

Schools revolt

Mass walkout slams YTS

A QUARTER of a million school students have given a crushing answer to the Tories, the press and the cynics in the labour movement.

From Lands End to Newcastle, from Liverpool to Canterbury school students in their tens of thousands came out on strike last Thursday, after the call from the School Students' Action Committee to protest against the Tories' plans to make YTS compulsory.

The strike took place against all the odds. Thatcher condemned it. So did the Liberals. Unfortunately too the TUC and Labour leadership condemned it.

They all received a powerful reply from the country's youth—no longer are they prepared to sit back and be exploited on the cheap labour YTS schemes or be the next batch of dole fodder. They are fighting back—not in the blind frustration of the riots of 1981 but in an organised and disciplined manner.

That the students should campaign in such a way before they have joined the labour market, or more likely the ranks of the unemployed, will

send shock waves through the establishment. The next generation of young workers is *already* fighting back.

The political maturity of these young teenagers was sadly lacking from the Labour leadership. Neil Kinnock, perhaps thinking he was talking in the language of the students today, dismissed those who backed the strike as 'dafties'. The real language of youth today is talk of mass unemployment and exploitation: there is nothing 'daft' about school students wanting to fight for a decent future.

Dole fodder

Indeed, in Kinnock's constituency of Islwyn itself, 500 joined the strike.

The Marxists in the labour movement make no apology for backing the school students to the

hilt. It is essential the despair, frustration and anger of youth is channelled in a positive direction, linking up with the labour movement. The students themselves understand this—in Pontypridd the thousand strong school student demonstration called on the leader of the South Wales miners to lead them into the town, which he proudly did.

Instead of sniping at them from the sidelines, the trade union and labour leadership should join with groups such as the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign and the Labour Party Young Socialists, in winning these thousands of youth to the organised labour movement, the only force capable of defeating the Tories (see pages 2,3 and 4).

By Bob Wade



Photo: Martin Shakeshaft

Over 3,000 school students went on the demonstration in Cardiff

Fund our Fight

MILITANT is on its way to another record. Over £50,000 for our Fighting Fund in one quarter!

But, at the time of going to print we're not there yet. We have kept this quarter's fund open for a week to help your area reach its target (see chart, page 17).

We know our supporters can work near-miracles with last-minute efforts. If you add the amount raised from supporters for the Marxist Daily Building Fund to our Fighting Fund it gives a total of £101,500 raised this year.

Who said we were on the decline? Nevertheless, we needed a Fighting Fund total of £70,000 this quarter, or our pace of expansion would be further delayed.

Try every avenue for raising last minute donations and rush your cash to us by first post of Wednesday 8 May. Send us £100's £50's and £10's and the pences, too. Even if you miss the end of the quarter, Militant still needs your money to back up your battles with the bosses and the Tories.

STOP PRESS: The founding conference of the School Students' Union has been called for 15 JUNE. For further details contact YTURC, c/o 92 North End Road London W14.

250,000 join school

THE CALL for a national school students strike was made only three weeks ago by the School Students Action Committee. This committee was formed by 200 school students who met at this year's Labour Party Young Socialists' conference in Blackpool at Easter.

The strike was not 'anti-teacher' or 'anti-education' but against the government's proposals to make the slave labour YTS scheme in effect compulsory, by withdrawing supplementary benefit from any school leaver who refused to go on the scheme. As such the strike had the full backing of the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign which has vigorously campaigned for trade union rights for YTS trainees.

Youth hit back at Thatcher

By Militant
reporters

THE HYSTERICAL reaction of the Tory press over the school strike—where they actually bothered to report it—was expected.

They reduced their 'news' coverage to talk of shady left wingers hanging around outside the schools. 'Militant Squads call out Kids!' screamed the *Daily Mail*. The *Daily Express* though took the biscuit, saying "Two hundred attended the march at Lincoln's Inn Fields in London and shouted down speakers." In reality 5,000 attended and cheered every word from the platform. Radio Four reported hardly any response in Birmingham yet 1,000 turned out for a rally there.

Political

While these sort of comments are expected from the Tory press, it is unfortunate that the Labour leadership chose to echo these views. Like the Tory press, the labour leadership cannot seem to grasp that it is the Tory government that has made young people political, not the LPYS. It is impossible to 'brainwash' a quarter of a million youth onto the streets.

Neil Kinnock rubbished the strike with his 'dafties' comment. Deputy leader Roy Hattersley has called for an investigation into the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign. Yet Neil Kinnock and others of the Labour leadership have said Labour needs to win the 15-16 year olds, who after all are tomorrow's voters.

If they really want to win the youth they should ensure the resources are given to the

By John Hird
(LPYS National Chairman)

Labour Party Young Socialists and YTURC to get on with this task. As Tony Benn pointed out at the last National Executive Committee: "It's not enough just to get youth to listen to Billy Bragg songs. They've got to get organised."

A commitment from the leadership that the next Labour government will guarantee a job for all school leavers and introduce votes at 16 would also have a massive appeal for youth.

Applaud

The ranks of the movement will applaud the work of YTURC and the LPYS for campaigning to bring this section of unorganised youth into the labour movement. It will condemn the leadership who have rejected these youth out of hand and must condemn the proposed investigation into YTURC.

The LPYS will also be calling on the labour movement to continue this support, urging backing and sponsorship for the mass demonstration called for June 29 in Liverpool by YTURC to protest at the Tories plans for YTS conscription, in which thousands of school students and young workers are expected to participate.

Northern Ireland

NOT ONLY was the school strike in Northern Ireland well supported, it also cut across the sectarian divide.

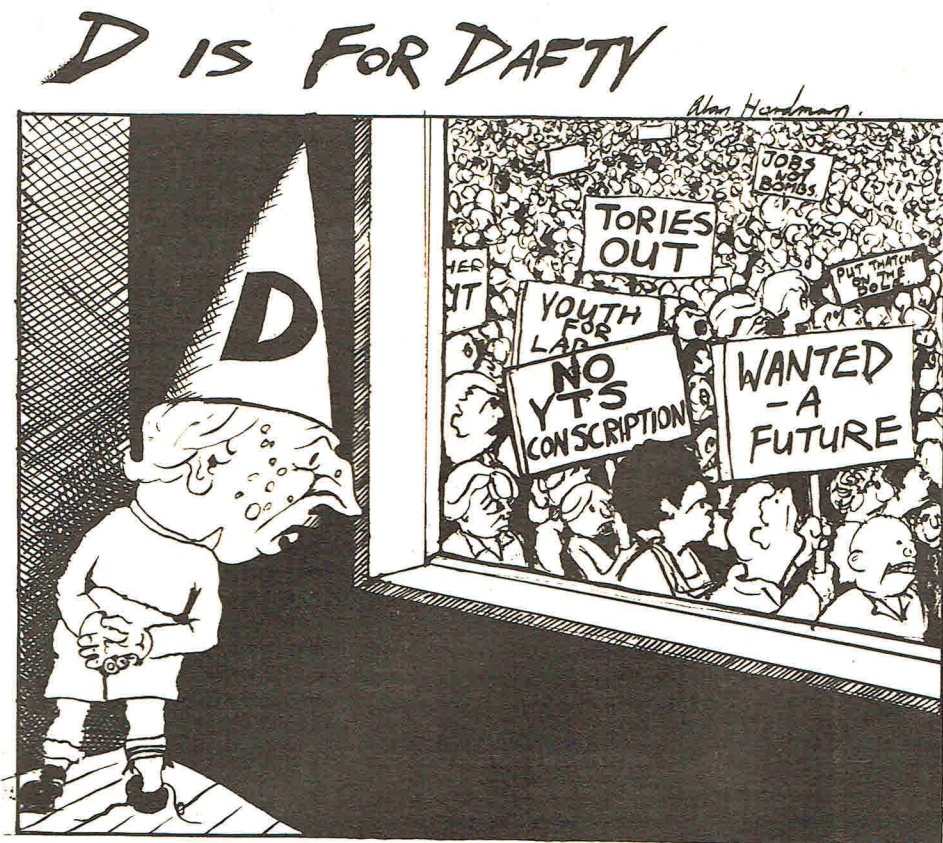
Organised at a week's notice by 50 school students, the strike was supported by over 3,000 in Belfast, against plans to conscript young people onto the Youth Training Programme (equivalent of YTS).

Orangefield Girls' School from East Belfast set the tone for the day when 120 of them marched three miles from their school into the City centre, with anti-Tory placards and chanting "here we go".

Bobby Miller, a Labour and Trade Union candidate in the local government elections, joined the speakers at the rally. Over 2,000 school students marching behind the Labour and Trade Union Group banner then proceeded to blaze through the city centre, on what can only be described as the biggest and best ever demonstration of Catholic and Protestant youth in the North for decades. One trade unionist commented: "This is brilliant, just brilliant, I haven't seen anything like this since 1969."

Despite various Ulster Television reporters attempting to deliberately provoke school students from different Catholic and Protestant schools, there was not one hint of sectarianism throughout the day. One school student remarked: "I think this strike has really shown that Protestants and Catholics can be united. We are going to see a lot of sectarianism in the run up to these local government elections, but this demonstration shows it can be beaten".

In Derry a further 2,000 school students walked out. In Coleraine 150 school students took strike action, and in Enniskillen 28 students attended a meeting called by the Young Socialists.



Mass rally in London

THOUSANDS JOINED the strike in London. The rally in central London at Lincoln's Inn Fields was as well attended as the national YTURC lobby in February.

Throughout London school students joined the strike. In Hampstead, North London, 'resourceful' students at one school padlocked the gates in the morning, and while staff tried to break it open, led nearly 500 students to Quinton Kynaston school to build support, shouting at them to join the strike. Many opened windows and jumped out but after being threatened with suspension they returned to class. Similar tactics were used in Hayes where 250 students walked straight past the headmaster of another school into their playground, and called on the school to strike. In Woolwich South London, 1000 joined the rally and marched twice around the town centre, even though

police said they couldn't. However, police stormed into the march arresting four.

In Hackney, teachers at Skinners school voted to leave school at dinner time so they could not be used to stop students going out.

In Brent school students sent out flying pickets to build the strike. In the south of England strikes were generally smaller as there have been sporadic strikes over the past month. Students also faced intimidation from all quarters. In Southampton prefects and teachers at one Catholic girls' school linked arms across the gateway to prevent students leaving. Similarly at Portsmouth Grammar School, students were beaten back from the gates. In Plymouth four LPYS members have been threatened with expulsion from the Labour Party for supporting the strike, and a LPYS branch threatened with suspension.

Yorkshire

VICTIMISATION did not stop a great response in the Yorkshire area, where the lessons of the miners' strike are still fresh in people's minds.

In the Huddersfield area, Ian Brook of the Labour Party Regional Youth committee and Holme Valley LPYS has been expelled after leading 400 out on strike.

In the build up to the strike in Rotherham one headmaster declared the strike 'illegal' and at Clifton school, desks, lockers, bags and pockets were all searched for the deadly YTURC leaflets. Even so, hundreds came out with 500 at the rally.

In Castleford 400 students attended a rally in the local park, which police tried to disperse by driving a van at speed into the park. Control was regained though and the rally continued.

In Leeds 2,000 joined a demonstration and the miners' song of 'Here we go' once again rocked the City. In Barnsley 500 marched, going to the NUM offices to show solidarity with the miners, while 400 attended the Grimsby rally.

In Sheffield, 500 marched through the city, converging on the Manpower Services Commission headquarters. There they were met by civil service trade unionists who spoke in support of their demands.

SUCH WAS the widespread support for the strike that *Militant* has been flooded with reports from every area where action was taken. Extracts have been taken from most reports and late reports are hoped to be published in future issues.

strike

Police harassment in Wales

PERHAPS THE worst police harassment of school students took place in Wales. The most ominous case was in Cardiff. On the Thursday three Young Socialists were suspended from Glan Ely High School. The next day 100 students walked out in protest. One of them phoned local *Militant* supporters to come and support the impromptu demonstration. However when they left the building and got into their car they were immediately met by a police van, and booked for motoring offences. Another police car 'coincidentally' arrived at the same time. Were the phones tapped or had the police been 'staking out' the building?

Police harassment did not stop the success of Thursday's demonstration which was joined by over 3,000. The next day 50 school students joined the LPYS at a meeting of the Cardiff West branch.

Caerphilly
A thousand joined the strike despite a 'military operation' by police, after 300 students picketed out another school. Police tried to break up a march of 500, arresting one LPYS member.

Newport
3,000 on strike but at the rally attended by a 1,000 students, the council refused to turn on the power for the PA system and police refused the march permission to go ahead. Undeterred the



Part of the march in Cardiff.

Photo: Martin Shakeshaft.

students marched on the courts where a miners' case was being heard, and then onto Newport Castle—here, the students ran up the Red Flag!

Merthyr

500 joined the strike. Like such areas as Nantyglo and Blackwood, none of the schools had been leafleted by the Schools Action Committee, yet students made up their own leaflets and posters to support the strike.

Islwyn

In Neil Kinnock's own constituency, 500 'dafties' joined the strike.

Pontypridd

Several miners from three pits joined the demonstration of 2,000 from schools in the area in a high spirited mood.

Peter Thomas, from Nant Garw lodge NUM spoke at the rally

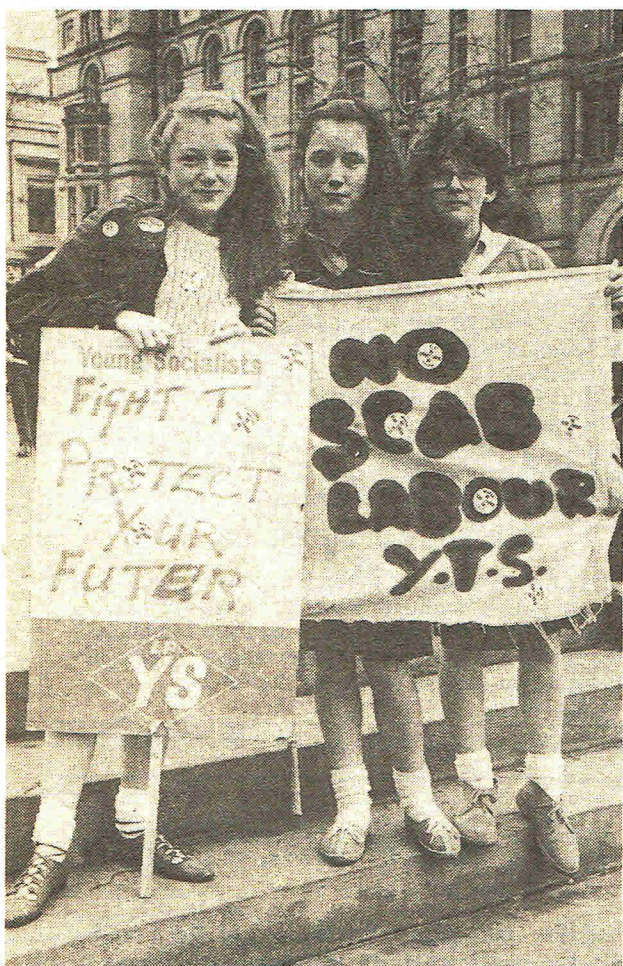
afterwards, saying he was moved to see young people prepared to stand up and fight. "I've got three children of my own... if you want a future go out and fight for it".

Militant supporter David Jones, was met with big applause as he got up to speak on behalf of the *Militant* paper.

At the end of the rally the LPYS desk was flooded with over 200 people wanting to join up.

Aberdare

At a May Day rally on Saturday, Emlyn Williams, President of South Wales NUM gave a rousing speech. On the school strike he said: "I condemn Kinnock's attack on the school strike and the thousands of youth organising and fighting for their rights". These individuals during the miners' strike has also been "found wanting", he said.



Three early arrivals at the Liverpool demonstration.

Liverpool march

OVER 10,000 school students marched through Liverpool. The mood was electric. Students began arriving at St. George's plateau from as early as 11am, with their own banners representing their schools. Many workers came out of the buildings to support the rally. As they arrived in their hundreds they were greeted with songs of "Come and join us" and "Here we go" along with many anti-Tory songs they had made up for themselves.

Students from Kirkby, where schools had been out on strike since the previous week, had organised their own marches around the area to build up for Thursday. As Paula Jones 15, put it: "We have got nothing to lose. We have got nothing in Kirkby. YTS is the last straw, and this rally is more of an education than we could ever learn in school."

"All youth should unite and show the Tories what we think. We should involve our parents because it's their jobs the Tories will have us replace".

John Rigley, Jammie MacDonald and Mike Manix from Kirkby, describing the previous week's strike said: "We had a meeting of over 200 and the police arrived in vans and cars and drove at the meeting. Many of us were pushed down an embankment on to railway lines. Some of those caught were hit with batons and kicked—and they have the cheek to say it was us rioting".

Debbie Riley from St Gregs, said: "We are not stupid. All we are saying is if we are old enough to go on cheap labour YTS, then we are old enough to go on strike for our future".

By Caryn Matthews (Walton LPYS)

Hundreds join strike in southern England

IN BASILDON 600 joined the rally, marching across the town to several schools to show other students who had been kept in that the strike was a success. The Job Centre was also occupied and a protest was held outside Essex Radio. Police arrested one 14 year old, but released him when students threatened to march on the police station.

In the rest of the Eastern region and Kent, hundreds joined strike rallies: Stevenage 500, Watford 600, Borehamwood 250, Cambridge 100, Ipswich 500, Harlow 500, Maidstone 200, Canterbury 200, Deal 100 with 300 meeting in the Medway towns.

It was a similar success in the south west with 200 joining the rally in Bristol and another 200 at nearby Yate. LPYS members at schools in Chipping Sodbury have been threatened with expulsion. 200 walked out of one school alone.



Terry Fields speaking at the Liverpool rally.

Manchester

MANCHESTER saw some of the biggest rallies of the day, with 12,000 on strike. At the main rally attended by 7,000 a headmaster spoke, while the NUT at Lorretto school produced a leaflet in support.

Reading arrests

'REDS UNDER the desks' screamed the *Reading Chronicle* following the mass arrests in Reading. The incident was played up by the national media in an attempt to sow confusion over the strike.

The arrests came after Ashmead school students tried to leaflet Southlands school.

Police stopped anyone getting near Southlands school. In frustration one youth threw a missile at police. This action is condemned but the police

response was completely out of proportion to the incident. 41 were arrested and held all afternoon.

In the evening at a public meeting, Roy Hattersley condemned the strike and called for an investigation into YTURC. The chair refused to allow Labour Party and LPYS members to challenge Mr Hattersley on his comments.

However, regardless of the leadership's lack of support, over 40 students say they want to get active with YTURC.

Midlands

IN COVENTRY there was strike action at seven schools, a high turnout given the levels of intimidation by the authorities.

At one school all known 'political activists' were put into one specially supervised class, while at Sidney Stringer school a lunchtime fire drill was called. With all the school assembled in the tennis courts, teachers and staff manned the gates so no one could get out. However, many scaled the fences and charged at the gates in a breakout of Colditz proportions!

In Birmingham a spontaneous demonstration followed a 1,000 strong rally in the city centre.

In the East Midlands, 300 came out in Leicester, marching on the offices of the *Leicester Mercury* which had attacked the strike. In Nottingham, police stopped the march going ahead, so a demonstration was held outside the police station.

After hundreds joined three rallies in the Stoke area, three *Militant* supporters were arrested under the Public Order Act. They were released in the evening, but on the Friday morning students held a spontaneous demonstration outside the police station thinking the arrested were still inside.

Glasgow demo



Glasgow demonstration.

Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

IN SCOTLAND, which witnessed a 20,000 strong school strike two weeks ago, a strike was not called as exams have begun. However, a demonstration was held on Saturday against YTS conscription, supported by school students, YTS trainees and young workers.

The 2,000 strong demonstration cheered the speakers while music was provided by Billy Bragg, Pioneers West and Rhythm System. Billy Bragg told the crowd to "get political and join the Young Socialists". In the evening LPYS members attended the Labour Party Jobs and Industry Campaign Billy Bragg concert where over 400 socialist papers were sold.

