

Power supplies stretched

Coal stocks: Tories' secret fear

**Militant
Exclusive**

By **Dave Nellist MP and
Eddie McParland**
(Chairman, Greenwich
Labour Party personal
capacity)

THE GOVERNMENT and the Electricity Board are seriously worried about the effect the miners' strike is having on power supplies.

Reliable sources in the Electricity Board have told us that behind the public displays of confidence and complacency the strike is biting.

★ At Easter the National Grid experienced "instability" due to large power flows from the South Midlands. At one time rota disconnections (power cuts) were thought to be inevitable.

★ There is concern amongst top management that if there is severe weather this Whitsun weekend there may be a repeat performance.

★ Management has examined whether they can run

the whole system without using any coal-fired plants. But it can't be done.

★ The facts given about coal stocks at the power stations are misleading. The Board has shut down or curtailed the power at 55 of the country's 57 coal-fired power stations. Only High Markham and West Burton power stations in the East Midlands are operating at more than 50% capacity. Many are at a quarter or less. The Board is gambling that by switching to oil and other fuel, it can stave off a crisis until winter.

Oil problems

★ The oil-fired power stations are more expensive and less reliable than the coal-

fired. Designed in the days of cheap oil, they have mostly been mothballed for the last decade.

Prices will rise

★ Other oil-fired stations have been designed and built to be brought into use only for short-term, peak supply periods. Now they have suddenly been made to work flat-out for long periods. (Whereas oil normally only provides 7.5% of electricity supply, it is now providing about 33%).

★ Many of the oil plants have run into problems with the heavy demands now put on them. One study has found that oil plants are probably being subjected to "long term damage due to operating beyond manufacturers' specifications."

★ It is costing the Electricity Board over £10m a week to switch to oil from coal (*The Observer*, 13 May, calculated that for every five weeks of the strike the Electricity Board would have to increase prices by 1½%).

★ Nuclear power is not only no solution, but management are worried that industrial action by ICI workers could harm the 16% of electricity supply from this source. Nuclear power stations depend on the weekly supply of carbon dioxide coolant from ICI's plants in the North-East. If there was industrial action and serious disruption to this supply it would affect the amount of electricity generated by nuclear power.

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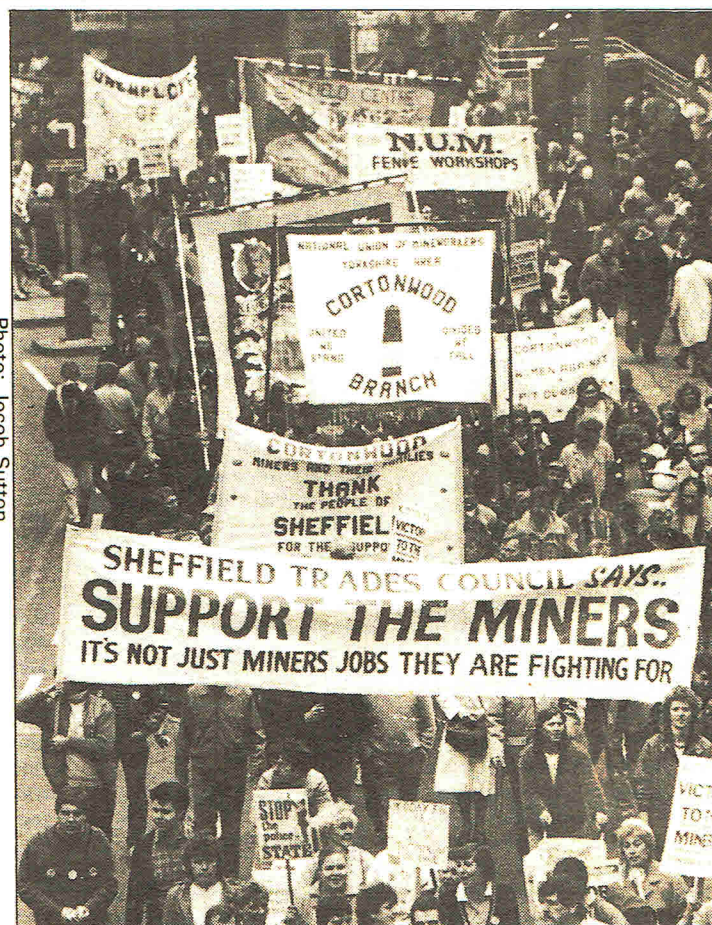


Photo: Jacob Sutton

Sheffield marches in support of the miners on 21 May.

Save our communities

DESPITE THE most vicious campaign of lies by the press in living memory, the miners' strike has drawn support from large sections of the working class.

Disregarding the TUC leader Len Murray's disgusting farewell stab in the back, many Yorkshire workers showed their support for the miners' struggle on 21 May (see report page 3).

Aylesham march

On 29 May, Kent miners and their families will be marching in London to draw attention to the issues of the strike, the threat of destruction hanging over entire towns and villages and the waste of an entire generation.

The demonstration, organised by Aylesham LPYS, backed by the Kent

NUM, will show the community's determination to fight. The entire village is behind the miners' fight. Sons and daughters, wives and

Women back the strike

girlfriends, mothers and fathers of miners and others in the community need a victory.

"Women are the backbone of the strike" some of the women cooking dinners for miners' children told me "Without the wives the men could not carry on." Support has been marvellous. When we told one man who used to work at the pits what we were doing, his dad, a retired man sent us £10.

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Build a daily alternative to Fleet Street

OUR INITIAL target of £150,000 for the Marxist Daily Building Fund may have looked utopian. But the total of £150,575 raised so far shows how justified we were in aiming for that massive amount.

No other paper could have achieved such a feat. It is a remarkable illustration of our readers' determination to see the influence of Marxism continue to grow.

Supporters who have given up savings, gone without holidays or sold prized belongings in order to donate to the Fund can be

proud of the part they have played in reaching this figure.

But as always there is no rest for those who see the need to change society. Because we could not borrow all that we needed from the bank we still need another £25,000 to reach our new target of £175,000.

So we appeal especially to readers who have not yet sent us a donation. Follow the sacrifice of those who contributed to the £150,000 and we can be in new premises for the 20th anniversary of the *Militant*!

DEVASTATING confirmation that Michael Gregory acted as a stooge for the right-wing in providing supposedly "first-hand" evidence against Blackburn Militant supporters has finally come to light.

Last year Mrs Edna Roberts, a very long-standing member of the Party who was until recently Jack Straw's secretary in Blackburn, wrote to Jim Mortimer about the right-wing's unscrupulous manoeuvres and the false nature of Gregory's document. She merely received an acknowledgement from the national agent, and her letter was never brought to the NEC's attention.

Three weeks ago, she wrote another letter to *Labour Weekly*, which has not been published.

Given the right's determination to force through the expulsions regardless of the outstanding record of the six and the poisonous "evidence" against them, this is perhaps hardly surprising. Edna Robert's testimony completely destroys any of the phoney credibility claimed for Gregory, who was put forward as a Militant "defector" with "inside" information.

Treacherous

Writing to the NEC, which on May 23 was forced to reconsider the expulsions after Gregory's treacherous defection from the Labour group on Blackburn council, Mrs Roberts says:

"No doubt you will have the Gregory Report when you consider the six expelled Militants. Unfortunately, your copy will not be the same as mine. Page Eight is the crucial factor in this document. For Michael Gregory, who compiled this document, did not even know the names of some he was betraying.

"The difference between the documents which went out to various newspapers and virtually to anyone who wanted one (some not even members of the Party), is that my copy contains the surnames of those Gregory apparently did not know and were filled in by Jack Straw.

"So, if Gregory did not know these people's surnames, how did our MP know them? I rang Gregory and he said he had been informed he was not allowed to discuss it.

"Democracy? Hardly..."
 "All these names without surnames were sent out, but my copy reveals the following information by Jack Straw in his own handwriting."

Mrs Roberts has supplied a photocopy of page 8 which shows where four surnames have been added to Gregory's document, previously sworn as an affidavit, and where one name has been scrubbed out altogether. Detailing the

The real Blackburn conspiracy

alterations and inaccuracies, Mrs Roberts justifiably comments: "What price then the sworn affidavit?"

Right-wingers in Blackburn, in a crude attempt to discredit Mrs Roberts, have been putting it around that she has revealed the truth purely out of personal bitterness, because Jack Straw dropped her as his secretary. However, it is clear to us that Straw ditched Mrs Roberts because she refused to condone the dirty methods being used against local Militant supporters.

In her letters, Mrs Roberts has explained how she was used, to her evident regret, to help vote Militant supporters out of positions in the Women's Council:

"Last year, serving as secretary to Jack Straw, I was foolish enough to fall for all this gaff that the Militant Tendency was a threat not only to him but to the Party, and like many others I went along to a special meeting of the Women's Council for one single purpose, to oust the Militant members. Yet on reflection the following day I felt thoroughly ashamed of the role I had played.

Meetings packed

"Rosina Harris and Kay Wright, both dismissed, had along with others set up the Well Woman's clinic which became a success. Later, I rang the new secretary to inform her that I would not attend any more meetings as my shame was overwhelming.

"I am informed that the Women's Council now in this town is a wash-out. Secretaries have changed, other posts have changed and like many others, I keep on receiving letters appealing for attendance. All this naturally tells me that all those women like myself who packed that Sunday night meeting have no interest now the Militant women have been expelled."

Right-wingers in Blackburn have been able to carry through expulsions only on the basis of the dead votes of inactive delegates to the general management committee. Mrs Roberts' letter expresses the anger and disgust shared by the majority of active Party members:

"Always I have looked upon the Militant Tendency as a separate Party, but as we have in our Party so many groups, why expel them?"

"The harassment in Blackburn some of these people have been put through is a disgrace. Take Mickie Thornton, in her sixties like myself. A Labour Party member for many, many years. She used to clean the office. Mickie is a Jewess and in all the years I have known her, her main activities have been petitions on the cruelties of the third world and on animal rights. She was forced, like the others to go through the rigmarole of nonsense after being allowed in the meeting, as indeed they all were, by a once prominent member of the Communist Party.

Election work

"Before the General election last year, the agent told the press that he had ordered the Militant off the streets! And yet, Des Mulcahay, one of the expelled six, came in to the party office every single day after he'd finished work to work for the election.

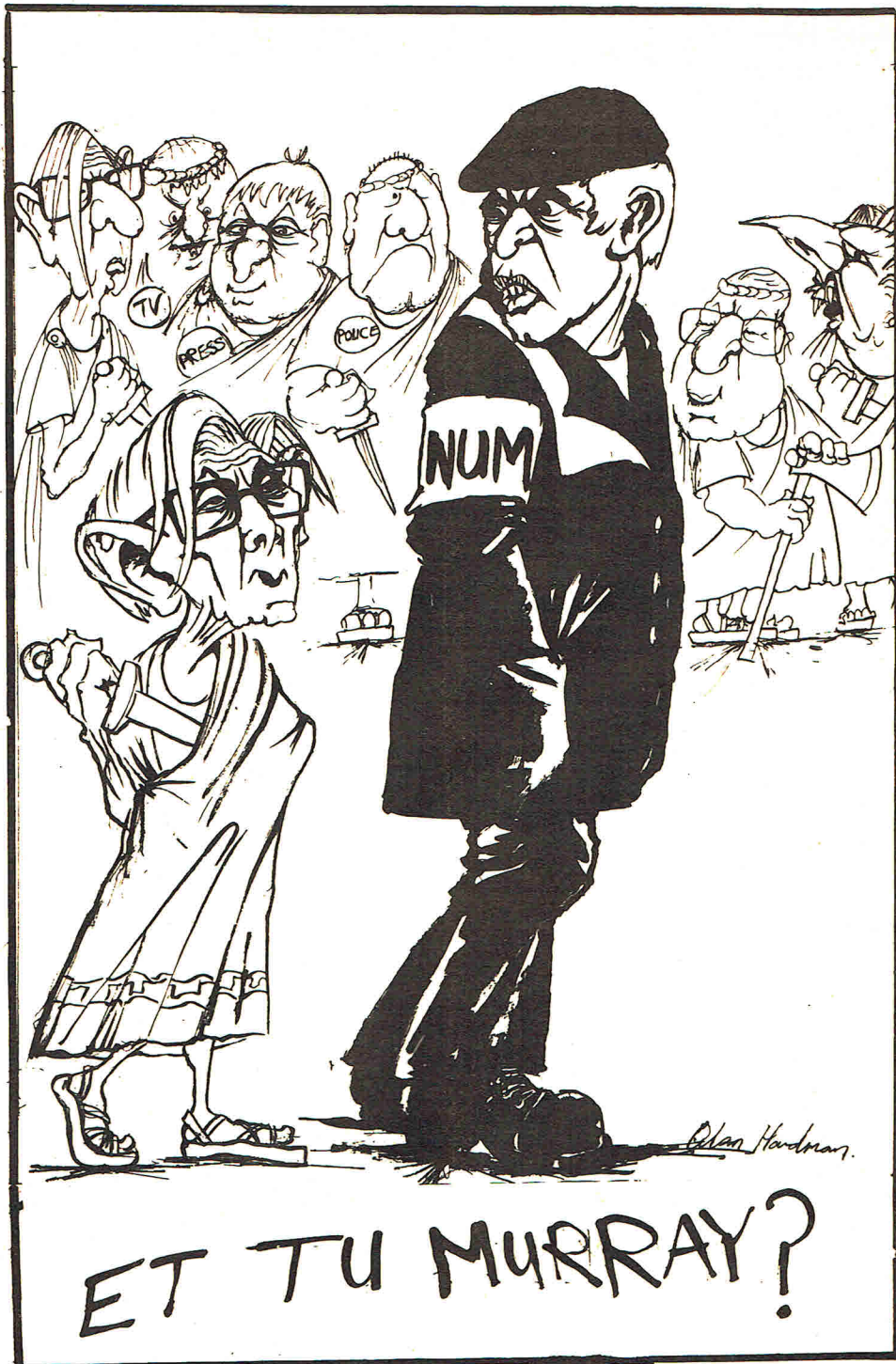
"All the hysteria in the local press some time ago about Jack Straw being threatened as a candidate was nothing but codswallop, for at his adoption meeting he was the only candidate, he had three votes against him."

"Blackburn, like many other towns is a town where there is much unemployment, much racism, and all the Labour Party has offered the readers of the local paper in the last couple of years is the Militant Tendency."

What further confirmation is required that Gregory, as Militant supporters have repeatedly pointed out, has acted as a provocateur attempting to discredit Militant on the basis of cooked up evidence fed to him by others?

At the NEC last Wednesday a motion, moved by Jo Richardson and seconded by Joan Maynard, to put the issue and new evidence into the hands of Eric Heffer, Tom Sawyer, and Sam McClusky was narrowly defeated by 14 votes to 12. This means the NEC's scandalous decision stands for the time being.

However, if the Blackburn CLP reverses the expulsion the NEC will be forced to reconsider the whole issue—labour movement organisations should continue to condemn the Blackburn expulsions, sending copies of their protest to Blackburn CLP and the NEC.



Liverpool—no secret deals, labour movement will decide



Liverpool workers mass outside the City Council buildings in support of the Labour councillors on 'Budget Day', March 29. Photo: Militant.

LAST WEEK a delegation of Labour councillors from Liverpool City Council met Patrick Jenkin on the situation in the city. Attempts have been made by the media to confuse the issue by implying that a compromise has been reached and that a deal has been made not to propose an illegal budget.

But, as Councillor Tony Mulhearn stated: "The bottom line as far as the Liverpool Labour group are concerned remains the same—that there must be no job losses, no cuts or massive rent or rate increases. There will be no secret deals with the Tory government.

We were elected with a massive majority on the basis of our programme and policies. Any deal offered by

Jenkin will be put before the movement before any decision can be reached."

There can be no doubt that the Liverpool election results and the city's labour movement campaign has had an effect on the Tories. Hints were made that extra cash would be available for Liverpool for housing and inner city partnership funds.

But these 'hints' have only been forthcoming because of the resolute stand of the Liverpool working class in support of the council, illustrated in the magnificent demonstration on March 29. The Tories have refused to release their grip on funds for any other area—if they do come forward with increased funds for Liverpool, it will not only be because of

the dire situation facing the city but also because of the fight put up by the council backed up by the local labour movement.

The Liverpool labour movement are now awaiting Jenkin's proposals. At the moment Department of Environment officials are discussing with council officials over the council's books. On his visit on June 7, Jenkin will see the decay and poverty of the city caused by his own government's policies, and locally by the past Liberal/Tory alliance on the council, at first hand.

There is no alternative for the city council, than to continue to struggle and win justified concessions from the government and defend the city's jobs and services.

DEFEND LIVERPOOL COUNCIL—NATIONAL FIGHTBACK CONFERENCE. Saturday 23 June, at the Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool.

Write to Andy Pink, Conference Arrangements Secretary, Room 41, Central Support Unit, Liverpool City Council, Municipal Buildings, Dale Street, Liverpool L69 2BH.

Name

Address

Organisation

TWO MAJOR struggles stand out in the minds of workers at present—Liverpool and the battle of the NUM. For this reason a national conference has been called in Liverpool, to highlight these struggles and the battle of local authorities against the Tories in general.

Every organisation of the labour and trade union movement can send up to five delegates to the conference at £2 a delegate.

Report Special

Fleet Street lies

ON TUESDAY 22 May, *The Sun*, *Express*, *Telegraph* and *Guardian* carried a prominent picture of a lone miner passing pickets, going into Markham colliery. All of them spoke of how he defiantly ignored the pickets.

In the *Guardian* the caption under his photograph read; "Derbyshire miner defies pickets and goes into work."

That is a lie, not just a distortion but an outright lie. Frank Branwell (the miner in the photo) did not go to work. After speaking to his union official he turned back.

What really happened

But the lie is further compounded because Frank Branwell didn't just go home, he joined his mates on the picket line and picketed for the rest of the morning shift.

The media owe this miner more than an apology. They

By Willie Lane
(Bolsover CLP)

were present to photograph him turning back and joining his mates. They had more than enough time to talk to him on the picket line but no, they had the picture they wanted.

Arthur Scargill may condemn the gutter press at rallies and not without good reason, but the so called 'serious' press are no different; the *Guardian* and *Telegraph* carried the picture. The old adage that the camera doesn't lie just isn't true.

Frank Branwell told me what had happened: "I heard that we were going back in, that a meeting had been held as the men had

DAILY
EXPRESS
THE VOICE OF BRITAIN

Daily Telegraph

THE
Sun

THE GUARDIAN

decided to return. It must've been a lie. When I say my mates on the picket line, friends I had worked with for 9 years, I couldn't go in. I went and joined them."

