

# How miners can win

**ON 29 October, miners halted oil supplies to power stations when they persuaded over 100 oil tanker drivers not to cross picket lines at Esso's supply terminal at Stanwell near London Airport.**

Pickets were protesting at the depot providing oil by pipeline to a power station at Hounslow which normally runs on coal. Such action, co-ordinated on a national basis, to stop coal and oil entering power stations would help to swing this eight month-long strike in the miners' favour.

The strike is at a crucial stage. The Tories' relentless propaganda war against our union and our communities has reached a new fever pitch. As Tory chancellor Nigel Lawson revealed they are prepared to spend £1.5 billion on the strike and still consider it a "good investment".

The Tories are consciously avoiding any 'second fronts', hence their haste to settle with NACODS although their agreement gives no firm guarantees on jobs or closures. The government want the decks cleared for further attacks on the miners.

The courts have done their duty to the ruling class by sequestering NUM assets, hoping that they will get miners back to work by starving their families

Continued on back page



## India in turmoil

**THE ASSASSINATION of Indira Gandhi, apparently by Sikh supporters of the late Bhindranwale, will throw Indian society into deeper turmoil and provoke bloody communal clashes but without in any way altering or improving the lot of India's 700 million people.**

### Workers unity

As with the Brighton bombing of Tory Party Conference, Marxists oppose such acts of individual terrorism. Gandhi, although posing as a friend of the masses, was an enemy of the working class and oppressed minorities and nationalities of India. But her assassination will not solve the problems of the Sikh minority and their repression at the hands of the Indian state. She will merely be replaced by yet another representative of Indian capitalism and landlordism with the same approach to the oppressed

minorities and working masses in general.

More than likely the popularity of her party, Congress (I), will temporarily increase as a result of the general revulsion towards this act, and her son Rajiv (General Secretary) may be successful in utilising this mood to win the coming elections. Moreover, the Congress government will feel confident to introduce more repressive laws, which can be used against the oppressed minorities and the working class in particular.

Marxists oppose individual terrorism because it substitutes the bullet or bomb for the mass actions of the working class. It belittles the role of the labour movement and strengthens reaction.

The assassination of Gandhi will temporarily bolster the faltering Indian State and will foster bloody divisions between Hindus and Sikhs unless the workers' movement can intervene decisively. It is vital that the labour movement puts its

stamp on events to forge Sikh-Hindu unity against capitalism and landlordism. For Marxists, the only successful method of combating the state machine and the capitalist system is through mass action by the working class, drawing with it the mass of peasants and oppressed minorities and nationalities.

However, socialists should be clear, the responsibility for terrorism lies with Indian Capitalism. It is the monster-child of a rotten and decaying system which has created an unending nightmare of grinding poverty and oppression for the mass of the population, coupled with the constant state terrorism of the Indian army and police.

### Massacre

The assassination is the direct result of the Indian Army's massacre of 700 Sikhs during the storming of the Golden Temple of Amritsar in June. 70,000 Indian troops were mobilised and the entire Punjab sealed-



Indira Gandhi.

off, while the government introduced curfews, repressive laws and press censorship.

Ironically, Gandhi has become a victim of her years of manoeuvring, intrigue and repression in the Punjab. It was Gandhi herself who built up Bhindranwale as a counter-weight to the main Sikh party, Akali Dal, in the late '70s. Akali Dal itself is a party based on rich Punjabi farmers with demands for religious freedoms, more water for the Punjab etc.

Gandhi hoped to split Akali Dal by pushing Bhindranwale forward. However, his death in the Golden Temple caused mass revulsion amongst the Sikh popula-

Continued on page eleven

## £45,000 raised for Fighting Fund

**WE HAVE established a new record. £45,007 has been raised by *Militant's* Fighting Fund, the highest amount ever raised in one quarter. We could not have done it without your amazing help. Your support has been second to none.**

We will continue to prove to the Tories that Marxism is alive and well; that workers want a better future and that they see *Militant* as being the

key to that better future. Our financial achievements reflect the growing support for *Militant* from rank and file workers who see our paper as being at the forefront of every struggle to defend workers' rights. If you keep the money coming in, we can maintain and improve our paper.

By Kim Waddington

## New pay struggles in car industry

After years of redundancies coupled with low pay deals, car workers are now fighting for a decent wage. After the fortnight long strike at Vauxhall Motors ended, workers rejected "final offers" from management at Austin-Rover and Jaguar plants. Reports from Cowley and Jaguar in Coventry on page 15.

# Militant

## Hypocrisy over Libya visit

THE HYSTERICAL campaign of the Tory Press over the alleged links between the NUM and the Libyan government was entirely predictable. Any pretext will be used by the millionaire press to brand the miners and Arthur Scargill as terrorists or worse. Any lever will be eagerly seized to try to prise other workers away from their unstinting solidarity for the miners.

A government like Thatcher's, which is trying to paralyse any effective trade union action by legal restraints, and which adopts a conscious policy of defeating the miners by starving their families and children, has no moral right whatsoever to pontificate about financial support to the union.

Such nauseating double-standards are expected from the Tories but workers will be outraged by the way Neil Kinnock and Norman Willis have jumped on their bandwagon without trying to get an explanation from the NUM. In fact the miners have had no cash from Gaddafi.

In Parliament Peter Walker was able to deflect all the justified criticism of the Tories made by left wing Labour back-benchers by referring to the statements of Neil Kinnock. Thus the Tories have gleefully used the leaders of the labour movement as a stick with which to beat workers in struggle.

These labour leaders have been grudging and niggardly in their support for the miners, but, whenever they get the chance, over-generous with their criticisms. Kinnock's condemnations screamed out from every newspaper, but where were his rallying calls and loud appeals for Labour Party members to organise levies to support miners' families?

Norman Willis was quick to demand "categorical assurances" from the miners that they would not take Libyan money, but when has he sought the same "categorical" commitments for money and solidarity from other trade unions? Rather than act as pacesetters for the Tory Press the leaders of the labour movement should have been using their authority and influence to mobilise protest demonstrations, a 24-hour general strike and a massive campaign of solidarity to back the miners and protest against the legal robbery of their financial assets.

Faced with no other alternative, it is perfectly proper that the miners should seek financial support from other trade unionists, including bona fide trade unions overseas. As has been reported in *Militant*, millions of workers around the world are eagerly watching the struggle taking place in Britain and many have sent donations. Moreover, many miners have said that they are not concerned where money comes from if it goes to alleviate the enormous hardships inflicted on their families by the Tories.

Socialists therefore, should have no part in the disgusting campaign being waged by the Tory media against the miners. However, there must be no illusions about the nature of the Libyan regime. It is not from the standpoint of the capitalist class, which retains its commercial links with Libya, but from the point of view of the labour movement that socialists oppose the Tripoli regime which does not allow genuine independent trade unions.

The largest and most easily available reservoir of financial support for the miners still lies in the British labour movement. Hundreds of thousands of pounds are being collected every week as an expression of the support that exists. But even this could be increased twenty-fold if the miners could take their case to the ranks of the other unions with appeals for regular workplace levies.

The miners' union funds have been sequestered. The stakes are too high for the leadership of the NUM or the left TUC leaders to be bound by the protocol of inter-union relations. The TUC lefts will be failing in their elementary trade union duty if they do not do all in their power to mobilise financial and industrial support for the miners among their own rank and file.

If the TUC lefts do not move, it is the responsibility of the NUM leaders themselves to use the rank and file miners to go over the heads of the TUC leaders to approach the unions' membership. After setting a marvellous example in defying the Tory laws the worst alternative of all would be for the NUM leaders now to sit back with folded hands.

The best possible response the NUM could make to the bitter attacks that have been launched on them would be for the tens of thousands of active miners to be mobilised to go to the millions who support them, especially in transport, docks and in the power stations, to establish permanent links of solidarity. Together they could win the strike for the miners and save the democratic trade union rights of other workers.

Editor: Peter Taaffe  
Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace,  
London E8 3PN Phone: 01-986 3828

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Militant; printed by Cambridge Heath Press (TU) Ltd., 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. ISSN 0144-9275

# Ethiopia—the avoidable famine

THE HAUNTING pictures of mass starvation in Ethiopia has moved millions. In less than a week ordinary people gave more than the government promised over eighteen months.

Yet the publicity about the Ethiopian famine only came about by chance. The BBC camera crew were en route from Johannesburg to London, and were looking for any assignment en route. Until then the reports of the disaster had been ignored by Western governments.

Now under public pressure they are acting, but with minimal resources, sending just two of the twenty Hercules planes available. Even the £5m donated is taken from the aid designed for other countries. Government officials say that they cannot spend too much at a time of "cash shortage", but that is not stopping them spending hundreds of millions to import oil to defeat the miners, or looking for extra space to store EEC 'surplus' grain.

It is a real obscenity that by the end of this year there will be 16m tonnes of grain stored in EEC food mountains (enough to feed everyone in Ethiopia for six years), yet only 1,000 tonnes of it are being sent to Ethiopia.

Over the last year Western governments have deliberately denied aid to Ethiopia because they wanted the regime to end its friendship with the Soviet Union. The deaths of millions can be laid at the door of Western capitalists.

Yet the nightmare that is



Millions are starving in Africa. Ten African countries face famine this year.

Ethiopia today is not unique. Out of sight of the camera lenses, away from the main air routes, a famine stretches across the continent; ten other African countries also face mass starvation this year.

For the majority of people on the planet the stranglehold of capitalism upon the world economy means they have to suffer horror without end. Even in 'good' years 15 million children die from malnutrition in the Third World; that is equivalent to two Hiroshimas every day.

And the 'good' years are vanishing. African economies are going into reverse. The World Bank Report of September 1984 stated that in the last three years sub-Saharan Africa had gone back fifteen years in development.

The past failure of private enterprise to develop Africa will now hamper the current aid shipments. Even after the food arrives it will take weeks to get through the bottlenecks at Ethiopia's only available port and along the mountain roads. The country's one railway runs away from the famine area.

### Future

Ethiopia today is the horrific picture of a continent's future. By 1990 the World Bank forecasts 80% of all Africans will be below the poverty line. Yet the technology is there to turn back the deserts, to provide food for all.

Exactly ten years ago this month, Henry Kissinger, then American Foreign Secretary, stated that within a decade no child need go to

bed hungry. In the mouth of a representative of US business it was hollow rhetoric. But it need not be so.

The world has the resources to end famine. On to our TV screens this week with all the technology available to capitalism came pictures of people dying. What a contrast of technology and development. And what an indictment.

If the resources of the planet were planned, if the vast waste of arms spending was ended, then everyone could have a life free from hunger and disease. "Socialism or barbarism" was the alternative posed by the early Marxists. And this week the truth of it was shown in our living-rooms.

By Colin Barber

## FE students—link to labour

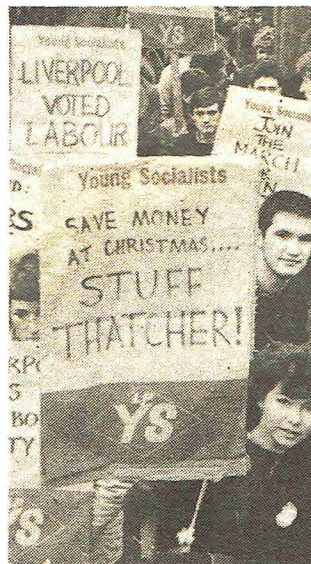
FOR FURTHER education and school students rate capping is just a fancy name for another round of cuts.

It would mean a cut of £400 million from Local Authorities' budgets. As 60-70% of the budgets go to FE colleges and schools—huge cuts will hit education. FE students must organise!

The FE Labour Students has been set up to bring together students in further education in a campaigning body linked to the Labour and trade union movement.

In Liverpool earlier this year, FE students were threatened with massive education cuts, with college staff facing redundancies. FE students in the LPYS mounted a campaign, linked with the local authority workers' struggle against job losses.

With their backing they defeated the Tory cuts and also won reforms such as the lowering of canteen prices and free meals for the ma-



FE students march in support of Liverpool council.

majority of students. If FE students locally can win gains like this, just imagine what we could do if we campaigned with the backing of the labour and trade union movement nationally.

FELS has learnt the lessons of Liverpool. Unfor-

tunately the National Union of Students (led by National Organisation of Labour Student members) have failed to halt any cuts or win any reforms. The main focus of their campaign is writing letters to 'persuade' MP's of all political parties to stop attacking education.

At present only a few FE colleges have Labour clubs. In Liverpool however, where students actively campaigned alongside local authority workers, Labour Clubs have been built and are seen as the leadership in campaigning for FE students.

FELS will provide the link we need with the labour and trade union movement. Through its campaigns, FELS will draw FE students toward socialist ideas and transform NUS into a fighting socialist union. Come to our conference on 10/11 November—and build the struggle (Details—back page).

By Louise James,  
FELS organising secretary.

## Join Newham seven picket

THE NEWHAM 7 campaign in East London has called a picket of the Duke of Edinburgh pub on Saturday, November 3. It was outside this pub that racists attacked Asian youths, following a series of attacks in the area, leading to the arrest of seven Asian youth after they defended themselves. Some of those arrested were defendants in the Newham 8 trial. While the racists arrested in the incident were let straight out on bail, the Asian lads were picked up over a number of days and were kept on an average of five

weeks in remand while police 'prepared a case'.

Like the Fitzwilliam 9 case, where Young Socialists and miners were arrested during a police riot in their village, the police picked out the Newham 7, as they are known locally as activists. The picket assembles at the pub on the corner of Green Street and Plashet Grove, E7 (nearest tube—Upton Park) at 11 am.

By Mark Avis  
(Newham NW LPYS)

## Bosses' Libyan links

THE SAYING goes that when you live in a glass house, you shouldn't throw stones. Not the Tories though. Their latest outburst of rank hypocrisy over the NUM visit to Libya must have broken every pane of glass in the building.

While the Tories huff and puff over the NUM, they should save breath to explain why:

- Compower, a subsidiary of the National Coal Board, has been training Libyan students on behalf of the Gaddafi government, with contracts worth £200,000.

- Compower also had contracts with the Libyan Airlines.

- British monthly exports trade with Libya is currently at £21.6 million, the second highest level this year.

The Tories have become fussy over democratic credentials all of a sudden. As Tony Benn asked in parliament on October 29: "Is it not odiously hypocritical for the Conservative Party to raise this matter when President Botha and almost every other reactionary dictator in the world have always been welcome at No. 10?"

And just look at two of the countries that the Tories went running to, to get more coal imports to try and break the miners strike; why, none other than South Africa and Poland.

## Miners' dispute

# Welsh miners to picket power

THE SOUTH Wales National Union of Mineworkers' special delegates' conference reaffirmed their determination to carry on with the strike until victory, despite the recent setback of the NACODS decision not to strike.

The conference, meeting in Pontypridd on 24 October, was united in its determination to carry the struggle through to a

higher level.

In particular the conference agreed that they would carry out picketing of the Trent Valley power stations, making a fraternal approach to their brothers in the power stations to give full solidarity support to the miners—in particular by blacking the use of scab coal.

The South Wales Area will approach the National NUM

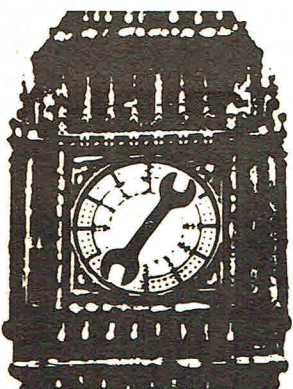
by agreement that South Wales will cover the Trent Valley power station area.

A move was made by one section of the South Wales Area to lift safety cover from the pits in South Wales, by picketing out members of NACODS and BACM, and then withdrawing NUM safety cover.

This however was defeated

by the conference on the grounds that withdrawal of safety cover was a move of last resort. It could do the job of the Tories for them if, as a result of withdrawing safety cover, pits were closed which might otherwise have remained open.

By Phil White  
(St Johns NUM delegate, personal capacity)



## Out of order

### Back to school

AFTER 12 weeks school holidays, parliament has returned to work. Only for another eight working days mind you, and then its half term! You get days off for the state opening of parliament. With all its pomp and ceremony, I wonder what it will look like to all the pensioners who later this month will get their housing benefits cut.

But you do learn things back at school. I learnt something about nationalisation the other day. The right wing of the labour movement are always sneering at *Militant* about its call for the nationalisation of the top 200 companies and finance houses. "It can't be done", the right wing cry, "it's impossible". Well someone ought to explain to the Bank of England how difficult it is.

Tory chancellor Nigel Lawson told us on October 23 that three weeks earlier the "Bank of England acquired the Johnson Matthey bank for the nominal sum of £1". Anyone prepared to lend Neil Kinnock £200?

By Dave Nellist MP

The following message was sent to *Militant* by Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton.

PLEASE CONVEY my congratulations for the 20th anniversary of the founding of the *Militant* newspaper.

The work of the paper and its supporters in voicing the demands of the working-class and arguing the case for Socialism is to be commended. The expansion of the *Militant*—one of the few growth areas under the Tories—is a reflection of the absolute rejection of Capitalist philosophy and practice, particularly by many youngsters whether in work on low wages and bad conditions, or unemployed.

Incidentally, the two *Militant* Labour MPs are amongst the very best in Parliament. We could do with a lot more like them.