Militant

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Labour must organise the youth

THE CRITICAL and patronising attitude of the Labour and trade union leaders to last week's strike of school students was a disgrace. There was not a word of praise for what was the biggest-ever protest movement of youth in Britain or for the strike which developed from nothing in three short weeks, despite the intimidation of headteachers and education authorities.

The school students' strike marks a serious step in the politicisation of youth, particularly working class youth who have seen their own parents, relatives, brothers and sisters thrown on the unemployment scrap-heap. School-leavers can see the same future looming ahead of them and they are not prepared to sit idly by and wait for it to happen.

The strike was far from being "organised truancy" as has been suggested. Where there is truancy, in other words aimless and random absenteeism, that too is often a reflection of the disenchantment of students with their schools and their futures. But this was an organised *protest*, a consciously political movement.

The school students displayed as much elan and initiative in their strike as was ever shown by the miners or any group of workers on strike. Many students "picketed out" other schools and some became strike-bound almost spontaneously, without there having been

any leafletting or organisation.

The rallies and demonstrations on the day of the strike were noisy, enthusiastic and overwhelmingly anti-Tory. At some meetings the speakers could hardly make themselves heard for the chanting, especially against Thatcher.

Tories cut wages

Those in the labour movement who try to belittle such protest movements should bear in mind that it is always the youth who are in the forefront of opposition and protest movements, and not infrequently youth of school age. The conditions faced by young people in Britain are not yet the same as those on the West Bank, in Soweto or in Chile, but the political consciousness of youth today is far more developed than ten or fifteen years ago.

The Tories have created a gulf between the classes: forcing down the living standards of workers, consciously using YTS and youth unemployment as levers to undercut the wages and conditions of workers in general. But young people are showing that they are not prepared to take away their parents' jobs under worse conditions and at a third their rate of pay; they are not prepared to be the Tories' "dole-fodder" as one striker put it.

The strike has been inspired by the magnificent battle of the miners of the last year and, more immediately, by the strikes of the teachers for higher pay.

The methods of struggle of the labour movement are becoming a part of the everyday experience of young people and it is natural that school students should also want to organise themselves to take up serious protests and demands for themselves as part of the working class.

The strike marks a radical transformation of youth. Unlike the school students unions of the 1960s and 1970s, the mood now is openly political and anti-Tory, because youth, like workers as a whole have no alternative but to struggle for a future. Indeed in the vitality and scale of the schools' strike of last week, there can be seen the future movement of the working class.

The Labour Party must not stand aside from this movement. On the contrary, it must become the champion of the youth. Labour must raise the demand for votes at 16. The school strike has shown an enormous potential for winning youth to the banner of Labour. It will not be the last strike or protest of its kind. Labour must be prepared to mobilise young people into the ranks of the

Socialist programme

official labour movement through actions of this kind, and it must give the hundreds of thousands of school students who are completely alienated from capitalism, a programme and perspective for socialist struggle. The movement that has the youth has the future.



One of the arrests on Saturday. Photo: Militant.

Police wade into Newham 7 march

OVER 30 people were arrested in Newham, east London, on Saturday when police moved in on the Newham 7 demonstration.

Well over a thousand people joined the march against racist attacks. The march was peaceful and when it passed Forest Gate police station, which has a notorious reputation amongst local Asians, a short protest was staged.

However police moved in lashing

out wildly and arresting people.

One of the arrested, Caroline Halpin of Leyton LPYS said: "We were taken inside the station where they had a row of typewriters ready to deal with the arrested. We were all fingerprinted and some were handcuffed. I saw them hit one Asian lad".

The demonstration remained outside the police station demanding the release of those arrested.

However, as the march began to

thin out and as the police were reinforced by units from the nearby West Ham United match, they moved in to disperse the crowd making more arrests.

The Newham 7 Campaign say they will support all those arrested and have called a further demonstration for 11 May, meeting at 1pm at Plashet Park, East Ham.

Parents' Support

THE LIVERPOOL Labour Party Women's Council canvassed the support of parents for the school students' strike last week.

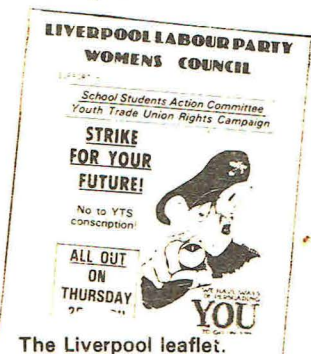
Leaflets were distributed to explain what the strike was about and to counteract attempts by the press and others to claim that the strike was irresponsibly exploiting the fears of young people.

The leaflets called for parents to support their children and support the

half-day strike.

"The strike is important for you as parents. Many YTS trainees are used as cheap labour and that means that they take the jobs of older employees on full rates of pay", said the leaflet.

A member of Broadgreen LPYS, Barbara Cunningham, quotes one parent while out canvassing as saying: "I'll be marching with my daughter after what happened to my son after a year



The Liverpool leaflet.

of demoralisation on a YTS scheme. He was no longer the same character." She despaired at the selfishness of "that woman". "She has ruined my son."

Hit at YTS

THE STRIKE was backed by Paul Weller and Mick Talbot of Style Council and Suggs of Madness. On Kinno's 'dafty' comment, Paul Weller told the *NME* that Kinno "is only ill-advised" but added: "That's only me trying to be optimistic about it".

The *NME* added: "The 'dafties' were widely assumed to mean the LPYS and YTURC who together have done more to expose the nature of YTS and attract young voters to Labour than anyone else in the Labour Party hierarchy".

MAY DAY GREETINGS

Pupils of Our Lady's High School Motherwell and of Wishaw High School send fraternal greetings to *Militant* for May. Forward to a daily for the only paper that tells the truth.

'Stop victimisation' call to governors

ALL THE cases of individual victimisation since last Thursday go to illustrate the harsh and authoritarian nature of so many British schools.

That suspensions and expulsions are seriously considered just shows the extent to which some heads are acting out of political motives. After all, if there was such a deep concern for the missing of a whole afternoon's schooling—why make the problem twenty times worse by suspending a pupil resulting in two weeks or so being missed?

Governors

Where disciplinary measures are threatened the school governors must be approached quickly. It is they, not the heads who have the final say in who gets suspended or expelled.

School governing boards are composed of representatives of the staff and parents of the school, and of the local political parties (in proportion to their strength). Names and addresses of individual governors should be available on request and representation should be made to them individually and collectively.

Labour Party governors should be approached and resolutions passed at ward, constituency and district Labour parties instructing Labour governors to oppose acts of individual victimisation. In Labour controlled areas the local education authority should be made to adopt such a policy (as

Liverpool and Knowsley have done).

The teacher governors must also be approached. They are members of either the NUT or NAS/UWT. It is important to contact the union representatives as well as the governors, so that they adopt a policy for the teacher governors to follow.

Unions

In addition, the local teachers' associations should be contacted to get their opposition to victimisation agreed.

Although most heads are not in the NUT, if there are any attempts to suspend or expel students in ILEA, school heads will have the opposition of the NUT to contend with as well.

With a clear explanation of the reasons for the action, most teachers and governors can be won to a position against victimisation. Particularly this is true at the moment, since the completely justified industrial action by teachers themselves, has resulted in far more absences from schools than the half-day action organised by the students themselves.

All teachers therefore have a particular duty to oppose the victimisation of students which if allowed to go unchallenged would open the way for even more authoritarian developments in those schools—developments which can only be damaging for the teachers themselves.

By Bob Sulatycki
School Rep ILTA council
(personal capacity)



Gordon Bennet writes—

WE'RE going through difficult times. With a world recession coinciding with the aftermath of thirty years of neglect of the root problems of British industry, we all have to pull together. We need to tap into the inherent genius of the British people and, combining innovation with self sacrifice we can make Britain great again. Blah, blah, blah. This is the sort of unmitigated guano that the Tories would have us believe.

On Budget day the Chancellor spoke out against Wages Councils on the grounds that they price people out of work. It seems the spirit of self sacrifice demands that the miserable pittance that is involved should be cut (for the good of the country of course). Unfortunately for the Chancellor, on the same day, ICI published its annual report which showed that the total pay of its chairman, John Harvey-Jones had been increased from a meagre £171,000 to £287,000 a year—a rise of over £2,200 a week.

So it seems that it's not all doom and gloom in Thatcher's Britain, and if you take a glance at some of the other annual reports it becomes less gloomy by the minute.

Sir George Jefferson, chairman of BT, has had a 70 per cent rise in salary since privatisation. David Rowland, chairman of Steward Wrighton, the London based international insurance broker, received a 37 per cent rise from a pitiful £88,865 to £121,914 last year. Sir Owen Green, chairman of BTR (who've recently taken over Dunlop) boosted his pay by 46 per cent from £97,000 to £142,000.

Last but by no means least comes Mr Richard Giordano, chief executive of the BOC Gases Group whose salary in 1984 rose by 48 per cent to £771,600. Giordano only spends about a third of his time in this country (Christ knows what he'd get if he actually lived here) but as Arthur Daley would say, he's on a nice little earner. His salary is set by BOC's non-executive directors who are picked by Giordano himself and the other executives!

Lord Young of Graffham, the political plankton who masquerades as the Minister with special responsibility for youth employment, has defended these pay rises while at the same time accusing young workers of pricing themselves out of jobs.

According to the Keynesian Charter for Jobs mob, a quarter of the households in this country have net incomes below £80 a week and yet the Tories are still trying to give us this flannel about the unions wrecking the economy! If it's tough at the top, it's a bloody sight tougher at the bottom.

NEC distorts decisions on **Militant**

THE RIGHT-wing and soft-left majority on Labour's National Executive Committee is using a series of undemocratic measures to suppress opposition and the ideas of Marxism within the party.

The last NEC has taken a further step to ban *Militant* despite all the denials of these "democrats" that there would be no witch-hunt or suppression of ideas.

No decision on ban

The NEC decided "that it is against the decisions of Annual Conference to sell *Militant* as part of any Labour Party campaign; and that on evidence being presented of such activity by individuals or organisations, the Party should take action to draw the attention of those members or organisations to the requirements to protect the Labour Party Constitution and Rules".

The NEC has manufactured the lie that a Labour Party conference decision

was made to ban *Militant*. There is no such decision.

The October 1982 Conference passed two decisions about "*Militant* Tendency": firstly to establish a register of non-affiliated groups and endorse the Hughes/Hayward report; and secondly to enforce the constitution and rules of the party. Nothing was said about banning *Militant*.

On the contrary, Party General Secretary Jim Mortimer made it clear that it was not about ideas or newspapers but the rules: "All who observe the rules have a legitimate place in the broad stream which constitutes our party".

The decisions on the register, etc were only pushed through with these assurances. Even Mortimer's report to the January 1983 NEC, stated that action against *Militant* Tendency "should not preclude Labour Party members from reading, selling, purchasing, publishing or writing for newspapers, including *Militant*". But this is exactly what the NEC is now at-

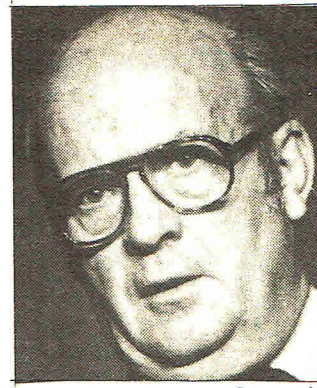
tempting to do!

The July 1983 NEC meeting decided to ban *Militant* from being sold on Labour Party premises. Parties should deny *Militant* any "facilities". As Russell Tuck stated at the 1983 conference, replying for the NEC debate on witch-hunts, "The decision (of the July NEC) is only about providing facilities for the sale of *Militant* on LP premises. It does not stop those who want to read it from doing so. It is their business".

Fabrication

There were absolutely no "decisions of annual conference to sell *Militant* as part of any Labour Party campaign...". This is just a complete fabrication of the Appeals and Mediation Committee to strengthen its attack on *Militant*.

So if there is no conference decision, or anything in the rules, how can action be threatened to "protect the Labour Party constitution and Rules"?



Jim Mortimer, General Secretary of the Labour Party.

The majority on the NEC are fabricating decisions to justify the expulsion of *Militant* sellers from the party. This was the case in Rhondda, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Newcastle East, and now in Warley West.

Michael Foot, summing up the debate on the register and the Hughes/Hayward report in October 1982, stated "Nobody under these proposals will be expelled for being a socialist, they will be expelled for breaking the constitution". But where in the constitution does it say it is an offence to sell *Militant*?

He went on to say; "of course one cannot suppress ideas by organisation, if you are seeking to take measures to sustain and protect the constitution, you have an ab-

solute right to do it.

"But you must do it in a manner that does not infringe the proper rights of free association, free debate and free argument in the party".

But that is exactly what's being attempted by the NEC. They wish to defeat the ideas of Marxism, not through democratic debate and discussion, but by organisational means. Why ban the *Militant* if it is not a struggle against ideas?

Against ideas

It is a blatant attempt to bring back the list of proscribed groups and papers that was abolished by Party conference in 1973, with *Militant* on top of the list!

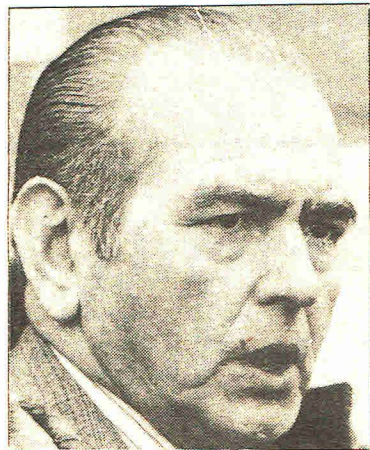
It is an attack on the democratic rights of party members and an affront to the democratic traditions of the labour movement. The rank and file will protest against these attacks on democratic rights.

Militant will not be suppressed. On the contrary it will grow from strength to strength, from a weekly to a daily.

By Rob Sewell

Miners, school students, trade unionists, Labour MP's, young mothers all read *Militant*. Here's why.

Why I read **Militant**



● Emlyn Williams (President South Wales NUM above)

"My belief is that the purpose of reading *Militant* is to become involved as a socialist in the Labour Party. You are able to find out for yourself by reading *Militant* about the policies for a future Labour government. During the 12 month stoppage many miners began reading *Militant*—that's the feedback I get from the area".

● Simon Rudd (Morecambe LPYS, school student)

"I have always been interested in *Militant*, but before I bought a copy of the *Militant* in the street, I had never found anywhere where these ideas were put forward.

"*Militant* is a paper for youth and gets a really good response from young people. The first week I sold *Militant* I sold 13 copies, most of them at my school. *Militant* is the only paper supporting the YS members organising the school students action. Kids don't want YTS and they are prepared to fight. *Militant* shows the way.

"A daily *Militant* is an absolute necessity and would build support for Marxism really quickly."

● Joan Maynard MP (Sheffield Brightside right)

"*Militant* is one of the socialist papers I read, because I try to keep abreast of the various strands of socialist thought in the movement. All of them have something valuable to contribute. If you don't read *Militant*, try taking it. You won't agree with everything, but you will appreciate their commitment to the cause of the working-class. It gives full coverage to the Youth Trades Union Rights Campaign, run by the Young Socialists. I agree with the aims of the campaign and feel they are doing a good job (within their limited funds) to win young people to the socialist cause. Good luck to *Militant* newspaper for the future."

● John White (Cortonwood NUM)

"Before the strike I'd never met *Militant*, but I saw a local *Militant* supporter selling the paper with headlines about the miners' strike. The coverage in *Militant* was the best throughout the strike. Lots of miners had got the basics of Marxism in their minds, but nobody had been round to tell them.

"There's no respect around here for the *Sun* and *Mirror*. We sell quite a few *Militants* now regularly, especially on street sales, with people discussing what's in the paper. What I like is that *Militant* puts an alternative. It's also good to see people involved in what's going on writing in the paper—not just somebody down in London. You say 'I know him, I know her.'"

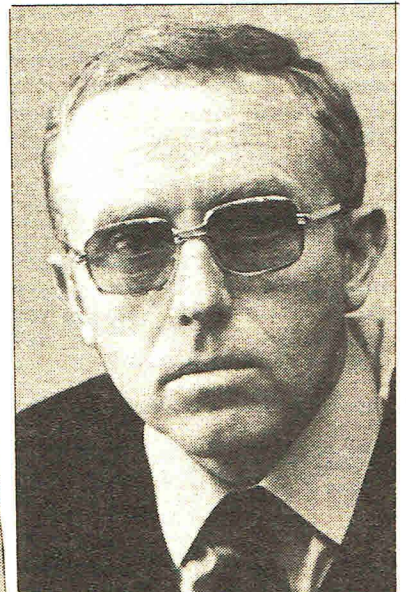


● Phil Holt (National Executive Committee National Communications Union and National Secretary Broad Left Organising Committee)

"I read *Militant* because it provides invaluable facts and figures which I can use in my work in my union. It also gives a thorough political analysis which often leads to accurate predictions about the likely course of events. This coupled with its understanding of the trade union movement gives me confidence in the steady advance of Marxism".

● Ian Schofield (Senior Steward Range Rover Solihull)

"I have been selling *Militant* for many years. It is a paper that reflects and reports the views of the working class. In addition it has excellent articles on the situation internationally, giving workers an insight into the misery capitalism has created. Despite the lies and distortions aimed at *Militant* by the media, the paper is well received by workers. They know that *Militant* sellers are involved wherever workers are in struggle. *Militant* is an established feature in our place, my union branch makes a standing monthly donation to the paper."



● Terry Fields MP (Liverpool, Broadgreen above)

"I first started reading the *Militant* during the fireman's strike of 1977 and then, as now, I found that it was the only paper which really put the workers' case and, more importantly, provided a programme and a way forward.

"The kind of socialist policies that the *Militant* advocates can win support of working class people, as our election victory in Broadgreen testifies. *Militant* is a lively and refreshing answer to those cynics in the labour movement who try to portray socialist ideas as an electoral liability.

"Young workers, school students and pensioners should all read *Militant*—there's something in it for all of us, because all working class people need socialism."

● Mary Hanson (young mother, Sittingbourne Labour Party)

"*Militant* is the only paper that can look at things from my point of view. That's why I sell it as well. I usually manage to sell 5 or 6 at work each week. When the Tory papers are screaming about lazy, greedy workers all the time, it's not that difficult to sell a paper that sees things from the workers' side."

Southwark occupation

OVER 200 furious trade unionists and local people occupied Southwark borough council chamber on Friday 24 April and prevented renegade Labour councillors moving to set a legal rate.

The council meeting was adjourned to Wednesday 1 May—May Day.

The occupation followed a decision at the Labour Group the previous evening to abandon, by 24 votes to 20, the tactic of deferring setting a rate.

This surrender came despite written appeals to stand united from the leaders of the seven other councils left in the campaign.

Angry scenes

There were angry scenes in the Town Hall as local people, young and old, showed their disgust with the betrayal. Each of the deserters received an "In loving memory" card with a white feather attached. Wherever the renegades went a stream of well intentioned advice followed. They were isolated and exposed—their only allies were the Tories. The comments of Mary Dean, a NUPE shop steward were typical: "They're a load of bastards. These scab councillors should join the Tory Party where they belong".

A chorus of "scab, scab, scab" left one of the deserters in tears. All were white-faced and visibly shaken.

The councillors who voted to stab the campaign in the back defied the three local Constituency Labour Parties, all the council trade unions, the Local Government Committee, the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations and



Three Labour deserters (seated) surrounded by angry protestors during the Town Hall occupation.

many voluntary and community groups.

The councillors who voted to continue the campaign are determined to fight on with the trade unions and within the Labour Party.

Councillor Danny McCarthy, said: "I didn't think they'd fall before the fight had begun. It was the most disgusting show of hypocrisy I've ever seen. I hope the Labour Party deals with them now."

Councillor John Bryan, a Militant supporter, said: "This shows the workers in the borough that they've got to get active in the Labour Party and reselect their employers. The Southwark labour movement must link up with other councils still in the fight whatever happens in the council chamber."

