipe fund, c/o TGWU offices, 30 Netherhall Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

MANAGEMENT AT British Shipbuilders will be meeting the unions on October 12. BS are adamant that there will be no basic wage increase, but deals linked to productivity. Yet for the past five years shipyard workers have faced job losses and falling living standards. Welder Paul Errington from Sunderland summed up the growing anger of the workers when he told *Militant*, "It is disgusting that after working 39 hours in atrocious conditions men have to go to the local DHSS and claim Family Income supplement, rent and rate rebates, which prove our low level income. We must stand united against these attacks on our living standards."

Corning's Electrosil

A HUNDRED and twenty members of the AUEW have been locked-out at Corning's Electrosil, an American-owned multinational, since September 28. BILL HIGHAM (convener) and JOHN GRAHAM (shop steward) spoke to *Militant*.

This dispute is about wages. The firm after making a loss is now making a profit. Levels of orders have increased to such an extent that we were about to go from one shift to a three shift pattern.

Now we have come for our

share. All we want is a wage increase to maintain our standard of living.

We gave management 28 days strike notice. Our members were becoming more and more restless. In response we called a 24-hour strike. The following day we reported for work. Management told us that they were ceasing to manufacture until we agreed to their terms. This we refused so we were locked out.

The dispute has the full support of the AUEW District

Committee plus the local official. Unfortunately, members of the EETPU are crossing the picket line with full backing from their union.

Nevertheless, the mood is very good. Everybody is involved with the picketing, all four gates are solidly picketed.

Send messages of support to: Bill Higham, c/o AUEW Office, Roker Avenue, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

Militant

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Monktonhall Battles On!

The Tory government and their Coal Board puppets may have thought the miners' spirit of struggle had been broken.

But the determination being shown in local struggles against pit closures and high-handed management will restore the confidence miners need for national action.

By Tam Dury
(SCEBTA Monktonhall, personal capacity)

THE DECISION by the NUM National Executive to make the struggle at Monktonhall official has strengthened the resolve of the miners.

Strike committees have been set-up in the localities. These are co-ordinating the work in the area, contacting other unions and fund raising.

The local strike committee send four delegates to a weekly meeting of the central strike committee, which is responsible for planning further action.

Locally we have been getting tremendous support. Raffles and other fund raising activities have been organised in the Labour Clubs. Easthouses Miners Club have donated £670.

The newly formed (but as yet unofficial) Mid Lothian Labour Party Women's Section have assisted by making up food parcels. The local workers are solidly behind us.

The LPYS locally have organised a number of meetings, the first held at Mayfield last Tuesday.

The local miners consider this is the final show-down for Scotland.

If the NCB win and force us back to work it will be the green light for every manager to put the boot in.

Monktonhall would then close and it would soon be followed by others.

We must now start contacting every area. Speakers should go to every pit to explain our case. Special meetings must be organised with other collieries under threat so that a common approach can be agreed about the tactics to escalate the battle to save pits.

