



Liverpool defies Tory threats

THREATS OF personal surcharges, disqualification from office and even bankruptcy now hang over Liverpool Labour councillors for defying the Government and defending jobs in the city.

But last Friday's 500 strong rally of all local authority shop-stewards voted overwhelmingly—with only a dozen or so against—to take all-out industrial action if one councillor is fined or discharged from office.

Any attempt by the Tories to impose an unelected council on the city to cut jobs and services, will meet such a response from the workforce as to make the city ungovernable.

United campaign

Pressure must be put on, through the Labour Party and the unions, to make sure that the similar defiant positions of Lambeth and Edinburgh councils are maintained and that these three join a united campaign.

The Liverpool District Auditor has informed the Labour councillors they are each personally liable to part of a £100,000 bill. He is acting as judge, jury and executioner rolled into one.

The Tories are using the District Auditor to disqualify sufficient Labour Councillors to allow a Liberal/Tory administration to implement a budget with a minimum of 5,000 job losses.

No fines or deficits will be paid by individual councillors. Even if they were, the councillors would still face further action. The District Auditor has already indicated that further investigations will proceed on losses incurred by setting an 'illegal' rate.

Trade unions have told to their members that there should be no co-operation with the District Auditor or his staff.

The aim of the City Council is not to deliberately break the law. It is to defend jobs and services and not to impose massive rate increases—a policy that they were democratically elected

By Dave Cotterill

on.

The Tory government has boxed Liverpool into an impossible position. Since 1979 the Government have stolen £320 million, by reducing Rate Support Grant. By introducing massive penalties they have made the fixing of a legal budget impossible—except with either massive job losses or massive rate increases.

The Tories can easily make Liverpool's budget "legal". If they provide £30 million and withdraw penalties a solution would be found.

When their own supporters were hit they managed to do this. In Scotland they provided £50 million in a rate relief package to businesses—even though a special Act of Parliament was required.

Taking into account redundancy payments and unemployment benefit, it would probably cost the Government less to pay Liverpool the £30m it needs, than to force the council to put people on the dole.

Example

The Tories however want to use Liverpool as an example to other authorities. What other explanation is there for Environment minister Patrick Jenkin's refusal to meet representatives of the Council?

However, it is not just 50 Labour councillors they are taking on. Behind them stand 30,000 council workers, who in their turn, have the overwhelming support of the workers of Merseyside.

The working people of Liverpool will not have their council and their jobs legislated away.

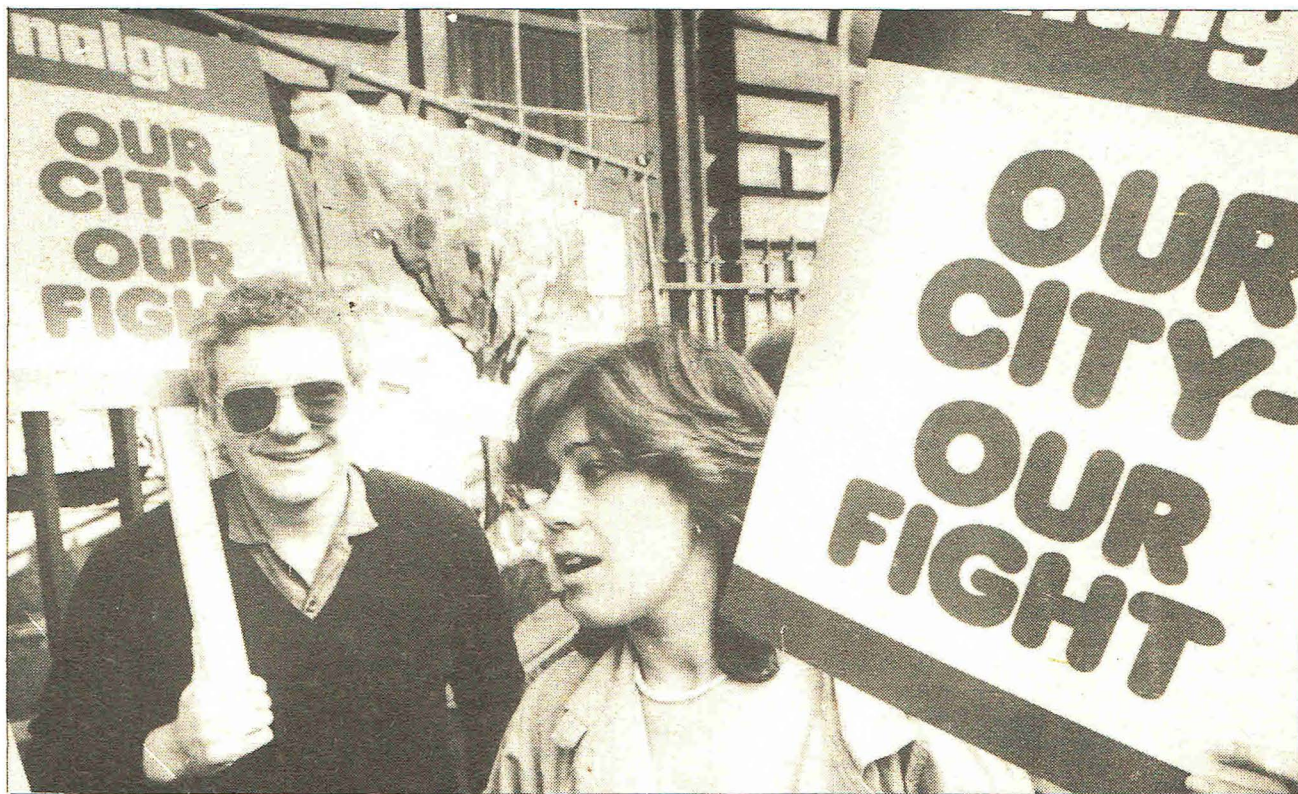


Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Liverpool council workers supporting the fight to save jobs and services on 9 March demonstration.

Young fight for their future

TENT CITY, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, is the new address of a growing number of young people. They have been made homeless by the Tories' changes in Board and Lodgings regulations.

These laws force young people condemned to a life of supplementary benefit and bed and breakfast accommodation to move every few weeks. The tents stand next to a church on a main road in front of the Civic Centre.

Sleeping bags

At first they only had sleeping bags; it was cold and bare but better than sleeping rough or drifting away from their home area, usually to London, to become prey to petty crime, prostitution, and hopelessness.

Through visits to local factories, help from miners wives' support groups and

shipyard workers, funds for blankets, rugs and so on have been collected, and the tents are now more comfortable, though still cold at night. The City Council has put in an electricity supply run off the street lights.

The day starts at 9.30 am with a meeting of the Tent Committee; and then on to the nearby centre for the unemployed. Most days include a street activity, and visits to shop stewards committees. They visit lodging houses to encourage others forced to move on to come

and join them and campaign against the Tories.

Tory MP Piers Merchant visited Tent City and told the press that the youth should be investigated as they probably had homes to go to. One lad has been forced out of the lodgings he has lived in for two and a half years; it was his home.

Fighting back

None of the people had been involved in politics before. But now they are in contact with groups in Man-

chester, Liverpool and Edinburgh, passing their experiences on.

The Tories hoped that the 50,000 to 100,000 youth would disappear. In Newcastle and elsewhere they are fighting back. Like the young people on the YTURC demonstration this weekend, they refuse to become the forgotten generation.

By Charlotte Hann
(Newcastle East Labour Party)

MASS MARCH FOR JOBS LIVERPOOL ♦ JUNE 29

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Militant

Acts of terror bolster reaction

ALL WORKERS will have been outraged by the murder of 329 passengers and crew on the Air India Boeing, and, if police allegations are true, by the planned bombing of seaside hotels by the Provisional IRA. In June alone there have been seven hijackings or bombings involving aircraft, including at Frankfurt, Tokyo, and the still unresolved Beirut kidnapping of 40 Americans. This murder of innocent victims involved by chance is nauseating.

No cause is advanced by such activities. Bombings, shootings, hijacking and kidnapping are alien to working class traditions of disciplined organisation and struggle, with the active involvement of the workers themselves. Terrorist acts like these leave workers as spectators. Their revulsion at the loss of life is exploited by the ruling class to create a political climate in which they can bring in draconian "security" measures which will be used in the future to curb workers' rights.

Every "anti-terrorist" law passed to counter the Provisional IRA is a weapon for future use against the labour movement. The Beirut kidnapping has strengthened Reagan's position within America, with a wave of patriotic indignation. Any concessions he may make to free the hostages will be avenged in future by attacks on Lebanon, in which ordinary workers will be killed.

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Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office. Published by Militant; printed by Militant Publications, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB. ISSN 0144-9275.

The way the ruling class exploits the political capital provided by these actions is vividly illustrated by the reaction of *The Times* to the Air India bomb. Even before any group had claimed responsibility, or any evidence found as to who had done it, *The Times* (24 June 1985) was declaring, in an editorial entitled "Behind the terrorist", that "terrorism is deeply rooted in Marxist-Leninism". With quotations from Marx, ripped out of context, it alleges that "the Soviet Union is the ultimate sponsoring agent for the movement of international terrorism".

The idea that the Kremlin is a godfather of world revolution is preposterous. The Soviet Union is a totalitarian state, run by and for a privileged bureaucracy. Since the thirties when Stalin sabotaged the Spanish revolution, it has done all in its power to prevent revolution in other parts of the world. It fears the effect of a democratic socialist society on the workers of the Soviet Union, who would be encouraged to fight for the rights seized from them by the bureaucracy. The Soviet regime has long ago severed all links with the ideas of Marx and Lenin.

The Times is whipping up hysteria to discredit the genuine ideas of Marxism by simultaneously associating them with both the Russian dictatorship and acts of individual terrorism.

In fact Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky always opposed such acts and fought against those who advocated them. Marx and Engels opposed the Anarchist ideas of Bakunin. Lenin in 1908 condemned the Polish socialists for 'impotent guerrilla warfare, terrorism and fireworky

outbreaks," and "aimless, senseless sporadic acts of violence".

Those they condemned, moreover, were in favour of violence against individual representatives of repressive dictatorships; the idea of violence towards random groups of travellers or holidaymakers is still further removed from Marxism.

Marxism counterposes to such acts of terrorism by isolated individuals and groups the collective power of the organised working class. It is the workers' economic strength, as the class which produces wealth which gives them the potential to transform society. It is only the ruling class which resorts to violence, as a minority fearful of losing its wealth and privilege.

In Russia the Bolshevik leaders were prepared to use force in self defence, to drive back the 21 imperialist armies which invaded and the White Guards of the Russian reactionaries. The heroism of the workers in uniform in the Red Army saved the infant workers' state. It was not the Bolsheviks, but the bureaucratic counter-revolution of Stalin which obliterated all traces of workers' democracy and created the totalitarian dictatorship of the Soviet Union today. It has no roots in Marxism.

Nor do futile acts of violence by individual terrorists have any link with the traditions of Bolshevism. A mass movement of workers, organised around the programme of Marxism, can bring about change peacefully. Terrorist acts only serve to make the task of building that movement longer and harder. The workers will not, however, be deterred.

Liberals want huge cuts in Liverpool

AT THE Liverpool City Council meeting on June 14, the Liberals, Tories and five Labour renegades voted for a budget, which if passed, would have meant a cut of between £25m and £37 million.

This would require an immediate cut of 3,000 jobs to balance the books in this financial year. With 90 days notice, and taking into account the cost of early retirement, and redundancy payment making the books balance, would have meant a cut of 10,000 jobs in this financial year.

Since 1979, we have lost 51,000 jobs in private industry. Prior to Labour coming to power in May 1983 we had lost 5,000 jobs in the local authority, under Liberal rule. The Liberal amendment would have had a devastating knock-on ef-

fect in private sector employment.

The council's capital programme would have to stop house building, construction of a sports centre, nursery classes, and environmental capital works like the construction of parks would have ended, meaning a loss of 10,000 jobs in the private sector.

The alternative to these massive job losses would be huge increases in rents and large increases in charges for meals on wheels and home helps.

However, to their undying credit, the Labour councillors held. Behind them stands the massed ranks of the local authority workers, determined to defend these councillors and continue the fight for jobs and services.

By Terry Harrison

Italian links made by council

INTERNATIONAL links between the labour movement of Liverpool and Turin have been strengthened as a result of the trip led by Liverpool City councillors, in the aftermath of the Brussels tragedy.

Statement

A joint statement, signed by Labour councillors and the PCI (Italian Communist Party) of Turin expressed a "feeling of strong solidarity in the struggle of British workers against the anti-working class policies of the Thatcher government, against the attacks from this government on the local councils and their social expenditure.

"The Labour party of Liverpool has expressed to the PCI solidarity in the struggle of the workers of Turin and of Italy against unemployment, to work to change the present economic policies and to resist the attacks of big business. The two delegations have agreed to invite representatives to meetings which will take place in their respective cities in the near future."

Derek Hatton, deputy council leader, summed the visit up: "The Italian working class identify far more with the British working class, in terms of their problems, than Thatcher ever did with the working class of Liverpool."

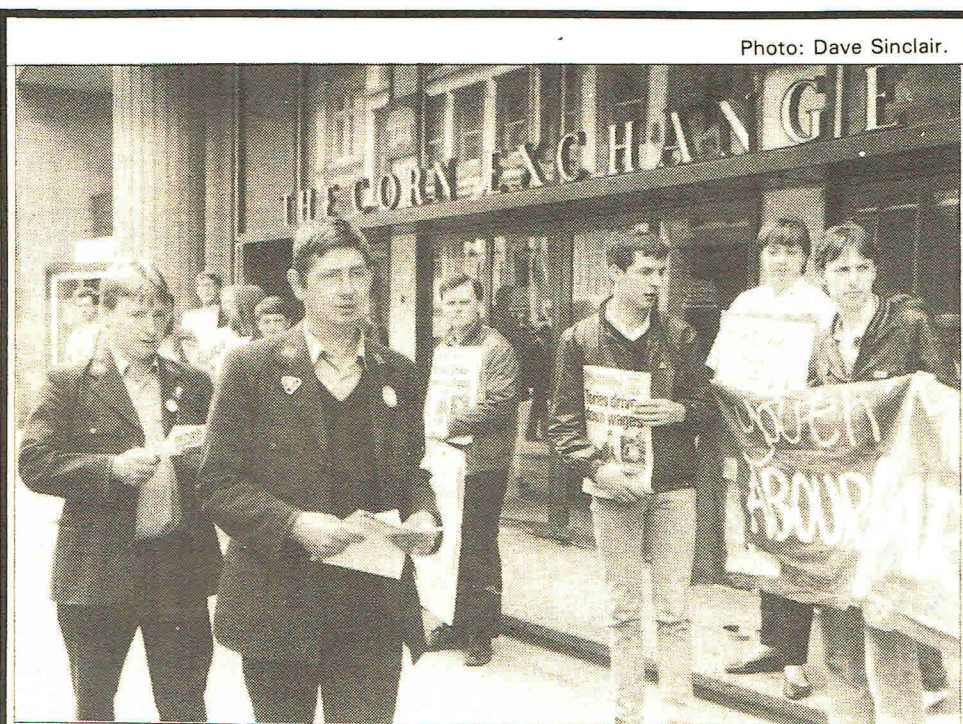


Photo: Dave Sinclair.

Labour Party Young Socialist members picket the District Auditors' Office in the Corn Exchange, Liverpool, recently.

