

# Militant

THE MARXIST PAPER FOR LABOUR & YOUTH

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FURTHER INFORMATION  
PHONE OXFORD 775210

Tory party tensions  
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Interview with Chilean  
strikers—see page 11



Photo: Andrew Wiar (Report)

POEU members applaud fellow members who refused to cross picket lines at Colombo House, London.

## Fight For Telecom Jobs

**POST OFFICE Engineering union members in British Telecom are fighting for the survival of their jobs and this vital public service.**

The *Sunday Telegraph*, the mouthpiece of the Thatcherite wing of the Tory Party, has suggested that 100,000 jobs could be slashed from the industry in the wake of privatisation.

The Tory government is eager to dismantle the public service in favour of private profit—to reward their rich friends and big business backers whose money paid for the Tory

By a POEU member

election victory.

The Tories have already installed a hatchet man as the Chairman of BT to ensure their plans are faithfully carried out. Sir George Jefferson was transferred from British Aerospace after axing thousands of jobs.

But it is not only jobs that are threatened. The

rights and conditions built up over many years by the unions in the Telecoms industry are also for the chop. BT made this obvious in recent talks with the POEU.

The *Guardian* recently reported that, "BT have made it clear to the unions that they were not in a position to negotiate on the wages and conditions of POEU members after privatisation"!

Mass suspensions, lock-outs, personal intimidation and now the threat of sackings by BT management have failed to break our members' resolve to defend the service.

Our industrial action  
Continued on back page

## End Tory Arms Madness

Secret documents published by the *Observer* last Sunday knocked a great hole in the Tories' propaganda over Cruise.

Reagan and the US military—backed up to the hilt by Thatcher—have argued that Cruise missiles are being sited in Britain and Western Europe to 'counter the threat' of the USSR's new SS-20 missiles.

Yet the documents show that Cruise along with the Pershing missiles, were simply part of a modernisation plan for NATO. The 'Cruise v SS20' argument was only adopted after growing opposition to Cruise—Reagan, the Generals and Thatcher

Continued on back page



Photo: Militant

CND rally before Labour Party conference at Brighton.

£1 m  
spent on  
arms  
every  
minute  
See  
centre  
pages



# Militant

## Tory party conference - the tensions return

**DURING THE** recent election campaign an American newspaper commented that Margaret Thatcher had "suspended normal politics".

The real economic and social problems faced by the mass of workers were indeed pushed into the background during the campaign, so that even Ian Gilmour, well-known Tory "wet", could comment recently that the Tories won the election despite and not because of their economic policies.

But now, after the Tories' electoral triumph, all the spectres of economic and social crisis are coming back to haunt them. "Normal politics" are resumed.

The highly polished and stage-managed Tory conference presented the usual plastic facade of unity, but serious debates were taking place in the fringe meetings outside. The hard-liners in the Cabinet are now demanding further massive cuts in public expenditure, amounting to £2,500m, while the "wets" are getting ready to oppose them.

"We need to look carefully at all our government spending programmes," wrote Nigel Lawson in the *Sunday Express* (October 9, 1983), "to see whether we can afford all that we are providing, and whether in some cases increasing

demands cannot be better met from the private sector." Thatcher, in her conference speech, appears to have endorsed this view: that big cuts are necessary in order to finance further tax concessions to the Tories' friends among the rich and well-to-do.

### Tories indifferent

This wing of the Tory party would be prepared to snuff out what vitality there is left in the welfare state. They are completely indifferent to the plight of low paid workers, those reliant on supplementary benefits or unemployment pay, and to the needs of the health service. They would be prepared to cut all these.

But the huge Tory majority in Westminster will not be taken by the mass of workers as a mandate for the implementation of the secret Tory manifesto of destroying the health service, cutting unemployment benefits, and so on. Tory "wets", realising this, have lined up behind Francis Pym to express their opposition to further cuts, because they have a more realistic view of the enormous reaction these measures would unleash.

Even John Biffen, formerly one of the hard-liners in the Cabinet, commented at a conference fringe meeting that "the electorate would take its revenge on any party which made deep inroads into the welfare state."

The health service is

potentially a big political issue. A Mori poll published last week in the *Sunday Times* indicated that there was a majority of 58-34 in favour of retaining public expenditure, even if it meant an increase in taxation. There was even a majority of Tory voters, of 52-39, for the same proposition.

Biffen, Pym and other Tory "wets" can see the possibility of big movements of workers against the Tories' industrial policy. They can see that the slight recovery in the economy will peter out within a year or eighteen months, leading to a further economic recession, worse than the last.

### Thatcher in minority

Even during the the period of so-called 'recovery' unemployment is likely to increase. The "wets" can see that a policy of cuts, cuts and more cuts, could very well lead to social upheaval like the riots of the summer of 1981, except on an even larger scale.

In the Autumn of 1981, after the shock of the riots, Thatcher was in a minority in the Cabinet over her demand for further public expenditure cuts. Leading Tories were speculating about the possibility of her being replaced as party leader.

All those pressures and tensions within the Tory Cabinet were removed for a



period of time during and after the Falklands War, but they have now returned with added fury.

It seems in the recent weeks that even the capitalist newspapers, unusually for them, have been prepared to pan the Tories. *The Financial Times* editorial, for example, (10 October, 1983), referred to the Tories' huge majority, but also, "an apparent ebbing away of any sense of direction".

It is because of the pressure she feels upon herself and her politics, that Thatcher tries to surround herself in the Cabinet with

her own acolytes. The recent Cabinet reshuffle has brought Nicholas Ridley to the fore, a firm supporter of Thatcher, in effect to replace the loss of Cecil Parkinson.

But it is still a possibility, as was the case two years ago, that Thatcher may be defeated on the question of cuts in the Cabinet.

In the long run, the differences of opinion and minor splits in the Tory Party and the Cabinet will become enormous chasms. There is no fundamental difference between the "hards" and the "wets", except that the former are oblivious (at

present) to the enormous bitterness and opposition they will provoke, while the latter are all too well aware of it.

Instead of a sense of jubilation in the Tory Cabinet after the election there is only uneasiness. Faced with massive trade union struggles and opposition to their policies they will soon be at each other's throats. The opportunity, therefore, for Labour to advance, successfully, a radical socialist alternative will become better than it has ever been. Labour must shape up to do just that, to point a way out of the dead-end of Toryism.

## VICTORIAN VALUES

**DOUBLE-DEALING, double-talk and double standards were the hallmark of the Victorian ruling class.**

So it was an appropriate end for the ministerial career of Cecil Parkinson, who spearheaded the Tory campaign for a return to last century's values. Parkinson, the Tories' 'Mr Clean', was a true Victorian politician.

At last year's Tory conference, Parkinson claimed that the Tories would bring honesty and morality back into British political life.

Quoting from his favourite hymn, he said Tory philosophy was: "In the strife of truth with falsehood, for the good or evil side, then it is that the brave man chooses, while the coward steps aside."

Tory leaders would not go in for "false promises or appealing half truths" otherwise "expectations will be puffed up, hopes will be raised, plain speaking and truth could seem less attractive than half truths". It was a similar story



Cecil Parkinson.

throughout the election. The Tories were morally superior to Labour, because Conservatives stood for the sanctity of family life, whilst extremists wished to subvert it.

Now it transpires that on election day itself, Parkinson was busy telling Thatcher he had got his mistress pregnant. Throughout September his lawyers were haggling over how little they could hope to reveal in a public statement over the affair. Currently he is negotiating how much maintenance payment he will

pay the mother of his latest offspring.

Parkinson can afford to be lavish. He married into wealth; his father was a railwayman, but according to the *Sunday Times*, Parkinson found this too embarrassing; so he told interviewers that he was not exactly sure what his father did.

But his marriage into the Jarvis building firm made him a millionaire; he now has a town house in Pimlico, a Queen Anne residence in the country and a holiday home in the Bahamas.

Reportedly, the settlement for Ms Keay's child will include provision for private education, and the total figure will come to over £150,000.

Tory politicians have stressed that the whole affair is strictly private. They have castigated the media for prying, and called on everyone to be sympathetic. Can we now expect the same sympathy for social security claimants, who unlike Ms Keay, are on the breadline. Or will they still be denounced as "spongers"?

Will we see the end of the Specialists Claims Control, who ruthlessly snoop into claimants' private lives? Or, once the waters of the Parkinson affair have closed over them, will the Tories continue their charade of Victorian hypocrisy?

By Jim Chrystie and Derek McMillan

## THE YES-MINISTERS

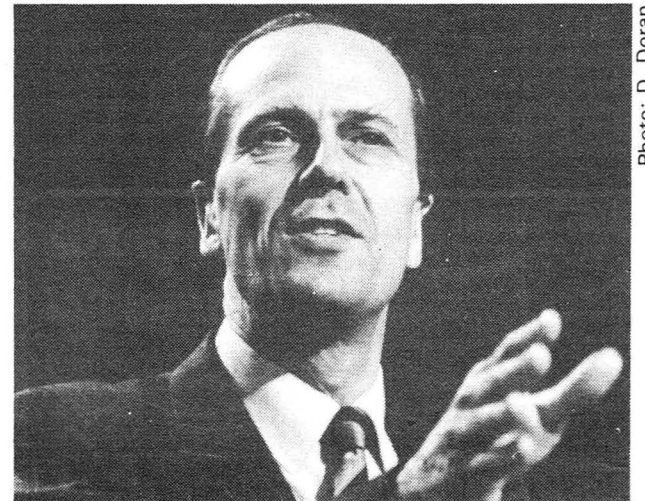
**THE NEW** Tory cabinet ministers are hand-picked right wingers reflecting Thatcher's monetarist views. No "wets" for her.

Probably driest of all is Nicholas Ridley, who at last gets his reward for championing monetarist cuts before practically any other Tory. He is made Transport Minister.

Ridley is an old Etonian, the brother of the fourth Viscount Ridley, from a family who were coal and steel owners in the North East before nationalisation. Despite the lavish compensation, old Nick remains a fierce opponent of public ownership.

While in opposition, in 1969 he wrote the "Ridley memorandum" on the ailing Upper Clyde Shipbuilders which recommended carving up the firm, hiving off Yarrow Yard and selling whatever was sellable to private industry. When Edward Heath came to office, in his own monetarist "Selsdon" days, Ridley's plan became government policy.

In opposition again, in 1978 he devised a strategy to destroy the unions. First take on groups like the steelwork-



Norman Tebbit, new Minister for Trade and Industry.

ers and civil servants and then move on to more powerful unions. Again his thoughts were made flesh in Thatcher's government.

*Militant* (14 October) gave details of the Young Tories who lived in the flat used by Heritage Tours, a tour company allegedly run by National Front members. According to the *Daily Mirror*, this West End Georgian flat is the home of Nicholas Ridley, though Ridley himself says he had no idea of the nature of Heritage Tours or of the fact that the Westminster National Front's election address was published from his home. Another promotion

pushes Norman Tebbit, who needs no introduction, into Parkinson's old job at Trade and Industry. The Chingford boot boy wants to get stuck into privatisation, particularly of Telecom.

Tom King takes over from Tebbit at the grotesquely misnamed Employment Ministry, and takes care of anti-union legislation. King lacks Tebbit's unique charm but he is every inch a Tory. He proved this to water workers in their strike last winter, when he insisted on employers offering no more than 4% to those vital, but low-paid workers.

By Roger Shives

Photo: D. Doran



# YOUNG WORKERS

**MERSEYSIDE branches of the LPYS are preparing for the Young Workers' Assembly on 10 December.**

Factories and workplaces with large concentrations of young industrial workers, or YTS trainees, will be given top priority. In Merseyside, a big drive will be made towards workers in the NHS, local authorities, British Telecom, Fords and Vauxhalls and young civil servants, in places like Bottle Giro.

Each YS branch will be adopting a number of factories to build links with young workers in the workplace. We aim to hold meetings of YTS trainees and shop stewards in the workplace, to be addressed by YS speakers, calling on the youth to adopt our Young Workers' Charter, and get their union to send a young worker to the assembly on 10 December.

If the management refuse to allow the YS in the workplace, we will hold factory-gate meetings to make sure our ideas reach into the factories. Shop stewards' committees, local unions and YTS schemes will also be invited to send delegates along to our Youth Training Scheme council.

This will be organised by the LPYS, and the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) on Merseyside to monitor health and safety of young trainees, and to fight for better wages and conditions, and also very importantly, publicise the exploitation on YTS schemes.

This council will be a launching pad for the Young Workers' Assembly. Apart from the workplaces, local technical colleges, and youth clubs will also be visited by branches of the YS, and each YS branch will be holding a public meeting on conditions for young workers and the prospects facing youth.

As well as these meetings and the build up to 10 December, St Helens Young Socialists are holding their own Young Workers' Assembly. Merseyside LPYS understand the vitally important role that young workers play in the struggle for socialism. We will be campaigning for a huge turn out for the Assembly in December.

By Ray Murray



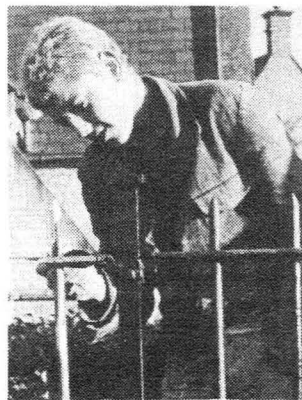
Young workers were amongst the most active during the water workers dispute. Visit the workplaces and build for 10 December.

## DEMAND THEIR RIGHTS

THE LPYS in Swindon has actively turned its attention to winning industrial youth to socialism.

The campaign, designed to reach every section of the labour movement in the South West region, will culminate in a one-day industrial conference, on Saturday 12 November.

Leafletting and paper sales have got an enthusiastic response, coupled with a wide range of financial support, from a variety of organisations including Swindon Women's Council, and North Wiltshire CLP, who have donated £50 to sponsor and support the conference. The main issues of the campaign are privatisation, redundancies



Visit the youth schemes and campaign for the Young Workers Assembly.

and youth.

Shop stewards' committees and factory estates will be visited to really push the conference and underline the

importance of drawing together the movement in the struggle against the Tories and their big business backers.

The conference runs from 11.00 till 4.00 on Saturday 12 November, at AUEW Hall, Fleming Way, Swindon. Speakers so far include: Bill Mullins (ex-Rover, Solihull), Bob Russell (NUR, London), Bryan Kelly (POEU, Bristol), John Sharpe (AUEW TASS, Rolls Royce, Bristol), and Matt Read (LPYS NC member).

It will be a marvellous preparation for the national assembly in December. Be there!

By Tom Harman  
(Swindon LPYS)

## The cruel sport of Tory-hunting

**THE YOUNG Conservatives recently invited the LPYS in Edinburgh area to debate the motion that "A Labour victory would have been disastrous for Britain".**

Eddie Donaghy, YS rep on the Labour Party Scottish Executive spoke for the LPYS, explaining the wasteful misery of Tory

poicies and outlining how socialist policies could be used to rebuild the industrial wastelands and present new hope for youth.

The two YC speakers merely confirmed that the LPYS were on an entirely different political plane. The YC statements were com-

pletely devoid of reality, with whimpering attempts to defend Thatcher's cuts and attacks on young workers. The LPYS were dismissed as "extremists": one speaker described Eddie as "almost as extreme as Tony Benn."

The discussion itself showed the inarticulate incompetence of the YC. The summings-up again distinguished Eddie as the clear victor in every argument.

The YC speakers muttered

half-heartedly from prepared speeches. The chairman, a Tory councillor, then proposed the final humiliation—a vote on the motion (which brought appeals for a secret postal ballot from LPYS members!). The motion was lost 18-12.

We probably won't be granted a return match, but every area should take part in an event like this, before someone bans Tory-hunting as a cruel sport.

# Profits or lives?

**BOB WYLIE'S speech at Labour Party conference on YTS shows how two-faced the government is. Last month a court in Coatbridge heard of the death of YTS trainee Sean O'Brien.**

Totally without supervision, or being told of the risks. Sean was ordered to clean a machine with paraffin soaked rags. Next, he warmed himself by a heater, and his legs caught fire. Soon he was totally covered in flames. Sean died in hospital five days later.

Last month the firm, Rosehall Engineering Ltd, was fined only £800.

What is the response of the government? The Health and Safety (HSC) has just "declared" that trainees have the same rights as ordinary employees. Apart from that, there is to be "better communication" between the Manpower Services Commission and the Health and Safety Commission, and nine regional safety advisers are to be appointed.

How can nine more people make any real improvement in safety for hundreds of thousands of trainees? When you consider that large numbers of trainees are taken on by managing agents, the value of the HSC is seen to be useless, as the trainees really work in locations which are not even on the HSC's list of workplaces!

James Wiltshire, head of occupational policy in the MSC's training division, commented: "It is surprising how often one gets trainees in places where there is no requirement to register."