## Coalville depot—fight victimisation

RAILWAY workers at the Coalville Freight Depot who have refused to move coal have faced a vicious and cowardly management campaign of threats, intimidation, harassment and lies.

Events culminated in a police raid upon the homes of seven railwaymen—5 NUR and 2 ASLEF—on the night of the 28 September while union representatives were at a meeting with local British Rail management.

Three men were charged with having stolen BR property and as well as police charges which are pending, at a disciplinary meeting on 11 October they were 'summarily dismissed'—sacked. Trouble started on the 4 April when three guards were sent home for refusing to move coal. The rest of the NUR members walked off the job in protest.

After being forced to walk out several more times a compromise deal in which only private open-cast coal would be moved was agreed.

This situation remained until the 7 June when, to quote the diary of events produced by Coalville railway-workers, "the Regional Operating Manager called a snap meeting. The LDC's were told to get back to normal work as from Monday 11 June...Both ASLEF and NUR had branch meetings at the weekend and both decided not to move any coal whatsoever".

In August the area manager was replaced by a seemingly even harder line individual. On 28 Sept he

Bill Esmond  
(Notts No. 2 NUR, personal capacity)

called in the union reps and announced a five-point closure programme for Coalville depot unless there was an immediate resumption of normal working.

Still both the NUR and ASLEF stood firm in the face of threats and continued to black all coal movements. The BRB in Lodon later denied all knowledge of the closure plans.

Meanwhile the area manager continued his campaign of leaning on individuals "who he considers vulnerable". Then came the police raids, designed for no other reason than to sap morale.

The 'Diary of Events' has been circulated widely and on Sunday 4 November NUR and ASLEF members are travelling from London and elsewhere to pressure the NUR and ASLEF leaders to organise national action against harassment and prevent isolation.

The railway workers at Coalville have displayed great courage and heroism, all the more remarkable in a coalfield where the vast majority of miners have refused to join the strike.

Details of National Broad Left for Railwayworkers Conference—page 13.

## Help Fitzwilliam defence campaign

ON JULY 9 over 100 riot police from all over West Yorkshire were let loose in Fitzwilliam. That night many local people were beaten by the police and two were hospitalised.

However, no action has been taken against these police. Instead nine local villagers were arrested and placed on curfew. Since then the Labour Party Young Socialists have been campaigning for a dropping of the charges and a lifting of the curfew.

Mass meetings have been held to draw the whole community behind the campaign with thousands signing petitions. The curfew has now been lifted. But this is only half the battle—the charges must be dropped.

With your help and assistance we can bring this about. On Monday 15 October over 200 attended a

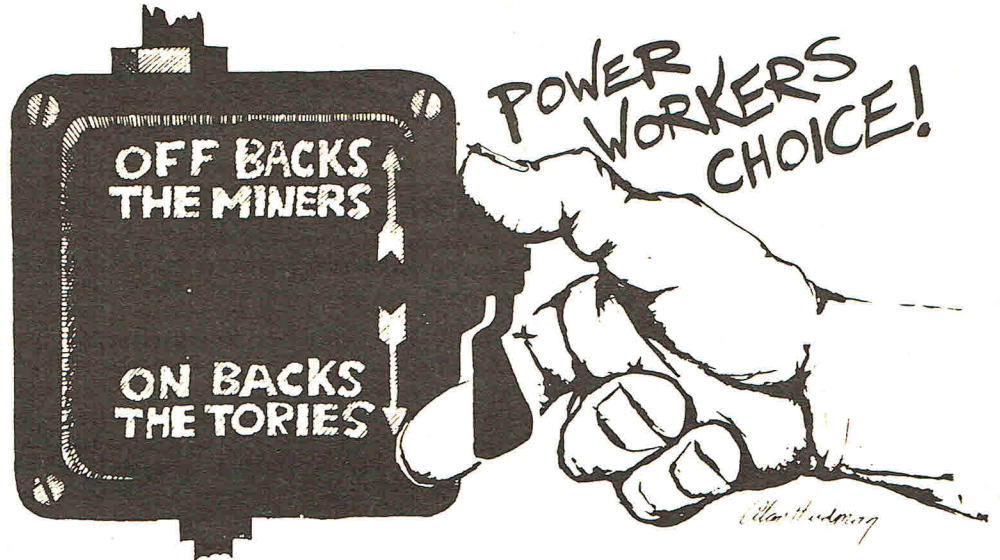
lobby of the court as the "9" entered their pleas.

The case goes to trial on Monday 3 December and the LPYS are asking for your support on the day (9.00 am Castleford Court) and financial support to help us lay on buses from Fitzwilliam to the court and to produce the thousands of leaflets and posters that are needed.

You can help give an example for other pit villages that have been turned on by the police and provide a clear message—such tactics will not work in the miners' dispute or another industrial dispute in the future.

Messages of support and donations should be sent to: 22 West Parade Street, Wakefield. Cheques/POs payable to "The Fitzwilliam 9".

By Adrian O'Mally  
(Wakefield Area LPYS)



## Women's conference

The North West Region Labour Women's Conference last weekend marks a step forward for both the women's organisation and for *Militant's* ideas.

*Militant* supporter Margaret Manning was elected to the regional women's committee and Margaret Creear, also a *Militant* supporter, to the national women's committee.

One of the most important areas of support for both came from trade union delegates. They, along with many others, have a growing impatience with the inadequacy of the former leaders and their incapacity to build the women's organisation, which led to a decline from over 150 delegates to just over 100 at this year's conference.

Although the agenda and conference were so badly



Militant supporter Margaret Creear—elected to Labour's national women's committee.

organised that several important resolutions such as low pay, local authority campaigns and the economy were not discussed, the conference supported a resolution calling for the repeal of repressive legislation, an end to strip searches and the creation of a party of Labour in Northern Ireland, and a resolution calling for a socialist housing policy.

However the highlight for many delegates was the

discussion of the miners' strike. Anne Scargill expressed the determination of the miners' wives to continue the struggle.

This was followed by an emergency resolution moved by Marie Harrison, Liverpool Women's Council and seconded by Christine Sullivan a miner's wife and delegate from Liverpool Broadgreen womens section. This called amongst other things for a 24 hour general strike in protest against the sequestration of funds and preparation for an all out general strike if troops were used to move coal.

It also called for the North West women's organisation to organise a rally with the miners' wives in Lancashire and to put out a recruitment leaflet for miners' wives to join the Labour Women's organisation.

This was carried almost unanimously and a collection of £200 was raised for the miners' strike.

by Militant reporter

## Bank manager jumps the gun

Striking Lancashire miners got a shock when they called into their bank in St Helens to draw money from their relief fund.

They were told that the manager had left instructions that no money could be taken out because of the sequestration order against the NUM.

The relief fund is money donated from Labour Parties, trade unions, and street collections—specifically for food—and nothing to do with the NUM funds.

Bold colliery miners immediately notified

the local television and radio stations, and started protesting about the action.

Early in the afternoon money was released when it was discovered that the bank manager was not acting on instructions from the court, but using his own "initiative".

Miners at Bold were outraged by the actions of the manager. One said: "It shows the lengths that the bosses will go to and how they stick together. But we will not be beat."

Alex Pandolfo spoke to Bold pickets

## S.Africa solidarity

The following message was sent to Arthur Scargill by Joe Foster, General Secretary of the Federation of South African Trade Unions.

The Federation of SA Trade Unions fully supports the NUM in its fight against pit closures. With the formation of a wider federation of South Africa's independent trade unions next year, we hope in future to be able to offer you more concrete support. The fight for the right

to work is particularly understood by South African workers and supported by our federation. We believe that your victory will be a major step forward in the worldwide workers' struggle for job security and for a rational society.

Amandla!  
(Article on SA workers—Page 10)

## Derby lies

FROM THE start of the strike Derbyshire miners have insisted that the Coal Board is lying through its teeth when giving figures for men working in the area.

Only last week the BBC were quoting figures of 1,050 men working in North Derbyshire. *Militant* supporters have received a copy of the figures that the NCB send to its own pit managers.

Using their figures the total only reaches 650 and this counts non-NUM men, and Bolsover colliery which is in Notts NUM.

But even if one accepts these figures are true, which they are not, it still leaves the board 400 short of the figure they give to the press.

By Willie Lane  
(Bolsover Labour Party)

## Miners' dispute



Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

Picket of Polish consulate in Glasgow, 24 October. Since the miners' strike 'socialist' Poland's coal exports to Britain have rocketed.

# Tories lie on stocks

SECRET INFORMATION leaked to *New Scientist* magazine (25 October) contradicts Tory claims that coal stocks at power stations are higher now than in August.

The document, leaked from the CEGB, shows that in the middle of October there were 13.4 million tonnes of coal at power stations in England and Wales.

This is 1 million tonnes less than the level at the beginning of September (as revealed by a previous leaked document to *New Scientist*).

The only way the government claims could be true is if all the in-

crease in stocks was in Scotland. There have been no reports of coal moving into power stations north of the border.

Press claims that now the NACODS strike is off there will be no power cuts this winter are false. The report in the *Guardian* (26 October), based on information supplied by stockbrokers Phillips and Drew, fails to take account of regional variations in coal stocks, which is the key question, analysed in last week's *Militant*.

The *New Scientist* prediction that stocks outside the Midlands will be exhausted by just after Christmas tallies

with *Militant's* analysis. Cold weather would bring this date forward.

To prevent power cuts the Tories will have to try to move coal into power stations in the North East, North West and Scotland in the next four to eight weeks.

A campaign urgently needs to be launched to persuade TGWU open cast miners, lorry-drivers and power station workers to defeat Thatcher's strike breaking plans.

By Pete Dickinson

# Railworkers stand firm

British Rail has recently been forced into an embarrassing U-turn in its attempts to move coal and oil in the Eastern region.

They backed away from confrontation when they realised the determination of both rail unions to defend their members who were being harassed and victimised in the Shirebrook and Workson areas.

Because certain scab train crews had been prepared to move coal, management thought they could exploit a possible weak spot.

In their campaign to move coal they have been prepared to turn a blind eye to national agreements and broken safety regulations.

They placed large posters in workplaces showing scab lorries entering power stations with the clear message—jobs would be lost to road haulage. They've even gone to the extent of chauffeuring workers around to witness these scenes.

Signalmen have been visited by local management in an attempt to pressure them to move coal trains.

Crews were not allowed to book on and a 'code 22' on their times sheets prevented them claiming tax rebates and other benefits.

In response to this intimidation a meeting of the rail union federation decided on strike action for the 9 October in Doncaster, Sheffield and Workson areas, and that this would be followed by other one-day stoppages in other areas.

## United stand

A well attended meeting took place on 5 October in Doncaster to discuss the stoppage, and for the first time NUR and ASLEF members met together.

It was then discovered that management had conceded on all the grievances earlier that day.

This example shows that united we need fear no-one. If Thatcher thinks she can make the railways next on her hit list, she'd better think twice.

By Peter Sowden (Doncaster NUR)



Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Rail solidarity—Manchester NUR guards strike for 24 hours in September over management refusal to allow a workplace collection for the miners.

## Families on strike



# Months of change

Mark Findell, one of the 'Dirty Thirty' Leicester strikers, and his wife Geraldine, spoke to Gary Freeman about the changes the strike has meant for them.

When did you first come out on strike?

Mark: May 7. I was on nights the first time the pickets came. I turned back. I was then on the club—I'd hurt my leg. I then worked for two weeks.

When I saw others from the pit I joined them. I knew I should be on strike but I needed some money to get married, and I wanted to see if any of the lads were on strike. Then I knew I wasn't alone.

Geraldine: I didn't speak to him for a week. He went to the pub—it was the weekend before we got married. He came back and said he was going on strike.

I was thinking of all the things like presents for the bridesmaids and bills that had to be paid. I thought his family had bullied him into it. (Three other strikers are Mark's relations).

I agree with him now. Now I know what the strike is about. Before, all I knew was what was on television. I wouldn't want him to go back now.

What do you think will happen when you get back?

Mark: I think there will be some hostility from certain parts but no trouble from the majority. They've set 18 men on at Bagworth and there's 18-20 men on strike there. There's nowt we can do at

the minute but I think our jobs will be safe because it will be one of the conditions for going back.

You've joined the LPYS Mark, why?

Mark: Before the strike I wasn't interested in politics. Now I've realised the lies and propaganda put out by the Tories, the capitalists. It makes you want to do something about it.

Geraldine: I think I'm more aware of what socialism is, why people should be more educated. It's about everyday life really. How people should have a say. It shouldn't just be run by people elected into parliament. How often do they see their constituents? I've never seen my local MP.

# 'Mum, are you going to a meeting?'

Anne and Phil Lamb spoke to Bill Hopwood. Anne is an active member of Hetton support group and she is at work most days in the kitchens at the Welfare. Phil is a striking miner.

Phil: Before the strike I went to the meetings of the union but I wasn't really active.

Anne: At first I thought the strike was a novelty but as it went on and Phil was away picketing, I got fed up. When the support group was started after 11 weeks I went along and before I knew it I got involved.

That caused problems, as we were both busy, about who looked after the kids and the house. We eventually sorted that out.

Phil: Now I spend time with them, it's a change now I can see the barns. Before the strike I seemed like a stranger as I was at work so much.

Anne: Now I get a bit jealous as the kids go for him. The big thing is that we are both more patient and it's not always "my way".

Phil: It's strange that it takes a strike to have time for your own kids but now we get on better as well. Before the strike I expected my tea on the table and then down the pub. Now we have time to talk and listen. It's much better.

Anne: We used to argue much more and when we went out to the club he sat with the lads, and the lasses were left in the corner. I don't know what we talked about then.

Phil: I thought once of taking my money, but then

what future is there. I go out picketing now. If I didn't I'd be sick as a dog. We used to get the *Sun* but we stopped that as it's a Tory paper. So we got the *Mirror* instead. We stopped it too because it's Tory, backing McGregor and all that.

Anne: Before the strike I just thought about shopping and the family. I used to laugh at him when he watched a news programme. All I used to read in the newspaper was the local news and the crossword—never read the politics.

But since then I've changed. Of course the worry gets to you sometimes but the support group helps. It must be hard for those who stay at home. Many people say "what can we do about things?" The miners' wives have shown that when we

organise we can do things.

Phil: I had an argument about whether the NUM should have paid the fine but if we did it would be like agreeing that we can't have a point of view.

Anne: We found out who our real friends are. Now it's more than friends—it's like comrades. I used to think politics was nowt to do with me, now I want to find out more. In all that the support groups do, we discuss politics.

I thought of voting SDP at the last election, but Phil said, 'vote Labour' and I'm glad now.

Before the strike the kids used to say: 'Mum, are you going to the bingo?' Now it's 'Mum, are you going to a meeting?'

## Around the country

The first ever meeting of the Labour Party Young Socialists in the mining village of EASINGTON in Co. Durham was held on Thursday 25th October. Vanessa Lorraine from Stockton Labour party explained how the YS had raised over £5,000 for Easington Lodge. (Reports by Mike Lutz)

NEWCASTLE Polytechnic students overwhelmingly overturned a Tory motion condemning the miners' strike. An amendment backing the miners, moved by Labour Club members, was passed. A mass meeting to support the miners is planned. (Stuart Hetherington reports)

Labour Party members in Woodhouse and Eldea Lane, BISHOP AUCKLAND have raised over £2,000 for the miners, with help from other activists. Market stalls, concerts and street collections have all contributed. (G Hodgson reports)

CHILEAN trade unionists living and working around Sheffield recently organised a social evening in support of the miners, with music from 'America Movena'. John Barrows, North Derbyshire NUM, Jaqueline Bach of Eckington Women's Action Group, and Hector Ormeno, local general secretary of the Chilean TUC addressed the gathering. (Gary Doman reports)

The October meeting of the BRISTOL TUC carried a motion, repeating 'the contempt of court' allegedly made by the President of the NUM. It also agreed to call an emergency meeting of all trade union and labour activists within three days of any arrests or sequestration of NUM assets, to build solidarity action. (Bryan Beckingham reports.) Bristol Miners support Group have now raised £80,000 and an equivalent sum in food.

# Tory 'law and order'

**A YEAR ago I was convicted of a minor offence. In the courts, even though I told them I was unemployed and already in financial difficulties, I was fined.**

After a year and four more court appearances for irregular and non-payment of fines, I was sent to Liverpool's Walton Prison. I was placed on B-wing, made up of young offenders for crimes ranging from fines to murder.

## Futile

During my 14 day stay I saw how futile the prison system is, in trying to rehabilitate offenders. To be locked up in a cell 23 hours a day in filthy conditions with only one bucket each to

**By Paul O'Donnell**  
(Liverpool Riverside South LPYS)

use as a toilet, along with being treated like an imbecile, does not change people, it only makes you more bitter and angry.

One prisoner told me he burgled a shop so he could take his girlfriend out. He had been depressed and humiliated that his girlfriend had to pay for them both when they went out—she was working, he was unemployed.

The lesson I learnt was that, like life outside, if you're rich and have contacts, life's that much easier.

## Class system

On arriving at the prison I started conversation with a man I knew, who was convicted of smuggling and dealing in hard drugs. He told me it was his first stretch inside even though he'd been dealing in drugs for ten years. I asked him if he regretted dealing in other people's misery. His reply was predictable. He'd made thousands in the drugs business and on his release he had a stable business and

money waiting for him. His time in prison would be easier as he knew the bent screws and influential cons who could give him anything from money to drugs.

