

GREECE: Two years of PASOK government. Pages 8-9.

CYPRUS: Socialists appeal for workers unity

TURKEY: After the "elections". Page 10.

A message for Thatcher

Printers will fight

The Tories' intentions are clear. The 1982 Employment Act is there to make effective industrial action impossible.

In the battle between the print union National Graphical Association. (NGA) and the Messenger

By Peter Jarvis

(London Region NGA)

Further reports on page 15

Group of Newspapers the tentacles of Tebbit's law are trying to entangle our union to ensure its defeat.

The union now faces sequestration. NGA's National Council in line with conference policy are defying the court's £50,000 fine.

The company, which publishes free sheets in the Stockport area originally had agreements with NGA. But employees at their new factories in Bury and Warrington were only engaged after rigorous interviews to make sure they were anti-union. Such action, unchallenged, would destroy our union.

The NGA answered in the traditional way. They picketed, and other members of NGA and other unions blacked work to the firm.

The management, like the Tories, want to make picketing ineffective. They won a court injunction to stop NGA mass picketing. This has been ignored. 600 turned out!

The Tories' union-breaking laws are designed to intimidate the weak into submission and legally stack the cards against the strong.

The Act says the 6 sacked NGA members can picket factories—provided they are empty! As Tony Dubbins, Assistant General Secretary of the NGA said "to remain within Tebbit's law our members must become blacklegs by continuing to supply organisations assisting the company that sacked our members."

This same straitjacket is being imposed on the print unions at Dimbleby's Newspapers. During a dispute over redundancies they sacked all NGA members.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

Photo: John Smith (IFL)



The police make arrests at the Stockport Messenger's Warrington plant on 15 November.

Build for socialism

PRINT BOSSES will stop at nothing to defend their interests. From the *Stockport Messenger* to the dispute at Robert Maxwell's plant at Park Royal we can see their bias.

Current disputes make it even more vital there is a more frequent *Militant*.

The first step is a building fund and nearly £100,000 has already been promised for the special fund. This is a magnificent sum but one which is going to be extremely difficult to realise in cash terms as Christmas begins to make demands on the

pockets of the workers who support us.

New forms for paying and promising cash to the Marxist Daily Building Fund have been produced and should now be circulated as widely as possible in the labour movement. Send one of these appeals to your own trade union, Labour Party, shop stewards' committee or LPYS branch.

Contact local *Militant* supporters for their special letter to go with it.

All donations and promises to "Marxist Daily Building Fund", c/o 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

Man dies at health meeting

JUST AFTER he had spoken at a meeting on 17 November about health cuts, pensioner and Labour Party member, Arthur Whitley collapsed and died.

Minutes before he had told the public meeting called by SW Durham Community Health Council: "I am waiting for heart surgery at Freeman Hospital Newcastle but there's a twelve month waiting list.

"How can Norman Fowler turn round to the public and say patients on the waiting list are not suffering. He is an idiot, they are dying".

By now Mr Whitley was clearly in distress and he added just before sitting down, "I might have something to add later." Tragically a few minutes later he collapsed from a heart attack. As doctors

vainly fought to save his life, the meeting was abandoned.

As Sedgefield MP, Tony Blair, one of the speakers at the meeting, commented: "There could have been no more dramatic or tragic way of making the point about the health service and the danger it is in. I only wish Norman Fowler, Margaret Thatcher and some of the hard faced men that run the government could have been

in there to see the practical effects of their policies."

Since last week's meeting Wear Valley Trades Council have helped establish an Action Committee to co-ordinate the local campaign to defend the health service. Everyone now knows the human cost if we fail.

By Kevin Gent
(ASTMS, Spennymoor)

Liverpool demo reports pages 2-3

LIVERPOOL ANSWERS



THE LABOUR movement cannot afford to sit by and watch Liverpool take on the Tories on their own. The demonstration last Saturday was a clear indication that the unions and the Labour Party in Liverpool are prepared to fight.

If the council is forced to retreat then effectively the campaigns in Sheffield, Glasgow London and the Metropolitan counties will be seriously undermined. Liverpool cannot wait until 1984 to fight alongside the other authorities. The issue has been forced onto them by the course of events.

Labour's conference this year agreed that the NEC should organise a special conference of local government, unions and parties to co-ordinate a campaign of opposition. This conference should be organised NOW. It must be fully representative of the movement with shop stewards from the private as well as the public sector in attendance.

Such a conference would offer the movement the opportunity of organising a national fightback against the Tories. The increasing number of industrial disputes and the growing crisis within the Tory ranks are symptomatic of the growing crisis of the economic situation. The movement on Merseyside could be the focal point not just of a campaign on local authority cut but a chance to draw together the workers in the print industry, telecoms and the NHS in a battle with the Tory government.

The NEC of the Labour Party and the leadership of the unions should be discussing now what action they will take in the event of the Tories moving against Liverpool. The demand for a city-wide strike received a tremendous response and this call should be taken up as the next step in the campaign to save Liverpool's services and defeat the Tories.

Massive support for council

Over 20,000 people marched in Liverpool on Saturday, in support of the Council's stand against the Tory cuts. It was a magnificent response to those who think that the Tories cannot be beaten. They can, and Merseyside has shown the way.

Unlike other demonstrations, thousands had turned up well in advance, with many who had travelled on the city's busses getting free travel as an unofficial gesture of support from the bus drivers.

As the demonstration moved through the streets marchers were joined by Saturday shoppers. Demonstrators mingled with on-lookers and eventually it all spilled over onto the pier-head.

Banner after banner from every major union, virtually every factory and office made up a massive body of opposition to the Tories. Tony Mulhearn, President of the District Labour Party, said: "This is the biggest local demonstration we have seen since the struggle against Heath's Industrial Relations Act—the biggest in fact since the war. And I think that it is a clear indication to the Tory government, to the establishment and to the ruling class that it would be a mistake to take Liverpool on. This is a clear message to Thatcher and her supporters. So far and no further!"

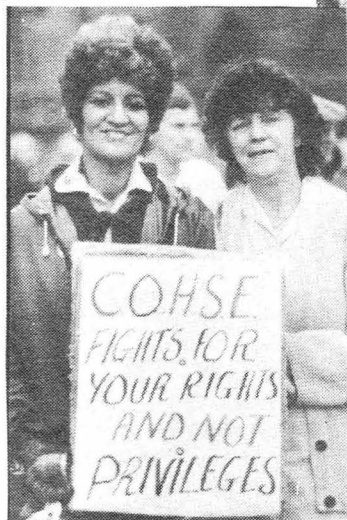
The demonstration got a warm reception from the Liverpudlians who had come out in force to support their Council. As demonstrators chanted, "Kick the Tories out" the response from those watching of the pavement was "kick them out and keep them out".

The LPYS, with their decorated lorry and with their specially invited "guests"—a bogus Young Tory and Ronald Reagan—amused but also inspired those watching the demonstration. Tony Benn pointed out at the rally: "When the older generation look at the marchers they see the LPYS and they see the Labour Party they joined in the 20's and 30's".

The factory gate meetings, the street meetings, the canvassing and the work carried out in the local Labour Parties and trade union branches was shown in the overwhelmingly solid wrking class representation on the march itself. Workers from Fords, Cammel Lairds, all the major T&GWU branches were

"I'm interested in what it says on my poster. If you don't turn out and support these things then everybody will be affected in the long run!"

Norma, COHSE shop steward, Princess Park Hospital.



"I think what the council is trying to do is superb. It's about time that we had a council in this city that got off their backsides and did something for the workers of this city."

Simon Ford, CPSA

The Tories seem to have singled out this city for special attention. They think that if this will fall in line. It think that the council is right in trying to create jobs."

John, L'pool docker.

"I think this demonstration is marvellous, we should try and build on this and have more throughout the country. The cuts are affecting every aspect of our lives."

Helen Johnstone, teacher.



"I heard about this demo in the Militant and just recently in the press. I think its important to show solidarity to the council at a time when the Tories are trying desperately hard to make cuts on them."

Robin Carsly DHSS worker, Devon.

prominent. The council in their preparations for the day produced 210,000 bulletins and the District Labour Party also distributed 180,000 copies of their paper, *Not the Liverpool Echo*.

The demonstration had another positive feature, in the large number of women workers marching, particularly from the NHS.

The FE Colleges in Liverpool and on Merseyside were also well represented after the very successful strikes, with over 1,000 students attending meetings held in all the colleges during the week. The youth from the colleges and the universities added to the colour and the flair of the march.

Predictably, the local authority

workers from Liverpool were predominant, with the local Joint Shop Stewards Committee to the fore. But probably as important are the thousands who just walked alongside the demo for parts of its route.

In fact, on a phone-in radio interview, prior to the demonstration, a local housewife said, "I am glad to have got a leaflet through the door about the march. I wouldn't have known anymore about it otherwise. I'm not in any political party. But I will be there. I will just turn up myself and make my own demonstration. It's important you know, to help your Council."

Every call from the platform that made a call for industrial and political

action to defend Liverpool and to take on the Tories was received with thunderous applause.

Eric Heffer's call for extra parliamentary action, Derek Hatton's call for the possibility of a city-wide general strike, Ray Williams's call for a leadership of the TUC to lead from the front and not from behind, all gave the rally a sense of purpose and direction.

In fact, Derek Hatton Deputy Leader of Liverpool Council said that many would have been surprised in Liverpool by the announcement that the MSC is to stop the unemployment of workers on schemes up and down the country because they had over-spent. He said: "Well we have surprise for the Tories and that surprise is that on Monday those who were due to be employed on these schemes will be employed. We owe it to them and we owe it to Liverpool."

The people of Merseyside, the youth, the workers and particularly the women workers came not just to hear what local and national speakers had to say about the Tories, but rather what they were going to do about the Tories. That expectation was given an optimistic direction by Tony Mulhearn: "Make no mistake about it, the Tories can be beaten. The miners forced them back in '81. Even within her own ranks there is opposition to this seemingly impregnable iron government. They will not be defeated through rational argument. We have to believe we can win this struggle."

In 1924 the Tories had a bigger majority than today. But in 1926 there was a General Strike. What we want is that movement once again, but this time with leadership that is prepared to change the outcome, so that Thatcher is kicked out of office, that Liverpool City Council is defended and that a Labour government committed to socialist policies is returned to office."

ERS THE TORIES



"I fully support my council and I'm against the cuts. I read about the march in the papers and I thought to myself, 'well that's my day out.'"
Joseph Walker
OAP.

Above: a section of the huge rally at the Pier Head which supported the calls for extra parliamentary action to defeat the Tories.
 Above left: Merseyside message—Thatcherism stops here.
 Below: NHS workers were well represented on the march.
 All photos by Vivian Seale and Tina Carroll.

Young Socialists out in force



"We're here to save the health service. It's all part and parcel of the same battle to save the council."
Joyce Smith and Joan Simmons.

"I started last week for the council, I've been on the dole for a year. I'm a fan of the council I couldn't repeat what I'd think. I'd be f'ing and blinding all over your tape."

Frederick Anfield,
 cemetery worker.

"I was with my mates last night in the pub and one of them said, and he's a priest, 'it was the best thing that could happen because Liverpool has got to show the way in defeating Mrs. Thatcher.'"
Mary Jennings.

"I'm leaving school and I haven't got a job. I think Maggie should be kicked out. It's not fair on the people of Liverpool what they're doing."
Janet Dean,
 Upton.



Busworkers see the need to defend the council's services.

Willie Griffin, the National Chairman of the Labour Party Young Socialists, said on Saturday at the demonstration; "It's impossible to find a Tory these days, either on the streets of Liverpool or in any of the major cities in Britain."

Willie might be right but on Saturday there was certainly one young Tory who was prepared to stand up for his party. In fact, he even gave the Militant an interview.

On closer inspection the young Tory turned out to be an LPYS member from Liverpool who had been busy, along with his counter-part Ronald Reagan, earlier in the week, campaigning for support for the demonstration. Meetings of between 25 and 100 had been held during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday when many



Above Dave of the YS, posing as a young Tory gives their message wearing a rotating bowtie.

actually thought it was a young Tory because of the viciousness of his arguments. When Willie Griffin offered at one meeting, to give anyone a £5 note a real live Tory actually turned up and despite his unwillingness to say what he supported those watching started abuse and pointing their



fingers in anger at him. Vicky, from Gateshead East LPYS, said "People were coming up saying that they hoped everyone realised what was going on because it was so convincing, and what we did was to explain after Dave had finished that he as a Tory, would be the type of person who would run the Council if the Commissioners were sent in."

"It really caught the mood of people laughing and shouting out at the Tory. I think it's a great way of putting our ideas across. Even when the police came to try and stop us from collecting money the young kids covered them in stickers

saying 'I support our Council', much to everyone's amusement".

The LPYS collected over 250 names on the Saturday, 240 names from the NUS day of action and at least 100 from the factory gate and street meetings in their campaign to support the Council. On the demonstration itself young people were signing up by the dozens to join the LPYS. The message was clear! On the streets of Liverpool and as it boomed out across the pier-head. "Join the LPYS and join the fight for the futures for young people!"

Give us cash for Christmas

This week £2,313

In October an "appeal for £368,00", was made "to save for the nation an important set of armour belonging to the third Earl of Southampton...Contributions should be sent to The Southampton Appeal, the Armouries, Tower of London."

Alternatively if you don't feel the urgency to save a suit of armour you can donate your money to something far more worthwhile. Send us a donation—we expose such wastes of money, when there are old people dying from the cold, and kidney patients dying from lack of nursing staff and machines.

We are the paper that supports struggles and occupations of workers up and down the country, and we are the paper that exposes the Tories and puts forward a clear socialist programme.

All our funds help keep the paper going, pay the costs and help build up the resources necessary for our future daily.

You have helped us raise over £52,000 so far for the current six months. A marvellous achievement. But every penny of this money gets spent and we have only seven weeks to go to raise another £47,000 to keep us on target.

Trade Unionists donate to Militant

We are making reasonably good progress so far towards the £100,000 target but we still need to raise well over £6,000 each week to keep on target. This week's total was £2,313.

To mention just a few of the donations received this week, thanks to supporters who attended the Readers Meeting held at the POEU National Conference which collected £436. Thanks to workers at British Gas Construction Site, (Easington) for a further

donation of £5.68, and a GMBATU steward (Dalston) £3.

Thanks to John Boocock (Coventry SE Labour Party) £10, Donald Hatton (Glasgow CPSA) £20, Kurdish supporter from Poplar £5, German readers also from Poplar £1.50, Patricia Cortes (Ventnor) £1, Ben Lawrence's mum (Streatham) £1, Hayes Hospital Nurse in occupation £1, Saeed Mallik (Cardiff LPYS) £1, Dave Bragier (Sunderland USDAW) £1, Dave Draycott (Newham NALGO) £1, Jimmy Gray (GMBATU Leith No2 branch) and Olga Scholes (Ryde) 50p, and a soldier from Burnley 40p.

Young Socialists look at new ideas to raise funds

Thanks to the Labour Party Young Socialists branches which donated including; Woolwich and Eltham which held a joint social and raised nearly £17 for the Fighting Fund, Havant £5, Withington £2, Brighton nearly £9, and Bournemouth £1.20.

Areas are still coming up with good fund raising ideas; Walsall raised £10 from Second Hand motor spares, Cambridge £5 from a bookstall, Motherwell £4 from songsheets and Feltham £1 from back copies of the *Militant*.

However, we still need as many donations as we can get from all supporters—'tenners' and 'fivers' especially towards xmas; £1 for the paper or even 50p, rattling tins on paper sales and Appeal Sheets round all your regular sales. And don't forget the raffle tickets for the 'Winter Draw'.

It is essential we reach the target and only you can help us do it.

By Kath White

N.B. The FF chart has not appeared this week due to technical difficulties.

Build our Building Fund

On a regular sale I carry out on an estate in Midlothian, I thought I'd try to get donations for *Militant's* Building Fund.

All my regular sales promised money and some donated small sums. However, the initial response was not that good. But on the suggestion of another seller, I asked all of these people to pay £1 for their paper every week.

As a result, out of eight people two agreed to do this, two more agreed on 50p and others all gave me something extra.

One man—after I had explained the need for a daily *Militant* and gave the examples of the donations already made—took from his pocket a handful of change and counted out a pound. As I was leaving he told me that he worked at the

Monktonhall pit—or rather he didn't as he'd been on strike for six weeks.

Next week I'll tell all my sales about this sacrifice for our paper from a striking miner, and perhaps the non-strikers will raise their contributions!

This report from Pauline Dick shows how our regular readers are quite prepared to give money towards strengthening our paper. Workers know that new premises for the *Militant*—and therefore a better and more regular paper—will advance the struggle for socialism in Britain.

Ask your local sales for a pledge towards the Building Fund. All donations and promises of

money—£50s, £100s or £1,000s—to 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Cheques payable to 'Marxist Daily Building Fund'.

POST OFFICE DISPUTE

We regret the inconvenience to subscribers and sellers in recent weeks due to a local postmen's strike. Not only were papers delayed but we were unable to reply to the numerous queries from our readers. We understand the postal service is now back to normal.