Not only did the press and media blatantly lie it also seemed to slip their attention that the deputies went on strike for 24 hours at Markham the same day.



Photo which appeared in Tuesday's papers wrongly claiming it showed a miner crossing a Markham picket line. (see article left)

Back to work fiasco

ON SUNDAY 20 May, the ex-chairman of Cynheidre NUM lodge, who had tried to break the strike from the first week, organised a meeting of potential scabs to lead them back to work.

He had repeatedly campaigned in the South Wales press hoping to destroy the solidarity of his work-mates, even going so far as to link miners pickets with Hitler's Nazis. Needless to say he has never been on the picket lines himself.

At the staff meeting about 30 turned up, primarily disgruntled craftsmen and workers who had only recently joined the industry from local building sites and other badly organised work places.

The meeting was not allowed to take place as about 100 young miners turned up to make sure that the fight for their future continued. On Monday, the next day, the attempt to organise a return to work failed dismally.

By Arwyn Rees

Only 3 scabs tried to cross the picket line and they were turned back by around 150 determined miners. The local police informed the pickets that they could 'peacefully persuade but not intimidate' but they were quickly told that there was no way that those scabs would be allowed into work.

Strike solid

Local men were bitter at this attempt to break their solidarity, especially as two miners' wives present recognised one of the scabs as being the first to claim a food parcel. What also inflamed the situation was the absence of the arch scab who had organised it in the first place. So the picket line decided to visit him. The 150 miners temporarily left the picket line, gathered outside his house to give him a 7.30 early morning call. After a few choruses of "show us your face" the miners returned to the picket line giving him a final blast of the horn as they left. The strike remains solid in South Wales.

Yorkshire's Day of Action

By Alan Anderton, Rob Jones and Simon Duerden

DESPITE MURRAY'S attempt to suppress the Yorkshire and Humberside day of action in support of the NUM, many workers responded on Monday.

Dockers, rail workers, hospital workers, engineering workers, bus, fire and ambulance crews local authority workers and teachers took action and attended demonstrations and rallies throughout the region.

In Sheffield over 2,500 demonstrated, collecting food and money on the way to the city hall. Speaker after speaker condemned Murray and the other union leaders for trying to sabotage the action. Mick Carter a miner from Cortonwood spoke for us all: "I am amazed by that statement by Sir Lionel—and I sure he's after that knighthood, or perhaps he's after a seat between Lord Gormless and Lord Derek Ezra."

Transport strike

The power of the working class to bring capitalism sliding to a halt was illustrated in the rail workers' action when a few signal men were able to halt all trains to and from Sheffield and severely disrupted services on the East Coast Main Line, through Doncaster. No buses were running in Barnsley; even National Express coach services were cancelled. Services in Doncaster were also affected.

Several hundred trade unionists, including many local miners, held a rally in the centre of Rotherham. Although "moderate" local Labour MP's called for government "conciliation"



Demonstration in Sheffield during 21 May Yorkshire Day of Action. Photo: Jacob Sutton.

in the miners dispute, the clear mood of the meeting was to call for outright victory for the miners.

Jack Taylor president of the Yorkshire NUM made it clear that the union had effective negotiators of its own and needed no outside interference. What they wanted from the movement was solidarity to achieve victory.

Speaking for ASLEF, Ray Jackson made it clear that as well as giving support, railwaymen would need help in the near future for their own battles. The Labour leadership would need to give as much support for the working class as the Tories do for big business if they were to achieve office, and stay there.

Planned alternative

In a well received contribution Chris Weldon for the LPYS, showed how the present system offered no future for youth, and supported the miners fight for jobs and defence of com-

munities. To applause, Chris said the only way forward is towards a planned society based on need and not private greed.

In Barnsley, about 1,000 people rallied in support of the miners. The greatest venom was directed at Len Murray with the Secretary of Barnsley Trades Council, Mike Stokes calling for the bombardment of the TUC with resolutions demanding Murray's removal.

National action

If a clear call had been given and campaigned for by national union leaders far more workers would have taken action. Some union tops like GMBATU actively attempted to prevent such action, sending letters to shop stewards saying that they shouldn't take part in any action.

Rank and file trade unionists fully support the miners as these rallies and demonstrations indicated.

Militant Meetings

Over 110 people attended a Militant Readers meeting in CARDIFF on 15 May. Ian Isaac of the South Wales Miners' Executive spoke (in a personal capacity) and was presented with cheques for over £700, the latest money collected for the miners. Ted Grant, Political Editor of Militant, developed the discussion. From the floor Billy Liddon, Lodge Secretary of Cwm colliery praised the work of Militant supporters in his area.

OVER 40 people, mainly young miners from local pits, attended a Militant Readers meeting in NUNEATON. Frank Slater of Yorkshire NUM, and Dave Nellist MP spoke and many of the striking miners came into the discussion. A collection raised £57;

(Jane Warner reports)

Solidarity action

SIX MINERS from Abercynon colliery have been arrested while picketing Mill Wharf, Rudmore in Portsmouth. German coal is being brought in by Powell Duffryn Fuels Ltd. The coal has been moved to a nearby depot and both the wharf and the depot are being picketed. Thanks to solidarity action by TGWU members at Powell Duffryn and the docks the coal is now blacked and stockpiled in the depot. (Reports Eddie Truman, arrested for shouting 'scab'!)

Between March 14 and May 10 there have been 512 ARRESTS in Scotland connected with the miners' dispute. 504 of those were

in Strathclyde alone, including 334 detained on route. 6 were arrested in Fife, and one each in Central Scotland and Lothian and Borders.

Since March 12 miners from South Wales have been picketing the massive power station at DIDCOT. The pickets have been given shelter and food at Ruskin College, Oxford. Donations have poured in to the miners from the hospital workers, local print workers, and from BL Cowley. The mountain of coal at Didcot has gone and the CEBG have been forced to take Didcot off the grid.

(Report Robin Harris and Steve Rose)

Miners' dispute

They won't starve us back

MARGARET COOL and Margaret Brown from Cotgrave Women's Support Group and Sally Seabrooke from Linby Support Group spoke to Joanna Slattery.

As the number of miners on strike in the Notts coalfield has increased, the wives of the striking miners have started to organise themselves. Despite help from a local hospital and the LPYS, their main problem is getting regular sources of food and money. Sally Seabrooke explained that £15 is stopped from social

security in lieu of strike pay which no one is receiving. This means with no claim allowed for the men and with rent and rates deducted at source, miners' families can end up with Giros of 15p for a week's food!

Sally joined the picket whenever she hasn't been working. She was the first of the wives to picket, but now many wives join the picket and they hope to organise a picket of women and children only. The women made it clear that despite the hardship they faced they are 100% behind their men and determined to win.

Strikers better off in jail?

FINANCIALLY IT'S better to be in jail than on strike. That's what the families of four Yorkshire miners found this month. On Good Friday Ernest Warner, Derek Smith, Reginald Moss and Albert Bowns were arrested for obstruction.

Three times they were refused bail by magistrates and a Crown Court judge. It took fourteen days before they were finally released on bail. And in that time their wives were able to claim the £15, which the DHSS denies them as strikers.

The DHSS 'assumes' that strikers get £15 a week from the union—although they know they get none. But when in prison a striker's status changes to that of prisoner, and the DHSS pay out the £15.

Last week details also emerged of the government's even tougher regulations to starve the miners back to work. They are proposing to deduct from Social Security payments the value of any groceries, gifts, loans from

councils, even firewood, that miners may receive.

Due to an "oversight" the Minister had not placed the new proposals before Parliament and the new regulations only emerged after questions by Labour MPs.

It is a deliberate attempt to drag miners' families down to the meanest levels of poverty. Normally a family of man, wife and two children under 11 would receive £61.80 a week in benefit. As *Militant* explained (11 May), the government has already cut that sum by £37.05 a week for striking miners.

By Jim Chrystie.

Private pits

NCB plans

PITS LIKE Selby, where 10 million tonnes of coal can be produced with just 4,000 men instead of 16,000 elsewhere, could become

prime targets for selling off to the Tories' big business friends.

Confidential papers revealed by *The Miner*, the paper of the NUM, show the NCB's plans to close between 80 and 100 pits and cut manpower by at least 80,000.

Brutal and greedy

TWO WEEKS ago 27 NUM men working at Doe Lea pit were sacked. The pit is a private mine owned by Hampton Goldmining Areas PLC. On the Thursday the striking miners received letters telling them their employment was being terminated immediately.

In statements to the press the management declared their intentions to employ scab labour and plan to

resume coal turning within three weeks. The miners have been told they will not be entitled to any redundancy payments.

Alan Woodley the branch official explained: "Since this company took us over it's been nothing but disputes. Our bonus payments have been scrapped. We were on an overtime ban before the national one started. When the NUM ask-



Determined women at the Barnsley rally 5 May.

Photo: Jacob Sutton.

As the articles on this page show the labour movement has responded magnificently in organising financial help and food parcels for miners. Also some Labour Councils have made special provision for strikers. Chesterfield Council has set aside £50,000 to help miners families in special difficulty.

It is all these acts of solidarity which the Tories are trying to penalise. In trying, literally, to starve the miners into submission, they are making this dispute one of the bitterest in living memory.

The minutes of the Coal Industry National Consultative Council's Joint Policy Advisory Committee for 14 May June 1983 state: "Making allowance for new capacity such as Selby, 25 mtpa (million tonnes per annum) of short life capacity would need to be phased out." That means closures on the huge scale described above. Those remaining would be up for grabs.

ed for our support we came out solidly.

"We've been fighting for other miners jobs when men in places like Notts are still working and for that we've been sacked. In less than two years since they bought Doe Lea pit, Hampton Goldmining Areas have broken every agreement and have now sacked the workforce. Private enterprise is vicious, brutal and above all greedy."

By Willie Lane
(Bolsover CLP)

How we raised cash for miners

AFTER CAREFULLY planning two leaflets—one for taking to factories and workplaces, the other for street collections and housing estates, members of Stockport Labour and Trades Council Miners' Support Committee contacted Bold Colliery in Lancashire. The union sent three miners to stay in Stockport for four days.

Collections were made everywhere—from local factories eg £142 from Fairey Engineering, £40 from NUPE at the bins depot, £30 from local bus drivers, £34 outside the local NUT rally during the one day teachers' strike, promises of cheques to be forwarded eg £100 from POEU Stockport, and

many engineering factories promised donations from their weekly collections. Bucket collections in Stockport precinct raised a further £40.

In the evenings we turned our attention to the housing estates. Armed with our leaflets we took the Bold miners onto the Bridgehall estate and two nights of knocking on doors resulted in £62 and several car loads of food.

The week ended with a miners' benefit disco at Brington Labour Club, raising over £150, where more food parcels, collected by club members, were handed over to the miners.

By Janice Maguire

Boys in blue learn their script

AN INTERESTING article appeared in the Police Federation magazine for May 1984:

"Who is the organising genius in Nottinghamshire who dreamed up the idea of a standard witness statement to be signed by arresting officers in cases of breach of the peace and suchlike, during the mining dispute? It states:

"I keep myself fairly conversant with current affairs by daily reference to local and national papers. Whenever possible, I also listen to local and national radio and watch television

news broadcasts. I am well aware that for some weeks now there has been a dispute between the NUM and the NCB. During this particular dispute I have witnessed on the television scenes where a large number of pickets and demonstrators have congregated outside Nottinghamshire coalmines in an effort to prevent local miners getting to work.

"Some of the scenes on television or information gleaned from the media, have portrayed large crowds acting in an abusive, threatening or disorderly manner. The mere fact of

Rhondda support march

ON FRIDAY 11 May, the Rhondda bus depot branch of the GMBATU organised a march from Teherbert to Porth down the Rhondda Valley, South Wales, in solidarity with the NUM and collected over £225 for the NUM strike fund.

GWYN BURGOYNE, chairman GMBATU Bus Drivers, Porth depot spoke to Brychan Davies:

"We wanted the Rhondda—probably the most famous mining community in the world—to show its solidarity and support for the miners which still exists in the area. Obviously, we as a branch of GMBATU are very pleased with the response from the public and all other organisations involved in the demonstration and we hope this will be the start of similar demonstrations to show Rhondda's 100% support for their fight against pit closures."

Solidarity repayed

Llwynypia branch of NUPE also attended the demonstration and Maureen Davies, secretary of the nurses section commented: "We believe if we don't stand together in unity with the whole of the trade union movement, the Tories will pick us off one by one. During the 1982-83 health workers' dispute over pay we had mass support from the NUM, who stood on the picket lines of NHS workers on strike.

"Therefore as trade unionists and socialists the least we can do as NHS workers is to support our comrades in the NUM in their fight to keep pits open and save jobs".

Gwenllian Chambers, treasurer of the Mardy Wives' strike committee described how food parcels had been distributed for strike-hit families and how raffle ticket sales and a jumble sale in Blaenllechau helped raise money for the families of striking miners.

large numbers acting in such a manner must, I believe, have a frightening effect upon people wishing to go about their ordinary course of business.

"I know from briefings whilst performing my duties in connection with the NUM dispute, unlawful demonstrations have occurred at local collieries and it is my belief, that to allow persons to visit local collieries to unlawfully picket, or demonstrate in large numbers would intimidate local workers. I consider this conduct is likely to cause a breach of a peace..."

Poland doubles scab imports of coal

MP's protest

WE REPRINT right a letter from Dennis Skinner MP to the Polish Ambassador concerning the continuing import of scab coal from Poland, a country purporting to be 'socialist'.

The Financial Times (17.5.84) reports that imports of Polish house coal have been 'running at almost double their usual rate since the beginning of the year.'

The Polish Bureaucracy is cashing in on the miners' strike. We are sure the Polish miners, given the opportunity, would take a different view.

NCB cash aid for strike-breakers

THE NCB have said they have to close 'uneconomic' pits yet they are spending money hand over fist to break the strike, as Jim Robinson of Cotgrave NUM explains:

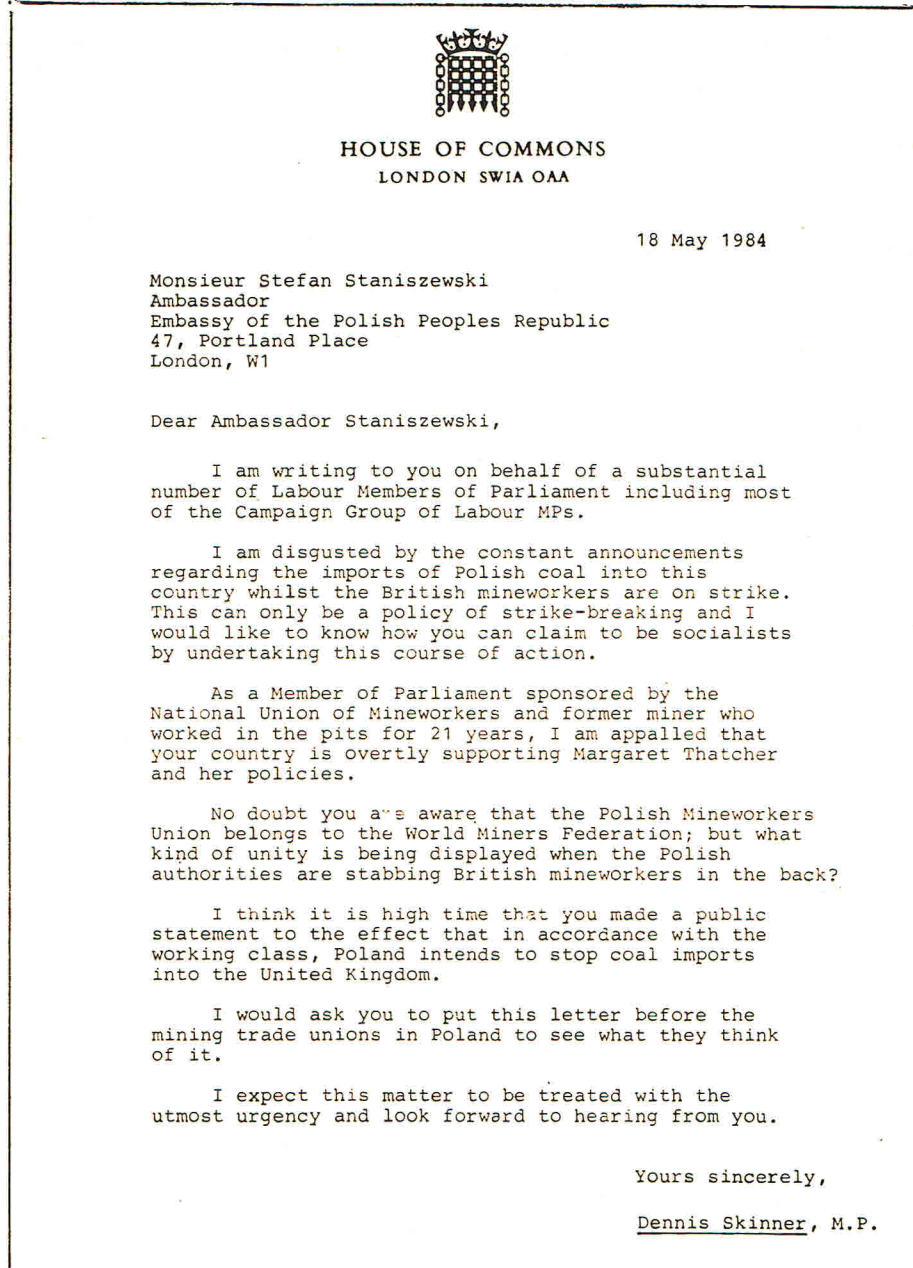
"They closed three pits for 24 hours so men who are working could go to lobby Notts officials and get a ballot. They laid on transport and rumour has it that rest days will be honoured. Normally seven days notice is required.

"Due to the overtime ban essential maintenance work on the shafts could not be done at weekends. So it was done on Mondays and the NCB told men to stay at home.

"In their determination to break the strike the NCB have done a complete somersault and said men can turn up on Monday morning and whether they produce coal or sit in the canteen they'll be paid their wages and bonus. Before the overtime ban the bonus was £55 a week and we were producing 28,000 tonnes. Now it's £45 and production's down to 10,000 to 13,000 tonnes.

"At Easter management paid striking and non-striking miners statutory holidays Monday and Tuesday, the rest of the week and a week in hand—which we've never know before. We said we didn't want it but it's paid direct into your account. They said they couldn't alter the computer!