On last weekend's 'day of action' in Broadway, Norris Green, people were flocking to sign a petition in support of Liverpool council which will be sent to Jenkin.

Renegade Labour Councillor Bill Snell appeared amid cries of scab from people gathered round and accused activists of being communists, then said the council should try and convince the Tories that Liverpool needed more money. "We've been doing that for two years," came the reply: "What's your alternative?"

Militant sales at Old Swan, Broadgreen, rocketed from three to 47, with nearly £20 being collected for the Young Socialists and the fighting fund during a recent 'day of action'.

Meanwhile a mile away in Tuebrook, 35 papers were sold and School Student Union stickers helped raise £12.67. (Tommy Carrol reports)

Lambeth workers organise

ON THURSDAY 20 June Lambeth trade unions occupied the town hall in a demonstration against the start of the District Auditor's extraordinary audit and in support of the Labour councillors' defiance of the government over jobs and services.

Unfortunately, one Labour councillor has now resigned. This puts the Labour Group in a minority so trade union action is now needed to put pressure on the council to make no cuts in jobs and services.

Trade union representatives from all over London and also from Liverpool have met and offered to co-ordinate a programme of industrial action.

Jim O'Brien, chair of the Joint Trade Unions Committee in Lambeth and the city-wide trade union committee, London Bridge

stated that as soon as surcharge certificates were issued, a programme of rolling industrial action would commence in the Lambeth area.

Militant supporters have applauded this decision but have argued for an all-out strike in the area—even with private sector involvement, if any councillors are disqualified or surcharged.

Mass meetings

Mass meetings and trade union branch meetings at all the workplaces will be going on this week and they will discuss what form this action will take.

On Tuesday the Lambeth stewards met with other stewards from around the country at a meeting of the National Local Authority Co-ordinating Committee to discuss joint action with Liverpool.

Local *Militant* supporters

will be having a readers' meeting on Monday 1 July to discuss the issues at stake and build links between council workers, both in Liverpool, Lambeth and nationally. On Wednesday 3 July there will be a mass lobby of the town hall to ensure that the campaign against the Tories is continued.

By John Reid
(Norwood Labour Party)

LAMBETH *Militant*
Public Meeting
"Solidarity with Liverpool and Lambeth"

Speakers: John Bryan (Deputy Leader, Southwark Council) and trade unionists from Liverpool and Lambeth.
Monday 1 July, 7.30pm.
Brixton Recreation Centre,
Brixton Station Road,
Brixton.

Council 'will stay defiant'

EDINBURGH DISTRICT Labour Party have reaffirmed their support for the Council's policy of no job losses, and improved services.

Alex Wood, council leader, said that the District Council had gone so far now there could be no "cave in". The council had to go onto the offensive.

For the council to succeed it is necessary to have a campaign amongst the workforce to support any councillors who are surcharged or disqualified. NALGO have already stated that they will not co-operate with an unelected minority who try to take over the running of the council. The only thing the Tories will listen to will be a united campaign of the working class in Edinburgh.

Unfortunately other Labour councillors have backed away from a campaigning strategy to defeat the government. Yet it is clear that if a campaign of mobilisation of council workers and private sector workers was taken on there would be a response. Workers in the private sector also will after all be affected by cuts in services and rent increases.

It is unfortunate that at the DLP meeting the idea of strengthening links between the local authority workers in Liverpool and Edinburgh was even opposed by a few people, claiming it was "unrealistic" that workers would take strike action, and that the "lack of support" for the miners was evidence of this.

The platform said that it would be "up to the shop stewards" to make links between the councils and that the council "could not tell the unions what to do".

But the example of Liverpool shows that if a proper campaign is launched workers will give their support.

By Tam Burke
(Pentlands Labour Party)

Labour women's Conference

Working class women's issues get short shrift

THE SUPPORTERS of the Women's Action Committee at this year's Labour Womens Conference claimed that positive discrimination and women-only meetings are needed because women find mixed meetings of the labour movement intimidating.

But nothing could have been more intimidating than the heckling, abuse and downright distortion of anyone whose opinions were not those of the majority of this conference.

The whole arrangement of the conference agenda neglected the concerns of working class women.

The first debate was on the Labour Party's Womens Organisation—not how to turn it into a mass organisation (something which hardly figured in the conference at all) but only its relationship to the Labour Party.

The black sections debate was an improvement on last year when it was taken with no discussion.

This year the composite in favour of Black sections was carried by only 268 votes to 203, that against being lost by 193 votes to 289 (there is no trade union block at women's conference, they have up to 20 votes). This was much closer than last year when delegates considering voting against black sections were told they would be "racists" if they did, and only *Militant*



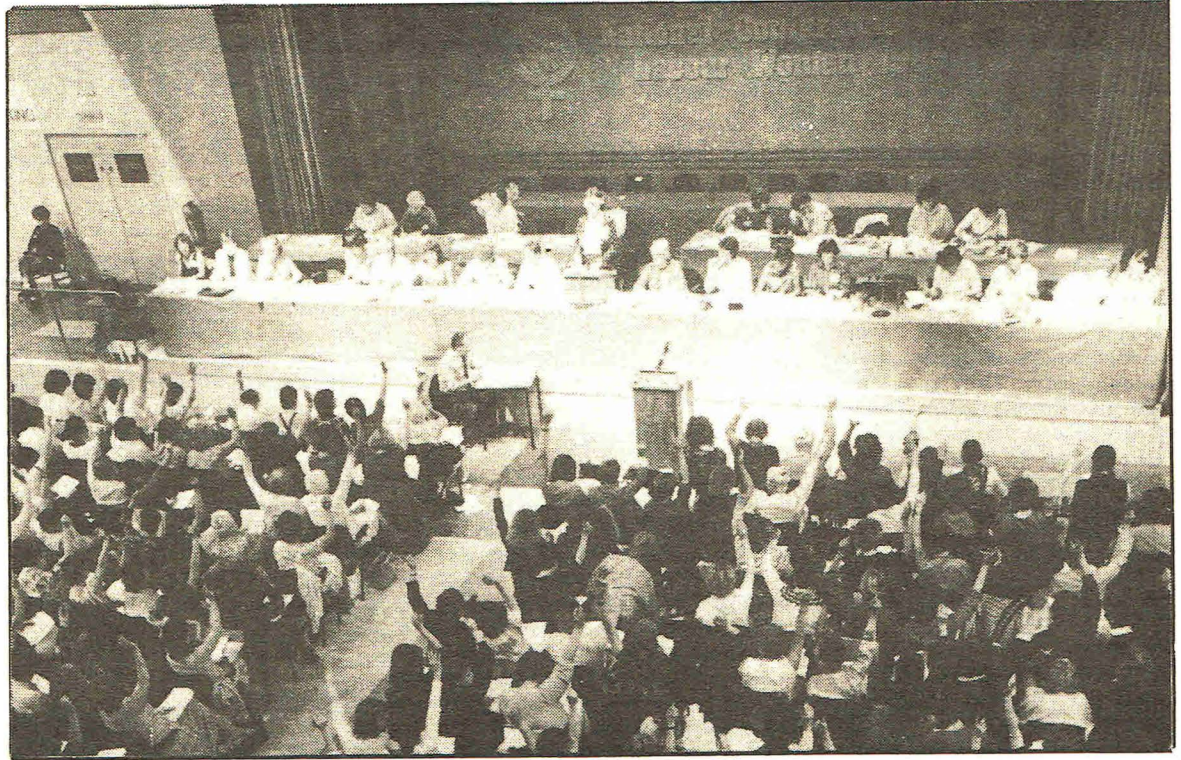
Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Rita Aspinall a miners' wife and delegate from Chorley Women's section spoke of the support the miners received internationally, and said that "workers have more internationalism in their little fingers than was displayed by a large section of the conference."

Militant supporters opposed this intimidation and fought for a campaign against racism.

The two main composites in the women and employment debate were moved and supported by *Militant* supporters and dealt with a whole range of issues which were of vital importance to working class women.

They called for a national minimum wage, for better facilities



National Conference of Labour Women in Bournemouth.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

and benefits for part time working and pro rata payments, for more training, for better child care, for a shorter working week, for control of new technology, for equal pay, all of which was linked to the need for a socialist planned economy.

These resolutions were carried overwhelmingly and should be the basis of a campaign in the Labour Womens Organisation in the coming years.

The conference also carried resolutions calling for the nationalisation of the pharmaceutical industry. This has been policy for years and it is about time that the Labour Womens Organisations actually campaigned on demands such as this.

An emergency resolution supporting Liverpool and Lambeth councils was carried with only a handful voting against.

Neil Kinnock, addressing the conference on Sunday morning, committed the Labour government to reducing the working week, tackling low pay, improving the NHS and to extending nursery education to under-fives. He also said there would be no coalition. He received a very luke-warm reception, partly as some of the conference were opposed to a man speaking at conference in any case, and partly because of his role during the miners' strike.

Opinion polls

This was demonstrated by the good response to the remarks made by Sheffield Womens' council delegate Jane Hartley, who pointed out that the Labour Party's position in the opinion polls was due to a shift to the left amongst the working class as a result of the

miners strike.

The Labour Party's *Charter for Women in Work* was launched at the conference. Although the document is quite bland, it has already run into difficulties with the Parliamentary Labour Party, particularly because of its support for a legal minimum wage.

But the conference never really came to grips with the main problems faced by this charter. There was no explanation as to how these reforms would be financed, particularly considering the devastation of the economy. Only *Militant* supporters attempted to deal with this question in the conference.

Many delegates went away from the conference determined to rebuild the Labour Womens Organisation on working class women and socialist policies.

By a Delegate

'Lefts' support right in Birkenhead reselection

FRANK FIELD the Labour MP for Birkenhead who blackmailed his local party by threatening to stand against the official Labour candidate if the party deselected him, succeeded in being reselected on Sunday 23 June.

The reselection of Field over Cathy Wilson has been portrayed by the right-wing and the Tory press as a body blow against *Militant*. The vote, which was 53 for Frank Field, and 21 to Cathy Wilson with 7 abstentions came about as previous 'lefts' voted for Field. These included some radical feminists who ended up voting for an MP who supports the Powell Bill, rather than for a working class woman and socialist who opposes it.

Moving speech

In a brilliant and at times moving speech Cathy Wilson outlined a down-to-earth, fighting, socialist solution to the problems of working class people in Birkenhead. All Frank Field could offer was a promise to continue working alongside Tories and Liberals in futile attempts to get them to fight redundancies.

There was uproar in the meeting when, in an amazing act of political censorship, the regional Labour Party official stopped Cathy Wilson in the middle of her

Photo: Militant



Cathy Wilson, Marxist candidate in Birkenhead parliamentary reselection.

speech when she started to speak about the need for workers representatives to be on the same wages as the people they represent.

It was the clearest example yet of the fear the right-wing have for *Militant*'s ideas and it is because of this that the right-wing led by Frank Field himself are likely to attempt a witch-hunt of *Militant* supporters in the near future. (see issue 753).

But let the right-wing be warned, while many workers will be disappointed that Cathy Wilson didn't win, the support for Marxism in Birkenhead is increasing daily. Bans and purges will not stem the movement of workers towards marxist ideas.

By Steve Bimson
(Birkenhead CLP)

Branch defies ban

TRANMERE BRANCH of Birkenhead Labour Party decided to hold a debate between *Militant* and speakers from the Labour right wing Solidarity group. In response the party's NW Assistant Regional Organiser wrote to the constituency secretary:—

"The annual conference of the Labour Party has declared the *Militant*

Marxist elected NUM delegate

GARY IRONMONGER, a member of the Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee has recently been elected as NUM delegate from Cortonwood Colliery, the pit which sparked off the 12 month miners' strike.

The pit now faces a renewed threat of closure, and Gary's election is a tribute to the role played by *Militant* during the strike. As Gary says: "I was elected as a supporter of *Militant*. I was nicknamed down my side of the pit 'Gary Militant', so they knew they were voting for a Marxist. What the men were looking for was someone who was trying for

the position to do a job, not for their own benefit but for the benefit of the men and their political beliefs".

Gary urged that the fight to save Cortonwood should be linked to nearby Darfield Main which faces the same threat. Gary also stressed that young miners should join the LPYS.

MONKTONHALL MINERS struck for 24 hours as a mark of respect following the tragic death of William Peacock.

The stoppage, on Monday 24 June, was also a protest

at press reporting of the death. According to the newspapers the NCB are inferring that Peacock committed suicide as a result of intimidation by miners who stayed loyal to the national strike. Willie Peacock broke ranks because of economic pressure.

Monktonhall NUM delegate, Davie Hamilton, a sacked miner, risked arrest by entering NCB premises to address a mass meeting at the colliery.

By Alex Shanks
(Musselburgh SCEBTA, personal capacity)

Vote supports Militant sales

NEIL KINNOCK'S constituency Labour Party recently voted down a motion to ban the sale of *Militant* by 29 votes to 23.

Even in this predominantly right-wing general committee, which unanimously reselected Kinnock as their

parliamentary candidate, the ordinary rank and file members of the party don't want a purge.

Next month's meeting of the general committee will discuss the South African Labour Education Project, which campaigns for direct

Tendency to be an organisation ineligible for membership of the Labour Party. As such its members are not eligible for membership of the Labour Party.

Militant speaker

"No unit of party organisation should, therefore, knowingly invite to their meetings a member of the *Militant* Tendency. ...therefore, it is essential

that you take steps to ensure that the speaker from the *Militant* Tendency is not permitted to participate in the proposed debate organised by your Tranmere branch".

In fact no decision was made at National Conference to outlaw *Militant* supporters or prevent them from speaking at Labour Party meetings.

"Solidarity" failed to produce a speaker. The branch therefore asked *Militant* supporter Richard Venton to

links with black South African trade unions and which Labour's leadership has disassociated itself from. Kinnock flew into a rage at the prospect of this and attacked SALEP as "white middle class cranks."

He was very well received.

The meeting was overwhelmingly against expulsions and the ban on *Militant* sales passed at the last GMC meeting.

Birkenhead Labour Women's Council has unanimously condemned the ban on sales of *Militant* at party meetings.

By Militant reporters

Campaign to defeat witch-hunt

Support grows for expelled socialist

BILL MULLINS, a Militant supporter and former senior steward at Rover Solihull was expelled from Warley West Labour Party on May Day.

In April, out of the blue, he was given seven days notice to appear before the party. Then he was expelled, not for any 'crimes' committed within the constituency.

He only moved there two years ago and despite being nominated as a delegate to the party's general management committee by the TGWU had only once been informed of any meetings.

His 'offence' was selling and supporting *Militant* within the labour movement over the years.

The campaign which was launched to secure Bill's re-instatement has been a model for activists everywhere.

A *Militant* Defence Campaign was set up, sponsored by local councillors and trade unionists. It organised visits to union convenors and shop stewards, visited trade union and Labour Party meetings and canvassed houses within the

constituency.

Already 40 organisations have backed the campaign. They include the West Midlands Area Councils of both the miners' and railwaymen's unions, ten TGWU branches, the Rover Joint Shop Stewards' Committee, AUEW shop stewards at BL's Drews Lane plant and Littleton Colliery NUM.

Letters

Fifty letters have been sent to the Warley West party secretary by individuals, including Mick Atherton, president of the West Midlands NUR and Dudley councillor Les Millard.