If miners from Scotland, Durham, Wales, etc. made a

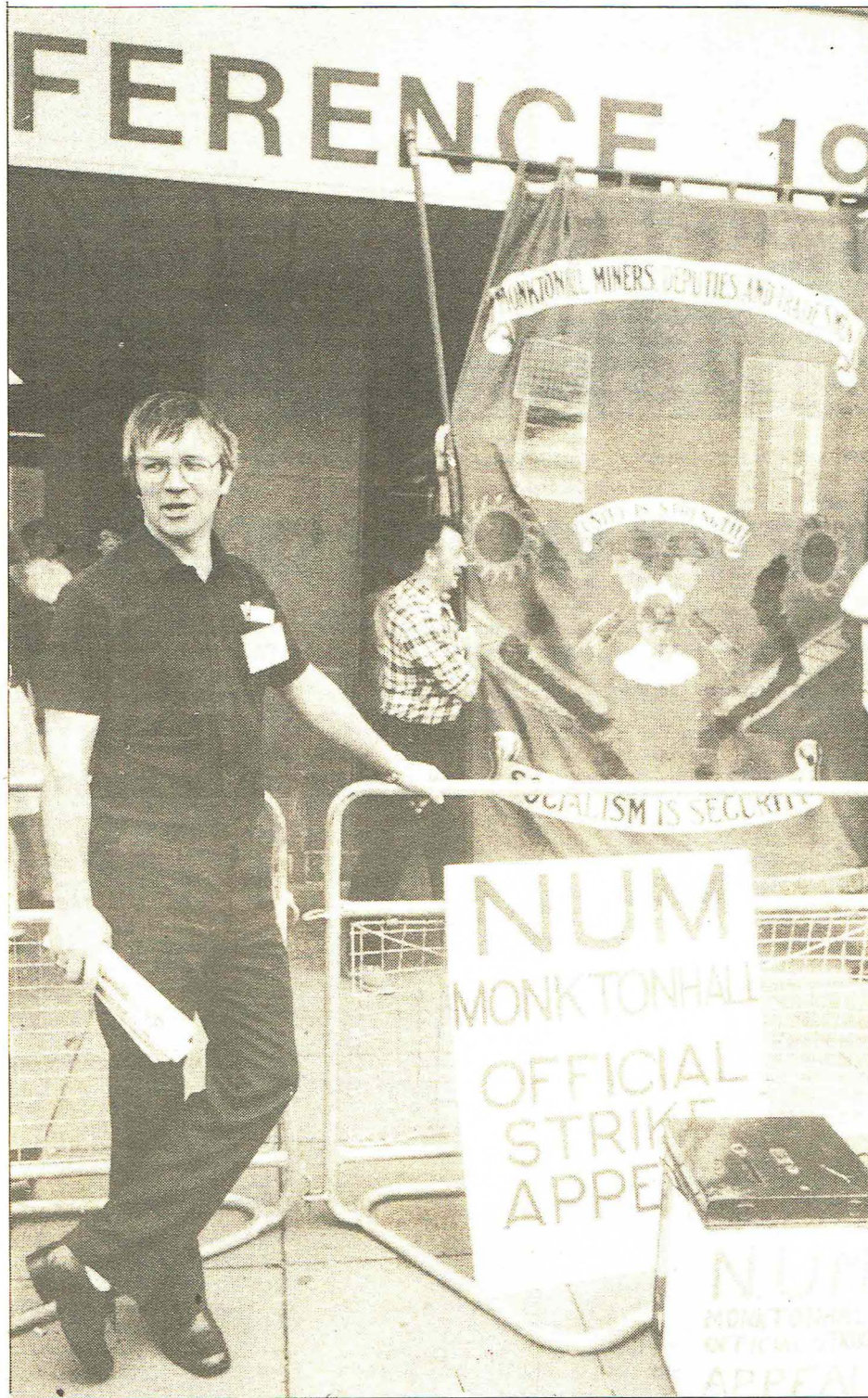


Photo: Militant

Monktonhall miners outside Labour Party conference in Brighton; miners have always stood by the labour movement—now they need support. Photo: Militant

joint approach, then the miners would respond. It should be remembered that 70 pits are under threat—every area will be affected. In the past it has been possible to transfer men to other pits but this option, in areas like Scotland, is dead.

The union, nationally, is committed to a fight against pit closures, so along with

delegates from the threatened pits, national and area officials should be fully involved.

The Scottish coalfield must first be brought to a standstill and then the action spread throughout England and Wales.

MacGregor is demanding a speed up of the closure of pits. The NCB, with the

Tories behind them, will not listen to our arguments, no matter how eloquently presented, unless backed up by our industrial muscle.

Messages of support and donations should be sent to: Monktonhall Joint TU Strike Committee, c/o Dalkeith Miners Club, Woodburn, Dalkeith, Mid Lothian

achieving socialism, judging by some of the contributions at conference this week. But we do not share the view of these professors of pessimism.

"The working class, through the major organisation of the labour movement, still have immense power. Armed with a rounded-out socialist programme and given a fighting

lead by the Labour Party and the trade unions, the working class will have the strength and the will to put an end to the horrors of the present system and to achieve a socialist society."

The Militant meeting, which was also addressed by Ted Grant, another of the five expelled, and Terry Fields, MP for Liverpool Broadgreen, and attended by

400 conference delegates and visitors showed the enormous optimism and confidence among a broad section of the conference. The collection of nearly £1,800 for the Militant Fighting Fund also added a strong note of defiance to the witch-hunters in the party, and showed that far from dying, support for Militant will only get stronger.

Westoe Miners Win

THE MINERS at Westoe colliery, South Shields decided on Sunday to return to work after a week on strike. The management had initially intended to impose a four shift system but have now agreed to return to the status quo.

The issue will now be taken back for negotiation, with the management trying to introduce new shifts by appealing for volunteers.

This represents a victory for the miners in Westoe, and shows that dictatorial management methods will not be tolerated.

During the strike, NUM pickets Norman

Strike and John McIver spoke to Margaret Reavy:

"Management thought we were finished, they had many of us working for £60 to £70 per week, in terrible conditions. We have voted against industrial action three times in a row, so they felt confident. They said to hell with the local negotiating machinery, and started to just issue notices and written orders.

"The other part they played is the 56 million tonnes of coal stockpiled, but that has done nothing to us in this dispute. I reckon they have had a hell of a shock."

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"Clause 4 also calls for a democratic system of administration and this should be given practical effect by a Labour government, through workers' control and management in all the nationalised industries.

"The right wing and some of the left too, seemed to have abandoned all hopes of