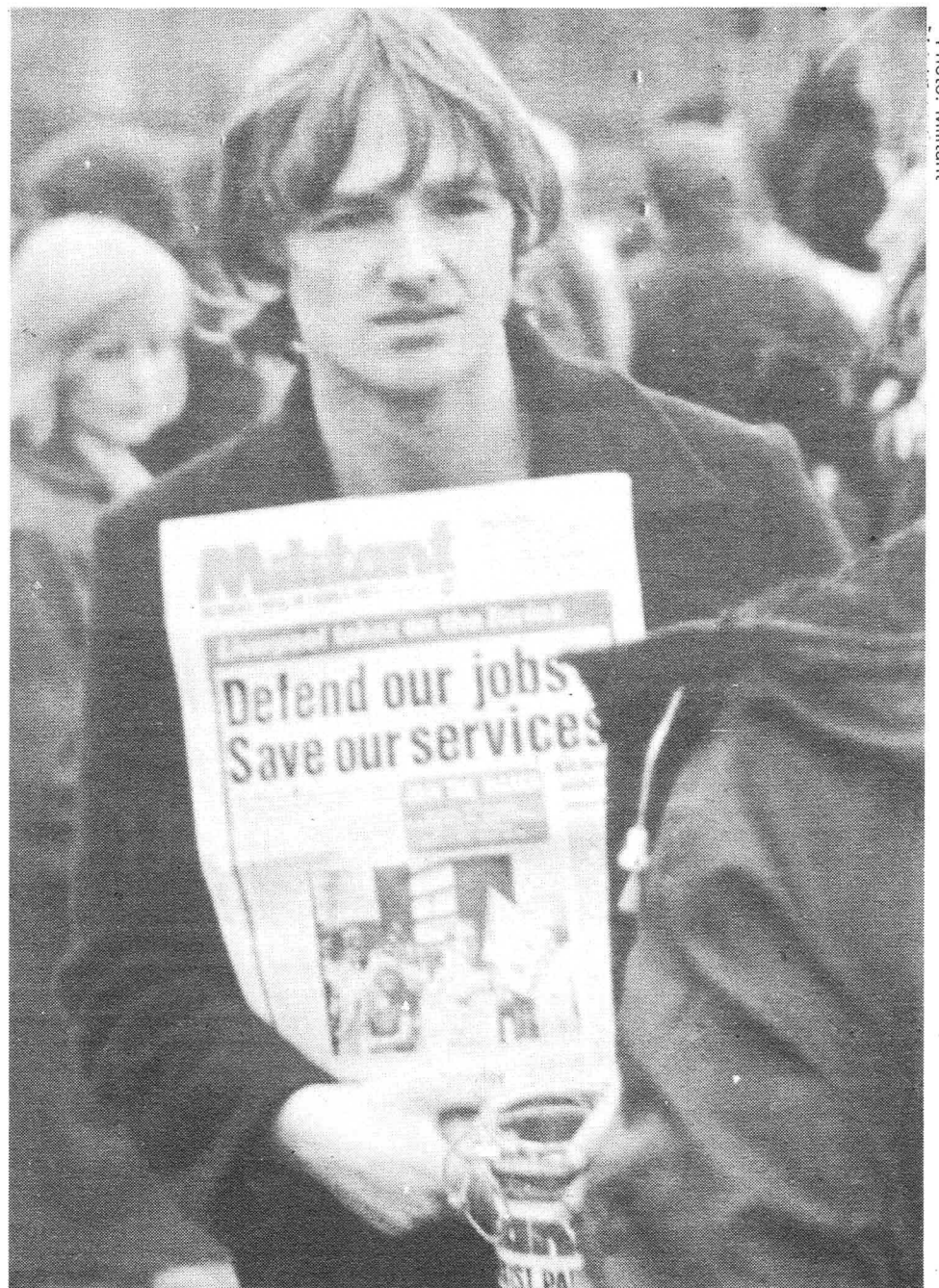


Photo: Militant

Selling the paper and rattling the tin for funds at Saturday's mass protest march in Liverpool. Thousands of copies were sold. In Blackburn, where *Militant* supporters face a purge (see page 7) 50 *Militants* were sold during a two hour public sale.

ads

Militant Reader's Meetings

POPLAR: Marxist Discussion Group, Sunday 27 November 8.00pm. 'What is happening in the Middle East?'. For further details contact Dave on 515-1718.

CAMBRIDGE: Tuesday 29 November, 'Which way forward for Labour'. Speaker—Dave Nellist MP. Venue: Alex Wood Hall, Norfolk Street.

CARLISLE: Wednesday 30 November, details, Iain Campbell, tel: (9228) 21068.

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

CLASSIFIED

FOR HANDICAPPED READERS

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

INQABA YA BASEBENZI ('Workers Fortress'). Quarterly Journal of the Marxist Workers Tendency of the ANC of South Africa.

Issue No 11—OUT NOW
★ First-hand report from launch of 'United Democratic Front'

★ Trade unions and the UDF. Subscriptions: £2.80 annually, bulk orders: 50p each for 9 or less; 40p each for 10 or more (Payment with order). INQABA YA BASEBEZI, BM Box 1719, London WC1N 3XX.

JOHN MACLEAN Festival—'The accuser of capitalism!' Speakers, sketches, Songs, Hear: Harry McShane, Dave Nellist MP, Jackie Galbraith LPYS. Wed. 30 November McLellan Galleries, Glasgow 7.00—10pm.

Condolences to Les Russell, a regular reader of *Militant*, on the loss of his wife, Irene.

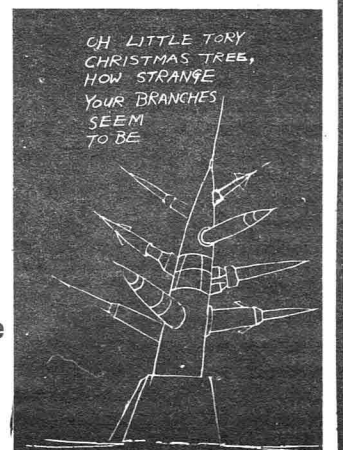
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NEWHAM EIGHT TRIAL

Asian youth stage a noisy picket outside the Old Bailey last week at the start of the trial of the Newham 8. As the trial continues into its third week, so will the protests. Support the picket—it meets every morning outside the Old Bailey (nearest tube, St Pauls) at 9.30am. The Defence Committee are calling on its supporters to make a special effort to attend the picket on Monday, 28 November.

Photo: Militant



Advance gained on YTS

The Tories have shifted their position over safety at work for the Youth Training Schemes. Trainees will now be partially covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act. Until last week, despite 19 fatalities and 3,000 accidents on government training schemes, trainees did not have 'employee status' and were not covered by the act.

This shift in the Tories' position is due to the pressure put on them, a campaign in which the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign and the Labour Party Young Socialists have played a major role.

Despite this advance however, as Coventry Labour MP Dave Nellist told parliament, it is still only a "half-step" forward.

On November 15, the day the improvements were announced, Dave Nellist moved a Bill which if passed would give trainees proper cover.

He told the Commons the Bill would "remove the necessity for the government to respond periodically in such a piecemeal fashion, by automatically giving trainees the same protection as the current legislation for employees."

He added there was a serious need for mandatory inspection of workplaces and for trained safety personnel before a firm takes on YTS.

This Bill must get the full backing of

the labour movement if it is to be successful. Dave Nellist continued, "Experience has shown that fines, against employers responsible for conditions leading to major accidents, are too low to be seriously effective as a deterrent. Solid trade union organisation in the workplace is the only guarantee of daily successful monitoring of workers' health and safety, and will in many cases provide a necessary starting point for effective application of safety laws."

"I welcome the initiatives of the trade union movement to recruit trainees to the ranks of organised labour. Their intervention will be necessary to persuade employers to convert YTS places into permanent jobs at the end of the scheme, and to achieve topping up of allowances to the rate for apprentices and prevent the exploitation at which unscrupulous employers prove so adept."

This point has been graphically backed up by the victory on YTS at the Massey Ferguson plant in Coventry (reported in this month's *T&G Record*). Through the strong organisation of the T&GWU, the union has won an agreement that 16 year old YTS trainees will be paid £74.60, with £76.50 for 17 year olds. Also, if suitable, they will be offered a permanent job.

Miners meetings

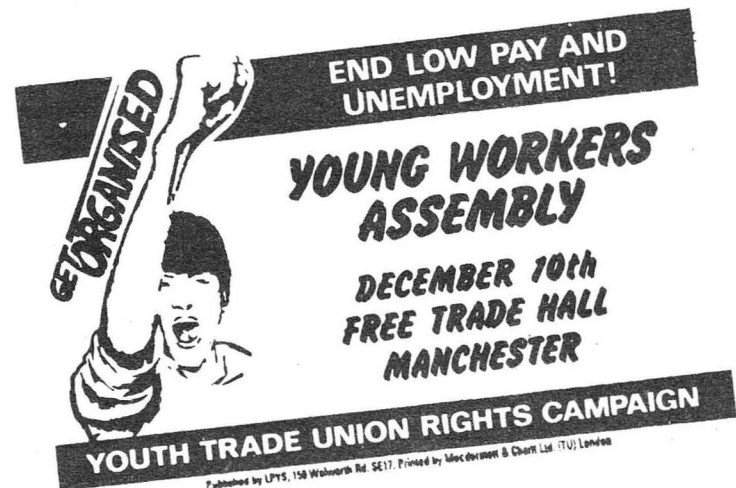
THE LPYS and *Militant* supporters have held a series of successful meetings on the fight against pit closures.

Over 40 people attended an LPYS meeting at the Musselburgh Labour Club in East Lothian, in support of the Monktonhall miners, who at that time were in their sixth week of strike. Speakers were Tam Dury of Monktonhall SCEBTA,

Chris Heriot of the LPYS and NUM, and Keith Simpson, Lothian councillor. £32 was raised for the strike fund through LPYS appeal sheets.

Tam Dury also spoke at a *Militant* Readers Meeting in Lancashire in support of the fight against the closure of Cronton colliery. Local miners were amongst the 45 strong audience, who heard Tam and John Hensby, branch secretary of Cronton NUM.

In Yorkshire on November 12, Rother Valley LPYS held an all day conference on the mining industry, inviting delegates from ten local pits. Speakers at the conference included Sammy Thompson, vice president of the Yorkshire Area NUM, Chris Weldon and Chris Fry for the LPYS, and Jenny Whysall, secretary of Rother Valley Labour Party.



Young workers assembly

'We'll be there'

BILLY, Ian and John are all apprentice members of the EETPU.

During last week's college shutdown in Liverpool, the three refused to cross the students' picket line to attend their day-release course, preferring instead to stand on the picket line in solidarity action against cuts in education.

The local EETPU official instructed them to

cross the picket line, but the three explained why they were prepared to possibly lose a day's pay in support of the strike:—

"Workers have to be united. Thatcher likes it when we are disunited. Our union does not represent us at all. The module training scheme is replacing apprenticeships. It is just cheap labour under the pretence that they are taking more people on."

"And apprentice stewards are not even allowed in the EETPU. At my last branch meeting I asked how far the ban on communists extended and got the reply—to whoever the ex-

ecutive thinks is a communist! All our union officials should be elected and not appointed."

All three added they would definitely be attending the Young Workers Assembly in Manchester on December 10.

By Martin Lee

Slave labour

Many YTS places remain empty, but the reason is obvious when trainees get less for working than on the dole.

Donna and Debbie, two youth trainees, explained that only after a week since they started their scheme, they have had their £25 a week pay docked.

Debbie had £5 stopped for being off sick—yet she had phoned in to work to explain. Donna had £3.41 docked due to a complete mistake. When she asked when she would get it back, they just laughed.

Both think YTS is slave labour; "We do odd jobs, have to use all the old machinery, get no praise when doing a job well and, although we are getting some training, it doesn't seem worth it with the job situation in Liverpool."

"We felt as if we were on our own, that they take advantage of us because we are only young. But in a trade union we will get more done. We will be going to the Young Workers Assembly to find out more about getting decent pay and conditions."

By Josie Aitman

T&G Youth school

A RECENT weekend school on 'Youth and the trade unions', called by the London based Transport and General Workers Union Region No 1 branch, showed that the ideas of the LPYS are taking root amongst young trade unionists.

Half of those attending the course were young convenors, shop stewards and branch officers, the rest being active members, including one 16 year old bricklayer from Croydon.

As LPYS members, we outlined our policies and received great support. Nineteen out of the 21 present expressed interest in the Young Workers Assembly on

December 10, seven filled in forms there and then for details of LPYS activities.

On the Saturday night we had a break from the course and went off to a local disco. Because of the enthusiasm generated by the school, we gave out leaflets and many of the local youth joined us in rousing choruses of 'You don't get me I'm part of the Union' and 'Maggie out'.

The response we received to our ideas was best summed up by a young convenor from Heathrow (London's largest employer), who said Labour "should never have launched a witch-hunt against *Militant* and the LPYS who were perhaps the hardest workers for the Labour Party".

By Simon Rogers and
Andy Price
(TGWU and LPYS)

Just another Saturday night

What started as a normal Saturday night changed to one of horror.

While returning home I had the experience of watching a seventeen year old boy bleed to death on a rain-soaked Glasgow pavement.

He died in the arms of strangers, no loving fami-

ly there to comfort him in his last agony-filled minutes. Brutally butchered by a knife wielding thug after a petty argument.

As I watched him die, his blood spilling into the gutters I felt so helpless, his injuries so severe it was obvious nothing I or anyone else could do could save him. I stood

there crying for this boy I didn't know and felt a rising anger.

Anger at the society such as ours that breeds brutes who feel the need to arm themselves with butchers' knives before venturing out for the evening. An uncaring society that offers no hope to our young people, their frustration

quickly turns to violence against one another.

The violence of the "SAS" the "Professionals" and the "A Team" on television is readily imitated. Violence that is glorified by the media. The hopelessness of the dole and all the degradation that is attached to it encourages them to go out and prove

that they are "men". Small wonder anger turns to violence.

As the body was covered with a white blanket a well established police procedure swung into operation. What 15 minutes before had been a young life was now no more than statistic in this uncaring society.

What a tragedy, life in

this capitalist society is so cheap. Who really cares if the young working class are murdering each other, certainly not the bosses.

"Glasgow Smiles" say the posters of the Glasgow District Council campaign. Not that night comrades. That night Glasgow wept for another of its sons.

By a Glasgow Militant supporter

Getting by on £1,000 million

For a little light relief I switched on the telly after an exhausting Labour Party meeting. I found myself face to face with Gerald Cavandish Grosvenor—alias the Duke of Westminster—31 years old, 2 'O' levels and according to his headmaster, "brains in his feet".

He was on his way home. Actually, he was home, except it's a 1½ mile drive from the front gate to the front door of Eaton Hall.

Gerald heads the largest property empire in Western Europe, and the next time you visit London and go for a walk around Mayfair or Belgravia, remember—you are on his land! "Never sell—only lease" is the Grosvenor family motto. The value of this property is conservatively estimated at £1,000m. He also has substantial investments overseas.

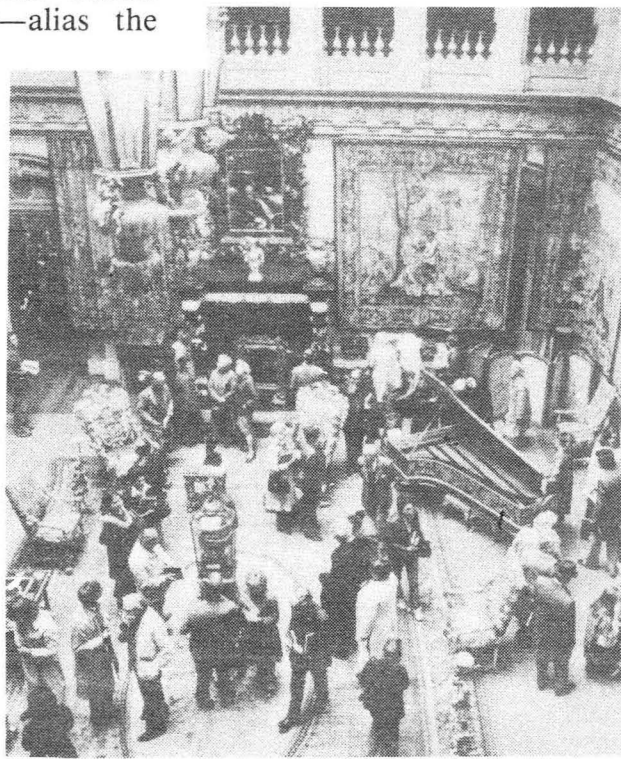
In the programme we were shown a vacant two bedroomed flat in Eaton Square. The agent explained—"it will cost £145,000 for the furniture and fixtures."

Then there's the £15,000 a year rent. Then there's the £3,000 service charge. And finally the rates—a mere £3,500 a year. Who said there was a housing shortage in London?

Says Gerald—"People do like to live in high quality accommodation, but you must realise, we are not running a charity, but a business." We realise Gerald, we realise!

Then came the delightful family scenes and the personal details. Close friend and relative (they are all related!), Patrick Lichfield, who is just an Earl, explained how Gerald flogs himself to death, "working 365 days a year—opening dogs homes and cancer units."

"I get an awful lot of fun out of it" says Gerald—who



The riches of the aristocracy on show at the Mentmore sale.

works "365 days a year" and still manages to squeeze in: salmon fishing in July, 4 weeks grouse-shooting in the summer, a bit of pheasant (peasant?) shooting in autumn, every other weekend on manoeuvres with the Queens Own Yeomanry, 2 weeks holiday on a NATO training ground in West Germany each year, as well as family holidays, "boys" night out and "luxury evenings eating dinner from a tray in front of the TV."

At which point we saw Gerald and Natalia stuffing their faces, drinking from four different glasses, as Arthur Scargill appealed, or the 9 o'clock News to the TUC to come to the defence of the NHS and its workers.