As far as I'm concerned, the system is undoubtedly corrupt, and a waste of time, from the magistrates who live in their little dream-worlds to the way the prisons are run.

There will be no 'justice' while magistrates and judges and other positions in the state are made up of aging business men with little experience of real life, of the reality of unemployment and poverty faced by the working class.

## Youth unemployment - a powder keg

**LONDON WAS** nearly swept by a wave of rioting this summer. Metropolitan police commissioner Sir Kenneth Newman told the *Guardian* (October 17): "During the summer this year there were many mini-riots which had the potential to escalate to Brixton 1981 proportions."

Newman though, was not illustrating the simmering anger of unemployed youth, but praising London's new 500 strong riot squad.

## Conditions

As the situation in London shows the conditions

which caused the widespread riots of 1981 have not gone away—they have only got worse.

The Tories 'answer' to the riots of 1981 were twofold. Firstly they beefed up government training schemes, to try and soak up some of the unemployed youth. There are now a staggering 670,000 people on so-called training schemes, such as YTS, Community Enterprise etc.

But the Tories knew young workers would see these schemes for what they were—temporary breaks from the monotony of the dole with little chance of a

job at the end, at the same time providing industry with a pool of cheap labour.

## Police powers

The Tories also knew unemployment itself would get worse. This August another 90,000 school leavers joined the dole. Officially there are now 3,284,000 unemployed (an underestimate). Yet in Job Centres nationally there are only 170,000 vacancies.

Knowing they could not provide any real solution, the Tories have increased police powers to deal with the end result of their

policies.

Marxists, while understanding this frustration and anger, do not condone mindless rioting or looting. But the increasing of police powers must be opposed. As can be seen from the miners strike, the Tories restructuring of the police force has nothing to do with combating 'lawlessness'. It is part of their attack on the organisations of the labour movement which stand in the path of the Tories' aim to drive down wages and conditions, to make the workers pay for the economic disaster of capitalism.



The riots in Brixton, 1981.

Photo: Militant.

## Campaigning record of Scots YS

**By Andy Clachers**

(LPYS National Committee member for Scotland)

"THE LABOUR Party's done nothing—they've gave, but nothing compared to the YS. The YS have been out every weekend collecting money. As far as I am concerned the YS has done the best out of the two."

Those were the comments of Hector Mitchell, a 52 year old miner from Bilston Glen colliery. His sentiments would be echoed by many miners throughout the Scottish coalfield.

But the YS is now attacked by some on the Scottish Executive Committee of the Labour Party (see last week's issue). Yet taking into account our meagre resources we have outstripped every other section of the labour movement in supporting the miners.

In the West of Scotland the YS branches have held around 30 public meetings on the miners. Close links

have been made with some of the Ayrshire strike centres which are visited regularly to hand in donations. Indeed thousands of pounds have now been collected. The YS was involved in the collections at Hamden park which were initiated by ex-Scottish YS Chairman, Councillor Frank White. At two games more than £2,000 was collected.

## Steelworkers

The YS was one of the first organisations to do any campaigning amongst the steel workers at Ravenscraig. In the early weeks of the dispute a demonstration was organised through the streets of Motherwell.

Further activity is planned within the West of Scotland, including a major concert to take place in Glasgow.

In the East of Scotland, over forty YS public meetings have now been held, and again thousands of pounds have been collected on the streets.

In Dundee the YS have now held five public meetings with average attendances of between 60-70. The most successful was in September when 120 heard Terry Fields MP.

In Fife the YS has close links with many NUM strike centres and joint meetings have been held. Over 120 attended one such meeting in Kincardine. Other meetings have been held in Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and Lumphinans where around 70 people attended.

In the Lothians, YS branches organised 25 public meetings; compare that to the public activity of the senior section of the party. In Edinburgh the YS has seen its biggest meetings ever—one of a 100 organised at a week's notice, and the most successful attracting 180.

For all of these meetings we have visited 100-150 factories.

We will continue to support the miners and to work with just as much determination until the end of this dispute. Any organisational attacks on the LPYS in Scotland will not just be resisted by the best activists within the Labour Party, but also by miners from every pit in Scotland.



Build a mass LPYS. The Young Socialists demonstrate in support of the South Wales NUM after they were fined in the summer. Photo: Militant.

## Autumn recruitment drive

**The national LPYS Autumn recruitment campaign is well under way. Nationally an organisational circular outlining a model branch activities agenda has been sent out, and leaflets and posters**

are available.

**In two weeks a new LPYS activists card will be out. It will be in a plastic red cover and have forms in which to record Socialist Youth sales and donations to the campaign fund. All**

**regions are now involved in the build up to their events around November 24, when a series of LPYS recruitment rallies will be held as part of the LPYS national autumn recruitment campaign:**

The London LPYS are planning to hold ten borough rallies with campaign work around the FE colleges and football matches. On December 11 there will be a major debate with the Tories and Liberals, which Channel 4 have been invited to film.

The South West region is concentrating its work on the FE colleges. At their November 24 rally they will have the play, the 'Trial of Thatcher', show the film *Threads*, and have local bands performing.

West Midlands: the Coventry LPYS held a successful march recently attended by 200 young people, in support of the Coventry Youth Charter.

Wales: Dave Nellist MP recently did a tour of LPYS branches and Tech Labour Clubs. LPYS members in the techs are pushing for FE colleges to adopt pits so that links can be built between FE students and striking miners.

Eastern: on November 25 (just to be different!) the Eastern region LPYS are organising a Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign rally with local AUEW support.

North West: in Manchester the emphasis is localised LPYS rallies. Branches have been campaigning outside Job Centres with cardboard cut-outs of Thatcher.

Gateshead East LPYS has organised a meeting outside Gateshead Tec, in which a striking miner will debate with Mr Ian MacGregor (or is it Cllr Ian Merns?). Stockton LPYS hold a regular stall to raise funds for the NUM, raising £4,300 so far. Newcastle LPYS branches are holding regular public meetings every month, and in Sunderland, besides organising a 5-a-side league, they have organised debates with an Army Recruitment Officer, a headmaster, the local council leader and Bob Clay MP.

**By John Hird**  
(LPYS National Chairman)

## Rhondda witch-hunt dropped

Rhondda LPYS recently defeated an attempt by CLP officers to close their branch down. It is in effect, an admission that the right wing have failed with their witch-hunt, started by the expulsion of ex-LPYS chairman Brychan Davies.

The CLP did unfortunately resolve to 'oversee' the LPYS activity for the next 3 months. YS members immediately responded by launching a recruitment drive. They have set themselves a target to build a YS branch in every village in the valley. There is already enough active YS members in Treorchy and Upper Rhondda to set up a branch and the membership in Porth and Tonypany continues to grow.

**Gordon Evans**  
(Rhondda LPYS)

# Northern Ireland—the socialist solution

**THE PAST 15 years of the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland have shown the impossibility of the British ruling class solving the situation, and at the same time the futility of the campaign of individual terrorism by the Provisional IRA and other sectarian para-militaries to force a withdrawal.**

The blame for the situation in Northern Ireland lies at the feet of British Imperialism, which created the monster of sectarianism, to divide Catholic and Protestant workers while the British ruling class carried out economic exploitation. It created the artificial sectarian statelet of Northern Ireland to continue its hold.

But with the decline of British capitalism in the post-war period, Northern Ireland has become a massive burden for the ruling class—today it costs £2 billion a year to maintain, in financing the security forces, government subsidies and social services.

## Burden

They would like to dump Northern Ireland—yet cannot extract themselves without dire consequences for the capitalist classes of Britain and Southern Ireland.

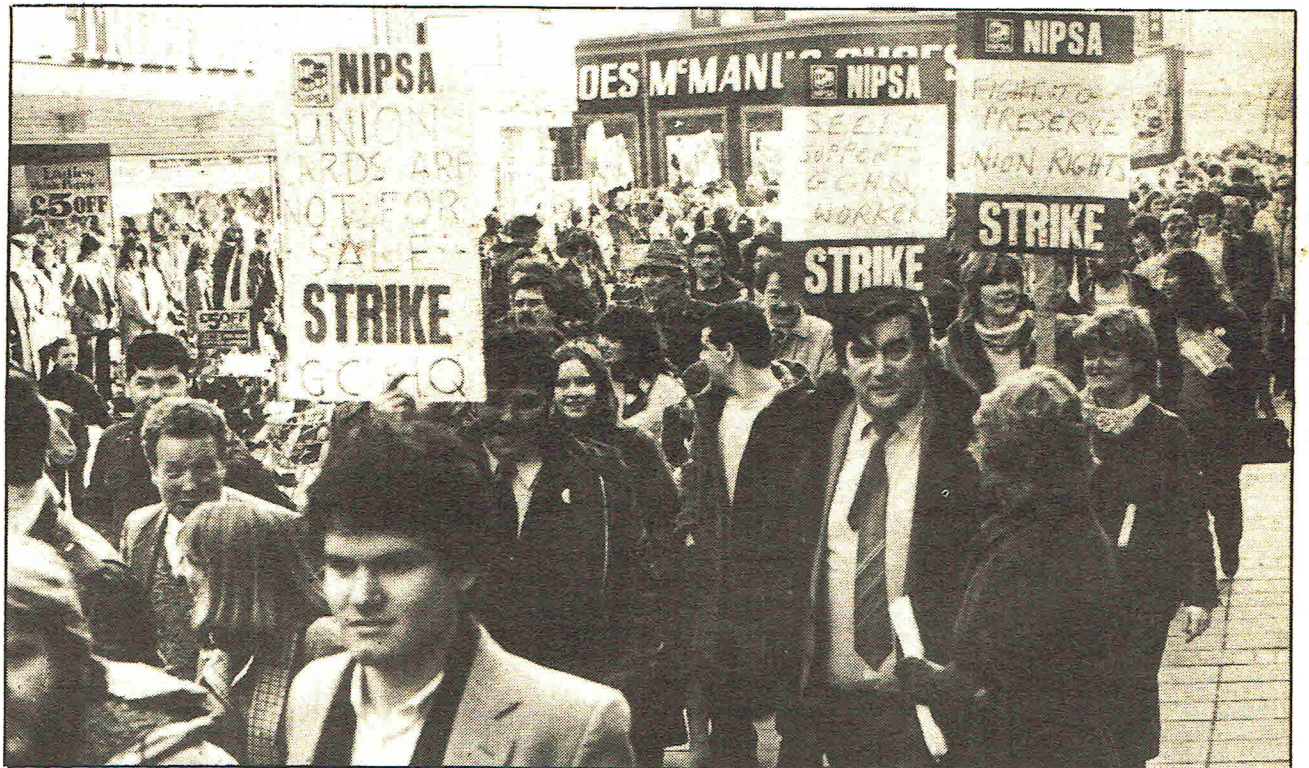
On a capitalist basis, the result would be a volatile, sectarian conflict plunging

Ireland into chaos, which could spill over into the industrial areas of Britain (and even the USA and Australia). British troops were sent into Northern Ireland in 1969 to stave off such a threat.

Indeed the British ruling class have openly stated that their only realisable aim is to achieve "an acceptable level of violence."

The only solution to Northern Ireland is the struggle for socialism by a united working class, which alone has the power to force British capitalism to withdraw.

Yet the tactics of the Provisional IRA has only furthered the divide between Catholic and Protestant workers. Not only have the methods of individual terrorism alienated whole sections of the working class, but the nationalist policies of the Provos and Sinn Fein—to unite Ireland on a capitalist basis—means they have in effect dismissed the possibility of working class unity.



Members of NIPSA, the Northern Ireland Public Services Alliance, demonstrate in support of trade union rights for GCHQ workers earlier this year. Unity is being built in Northern Ireland around class issues. Photo: Newsletter (II)

Their nationalist policies will never win over the Protestant workers, who see no advantage in swapping the miseries of British capitalism for the miseries of the crisis-ridden capitalist system of Southern Ireland, in which their problems would be compounded as they became the embattled minority.

## Nationalism

Leading Sinn Fein member Gerry Adams as much as admitted this when he told the Irish magazine

*Magill* in September 1983 that: "I don't think it is possible to win unionist consent to break the British connection." But the Provos cannot bomb the Protestant workers into submission, as the past 15 years have shown—rather such tactics have had an opposite effect.

Indeed, the Provos have been unable to convince large sections of the Catholic community of the 'benefits' of a capitalist united Ireland.

Similarly, the tactics of terrorism have alienated the British labour movement,

whose support will be essential to achieve a solution to Northern Ireland.

While standing implacably opposed to the methods of individual terrorism, and sectarianism, *Militant* has always stood for the withdrawal of British capitalism. But it is only the strength of a united working class that can bring this about.

Northern Ireland workers, already one of the most deprived sectors of society, have been particularly hit by the monetarist policies of the Tories. A staggering 200,000 are out of work and the slum housing is recognised as the worst in Europe. The miseries inflicted by capitalism in crisis know no sectarian boundaries.

## Class issues

But this common misery has led to common struggle. Despite 15 years of sectarian bloodshed, not one major strike has been broken by sectarianism. The Northern Ireland workers have shown an increasing preparedness to unite and fight, typified by the health workers struggle in 1982, or the half day general strike in 1980.

*Militant* supporters in Northern Ireland have been active in supporting and building this class unity, calling for the formation of a Northern Ireland party of Labour, based on the trade union movement.

The main role of this party would be to extend this industrial unity of the working class on to the political plane, unifying the working class around class issues and socialist policies. From this independent class standpoint, by linking up with the labour movement in the South, and with support from the labour movement in Britain, it could end the rule of the British ruling class in the North, along with the bankrupt capitalist system of the Green Tories in the South, and go forward to a Socialist United Ireland. The question of socialism is not an abstract or secondary issue to the problems of Northern Ireland, but a vital, concrete solution.

By Bob Wade

Get *Militant Irish Monthly* Available from 75 Middle Abbey Street, Dublin 1 Price 20p (6 issues £3)

## Ban Brock's deadly bullets

**"FOR CIVIL disturbance, the baton round—successor to the rubber bullet—is part of the Brock's range." So reads the glossy brochure to the military market from Brocks Fireworks Ltd. It sounds as though they are soft-selling Catherine Wheels, not the deadly plastic bullet.**

The plastic bullet, and its predecessor the rubber bullet, have claimed 15 lives in Northern Ireland, seven of them children. Of the twelve killed by plastic bullets, inquests found six of them totally innocent of involvement in rioting. The allegations of 'rioting' on the remainder are dubious, as was shown in the killing of John Downes at the Sinn Fein rally in August, witnessed by millions on television. Even so, rioting does not carry the death penalty.

## Injuries

Plastic bullets have also caused numerous permanent injuries, from blindness to brain damage. In May and June of 1981 alone, 110 people were treated for injuries caused by plastic bullets.

*Militant* has always warned that the ruling class were using Northern Ireland as a training ground to perfect methods of repression for future use against the labour movement. Now 15 British police forces have plastic bullets, 20,000 in all, half of which are stocked in London.

A dangerous development has been last week's decision by the European Commis-

sion that plastic bullets did not infringe human rights.

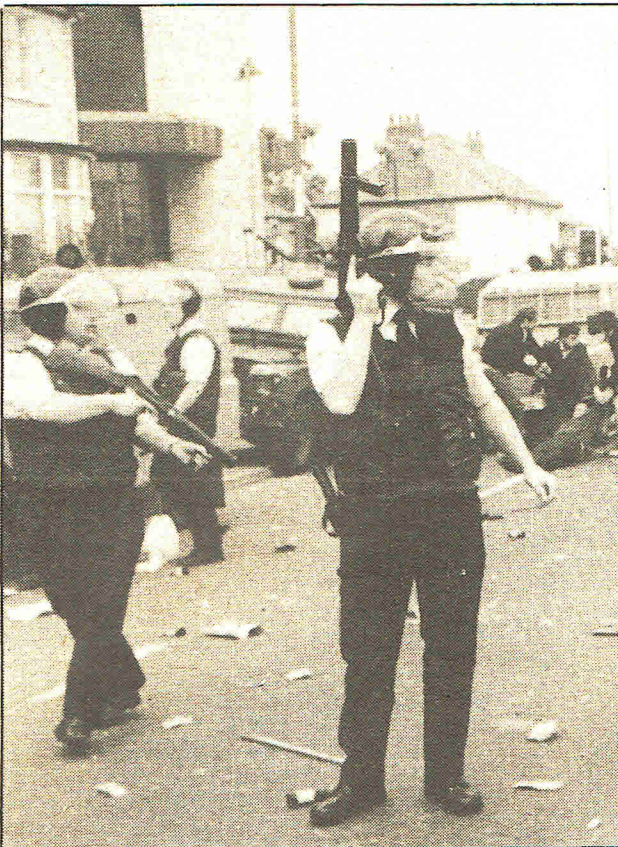
As the general secretary of the National Council for Civil Liberties, Larry Gostin, put it: "The danger... is that chief constables will think it is the human rights stamp of approval and will be inherently more likely to try to use them."

Indeed following the European court's decision, the Police Federation called for every police force to be issued with plastic bullets (*Guardian*, 24 October). The Police Federation spokesman glibly added: "We think we are many years away from ever needing them..."