It is not surprising at all in my opinion. Employers value making profit more highly than workers' lives. Especially if they only have to pay £800 for every trainee who is killed.

Only the pressure of the trade union movement nationally and locally can ensure safer conditions for YTS trainees. Get involved in the unions, your life may depend on it.

By Matt Miller  
(Colchester North LPYS)

## Southend LPYS

PETER TAAFFE'S words at Labour Party conference, "You can't have unity and expulsions" rings particularly true in Southend.

With unemployment, and bad housing among the many issues that concern youth in Southend, they are still faced with continuing organisational attacks upon the LPYS.

At present, elected representatives of the LPYS have been banned from attending meetings of Southend YS. A resolution was moved by the YS at the recent Southend GMC calling for a meeting between Southend YS, Southend LP Executive Committee, and the banned YS representatives, to resolve the problems that exist.

An amendment was moved by the right wing which supported the meeting, but wanted to exclude those who were banned. This was carried on the casting vote of the chairman.

This is yet another attempt to stifle debate within the party. Not only does the right wing wish to interfere with the political education and discussions that take

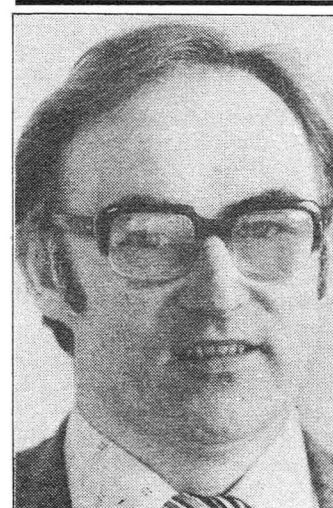
place in the YS, they are not even prepared to discuss the issues with the members they want to ban.

This again shows that the right wing have lost the political argument and can only resort to organisational manoeuvres in an attempt to prevent the LPYS from building and gaining support. Officials of Southend LP have virtually interrogated YS members with questions such as: "Who printed and wrote leaflets for a public meeting?" The answer is YS members!

They asked, "Why was John McKay on the platform at the meeting?" He is the LPYS NC member for the Eastern Region. They even asked, why were there Militant supporters at the meeting. It was a public meeting!

Some sections of the Party seem not to have realised that witch-hunts do not gain support from Labour voters. All witch-hunts and attacks upon the LPYS must be defeated.

By John McKay  
(LPYS NC member)



Peter Taaffe, editor of Militant spoke at a meeting of over 300 in Liverpool despite clashing with the Hungary-England football match live on television. Militant speakers have also been heard in cities like Birmingham, Newcastle and Coventry and smaller towns like Ystrad Mynach in Glamorgan.

Reports next week.



# Great effort last quarter!

## Organise now for new target

**A BIG 'thank you' to all those who sent donations during the year's third quarter. The £36,461 raised meant we achieved 73% of target.**

In the last ten days, money was coming in at a rate of nearly £1,000 a day.

Thanks also to all those who sent us money this week, two unemployed supporters both managed to donate a fiver, Steve Wood from Ellesmere Port and I Savastio; other fivers came from, Frank Carrigan (Strathclyde NALGO), Stan Beynon (Pontypridd Town Ward Labour Party), Sara Rolfe (Secretary, Southend branch NUPE), Paul Dyson (York NALGO), Bill Murray (Birmingham). Other donations included Arthur Donaghy (Banknock LP) £3 for three papers, P Hamer (Huddersfield) £2, Jim Ryan (Dagenham LP) £2, *Echo* reporter Bob Burns from the Wirral area gave £2 for his paper as did Grant Webb (Hayes ASTMS), Maggie Hill (Charring Cross Hospital NUPE) £1.50, John Moynihan (POEU LNCI branch) £1, G Simpson (Brixton LP) £1, Steve Bradley (Bermondsey CLP) £1, "Marie" from Huntley and Palmers (Huyton) £1, K Simpson (East Lothian) £1, Dave Mitchell (Cleethorpes) £1 for his paper and Fiaz Rashid (Batley) 50p.

Many Labour Party Young Socialists' branches sent in donations; Pontypridd YS £20, Poole YS £10, Bournemouth West YS £10, Bethnal Green and Stepney YS £5, Stevenage YS £4.19, Stockton YS £2.85, and Brent East YS 50p.

Donations from other organisations included £3.50 from members of Hull AUEW No. 12 branch and over £2 from Leicester Labour Club.

Many hundreds of pounds came in from public



Photo: D Doran/Militant

In the coming months we cannot rely on the media to 'publicise' *Militant*. (Above) an impromptu press conference after the five Editorial Board members were expelled from the Labour Party.

meetings held over the last week of all areas of the country.

Other activities which helped get the money included: raffles, sponsored events, socials, including a Marxist Fancy Dress which raised over £25 for Chatham supporters, sales of posters and badges, market stalls, and pontoon tickets. Collecting tins were rattled and appeal sheets taken round; Selly

Oak raised £21 from one appeal sheet—and extras were collected from paper sales.

This quarter has been a success but next quarter we must try to raise what we didn't quite manage this quarter. We need the finances to pay for new premises and for new equipment from typewriters to a computer.

The overall target must be

met if we are really going to go forward. Get organised now! Now is the time to organise your jumble sale or xmas bazaar—get organised early for a successful money-spinner.

The Winter Draw tickets will be available soon. So there are plenty of opportunities this quarter for going way over the target.

By Kath White

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 8 October
Eastern	1961		2400
East Midlands	1557		2650
Humberside	803		1450
London East	2342		3100
London West	1050		1950
London South	1875		2700
Manchester & Lancs	2180		3000
Merseyside	2200		3300
Northern	1898		3500
Scotland East	1542		2000
Scotland West	1550		2700
Southern	2806		3700
South West	942		2000
Wales East	1033		2000
Wales West	1957		2300
West Midlands	1657		3150
Yorkshire	2134		3300
Others	6976		4800
<b>Total received</b>	<b>36462</b>		<b>50000</b>

## BUILDING FUND OPENS BOOKS ON 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER

**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.

THE MARXIST daily *Building Fund* will be opened on 1 November!

Right up until then we expect *Militant* supporters to be "signing up" thousands more potential contributors with the special pledge form.

We also appeal to all first-time or occasional readers to follow the example of Mike Dowd of Alloa Labour Party Young Socialists who filled in and returned the form that appears on this page. His pledge was for £30.

One promise just received from Walthamstow is for £300! Whatever your circumstances, help us build for a Marxist daily.

Last week supporters in the Nottingham area notched up two pledges for £100 (R Higginson and D Millington), one £60 (G Lewis), three £50s (I Elocoate, Y

Olver and P Vizard), one £40 (R Davies), two £25s (K Patten and P Rogers) one £20 from LPYS member Debbie Trott. Five pledges from Leicester added up to £155, two from North London were for £75 (one from two school teachers and one Hackney YS member Mike Petrou) and another was for £100.

Amongst the most impressive of the thousands of pledges we have no received, are those from the unemployed, from school students, single parents and the low paid. They are the ones who most urgently need a socialist future and want a building in which a Marxist daily can be produced as quickly as possible to bring this about.

Watch this page for the name and bank account for the Building Fund!

# 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

"What we stand for"

OSWALDTWISTLE: Tuesday, 25 October at 7.30 pm at Harvey Street Community Centre. Speaker: Margaret Creear.

ROCHDALE: Thursday, 20 October at Main Hall, Rochdale College, St Mary's Gate. Speakers: Ted Grant, Cath McDonnell, Chair, NW Region LPYS.

"Which way forward for Labour?"

STALYBRIDGE: Tuesday, 25 October, 7.30 pm at 'Laughing Cavalier', Market Street. Speaker: Julie Morgan.

HUDDERSFIELD: Thursday, 20 October at 7.30 pm at Friendly and Trades Club, Northumberland Street. Speaker: Lynn Walsh.

BURY: George Hotel, Market Street, Bury. Thursday 27 October, at 7.30 pm. Speaker: Julie Morgan.

GLENROTHES: Thursday, 20 October at Wrout Primary School, Wrout Road. Speaker: Peter Taaffe.

CARLISLE: Marxist Discussion Group meets fortnightly. Further information, contact: Iain Campbell, 124 Petheril Street, Carlisle. Tel: 21068.

PAISLEY: Friday 21 October at 7.30 pm in T&GWU Rooms, Renfrew Road, Paisley. Speakers: Peter Taaffe and M Ruben (LPYS).

SOUTH YORKSHIRE: Hear Terry Fields MP (Liverpool, Broadgreen) at Clifton Hall, Rotherham. Thursday, 20 October at 7.30 pm—All welcome!

STOKE: Thursday, 20 October at 7.30 pm at Tunstall Town Hall. Speaker: Keith Dickinson.

### CLASSIFIED

FINANCE WORKERS' BROAD LEFT at Ivanhoe Hotel, Bloomsbury Street, London WC1. (5 minutes from Tottenham Court Road Tube). Thursday 27 October at 6.30 pm. Speaker: Harriet Harman.

GREATER MANCHESTER LABOUR WOMEN'S RALLY 'FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT' —FOR A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO WORK WEDNESDAY, 26 OCTOBER, 8 pm Speakers: Doris Fernandez (TGWU Steward) Frances Bethsein (ex-USDAW Steward) Margaret Creear (Rochdale Labour Women's Council) All Welcome!

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

## Competition doubles sales

SALES IN Bradford have doubled in the last few weeks. In the city centre we now have four regular weekly sales selling over 120 a week in total.

The most successful sale is in the Bradford Job Centre where there has been a good response from office workers as well as people using the opportunity to talk to people, names are gained for the LPYS, LP and valuable fighting fund money is raised as well.

Sales are conducted on the Friday night at the bus station and in the shopping centre on Saturdays and the results have not only boosted sales but inspired a little 'socialist competition' and

now a goal has been set to see who is the first seller to reach 50 a week.

Many sellers will be aiming to beat that figure this week with the CND demo, please send reports of your experiences and successes. Our influence continues to spread with new orders as far apart as Morecombe, Sheffield, Coventry, Winchester and Driffield (N Yorks).

Why don't you become a *Militant* seller in your CND group, LP, LPYS, trades union or even in your local pub? Contact 'Militant Circulation', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-986 3828 for details or fill in the slip on the back of *Militant*.



# A historical perspective — interview with CLR James

THE CELEBRATED Marxist historian CLR James will be one of the guest speakers at the LPYS Black Youth Rally. CLR James first came to Britain from the West Indies in 1932, leaving later for the USA and returning to Britain in 1953. Wherever he lived he played an active role in the labour movement. His most famous work is *The Black Jacobins*, a book which charts the revolt of the Caribbean slaves against their colonialist oppressors at the end of the 18th century, spurred on by the French Revolution.

In an interview with John Walters of Peckham LPYS and Colin de Freitas of Hampstead LPYS, CLR James put his views on the situation facing black workers today:

Blacks began to come here in 1956 or there about when British capitalism needed them. The West Indians were easily absorbed; the islands are highly civilised and English-speaking.

But the black movement in the sixties in the USA gave a great impetus to blacks here. By the 1960's the struggle was on.

The events in 1981 represent a tremendous upheaval throughout Britain. They shook the government. The British establishment and the police were absolutely terrified, because the next thing they would have had to do was bring in the army. That is what the British government is doing; preparing the police and army in case it comes again.

**Militant: Youth—especially black youth—are feeling some of the worst pressures in Britain. What do you think are the tasks for black youth?**

I am a little concerned when you ask what are the tasks for black youth. The task for black youth in Britain is the task for white youth in Britain. In the face of three million unemployed the youth must demonstrate that they are not going to take it lying down.

The only distinction you can make is that there are a higher percentage of blacks unemployed. That doesn't mean there's a case for protests against the race question alone but for bigger and harder struggles. So I try to make it clear, it isn't that people in Britain have to do this and black youth have to do something special: it is the problem that faces youth as a whole.

There is one thing I could add. Blacks are a special branch of the unemployed, they feel the pressures more than the others. There are cases I have seen, in the USA for example, where the blacks have taken the lead and stimulated the other unemployed into action—stimulated the whole labour movement who are suffering too.

I hope you get the distinction, that the blacks would take the lead not because they are black but because they are being oppressed by the same weight pressing on the white working class.

I was in America in 1938. There was a tremendous movement there, which continued after the war. When the soldiers came back, I remember the blacks felt they had fought the war, their blood was shed in Europe, Asia, Africa. Now German soldiers, captured and brought to the USA were being treated better in Philadelphia and Kansas than us.

That made the blacks very bitter. Their sense of discrimination was very clear.

**How do you see the struggle within the Labour Party?**

After the war, in Britain the Labour Party won a large majority and a large section of the population, particularly the soldiers, were ready for action against the capitalist class. But the Labour Party did nothing to tackle the capitalist system.

Britain was in an upheaval because the war was fought on the proviso that "we will defeat fascism, but to establish a new society".

**What about today?**

A substantial section of the Labour Party has left it, and formed the Social Democratic Party. That is a historical movement. Why did they leave? What they are out to do is to get away from the working class elements in the labour movement. They have no programme.

**What do you feel about the expulsion of the Editorial Board of Militant?**

Those five will be back in two or three years you know. I mean the right wing have been playing that game for 50 years.

**What do you see as the prospects for socialism in Britain and internationally?**

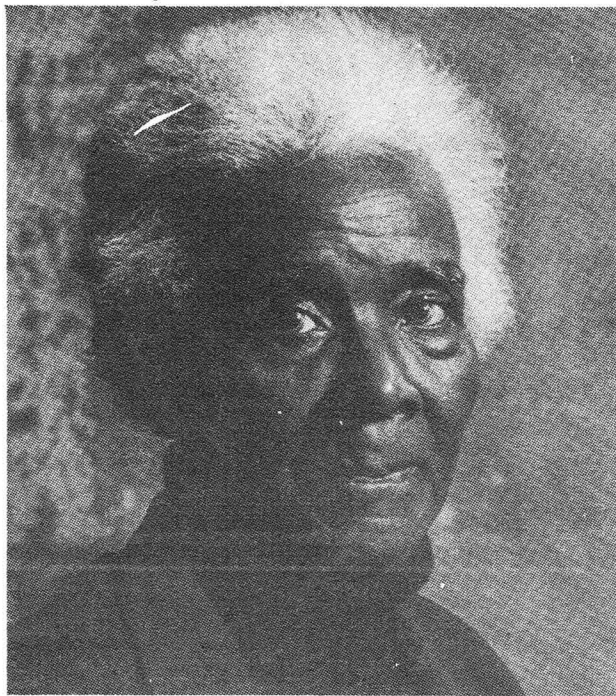
Look at the great movement in the working class in Poland. All through the centuries of labour from 1848 there has been a problem between the leadership and the masses. When the mass appoints its leaders what do they do? They become leaders and do not carry out the policies that put them there. This has been going on all the time. For this, the Stalinists were famous.

Now the Polish workers and peasants are saying we are not any longer going to have the distinction between the leaders and the mass. They formed one party with 10 million people.