"When the DHSS learns of these payments it can affect your money. It's counted as available income even if you don't draw it out. Management are proposing to do it again at Whit."



Gwent miners support group collecting food in Newport town centre.

Scots cup fans support miners

REFRESHED BY the recent ousting of the deputy leader of the Tories in Glasgow and the return of a Militant supporter as Councillor, Kings Park and Aikenhead Labour Party agreed to organise a collection for the miners dispute at the Scottish Cup final. They were joined by several car loads of miners from Auchinleck and Netherthird in Ayrshire and raised over £1,000 from the Celtic and Aberdeen supporters. Comments such as

"We support the Nottingham miners" were far outnumbered by fans donating money and supporting the miners.

Excellent response

Young men on the dole and school boys donated 10p and 50p pieces, some giving all their change. Their mood was shown by the many comments like "Well done

the miners", "F... Thatcher and MacGregor" and "We are right behind you".

The Kings Park and Aikenhead Labour Parties and the miners aim to repeat the proceedings at the Scotland v England game where they are hopeful of another excellent response from the fans.

By Ronnie Stevenson

Around the country

A CONCERT was due to be given at the Ferndale workmen's hall in the RHONDDA last Sunday by the South Wales Police brass band. However, due to so many members of the band being called up to police picketing in Notts, the concert was to be cancelled. Luckily the Coed Ely NUM brass band, which is made up of striking miners, stepped in to play to a 300 strong audience. Proceeds will go towards the NUM strike fund, and send pickets to Notts. (Brychan Davies reports)

FURTHER EDUCATION students at Central College, LIVERPOOL held a mass meeting on 16 May in support of the miners. The meeting, organised jointly by the Labour Club and the Students Union heard Steve Sullivan from Sutton Manor NUM and Tony Fay from the LPYS. A £200 donation was agreed and other collections raised £40. (Lesley Smirke, SU President reports)

CHRIS RIDGE tells of a pensioner who walked from COTGRAVE village (Notts) to the pit, about three miles there and back, to give striking miners a cheque for £25.

Support from Germany

THE FOLLOWING letter was sent to Arthur Scargill by young West German trade unionists on 3 May.

"We, the IG-Metall Youth Group of Lubeck, are dismayed by the fact that the Thatcher Government intends to close dozens of pits and that thousands of jobs will be lost.

"The youth have nothing here either, everywhere you look it's really true—"No future", as long as a few millionaires live from the labour power of millions.

"We are fighting here with all our energy for the 35-hour week with no loss of pay and therefore we are standing at your side. Your determination serves us as an example.

"We wish you all every success in this vital struggle."

Militant supporters in SOUTH LONDON held a successful public meeting last week on the miners strike. Over 70 people heard Joe Phelan of the Kent NUM and Brian Ingham, Militant Industrial Editor. An excellent discussion developed with miners from Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire and Kent contributing on how to take the strike forward.

The meeting of two Rugby teams, Beecroft 'A' and Thorn Moorends in the James Noonan Cup Final, left miners' funds about £40 better off. (A Davison reports). The traditional spectators' collection for the players to celebrate was offered to Thorn Moorends who had 13 miners in their team. They declined the offer to celebrate with it, but asked if it was alright to put it in the strike fund. Beecroft players agreed.

In TAUNTON, Somerset, members of the Labour Party were booked by police on Saturday May 19 while holding a street collection for the miners. In YEOVIL last week a policeman threatened to arrest us if we carried on collecting. Despite this harassment, we raised over £23 within 45 minutes. (Report by John Grana)

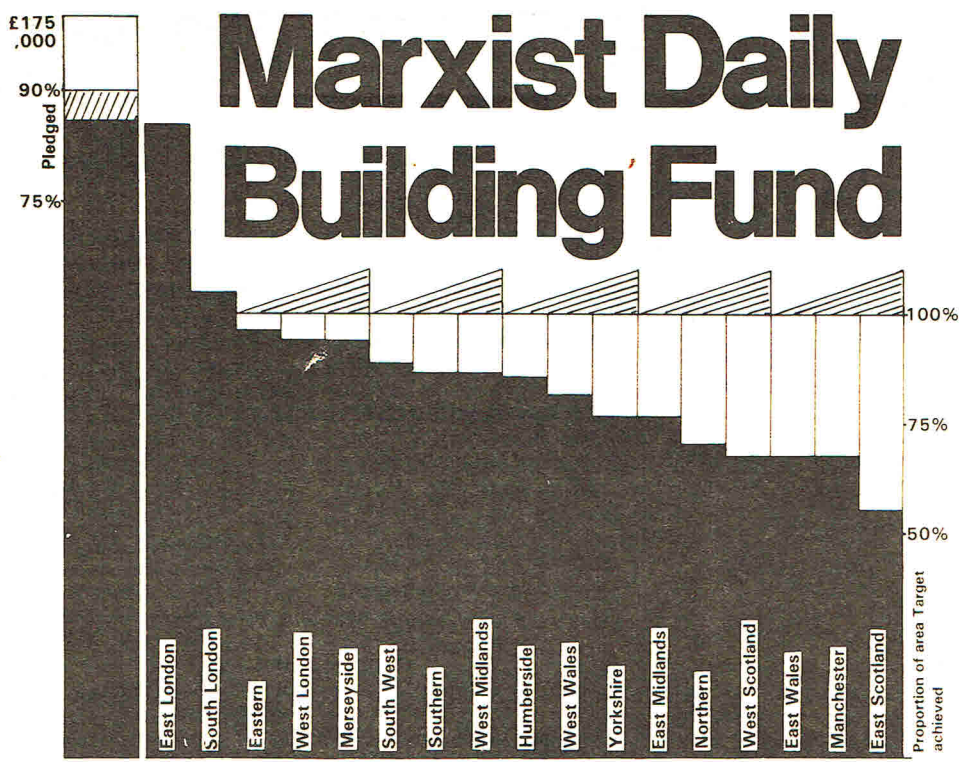
KENT miners are offering hospitality to the children of striking Nottinghamshire miners. Notts miners are not receiving strike pay from the union or from the DHSS which has denied the strike is official.

CHESTERFIELD Borough Council have voted to allow £50,000 to aid miners and their families. Bolsover District Council have set up a Miners' Hardship Fund of £10,000. (Gary Freeman reports)

STOCKTON YS branches are actively supporting the miners (Gareth Loraine and Jeff Walker report). A May Day collection raised £226 and a public meeting a further £54. The YS have 'adopted' Easington strikers for the duration of the strike. Stockton District Council have approved a high street stall to be used as a pick up point for food and money.

200 WORKERS from British Aerospace Preston (Warton Division) attended a dinnertime rally in support of the miners, organised by Preston LPYS with the support of the Works Committee, who already have weekly collections for the miners. (Phil Forrester reports)

DERBY NORTH Young Socialists have 'adopted' striking miners from Moor Green colliery. A recent meeting of mainly unemployed members raised £40.



OUR BUILDING Fund has passed the £150,000 mark. The supporters of Marxism have made a tremendous achievement in reaching £150,575.

This must surely show our opponents the determination of workers to see the ideas of Marxism become the ideas of the whole labour movement.

The poison churned out against miners and their families by the Tory papers, trying to sway public opinion against the strike and the pickets shows how vital it is to have a daily workers paper that can give the facts.

At the moment we can only counter the Tory and bosses' propaganda on a weekly basis but we need to get our message across every single day. When the target for the Building Fund is met

we will be able to move into new premises and move towards a daily Marxist paper.

We have received £200 from Sue Lake, Winchester YS. Two Sri Lankan readers in Britain have each donated a week's income amounting to £75 each. Any reader who has not yet made a contribution should follow their example. The miners have been on strike for eleven weeks; they have forfeited their wages so that they have jobs to go back to. By sending us a donation of at least a week's income you will be ensuring that we not only assist the miners in their struggle but that we build Marxism into the leadership of the labour movement.

Havant LPYS and Littlehampton LPYS have each donated £25. Openshaw

JSSC sent in £10. Peter Reid, a new reader in Dundee, has given us £30. Robbie McGregor, Manchester Central LPYS, Paul Henry, Gorton LPYS, and an electrician from Derbyshire (all unemployed) have given £25 each. What a testimony to the commitment of our supporters.

£482 has come from delegates and readers at this year's CPSA conference with a further £1500 still to come! £222 came from Hertfordshire, £185 from Manchester and £105 from Bristol.

Keep the donations coming in so we can move into the new premises and start preparing for a daily Marxist paper.

By Nick Wrack

FIGHTING FUND this week £5,456

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
Eastern	702		2700
East Midlands	422		3050
Humberside	429		1700
London East	426		3500
London West	494		2100
London South	394		2850
Manchester & Lancs	545		3700
Merseyside	919		4800
Northern	487		4050
Scotland East	248		2450
Scotland West	271		3300
Southern	733		4400
South West	314		2050
Wales East	307		2100
Wales West	241		1950
West Midlands	815		3800
Yorkshire	619		4500
Others	7,315		12000
Total received	15,683	90%	175,000

MINERS BACK Militant—at the Fire Brigade Union National conference miners attending the Militant Readers Meeting donated £30 to the Fighting Fund; a Kent miner has donated £5; Geoff Curry, Bevercotes NUM paid £1 for his paper.

At a readers meeting in Cardiff, where £700 was presented to the miners, raised by Militant supporters, Ian Isaac donated his day's picketing expenses and four miners from Cwm Colliery donated £2 contributing to the total £174 raised for the Fighting Fund—they thanked Militant supporters and the LPYS for "magnificent help" to the miners.

NUM members are fighting now for the future

of every worker and Militant is at the forefront in support. Militant readers have been responsible for raising many thousands for the miners from meeting collections; bucket collections; food collections; and using trade union and Labour Party contacts to take up collections within the movement.

Many trade unionists backed socialism with cash this week—thousands have been donated at Militant Readers meetings held at various Conferences; £3,200 (before expenses) at CPSA, £652 from UCW/IPCS/SCPS MRM; £420 (after expenses) National Women's Conference; £219 (before expenses) at the joint NUPE/SOGAT '82 MRM; £271 at FBU MRM—thank you all who donated and and took

us a step nearer our daily paper.

One comrade deserves a special mention this week—a reader from Bradford—doing a sponsored parachute jump for the FF—other comrades should follow this example—not necessarily by jumping out of a plane but by doing a sponsored event for the FF; Swimming/walking/stop smoking/non-stop dancing—anything you like!

Finally, how is the collection of fivers going? By now every reader who is at work should have been asked to donate a fiver—if we get a good response we could raise well over £27,000!

So get round with your Appeal Sheets NOW!

By Kim Waddington

ADS

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

CASSETTE TAPES with two issues of Militant (one each side). Available fortnightly. £3.50 per quarter, £13 for year.

Now available on cassette: all centre page articles from issues 668-692. Send either seven blank C-90 cassettes or £6.30 payable to 'Militant Tapes'. Also available on cassette, last two issues MIR. Send either two blank C-90 tapes or £1.80. All orders to: 'Militant Tapes', 26 Ashton Terrace, Harehills, Leeds 8, or phone: (0532) 493440.

"RAISE POLITICS at work! Buy a Militant mug." £1.50 + 45p p&p from 56 Hartley Avenue, Leeds LS6 2LP. Cheques payable to: Chris Hill. All proceeds to FF.

"Militant Turn Left for Workers' Unity and Socialism" T-shirts—£6.75—white, yellow, navy, dark green. Small 32"—34" chest Medium 34"—36" Large 36"—38" Extra large 40"—42"

All proceeds to Militant Fighting Fund. All cheques and postal orders with size and colour preference to R Harris, 2 Dukes Brow, Blackburn, Lancs.

SMASH PINOCHET BADGES Available from LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, SE 17. Cost 20p each or £1.50 for 10. All proceeds to LPYS Chile Socialist Defence Campaign.

MILITANT STICKERS. Still available. 200 for £2.30; 500 for £5.60; 1,000 for £11.00. Contact: 'Militant Circulation, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

MILITANT PAMPHLET—'The General Strike: 1926 and Now' by Lynn Walsh, (reprinted from MIR No 11, August 1976) Price 50p each or for 10 to 19 copies 40p each, and for 20 or more copies 35p each. Order your copy from Dave Backwith, 10c Anchor Close, Bear Cross, Bournemouth. BH11 9HY. Please make cheques payable to 'Militant Fighting Fund.'

WOMEN'S MINING PAMPHLET

Militant Miner—"Women Fight to Save the Pits"—printed and published by Aylesham Women. 70p (incl p+p) from Robbie Segal, 10 Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone.

FOLKESTONE LPYS Public meeting: 'Support the miners'. 8.00 pm Friday 25 May, Harvey Hotel, Dover Road, Folkestone. Speakers: Terry French (Kent NUM) + LPYS speaker.

"Socialist Youth" badges 20p each or 15p each for 10 or more. Available from: "Socialist Youth", c/o LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London, SE17 1JT. Cash with orders.

Walthamstow and Chingford Saturday Social Saturday 2 June 8.00pm. 23 Forster Rd., Walthamstow E17. Drink and food available. Music non-stop. 50p unwaged £1 unwaged.

OLDHAM Militant supporters congratulate Mark and Lynne Spence on their newborn—8lb 3oz worth of socialism.

WALLSEND Marxist Discussion Group, every Sunday morning 11.30am. 1 Vindolanda, Ryton Gardens, Howden Wallsend. Phone Newcastle 341254.

Meetings

For events in your area contact your local Militant seller.

HULL: "Liverpool and the miners—Kick out the Tories—Socialism in our Time". Speakers: Terry Fields (MP Liverpool Broadgreen), Stuart Borthwick (Youth Delegate Yorkshire Main (NUM). On Friday June 1, 7.30 pm at Trades and Labour Club, Beverley Road.

LINCOLN: Marxist Discussion Group. Every Tuesday at the Victoria Pub, Union Road, Lincoln, 7.30 pm. For further details tel: (0522) 27922.

MANSFIELD: Militant Readers Meeting, Mansfield Library, Westgate, Mansfield. "Save the pits" Monday 4 June 7.00pm. Speaker: Terry Fields MP, Ian Isaac (S Wales NUM EC, personal capacity).

St. Helens Militant Readers Meeting. Thursday 31 May 7.30pm. St. Helens Town Hall. Speakers: Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant), Steve Sullivan (NUM). Chair: Tony Harvey (St Helens LP).

Wandsworth Militant Public Meeting. Why the Miners and Liverpool Council must win. Speakers: Terry Fields MP (Liverpool Broadgreen), Notts miner, Mick French (Secretary Wandsworth Council JSSC). At: Lower Hall, Battersea Town Hall. On: Wednesday 6 June 7.30pm.

WELWYN GARDEN CITY "What Militant stands for". The Meeting Room, Peartree pub, Welwyn Garden City. Monday 4 June 8.00pm

STEVENAGE Militant public meeting—Support the miners. Tuesday 29 May 8.00pm. Phone Stevenage 357886 for details.

HUNDREDS OF books and pamphlets available by Marx, Lenin, Engels, Trotsky, Luxemburg, Connolly, Plekhanov, Grant, Cannon, Gramsci and many others. Writings on economics, philosophy, politics, science, war and peace, nuclear weapons, socialism, women, international developments, etc.

Send for your copy of our new booklet. Available (free) from World Socialist Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

South East Region TUC London Rally for the miners, Wednesday 30 May, 7.30pm York Hall, Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, E2. Speakers: Arthur Scargill, Jimmy Knapp (General Secretary NUR), Ken Gill (Gen Sec AUEW TASS), Brenda Dean (Gen Sec elect SOGAT) called by Tower Hamlets Trades Council and SERTUC.

9th South Wales Militant summer camp. August Bank Holiday, Friday 24 August—Monday 27 August.

August Bank Holiday, Friday 24 August—Monday 27 August. Beautiful surroundings. Excellent introduction to the recent struggles of the international working class. Superb holiday meals and snacks provided. Plus video and other camp entertainments for both young and old.

Lecture One—Saturday 10am—12pm Marxism and the Trade Unions—Alec Thraves. Lecture Two—Saturday 6pm—8.30pm Central America—Ted Grant (Political Editor of the Militant) Lecture Three—Sunday 10am—12.30pm Ireland—Peter Taaffe (Editor of the Militant) Lecture Four—Sunday 6pm—8.30pm Middle East—John Pickard Lecture Five—Monday 10am—12.30pm Marxism and the Labour Party—Ted Grant (Political Editor of the Militant)

Cost only £12.50 per person (including snacks). £2.50 per child (5-16 yrs) FREE UNDER 5's. Day trippers a minimum of £3 donation per day to the Fighting Fund. Venue—Horton, Gower, Near Swansea.

Book now. Due to past successful camps the first 250 adults will be our full quota.

Further details from, and cheques payable to 'Swansea Summer Camp'—181 Hanover Street, Swansea. SA1 6BP. Tel Swansea (0792) 463623. During day phone Swansea 466631.

Donations

A NORTH Hackney readers meeting raised £70 as did a South London meeting. A social in Huntingdon £50; Paul Evans Stevenage LPYS £25; Mick Holt Blackburn £10; Millie Bethnal Green Hospital NUPE £10; Alfreton Comrades' "rattling tin" £8; Carol Holt raised £6 by getting her family to put all their change in a jar.

Overseas Telegraph Branch POEU West London gave £5; Steve Stones, Selly Oak £3; Local Authority AUEW Liverpool £3; Rattling tin St Mary's College Blackburn £2.87; Harry Burnstone an 80-year old CP member from Southampton £2.

Dave Dickson UCATT Newcastle gave £2; Dave Potter Hayes £1.75; Colin Longhurst CPSA Kent £1.05; Worsley LPYS Manchester £1; Joe Pell Sheffield 50p; Nick Brown MP Newcastle 25p and Clare a 7 year old from Hayes 17p.

Well done Lewisham comrades for raising over £100 from a jumble sale!

SELLING Militant

DURING THE past few weeks, Militant sellers in Barnsley have surpassed themselves.

Street sales are booming and supporters travelling on the bus with bundles of papers are being approached frequently by passengers.

On the May Day March a total of 173 copies were sold. Altogether over 240 copies of issue 698 were sold in the Barnsley area. Eighty three copies of issue 699 were sold in a couple of hours in Wombwell and Barnsley on the Friday.

Dozens of copies were also sold during the national "Women opposed to pit closures" march the following day. All these sales reflect the growing determination of the Barnsley mining communities to save their pits from the ravages of MacGregor.