But whether used today or tomorrow, this statement admits that the strategists for the ruling class are planning to use them at some stage. As the crisis deepens and the Tories become more desperate to push through their policies of driving down living standards, there is a danger that plastic bullets will be used to break up mobilisations of the labour movement, such as mass pickets.

The labour movement recognises this threat and is angered by the use of plastic bullets in Northern Ireland. The Labour Party has twice voted to ban this weapon, a demand that should be taken up by the whole movement. But we must also call for the nationalisation under workers control of firms such as Brocks to guarantee this is done, by taking the arms industry out of the hands of the capitalist class.

This call will get increasing support from armaments workers themselves. The



The RUC open up with plastic bullets at the Sinn Fein rally in August at which John Downes was killed. Photo: Derek Speirs (FL)

Royal Ordnance Factories (although state owned under the Ministry of Defence) are a case in point.

## Control

ROF have just developed an automatic riot gun that can shoot plastic bullets in rapid fire. At the same time 2,000 ROF workers are threatened with redundancy, with many more facing a threat to their jobs from Tory plans for privatisation.

Under workers control this weapon could be scrapped—which is in the in-

terests of the wider labour movement—and with a planned economy the resources of ROF turned to socially useful products (rescue and life saving equipment, tractors for the third world etc) which in turn would save the jobs of ROF workers.

Capitalism spends millions in perfecting methods of suppression, and makes massive profits from killing and maiming. These massive and much needed resources must be turned to the betterment of society.

## Tories increase powers

**MILITANT POINTED out that the bomb attack at Tory party conference in Brighton would lead to increased repression by the capitalist state (issue 721).**

Marxists oppose the methods of individual terrorism, not only because they alienate the working class, but that in the atmosphere of repulsion that follows such an incident, the ruling class can push through further measures of repression, that are not only used against the terrorists, but are kept in the ruling class' arsenal for use against the labour movement.

After the Birmingham pub bombings in 1974 the then right wing Labour government passed the Prevention of Terrorism Act. Far from being used

to 'defeat terrorism', this has been used against the labour movement. In Liverpool alone over a thousand people have been held under PTA, many of them trade unionists and labour activists.

## TIGER

In the aftermath of the Brighton bombing, the Tories have set up the Terrorist Intelligence Gathering Evaluation and Review body (TIGER). There can be no doubt that while TIGER may initially be used against the activities of the Provisional IRA, its 'intelligence gathering' capabilities, like the PTA, will increasingly be turned towards harassing the Tories' main 'enemies' the labour movement.

## How London Bridge was formed

ON 5 March representatives from unions in eight local authorities agreed, in Hackney Town Hall, "to fight and establish a joint committee embracing all unions organising local authority workers who are facing attack through government policies such as cuts in grant, rate-capping, increasing the costs of social services and attempts to remove democratically elected authorities. This committee will seek to mobilise workers to resist such policies..."

During the following months a total of over 100 stewards attended further meetings at which the policy and organisation of the proposed joint committee was discussed.

In September, after seven meetings it was agreed to name the committee "London Bridge", form a steering committee of two representatives from the joint shop stewards' committees of each of the participating authorities, and a policy was adopted (see resolution below).

## A fighting policy

The following resolution was endorsed unanimously by the London Bridge shop stewards' conference, 17 October.

In response to rate-capping, our policy is:

- ★ No cuts in jobs or services.
- ★ The defence of local democracy.
- ★ Non compliance with any agency seeking to implement rate-capping.
- ★ Full support to councils committed to fighting rate-capping.

★ We pledge ourselves to fight against all cuts in jobs and services, and if any councillor, council, council officer, or any other agency attempts to carry out the government policy of cuts in local government services, we call for:

1. Total non co-operation.
  2. All-out strike action, sit-ins, and occupations.
  3. Solidarity action with any borough which is attacked in isolation.
  4. The immediate approval of these measures from the official structure of the trade union movement.
- We call on all rate-capped Labour councils to join with the trade unions by carrying out the following policy:
1. Not to make cuts in jobs and services, and not to comply with the rate-capping legislation.
  2. To prepare a budget based on the needs of the ordinary people of the borough, in order to highlight the difference between real need and the government's attack on local communities.
  3. Not to set a rate or raise the rates.
  4. Not to raise council house rents.

While we recognise the present shortcomings of council services which have been starved of finance by central government, we call for maximum unity among all the organisations of ordinary working people, including trade unions, community groups, councils, and tenants associations, to unite around this programme in defence of jobs, the communities of London, and the improvement of services.

## Councillors support union action

John Bloom (right) chair of Housing, Hackney Council, SOGAT '82, pictured taking Hackney's housing budget to the DoE.



"LOCAL AUTHORITY trade unions are the key to winning the struggle to maintain jobs and services. I see this independently organised one day strike as a tremendous step forward."

"However, this is just the first step in the campaign against rate capping. There is a long way to go, with much more struggle in front of us."

"We need 100% solidarity between the workforce, councils, and tenants if we are to defeat the anti-working class Tory policies."

"I am committed to going the whole way through with the

struggle to maintain jobs and services whether it means personal bankruptcy through surcharge, imprisonment or whatever."

"I welcome the initiative of London Borough shop stewards in calling the November 7 strike."

"We no longer have to look back to the struggles of 1926 for our inspiration—the miners are providing it now. In local government we no longer have to look back to the stand of Poplar when they took on the Tories—and won, we now have the example of Liverpool's victory over the Tories this year."

"Trade union unity is a must if we have any chance of fighting to win. That is why I urge all trade unionists in Southwark Council to get together to fight the Tory government—so that the waverers on the Labour group cannot use the unions as an excuse not to fight."



John Bryan, Southwark councillor, UCATT.

# London council workers unite

The London Bridge conference represented what platform speaker Tommy Douras (Hackney Council and TGWU General Executive Council) called "the end of the beginning" of London local authority workers' fightback.

London Bridge overwhelmingly recognises the need to do what Jim Fitzpatrick (Democracy for London secretary and FBU) called: "fight with our natural ally the Labour Party and give the councillors backbone". But at the same time he emphasised that London stewards are fully prepared to go it alone if Labour councillors buckle to eventual Tory threats of surcharge and disqualification from office, and propose cuts or look for individual deals with the government.

Ken Livingstone of the GLC and the Lambeth leader Ted Knight said they were against cuts and for a united fight against the government. They were received sympathetically but speakers from the platform and floor often stressed that pressure must be kept on councillors and the Labour Party as a whole.

Ted Knight made the important point that Labour authorities were not fighting against rate-capping because they wanted the freedom to raise rates, but to demand the return of the rate support grant stolen by the Tories.

This point, made strongly by Derek Hatton, Deputy Leader of Liverpool City Council at Labour Party conference, must become prominent in councils' publicity because by adopting the "not setting a rate" option councils are open to accusation by the Tories of wanting to introduce even further rate increases, which inevitably mean a cut in working class living standards.

A speaker from Liverpool NALGO explained in detail how the council and unions had organised themselves and achieved their victory over the Tories. This was

THE LARGEST and most representative London local authority shop stewards' meeting since at least the 1978/79 'winter of discontent' took place on Wednesday 17 October under the name 'London Bridge'. Over 300 stewards, mainly from unions in the rate-capped boroughs, GLC and ILEA discussed the policy and tactics on which to base an all-out fight against the massive Tory attacks on local authority democracy, jobs and services and called for full support from London Borough trade unionists for a one-day strike on 7 November. This mobilising conference marks a tremendous step forward for London local authority trade union organisation.



17 October London Bridge conference platform

useful to the conference—all the more so since the speaker described how the thorny problem of achieving unity between the office and manual worker unions was approached.

Jenny Webber (NUPE national executive) raised important to achieve unity on the ground and London-wide which could scare off the Tories.

Speakers from the floor

### "Fight with our natural ally the Labour Party and give the councillors backbone."

It was the breadth and depth of Liverpool's campaign, based on the council trade unions, that ensured victory over the Tories last time and must be emulated by London councils now. It also helped that Liverpool council kept a very firm hand on senior officers, whereas in London many trade unionists feel that councils allow them plenty of scope for mischief.

and platform stressed the urgency with which meetings must be held with all council workers to explain the effects of rate-capping and get them involved in the fight to maintain jobs and services.

London Bridge has endorsed the Democracy for London call for a one-day strike on 7 November as the start of an on-going campaign including all forms of action necessary to defend

jobs and services. The 7 November strike must serve as a warning shot to the Tories.

The Tory attacks on local government have roused a London local authorities stewards' movement determined not to allow any cuts in jobs or services. Tens of thousands of council workers are uncertain about their future and have been drawn into an all-out confrontation to hold their jobs. It is only the beginning of a hard struggle, but the shop stewards' conference was an excellent start to a new phase.

By Dave Buxton (UCATT) and Nigel Bloch (NUPE)

(Hackney Joint Shop Stewards Committee, both in personal capacities)

## Tory attack requires socialist response

THE TORIES claim their sole motive in introducing rate-capping is to protect the ratepayer. This is nonsense.

Tory Councils have increased their spending since 1979, but they are not being rate-capped:

★ Buckinghamshire rates up 110% since 1979—not rate-capped.

★ Northamptonshire rates up 101% since 1979—not rate capped.

★ Labour boroughs such as Haringey—rates up 88% since 1979—are being rate capped.

A recent report from the Statistical Section of the House of Commons and two firms of Chartered Surveyors pointed out that even business ratepayers, of whom the government is always talking, are often better off in Labour areas than Conservative.

For example, a business in the City of London pays double the rates of Islington and whilst Islington has raised its spending by 120% since 1979, the City of London has increased its by 300%. Yet it is Islington which is being rate-

capped. Whilst socialists cannot support a policy of rate rises to offset Tory cuts, pursued by some Labour councils, that is not the cause of the Tory legislation as the above figures shows. The reason is clear. It is political.

The Tories do not like what Labour Councils are spending their money on. Their attack on local authorities is part of a co-ordinated strategy to destroy any opposition. They want to make a world safe for the privateer and big business to flourish. Trade unions must be crushed. Democratic rights whittled away. Local authorities deprived of any independence, turned into arms of central government carrying out their diktat.

Any organisation which is able to resist the government is a target. That is why they wish to abolish the GLC and the largely Labour Metropolitan Counties. That is why they wish to prevent local people deciding what they want their Council to do.

The current rate-capping proposals are one step in their strategy.

Tucked away in the 1984 Rates Act

are reserve powers whereby all councils can have their spending and rates levels fixed by the Minister unless they are specifically exempted. These powers can be brought into effect at any time; all it will take is a special order placed before Parliament.

The Tories call for ballots, but change the rules if the result is not to their liking. The only way working people got the vote and reforms in welfare was by fighting for them. And that's what we've got to do now, if we are to save all the rights we've won.

But that means we cannot limit our fight. It is a political struggle. Beginning as a justified, defensive battle to save jobs and services, it must be widened as part of a campaign to end this government's attack on the working class and replace it with one committed to socialist policies in the interests of ordinary people.

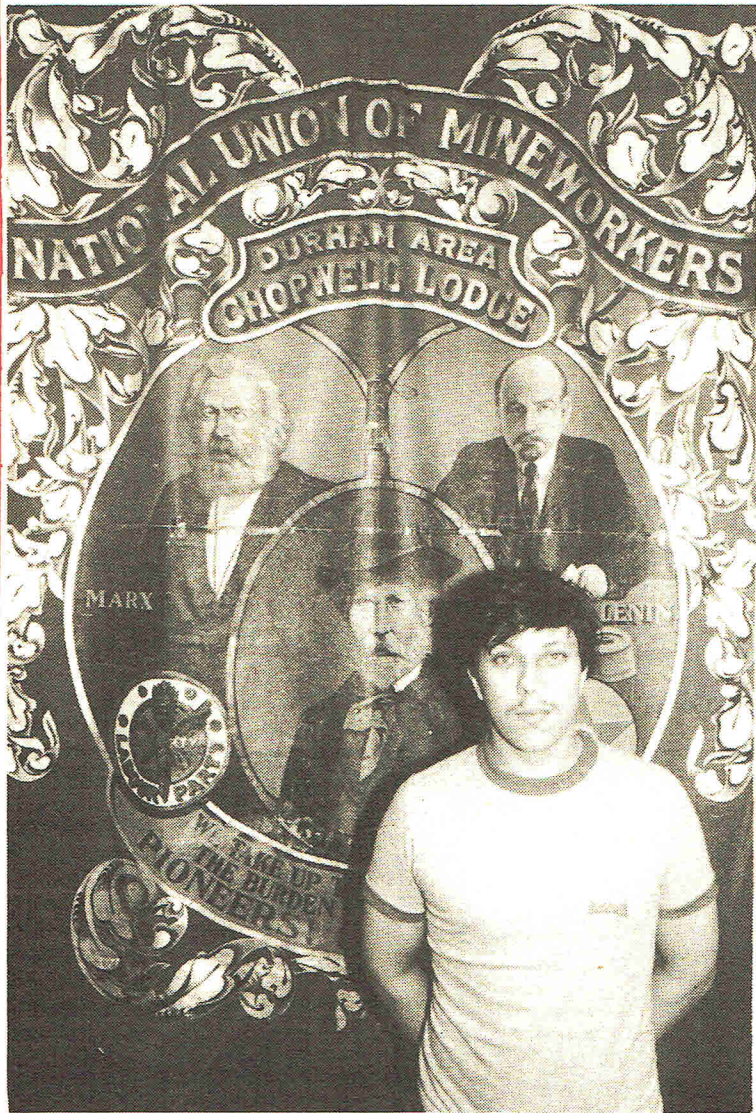
By Jim Chrystie

(Hackney North CLP Executive, personal capacity)

# Wearmouth miners

# 'We'll win the strike and fight

The eight month strike has had profound effects on miners. Their attitudes towards the police, the courts, the press, their union and politics will never be the same again. These changes are revealed in the words of the miners themselves, in this picture of just one lodge, at Wearmouth colliery, near Sunderland, compiled by BOB STOTHARD, of the TGWU Branch 8/401.



Alan Mardghum, Wearmouth lodge financial Secretary stands in front of the old Chopwell lodge banner showing Marx, Lenin and Hardie. Photo: Militant.

THE MINERS' strikes of 1972 and 1974 jolted into action most of the current lodge officers both in terms of the union and the Labour Party.

Up to 1974 and for a short time afterwards the lodge was regarded as typical of the Durham Area—quiet and 'moderate'. Lodge policies were considered 'apolitical' but the fall of the Heath government had forcibly demonstrated the great power of just one section of the working class to the new, younger members who attended lodge meetings held in those days on a Thursday night in the pit canteen.

Dave Hopper, secretary of Wearmouth since 1981, remembers: "We used to get Labour Party reports but we were not permitted to discuss them! The new activists fought to improve the situation and soon delegates to the local Labour Parties were taking lodge resolutions there which had been debated, and reported back. In addition, we supported the fight by the left locally and nationally to make the party a more democratic and campaigning organisation."

### Progress and change

"As positions at the lodge became vacant, members standing on a clear and coherent trade union and socialist programme were elected. In the union and the party we stood for progress and change. We knew that the battle inside the party—with a Labour government in power under Wilson then Callaghan—for a swing to the left, had to be won if there was to be any hope for the working class. The lodge record on the 35-hour week, reselection of MPs, a minimum wage, early retirement, work sharing, etc is there for all to see. We were also highly critical of the IMF intervention in 1976, the Lib-Lab pact and all the other appeasement policies of that right-wing Labour government."

Lodge delegates also played a prominent part in the Sunderland North CLP Broad Left which successfully mobilised support for left-winger Bob Clay who has, since his election as MP at the last general election, eclipsed Sunderland's other Labour MP, right-winger Gordon Bagier.

In addition to their Labour Party involvement, the advanced workers in the lodge combined with others in the Durham Area NUM to work for three main aims:

1. To secure the election of Arthur Scargill to the NUM Presidency on the retirement of Joe (now Lord) Gormley.
2. To replace the Durham Area NEC member with a left-winger.
3. To campaign throughout the 'moderate' Durham Area for progress and change.

All three goals have been achieved during this period of agitation. Lodge activists energetically encouraged better attendance at the lodge as well as Labour Party membership and activity in the wards. In particular, the lodge is anxious to step-up and maintain its progressive influence in Sunderland South CLP whose Labour MP, Gordon Bagier, has kept what can only be described as a low profile during the miners' current strike.

### Open meetings

Lodge meetings were moved from Thursday nights to Sunday mornings which enabled a better attendance from members. Latterly, during the strike, meetings have moved again to Friday mornings in the new Sunderland North Labour Club to save members having to travel at personal expense. Attendance is up to 150 men. Prior to the full meeting the Lodge Committee meets to consider business and recommend voting if necessary. The full meetings are completely frank and open.

"In any organisation" says Dave Hopper "you must keep the flow of information to and from the members. If you trust them—they'll trust you: no secrecy or withholding of information: no manoeuvring: just explain the issues in an honest and plain man-



Stan Pearce, Wearmouth Lodge delegate

ner and you'll get the backing you want.

"Of course, in the past we've made mistakes but we are always prepared to learn new lessons and after this strike is won we'll be trying to make the meetings more attractive—we have no intention of allowing the interest in the union to die away in the manner of post-1974".