Bill has spoken at various union meetings: "At the West Midlands Area Council of the NUR I got a good reception and overwhelming support. One local branch secretary walked out of the meeting before I spoke, complaining that they were bringing 'politics' into the meeting. But two young branch secretaries from Leamington approached the area president after the meeting and asked if they could come to

Militant meetings".

In the constituency, a youth march was held last Saturday and 50 *Militants* were sold during canvassing; 25 now have become regular sales. At a public meeting (see report in *Militant* 752) 10 people expressed an interest in becoming supporters of *Militant*.

The campaign is now to be relaunched as the West Midlands Labour Unity Campaign. It will be broadened to fight the expulsion of Dugald McKinnon from Newcastle-under-Lyme Labour Party and to fight the attack on the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign.

Unity Campaign supporters are now to concentrate on visits to factories and individual trade union leaders.

It will not be an easy battle. The right-wing in this area has a record of expelling anyone who opposes them. Four years ago 19 left-wing members of Sandwell Borough Council had the whip withdrawn for two years. The secretary of the Sandwell Tribune Group was expelled from Warley East Labour Party on a trumped-up charge.

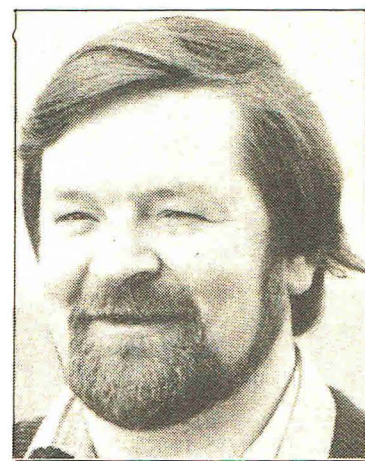
He appealed to the National Executive who recommended to the West Midlands Regional Executive that the charges were baseless and that he should be re-instated. They only reduced the "sentence" to a 12-month suspension.

At the mainly right wing Bromsgrove party, a resolution against Bill's expulsion was defeated. "One non-aligned delegate", said Bill, "asked if it was against party rules to read *Militant*. 'Will I be expelled for reading it?' An audible reply of 'yes' came from the right wingers".

Raging

"Cllr Wakeman, Chairman of Sandwell's Housing Committee, has made no bones about it", says Bill. "At the meeting which expelled me he was raging against *Militant* and the left in general and accused anyone opposing him of being a 'commie'. He has also attacked the Sandwell Tenants' Association for being run by 'commies'."

"He presides over some of the worst housing conditions in Britain. His 45,000 tenants he regards



Bill Mullins, Labour Party member for 12 years, now expelled

as the enemy. When houses were flooded last winter, he told the local press that it was because the tenants had kept their windows open!"

Such people are a threat to all the left in the Labour Party. They will not be allowed to hide their crimes behind a 'low profile'. The June General Management Committee in Warley West is to be lobbied.

All delegates are to be visited, to warn the eight who voted against the expulsion of the danger that they could be next and to show the right that they will not get away with it.

Lothian unions back Marxists

SIXTY SACKED miners have put their names to a petition protesting against attacks on the *Militant*.

Bilston Glen NUM and Monktonhall SCEBTA both passed resolutions calling for an end to these attacks and for unity in the Labour Party around socialist policies. Pentlands Labour Party passed a similar resolution and Livingston Labour Party overturned a recommendation from the Executive committee that the YS should not donate money to the *Militant*.

At the Livingston meeting a letter was received from the Scottish Executive of the Labour Party explaining why the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) should be isolated and the Labour Party should have nothing to do with it. The local party's Executive pro-

posed that a previous party decision to support YTURC should be reversed in line with the Scottish Executive decision. The party reaffirmed support for YTURC and invited a YTURC speaker along to the next meeting. At a later constituency party meeting in Livingston to discuss resolutions for the national conference, a resolution calling for support for the School Students' Union was lost by only two votes.

Support for *Militant* from trade union branches is increasing. NUPE south hospitals branch overwhelmingly passed a resolution calling for no attacks on *Militant* as did AUEW Pilton and UCATT Dalkeith branches.

By Eddie Donaghy
(West Edinburgh LPYS)

Young Socialists fight for branch

HAVANT LABOUR Party officials met with Craig Wilson and Delia Hazrati, the LPYS secretaries from 1984 to 1985, following a decision to suspend the Young Socialist branch.

The meeting dealt with alleged complaints made to the party's executive about leafletting which was considered "detrimental to the party".

The leaflet called for the reinstatement of the LPYS and pointed out that only a Labour government committed to a socialist programme could remove the attacks that youth are suffering at the moment.

Another LPYS member, Jamie McDonagh, is being accused of not being a party member, in spite of being a fully paid-up member in 1984 and that his ward par-

ty passed his application for a new card on to the general committee. The GC refused to issue him with a new card, on the grounds that his name appeared on a leaflet for a *Militant* readers' meeting as a member of Havant LPYS.

The party officers have also complained to the editor of *Socialist Youth* about Havant LPYS appearing in the list of YS branches!

All LPYS branches, Constituency Labour Parties and trade union branches (the only three trade union branches affiliated to Havant CLP are FTAT, USDAW and AUEW) should be approached to send letters to demand the reinstatement of the LPYS and no disciplinary action against Craig Wilson, Delia Hazrati and Jamie Wilson.

By Alison Hill



Young Socialists demonstration in Glasgow earlier in the year against YTS conscription. The so-called 'left' Labour Co-ordinating Committee have condemned the LPYS for its public campaigning work.

Scottish 'lefts' curb youth campaign

AT THE May General Management Committee (GMC) of Dundee Labour Party, a 'left' party according to the Labour Co-ordinating Committee's *Scottish Activist*, the secretary successfully moved opposition to Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign and the suspension of all public activities of the LPYS, pending the Scottish Executive's decision on YTURC.

At the next June GMC, speakers in support of the Scottish Executive's decision spent virtually all of their contributions attacking *Militant* supporters, one, a councillor even advised them to "get out of the Labour Party".

This remark from an alleged leftwinger is all the more amazing since *Militant* supporters in the university

Labour Club campaigned for him last year and played a vital role in the Labour Party winning a formerly Tory seat.

Slander

Even worse was the venom of one delegate who said that YTURC had more in common with Hitler's nazi party than the Labour Party! However the June meeting

conceded that the LPYS could resume public activity. But the new young Labour Party recruits who were contacted will be astonished to learn that the LPYS can still not involve itself officially with YTURC.

By Tim Goodman
(Dundee Labour Party personal capacity)

Isle of Wight Militant sales ban

ON 11 June Ryde branch Labour Party on the Isle of Wight voted to expel party members who sell *Militant*.

Following the national pattern of witch-hunts, the Tribune left united with the right-wing to oppose Marxist policies by organisational means.

The meeting resolved that "the sale of any literature at organised meetings of the Isle of Wight CLP, other than official Labour Party literature, ceases from the next meeting forthwith unless distribution is authorised by the GMC".

Militant supporters were informed that selling or raising funds for *Militant* could lead to expulsion. Even Jim Mortimer has long-since confirmed that the rules do not prohibit buying, selling or writing for the *Militant*. Some bans have sought to prevent the sale of the paper at party meetings, but this must exceed all bans, infringing not only our rights as party members, but our civil rights too.

The mover of the resolution gave what was described afterwards by a non-*Militant* supporter as a "poisonous" speech. He

stated that the YS was "indoctrinating our youth" and that Marxist policies were responsible for the decline in Labour's vote on the Isle of Wight.

Tactical voting

It was pointed out that Labour's second place behind the Tories was lost to the Liberals in 1974 by a candidate who tried to out-Liberal the Liberals. Tactical voting to keep the Tories out had cut the Labour vote even before *Militant* supporter Cathy Wilson stood as a candidate here.

Militant supporters who

were accused of working for the *Militant* at the expense of the Party numbered six out of last month's ten county council candidates, including the most successful, where the party's vote trebled. Two comrades who loaned the party £800 in 1983 for affiliation fees and who are still owed over £600, are also *Militant* supporters, as are the trustees to the party's only remaining building, in which the vote was taken.

By Jerry Dominey
(Ryde Branch, IOW Labour Party)

NUM Conference

Rebuild national strength

THE ANNUAL Conference of the National Union of Mineworkers presents the union with the opportunity to look back on a year of struggle, rich in lessons, and to prepare for future battles.

Such preparation will necessarily include focussing attention on healing the rift that has developed within our ranks. The spectre of 'Spencerism' (company unionism) has once again cast its dark shadow over certain coalfields.

However, the method of re-establishing unity that has been adopted by the leadership appears to be one of revising our union rule book.

Needless to say, the reaction of the press has been to pump out a torrent of abuse and hypocritical concern for 'democracy'. They have attacked the proposal to create honorary and associate membership status as an attempt to recruit hordes of revolutionaries into the NUM to guarantee Scargill's future re-election.

In fact, associate membership—without voting or even speaking rights—has been put forward as a gesture of solidarity to honour those outside the industry, in particular the women's support groups, who played such a vital role in the course of the dispute. Honorary membership is envisaged as a means of enabling MPs in mining areas, such as Tony Benn, who have stood by our union, to gain union sponsorship. However, it would be entirely wrong for victimised members not to be granted full membership rights and the rules should be altered accordingly to guarantee this.

Indemnity

Other rule changes which should receive the backing of delegates are the extension of legal indemnity to rank and file delegates, and to allow the union to officially pay the fines, costs and expenses incurred by members in pursuit of union policy.

It is also proposed to absolve members on strike from paying union dues, thereby plugging the loophole which allowed the Notts 'leadership' to debar strikers from participation in union elections.

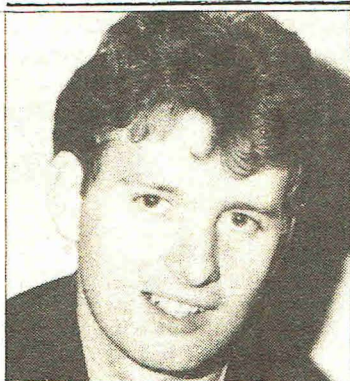
But, it is fundamentally important that any revision of the rules should not be regarded as a means of gaining 'revenge' on the Notts miners.

Arthur Scargill made the point from the platform at this year's Yorkshire gala that rank-and-file trade unionists should not be held responsible for the lack of solidarity action taken on our behalf during the national dispute.

The blame for this lies with the trade union leadership who failed to conduct an effective campaign to gain the necessary support. The same is true of the Nottinghamshire leadership.

It would be entirely wrong to

By Chris Herriot
(Sacked miner, Monktonhall NUM, personal capacity)



Chris Herriot

condemn the entire Notts Area as a 'scab' area. True, Ray Chadburn and Henry Richardson made a belated attempt to call on Notts miners to join the national strike. But this came after the damage had been done and only served to increase the confusion.

No effective campaign was conducted to explain the issues. Yet, at one stage, as many as 10,000 Notts miners had joined the dispute though this fell dramatically by the end of the strike. But, it does show that Notts need not have ended up in the role of strike-breakers. We must learn the necessity of ending the isolation of the Notts coalfield.

National union

Undoubtedly, the aim behind the proposed rule changes to be discussed at conference is to reaffirm our union as a NATIONAL union and end the prospect of some areas standing aloof from the struggle.

However, changing the rule book is not necessarily the best method of securing the unity required to defend our industry. In fact, it may have the opposite effect to that intended.

Using this approach instead of a sustained and intensive campaign of mass meetings, leaflet drops, and organising a mass campaigning Broad Left in Notts and

Long established policy aims

THE POLICY section of the conference agenda reveals the determination of the union to reaffirm its commitment to long established policy aims. Resolutions stress the need for improvements in pay, in working conditions and safety, and call for the abolition of the "Area Incentive Schemes".

One resolution which reflects the revival of the spirit of international solidarity through the course of the strike is motion number 30 from the Durham Area, which calls for the recognition by the NUM of the South African NUM and for all possible assistance to be given in its education and organisation. This follows the marvellous demonstra-

tion of support we received during our dispute and the reports we heard from Roy Jones of the Staffs NUM about his visit to the South African NUM.

There is enshrined within the new rules to be discussed in 1985 one clause carried forward from the past and whose relevance today is undiminished. It lies the key to the successful implementation of all the other declared aims of the NUM: "To seek and secure the establishment of common ownership and control by the workers of their industries and of the means of production, distribution and exchange generally, with a view to the complete abolition of capitalism".

throughout the coalfields is to play into the hands of those who would seek to effect the breakaway of Notts from the National Union.

Already poisonous venom has been poured out in the pages of the *Nottinghamshire Miner* the 'official' Notts Area journal. Quoting 'the mass circulation *Sunday Mirror*—a champion of responsible socialism—', the Notts Area leadership have attempted to portray the rules revision as an attempt to 'impose a "Stalin-style stranglehold" on the union.

Indeed, the whole of their campaign of vilification has centred around the proposed rule change stipulating that the president should have 'no vote in any capacity'.

This is described by the reactionary Notts leadership as 'Arthur Scargill's ultimate ambition' to achieve a 'dictatorship' because it would remove the presidency from the effects of legislation which will force all national trade union officials with a casting vote on their NEC to stand for periodic election.

Yet, to our knowledge, Lymb and Prendergast (and their ilk) have never been known for their support of periodic election before.

The intention of this rule change is obviously to continue the NUM policy of non-compliance with Tory anti-union legislation. But, on the other hand, the promise of five-year election of ALL full-time union officials (not excluding those already in office as it has been implemented) was part and parcel of Arthur Scargill's election campaign and understood as such by the membership.

Nothing to fear

Scargill has nothing to fear from periodic elections. And, even if he had, this would not mean that the principle should be abandoned. Regular elections would make it necessary for the union to consistently launch campaigns in every

coalfield, explaining the issues and outlining a strategy for taking the membership forward.

It would mean a much more conscious and politically aware rank and file. Most important of all, it would mean greater involvement of the mass of the membership in the workings of the union itself. The question of democracy in the union is not one that can be glossed over.

The rule changes, although the overwhelming majority are correct in substance, have been introduced too hurriedly without enough emphasis on gaining support from rank and file Notts miners and without thorough discussion throughout the coalfields.



The right wing leadership of the Notts Area are using the 'official' union paper to pour poisonous propaganda against Scargill and the national leadership

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Thus an enormous threat looms before our union—the possibility of a split and the formation of a 'scab'-led alternative union based around the Notts Area.

Breakaway

The overwhelming vote in support of opposing the rule changes to the extent of breaking away or being expelled from the National Union indicates that 'Spencerism' cannot be ruled out.

The left must seriously consider what the prospects for maintaining unity would be if the split were to develop as a result of hasty rules revision. How would it be possible to take future industrial action and to do so effectively? What means of crossing the divide between two entirely separate Notts miners' unions could be employed to win

such a struggle? A split would be disastrous. We did not win without Notts before—let us not make the same mistake again.

But if a mass campaigning Broad Left were to be built in Notts, a very different prospect would lie before the union. Yorkshire itself was at one time a right wing area. Notts could also be transformed.

Striker elected

Recent branch election results reveal the potential that exists. According to our information, most of the places at Ollerton Colliery were won by striking miners. At Sherwood, Brother Liptrott—that staunch defender of trade unionism who took his own striking members to court—was replaced by a striker.