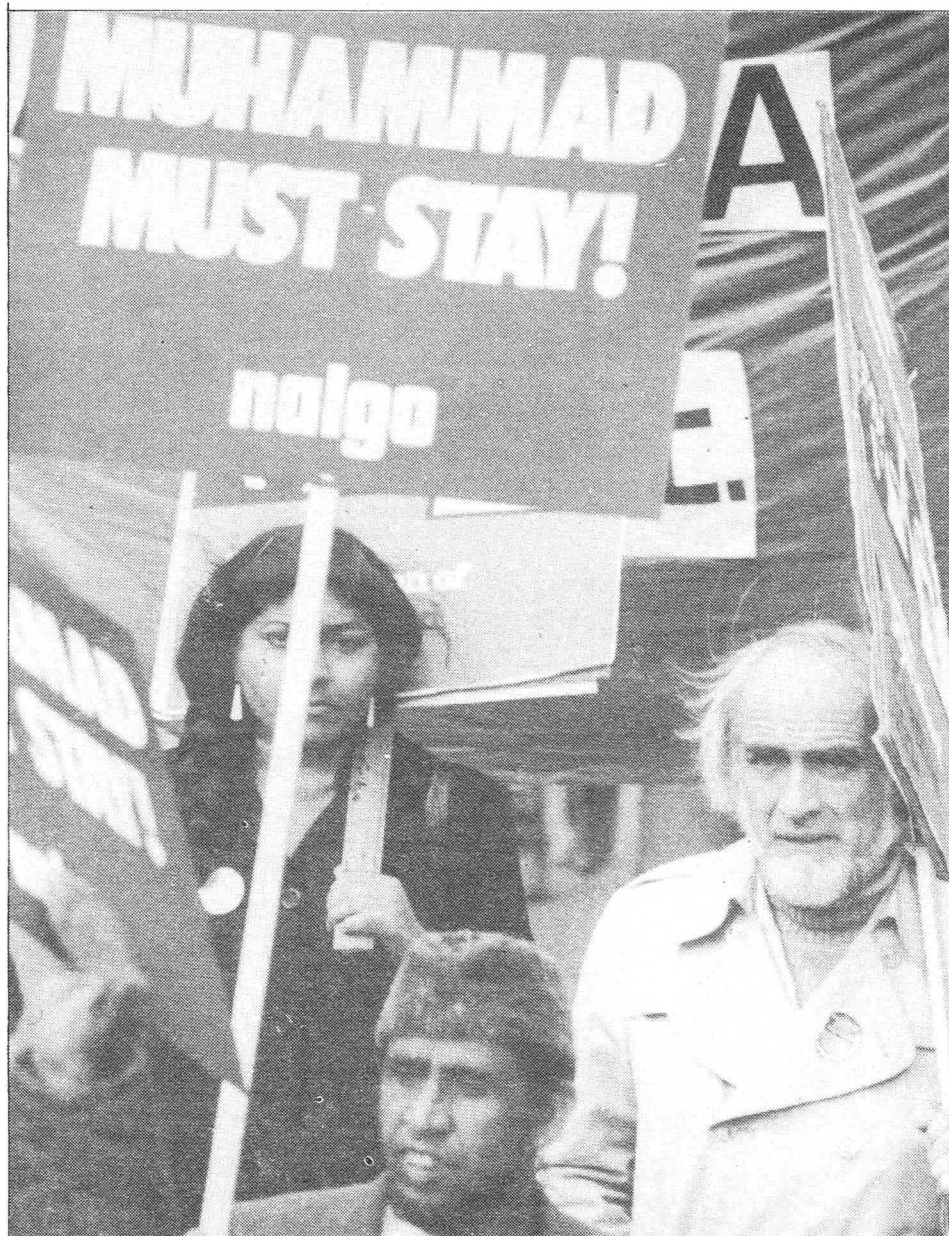
**How old are you?**

**Twenty-four.**

My friend, you will see a movement in your lifetime in which the whole of Western Europe, to begin with, will go the way of the Polish. Europe is one country. I think all of Europe is going to go that way.



CLR James.



Over 2,000 workers marched in support of Idrish Muhammed, a trade unionist fighting a deportation threat. The demonstration was called by Idrish's union NALGO. It is the first time a trade union has called on its members to support a brother facing a deportation threat. The Tories' racist laws must be beaten. Photo: John Smith (IFL)

## Blacks in Britain

THE CRISIS of British capitalism, coupled with four and a half years of Tory rule, has created intolerable burdens for black and Asian workers in Britain today.

West Indian and Asian workers were encouraged to come to Britain in the 1950s and 1960s, to be used as a pool of cheap labour by a booming, prosperous British capitalism. They were to be pushed into the low paid, unskilled jobs—jobs 'white workers no longer wanted' as the avenue for better paid skilled work opened up in the expanding manufacturing industry.

To maintain this pool of cheap labour, the bosses fanned the fires of discrimination against the

new immigrant workers. In all aspects of life they faced racism.

In employment discrimination was often open and crude, such as in Walsall when blacks were refused jobs on the buses because "coloureds can't react fast in traffic".

### Forced into the ghetto

Because of open colour bars operating in the field of housing, immigrant workers were forced into the decaying inner city ghettos, such as Handsworth (Birmingham), Chapel Town (Leeds) or Toxteth (Liverpool). In Brixton and Southall in London blacks had to rent houses that had been scheduled for demolition in the 1920s.

Besides this discrimination, blacks faced racist abuse from the gutter press, racist attack on the streets and increasing police harassment. This grew with the Tory government passing the Commonwealth Immigration Act in 1962, which first raised the 'numbers game' with talk of the country being 'swamped' etc., which even today is still the language of the Tories.

Yet although nearly two decades have passed, the situation facing black and Asian workers has only worsened. Although racial discrimination may not be so open, the capitalist recession has put special pressures on this section of the working class.

### Tory racists

The bosses and their representatives, the Tories, have not lessened their racism (see back page).

The slums of thirty years ago have only deteriorated further. The *Times* last year highlighted one of the worst areas in London, Brick Lane in the East End. The crumbling 80 year old tenement slums have Bengali families crowding into 250 one bedroom flats. As the report described, "their condition is so bad that the district valuer put a nil value on the two acre site."

But it is unemployment that has hit black and Asian workers the hardest. While general unemployment has risen (between 1973 and 1982) by 309%, the figure among blacks for the same period is 515%.

A CRE survey carried out in June 1982 estimated that as many as 40% of Asian youth and 60% of young West Indians are out of work.

Added to this misery is the Tories' tightening up of immigration laws and increased police harassment.

These are the conditions that have given rise to the rapid politicisation of blacks in Britain—today's generation of black youth find themselves in the forefront of the struggle to change society.

By Bob Lee

## From Southall to Bradford

'THE STRUGGLE of Asian workers in Britain' is a new booklet by the *Race Today Collective*. It catalogues the history of Asian workers in Britain, being made up of three sections which look at key historical moments in the development of the Asian section of the British working class.

It explains how and why Asian workers came to Britain. It graphically describes the work environments and various struggles that Asian workers were involved in, such as the dispute at the Red Scar Mills in Preston in

1965 and at Woolf's Rubber Plant in Southall.

The analyses and explanations are highly critical of the role of the trade unions and Labour Party. The author gives examples of where unions such as the T&GWU had failed to effectively represent Asian workers in dispute.

Unfortunately the booklet does not deal with what must be the most important struggle of the '70s—the Grunwicks dispute in 1978. That tremendous struggle inspired workers nationally, and received considerable sup-

port from the wider labour movement.

The final chapter covers the case of the Bradford 12, which is described as the "trial of the decade". There is a comprehensive account of the trial.

The booklet is highly recommended for those keen to learn about the struggles of Asians in Britain. Available from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8. Price: £2.20 (including postage)

By Rob Crawford

Black Youth  
Rally  
DISCO

with top sound

'PEOPLE'S  
WAR'

7.30 pm 'till late  
Jubilee Tavern,  
74 York Road,  
SE1  
(opposite  
County Hall)



# TUC Women's Day of Action GET READY!

**PREPARATIONS FOR the TUC Women's Day of Action on October 29 are well under way in the North West.**

At the regional conference of the Labour Party Women's Sections last week plans for the day were outlined with activities organised by the regional labour movement.

Two buses will be touring the North West on October 29, stopping at Bolton's main shopping precinct between 10-11am, Salford Broad Walk, 10.30-12.30; Manchester City centre, 1-2pm and Stockport trade union centre, High Street, 2.30-3.30pm.

There will also be leafletting in Preston, Blackburn, Blackpool, Lancaster, Birkenhead, and Liverpool, where there will also be an exhibition and workshops between 10-4pm in Transport House, Islington, Liverpool.

There is also a Greater Manchester Womens Rally planned for October 26 to prepare for the Day of Action (Details: page 4).

The conference itself was attended by 160 delegates and 30 visitors. This was the first year that resolutions had been allowed, but they could only be submitted on two issues, 'Nuclear Disarmament' and 'Women in Public Life'. Next year resolutions will be able to be submitted on any subject.

After *Militant* supporters had spoken on nuclear disarmament, the Conference, carried, against the recommendation of the platform, resolutions calling for opposition to Cruise missiles, cuts in arms expenditure, and in particular the nationalisation of the armaments industry, under workers' control and management.

In the afternoon session on 'Women in Public Life', resolutions calling for positive discrimination, mandatory inclusion of women on short-lists, the transfer of resolutions from Womens Conference to Labour Party Conference, and that five seats on the NEC be elected at Women's Conference, were all heavily



Women workers are taking the brunt of Thatcher's attacks. Above, health workers protest at the Tory party conference in Blackpool last week. Photo: D. Doran

ly defeated.

Contrasting to this, measures to involve more women in the movement—giving practical assistance such as creches and special courses etc, and in particular campaigning activity around socialist policies to attract women—were carried by a large majority.

A particularly welcome victory was the move to extend the Regional Womens Committee in the North

West from three seats to eight. Many felt it was impossible for three people to cover an area which includes Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside.

In the elections to the Regional Womens Committee, *Militant* supporters polled a third of the votes in a straight fight with the established leadership.

The first *Militant* forum ever at the one-day con-

ference attracted 30 delegates. Many of them will now be involved in campaigning activities.

The campaign is now on to rebuild the Women's Organisation in the North West, as a mass socialist organisation for working class women.

By Margaret Creear

# Militant STUDENTS CALL RALLY

IN THE same way that health workers are facing a new onslaught by the Tories, so students are facing the effects of the Tories' 'Hidden Manifesto' of cuts in the public sector.

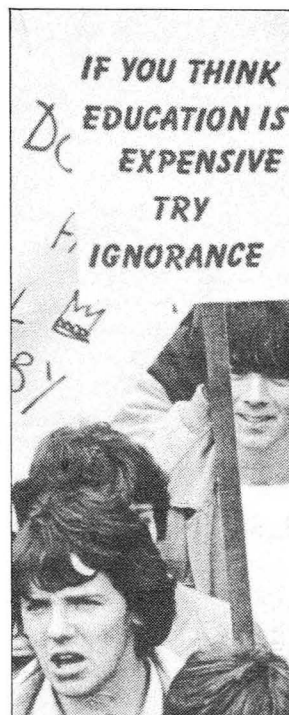
The recent proposals of the National Advisory Body on Local Authority Higher Education will mean a 13% cut in academic and non-academic resources at Polytechnics and Colleges of Higher Education.

The amount spent in these institutions will fall by 13-14%. In London, ILEA officials have drawn up proposals to merge the City of London Polytechnic with either the City University or Central London Polytechnic—which in the present climate, is just another way of presenting proposals for cutbacks.

The Tories, realising that these attacks won't go unchallenged by students, have drawn up plans to restrict the campaigning activity of student unions. A recent circular letter by the Attorney-General, Sir Michael Havers, has called on university and college authorities to withdraw funds from student unions if they spend money on events inconsistent with their status as 'educational charities' i.e. if they are involved in protest demonstrations against the Tories' policies.

To draw together the best activists in the Labour Clubs and student unions to debate the major issues facing the student movement, *Militant* supporters have organised a two-day rally for students at Liverpool University Student Union on Saturday and Sunday 19-20 November. The rally opens at 2 pm on the Saturday, allowing students from nearby areas to attend the mid-day demonstration organised by Liverpool City Council to defend public services in Liverpool.

The opening session will be on the theme of defending the public sector and fighting the cuts. Speakers will include Pauline Dunlop, from the Liverpool Council Education Committee; a leading trade unionist from the public sector, and Kath McDonnell, *Militant* supporter on the National Organisation of Labour Students' National Commit-



Students are prepared to fight the cuts. Photo: Militant

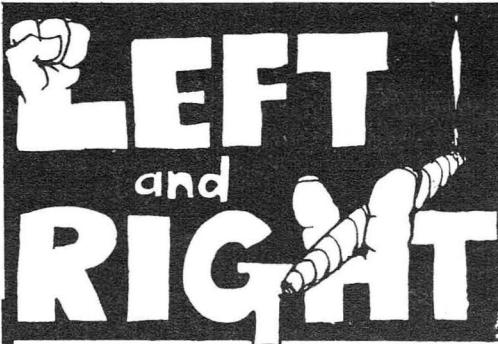
tee.

On Saturday evening the film *The Battle of Chile: The Coup d'Etat* will be shown. Sunday morning will have three separate seminars on 'A Socialist Programme for FE Students', 'Building a Mass NOLS' and 'NOLS and the Workers' Struggle in Eastern Europe'. The rally will end with a debate between Peter Taaffe, editor of the *Militant* and a leading member of the Labour Coordinating Committee.

*Militant* supporters in Labour Clubs should be drawing up plans now to build for a good attendance at the rally. Already Cardiff University *Militant* supporters have booked a minibus to take students to Liverpool. Resolutions should be moved at Labour Club meetings to sponsor Labour Club members to attend. Check with the student union about the possibilities of setting up a 'Militant Supporters Society' with a budget from the student union.

Tickets (£4 each or £2 for FE students) and leaflets are available now. Order from 'Militant Student Rally', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. All cheques to be made out to 'Militant Student Publications'.

By Clive Heemskirk



## Wanted: one left-wing capitalist

The *Daily Mirror* and its associated papers are up for sale. But there are fears that the new owners may drop the paper's 'left' stance, and join the rest of the popular dailies in the Thatcher fan club. The bosses worry that this may give workers the misguided impression that our wonderful newspapers are not a 'free and democratic' press

after all. So the *Mirror's* present owners, the Reed International empire, are looking for a new 'left wing' chairman of this newspaper group. They want someone though who "would still be acceptable to their City financial institutions" (*The Guardian*, October 14). A free press? Of course!

## The price of life

The World Health Organisation has just issued a report which shows the horrific plight of children in the Third World. Twelve million children die each year before their first birthday. Another four per cent of Third World children die before they are five. However, they are not all victims of unexpected disasters or incurable diseases. The WHO report, "Simple, curable diarrhoea will take six million young lives. Another five million will be claimed by measles, whooping cough, polio, tetanus, diphtheria and tuberculosis." All of these are preventable. These 11 million children could be inoculated against the basic illnesses for the relatively small cost of £8.50 per child.

## Who wants to be a billionaire?

It's really very easy to become a billionaire, you know. You just have to be born in the right place at the right time. Take Gordon Getty of the USA for example. All he had to do 49 years ago was pop out of his mother's womb and—hey presto—he was \$2.2 billion richer before he even went 'Waaah!' The fact that his father headed the Getty Oil multinational helped of course. In fact, five US citizens are amongst the richest people in the world, and they all inherited the lot. Between them they are worth \$6.9 billion.

## Arms race over—official

The Institute for Strategic Studies are very intelligent people. They have discovered that the arms race is in fact a myth; "It is impossible to find evidence now to support the cliché of a widespread arms race." They go on to say "... only in the case of the super-powers and in a few oil rich countries can one detect major increases in military investment..." Oh, that's alright then.



# Trotsky and the creation of the Red Army



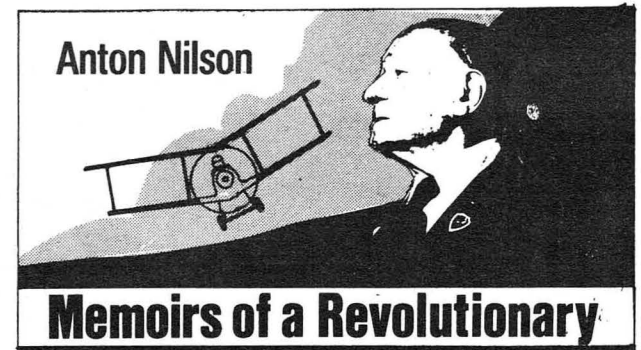
Lenin reviews Red Army, Moscow, May 1919.

The latest section of ANTON NILSON'S political life deals with his memories of Lenin, Trotsky and the Bolshevik Party.

**WHEN I arrived in Russia in September, 1918, there was no real Red Army. Its beginnings were there in the form of the Red Guards—10 000 in Leningrad, 6 000 in Moscow, so many in Odessa and so on.**

They fought the first campaigns against the White armies and the Imperialists.

I came at the stage when the Red Army was beginning to develop. Russia had been left in a terrible state. Besides the imperialist blockade, telephone exchanges were destroyed. Counter revolutionaries sabotaged their



parts of the railways, so parts would be missing or were all mixed up and jumbled around. Trains were left standing where they were. From 1919 to 1921 organisation was very difficult.

The recruits for the Red Army came from the poorest section of the workers. But it was not right that they should fight the entire counter-revolution—other sections were to be mobilised.

## Organising ideas

The Bolsheviks were in favour of a general mobilisation, so the Soviet government decided to form a Red Army under the leadership of Trotsky, Slansky and one other. They headed the War

Committee.

Trotsky was absolutely irreplaceable. As head of the Red Army he organised distribution of clothes and food, and he had an enormous skill in propaganda. He had a great gift to spread enthusiasm among the people.

Without Trotsky, Lenin could not have carried through the revolution. Lenin was the ideology and Trotsky was the organiser; they complemented each other perfectly—they were as one person.

I met all the leaders of the Revolution. The first time I saw Lenin was May Day 1919. He spoke in front of a million people in Red Square, Moscow.

I heard Trotsky speak on many occasions. He was enormously popular.

IN THE struggle for nuclear disarmament, socialists must be well versed with facts and figures to counter the nonsense peddled by government backed pro-nuclear agencies and the Tory press.

In this sense *The Nuclear War File* is a very useful handbook which deals with the horrific effects of nuclear warfare and describes the vast arsenals involved.

The book, which is well presented with good illustrations and full of information, gives a wealth of technological background to the enormously expensive and increasingly complex defence industry.