### Preparing to resist

The inevitability of today's dispute came as no surprise to Alan Mardghum, Financial Secretary:

"Thatcher's election and subsequent re-election on rabidly anti-working class policies meant trouble. The butchery of the steel industry, the 'Red Robbo'/Edwardes business at BL and the appointment of MacGregor to the head of the NCB were signals of intent. The only way in which British capitalism can hope to survive is by murdering the social wage—closing schools, hospitals, etc. But to do this means the necessary smashing of workers' organisations for defence of their living standards.

### Scotland

"By taking us—the NUM—on, the Tories hope to achieve this aim. But whilst they've been planning how to beat us—we've been preparing to resist their scheme."

Some miners who have been active in Scotland and have discussed with their Scottish brothers note that consultation is not as free or continuous as Wearmouth.

Stan Pearce, lodge delegate to Durham Area Council, explains: "Scotland is under the influence of the Communist Party and, as an Area is well-organised, perhaps better than most—the CP likes to play its cards close to its chest. Its prime intention will be to keep leading positions in the Scottish NUM for its own members or

# Marxism will grow

I'VE BEEN in the pit for seven years and in the lodge or the Labour Party for most of that time. There is no point trying to divorce your union from your political work. If we gain a success in this strike and don't then try to consolidate the victory with political measures, we'd be back in exactly the same situation in four, five or six years time. The campaigning of the left in the union must involve everybody, or it will degenerate into a mere election machine for the left and end up like the AUEW or EETPU.

Of course, we'd first have to return a Labour government seriously committed to socialist measures. We would also ensure that no representative of workers' organisations become or remain as JPs. Our lodge in nearby Hawthorn cabled resolutions on these lines, but area president, Harold Mitchell JP, said such resolutions were an infringement of personal liberty!

### Purge police

After the JPs have been purged we have to purge the police: I was recently ar-

rested for breaking a bail condition not to go within a quarter of a mile of any NCB installation and thrown in Durham jail for four days. Whilst being transported in the police van, I attempted in a fraternal manner, to make a class appeal to the police guarding me. They paid no attention to my points of view and just ridiculed me, but they are brutalised and dehumanised by their training and the nature of their job.

Durham jail, a high security prison, was a bad experience, the conditions are barbaric, I was 'banged

up' 23 hours each day and couldn't eat the grub it was so bad. While the screws were all right with me, I didn't like the idea of being with murderers, rapists etc, just because I was guilty of fighting for my job.

We are delighted at the TUC decision but we know that talk is cheap; when we see action from the TUC we'll believe they are serious. We think that troops will be called in to move coal from the pitheads and hope that the TUC will call at least a 24-hour general strike in response. Of course the precedents are not encourag-

ing since the troops broke the firemen's strike and the strike of Glasgow dustmen some years ago—and no serious response was forthcoming from the TUC.

But the fight to change the TUC has to be seen in perspective of the fight to change the Labour Party. We didn't accomplish that overnight and there is still a lot to do. The TUC is no different. I'm convinced that the ideas of Marxism will continue to grow and become prominent in both the Labour Party and the trade unions, but the ideas don't grow by themselves; they have to be fought for and argued for by the workers.

By Alan Mardghum  
(financial secretary,  
Wearmouth Lodge)





# ... for socialism'

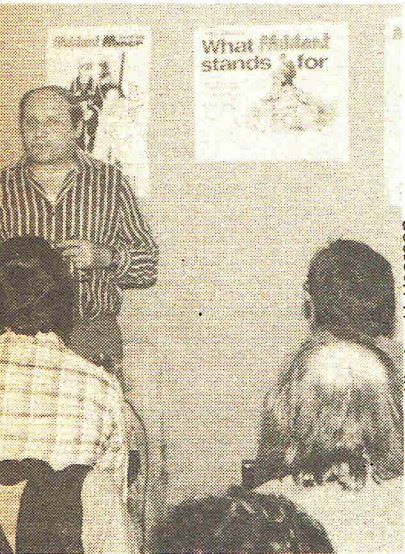


Photo: D Pearson

Durham Area Council.

supporters—this is absolutely vital for the CP as they are now very short on industrial workers and long on middle-class intellectuals. The CP, of course, is embarrassed by the Polish coal imports and their own internal splits but the point is that good organisation means nothing in terms of the future unless you build an organisation which can do more than simply act as an election machine for preferred candidates.

As an example, look at the CP's works in the docks. The issues were not properly explained and no campaigning amongst the dockers had occurred since old Jack Dash retired—the recent strikes ended in confusion, splits and discord”.

## Pickets and police

The organisation of peaceful picketing is, naturally, a primary function of the lodge officials. The police tactics, as elsewhere, have forced the lodge to reconsider their tactics as many of the men are now banned from picketing their own pit. Picketing venues are decided in advance but arrangements are necessarily restricted on a 'need to know' basis. The issue facing Wearmouth men is either stand and fight the armed forces of the state, or stretch the police and play ducks and drakes. An afternoon picket is arranged and the reaction of the police monitored.

On the Tuesday a mass picket arrives at Wearmouth pit gates scaring the pants of the two coppers on duty who beat a retreat to the safety of the nearby Wheatshaf police office. The mobilisation of reinforcements takes a long time—van loads of police are still arriving at 17.00—two hours after the last pickets left, having admirably demonstrate their ability to innovate.

The following day, the six of-

ficial pickets (the lodge officials) are in turn picketed by 100 constables and assorted brasshats, with more waiting in reserve out of sight. The mood of the police is unpleasant and a high-ranking officer complains bitterly to Dave Hopper because the miners broke the 'Rules of Engagement'. He goes on to say:

“I'm sick of you Mr Hopper and I would advise you take the Home Secretary's warning ('life sentences' for pickets—Leon Brittan) personally”.

It transpires that the tops of the Northumbria Police force gave the mother and father of a dressing-down to their understrappers for being caught on the hop the previous day. Now all police are on stand-by at great cost to the taxpayer. Dave Hopper does not inform the officer of the calls made by some of his members for night-shift, Saturday and Sunday pickets in order not to completely spoil the policeman's day.

## Councillors and MP

One of the advantages gained by the activity in the Labour Party is that two Labour councillors for Colliery Ward, lodge official Cllr Alf Wilkinson and Cllr Bernie Walsh are able to protest to the Labour-controlled council that the police are illegally using the top of two nearby tower blocks for purposes of surveillance. They are removed and now placed in the tower of the 'A' pit winder... courtesy of the NCB. Cllr Wilkinson, after a daily stint on the official picket line, each day assists miners and other working class people in the local advice centre.

Bob Clay MP has given free use of his office in the town with phone, duplicating equipment, etc as well as organised fund-raising and political meetings around the strike. He is regularly invited onto the picket line as an observer by the lodge. His unequivocal support for the strike and the lodge in particular has spurred many workers, including many miners, into joining the Labour Party for the purpose of political activity.

Within the Durham coalfield are one or two small 'federations' of three or four pits which determine policy in 'peacetime'. This has now taken on the role of a picket-plan/information exchange and a meeting takes place on the day after the 'backshift' picket. Dave Hopper reports this success and plans are laid to repeat the tactic at other sites.

During the reports from other delegates present, complaints are aired that there are not enough coalfield-wide meetings being called by the Area officials. Without this co-ordination, it is argued,

each pit or lodge does what it wants when with a little planning the police would be absolutely powerless and chasing their own shadows. “Even after seven months on strike some of these buggers (Area officials) think they should still only turn in a five-day week!” says one. The meeting agrees to formulate resolutions to the Area demanding a weekly coalfield-wide meeting for the exchange of information and formulation of plans. If unsuccessful, they agree to continue meeting unofficially for the same purpose at a central point in the coalfield.

## Members involved

The district around Spennymoor, Co. Durham, is almost 20 miles from the big coastal pits of Easington, Seaham/Dawdon and Wearmouth. Men living in this district have to travel, due to the closure of the inland collieries, to the coast and therefore have difficulty attending lodge meetings or picketing duties. Officials from Wearmouth and the Secretary of Easington lodge met miners at a meeting organised by the local Trades Council Support Group. The attendance of more than 50 men shows that 100% support for the union is forthcoming. Dave Hopper outlines the history of the strike and back to 1974, whilst thumping home the demands and dealing with questions. From the floor calls are made for the 4-day week, the scrapping of the incentive scheme, pledges to ensure that no repeat of 1981 occurs and for a socialist system to ensure a



Harry Dinning, Lodge Chairman

political solution to workers' problems. The mood is buoyant and determined—giving a clear warning to the Tories that, far from cracking, the miners' resolve is actually stiffening. Buses are organised for 'out of town' pickets and the pledge given: “If you can't get to the union—the union will get to you!”

On Friday, many Wearmouth

## State not impartial

“I was involved in the struggles of '72 and '74 and thought it had all been done—that we'd secured our future.

By Billy McGarley  
(Vice-Chairman, Wearmouth Lodge)

The election of the Tories forced me to become active in the lodge and I noticed a few men, Eddie Cable, Stan Pearce, Davy Hopper and others, had a political view of just about everything—but their views made sense and they were all subsequently elected to offices. Better still, their views have not changed; they've hardened if anything and the lodge has swung heavily to the left.

This is important if we are to explain the nature of the state's intervention in this dispute. The situation in this country today is verging on state terrorism—look at the reaction to the riots in Brixton and Liverpool or the shooting of Stephen Waldorf—the police are behaving like the American coppers. The miners ought to see that the police harrassment of pitmen is precisely the sort of behaviour they've been handing out to black people in London for years and getting away with it. The point is that the state cannot be impartial in a dispute like this any more than it can be impartial at any time—it supports the *status quo*.

### Courts

In the magistrates courts we don't know of any 'not guilty' verdicts for our lads. The Sunderland courts are, I think uniquely, not giving any Legal Aid to miners facing charges; what's that if it's not a blatant attempt at intimidation? I'm frightened we'll end up like



Spain under Franco where trade unions met in secret and the Civil Guard would whisk you off the street for nothing. One of our pickets has bail conditions which state he cannot attend any political event!

### New society

We must have a Labour government which will lead the way to a new society which will find decent work with pay for our young ones and where glue-sniffing, suicides and unemployment-related crime are just a bad memory. I had put my hope in Neil Kinnock—him being a fiery young bloke from a working-class background; but it seem he'll end up with Wilson or Callaghan. I'd have loved to have seen Tony Benn up there but a lot of the so-called left chickened out.

As for the strike and our victory, there must be an end to the incentive scheme. The short-cuts men take on safety: short-timbering dropping bate-stands etc would disappear. In addition I'd like to see lodge meetings in works time. Despite the shifts, etc I think it could be managed—anyway we want to turn the screw on the NCB once we've won and this would do it!”

miners are up before the magistrates on the usual 'obstruction' or 'breach of the peace' charges. Lodge officials attend the ornate courtrooms to monitor the biased handling of cases involving miners by 'beaks' nobody could mistake as regular readers of *Militant*. As usual Legal Aid is refused in all cases; and all cases, furthermore, are remanded on strident bail conditions yet again. Harry Dinning, lodge Chairman, remarks that a few magistrates would not go amiss on the new Area Disciplinary Committee to deal with and sentence scabs!

### Strike centres

Between the main activities the lodge officials constantly travel between picket venues, stocking sites and strike centres, always discussing developments with their

members. Night brings a slight easing of activity in as much as speakers are required at Labour Party meetings, Wives' Support Groups, etc. Letters to the local press answering the lies and attacks by anonymous correspondents also take time. The 101 questions filed at them by picket activists at each gathering are dealt with fraternally and honestly. The flow of information and attempts to totally involve every member is always to the forefront. The determination to win the strike and then to fight on for socialism can almost be felt and a hand-written notice in the strike centre sums it up:

“Join the Labour Party and FIGHT for socialism!”

*Militant thanks the officials and members of Wearmouth Lodge for their assistance*



# Build direct links with South African workers

**ONE OF the outstanding features of the miners dispute has been the support which workers in other countries have given. From Denmark to America, from Sweden to Australia, workers have either taken action themselves or sent money and food.**

Visits and direct contact between workers of different countries have proved invaluable to building international solidarity. This is how real workers internationalism is built, by rank and file workers meeting, liaising and assisting in common struggle.

## FOSATU and Labour Party want links

As the workers movement has grown again in South Africa over the last ten years in bitter battles against the apartheid police state, black workers have increasingly experienced the need to build international links to strengthen their movement.

The Federation of South African Trade Unions, (FOSATU) with over 100,000 members, one of the largest, democratic, independent, non-racial union groups in the country, want direct links with other workers. Its June 1984 international policy states:

"FOSATU believes in international workers contact to build international workers solidarity in the struggle against the economic, social and political oppression of workers...believes that (expertise and information) must be exchanged by visits overseas and more particularly by people coming to South Africa where they can have greater contact with shop stewards and officials."

The Labour Party in Britain also backs direct links. Its National Executive in February 1983 issued Advice Note No7 supporting direct links and giving guidelines on how they should be

By Jim Chrystie

undertaken.

Yet there are some representatives of the Labour Party who do not seem to have got the message, and who want to exclude South African workers from vital forms of international solidarity. The latest example is John Mann, chair of Labour Students, who has announced his personal opposition to direct links.

The **first** argument of those who oppose direct links is that it cuts across a campaign of boycott against apartheid. This is nonsense. There is no contradiction between boycotting the capitalists who invest and rule in South Africa with giving support to those struggling to end it. You don't lock up the slaves because you want to isolate the slaveowner.

## Sanctions against employers

Workers in South Africa are often members of the same multinational company as British or Western workers. Combined action internationally can and has won many struggles. Even the *Morning Star* which in the past has opposed direct links, pointed out, 29 September, that Dunlop workers in the Cape won their recent dispute with help from British trade unions.

The **second** argument used against direct links is that the "genuine" unions are "underground" and that links and visits would expose activities to the police. This argument totally ignores the

existence of an open movement of hundreds of thousands of workers—with literally thousands of elected shop stewards, regional representatives and national officials—all known of course to the police, but whom the repressive force of the regime has proved unable to crush. These activists are of course not without risk of arrest—but surely they are the best judge to estimate the danger.

## Solidarity with workers

The **third** argument goes even further. It argues that the **South African unions are not real organisations, but puppets of the regime.** No-one could say that if they have followed the heroic struggles of South African workers in recent years. They have had to fight every inch of the way to establish their organisations, against bullets, baton charges, tear gas, bannings, murder and intimidation.

Despite repression the workers organisations have grown. It is one of the most heroic pages in the history of the international working class, and the chapter is just beginning. No wonder that the *Financial Times* has called the South African workers movement, "the greatest threat" to apartheid.

Over 500,000 black workers have been in dispute in S Africa over the last ten years. Fifteen years ago only 16,040 black workers were members of trade unions. In a new Federation (including FOSATU) which will be established shortly there will probably be over 400,000 workers, many times more than the old South African Congress of Trade Unions in its prime.

Should British miners not have direct links, visits, and exchange of experience with the South African mine workers union? That's what

the opponents of direct links would argue.

Yet a few years ago the British National Union of Mineworkers sent a delegation to Chile and Bolivia to meet miners under the vicious military dictatorships. That is the kind of activity which builds workers' solidarity. Workers in Chile and Bolivia welcomed the NUM's initiative.

The **fourth** argument contradicts the previous two. It sees the workers movement as dangerous, as a threat and rival to the liberation struggle. This cannot be taken seriously, except by those who have some romantic notion that the most industrialised state in Africa will be overthrown, not by the working class, but by guerilla warfare.

The only way that the apartheid-capitalist system will be smashed is by the mass, armed movement of the working class. Unique in Africa, the majority of blacks in South Africa even live in the towns. Who else except the working-class, concentrated in the mine barracks and factories, could play the leading role in the revolutionary overthrow of apartheid?

And that revolutionary struggle will not stop with the ending of state racism. It will be forced into a struggle against the class interests upon which apartheid rests, the mine owners, factory employers and bankers.

Or are the opponents of direct links worried about these consequences? Do they want to down-play the class nature of the South African struggle in order to preserve a "progressive" alliance with sections of the middle-class and capitalists? Support for the workers movement does not by-pass the liberation struggle; it is an essential ingredient for success.

The **fifth** argument takes a different tack. It says that the workers' movement is genuine, but it might get cor-

rupted by links with right-wing trade union leaders in the West. But this is not an argument against direct links between rank and file workers; on the contrary it strengthens the case.

Already the CIA backed Afro-American Institute is trying to gain influence in the workers' movement. The field cannot be left to the enemies of the labour movement.

Obviously not all visits are useful. The non-racial unions opposed the visit of Bill Sirs, when he talked of bringing black workers out of the "dark ages". They felt it was "insulting and ill-informed".

## Multinational combine committee

Visits to SA, the unions say should be on initiative of or arrangement with the elected representatives of the South African workers. In the past the idea of a multinational combine committee was dismissed as "utopian". But that is what FOSATU now calls for—they see its practical value in struggle.

And that is the final and most basic reason why direct links are essential. The capitalists are organised internationally. They transfer funds across national boundaries, shift and stockpile products in one country to break strikes in another. Solidarity means a joint fight against international capital and how can that be built and organised except through contact by representatives of the rank and file, with a constant exchange of views on aims, strategy and tactics.

Our attitude should be clear. Sanctions against the employers. Solidarity and direct links between workers.