The deserters' argument that jobs and services are safe with them now and in the future is treated with derision by local trade unionists.

Norman Ellery, chair of NUPE said: "We want to fight from a position of strength not weakness. This is the first time we've had the unions united and the tenants united. It would take years to get this solidarity again".

John Mulrennan, secre-



The strength of feeling of council workers can be gauged by this poster one of them placed in the council chamber.

tary of NALGO said: "We're here to express trade union disgust at the majority of Labour councillors who put their own interests before the interests of the people who elected them. We will work to return a Labour administration which is as committed to defending jobs and services as the trade unions in Southwark".

Harry Smith, a Liverpool Labour councillor on a

solidarity visit, who joined the occupation, told Militant "I think it's heartening that the trade unions and socialists on the council are taking a stand. I think they can still link up with other councils like Liverpool. The lesson is—select representatives you can trust".

By Paul Traynor
Peckham CLP (personal capacity)

TGWU election

Start left campaign now

THE RE-RUN ballot between Ron Todd and George Wright for the General Secretary of the T&GWU is due to start on 13 May.

It is therefore essential that the left begins campaigning immediately to ensure the right wing are stopped in their tracks.

Although the union has been cleared of allegations of ballot rigging, Ron Todd has decided to go to the membership for a vote of confidence. Every member of the union will be outraged at the way Fleet Street have tried to drag the union down. To give the media and the right wing a kick in the teeth Todd needs to be re-elected with a huge majority.

This means there must be:

1. Factory and workplace meetings organised to explain the issues.
2. Rallies throughout the country with Ron Todd speaking.
3. The Broad Left to initiate an open, democratic campaign to secure a victory for Ron Todd.

Adverts are to be placed in the papers to try and maximise turnout. The more members that participate in the election the better, but given the media attention and inevitably biased coverage against Ron Todd especially by the anti-trade union 'popular' press, it is essential that a campaign of

explanation about the different policies of the two candidates reaches the mass of TGWU members.

It is upon policies, not personalities that the left must fight. To do otherwise will be to fight on the terrain of the right wing, given the press and media interference.

It would be a big mistake for the left to conduct the campaign in a low key fashion, merely emphasizing Todd's greater "seniority" and "experience". The issues must be brought and Ron Todd must state clearly his intention to unite the TGWU around fighting socialist policies, implementation of the already agreed left policies of the union, including a rejection of witch-hunts.

To relax and allow the right wing to gain the upper hand would mean the return of the days of witch-hunts, bans and proscriptions. Already the opening shots of a witch-hunt have been fired in George Wright's South Wales region.

The re-election of Ron Todd would be a major setback for the right-wing in the TGWU, and to those who want to return the union back to the dark days of Arthur Deakin.

By Ian Parker
(TGWU 10/349 personal capacity)

Greetings and thanks to all our supporters.

The movement must not forget jailed and victimised miners.

KENT AREA NUM

YTURC

May Day greetings from the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign. Thanks to the only paper that supported the school students' strike.

Build for June 29th.

Terry Fields MP and Dave Nellist MP

May Day greetings from workers' MP's on workers' wages

UCW WEMBLEY OUTDOOR BRANCH

May Day greetings to the movement. Forward to the Daily Paper and socialism.

Swansea NALGO Militant Supporters salute the miners —jobs and services before Tory laws.

Hackney North LPYS
May Day greetings to all Young Socialists. Youth fightback against the Tories.

The 1/1354 Branch T&GWU wish all its trade union colleagues on London Heathrow Airport and all the other CAT Airports fraternal May Day greetings.

**Chairman A Hinds
Branch Secretary J Cooper**

THE CONTRACEPTIVE drug Depo Provera has now been approved by the government for long-term use, despite its use being connected to an increase in cervical cancer, and other serious side effects. The drug has been used for some time in third world countries where women are often unaware of these side effects.

Feature
by
Viv Seal



THE UPJOHN drug company were finally able to announce in February that Depo-Provera is available as a long term contraceptive in Britain. This was the result of intense campaigning and pressure by the company to reverse the decision taken three years ago by the DHSS not to issue a license for long term use.

Depo-Provera injections have been used widely in third world countries for more than fifteen years. At the end of last year the World Health Organisation reported a two-fold increase in cervical cancer in long term Depo-Provera users. Other research links it with cancer of the lining of the womb.

Almost all women who take it experience "menstrual disturbances" in the first six months of use, according to Upjohn itself. Thirty percent experience increased bleeding and some women have bled for a year afterwards. Prolonged bleeding causes anaemia in women who are undernourished.

Side effects

Headaches and depression are the next most common side effects, often dismissed as unimportant because they are "subjective complaints". The drug may cause permanent sterility and almost certainly will delay a return to normal fertility for many months.

Depo-Provera still has not got a license for long term contraceptive use in the USA, Sweden and several other Western European countries, as a result of the cancer risk. The use of the drug in the third world has been severely criticised.

Women are rarely told the side effects of the drug or given a medical check-up, and in some countries it is administered without their knowledge or even against their will. In South Africa, for example, black women factory workers may be sacked unless they agree to the injection.

Bribes

Upjohn has admitted paying \$4 million in bribes to overseas government and hospital employees to get their products ordered by government agencies. This casts a new light on the argument—for example from the International Planned Parenthood Association—that third world governments are demanding Depo Provera, and that their choice should be respected!

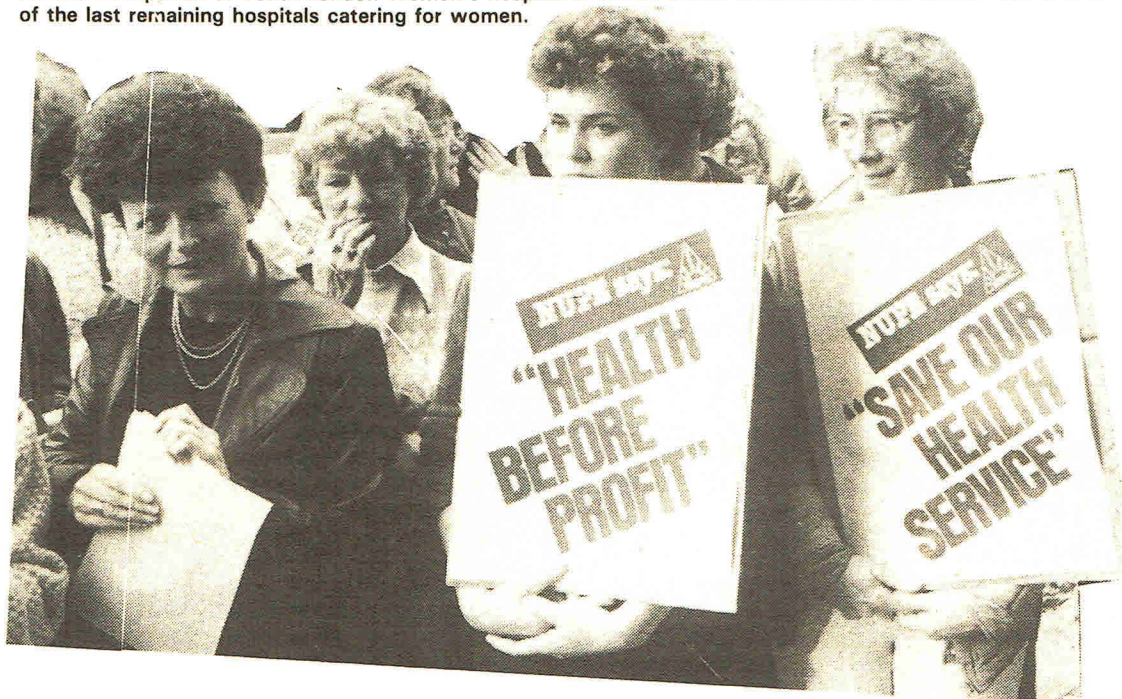
In Britain, the panel of experts who recommended the change to health minister Kenneth Clarke, also made a point of recommending that Upjohn study the long-term post-marketing effects of the drug, and that women only receive it when they have given their "informed consent".

The Tories have, however, already cancelled plans for an official post-marketing drug surveillance scheme because they say it is too expensive: and

Depo-Provera- Production line birth control drug



Above: occupation of South London Women's hospital in March which is threatened with closure and is one of the last remaining hospitals catering for women.



"... the balance of our population, our human stock is threatened... a high and rising proportion of children are being born to mothers least fitted to bring children into the world... They are unlikely to be able to give the children a stable emotional background... They are producing problem children, the future denizens of our borstals, subnormal establishments, prisons, hostels for drifters..."

—Keith Joseph

there is no law to compel the drug companies to do it instead.

Doctors are to receive data sheets stating that Depo-Provera should only be given to women who cannot use other methods, that the drug is dangerous to women who might already be pregnant, and

that doctors should give proper counselling to women to ensure that they fully understand the long-term effects of the drug and the possible side effects. (It lasts for three months at a time and cannot be reversed—you just have to wait for any bad effects to wear off).

Readers who have experienc-

ed the production-line approach of many GPs in relation to birth control (for which doctors get extra pay) will be forgiven for viewing cynically the notion that they give their "informed consent" to treatment. A leaflet for women who are offered Depo-Provera has been printed in nine languages

spoken in Britain, but only the English version has been sent out. Doctors have to order other languages separately.

Although previously not recommended for long-term use doctors have been prescribing the drug for longer periods to women they have considered had no suitable alternative. Usually this meant women who—in the doctors' opinions—were "unreliable" in some way. They were usually poor, often non-English speaking and/or black, and often described by doctors as "promiscuous" or of "below average intelligence".

Informed consent was a mockery. Women were rarely given information about the drug, the excuse being that they couldn't understand (for reasons of language or intelligence). Several cases have been reported where the woman was not aware she had been given a contraceptive.

These attitudes are consistent with the comments made by Keith Joseph when Secretary of State for Social Services. He was talking about the need for better family planning services, but the implication was that the Tories were judging who should or should not have children, rather than making it easier for women to have a real choice about whether and when to have children.

Who controls birth control?

Depo Provera must have been just what he was looking for: the ideal contraceptive to keep control of fertility in the hands of doctors and administrators rather than the women themselves. It is the ideal drug for women who will not toe the line, who do not accept what the doctors think is in their own best interests, and are hence labelled "unreliable".

In the third world, Depo Provera is easier, cheaper and more politically acceptable than enforced sterilisation and has much the same advantages to the population controllers. In the third world, population control policies are administered by repressive states and imperialist countries (which call it "aid").

Birth control is a "technological fix" aimed at solving the problem of poverty without a redistribution of wealth. Increased living standards, land reform, adequate food and shelter, investment in proper drainage and clean water are all necessities.

In the third world, Depo-Provera is openly advocated as an alternative to revolution. As the economic crisis deepens, it looks as though that's what the Tories have in mind for us here, too.

Nationalisation of the drug industry must go back on the agenda for the next Labour government, together with workers' control not only of industry but of the organisations which advise the government on licensing and safety of drugs.

Photo: Andrew Ward (Report)

Workers' MPs on workers' wages

DURING THE miners' strike the socialist commitment of Labour MPs was clearly put to the test. While certain MPs suddenly found their diary full and were unable to give full public support to the NUM, left wing MPs like Dennis Skinner donated their salary to the miners for the duration of the strike.

Constituency Labour Parties are currently taking part in reselection of MPs. Party members will be considering what sort of MPs they want to represent the working class voters.

Throughout the movement there is growing support for the idea of a 'workers MP on a workers wage'. Terry Fields (Liverpool Broadgreen) and Dave Nellist (Coventry South East) both stood on this pledge during the election. Both have since lived on the wage of a skill-

ed worker; Terry Fields and Dave Nellist draw £130 and £115 a week respectively from their parliamentary salary of £16,908. The rest is set aside for substantial donations to all parts of the labour movement.

Campaigns

For example, Terry Fields donates £1,000 to the local labour movement as well as £500 to the national Labour Party. During the miners' strike Dave Nellist donated over £1,100 to the NUM.

Their numerous other donations have ranged over hundreds of campaigns and strikes, including to the Warrington NGA, Greenham Common Peace Camp and the Newham 7 Campaign.

All these donations are recorded and are open to the scrutiny of Labour Party members in each of the constituencies.

In a letter, Neil Kinnock congratulated Terry Fields on his "excellent practice" of giving large contributions to the Labour Party. It is hoped therefore that the Labour leader will back demands at the next party conference for all Labour MPs to follow this example, giving at least £1,000 annually back to the party.

Fat salaries of Labour's elite

Feature by
Fiona Winders
(Newham South LPYS)

LABOUR CHIEF whip Michael Cocks recently made an astounding attack on fellow Labour MPs who made large donations to the Labour Party. He accused them of attempting to influence the voting in reselection.

Such concern for the democratic processes of the Labour Party is ironic—Michael Cocks opposed the introduction of mandatory reselection and currently refuses to recognise the elected officers of Bristol South CLP, his constituency.

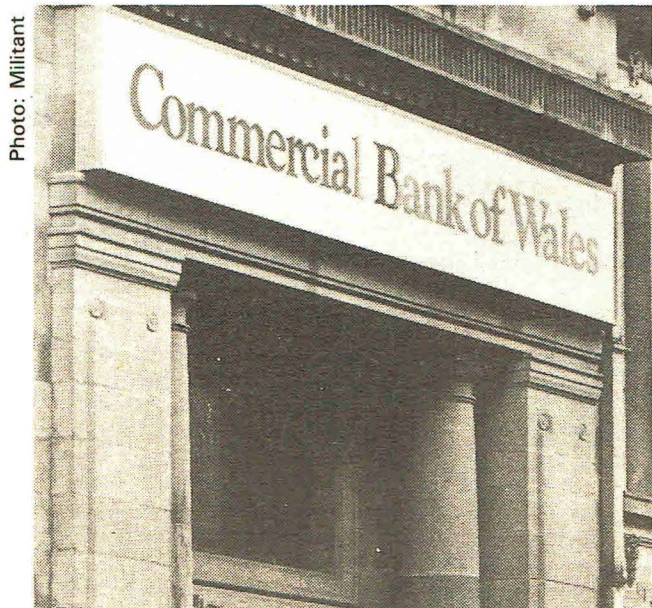
The real reason for this right wing attack is the growing support amongst Labour's ranks for Labour MPs to accept only a 'workers wage' and donate the rest back to the party. The right wing fear they may have to give up some of their fat salaries. A quick look at the Register of MPs' interests shows that many Labour MPs lead a very comfortable life, far removed from their working class constituents.

Interests

For instance, Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough, is a barrister and member of Lloyds, that exclusive City club of insurance underwriters—to be considered, prospective members have to come up with a deposit of £100,000.

Meanwhile Denis Healey, wrote the *Times* in 1981, was earning £500 a week (on top of his parliamentary salary) writing columns for *Financial Weekly* and the *Standard*.

Jim Callaghan, former Labour Prime Minister, has a half share in a 138 acre farm in Sussex. He



The prestigious Commercial Bank of Wales. Former Labour Prime minister was brought onto its Board of Directors.

also has past associations with Sir Julian Hodge, the merchant banker. Sir Julian was knighted by the Labour government in 1970 for his 'services to Wales', but later was at the centre of a 'pyramid selling' scandal which left thousands destitute after the collapse of this bogus get-rich-quick scheme. Mr Callaghan also accepted an invitation from Sir Julian to serve on the board of directors for the Commercial Bank of Wales.

Many party members are angry that such Labour MPs pursue other professions; it not only stops them doing a full time job to the Labour Party, but gives them a rich lifestyle incompatible with the socialist aims of the Labour Party. For example, how would Mr Callaghan and Mr Bell view the nationalisation of financial institutions?

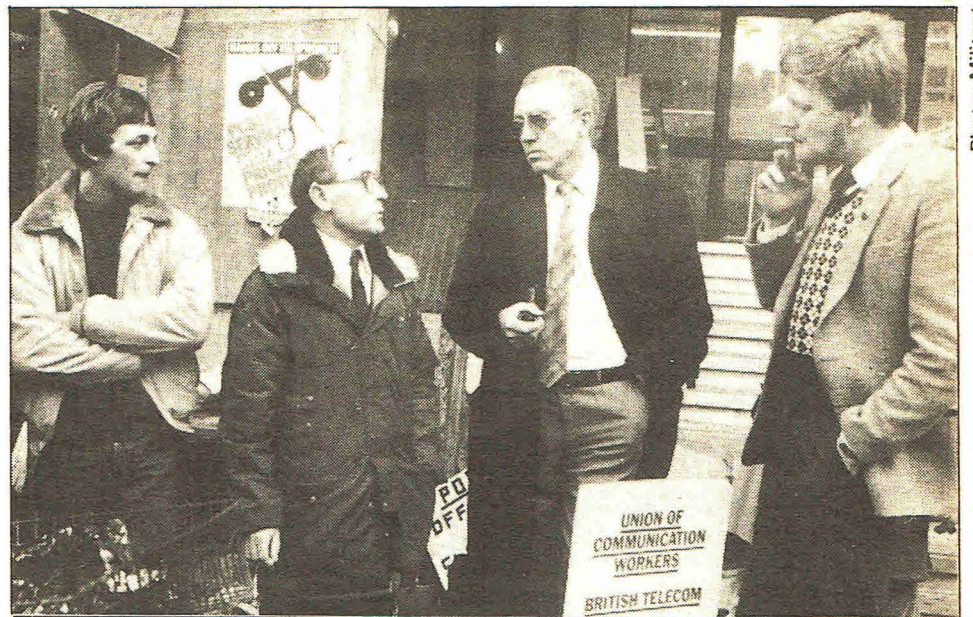
The demand for a 'workers MP on a workers wage' is not just a neat slogan. Even on

the parliamentary salary alone, along with all its perks and privileges, Labour representatives can become far removed from the realities of life. The best intentioned Labour MP can be sucked into the unreal world of Westminster, the 'best club in London'.

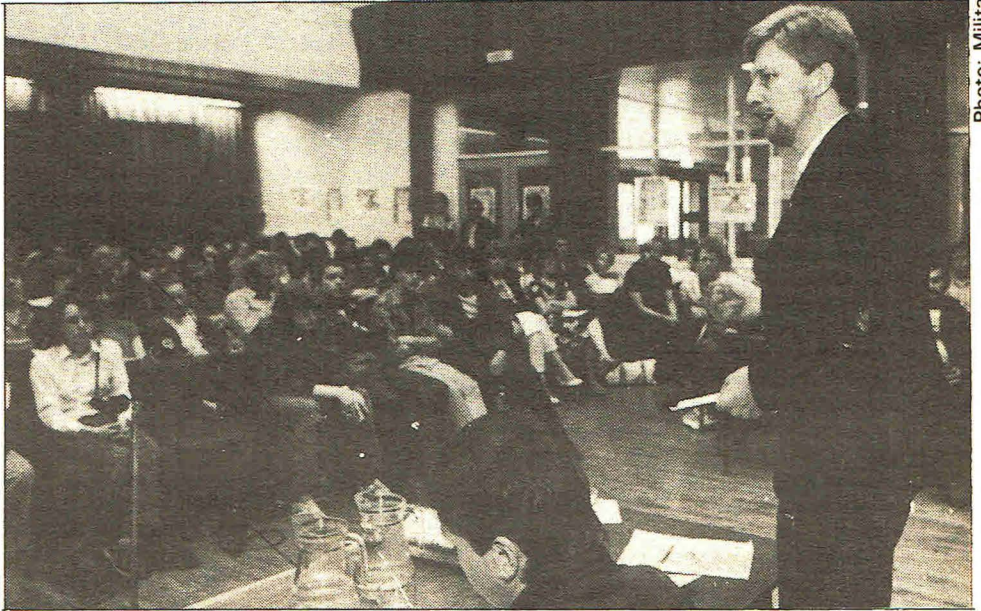
Class stand

It is essential that Labour MPs take only the average wage of a skilled worker, so they remember where they come from and who they are meant to be fighting for.

As Terry Fields, who only takes £130 from his parliamentary salary, put it: "When I'm fighting for a better future for young people, I'm fighting for my kids too because I know there's nothing down for them under this system—I can't buy them a future and that's the way it should be."