The political analysis is weak, where, for example, technological developments are said to be a major contribution to peace by providing an effective deterrent against "first strike". Correctly it says that accidental wars are not a possibility, but it is maintained, not because social contradictions create wars—but rather because of effective codes and safety devices present in the launch sequences.

Nuclear war due to conflicts between smaller powers is posed as a greater possibility. Generally, the question of the relation of War and Peace to social conflicts and contradictions is not discussed.

## Excellent graphics

But the book's strength is in the wealth of information it provides about defence strategy and weaponry. This is presented in a startlingly clear manner with a good use of graphics, maps and drawings.

Large maps covering two-pages show the balance of forces between NATO and

the Warsaw Pact countries. Although in some cases the symbols and colours are a bit confusing, the superiority of conventional forces, and nuclear weaponry of the USSR in Europe is clear. The Warsaw Pact, for instance, can wield 170 divisions and 42,000 tanks in the European 'theatre', compared to 80 divisions and 13,000 tanks of NATO. The USSR also has a superiority of 7-2 in nuclear warheads over NATO in Europe, although on a world scale the USSR is in a weaker position than the USA.

## Unemotional style

In an unemotional style the book provides a catalogue of strategic weapons systems—divided into three main types; manual bombs, Inter Continental Ballistic Missiles, (ICBMs), and Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs) and discusses the pros and cons of each type.

US/NATO equipment is compared to USSR/Warsaw Pact in each case. There are details showing everything you want to know about weapon construction, power sources and guidance systems, satellite and communications links and there are even drawings showing the anatomy of cruise missiles. Even field artillery can now be equipped with nuclear shells, and details are given.

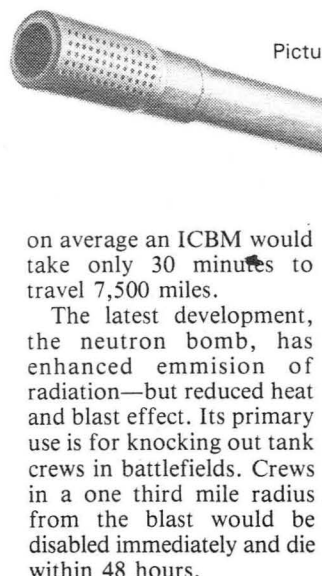
The enormous numbers of

weapons being stockpiled is stunning; it is argued that such 'overkill' is required to account for missile failure and inaccuracy.

It is reckoned that 74% of missiles launched would reach their targets.

In many cases the effects of these weapons are still difficult to assess—for instance, climatic condition can alter the effect of a nuclear blast. A high cloud base can cause the blast to 'skip' the target and bounce back on a wider radius. A blast in a valley could be extended many miles from its original target.

The speed of delivery of most nuclear weapons is very rapid and at least Armageddon would be over quite rapidly. For instance,



on average an ICBM would take only 30 minutes to travel 7,500 miles. The latest development, the neutron bomb, has enhanced emission of radiation—but reduced heat and blast effect. Its primary use is for knocking out tank crews in battlefields. Crews in a one third mile radius from the blast would be disabled immediately and die within 48 hours.

The book ends with explicit and graphic detail of what happens when the bomb drops. As a nuclear

BEN EASTOP reviews  
*The nuclear war file*  
published by Ebury  
price £5.95



# 'The Nuclear War File'

bomb detonates over the target, the first result is a blinding flash of light and release of radiation which is lethal up to 1.5 miles from the blast. Immediately afterwards a huge fireball, with temperatures reaching 10 million degrees centigrade travels upwards at 250 mph, and emits a colossal blast wave.

Anything within a radius of 1.5 miles would be flattened by the blast, with pressures 30 times greater than normal atmospheric

Picture (and graphics on pages 8-9) courtesy of Ebury Press.

## Inside the Bolshevik Party

WHEN YOU joined the Bolshevik Party, you had to go to party meetings. It was very strict about that.

The party met every Thursday night throughout Russia. There were no notices about it in the press, but everybody knew. Wherever you were—Leningrad, Moscow, Kiev—you just went to the meeting.

The meetings were complex. There would be speakers on various subjects, such as the present situation, the war and so on. Elections to committees took place.

The meetings could not have been more democratic. All officers were called comrade—'Tovaritch' in Russian. It didn't matter if they were a corporal or the highest commander in the army, there was no Mr, Miss or Mrs—everyone was Tovaritch. Of course there were disagreements and discussions within the party meetings, but there would be no divisions in the party.

pressure. Almost all brick structures would be destroyed up to a radius of 4 miles.

## Shelters offer no protection

The government-advised 'home shelter' would offer little protection. In 85% of the GLC area all such shelters would be destroyed by a 1-3 megaton bomb.

The effects of radiation on the body are equally horrify-

ing. Blood and bone marrow are very susceptible to radiation. With an intense dose radiation sickness causes "rapid weakening and exhaustion". Fever and delirium follow leading to death within a week.

The facts of nuclear war are starkly presented. Despite its political shortcomings, this book provides a good background information to socialists engaged in the debate on nuclear disarmament.

US 155mm self-propelled gun capable of firing nuclear and chemical warfare shells.



# £1m on arms even

**SINCE THE end of the Second World War, more progress has been made in the field of human knowledge and in scientific advances than in all of previous history.**

The possibilities for further advance are stupendous—the abolition of hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and disease are all technically possible.

The prospects of an abundance of wealth and the abolition of drudgery are there, by the development of micro chip technology, computers, robots and other scientific achievements. If present resources and knowledge were combined on a world basis, and purposefully used for the benefit of the whole of humanity, a complete transformation could take place in social and economic relationships.

Standing on the verge of such a revolutionary change should be sufficient to inspire millions in the ideas of progress and security. But the reality is the very opposite. Millions face increasing insecurity, instability and uncertainty.

The splitting of the atom and the related scientific discoveries which could have laid the foundation for a source of unlimited energy, instead, form the basis of a massive weapons stockpile with the power to bring about the destruction of humanity. The introduction of new limited range nuclear weapons like Pershing, Cruise and the Russian SS series seems only to confirm the inexorable increase of the risk of war.

## More on defence less on health

On a world scale there are approximately 50,000 warheads stockpiled, equivalent to 1 million bombs of the size that obliterated Hiroshima in 1945.

Every year, \$800 billion (£530 billion) is spent on armaments. Put another way, one million million pounds is spent every 22 months. Yet 100 million people live in extreme poverty and 600 million are unemployed.

World military expenditure averages almost \$20,000 per soldier, while spending on public education averages \$280 per school age child. Globally, there are 556 soldiers per 100,000 people, but only 85 doctors.

In the US and the Common Market countries, \$45 per person is spent on military research, while only \$11 goes on health research. It is estimated that as many as 51 million workers are employed around the world on the production of armaments. The world-wide defence

**Feature by Dave Cotterill**

establishment is a reflection of the monumental failure of capitalism and Stalinism to solve the day to day problems that face the world's populations.

In Britain, defence expenditure is now running at the rate of almost £16 billion per year, and is expected within 2 years to top £18 billion.

In view of all this, therefore, it is understandable and correct that workers should protest at such a monstrous waste of human resources. In Britain, the years of the Thatcher government have seen an increase in defence expenditure of almost 20 percent in real terms, while there has been a trebling of the rate of unemployment.

The anger of workers, and particularly the young unemployed, is perfectly justified when there is on the one hand the dismantling and destruction of whole industries, leaving hundreds of thousands of school leavers without jobs, cuts in the health and other services and services necessary to workers, while on the other hand, the Tories dramatically increase the amounts of money spent of defence.

Children die needlessly for want of bone marrow transplants, workers die for want of kidney machines, pensioners die for want of cheap heating—meanwhile Thatcher is prepared to spend between £6 and 8 billion on the acquisition of Trident nuclear missiles. It is an indication of the twisted priorities of the Tory government that more money is now spent on defence than on education.

But the reasons for this enormous waste of the world's resources on arms lie in the class nature of society, not in human nature or in any question of abstract morality. War and the perversion of science for military purposes stem from the contradictions and conflicts which capitalist society produces. It is a social and a political question, not a moral one.

The existence of nation states with their own separate national interests—in the West of the capitalist class, and in the East the interests of the Stalinist bureaucracies—impose limits on the productive forces of society and give rise to inevitable national and



One Megaton Bomb



Police remove demonstrators from a proposed Cruise missile site in Comiso, Sicily.

4 miles

6 miles

8 miles

One 'Trident' Submarine	= £1 a week benefit
One Type 42 Destroyer	= Eight years' salary
On Harrier Jump Jet	= Sixteen years' salary
One Lynx Helicopter	= 120 weeks' salary
Salary three generals	= Salary of 1000 men
One anti-tank missile	= One kilometre

**THE GROWTH of CND and the situation is an expression of the huge opposition and deployment of nuclear weapons among young workers.**

The desire for world peace and the threat of destruction is also shown in demonstrations which have taken place in another, in the recent period.

social contradictions.

Wars have never come about by accident or by the whim of national leaders, but through the need for the capitalist class to enhance their own profits, position, power, and prestige. In the modern era the fundamental international contradiction is that between the advanced capitalist states on the one side and, on the other, those with state-owned, centrally planned economies.

## Not moral regression

The recent increased expenditure on defence and the new arms race is not a reflection of any new moral regression, but of the fact that the capitalist class in the

West feels its position more threatened by social contradiction and social unrest—as a result of recession, unemployment, and economic crisis on a world scale—than was the case in the previous period.

The Tories smugly argue that nuclear weapons have guaranteed peace for forty years, but this blindly ignores the fact that since the end of the Second World War there has hardly been a single day of peace, according to the Stockholm Peace Institute. 50 million have perished in these 'minor' wars, the same number as during the whole of the Second World War.

What is particularly absurd is the 'big-power' posturing of the Tories and their pretence that the so-called 'independent' British

nuclear deterrent has any real strategic significance. Placed alongside the enormous stockpiles of the USSR, the handful of nuclear submarines controlled by Britain (in reality more controlled by the USA than by Britain) seem little more than pea-shooters.

## Road to genuine peace

But just as the so-called independent British deterrent would make no significant strategic difference, so also the call for a "nuclear free Britain" would make no difference to whether or not Britain became involved if there were ever a global conflict.

Even if the British govern-

ment were to renounce completely their use and scrap all nuclear weapons, in the event of a world nuclear war, there would be no doubt whatsoever that Britain would become involved, because of its centres of industry, communications, transport, arms production, and so on.

The struggle for peace, therefore, cannot be isolated from a political struggle against the very social system that creates the social and national antagonisms that spawn wars. The road to genuine peace must lie in the direction of the transformation of society, on socialist lines, of a society that can overcome social and national contradictions, in other words the establishment of a world federation of socialist states.





# Every minute...

Week on all child  
for 5 years.  
Low District Hospitals  
new primary  
Low council homes  
Ten teachers or fif-  
urses  
Money machine

of its demonstra-  
position to the con-  
weapons, especially

end to the nuclear  
by the mammoth  
in one country after  
organised by  
the various in-  
ternational  
peace organisa-  
tions.

Workers are justifiably  
outraged by the vast waste of  
resources spent on arms and  
are concerned about the  
threat of a global conflict  
that could destroy humanity.

But on the other hand,  
nuclear peace cannot be  
guaranteed by appeals to the  
heads of governments in-  
volved in the various arms  
deals and arms negotiations  
taking place at the present  
time. The capitalists in the  
west and the Stalinist  
regimes in the east are deaf  
to moral appeals. They look  
only to their own position,  
power and prestige.

Multi-lateral negotiations,  
at one level or another have  
been going on for over 30  
years, without any success in  
the sense of 'disarmament'.  
Nuclear disarmament cannot  
be brought about by the  
reasoned argument of CND  
or other peace groups as long  
as social and international  
relations remain on their pre-  
sent basis.

Even an arms agreement



Demonstrators recently held up traffic outside the Stock Exchange. But how effective can these protests be in achieving disarmament?

Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

## ...But can CND stop the bomb?

previous three conferences,  
shows the support within the  
rank and file of the labour  
movement for the abolition  
of nuclear weapons, and  
represents an enormous step  
forward compared to the at-  
titude adopted by Labour  
leaders in the past.

During the 1945 Labour  
government, for example,  
Attlee agreed, without any  
recourse to Parliament, let  
alone the Labour Party, to  
build a British nuclear  
weapon. Similarly, the  
1974-79 Labour government

that came to nothing—  
because it remained outside  
the broad framework of the  
organised labour movement.

It would be to repeat the  
same fundamental  
mistake—and to risk the  
same collapse in support as  
in the early 1960's—if  
CND'ers tried to pretend  
that peace was an issue that  
stood apart or somehow  
above politics. The labour  
movement is the key and the  
only key that can unlock the  
door to world peace.

Under present conditions,  
the labour movement, pro-  
tecting and embodying the  
rights of the working class,  
stands as an obstacle to the  
development of nuclear war,  
ruling out such a  
development.

In the long run, however,  
if the international labour  
movement was unable to  
change society, if workers'  
struggles led to defeats and  
to bloody reaction, it would  
not be ruled out that  
military-police regimes,  
totalitarian in character,  
could embark on nuclear  
suicide over the bones of the  
defeated workers. The  
perspective for humanity in  
the long term is 'socialism or  
annihilation'.

CND supporters cannot  
seriously hope, without a  
programme of socialist

change, to bring about world  
peace—for example by tying  
ribbons and dolls to the  
fences around air bases, or  
by singing 'peace songs' or  
joining hands in lines, no  
matter how many miles long.  
There is even a tacit admis-  
sion of this in the watering  
down of CND's traditional  
'ban the bomb' slogan to  
the demand, instead, for a  
'nuclear freeze'.

CND'ers must address  
themselves to the social and  
political causes of war—  
rooted in class society—and  
even to workers who at pre-  
sent depend on defence in-  
dustries in order to get a  
wage.

Sections of the working  
class are indeed dependent  
on the arms industry for  
work—240,000 are directly  
involved in arms production,  
quite apart from ancillary  
workers and service  
personnel—and CND,  
together with the labour  
movement, could appeal to  
these workers by a pro-  
gramme of nationalising all  
defence industries and their  
conversion to producing  
socially useful goods.

The issue of peace and  
nuclear disarmament can  
unite millions, but the ques-  
tion that keeps coming back  
is: "How will it be achieved  
practically?"

The action of the women  
at Greenham Common and  
other peace camps may be  
examples of individual deter-  
mination, but for the work-  
ing class in general this kind  
of protest is not possible. In  
any case, given the power  
that the state has at its  
disposal—through the  
police, the courts, etc.—it  
seems unlikely, to put it  
mildly, that these tactics  
could ever achieve the object  
of preventing Cruise from  
being sited.

Only by the support of  
workers, through the action  
of dockers, transport  
workers and maintenance  
workers could this be done.  
The actual situation proves,  
once again, that class politics  
cannot be separated from the  
issue of peace.

The 1930's saw the  
development of mass peace  
movements, yet this was in-  
sufficient to prevent world  
war. In the last twenty years  
the forces for peace have in-  
creased enormously, yet the  
stockpiling of weapons in-  
creases almost in parallel.

Past experience of Labour  
governments has shown that  
reforming laws can be pass-  
ed but because the real  
power of the capitalist class  
has been left intact, it has  
been able, through the tops  
of the civil service and the  
judiciary, to frustrate the  
spirit and the purpose of  
reforms. Moreover, in a  
period of economic crisis the  
capitalists will use their  
economic power to force an  
irresolute Labour govern-

ment to introduce counter-  
reforms.

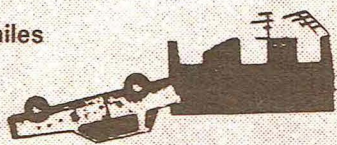
A future Labour govern-  
ment could conceivably be  
elected on a manifesto com-  
mitted to unilateral nuclear  
disarmament. But if the real  
economic power was left  
with the capitalist class, the  
big monopolies and banks,  
they would do all in their  
power to frustrate its  
economic and social reforms  
and would determine at the  
earliest possible moment to  
bring such a government  
down.

The labour movement  
should campaign for  
unilateral nuclear disarma-  
ment, but there should be no  
illusions as to how this will  
be achieved. It can only  
come about by transforming  
society on socialist lines.

Even then, achieving  
unilateral nuclear disarma-  
ment in Britain alone does  
not remove the threat of  
nuclear holocaust. This  
would only be possible by  
the socialist transformation  
in Europe, Japan and  
America and by the political  
revolution in the Stalinist  
states, meaning the over-  
throw of the ruling  
bureaucracy there and the in-  
troduction of democratic  
control by the working class.

Peace and socialism are  
absolutely intertwined—but  
peace will only be achieved  
and permanently guaranteed  
by transforming society in-  
ternationally, by the  
establishment of a world  
Federation of Socialist  
States.