**FOSATU backs British miners see statement p.3**

## Mann retracts SALEP attack

**NOLS CHAIRMAN John Mann is against direct links between British trade unionists and black South African workers organised in the non-racial independent unions.**

The Southern African Labour Education Project, on the other hand, has for years argued the case for direct links to strengthen the workers' fight against apartheid and its capitalist backers.

### No political argument

On 11 September, when a decision of the LPYS to produce a leaflet jointly with SALEP in solidarity with the struggle of the South African NUM, came up in the minutes of Labour's NEC youth committee, Mann intervened to block the funds for it. Instead of relying on political argument, he stated that SALEP should not be supported because leading members had been expelled from the ANC. (In fact, they had been unconstitutionally suspended in 1979 for expressing views in opposition to the leadership, against the strategy of guerilla warfare in SA and for a revolutionary workers' movement to achieve national liberation and socialism.)

Mann then went on to make an outrageous charge against the integrity of SALEP members, for which he claimed the backing of the ANC.

Following this, one of the SALEP co-ordinators, Martin Legassick, demanded through solicitors that Mann retract the slander or face an action for damages. At no stage has SALEP sought to take political issues, on direct links or anything else, to the courts.

### Solicitors letter

Although Mann failed to acknowledge the letter, when pressed publicly at a NOLS meeting in Cardiff on 17 October he climbed down, describing the slander against SALEP members' integrity as "ludicrous", and denied that he had ever said it!

The issue, he said, was purely the political consequences of direct links, which he emphatically opposed.

In view of Mann's public retraction, he has been sent a further solicitor's letter, saying that it is now considered unnecessary to sue him, but warning that if he repeats the defamation exemplary damages will be sought.

**For more information on SA workers contact: SALEP, 28 Martello St London E8 3PE, or FOSATU, PO. Box 18109, Dalbridge, S. Africa.**

USA, India

# The Millionaires' elections

**NEXT WEEK'S US presidential elections will affect the fortunes of rich and poor around the world, in Central America, the Middle East, and in the factories and farms of the USA.**

But American elections are for the wealthy. In one Senate election alone, the incumbent Democratic Party senator, James Hunt, has spent \$7.3 million on his campaign. His rival, Jesse Helms, will probably exceed \$14 million (£11 million) to get across his extreme right-wing fundamentalist Christian prejudices ("There is no need for any civil rights legislation, only the Ten Commandments").

The state they are fighting over, North Carolina, has a population of just 6 million, with a decaying textile and tobacco industry and the smallest farms in the States. Reagan, spending even more millions, will probably win the biggest prize and spend his dottage in the White House.

## Democrats a coalition

Reagan can win because Walter Mondale and the Democrats support the capitalist system just as much as the Republicans do. The President smiles on TV. He reportedly mugs up on the tricks Thatcher tried in the British elections last year, and his advisers can gag him to stop too many of his own ideas coming out. That may be enough when the opposition has few differences with the government.

The televised debates between Reagan and Mondale have been ninety-minute tests like a two-legged football match. Their level was described by the *Wall Street Journal* as too low for a high school debate. If Reagan praised a bomb, Mondale said he was in love with a submarine. Economic differences rested on small points.

Reagan's message is optimism. There has been a

By Roger Shriver

whirlwind rise in the economy, a bigger boom than in the rest of the capitalist world. Reagan boasts; "America's best years are to come. You ain't seen nothing yet".

The second part of his claim is true! The boom will end. Wage levels have been forced down and there is far higher unemployment than officially admitted, cutting the market for many goods. The growth rate has slowed down already and inflation is rising. The boom hardly makes up for the catastrophic slump of 1979-82, and US capitalism's underlying problems are still there, the decline of manufacturing and the low level of investment in productive industry.

In Iowa, one in ten of today's farmers are thought likely to be out of business in two years time. The banks may suffer too in such farming states; a number have already collapsed and a record number are on a government "problem list". The banks are faced with problems of "rescheduling" debts in the USA as well as in Latin America!

Many industries are ailing, and the ruling class' present-day confidence seems to extend only to 1985.

The two parties "fighting" this election are two faces of capitalism, with often just regional and sectional differences. The working class have no political voice. The Democratic Party is a shaky coalition forged in the 1930s when a Democratic President, Roosevelt's New Deal, a quite conservative programme of social security, gained mass support.

In the early 1930's, states like Mississippi, Arkansas and South Carolina would



WAITING FOR THE GIANT TO AWAKEN!

An Alan Hardman cartoon in *Militant* after the 1980 election. Only the Democratic Party candidate has changed.

be almost 100% Democrat but outside the South the party was usually weak. The New Deal built support among organised labour, urban blacks, and ethnic minorities as well as Southern racist politicians and a section of the capitalist class.

## Independent class party

The bosses in the Democrats' fold get the ear of the leadership through Washington lobbyists and finance for the election machine. The coalition has little for the working class in a period of capitalist entrenchment. Every case of alleged Republican corruption like the criminal charges against former labour minister Raymond Donovan has its Democratic counterpart such as the supposed dubious connections of Geraldine Ferraro. The rich

have two parties, the working class has none.

Workers have been hit hard by recession and government attacks on their organisations since the air traffic controllers' union PATCO was shot down by Reagan. If the unions were to abandon the Democrats and fight for an independent party of labour, the political scenery of the USA would be very different.

The Democrats have no alternative to Reaganism—but when the bubble of boom bursts, that is precisely what the workers and unemployed, the blacks, hispanics and women fighting for equality, will want.

Whoever spends the next four years in the White House, harsh reality will make the demand for a party of labour heard louder than ever before.

A mass of statistics prove that ordinary Americans have suffered greatly in four years of Reagan. The budget cuts alone have pushed over half a million families below the official poverty line, particularly blacks and hispanics (Spanish speaking Americans).

The richest 20% have gained a total of \$25 billion or \$2000 a year, particularly from the lowest income levels. Those under \$10,000 a year lost at least 8% of their income with Reagan's benefit cuts.

A government survey is uncovering the power of the

wealthy few in America. The top 2%, earning \$100,000 plus a year own 30% of all financial assets, 50% of all privately owned stock, 71% of all tax free bonds and 20% of all real estate. Apart from homes, cars and a few consumer goods, most people still own nothing.

But researchers show that even without the President's guiding monetarist hand, the rich would have got much richer and the poor much poorer. Capitalism always leads to concentration of wealth and in crisis time in particular, to dire poverty for the majority.

\* A CIA manual on psychological warfare has been produced for the contras in Nicaragua, recommending the hiring of "hit-men" to assassinate government officials. Reagan claims he is bringing morality back into American politics.

\* The President who promised in 1980 to control government spending has run up the highest deficits in US history.

\* Twelve million American children under six were classified as below the poverty line in 1983, that's one in four.

## INDIA

Continued from page one

tion. 4,500 Sikh troops in the Indian Army mutinied.

This posed a dangerous problem to the ruling class, since, although the Sikhs only make up 3% of the total Indian population, they control many positions in the Indian Army.

The assassination and the crisis in the Punjab are symptomatic of the complete impasse facing Indian society. 37 years after nominal independence, Indian capitalism has failed to solve any of the basic democratic tasks including the distribution of the land and unification of the country.

## National movements

Although the national and minority problem has broken out with particular ferocity in Punjab, there are powerful national and minority movements in

many Indian states which have created crisis after crisis for Gandhi.

Thus the government recently suspended the government of Kashmir and attempted a Constitutional coup against the government of Uttar Pradesh, but was compelled to retreat in the face of a mass movement. Coupled to this have been the horrific communal riots in Bombay and other areas.

Most importantly, however, the Congress government has been besieged by a mass strike wave which has swept from one end of the sub continent to the other, including dockers, textile workers and even the police! India now has the highest strike record in the world with 11,662 days lost in strikes per 1,000 workers compared with 3,109 days in Britain between 1977 and 1982.

Massive divisions have opened up in the ranks of the ruling class and within their parties, especially Congress (I). Moreover, the mass of peasants, middle classes and

oppressed minorities look to the working class for a way out.

However the leaders of the main workers parties the CP (I) and CPI (M) have failed to give a clear class lead to the workers and through them to the peasants and oppressed minorities and nationalities. Instead they have hung on to the coat-tails of the capitalist parties, courting alliances, rather than mobilising the workers to take power.

## Socialist revolution

In desperation, therefore, sections of the minorities and youth in particular have looked to terrorism as a solution. Temporarily there will be fierce clashes between Hindus and Sikhs as a result of the assassination if there is no alternative put forward by the workers parties.

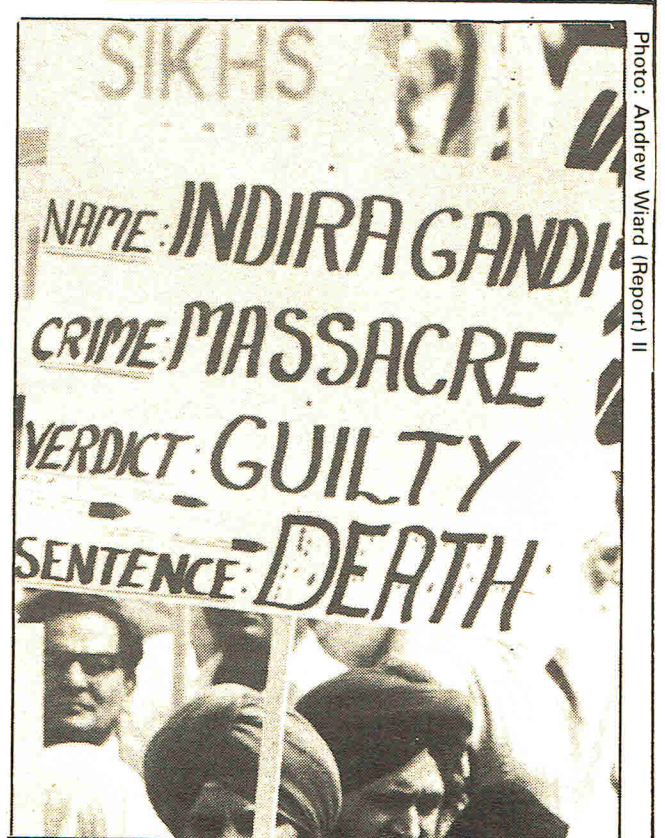
Even in Britain communal tensions may arise between different sections of the Asian population. The Labour Party, the LPYS and

the trade unions must intervene positively to prevent any clashes and to build workers' unity on the basis of socialist policies.

So long as Indian capitalism and landlordism exist, national and minority repression will continue with all the horrors of state violence and communal massacres. Indeed unless capitalism is overthrown, there could be the break-up and balkanisation of the Indian sub-continent.

Only the socialist revolution led by the powerful and combative Indian working class, in alliance with the peasantry and oppressed nationalities and minorities can provide a solution to the problems of the Sikhs and other minorities, through the creation of a Socialist Federation of the Indian Sub-continent with guarantee of full democratic rights for all nationalities and minorities.

Steve Morgan



The anger of Sikhs could be seen in the London demonstration last summer after the attack on the Golden Temple.

Photo: Andrew Ward (Report) II

# LETTERS

Militant welcomes letters from readers. Send us your views, comments or criticism. Write to Militant at 1, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

## Shinwell's life—mammoth waste

Comrade Editor and Fellow Workers,

I have watched the recent TV programmes, and have read in the press, accounts of the "life and times" of Lord (Manny) Shinwell, thinking initially that valuable lessons would be learnt of revolutionary and radical socialism from the experiences of this "grand old fighter and crusader". What conclusions did I draw after seeing this much-lauded "elder statesman of Labour" commenting on politics?

I concluded that to spend

over 80 years of one's life moving from ultra-left to the House of Lords was certainly **some** 'crusade'! To spend decades of one's active life with the net result being praised by the "establishment" as a "grand old man of Parliament" etc represented a mammoth waste of time.

I was reminded, whilst watching the programmes on "Lord Manny" of the point made by the comrade from Frome at party conference, in reply to Eric Heffer's presentation of his long service award when he spoke of his own father's advice: "When your leaders are

praised in the papers—watch 'em!" and how apt that point is today as much as it was then!

*Militant* and its supporters have been vilified by the media both nationally and locally. I have seen my friends and comrades of years, being attacked on an almost daily basis by the media.

Long may it continue! For nothing illustrates more clearly how effective our ideas and work in our movement are than our enemies' venom.

Fraternally,  
Dave Power  
Mossley Hill CLP



Pensioners lobby parliament last year.

Photo: Militant

## Belfast solidarity

Dear Comrades,

"This is for Arthur and the rest of them", commented one worker in a local bar, as he emptied a pocket full of change into my collecting tin.

This is just one response that Young Socialists in Belfast have met with whilst collecting money for striking miners and their families.

On both Catholic and Protestant estates, in the pubs, clubs and on the streets, workers' unity has

risen to the fore.

In the Short Strand, a Catholic enclave in East Belfast, £35 was raised. On a door-to-door collection in Ardoyne, North Belfast, virtually every household made substantial financial donations.

We are hoping to establish Young Socialist miners' support groups in the areas on the basis of the tremendous support that has been expressed for our ideas.

Despite the sectarian divide workers' unity has never been stronger in Nor-

thern Ireland. Our experiences have confirmed that workers' unity will win through.

Both Catholic and Protestant workers are looking to the miners and all those workers who are fighting to bring down the Tories and the rotten economic and social misery they have inflicted on workers in Britain and Northern Ireland.

Yours fraternally,  
Jackie Walsh  
North Belfast  
Young Socialists

## Living wage for pensioners

Dear Comrades,

Re composite resolution from Brighton Kempton CLP *Militant* issue 720, 12 October, 1984. In an otherwise good resolution to Labour party conference 1984, I was surprised to read "a reduced retirement age" when referring to the unemployment situation.

Surely it should read "a reduced retirement age after implementation of TUC policy" which is 50% of national average earnings and

33% for single persons. This to apply to the basic state retirement pension.

It is of course Labour Party policy too. To introduce a lower age limit now would be to introduce a life of misery to many thousands of people, unless they wanted to retire from working life and were prepared for it.

Remember, there is no redundancy for pensioners and we don't all retire on a works' pension. We live under capitalism—the age of

indignity, inequality and misery for most pensioners.

There are nine to ten million of us drawing means-tested state pensions. Let them know what socialism means. They will then no doubt vote Labour in the future.

Yours fraternally,  
TA Hare  
Branch secretary  
Bradford Branch  
British Pensioners  
and Trade Unions  
Action Association

## World fight for shorter hours

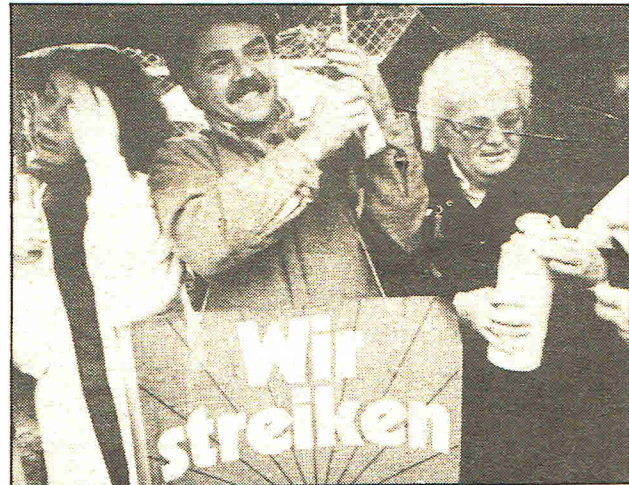
Dear Comrades,

I've been mulling over the recent IG Metall 35-hour week strike in Germany. The call to reduce the hours of the working week is an excellent way of highlighting the way capitalism is incapable of improving workers' living standards.

Under capitalism new technology means bigger dole queues rather than a shorter working week.

The only argument the bosses can try to use against a 35-hour week is that if it was introduced in "their" country, then other countries' industry would have lower costs and could compete better.

The best way to counter this argument would be to organise an 'international



West German workers strike for a 35-hour week.

campaign for a 35-hour week. This isn't a new idea of course. May Day was originally an international day of protest/strike for the eight-hour day.

An attempt to instigate such an international campaign nowadays would be

responded to by workers around the world. Most of our own major unions are already committed to campaigning for a 35-hour week.

Yours fraternally,  
Jim Moffatt  
GMBATU  
(personal capacity)

## Kinnock on the fence

Dear Comrades,

At this time of class struggle, some people seem surprised that Kinnock has taken his usual position of sitting on the fence.

This is no surprise to me, when you actually examine his history in the labour movement, school, college, university and the WEA all the while looking around Wales for a safe Labour seat.

It is more apparent than ever that the Sunderland North CLP took the correct decision to vote for Eric Heffer in last year's leadership election. Kinnock was picked as leader by the media propaganda machine, whose role in such elections is well



Kinnock—miners won't forget his half-hearted support.

known to comrades.

We therefore must ensure that the Labour conference throws out any moves to commit GMCs to give up their power to de-select MPs. Just imagine Maxwell's *Daily Mirror* headlines if secret ballots became the order of the day for re-selection procedures.

Photo: Militant

We must always be prepared to learn the lessons of history. The opportunists must be driven from the working class party. There must be no more Kinnocks.

After seven months on strike, daily hardship, being harassed, numerous threats, etc, Kinnock cannot bring himself to condemn Thatcher's army of occupation (who used to be called the police).