Workers' MPs Terry Fields and Dave Nellist join a Post Office Engineering Union picket line in November 1983 during the battle against privatisation.



Dave Nellist MP addresses YTS trainees as part of the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign in the Midlands.

Letters of support

THERE IS tremendous support for Labour MPs taking only a 'workers wage'. After Terry Fields spoke on radio explaining this idea, he received many letters of support.

One writer from Kidderminster wrote: "Hearing of what you are doing stunned me—like the second coming of the socialist party." He added he was glad to hear of an MP who "isn't in it for the money". An Asian worker from north Devon wrote: "What a pity you are not our MP".

A teacher from Keighley, west Yorkshire, questioned whether £130 was the average wage, pointing out she only took home £310 a month. But she added: "As a teacher currently taking industrial action I feel that your comments on the work-

ing man's wage could have done our cause nothing but good. Unfortunately those that should be taking notice of such remarks were no doubt supping port and brandy..."

Principles

An old Labour Party member from Surrey wrote to Terry Fields, remembering Labour's 'Immediate Programme' of 1937, which mapped out plans for the welfare state and nationalisation. He said: "That programme helped massively to prepare the way for the 1945 landslide victory—the betrayal of that programme has been the cause of the Labour Party defeat." He congratulated Terry Fields for his "stand for socialism and your principles."

Secretary's 25 grand

THE POLICY of a 'worker's wage' should also apply to leading full-time officials of the Labour Party. The party's new general secretary, Larry Witty, will be paid an annual salary of £25,000.

Party members are continually being told about the Labour party's financial crisis. So why does the general secretary have to be paid £500 a week? As well as releasing money for campaigning work and keeping Labour Party officials in touch with the working class, the payment of an average wage of a skilled worker alongside regular election, would act as a barrier against careerism within the movement.

Coventry enquiry a disgrace

THE REPORT on Coventry SE Constituency Labour Party from the Appeals and Mediation Committee, accepted last week by the Labour Party's National Executive Committee, is a disgrace.

It arose from an enquiry (held on 16 December, 1984, 18 months after the event) into the conduct of the CLP during the 1983 general election campaign.

It contains blatant distortions and inaccuracies; for example only the first few lines of the 'evidence' attributed to Joan McCoy, secretary of St Michael's branch, were actually spoken by her.

The other lines were the crude ramblings of Fred Davies, a party member

who went to a Liberal press conference six days before the general election and urged Labour voters to vote for the Alliance candidate.

Blackleg

In the recent postal workers' strike, he was one of only three who crossed the picket line and moved mail. He has threatened to resign his UCW membership, and there seems no doubt that the Coventry UCW branch will be pleased to accept his resignation.

After the general election, Davies was expelled from the Labour Party. He appealed to the NEC. They rejected the appeal, though changed the ex-

pulsion into a year's suspension. It was at that same NEC meeting however, that it was decided to "investigate the complaints made at the enquiry about the conduct of the general election campaign in Coventry SE constituency".

The subsequent report, unanimously condemned by the General Management Committee of the CLP for its inaccuracies and distortions, was investigated and based largely on the evidence of this individual. It is ridiculous that the NEC should accept the word of a scab rather than the unanimous view of the CLP.

Wales Labour Party Young Socialists.

"He who has the youth has the future" (and we've got the youth!) Support YTS (Youth Towards Socialism) and lets kick out the Tories forever!

Swansea LPYS, Bridgend LPYS, Cardiff Central LPYS, Llanelli LPYS, Newport East LPYS, Ebbw Vale LPYS, Abertillery LPYS, Cardiff North LPYS, Cardiff West LPYS, Pontypridd LPYS, Caerphilly LPYS, Carmarthen LPYS and *Militant* supporters in Cardiff South and Penarth LPYS, Islwyn LPYS, Rhondda LPYS, Neath LPYS, Aberavon LPYS.

Liverpool Garston Constituency LP

congratulates the Liverpool Labour Council on their bold socialist stand against the Tories. Forward to victory once again.

West Midlands BLOC

sends fraternal greetings to all workers, down with the Tories, forward to socialism
Chairman: Keith Birch (T&GWU 5/352)
Vice-Chairman: Mick Atherton (NUR President West Midlands)
Secretary: Bill Murray (APEX, personal capacity)

Coventry SE

Labour Party Women's Section sends fraternal greetings on May day.

Fraternal greetings from Newham NE CLP Central Branch—Support the Newham 7

Sheffield Heeley LPYS

Greets socialists everywhere. Lets build a fighting, socialist leadership, fit for the rank and file

Bristol North West

Labour Party Young Socialists
Here we go! Forward to a Daily Militant

"May Day greetings from Liverpool DLP Women's Council.
Support Liverpool City Council's fight for socialist policies".

Coventry Miners and Homefire Plant Wives' Support Group

Greetings and thanks for all help and support in our struggle. No Surrender.

Neath CLP

Militant supporters
Say
No witch-hunts!
Let youth join the Labour Party!
Forward to socialism!

Bootle

Labour Party Women's Section
"Women and Men workers unite in a common struggle against the bosses and their system". Greetings from Bootle Women's Section.

Militant Merseyside

Garston North, Mossley Hill, West Derby South, West Derby North, Dovecot, Walton North, Walton South, Riverside South, St. Helens South, Broadgreen, Bootle, Crosby, Ellesmere Port, Neston, Wirral South, Wallasey, Wrexham LPYS branches send fraternal greetings
Fight Racism—Support Sam Bond
Victory to Liverpool City Council

Rochdale and District Labour Women's Council
Socialism: The tendency is constant!

Llanelli Labour Party Women's Council

Miners battle adjourned. Prepare for class war, not witch-hunts.

May Day Greetings

The *Militant* supporters on Wrekin District council

Send fraternal greetings
Fight back against the Tories—support Liverpool City Council, break the law not the poor
Councillors:
Jim Bell, Barry Malone, Graham Morgan, and Laurence White

Wrekin LPYS send fraternal greetings, to the Labour and Trade Union movement. Build a socialist Labour Party. Forward to a *Daily Militant*

Liverpool Mossley Hill South LPYS

Workers internationalism—support socialist links with South African youth

MOSSLEY HILL LPYS SENDS FRATERNAL GREETINGS, VICTORY TO LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

Clydebank FE College Labour Club—affiliated to NOLS yet no delegates! no mailing
Forward to democracy in NOLS

Scottish LPYS

May Day greeting from Scottish LPYS Regional Committee members (in personal capacities)

Andy Clachers, Tony Quinn, Jackie Galbraith, Alex Shanks, Ian Stanton, Wallace Ross, Jackie McCulloch, John McGurk, Tremicunye MacDonald
SCHOOL STUDENTS UNITE!
FORWARD TO SOCIALISM!

CARLISLE MILITANT SUPPORTERS

Militant is coming on the wings of the storm, we resist in the present for those yet unborn, our message is spreading like the wings of a bird, and sooner than later it's got to be heard! (acknowledgements to Gil Scott Heron for inspiration)

Melrose Labour Party

Melrose Labour Party congratulates Liverpool City Council for its policy on race relations and fully supports the appointment of Sam Bond as head of the new race relations unit.

Woodhouse Park

Labour Party branch says: Break the law, not the poor!
Forward to socialism!

Yate LPYS & Militant readers

Forward to a daily

Hertsmere LPYS

Reinstate the furious 5
Fraternal greetings from Hertsmere LPYS

Edinburgh West LPYS

Forward to International Socialism

The workers united will never be defeated.

Leeds Central Militant Supporters

May Day ... workers'

THIS WEEK May Day rallies will be attended by hundreds of thousands of workers in Britain and by hundreds of millions internationally. But the true significance of May Day should not be taken for granted or forgotten. It is a celebration of the traditions of organisation and solidarity within the workers' movement, but particularly, a celebration of workers' internationalism.

WHEREVER workers organised themselves in trade unions in the past, it was automatic that the widest possible degree of solidarity was always in their best interests. Even in the earliest days of the labour movement, therefore, workers began to reach out to their brothers and sisters in other countries.

The earliest expression of the striving for international solidarity was the formation of the International Working Men's Association, later known as the First International. Under the leadership of Marx and Engels, this organisation laid the basis of many struggles and movements that crossed the boundaries of the capitalist states.

May Day itself came into being as International Workers' Day from the struggle for the eight-hour day beginning with the simultaneous strikes and demonstrations in a dozen countries on May 1 1890. It has been marked ever since as a day of international unity and workers' solidarity. The importance of international solidarity and an international perspective have never been greater than they are today, nearly a century after the first May Day, as the world workers' movement enters a new era of struggle.

The most striking feature of the economic crisis affecting British workers is the fact that it is part of a generalised world crisis. There is not a single country or an area of the world that is not now faced by social crisis and by a corresponding increase in the movement and activity of the working class. No one country's economic or political developments can take place in isolation from the rest.

In the advanced countries of capitalism the long post-war boom, lasting from about 1950-1975, is decisively at an end. Capitalism faces a long and protracted period of decay and social crisis with short, weak booms, alternating with deeper recessions. The present world boom from 1982 has made virtually no impact on mass unemployment, has generated little new investment and, by the beginning of next year will begin to slide again towards recession. Each recession threatens to be deeper than the last, and each new recovery more anaemic.

Slumps in the past were always characterised by massive over-production leading to the closure of whole industries. Today's capitalist crisis shows different features but

with the same results.

A small number of giant companies dominate the world market. About 90% of world trade is accounted for by only 500 monopolies. Unlike in the past, these giant monopolies can accurately anticipate world market conditions, so that instead of over-production the crisis manifests itself as *over-capacity*.

In periods of recession the main capitalist economies use only about 70% of their productive capacity and even under so-called boom conditions, only 80% is utilised. The end product however, is the same as before—closures. In all the advanced capitalist countries a reduction in capacity is taking place at the present time.

Resources wantonly destroyed

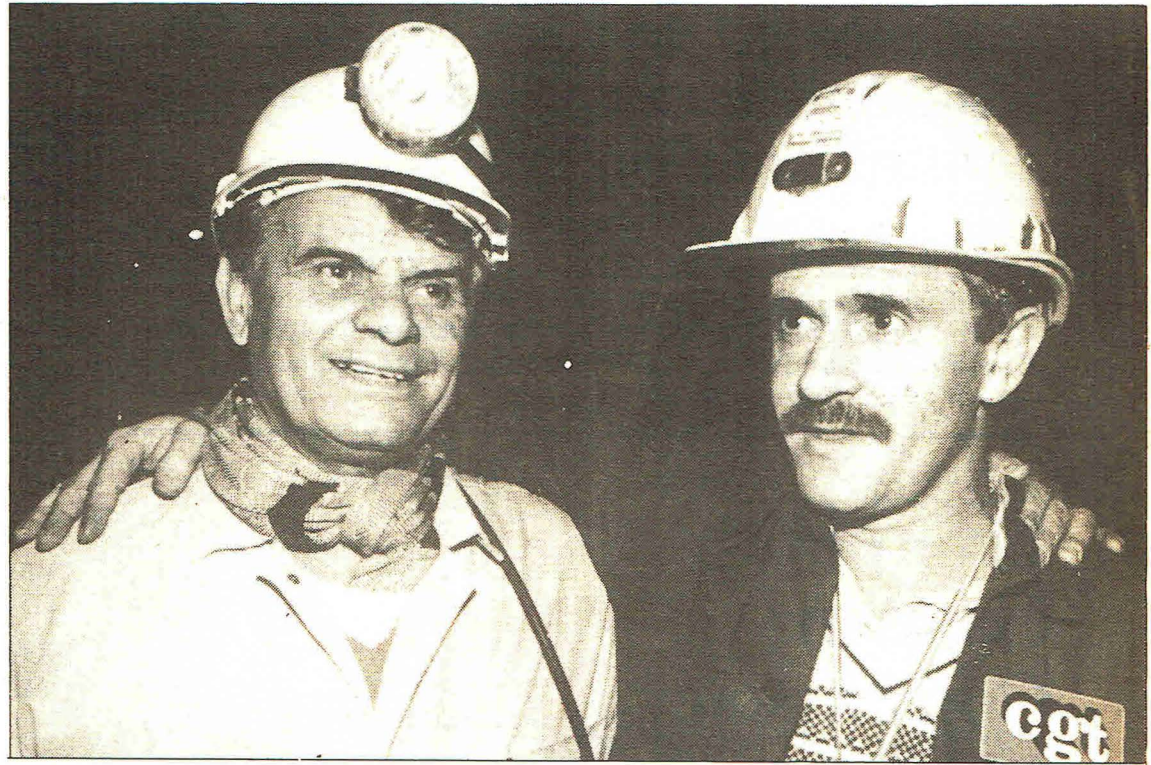
There is no historic parallel that can be drawn with the massive, systematic and deliberate destruction of productive resources globally. The refineries, coal mines, ship yards, steel works, textile mills and engineering plants could all find a use for their products if world capacity were planned for social use. But the capitalist market cannot sustain levels of production so resources are wantonly destroyed.

Miners in Britain have just come through a titanic battle to save their jobs and communities. It is a struggle as yet unresolved. Workers in other industries will have been inspired by the miners to fight for their jobs in like manner.

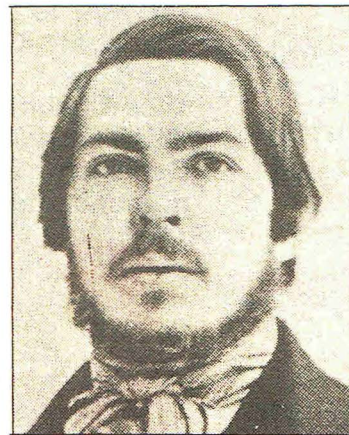
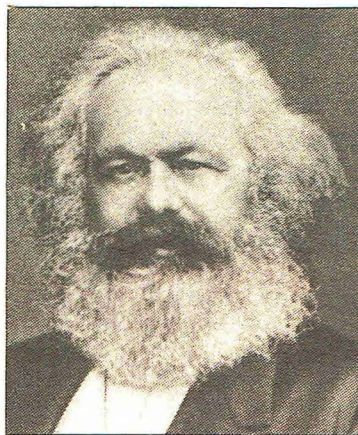
But it is no coincidence that similar struggles are taking place all around the capitalist world. Shipyard workers in Spain, steel workers in America, miners in France, and many others have been forced into bitter conflicts to defend their livelihoods.

An army of unemployed has been assembled in the advanced capitalist countries as a result of the industrial massacres of the last few years. In the OECD countries alone there is an average of 8% unemployed. But even this vast array of unemployed—capitalism's "reserve army of labour"—to use Marx's expression—has not prevented the most intense and bitter struggles by those in work to protect their jobs, their conditions and their futures.

The socialist reorganisation of production on an international scale could mean a rational and planned utilisation of the planet's resources. Production for social



British and French miners. NUM members receiving food and financial aid from the French CGT, members from Pas de Nord. Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)



Marx and Engels: The leading figures behind the formation of the First workers' International.

use instead of production for a blind and chaotic market, would lead to the elimination of all social ills facing humanity: poverty disease, ignorance and conflict. But that presupposes the overthrow of the present system. Capitalism—the nation state, and the private ownership of the means of production—represents the greatest and most fundamental barrier to social progress.

At the same time the long post-war boom led to a huge increase in trade, especially between the advanced capitalist countries themselves, resulting in an intensified 'division of labour' and therefore to a greater interpenetration between the different economies.

This has created a situation where the world market dominates individual economies more than ever before. The giant trading monopolies and big banks can freely move money from one country to another on an astronomical scale, affecting currency values, interest rates and government policies. One million million Euro-Dollars, money without real backing in productive wealth or gold—what Marxists term 'fictitious capital'—are floating freely around European and North American capital markets.

This means that in the modern era no capitalist government, not even the most powerful, can operate economic policies against the trends and pressures of the world market.

Thus, in a very short space of time, the Mitterand government in France was forced to shift its post-election reflationary policy to a strategy of monetarism. Had his government not changed tack the pressure of world finance would have quickly led to a collapse of the franc, a massive flight of capital and the complete sabotage of the

French economy.

This pressure could only have been resisted by the mobilisation of the French working class—assisted by the international movement—to transform France on socialist lines. But without a socialist programme and perspective Mitterand responded to the pressure of the market by a sudden lurch from reflation to deflation and the reforms for which French workers campaigned and voted in 1981 were quickly changed into counter-reforms.

Generalised world crisis

But greater interpenetration of economies means also a greater interpenetration of crisis. Social upheavals and revolutionary developments are a world phenomena at the present time. Strikes, political crises and upheavals in one country have an immediate effect elsewhere. It is impossible for the labour movement in any one country to seek permanent reforms or social change except in an international context—as part of an international workers' movement.

In all the countries of capitalism the gains in living standards of the post-war years are under consistent attack. There have been attempts to cut state expenditure on welfare, health, social and education services used by workers. Expenditure on armaments has gone up but expenditure on the basic infrastructure of the state has fallen.

During the period of the post-war boom the pressure of the labour movement produced concessions in social and welfare services in all the capitalist countries of Western Europe, North America, Japan and Australia. Now these reforms are threatened by the developing world crisis of

capitalism.

What appeared to be the smiling face of capitalism in the 1950's and 1960's has now been replaced by the real visage—a mean and malicious scowl. Countries like Sweden, Denmark and Austria used to be held up by Labour Party right-wingers as models of harmonious social development—supposed "proof" that capitalism can provide permanent reforms if properly managed. But even in these states all the gains of the working class in terms of direct wages and the Welfare state are now under serious attack.

It was the explosion of world inflation in the early 1970s, when the average world inflation leapt to 14%, that led to a general shift from the policies of budget deficits to monetarism. The capitalist class internationally lost all confidence in Keynesian policies and looked instead for a new panacea in good old-fashioned, expenditure cuts and sound budgets.

A return to generalised reflation is not possible—because there would be another immediate explosion of inflation on a world scale—but the capitalist class have now to face the consequences of monetarism in the form of chronic recession, mass unemployment, and subsequent class conflict.

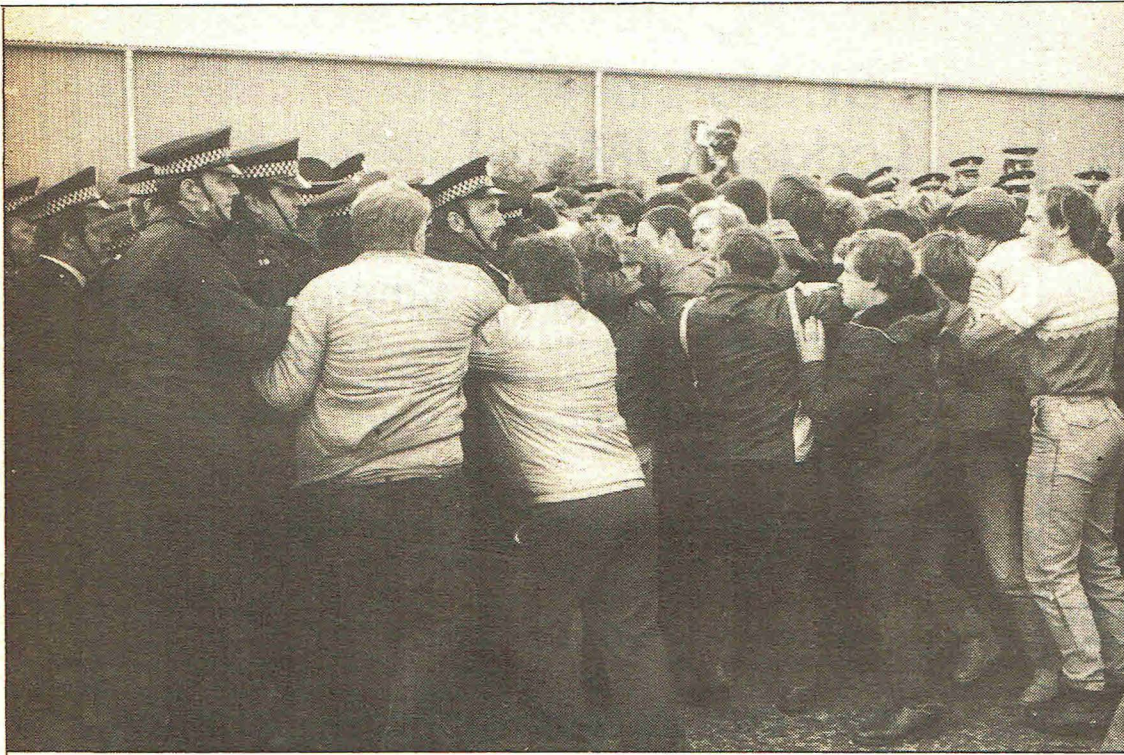
It is not Marxism but the capitalist system itself which is creating the conditions of class struggle and social upheaval. In the ferment created it will be the struggles of the organised working class that will be the decisive factor.