11 miles



from the present Geneva  
talks would only apply to in-  
termediate range weapons. It  
would not reduce the nuclear  
arsenal in any significant  
way and would not stop the  
inevitable rivalry and race to  
create and perfect new  
weapons and defence  
systems.

At the recent conference  
of the Labour Party a  
resolution was overwhelm-  
ingly passed re-affirming  
support for unilateral  
nuclear disarmament, for a  
nuclear free zone in Europe,  
for the rejection of Cruise  
and Trident missiles and for  
the removal of all nuclear  
weapons and bases.

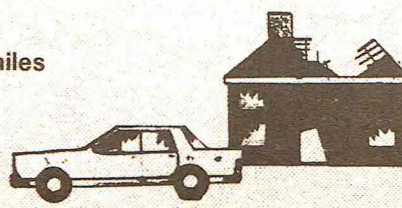
This confirmation of the  
policies passed by the

went ahead with the moder-  
nisation of the Polaris  
missile system, by a decision  
of a small cabinet commit-  
tee, including Callaghan and  
Healey, without any  
reference to the Labour Par-  
ty or Parliament.

It is only the workers'  
organisations—the trade  
unions and the Labour  
Party—which are committed  
to the idea of unilateral  
disarmament, despite the at-  
tempted trimming by  
sections of the leadership.

CND members, therefore,  
must look to the Labour  
Party and to socialist ideas  
for a genuine struggle for  
peace. The CND movement  
in the 1950's and 1960's was  
a large movement, but one

15 miles





## Pakistan, Israel

# Defying repression in Pakistan

THE RECENT demonstrations and riots in Pakistan show that despite the most brutal conditions created by the ruling class, the masses are determined to fight their exploitation.

The military-police dictatorship of General Zia, sponsored by USA and other Western imperialist powers, killed more than 300 people in the recent events particularly in Sindh. Thousands have been injured, imprisoned, subjected to lashes and other torture sentences.

Throughout its six-year rule, Zia's been the worst of all the military juntas which have ruled the country in its 36 year history.

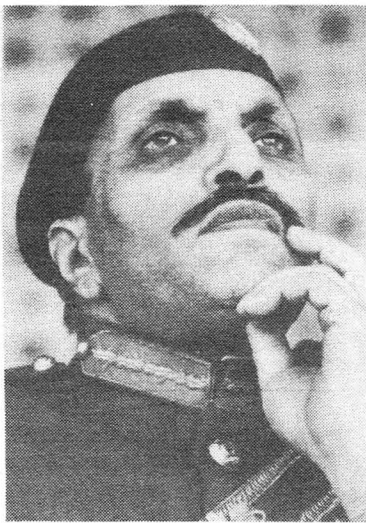
Parliamentary democracies have never lasted long before being replaced by military rule, but on the other hand the working class in Pakistan have always arisen to change their living conditions. These alternations of military repressions and popular uprisings characterise the history of the country.

Military repression was supplemented by the US trained operators of mass psychological warfare led by General Mujib-ur-

By a Pakistani correspondent

Rehman. But they could not stop the upheavals. For the masses, normal living has become more difficult even than at the time of the British colonial Raj! Something had to be done.

The movement arose from a call by the Movement for the Restora-



General Zia.

tion of Democracy (MRD) the 8 party alliance which includes the mass party with a socialist programme, the Pakistan Peoples Party, (PPP), together with not just two left-wing parties, but right-wing and even religious-based "democratic parties".

MRD's demonstration in Karachi on 14 August, drew about 20,000 people, while at the same time an uprising started in the province of Sindh and partly in other areas. This surprised nobody more than the timorous MRD leaders.

The Movement's coordinating secretary Ghulam Ahmed Bilor (from the National Democratic Party) resigned on 13 August, just before the call for action saying that an old NDP leader Ghaffar Khan had told him not to cooperate with the PPP.

The leaders of MRD and even the PPP are largely isolated from the feelings of the people.

### National oppression in Sindh

The PPP leaders had decided to concentrate on participating in the bogus municipal elections called by Zia in September. The eruptions forced them to take back that decision. Many right-wing leaders too had to court arrest to publicise their "participation" in the mass movement.



The survival of Pakistan is endangered by decaying capitalism. Kashmir (in India) is already disputed with Indian capitalism—but national feelings are growing in Sindh and Baluchistan.

The movement was particularly centred in Sindh, one of the most exploited and nationally oppressed provinces. The dominant capitalists, Punjabi and other non Sindhies were totally incapable of carrying out the tasks of the bourgeois-democratic revolution which the ruling class in the West had achieved in the progressive days of capitalism in previous centuries. No industrialisation, no land reform, no democratic rights, therefore no incentive to bind together the large and disparate groups and regions of the country, and with nothing except oppression to keep up their status.

The main processions in the interior of Sindh were led by Sindhi landlords who are irate that their share in the spoils of the ruling class has gone down somewhat during Zia-ul-Haq's rule.

The nationalistic aspect of the movement has become very evident in recent events. Sindhi walls are daubed with anti-Punjabi, anti-Pakistani slogans. The national oppression of the area has brought forth its fruit.

One of the first people to die in the movement was an officer of the Frontier Constabulary from shots

CONTINUED ON PAGE ELEVEN

# Israeli workers pay for zionism

By John Pickard

THE ISRAELI government has been plunged into disarray only weeks after the resignation of Begin, and his replacement as Prime Minister by Yitzak Shamir.

The immediate cause has been an economic crisis, described as the worst in Israeli history, and the subsequent resignation of the Finance Minister. The Israeli currency has been devalued by 23% and overnight price rises were introduced by the halving of government subsidies on many basic commodities.

### Highest per capita debt

The particular issues that forced the Finance Minister to go was the revelation that he had considered the "dollarisation" of the Israeli economy, in other words the introduction of the dollar as an official means of exchange in Israel.

As the Israeli Shekel has declined in value continuously over the previous years, many Israelis have sought to acquire dollars as a hedge against inflation, and the official dollarisation of the economy would be no less than an admission by the government that it was im-



Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. The reactionary policies of the ruling class are now taking their toll on workers' living standards.

possible to salvage the Israeli currency.

The Israeli current account deficit looks like rising from \$4.9 billion in 1982 to \$5.3 billion this year, pushing up the foreign debt to well over \$20 billion, the highest *per capita* debt in the whole world. The financial chaos has already shown itself this month in the collapse of the share prices of Israeli banks, leading to government rescue.

The crisis, however, is more than an economic one.

It is tied up with the whole question of Israel's reactionary policies of colonising of the West Bank, and the invasion of Lebanon. The Lebanese war cost Israel \$1 billion and is still costing \$1 million per day. The programme of settlements on the West Bank is also costing \$500 million per year.

The Israeli crisis will almost inevitably lead to a new election earlier than scheduled in 1985, and will open up a new phase in Israeli politics. The policies

of the right wing Likud government have been demonstrated as bankrupt, politically and literally.

Israeli workers are now being asked to pay the price—by an indefinite embroilment in the Lebanon, by the monstrous burden of a permanently armed nation and now, by economic hardships to pay for it all.

Israeli politics cannot remain fixed in the old patterns. New class conflicts are inevitable as workers seek to defend their living standards

against the economic demands of the Likud government and the Israeli capitalist class.

The trade union federation, the Histadruth, are not prepared to see their members cost of living bonuses hacked away, as inflation goes over 150%.

Last Sunday, a two-hour strike took place of all Israeli trade unionists, showing their determination to fight against massive cuts in their living standards. But inevitably the opposition to

economic policies will also pass over to opposition to other aspects of government policies.

In coming years, there will be many favourable opportunities to win Israeli workers away from any lingering illusions in the policies of Zionism. The war in Lebanon created a deep-rooted movement of opposition even during the course of the war itself.

### Class conflicts

There is growing opposition among Israelis to the policy of colonisation of the West Bank, and occupation of South Lebanon, both massively expensive operations, which will accumulate a massive store of explosive material in the opposition of the Arabs whose area is occupied.

Now, closely linked with these questions, class conflicts will increasingly take place around the question of domestic economic policy. This current crisis could become a mile stone in the building and development of support for socialist ideas. The programme and perspectives for socialism offers Jews and Arabs not only economic and financial security, but provides the only basis for the resolution of national and religious conflicts.



FROM PAGE TEN

from rebelling Sindhi policemen in Dadu. More than 150 Sindhi officers in the police and civil bureaucracy resigned in the first week of the movement.

Sindhi prison personnel helped crowds to break open jails at Dadu and other places to free political prisoners. Hatred has become so great that people applauded the killing of Punjabi policemen.

In the Punjab itself, the most heavily populated and developed province, the movement has so far been at a slower pace despite a similar hatred of the regime and similarly deteriorating conditions which are stoking up the fires for future upsurges. One reason is that many activists have been in prison or in exile.

Around two million Pakistani workers, mainly from the Punjab are working abroad and sending annual remittances valued at \$2.9 billion, more than Pakistan's total exports! The money sent back has for a time taken the edge off the need for immediate action compared to the most poverty stricken areas.

Top opposition leaders, even in the PPP, have also decided on non-confrontation for a long time. Cooperation in Zia's "advisory council", the 57,000 municipal committee election constituencies

and religious tax committees by PPP activists under the leaders' instructions has exposed a number of the middle layer of activists to potentially corruptive influences.

The movement in the Punjab, nonetheless, has been developing, but has been overshadowed by the explosions in Sind.

Workers in Punjab must be made aware on the national question and support the fight against national oppression in Sind, supporting the national liberation movement, explaining the real basis of the oppression and the programme of the working class.

The present state of Pakistan can not exist within capitalism. The working class must support the Sindhi people's right to self determination, including the right to secede if the majority desire. We must stress that the national break up of Pakistan and of the Indian sub-continent as a whole can only be prevented by overthrowing the existing system in a movement led by the working class, taking up the national and democratic demands for the emancipation of the masses.

If the workers movement links the national question to the problems facing the working masses, a mass united movement can overthrow Zia's tyranny and the system of capitalism and landlordism it represents.

## EXCLUSIVE: Interview with Chilean strikers

# Fighting more than the bosses

**We print below an interview of a group of strikers in one of Chile's biggest wine producing firms—Vina Santa Carolina.**

This is the 11th most profitable firm in the country and up to January was part of one of Chile's biggest conglomerates, Cruzat—Larrain, before it went bankrupt.

The 400 workers are organised into four trade unions, as a result of labour laws which attempted to atomize the trade

union movement. But all four unions are united through affiliation to the local union federation in the local area of Vicuna Mackenna, one of the most industrialised districts of Santiago.

Posters and placards round the workplace and along one of the city's main streets, explain the reason for the strike and ask for support. The strikers have also organised visits to other workplaces in the area to create closer links with other unions.

**Q: "What type of firm is it?"**

**A:** "It is a wine producing firm in the Agro-industrial Sector. The firm is closely linked with, and owns the majority of shares in the other important firms in this sector. 93 workers are on strike, involving 2 trade unions—El Consorcio Vitivinicola de Miraflores and Sociedad Distribuidora Santa Carolina.

"We are signing an agreement that has to last two years. We are asking for 100% compensation for the rate of inflation over those two years. Our other demands include 100 pesos daily for transport, the firm is offering us 29.3 pesos. We are asking for 2,000 pesos for our lunch, the boss offers us 374 pesos per month, that means less than 18 pesos daily when a quarter kilo of bread costs 29 pesos!

The firm also wants to maintain at the same level bonus payments for holidays, births and marriage. We want an increase here and in the payments for primary education for our children, which is only 915 pesos for technical education.

"We are also asking for special payment each December equivalent to 10 days pay. The firm refuses to pay this solely because it is not mentioned by law, not because of shortage of money."

**Q: "What is the average wage?"**

"Most workers earn between 8,000—9,000 pesos. From this wage you have subtract tax equivalent to 19.7%. With these low wages, adjustments for inflation are crucial, we are asking for 100% every 3 months.

"We have been in negotiations for a month and a half. Having reached no agreement, we voted unanimously to go on indefinite strike."

**Q: "How do you see the development of the strike and what problems do you face?"**

"What is being offered doesn't satisfy our needs. We are going to show the firm by our action what we are fighting for. Strikes are only legal for 60 days. One extra day and we would all be made redundant, according to the labour laws.

"This strike is very important for us; it is the first organised by our union in its 4 years of existence. Many strikers are young and have never participated in a strike before."

"There is a negotiation committee in charge of all negotiation with the firm. But the whole strike is organised by a committee elected by the strikers. In total there are 9 committees for the strike as a whole, finance, solidarity (in charge of collecting food) security, publicity, discipline, cooking, entertainment and education, also one in charge of cleaning the building.

"Any striker not on one of these committees goes out collecting money and other activities. We are also giving out information to the other unions in the area and the press.

"We are not asking for anything exaggerated. We are not asking for any favours, only what belongs to us and is necessary to satisfy our minimum needs.

"According to the magazine Ercilla, Vina Santa Carolina made a profit of over 600 million pesos in the first 6 months of this year. We also have to add the profits of their other firms—Watt's and Cervecerias Unidas.

"The bosses say the profits are not so high, but we know they are because there has been a complete change in the machinery. For example, changes in the champagne bottling machinery cost approximately \$700,000. This they hide as losses."

**Q: "Are there any other strikes and are you in contact with any strikers?"**

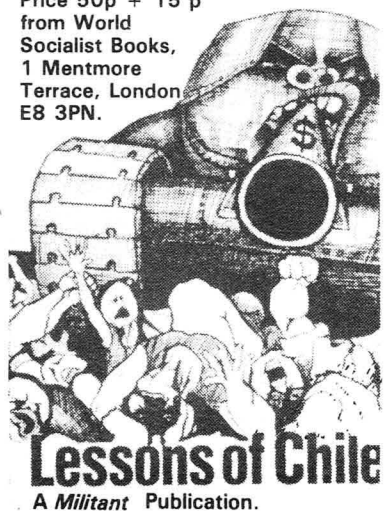
**A:** "Yes, copper miners who were sacked have organised a common kitchen; we've collected food for them and they will be coming here."

**Q: "What is the mood amongst the strikers?"**

**A:** "Excellent!! Any obstacle gives us more strength. There is enormous optimism in our ability to win. But most important is the experience we get because we are a new union. Even if we are defeated we would have gained in organisation and development of each worker.

"We know we are fighting more than the bosses of Santa Carolina. Our struggle clashes with the present labour laws. We have to change these laws and the bosses have never given us anything!"

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Pinochet at the military parade to commemorate ten years since his bloody coup.

## CHILE: Violence of a dying regime

**GROWING ECONOMIC** crisis in Chile is putting another nail in the coffin of the crumbling Pinochet dictatorship. The hatred of the vicious military police regime has been translated into political action, fuelled by massive inflation and 30% unemployment.

An estimated 70,000 marched in Santiago on 11 October. In three days of demonstra-

tions four people died and thirty were wounded, but despite this repression, protest will continue. Polarisation has grown to such an extent that many born-again liberals, capitalists who recently "rediscovered" democracy now fear that they cannot cobble together a safe bourgeois alternative to Pinochet.



Queuing for soup kitchens in Chile.





## Just an everyday tragedy

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to thank you for publishing an article in *Militant* Issue 667, 14 September on Dovecote in Liverpool.

My sister Pamela had an illness from birth called

cystic fibrosis which attacks the lungs and digestive system. My family and I live in a house allocated to us in 1975 as special medical priority.

In 1980 my dad started reporting repairs and faults to the local council office,

such as a cracked wall from ceiling to floor continuing upstairs to the roof, rising damp, and many other disgusting faults like a chimney breast condemned because the gas fire's fumes were blowing back—this is the room where my sister had to sleep for years with her bad lungs before she died. My mother is very ill and she's distraught at the whole matter.

My dad has been trying to get our case publicised in national and local papers. A *Daily Star* reporter called to our house and said they do not deal with housing problems, but the problem was to do with my sister's health. The *Daily Mirror* gave us no answer, and the *Liverpool Echo* refuse to publish it.

Yours fraternally  
Larry Murphy  
Liverpool  
West Derby (North)  
LPYS



Bad housing threatens the health of thousands of children.

Photo: Militant

## Two letters about abortion

Dear Comrades,

I read with interest the recent letters on abortion in *Militant*. Particularly the letter from Mr Paul Hillier two weeks ago, which I felt I had to reply to.

A few years ago I like Mr Hillier was anti-abortion. Now experience has taught me otherwise. I would like to relay that experience to Paul Hillier (who is no doubt genuine): the realities of life for working class women.

A few years ago at the age of 18 I found myself pregnant. I was unemployed, I had no money and was kicked out of my parents' house. Effectively I was on the streets, with only hostel accommodation for homeless people. I was terrified, I couldn't even look after myself let alone a child.

At that point I decided with a terrible conscience to

have an abortion. It was the most agonising decision of my life. And for all those who argue against abortion and think it is the easy way out—it is the most traumatic experience any woman can go through.