They also reflect the mushrooming of support for the ideas of Marxism in Barnsley. Above all else, it proves that a daily Militant is needed by workers in Barnsley now.

MX adds to nuclear madness

REAGAN HAS now managed to push his MX missile programme through the American Congress. The media has emphasised that the proposed production of the MX missile will be limited to 'only' 15 missiles next year, far short of Reagan's original plan to construct 48 MX missiles.

Yet this is not the result of any benevolence on the part of the Reagan administration. He was forced to compromise through opposition to the missile programme in the United States. Even so, the production of 15 MX missiles is still an escalation of the arms race.

The new MX system will cost a staggering £1.3 billion. The missile runs around on a circular 'race track' system to try to stop it being hit by incoming missiles in the event of war. Each missile contains 10 nuclear war heads—each the equivalent of 350,000 tons of TNT.

Arms build-up

The Reagan administration, backed by the Tories and their press in this country, claim the introduction of MX—alongside the deployment of Cruise and Pershing 11 in Europe—is in response to an arms build up by the USSR. But the fact is the USA already has arms superiority over the USSR. For example, they say their latest build up is in response to the deployment of Russia's SS-20s. Yet the SS-20s have been in operation since 1977; does Reagan seriously expect us to believe that for the past eight years America hasn't been adequately 'defended'?

The real reason for the USA's latest addition to their nuclear arsenal is the continuing erosion of US imperialism's world-wide power. The past two decades have been a disaster for US imperialism. They were forcefully expelled from Vietnam. Their puppet regimes, such as those in Iran and Nicaragua, have been overthrown, with growing pressure on the dictatorships in their own backyard of Central America. Revolutionary waves have swept across Africa and Asia, installing new regimes that abolish landlordism and capitalism, placing them out of the sphere of influence of the US.

US Imperialism

Reagan's arms build up is a desperate attempt to re-establish the prestige and power of US imperialism on a world scale.

The US arms build up in turn compels the Stalinist bureaucracy at the head of the USSR to up-grade their nuclear arsenal in an effort to limit the USA's superiority, thus putting an even greater burden on the already choking, mis-managed Soviet economy.

The madness of this arms race has prompted the explosion of a movement for peace internationally. But the quest for peace cannot be achieved while the capitalist system—and the



CND members protest outside the American Embassy, London. Photo: Militant

Mobilise for June 9

ALL LPYS branches should be preparing now for the huge demonstration against Ronald Reagan's visit to Britain on June 9.

A week of action has been called for from June 2-9 in the build up to the event, when LPYS branches should leaflet and flypost to advertise the demonstration. The LPYS are producing a special poster and are printing a further 100,000 leaflets.

LPYS branches should be linking up with local YCND branches to arrange transport to the march as well as joint ac-

tivities. In many areas this work is well under way.

In Brighton, two coaches have so far been organised, with the LPYS, YCND and the National Union of Students organising a joint day of action and public meeting on June 5.

Coaches have been organised from Scotland, and in the North West a public debate with the YS and YCND arguing against the Young Tories is organised for June 6. A similar meeting has been called in Southampton, where the YS will be taking on the Young Tories in public debate on May 30.

Stalinist bureaucracy in the East—are left intact.

The leadership of the British peace movement argue that the nuclear arms build-up in and of itself will lead to nuclear war, and is simply an 'excess' of capitalism. The capitalist class, they say, should be educated as to the error of their ways. This approach is a fundamental mistake. The threat of war cannot be ended without the elimination of the class roots of social conflict that produce war. Wars do not arise by accident, the will of some individual or through some abstract reason but are the result of clashes between competing economic and political interests of different national capitalists, or conflicts between one social class and another. They are fought for markets, class interests and domination.

Capitalist causes

Nuclear weapons are not mysteriously evil, but have been built and developed by capitalism in the west and the bureaucracies of the east to defend their interests.

As such, even if it were possible to abolish nuclear weapons within the frame work of

capitalist society, the threat of 'conventional' war would continue. Two world wars this century—using conventional weaponry that are antiques compared to the sophisticated technology of destruction today—left 64 million dead, (and these figures are recognised as an underestimate). Since 1945, 25 million people have been killed in small scale conventional wars. Imagine the butchery of a large scale conventional war with computer technology that ensures 'bullseyes', and the terrifying weapons of chemical and germ warfare etc.

International socialism

The horror of war and the colossal waste of world resources on arms spending can only be ended by eliminating the roots of conflict, by the establishment of socialism worldwide—the transformation of the United States and the capitalist countries of the west, and the overthrow through political revolution of the Stalinist bureaucracies in the east, placing democratic control in the hands of the working class.



STUDENTS INVOLVED with the anti-fascist campaign at the Poly have had to cover their faces for fear of being photographed by NF photographer Ian Newport (above). If identified the students could face prosecution for contempt of court. Newport, an NF activist from Ilford, supplied the pictures for an odious racist and anti-semitic booklet called *We are National Front*. The picture above was taken by *Militant* in 1980 when Newport was trying to photograph trade unionists on the London May Day march.

North London Poly—FASCISTS OUT!

THERE WERE angry scenes last week when riot police went into an annex of North London Polytechnic after students again occupied the building to keep an NF fascist out.

In a long running battle students have campaigned to keep National Front member Patrick Harrington out of the Poly. They point out that Harrington is not just some mis-guided individual. He has been a member of the NF for five years, is believed to be a joint editor of the NF youth paper, and is organiser and treasurer for the Chelsea NF branch. Given that the North London Poly is one of the London Colleges with the highest proportion of black, Asian and overseas students, the decision of Harrington, from Kensington, to chose this poly is clearly a provocation.

Harrington has run to the law courts to get an injunction to stop the students barring him from the college. Two students—with a possi-

ble 18 to follow—could now face going to prison for contempt of court.

This incident has also exposed the weakness of the GLC's campaign to make 1984 'anti-racist year', given that the college is run by the Inner London Education Authority. The *New Statesman* (May 18) reports that the poly's lawyers supplied the name and address—under no legal compulsion—of one black student to Harrington's lawyers (and indirectly to the NF). Leader of ILEA, Frances Morell, has told the students that it is "dangerous to deny access to a student on the grounds that he or she belongs to a particular organisation." If the Labour controlled ILEA cannot take action against a single known fascist activist, and is to be intimidated by the law courts, then the 'anti-racist' campaign will achieve little.

It is quite clear that the students and staff at the North London Poly do not want a fascist in their ranks. The London labour movement must ensure that ILEA supports their wishes.

LPYS back the miners

THE LPYS in Camden, North London were warned by the secretary of the Holborn and St Pancras Labour Party that he was going to report us to the London Regional Labour Party Executive. Our crime? We had flyposted the outside of the Labour Party rooms "which damages the paintwork."

Thankfully the response from the street has been much more helpful. In one collection outside a supermarket in Camden High Street £70 was collected for the miners with three boxes of food. A further £28 has been collected in Kentish Town as well as £22 at a public meeting.

By Mark Leslie

LPYS BRANCHES in Bradford have so far collected over £600 for the miners as well as £140's worth of food. But we too have gained from this dispute—in the experience our young comrades have gained from discussing our policies face to face with miners. All the miners that have visited Bradford have told us they recognised the

LPYS and *Militant* supporters as their real friends, not only because we have been helping them at present but have been selling papers outside their pits for many years.

By Hamid Khayam
(Bradford North LPYS)

WE HELD a collection in Aberystwyth town centre collecting a total of £60. We also sold dozens of papers and raised £5 for the fighting fund. In the afternoon we held a meeting with two miners and their wives from Mardy colliery. Over 40 people attended and the money from the town centre collection was presented to the miners.

By P Subacchi
(Aberystwyth LPYS)

LOTHIANS LPYS had a successful day in Edinburgh on the Scottish Day of Action, 9 May. Over £130 was collected and dozens of papers sold. Many people asked to join the YS.

By Alex Noon


us?



about



what



COAL - the fight for workers control

SOCIALISTS advocate the nationalisation of the major industries that dominate the economy. But in any discussion on the issue, objections are inevitably raised about the failure of nationalised industries, including the NCB. Here, JOHN CUNNINGHAM, of Ellington NUM Lodge, Northumberland, explains how it was not the nationalisation itself which went wrong, but the *method* of nationalisation.

WHEN THE pits, railways, gas and electricity industries were nationalised by the 1945-51 Labour government, it was regarded by many in the movement as the first step to socialism.

At the time of nationalisation the Marxists explained that the taking over by the state of these industries was simply a method of trying to prop up ailing and bankrupt industries. Confirmation of this was provided by the fact that the Tory party and its kept press hardly raised a murmur of opposition to the nationalisation proposals and on the stock market the share prices of the firms threatened with nationalisation actually rose.

Industries neglected

By the end of the Second World War most of the basic industries in Britain had been ruined by their private owners. Years of neglect and lack of investment meant that their profit margins had been totally eroded.

To improve the situation would have meant massive amounts of investment something the so-called 'stewards of industry' were not prepared to do. Therefore they were quite happy to hand their responsibility to the state.

The only opposition from the Tories and big business came when nationalisation threatened the profitable parts of the basic industries. Thus the National Coal Board (NCB) emerged as an industry with out-of-date machinery and saddled with debts.

Added to this the ex-owners were given lavish compensation totalling £388 million—all of this the government had to borrow. This on the one hand allowed the former owners to buy into ancillary industries which supplied the NCB with parts and machinery, and on the other hand added to the financial burden of the newborn industry because of the interest payments.

By these measures the capitalist class were able to hand over to the state the responsibility for running the basic industries which are essential to any modern industrial economy. Furthermore, it meant that private industry had cheap sources of gas, electricity, steel and coal as in many cases their cost was held down artificially.

Indirectly, private industry was subsidised by these industries, particularly during the boom period of the 50's and 60's. Nationalisation proved to be a 'milch cow' milked by capitalism.

The rebuilding of the coal industry has mainly been at the expense of the miners in the industry. Between 1956 and 1974 the coal industry lost two-thirds of its manpower, three-quarters of its collieries and half its output. In other words, 600 pits closed, half a million jobs were lost and output fell from 220 million to 126 million tonnes.

The massive capital investment required to rebuild the industry also meant a staggering increase of borrowing with the result that in 1980 £200 million was paid in interest charges to the banks and finance houses.

Massive interest charges

This is equivalent to a burden of twenty pounds a week for every mineworker. The figures for 1983 and 1984 are much higher.

On paper it seemed that nationalisation wasn't profitable, that it was a drain on the economy. But the facts indicate that the nationalised industries began with an enormous handicap, which was added to by the policy of using them to

underwrite the profits of private enterprise.

Interest charges turned a profit into a loss for five years out of ten after 1946. The needs of the nationalised industries have always been dictated to by the needs of the private sector of the economy which accounts for 80% of industry. The Tories fully utilised this position by pointing out that the nationalised industries were not profitable and this was an example that "socialism does not work".

Added to these economic facts was the nature of the nationalisation of the coal industry. The running of the industry was placed in the hands of the old owners and at a national level ex-colonel Blimps and others entirely unconnected with the industry.

Essential to the idea of socialist nationalisation has always been the need to involve the workers in the running of their own industry. This involvement acts as a check against the red tape of bureaucracy.

But in the case of the NCB and other nationalised industries the workers were excluded from any participation. Control has always been centralised and top heavy. In many cases the impression was created that there were more chiefs than indians.

Bureaucracy and waste

Once against the Tories and the opponents of socialism were able to use this politically. Nationalisation was equated with bureaucracy and centralisation which was remote from ordinary working people.

With the lavish compensation that the ex-owners had been given they bought into the ancillary industries which supply the Coal Board. In many cases they had a complete monopoly of such supplies and were able to massively exploit the situation.

The monopoly suppliers of machinery, timber, bricks, cement and electrical equipment read like a list of former owners and associates; Powell-Duffryn, Bonser, Gullick, Dowty, Dobson, Huwoods. Distribution was even worse. The cost of a tonne of coal was increased by 70% in the journey from the pithead to the domestic users via of course a private distributor.

The ease with which the private sector has made a for-



Miners around the beginning of the century, winning coal almost entirely by hand.



1947: A retired miner, born in 1872 and a miner from the age of twelve, stands proudly alongside the banner of the new NCB.

tune out of the miners' work has been due in part to the inefficiency and corruption at the top. The NCB has had at least five enquiries into its purchasing of mining machinery. In the 1970s Alen Grimshaw, a chief stores officer with the Coal Board, gave evidence to a House of Commons select committee in which he alleged massive overpricing and over purchasing by the board. He was subsequently made redundant by the NCB.

Open the books to miners

Miners are not stupid. It is clear to them that high finances of the industry are under the control of people who have no interest whatsoever in the betterment of a socialist enterprise—many of the top officials are probably against nationalisation on principle.

In April 1974, the former chairman of the Yorkshire division of the NCB was jailed on five corruption charges. The former head of the North East NCB subsidence section was jailed for trying to swindle £10,000. Before the select committee's report was published one firm refunded £1,339,000 to the NCB.

At the moment the NCB hierarchy conducts its financial

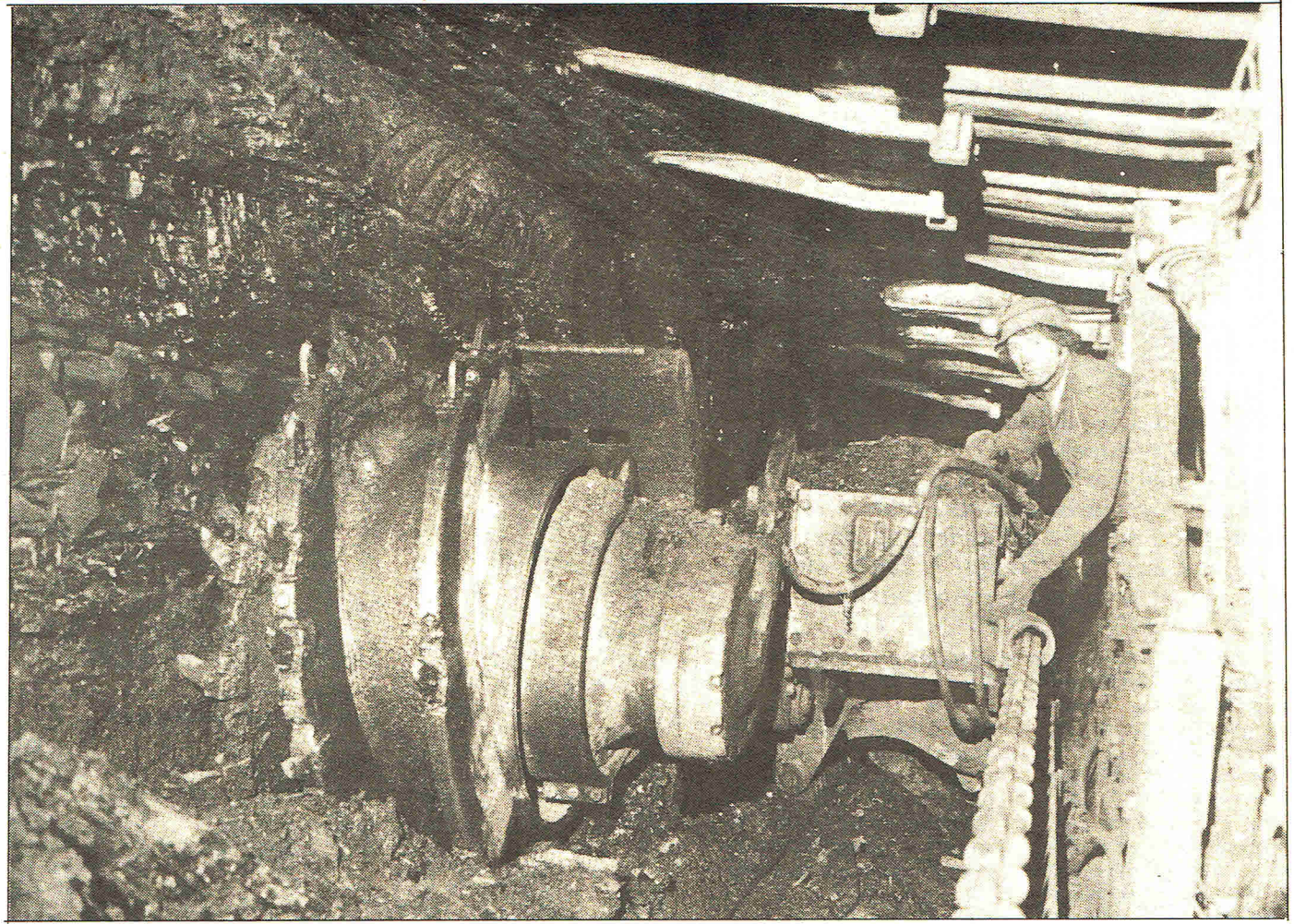
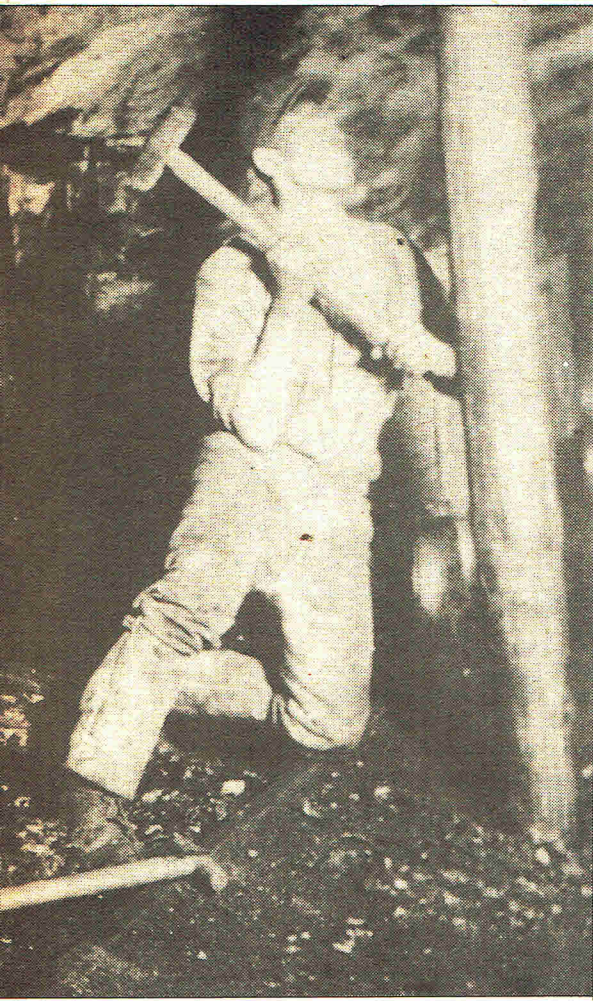
deals and policy entirely in secret. Can it be any wonder then, that miners suspect that corruption and graft are possible? Only when the books and financial arrangements are opened up for full scrutiny by miners' union representatives will miners be able to see what happens to the wealth they create.