Says Gerald (imagine the voice)—"My politics are Conservative. I don't find I have a lot in common with

the other parties"—Really? "I nail my colours to the mast—I fight for the cause I believe in."—I'm sure you do!

"However, I'm a very private person, but I do feel I have to keep one eye permanently over my shoulder"—Right!

Tomorrow our campaign committee to defend the NHS meets again and the young Gerald Cavandish Grosvenor, Duke of Westminster, has done us an enormous service.

After seeing him there will be thousands who feel like me—more determined than ever to fight and to win—to rid this world of the parasites like Gerald Cavandish Grosvenor.

By Margaret Reavy
Vice-Chairman,
Gateshead East CLP

Durham poverty fund returns

HOW OFTEN have we been told that things are not as bad as in the old days, that children do not have to go to school bare-foot anymore. Well, a sad and terrible fact is that in 100y Britain that problem is reappearing.

In 1921, Durham County NUT set up a special charitable 'Boot and Shoe Fund' to provide shoes for needy children. Since the war, during the '50s and '60s

and '70s, this old fund was all but forgotten.

But in the last few years a steady stream of applications for help has built up again. There were 14 cases in which relief was granted in 1979/80, in 1980/81 there were 21, and in 1981/82 24; but already, in this year of 1982/83, no less than 44 pairs of shoes have been provided to children who could not otherwise have attended school.

The old funds cannot cope with this sort of demand at modern prices, and so, almost unbelievably, in 1983 the Durham Division NUT and the Durham County Council are now discussing new ways of refunding this relic of the poverty of the past in order to face the new poverty faced by workers under the Tories.

By Ian Hunter



The human cost of Thatcherism

When Socialists first pointed out that rising unemployment was leading to a tragic increase in the number of suicides, Tory politicians and sociologists smugly ignored it as "extremist claptrap". How will they now respond to the same claim from the Samaritans who deal, on a daily basis, with people contemplating suicide?

In South Wales the director of the Cardiff branch of the Samaritans organisation, has linked the 25% rise in suicides in his area with growing unemployment. He told the *South Wales Echo*, 22 October: "Obviously unemployment creates stress not only for the person unemployed but also for the family. I think it is a contributory factor."

Last year 92 people killed themselves in South and Mid Glamorgan and the Samaritans state they desperately need more money to cope with the demand made upon their services. Are the Tories prepared to pay for the consequences of their policies?

Life's one long holiday

How do you fancy a trip to Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Cyprus or maybe Colombia? Perhaps some French lessons on Thursday, and then put in a bit of practice at the ski club on the following Monday?

You might think this is an advert for

an exclusive club, and that would be a pretty close guess. It's part of the regular programme of the "All-Party" activities in the Houses of Parliament—where all political differences are put aside, and a good time is had by all.

The latest All-Party Parliamentary circular to fall into our hands, offered: "Thursday 27 October 4 pm French lessons; Monday 31 October 6.30 pm Lords and Commons Ski Club AGM; Advance Notice: Parliamentary Delegation to Columbia—Members of both houses wishing to apply for this event are requested to write to... Late Notices: Delegations to Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, Cyprus."

And all these trips to sunny climes take place during the British winter at our expense.

Directors gain from privatisation

The October issue of *Labour Research* shows that there has been a massive increase in directors' pay when a company is privatised. In the last year of Cable and Wireless as a public company, 1980-81, the two joint chairmen received just £25,122 in fees between them. Since then, the new sole chairman, Eric Sharpe, has had the chairman's annual salary quadrupled to £111,952.

Amersham International was sold off by the Tories in 1981 at half its market value, at a cost to the taxpayer of nearly £2 million. Since then its one day a week chairman Sir John Hill, has had a 188% increase in pay to £9,270.

And waiting in the vultures parade is Pritchards who are poised to tear the heart out of public services. Last year its chairman, Peter Pritchard, saw his income from the company rise by 77% to £163,577; ie 83 times more than he pays on average, to his 13,500 workforce. Yet despite financial stringency, often mentioned when the Pritchard's workforce demand more money, the company did find a spare £10,000 to give to the Tory party.

Planners' dream—tenants' misery

BY NINE o'clock Wednesday morning I am at our shopping centre, although I've only £2 left to take me and my children through to Monday.

Castle Vale, where I live, is very depressing at this time of day, with its tower blocks and endless rows of identical houses. When families first started to move here, it was dubbed 'the planner's dream'. Now they've installed cameras in the shopping centre as well as security guards.

For a population of over 20,000 we've got five pubs, one Resident's Club, one swimming bath and just a dozen shops. A social worker was telling me that on average she visits twelve Castle Vale families a day and on average only one has anyone working at all.

At 11am that Wednesday I met a friend who told me she was still waiting for her social security allowance book. I sympathise. I had the same trouble a few weeks ago.

On the last occasion I went to the DHSS I had to wait six hours. I don't blame the staff; they are overworked and under paid. I blame the Tories.

Midday lunch is beans on toast. Four hours later my eldest daughter is back from school, muttering she's starving. She gets free school meals, but because of the cutbacks the standard of school food is very limited and not of a high nutritional value. But all we can afford for tea is egg and chips.

Later that evening a friend pops round to pay some catalogue money. I have to run one, it's the only way I can buy things like shoes and Christmas presents. Most of

our clothes come from jumble sales and second hand stalls.

My friend is complaining that her job only gets her £30, after bus fares; she wouldn't be any worse off on the dole. I usually go to bed at 10 o'clock to save on the electric.

It's not a very exciting life being a single parent on social security. I rarely go out and have to rely on friends to treat me to drink. My parents help out the best they can, but as they are both pensioners there's not that much they can do.

Sometimes I get really depressed and the only thing that keeps me going is the fact that my kids need me. What have the Tories got to offer me or anyone else on this estate?

By Kath Burns
(Birmingham)

Threatened with expulsion

THE TEN people threatened with a purge include some of the most active and hard-working members of Blackburn Labour Party.

Comrades summoned to the local Star Chamber organised by the executive

for 4 December include:

Mrs Micki Thornton, who has been a party member for the best part of 50 years. She has worked for the Party in every way, including cleaning the Party rooms.

Kay Wright, who is secretary of the LPYS and played an important part in establishing an active youth section. Until the right-wing moved against her she was chairperson of the Labour Women's Council, and has been prominent in the successful campaign for a Well Woman's Centre in Blackburn.

Rosina Harris, is secretary of the Labour Women's Council, and played a pro-

minent part in organising the campaign for the Well Women's Centre, which has just won a £35,000 Urban Aid grant.

Campaigners

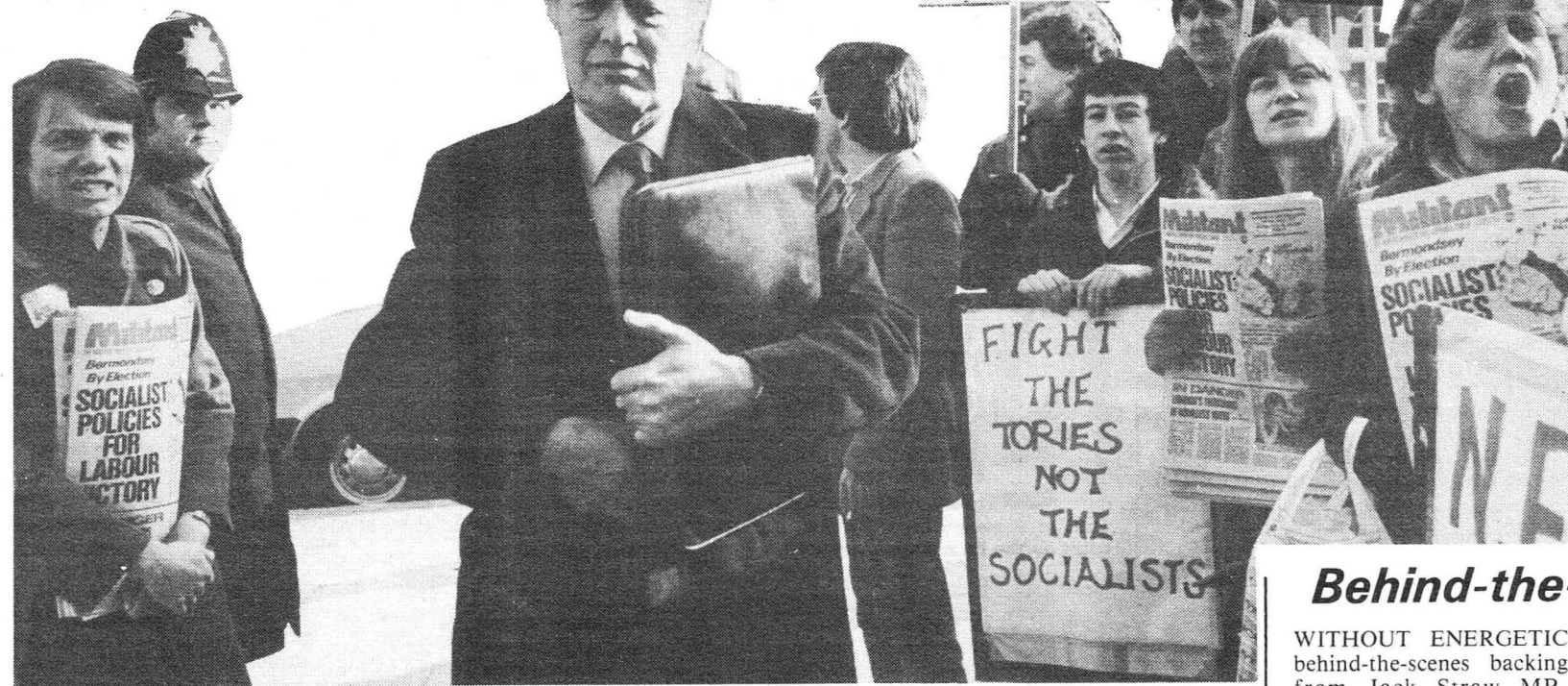
Peter Harris was formerly Political Education Officer and chairman of the Ethnic Minorities sub-committee. At the last GMC he was blocked from returning as a GMC delegate, when the right-wing on a

trivial technicality, ruled out all delegates from his ward.

Peter has been prominent in the fight against local fascist elements, who have largely been cleared off the streets, and in winning support for the Party from black and Asian workers. He is vice-chairman of the broad-based Action Against Racism Campaign, which recently organised a successful meeting on the 'Newham 8' issue.

Several active LPYS members are also named and attacked in Gregory's report. Yet they have been actively winning young people to socialist ideas, involving them in recent campaigns for trade union rights for YOPS and YTS, for cheap access for the unemployed to council recreational facilities, and against rent and rate increases.

BLACKBURN - Stop these purges!



ABOVE, ANGRY protestors gather outside Labour Party headquarters in London, during the expulsion of five members of the *Militant* Editorial Board in February. As *Militant* warned this would not be an isolated incident, but lead to further witch-hunts within the party. Now ten members of Blackburn CLP face the threat of expulsion in a local purge. There the right wing, with the backing of local Labour MP Jack Straw, have singled out these members for their support for Marxist ideas. The ten were named in a so-called 'report', cobbled together by Michael Gregory — the scurrilous allegations of which are answered below.

Local activists answer snooper's report

THE right-wingers on Blackburn's executive are basing their action on a report produced by Michael Gregory.

Far from being "first-hand evidence" Gregory's report is a compilation of incorrect facts, unsubstantiated allegations, ludicrous stories, and outright lies.

The Executive of Blackburn Labour Party have made no real attempt to corroborate his story. They have not asked those accused in the report for their comments on Gregory's allegations. They do not even intend to allow GMC delegates to fully discuss all the issues before recommending action.

Tory Press

Gregory's report was seized on by the right-wing and the Tory press as "first-hand evidence" from a *Militant* "defector". Gregory tries to present himself as an innocent who was beguiled into supporting *Militant* through the cunning arguments of local supporters. In reality, it was Gregory who approached *Militant* supporters—and deceived them about his real views. What was his real motive?

Gregory, who was educated at a public school and told LPYS members that he was looking forward to a career in personnel management, only re-joined the Labour Party early in 1982, having previously dropped out.

He claims to have been active with *Militant* supporters for five months at the end of 1982. Yet five or six of those he accuses of being "members of *Militant*" are listed with question marks instead of surnames! He gives what purport to be detailed notes of alleged "secret *Militant* meetings". But there are no details of who was present, who contributed to the discussion, what decisions were taken, etc.

He gives an address where he claims secret meetings took place—but no *Militant* supporter lived at this address until after the date given on his report.

Some of the allegations of *Militant* supporters' manoeuvres within the Party are the product of an over-active, truly Machiavellian imagination.

The general tenor is that *Militant* supporters have manipulated the Labour Party, the LPYS, the Women's Sections, etc. He either ignores or denigrates the hard work put into building up the Party and the

several very successful Labour party campaigns organised in the area.

Gregory has been energetic in concocting stories of manoeuvres, plots, secret conspiracies, and so on. Yet he complains that most of the resolutions moved by *Militant* supporters have been supported by the GMC. Apparently, it never occurs to him that support for *Militant* has grown because more and more Party members agree with its ideas and policies. The implication of Gregory's report is that most Party members are stupid and have somehow been conned into rejecting the policies favoured by Jack Straw and local right-wingers.

LPYS democratic

Gregory claims that *Militant* supporters "physically control" the LPYS, stifling debate and discouraging others from participating. This has been forcefully repudiated by a number of LPYS members who do not agree with the *Militant* on every issue.

For example, Kevin Durkin, Secretary of Blackburn CND, has written a letter to the Labour Party members, referring particularly to one meeting which was "very interesting

... with plenty of room for debate and different opinions, which I've always found to be the case in YS meetings."

Another, Patricia Gleave, says: "I have attended most of them (i.e. LPYS meetings) and have never been discouraged (nor has anybody else) from voicing my opinions. We have had many healthy, lively debates..."

"I have been encouraged to express my opinions even though they are often at variance with the much-publicised views of *Militant*. I have never been conscious of any attempt to manipulate discussion of the outcome of debates."

It is Michael Gregory, in producing his report, who is attempting to manipulate things in Blackburn Labour Party. This snooper cannot provide accurate details of people he claims to have been active with for over five months. Yet he alleges precise details and figures about *Militant* going back as far as 1964. Perhaps he had access to the "huge trunk" in Walworth Road?

Neither the Young Socialists, nor the activists in the Party, nor the workers and the young people now looking towards the Labour Party for a lead will tolerate this kind of undemocratic, witch-hunting activity.

Anti witch-hunt rally

'FIGHT THE TORIES - NOT THE SOCIALISTS'

Friday 25 November.

Trades Hall, St. Peters St., Blackburn.

Speakers: Lynn Walsh (Militant Editorial Board, expelled from Labour Party) Derek Hatton (Deputy Leader, Liverpool City Council).

Chairman: Peter Harris (Blackburn CLP). Plus speakers from the local labour movement

Behind-the-scenes help

WITHOUT ENERGETIC behind-the-scenes backing from Jack Straw MP, Michael Gregory's report would have been just one more poison pen letter buried in the "huge trunk" at Labour's HQ in Walworth Road.

Right from the start, Straw has been involved in the underhand campaign for a purge of *Militant* supporters. Local right-wingers clearly have no objection to trying to bury their political opponents through bureaucratic, disciplinary measures. But without Straw egging them on they are unlikely to have had the stamina to keep going for the best part of a year.

When Gregory's report was publicised in February, Straw admitted his involvement. "I am satisfied that the contents of Mr Gregory's report are true," he told the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph* (24 February): "We have gone to great levels to corroborate its truth."

But these "levels" did not include asking any of those accused in the report for their comments or giving them the chance to reply to its scurrilous allegations.

The first copies of Gregory's report circulated to the media were photocopied on the back of House of Commons documents. Copies sent to GMC delegates were posted in London.

Since 1981 Straw's support for action against the Left has been consistent. In November 1981, in a *World at One* radio interview, he called for a "very tough line" against the left groups in the Party. He also submitted a memorandum to the Hayward/Huges inquiry into *Militant*, repeating unsubstantiated allegations against *Militant* and putting forward "constitutional"

arguments for a purge.

One of Straw's main arguments is that the Party's constitution embodies "the principal of a ring fence." In reality, this is a demand for a protective wall to shield policies favoured by Straw from opposition and criticism.

It is not an argument over the constitution and rules at all, but an argument over policy.

Jack Straw's interest in a political "ring fence" has grown as he moved to the right. When Straw was first selected in 1979 he was seen as a Tribunate MP. Recently, he has been identified with the right-wing economic policies put forward by Peter Shore.

'Ring fence'

Straw was credited with doing the main initial work in drafting the economic statement Shore published last November, (without consultation with the National Executive Committee). It provoked a storm of criticism within the Party, particularly because its call for a "National Economic Assessment" unmistakably implied a form of incomes policy.

Writing in the *Financial Times* himself (14 September, 1983) Straw claimed some support for his economic proposals from "fund managers and bankers with whom I discussed". Straw is apparently eager to get advice and proposals from bankers and other big-business representatives. Yet he wants a "ring fence" to protect his policy proposals from Marxists who represent a strong trend of opinion within the Labour Party.

By Lynn Walsh

GREECE

Papandreou

on a tight

It is now over two years since the PASOK victory in the Greek elections. Our correspondent in Athens looks at the present situation.

In the 1981 Greek election the socialist party PASOK won 48% of the votes, in a total Left vote of over 60%.