And, at Bolsover, three out of four branch officials and all four committee members elected were loyal to the strike. Further, the striker who had contested the area agent's position came a respectable third out of 12 candidates.

These results, and the fact that over 5,000 Notts miners voted to stick with the National Union, despite the lack of an effective campaign from the NEC, are an indication of what could be achieved if the correct approach is adopted.

Nevertheless, whatever the outcome of conference, the NEC will have to undertake, in a serious fashion, the tasks of winning the whole-hearted support of the majority of Notts miners. The unity of the union must be rebuilt if the NCB closure programme is to be defeated.



Photo: Rick Matthews (FL)

WHAT IS the best way to respond to the attacks launched against Militant?

Our supporters know the answer—not only to find new readers for *Militant* but also to raise money from workers who want to show their opposition to the witch-hunt. Those who take on *Militant* will find they have bitten off a little too much.

Thanks to 5/826 TGWU branch in Birmingham who have sent £5 as have another TGWU branch in Glasgow. Four TGWU members at the Triplex works, Birmingham gave £1 each for the paper. Extras collected at works entrances also reflect increasing support for our ideas; £1.25 collected outside Vauxhalls, Luton; £3.63 outside Fords, Dagenham and £1 at a bin depot in Islington.

These and many other workplace collections are an invaluable contribution to the building of a genuine workers' paper. The excellent examples of the support for *Militant* in the factories and depots show that no matter how many bureaucratic steps are taken it will prove impossible to eradicate this support.

Likewise in the LPYS and the Labour Party, supporters are fighting back by raising money. *Militant* supporters collected £770 at Labour's women's con-

FIGHTING This Week: £2729 FUND Target date 31 July

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
Eastern	609		3200
East Midlands	424		2900
Humberside	303		1900
London East	493		2850
London West	522		2650
London South East	312		1950
London South West	267		1100
Lancashire	351		1100
Manchester	216		2650
Merseyside	952		6200
Northern	852		4650
Scotland East	358		3000
Scotland West	889		3800
Southern	1115		5000
South West	363		2150
Wales East	373		2450
Wales West	438		2150
West Midlands	1089		4350
Yorkshire	738		5950
Others	7183		10000
Total received	17849		70000

ference. At Mansfield CLP, where a supporter has been expelled, £3.10 was collected. In Brighton, the YS collected £8, an appeal sheet in Moulsecoomb raised £5 and £20 was collected in pubs! These collections can be repeated a thousand times over in every workplace, YS and LP branch.

In the midst of all the activity, supporters in Glasgow have proved it is still possi-

ble to have a good time and raise money in the process. A disco put on by *Militant* supporters raised £432 with a further £32 coming from a raffle held there.

Over 330 came to the disco; all regular readers were asked to buy a ticket and sales took place in many workplaces. Discussions are already underway to plan an even bigger event later in the year. Thanks to all those

who helped and attended.

Donations

Merseyside meeting £168; Cathy Gould, Islington COHSE £2; Melanie Edwards, Acton NUPE £5; Birmingham Readers' Meeting £73; Stafford YS £3.46; Councillors' expenses £30; Students, Mossley Hill £4; Southampton YS £2; Graham Gould, Bristol CPSA £7; Frank Compton, Harlech £30.

ads

CLASSIFIED: 15p per word, minimum 10 words. SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free. All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

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: 01-241 0434.

"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.

Richard and Lila Evans are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Samantha, on 18 June.

MARXIST mega mix volume two. Even better than Vol 1, the socialist solution to music. Available from P Harris, 20a Blenheim Avenue, Leeds 2. Cost £2.25 (inc p&p).

SEMINAR ORGANISED by *Struggle*, socialist journal in the Pakistan People's Party and labour movement. "National exploitation and the concept of confederation in Pakistan". Sunday 7 July, 10 am to 6 pm, County Hall, London SE1. Speakers include: Sheikh Mohammed Rashid, senior vice-president, Pakistan People's Party, Mumtaz Ali Bhotto convenor Push-toon Sind Baluch Front Pakistan. Dr Ghulam Hussain ex-general secretary PPP, Tarvir Gondal *Struggle* editorial board, Farooq Tariq PPP workers' steering committee, Tariq Ali, Abzal Bhangash President Mazdoor Kisan Party, Prof Hamza Alvi.

DEAL socialist discussion group meets on Mondays throughout July at 8.00pm, at the Landmark Centre, High Street, Deal, Kent. Subjects include: "What is socialism" and "History of the Labour Party". For further details ring 0303 43541.

Edinburgh LPYS Public Meeting. Defend local democracy. Speakers include Derek Hatton (Dep. Leader Liverpool City Council) Alex Wood (Leader Edinburgh City Council) 7.30 Tuesday 2 July—Assembly Rooms, George Street, Edinburgh.

GET Militant

AS THE campaign hots up around Liverpool council and the other two local authorities standing up to Thatcher, *Militant* sellers around the country have been turning out to the council depots with the paper.

Every week now only *Militant* carries detailed on-the-spot reports of these struggles, and explains a clear strategy that could lead to victory. Council workers everywhere are interested to read about what is really going on. Make sure your area is getting down to the council depots this week.

In Sheffield 17 papers were sold outside the Town Hall as workers collected their wages, while 18 were sold at a meeting of 120 members of the GMBATU in Liverpool Council Security Branch. Street sales too are flourishing in Liverpool,

with workers generally eager to read about their council's fight. 37 were sold in Tuebrook last Saturday, and 47 in two hours in Old Swan.

But sales everywhere are increasing. Delegates and visitors sold 117 *Militants* at COHSE conference. Sellers in the Rotherham area set themselves the aim of 100 new weekly readers through estate sales. They certainly made a good start, selling 22 in one evening in Rawmarsh, and 11 in Thornhill the following evening, along with seven copies of *Struggle* to some of the Pakistani workers living in the area.

In the pits, nine were sold last week at Treeton near Sheffield, and 16 at the last NUM meeting at threatened Darfield Main. Let us know of your sales successes as soon as possible.

By Jeremy Birch

Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£		£
Eastern	2731	Scotland East	2237
East Midlands	3007	Scotland West	2546
Humberside	1595	Southern	3881
London NE	3137	South West	829
London NW	3935	Wales East	1889
London SE	1953	Wales West	1453
London SW	2160	West Midlands	1956
Lancashire	561	Yorkshire	1486
Manchester	2516	National	1292
Merseyside	4994		
Northern	2958	Total	47118

This week £434

ONLY ON rare occasions do the press highlight some of the Tories' more heartless acts—but they don't expose the most horrific side of capitalism.

A study done in the USA and backed up by the DHSS survey in this country has shown that for every one million increase in unemployment over five years, 50,000 more people die through general illness and 167,000 extra die from heart disease. Over those five years, an extra 63,900 are admitted to psychiatric hospitals.

Add to these figures, the increase in depression, reliance on tranquilisers, drinks or drugs, the effect on children because of their parents' unemployment, increased truancy, child battering and so on, and we can see in human terms the effect

of the capitalist system. Unfortunately, some leaders of the labour movement don't see it as their job to get rid of this system—merely to try and ease the suffering a little bit.

But this economic crisis will get worse and worse over the next few years, we need more than sticking plaster to heal the wounds. We need a Labour government that will fight to overthrow this corrupt capitalist society. *Militant* supporters are, of course, working to build a movement capable of doing that.

But we still need more resources and a more frequent paper. Three supporters from Wearside donated £105 and two from Lea Valley in East London have sent £13.50. James Hayes, a UCATT member in Poole LPYS has donated his week's wages of £79.

For many working class people, capitalism means not just hardship, but illness and even death. *Militant* is determined to sign capitalism's death warrant instead. So send in your pounds to help build a Marxist Daily Paper.

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.

Militant Meetings

MILITANT WOMEN'S Weekend Schools. South 10-11 August, North 31 August-1 September. Agenda: The family, Internationalism (workshops on South Africa, Central and Latin America, and Northern Ireland) Transitional Programme and Stalinism. Venue to be announced.

HARROW Militant Marxist Discussion Group. Monday 8 July What Militant Stands for; Monday 22 July, The State; Monday 5 August, Northern Ireland; Monday 19 August, Russia; Monday 2 September, The Communist Manifesto. All at 11am at 172a Kenton Road, Kenton. Near Kenton B.R. Station.

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

LAMBETH Militant Public Meeting "Solidarity with Liverpool and Lambeth" Speakers: John Bryan (Deputy Leader Southwark Council) and trade unionists from Liverpool and Lambeth. Monday 1 July 7.30pm. Brixton Recreation Centre, Brixton Station Road, Brixton.

MILITANT South Wales Summer Camp. August Bank Holiday. Discussions on Britain, Chile, S. Africa, N. Ireland and the Labour Party. Price 12.50. per adult (£2.50 child). Contact Roy Davies, 181 Hanover St, Swansea for details.

Marxist Weekend School 1985

London 14/15 September

Courses on: Marxist Philosophy, Marxist Economics, The Russian Revolution, Marxism and the state, Black workers and the struggle for socialism, the Colonial Revolution, The Trade Unions—the 1920's and Today, The lessons of Popular Frontism, Women and the struggle for socialism.

Plus a rally/debate on Saturday and disco. Professionally run crèche Put the date in your diary and make your transport plans now!

Only £7 (£5 unwaged). Book now! Cheques to "Marxist Weekend School" 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9.

I would like to register for the course on ... at the Marxist weekend school (Reading guides will be sent out from July) I will need accommodation (Bring a sleeping bag) for Friday/Saturday nights.

I will require the crèche for the following children (name and age)

STICKERS—"Get Militant", "No slave labour on YTS", "For a Socialist South Africa". Cost 1p each. Stickers must be sold for donations. Please add 50p p&p.

CARRIER BAGS—5p each + 25p postage and packing. CARTOON BOOKS (Need not profit and More)—reduced to 50p each + 25p postage and packing. RATTILING TINS—75p each. Bulk order of 10 or more 65p each + 50 p&p.



STUD BADGE—75p each. Please add 25p p&p.

BADGES—small 1" tin Militant badges, 20p each. Bulk order 15 or more 10 p&p—available in white, yellow, blue or green background. Please add 25p p&p

All orders to: Militant, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB. Cheques made payable to Militant.



LEON TROTSKY 1879-1940

POSTERS—Marx, Lenin, Trotsky and Connolly. Cost 50p each. Bulk orders of 10 or more 25p each. Please add 50p p+p.

£100 million bank scandal

DID YOU know that the violently anti-nationalisation Thatcher government has quietly nationalised a major company for the princely sum of one pound? Through the Bank of England, the government has effectively taken over Johnson Matthey Bankers, the subsidiary of Johnson-Matthey, the precious metals refiner and industrial group, one of the five members of the London gold market which daily sets the price of gold.

The failure of the bank could have triggered off a banking collapse with catastrophic consequences for capitalism. Therefore this government which as *The Times* said is: "Ideologically opposed to bailing out failed enterprises", stepped in and rescued this giant company.

In doing so they did not hesitate to give the money which you pay in taxes (only the working class now effectively pay taxes) in order to throw a life belt to this big monopoly.

The government has no qualms in calmly handing out a minimum of £134

million to bail out JMB yet refuses to give £30 million to rescue Liverpool City Council which represents half a million people in desperate need. And the Bank of England which is theoretically under his control without the Chancellor of the Exchequer being aware of what was happening!

Temerity

Thus on 17 December in Parliament he stated: "No taxpayers' money is involved." Yet it emerged two days later that the Bank of England had deposited £100 million with JMB. This is the government which has the

temerity to denounce Liverpool City Council for alleged "bad house-keeping"!

This is the biggest rescue operation for capitalism since the bailing out of the secondary banks in 1974.

Compare this kid-glove treatment to the millionaires who back the Tory party, to the Gradgrind crushing of the poor, the unemployed and the sick through Fowler's review and other attacks on the social services.

When capitalist governments rescue those like JMB and others there is always a price to pay. It comes out of the pockets of the working class through increased taxes. It is paid for in the pennies and pounds which this government is now attempting to steal from the working class through savage cuts in public expenditure.

Labour spokesmen have pointed out that no minister or civil servant will pay for the JMB collapse. They have hinted at the removal of Pemberton, the Bank of England chief. No Labour worker will object to that.

But why take action against the monkey and leave the organ-grinder untouched?

Lawson the Tory chancellor should be removed. So should Thatcher, her government and capitalism which spawns scandals like that surrounding JMB.

Enquiry

The Labour leadership should demand a labour movement enquiry into the rottenness and corruption that has been revealed by the JMB collapse. Such an enquiry would show that British capitalism's hands are as dirty as its American cousins. This would lay the basis for a campaign to take over the big monopolies with compensation on the basis of proven need, which in turn could lead to the establishment of a socialist plan of production.



Chancellor Lawson says, "Bank of England has fallen down on the job."

Ruling class crime

THERE are a lot of hidden swindles within big business which never see the light of day. *The Times*, the day before the JMB report broke, lifted a little stone to reveal the monstrous rackets of big business in the United States.

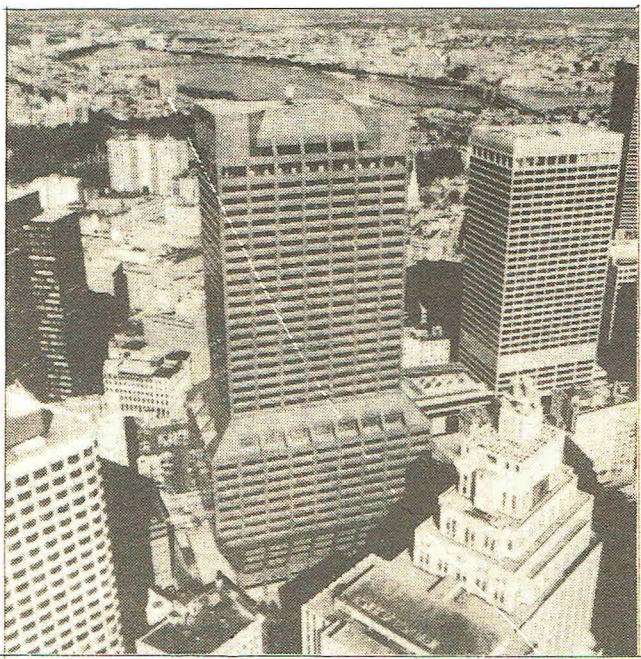
In America at the moment headlines tell of "The age of me-first management", of "White-collar crime booming" and of "new permissiveness eroding corporate morality". It is difficult to suppress a horse-laugh at claims of "corporate morality" in the "dollar-democracy". Nevertheless the untrammelled rule of big business, which the Reagan administration means, has resulted in a "new frenzy to get rich".

The Times gives just a glimpse of some of the rackets perpetrated by the monopolies. Thus the venerable Bank of Boston, a pillar of the commercial establishment was fined \$500,000, (£390,000) for breaking currency laws, having failed to report \$1.2 billion (£930 million) of cash dealings with foreign banks. It was further "stained" by reports of its dealings with Boston's leading crime family.

Godfather

These revelations come just at a time when *The Godfather* has been screened on TV. This film shows that the Mafia, like the early capitalists who were involved in crime and murder, is trying to legitimise itself as a pillar of American big business. It seems that in Boston the fiction of the Godfather has been realised in life with the gangsters of big business linking up with the gangsters of crime.