The plans of the National Coal Board are totally shaped by the anarchy and crisis of capitalism. In the original 'Plan for Coal', mapped out in 1974, the projections were for the production of between 135 million and 200 million tonnes of coal by the year 2000.

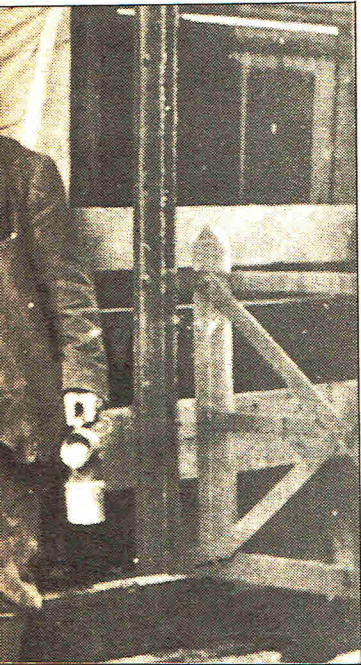
This meant an expansion of coal mining. In reality coal production is down to the level of the 1860s. The Tory Luddites have ensured that only 96 million tonnes are being mined.

Recession has hit coal demand

The crisis in capitalist production has had a direct impact. The steel industry suffered dramatic falls in production. The electricity industry forecasts are that electricity demand up to 1986-1987 will be 8% lower than in 1981. This is reflected in the intention to close 22 old power stations. The electricity industry currently



By the 1970s the coal cutting was all done by shearing machines.



takes 70% of total coal production.

Added to this there is the insane competition between nationalised industries. The British Steel Corporation increased imports of coal from 1.3 million tonnes in 1978 to 4.2 million tonnes in 1980.

Labours' "brigade of guards"

Even crazier is the fact that the NCB subsidises coal sales to British Steel at a cost of £40 million in 1981 and then British Steel sells coke to private industry at a cost that undercuts the Coal Board. All of this is conditioned by the need to prove under the Tory regime that individual industries are profitable and that they meet their monetary targets.

Inseparable from the general chaos of capitalist society is also the fear of the Tories towards the power of the miners' union, which is regarded as the labour movement's 'brigade of guards'.

In the short term coal has declined in importance as a major source of energy because of the discovery of North Sea oil. Yet it is universally recognised that oil resources have a limited life. Therefore in any longer term plan it is apparent that there is a need to develop the

Decades of struggle for socialist industry

IT IS 72 years since *The Miners' Next Step* first called for workers' control of the mining industry.

The South Wales Miners' Federation (SWMF) had affiliated to the Labour Party in 1908, and had also been prominent in the establishment of the Marxist Central Labour College after the Ruskin College strike of 1909. The *Next Step* was written by the Unofficial Reform Committee based in Mid Rhondda, spurning parliamentarism and calling for 'direct action' and workers' control, the ideas of 'syndicalism'.

They saw the union as the vehicle for social change. Hence they viewed 'leaders' in the union with suspicion and favoured all power lying in the rank and file, with leaders as their ambassadors.

Coal dominated the South Wales economy, so the SWMF was viewed as the route to total control of society. 'Industrial unionism' was seen as the path to workers' control.

It was not until the Russian revolution of 1917 that the ideas of

a party, tackling the state and seeking political power drew the best miners to Marxism and the break with syndicalism.

From then on the major campaign was for nationalisation. This was seen as a means towards workers' control. The demand was raised by the Miners' Federation of Great Britain in 1919.

A strike for nationalisation was only averted by the government establishing a Royal Commission into the coal industry chaired by Mr Justice Sankey, which recommended an end to private mine ownership. The Sankey report recommended state ownership of coal and mining.

1945 Labour government

At first the government appeared to accept this, but by the end of the year it was ditched. The strike, however, had been averted. In March 1920 the miners again voted to strike but were stopped by the TUC. The issue was then effectively shelved until the 1945 post-war

Labour government.

The miners asked for nationalisation during the war, but Labour, in coalition with the Tories, rejected it. The 1945 election gave Labour a huge mandate for nationalisation, and in 1946 the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act was introduced, setting up the NCB on 1 January, 1947.

As Vic Allen, in his book *The Militancy of British Miners* comments:—

"... nationalisation stood as the antithesis of all the conditions which free competition had created and which ordinary miners suffered. So for most miners the 1 January 1947, was the beginning of a new era in which the mines belonged to the nation and, in consequence, to the miners themselves."

Facts, however, were different. The NCB did not allow miners any real say in running industry. Run on a purely capitalist basis, the industry was dramatically run down in the 50's and 60's as cheap oil seemed the fuel of the future. Little thought was given for the miners.

There is, today more than ever, a crying need for workers' control and management of the industry. The current chairman, MacGregor, is a Tory and big businessman, previously a boss involved in American mining.

Kick out the Tories

Many of the other board members have business interests in firms trading with the NCB. Their only mission is to cut the industry to Thatcher's dictates and smash the NUM.

If this strike is not to be just a temporary victory, it is imperative that miners see the need to rid themselves of the capitalists who run their industry, kick out the Tories and ensure that they, together with a socialist Labour government introduce an industrial system that matches the desires of the Rhondda miners of 1912.

By Frank Cuthbert

(Treasurer, Rhymney Valley Miners' Support Group)

coal industry.

The Tories, however, are prepared to ignore the longer term needs in order that they can weaken and ultimately try to destroy the power of the NUM.

The NCB is Britain's biggest producer of primary energy. But no one energy industry can be planned in isolation from the rest. Each energy industry, nationalised or not, competes with the other on the market, capitalist firms and "state capitalist" firms. It is the pressure of the profit motive and market forces that determines where the response will go.

Democratic energy plan

At present coal is being massively stockpiled—the Tories wanted to use this as a means of breaking the NUM. Under a socialist energy plan coal could be used as it was pro-

duced. This plan could be drawn up in conjunction with the rest of the trade union movement.

It is especially ludicrous that coal and electricity should compete and have totally separate boards, when 70% of the fuel that is used by the Central Electricity Generating Board is coal.

Cut the working week

A National Fuel Plan would end such insane competition. The goal should be a National Fuel Corporation which would encompass the present nationalised industries and the private sectors and ancillary industries associated with coal, gas, electricity, and oil. Such planning would bring harmony to the energy arena.

The fruits of increased production would go to those working in the industry and to society as a whole. The pursuit of profit by a tiny minority

would be at an end. The benefits of increased production could result in a cut in the working week which would leave more time for workers to participate in the running of their own industries and in society as a whole.

Every miner is aware of the colossal waste, inefficiency and mismanagement that is rife in the industry. As early as the first world war miners had been advocating workers' control of the industry.

The initiative, expertise, know-how and ingenuity of ordinary rank and file miners would be 100 times more reliable in tackling day to day problems of running the pits.

Workers' management

The mining industry should not be run by appointed lords, generals, ex-owners, ex-civil servants, and capitalists. Our industry should be run by

elected representatives of the working class.

The board should be made up of one-third elected by the union in the industry, one-third elected through the TUC to represent the interests of the working class as a whole and one-third appointed by a socialist government to represent the interests of the overall plans for fuel and the whole economy.

All trade union representatives of these boards should be elected, subject to recall and should receive no more than the average wage of a faceworker. This real workers' management would be supplemented by the control of the day to day operations, including safety, hiring and firing and training in the hands of the elected lodge or branch committees.

With this, for the first time ordinary miners together with their trade union brothers or sisters would be in charge.

Ireland

Whose New Ireland?

THE NEW Ireland Forum report has eventually been released after months of speculation on its proposals.

The 14,000 word report was greeted by the predictable sectarian shouts from the nationalist and unionist politicians in the North of Ireland and as a "major breakthrough" by the right wing nationalist parties in the South.

Ian Paisley's "Democratic Unionist Party" (DUP) went on a fly-posting mission throughout the North. The posters bore a picture of the Union Jack and the slogan "Ulster is British".

Just to ensure the campaign kept on the proper sectarian path, the Reverend Ian travelled to Dublin to poster the GPO building where the original proclamation of the Easter Rising was placed in 1916.

The Official Unionists called on protesters, "solicitors and shipyard workers" to "unite against this nationalist threat" John Hume of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP), which is overwhelmingly Catholic-supported, called the report "a unique exercise" while Charles Haughey, leader of the South's arch-Tory Fianna Fail thought it "historic".

The reaction of workers, both North and South has been one of total indifference. The press and TV coverage and analysis were largely ignored in the working class districts.

Paisley's call for Union Jacks to be flown from every Protestant household fell flat on its face. On the Shankill Road neither posters nor flags could be seen on the day the report was launched. Nonetheless the contents and recommendations must still be scanned by workers and an explanation found for the production of such a report at this particular time.

Doomed to fail

Since the hunger strikes of 1980/81, the SDLP have been elbowed aside in the predominantly Catholic areas of Belfast, Derry and elsewhere by Sinn Fein. Using semi-socialist phrases and exposing the middle class conservative nature of the SDLP, Sinn Fein has gradually threatened to erode the SDLP's base particularly in the more urban areas. In the rural border areas a direct appeal to the old nationalist reactionary traditions has also boosted Sinn Fein's electoral successes.

It was mainly to cut across this process that the SDLP's Tory friends in the South agreed to the idea of the Forum. The right wing leaders of the Labour Party were cajoled into participating as well but the question facing socialists in Ireland, North and South is "do the report's recommendations offer any solution to the problems of working class people?"

The report suggests three alternatives for discussions

with the government in Britain. 1) a unitary state, ie a united Ireland. 2) a federal/constitutional state 3) joint authority. All these proposals have been rejected out of hand by the unionist politicians in the North and already member parties and even different individuals within the parties of the Forum are squabbling over which alternative should be given priority in negotiation with Thatcher and Prior.



A Provisional IRA checkpoint. Sectarianism and terrorism are no solution.

Haughey (Fianna Fail) favours the "unitary state" while Fitzgerald (Fine Gael) prefers to stress the "joint authority" demand.

But all these demands will be doomed to failure. The report's conclusions and the three alternatives are all based on false assumptions.

They assume that within the confines of a capitalist Ireland, the economy can develop, unemployment be reduced and living standards rise. Yet this contradicts entirely the economic report commissioned by the Forum itself which predicts unemployment in the North rising to 166,000 by the '90s (32% of the working population).

It also indicates the levels of expenditure provided by the British ruling class to contain the North's existing problems—a figure in 1983 of £1,304 million—which includes grant aids to industry, security spending etc. This amounts to 29.7% of the North's Gross Domestic Product.

Sectarian dangers

Given the disastrous state of capitalism in the South—where unemployment is now at the level of 16.8% and the state borrowing rate runs at 13% of GNP it would be absolutely impossible for living standards and employment to improve under any capitalist united Ireland.

The economists' report says "the subvention (from Britain) is of enormous significance to the standards

By Micky Duffy

Labour and Trade Union Group, Northern Ireland.

of living of the people in the North—currently increasing their disposable income by 25 to 30%." Later on in relation to the proposed "unitary state" the economists say "it would impose a very severe strain on its (the South's) economy. The increase of tax rates alone would cause a reduction in GNP in the first two years of some 4%".

In other words, even in purely economic terms, the prospect of any attempt to unify the country within the existing capitalist framework would prove disastrous for workers on both sides of the present border.

According to the *Irish Times* (3 May) the "joint authority proposal would prove cheapest". It now seems most likely that this alternative will be to the fore in discussions with Thatcher and Prior. But what they propose to save in economic terms will be more than compensated for in other losses.

For example on the question of security a joint role for British and Irish troops to patrol the North is proposed. What a nightmare this would unleash—the Provisionals shooting at British soldiers with the UVF attempting to eliminate Irish troops. It would make Beirut and the Lebanon look like a scene from *The Little House on the Prairie*.

The supporters of *Militant Irish Monthly* have repeatedly explained that any attempts to unify the country under capitalism will fail. The enormous weight of contradictions, prejudices, fears and suspicions which were deliberately fostered by British imperialism since the creation of the northern state will not disappear easily.

Protestant workers in the North fear not only a fall in living standards but also a loss of civil liberties if the present Southern state were to expand to the North. The reactionary role of the Catholic church in particular would become much more forceful in its attempts to remove the rights of divorce, contraception etc from northern citizens.

The bigoted response we saw from Paisley and his cohorts would increase one

Photo: Eamonn O'Dwyer (FL) III



The Westminster government's answer to the problems of Northern Ireland, army repression.

Stop the Fascists

ON SATURDAY 9 June, the fascist National Front intend to hold a rally in Coleraine in Northern Ireland. The fascists have been trying to build a basis in Northern Ireland for many years. Last year they held a march in Belfast which received no counter-mobilisation.

This year the Labour and Trade Union Group and the Young Socialists which have been building support for working class unity in the North have taken the initiative in organising a labour movement campaign against fascism, which will mobilise labour movement organisations in a counter demonstration.



Charles Haughey, leader of the Tory Fianna Fail. The Southern capitalist state has no attraction for Northern workers.

Photo: Derek Spiers (Report) II

Photo: Militant



The Labour and Trade Union Group in action. Workers unity is Ireland's only hope.

hundred fold if any serious attempt were made to force Northern protestants into a sectarian catholic-dominated capitalist united Ireland. Workers would drift into both sectarian camps. The result would be civil war, the outcome of which would not be reunification but the repartition of the country.

A smaller sectarian state would emerge in the North and the labour movement would be repressed ruthlessly under a reactionary regime headed by a Paisley-type figure.

However, this perspective is not an immediate possibility. The ruling class in Britain also understand the dangers inherent in this sort of conflagration. At this particular stage it does not suit the ruling class to play the sectarian card.

Any such conflict would not remain confined to the North of Ireland but would spill over into the cities of Britain. The possibility of an uncontrollable situation horrifies the British ruling class

which precisely explains the cool response of Thatcher and Prior to the Forum's appeals.

Fight for workers unity

Only one force in Ireland can forge national reunification—the labour movement. Bonded together in struggle—united through the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and more aware than at any time since the troubles of the inherent dangers of sectarianism, the trade union movement North and South is starting to realise the need for independent political action.

The economic and political crisis will prove to workers concretely that the border is totally unnecessary. The struggle against the capitalist system will be seen to be identical throughout Ireland and the bigoted Tories on both sides will become identified as the common enemy. Only a movement of such gigantic

proportions, a mass struggle for a socialist Ireland can cut through the suspicions and mistrust and so remove the border from the map.

Just like the many "initiatives" from Westminster on the North, the latest being the empty shell called the Assembly, the Forum report will change nothing and will probably soon be forgotten.

But the labour movement in Ireland and in Britain must again re-examine their position on Ireland and lend total support to the building of Labour on this island. The empty phrases of the Forum are meaningless, but the 2,300 lives lost in the troubles in the North are not. In proportionate terms in Britain this would be 84,000 people dead.

In addition, 24,000 have been maimed or injured. There have been 43,000 recorded shootings, bombings and arson attacks and there are 2,500 prisoners in Northern Ireland's jails, the highest per head of population in Western Europe. Every single family in the North has been affected by the death or injury of a friend or relative.

We must never return to the black 1970s. The unions in the North have remained strong and intact throughout that period.

The base exists for mobilising the working class towards the socialist revolution in Ireland and as part of that process solve the question of the border.

The nationalist Tory proposals emanating from the Forum have no place in that process.

Iran/Iraq, Chile, West Germany, France, South Korea.

The dictators' war

THE IRAN/Iraq war could become even bloodier now the conflict has spilt over into raids on Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian tankers.

The Iranian troops are believed to have adopted a "tit for tat" strategy, attacking oil tankers in retaliation for Iraqi raids on Iranian oil traffic, Iran hopes to dissuade other Gulf states from supporting Iraq in the conflict.

The capitalists' fears are not over the bloodshed, but over a threat to stability in a vital area economically and strategically.

The troubles have pushed the spot price of oil up (aided also by British oil being consumed in British power stations because of the miners strike).

Insurance premiums have increased and some unions like the National Union of Seamen in Britain are considering action over danger to their members in the area.

In this background article Hamid Khayam analyses developments in Iran.

Workers movement

After the successful overthrow of the Shah's vicious regime in 1979 by Iran's workers, the even more brutal Khomeini regime came to power. It lost no time in showing its anti-working class nature.

Khomeini rose to power not because the workers particularly wanted him but because anyone who seemed determined enough to fight the Shah and his system was welcomed. The other parties in Iran seemed impotent.

The Stalinist Tudeh Party (CP) had gained the support of the mass of workers in the '40s and '50s but compromised with the Shah's regime. The sectarian Mu-



Iranian unemployed demonstrate in 1979

jahedins saw victory coming in the blind alley of individual terrorism. The Nationalist Party suddenly appeared on the Shah's side when Bakhtiar, one of its leaders, was appointed Prime Minister by the Shah.

No surprise then that people should see Khomeini, who had stood firm all the way and unlike the rest, asked for mass support to kick the Shah out, was the only possible alternative to the Shah's Peacock Throne.

Khomeini's first slogan "No West, No East," rejecting USA and USSR made him even more popular. But even Khomeini realised that it was the magnificent movement of the workers which had brought him to power—and they could just as easily bring him down.

Terror regime

So the Ayatollah made it his first priority to establish a terror regime where trade unionists and other activists were tortured and executed by their thousands.