But that was only the beginning—trying to get an abortion on the NHS was a terrible experience. My GP was unsympathetic and unhelpful and kept asking me why I didn't want my baby. It resulted in me trudging round four different hospitals before a termination was granted—I felt like a criminal, the lowest of the low.

From my experience I have found that it is the system that makes abortion necessary. Capitalism gave me nothing. I had no job, no home, no facilities, no future and no hope. Under these conditions we as socialists must fight for working-class women's right to abortion on the NHS and a society

where such situations cannot be repeated.

Yours fraternally  
An unemployed working-class woman  
(Name and address supplied)

Dear Comrades,

I would also like to reply to Paul Hillier's letter opposing abortion.

When I was four months pregnant, I caught German measles, which I wrongly thought I'd had as a child. The consequences of this disease for an unborn child can be very serious, with a high risk of deafness, defective heart, and severe mental handicap to name only a few.

We were therefore faced with a hard decision—to go ahead and have such a child, knowing what sacrifices might be necessary to bring it up, knowing that it might never be able to look after itself, or for me to have an abortion.

## Changing minds with a smile

Dear *Militant*,

Ray Duffill's letter (*Militant* 667) was an interesting comment on the need to expand the paper's sphere of content in order to capture a sizable *daily* working class readership.

The current content of the paper if continued on a daily basis would frankly bore the pants off any potential new readership. So a different approach is needed—workers have a sense of humour, they enjoy sport, they enjoy the fantasy of horoscopes, crosswords etc.

We know life under capitalism is grim but our class has always been able to see the lighter side of life and this *must* be reflected in a daily paper which is aimed not only at Marxists but at our friends who are less politically inclined but whose sympathy we need to encourage.

Socialism must once more become the lifestyle of workers. It is our duty not to impose it, but bring about a change of consciousness, so that our class as a whole is encouraging us as Marxists to help bring about socialism. The content of the daily *Militant* must be a first step in this task so please increase the scope of the paper.

Yours sincerely  
Ian James  
Whitehaven  
Cumbria

## Austin's secret

Dear Comrades,

After hearing Austin Mitchell MP's comments about the *Militant* on the BBC's *Newsnight* programme I felt I had to write about my former childhood hero.

Many Yorkshire comrades may remember Austin when he was a presenter on YTV's *Calendar* programme. During one particular broadcast Austin announced he had learned the secret of walking on water. He then proceeded without shoes and socks, to 'skip' over a bowl of water placed on the studio floor. I kid you not.

Austin was certainly walking on thin ice with his remarks about *Militant*. This arch-witch-hunter (and latter-day Jesus Christ) must really believe miracles can

solve the crisis of British capitalism.

Perhaps we can have a regular review of up and coming comedians, in the daily *Militant*,

Yours fraternally  
Alan Shadforth  
Hull West LPYS

## Unbiased Beeb

Dear Comrades,

Any illusion I had previously about the impartiality of the BBC were dashed by its coverage of Labour Party conference.

The first involved a debate on council slates and the right of CLPs to decide who makes up the slate. To a non-party member the debate may have been confusing but David Dimbleby

Like many other families, our finances depend on my working full-time. I am lucky to have a job I enjoy, that might have had to go. We have two other children—how much care and time would have been left over for them? What about the efforts we try to put into the labour movement—that also might have had to go.

Our decision was that in no way could we bring up a severely handicapped child—nor could we face the prospect of waiting five months to find out what was wrong with it.

Does Paul Hillier really believe he has the right to make that decision for us? Does he believe that the Mrs Thatchers and Lord Dennings of this world should be able to tell us what we should decide?

Yours fraternally  
A working mother  
(Name and address supplied)

soon put them right by saying that it was an "attempt by the NEC to stop the left wing crowding out selection meetings".

This statement from a "respected journalist" was put across as a fact even though not one person in the debate uttered a single sentence remotely like the one quoted!

Yours fraternally  
Adrian O'Malley  
Wakefield LPYS

## Take a deep breath

Dear *Militant*,

In my home town of Sittingbourne we have only two minor hospitals with no casualty or emergency services. Both are set in 19th

century buildings, they have become delapidated and in one case the X-ray dept has patients' files kept in the waiting room.

If you are unlucky enough to need emergency treatment you have to travel 10 miles to the Medway towns, and in the case of pregnancy to the Isle of Sheppy, another 10-mile trip.

An example of the dangers involved in this is that of my wife, who went into Sheppy General to give birth when she developed complications. With no emergency facilities available she had to be rushed to Medway, a trip of 22 miles for an operation, losing 6 pints of blood on the way. This was in 1976 before Thatcher's election.

The consequences now of Tory policies will be disastrous.

Yours fraternally  
Malcolm Young  
Sittingbourne CLP

one woman, who as the camera showed lived in a palatial home, talking about taking away the years of accumulated "feather bedding" that Labour had fostered, and encouraging people to go out and find work.

Another delegate talked about his crackpot economics. He claimed that workers always wanted wage rises whilst inflation was rising but now it's down they should accept lower pay.

Let's remember too, Tebbit's own infamous statement about getting out and finding work.

Don't talk to Tories, organise the labour movement with clear socialist policies to defeat them. The General Council of the TUC have made a grave mistake, and it will blow up in their faces.

Yours fraternally  
Gary Nightingale  
Maidstone CLP

## Appeal!

Dear Comrades,

I lodged an appeal for a single payment for shoes for myself and family from the social security. We were disqualified on the grounds that I had over £300 in savings.

After proving to the social security officer that this was incorrect, I reapplied and we were again disqualified under something named regulation no 5 which in the first disqualification notice was not even mentioned.

To my immense satisfaction we were informed that we have won our appeal and been awarded the sum of £48 to cover the cost of shoes for myself and family.

I hope that my letter encourages other comrades and their families in similar situations.

Yours fraternally  
T. Sedden  
Faversham Labour Party

## Men from the Ministry

Dear Comrades,

I thought you might like this little tit-bit of information from a statement by the Department of Transport (Marine Division) referring to accident report forms. I can't make head or tail of it, and I should think it is pretty difficult for anyone on the sharp end of an accident too.

"The Department of Transport is interested in certain types of dangerous occurrence. These types are listed in the Regulations and in Annex 6. If such a dangerous occurrence occurs, it is to be reported on an accident report form whether or not it has caused a reportable accident.

"The Department treats those dangerous occurrences which cause a reportable accident, and those which did not cause a reportable accident as a dangerous occurrence.

"Normally, dangerous occurrences did not cause a reportable accident. This is probably because people are more careful in situations which they recognise to be dangerous."

Yes, Minister!  
Yours fraternally  
M Miller  
(Colchester N. LPYS)

## Animal rights

Dear Comrades,

The fight against animal exploitation is undoubtedly becoming more and more political. Most animal rights organisations urged a non-Tory vote in the last election. Some didn't take any position, the rest urged their supporters to vote Labour.

There was an interesting sentence in the official Labour leaflet which went: "The way society treats its animals is an indication of the nature of society itself."

Take for example factory farming. Producing an animal for food requires far more vegetable food than is eventually obtained from the dead animal. Almost all vivisection experiments are trivial, and are repeated by every multinational drug corporation and almost all cosmetic companies. An animal dies in a British laboratory every six seconds! While people are denied basic health treatment, this insanity continues so that the ICIs of the world can expand their profits.

Yours  
Steve Addison  
Macclesfield

## Behind Tory talk

Dear Comrades,

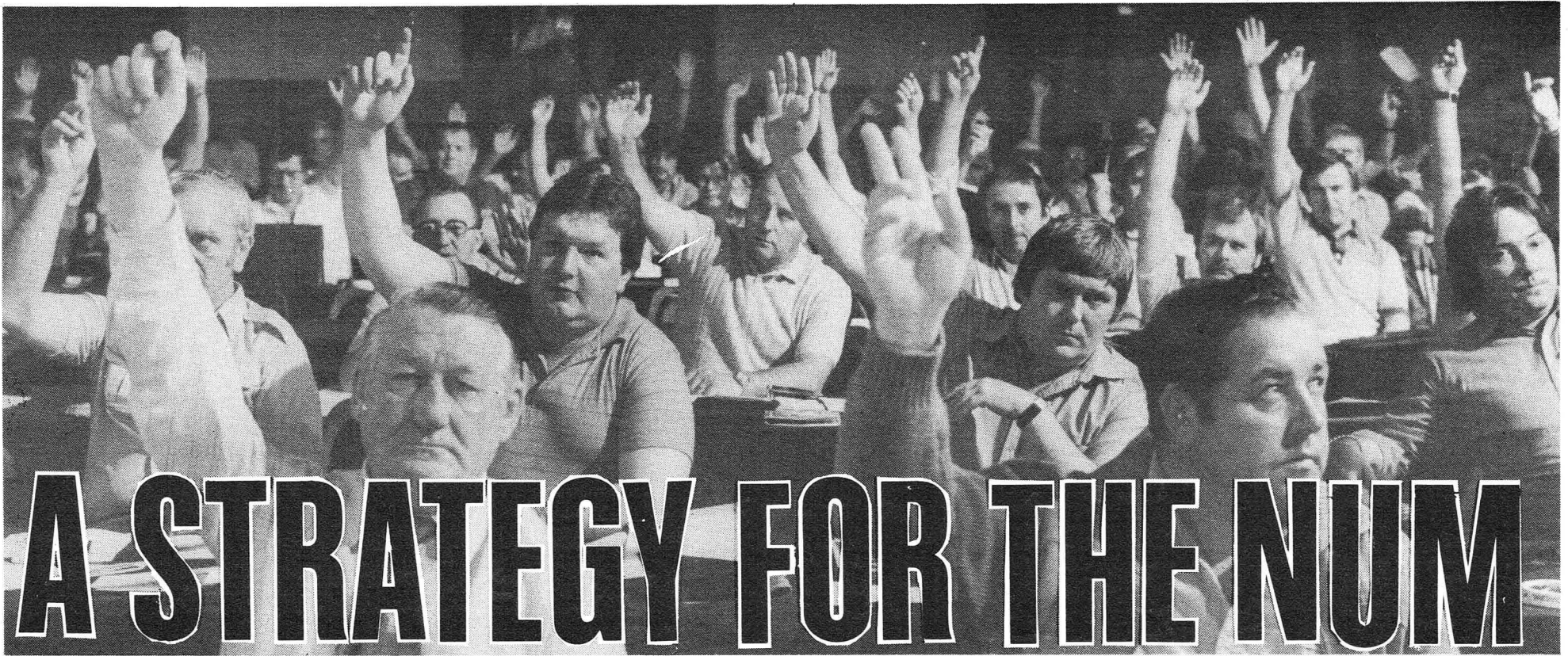
I read with interest in *Militant* 669 the letter from St Helens on talking to Tebbit. Its point of view was that the only way to "turn the tide" for working people was to enter into these discussions the TUC has decided upon.

I would like to say that talking to the Tories is a waste of time. The reality of

what these people are talking about is horrific, and this was amply demonstrated by the Channel 4 TV programme called *The Reds and the Blues* about the Tory and Labour Party conferences last year and it really showed the anti-working class attitude the Tories have.

Some of the delegates were interviewed, including





**10,000 jobs have been lost from the mining industry between April and September 1983. The NCB wage offer would mean a real decline in living standards for miners.**

**The future of our industry is at stake, as the appointment of axeman MacGregor to head the NCB makes clear.**

The development of nuclear power, the introduction of new technology, starvation of investment to certain areas whilst preparations are made for privatisation of others, all are clear warnings of what a Tory future holds.

But miners are not immune from the temporary mood of caution seen in the labour movement today. The effects of a recession which workers' leaders failed to prepare the movement for, and their inability to defend workers' living standards under Labour and Tory governments weigh heavily on the minds of even the best organised workers.

Our union's leadership must spell out a clear strategy. Then that strategy has to be campaigned for up and down the country to convince miners that this government can be defeated.

On two major occasions in the last three years (four in the case of South Wales) miners have gone to the brink of strike action in defence of their industry and jobs.

In February 1981 S. Wales struck and backed within twenty-four hours by thousands of miners throughout the country. The supposedly invincible Tories were forced into their first U-turn, though we gained only temporary respite.

Following the defeat for the national leadership in the October 1982 ballot, the South Wales Area adopted a strategy based on the need for a ten-year programme of survival for the coalfield linked to a clear programme of demands.

S. Wales voted two to one to pull back from action again, influenced by the Kinnell closure in Scotland, the NCB offer of a survey of S. Wales' coal reserves and lifting of the area recruitment ban.

On Friday 21 October the National Union of Mineworkers' special conference meets to discuss the NCB's 5.2% pay offer and the threat of further pit closures. The offer is worth, on average, an extra £3.30 a week, and means a real cut in living standards over the next year. The £1,000 a week NCB chairman MacGregor has said, like a 19th century coal baron, "circumstances might change my generosity."

The conference has to respond to Thatcher's geriatric hit-man. Most areas have rejected the offer and are calling for an overtime ban.

The NUM faces the most testing time in its history since the 1920s. **Ian Isaac, Secretary of St John's Lodge, South Wales NUM Executive, and delegate to conference, explains (in a personal capacity) some of the issues and the kind of strategy he is arguing for.**

It then became clear, especially with the closure of Blaen Grwach colliery that the NCB had no intention of keeping their promises.

The men were canvassed on the issue of survival and the coalfield's future. The area EC this time favoured a ballot three weeks ahead instead of the traditional S. Wales pithead meetings and a show of hands on whether to support the leadership.

During this time the NCB announced the closure of Lewis Merthyr for autumn '83 and the men responded with a sit-in, led by Des Duffield then area vice-president, which precipitated a spontaneous strike movement.

With a third of the coalfield already out and many not getting to the ballot there was a vote of 55.4% for a strike despite the media propaganda. That majority rose to 68% during the strike.



Photo: Militant

**Arthur Scargill**

We adopted the tactic described by the *Sun* as "a sophisticated system of on-call delegates ready at a minute's notice to travel and to speak at any part of the British coalfield." This campaign produced results.

Every area canvassed was to ballot its members with a recommendation for strike action. Many individual pits were already out.

Arthur Scargill observed that the strike would spread like wild fire and gave it his

support. But the NEC was brought forward a week and unanimously called a national ballot. Pits on strike, apart from South Wales, were sent back to work during the ballot.

The momentum of the strike, already affecting a third of the industry by the time of the ballot, was certainly broken. The NCB succeeded in casting doubt on the chances of saving Lewis Merthyr, and their propaganda campaign, including individual letters on men's lockers and a media barrage, took its toll.

Though the right wing area leaders campaigned for a 'Yes' vote, their past policies undoubtedly have an effect today.

The incentive scheme, a legacy of the Gormley era, and campaigned against by the left and twice rejected by the membership, has had a weakening affect on the solidarity of the union. The NCB has thrown millions of pounds into Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, while in areas like South Wales men have seen little of it, or overtime either. This has been a conscious splitting tactic by the NCB.

Another general problem has been the carrot of redundancy money. A man over fifty who takes redundancy now receives an average £75 a week, a £15,000 lump sum and house coal. Over the next three to four years it will affect 25% of all mineworkers if allowed to proceed.

At present National Conference has no authority to interfere with the incentive scheme. A way round this must be found. One method could be to rescind the NEC minute on the scheme put there by Gormley and replace it with a national scheme. Clauses could then be introduced to take account of differences in machine availability time,

machine capabilities and geology, thus reducing the competitiveness bred by the scheme. We have to neutralise its effect in the short term and incorporate it into basic rates in the longer term.

In order to counter the NCB's use of redundancy payments the union must redouble its efforts to win retirement at fifty-five with lump sums comparable to the proposed payments and also job replacements on a one-for-one basis. Mineworkers should retire with dignity not as pawns in the closure of pits and destruction of the future of their children and communities.

Above all the NUM must be a campaigning union all year round. The membership must be prepared now for the battles to come. The NEC must draw up a plan like that of the S. Wales area, which demands guarantees on the lives of pits throughout the country and the necessary financing to maintain and expand coal production in Britain. A campaign must then be waged to explain this to miners and to prepare them to fight for it.

### Draw up battle plan

Above all the NUM must be a campaigning union all year round. The membership must be prepared now for the battles to come. The NEC must draw up a plan like that of the S. Wales area, which demands guarantees on the lives of pits throughout the country and the necessary financing to maintain and expand coal production in Britain. A campaign must then be waged to explain this to miners and to prepare them to fight for it.



A key part can be played by rank and file activists in assisting such an official campaign. An open and democratic Broad Left body such as already exists in some areas, could make a decisive difference. It could arm miners with facts, figures and arguments to take to their workmates, building the campaign for fighting socialist policies in the NUM.

It could be a key lever moving the union into action. During the pay ballot campaign Arthur Scargill spoke to and enthused about 10% of NUM members. This 10% could be organised in a permanent Broad Left.