At the same time F Hutton, one of the country's largest and hitherto well-



The Bank of Boston—criminal dealings

respected brokers was fined \$2 million (£1,560,000) for systematically cheating 400 banks by overdrawing on accounts and staying ahead of bounced cheques by overdrawing on others. The firm overdraw \$10 million giving itself 'free' money of \$150 million (£117 million) a day.

A magazine survey also showed that America's 500 largest corporations in the previous ten years had 115 convictions for major crime, or had paid fines for serious misbehaviour. *The Times* points out: "Last year the top five executives on the Charter Company, an oil and insurance firm, voted themselves bonuses of \$250,000 (£195,000) each. And yet four months later the company filed for bankruptcy".

So open has become the crime and corruption of big business that the occasional capitalist has found himself in jail. Thus Jake Butcher, a financier has just been jailed for 20 years for frauds that broke 11 banks. Ralph Nader the consumer watchdog has commented that,

"the Federal cop was being taken out of the corporate beat and corporate crime moved into a higher gear."

Conspiracy

The "Federal Cop" has always been ineffective against the conspiracy of big business in the US. But, the rampant bribery, corruption and criminal activity of big business contrasts with the increasing poverty of millions of Americans. Many of these are evicted from their houses and don't have jobs. Some are forced to live under bridges. Their anger has reached volcanic proportions.

A similar development, although on a smaller scale, is undoubtedly taking place in Britain and the capitalist world generally. The gap between rich and poor is growing, fuelled by the policies of Thatcher, Reagan, Kohl, etc, which is in turn determined by the crisis of capitalism.

By Peter Taaffe

Chilean socialists back threatened campaign



PARTIDO SOCIALISTA DE CHILE
FUNDADO EL 19 DE ABRIL DE 1933

General Secretary,
J. Mortimer
150 Walworth Road,
London S.E.17.

General Secretary,
Youth Section for UK.
Alonso Rojas
97 Lakeland
Sceaux Gardens,
London S.E.5.
27th - may - 1985

Dear Comrade :

I have the pleasure of writing to you, concerning the "Chilean Socialist Defence Campaign" sponsored by our comrades of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

We were very sorry to hear that this campaign may be about to close, for various reasons, for us the, Chilean Socialist Youth 24th C, this is a really sad news indeed as the help of this campaign has been of great importance for our young comrades and for the working class as a whole in Chile, who have been in a non-stop struggle against the bloody military junta since 1973, this campaign has also been one of the most important for the overthrow of the present regime, and for the come back of Democracy and a more just society.

Comrade, we strongly appeal to you, to do what ever is in your power for this campaign to go on, in it important role, as we need more than ever all the International working class solidarity that we can give to our socialist comrades and the people of Chile, having in mind that, not even misery, hunger, oppression or even death will stop our struggle for SOCIALISM.

WE SHALL OVERCOME !!
VENCEREMOS !!

THE CHILEAN Socialist Party in Britain and the Chilean Socialist Youth have written to the Labour Party General Secretary protesting at bureaucratic attacks on the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign (CSDC)

At Labour NEC's meeting in May a resolution was passed, disassociating the NEC from the CSDC Campaign, set up by the LPYS in 1980.

After the coup of 1973, the LPYS played an important role in helping exiles to come out of Chile and establish themselves in Britain, and took part in many activities, including affiliating to the Chile Solidarity Campaign soon after it was set up.

However, with the upturn in the workers' movement in Chile in the early 80s, the LPYS received a number of direct appeals for aid from Chilean workers' organisations including dockers, telephone workers and youth

organisations in the shanty towns in desperate need of financial aid.

The LPYS therefore saw its duty to increase support for workers' organisations in Chile, develop links with workers internationally, and send direct material aid.

Pressure

After CSDC was set up to develop this work, the Chile Solidarity Campaign immediately attacked it as "unnecessary, unhelpful, confusing and divisive". They then pressured rightwingers and so-called lefts in the Labour Party to disassociate the NEC from the CSDC.

The LPYS felt it necessary to set up CSDC, particularly due to the dubious record of the CSC in sending money to Chile.

According to its own statements, between 1974 and 1984, the CSC sent less than 1% of the considerable income it receives to Chile

(figures for 1976 not provided). Resolutions by the LPYS at AGMs of the CSC, proposing greater efforts be made to send direct aid to workers' organisations in Chile, have been decisively rejected every time.

The CSDC is involved in developing direct links by twinning areas of Britain with areas of Chile and defending political prisoners recently arrested.

We will re-double our efforts to take the appeal of the Chilean workers to the British labour and trade union movement. We aim to play our part in toppling Pinochet and the construction of a socialist Chile.

We appeal to the labour movement to send resolutions of protest to Labour's NEC and letters of support to the CSDC: PO Box 448, Emma Street, London E2.

By IM Savastio
(Secretary CSDC)

Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign

Build a mass school students union

THE SCHOOL Students' Union which had its founding conference in Manchester recently, aims to build a mass membership from every region in the country.

The conference, with over 200 attending, including representatives from trade unions and schools' action committees, was a great success.

The National Committee elected at the conference pledged to fight for the interests of school students on socialist principles.

The School Students' Union aims to get itself recognised by the school authorities, and wants school students to have representatives on the school governors' boards with voting rights. The union will campaign against YTS conscription for school leavers and for proper training and real jobs for youth (see panel).

But these demands can only be met if they are linked to the labour and trade union movement and become part of the struggle for socialism.

The union has elected a fighting, socialist leadership, but this alone is not sufficient. The union must be built on a mass scale otherwise it will have no power.

Already school students all over the country are getting organised in their schools and laying the basis for the union. But the national union will have to ensure that these are consolidated and that the policies of the union are spread to every area.

The *Mail on Sunday* screamed that we want every school student over the age of 11 to carry a union card. Quite right!—but this won't be achieved, as the Tory press like to claim by 'manipulating' school students. They have seen, through being attacked by the Tories and their allies who control the gutter press, that they need to be part of the union and that it's the socialists who are on their side.

At the founding conference of the School Students' Union a resolution was passed unanimously thanking *Militant*

and their supporters for the excellent support they have given to the school students' struggle. The resolution went on to condemn the attacks made on *Militant* supporters within the movement.

In order to build the union, finance will be needed. School students have already made immense personal and financial sacrifices to set up this union. £30 was raised at the conference, despite delegates having to pay for the fares and entry fees.

This enthusiasm from unwaged newcomers to the trade union movement must be matched by the activists in the movement. Resolutions at every union branch and Labour Party branch should be passed to support the School Students' Union financially and politically. Speakers from the SSU can be booked from the following address:

Dave Sirockin, Secretary, SSU, c/o 109 Rannoch Road, London W6 9SY.

Real jobs for youth

How school strike was organised

SEVERAL WEEKS before the national school students' strike on 25 April a riot took place at a school near Andover in Hampshire which resulted in expulsions and suspensions of those involved.

In Andover, strikes and protests against school rules had already taken place, showing the politicisation and level of awareness reached by many young people.

A school student at one school, Alex Naughton says: "I first came into contact with the LPYS in April. We needed help to set up a school students' union and we met up with YS members after a strike over the suspension of a school student for a petty offence."

The strike call was a response to the anger which was already developing spontaneously against compulsory YTS, and also against the petty rules in the schools. The strike action in Andover was organised within five days. A leaflet was hastily drawn up, press releases drafted to the local papers before the demonstration and rally. The school students spoke in their schools to get support for the strike.

Striking pupils faced harassment and victimisation, the so-called strike leaders were threatened with suspensions. In John Hanson school, the deputy headmistress, the police and prefects joined together to stop pupils striking. A

policeman was physically pulling back those pupils wishing to strike whilst the deputy head was writing the names down of strikers in a note-pad.

A vocal and enthusiastic march was held to the town centre where at a rally a School Students' Action Committee was formed, including representatives from the three schools.

The striking pupils were fully aware of the issues surrounding them. Clare Richards, an 11 year old who took strike action said: "These schemes are killing people, hurting people, and just leads them to think that when they leave they will get a job. They have got no more money than when they went in but what does Maggie Thatcher do? The answer is nothing—except get paid for ruining our lives. Tories out Labour in."

Petition

The school students' campaign has got a lot of support by using the YTURC petitions on council estates, schools and colleges and in Andover town centre. Over 450 names of young people interested in the campaign have been collected, and many may join the LPYS. The petitions themselves are an excellent way of raising finance, on one day over £44 was collected. But above all what is necessary is a systematic approach towards

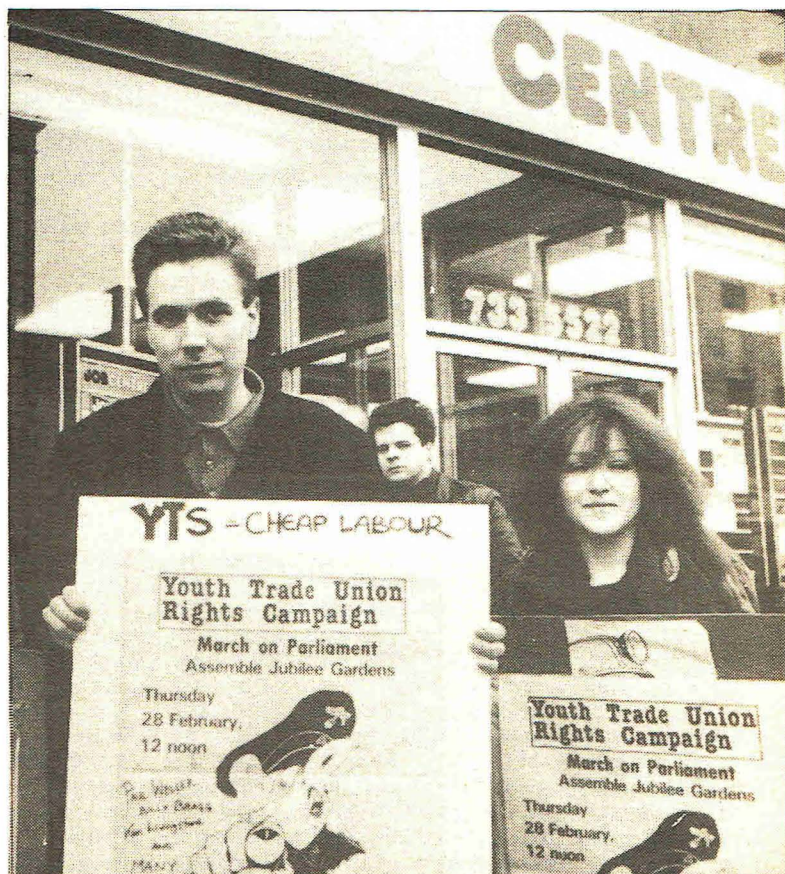
following-up and visiting these people.

In Andover a chart of the people met during the campaign has been made, where they were met and what action is being taken to contact them is included. This can be used to monitor the successes and failures in recruiting to the LPYS.

The Liverpool demonstration is a good way of getting people interested in the LPYS. Even in Andover there is enormous support for the ideas of *Militant* especially as many of the school students and YTS trainees read the paper. A paper sale is held in many areas and on one sale in Andover town centre over 16 papers were sold, including to members of the armed forces.

Our experiences in Andover have shown us that even the southern areas of the country are not immune from socialist ideas. Karen Grover, a YTS trainee said: "I went onto a YTS scheme because there was nothing else. I didn't like college and other than that I would have had to go onto the dole. I think the money is disgusting, especially when I do the same amount of work as people employed on higher wages. I joined the LPYS because I was pissed-off with the YTS and its wages. The LPYS is the only way youth can fight back against the Tories."

By Gavin Marsh
(Southern Region
LPYS NC member)



Picket at Brixton Job Centre with Gerry of the 'Special AKA' in February advertising the YTURC lobby of parliament.

mpaign



Youth Trades Union Rights Campaign rally and march in Cardiff outside the Welsh Office.

Photo: Martin Shakeshaft

Tories beaten back

THE TORIES' plans for youth with the introduction of legislation to abolish Wages Councils and board and lodgings payments, have been withdrawn in the face of mass opposition by school students on 25 April.

Along with them go plans for a compulsory YTS scheme which goes back to 1981, when the Tories saw YTS as a way of taking the sting out of the riots in the inner city areas.

But still forty per cent of the 3.2 million on the dole are under 25. YTS has been firmly rejected by youth as being worse than useless. A third of all trainees drop out before the end of the scheme, and the Tories' plans to expand it to a two-year scheme, has met opposition from the CBI.

Their argument is simple, if you can't keep unwilling trainees on YTS for a year, what is the point in introducing a two-year scheme?.

The Tories' reasons are equally simple, it is a first step towards trying to reintroduce compulsory YTS at some point in the future.

The fight should be stepped up on the YTS schemes, to unionise the youth, prepare for a concentrated campaign the Tories' wider attacks on youth.

Getting organised

MARK CAROLAN from Sheldon Heath school, Birmingham told *Militant*:

"I read about the planned school students' strike in *Militant*.

"We haven't much of a future in this city, the only thriving industry is the dole office.

"So with one or two of my mates I started organising. We painfully wrote out by hand 500 A4 leaflets advertising the strike. We got about 100 out and about 60 in all attended the meeting in June to get ourselves properly organised.

"The main problem has been hiding it from the teachers. A lot of them are Tory toffy-noses—*Times* readers. The headmistress sent a letter to the strikers and lectured us on *Militant* 'manipulating' us. There would probably have been suspensions if there hadn't been so many of us out.

"She told us that £26.40 a week was quite enough to live on. A head teacher gets more than that every day. I support all the SSU and YTURC demands especially that for votes at 16. If we're old enough to slog our guts out for £26 a week why aren't we old enough to put an X on a piece of paper."

The School Students' Union demands:

1. Recognition of the SSU by the school authorities. Rooms and notice boards to be available to the union.
2. For school students' representatives with voting rights, to be on the board of governors to be elected by school students as a whole.
3. A reversal of all education cuts. More money to be spent on books and education.
4. An end to petty rules at school. No corporal punishment. The right to wear what you want at school.
5. The right of school students to see their own records and references before or on leaving.
6. Total opposition to all forms of discrimination. Removal of all proven fascist and racist teachers from schools.
7. Total opposition to the Gillick ruling on contraception. The right for all girls under 16 to control their own lives.
8. An end to compulsory religious education, to be replaced by comparative religion to be taught as part of social studies.
9. For the right to set up political clubs at school, except for fascists.
10. The free use of school facilities—playing fields, sports facilities, etc, during all holidays.
11. Trade union monitoring of work experience whilst you are at school. Work experience must mean what it says—with places in union-organised firms only.
12. Full support for the teachers strike. For decent pay for teachers.

End low pay scandal

DAVE NELLIST, MP for Coventry SE has presented a private members' bill to Parliament, which calls for a minimum wage of £115 and a 35 hour week.

If it became law millions of working class people, especially young workers would be raised out of the poverty and misery imposed on them by the Tory government.

Already there has been a tremendous response to the Bill from young workers. A small article in *Just 17* magazine asked its readers to write to Dave about their pay and conditions, pointing out that 70 percent of girls under 18 earn less than the governments' own poverty levels of £67.70.

Within a few days, Dave received over 50 letters, each one an indictment of the rotten system which cannot afford a living wage for young people.

Many of the letters congratulated Dave's campaign and want to know how to help in it. All of them tell of appallingly low wages, and often long hours and dif-



Dave Nellist MP—fighting low pay.

icult working conditions:

"I recently saw a column in *Just Seventeen* magazine, advertising your campaign for higher wages and thought it was a marvellous idea," wrote a YTS trainee for a hair dressing company.