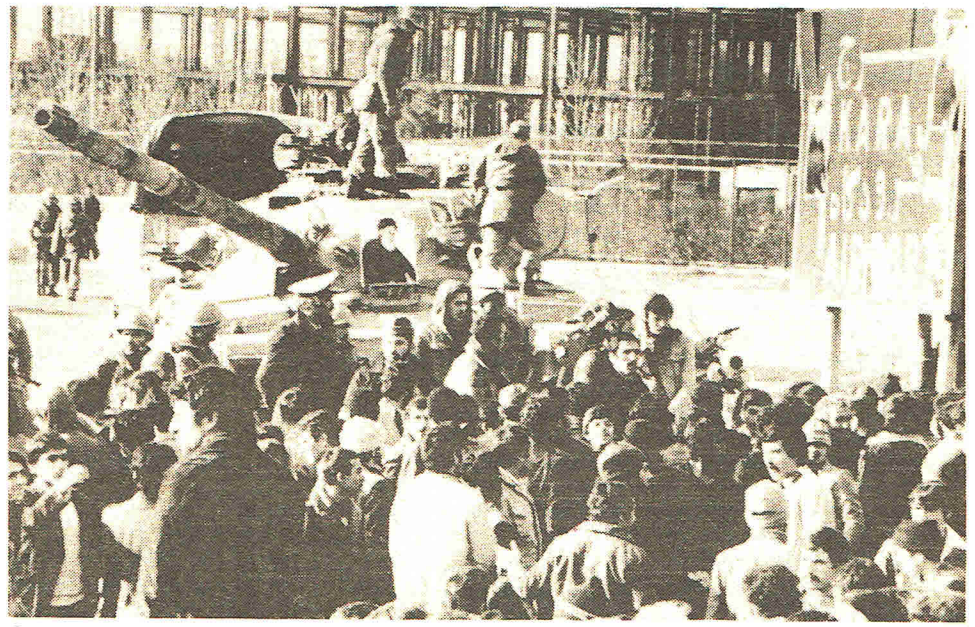
Now the attitude of the

American ruling class became more favourable despite their previous backing for the Shah. After all, they had faced a revolutionary situation and the capitalists preferred to support even a somewhat unreliable religious fanatic than allow the workers to take control. And the Islamic clergy have historic links with the merchant class to make them antagonistic to socialism.

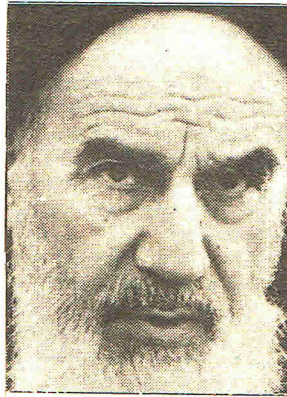
Military importance

Iran is important to the capitalist West, and not only because of the oil and other natural wealth like uranium and gas. It is the largest country bordering on the Soviet Union and is the ideal place for monitoring Russian military activities in and around the Middle East.

American activities in Iran were stepped up after mass uprisings had led to Dr Mossadeq's Nationalist Party coming to power in the early '50s which nationalised the then Anglo Iranian



Scenes from the 1979 revolution. Khomeini seemed the only alternative to the despised reactionary Shah.



Ayatollah Khomeini

Oil Company and exiled the Shah to Europe. After the CIA-backed coup which restored the Shah, billions of dollars of military equipment and economic aid was sunk into building a strong stable state. The Savak, the vicious security police were formed.

Reformist measures were tried as well as repression. The Green Revolution, measures mainly of land reform were imposed by US President Kennedy in 1962 to try to forestall revolution.

Iranian society for the first time became a semi capitalist economy, peasants worked on their own land. Health and education were improved to prevent the spectre of socialism. But it was not long before the corruption in the system overcame the so called reforms.

Corruption

Money destined for the people was stolen at every stage by corrupt government officials and stashed away in Swiss bank accounts.

Needless to say these characters were the ones to gain from reforms.

Millions were spent on arms but the majority were desperately poor and with no say in society.

Iran's problems still exist. Despite the vast mineral riches 60% of the population live below the poverty line. These conditions gave rise to the 1978-9 revolution and will be the basis for another.

power, it was also a welcome means of diverting attention towards a foreign foe.

Some of the early high morale in Iran still lingers. But this war has caused untold death and suffering. Young men from the age of twelve walk over mine fields so their comrades behind can pass safely. The four years of conflict have seen the use of internationally "banned" chemicals.

The people of Iran and Iraq can not wait for Khomeini and Iraq's Hassan to "come to their senses". The struggle to end the horrors of day-to-day existence under capitalism, and the struggle to end this dirty war are the same.

They need the resurrection of the revolutionary spirit of 1978/79, and the struggle for a Marxist leadership and a socialist federation of the states of the Middle East.

New revolution

The 1979 revolution initially gave enormous new hope to the people of Iran and to the rest of the Muslim world equally oppressed by their own governments. The people of Iran began to demand revolutionary changes from Khomeini. The war with Iraq not only gave both dictatorships the possibility of new territory and new

The 35-hour week fight

THE STRIKE by engineering workers, members of the union IG Metall in the Stuttgart area of West Germany is causing panic amongst the German bosses.

Their demand for a 35 hour week with no loss of pay is also causing ripples in other European countries. (see below).

Car manufacturers have been hardest hit as components dry up, causing lay offs and strikes in other parts of Germany. Another 33,000 workers are due to strike in the Frankfurt area in support of the 35 hour week.

On 18 May, employers in

the North Baden Wuerttemberg area around Stuttgart ordered mass lockouts in companies employing over 2,000 in retaliation. The DGB, the German TUC, have called for a one day general strike around Stuttgart in protest at this action. The West German print union IG Druck und Papier have also called for strikes.

The battle for a 35 hour week without loss of pay is vital. The European Trade Union Confederation say that 19 million are out of work in Western Europe now compared with fewer than 2.5 million ten years ago. They fear 25 million on the stones by 1990.

Minister Pierre Beregovoy has said that about 650 of the redundancies could be prevented if the working week was reduced from 38½ hours to 36½. But industrialists want a corresponding cut in wages, while the occupying car workers want action to save all the jobs.

FOUR PLANTS of the French Citroen group in Paris are being occupied by workers in a protest against 2400 compulsory redundancies. Unemployment has now reached 2.3 million with immigrant workers from French colonies in North Africa most at risk in the car firms.

The French Social Affairs

SOUTH KOREA'S "economic miracle" is based on the super-exploitation of the working class. Hours worked per week averaged 56 in 1982, two more than in 1980 or 1981 due to a recovery in export industries.

Restaurants, hotels and

other services industries averaged over 61 hours while mining and manufacturing industry averaged 58.7 hours. Korean slave labour attracts capital investment from profit-hungry capitalists around the world.

Chile death sentence protests

ON 9 May over 60 people held a picket organised by the Labour Party Young Socialists outside the Chilean Embassy in London.

They were protesting at the threatened death sentence on twelve trade unionists, currently on trial charged under the Government's new "anti-terrorist" laws. It appears there are two separate cases.

The first involves a group of seven people who have been charged with bank robbery and affiliation to political parties. Last year the military prosecutor demanded they be sentenced to death. If found guilty they will be able to make 3 appeals against their sentences

(one to the Supreme Court and the final one to President Pinochet.)

Amongst this group is Rolando Cartagena Cordova, whose sister, Mrs. Alvarez, is in exile in Britain. She personally handed over a petition protesting against the sentences to the Chilean Embassy during the picket.

Provocation

The other case seems even more urgent; the five people involved are accused of assassinating the military commander of Santiago last August. They were arrested in September, tortured and forced to admit to having committed the crime. It is widely believed that the assassination of this military commander was actually carried out by members of

the security services or extreme right wing groups in order to justify further repressive legislation against trade unionists or other oppositionists.

The five are actually being tried by a War Tribunal and the military prosecutor has recommended their death sentence. Already they have had several appeals turned down. Defence lawyers are not even allowed to contest the charges, only issue statements, otherwise they too could be charged under "anti-terrorist" laws.

Condemnation

The labour movement in Britain must come to the aid of these workers. Already several Labour MPs and LPYS branches have sent telegrams condemning the trials.

Below we print the telegram sent by Terry Fields, Labour MP for Liverpool Broadgreen to Sr. Sergio Onofre Jarpa, Ministro del Interior, Palacio de la Moneda, Santiago, Chile.

"Demand dropping of all charges against Jorga Palma, Carlos Areneda, Hugo Marchant, Martha Soto, Susana Caprilez, under sentence of death, and against seven other prisoners held in Penitenciera of Santiago, one of which is Rolando Cartagena Cordova".

We call on all LPYS branches, trade unions, Labour Clubs, MPs and other organisations to follow this example. Also send messages of protest to the Chilean Embassy, 12 Devonshire Street, London W1.

Letters

Write to *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Comradeship

Dear comrades,

I and two other YS members were selling *Militant* outside my local Labour Party branch (because sales have been banned inside the meeting room) after the branch meeting when the assistant branch secretary comes out.

When we asked him politely if he would like a copy of the *Militant* he told us to "shove it up your ...". Then he went on to say "we are going to get rid of you", meaning that he was going to expel The Young Socialist Militant's

from the Labour Party.

But we pointed to the fantastic example of the local Liverpool council elections and to the election of the Broadgreen MP Terry Fields, that if his majority was followed throughout the country we would have a huge majority in the House of Commons.

After this most informative theoretical and instructive debate he told us to "go away".

Yours fraternally
Robert Littley,
Secretary Lichfield LPYS
(personal capacity)

Short-sighted?

Dear comrades,

What city lies at the mouth of the River Mersey? What city is at the Western extreme of the M62? Getting warm? In what city are the inhabitants known as Scousers? I bet it's almost on the tip of your tongue!

What city has launched a

major campaign against the Tory's cuts, had massive demonstrations of support and won the local elections?

Still not got it? We must remember it took America thirty years to recognise China. I hope it doesn't take the Labour leaders as long to recognise Liverpool.

Yours fraternally
Paul Holmes.



Kent miners march in London

Photo: Paul Traynor

Letter from Kent

Dear *Militant*,

I, like many others have found great strength from many different unions and groups supporting our strike. London has taken us Kent miners to heart. To them I say a big 'thank you', we know that with this kind of support we will win. I would like to add two things, one: our wives have now stepped in and are providing back bone to their men.

Without them we couldn't fight on.

Lastly, I'd like to add my voice in support of those Notts miners who were on strike, who despite a leadership who are trying to break the strike, are prepared to stand up and be counted in the fight against pit closures. At the end of the day they will be remembered with great respect.

Yours
Paul Verrill
Kent NUM

TGWU and miners' strike

Dear *Militant*,

Of all TUC affiliated unions, the TGWU is best placed to give maximum support to the miners.

Dockers, road haulage workers and many other groups of our members have given tremendous support to the miners to date. Our

docks and waterways National Secretary has stated, "We have a policy in the TGWU of full support for the miners. If any member is suspended for blacking coal imports—as they have been threatened—then there will be an all-out dock strike." Examples of support abound, typical is the action of Scottish Fish Porters who handed over the day's catch plus £300 to feed miners' families.

In South Wales also, T&G members are organising regular collections and indeed many activists are pressing for more concrete forms of support, particularly regarding solidarity action.

Miners in South Wales are justifiably angry that some of our members continue to cross picket lines. The responsibility for this lies with our Regional leadership—it's no good just

passing resolutions—our regional officials should be out campaigning in the branches for positive and active support, and more importantly—standing beside our comrades in the NUM on the picket lines.

Yours fraternally
Keith Edwards
Branch Secretary TGWU
4/92 Branch RN
Llangennech

Not so nationalist

Dear Comrades,

On polling day on 3 Day, my friend Doug and I were giving out leaflets at the polling station. A young boy from the Scottish National Party was also there. Polling was very slow and as we were not busy we started to talk to him.

He said he had been in the SNP for three years because he hated Thatcher and wanted to fightback. We explained our position against Thatcher and all about devolution.

He was so impressed with what we said that he promptly threw away the leaflets and started to give out Labour Party ones! He has now joined the LPYS and is interested in the ideas of *Militant*.

Yours fraternally
Heather Whyte
Linwood LPYS
Paisley

Got something to say about YTS?

Dear Comrades,

BBC Radio One will be broadcasting a programme in the near future about YTS. The programme makers want trainees to write in with their opinions on: (1) quality of training (2) suggested improvements (3) the value of the time spent at college while on YTS.

So all comrades on YTS should get writing to the following address to counter the MSC and Tory lies. The address is 16 UP, Freepost (WD/11), London, W12 2BR.

Fraternally
Ian Brown
Feltham and Heston
LPYS



Kate Losinska (left) just pipped Broad Left candidate Kevin Roddy in the elections for CPSA President. Despite the massive media campaign he reduced her majority from 8,977 to 431.

Press and Tories interfere in CPSA elections

Comrades,

Once again the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) NEC and presidential elections are with us. The Tory press and the right wing of our union have issued the usual "red scare" literature and the right wingers are masquerading behind the banner "policies not politics". Many of these so called "moderates" are Conservative trade unionists, so much for freedom from

politics.

At my branch both the secretary and myself spoke in favour of the Broad Left candidates, outlined the Broad Left policies and reminded the members of the incompetence of Alistair Graham and our present NEC.

The vast majority of our members accepted the recommendation and hopefully they have helped elect a strong NEC.

I am convinced that true socialist policies put forward honestly can in time and with reasoned argument win over the support of every working man or woman whether white collar or blue collar.

Yours fraternally
Dave Lunn
Branch chairperson
CPSA Birkenhead District
Land Registry
(personal capacity)

Whip round

Dear Editor,

I received a tremendous response when taking round the paper with the emergency appeal. Four members of one household, none of whom are in regular work had a whip round, raising £2.50. At my next stop a low paid Post Office worker donated £10.

Yours
Nick Worth
West Bromwich CLP

Which way forward for Liverpool?

Dear Editor,

In an article headed "Communists refuse to back Labour" (*Militant* 30.3.84) Tony Aitman claims that, at a meeting of Liverpool City Council Joint Stewards Committee, Jim Ferguson moved a motion calling for a 70% rate increase. This is not true. At no stage has Jim Ferguson, or anybody else for that matter, moved a motion calling for a 70%, or any other rate rise at any of our meetings.

The Joint Stewards Committee resolved unanimously that I should write to you correcting this error, and I would be grateful if this letter could be published in full.

Yours sincerely,
Pete Cresswell,
Secretary.
Liverpool City Joint
Stewards Committee.

Editor. We print below a letter from Ian Lowes, vice-chair of the JSSC and chairman of the meeting concerned, clarifying the context of the report. We hope to carry material next week on the position taken by the Communist Party (of which Bro. Ferguson is a prominent member) in the struggle of Liverpool council against Tory cuts.

Dear Editor,

I am writing to clarify the situation concerning the statement made by Jim Ferguson in respect of rate

rises at the March meeting of the Liverpool City Council Joint Stewards Committee.

Arising out of a report-back of the meeting held in London with Cunningham, Straw etc it was stated that the option provided by Straw was for a rate rise in the region of 70% which would ensure no redundancies amongst council staff. The contents of the report back were then open to questions and discussion from the floor.

Jim Ferguson in his contribution from the floor stated that we should consider rate rises as an alternative to redundancies. I pointed out from the Chair that the committee did not have a policy on rate rises, and that if Jim Ferguson, or anyone else wished to debate the issue then the correct procedure was to submit a resolution via their organisation to the c'ttee which would be placed on the agenda debated, and voted on.

Jim Ferguson did not formally move a motion calling for a 70% rate rise, however he supported the view that rate rises should be used to avoid redundancies. Everyone understood that if rate rises were going to be used to avoid redundancies then the level necessary would be at least 70%

Yours fraternally
Ian Lowes
Vice Chairman Liverpool
City Council JSSC (personal capacity)

LEFT and RIGHT

Hawwow goes wed?

OUR PUBLIC school correspondent writes: "The *Harrovian* is the official magazine of Harrow School where you pay up to £4,000 for the privilege of getting to know the offspring of aristocrats and top business men. Most of the magazine is ideologically sound. Swimming matches with Eton, cricket against the MCC, round-ups of the stirring deeds of Old Boys and masters. One ex-teacher Andrew Hunter, Tory MP for Basingstoke is revealed as a "sensitive shy man" who kept a bunker full of war games and organised a rocket battery on a Surrey hill on Guy Fawkes night.

But sinister influences are at work. They report a school visit to Russia where they saw Lenin's tomb! Worst of all an article "Why the miners

are right" criticising the government for depleting coal stocks and destroying communities. The writer tries to cover himself by saying "Tories with some sense of social responsibility" should question Thatcher's handling of the strike. But it's pretty obvious they've been secretly nobbled by the KGB. If one pays £4,000 a year, surely one should be immune from red propaganda."

Tory intimidation

THE TORIES may be howling about striking miners denying each other the right to work but they don't have so much to say about their constant attempts to deny workers the right to work.

A nice little example of Tory democracy 'at work' is taking place in Lichfield, Staffordshire, at the moment. Tory MP David Lightdown is threatening to shut his factory down rather than recognise the workforce's right to be represented by a trade union.

Thirteen years ago he actually shut the factory down in similar circumstances, only re-opening when the workers realised they were "better off" without union rights. Is this intimidation? Should the police be called?

NOLS - 'violence' claim covers up truth

By a Militant Reporter

FOLLOWERS of the NOLS leadership are being exhorted to come up with details of "violence" to give phoney substance to their version of events at the Labour Students' recent conference in Hull.

There was certainly turmoil. There were angry exchanges as incensed delegates protested at the arbitrary and undemocratic closure of conference. There was, as we previously reported, some pushing and shoving as Clause Four 'Democratic Left' delegates stamped out of the hall rather than answer clear evidence of ballot-rigging.

But the claim, now being put around by Clause Four, that there was "violence" as "part of a deliberate Militant tactic" is a lie. In reality, these people are making up ludicrous stories of intimidation and violence, etc, to try to cover up their undemocratic methods and justify the arbitrary suspension of conference.

To cling to their positions the Clause Four officers, with the collaboration of the Labour Party's Student Organiser, resorted to blatant fiddling. Ten unidentified extra votes magically

Blatant fiddling

appeared in the ballot for National Committee positions. Indignant delegates produced clear evidence of extra ballot papers being issued.

The officers refused to allow any discussion of the glaring irregularities. Initial suspicion about the running of conference had already been heightened by the failure to give a proper credentials report or allow all NC members to inspect the relevant documentation.

Faced with an angry challenge from what was undoubtedly a real majority of

the bona-fide delegates present, the student officer, John Dennis, arbitrarily suspended the conference. Next morning, when conference calmly re-assembled to discuss the situation, Dennis delivered a provocative ultimatum and then closed conference.

Uproar

The action of NOLS officers and the Student Organiser provoked uproar. There was turmoil as NOLS officers intervened to stop delegates from continuing the discussion and as Clause Four leaders urged their followers out of the hall. These "democrats" had quite clearly planned to walk out rather than allow any discussion of the way the ballot was conducted.

Now the Democratic Left, who are really Clause Four's 'undemocratic left-overs', have sent round a circular to Labour Clubs appealing for "evidence" to help them fabricate their story.