The union leadership, with the support of the Broad Left, could campaign effectively to expose NCB propaganda. When South Wales delegations visited pits to explain how our pits had been starved of investment, the effect was dramatic. On hearing the facts, we won a warm welcome and promises of support. But we only reached about a fifth of the membership.

In future, the areas must organise pithead meetings of

all members to give them the facts. Full-time officials should be sent into weaker areas to explain why we have to fight.

The NUM has a radical programme. We have to take it out to the membership. And we have to ensure a leadership to match it.

Certain right-wing leaders have used the luxury of a job for life to compromise the union's principles. Only full union democracy can protect us from this.

Even left leaders can best retain the confidence of the members by full and open accountability to them. The five-yearly election of full-time officials is a step forward but we need to democratise the union structure, ensuring the NEC reflects the members interests.

Such changes would give us a leadership with confidence and authority. They would be able to point our campaign in the right direction.

For we must expose the leeches bleeding our industry dry! The private suppliers' profits continue to soar. The banks and finance houses took £341m off the NCB last year—almost 100% rise. Private manufacturers still get electricity at almost half-price.

These parasites must be nationalised. An integrated fuel industry would provide all the necessary funds for expansion and modernisation.

In an industry run Under workers' control, with management run by the coal unions, the TUC and a Labour government, we could produce coal at cheap prices to provide warmth for OAPs, rather than more stockpiles.

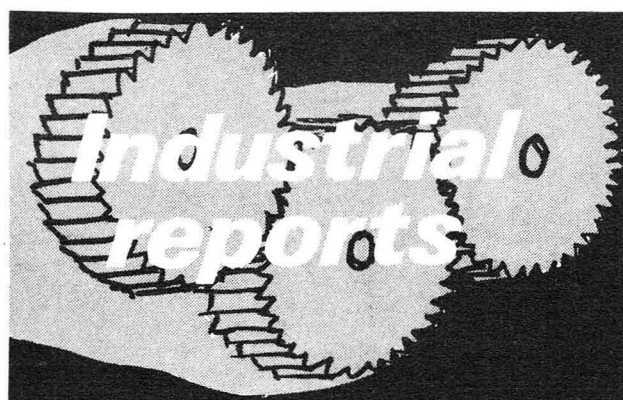
That is the only real answer. That is why we have to fight for a Labour government willing to implement such policies.

We need a government that will halt closures and run a sane fuel policy in the interests of people, rather than profit. That means breaking the big business stranglehold over industry, our economy and our society.

That means winning the Labour Party back to the socialist commitment of its constitution. It means nationalising the top two hundred monopolies that really run Britain.

That is what *Militant* is fighting for. Every miner who wants to stop the Tories should join us in that fight.





## Chloride victory

THE SEVEN-WEEK long strike of 550 T&GWU members at Chloride Power Storage, Clifton Junction, Swinton, Manchester has ended in victory. A mass meeting on Wednesday voted to return to work having won a basic pay increase and a management guarantee of no compulsory redundancies.

Two weeks ago, management sent out a letter to everyone on strike stating that if they did not return to work by Wednesday 12 October, the company would take it that they had dismissed themselves.

The response to this was tremendous. At 5 am there was a mass picket of over 300 and only 15 men went in!

A day or so later, the management laid on two special buses for anyone wishing to scab. This resulted in twelve going in, one of these turned out to be a striker using the opportunity to get a free lift to the picket line!

The day following the mass picket all the strikers

received notices saying they had dismissed themselves, with an accompanying letter offering them their old jobs back, on condition they accepted the new terms.

Pressure mounted on the management to reach a negotiated settlement. The ACTTS members at Clifton (office staff) voted last week to also strike if the dismissal notices were carried through. In addition all but three of the Chloride plants across the country have now passed motions in favour of supportive strike action.

Following an intervention by Moss Evans and discussions with Alex Kitson, management agreed to negotiations over last weekend. The workforce at Clifton want the rest of the company to understand that the aim of management in this dispute was not just to hold the line of any pay rise, but to break the unions at this plant as a first step of a general attack throughout the combine.

By Steve Callon  
(Salford East LPYS)

# Schweppes national stoppage

'YOU KNOW who' came to a halt for 24-hours on Friday 14.

Seven out of eight Schweppes plants around the country came out against management's closure plans.

Frank McNally, deputy convenor at the threatened Aintree plant, said support from other factories and from local Labour MPs and councillors gave them

heart.

Workers at East Kilbride, who will gain—in the very short term—if Aintree closes, came out. Cadbury-Schweppes workers in Birmingham, who have never taken action before, joined the strike.

At Aintree 70% of the workforce turned up to picket! Not one hourly-paid employee tried to go in.

'All the Liverpool MPs are

fully behind the Schweppes workers', said Terry Fields MP for Broadgreen. 'We will be prepared to get involved in any action, including occupation should that be necessary. We are only too pleased that someone is taking a stand.'

Tony Hayes told *Militant*: 1983 will be a year long remembered in Schweppes.

They celebrated a 15.2%

growth in sales and trading profits of £45 million. They have also announced closures and redundancies.

Management held a lavish binge at the Royal Festival Hall, attended by guests from all over the world. Hopefully the 40-strong picket of Schweppes workers gave them indigestion.

They have refused to rethink the Aintree closure. In negotiations they insisted on continuing to contract work out.

They are trying to split us, by fostering the idea that once we close, other sites will be safe.

But we've made it plain that we're not throwing away Merseyside jobs.

There should be no one who doesn't feel threatened. Schweppes are running down their UK operation in search of fatter profits abroad—for the first time profits are greater from abroad than from the UK.

We're hoping for a demonstration in Liverpool on 19 November organised jointly by the unions, workplaces facing closure and the City Council. The Council involvement has been vital in putting pressure on management.

Tony Hayes TGWU convenor at Schweppes, Aintree, spoke to *Militant*

Photo: John Smith (IFL)



Chloride strikers on the picket line in Manchester. T&G convenor John Sunderland has thanked *Militant* for support which has come through our reports. We congratulate Chloride workers for their victory.

## All London Transport campaign

ON MONDAY 17 October, over 250 London Transport workers attended a delegate conference against the Tories Transport Bill which will mean closures and redundancies and privatisation of profitable parts of London Transport.

The conference was called by the London Transport Trade

Union Council, in which all the unions in the industry are represented by their full time officials.

In the opening remarks of the chairperson, he said that lay members on the London Transport Board had played a valuable role in staving off some of the harsh measures which the Tory government was so hell bent on implementing. But some of the trade unions wanted their own autonomy in deciding how best to fight the redundancies of their own members and staving off privatisation.

Speaker after speaker from the floor spoke of the way in which management over the years has played one group of workers off against another and picked off individual groups, which resulted in a weak workforce.

This has not stopped the thirty five NUR members at present suspended from work by management in Acton Works for refusing to make it easy for private contractors.

It was crystal clear from the contributions from the delegates, covering railways, bus, clerical, and building departments especially the contribution of Bro J McGuinness that the London Transport Trade Union Council should be speaking as one voice on major issues. They all see this as a first step forward in a campaign to fight against cuts in London Transport.

By Pat Atkinson  
(Stamford Bus Garage)

## Carousel—support young workers

THREE MONTHS on, and the strike at the Carousel Wafer dispute in Glasgow's East End remains solid.

Support for the ten young workers, striking for union recognition, decent wages and working conditions, has been flooding in.

Local co-operative shops have refused to sell Carousel products. In Liverpool, dockers refused to handle an export order, which was headed for Saudi Arabia. Such acts of solidarity will be crucial to the outcome of this dispute.

As well as donations from the labour movement in the West of Scotland money has come in from as far afield as Inverness and Wales. Pensioners from

Wales and Middlesex sent donations and messages of support.

Terry Fields MP, at last week's *Militant* meeting stressed the need to support the young workers at Carousel and made a donation to the strike fund.

However, the most important form of support for these young workers, is that of the mass picket which is organised weekly. Fifty workers turned up to show their solidarity last week, but as Carol Rodgers said at the *Militant* Meeting, the aim is for four to five times that number!

Steven Lee  
(Springburn LPYS)

## Bristol DHSS Strike against overtime

OVERTIME IS a temptation difficult for low-paid workers to resist. But DHSS staff in Bristol have shown that overtime can be fought by a strong trade union campaign.

CPSA and SCPS members were angered by management demands for overtime to clear backlogs of supplementary benefits work created by manpower cuts while certain staff

were receiving letters telling them they were "surplus to requirements".

At the Bristol Central office last week, management withdrew their offer of overtime when the unions threatened to bring out on strike as many members as intended to work overtime.

On Monday 10 October at the Horfield office the unions car-

ried out a similar threat because overtime had been worked over the previous weekend, resulting in a stike of most supplementary benefits staff and a well-supported picket line.

Magnificent support was given to a second strike call at Horfield office. All sections of the office were involved. Members were incensed to learn that an HEO (middle management) was earning £8 an hour for filing.

The action looks like spreading to the other Bristol offices. The NEC have made this action official but to date have not offered any strike pay.

By Harriet Stevens  
(CPSA DHSS, Bristol)

## No shipyard pay freeze

OVER 500 shipyard workers protested in Newcastle on Thursday 12 against the industry's prolonged pay freeze and threats of further redundancies.

The fight-back must begin now. John Heathcoate, EET-PU, shop steward, said 'We've been waiting six months for a rise and now management are calling for further redundancies. If we don't get what we want we shall be recommending industrial action.'

Management intend to axe another 5,400 jobs, 2,000 before the end of the year. The shop stewards are also calling for a 35 hour week and an extra 2 days holidays a year.

The theme of the demonstration was "No sell out". Much of the anger was directed against union leaders who were jeered as they spoke.

A national delegates conference will be held in Newcastle on October 28 to decide future tactics.

By Ed Waugh  
(Wallsend LPYS)

## Metal Box at Bromborough

ON FRIDAY 30 September the Metal Box company announced its intention to close Bromborough factory.

The decision to close has been made by the company without any consultations whatsoever.

There has been no investment on production plant and equipment yet the closure is being blamed on poor performance and huge losses. The company's intention is to transfer this business to Portdown and to Swindon.

Every Metal Box establishment in the UK has been affected by redundancies, or loss of jobs through natural wastage,

non-recruitment etc.

Over the past few years the number of redundancies have amounted to 10,000. The total within the next 6 months, with the proposed closure of Bromborough and other proposed redundancies is expected to exceed 12,000.

Workers at Bromborough are fighting this closure on behalf of all Metal Box workers. They need the financial and industrial support of the labour movement. Contact: S Fox, Chairman Action Committee, 34 Higher Bebbington Road, Higher Bebbington, Wirral, Merseyside.

## Fight for pay at Shell

RECENT TV reports accused Shell, (among others) of fixing their petrol pumps to give short measures. The same approach is now being used on the workers of Shell.

Having seen 1981-82 profits rise by 52%, to £240 million, dividends double to £200 million, and directors already on well over £100,000 per year get 50% wage increases, Shell workers at the Stanmow and Thornton factories overwhelmingly rejected a derisory 4½% wage offer.

The extent of opposition to the offer was shown on Wednesday 12 October when the hall booked by the T&GWU wasn't big enough take all who turned up!

Although at this meeting the stewards' proposal for all out action was narrowly defeated there was tremendous support for an immediate overtime ban and a work to rule, with further sanctions to be decided by the stewards.

This followed a similar decision by the craft unions, organised in a joint-union negotiating committee two days earlier. Workers organised in the other major union, ASTMS, will be voting on the offer next week. Since the vote, there have been two walk outs by all T&G members at the start of their campaign of 'guerilla action'.

By a Shell  
ASTMS member

## Esso subbies go back

STRIKING sub-contract workers at ESSO Fawley refinery near Southampton returned to work on Thursday 13 October after a narrow vote at a mass meeting.

No real progress has been made on the men's claim for higher wages, a shorter working week, and a pension scheme, although promises have been made to negotiate on some parts of the claim.

The strikers have been out for over six weeks, and the vote to return was a result of the failure of the full time officials to make the strikers active. Time after time, T&GWU lorry drivers have expressed their willingness not to cross official picket lines,

but were told to do so by their full time officials. The officials recommended they return to work in opposition to the shop stewards.

By Nick Brooks

USDAW Broad Left National Committee 2.30pm Sunday 23 Oct All USDAW members welcome. Please note venue changed to Minor Rooms, YMCA, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3. Only minutes from previous venue.

## Newcastle painters —no brush off

PAINTERS EMPLOYED by Newcastle's Labour council held a half-day strike last week to fight off redundancies. They lobbied the Housing Committee, demanding that the 25 compulsory redundancies be withdrawn and the council carry out Labour Party policy in defending council workers.

The Tories are trying to undermine council-employed direct labour organisations by forcing contracts out to tender and into the hands of the private contractors.

The DLO trade unions recognise that this is a political fight.

The council have been forced to withdraw the redundancies. However, this is only a short-term victory.

It is vital that the DLO workers build links with other council workers to strengthen the campaign.

The Labour Group on the council must carry out local Labour Party policy, give a clear commitment to defend these jobs and lead a fight against the real enemy of local government—the Tories.

By Dave Archibald  
(Newcastle City councillor, personal capacity)

## Stockport Messenger

AFTER SIXTEEN weeks strikers at the *Stockport Messenger*, despite the disappointing turn-out on the mass picket last Tuesday, are still defiant. They are resisting blatant intimidation by management and police—who are now trying to insist on a maximum of six pickets.

The workers at Stockport need the support of the entire trade union movement. The print unions in particular must organise another mass picket and leaflet local trade unionists.

Sympathy strike action by print workers at other newspapers would soon force Shah to back down. Messages of support to: Arthur Scott, Graphic House, Greek Street, Stockport.



# POEU Must step up action to defend jobs

THE POEU is facing the most critical period in its history. The union is faced with the threat of court action to prevent its members from blacking Mercury, and British Telecoms have threatened to sack union members taking action in support of the union's fight against privatisation.

Mercury was set up by big business to undermine the power of the union, as a scab alternative telecommunications network, and to cream profits into private hands. The interconnection of Mercury into BT's public network would mean a massive loss of jobs.

The union's policy is not to interconnect Mercury, and to oppose privatisation. The NEC have stated that the six members

threatened with the sack by BT will be fully supported by the union.

But the central question is how will the POEU leadership support sacked members and reject sackings? And how will the union leaders respond if, as seems certain, Mercury wins its injunction in the High Court?

The choice is clear. Either continue the fight to defend jobs and the public service or submit to Tory and BT intimidation and the loss of tens of thousands of jobs.

The union must defy the injunction if it is granted. The union's case remains as just as ever. The law under which POEU members would be penalised is a biased, cooked up, Tory strategy to safeguard the

narrow interests of a handful of rich company shareholders, in this case, at the expense of thousands of phone engineers and their families.

The response to the threat of sackings must be equally as firm and decisive. The union must call a one-day national strike with mass demonstrations of Telecoms workers in all the major towns throughout the country. Mass meetings must be called in every area to explain the issue to all the members. It is essential to forge unity and prepare them for action—show management and Tories the anger and strength of feeling against the threat of sackings. A one-day strike would be a shot across the bows of BT and the Tories and a warning of what is

to come unless they back down.

Branches will no doubt be responding locally to this situation. An injury to one is an injury to all. Bans and work-to-rules may develop. These should be supported and sanctioned by the NEC throughout the country as an official union response. Selective action against key targets must be organised outside London. The levy must be re-imposed as a matter of urgency. A lobby of the next NEC meeting may be felt necessary by many branches to encourage such a stance.

Many members up and down the country understand that victory is entirely possible but the union will need to utilise and mobilise all the power and solidarity it can muster to defeat

the Tories and defend jobs.

A one-day strike and further selective action may still not be enough to defeat the Tories and BT. In these circumstances the only alternative left to the NEC would be to call an all-out strike.

If the leaders of the union stand firm against a successful injunction the Tories may move to impound the union's funds and even threaten the jailing of leading officials. The only serious response would be an all-out national strike and an appeal to the TUC to activate TUC Conference decisions to support unions defying Tebbit's law and to co-ordinate industrial action in defence of the public sector.

POEU members armed with the justice of their case, united in action have the power to hit

the economy and win. And the POEU would not be alone. Such a struggle would give expression to the anger, bitterness and sense of betrayal that millions of workers now feel towards the Tories. The entire labour movement would offer support and aid the campaign against the Tory offensive.

BT, the Tories and their allies in the Courts are holding a dagger to the throat of the POEU. The only way to prevent our throat being cut is to reply with equal decisiveness and determination.

We did not pick this fight, and the Tories have chosen the weapons, but there can be no turning back now.