When we win this strike, I dare say Kinnock will be there milking the victory, but we will remember him and his actions. We'll never forgive or forget.

Clr. Kevin Gallagher  
Wearmouth Colliery  
Mechanics  
(personal capacity)

## LEFT and RIGHT

### New champion of trade union rights

A letter attacking the NUM (*Daily Telegraph*, October 30), concludes: "Violence and revolutionary terrorism are but part of a strategy to overthrow democracy and democratic trade unions." A somewhat odd statement given that the author is Mr Geoffrey Stewart-Smith, director of the so-called Foreign Affairs Research Institute. Mr Stewart-Smith, a former Tory MP, knows a thing or two about 'overthrowing democratic rights'. He is a former leader of the British section of the World Anti-Communist League, an international grouping of ultra-right wingers, fascists and nazis, supported by various military juntas. Not only have WACL's members carried out atrocities against working people around the world, but their whole aim is the destruction of democratic rights and the smashing of independent trade unions.

### Next to be nicked

With all the Tories' passion for privatising industry, it's a wonder they haven't considered selling off the real growth industries, like prisons.

The Americans have shown the way with their own private enterprise jails. The dictatorship in Uruguay have some good ideas too. They give all their political prisoners a bill for board and lodgings when they leave prison—between 60c and \$2.50 a day. So that's what they mean by a charge sheet.

So come on Thatcher. Show some enterprise. Sell off Strangeways and Wormwood Scrubs, and don't stop there. Get entrepreneurs to buy up the police (free truncheon vouchers available). You can see the adverts now—state machine for sale—only one previous owner. Let's see some action.

### Charged with possession?

And it came to pass that in the year of our Lord 1984, God raised up Billy Graham to save Britain, but Satan raised up Mr Arthur Scargill to wreak havoc. Or so Inspector Malcolm Biggen would have us believe. The Sutton Coldfield police chief put his views in the newsletter of the West Midlands Christian Police Association, of which he is secretary. He describes how he was at the battle of Orgreave, but left the frontline for a moment's prayer: "I had seen several pickets who were acting in a way that indicated they were demons possessed, but after the prayers went up the mood changed." God help us.

### Psalm chance

Comrades,

A report published by the Church of England General Synod Board for Social Responsibility states that: "the trade unions should be given a greater share in the running of business, the public service and in the development of skills."

With all the mutterings of the bishops attacking the policies of Thatcher recently I was wondering had they seen who the real evil people in society were. My God they hadn't, by going on to say: "that the profit motive is justifiable provided it's bounded by competitive and market pressures". So my hopes of seeing the 23rd psalm rewritten were dashed.

Nevertheless the bishops might rewrite the 23rd Psalm and it could go like this:

The capitalist is my master I shall always be in want  
He taketh away my right to work and steals my daily bread  
His thugs they come amongst me on the

picket line and beat my body and soul and bang their riot shields.

Yea though I walk in the shadow of power cuts I will not fear Capital's evil Thou policies preparent a slump and annoynt my head with disaster.

Thou pays my dole with North Sea oil, my troubles runneth over. Surely trade union legislation and sequestration shall follow me all my days and I will dwell in the Tories' jails for ever.

The labour and trade union movement with bold socialist policies shall be my salvation and I will rejoice at the election of a workers' MP on a worker's wage with the right of instant recall.

Jim Bond  
Neath

# FIghting FUND

This week £3994

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
Eastern	2255		2900
East Midlands	1881		3550
Humberside	1488		1850
London East	2409		3200
London West	1519		2150
London South East	898		1950
London South West	1384		1650
Lancashire	888		1250
Manchester	1559		2900
Merseyside	2335		6100
Northern	2644		4400
Scotland East	1145		2950
Scotland West	2062		3650
Southern	3032		5100
South West	964		2150
Wales East	948		2550
Wales West	1738		2550
West Midlands	1895		4300
Yorkshire	3023		5350
Others	7434		4500
<b>Total received</b>	<b>41503</b>		<b>65000</b>

**WE'RE GETTING better all the time. At this stage last year we had raised £36,462, today we have raised £41,503, a tremendous achievement.**

This quarter, we have had the help of the miners who have shown themselves more than willing to make sacrifices for a daily Marxist paper that will champion the rights of all workers, as the following donation shows.

A striking miner from Abercynon, Wales donated £5 from his picketing expenses—but all workers will appreciate the necessity of making sacrifices, of suffering hardship if we are to change society.

We must now show that these sacrifices have not been in vain. The only way to properly thank the thousands of supporters from the miners and the womens' Support

By Kim Waddington

Groups, to the unemployed and the housewives stuck at home and many others who went without to give to us is to step up the fight.

We have acquired a new building, now with the Fighting Fund we can go on to acquire new staff and new machinery which will guarantee us our daily *Militant*. There will be no stopping us! Our campaign is on a war footing.

We have come this far with great enthusiasm and confidence because of your unswerving support. We could not have come this far without YOU. More importantly that support will

definitely guarantee a better future for all of us. Keep up the great work!

AMONG the donations were Preston "Hot Pot" Social £46; Collecting tins Swansea £39; Harry Walton AUEW/TASS Bradford £20; J Young Tottenham £20; collection at Freshers Fayres Dundee £20; Mrs Crimmins Ruislip CLP £10; Ray McElligot, Perth £10; EPTU members Rosyth Dockyard £9.60; Nigel Phillips Blandford NUT £7; CPSA members Glasgow £6; Hillsborough LPYS Sheffield £5; Jim Kettle Rutherglen £5; A Millward GMBATU Shop Steward Sheffield forgemasters £5; Martin Smith Dundee LPYS £2; Wilf (Luton Vauxhall worker) £2; Burton LPYS Staffs £1; Mehmet Islington £1; A Graves Oxford 75p, LPYS Ashington 75p.



Miners wives on the London demo in August, show their distrust of the capitalist media. Build the alternative. Build *Militant*.

## Start your own sales drive

IN THE middle of the biggest strike since 1926, the 'yellow press' can find nothing more important to report than the success of their various "instant millionaire" stunts. It is rumoured that even *The Guardian* and *The Financial Times* are considering schemes.

Marxists shouldn't be surprised at this. The two main roles of the bosses' press are to make money and tell lies. As a sideline they provide some diversion to take their readers away from active participation in the burning issues of the day.

*Militant* has a long historic tradition to draw upon, way back in 1834 the *Poor man's Guardian* (an early workers' paper) proclaimed: "They who produce the goods should make the laws." It was selling more papers in a day than *The Times* sold in a week! It is the task of socialists to rebuild these

traditions and our sellers are making big strides in that direction.

Since the start of our sales campaign, Carlisle supporters doubled then trebled their sales. The sales on the campuses have shot up with 120 being sold at Brighton Tech, 80 at Bristol University and 16 in as many minutes before the build-up to a readers' meeting at LSE. On demos our sellers are also getting a good response with 100 in Sunderland, 60 in Coventry and 100 on the Brighton LPYS demo.

Despite (or possibly because of) the attacks on their LPYS, our sellers in Dunfermline have doubled their order, other LPYS's should follow their example! New areas have been broken open with 50 being sold on a street sale in Hyde (Greater Manchester) we have also had new orders from Guildford, Easington, Stamford, Harlech and Pontefract.

Estate sales are still proving the most remunerative with 75 being sold in Pontardulais in West Wales. Keep up the good work comrades! Just to show you we can sell anywhere, anytime a group of sellers sold 19 papers in 45 minutes on a Tuesday morning in South Shields! They only stopped because they sold out! Although our sales campaign was only for two issues some areas have decided on local campaigns with South East London and Strathclyde supporters mapping out plans to boost sales in their regions.

What about you? Why not start your own sales drive, selling can be fun! Take out a bulk order from 'Militant Circulation', 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E9 3PN or phone 01-533 3311.

By Dave Farrar

## 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 issue 693-721. Send either seven blank C-90 cassettes or £6.30 payable to *Militant* Tapes, 18 Blandford Grove, Woodhouse, Leeds 2. Phone: (0532) 455936.

PAINTING and decorating. Comrade willing to travel. Percentage of fee to Fighting Fund. Telephone: 061-202 1139.

*Militant* index January 1982 - October 1984. 45p (p+p included); Available from D. Sellers, 12, Foxwood Grove, Leeds, LS83 BR. Tel (0532) 652499.

LABOUR LAND CAMPAIGN. 7 November, 8 pm: "High Land Values. How should Labour help new businesses?" Speaker: Clive Jenkins (ASTMS) Chair London Development Enterprises. GLC County Hall, London SE1 1LC. 01-267 2245.

WANTED: Back copies of *Militant International Review* numbers 1 to 3, 12 to 14, 16, 17, 21, 23. Copies of numbers 6, 7, 11, 19, 20, 22, 24 available for swap or sale for miners' fund. Contact Mike Kennard: (0634) 683846.

CAMDEN CENTRE  
EUSTON ROAD  
LONDON NW1  
FR 2 NOV 12.30-6.00  
SAT 3 NOV 11.00-5.00

**SOCIALIST BOOKFAIR 1984**

Access details: 01 802 0465

## Militant

### Meetings

ELTHAM MILITANT Marxist Discussion Groups are held every Thursday, at 8.00pm, in the Lionel Road Community Centre, Westhorne Avenue, Eltham.

Below is the programme for November, if you are interested why not come along.

1 Nov.: What does *Militant* stand for? 8 Nov.: The miners, the police, and the state. 15 Nov.: Reform or revolution. 22 Nov.: Violence and terrorism. 29 Nov.: Is Russia socialist?

HULL MILITANT public meeting: Tony Mulhearn, (Liverpool City Councillor, President District Labour Party) on Thursday 29 November, 7.30 pm, at Trades and Labour Club, Beverly Road, Hull.

UPPER RHONDDA Marxist Discussion Group. Meeting every Sunday at 7.00 pm in the Red Cow, High Street, Treorchy. Phone Steve Brown on Treorchy 773455 for more details.

1985 MILITANT pocket diaries 60p. Clear plastic paper sleeves 20p. *Militant* sew-on cloth badges 50p. Please add postage. For Fighting Fund. To Mike King, 10 Rodney Court, Anson Drive, Sholing, Southampton. Telephone (0703) 432480.

*Militant* pamphlet. *Kent women fight for socialism*. Articles and interviews by working class women in Kent, in the mining communities and elsewhere. Price 40p + 20p postage and packing. From Robbie Segal, 10 Westbourne Garden Folkestone Kent.

**National Broad Left for Railway Workers Fourth National Conference**

- ★ Defend all jobs.
- ★ No productivity deals.
- ★ Shorter working week.
- ★ Victory to the miners.
- ★ Throw out the Tories.

Speakers:  
Jack Collins (Secretary, Kent NUM)  
Terry Fields MP, Railway speakers  
11 am, Saturday 10 November 1984, County Hall, London SE1

**OUT NOW**  
*Militant International Review No.27*. Articles on the Labour Party, Nicaragua and the 1934 Asturian commune. Price 75p (+ 15p postage + packing). From *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London, E8 3PN.

**REVOLUTION GRAPHICS**  
**XMAS CARDS '84.**

**A Set of 5 New Original Alan Hardman Designs!**  
**Price: £1.20 per Set.** (Inc. Envelopes & Post/Packing)

**BULK ORDERS**  
Orders for 10 sets and above are available for resale at **64p. per set.**

Send completed Order Forms to: **Eddie McParland, Revolution Graphics, 239, Woolwich Rd., London SE10**

**FORM ORDER FORM ORDER**

Please send me ..... set(s) of the 1984 Alan Hardman Xmas Cards. I enclose a  
Cheque/Postal Order for £..... made payable to Revolution Graphics.

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
TEL. NO.....

Send order to: Eddie McParland, Revolution Graphics, 239 Woolwich Rd., London SE10

**#Cash with Order Only#**

## In the unions

### Civil and Public Services Association

# Unite around Broad Left policies

**THE NATIONAL Annual Conference of the Civil and Public Services Broad Left takes place on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 November in Manchester.**

After almost six months of a Broad Left National Executive Committee, a pay settlement which was less than satisfactory and a period of Tory rule which has resulted in 5,000 lost civil service jobs between April and June alone, this conference is an important one for the left.

Top of the agenda comes the Tory government's attacks upon the pay and conditions of civil servants. Undoubtedly there will be criticisms of the NEC's

By Kevin Roddy  
(CPSA DHSS National Executive member, personal capacity)

handling of the 1984 pay dispute but the preparations which must be made immediately for the 1985 pay battle are clearly outlined in the motions from the Manchester and Merseyside groups. The passing of these motions would arm the Broad Left with a strong pay campaign.

Women's rights is once again on the agenda, with ten motions devoted to crèche facilities, child day-care provision, women's health, part-time working, job sharing and women-only schools. In a union of over 70% women this part of the agenda, which will generate some lively debate, is of particular importance. Particularly those motions which call for positive action on the provision of facilities within the civil service.

The merger of the CPSA with its sister civil service union will also be discussed. Militant supporters have consistently supported the merger, despite opposition



Leading CPSA Broad Left supporters Geoff Barker, Terry Adams, John Macreadie and Kevin Roddy.

from some on the left. It is vital that at this conference agreement is reached on the final details which separate those on the left. But more than anything else the motions which call for a massive campaign to win the mass of CPSA members to the idea of a merger must be immediately implemented by the NEC.

### Affiliation to Labour

In 1985, CPSA conference will once again be able to discuss Labour Party affiliation. With a Broad Left NEC in power again in 1985 the next affiliation campaign

could win a majority to the idea. With the Tories planning further cuts in jobs and a 3% pay limit in the civil service next year, thousands of civil servants would have sympathy for affiliation to a party of government which would treat them fairly and consult them on major changes in their conditions through their unions. The Labour Party pledge not to insist upon a "no disruption" clause at GCHQ is another argument, amongst many, in favour of Labour Party affiliation.

The Broad Left at this conference can agree a programme on all of the major issues facing the union which will catch the imagination of thousands of civil servants. However, only if the leadership of the Broad Left is prepared to campaign unanimously on those issues can these fine words be turned into action. Only if the Broad Left leadership is prepared to stand by all workers in struggle, whether it be the miners or the DHSS Newcastle Central office shiftworkers, will it be able to implement its policies or

indeed gain re-election in 1985.

For those reasons the election of a team to fight Alistair Graham, the right-wing general secretary and his yes-men John Ellis and John Raywood will be a major debate at this conference.

### Fighting leadership

The selection of John MacCreadie as Broad Left general secretary candidate would be a step towards achieving the election of a candidate whose experience and track record prove him someone the membership can rely upon to fight tirelessly on their behalf, a socialist who would stand firmly upon the policies of the Broad Left. The Broad Left has a duty to provide such a leadership in the senior officer elections in 1986.

This conference will probably be the largest in the history of the Broad Left. United behind a common programme it can also be the most influential.

### Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers

# Crucial election campaign

**USDAW branches begin nominations this week for the 1985 national elections.**

All the union's elected positions will be up for election including the Executive Council, eight Divisional Councils and all union national delegations. The most important position being contested is the presidency.

The USDAW Broad Left will be fielding a team of candidates for nearly all the positions, led by the Broad Left Presidential candidate, Jeff Price. In the 1983 elections, Jeff received over 60,000 votes against Syd Tierney, the incumbent.

Jeff stands for the immediate launching of a national campaign involving the whole USDAW membership to establish a minimum wage of £100 for 35 hours throughout the retail distribution industry.

### Bold campaign

The present leadership of USDAW has miserably failed to take wage levels among the union membership anywhere near this figure in the course of the past year; indeed has failed even to carry out the union's conference policy of campaigning for this figure.

The timid approach of the leadership over many years has meant that most USDAW members have been forced to exist on wage levels little better than those enforced by the government's Wages Councils. This means, for many, a take-home wage of barely £70 per week.

As president of USDAW, Jeff would be committed to using the position to fight for a united trade union

By George Williamson  
(Chairman, USDAW Broad Left)

campaign against low pay. He advocates linking up with other unions organised in retail distribution to fight to eradicate low pay, utilising industrial action if necessary to win the £100 per week. This demand, he points out, is not outrageous. It has been adopted by the USDAW conference, and should now be implemented by the USDAW leadership in a bold campaign.

Jeff is totally opposed to other attacks against shopworkers. He supports the union's opposition to extensions in shopworkers' working hours, whether these be during the week in evenings or on Sundays. He believes that the union should not merely fight legal battles against individual small-time employers (or even big-time employers) but should mobilise the membership in total opposition.

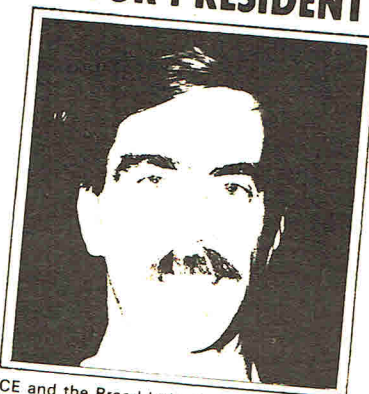
The main theme of his campaign is "time for a change in USDAW". There is a crying need for a fighting leadership in our union. Attend your USDAW branch meeting (taking place in November) and get it to nominate Jeff Price for president. The presidential election is important to the union since it precedes the

general secretary election. A good result for Jeff would enhance the chances of Broad Left candidate Bill Connor when the time comes.