Even in the poorest and least developed countries of the world, the numerically small but economically powerful industrial working class will play the key role in future struggles. In the recent movement in Sudan, one of Africa's most impoverished countries, the strikes and demonstrations of the working class were the main force behind the overthrow of the hated Numeiry dictatorship.

In the Stalinist states in Eastern Europe the economies are increasingly restricted by the dead-hand of the totalitarian bureaucracies. Social decay will create upheaval in these countries also, as workers strive towards genuine workers democracy through political revolution.

The struggles of Polish workers through their Solidarity trade union were in the end unsuccessful largely due to the failure of the Solidarity leadership to raise the banner of political revolution. But

internationalism



Police and miners' pickets clash outside Bilston Glen in Scotland. Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

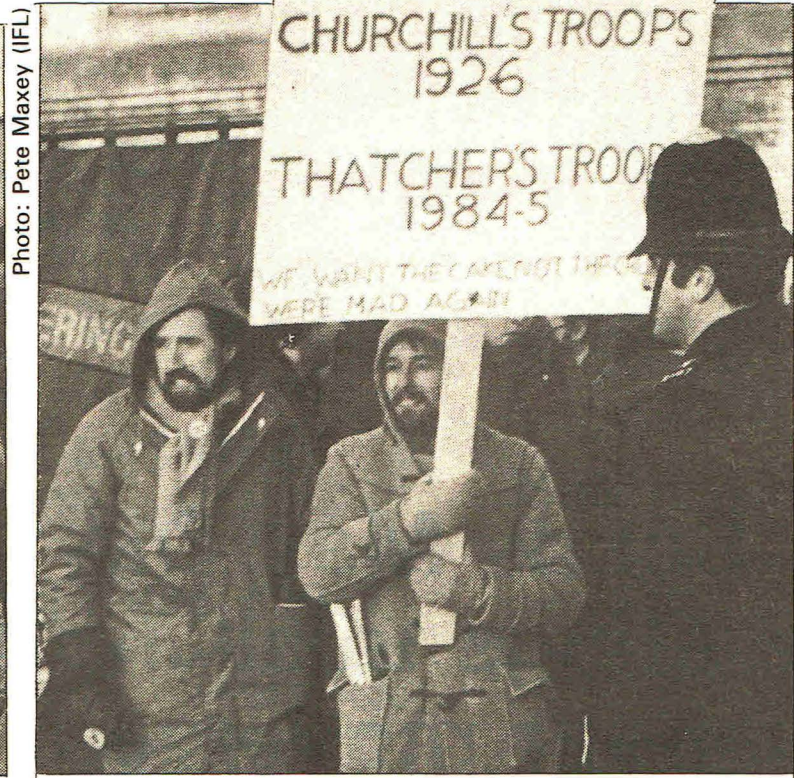


Photo: Pete Maxey (IFL)

Bristol: Miners' picket closed Bristol dock for 24-hours.

In the modern epoch even more than in Karl Marx's day, the struggle for socialism has to be an international one. The transformation of society in Britain or in any other single country would be furiously resisted by the capitalist class internationally, and its success could only be guaranteed by the support of the labour movement in other countries and by an international movement for socialism.

other movements will develop in Eastern Europe in the future on the same scale and with the same powerful energy as was displayed by Solidarity.

In all these international struggles the instinctive reaction of workers is towards international solidarity. Every big strike in any one country is watched and supported by workers in other countries.

The intensity and bitterness of the British miners' strike has set the tone for the kind of the struggles that will open up in the future on a world scale. The miners showed an unprecedented degree of courage, self-sacrifice and resilience in their year-long strike.

They were not only ranged against the NCB, the CEBG and the government. They also had to fight against the massive bias of the press, the police and the courts.

Concrete experience of internationalism

The experience of the strike, for miners and their families, was a political education that could never have been obtained in 20 years of meetings and discussions. That political education also extended to a concrete understanding of international solidarity.

Workers around the whole of the world held their breath for 12 months, and watched the historic struggle taking place in Britain. Through visits organised by supporters of *Militant*, many rank and file miners went on international tours to explain the implications and developments of the strike and to gather solidarity support, particularly in the form of finance from ordinary workers.

These experiences will not be easily forgotten by the miners. It is one thing, for example, for the head of an international union in Bonn or Paris to send \$20,000 or

\$50,000 by telex to the head of a British trade union. It is a different thing entirely for a rank and file miner to report back to his lodge meeting or his fellow workers the direct experience of discussing with Spanish shipyard workers, Danish dockers or French miners.

Rank and file British miners visited almost every country in Western Europe as well as the United States, Canada and even South Africa. The striking miner who visited South Africa, Roy Jones, was given a marvellous reception by the South African National Union of Mineworkers. Despite their own appalling conditions and wages they were nevertheless prepared to extend their generosity in terms of financial support to the British miners.

Roy Jones was also accorded the privilege of being the only white worker in the world to be made an honorary member of the South African NUM. There is no price that can be put on such international experiences, for the British miners, or for the workers overseas who received and discussed with them. Long after the miners' strike has ended the memory of the international solidarity will remain.

The miners' strike had international repercussions in other respects. There is no doubt that the recent magnificent general strike of the Danish workers was directly influenced by the British miners. During the course of the miners' strike, there were pitched battles in Danish ports between the police and dockers who were trying to prevent the movement of scab coal into Britain. These examples of workers' internationalism are not written in text books or in scholastic works, but in the language of pound notes, picket lines and police truncheons.

Wherever it is possible, the improvised and transient forms of international support must be regularised. The instinctive striv-



Spanish shipyard workers in Bilbao fought a furious struggle to keep their jobs and industry intact.

ings for international solidarity must be given permanent and concrete organisational expression.

It was, for example, an important step forward when workers' representatives from all the European Ford plants, meeting last month in Liverpool, established a permanent body to co-ordinate action against the Ford company. Such international combine committees can be of enormous benefit to the separate workforces, preventing the bosses from playing off one country against another.

But while the industrial arm of the labour movement seeks to defend the gains of the past and advance the conditions of workers, there also remains the *political* task of establishing a perspective and programme for the struggle for socialism internationally.

Socialist International

In the modern epoch even more than in Karl Marx's day, the struggle for socialism has to be an international one. The transformation of society in Britain or in any other single country would be furiously resisted by the capitalist class internationally, and its success could only be guaranteed by the support of the labour movement in other countries and by an international movement for socialism.

All too often labour and trade union leaders make fine speeches about internationalism on May Day, but then retreat into a narrow nationalist outlook on the other

364 days of the year. Their concrete day-to-day policies, including import controls (ie exporting unemployment) "backing Britain", and so on, take no account of their May Day speeches or of the real situation, that socialism cannot be built in any one country in isolation from the rest.

Internationalism must become an integral part of the movement of workers of all countries.

The Labour Party is nominally part of the Socialist International. Every Labour Party Conference Report lists the series of NEC delegations to this or that international meeting or the names of foreign delegates received in Britain. But within the International there is no attempt to work towards a genuine international labour organisation within a common perspective or programme.

Like the respective capitalist governments, the separate parties of the International have cordial relations with one another, but are careful not to criticise or interfere in each others' "internal" domestic affairs. When they go home from their conferences, the narrow nationalism of their own capitalist class once again holds sway.

The struggle for genuine socialist ideas within the Labour Party, therefore, must also mean a struggle for those genuine internationalist ideas that would bind the separate organisations of the working class into a militant fighting international movement.

The world working class movement has enormous potential

economic and social strength. It stands on the threshold of the most disturbed period of human history as capitalism and Stalinism show their incapacity to provide the necessary means of life.

At the same time science and technology have created the possibilities of undreamed-of plenty. Micro-technology in particular has opened the way to the automation of tens of thousands of productive processes. The potential of the world's resources is immeasurable. Even now, as if mocking the massive starvation in large areas of Africa and Asia, the planet is producing more food per head of population than at any time in human history. Simultaneously \$800 billion is wasted on arms around the world every year. One-quarter of all research and development is orientated towards weapons of mass destruction.

The only obstacle to the liberation and development of mankind is private ownership of the means of production and the nation-state. May Day must be used by the labour movement to reaffirm the pledge to do away with this rotten system internationally, to link with workers in all other countries in a fraternal movement of solidarity and to strive for the socialist transformation of society not only in Britain, but in Europe and in the entire world.

By John Pickard

BAKERS, FOOD AND ALLIED WORKERS' UNION

Sends May Day greetings to all in the labour movement

J. Marino D. Ruffle T. O'Neill
General Vice- National
Secretary President President

Darfield Main
NUM
Yorkshire

Would like to thank
Militant supporters in
Bradford for all work and
support during our strike.

★
St. Johns
Lodge NUM

Maesteg
St. Johns miners stand
shoulder to shoulder with
Militant in the fight for
socialism. Your support
in the strike will not be
forgotten.

May Day greetings from

Swansea Branch

National Communications Union

~~~~~  
**Fraternal greetings from Manchester  
Poly Militant**

**supporters to comrades in struggle**

On International Workers' Day:

"The proletarians have nothing to lose but  
their chains, they have the world to win."

- ★ Workers of the world unite.
- ★ Smash the bosses internationally.
- ★ For workers' unity + socialism.

**MAY DAY  
GREETINGS  
FROM  
WOOLTON  
BRANCH  
LABOUR  
PARTY  
LIVERPOOL**  
*Fight for Jobs  
No sell out*



Binley & Willenhall  
Labour Party Branch,  
Coventry SE CLP  
Strike to save schools—  
fight for socialism!

Forward to a daily  
*Militant*!  
from  
SOUTH RIBBLE LPYS &  
MILITANT SUPPORTERS

Greetings from  
Knowsley NALGO

Local Authority Workers and  
Labour Councils stand firm to  
resist the Tory cuts



BRADFORD TRADES  
COUNCIL

Sends May Day Greetings to  
all miners. For a general  
amnesty now!



**Baillieston  
Glasgow  
Labour Party**

Congratulates the  
NUM on their  
historic struggle.

"They came from  
the bowels of the  
earth to demand  
their rights."

A Johnstone  
Sec.  
C. McDonach  
Chairman

~~~~~  
The Watford YS
Say the country's a mess
But we're still on target
To get rid of Margaret

**Liverpool
West Derby
CLP**

"The miners are
not beaten. Re-
instate all sacked
NUM members"

**Litherland Branch
Labour Party**

'For tyranny to succeed, all
that good people need do is
nothing'
Support the Miners' Amnesty
Campaign
We will win!

~~~~~  
**BURRAGE WARD  
(Woolwich and Eltham)  
LABOUR PARTY**  
Sends fraternal greetings  
'The fight goes on'

~~~~~  
Fighting against
those that have and
for those that
Havant
HAVANT LPYS

BASSET WARD LP
Declares total solidarity with the
miners' continuing fight. Forward
to world socialism. May the red
rose bloom and the thorns be
sharp.

**May Day
Greetings
from
UCW
Militant
supporters**

Zimbabwe, South Africa, Philippines

Zimbabwe: 'Workers need to organise'

DAVID HEMSON, Darcy Du Toit, Anneke Poppe and Patricia Struthers have been deported from Zimbabwe. They were arrested on 1 March along with eight trade unionists in Kwe Kwe. Another four trade unionists in Harare were arrested later. The trade unionists included well known workers' leaders such as S Nyamhunga the president of the engineering union GEMWU who had been involved in campaigns to clean up the GEMWU and fight for socialist policies. They were released after an international campaign.

David Hemson spoke to a *Militant* reporter about their activities.

"THE GOVERNMENT implied we were involved in subversive activity in Zimbabwe. In fact we had been engaged in socialist education.

"Most of those arrested were local and even national workers' leaders.

"Some had been involved in the Workers Campaign for a Democratic GEMWU. Over the last two years 10,000 jobs have disappeared in engineering. In many factories with strong workers' committees, they were able to defend jobs but the union's national officials have done nothing. Many workers resigned from the union reportedly because officials were taking money for dealing with workers' complaints and then doing nothing.

Union democracy

"They complied with anti-union laws which were based on South African legislation and originated under British rule. The officials' stranglehold prevents even elections in some unions.

"In the GEMWU no financial accounts exist to show how workers' money is being spent. \$65,000 is alleged to have vanished. The campaign had been fighting to democratise the union, to bring it under the control of the workers.

"The GEMWU members who were arrested had been fighting for the programme of no redundancies, an increase to \$150 a month, a 40 hour week, nationalisation of bankrupt companies, and a national pension scheme. Virtually all those arrested were leaders in the factories and in the government sponsored workers' committees, elected by the workers.

"In the study circles organised for workers and youth, they had concluded that the one party state would be a disaster for the workers and that urgent at-

tention should be paid to building up national unity between Shona and Ndebele workers.

"The police interrogators had tried to prove that a 'Workers Party' had been set up and the detainees were tortured to get an admission. We had advanced the idea of a genuine socialist movement inside ZANU and ZAPU to unite the workers and peasants. They alleged the engineering union campaign had been run for political ends and that movements had been set up from London to cause strikes, spread instability and eventually overthrow Mugabe's government.

"In Kwe Kwe workers were accused of implying that Zimbabwe was not socialist. All those detained stood up to the torture very well, denying they planned an overthrow but defending the need to organise the working class in a capitalist country.



Some of the trade unionists who were detained, James Kachisi, M Mashayamombe, Nicholas Mlauzi, Rabi Down, S Nyamhunga.

"We gradually became aware of the massive campaign being organised on our behalf internationally. This caused the interrogators a lot of worry especially when they thought one of the comrades had been quite seriously injured. The publicity could have meant losing their jobs.

"Throughout interrogation, the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) (they were given this name by Ian Smith by the way) defended Zimbabwe's corrupt union leadership and showed hostility to socialism, to the British trade unions and to Arthur Scargill in particular, and the left of the Labour Party. They used the privileges of the Stalinists in Russia to ask where was this socialism of ours practised.

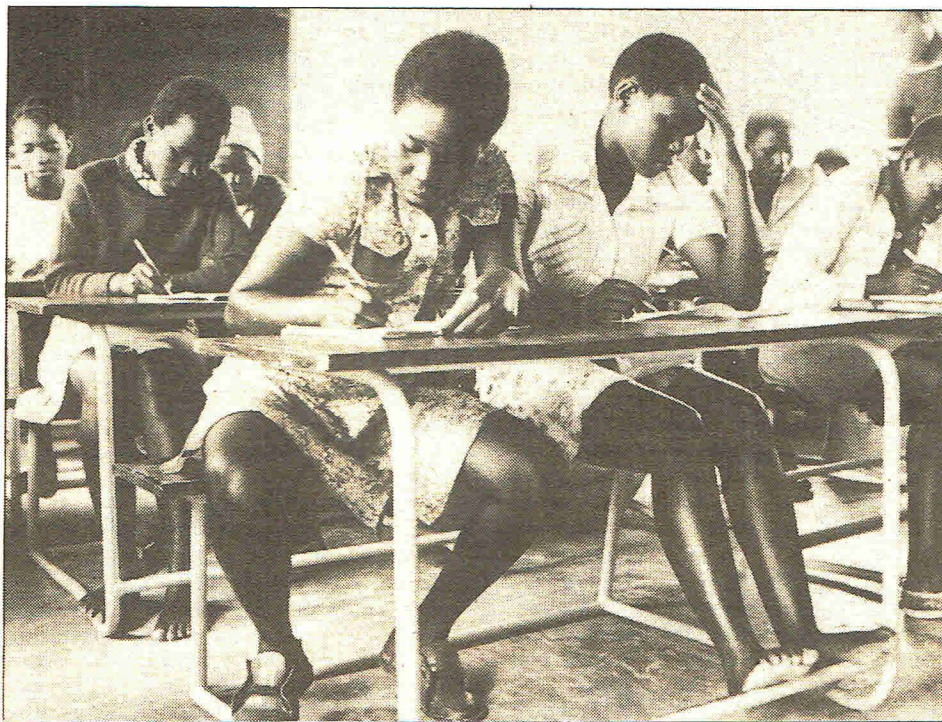
"By the Thursday, 7 March, we realised a lot of their information came from Britain directly. They were relaying information on the

Labour left, including details of leading left wingers' private lives and even details of the tensions within the Labour Party. They said we were not really Labour Party, we were Militant.

"On the day after the miners' strike ended they showed us articles in the newspapers and gloated over the return to work.

Socialist federation

"The CIO interrogators were openly contemptuous of the working class. They earn over \$1000 a month, and model themselves on characters in the Mickey Spillane novels they read, driving very fast, with a real tough guy image. They have houses in the suburbs and called our people "povo" a term of disrespect. They asked why educated comrades "wasted time" on uneducated people.



High school students in Harare. The improved educational facilities have been widely welcomed. But can capitalism supply jobs for the youth?

Photo: Jacob Sutton (Reflex)

Film review

'My Country'

BAYAN KO (My country) directed by Lino Brocka.

THIS FILM, based on a true story, tells of Turing, a labourer, and his wife, Luz, who both work for a Philippines printing company.

When Luz becomes pregnant and has to stop work early because of previous miscarriages, they face mounting debts due to the loss of her wage and the high cost of the medicines she needs.

Turing has to borrow money from the company owner and in return signs an agreement not to join the union which his fellow workers are forming. When these workmates, who are also his closest friends, strike, Turing is forced to scab.

When his wife is rushed to hospital for an emergency caesarian section, a further nightmare of enormous hospital bills begins. He cannot take his wife home until he pays the bill, (there are guards there to make sure!) and as he cannot pay she has to remain in hospital and the bill gets bigger. In desperation, Turing turns to crime and becomes involved in a robbery at his employer's factory.

The outcome is a personal tragedy for Turing and his family and a condemnation of a society of poverty, degradation and misery. However, throughout the film we are aware of the growing social and political movement of the Filipino people, with scenes of the massive demonstrations in Manila after the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino, in 1983.

In a country which is one of the world leaders in making and distributing pornographic films, Brocka's film is a tribute to his courage in using his art to portray the plight of the Filipino working class. It is banned in the Philippines.

At present Brocka is out on bail after arrest and imprisonment by the Marcos regime for taking part in a demonstration in support of a national transport strike this January. Although this film won the British Film Institute's Award in 1984, it is not on general release in Britain but it can be seen in Edinburgh and Sheffield in May and Bristol in June. If you can, see it!

By Pauline Wardleworth

S African miners defy laws

THE VICIOUS apartheid regime has not cowed the South African working class. About 13,000 miners at Vaal Reefs, the biggest gold mine in the country and another 2,000 at Hartebeestfontein were sacked on 27 April and told to return to their homelands.

In response the workers locked themselves into their hostels and refused to leave. The dismissals follow several weeks of unofficial stoppages and go-slows at these

two Transvaal mines. The National Union of Mineworkers are fighting for a 10 per cent pay rise already awarded to the mainly white monthly-paid workforce.

Threat to system

The management's tactics were to use apartheid laws. Even though the Anglo-American Corporation reputedly have a "liberal" view of apartheid, vital

profits are at stake from the new militancy. South Africa's laws force black workers to return "home" to the Bantustans or to Lesotho if they are laid off; the bosses hope this will stop the spread of strikes.

The owners and government later succeeded in bussing out the strikers but that will not stop the NUM which is becoming more confident all the time.