## From the picket line

MEMBERS of the International Services POEU Branch, and Stag Lane International Branch, voted to 'work-to-rule' on Friday 1 October. This had a devastating effect on international communications, clearly disrupting all international routes and cutting many off completely. On the 6th thirty-six POEU members working in Mondial House were suspended.

Several attempts to serve suspension notices ended in retreat by management until the following day. The reaction of the other 1,600 members of the branches was to walk out and hold a mass meeting, where they determined they would return to work only on the basis of a continued work-to-rule.

On the night of 7-8 October, senior management entered and took over the main operational building. POEU members were ordered to leave, as were UCW.

called on union officials after these events, and said he hoped that this policy would not "sour our good industrial relations"!

A LEADING member of the London City Branch on the picket line on Monday morning told *Militant*:

"Of 600 members from my exchange, Fore Street, only one man crossed the picket line and he was a Jehovah's Witness who doesn't believe in unions, strikes or blood transfusions!"

ON TUESDAY the POEU pulled 43 members out of the two International Telex exchanges at Keybridge House, Vauxhall, St. Botolphs House, Houndsditch.

Pickets have been at every gate of Colombo House and Blackfriars House. The transmission workers are out and workers bussed in have refused to cross picket lines.

AN OFFICIAL of the Sutton Branch of POEU talked to *Militant* about last week's events. "Management have tried bussing up London South area members to Colombo House, Waterloo. They used a 52-seater coach, but in my area, only 5 people went on it. When they got to Colombo House, none of them crossed the picket line and they were all suspended.

"It appeared to be a deliberate policy on the part of management to raise suspensions as high as possible in order to run down union funds. The General Manager

OVER A thousand members of the locked out Stag Lane and International Services branches have attended mass meetings at the Mermaid Theatre, Blackfriars, a week last Monday and the following Thursday.

SIX OR seven pickets have been covering the Shoreditch exchange. Nine members there have been suspended for refusing to cross the picket line.



Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

## Support residential social workers

OVER TWO thousand residential social workers and other NALGO members lobbied a meeting of the national joint council in London on 17 October where their claim for regrading was being negotiated, in a magnificent show of solidarity.

The residential workers have been taking part in industrial action since 12 September, seeking improvements in their pay and conditions of service which would bring them into line with other local government workers. The predominantly Tory local government employers showed a callous disregard for the vulnerable clients of residential establishments and rejected the claim of the workers.

This move will leave the residential workers with little alternative but to escalate their action in ways which may threaten the life and limb and cover arrangements so far maintained.

Although workers expect this anti-trade union and anti-welfare state attitude from Tories it is inexcusable that Labour-controlled authorities should hide behind the facade of the employers' negotiating body. NALGO must abandon its suicidal non-political stance and call together those authorities which support the claim to give public support to the residential workers to maximise their influence against the Tories on the employers' side.

NALGO, throughout local government, must organise to win this dispute, recognising the problems faced by residential workers and their understandable reluctance to take action which would endanger their clients.

The national funds must be pledged to strike pay for any non-residential workers who take strike action in support of their brothers and sisters in this dispute.

Other forms of action designed to put pressure on employers must be supported and a campaign must be waged throughout the labour movement, via trades councils and local Labour Parties to gain support for pickets, lobbies and demonstrations.

There can be no doubt that a well of sympathy exists for the residential workers. In my own branch a general meeting attended by over a third of the membership voted to strike for the day in support of residential workers.

It is this support that must be organised now, to put maximum pressure on employers to defeat the callous intransigence of the Tories.

By Roger Bannister  
(Chairman, Knowsley Branch, NALGO)

## SCOTS MINERS' STRIKE

ON MONDAY the Scottish Coalfield came to a standstill in support of Monktonhall Colliery.

It was a magnificent show of solidarity and showed to the strikers that we are not standing alone.

Pickets were put on all the pits. At Bilston Glen only one car tried to break the picket. He drove at us three times, we pushed him back and eventually he gave up.

While the TUC leaders are prepared to talk to Tebbit, here the miners broke three of Tebbit's laws—mass picketing, secondary picketing and forcibly stopping people from going to work.

The police stood back, obviously under orders not to intervene, in case any arrests might provoke sympathy action.

After the Scottish delegate Conference many of the branch officials were apprehensive about the possible outcome of the 24-hour stoppage. However,

they under-estimated the depth of feeling in relation to pit closures and the anger at the NCB's bullying tactics.

At Francis Colliery, Fife, any doubts about support for the stoppage or the need of the £2 levy were dispelled as soon as the arguments were heard. All shifts unanimously agreed to the action.

This was similar in other pits in the coalfield. The men understood the battle over Monktonhall is not the fight for one pit but a battle against pit closures in general.

If the Coal Board can close a 19-year-old super pit then they can close any pit.

Even the Blinkbonny Private Mine struck on Monday, after the official decision, when John Donaldson, Vice Chairman of Monktonhall NUM explained our case.

The overseer hinted that if the workers struck they wouldn't be employed the next day. This

prompted another meeting and the men reaffirmed their decision and agreed to join the picket at Bilson Glen.

We now have support in Scotland so we are going South to look for general support. We must try and visit every pit, especially those with similar problems.

If we can show now that pit closures will affect every area and every member then the mood can change.

The Monktonhall miners are confident that we will win this battle but to do so we need the support of our brothers and sisters both inside and outside the industry.

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

By Tam Dury  
(SCEBTA)  
and Chris Herriot  
(Monktonhall NUM  
both in personal capacity)

## Cronton pit Lancs

CRONTON NUM secretary, JOHN HENSBY and NACOD president SHAUN GALLAGHER talked to *Militant* about the threatened closure of their pit.

WE ARE calling for a national overtime ban and we hope that the national conference on 21 October will support us. This will be followed by an area conference report-back on the 22nd, and we are having a joint union meeting in Westham on the 23rd, to build for a campaign. We want to get the members to support.

There was a vote to accept the 5.3% wage offer here, because members feel that we should fight to stop closures. We want to make sure that there is a fight-back from all Lancashire pits.

The Coal Board have said that they will guarantee jobs for the under 50s in the area, but we know that in South Wales, despite promises, some people still didn't get a job. For instance, the craftsmen are very unlikely to get a job in their own trade.

Even the National Coal Board reckon that they are 460 overmanned in the trade in the area. Their average age group is also very young, so where are they going to send these people? If transfers take place, instead of redundancy, where will these 500 jobs come from? They will have to go into other pits.

We want people to be able to retire early, but we don't want jobs lost. The NCB are only willing to retire people early when it suits them. We have a lad here who has had two heart attacks, but they won't let him go on early retirement.

The NCB say that we've got to reduce over-capacity but we feel that they are taking us on as the smallest pit in preparation for an attack on all the Lancashire coalfield. We know that we have high quality coal and the coal could all be sold, but the NCB and government have run down the pit—machinery is about to be let go. They have created a position where we are losing money and yet the area director said we have a vast coal face, the best in the whole area.

The NCB have brought out this survey saying that there is a geological fault through the next three faces. No one can prove it exists or doesn't exist until you dig a tunnel. The NCB put for-

ward an alternative plan, they said in this plan that the pit couldn't produce for seven months. We actually believe that there would be no need to have a gap in production—the tunnels could be dug much quicker than seven months. This pit actually holds the world tunnelling record. We have the manpower and the materials, and this fault could be got over.

We believe the government and NCB strategy is to destroy the NUM. The attitude of the men is definitely beginning to change, there is a hardening of attitudes.

We must fight, or we will be picked off one by one. There are fewer and fewer men working in the pit over the age of fifty. The NCB will come out with plans for compulsory redundancy. We must prepare a campaign now.

Militant Miners' Meeting  
Thursday 27 October,  
7.30 pm at Green  
Dragon pub, Whiston  
near Sutton Manor  
Colliery. Speakers: T  
Fields MP and a speaker  
from Monktonhall NUM



# The ugly face of Tory racism

THE RABID backwoodsmen of the Tory Party were let off the leash last week at their conference in Blackpool.

They ran wild during the 'debate' on repatriation, throwing up the language of the National Front.

They were spurred on by the arch right-wing MF Harvey Proctor, who moved the resolution calling for voluntary repatriation, the scrapping of the Race Relations Act, and an end to all further immigration.

To cheers from sections of the Tory ranks he cried, "Enough is enough". He and his cohorts dredged up all the worst prejudices: "they stick to their own kind", "the police turn a blind eye on their activities", "Here, we speak English" ranted one Birmingham councillor.

An Asian Tory councillor was subjected to hysterical heckling, in scenes unprecedented at a Tory conference.

Yet those Tories who spoke out against Proctor's crudities couldn't conceal the racist undercurrents of the Tory party. They talked of the "immigration problem", "this overcrowded island", and how "Labour flung open the gates". They perpetuated the lie that black and Asian workers were to blame for the crisis in British society today, not the diseased profit system the Tories represent.

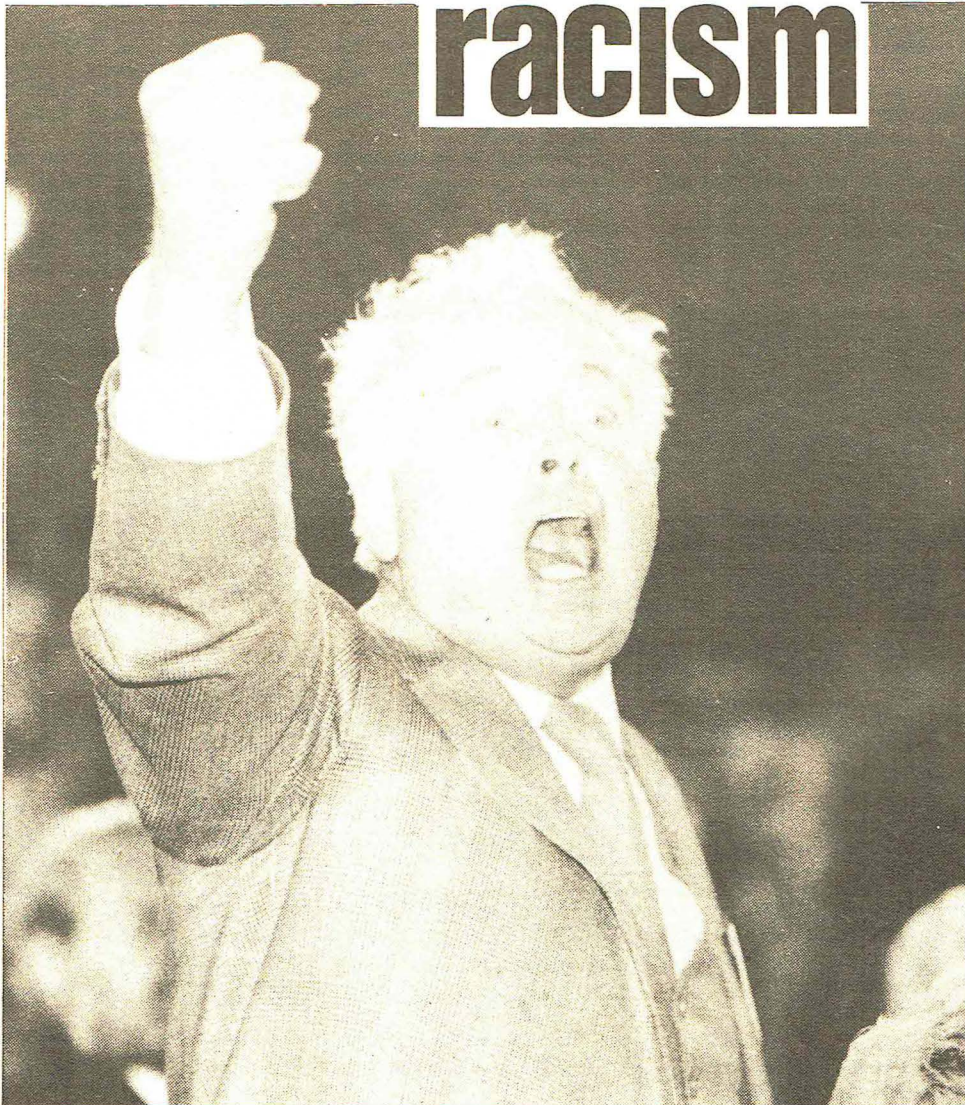


Photo: Denis Doran/Militant

A far right Tory delegate heckles "moderate" speakers. His virulent racist abuse showed how the Tories are keeping their divisive weapon of racism in store for the future.

At best, Tory delegates spoke in sickly, patronising tones. "They now speak with local dialects," said one blue rinse lady with genuine surprise. Another said Asians were "thrifty and supported the home life". The Tory student delegate showed true Tory mentality when he said repatriation

By Bob Wade

was ruled out—it would cost too much!

The repatriation motion was voted down. The Tory press of course used this to show that Thatcher and the majority of the Tory party were 'anti-racist'. Yet it was Thatcher herself who said in 1978 that Britain was being "swamped with an alien culture".

The Tories' racist laws are still very much in force, including their latest addition, the Nationality Act. This week Ramesh Chander from Delhi spends his sixth week behind bars at Heathrow detention centre. He was imprisoned without trial when he arrived in Britain on a holiday to visit his uncle, a British citizen.

The immigration authorities' excuse is that Ramesh would 'go to ground', but as Labour MP Clive Soley pointed out, this

interpretation means that people who are now British citizens can never be visited by their family.

The Tories' economic policies have forced black and Asian workers into the sharp end of the unemployment figures, especially the youth. Since 1978 unemployment for blacks under 24 has increased by 119%.

Despite the Tory leadership's flowery phrases at conference last week, nothing will change while the Tories are in control. To them, racism is a weapon in their armoury to use against working people in varying degrees in the classic tactic of divide and rule, to maintain the domination of the profit system.

The Tories have nothing to offer black and Asian workers. Youth in particular face a dead-end. The only way out is the struggle to end the Tories' system—start the fight now by joining the LPYS at their Black Youth Rally this Saturday, October 22.

See page five

NO PIRATISATION



PRIVATEERS CAN BE STOPPED

## TELECOM

Continued from page one  
 has been solidly supported.

POEU members know that with only 31% of the British electorate voting for them, the Tories do not have a mandate to dismantle and destroy the lives and futures of Telecom workers and the industry they serve in.

The POEU is also under threat from Tebbit's anti-trade union legislation. The POEU together with the whole of the labour movement must reject any interference by the courts with the right of working people to defend their

livelihoods. "Fight to save jobs" must be the rallying cry throughout the labour movement.

Millions of workers both in the public and the private sector are watching keenly our struggle. Already we have had support and sympathy.

If we stand firm we will arouse the active support of millions of trade unionists and workers who want to see this Tory government beaten.

Save our jobs and service! Show the Tories that we reject their policies, reject their government and the brutal profit system they maintain. Support the POEU!

## TORY ARMS

From front page  
 are clearly under pressure.

The documents also disclose that right wing Labour ministers took part in discussions on Cruise as far back as 1978, despite their denials. Activists in the Labour Party must step up their campaign to ensure the party has a leadership that will carry out Labour's unilateralist policies.

CND members must join the Labour Party and take part in that struggle. The Labour Party is the only party backed up by the strength of the organised labour movement that is capable of stopping the nuclear arms race in Britain.

It is a scandal that while three quarters of school-leavers cannot get proper jobs, while there are over three million officially on the dole, and while the Tories are cutting the Welfare State to the bone, Thatcher is prepared to spend up to £8 billion on the Trident missile system and plant Cruise missile bases around Britain.

Some doctors are discussing a protest against government health cuts—by refusing to sign death certificates where the death could have been avoided, but for the cuts. The head of Manchester's renal unit recently explained that although at any one time 2000 people needed kidney machine

facilities, only 800 could be treated—in other words 1200 were condemned to death. And that's in one region.

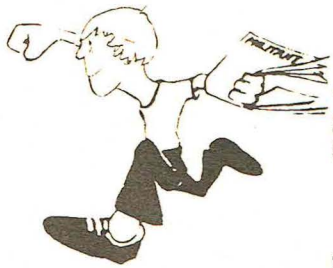
Yet a kidney machine costs the same as one anti-tank missile, of which the army and air-force have thousands. One modern combat aircraft, packed with sophisticated electronics, costs the same as a few thousand machines.

The Tories' huge increase in arms expenditure—20 per cent in real terms—comes from the pockets, the health, education and the living standards of British workers. The labour movement must protest this enormous waste of resources and the stockpiling of weapons of mass destruction.

Join with the Labour Party Young Socialists in their events organised around the massive CND demonstration on October 22.

- Look for the LPYS banners which form up at 10am on the Youth section of the march, between Blackfriars and Waterloo bridge (nearest tube, Embankment). Additional copies of Militant will be available from Cleopatra's Needle.
- Visit the LPYS stall—books and refreshments on sale—at the Foyer at County Hall. (open 10am—7.30pm)
- Come to the LPYS disco at the Jubilee Tavern, York Road (opposite the County Hall). Starts 7.30pm.

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