"I was taken for granted too much and none of our work was appreciated. I never once did a forty hour week as a YTS trainee is supposed to. My hours were 8.45 am to 6 pm most nights, and one late night a week, 8.45 am to 8 pm. OK, it was all for my training and experience but when you think of it as £5.25 for almost 11

hours work it is ridiculous."

Many of the letters speak of blatant exploitation, such as the receptionist who ends up with £38.04 at the end of the week:

"I am 19 years old and I did not get a rise on my birthday, in fact I started to pay more tax so initially my wage fell.

"I would also like to tell you about a friend of mine...she shares an office with another girl, they both do the same job. The other girl receives £78.50 per week whilst my friend receives £26.50—she is on a YTS scheme, so was the girl before her and so will the girl after her be, there is no chance of her being kept on at this job, even though, initially there is a proper job there for someone."

The letters show that many young workers do jobs with various skills and responsibilities, ensuring that the boss gets value for money:

"I got a job in my home town, which is where I am now on £45 a week," wrote a young worker from the South West.

- ★ No to YTS conscription.
- ★ £55 a week (trade union rates of pay) on YTS.
- ★ 35-hour week with five weeks paid holiday on YTS.
- ★ Paid holiday on YTS.
- ★ Guaranteed job at end of every scheme.
- ★ Proper health and safety conditions.
- ★ Trade union rights for YTS trainees.
- ★ Replace YTS with real jobs for youth.
- ★ Right to vote at 16.

"I do cleaning, making the coffee, answering any phone calls, all the typing and part of the accounts on a 35 hour week. After stoppages I get £38.50."

"If I can be of any help (in the campaign) let me know and I shall do all I can, because I feel very strongly about this."

Exploitation is rife particularly in the small businesses, offices and shops where there is little protection from trade unions. Often those who ask for wage rises are threatened

with the sack, and organising a union is often very difficult.

The campaign for trade union rights for youth must be stepped up. Young workers deserve decent pay for doing a proper job. The whole trade union movement must give their backing to the campaign, and help to make sure that Dave Nellist's bill is made law—if it's not passed now, then it must be part of Labour's election pledge for the next Labour government.

Brazil

Brazil's president on a tightrope

LATIN AMERICA is now the most explosive of all continents. In recent years unstable military dictatorships have been crumbling away. Except for those in Chile and Paraguay they have fallen.

The ruling classes have not become suddenly "progressive". Changes have been forced by the masses fighting back against capitalism's economic and social crisis.

But this transition to democratic forms of government, while welcomed, has not ended the numerous problems of the working class and other oppressed peoples.

All the Latin American governments without exception have introduced austerity programmes, dictated by the IMF, which can only make the impotent local capitalists even weaker and more bankrupt. They will be even less able to offer long term improvements in workers' living standards.

Brazil's economy flowered for a while during the boom years. Brazil had 2.9 million industrial workers in 1960; this had risen to 10.6 million by 1980. Their labour power created new riches in a growth rate of 7 per cent a year between 1945 and 1980.

But this growth did not strengthen the Brazilian bosses. As in Russia just before the 1917 revolution, the biggest most important factories were built with foreign capital, so West Germany today has a higher concentration of its industry in Sao Paulo than in any German city. And Germany is only second in the Brazilian investment stakes to the USA.

In 1964, the combination of a Labour government and a growing working class movement provoked a trembling ruling class to resort to totalitarian dictatorship. It clung to office for 21 years, kept in power by repression, particularly harsh in the first decade, and cushioned by a certain development of productive forces.

Regime eroded

However with the first effects of economic crisis, the regime's supposedly solid foundations were eroded by the wave of economic strikes between 1978 and 1980. As Marxists always predicted, the working class played the leading role in the revolution, dragging behind it other oppressed layers of society.

The dictatorship found itself suspended in mid-air. They were forced to "liberalise" by mass demonstrations, announcing elections for the senate, state governors, state legislative assemblies, city councils and mayors in all but the capital cities.

During this period the Communist Party played a particularly corrupt and bankrupt role. Many

By Ana Munoz

workers switched their votes from the CP to the main capitalist party the PMDB led by Tancredo Neves after the CP praised them to the skies and called for a popular front coalition with them.

The CP enthusiastically followed the regime's "gradual liberalisation" policy, designed to ensure that the fast approaching (and unavoidable) transition to civilian rule would not endanger the capitalists' power.

In the 1982 elections the opposition parties together obtained 59 per cent of the vote but the rigged electoral system saved the military regime. In the federal congress for example, the opposition only got 200 seats out of 479. This transparently fixed "victory" encouraged the ruling class to try to implement an austerity programme.



Tancredo Neves the "martyr"

It met enormous working class resistance culminating in a general strike in July 1983 in Sao Paulo which has over half Brazil's working class. Protests were fuelled by the 20 per cent decline in workers' living standards from 1980 to 1983.

The strikers' economic demands broadened into political questions, particularly the call for direct presidential elections which focussed all the mass discontent. In the first ten months of 1984 between 10 and 20 million are believed to have demonstrated for this demand in Brazil's major cities. *The Economist* reckons that they brought more people on the streets than the Carnival or the winning of the World Cup.

The government tried to rig the presidential elections to ensure their candidate's victory but the official government party, the PDS, had disintegrated and suffered a major split with the Liberal Front of José Sarney. They formed the Democratic Alliance with the PMDB, agreed a joint candidate and gained a crushing 69 per cent of the vote.

The ruling class though, were not too unhappy. They saw the president Neves as the new strong man who would guarantee the safety of their profits. But the generals had bequeathed to Neves an economy in crisis, the largest external debt in the world (\$103 billion) and a 230 per cent inflation rate, the highest for 37 years. Unemployment and underemployment affected one person in three while the level of corruption and pilfering seemed to know no bounds.

Landless

In the vast rural expanses, conditions are horrific. One per cent of landowners own 44.5 per cent of the land. Peasants with no means of survival have taken over land. President Sarney announced an agrarian reform plan recently hoping to create millions of subsistence farmers out of the landless masses.

But this plan, grossly underfunded anyway, has met vicious resistance. At least ten peasants were murdered in an Amazon village as landowners stockpiled arms to defend their property. The government now say they may have been "too hasty" in their plans. The landless and hungry will think differently.

Nearly two-thirds of the population are thought to be suffering from hunger. A "sub race" has appeared in North Eastern Brazil. Generations of undernourishment has produced genetic changes in a stratum of the population. At the last military call-up, 40 per cent were turned away because of physical defects caused by privation.

This catastrophic situation explains the regular assaults and lootings at supermarkets, the high level of delinquency, of murder, begging and child prostitution.

The recent death of President-elect Neves has come to symbolise the decrepit state of Brazilian capitalism. In the seeming accident of one man's death, all the ruling class' lack of confidence and weakness came to the surface.

Austerity programme

Neves has become a martyr for many Brazilians. Had he been allowed to implement his policies, however, he would have seen an escalation of the demonstrations which began in the last days of his life. Neves based himself on a brutal austerity programme; "public spending is now prohibited".

He also assured the international banking order that he would follow their demands for payment of interest and their prescribed economic measures. On the

other hand, he said he wouldn't hold anybody within the army responsible for the last 21 years' repression!

The masses hoped the dictatorship's downfall would mean the end of their economic privations. In Sao Paulo, 360,000 metal workers came out on strike from 11 April, organising mass meetings of a quarter of a million, demanding increased wages and a working week down from 48 to 40 hours. Workers in the public service, water, health and transport followed suit.

A 112 per cent wage increase was decreed to offset rising prices but this did not stop the workers' movement. Immediately workers in three of the four most important domestic airlines struck and left areas of the country paralysed. Then the postal workers came out on a nine-day strike. At the beginning of May there were about 50 big strikes throughout Brazil including



New President Sarney. A year ago he was in charge of the military regime's campaign to prevent direct presidential elections.

120,000 car workers in Sao Paulo.

This has happened in a period of temporary economic growth marked by increased exports, mainly to the USA, and a better balance of payments. But this fragile improvement is cracking, with the USA threat to cut its imports like cotton and shoes as the US economy's growth falters. The next decline will have catastrophic effects on Latin America.

José Sarney, the new president has much less room for manoeuvre than his predecessor. He takes the reins in a worsening crisis.

The PMDB triumph will

be very short-lived. It has come to power with empty hands as the Brazilian bourgeois are very weak. The recent strikes are the precursors of future battles; the Brazilian revolution has begun. It will pass through many ups and downs, but the continent's strongest proletariat will gain in confidence.

The solution of the problems for the masses will depend on the working class being able to become the major force looked to by all other oppressed sections of society. Brazil with its riches and its fighting traditions will be a jewel in a socialist federation of Latin America.



Alongside Brazil's huge industrial cities are very poor rural areas, many semi-feudal in nature.

The city of lost hope

IN THE 1960s the Brazilian capitalists launched an ambitious plan for a new capital to be carved out of the jungle.

Brasilia was heralded as the "city of hope"; but the main aim was to open up the vast underdeveloped interior of Brazil for the monopolistic locusts of big business.

The huge construction work was started in 1960. When the bulldozers moved in enormous enthusiasm was stirred up over the ambitious project.

But despite all the illusions that Brasilia would solve all the social problems and that rich and poor would live as one in a futuristic paradise, class divisions have found

their expression in the new capital.

The centre of the capital is taken up by administrative buildings, while the housing built to combine the rich and poor is now occupied entirely by the middle class. The rich live in big detached houses along the lake while the poor, including those men who built it, live in shanty satellite towns.

Rich and poor

The last word should be left to the man who designed the city, Oscar Niemeyer, talking of the labourers who built the city.

"They gave everything and received nothing in return. The first baby boy born in Brasilia, Joaquim da

Costa, now 27 earns a meagre living as a gardener and lives in a two-roomed wooden shack without electricity or water in a slum by a dam his father helped build.

"Brasilia is a true capital and has brought progress to the area. But from a social point of view Brasilia is like all other Brazilian cities, a city of discrimination of poor and rich".

As long as capitalism exists, any attempt to build new cities will be blighted. Only under a real classless society will such cities live up to the sort of promises made for Brasilia.

By Tim White

Malaysia: Millionaires and misery

MALAYSIA WAS one of the Asian countries honoured with a visit by Thatcher this year. Thatcher likes millionaires and the capital Kuala Lumpur has more of them than per square mile than anywhere else in the world!

The super rich exist side by side with slum dwellers, heroin addicts and all the other problems which afflict ex-colonial countries.

Malaysia is rich in natural wealth. It exports 40 per cent of the world demand for rubber. 60 per cent of palm oil, 37 per cent of tropical hardwood and 30 per cent of tin. But this makes the economy dependent on world demand in a period of collapsing markets and low commodity prices.

Even the fortunate discovery of huge oil and gas reserves only partly offset the effects of world slump. The government borrowed money, fuelling the national debt till it reached over three-quarters of gross domestic production and brought enormous deficits. The level of debt per person is one of the highest in the world.

In the 20th century the control of the world economy by the multina-

By Khoo-Kha-Sei

tionals has made it impossible for "third world" countries to develop into capitalist giants. Malaysia has done better than most. But its economy is based on exports, its railways are old and geared towards former British colonial needs, running at 25 mph maximum speed and needing US\$5 billion to modernise.

Debt burden

Ambitious plans for industrialisation are now in mothballs as the borrowing for heavyweight industries put Malaysia "in hock for the next decade".

Debt repayments could take 25 per cent of export earnings by 1990 say the World Bank. If there is another downturn worldwide the government

expect inflation "will skyrocket, with all the attendant social problems you can see in South America".

World tin demand is at its lowest level for 25 years and Malaysian rubber faces its stiffest competition ever from Thailand when rubber is in low demand due to world recession. Poverty hits across the racial divide, Malays, Chinese and Indians. It is a bigger problem than ever.

Like their counterparts in Singapore though, the ruling class like to encourage racist ideas for divide and rule reasons, giving the prospect of race riots like those in 1969. These led to the divisive "positive" discrimination to bring wealthy Malays into the government bureaucracy.

The rest of the populations, the workers and peasantry of all races have to rely on their own class organisations.

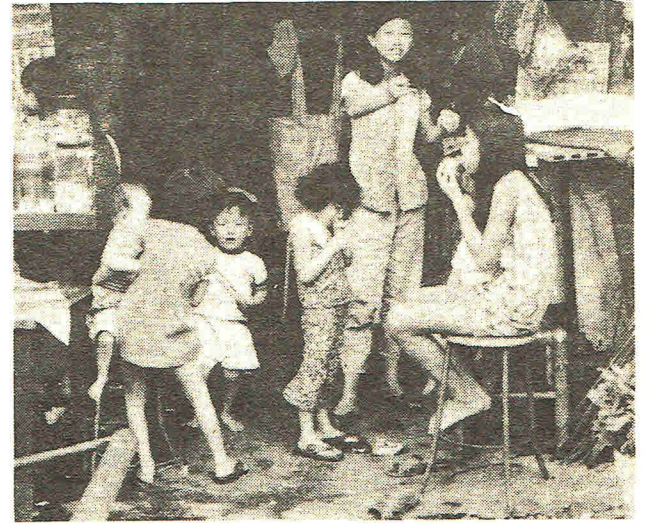
The trade union movement is potentially a powerful revolutionary force with over 517,000 members producing vital commodities. Malaysian workers, agri-

cultural labourers and peasants have revolutionary traditions they formed the Malayan Anti-Japanese resistance during the war, led by the Malayan Communist Party.

Revolutionary tradition

When the British returned they were unable to maintain their rule, they feared the rising labour militancy in the cities, especially as the Communists had a powerful urban base, with gun running operations not five miles outside the city centre. But rather than capitalise on the rising urban militancy, the CP leadership called their members into the jungle in 1948, following Mao in China, in a situation where the revolution had the support of the workers.

This enabled the British to declare an 'emergency' and contain the Communist forces, particularly as the economy was expanding to produce for the Korean war. An alliance of National parties was elected to replace British rule and represent the



Very few people benefit from Malaysia's wealth.

sultans, landowners and capitalists. The coalition only lifted the 'emergency' in 1960; this is now replaced by the Internal Security Act.

This policy completely contained the Communist forces to Northern jungles; isolated from the swelling city populations and contained by strategic road blocks.

The impending economic catastrophe will force workers once more to battle for their livelihoods. Marx-

ists in Malaysia must base themselves on the workers and link their struggles to the predominantly Malay peasantry.

Poverty and national divisions would be overcome on the basis of a socialist Malaysia within a socialist federation of South East Asia. Then it wouldn't only be Thatcher's millionaire friends who benefit from Malaysia's wealth.

Out now ...Out now...

THE LATEST issue of the *Militant International Review* has grown to 44 pages, giving the possibility for more in-depth analysis of British and international topics than the weekly *Militant* has room for regularly.

International issues taken up include two of the biggest problems of the day, war and famine. Every two years £1 million million is wasted on arms expenditure worldwide to build-up an array of deadly weaponry.

Ted Grant's article looks at the international contradictions, particularly between capitalism and Stalinism, which lie behind world tensions and the need for an international socialist revolution as the realistic alternative to war.

Jim Hensman's article on famine explains why the enormous scientific possibilities for ending hunger and preventing a major environmental crisis are not realised under capitalism.