Inqaba Ya Basebenzi

The journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the ANC

sends fraternal greetings to readers of *Militant*, and to the labour movement. Build a mass ANC on a socialist programme.

May Day greetings to workers of the world. Build direct links between workers in Southern Africa and internationally!

SOUTHERN AFRICAN LABOUR EDUCATION PROJECT

Chile

Workers against the tanks

SINCE THE military imposed a new state of emergency last November, Chilean workers and youth have lived through some of the worst repression since the 1973 coup.

Over 10,000 people, mostly rank and file activists, are thought to have been arrested in November and December, though the majority were later released. Most working class areas, the *poblaciones*, have suffered virtual military occupation. Some big *poblaciones* have had house to house military searches aided by hooded informers who point out "political suspects".

All males over 15 were ar-

By a Latin American correspondent

groups of youth, mainly isolated from the movement took up arms.

The recent change in orientation of the Young Communists, reflects pressure from the youth in the *poblaciones*. Apart from a special armed section, which although under the leadership of the Communist Party, is a separate organisation, the Young Communists themselves are increasingly becoming militarised. All members now receive arms training and are told that they are preparing for armed insurrection.

Under the state of siege there have been armed

barracks, subject to the most humiliating treatment from the officers. Many soldiers have either personally or through their families and friends suffered Pinochet's repression.

Conscripts

Many workers are aware of the need to convince rank and file soldiers. Alongside the leaflets calling on the youth to arm themselves with home-made guns, have been the leaflets and slogans sprayed on the walls calling for troops to join the workers. Most soldiers know the youth want to arm themselves. They are often terrified at patrolling workers' areas. Faced with a determined movement from the working class and youth,



The youth of the Jaime Eyzaguirre area of Santiago form barricades.

rested in some actions and kept in local sports stadiums and parks. Armoured cars, jeeps and groups of soldiers appeared on street corners, pointing rifles and machine guns towards workers' homes to try to terrorise the local people.

Thousands of youth have been arrested and badly beaten for the crime of walking down the street or standing outside their homes. Most sinister of all is the increased number of "disappeared". The police and army refuse to acknowledge their existence, even though in some cases there have been witnesses to their arrests. In most cases, they turn up dead; they are often badly mutilated.

Armed struggle

Union activists were arrested, and many badly tortured after last October's one-day general strike. On 29 March in raids into Teachers' Association offices, five people went missing and one was shot. The president of the Santiago branch was bundled into an unmarked car outside his school. His body was found, mutilated, days later.

This has led to increased support for the ideas of armed struggle, that the only way to defend workers' areas and overthrow Pinochet is with arms.

Ever since Allende's government was bloodily overthrown in 1973, this idea has had wide support. But till now only relatively small

demonstrations in some *poblaciones*. Young Communists in party uniform, many carrying arms, marched behind commando leaders carrying machine guns. Many workers and young people see the need to defend themselves from the ferocious attacks of the state apparatus. But the question of arms and of defence of workers' lives must be seen as a task of the mass labour movement organisations as part of a socialist programme and strategy.

The creation of armed self defence groups organised by the unions, and linked to the neighbourhood and youth organisations along with the mass political parties is an urgent task.

If the labour movement fails to organise such defence, armed groups could develop, divorced from the organised workers, which could take the road of individual terrorism. This would present a real danger for the revolution. Experience has shown that after armed attacks on individual police or military targets, the regime has unleashed wide ranging repression in workers' areas in many cases destroying factory and neighbourhood organisations and arresting key militants.

There has to be an orientation to win the support of the army rank and file. The Chilean army is over 50 per cent conscript. One week, youth will be fighting on the barricades, and the very next week find themselves in the

many would break ranks and join the workers.

If the movement is to go forward, we need a clear Marxist programme and a leadership capable of implementing it. One weakness of the present struggle is that the leaders of the main workers' parties, the Communist Party and Socialist Party, while calling themselves Marxist, have no clear programme to overthrow Pinochet. They have also not clarified what type of system should replace the junta.

General strike

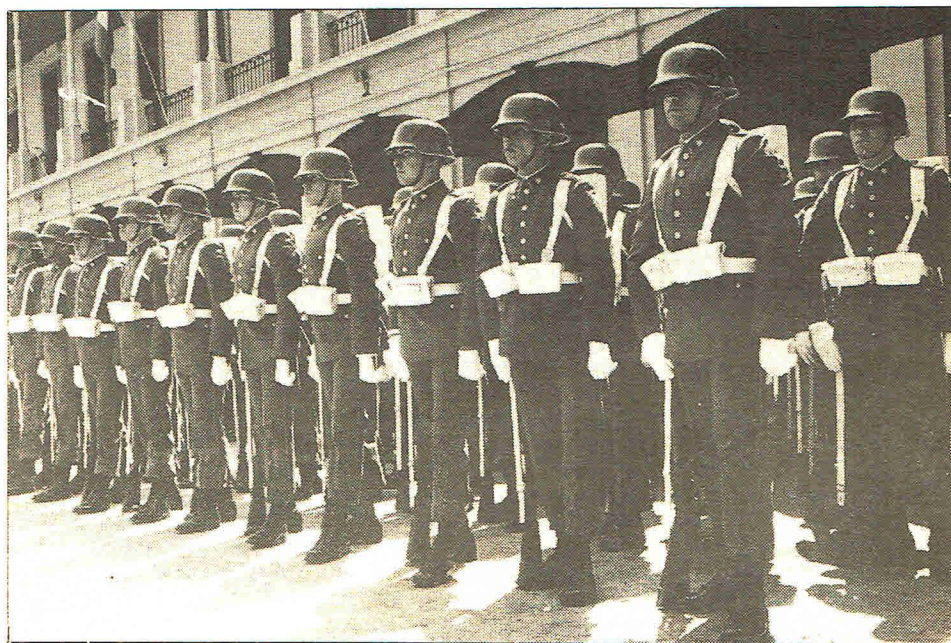
While supporting armed struggle, the leadership hasn't explained how the dictatorship can be overthrown. The leadership talks of the need for alliances with all "anti-fascist" sections, including the very same capitalists who put Pinochet into power and supported him resolutely until recently.

More and more people realise that the only way to get rid of Pinochet is through an insurrectionary general strike to mobilise and guide the whole strength of the labour movement. However, with Chile's unemployment reaching over 30 per cent and such ferocious repression, such a strike would have to be very well organised. The various organisations of labour and youth must be united into *Cordones*, or soviets.

In 1972-73 when faced with attempts by reaction to destabilise Allende's Popular



Armoured cars on the streets of Santiago.



Troops on parade. Many soldiers are conscripted.

Photo: Jacob Sutton

Building links

The Broad Left Organising Committee in South Yorkshire has been approached by members of CUT (Chilean TUC) to help forge links between Chilean and British trade unionists.

The Sheffield/Rotherham CUTS Branch Secretary Luis Silva (now a miner at Markham Colliery in Der-

byshire has asked BLOC supporters to help publicise the struggle of Chilean trade unionists in Britain.

Already, Tinsley NUR branch has "twinned" with the local CUT branch and is in the process of linking up with a branch of railwayworkers in Chile. They hope to pursue this policy at District and National levels.

A joint letter is being circulated to union branches in South Yorkshire, requesting assistance and financial help for CUT and offering speakers. In particular, the calling of a General Strike at the end of April is being publicised to show that despite brutal repression, Chilean workers are more determined than ever to get rid of Pinochet and his regime.

Alan Anderton
(Sheffield Central LP)

Unity government, workers took over the running of most of the main workplaces and united their organisations including the factory committees, neighbourhood and youth committees into *Cordones*.

These organisations should have the tasks of organising and defending a general strike. Linked to the *Cordones*, the armed self defence groups have a key role to play, as part of the mass labour movement. However the struggle to overthrow the regime will be weakened if workers' parties' leaders adapt their policies to win support from those sections of the capitalist class which oppose the regime. If today Christian Democrat leaders and sections of the National Party oppose the dictatorship, it is only because they fear the explosive force building up under Pinochet.

They hope that by peaceful transition from the top, they might stop a revolutionary explosion. These 'liberal' people will never support any decisive action by the working class; they are only too aware that such a struggle could topple the capitalist system alongside the junta, and capitalism is the basis

for their wealth and power.

An alliance with the capitalist class would not strengthen the movement of the masses, it would only act as a brake on the consciousness and organisation of the movement.

Political exploiters

The middle class small shopkeepers, professionals and workers who look towards the Christian Democrats will not be won over to the workers' parties through alliances with the capitalist leaders of this party, who are what Trotsky called the political exploiters of the middle class. They can be won by showing that the working class has the power and determination to end the dictatorship, shown during the strike on 30 October.

Up to and during the strike Christian Democrat leaders did everything to undermine it. As a result there were large defections from the Christian Democrats, especially from its youth wing, many joining the Young Communists.

Working people, in particular the youth, have shown enormous heroism and willingness to struggle.

Facing permanent repression, many times they have lost their leading activists. They have had to learn and re-learn the lessons of the struggle many times. Despite the regime's recent atrocities, the movement is showing enormous determination. The days of Pinochet are numbered.

But if the working class is to end the military jackboot for ever, it has to link the struggle against this dictator with the struggle against the system that put him there, capitalism. The struggle in Chile is not just to return to pre-Pinochet society. Although some basic democratic rights existed then and living standards were higher than now, nevertheless poverty and degradation all that society could offer working people.

Recent history shows that in Latin America as a whole, capitalism is incapable of guaranteeing the most basic democratic and human rights. For the working masses of Chile and all of Latin America, socialism is the only way forward.

Broadgreen CLP

sends Mayday Greetings and calls upon Labour's leaders to uphold conference policy and support Liverpool City Council's fight against the Tory government.

May Day greetings from the **LPYS National Committee members.**

Youth are on the move.

John Hird—National Chairman
Frances Curran—NEC Rep.
Leo McDaid—Editor,
Socialist Youth
"April 25th—250,000 school students on strike
Here we go—to a mass LPYS"

May Day Greetings from **Telford Central Branch**

Labour Party
End the Witch-hunts
Labour into Power on a
Bold Socialist programme

FE Labour Students

send Fraternal greetings to FE students everywhere. Forward to a socialist education system.

Chair—Cheryl Varley
Organising Sec—Louise James
Treasurer—Lesleigh Woodburn

Chesterfield

Militant supporters send May Day greetings from Derbyshire Reds.

We don't want more cake,
We want the whole bakery!
Forward to socialism!
ERITH AND THAMESMEAD LPYS

Basildon LPYS

sends May Day greetings to the international Labour Movement.

Halifax Militant

supporters
May Day greetings from Halifax

Warbreck Ward LP, Liverpool

"Fight the Tories alongside Liverpool City Council"

Liverpool University Militant Supporters

send fraternal greetings to students and workers internationally. For a democratic NOLS with socialist policies

Manchester Labour Women's Council

Join us and smash the Tories. Women and men unite and fight for socialism.

Motherwell North LPYS

send fraternal greetings to all comrades in Britain and internationally. Reformists reform yourselves. Forward to Revolution.

FALKIRK MILITANT SUPPORTERS

Forward to socialism with *Militant*!

May Day Greetings

Coventry

South-East CLP

May Day greetings to all Labour MP's—for a worker's MP on a worker's wage.

Edinburgh Pentlands LPYS say:

This is not 1926. Forward to Socialism, under democratic workers' control.

Hackney South and Shoreditch LPYS
send support to all shopworkers fighting against Sunday trading.
Bill Connor for general secretary!

ROCHDALE AND MIDDLETON LPYS
Calls for direct links internationally. The youth will fight back!

Bethnal Green LPYS

The school strike shows the way!
Build a school students' union!

Hornchurch LPYS
sends fraternal greetings to all young workers in Chile.
VENCEREMOS!
Young workers of the world unite

Millbrook

Ward Labour Party
Southampton—greets socialists everywhere—Amnesty for all sacked miners.

THE WALSH FAMILY,

Brentwood, send May Day greetings to comrades world wide, engaged in the fight for socialism.

Poole & Bournemouth

Militant supporters send greetings to all readers. Forward to a Socialist Daily!

Newcastle Central Militant supporters

**Fight the Tories not the Socialists
No Witch-hunts in Newcastle**

Shaw and Littleborough Women's Section

May Day Greetings to the striking cleaners at Atomic Energy Risley. End Privatisation! For a living wage.

Militant supporters in Castle Ward

(Swansea Labour Party) send May Day greetings to Socialists everywhere.

Teesside

Militant supporters
Forward to a socialist future

Greetings to the labour movement from the Isle of Wight LPYS, Shanklin and District Labour Party and the Isle of Wight *Militant* supporters. Good Luck Cathy.

LETTERS

Militant welcomes letters from readers. Send us your views, comments or criticism. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London. E9 5HB

Thatcher turns clock back

Dear Comrades,

Thatcher often talks of returning to the Victorian era and activists in the labour movement would agree that she has gone a long way towards doing that.

One thing I heard on Radio 1 recently made me think that she has actually gone much further. The Saturday morning show was broadcast from Chester, where a festival was being held based on the International Year for Youth. One of the attractions of this festival was a chariot race round the city centre, illustrating Chester's Roman heritage.

The three lads from Merseyside who built the chariots were interviewed by DJ Peter Powell and were on a YTS scheme.

The Tories are busy trying to convince youth that YTS schemes provide worthwhile training that are likely to lead to a job afterwards. I think all the comrades reading this letter will agree that there is a great future for working class youth building Roman chariots!

Yours fraternally
Clive Webber
Brighton LPYS

Selling Militant

Dear Comrades,

I've got to watch myself when I'm selling the paper. Not only am I an EETU member, where being a left-winger is dangerous enough, but I also work for the MOD at Rosyth Naval Dockyard. We're struggling there at the moment against Tory privatisation plans which would mean a massive loss of jobs.

I was never political before now. I used to buy the *Militant* at the start of 1984, but I never used to read it, in fact I used to throw it in the bin as soon as the seller was out of sight.

Then I started to wake up, I began to see the Tory attacks on working class people like myself. Being a committed trade unionist, even if a non-political one, the Tory 1984 "Trade Union Act" opened my eyes to what was really happening.

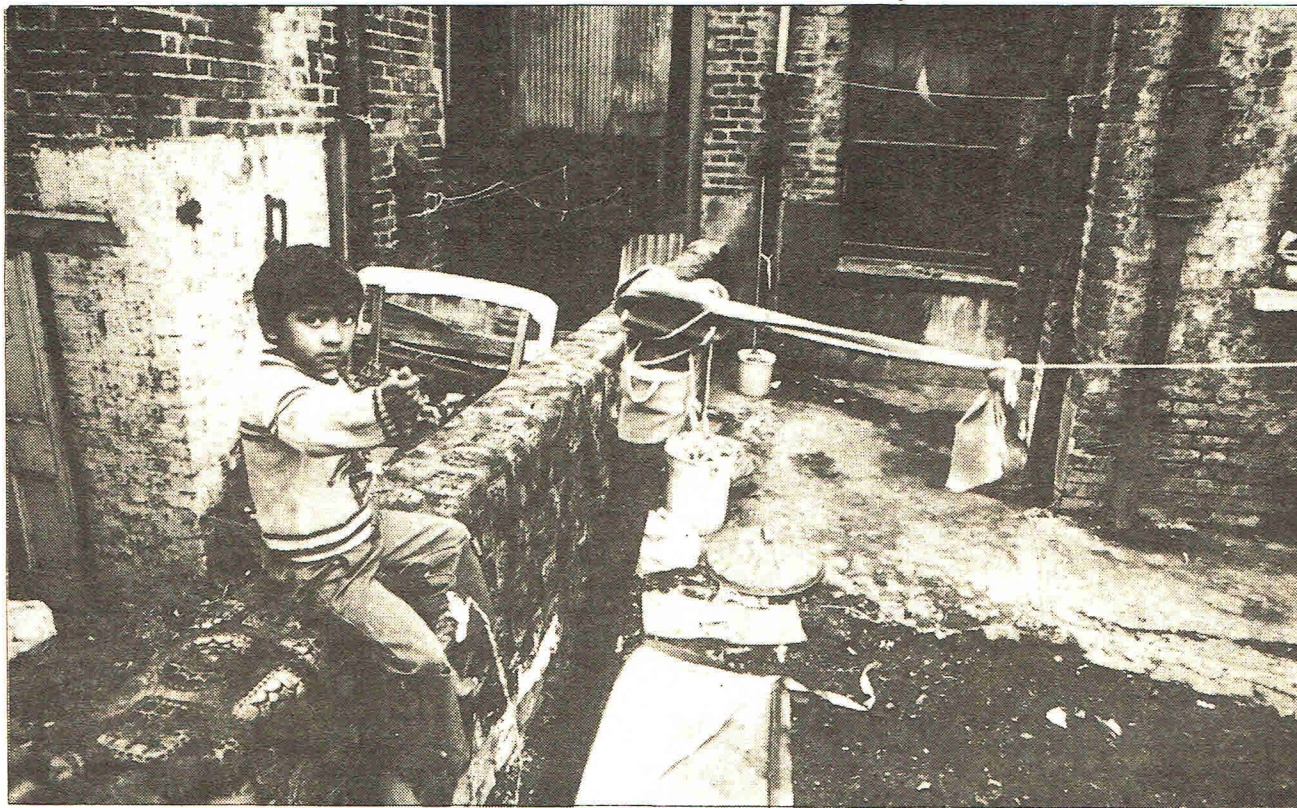
Since then I've started to read the paper and the *MIR*, anything I can get my hands on. The *MIR* is excellently laid out in a style which ordinary workers can understand.

I now clandestinely sell the paper, even though the management would have me by the short and curlies if they caught me. Yet I'm determined to sell the paper despite the risks. During our recent half-day strike in opposition to Heseltine's privatisation plans I sold ten papers. My ambition is to build up my sales to twenty every week.

I work shifts and sometimes I miss a sale, the regular buyers shout at me: "Where's this week's paper?". As far as I'm concerned this experience shows me the thirst the rank and file workers have for a socialist newspaper. Only our paper can meet their needs.

Yours comradely
An EETU member
Rosyth
Scotland

Surviving on the 'Bleak House' estate



Appalling housing conditions like these in Whitechapel, London, are to be found in inner cities throughout Britain.

Dear Comrades,

Those of you who watched the *Open Space* programme on BBC 2 will no doubt share my horror at the appalling housing conditions suffered by tenants of the appropriately named "Bleak House" housing estate in Burnley.

Up to four years ago I lived in this town and saw the way the estate was turning into a ghetto. However, I would never have believed a Labour council would put at risk hundreds of lives including young babies and

elderly people. The houses are really disgusting. What struck me most was one family where four of the kids wet the bed as it was too cold and damp to get out of bed at night. One bloke had his bathroom and toilet taken out because it was unsafe, he was given a portable toilet which had to be emptied in the garden!

Elderly people were seen huddled in front of the fire, which they used to cook on, wrapped up in blankets. Despite desperate pleas from

families there for help, for repairs, even for a visit, none came. Winter is the enemy of all who live in accommodation which is insufficiently heated but for these people the arrival of summer brings with it a new form of despair, rats, filth, and stench because the council have left hundreds of abandoned houses to rot, in most places full of old rubbish. It's hardly surprising disease and bronchial complaints are rife in areas such as these.

Many other towns and inner cities suffer the

same plight, the Tory attacks on local authority spending manifests itself in many ways, putting lives at risk in this case especially a generation of kids, and working class people in general are suffering the brunt of these attacks. In this case the lack of money and the incompetent Labour bureaucracy has paved the way for this scandal.

Fraternally
Pat Reith
Bournemouth West
CLP
GMBATU Local
Authority
Shop Steward
Personal Capacity

1906 Revisited

Dear Comrades,

On Monday 1 April, Wakefield City LPYS organised a production of Robert Tressell's socialist classic *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists*. The play, performed by Sheffield's Metro Theatre Company, was a great success, not only in the performance, but that it brought a large section of Wakefield's labour and trade union movement together.