The industrial working class account for only 30% of Greece's population, the electoral system is biased in favour of the right, and the highly radicalised 18-21 year olds were deprived of the vote.

PASOK's success in providing Greece's first ever taste of a workers' party in government opened up a new and explosive period where all the contradictions of Greek society have been brought to the surface.

In October 1981 the masses were aching for reforms and seized hold of PASOK's election programme with both hands. Under the slogan "Allagi"—change, PASOK promised to nationalise the firms of the top ten families that control the Greek economy.

Wages and pensions would be index-linked to overcome the effects of inflation. A free national health service would be introduced. Workers would have a real say in running industry. Greece would immediately be withdrawn from the military wing of NATO and the US military bases expelled.

The masses were electrified, delivering the right a blow that split New Democracy into squabbling factions. In 1967 fear of the effects of a liberal government was enough for the Colonels to launch their coup. But in 1981 no-one dared suggest such a move. The overwhelming majority of the ranks of the armed forces support PASOK. Any attempt to use the troops against the government would result in mutiny.

Moving to the right— moving to the left

The meteoric rise of PASOK shows the volatility of Greek society. Founded in 1974 by the present prime-minister, Andreas Papandreou, PASOK was intended to be a left-of-centre reformist party. But thousands of young people, seeking a radical alternative to the split and discredited 'Communist' Party, flocked into PASOK. They pushed it ever leftward.

Papandreou found himself hoisted on a tidal wave. Immensely popular due to his persecution by the Colonels and his stance against Karamanlis, he was forced to adopt the language of socialism and revolution.

PASOK is a centrist party, swinging between revolutionary phrases and reformist promises. With Papandreou's demagoguery and the thirst of the masses for real change, the worst fears of the ruling class are beginning to be realised. **PASOK is in government with an aggressive working class expecting and demanding a thoroughgoing break with capitalism.**

In 1974 Papandreou went so far as to promise the mobilisation of

By our correspondent in Greece

the masses and the overthrow of capitalism. But instead of moving forward from their magnificent electoral conquests, using the power and enthusiasm of the workers to break the back of capitalism and carry through the socialist transformation of Greece, Papandreou's government immediately began to water down its programme.

Bowing to backroom pressure from the enfeebled capitalist class, represented by the president, Karamanlis, the government took a conscious decision to try and solve the crisis on the basis of capitalism.

The dire state of Greek capitalism means lasting reforms in favour of working people are impossible. On the contrary, the maintenance of the system demands ever greater assaults on workers' living standards. On the logic of maintaining capitalism, the government was forced in 1983 to introduce statutory wage restraint, public expenditure was cut and the drachma devalued. Instead of introducing a national health service this year, the government decided it would have to be implemented "gradually". Anti-strike legislation, on the other hand was pushed through in record time.

Most humiliating of all a new agreement was signed with the US government, allowing their military bases to stay in Greece until at least 1990.

To the despair, anger and disillusion of the bulk of its supporters, the government seemed to be moving inexorably to the right. But this summer saw an abrupt change in government policies.

PASOK urged Europe to delay for six months its decision about whether to install US missiles. Then suddenly Greece withdrew from NATO military exercises in the Aegean, banning NATO forces from using its territory.

Big financial scandals forced the government to act against two of Greece's top five companies. The Tsatsos family, nominal owners of Iraklis Cement Co., were found to have sent \$400 million to Swiss bank accounts through various illegal business deals. Whilst the family owned only 18% of company shares, the National Bank of Greece owned 40%! The Tsatsos family had been using loans and credits from the state bank to amass their private fortune.

The National Bank took over the company's assets and appointed a new board of directors, with Tsatsos being taken to court.

The textile giant Piraeaki—Patriki owes the banks 24 billion drachma, while its own capital was just 3 billion! 6 billion drachma of these loans were used for investment, the rest going into the pockets of the owners. Again the government removed the old board of directors, appointing new ones.

Amidst continued stories of scandals and corruption, a third in-



Cement company boss Tsatsos, brought to court by the PASOK government.

dustrial giant, the paper manufacturers Softex, were found to have debts of 14 billion drachma, but capital of only 2 billion. The government placed them on the list of 'problematic companies', ie. bankrupt or going bankrupt. An estimated 95% of Greek industry is 'problematic'. 80% of capital in industry comes from loans. This summer the government passed a law that enables them to intervene in these firms.

This sudden about-face of the government has struck terror into the hearts of the bourgeoisie and given renewed hope to wide layers of the working class. There are two reasons for the change.

Firstly the government's economic programme described as an IMF formula has failed. Investment is down to 1971 levels. 75% of Greek industries lost money in 1982. Entry into the EEC has increased import penetration as better equipped European competitors eat into the agricultural and industrial market.

Power of the work- ing class

A massive flight of capital, inflation still around 25% and 333,000 out of work in a country of 9 million signifies a deep crisis. The young have been particularly hard hit. With the failure of the capitalists' pet solutions, the PASOK government have been prepared to try anything to halt the decline.

Secondly the government have had to take into account the power of the working class. PASOK is a party based in the final analysis on labour movement organisations, and whether its leaders in government like it or not, the mood of the workers cannot be ignored. The working class giant roused into life by the impasse of Greek capitalism and PASOK's promises will not stand on the sidelines and just observe.

Initially most workers gave PASOK a honeymoon period, arguing it needed time to put things right. Papandreou took full advantage of this, moving rapidly to the right.

In answer to strikes the government actually recruited scabs from the ranks of PASOK's trade union caucus, PASKE, attempting to use this body as a policeman of the trade union movement. But by the beginning of 1983 the government faced a strike wave not just over wages, but every aspect of government policy.

Hospital doctors struck, protesting against the government delaying the implementation of the national health bill. Workers demanded real control of their industries. Teachers demanded the nationalisation of private education. Workers begin to co-ordinate their activities outside the grip of union bureaucracies. Scabbing was smashed and about 500,000 workers were involved in various disputes.

The government would ignore this movement at its peril. So, in September it actually gave workers the promised 10% wage increase, to avert strikes.

But the new turn does not mean that the government has 'seen the light' and will now proceed with the full implementation of its promises. In its intervention into industry the government was very careful not to involve the workforce. Moving cautiously and halfheartedly, the government apologetically reassured the capitalist class that its life was not in danger.

The government is not in control of events, events are in control of the government. Afraid of both the invalid ruling class and the workers, the government will be ground between the two of them.

Papandreou's fear of the workers reflects the feelings of the capitalists. Their response to government interventions in industry was mild to say the least. Whilst the EEC, OECD and the World Bank loudly chorused their anger, telling Greece that the loans recently secured will be the last, the Greek bosses have had to rest content with restrained mutterings.

They understood that if they had mounted a campaign against the government, the workers would be pushed behind it, possibly forcing the government to go further than it wanted.

These fears are justified. The

Rank and file mo

Events over the past two years have inevitably left their mark in the organisations of the labour movement. Thrown into turmoil by government policies and government-sponsored scabbing, the trade unions are undergoing a process of re-selection of personnel to better reflect the demands of the membership.

In August a member of PASOK's Central Committee, Kargopoulos was expelled from the party, along with several middle-layer cadres, for factionalism. He had produced a document that made many correct criticisms of the government. His group

toured the country, attracting a great deal of attention from the PASOK rank and file.

The fact that Kargopoulos and his group, until recently hatchet-men of the right, expelling many left-wingers from the party, have openly criticised the government shows the anger inside PASOK and the desire of the ranks for a new way forward.

Kargopoulos offered only criticisms with no programme of action, or perspectives for the movement. They recently called a meeting to launch a new party. 100 people attended, some representing groups of PASOK

workers of Iraklis cement and Piraiki-Patraiki, enthused by the government's moves, congratulated the government but demanded more.

They demanded that the capitalists should be booted out of the boards of directors, that the government nationalise all of their particular branch of industry under the direct control of the workers themselves. Similar demands are being made by workers throughout industry.

Horrified by events, the strategists of capital are laying serious plans to topple the government. This cannot be done quickly. New Democracy is seriously split between various factions, Rallis's 'radical democratic' wing and the extreme right of Averof, the ND leader. With the possibility of a premature general election next year, the main emphasis is on piecing together a credible political alternative.

The trump card of the ruling class is Karamanlis as president. The president has wide powers that PASOK have done nothing to curb. With their cautious plan of

The years be

When the hated Colonels' dictatorship collapsed in 1974, Greek workers experienced seven years of limited parliamentary democracy under New Democracy, a hasty patchwork of various factions put together by Konstantine Karamanlis. Karamanlis, the CIA's handpicked semi-dictator of Greece during the 50's and early '60's, could pose as a 'democrat', having criticised the military junta from the safety of Parisian exile.

In the 1974 elections his slogan "Me or the tanks" won over half the votes cast. The masses took to the streets at the fall of the junta, but the ruling class had clearer perspectives than the labour movement's leaders and most

walking trope

ove to the left

members from the provinces. A leaflet was distributed by supporters of the marxist paper *Xekinima*, which made it clear that the task was to stay in PASOK and fight for a united party to carry through the socialist transformation of Greece. In response Kargopoulos could only say, "We can either go home, form a new party, or do as *Xekinima* suggest."

The lessons of Kargopoulos' experience are clear. The ranks of PASOK are looking for a clear alternative to the present leadership and this can only be built within PASOK.

The vacuum on the left cannot be filled by the pro-Moscow KKE. Tied to the foreign policy needs of the Soviet bureaucracy, the KKE leadership recently reached an agreement with Papandreou not to criticise his government! Still a powerful force in industry, the KKE ranks were angered by the policy of the leaders early this year to apply the brake on strikes.

These muted disagreements within the KKE are indications of future splits. If a solid, revolutionary alternative is built within PASOK then it will be a powerful pole of attraction to rank and file KKE members.



ON OCTOBER 5 supporters of the Greek Marxist newspaper *Xekinima* organised a very successful public meeting in Athens. Three hundred and fifty people heard speakers from the newspaper's editorial board, leading activists in the trade union movement and also Themos Dinitrious, a leading member of the left wing of EDEK, the Socialist Party of Cyprus.

The enthusiasm for the ideas of Marxism was demonstrated by a magnificent collection of 150,000 drachma (about £1,100).

weakening PASOK in elections, the bosses intend to capitalise on disillusionment of PASOK voters, the peasantry especially, using the chaos brought on by their own system and PASOK's half-measures.

At some stage they intend to divide the PASOK parliamentary group, split off the right wing and use the president's power of veto. This would, they hope, provoke a constitutional crisis and topple the government. The serious bourgeois newspaper, *Kathimerini* has recently carried an article that points out the responsibilities the president has in "saving Greece from ruin."

But the capitalist class have two fears. Firstly, of losing the presidency. PASOK and the KKE ('Communist' party) have 179 MPs between them, just one short of enabling them to elect their own president, in the 1985 presidential elections.

The capitalists also fear their own ranks. Modern Greek history is a chronicle of military dictatorships briefly punctuated by spells of unstable parliamentary

democracy. The Greek bourgeoisie are not used to employing patience and cunning. Rather their traditional method has been to use the jackboot as a swift solution.

Today, more astute members of the ruling class know that such methods at a time like this would lead to catastrophe, to mutinies, workers' insurrections and the end of capitalism.

New period of class conflict

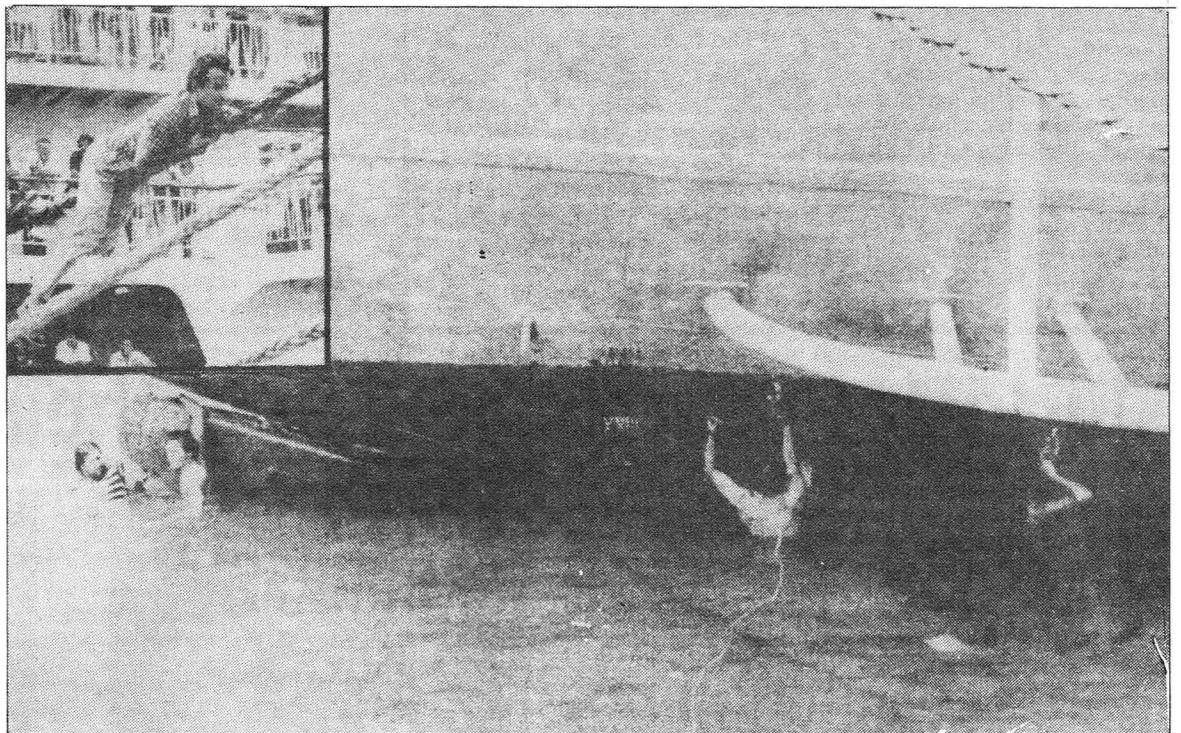
The 1967 Colonels' coup was a premature move. Urged into action by the short-sighted CIA, the military regime had laid no firm foundation of support in society. The regime eventually ingloriously collapsed and the long term result of its impatience has been to push Greece to the brink of revolution.

To succeed, the ruling class, in collusion with the CIA, would need to plan carefully. The only difference between the 'moderate' and reactionary wings is one of timing. The ruling class may grit their teeth, build up propaganda to destabilise PASOK and try to build New Democracy, but the draconian measures required to maintain capitalism will demand eventually the complete destruction of the organisations of the labour movement.

Behind the constitutional posturings of Karamanlis and Rallis lurk plans for a new military takeover, as bloody as the 1973 coup in Chile.

But with the ranks of the armed forces as subject to huge radicalisation as the rest of society, it is at present impossible to use the army.

In every unit of every branch of the forces there are secret committees fighting for full trade union and political rights for servicemen. Instead of using these committees as the base for breaking up the armed wing of the capitalist state and transforming these workers in uniform into soldiers of the revolution, PASOK has publicly denounced them for undermining of discipline and morale of the Greek



Workers in a strike this summer grabbed hold of a ship's propellers to stop scabs operating the vessel. This determination and militancy is reflected politically. The PASOK rally in October was dominated by the slogan "No to the right-wing" — hatred of the capitalist parties.

forces!

In dealing with the reactionary tops of the forces, many of whom had strong junta connections, the government has fawned on them, giving enormous wage increases and promotions. This servile attempt to buy off the officer caste is an eerie echo of similar placatory moves by Allende in Chile before the coup.

Exciting events are on the agenda. With a weak ruling class and a working class presently without real leadership, Greece is in a period of upheaval and rapid changes. Strikes, demonstrations and even insurrections are implicit in the situation. There will be periods of despair when the forces of reaction may attempt premature coups which will propel the masses back into action.

Inevitably the question will be posed. Either a socialist revolution or a bloody counter-revolution. If the forces of Marxism are able to re-arm the labour movement with a clear programme and perspective the Greek working class will be invincible.

fore PASOK

voters followed the strongest direction.

New Democracy rule meant seven years of plummeting living standards for workers, with inflation reaching 25% and unemployment at 10%, while the rich got richer through frauds and tax evasion. The leaders and supporters of the former military regime were either leniently treated or not punished at all.

The labour movement struggled to defend living standards and wrench some tangible gains from democracy through the country's biggest ever strike wave. They were met with the brute force of the police, mass sackings of 15,000 trade unionists and victimisation.



Greek Marxist newspaper. For a regular order, write to Xekinima, Odos Maisonos 1 Athens, Greece.

CYPRUS, TURKEY

Cypriot socialists appeal No to partition - Yes to workers' unity

The setting up of the "Turkish republic of North Cyprus" on 15 November was a further move by the Turkish Cypriot capitalist class towards partition of this small island.

Both the Greek and Turkish Cypriot ruling class have been unable to solve the national question on the basis of capitalism.

Two economies, two governments and two state machines on an island with a population of just over 600,000 is a tragic absurdity. Such a development condemns capitalism and imperialism which are responsible for the 30 year long tragic fight.

The two main communities (80% Greeks 18% Turks) lived peacefully for three centuries in numerous mixed towns and villages. Tragically the failure of the industrially powerful and fighting workers organisations controlled by the CP to lead the fight against British rule in the '50s left the struggle in the hands of the notorious fascist Grivas of EOKA and Archbishop Makarios, leader of the rich Greek Orthodox Church.