The letter asks their supporters to supply the Labour Party's General Secretary with the following "details":

"(1) Any physical assault on yourself or someone near you (give names wherever possible.)"

"(2) The snatching away or loss of delegates' cards in the confusion." They no doubt hope that such details will muddy the waters when it comes to investigating the issuing of credentials to bogus delegates. They are probably also seeking to counter the fact that 126 delegates on Thursday evening and 114 on Friday morning remained in conference after the Clause Four walk-out. These delegates, identified and checked by the only roll-call that took place in conference, almost certainly constituted a majority of legitimate delegates present.

"(3) Names of any persons of whom you are aware did not return to conference on the Friday morning due to the violence." These 'details' are no doubt required to explain why dubious delegates and phantom voters did not reappear on Friday morning. If the NOLS officers had held a roll-call first thing on Friday instead of allowing John Dennis to deliver a provocative ultimatum, they would know exactly who was and was not present.

The Democratic Left circular asked for the information to be sent to Labour's

Biased Committee

National Executive, which has now asked its notorious Appeals Conciliation committee to enquire into the NOLS conference.

Labour Students can hardly expect an impartial enquiry from this body. Dominated by right-wing trade union representatives, the committee recommended the continued exclusion of 25 left-wing councillors from Manchester's Labour Group until this was overturned by the full NEC. After a completely biased and predetermined hearing in Blackburn, the Committee upheld the decision of Blackburn right-wingers to expel six supporters on the evidence of Labour defector, Michael Gregory.

The primary aim of the NOLS leadership is to get the right-wing dominated NEC to re-establish their control of NOLS, despite their defeat on key political issues at conference and their lack

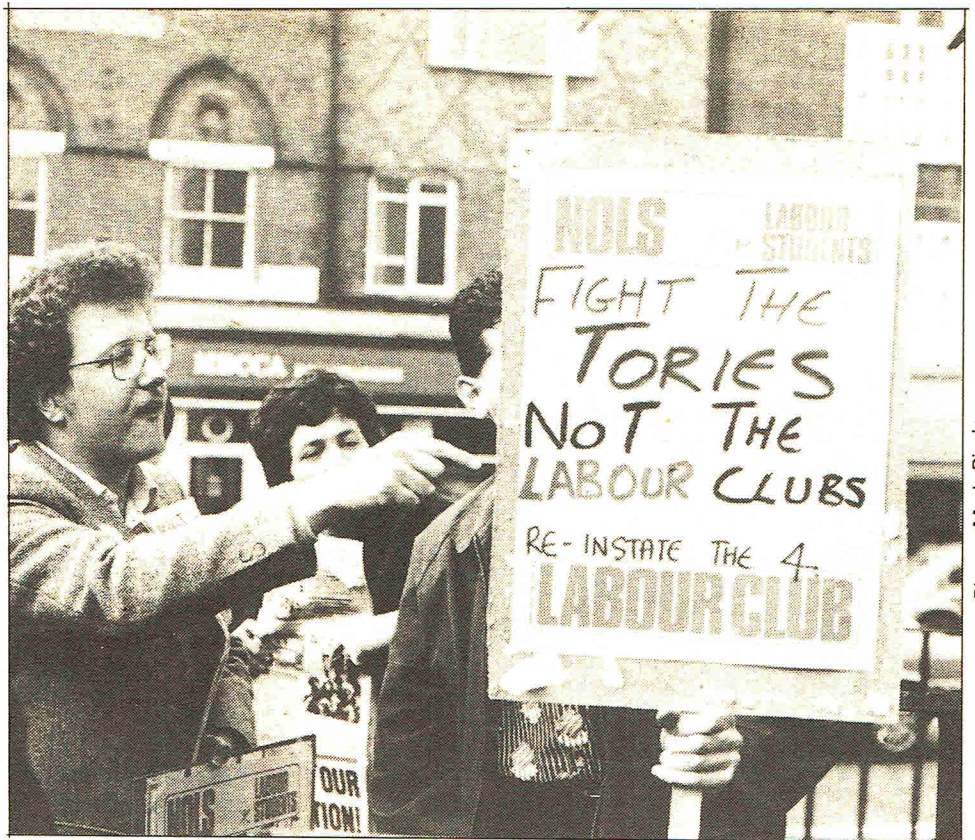


Photo: Mark Pinder.

Labour students protest outside a NOLS national committee meeting earlier this year before NOLS conference over undemocratic measures used by the 'Clause Four' leadership of the National Organisation of Labour Students.

Ranks protest at conference closure

ALREADY MANY sections of the labour movement have protested to the National Executive of the Labour Party at the undemocratic closure of NOLS conference.

The Regional Executive of the Yorkshire Labour Party, with the backing of the Yorkshire NUM, have protested to the NEC. They have called for a reconvened conference before the new academic year, so that NOLS is able to intervene in student struggles, and added that at the reconvened conference there should be a

thorough inspection of credentials. The Yorkshire NUM seconded the motion.

Similar protests have so far been sent to the NEC from the Broad Green, Mossley Hill, and Walton CLPs, and the executive of

Support

West Derby CLP in Liverpool, as well as the London LPYS Regional Committee.

Protests have also come from Labour Clubs at Sheffield, Leeds, Stirling, Dundee and Cambridge Universities, the LSE,

Newcastle Poly and Paisley Tech. Many individuals have protested to the NEC, including Kevin Mullins of the COHSE executive and Leeds councillor Nannette Sloane.

Such has been the anger of the labour movement at the handling of the NOLS conference and the subsequent events, that even Adrian Segans, a 'Democratic Left' candidate for the NOLS national committee, has protested that the affair is being handled by the NEC's Appeals committee, instead of the Youth committee.

of credibility among active Labour Club members.

But Clause Four are also

Witch-hunt

well aware that they are helping to fuel a revival of the witch-hunt against Militant and the left in the party. In 1981 Clause Four supported the Register, the first stage of the witch-hunt. Now they are out to provide the right with more dirty ammunition.

This is now an issue for the whole labour movement.

It is a scandal that, because of clause Four's undemocratic role, the Labour Student Organisa-

tion is seriously hampered in winning students to socialism and mobilisation support for struggles like the miners.

But it is a danger to the movement when the NOLS leadership, bolstered in many cases by positions and perks in the National Union of Students, are acting as a

Democratic rights

spring-board for an attack on democratic rights within the Labour Party.

Labour Clubs must raise the issue in Labour Parties and Trade Unions, explaining what has really happen-

ed and urging them to send protests to the NEC. Labour Clubs should send evidence of the unfair administration and irregularities in the NOLS balloting to the NEC.

When students, like workers, are under attack from the Tories NOLS conference under conditions which ensure that fair and democratic elections take place. Only with a National Committee which genuinely reflects the balance of political views within NOLS will it become an effective, campaigning, socialist organisation for students.

GLC — trade union campaign vital

THE DIRECTOR General of the GLC, M F Stonefrost, appointed by the present Labour Administration last year to direct the anti-abolition campaign, has recently called meetings of GLC staff to report progress of the campaign.

At the first meeting he said that whilst the 'intellectual' argument against abolition had been won, it looked as though abolition will go ahead regardless. He added that the government's plans are simply to transfer functions from the GLC to the Boroughs, and other agencies yet to be set up.

He thus inferred that jobs are not at risk from government proposals. Furthermore he then sought to undermine the trade unions' position on non-cooperation with attempts to transfer powers by asking all staff to

continue working normally without disruption, and to keep within the law.

By concentrating on "democracy" and winning the "intellectual" argument however, the crucial issues of jobs and privatization are relegated to the background. Not that the democracy issue is unimportant of course, but the only reason Thatcher wants to get rid of the GLC and the Metropolitan Authorities is in order to privatize the profitable areas and shed thousands of jobs where there are no profits. It is, surely, therefore essential that the Labour Councillors on the GLC, backed by the London Labour Party, give a lead to the tens of thousands of Trade Unionists at County Hall, London Transport, the Fire Brigade, and ILEA, all of whom have a direct in-



Photo: Militant.

Ken Livingstone, leader of the GLC. A labour movement campaign will stop the abolition threat.

terest in saving jobs and services, and preventing privatization.

A genuine trade union campaign of selective industrial action, in support of a fighting council, could build upon support already shown by many trade unionists, mobilize further support and link with unions in the private sector whose jobs will also be at risk from the further decline in London's economy that will arise from abolition.

Manchester workers back Labour left

CAMPAIGNING ON a radical programme achieved excellent results on May 3 during the local elections in Manchester.

Labour took 57% of the votes, the Tories 27% and the Liberal/SDP only 16%; 28 of the 33 seats were Labour, with Labour coming second in all the other seats, only missing victory by 100 votes in three of these.

Labour gains

There were seven gains from the Tories.

The new council has, altogether, 79 Labour councillors, 14 Tory and only 6 Liberals, with a clear majority for the left of the Labour group.

Since 1979 the city Labour

Party has been at odds with the old majority of right-wing councillors, on the need to mount a real fight against Tory cuts. Before the election, 26 councillors were excluded from the Labour Group because they supported the city party policy in council.

New administration

Following the elections, the National Executive called a meeting of all Labour councillors in a bid to unite the Labour group. They also called on the 'old' right-wing group not to go ahead with an AGM—the right-wing ignored this and at this meeting a move to comply

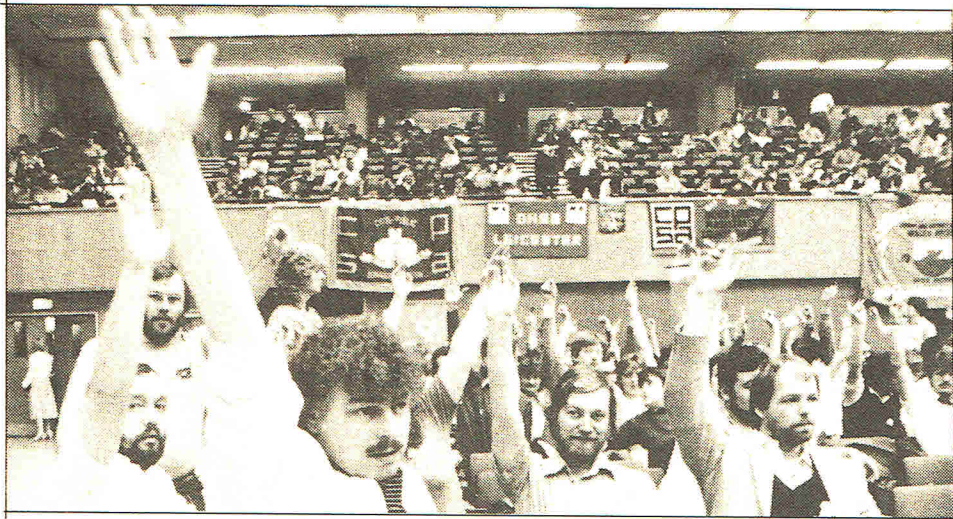
with the NEC was defeated.

At a meeting called by the NEC on May 15, chaired by Eric Heffer, 48 councillors attended to form a new administration. Earlier the City Party agreed a policy of power sharing through a no cuts policy.

Over the past two weeks the situation has been changing by the hour, but it seems clear that a new Labour administration is under way. However, our success in defending local services and refusing to implement cuts will depend on mobilising the labour and trade union movement in support of the council's stand.

By Cllr John Byrne
(Longsight ward,
Manchester)

CONFERENCE REPORTS



North Eastern Section of CPSA conference militants.



Leading Broad Left supporters Geoff Barker, Terry Adams, John Macreadie, Kevin Roddy, (left to right) celebrate the NEC election result.

Changing mood of tax staff

SUCH WAS the feeling for unity with the miners at the Inland Revenue Staffs Federation conference that an emergency motion from the Executive supporting them won overwhelming support.

Unfortunately this resolution also called for a special enquiry involving both sides of industry into Britain's future energy needs—which would almost certainly not reach a conclusion in favour of the miners, given the desperate need of British capitalism to defeat the miners and the trade union movement generally.

The feeling of solidarity for this struggle was clear and even Roy Hattersley got a standing ovation. Together with the vote to set up a political fund this goes to show that a campaign for Labour Party affiliation should (as promised) be undertaken at the first opportunity.

£100 minimum wage

Conference passed resolutions calling for a £100 minimum wage and a 35 hour week and defeated a motion instructing the EC to purchase shares in that well known champion of workers in struggle—the Mirror Group!

A motion instructing the EC that courts should not be used as an alternative to conventional forms of industrial action was defeated, but IRSF members have already learned the lessons of a tactic that had such tragic

results in the computerisation dispute.

Expansion of work on the Black Economy and an instruction to the EC not to enter any GCHQ type "No Strike Agreements" received tremendous support.

Due to the two YTS motions being set against each other IRSF members have accepted YTS, but assurances that any scheme would involve union activity and control were given to delegates. The 3.7% pay offer led to agreement to take industrial action to secure a decent settlement for 1984 or the right to arbitration.

Broad Left meeting

The well attended Broad Left meeting raised over £150 despite the fact that a collection for the miners had already been held during conference and many observers had paid their own expenses to go to Blackpool.

New Broad Lefts are due to be formed following the progress made at conference. A leading left wing EC member was elected to the position of Taxes Vice President, another Broad Left supporter to the Standing Orders Committee and four Broad Left supporters to the TUC delegation.

However, there can be no room for complacency. The only way forward for IRSF members is to build Broad Lefts in the areas in order to fight against the further cuts and erosion of living standards that the Tories have in store.

By an IRSF Militant supporter

Not-so fringe meetings

THE CPSA conference Militant Readers' meeting was a great success. £3,200 was collected for the Militant Fighting Fund. Under the glare of Channel 4 Television cameras, the audience of nearly 300 delegates heard Dave Nellist MP, Rober Mor Socialist MP from Gibraltar, Andy Fisher Nottingham NUM, Annette Miller Aylesham Ladies Section—Miners Wives support group and Kevin Roddy CPSA Presidential candidate.

160 DELEGATES attended a meeting on Northern Ireland sponsored by Post and Telecomms Belfast GMO Branch. They heard Billy Lynn, Chairman of the DHSS section of the Northern Ireland Public Services Alliance and John Macreadie, National Officer and past Broad Left candidate for General Secretary (personal capacity) argue a socialist solution for Northern Ireland.

Broad Left gains

THE MEDIA have heralded the "victory" of Alistair Graham, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association and leading exponent of the TUC's "New Realism", over the Broad Left at the recent CPSA conference.

What they have not reported so enthusiastically is that the conference totally rejected Graham's ideas and policies. Only a total lack of confidence in the membership by sections of the Broad Left leadership denied conference the chance to vote on motions calling for Graham's resignation.

A censure motion was passed against him for his role in the GCHQ dispute and there was a massive swing to the left on the NEC, a majority of 23 to 6. On top of that there was a marvellous vote for Militant supporter Kevin Roddy, the Broad Left presidential candidate.

CPSA is a young and volatile union. In a concentrated way it reflects some of the general developments now taking place throughout the unions. BILL BOYLE gives a blow by blow account of last week's CPSA conference.

MORE THAN any single event of the CPSA conference in Brighton last week, the tremendous vote for Kevin Roddy against right winger Kate Losinska answers the black cynicism of 'New Realism' and those who say that the working class will not vote for left wing policies.

Kevin Roddy reduced Losinska's majority from 8,977 to 431. It means that he is almost assured of the Presidency for the left when Losinska steps down next year.

The result is a testimony to the 'realism' of Kevin's socialist policies and the work done by Broad Left and Militant supporters.

The disillusion of the membership in a leadership which has delivered nothing on pay or conditions and allowed the Tories to ban trade unions at GCHQ exploded onto the ballot paper. It wiped out the already shaky position the right wing had on the NEC.

Besieged upon his lonely Conference platform last week, surrounded by the dull has-beens of the outgoing National Executive Committee, Alistair Graham wound up his Annual Report speech with the words, "... CPSA is a fine union—if now a changing one... Let us show by the quality of decisions at this Conference that

By Bill Boyle

we are showing the constructive way forward for the Trade Union movement." To his utter horror events over the rest of the week confirmed that statement.

Graham began, before Conference met, by throwing down the gauntlet to the left, (characteristically on a television programme, *Union World*). He announced that he would resign if motions declaring no confidence in him were passed.

As these motions were not likely to be heard, the challenge was



Losinska and Graham, right wing president and general secretary at Cheltenham meeting during GCHQ dispute.

partially an empty one, although he stated that he would welcome moves which allowed a debate.

The pre-conference Broad Left rally on Sunday night agreed by a margin of two to one to support calls made by Militant supporter Amanda Laine, on behalf of her branch, for support of a reference back of the conference agenda to hear the resignation motions.

At the rally all of the leading members of the 'Labour Left' grouplet within the Union and the so-called 'Communist Party' violently opposed any moves to debate the motion. They were not confident of defeating Graham if the issue was taken to the membership. Militant supporters argued that the ordinary members of the union had already delivered their answer to Graham's 'New Realism' in the elections to the NEC and that Graham's betrayal of the NGA and his upstart comments about Arthur Scargill had enraged the majority of CPSA members.

Membership meetings in the run up to the conference had shown massive resentment against the role being played by Alistair Graham.

Kate Losinska did not face the same degree of wrath because Graham had hogged the centre of the stage last year, pushing her into the background. But for this she would have received far fewer votes. Graham clearly could have been beaten.

Lost opportunity

Militant supporters also argued that the left in the CPSA had to do its duty to the whole labour and trade union movement and help the union remove Graham from his position as soon as possible. Unfortunately the split in the Broad Left carried on to the conference floor. Despite the overwhelming decision of the rally almost all those same BL members campaigned against calls to hear the motion. As a result many delegates were not confident enough to push the motions forward when the Broad Left leadership was seen to be split. The reference back was lost by 525 votes to 400. Had their been a card vote (not allowed on a reference back), the vote would have been won because the larger branches would have voted to bring the censure motion forward.

The tragedy of this lost opportunity cannot be emphasised enough. Graham saw the vote as one of confidence in him and as showing weakness on the left. As he said at a quickly convened press conference "They put the bludgeon back on the shelf and gave me a going over with a feather duster."

To add strength to our arguments, Graham later remarked to a Militant supporter that he was not entirely convinced that he would have won a re-election battle. Given a strong candidate and vigorous campaign he would have been beaten. This shows the deep irony of 'Labour Left' members vigorously applauding the result of the reference back! Graham's position was safe for another period and these people were happy!

This event is a clear confirmation of the perspectives of Militant. The period ahead is one where the likes of Graham, Murray and Co. can be brought to account, as long as the left does its job. The enormous pressure the right wing are under is reflected in Len Murray's resignation.