The play was set around the time of the 1906 general election when unions for the first time backed the Labour Party. It showed the conditions that workers had to work in, for a pittance of a wage.

Wakefield LPYS funds will get a much needed boost and many thanks must go to Wakefield CLP Youth Officer Paul Holmes for his hard work for this event.

Fraternally
Andy Gough
Wakefield West LPYS

Keeping the figures down

Dear Comrades,

Last week I went to the job centre to sign on but when I told the woman behind the counter I wanted to sign on, she replied: "I am sorry Mr Peterson, but it isn't worth your while signing on as we have not got any jobs for you and we have not been able to do anything for you since you were made redundant from the steelworks in 1980." Of course, I still signed on, but I wonder how many other people have been deterred from signing on.

Yours, unemployed
AJ Peterson
Doncaster



Demonstration in 1979 in Birmingham for the reinstatement of Derek Robinson.

Industrial tribunals—a charade

Dear Comrades,

Unfortunately some miners still have illusions in the Industrial Tribunal courts. As a trade unionist who has been involved in a substantial number of cases over the years, I have to point out the dangers of this. The tribunals don't function to give dismissed workers justice; if they did, why have they got no powers to reinstate people who are found to be unfairly dismissed?

The application form gives a misleading impres-

sion by suggesting three options to someone found to be unfairly dismissed by the tribunal, namely reinstatement, re-engagement or compensation. None of these decisions are binding on the employer. While some firms will pay a measly amount of compensation, others have to be sued in the County Court to enforce the payment. As for reinstatement or re-engagement, neither can take place unless the firm is willing to co-operate, which firm wouldn't be prepared to pay a little extra in compensation in order to keep out a union activist?

Trade union officials should not be sitting in judgement on these tribunals and picking up a fat fee for

doing so. Even if they do take the side of the worker, they will always be outvoted by the bosses' representative and the lawyer. Instead they should be exposing these tribunals for the charade that they are.

The AUEW officials at BL Longbridge headed off a strike in support of sacked convenor Derek Robinson, by promising him justice at a tribunal. By the time the case came up the issue was a damp squib, he didn't get his job back, much to the relief of both the BL bosses and the right wing AUEW leadership.

Yours sincerely
An active trade unionist

LEFT and RIGHT

Reliving the days of the Empire

THE JET-SET are promoting a bit of their own sort of 'internationalism', in the *Sunday Times* on 21 April an advert was offering the average man in the street eight days of nostalgia onboard the Orient Express, where you can "Relive (?) the memories of a bygone era as the train whisks you gently through five European countries from Paris to Istanbul" The 'itinerary' includes dinner in Paris, a ball in Vienna, a banquet in Istanbul and select excursions en route, and all at the price everyone can afford, a mere £2,480.

Police breaking the law

A COMPANY profiting out of the miners' dispute has been left in a sticky situation thanks to the police. 'Hazells Haulage' were quick to stand in for British Rail when the unions refused to carry coke into Llanwern steelworks, but they were caught in a "Catch 22 situation" as they were expected to run their convoy of 20 lorries carrying coke from the Orb steelworks to Llanwern "in accordance with both legal limits and police instructions". The lorry was found to be overloaded by 1.5 tonnes, but the police were more interested in the fact that: "If each load had been weighed the plant would have been brought to a standstill".

Still, there's no escaping the strong arm of justice, despite the fact that the driver and the firm pleaded guilty, the magistrates imposed an absolute discharge on both and the company was forced to pay the extortionate sum of £40 costs and a £28.07 investigation fee.

**This week:
£3,134**

AS WE go to press we are still receiving cash for the end of the quarter. We will not be able to give the final total until next week when we hope to announce the best amount ever raised in a three month period.

Last quarter we raised £18,000 in one week. We are waiting to see if we beat that.

The school students' strike last week showed young peoples' opposition to the slave labour schemes of YTS. But the students also showed their support for the ideas of Marxism by donating their cash to our Fighting Fund. In Cardiff, for example, £18 was raised through donations for stickers. Everyone wanted to show why they were out on strike. Whether it was a donation of one penny or £1 it all helps.

Special appeal

Many areas have been out asking readers for special donations and getting an excellent response. Over £58 comes from Edinburgh, £60 from Swansea, £30 from Leicester, £31 from South East Lancs, the story can be repeated around the country. Those areas that have not yet taken up this campaign should do so straight away.

Socials and other fund raising events can raise large amounts. In Glasgow a jumble sale and sale of pontoon cards raised £104. The rattling tins, as well, continue to convert even the hardest of sceptics. Wherever they are used they raise £2 or £3 at least. In Dundee £3 was raised outside Tesco's, while Central London sent in over £9 and Bristol sent £5.21.

While the money is finding its way to us for this

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
Eastern	1719		2900
East Midlands	1765		2800
Humberside	1104		1850
London East	1660		3250
London West	1230		2150
London South East	1268		2000
London South West	941		1600
Lancashire	604		1100
Manchester	1040		2750
Merseyside	1830		6000
Northern	1150		4900
Scotland East	1065		3000
Scotland West	1389		3800
Southern	1994		5000
South West	1320		2000
Wales East	247		2450
Wales West	813		2150
West Midlands	2074		4400
Yorkshire	2131		5900
Others	6151		10000
Total received	31494		70000

Break our record

quarter don't forget that the new quarter starts immediately! We need to make sure that we don't leave things till the last minute. Get plans underway now.

With a properly prepared campaign every area will be able to meet its target. Just remember, we need cash to keep producing our paper, the best workers' paper around. It's up to all our readers to send us that cash.

Donations

Scunthorpe LPYS £130, Watford LPYS £20, Tony Bartlett Suffolk NUPE £10, Mick Ebdon Woolwich COHSE £15, Ben Walsh Brentwood NUPE £8, John Welsh Benfleet ACTTS £1, Dundee University Militant Society Disco £48, Islington Readers Meeting £168, J Rutherford Cotgrave NUM £1.55, Bridgette Phillips Birmingham GMBATU £5, STUC delegates expenses £33, Liverpool print workers £9, John Legg Strathclyde NALGO £8, BIFU NEC members £11, Bob Nash Bristol South £25, N Avon LPYS £1.75, Jim Stevenson Glasgow OAP £5, Martha McCartney Glasgow OAP £5.



Don't stand there like a statue! Sell *Militant* and rattle those fighting fund tins. (Apologies to the sculptor!)

Marxist Daily Building Fund 1985

Eastern	2243	Scotland West	2364
East Midlands	2638	Southern	2933
Humberside	1595	South West	720
London East	2866	Wales East	1750
London West	3875	Wales West	1428
London South East	1708	West Midlands	1541
London South West	1614	Yorkshire	1141
Lancashire	486	National	1292
Manchester	1512	Total:	39877
Merseyside	3690	This Week:	£1086
Northern	2347		
Scotland East	2134		

EDNA HEALEY, wife of Denis, has just been into hospital for a hip operation. The doctor told her that "there were people ahead of me and I couldn't stand the pain any longer", so she jumped the queue and went into a private nursing home at a cost of £250 a week.

Ordinary working people do not get that choice. Thousands of working people have to wait years for artificial hips because the health service is not being adequately financed and because resources are being taken away from the NHS to benefit private patients. They all have to go through the pain and suffering that Edna Healey avoided.

Decisions

Hopefully, this will bring home to Denis the fact that the health service cuts, whether carried out by the Tory Party or by Labour mean longer queues and greater suffering. Perhaps Denis is now convinced that, when Labour is in power, they should provide the proper facilities and finance to ensure a proper and efficient health service.

Militant supporters however, are not prepared to leave that to chance. Working people do not get a choice over health care but we do get a choice as to whether or not to fight for a better society that can provide the facilities for a decent health service, proper education, housing, social service and so on.

Militant supporters up and down the country are making their decisions by sending money to the Marxist Daily Building Fund. We still need another £40,000 to pay our debts. This week, we have had £1,086 sent in. Readers in North Strathclyde have pooled together and sent us £177, in Lanarkshire, £173 and in Garston, £192. In Harlow, 3 unemployed comrades have sent £60 between them and a student, Chris Huggins from Leyton

has now paid £51.82. Susie Harrison, a supporter from Stoke Newington has sent us a post dated cheque for £50.

Campaign

One area where we haven't made much of a push recently is in donations from trade unions or Labour Party branches to the building fund. Have you

asked your branch for a donation recently?

Our bills will soon have to be paid so make sure that you are taking part in the campaign to establish a Daily Marxist Newspaper.

Donate now!

South Wales Summer Camp

THIS YEAR'S *Militant* Summer Camp has an international theme, with talks planned on Britain, Chile, South Africa, Northern Ireland and Marxism and the Labour Party.

What better way to spend your August Bank Holiday than at the Gower Peninsula. Price is still £12.50 per adult and £2.50 child (5/15 years). Because of the ever increasing numbers attending the camp, we will be operating on a strict first come, first serve basis. BE SURE to send your bookings early to Roy Davies, 181 Hanover Street, Swansea—Telephone Swansea 463623.

ads

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

Wales BLOC conference
Saturday 11 May
10.30am-4pm
AUEW House, Orchard St. Swansea.
Speakers include: John Tocher (AUEW Pres cand) Bill Connor (USDAW Gen Sec cand) & leading activists from the NUM, T&G, local authority workers.
Credentials from Phil Lloyd, c/o POEU office, Gors Road, Swansea. (£1 per delegate)

Edinburgh. BLOC Campaign for a fighting trade union movement public meeting; Tuesday 14 May, 7.30pm. At Trades Council Boardroom, Picardy Place. Speakers: Bill Connor, Broad Left Candidate for USDAW General Secretary. Tam Durie, victimised miner, Monktonhall SCEBTA. Jim Hollinhead, Treasurer, National Local Authorities Co-ordinating Committee. Jock Penman, Chairman, Joint Convenors Committee, Rosyth Dockyard, plus a speaker from the threatened Rowntree Mackintosh factory in Edinburgh.

Irish comrade desperately needs accommodation in London for approx a month (Brixton preferred) Contact Wayne Farrell 674 0496

Defend SALEP against Labour Party proscription! Buy a SALEP T-shirt! £3 & postage. Also still available: SALEP bulletin with NUM member Roy Jones report on his visit to SA NUM. 20p & 13p postage. Available from Southern African Labour Education Project (SALEP) 28, Martello Street, London E8. Phone: 241-0434

Militant Meetings

DOVER: Marxist Discussion Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 8.00 pm at 36 Priory Hill, Dover. Subjects and dates as follows:

- 8 May: Socialism in the '80s.
 - 15 May: The Labour Party and Clause IV.
 - 22 May: The future for capitalism.
 - 29 May: Can we stop the arms race?
 - 5 June: The future for the Stalinist States.
 - 12 June: The state, the media and the party.
 - 19 June: Trade unions and leadership.
- For further details ring (0303) 43541.

UCW Conference
Militant Public Meeting
Defend Political levy
Reiect sell out deal
Defend Jobs, Fight Unemployment
Tuesday 21 May 8pm. Winterbourne Hotel, Priory Rd. (on West Cliff) (2 minutes from BIC) Bournemouth. Speakers: Dave Nellist MP, Eddie Thorpe UCW Oldham (pers. cap) Alan Short UCW Bridgend (pers. cap) Chair: Phil Waker UCW East London Counter (pers. cap)

SOUTHAMPTON: Marxist Discussion Group meets every Sunday, 7.30pm, 206 Honeysuckle Road, Bassett, Southampton. Tel: 551420 for details of subjects or any further information.

FALKIRK: Marxist Discussion Group. Monday 13 May—Poland. Monday 27 May—Racism and the labour movement.

All meetings at 7.30 in Bainsford Community Centre, David's Loan, Falkirk.

BRADFORD: *Militant* Exhibition. History of the paper and what we stand for. Bradford Central Library, 6-18 May. Come and see what the fuss is about.

WOOLWICH MILITANT SOCIAL Wednesday, 8 May. Cellar Bar, Thames Polytechnic, Calderwood Street, Woolwich, London SE 18. Bands: Newtown Neurotics, Atilla the Stockbroker. £1.50 (unwaged), £2.00 (waged).

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW

- 1st Prize—Holiday worth £500 in resort of your choice
- 2nd Prize—Portable Colour TV worth £200
- 3rd Prize—Camera worth £100
- 4th Prize—two prizes—a Cassette Recorder worth £50 and a Personal Stereo worth £50
- 5th Prize—five prizes of £20 worth of socialist books

Price of ticket: 10p
Get your ticket now from local *Militant* sellers.
To be drawn 27 July.

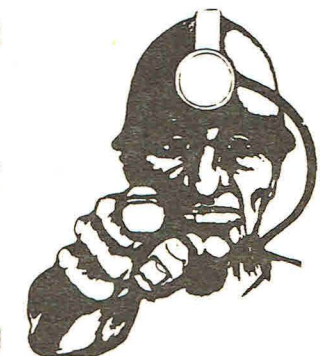
Marxist Mega Mix. "Funk Thatcher out of office" As sold at LPYS conference. Price including postage and packing £2.25. All proceeds to Fighting Fund From 20A, Blenheim Avenue, Leeds L2 9AX.

"LIVERPOOL MILITANT Labour" badge with Labour logo. "Black and white youth unite" badge with red Militant logo, 25p each plus 25p minimum p&p. FF cheques payable to P Cooper, 31 Balmoral Road, Fairfield, Liverpool, L6 8NB.

PLASTIC PAPER sleeves, 20p, bookmarks 40p, sew-on badges 50p, address books 60p plus post. Ten or more half price for resale. FF cheques to Mike King, 10 Rodney Court, Anson Drive, Sholing, Southampton SO2 8RU. Phone: (0703) 432480.

MAKE some Fighting Fund for your Area! Militant "No Slave Labour On YTS" stickers now available. Price: £1.50 for 100—but they must be sold for a donation! Send order to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscoth Rd, London E9. Cheques/Po's made payable to *Militant*.

General amnesty NOW



Glasgow: Tuesday 7 May. Speaker: Peter Taaffe. McLellan Galleries, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow. 7.30pm.
Newcastle-under-Lyme: Thursday 9 May. Speaker: Dave Nellist MP
Wakefield: Friday 10

May. Speakers: Peter Taaffe and Nigel Pearce (NUM). Wakefield Labour Club, Vicarage Street, Wakefield. 7.30pm.
Welsh Labour Party Conference: Friday 17 May. Empire Hotel, Church Walks, Llandudno.

Industrial Reports

Hospital workers' fight spreads

Scarsdale

DOMESTIC AND ancillary staff at Scarsdale Hospital, Chesterfield, a maternity and geriatric unit, were called out on strike last Tuesday after North Derbyshire Health Authority voted to privatise the cleaning service. 79 workers now face redundancy. Labour members of the Authority, including Militant supporter John Dunn, walked out of the meeting and started organising solidarity for the strike.

The decision to go private must have been pre-planned at a high level, because recruitment notices for the positions appeared in Chesterfield Job Centre within hours of the meeting.

Pickets have been organised daily and the strike has been made official by both NUPE and COHSE. Despite this, a handful of scabs have continued to work, even though they are almost certain to lose their jobs if these plans go ahead.

The health authority have been told to reverse their decision within a week or the action will be escalated to other hospitals in North Derbyshire.

Local MP Tony Benn has given his support. "This government" he said, "can spend £2 million doing up the officers' ward room on HMS Nelson, but can't find a measly £30,000 to ensure decent health care in Chesterfield."



Photo: John Smith (JFL)

500 angry workers picket Newcastle Royal Victoria Hospital during national 'Focus on NHS Week of Action.'

Messages of support, donations etc, should be sent to: Mr M Naughton, NUPE Hardship Fund, c/o The Labour Club, Saltergate, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

By John Douglas
(Chesterfield LPYS)

Barking

THE BARKING Hospital domestics have voted to carry on their 13 month long

strike against a 40% cut in cleaning services at Barking Hospital, East London.

Now the picket lines veterans are preparing a new strategy to win their jobs back from private cleaners Crothalls and Co. who sacked them a year ago.

"We've already won the first hurdle in our battle", explained NUPE shop steward, Sue Smith. "In January we produced a 42 page 'Worker's Plan' for cleaning at the hospital. For

the first time, it highlighted the fact that cleaning at Barking didn't meet the government minimum guidelines.

"Now Redbridge District Health Authority say that even they agree with what we have been saying and have ordered hospital managers to draw up a new cleaning contract aimed at bringing cleaning up to specification.

"Our battle now is to ensure the health authority

keeps to its word, and to ensure they take back as National Health Service staff, the workers who pointed out for the first time where the cleaning wasn't being done.

"Health Authority members need to remember that it wasn't hospital managers, or contract cleaners Crothalls, that convinced them of the need to bring cleaning up to DHSS guidelines—but the striking domestics ourselves in the 'Workers Plan'."

Addenbrookes

The strike by domestics at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridgeshire, over the private contractors, OCS, is now in its eighth month. Private contractors in the NHS have meant massive redundancies and dirty hospitals.

Since OCS got the contract last October, there has been a 66% staff cut in clinical areas, and 50% in ward areas. The cleaners who didn't lose their jobs were told they had to suffer cuts in hours and pay, and now nurses are forced to clean up the dirt and mess.

Patients have complained about blood-stained bed linen, urine-stained bed pans and baths with scum marks. A report in the *Guardian* said: "A hip operation on a woman in her sixties was cancelled after nurses found blood and bone on the floor of the theatre".

As well as cutting hours—which meant for many cleaners a reduction in their weekly wage from a paltry £52 for a 40 hour week to less than £25 for a 15 hour week—OCS cut holidays from 4 weeks to 2, and sick pay was axed. Because there is now no sick pay, OCS cleaners are forced to work in the hospital even when they're ill—one was working with stitches in her arm.

(Liz Floyd spoke to Addenbrookes domestics)

Railway catering staff conference

KEVIN DALE of Teignbridge LPYS spoke to JIM STEVENSON, secretary of Kings Cross NUR No 1 Branch and Acting President of the NUR Hotel and Catering Grades Conference about the issues facing the union:

WE ARE fighting the fact that many staff are on abysmal rates of pay and conditions. So much so that if you get a 5.4 per cent increase, as we've just been awarded, it's about £3.10, but then dental charges go up by £5, or glasses cost £12 more, so you really have a reduction in wages.

Privatisation has decimated the hotel side. We were one of the few industries that had 100 per cent trade union involvement and the closed shop. But with privatisation we not only deal with one employer; he



Kings Cross Station.

Photo: Militant

then sub-lets each hotel, so instead of one you get four employers.

YTS trainees are taken on in certain sections of the industry, but we've got negotiating rights, for example in train catering. Where we do take on staff they are guaranteed by a union agreement, between 65 per cent and 75 per cent of the adult

wage. We don't object to YTS, but we do feel that while we've got the vacancies, we insist they are filled by people on the right rates of pay and conditions of service.

If anything, the miners' strike has solidified the members. It didn't really affect the catering staff as such, because they're dealing

with passenger traffic. But my branch had direct contact with Coalville, Shirebrook and of course the blacking of coal trains at Finsbury Park in the London area.

There you saw solidarity by people who were not even active in the union at the time.

As you know we are under threat of being sued for £200,000 for taking action which is really in support of the union members. If you are in the NUR and the workshops have a dispute, the idea of the NUR and the Federation is that we all support each other; that is the strength of the union.

We've gone back to the Victorian era with the current legislation on industrial relations. But I still feel that the union is an effective force, with ASLEF and the Federation, which is growing from strength to strength.

Post Office 'moderates' become political

POSTAL ENGINEERS throughout Britain responded to a call from the National Communications Union for a 48-hour strike against manning cuts in the Bournemouth Mechanised Letter Office.

Many engineers in the Brighton MLO are what the Tory press describe as "moderate"; some voted Conservative at the last General Election and nearly all had never been involved in industrial action before. Yet they gave 100% support for the recent two day stoppage.

The call from the NCU Regional Council was not related to the members until the day before the action was due to start. Despite this and the poor organisation, everyone came out and took their place on the picket lines. The mood was enthusiastic and positive, despite a bitter wind.