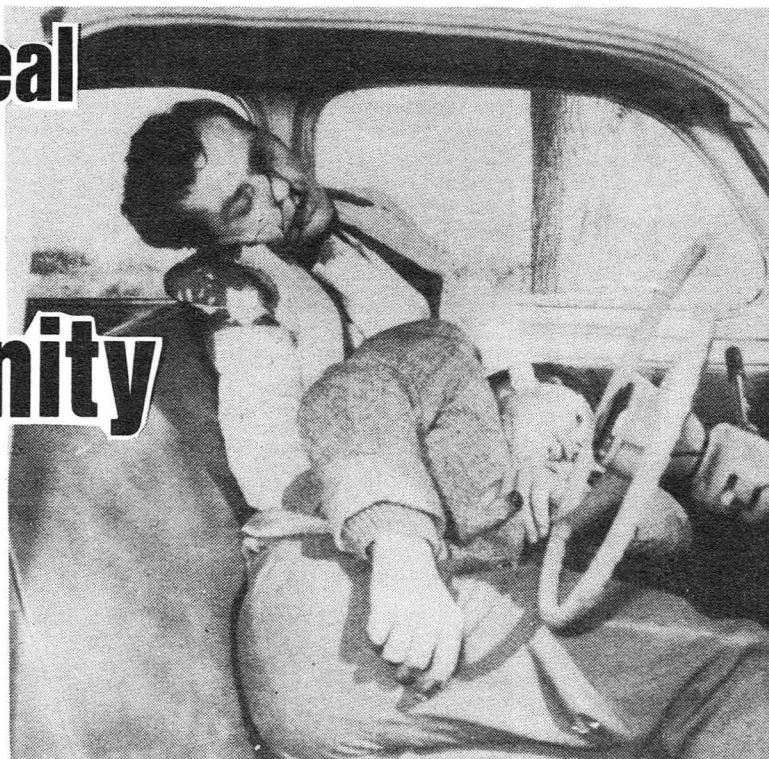
With this leadership the struggle took a Greek nationalist form (union with Greece or *Enosis*) with no hope of winning the support of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Although the national struggle got massive support, the British imperialists were able to use divide and rule, assisting the smuggling of arms for the Turkish community and widely using Turkish Cypriots as special policemen against EOKA guerrillas.

The Turkish Cypriot bourgeoisie armed and trained the fascist TMT as a counter force to EOKA. The mastermind of this terrorist organisation responsible for many crimes against Greek and Turkish Cypriot workers was Rauf Denktash "the president" of the new state.

The agreements establishing an "independent" republic in 1960 had all the ingredients for future conflicts such as a Greek Cypriot president and a Turkish Cypriot vice president, elected by their respective communities and the right of veto by the vice president.

So "independent" was the tiny republic that three NATO governments—Greece, Turkey and



Two socialists, one Turkish Cypriot, one Greek Cypriot, assassinated by the fascist TMT in 1965. Denktash was the mastermind of this organisation.

Britain—were given the right to intervene militarily to guarantee "the status quo". This was invoked in July 1974 by the Turkish government to invade and occupy almost 40% of the island.

Under Makarios, the Greek Cypriot bourgeoisie abandoned *Enosis* and followed a policy of united capitalist Cyprus through the more militant EOKA and sections of the right remained faithful to union. The Turkish Cypriot capitalists, being much weaker favoured a Turkish Cypriot enclave where they could easier exploit "their own" workers.

So when Makarios, in an attempt to strengthen the state, tried in 1963 to change the constitution and abolish certain privileges of the Turkish Cypriot bourgeoisie, the Turkish community's capitalist leaders aided by the Turkish bosses carved out a portion of the island for themselves.

In 1974 using as a pretext the fascist coup, the Turkish Cypriot

bourgeoisie used the Turkish army to enlarge that portion, causing thousands of dead and homeless people, Greek and Turkish.

Cyprus has been partitioned in effect since 1974 and partially since 1963. The inability of both bourgeois to find a solution through UN inspired intercommunal talks, pushed the Turkish Cypriot capitalists towards declaring independence.

The workers' parties tragically, while playing lip service to co-operation between the two communities have at all critical moments rallied behind their respective "national" capitalists betraying the common interests of the working class.

Again today, the workers parties in the North despite their (until November 15) disapproval of partition voted for independence causing disillusionment among the left masses especially in the south. The right in the south are using this as a stick to beat the left parties and



Rauf Denktash.

to ridicule any call for a united workers struggle.

This argument also provides an excuse to some "left" leaders, especially the Socialist Party to pin their hopes on nationalism and Papandreou's intransigent patriotism.

But all nationalism can offer is a further blood bath and destruction. There would be no winner in any such war, it could be as bad as in neighbouring Lebanon.

In 1974-76 the Socialist Party EDEK provided the only way out of the vicious circle, calling for a united anti-imperialist struggle of Greek and Turkish working people. This was taken up by thousands of young workers. The Young Socialists and their paper *Socialistiki Ekfrasi* (Socialist Voice) made this their main slogan.

Unfortunately the SP leaders decided in 1976 to collaborate with the "patriotic bourgeoisie" to return a right wing dominated parliament in 1976 and a right wing president Kypriano in 1978. They moved towards nationalism, a policy which continued even after the break with Kypriano in the 1981 and 1983 elections. The PS bureaucrats disbanded the YS and expelled hundreds of workers and youth from the party.

Today the only force in Cyprus which calls for a united front of Greek and Turkish workers for a free socialist Cyprus is the Marxist tendency of the SP and its paper *Socialistiki Ekfrasi* which united most expelled workers and youth under the Marxist internationalist banner.

The very best "solution" to the problem under capitalism would be two federal governments with homogeneous territories for the two communities united by a weak central government with minimal power. This is very improbable given the irreconcilable antagonism between the two capitalist classes. But even if it were achieved, it would not provide a permanent solution to the national question.

The antagonisms forced upon the Cypriot people will remain. The economic and social consequences of capitalist crisis on Cyprus will mean these will flare up again and again causing communal conflicts and bloodshed.

There must be an international call for Greek and Cypriot workers to substitute their "intercommunal talks" between the bourgeoisie by discussion between the left wing parties and organisations for the establishment of a socialist Cyprus.

The working class parties have nothing to do with the bloodshed of the past. The working class has no reason to fight over a few acres of land owned by Greek or Turkish capitalists. On the basis of socialism alone can the unity of the people of Cyprus be restored and a new period of peace and prosperity be opened for the people.

Cyprus's organised workers aided by workers in Greece, Turkey, Britain and the whole world have today the power to enforce its rule. If they do not do so, communal pogroms will tragically "solve" the Cyprus problem.

Turkish Generals beaten in their elections

There was no enthusiasm shown by the mass of the Turkish and Kurdish people for the recent general election or as some have called it the 'General's Election' in Turkey.

The poll itself was a total sham. Only 3 parties were allowed to stand while 12 parties and a third of the candidates were banned.

Nonetheless the election result was a slap in the face for the Generals with the Military-sponsored 'Nationalist Democracy' party receiving only 17% of the vote and being dumped into third place.

This was despite a plea from General Kenan Evren (the present president) for the voters not to vote for the eventual winners, the 'Motherland Party' of Turgut Ozal. The Motherland Party won the election with over half the votes cast.

But this party's policies can only lead to more misery for the Turkish people. The Motherland Party is a rag bag of arch conservatives with support from Wall St and the Gulf states and is sworn to the policies of monetarism.

In fact Ozal was sacked by the Generals in 1982 when he was deputy prime minister after a large banking collapse which caused tens of thousands to lose their savings. So much of a monetarist is Ozal that he has promised to privatise the Bosphorus bridge which links Europe with Asia and hand it over to private enterprise!

In reality the weak Keynesian policies of the previous finance minister or Ozal's stark Friedmanism have only meant pauperism for Turkish workers and peasants. In the last 3 years suicide has risen by 55% and prostitution has risen from a few thousand to over 200,000. Living standards have fallen by 40% in the last three years. Unemployment is officially over 15% but probably double that, inflation is 40% and rising.

So dire is the state of the economy that the Generals have been forced to nationalise one of the biggest holding companies 'Transturk' which was over £80m in debt. This group controls companies in textiles, banking and cars as well as numerous other concerns.

The Generals held elections firstly because of the growing discontent of the



General Evren, the President appealed in vain.

masses. This was not only over economic deprivation, but also Turkey's military straightjacket, strict press censorship, the ban on political activity unless sanctioned directly by the military, and the vicious repression against the minorities and the left.

There are an estimated 70,000 political prisoners who are subjected to arbitrary and vicious torture. The Western capitalist powers, though, are trying to clean up the image of Turkey to bring it closer into the fold of NATO.

They dangled a carrot of £450m in aid if moves towards "democracy" were made. Turkey also wishes to become a member of the EEC and

needed the window dressing of elections to make their application more palatable.

As the economic and political crisis deepens, splits are appearing in the Turkish ruling class. One section is content to be the puppets of the US, ie Ozal and co. Another group looks towards a more independent role in the Middle East and they are building up a more 'nationalist' position.

With the resounding victory of the Motherland Party, pressure is building up to allow the traditional parties of Turkey, the capitalist 'Justice Party' (under the name of the Correct Way Party) and SODEP (a revamped



Turgut Ozal, monetarist victor.

Republican Peoples Party) to stand in the local elections next year.

Either way the Turkish generals may have to concede a truncated democracy in stages or possibly there will be a collapse of the present regime and the generals will fall as in Greece in 1974.

All the quack economic capitalist theories have been tried and found wanting, it is vital that Turkish socialists work to build an effective force for Marxism to herald the way for a socialist Turkey linked to a socialist Europe and a socialist Asia.

By Ali Sel

By a correspondent in Cyprus

NORTHERN IRELAND

The provisions of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill passing through Parliament have produced quite correctly, a horrified reaction from the labour and trade union movement.

The dangers of such legislation are shown in Northern Ireland, where far more blatant attacks and infringements of civil liberties are commonplace.

In an article reprinted from *Militant Irish Monthly*, Peter Hadden of the Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group calls for a labour movement campaign against such abuses as the "supergrass" system, which are a potential threat to the organised working class.

SUPERGRASS TRIALS

A threat to workers' rights

SO FAR 350 people have been charged and a number convicted on the evidence of so called 'supergrasses' in Northern Ireland.

The use of supergrasses, or paid informers, is an affront to all standards of justice and a serious threat to basic democratic rights and freedoms.

Trade union and labour movement organisations in Ireland and in Britain cannot afford to ignore this issue.

In Northern Ireland convictions are based solely upon paid agents with no need for the state to provide even a shred of evidence in corroboration.

As if this were not a big enough perversion of justice, there is the added twist that these trials are held in special non-jury courts where the judge has nobody to caution about the nature of the evidence except himself!

Worse still is the added refinement of the system, through a 'Bill of Indictment,' by which preliminary hearings have been suspended in some cases.

With the clogging up of the Northern Ireland court system it is unlikely that the trials of those held on the word of the latest batch of supergrasses will be heard for two

years. In one case prisoners held on remand on the strength of one man's word have already been in prison for 20 months. In other words, they have already served almost the equivalent of a four year sentence.

Like all forms of repression this represents a threat to the organisations of the working class. At the moment it is being used against the paramilitary groups, both loyalist and republican. But it could be used against anybody.

The emergence of supergrasses is a sure sign of the internal weakness of the paramilitaries and the dead end of their campaign. They are now prey to informers because their membership have largely lost any hope that their campaign can get anywhere.

The greatest threat to the plans of this Tory government comes not from paramilitaries but from the trade union movement. The Tories have set out to weaken the unions and prevent them resisting their policies.

At present an offensive against the NHS unions is underway to clear the way for the privatisation of hospital services. The immediate tactic is the weeding out of the best trade union militants in each hospital.

In the supergrass system the ruling class have a weapon with which they can put virtually anybody behind bars for two years before even hearing their case.

Future threat

It is not likely that this is about to happen to trade union militants and community activists now, although this is possible. It would be a convenient answer to Tory problems with the Health Service unions. Rather it is a threat for the future.

If these methods can be effectively used against paramilitary groups today they can be retained for possible use against the labour movement tomorrow.

This is therefore an issue which the trade union and labour movement must take up in a non-sectarian class fashion, making clear that to oppose repression is not to give an ounce of support to the activities of the paramilitaries.

In fact, it has been the campaign of the paramilitaries which have



The army in action. Internment, non-jury courts, police harassment. Only the form of the repression has altered.

given the state the excuse to introduce this latest perversion of justice in Northern Ireland.

When its position is threatened the ruling class is prepared to trample on every democratic right to achieve its ends. The history of repression in Northern Ireland up to and including the use of supergrasses is a warning of the methods which the so-called democratic state will employ.

Public outcry

In 1971 internment without trial was introduced. It provoked an international outcry. Nonetheless it was retained until the British ruling class could come up with an alternative means of achieving the same ends.

In 1975 internment was replaced by the use of special, non-jury Diplock courts where the onus of proof was shifted to the accused. 90% of the cases before these courts resulted in conviction.

A refinement of this new legalised internment was the basing of convictions, not on evidence, but on confessions signed by the accused. However in 1978 an Amnesty International report revealed the brutal methods used by the police in Castlereagh and other police stations to force people to sign confessions.

Because of the outcry, the government was forced to investigate and the subsequent Bennett report, although whitewashing the entire issue, did force changes in interrogation methods, and so upset what had been an extremely effective means of convicting people without evidence.

So the state was again forced to seek an alternative. The answer they have come up with is the use of supergrasses. Convictions on the word of informers is not new. But now the state is going to unbelievable lengths to induce informers to give evidence.

Clifford Mc Keown, a loyalist supergrass who recanted his evidence at the last moment claimed he had been offered £50,000. Others made similar claims.

One IRA man, Robert Lean withdrew his offer to inform on more than a dozen people. Another potential informer Eddie Carmichael reported he had been of-

Derry and Belfast Trades Councils have passed resolutions demanding action from the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. They stress their opposition to paramilitary organisations and their methods but call for clear class opposition to state repression.

1. An immediate return to the jury system and the abolition of the Diplock courts.
2. An immediate end to convictions solely on the paid evidence of supergrasses.
3. The immediate release of all those prisoners who have been convicted on supergrass evidence.
4. The speeding up of bringing 'suspects' to trial so that people are not held for months or years at times before they are eventually brought to trial.
5. The ending of the system of remand/internment without trial.

ferred £300,000 if he would incriminate Sinn Fein MP Gerry Adams.

These witnesses are therefore people who are paid for their evidence and who have a vested interest in what they say.

It should go without saying that a court should weigh any evidence against the character of the person giving it. And when it suits, this is done, even in Northern Ireland. But only when it suits!

In 1981 an RUC sergeant Thomas Mc Cormick, was charged with the murder of another policeman. The evidence against him was the word of a man who had been a paid RUC informer.

To the judge such evidence could not be taken as reliable unless corroborated and so he dismissed the charge.

How quickly things change! The very same judge this year found the evidence of UVF supergrass Joe Bennett convincing enough to convict. On September 11, the *Sunday Times* examined in detail the Bennett case.

In court Bennett denied ever committing murder. Yet the *Sunday Times* quotes two UVF sources who state that he murdered a 61 year old man by blowing him to bits in 1973. He also shot a 74 year old postmistress during a robbery in 1982.

Socialists condemn massacre

A special meeting of the executive of the Northern Ireland Labour and Trade Union Group has condemned the killing of three Protestants while at a church service in Darkley, Co. Armagh.

"This ranks with the worst atrocities committed over the last twelve years. This act could only have been intended to provoke reprisals. We condemn outright all sectarian killings including the other murders of both Catholic and Protestants recently in Co Armagh."

The statement called on workers not to be fooled by sectarian demands for retaliation by sectarian loyalist politicians or paramilitaries.

"The working class, Catholic and Protestant, do not wish to see the return to the days of nightly tit for tat revenge killings. If any group of murderers continue to commit such atrocities the working class must refuse to be divided and demonstrate its united opposition to all killings.

"In January 1976 the area near Darkley was the scene of similar sectarian butchery. The murder of five Catholics one night was followed by the killing of ten Protestants the next day. These outrages were put to an end when the Trades Councils in Newry and Lurgan brought thousands of workers on to the streets in demonstrations and strikes of protest.

"The trades unions must be on the alert. In the event of more killings we call on the Northern Ireland Committee of the ICTU, in conjunction with the trades councils, to act. Mass protests and work stoppages must be organised to allow all workers to express their revulsion together.

"If this is not enough to halt the murders, the trade unions would have to go further and organise to defend the working class from sectarian killings.

"The response of the working class to Darkley must be to unite further and to increase the struggle against the Tories and those who by sectarian divisions serve the purpose of the Tories in Northern Ireland."

Yet Bennett was judged of such sound character that his word alone was sufficient evidence. So was IRA informer Christopher Black, whose word alone was enough to lead to a total of 4,000 years imprisonment for 35 people.

The same state which judges the word of INLA informer, Harry Kirkpatrick, sound enough to justify arrests and charges, also convicted him after finding him guilty of five murders, six attempted murders and 74 other offences.

Clearly, all that these cases amount to is another form of legalised internment.

The labour movement must now demand an end to these trials, an end to internment by remand of the accused, a return to trial by jury with preliminary hearings and full rights to cross examine witnesses and full access to all evidence.

Those already convicted solely by supergrass evidence should be released. If the state claims to know they are guilty let the state produce the evidence in open court on which they base their knowledge.

Pressure by the labour movement can win these demands. Past opposition to repression has shown that campaigns based upon sectarian or paramilitary groups are weakened from the outset.