Right and left tested

The anger of delegates was seen on Monday morning in the pay debate at the Civil Service conference (all CPSA members in the civil service). There were severe criticisms of the lack of campaign, the back door deals on Megaw, the refusal of the leadership to call a special Pay Conference and the blind faith in arbitration which pervaded the executive's "Campaign". Unfortunately these failures of the NEC have undermined confidence in the possibili-

CONFERENCE REPORTS

'Society' votes for merger

Society of Civil and Public Servants' Conference gave overwhelming support to the Miners' strike.

A delegate from Sheffield DHSS, a miners' wife, described how her whole community would be destroyed if the pit closure programme was successful. A DHSS delegate from Derbyshire reported that he had been stopped several times on the motorway travelling to Nottinghamshire on union business. Jack Taylor, President of the Yorkshire NUM was given a rapturous reception by the conference.

Conference opposed the introduction of YTS into the Civil Service, unless trainees are paid the full rate for the job, have trade union rights and a guaranteed job at the end of the scheme. Delegates supported the conference paper on the merger with CPSA. But a resolution to reject CPSA's 'workplace balloting' system, was only defeated by 3,815 to 3,976 on a card vote. If this resolution had been passed, it would have been a major setback for the merger. The closeness of this vote shows the necessity of the union leadership organising a cam-

paign in support of the merger.

Although the Communist Party-dominated executive supported these policies, they opposed the affiliation of the union to CND, which was narrowly defeated. They also opposed the introduction of election addresses for NEC and other elections, which was defeated by 3,538 to 4,073 on a card vote. The executive also opposed the call for a ballot on the establishment of a political fund for the union, which was defeated on a show of hands.

All these resolutions would have been gains for the left in the union, yet were opposed by the executive. The formation of the 'SCPS Broad Left', which held a public meeting at conference, attracted a lot of interest from delegates.

By a SCPS Conference Delegate

SCPS Militant journal
20p. Available from:
World Socialist Books,
1 Mentmore Terrace,
London E8 3PN.

SCPS Broad Left Conference
Sunday 10 June, 11am - 5pm
Dame Colet House,
Ben Johnson Road, London E1.



Strikers from East Kilbride Crown Agents office lobby CPSA conference

Photos: Jacob Sutton

in civil service



Alistair Graham, right-wing CPSA general secretary—losing his grip.

ty of a successful fight on pay and a cleverly worded motion from the NEC was narrowly passed. With a left NEC the stage is now set for a determined fight against low pay in 1985.

Before main conference began the Broad Left-dominated conference standing orders committee collapsed under pressure from Graham and Losinska and marked out of order motions freezing senior full-time officers' salaries. Only Steve Appleton, the *Militant* supporter on the committee refused to be intimidated.

The Broad Left chairperson of this committee also defended Alistair Graham with a stirring speech opposing the moves to hear calls for Graham's resignation. The standing orders committee saved the day for the right wing.

Mood to fight

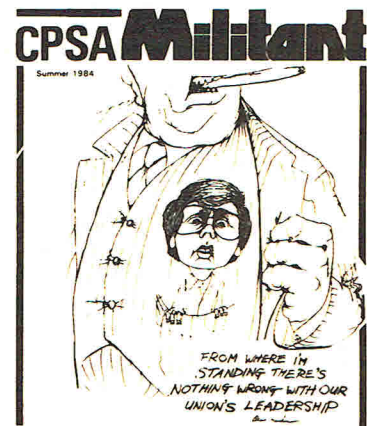
Despite Graham's public pronouncements against the miners, the speaker from the NUM received a standing ovation for a rousing call to the whole trade union movement to support the miners. Later in the week, following the elections, the left NEC decided to make an initial donation of £25,000.

Conference also looked outside the boundaries of the civil service and passed motions deploring the Tories' employment legislation, in defence of the national health service, the GLC and Metropolitan councils and to fight the Tories on pay next year as part of a public sector alliance. This year's conference was seeking a unity in purpose and action which had been lacking during the years of right-wing rule.

This desire for unity led to the huge defeat of Alistair Graham's attempt to take over the union journal in order to peddle his right wing views. In a speech which concentrated on the political nature of the attack, Clive Bush, the editor, savaged Graham and "the twilight men and women of new realism". *Militant* supporters' arguments that an editorial board would

remove the possibility of this happening again were highlighted by this debate.

The frustration of conference at not having a political arm came through when the conference censured the NEC for their lack of a campaign in favour of Labour Party affiliation during the ballot of membership on the issue. The conference's understanding of the need for trade union solidarity against the Tories was made crystal clear in the censure of Graham for his public betrayal of the NGA during the *Stockport Messenger* dispute.



Militant publication 50p
available from WSB, 1 Mentmore Tce, London E8 3PN.

CPSA delegates showed their high level of political awareness also on the issue of YTS. Despite the confusion which exists on this issue in the movement CPSA again voted unanimously to reject YTS.

The biggest reversal of NEC policy came on the handling of the GCHQ dispute. Motion 286 censured the NEC for "breathtaking incompetence" in its handling of the GCHQ ban and the seeking of a no strike deal with the Tories.

The NEC, in the form of Alistair Graham, argued strongly against the motion since it would undermine their campaign through the courts. Despite Graham's amazing plea to "vote against this motion even though it makes you puke" the motion was almost unanimously carried. Immediately the motion was passed, deputy

general secretary and right winger, John Ellis, left the platform and approached the GCHQ delegation, who then went to the rostrum and demanded a referendum on the issue.

This move illustrated the direction in which the right wing would have led the union, buoyed up by Graham's spurious "victory" earlier in the week, if they had won the NEC elections. They would have ignored conference decisions, ruling by referendum with the help of the courts and the Tory press. Although the outgoing NEC agreed to the referendum the left NEC must not allow it to go ahead. Conference must be the supreme body of the union.

Despite the many censure motions on the agenda this was a constructive conference which has set the new NEC many important tasks. Campaigns on privatisation, Tory legislation, pay, cuts, new technology and all the conditions of service which the right wing were incapable of defending or improving must now be organised. The desire for a healthy, fighting union to take on the civil service bosses and the government was underscored by the decision to take the first concrete steps towards a merger with the SCPS and the decision to reject NEC proposals to reduce the Fighting Fund.

The new left NEC must get out to the branches. It must be in touch with the membership from the start. Only by keeping in close touch with the rank and file, fighting in the members' interests, will the new NEC stay in power. The aim must be to prepare the union for the battles to come. This will entail turning the Broad Left into a mass organisation in every area.

The left can finally end the CPSA political see-saw. A clear programme, determined and decisive leadership, can ensure the right never regain control. The left is securely in power now (barring the possible intervention of the courts) as long as it works seriously and consistently, campaigning around conference policy and supports all sections of the membership in struggle.

As delegates gathered in the Brighton conference centre on Thursday night to celebrate, Alistair Graham was absent, as the *Sunday Times* noted. What they did not say was where he was—at a Buckingham Palace reception. This conference showed, as does this incident, that Graham is totally out of touch with CPSA members.

He does not agree with CPSA policies and should not be allowed to continue to represent the union on the TUC, where he acts as a leading spokesman for the right wing. It is only a matter of time before he joins Len Murray in premature retirement. CPSA now has a leadership which matches up to its membership. We must fight to ensure it matches up to the tasks ahead.

Public employees face big battles

NUPE DELEGATES rose to their feet to applaud the group of women from Barking hospital who are in their tenth week of strike action against private racketeers Crothalls.

Delegates recognised that this was a test case for the union and gave a graphic picture of what's in store for health workers under privatisation. With true Thatcherite brutality, Crothalls are attempting to smash down wages, hours and conditions and are prepared to use every dirty trick to break to tremendous resolve of these workers.

Conference passed an emergency resolution, calling for national industrial action on behalf of Barking workers. It is seen as the only way to win this dispute. If the Barking privateers are defeated it would lift the confidence of every health service shop steward in the crucial battles in the coming year.

Privatisation crucial issue

Most delegates realise that privatisation is the most crucial issue facing the union. It poses a threat to the existence of NUPE as a union, but also to the services our members provide and our wages and conditions. The need for a national lead is vital, it cannot be left to the shop stewards committees to fight in isolation. Privatisation is a national issue and must be fought on a nationwide basis.

Many delegates felt that

some sections of the national leadership were dragging their feet on the issue. Tremendous pressure was applied by delegates on the standing orders committee to get sufficient time to discuss the issues, but unfortunately less than an hour was given for what is the biggest battle facing NUPE since it was founded. Every delegate, and every member of the union will hope that in both words and in deeds the national leadership acts immediately on the Conference decisions on Barking and on privatisation.

Battle plans

After Conference, the next Executive Council must draw up battle plans for a co-ordinated campaign of mass rallies, demonstrations, but more importantly national industrial action. A firm lead from the top is essential and will give the confidence to the rank and file in their fight to defend jobs and services both in local authorities and in the health service.

A meeting called by the London South-East Broad Left attracted delegates and visitors from all over the country. From the meeting it was clear that the need for a Broad Left organisation to co-ordinate the work of activists on a national basis is widely recognised. Overall, the clear mood of Conference delegates is to ensure that the fine words and resolutions are turned into concrete action.

By Steve McKenzie
Delegate from Bexley
General Branch

Militant

Fight Tory war machine

ON THURSDAY May 17, the Tories announced the new grants to County Councils for so called "Civil Defence"—the princely sum of £6.86 million.

This takes the total to be spent on 'defending' people against a nuclear war to £59 million—a generous £1.05 for each man, woman and child in Britain. This wouldn't even buy you a screw driver to take the kitchen door off its hinges to build a shelter.

The previous week the Tories' real priorities were revealed when Heseltine announced plans to increase defence spending to £17,033 million over the next 12 months—that's £303 for each one of us.

Destruction

Such is the instability of both the West and the East, of capitalism and Stalinism across the whole world, that Thatcher, Reagan and Chernenko are building war machines capable of destroying the world 700 times over.

Reagan's visit to Britain next month must be the occasion of massive marches

By Dave Nellist
(MP Coventry South East)

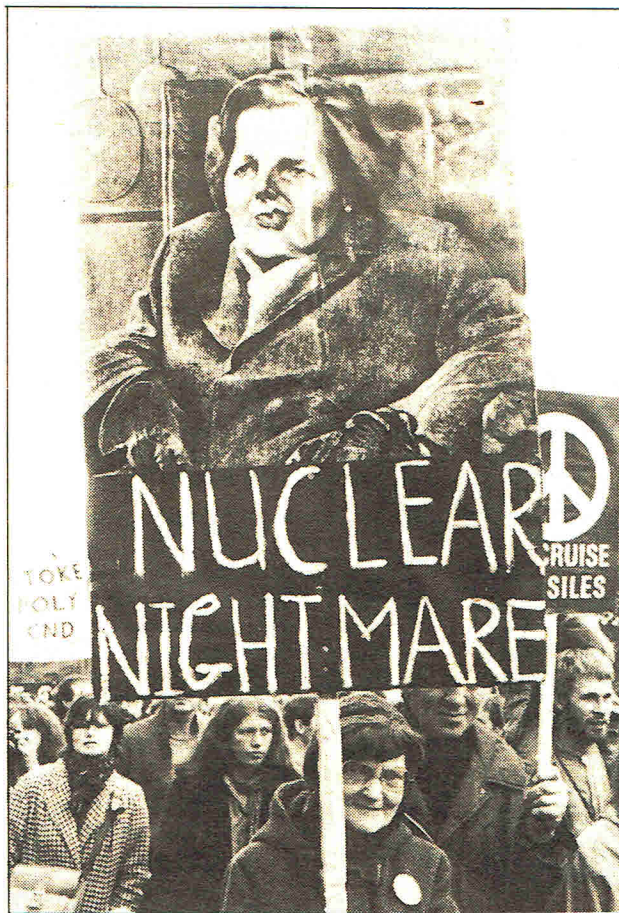
and rallies of the labour movement. Join the march through Coventry on Saturday and the anti-Reagan protest on June 9. There must also be a campaign of explanation of a genuine internationalist and socialist alternative.

Political answer

For dozen of 'peace talks', 'agreements' and 'initiatives' have come to nothing—there are still 40 wars taking place around the world today, in the Middle East, in Africa, in Asia and in Latin America. Wars over land, over resources, between nationalities and between classes.

War as the 19th century German militarist Clausewitz observed, is the "continuation of politics by other means". It needs a political solution, the coming to power of genuine socialist governments to replace the parodies in the East, and capitalist governments of the West.

Then a world that presently witnesses 15,000 children



Placard on a CND demonstration in October 1981. Thatcher is still Prime Minister. Join the Labour Party and the LPYS and fight for a socialist alternative to war.

under 12 years old and adults dying of hunger each and every day—whilst £1 million is spent on armaments every 85 seconds—can be transformed and war abolished for ever.

Join the Labour Party and the Labour Party Young Socialists and help in the fight to get rid of Thatcher,

Reagan and Chernenko and their systems which produce war.

LPYS assemble at Gosford Green, Coventry, at 11am on Saturday May 26, to join CND march to the Memorial Park. Copies of Militant also available from 10.30 am at Gosford Green.

Aylesham

from page one

"If ever I'm feeling fed up, I think of all the people fighting for us and we won't give up. It's not like some cities in Aylesham, no one is on their own."

Life is very hard, living on next to no money but the strike is an investment for the future. Joan Phelan, who is the wife and mother of miners told me "I have one grandchild, aged 15 months, I want it to be a better life for him here not a ghost village, like it was before the pits came."

Many of the women involved are used to struggling, a number have husbands out of work and have had to get by on a pittance. The miners and their families need help from the

labour movement. Thatcher is out to destroy not just our pits but our unions and our hopes. Join the 29 May demo and join in the fight to kick out Thatcher and her gang.

By Robbie Segal

AYLESHAM LPYS DEMO
"Save the pits—give youth a future"
Tuesday May 29
Assemble: 12 noon, Hyde Park, London.
Rally at Jubilee Gardens. Petitions to be handed in to Ian MacGregor at 1 pm at NCB Head Office.
Sponsored by Kent NUM.

Coal stocks

Continued from page one

★ The nuclear plants are not capable of large-scale substitution for coal. Most suffer from serious problems. Even Hartlepool, the latest nuclear plant, is seven years behind schedule. Their recent boast that they can now produce 170 megawatts shows their limitations. Nearby Eggborough a coal fired power station, now closed-down normally produced 1,800 megawatts;

Truth hidden

★ So desperate are the authorities that they are even thinking of accelerating the EDF project whereby Britain gets access to cheap French generated power.

The government knows the truth behind the power supply, but they are covering up to try and demoralise the miners. Since the strike began government Ministers have only answered two questions and made one

statement on the issue. The Central Electricity Generating Board have denied our claims. But the truth is that it is costing the government far more to implement MacGregor's 'plan for dole' than it would take to provide a decent living for miners.

Picket power stations

But the government want to destroy the power of the miners' union, and they don't care who gets in their way. Everyone will pay more in electricity charges, and next winter the Tories will weep crocodile tears when more pensioners die from hypothermia because they could not afford to pay the bills.

The Tories have shown the lengths to which they will go to smash the miners. Now the trade union movement must respond with equal determination to back our class. All oil-fired* and nuclear power stations must be blacked to ensure a speedy end to this dispute.

Rhondda witch hunt

THE PROPOSED expulsion of Rhondda Labour Party and LPYS member Brychan Davies has provoked immediate disgust. At this time the attentions of trade unionists and Labour Party members should be focused on supporting the miners and fighting the European elections.

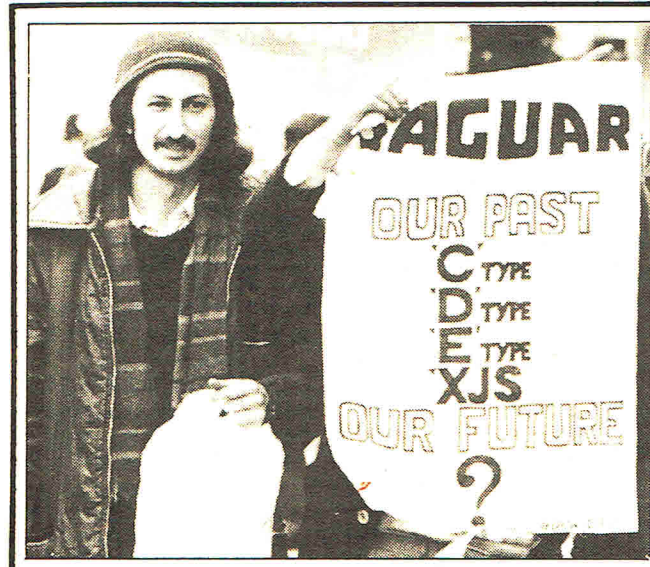
The right wing want to attack Militant supporters because the ideas of Militant are getting a tremendous echo amongst workers in the valley. The fastest growing section of the party is the LPYS. As a result of an intervention by the Rhondda LPYS, members of Maerdy NUM have been won over to Marxism and have applied to join the Labour Party.

What's more, the expulsion threat goes in the face

of party unity—the only basis for Brychan's expulsion is for 'being a supporter of Militant'.

A public meeting has been called on Monday, June 11, in Porth, Rhondda (venue to be arranged) with Tyrone O'Sullivan of Tower Lodge NUM and Brychan Davies and a speaker for Militant. A lobby of the GMC has also been organised at the Rhondda sports centre on June 22, 6.30pm. The campaign in the Rhondda is now in full swing. If anyone would like to help please contact Michelle Tree on Tonypanydy 431007.

By Hugh Carre
(Tylorstown ward Labour Party)



Bathgate occupied

WORKERS AT British Leyland's truck plant at Bathgate, West Lothian have occupied the factory after Norman Tebbit, Tory Trade and Industry Secretary announced its closure over the next two years. The Leyland bus plant at Leeds is also to go, according to Tory plans.

1800 jobs would go at Bathgate and 450 jobs at Leeds if the plans are allowed to go through. The effect on Bathgate, close to the Polkemmet colliery, one of the pits threatened by Mac Gregor would be disastrous.

The only people to rejoice over the latest plans for BL will be capitalists eager for a quick buck. Jaguar Cars, a profitable sector of BL is to be "privatised" with the sale coming in July. In 1983 Jaguar made an operating profit of £55 million.

Industry is being ruined by the ruling class and the government, but the Tories are still looking after their friends. The labour movement must be united behind the Bathgate workers and miners to save jobs.



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