Roger Silverman points to the crucial role that India's working class played in forcing British imperialism to grant independence after World War Two. He also explodes some of the myths surrounding the Congress Party and Mahatma Gandhi.

Alan Woods starts a series of articles on the history of Bolshevism in Russia.

Mike Waddington reviews a history of Japanese capitalism which shows how the Japanese and US ruling classes set out to tame the potentially revolutionary working class movement after the Allies' victory in 1945. He also shows the likelihood of Japan's working class moving to reverse that process in years to come!

Another review by Dudley Edwards outlines the tragic counter-revolutionary part that Stalin and the Communist International played in the defeated Chinese Revolution of 1925-27.

General strike in Spain



The Workers' Commissions (CCOO) and the UGT in action. Gonzalez's attacks are forcing workers into all-out opposition.

ON THURSDAY 20 June, none of Spain's major papers could cover the day's most important news item, the first general strike called since the dictatorship ended.

Like other industries, the presses had come to a grinding halt. This was the only possible response print workers could give to the previous hysterical press lies against the strike.

According to the Workers Commissions (CCOO), the Communist Party-affiliated union confederation who called the strike, up to 4 million workers were affected. Neither media nor government dare to refute this figure. In Catalonia alone as many as a million struck.

In factories employing over 200 workers, the stoppage was almost 100% successful. The most militant areas were those with the highest concentration of in-

dustry, such as the Basque country, Galicia, Madrid's red belt, Andulucia, Catalonia, Asturias etc.

There were also large demonstrations of 40,000 in Barcelona, 20,000 in Bilbao and Seville and elsewhere. This was despite police provocation. The Socialist Party government told the police not to take a "hard line" but they nonetheless attacked pickets and demonstrations and arrested dozens including four regional CCOO secretaries. Shots were fired and there were several injuries.

Polarisation

The demonstrations focussed on the drastic cut-backs in pension benefits that the Gonzalez government are implementing. But for the strikers it was a protest against all the government's attacks on living standards.

The Socialist Party-affiliated union confeder-

ation UGT, even though it has started to oppose some government measures, refused to call for this strike. The CCOO themselves did not campaign to explain the issues to UGT members. Nonetheless in many workplaces they joined the strike. In recent years both union bureaucracies have tried to keep their respective members apart but unity is spontaneously built in struggle.

This is the beginning of a polarisation typical of a revolutionary period. The workers are moving to the left while the right wing PSOE government are lending more open support to the capitalist class. Felipe Gonzalez claimed that the organisers and those who struck were "irresponsible people with only political motives behind them".

The Labour minister Alimuna added "parliament will not change its laws irrespective of all the strikes and demonstrations that

take place." Now that some UGT leaders who are also MPs are questioning government policy he concluded that "trade unionists should not be in parliament".

Workers' opposition will grow. "This is not enough, it is only the beginning," said many activists on the demonstrations, "we need to take the struggle further, we need an all out general strike."

By a Spanish socialist

The latest issue of *Inqaba ya Basebenzi* the journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress is now out. It includes a supplement on South African perspectives. "Workers revolution or racial civil war", articles on the general strike, suspensions in the ANC and Zimbabwe. Available from Inqaba ya Basebenzi BM Box 1719 London WC1N 3XX.



Latest *Militant International Review* out now! Price 80p from your local *Militant* seller or (adding 25p post and packing) from *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

LETTERS

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

The yoke's on Stoke

Dear Comrades,

Once again the Labour controlled Stoke-on-Trent City council are left with egg on their faces following the announcement that they failed to spend £2.5 million which was earmarked to be spent modernising some of the old run-down council houses and building brand new houses.

The £2.5 million represents 17 per cent of the total budget. Council tenants have been amazed at this 'mistake' when they are continually complaining that they can't get the simplest job done. To make matters worse

this has come to light not long after our councillors and local MP's went cap-in-hand to the government complaining that we aren't given enough money, the Tories must be laughing at us as we don't spend the money we've got.

When other Labour controlled councils are taking action against government cuts it is wrong for Stoke to not even spend the pitiful amount we've got.

Yours fraternally
Dave Furze
Stoke South EC and
DLO Shop Steward
(Personal capacity)



Photo: Bootle Arts (ll)

Slum clearance now taking place in Liverpool, meanwhile some councils don't use up their budgets for building and repairs.

Effects of new technology

Dear Comrades,

I was interested to read Phil Holt's article (issue 751) on New Technology and British Telecom. Of course BT isn't the only industry to be affected by new technology.

I work in the engineering industry and I am employed on Computer Numerical Control machines. Turning, milling and even sheetmetal and welding jobs are done on machines which are controlled by a computer.

The effect that these jobs have had on the shop-floor is phenomenal, completely revolutionising production methods and drastically reducing production times. Jobs can be completed in up to one tenth of the time previously taken.

When they were first introduced you would have a programmer, a setter and an operator for each machine. The trend now is for one person to programme, set and operate two, three, four or even more machines, especially as these machines become easier to use due to advances in technology.

Under capitalism workers are forced to resist new technology. Under a socialist plan of production, science and technique would lead to a much reduced working week, cleaner and safer working conditions and more leisure time with better facilities and a future to look forward to for the whole of mankind.

Yours fraternally
An engineering worker

Wider police powers

Dear Comrades,

During the miners' strike road-blocks became commonplace. Cars were stopped indiscriminately. They were often searched and drivers frequently ordered to turn back or risk arrest.

The situation was legitimised in court where it

was held that a roadblock was legal provided that it satisfied three basic requirements: That there had to be real risk of a 'breach of the peace'; that the decision had to be both 'honest' and 'reasonable', and third; that reasonable preventive action should be taken.

Yet even these meagre safeguards no longer exist after the High Court decision reported in *The Guar-*

dian on 14 June 1985. In this case the judges decided that the police were fully empowered under the 1972 Road Traffic Act to stop motorists at random. There did not need to be a reasonable suspicion that an offence might be committed.

The case concerned a prosecution for drinking and driving, and the judges considered that a power to stop cars at random was justified

since it would deter drunken driving.

However the effects of this decision will be much wider. The police now have the power to stop any motor vehicle they choose, even when there is no major industrial dispute taking place.

Yours fraternally
Tim Kaye
Coventry SW LPYS

A party of enthusiasm

Dear Comrades,

With about half the re-selections now taken place, it comes as a big surprise to me to find that a lot of the people that have been selected are at an age that most other people would be happy to retire to grow roses. This would make way for the young ones to come forward and make the Labour Party the party of youth and enthusiasm and not a party of the old and decrepit.

Yours fraternally
Alf Akhurst
Hornchurch LP

Immigration controls

Dear Comrades,

On *Newsnight* recently, Tory MP John Wheeler gave the Tories' response to the European Court of Human Rights decision that Britain was guilty of sex discrimination.

This was due to Britain's refusal to allow women who legally live here the right to have their husbands join them. Their response: Instead of complying with the decision the Tories are going to stop husbands bringing their wives into the country as well.

In fact Wheeler asked why it had to be 'one way traffic'. 'Why couldn't they go and live in their own country?—kick them out. It's their fault people can't get jobs. It's their fault there is high unemployment'.

This attempt to stir up racial divisions will not work.

Yours faithfully
Colin Brown
Motherwell North LPYS

Maxwell's monopoly

Dear Comrades,

The 'socialist' millionaire was in the news again, Robert Maxwell had taken over the Sinclair group. Poor Sir Clive was having a bad time with the market of home computers and his CS. Maxwell has taken over the Mirror group and Oxford FC. What will the so-called 'socialist' millionaire buy

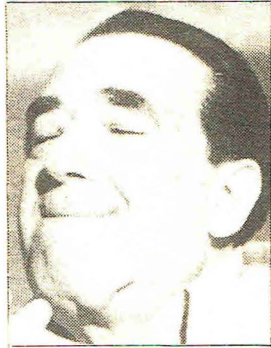
next?

If he keeps on buying companies like this our calls for the nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies will be the nationalisation of Robert Maxwell's monopoly and the others.

We need clause four, part four now, not in the distant future, so I can have a job.

Yours fraternally
Patrick Westmore
AUEW Ryde branch
Isle of Wight

Photo: D Sinclair



'Socialist' millionaire Robert Maxwell

Agricultural revolution

Dear Comrades,

Graphic examples of the 'future' offered by capitalism on a world scale appeared in last week's *Economist* magazine.

In the mighty US economy two million manufacturing jobs have disappeared since January 1980 with the trend continuing. Of the seven million jobs created since the bottom of the recession in 1982, six million have been in the service industries and 700,000

in construction. Only 300,000 were in manufacturing. 'A huge restructuring of the labour market is going on'. In all manufacturing has regained only 60 per cent of the employees shed in the recession. 'Manufacturing now accounts for only 20 per cent of the economy'.

At the other end of the spectrum—in Bolivia—this process is seen at its extreme. Bolivia has seen a 35 per cent drop in Gross Domestic Product per head over four years in what was already South America's poorest country. As wages drop behind prices (the inflation rate is the

world's highest) most workers can no longer afford to rely on them. Many workers are moving to the coca growing regions.

The police say that one family in every ten depends, directly or indirectly on coca (Cocaine is the country's main export) 'Bolivia's catastrophe has produced an unusual spectacle for any developing country—people migrating back to the countryside'.

Yours fraternally
Steve Poole
Westminster North CLP

of this, of course is known to the general public as it has all been hushed up. Justice! If that's what it is, count me out next time."

Detained... for 'over staying'

NIGERIAN MR John Olusanjo was arrested by immigration officials at Gatwick airport for 'overstaying' his entry permit. He was held for 13 weeks before being deported. Sounds like run-of-the-mill racial harassment by immigration police, except that Mr Olusanjo was arrested... while on his way home.

In the corridors of power

LAST APRIL, the electricians' union leaders invited Norman Tebbit to open an extension to their union training centre. Oblivious to any offence it may have caused in the trade union movement, the electricians are, however, sensitive to feelings inside the cabinet and to avoid any controversy they have invited for this month's visit... Peter Walker.

LEFT and RIGHT

Hauled over the coals

IN *SOLID FUEL* the road hauliers' monthly journal, an irate boss of a lorry firm, in the aftermath of the miners' strike wrote: "I feel like many bulk hauliers must feel; kicked in the teeth by an ungrateful government. It was the hauliers who saved this Government from disaster and nobody else, it was all in our hands. What thanks do we get? A 29% raise in licences, an increase of between £300 and £500 per vehicle, plus another raise in Derv. (Were we on the wrong side? One wonders!) None

Dear Comrades,

Sorting out my old papers, I came across an old poem, written by my mother 13 years ago, when things weren't as bad as they are now. It was this poem that first opened my eyes to what was going on. Let's hope it opens a few more people's eyes.

Yours fraternally
Chris Simpson
Stoke Central LPYS

The Class System

A cluttered up table, a jar of red jam
An infant restless, an unclean old pram.
Damp, peeling walls, a squalid rear yard
Dull burning embers, a rusty fire guard.
A square of cardboard hides a broken window
Unruly youngsters, no where to go.
Too much housework, too many repairs
A poor tired mother, overburdened with cares.
Too little money, how expensive things cost
Memories of all the good things that are lost.
A man with no work, the jobs are so few
Can this be nineteen seventy two?

A bored young housewife with nothing to do
Her husband commuting to Waterloo.
A chat with the neighbours, afternoon tea
Her work for the Women's Guild, for charity.
Nice new clothes from the spring collections
Dining, dancing, parties, receptions.
The theatre for openings of new plays
Children at boarding schools set in their ways.
Business men, husbands in office blocks
Fighting and striving to reach the top.
Wheeling and dealing the thing to do
Can this be nineteen seventy two?

A large, rambling property, spacious estate
Landscaped gardens, wrought iron gate.
A family of substance, adequate wealth
Lord of the manor, inheritance for self.
Servants, stables, livestock providing
The pleasures of hunting, fishing and riding.
Children are born with a silver spoon
They keep to their own kind, they own the moon.
Why should they care about downtrodden folk
The world is tough place, life is no joke.
To care for oneself is the thing to do
Can this be nineteen seventy two?

Mrs Miranda Simpson 1972

How Ever Ready won better pay

WORKERS AT the Ever Ready factory in County Durham, near poverty-stricken former steel-town Consett, recently won a 10 per cent pay increase—well above average, especially in the North East. MALCOLM GRAHAM, AUEW Convenor at Ever Ready, explained to Kevin Miles how the pay rise was won.

WE REALLY started preparing for our 1985 claim straight after we'd settled in 1984.

Our last pay rise had been 6%. Our pay claim is always in March, and every year for the last four or five years management have announced redundancies in February, as a deliberate tactic to intimidate the workers.

We've had an overtime ban in force for 3½ years now as part of our fight to save jobs. Last year we couldn't get much of a struggle going, but we got 6%

anyway.

We realised though that over the last few years our pay was dropping. From being third or fourth top in the region and above average in similar industries nationally, we've slipped well down.

Declining wage

So we (the stewards) set ourselves the job of really explaining, throughout a whole year, the need for a decent wage rise.

Most of the lads realised they had to live on a flat wage—no overtime, precious

little bonus. We explained that it would probably come to a fight—the lads would need to stand firm, but the time was coming when we'd have to be prepared to strike.

When 1 March came round we submitted our claim. We put in for 20%, which to us was a way of showing the lads how far we'd slipped back—20% was what we'd have needed to put us back up at the top of the league.

The shop stewards formulated the claim after shop meetings then the Convenors presented it to a mass meeting for ratification. We got 100% support for the claim, including a recommendation for industrial action if necessary.

Management's initial response was to offer 3% and by the time we'd got to the end of procedure, involving our full time officials,

we'd been offered 5%.

The full-time officials advised us to accept it—to be very careful about ballots—some even said they didn't want to know. So we told the officials they could go and get in their cars and bugger off to safety.

Company dirt

At that stage we went in to overdrive to explain to the members what 5% meant. Because we explained it thoroughly, we got the support—even from senior engineers and middle management whose wages had also been dropping.

We had done some research and uncovered facts which we used. Ever Ready is owned by Hanson Trust Ltd—profits of £31.9 million, and one of the biggest British investors in the US.

They're also sponsors of the Derby and other races, to the tune of £3 million, and a major benefactor of the Tory Party—this all had an effect.

Anyway, the stewards met again and recommended rejection of the offer and called for action.

Immediately the offer was increased to 6% and management asked for a recommendation of support from the stewards which of course they didn't get.

We organised four separate meetings of the main Trade Unions involved—AUEW, TGWU, EETPU, ACTS. The first three voted unanimously to reject the offer and begin strike action on the following Monday.

On the Thursday, the office staff met and for the first time ever voted to support the shopfloor decision.

We were already organising the pickets on the Friday when management collapsed and gave us 10%, which was greeted by the workers as a great victory.

Lessons

It took a lot of courage for our shop stewards to go against the warnings—or threats—from management and full-time officials alike to accept the law on ballots.

We decided to abide by our union constitution as it stood and decide, after full discussion on a show of hands. And our refusal to be intimidated paid off.

The main thing is to have trust in the members, explain carefully and well in advance and give a clear lead and direction.

Longest civil service strike ever

LAST YEAR'S strike of shift-workers at the Newcastle DHSS Central Office and Washington Child Benefit Centre was the longest in the history of the Civil Service.