But the trade union movement could unite workers on this issue and by presenting a non-sectarian opposition could force the government to retreat.



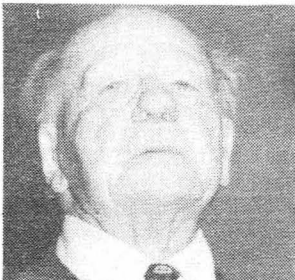
An arrest by the army in Derry in 1971.

Letters

VIEWERS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES? CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO
MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Anton Nilsson's birthday

Dear comrades,
Yesterday, I attended the birthday party of Anton Nilsson, at a small neat flat in a suburb of Stockholm. In less than three years, Anton will reach 100 years of age, spanning the whole history of the modern working class movement.



Anton Nilsson.

He was surrounded by his old comrades, mostly typical working class men and women, in Sunday best in Anton's honour. Each comrade brought flowers and cards inscribed with signatures of inscriptions of organisations and individuals.

All morning, Anton was called to the telephone to receive congratulations from prominent people in the Swedish Social Democratic Workers Party, and the trade unions. These congratulations came from those on the right as well as the left. Among his comrades was a kind of committee, or club, of old freedom fighters, people who had served sentences for their devotion to the socialist cause.

Anton is still the undisputed and honoured leader of this group and the only one sentenced to life imprisonment, for his action against blacklegs in the great Swedish dock strike in 1908. Among these old comrades were some communists, socialists, and other left wingers who were thrown into concentration camps during the World War, because they resisted the passage of Nazi troops and war materials through Sweden. An act which was allowed by the Swedish government of those days.

This is a little-known episode in the international fight against fascism. As the afternoon wore on, it became clear that 96 year old Anton was, in spirit, amongst the youngest of those present. He spoke with great pride of his visit to the great *Militant* rally at Wembley on September 10 of this year. He said it was a highlight in his life.

He said the *Militant* supporters in Britain were now on the right course and what he saw convinced him that a real turning point had been reached in the revival of that revolutionary socialism which he had joined as a young man 80 years before.

He asked me to convey his greetings to all those comrades he met in Britain, and called again for a new working class international, as he did at Wembley.

Yours fraternally
Dudley Edwards
Stockholm

Militant supporter defended

The following is a section of a letter sent to Gillingham CLP following the suspension of *Militant* supporter Bob Hurley.

"I have been a member of the Labour Party for more than 20 years, and nothing has appalled me more than the 'suspending' of Bob Hurley.

A man with a record of 30 years excellent service, beginning with the youth section. What kind of people is it who put forward such a resolution!

Are we to be forever witch-hunting, practising McCarthyism among our own members, members like Bob Hurley are needed desperately to fight this rotten government.

Where will it end? Selling a newspaper after a meeting!! This is sheer lunacy. Correct me if I am wrong, but isn't the Labour Party (or at least professes to be) a democratic party and 'open minded' party. The word 'democratic' being of Greek origin, meaning 'of the people'. Bob Hurley is people. Give this man back his democratic rights, along with his dignity! The party needs him, and others like him.

Unity is the word. Well! You cannot have unity and witch hunts. As for the NEC, who recommended this resolution, and the councillors who supported it, I as a member ask.... are you socialists or Tories?

Mrs A Ursell
Sittingbourne CLP

Stockport Messenger—police poll

Dear Comrades,

On a number of occasions during picketing of the *Stockport Messenger* the police threatened to arrest us if we crossed to the forecourt. The coppers stood in the middle protecting us from attack from security guards and their dogs.

One lad had been warned several times, and the police said he would be carted off next time. We protested that our union would require written warnings, as verbal warnings were not enough. Even some of the Bill laughed!

We asked what offence we had committed. Two coppers honestly replied they didn't know. I then decided to conduct a poll. Six police were interviewed. Two did not know. One said he would think of something. Two replied "obstruction" and then changed their minds. The final one said "trespass", which he then elaborated on, giving technical details.

Correct answers to the Cheshire constabulary please.

Yours fraternally
Peter Jarvis
London Region NGA

Anti CND demo farce

Dear Comrades,

During the massive CND demonstration on October 22, I had the dubious pleasure of witnessing the "mass" counter-demo in Trafalgar Square, organised by Lady Olga Maitland's "Women and Families for Defence."

Although this event received a great deal of publicity in the Tory press—naturally—there were only about 30 people present, half

of whom were on the platform. The rest of the '200-strong' crowd, as the papers claimed, mainly consisted of people like myself who were returning from the CND rally in Hyde Park.

The platform consisted of her Ladyship, several Tory cardboard cut-outs and a youth speaker—of about 40. Their speeches were predictable: Poland (they're smashing the unions there), Afghanistan (ironic after Grenada), etc, etc.

We pointed out the role of US imperialism in Latin America to a few Young Conservatives nearby. The

retort was "they're defending freedom". Tell that to the millions murdered, starved and tortured by US backed dictatorships. In the same breath, one told me I was lucky to be in Britain because I was free to say what I like. Then he told me it was illegal to sell *Militant* in Trafalgar Square.

To cap it all, one Young Tory got carried away. During a rendition of the National Anthem, he gave the Nazi salute.

Yours fraternally
Andrew Gilbertson
Sevenoaks LPYS

Militarist propaganda

Dear Comrades,

In the 1930s Goebbels' propaganda actively exploited the myth of a communist threat to justify and camouflage the Wehrmacht's militarist preparations, and the unleashing of aggression.

Today in the 1980s we are having the same propaganda and threats. An example being the deployment of Cruise missiles in Britain, Germany and Italy.

For all we know this could be just the beginning, and there is certainly more to come, especially as there are some adventurous cowboys involved.

After all, which is more important? A few million unemployed, OAPs, health, education or the defence of democracy?

Yours fraternally
Hamid Dayaei
Bradford North LPYS

Windscale danger

Dear Militant,

Some years ago in the late 50s I was stationed at Colchester with a fellow soldier who was doing his National Service. He confided in me that on his return to Windscale he would have to face higher levels of plutonium if he wished to progress to higher levels and pay.

At that time, like many others, I was at a loss to offer any advice. It's only now I have become aware of the dangers of plutonium. At that time he was a keen jog-

ger and fell climber. I only hope that he is fit and well today.

Yours fraternally
Mike Singleton
Hove CLP

Quiz puzzle

Dear Editor,

Have *Militant* readers noticed the panic in Fleet Street in the use of bingo, match-up cards, snooker cards and other competitions to buy readers in the circulation war?

Have you noticed the winners of these competitions? I am sure they are vetted by the newspapers. They are middle class. Either 'retired' or 'widowed', 'newly married', 'just got over a long illness', '58 and just made redundant', and most important NOT unemployed.

A letter to TV Times about ITV competition shows asked why no unemployed person was ever considered for any contest. The TV Times replied that people unemployed didn't apply as their pride would be hurt if their friends and neighbours knew they were one of the 3 million unemployed.

What a load of rubbish. The media would not think it right that a "lazy, unemployed person" won some money in a game of chance. They should work. I wonder what other readers think of this vetting theory of winners, and control of the media?

Yours fraternally
W B West
Blyth

What price justice?

Comrades,

I read with disgust the recent case against the Duke of Westminster. He was fined a massive £200 plus £10 costs for going 36 mph over the speed limit in his £66,000 car. He gets £175 a minute.

Now on the other hand you have the case of a lorry driver (me) who had the cheek to drive his firm's property 22 mph over the speed limit and got off with a paltry £40 fine, that's 45 per cent of my weekly income! What price justice?

Yours
Tommy Kerr
TGWU 7/200



Massive arms spending on nuclear weapons has led hundreds of thousands to protest.

Defence cover-up

Dear Comrades,

I read with disgust the article "The Black Hole of Whitehall" in the *Observer* (13 November).

It showed a multi-million pound blunder over a new secret Navy headquarters which has pushed up costs by 500 per cent to £168 million, and was hidden from the Government's auditors by Ministry of Defence officials.

The article also stated that

Ministry officials have devised a number of ways to ensure that auditors do not see potentially embarrassing documents.

The article reveals many other cover ups including equipment which isn't even safe. I work with mentally handicapped teenagers and it makes me angry when I hear about more and more cut-backs, yet £168 million is being spent on something which is already a 'white elephant'.

Yours fraternally
Pauline Curwen
Ashington

Police star in Broadway

Dear Militant,

West Derby Young Socialists held a day of action in Broadway Norris Green to motivate people there for the 19 November demonstration in support of our Liverpool council. The response from the people was unanimous with people promising to turn out, and over 50 copies of *Militant* sold.

We explained that the Tories would probably send in Commissioners to take over the council, and that would mean redundancies and a run down of all public services. It wasn't long before the police turned up

and when they heard what we were saying they asked us to move off saying we could be causing an obstruction.

We told them that was a load of rubbish, along with a number of shoppers. When the copper saw a crowd of people supporting us, he radioed for some of his mates. Within minutes the cavalry came, three squad cars and a meat wagon.

We then paced up and down the street giving them no excuse for arrests. People looking at one sergeant with his truncheon in his hand were disgusted.

Anyway, we'll be back on future Saturdays giving it loads.

Yours fraternally
Vinnie McGrane
West Derby LPYS

Expulsion protest

Dear Comrades,

Following from a report-back made by our Annual Conference delegate on the above item the following motion was agreed at a recent meeting of the Wensleydale Branch.

"This Branch registers its disgust at the decision of Conference to expel the *Militant five*. We note that no precise charges were ever made against them, nor was any evidence presented to Annual Conference as to why they should be expelled."

I have been asked by the Branch to forward this decision to you and to offer our fraternal greetings to you in the knowledge that you will continue to work for, if not on behalf, of the Labour Party.

Yours fraternally
Chris Green
Secretary Wensleydale Branch LP

Mersyside videos

Dear Comrades,

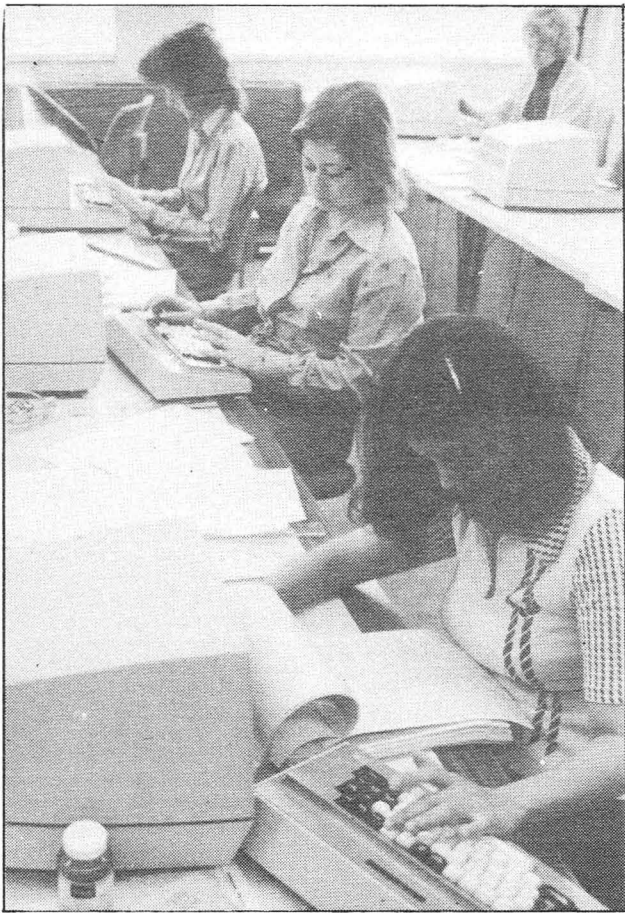
In *Militant* (11 November) you carried an article 'Liverpool Unions Pledge Campaign'. Graham Casey states that "...a local photographic firm are producing free videos."

May I inform readers that this probably refers to Open Eye film and workshop (part of a non-profit making, grant-aided company, limited by guarantee—committed to the social practice of film and video and to working within the labour movement locally).

The workshop has, in conjunction with the Liverpool Black Media Group and the Merseyside branch of the Independent Film and Video makers' Association, organised a week of free film screenings and video tape playback—with speakers—throughout Merseyside during the week prior to November 19.

These events are intended to highlight the march and rally on that date and the action needed within the city and the region beyond then.

Yours fraternally
S I Davies
Liverpool



New Technology and jobs

JOB LOSSES on a massive scale—that is the threat to women workers of new technology in offices.

APEX predicted in 1979 that a quarter of a million office jobs would have disappeared by 1983, while the Equal Opportunities Commission forecast a decline of 21,000 typing jobs by 1985 as a result of word processing.

In a mail order company in West Yorkshire the change-over in 1980 to computerised paperless offices halved the number of full-time and part-time clerical staff. In banking, finance and insurance offices the introduction of electronic funds transfer, counter terminals and automatic tellers is likely to reduce jobs by 40% (according to ASTMS).

The only way to be sure that new technology will not

have negative effect on the workforce, is for the workers themselves to take action. This action is the most important factor influencing the rate of introduction of new technology.

New technology has the potential to make work easier, shorter, safer and cleaner. Advanced technology can make it possible to share out the work of producing all we need, still leaving enough time left over for everyone to take part in running society, have a full social life, spend time with children, and develop our various skills and interests to the full.

That will only be achieved by a successful struggle through the labour movement to use new technology in the interests of working class women and men—not the bosses' system.

From TB to 'stress'—slow progress

A THIRD of all women workers are in office jobs and 99% of secretarial and other office work is done by women.

Women are being particularly hard hit by new technology, not only in terms of job losses, but increased stress, more boring jobs, more health hazards and more control by management over the pace and content of work.

Typing, correcting, filing, and telephoning may not be the most exciting jobs in the world, but at least you can break up the monotony of the day by varying the tasks. Now, if you have a communicating word processor, the machine can take over most of these tasks, linked as it is to a computer storage system and to other word processors in other offices via the telecommunications network.

The bosses, however, are in for a shock, as unionisation has been increasing very rapidly among women workers over the past few years. Astonishingly, the struggle for health and safety at work shows that office workers have been militant enough when their interests are threatened.

In the 19th century, clerical workers in Britain had only 75% of the average life expectancy, lower even than miners with 85%. In 1916 women clerks in the USA had the shortest lives of all occupations. The main killer was tuberculosis and other respiratory diseases, caused by poorly ventilated, damp and insanitary offices.

The National Union of Clerks (in Britain) started a campaign against tuberculosis in 1911 which—after 50 years—succeeded in getting the government to establish basic minimum standards via the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act of 1963 (now superseded by the Health and Safety at Work Act).

This may have been a protracted struggle but the fact that office jobs have in recent years been considered among the cleanest and safest owes everything to these reported struggles by clerical workers.

Two articles by Vivien Seal

Fighting for our rights

We won't be beaten

A YOUNG girl ran to the toilet crying. The foreman had been abusing and swearing at her for not working hard enough.

"Nobody around her is indispensable" management said—and took steps to sack her.

Workers on my section were enraged. We decided to stop work. This may seem quite natural, but in the past we have accepted what management threw at us. The majority of workers live in constant fear of losing their jobs.

This time my section, all

By Maureen Neal
(GMBATU shop steward)

women, made a stand. We asked to see the manager. Workers never demand to see the boss, he said (we'd asked). He wanted to see us

individually but we stood together. Management backed down and the girl was not sacked.

We were all pleased with our victory. Morale was high and a number of the people involved turned up at the union meeting.

For the first time we proved we can make gains if we stand up for ourselves. But a lot has yet to be done.

Many of us are not experienced trades unionists. "What have the unions ever

done for us?", some complain. "Why should we pay 75p for nothing?"

In the past management have interfered in who should be steward. The regional full-time official occasionally turns up at our meetings, but doesn't do much for our confidence.

Our modest victory may change things. We now have two new shop stewards including myself and many of the workers have agreed to stick with the union as long as there is a fighting leadership. Union membership has grown over the past six months.

We have succeeded in getting the Health and Safety officer to do random checks. Usually management have prior warning: out come the mops and sometimes contract cleaners are called in. This time they may see what it's really like—fire exits blocked, unsafe machines and oily floors.

A man has already slipped on an oily floor and is unable to work due to his bad back. He got no compensation, but we're taking up his case.

We have a long line of issues to take up: ear muffs in the noisy 'regrid' section, extractor fans, pay and hours.

We work a 40-hour week and two and a half hours compulsory overtime for £51 per week. One man worked Saturday, Sunday and till ten o'clock some nights. He got £83 take home. Saturday mornings are on basic rate, extra overtime is time and a fifth!

There are a lot of things to improve on. But we've got to start sometime. Already I have been split up from the friends I have worked with since I started and I have been given some of the worst jobs. But I won't be beaten, nor will the workers.

The last cut...

I'M A HAIRDRESSER. The majority of us are women. The hours are long and the benefits nil.

We aren't unionised, so we have no weapon to fight the bosses. Our wages are among the lowest: the average is about £60; qualified workers earn as little as £45 a week.

When shops are busy we are expected to work through lunch hours and not given set tea-breaks. When its slow there's extreme boredom and pressure from the boss because business is bad.

Hairdressers are prone to many health problems. For apprentices skin disorders such as dermatitis, from the water and shampoos, are common.

Varicose veins and the sack

Many workers eventually leave the trade because of allergies from direct contact with or breathing fumes. One girl I used to work beside has developed asthma and has an attack whenever she comes in contact with bleach protensators.

Back, leg and foot trouble are common. Constant pressure on the legs causes varicose veins. Few hairdressers last over the age of 45.