By Ernie King
(National Communication Union, Brighton Branch, in a personal capacity)

Mount Pleasant Rally

A PUBLIC meeting called by the Communication Workers' Broad Left opposite Mount Pleasant sorting office, London, to condemn the "new deal" negotiated by the union leadership attracted around 30 UCW members.

Part timers

Phil Waker, BL National Secretary and Dave Percival, Croydon AMAL Branch explained how part-time labour is an attack on the union. As Mark Dolan from the Northern District Office said, "We'll all be part-timers if they get away with this."

Branches should now mandate their delegates to throw out this deal recom-

mended by the EC, but whatever happens at conference, PO workers will have to fight this vicious management. We've shown our determination already in Northampton (which spread nationally in unofficial action), Mount Pleasant, Bournemouth and in London, over Crown Office closures.

The Broad Left will be holding meetings in other areas. Now more than ever there is the need for a democratic union leadership that will abide by conference decisions and fight for its members.

By Andy Farnese
(UCW, Western District Office, personal capacity)

London Transport jobs under threat

AS A direct result of pressure from the branches on London Underground, the NUR has instructed its membership not to co-operate with the introduction of one person operation on any further lines.

Management has retaliated by announcing the withdrawal of a 7½ per cent allowance on the flat rate paid for by the guards at Hammersmith, Baker Street and Barking who lost their jobs when the Hammersmith and City and Circle lines went OPO.

If management push OPO without agreement, an all-out strike must be called with a thorough campaign among the workforce at every location and to link up with other workers in the transport industry to make common cause.

By Bob Law
(NUR, LT District Council, personal capacity)

No to lump labour

FIFTEEN building workers employed by JGM Maintenance who carry out repair work for the Stockbridge Village Trust, Merseyside, have been out on strike for nine weeks.

The dispute started over the victimisation of a shop steward. When the workers returned to work they found that "lump" labour was being employed.

Unfortunately the

Knowsley councillors involved in the Stockbridge Village Trust have not been giving sufficient support to the strikers.

Donations are urgently required to JGM Strike Committee, c/o Hugh Baird House, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside,

By Richard Knights

Strike transformed our union

THE ANNUAL May Day demonstration and rally organised by the Rhondda, Cynon and Merthyr joint lodges of the NUM last Saturday in Aberdare was roused by a powerful speech by Emlyn Williams, President of the NUM South Wales Area.

He pointed out that by no means have the miners been beaten, "The struggle has transformed the ranks of our union, the young militants on the picket line in the last 12 months will become the

future stalwarts of our movement".

The mood of the May Day rally in Aberdare was not of defeatism; a fraternal speaker from Kent received a pledge of unyielding support in the struggle for an amnesty for sacked miners.

After a cheque of £5,000 was received in solidarity from Italian trade unionists. Dai Davies, Executive member for Penrhwi-ceiber NUM, summed up the rally with the call for struggle to continue along with the sup-

port groups and made a pledge to continue the struggle against any attempt to close pits in South Wales.

By Brychan Davies

The campaign for total amnesty for all sacked and imprisoned miners goes on. Send your donations, resolutions and offers of sponsorship to Philip White, 10 Hermon Road, Caerau, Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan.



Amnesty now!

Victimised

MIKE MACDONNELL, a coal face electrician at St John's colliery in South Wales spoke to *Militant* about his victimisation:

"Part of my job is to inspect the cables. Over a period of 9 weeks I found nine had been cut, and they cost £1000 each. I carry a knife as part of my job and because of this I was suspected.

"Management also claimed they had received an anonymous letter, which they failed to produce, pointing the finger at me. Fortunately, when I discovered the cuts I had other workers with me, mainly NACODS members.

"I reported to work last Monday and management stated I had to be transferred to another district. I of course refused. It is clear that someone holds a grudge against me and if the sabotage stopped with my transfer, it would appear I had been guilty and the management would sack me.

"When I refused to be transferred the management ordered me home. On hearing of my treatment, the rest of the day shift walked out in sympathy, scabs included, shouting messages of support and encouragement as they went.

"The afternoon shift, 250 men, voted with only 27 against to support the action.

"The lodge committee held a emergency meeting and the NUM area were informed of the men's action. The management was forced to back down.

"Coming after our year strike the NCB must have been shocked by the solidarity. We will not allow management to walk over us."

Kent miners in Wandsworth prison, PO Box 757, Heathfield Road, London SW18.

Terry French, Prisoner B73383 (birthday 14/7). ER Davies, B74746 (20/6). Mark Best, B74749 (30/5). GR Newell, B74745 (25/4). Brian Day, B74748 (22/12). James Waddell, B74747 (24/9).

Also Chris Tracy, HMYO Prison, Springfield Road, Chelmsford, Essex (22/4).

ST JOHN'S Lodge NUM and Communities Action Campaign Committee. May Day public meeting at the Town Hall Maesteg on Monday, 6 May, 1985 at 11am. Keep St. John's colliery open.

Speakers include, Dave Nellist MP (Coventry), Ian Isaac (St. John's Lodge Secretary and EC Member).



"Free Terry French" picket outside Wandsworth jail in February. Support the miners and their families!

Back jailed Kent strikers

LAST WEEK heroin pusher Diana Willis appeared in court charged with pushing heroin and cocaine to mainly upper class addicts. She had 12 previous convictions, including one for drug smuggling. Her sentence? Four years.

Kent miner Terry French however, is currently serving five years—charged with assaulting a police officer. The Tory law courts clearly think fighting to save your job and your community is worse than peddling the drugs of death.

Terry's family and friends are clear why his sentence was so heavy—as they told *Militant*: "He got one year for GBH and four years for being a miner".

Terry's wife Liz described conditions at Wandsworth prison where Terry and other Kent miners are being held:

"There are 58 prisoners in a wing with only one tap and two toilets. Those like Terry who have not been allocated a job are locked up for 22 hours a day. They have only one hour exercise a day, and are allowed a 45 minute visit only once a month".

There are 47 miners in Kent who have either been sacked or imprisoned. Liz said: "The wives feel that while the local NUM have been good, more positive action is needed from the trade unions and the NUM nationally."

Liz French is calling for trade unionists to keep up collections and lobby MPs with letters. The Kent miners in prison are not allowed letters, but are allowed cards on birthdays and special occasions.

The addresses (and birthdays) are as follows:

see one another and were only allowed two minutes exercise per day for three days.

Despite the threat of Kevin losing his job in the pit both were refused bail on two occasions.

When they arrived in prison they found that the prison officers had been instructed to keep them apart. Since there is no rule which states that brothers can't share a cell, they protested and the prison officers conceded. Indeed as Kevin added, although some guards were reactionary, many others were sympathetic to the miners and wanted to discuss the issues.

ON 17 April, young miner Kevin Fraser, 24, and his unemployed brother Donald, 22, from Aylesham were released after three months in prison on remand. At the Crown Court a jury decided unanimously that the two were not guilty on one count of GBH and two of ABH against the police.

On 17 January Kevin and Donald were lifted outside the village police station. In custody Kevin was hit twice on the head with a truncheon and was only allowed medical treatment after persistent protests. Inside Dover police station the two brothers were not allowed to

Wales TUC

Wales TUC meets this year at a time when increasing attacks are being made on workers. Llanelli Trades Council are calling on the General Council to organise an immediate 24 hour General strike when any affiliated Trade Union comes under attack from the Tory anti-Trade union laws.

The lessons of the magnificent and historic struggle undertaken by the miners will be discussed; Swansea and District Trades

Council will call on the conference to condemn the role of the TUC.

By Bernard Roome
(Delegate Swansea Trades Council)

Wales TUC BLOC meeting Gumfreston Hotel, Tenby, Friday 3 May 1.15pm. Speaker, Keith Edwardes TGWU (personal capacity).

AUEW National Committee

Right defeated on ballots

ON PAPER the right-wing on the National Committee of the AUEW, which met over the last fortnight, appeared as entrenched as ever, outnumbering the left by roughly 70 odd delegates, to about 45/46, almost a 2-1 majority.

Nevertheless, in certain debates the growing anger and opposition of the membership towards the bosses was reflected in the contributions of even some right-wing delegates, revealing the growing isolation of the Executive Committee from the members and from reality.

The AUEW has overwhelmingly reaffirmed its commitment to a proper four-year apprenticeship in engineering and its total opposition to the attempts of the government, and engineering employers to replace it with the module system of training which delegates felt would lead to a decline in skills and standards.

A resolution declaring opposition to YTS as at present operated attracted some 23 speakers! Whilst not calling for the total scrapping of the scheme, delegates insisted that big changes had to be made. Pay had to be improved greatly, YTS must not be used to drive down the level of youth wages. A job at the end is what had to follow and not only the AUEW but all unions had a duty to recruit trainees to their ranks.

Several speakers gave examples of how their factories had refused to let YTS come in, and how management had been forced to recruit proper apprentices.

The committee also made clear they would not allow the employers or government to use the extension of the YTS to two years as the first half of an apprenticeship, thereby trying to effect change through the backdoor.

Substantial

Unfortunately the resolutions on pay, which sought to put a figure on the national claim were defeated once again in favour of "substantial", which as one delegate, Jock McPherson-Quinn (Div 25) pointed out, gives the leadership all the room for manoeuvre. As he said, "If substantial rises have brought us a basic skilled rate of £96.20, then their definition of substantial is different to mine".

Nevertheless, on this occasion even some of the right-wing delegates voted with the left, as the platform refused to give any idea at all of the sort of rises they'd be seeking.

What Jock described as the biggest slap in the face for the executive came in the debate over the EC's ballot on taking government money for postal elections.

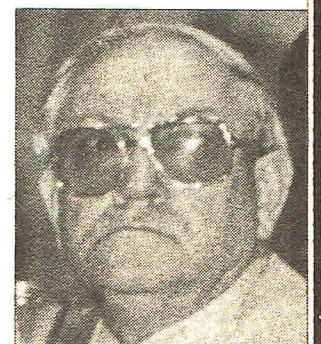
Unfortunately, though a resolution instructing the EC "not to seek or participate in

the funding of Postal Ballots from the Tory government" was carried, it contained an addendum which has now committed the union to hold a fresh ballot on the question.

This time though, the ballot forms will be accompanied by a statement outlining the position of the National Committee and the TUC.

The biggest setback came in the National Committee's decision to sever all links with AUEW/TASS. The disgraceful statements by right-wing delegates referring to TASS as a "Cancer" and Duffy's outrageous statement accusing TASS of "nicking" members, run contrary to all trade union traditions and no doubt gladdened the hearts of engineering employers.

As Jock McPherson-Quinn explained, the right-wing's first concern was with attacking a left led union, and a fear that a full amalgamation with TASS would give left majority at NC.



Jock McPherson-Quinn.

Despite this setback, AUEW members must renew the campaign for one union for engineering workers.

One big surprise was the decision to affiliate to CND, which means that although the union still maintains a multilateralist policy, it could give unilateralists scope to campaign for a change in policy.

Other important decisions included a resolution from the women's section committing the union for the first time to abortion if a woman chooses, and also, from the women's section of this male-dominated union, on the question of domestic violence against men, women or children.

The seven youth delegates, not able to vote, but with speaking rights, made their mark, and there the right wing have no influence. In the case of a number of Divisions, as Jock said, "if the work is done, back at base" in the District Committees etc, left gains could be made.

The present important leadership elections can and must be used as the basis for a campaign to build the Broad Left, win the leadership, and equip the union for the battles ahead.

By Martin Elvin

Engineering Gazette
Meeting for all AUEW members
Speaker: John Tocher (Presidential Candidate) Sunday 12 May
11am. Spring Vale Sports and Social Club Millfields Road, Bilston, Wolverhampton.

Militant

Amnesty for all miners—
page 19

GCHQ Defend union rights

THE TORY government has thrown down a challenge to all trade unions.

They have ordered five GCHQ employees who re-joined their unions, when the trade union ban was declared illegal by the High court on 16 July 1984, to renounce their membership within five days of 29 April or face disciplinary action.

The nine union members concerned have so far refused to bow to this Tory intimidation.

The Tories have been encouraged in this new attack by the recent collapse of the Civil Service pay campaign. They have calculated that civil servants are in a pliable and quiet mood to accept new constraints upon their basic trade union rights.

Discontent

The truth is different. A huge wound of discontent lies beneath the surface of the Civil Service. Faced with a further pay cut this year, new job cuts and new technology, civil servants know that their only defence is in their trade unions. They will fight to maintain their basic rights.

The magnificent DHSS Newcastle shift workers' dispute proved that. So does the DHSS Barry dispute, the DHSS Westminster strike and numerous others.

Thatcher may think that her recent tour of South East Asia gives her the powers of an Indonesian dictator, but if she does, she is very mistaken.

The British trade union movement is still amongst the strongest in the world and will respond to any call to action if the Tories attempt to dismiss even one worker from GCHQ.

It is absolutely essential that the Council of Civil Service Unions immediately calls upon the TUC General Council to implement the 1984 TUC Congress decision to call a 24 hour day of action if any worker is disciplined for the crime of belonging to a union.

A "Day of Action" should be a 24-hour general

strike to begin a campaign to restore full trade union rights to GCHQ.

At the 1984 TUC Congress Kevin Roddy said: "We must organise. We must have leadership. It's time the TUC and the General Council should provide it. Retract "new realism", reject "no strike deals". Let us be organised and willing to fight in defence of our movement."

At the time of the original ban, in January 1984, *Militant* supporters pointed out that to agree to no-strike agreements was disastrous and hit at the fundamental right of all workers to withdraw their labour.

As a result of these arguments, CPSA National Conference refused to endorse no-strike deals and agreed that the immediate reaction to dismissals would be a minimum of a 24-hour all-out Civil Service strike.

The CCSU have already given the TUC notification that they wish to see the 1984 Congress decision honoured, but this will not be enough.

They must first make it clear that they will call out all civil servants—clearly and unambiguously—for an all-out strike. Let there be no doubt, the Tories will only retreat in the face of the combined industrial muscle of the whole trade union movement.

The Tories are increasingly desperate to destroy trade unionism. They have failed so far, but they keep on coming back to try again because they have to. The present state of capitalism makes the Tories' dream of a British low wage, union-free, "Third World economy" a necessity. To do this they have to break the unions.

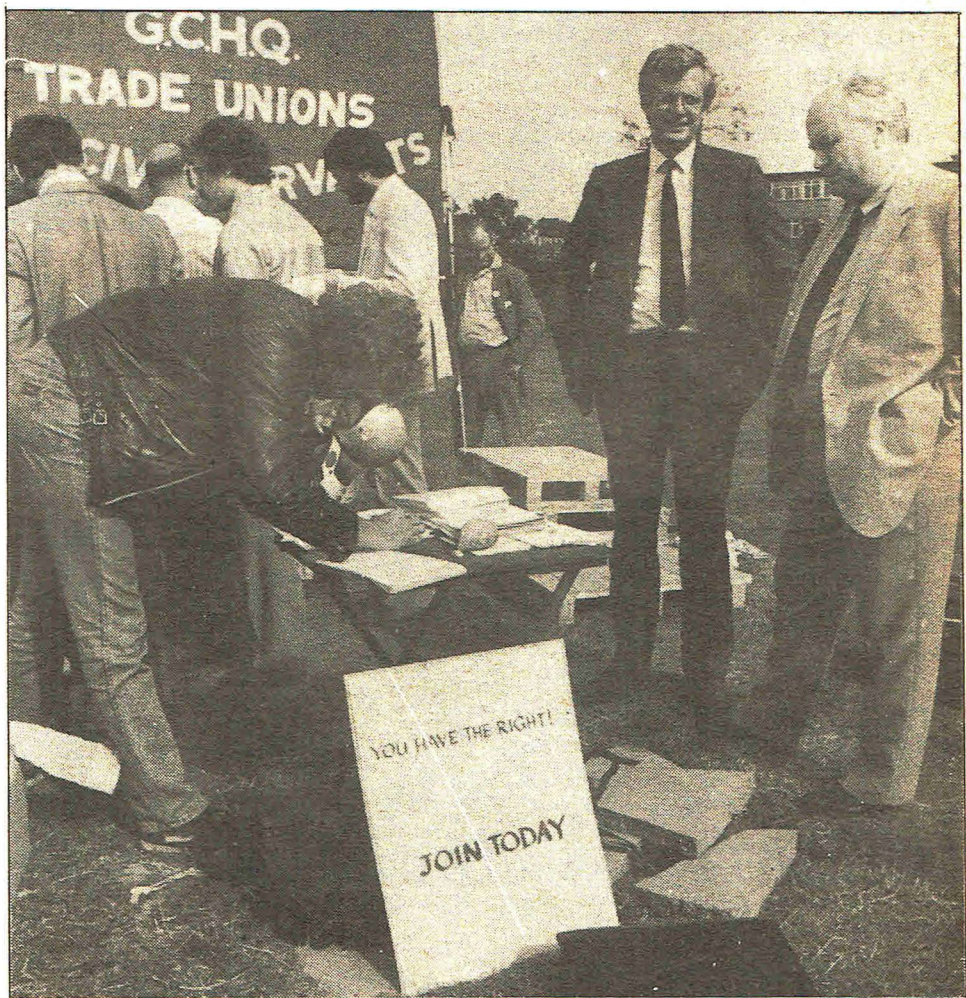
One-day strike

The TUC therefore must not duck out of a fight—it would only delay it and every delay is a further sign of weakness which the Tories would use to chip away even further at our basic trade union rights.

This latest attack must be met with a united response from the TUC leadership, in concert with the Labour Party to make the Tories retreat.

- ★ TUC to prepare now for an immediate 24-hour strike in the event of a single sacking.
- ★ All-out civil service strike until all sacked workers are re-instated.
- ★ For the restoration of full trade union rights to GCHQ.

By Bill Boyle



Norman Willis and Alistair Graham encourage GCHQ workers to rejoin the union last July. They must lead the fight for union rights.

Photo: John Harris (IFL) II

Council workers—resist cuts

THE CAMPAIGN to defend council jobs and services against ratecapping is now at a critical stage. Council workers in the eight remaining Labour councils who (at time of going to press) have refused to set a rate will be watching closely what happens in the council chambers.

There are danger signs in a number of Labour groups. In Southwark a majority of councillors stabbed the campaign in the back by voting against continuing to defer

setting a rate. But the council workers reacted swiftly to support those councillors prepared to fight. (See report page 6).

Regardless of what happens in councils—and a number of councils have already dropped out of the campaign along the way—council workers must develop their own defences.

Union action

Strong joint union committees, shop stewards committees and a vital national link up through the National Local Authority Coordinating Committee; these are the first vital steps in an

effective resistance to Tory cuts. Council workers must now also turn their attention to political involvement in the Labour Party.

Where Labour councillors are still fighting, council workers will play the decisive role in safeguarding the policy and building links between the council and the community. Where Labour councillors have failed in their duty to the workers and local people, then council workers can still play a vital role in stopping the Tory plans—and in transforming Labour councils.

By Paul Traynor

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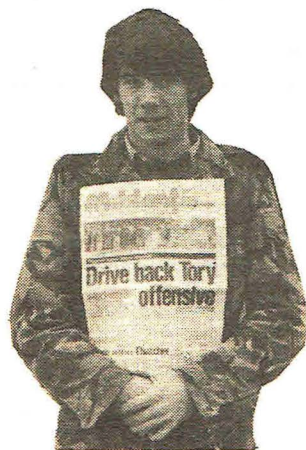
Four pages of this week's paper have been given over to reporting last week's momentous school students strike. Sell the paper to school students—after all, it's the only newspaper in the country that has given full coverage of their fight against YTS conscription.

Miners strike at sackings

Mineworkers at South Kirkby pit in Yorkshire came out on strike on 30 April over the sacking of four men for alleged "intimidation". All four deny the charge but management preferred to take the word of one scab and refused to allow any witnesses for the sacked men.

After a mass meeting South Kirkby came out with only one scab crossing the lines and with full support of NACODS. NUM members at Ferrymoor Riddings which shares the same entrance also refused to cross picket lines.

By a South Kirkby miner



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