The USDAW Broad Left has produced a leaflet giving nominating details. If you would like copies contact Mick Wainwright (Secretary, USDAW Broad Left), on (0253) 693516.

### USDAW Presidential Elections 1985

#### Nominate JEFF PRICE FOR PRESIDENT



JEFF PRICE and the Broad Left stands for:

1. £100 for a 35-hour week.
2. Defend jobs, fightback against redundancies and closures.
3. A united trade union campaign against low pay.
4. No to Sunday trading, stop the extensions of trading hours.
5. A better deal for part-time workers - pro rata improvements in pay and conditions.
6. Total opposition to Tory anti-union laws.
7. The return of a Labour government committed to socialist policies.
7. A fighting USDAW leadership that stands by its members.

**Campaign leaflets available from Mick Wainwright (Secretary, USDAW Broad Left). Phone 0253 693516.**

★ For a fighting socialist USDAW  
★ Vote Broad Left  
★ Nominate Jeff Price for President

### National Graphical Association

## Learn lessons of Warrington

**AT THE National Graphical Association (NGA) Biennial Conference this week, the major discussion must centre around the battle with the Messenger Group Newspapers.**

It is absolutely essential that the tactics pursued by the TUC and the National Council are carefully examined, especially in light of the situation facing the NUM.

### Tories showdown

The failure of the right-wing on the TUC General Council to fully support the NGA in battle against sequestration has given confidence to the Tories to use their legislation against the NUM. It is now clear, if it was not previously, that the Tories had prepared the ground for the show-down with the unions. On the other hand the TUC General Council even refused to implement their own decisions as outlined at Wembley in resolution 179: "sees the

need for a leadership which is loyal to conference decisions rather than Tory laws". The TUC's weakness is the Tories' strength.

The TUC's abdication of responsibility should have resulted in the National Council making an appeal to action themselves. First the whole NGA membership should have been called out. This could then have been followed with a call to other trade unionists.

The final cost to the union is approximately £1½ million in fines and writs and there are still some outstanding claims. Resolution 170 from Liverpool: "Instructs the National Council to organise all forms of industrial action, including an all-out strike of the whole membership", in the event of further confrontation must be supported.

The lessons of the dispute must be learnt, that hesitation and indecision only fuel the Tories' determination to dig the knife in further.

By Peter Jarvis  
(London Region NGA, personal capacity)

# Car industry pay battle

## Austin Rover

**THE REJECTION of BL's derisory 'improved offer' of an extra 50p by the JNC will be welcomed by workers at Cowley. At last week's mass meeting only 50 out of 8,000 workers voted against the shop stewards' resolution giving the JNC a mandate for strike action.**

Over the last ten years workers have seen BL cut the workforce by half and increase track speeds. Productivity has shot up while working conditions and real wages have declined. Austin Rover say we get £126 per week, well my take-home as a single bloke doing two weeks nights, two weeks days, is £83. Even some business consultant on Radio Oxford this week reckoned we should be offered double what's on the table for our efforts to make BL viable.

The bonus scheme, as we warned during the washing-up time dispute, was a con from start to finish. BL promised us up to £30 per week bonus yet some weeks we are lucky to get £1! Recently, to try to head off strike action management have been paying us £10 to £15 bonus, but

**By a T&G assembly worker at Cowley**

we are not fooled.

If we voted to accept the offer then not only would BL drop the level of bonus payments but would take it as a sign of weakness on the part of the trade unions and really stick the boot in. That is why the stakes in this strike are higher than the issue of pay.

### Wider issues

Musgrove, head of Austin Rover, has been threatening to break the closed shop. Management have also been threatening, in the event of a strike, to take legal action under the 1984 trade union act because according to the

Tories a vote of 8,000 to 50 isn't democratic enough!

With Jaguar workers set to take strike action on 1 November, an all-out strike by Austin Rover workers at the same time would provide an opportunity to bring management to heel and win back the ground temporarily lost over the last five or six years. However, any hesitation now by the leaders of the T&G and AUEW would encourage management to crack down even further on shop floor rights. BL workers must demand democratic control over negotiations. There must be no going back until a victory is secured.

The key to winning is firm leadership, together with the maximum unity of the rank and file; not just in Austin Rover but linking up with Jaguar and Freight Rover as well as forging links with workers at Fords who have also rejected their wage offer.



Austin Rover (BL) Longbridge workers vote for strike.

Photo: John Harris (IFL)

## Jaguar

**JAGUAR WORKERS in Coventry and Birmingham have voted to strike from 1 November by a massive five to one.**

At the Radford factory only 146 out of 2,000 voted against. The company have declared this is their "final" offer so a bitter battle looks inevitable.

Jaguar workers have a renewed confidence because of the company's boom in profits. A TGWU member at Jaguar, Radford, explains the situation.

OVER THE last four to five years the workforce at Jaguar Cars have made tremendous sacrifices. There has been little or no opposition from the trade union movement. Stewards from the TGWU and the AUEW have often accepted whatever management say or do—senior stewards applauding redundancies and then recommending excessive overtime when four million are unemployed and Coventry is an industrial wilderness.

### Bonus

The biggest bone of contention is the so-called production bonus. To explain this in a nutshell: most of the jobs on plant have been timed and you are given a standard number of components to do in a day. If these standards are met, everyone, in

theory, should receive £30 maximum bonus per week.

Even though production has risen dramatically, with a reduced workforce maximum bonus has never been paid to the shopfloor, 15% has been added to the original standards and still no maximum bonus. In fact it has been dropping by £1 per week over the last five weeks. If you do not meet the standards, for whatever reason, you are liable to dismissal.

Staff, on the other hand, get maximum bonus, sales bonus, merit money, week in week out. It is now very clear that this is a staff bonus that is being paid for with the sweat of the shopfloor.

The company say what are you moaning for, you've all got good jobs. Is a good job a place that you have to take your bed to, to earn a living wage?

Bearing in mind that this company, at the drop of a hat, can take away two-thirds of your wages—bonus and overtime—they can put you on the poverty line.

This year, however, the workforce are starting to see through the tissue of lies. They have become bitter towards management. They are demanding recognition of their sacrifices and want to see it reflected in their pay packets.

The wage claim is basically: £25 across the board on a one year agreement; payment from the first day of illness when the illness exceeds seven days; a revised look at the grading system. When you consider that the company is expected to make in excess of a £100 million pro-

fit this wage claim is not an extortionate one.

They have offered: 21% over two years; payment from 2nd day of illness (subject to conditions); £3.75 consolidation ie taken off the bonus (our money) and put onto the basic grade rate—or in other words we are being given our own money; bonus being raised from £30 to £36.50 per week.

For a Grade three worker, after tax, pension and national insurance deductions this offer works out at £4.96 in year one and £7.00 in year two. To get this, however, the workforce has got to do a further 22% on original standards.

### Flat rate increase

The general feeling of the shopfloor is: "If I'm working my guts out and not getting £30 bonus I've got to kill myself in order not to get £36.50". We don't want percentage rises, they only create a them and us attitude which is what the company wanted from the outset.

The company's final offer was made on 19 October, a derogatory 50p per week extra. This wage offer must be totally rejected by the shopfloor.

Management from the outset has sought 'The right to manage'. This is a nice statement for the media, but in reality it means 'manage by fear'.

We must use the only weapon we have, that is to withdraw our labour and stay out until a realistic offer is made.

## GEC

**ON FRIDAY 26 October at the strike meeting of the GEC Traction workers, Trafford Park, Manchester, 220 strikers reaffirmed their determination to fight for their pay claim and their jobs.**

All workers were called on to take part in the 24 hour picketing. Convenor Ray Robinson reiterated the task which face them as a result of GEC management's vicious attacks over the past two years—attacks which are not isolated to Traction at Trafford Park alone as the report from Coventry shows. This week also, GEC announced 90 redundancies in the Switch Gear section at Trafford Park. On Thursday these workers will meet to determine what action they will take. A move by the Switch Gear workers to strike alongside their brothers and sisters in Traction will boost the morale of those workers and apply increased pressure on GEC management, who have recently landed an order for 50 locomotives to be delivered to South Africa.

The irony is that workers made redundant from the Traction section over the past two years and subsequently re-employed in Switch Gear are now facing redundancy yet again—an example of the way in which GEC management are prepared to use the workers.

On Tuesday 30 October



Picket at GEC Trafford Park to stop supplies to the rest of the complex. Photo: John Smith (IFL)

management issued letters to the strikers. The letters told them they were in breach of contract by continuing to strike and that if they do not return to work by Thursday 1st November their contracts will be terminated. This attempt to split the strikers and crush any support from workers in the sections still working received an angry response.

On Saturday the delegate conference of the GEC combine will

take place in Salford at the AUEW offices. The call for a united fight against this new round of attacks must be loud and clear.

**By Pete Chilton**

Correction: Apologies for a typo-graphical error in last weeks report which was meant to say "understand the size of the task" not "underestimate".

At national level the unions involved should prepare GEC workers support. If the company succeed in Coventry, they will undoubtedly tackle the unions elsewhere. Coventry district union leaderships should also meet to discuss these attacks and be prepared to take the action discussed by Coventry East AUEW district committee of; "one out all out", if any workplace's closed shop is withdrawn.

**By Tony Hunt**  
(ASTMS senior rep,  
Stoke, Coventry)

## Coventry closed shop

**Taking their cue from the Tory anti-union laws, Coventry's biggest employer, seems to be preparing for a major offensive against the unions.**

GEC's Coventry division declared its intention last week to withdraw recognition of the closed shop from Thursday 1 November when the new law comes into force.

It has also told manual workers' convenors that they are no longer full time on union business. At the time of writing,

manual workers are expected to strike as from Friday 2 November and sit in at the Stoke plant. GEC has already threatened to sack over 350 inspectors who had been striking over a pay structure for four weeks.

At the proposal of Militant supporters, staff unions will be holding mass meetings and leafletting to prepare their members to defend the closed shop. All unions must make it absolutely clear they will refuse to hold the ballots on the closed shop the Tory laws require.

## Sheffield

**NALGO members in Sheffield City Council's Family and Community Services department held a 24 hour strike today on 29 October. This was in protest at the suspension of Robert MacDonald, who, in line with the union policy of non-cooperation with councillors, failed to attend a council meeting.**

He has been removed from the pay-roll until such time as he makes a written undertaking to breach union policy by co-operating with councillors.

This policy of non-cooperation is in support of NALGO members who are in

the eight week of strike action over new technology. At a meeting today (Monday) the F&CS members voted for indefinite strike action.

**GLEESONS STRIKERS** in Sheffield voted on Thursday 18 October to return to work following a decision by the Sheffield City Council to endorse a new contract to Gleesons.

The lads felt that their greatest weapon, the threatened removal of Gleesons from the Council's list of approved contractors, had failed and that they had been badly let down. This leaves Pete Woodward, the

victimised shop steward, on his own without a job—the company having got exactly what they wanted. Yet all the council needed to do was lift its little finger.

The reinstatement of Pete Woodward as the shop steward as well as the reinstatement of the others who were made redundant has to be insisted on by the council before Gleesons are given contracts in the future. Otherwise, the comments of Mr Fahey of the Gleesons management that: "I have too many friends in the council chamber," will begin to be believed by workers.

# Militant

Wearmouth Colliery—

Pages 8-9

South African trade unions—Page 10

## Save council jobs and services

By Bob Sulatycki  
(West London NUT and ILTA personal capacity)



Part of the protest demonstration against the abolition of the GLC/ILEA in January.

Photo: Militant

**MASSIVE PROTESTS** are planned for next week against Tory plans to dismember the metropolitan counties and rate cap local authorities. Bob Sulatycki looks at the prospects facing the huge Inner London Education Authority (ILEA).

THE ILEA will be the first rate-capped Labour authority to declare a budget on 20 November.

Complying with the level of cuts demanded by the government would have a catastrophic impact on staffing and provision of Inner London's education involving:

- ★ 7,425 sackings.
- ★ Spending on books and equipment cut by 30%.
- ★ Asbestos removal programme curtailed.

How exactly £75 million worth of cuts will aid education in Inner London the government does not say. The Schools Inspectorate who monitor provision and standards nationally say that only six out of 104 local education authorities in England and Wales currently meet standards. Now one of them, ILEA will be removed from the list.

Unfortunately, up to now the Labour-controlled ILEA's response has not been a clear position of 'no cuts', they have simply called for the authority to "be allowed to make a budget for 1985-86". In the widely publicised budget consultation document, ILEA speaks of the need to select some savings.

- ★ 714 full-time and part-time staff redundant.

- ★ Increasing primary school meal prices to 40p and secondary prices to 45p. This has angered the unions. It seems we are being asked to fight for the right of ILEA rather than the government to cut jobs and services. Inner London's NUT (ILTA) is campaigning for a "no cuts policy that will unite all those who work for and use the provisions of ILEA".

ILTA has taken the step of writing to all Inner London Labour Parties and Labour members of ILEA urging a 'no cuts' position and linking up with councils threatened by rate-capping.

It is not yet clear what ILEA will do, but many fear a major capitulation to the government. Whatever happens the fight won't end on 20 November. Teachers in the NUT are refusing to cover for absent colleagues in order to start the task of saving the jobs of supply teachers and maintaining school conditions.

We must extend this fight alongside other councils and workers affected to save our education service and our livelihoods.

- ★ Fighting for London's jobs—Page 7



Photo: John Smith (IFU)

Stockport Messenger workers donate food to the miners. Like them, the miners are fighting the shackling of the unions.

### Continued from front page

just as the financial pressures of Christmas approach. The labour movement must act as resolutely as the Tories have.

The TGWU members at Stanwell were abiding by their union decision to back the miners. Many other workers would gladly build a campaign for action against the Tories' plans. The lack of response from the TUC over the sequestration has been disgraceful. There have been no protests, no demonstrations against this savage punishment.

The chairman of the TUC has even hinted about TUC pressure to force the NUM to back down. But this does not represent the feelings of the union rank and file.

As the Stanwell picketing proved, the miners, linked with other workers still have the power and the authority to win this strike. The miners have enough determination to last out a winter if needed but a victory can be won a lot earlier with the full solidarity of the power workers. If power cuts start to hit industry, the capitalists who at present are backing Thatcher will find their profits at risk.

The vital power stations are in the Trent Valley and South Yorkshire area. South Wales miners are already preparing to picket Trent Valley. Electricity supplies have only been kept going through huge emergency measures, with thousands of cowboy lorry drivers being paid thousands to get coal through. The closure of just one big power station like Drax would be the beginning of the end for MacGregor.

Movement of coal has nevertheless been greatly reduced; the NUM must now ensure it stops completely by blacking all coal and oil into power stations and calling on rail and transport unions to take solidarity action, as

Coalville NUR members in the heart of the Leicester coalfield have done. At national and local level links must be forged with the rail unions NUR and ASLEF.

The union must learn from Stanwell and take its case to the highly organised tanker drivers to stop the oil which is being used increasingly in the power stations. The TGWU offer of solidarity must be translated into action.

### Back the miners

In some parts of the East Midlands companies have brought in scabs to drive lorries where their own TGWU employees have stuck to union policy of support for the NUM. Under this pressure a key regional committee of the TGWU dealing with road transport has in effect voted to ignore national policy.

The national officials of the TGWU have the duty to put this right, to go to the area personally, address special workplace delegate conference and to campaign among their members, lorry and tanker drivers especially, to back the union's national policy. TGWU members must be mobilised alongside miners to picket power stations. The leaders of the TGWU must be pressed into such a campaign, and the miners locally must take up the same issues.

The Tories have plenty more vicious plans for the entire working class; new laws in operation from Thursday seek to end the closed shop. No strike could ever be "legal" again if the government have their way.

The Tories are out to trample all union rights underfoot, starting with the NUM. But we can not only stop them, we can gain a famous victory provided we organise and we stand and fight together.

### Founding conference of the Further Education Labour Students (FELS)

Saturday 10th November, starts 12 noon: 'Save the FE's—Fight the Cuts'—Speakers include Derek Hatton, Deputy Leader, Liverpool City Council.

Sunday 11th November: Sessions on YTS, Young Workers in FE Colleges, Black Youth, Student Union Rights with speakers including: Terry Fields MP, Harry Smith, Vice-Chair, Liverpool Council Education Committee, Frances Curran, Labour Party NEC, Kevin Williams, Brighton Area NUS Convenor etc.

Venue: Liverpool Polytechnic, James Parsons Building, Byron. Write for credentials to: Louise James, 24 Higgins House, Whitmore Road, Shoreditch, London N1 5RA. The cost of credentials, £4, will cover two hot meals, overnight accommodation, the Saturday night social and the entrance fee.

Article on FE Labour Students—page 2



**BECOME A**  
**Militant**  
**SUPPORTER!**

Send to Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Name .....

Address .....

### SUBSCRIBE!

BRITAIN & IRELAND	EUROPE (by air)	REST OF WORLD (by air)
13 issues . . . £5.00	26 issues . . £11.00	26 issues . . £16.00
26 issues . . £10.00	52 issues . . £22.00	52 issues . . £32.00

Name .....

Address .....

Make cheques payable to Militant, and return to the Circulation Department Militant, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

### Donate

I would like to donate £ . . . p each week /month to the fighting fund.

### Sell

I would like to sell \_\_\_\_\_ papers per week (minimum 5) on a sale or return basis.