And the threat of job loss is ever-growing.

I was made redundant from a shop in Glasgow with four other workers.

One was a stylist who had worked there for many years, recently on a part-time basis. She was sacked without notice or redundancy pay.

Another was a single parent working to support a young child. As receptionist she also did some book-keeping. She too got neither notice nor redundancy pay.

An apprentice was put on her job for only £25 per week. Apprentices are there to learn hairdressing, not how to be a receptionist.

Two apprentices were also sacked. They had finished the YOP scheme, a favourite source of cheap labour for shop owners. We were openly told it wasn't "financially beneficial" to keep them on.

Shortly after that, new juniors were taken on, one full-time on YOP and 'Saturday juniors' called in during the week when the owner needs them.

I too was sacked without notice. Employed one minute, a statistic of Thatcherism the next.

(This is an edited version of an earlier article by Dawn Neale of Glasgow)

No Kwiker

GINA AULTON, T&GWU shop steward and fellow workers talked to Brian Debus about their strike at Kwik Save supermarket.

"WE NEED more staff. Two people left last Christmas and weren't replaced and others since." "You haven't got a minute to yourself, you're constantly under pressure."

Fifteen workers: check-out operators, stock assistants and canteen staff, two-thirds of them women, walked out on strike at the Kwik Save super-

40% (3.6m) of all women workers are in part-time employment. They represent 17% of the entire labour force. 90% of women who work less than thirty hours are married and two-thirds have dependent children.

Women, who make up 42% of the workforce, are now 75% of those officially classed low paid. Two-thirds of pensioners are women.

Women's earnings as a percentage of men's rose from 63.1% in 1970 to 75.7% in 1977 and then fell back to 74.2% in 1983.

The female workforce stands at around 8.7 million. Around two-thirds of all women under retirement age are in paid employment. This includes two-thirds of married women, two thirds of women with school-age children and one quarter of women with children of pre-school age.

market in Willenhall, near Walsall last Friday 18 November.

The place is understaffed because management have been trying to undermine union organisation by bringing in trainee managers and non-union staff to fill in on a day to basis.

Things came to a head with the arrival of a new manager. The policy is against supervisors being on friendly terms with staff: "Management are arrogant, speak to you with no respect and never show any appreciation."

On a busy day one check-out girl can take over £2,000 on one till. Kwik Save made £23 million profit last year. Yet the girls are paid less than



Gina Aulton

£2 per hour. After eleven months of protracted negotiations they've had enough. They are fighting for their rights.

'Women's health at risk'—review

"WOMEN'S HEALTH AT RISK". A TUC Workplace Programme to improve the health of women. Published by the TUC 1981 35p.

I found this pamphlet somewhat disappointing in its scope although I was probably expecting a bit much for 35p. It was written in response to a motion passed at the 1980 TUC conference calling for a campaign for facilities and services which will protect the health of women.

It is perhaps worth saying why I think the TUC, although this is not made explicit, feel that women's health at work is an important and partially separate issue from men's health at work. After all men generally do the most

dangerous jobs. Women, however, and at times their unborn children, are in a particularly vulnerable and difficult position at work because of their bodily cycles and changes—menstruation, pregnancy and the menopause.

The pamphlet claims that there has been a long history of collective action at the workplace to secure improvements in the health of women. For instance campaigns in the 1920s to gain support for birth control clinics and improved maternity services.

Almost all the examples given are of national campaigns aimed at governments. This highlights one of the

greatest weaknesses of the trade union movement's struggle to improve the position of women.

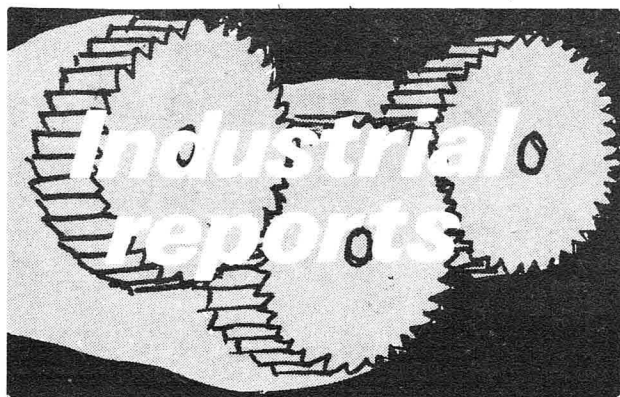
Not only have they relied on legislation and statutes eg Wages councils, the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts etc. but they have then often failed to make these "rights" a reality by backing them up with collective action.

Refreshingly, the TUC pamphlet concentrates on workplace bargaining, describing three areas of health protection for women which can be achieved; health education and protective measures for pregnant women, making available for every working woman services for screening for cancer of the

By Kirstie Maclean
(ShIPLEY CLP,
BRADFORD NALGO)

breast and cervix, protecting women from the effects of certain industrial hazards on their reproductive systems.

The pamphlet gives practical guidelines as to the type of agreements which could be, and in some cases have been negotiated by trade union branches eg rest rooms for pregnant women which cannot only be used at break times but during working hours if they feel unwell, screening for cancer during work hours etc. I would recommend any trade unionist to obtain this pamphlet and to discuss the recommendations in their union branch.



New mood in NUR

MICK ATHERTON, President NUR West Midlands District Council talked to Militant about recent developments in his area.

I have been involved recently in local meetings with the miners, steelworkers and the other rail unions to set up the Triple Alliance in the region.

I moved from the beginning, against some opposition, that it should not be restricted to mainly full-time officials. If we really are going to stand together in defence of all our jobs, there must be the fullest involvement of the rank and file.

I am pleased to say that at the last meeting it was agreed to formally establish the Triple Alliance with a local delegate conference. We are going to look at the Yorkshire constitution and hopefully will adopt that here.

We are also organising a mass rally with Scargill, Sirs and Knapp at the end of November.

In early October there was a successful two-day strike of my section—Signals and Telecommunications. It was over the introduction of new technology.

We had a national instruction

not to install the new DMS, an electronic exchange, until an agreement had been worked out between the union and Board over new technology and job protection. But local management tried to introduce it on the Walsall-Birmingham line when national consultations had not even started.

Management called us in and were told none of our members would install this new equipment. Three days later the Divisional S&T Engineer and other members of management started installing it. We walked out from 16.30 that evening. Within two days we were back at work, with a guarantee of no redundancies or transfer of workers due to the installation of this new equipment. This settlement has set a precedent that can be followed by NUR members elsewhere.

There is no doubt in my mind that with the end of the Weighell era a big weight has been lifted off the union. Jimmy Knapp seems well received whenever he speaks. When he addressed our District Council there was spontaneous applause during his speech. Weighell would not have got that.



Defend London's Transport

LIKE MOST active trade unionists working for London Transport I welcome the appointment of Merle Amery to the board of the London Transport Executive.

This means the ruling Labour group on the GLC have a political majority on the board. I and many others would like to know, however, why it has taken over two years since the election to do this?

I have heard the excuse that if this had been done before, the Tories and their allies the SDP/Lib alliance would resist. But now with the two years' grace they're still saying the Labour appointments have no experience with transport. Workers everywhere will laugh at this. Michael Edwards would have been lost in a car-factory before Chloride left him to BL to sack workers.

But as a Marxist worker I realise that even if the London Transport Executive were Labour Party members they would still have to work within the confines of capitalism and that workers have no control over them.

The proposed Transport bill is the first step towards doing away with public transport in the capital.

The main aspect of the so-called legislation is to do away with the London Transport Executive which reports to the GLC and set up London Regional Transport (LRT) under the auspices of the environment minister.

The LRT will oversee the privatisation of London Transport and possibly British Rail.

The decline of the economy means fewer passengers using London Transport. These and other pressures from the system will force members to act as pseudo-Tories and allow massive cuts and job losses to be inflicted. We must demand a transport system run under workers' control for the benefit of the community—which is only possible on the basis of a socialist planned economy.

By Bob Law
(East Ham NUR personal capacity)

Rolls Royce, Crewe 'Perry causes more strikes than Swan Vesta'

MANAGEMENT WERE walking round stunned after the 3,000 strikers voted by 4 to 1 to reject their offer.

This was no surprise for the pickets however—they say that management always look like that.

Perry, the managing director and the company's negotiating team had completely underestimated the mood of the strikers by offering, on top of the 4% already offered, £1.50 per week across the board from 1 January and harmonisation with staff on bereavement leave, wedding leave and sick pay.

As John Edwards, chairman of the works committee read management's proposals at Thursday's mass meeting, they were met with derision. As one striker put it, "Our pay is so

low, we won't be needing wedding leave but time off for divorce."

The determination of the strikers, led by the works committee has not been matched by the full time officials who "reluctantly" recommended acceptance of the latest offer as the professional negotiating team had obtained the most they could out of Rolls Royce.

But John Edwards, chairman, putting the works committee recommendation urged outright opposition as the 4 weeks sacrifice should not be wasted by accepting such a measly offer. The longer the strike continues, the more determined the workforce is becoming.

Management, attempting to drive a wedge between production and white collar workers,

who are still working, has agreed to pay ASTMS and AUEW (TASS) members the same deal as that achieved by the strikers. APEX, to their credit have turned down that offer. This cynical move has only angered the workforce further. No deal will now be accepted without more money being put on the table.

Perry, in his first year of pay negotiations, is already becoming very sensitive to criticism. Driving in one morning, he was most upset to read a placard saying, "Perry causes more strikes than Swan Vesta."

Messages of support and donations should sent to: A Jenkins, c/o AUEW District Office, St Pauls St, Crewe.

By Dave Campbell

NEI Parsons

THE WAGE claim submitted by the wage negotiating committee at NEI Parsons after months of preparation and discussion has been almost totally ignored by management.

The claim itself, though ambiguous in cash terms left no doubt that a massive wage rise was demanded; a substantial increase this year with a commitment to restore a positive differential in future pay talks with manual workers over low paid staff and a move towards staff status for manual workers.

In total, over a period of future negotiations, that would mean a minimum 23% increase in wages across the board. The response of management was that they did not want to know and that they were not going to change their minds.

Their offer included a 2.75% increase tied to a week's closure in 1985 meaning freedom of choice for holidays would be encroached upon. With the mood of anger building up through the works it was clear this offer was totally unacceptable.

The joint shop stewards committee felt words were not enough. A walk out took place involving 2,800 manual workers including all safety cover and the company's security team. Another one-day strike took place on Monday and further action is planned.

By Dave Harris
(AUEW steward personal capacity)

BLOC against the Tories

THE BROAD Left Organising Committee (BLOC) has decided to hold a national delegate conference of trade union bodies, aimed at rank and file trade unionists.

The object of the rally will be to build and strengthen the Broad Lefts in individual trade unions. It will be on the themes of privatisation, government spending cuts, the TUC-government talks, and the need for a fightback against the Tories.

The conference will be made up of delegates from workplaces, union branches, shop stewards committees, combine committees, District Committees, Divisional Coun-

cils, Trades Councils etc. BLOC is therefore calling on all Broad Lefts to mobilise their support within their unions for this event.

It will be held in the Octagon Centre, Western Bank, Sheffield 10 on Saturday 24 March, commencing at 10am.

There is a clear need for the trade union movement to take a determined stand against the Tory government and its attacks on working class people's rights and living standards. The movement needs to draw up a fighting strategy to force back the Tories and drive them from office. This rally will discuss such a strategy and debate its imple-

mentation.

Get your trade union organisation to discuss the BLOC Rally and send delegates to it (each body can send up to five delegates, delegate fee £2). A delegate form to claim credentials is available from George Williamson, Organising Secretary, BLOC, 11 Sutton Place, London E9 6EH.

Land Registry

460 STAFF employed by HM Land Registry are on strike. They are members of the CPSA and SCPS.

The strike is due to attempts by management to downgrade work from executive to clerical level, introduce new work procedures of suspension warnings to workers for refusing to introduce the unagreed changes.

The 460 strikers are those who are in the jobs immediately affected by the work changes. Their work is now being "black-ed" by the staff at work. An increase in the numbers threatened with suspension is therefore likely.

A weekly levy of £2.50 has been introduced to top-up the strike pay being received from union HQ.

Picket lines and strike centres have been set up at the thirteen District Land Registry Offices at Durham, Lytham, Birkenhead,

Peterborough, Nottingham, Stevenage, Harrow, Croydon, Tunbridge Wells, Gloucester, Weymouth, Plymouth and Swansea.

Meetings of strikers are being held weekly and addressed by a number of the Land Registry National Strike Committee. The mood among the strikers is excellent.

The immediate task has been to consolidate the strike and ensure that the strike organisation at local and national level is working smoothly. The next task will be to identify areas of escalation to turn the screw on management.

Messages of support and donations to the strike fund should be sent via:-

John Macreadie, CPSA HQ, Park House, 64-66 Northside, Wandsworth Common, London. SW1 2SH

Chris Baugh
Chairman (Land Registry TU Side, personal capacity)

Banks and the Broad Left

THE FEELINGS of Bank staff have been running high over the proposed working on December 23 which was imposed unilaterally by the banks. This is the last working day before Christmas which (in the last 18 years) has traditionally been half day closing.

The union has decided to ballot members on industrial action towards the end of this month, and has arranged mass meetings to publicise the union's

A SUCCESSFUL meeting of the Finance Workers Broad Left was held recently in Gillingham Kent.

Despite our suits, ties and smiles, bank workers are just as exploited as other sections of the labour movement.

Though I take home less than £65 a week, I consider myself lucky, I have a job! Things are so bad that in my office some people don't claim overtime due to them because they are scared of what the boss may say.

We in the FWBL believe in

point of view.

All union activists should work to ensure that the banks see the opposition to their proposals (in some areas round robins have been returned to the union showing 7-1 of members in favour of industrial action and 4-1 of all staff in favour).

A Mass Meeting will be held on November 29 at Bishops Gate Institute near Liverpool station. 6pm start.

building an organisation from the bottom up, not just building bureaucracies. BIFU has not been successful in defending the living standards and conditions of employment of its members.

There will be a FWBL meeting in Manchester the day after the Young Workers assembly also in Manchester on the 10 December. I appeal to all sympathisers in BIFU in the North of England to attend both meetings. Details of the FWBL meeting can be obtained from 11 Addington Road, Broad Green, Croydon, Surrey. CRD 5LW

By a Kent bank worker

EETPU conference: No witch-hunt, no tears

THE ATTEMPT to ban Militant supporters from holding office within the EETPU and start a witch-hunt of Labour Party members was defeated at the biennial delegate conference.

Frank Chapple opposed it at this stage on the grounds that Militant has broken no rules—obviously having taken legal advice. But he also said "We share their concern over Militant Tendency"—a clear warning that further attacks will be launched in the future.

Several policy statements were unanimously carried which served notice on the Tories and employers that the EETPU rank and file will defend our jobs and organisation. The position of the EETPU on the Tories' employment bill, is clear, "an active campaign of opposition to all forms of anti-trade union legislation until it is removed from the statute book." The right to strike for the private public or private sector, is not negotiable.

Unemployment was opposed with the demand to defend jobs, including a policy of "blacking work, refusing to accept movement of men, plant or materials." Conference also carried a resolution on YTS which called for full trade union control over YTS, "to prevent exploitation by unscrupulous employers."

However, the Executive Council asked for the remission of important policy resolutions on privatisation, the National Health Service, and the Labour Party. The right wing leadership did not want these 'sensitive' issues on the floor of Conference—given their role in private medicine and in particular within the Labour Party. Using the argument of shortage of time the right wing evaded the debate on socialist ideas.

The battle for democratic changes within the EETPU made no progress. The right wing leadership linked the question of ending the ban on Communist Party members to the election of full time officials. Unfortunately Communist Party members had provided the right wing with ammunition in this debate. The Communist Party

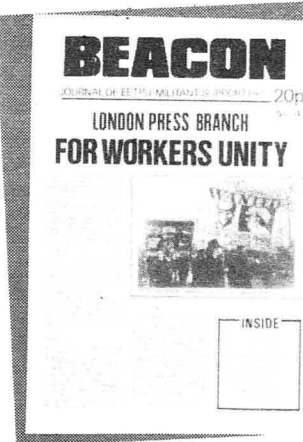
of Great Britain franking machine had been used to post a pamphlet, "End the Ban" to every EETPU branch in Britain prior to the Conference.

This allowed the right wing to claim that the Communist Party were continuing to interfere in the affairs of the union, from the era of the ballot-rigging trial of 1961 to date. Organisational methods were used by the right wing to defeat other proposed democratic changes such as conference decisions being binding on the leadership.

Frank Chapple openly wept at the end of this, his last Conference. There were no tears from Eric Hammond, who replaces Chapple as General Secretary. He is cast in the same mould and inherits the same undemocratic structure.

The only way forward for EETPU rank and file activists is to build an active, democratic Broad Left in the workplaces and branches to turn the EETPU into a fighting, democratic union taking its rightful place in the labour movement.

By a conference delegate



Journal of Militant supporters in the EETPU. Order from WS Books, 1 Mentmore Tce., London E8 3PN.

APOLOGY: The article by Dave Williams on Silcock and Collings in Militant 673 was written in a personal capacity.

Stockport Messenger

- the front line



BILL MOTTERSHEAD of the Manchester SOGAT branch, was at the mass picket of Messenger newspaper Winnick Quay estate in Warrington on November 15/16.

The picket line has been characterised by increasing police brutality. On Tuesday 150 of us were in front of the loading bay, picketing the factory and the redcaps (private security firm) came out with alsatian dogs setting upon us. Police ignored these attacks.

Then the police, without provocation, dragged people out, picking up leading members of the pickets, and beating them up.

One heartening thing on Tuesday was that firemen were called to put out the brazier which the pickets were using, by the police, but the fireman refused to do so.

On Wednesday 11 people were arrested. The police, using the same tactics, picking out people, arrested a national of-

ficer of the T&GWU. Ray Williams, NGA Merseyside officer was beaten up viciously by the police. And in addition, the national officer of ATS (the white-collar section of SOGAT) Vinny Crawford was arrested.

We are appealing now for a mass turn-out in the coming weeks, because despite the fine imposed on the NGA we believe that we have to win this crucial dispute about trade union rights in the printing industry.

Revolt!

Women and young workers in a series of struggles for union rights and decent conditions

AFTER THIRTEEN weeks on strike the dispute at Lefrays Toys Aberbeeg in Gwent continues to escalate.

Following nine arrests of pickets two weeks ago an even bigger picket assembled last Friday of 120 people. This showed the growing support for the strikers throughout the South Wales area. It included members of the NUM, T&G and SOGAT, including Brenda Deane the vice-president. The picket passed peacefully, in stark contrast to the previous Saturday when nine pickets were arrested.

The strikers have settled down to a regular routine and are travelling all round South Wales getting support, including the YTURC conference in Swansea. They are also continuing to pressurise the scabs inside the

factory.

Shop steward Carol Davis told how a striker confronted a black-leg shopping with her family in the town. The woman objected to being called a scab, saying she didn't mind abuse at the factory gate but was disgusted that it should happen whilst shopping. The reply came, "You don't stop being a scab at 4.30pm, you're a scab 24 hours a day."

None of the spirit has been sapped from the pickets. The labour movement must support them in their fight. Boycott Lefray toys wherever they are sold. Join the picket line to give it extra impetus. Send donations and messages of support to: Carol Howells, 152 Mount Pleasant Estate, Abertillery, Gwent.

Boycott Beauty Care

"YOU WOULDN'T need unions if management treated everybody fair and paid them a living wage. But they don't because they're greedy", said Pete Fryatt, one of the strikers at Beauty Care in Eccles, who are in their fifth week of a fight for union recognition.

Most of the workers are young, earn less than 60p an hour and work in terrible conditions with no health and safety monitoring.

The shop steward, Fred Johnson, said "They started off as a market stall and gave school kids a couple of shillings. They have done so well because they pay slave wages. They now have fourteen shops in the area...They are scared stiff of unions because if we join then the rest will follow."

As part of their campaign they

are calling for a boycott of Beauty Care stores in the north-west. They have organised successful pickets outside shops in the Merseyside area.

Anybody interested in assisting with picketing or leafleting shops or sending messages of support/donations please contact Fred Johnson, 30 Buckley Street, Salford 7.

Grimsby

"WE'LL NOT give up, and we're going back on our terms." These were the words of a young worker on the picket line outside a Norman Packaging Services in Grimsby. Albert Grayson (a machine operator), married with child, showed me his pay slip. A gross wage of £48.06 for 40 hours work, just over a pound

per hour.

There is a small workforce, with an average age of nineteen. They joined the GMBATU earlier this year, and have been forced to take industrial action after wages and conditions became unbearable.

"There's no protective clothing, no overalls, poor heating, all that with the disgusting pay were the reasons I joined the union and came out on strike," said one lad. "There's never been a strike here before because there's never been a union until now and we're not going back until we get a 20% wage rise and union recognition."

Send messages/finance to: Simon Monteith, GMBATU Union Office, Riby, Grimsby.

By Patrick Howard
(Grimsby LPYS)

Glasgow

THE DISGRACEFUL conditions facing workers in the garment industry were highlighted last week by a dispute at Priestman Needleman in Thornley Bank industrial estate, Glasgow.

87 women machinists and cutters were called to a meeting during the Friday afternoon tea-break at which management questioned the quality of their work. The meeting ran 20 minutes over the tea-break and Mr. Priestman, the managing director informed them that they would not be paid for the time spent at the meeting, over and above the tea-break.

Twenty-five workers immediately staged a sit-in. Management have since locked all the workers in the factory and removed all the lighting facilities.

Messages of support to Isabel O'Neil, shop steward, c/o the National Union of Tailor and Garment workers, 534 Sauchiehall street, Glasgow.

BOB TOMLINS, National officer of the NGA, told *Militant*: "Last Thursday, there was a marvellous response to the call for branches for support; coaches coming from Tyneside, Sussex, London, Scotland, Berkshire, in fact country-wide. During the week the union have managed to maintain the picket line at never less than 250 and this has effectively reduced Shah's distribution to only five lorries which he subsequently redistributed to an unknown destination. What started off as a straightforward industrial dispute has been turned by Shah into a major conflict."

George Holme, another NGA National Officer, told pickets at 3.30 pm on Thursday, that "hundreds of members have come to Warrington expecting a peaceful picket but have left incensed and more determined than ever to win the dispute, after an unnecessary level of police aggression". He referred to the events of the previous 72 hours in which 18 pickets were arrested and four were hospitalised as Shah's private army of dogs, Group Four security men and hundreds of police were let loose on the picket. Injuries to collar-bones, ribs, etc., were still being nursed.

One NGA member of 26 years standing told how he'd moved from his home area to come to work at Shah's but had been sacked after only two months when Shah decided to replace all the workforce with not just non-unionists but pre-selected anti-unionists.

At 4.30pm on the Thursday, George Holme announced the Manchester Court decision to fine the NGA £50,000 for disobeying the previous injunction. The applause from NGA members all over the country was unanimous, when he said that "the NGA wouldn't pay even if it was only 50p a member," and that they would call on the TUC to give financial and industrial support, "Let us put the money where the mouth is after the Wembley Special Conference."

THE MASS PICKET outside the Warrington print works for the Stockport Messenger group over Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday of last week saw the full power of the police used against the trade union movement.

On Wednesday they ensured the delivery of the papers by launching into the pickets, arresting 30 and putting 3 in hospital. Even the *Daily Telegraph* remarked on the savagery of the police.

On the Thursday more pickets arrived from around the country including Bristol and Thames Valley. The paper had gone out the day before but it was reduced from 60 pages to 24 and from 250,000 copies to 90,000 copies.

Messages of support, donations and information on picketing—contact Graphic House, 27a Greek Street, Stockport.

Ian Warwick
(Reading NGA)

SHELL
Profits up 42%
Wages 4 1/2 %

IN THE middle of a dispute over a 4 1/2% wage offer Shell have announced their net income for the first 9 months of '83 is up 42%.

On the other side of the picket line a brick through the window of the local T.V. office contained a message threatening leading shop stewards if the strike wasn't called off. Neither physical intimidation nor hypocritical whining will dampen the determination of these workers.

Representatives of Shell tanker drivers have recommended by a narrow majority acceptance of the company's offer of 4 1/2% plus £2.00 bonus consolidated into the basic rate.

The final decision of the drivers will have a big impact on the strike of refinery workers at Stanlow. At the time of writing the national decision is not known, but drivers at Stanlow and the nearby Haydock terminal are thought to have rejected the offer.

Rejection of the company's offer would obviously boost the strike. Unity of tanker drivers with refinery workers would make a successful outcome likely. But having seen BP drivers accept a similar offer last week it is possible that the stewards' recommendation will be accepted.

Workers at Stanlow have responded to this possibility by stepping up picketing at distribution terminals as far afield as Leicestershire. Escalation of this sort could effectively halt distribution of Shell products,

although at the same time it would leave strikers open to attempts by Shell to use the Tories' anti-union legislation again.

Shell's last attempt to implement a high court injunction only succeeded in providing entertainment for the pickets, who feel that other injunctions will be just as ineffective. But recent action against the POEU and printing workers at Warrington suggest that determined action by one group of workers alone is not enough.

This dispute involves major industrial trade unions who have the ability to mobilise the labour movement. This must be the next step to win this dispute and defeat the legal threat.

By a Shell ASTMS worker

Kent miners support hospital workers

STRIKING 'DOMESTICS' from All Saints hospital in Chatham (see *Militant* 676) visited Tilmanstone, Snowdown and Bettshanger pits last week with the blessing of the Kent NUM. They got a great recognition. Over £100 was collected for the strike fund and they got promises of donations from the Lodges and Area NUM.

By Eric Segal

POEU: No retreat!

THE Post Office Engineering Union's fight must go on.

British Telecom's latest attempted victimisations have aroused further anger. The rank and file are prepared to fight despite the union executive's decision not to defy the Tory courts.

The right wing, using their new found majority on the national executive have tried to cut back the action. This has been met with fury from branches taking action. They have refused to take off effective action even if national funding is removed.

Ironically, BT refused to allow the strikers sent back by the union to return to work unless the whole action is called off and those workers returning submit to intolerable conditions.

The right wing and some of those claiming left-wing credentials do not seem to recognise that the compromises of the past are no longer on offer. BT and their political masters need to break the POEU. That is an essential feature of their privatisation policy.

However, the decision of the executive to scale down the action was not unanimous. Phil Holt moved a resolution to maintain the present level of action and gave notice of a motion to discuss increasing the levy to pay for it. This was lost, receiving eight votes. The meeting only then voted unanimously—on the basis that this would ensure the key International branches remain out on strike. The motion to increase the levy was not reached. There was a 12—11 vote not to go to the House of Lords to appeal against Mercury's injunction.

BT have told the POEU that they are considering legal action if the union continues its 'political' campaign to defeat Tory privatisation plans.

The POEU leaders must face up to realities. The stark choice facing the union is either capitulate and allow management to tear up agreements and destroy conditions built up over decades or stand by the members with a major escalation of the action.

The outstanding feature of the dispute so far is the unwavering loyalty and solidarity of the members in action—despite the complexity of the selective action tactic.

All of BT's counter measures have failed. Members have been 'bussed' and even flown from their normal places of work only to be suspended for then refusing to cross the picket lines they were supposed to break. They have stood on picket lines with dismissal notices in their pockets and not budged. They deserve a leadership and strategy which matches their seriousness and determination.

The NEC should immediately institute an overtime ban and a work to rule, extend the selective action throughout the country, call a half-day national protest strike and increase the levy. An urgent appeal should be made to the trade union movement for financial assistance.

BT should be warned that any legal move to halt industrial action against privatisation will be resisted and injunctions ignored: that sackings will be countered by a national stoppage and an all-out indefinite strike.

The union's leaders should be barnstorming the country speaking at mass meetings, rallies and demonstrations to reinforce morale and fighting spirit. POEU members can develop the momentum and impact of the campaign in the areas by organising local initiatives, but this must be reflected in effective national leadership.

The campaign can go forward or it can recede. It cannot stand still.

NOTE: The POEU Broad Left is convening an extraordinary recall AGM to reconsider its slate for the national executive elections. The meeting will be held at County Hall, London, on 10 December.

Mini-budget: Maxi-cuts

THE GOVERNMENT has been putting out a barrage of propaganda about a new boom. But they still plead poverty when it suits them.

Last week, the day after Chancellor Lawson's forecast of good times to come, the government refused to end discrimination against the disabled. Apparently the country "cannot afford" even this fundamental right.

What nonsense. The country could easily afford it. It is Tory priorities which mean they cannot. But there is an element of truth about last week's behaviour.

Actions speak louder than words and Tory actions show they realise the economy is still a mess.

Last week's Treasury statement shows why. The Tories plan to spend more on industry. But not on investment. In fact they are cutting support for individual industries and reducing Regional Development Grants.

No, they plan to increase spending on the consequences of their policies—unemployment. The Treasury's autumn statement says that there will have to be increased "provision for redundant steel and shipyard workers."

Their increased expenditure on the "Environment" consists of "some improvements in unemployment benefit offices." That's not the only growth industry though.

They have found an extra £32m for prison expenditure. Bruce Chivers, the building employers' leader, criticised Lawson last week for cutting

house building. Why should he moan? We may not have houses, but we're going to have four more new prisons.

The Tories will even save £68m next year because fewer people are taking up the government's slave labour Youth Training Scheme.

The consequences of Tory economic failure will be felt by the poorest in society. Lawson's mini-budget hits the old the young and the low paid.

Heating costs to rise

The cost of heating is artificially being forced up. The gas industry could cut prices by 10% and still have £150m profit. Yet the Tories have ordered a price rise of over 4% in January. Electricity prices are also being forced up by 3% in April. Yet the Tory Minister for Social Services, John Patten, had the nerve to claim, on the same day as Lawson's statement, that the government was doing "a great deal" to help pensioners cope with hypothermia.

Last week Lawson singled out young people for especially harsh treatment. He took £100m from jobless and working teenagers. Through changes in housing benefit, they will have to pay up to £3.10 extra.

Other changes in housing benefit will hit the lowest paid. The Tories have artificially forced up council house rents. Now they are cutting the rebate. This way they hope to save £487m from the housing budget.

And for what? So defence spending reaches £17,010m next year. Despite a forecast "cut", this is an 8.2% rise in money terms since the last White Paper! Whilst the health service has suffered a



Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Thornton View Hospital, Bradford now in the 16th week of occupation. A 30,000 petition will be handed over to the Department of Health in protest at closure plans.

real cut of £390m, more money will be found for Trident and the Falklands.

The only response from businessmen is that these cuts are not enough! They want more savage cuts to secure tax reductions.

For the working class these cuts are far too much. Savage cuts have failed to

reinvigorate senile British capitalism. After four Tory years output is still, despite the "boom", below 1979 levels.

Neither the Tories or their system have anything to offer ordinary people and their actions last week show it.

By Jim Chrystie

Ford claim

FORD WORKERS look set to take action for decent pay. On Tuesday union negotiations rejected the latest offer, despite its description as 'final' by the Ford bosses.

With an upturn in the car industry, Ford workers are looking to bring their pay back into line with the cost of living. On wages, we require a 15% rise to give us back the purchasing power we had in 1978.

The original miserly offer was only, 4%, but Ford bosses have already been forced to raise this to 7.5%, already well above the government's guide lines. Ford can be forced to meet claim in full—a claim they can afford and Ford workers deserve.

By David Llewelyn Davies

(TGWU shop steward, Ford Swansea, personal capacity)

CHESTERFIELD: Ripe for a socialist campaign

THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists branch in Chesterfield have nominated Tony Benn for the Labour candidate in the by-election due in the next few months.

We hope there will be many other nominations for Tony Benn, as this area is ripe for a socialist campaign.

Industry has been wrecked in the recession. Grave threats to local pits have recently come to light and Mothers Pride Bakery has closed with the loss of 230 jobs.

The local Labour Party has been changing with new union branches affiliating. The party is moving to the left. There has been much criticism of the sitting MP Eric Varley, particularly for resigning just a few months after workers slogged hard to get him elected.

He has stood down to

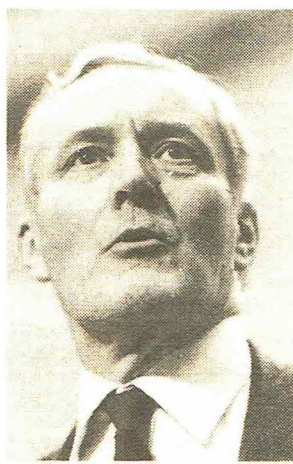
become 'Executive Vice-Chairman' of Coalite. Prior to that he had told the local Party that if a resolution calling for MPs to live on a workers wage became policy he would look for another position! Presumably Coalite pay their Vice-Chairman a lot more than the average skilled worker.

We need a socialist candidate and a socialist campaign. There is already enormous interest at the prospect of a by-election, in the shops, buses, factories etc, particularly amongst younger workers.

A campaign here like those Liverpool Broadgreen and Coventry South East waged at the general election could gain a great victory for Labour and a big boost for the morale of the working class.

Roy Davies

Chesterfield Labour Party, personal capacity.



Tony Benn.



Eric Varley.

PRINTERS FIGHT

Continued from front page.

The work is now to be sent to TBF Printers, Nottingham, owned by T Baily Foreman, who refused to reinstate NUJ members after the 1979 provincial newspaper strike. The NUJ have understandably refused to supply copy, not willing to aid this anti-union employer.

In granting the injunction ordering the NUJ to stop further action, the judge said even though the two firms were controlled by the same legal person with the same telephone number, premises, address and managing director, they were "separate legal entities".

If the unions accept this legal gobblede-gook they will be totally shackled. Every section of the movement must rally behind the print unions in these struggles.

The TUC must begin to mobilise support. It is no good them hiding behind excuses; if the well organised unions are beaten it will be all the more difficult for those in the sweat-shops, that still struggle for decent wages and tolerable conditions to win.

The eyes of the movement must be turned to Warrington where the Stockport

Messenger and associate papers are produced. The TUC must not be allowed to hide behind supposedly "hostile" public opinion—i.e. the Tories' press propaganda.

The whole weight of the unions must be used to secure a satisfactory outcome to this dispute.

This is no longer a mere recognition battle but a fight to save the unions' organisation in our industry. Other companies are waiting in the wings to exploit any weakness in the union defences.

With new technology and the Tebbit/King Laws, at long last, they hope, that print union power can be broken. If this dispute continues and one penny of our funds is stolen, the national and local papers must be stopped, and a day stoppage of the whole trade organised with everyone going to demonstrate in Warrington.

The national leaders should be touring the country before the day stoppage explaining the issues not only to printworkers but union members generally. Let us warn the Tories and the bosses in the only language they understand.

No amount of injunctions or even further laws will stop the unions defending the interests of their members.

We cannot and will not lose this battle.



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