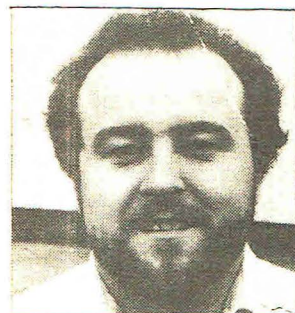
The workers, members of the Civil and Public Services Association, have written their story as a pamphlet, reviewed here by **BILL BOYLE**.

THIS IS one of the most remarkable pamphlets I have ever read. It compares with the "Teamsters" books of American trade unionist Farrell Dobbs as a record of how to organise a strike.

It comes second only to the miners' strike as a story of determination to defend living standards in the teeth of incredible odds. Money was no object to the Tories—£200 million was spent, with one aim, to beat

the strike.

After months of careful preparation the strike started on 14 May 1984, as a reac-



Kevin McHugh DHSS section chair.

tion to management's decision to cut the shift-workers' "Shift Disturbance Allowance" from 20 per cent to 10 per cent. This meant a pay cut of up to £15 a week. They had no choice but to fight.

They rejected selective industrial action, a tactic

discredited by the 1981 pay campaign, and launched an all-out strike, backed by the unanimous acceptance of a CPSA conference motion.

The election of a Broad Left NEC at conference that year gave the strikers heart. Most of them had voted for the Broad Left slate, recommended to them by the branch officers. To their dismay, only nine of the Broad Left majority NEC stayed loyal to the strikers throughout, supporting them on the NEC and visiting their picket lines.

It soon became obvious that the strike, confined to the Computer Centre at Newcastle, had to be escalated if there was to be any chance of success. The logical choices for escalation were the twin Computer Centres at Livingston in Scotland and Reading in the South.

The union bureaucracy had tried to prevent escalation to Washington Child Benefit Centre, so the strikers were not too surprised when they also opposed escalation into these other centres, even though the workers at both Centres were prepared to strike. From this point on the strikers were also fighting their own leaders.

During the course of the strike, these workers learned more about the union than in years of normal activity. What comes across from the pamphlet is not bitterness—as you might expect from workers who have been let down by their leaders—but an urge to change the leadership.

Having built an exceptionally democratic consultation structure themselves, it is not surprising that the strikers expected this to be the case in the union as a whole.

They knew that defeat for



Newcastle Central Office delegates at CPSA conference.

them meant that the Tories, through the DHSS management, would attack again. This they did almost immediately, trying to compulsorily transfer some data processors from Newcastle to Washington. Discussions are taking place, but the 400

pense of jobs and allowances at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre in Swansea.

Incredibly, in the 2 June edition of the CPSA journal, *Red Tape*, General Secretary Alistair Graham says: "All that is required at a national

Secretary, argues (in the same edition of *Red Tape* in which Graham warns of DVLC becoming "...a major national dispute in which all members of the union could become involved") that: "nobody can believe that we can win very much by industrial action." He uses the Newcastle dispute as an example of this!

Faced with "leadership" like this, it is amazing that the Newcastle dispute ran so long and won as much as it did. The strikers went back with heads held high, determined to make sure that they played their part in changing the leadership of the union.

To all those pessimists who declare from the sidelines that workers will not fight, this pamphlet is the answer. The dispute could have been won had the NEC stood firm behind the strikers. CPSA conference 1985 came to the same conclusion when it passed a censure motion on the NEC.

This pamphlet is an invaluable addition to the literature of the labour movement and deserves to achieve as wide a circulation as possible.



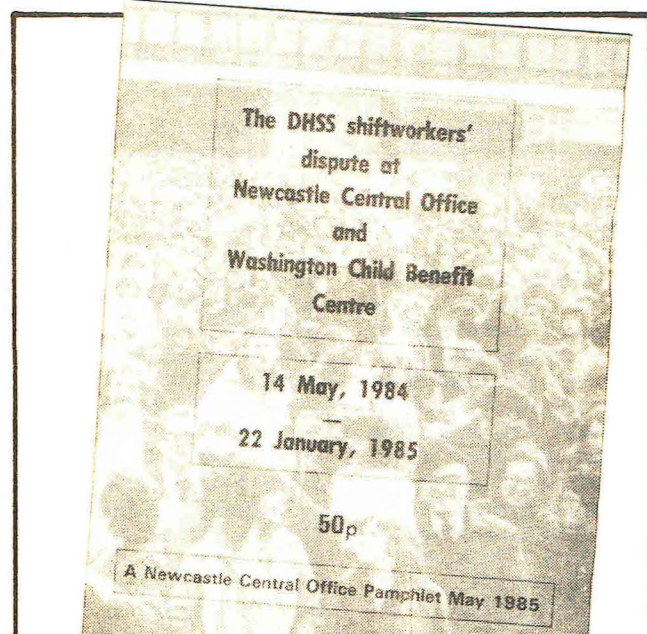
CPSA splitters, "BL 84" leaders on NEC who sided with the right wing against Newcastle strikers.

workers involved have already voted by 2-1 to strike if necessary.

Weakness invites aggression. The Tories have been given the green light so often in the past by the leadership of the trade union movement that they now rely on that weakness. Just as the Newcastle strikers warned, management have used their defeat to press ahead with new technology at the ex-

level is less obsession with the problems of how a solution at Swansea may be a precedent elsewhere in the Civil Service and a greater recognition of the unique situation which we have at Swansea."

The union's leadership now, as a result of the Communist Party-led "Broad Left 84" split, is firmly in the hands of right-wingers. John Ellis, Deputy General



Available from CPSA Newcastle DHSS office, Room 61F, Newcastle Central Office, Longbenton, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Price 50p plus 20p post and packing.

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Tyne and Wear Metro beat the ballot

WORKERS ON the Tyne and Wear Metro line have been in dispute over their annual pay claim since May. ANDY WARNOCK-SMITH NUR NEC member for the area explained the issues to Militant.

THE DIFFERENCE between us over pay is now only coppers, but the members see the whole issue as much more significant than that.

In particular there is the productivity proposal which management wanted last year. At first they tried to attach it to this year's pay offer. They have now said they'll return for it in future and implement it with or without union agreement.

This is despite an international survey which showed Tyne and Wear Metro to have the highest productivity in terms of manpower utilisation of any railway of its kind anywhere in the world.

Management are also seeking a 2.3 per cent cut in operating costs due to the structures of the 1983 Transport Act.

Pay

Another factor is that the Metro could come under direct Tory government control if the Tyne and Wear County Council is abolished. Resentment has been building up over the last few years of low pay settlements which have eroded the higher levels of pay received by Tyne and Wear workers for accepting automation and driver only operation (DOO).

The first pay offer from

management this year was a 0.7 per cent rise. They then offered 3 per cent plus a £170 one off lump sum, or 3.5 per cent plus £100 lump sum. This apparently equalled a total of 4.85 per cent, the same as BR, but was still dependent upon productivity strings. Under pressure management dropped the strings, but made it clear this was their final offer.

We decided to impose an overtime ban and a strict work to rule, with the aim of creating the maximum disruption to force management back round the table. Initially there was no mood for a strike and when the sanctions didn't bite at first, they were further tightened up.

As a result management sent a driver home. A mass meeting of drivers then voted for everyone to go home,

Faced with this, management agreed to reinstate the driver without loss of pay and to pay all those who went home 4¼ hours' pay.

Management's next move was to present all drivers with five questions which they had to agree to answer and abide by before they'd be allowed to start work.

Walk-out

The first man in the morning refused to sign and was sent home. Everyone once again walked out.

This lasted for five days. The drivers addressed meetings of Station cleaners, overhead line staff, permanent way gangs etc and all agreed to come out too.

By the fifth day virtually every member of staff was out. The NUR NEC agreed that any action over staff sent home would have official backing.

Faced with this, management backed down and withdrew the five questions. At present the sanctions are being maintained and a very

limited service is running.

However, some remarkable and encouraging events have taken place as a result of this dispute.

Many members have been very disappointed at ASLE&F's decision to hold a ballot of its members involved. This is seen as a climb down in the face of the Tories' anti-union legislation, by a union with a previously militant record in the face of these laws and Tory attacks.

The result is expected to go very strongly in favour of action. However, many men feel that these ballots has been rendered irrelevant by events.

EETPU members held a ballot which went against action. Both the EETPU official and shop steward and the AUEW local official and shop steward told their members that the NUR's failure to hold a ballot made the action illegal (which is untrue) and the picket lines should be ignored.

Despite this treachery and the adverse ballot result, vir-

tually every AUEW and EETPU member refused to cross the picket when the issues were explained.

Even more remarkable was the TGWU (ACTS). They held a ballot, with a loaded question, which again resulted in a vote against action.

Picket power

But at a mass meeting when the question was put that members should respect picket lines, it was agreed overwhelmingly, and made clear that even those who voted against were bound by the majority decision.

As a result of the TGWU branch chairman crossing the picket many of their members have left and wish to join the NUR and ASLE&F.

The dispute so far has had the effect of building greater unity between the grades, especially the drivers who have had support from others and will be prepared to support them in future.



Morris furniture workers on picket line

Photo: Rick Mathews (IFL)

Glasgow furniture firm attacks union

FOUR WEEKS to the day of being sacked after taking industrial action, 35 employees of Morris furniture firm in Glasgow, members of the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union (FTAT), were joined on the picket line by workers from Govan and Yarrow's shipyards.

Solidarity such as this is needed along with financial support to secure reinstatement for these men.

The dispute arose when after three years of voluntarily working a 41¼ hour week to help their employers out of a financial crisis, 82 per cent of the union membership voted in a ballot to return to the 39 hour week.

The response of millionaire factory owner Robert Morris was to refuse union recognition and attempt to intimidate and even bribe some union members.

Apprentices were told that the firm would close if they

only worked 39 hours and one activist was offered one week's free holiday if he would work 41¼ hours.

Despite this intimidation 26 craftsmen and apprentices stopped after 39 hours and were immediately sacked.

Millionaire Morris

This blatant attack on union rights by a Victorian-style employer is a test case for the furniture industry. If Morris wins, the floodgates will open for an all-out attack by the bosses on workers' rights.

A campaign must be mounted at Morris's other factory in Scotland (which has union recognition and the 39 hour week) to bring them out, and put pressure on the employer.

Already Morris has attempted to recruit non-union labour, though skilled workers arriving for interviews have refused to cross picket lines.

Trade unionists must campaign for a total blacking of

all Morris products and repair work on his factory which at present is being carried out by AUEW members.

Regular picketing begins at 7.15 am and mass pickets have been called for every Wednesday at 4.00 pm.

Messages of support and financial contributions should be sent to: Morris's Dispute Fund, FTAT, 46 Carlton Place, Glasgow.

By Douglas Blackstock
(Hillhead LPYS)

Express and Star Demonstration
The NGA is holding a march and rally in Wolverhampton on 6 July in support of its members who have been in dispute now for five months. Further details next week.

Timex in battle again

"THIS WILL be the most important struggle we've ever been involved in", said Charlie Malone, a Timex worker and a member of the STUC Youth Advisory Committee after a mass meeting of Timex workers voted to oppose the announcement of an extra 400 redundancies at Timex's two factories in Dundee.

Timex management has already axed 370 jobs through voluntary redundancy since September. The AUEW Shop Stewards are stepping up the campaign against voluntary redundancies.

As one worker put it: "At the end of the day it will mean industrial action if they attempt compulsory redundancies".

In 1982 Timex employed 4,300, now the workforce stands at 1,300. Dundee's workers can ill-afford further job losses in the wake of over 2,000 redundancies at



1982 Timex occupation

Kestrel Marine this year.

Unemployment in the city is over 20 per cent and in some areas, such as Whitfield, almost half the population are unemployed.

The mood of the workers at Timex, after a history of battles, including a successful occupation in 1983, is grimly determined. The labour movement in Dundee, with a proud record

of support for the miners, must come to the aid of the Timex workers if they are involved in industrial action. The LPYS has already written to the Shop Stewards Convenor offering support for any action the workforce takes to defend jobs.

By Tim Goodman
(Dundee East Labour Party)

Scottish binmen fight Labour

FIFTEEN REFUSE collectors, all T&G members, have been sacked and 17 suspended by Kirkcaldy District Council in a row on 6 June. The men's crime was to hold a sit-in against management's breach of working practices.

Generally the council is pursuing a policy of rationalisation of the refuse collection services. In Glenrothes, where the men work, the refuse collection routes have been lengthened increasingly the workload but leading to reduced bonuses.

At the same time six jobs have been lost through "natural wastage" and two cleansing trucks have been withdrawn from Glenrothes leaving the men overworked and the town with large amounts of uncollected rub-

bish. The management of the council has also been breaking health and safety agreements.

The sacked men were up before an appeals committee on 17 June where their appeal was rejected. However the council committee agreed to "re-engage" the men.

Re-engagement means the men would lose their statutory entitlement to sickness benefit, any redundancy payments (some of the lads have worked for the council for ten years) and a 12 week probationary period would have to be worked during which the men could be sacked without leave to appeal.

They refuse to accept these conditions and plan to picket the council chambers and possibly to also picket the cleansing depot to ask

for sympathy action from the other workers.

The most disturbing thing about these sackings is that Kirkcaldy District Council has a massive Labour majority and the appeals committee which rejected the binmen's case had four Labour councillors on it and only one Tory.

These lads need support from the rest of the movement. Decent Labour councillors should send letters of protest to Kirkcaldy District Council, The Town House, Kirkcaldy.

Resolutions and letter of support should be sent to Davey Nelson, 25 London Crescent Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland.

By Bruce Wallace
(Dunfermline LP, personal capacity)

Health under attack

THE PRIVATISATION issue dominated COHSE conference. Although the leadership, by restricting debate and manoeuvring succeeded in putting off national action for another twelve months, increased struggle is inevitable.

A victory for the left which will interest LPYS and YTURC members was the overwhelming support for a composite on YTS moved by myself and opposed by the NEC. The composite called for COHSE to urge withdrawal of TUC support for the scheme and calls on branches to fight for guaranteed jobs, trade union rights and rates of pay and opposition to the introduction of new schemes within the NHS.

It will be interesting to see if COHSE president Sid Ambler will now stop his attacks on YTURC at the Labour Party NEC.

Groups of striking domestics from Addenbrookes, Newcastle Royal and Littlemore, visiting conference were given standing ovations by the delegates who recognise the heroic struggles taking place around the country against the private contractors.

Sadly the rising militancy was not reflected by the leadership who while supporting the strikers financially have failed to organise the industrial support domestics need most.

A resolution moved by Militant supporter Peter Howarth from Oxford and seconded by Newcastle striker Shona Gill, calling for a campaign leading up to nationwide industrial action against privatisation was opposed by the NEC.

First standing orders committee manoeuvring lost the momentum of the debate on previous privatisation resolutions. When they finally agreed to take the resolution they dragged out the failed idea that workers can win by negotiating in-house tenders.

The resolution fell but although this is a defeat it is clear that increasing numbers of union members are looking to the Broad Left and industrial action as the only way forward.

An emergency resolution calling for industrial action in support of strikers at Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary was remitted with branches being asked to attend the lobby of the health authority on Friday 28 June. The Broad Left must organise a good turnout on the day.

The change in the mood of conference since my last visit two years ago is noticeable. More and more delegates are realising you cannot negotiate with a government intent on dismantling the NHS. Militant and Broad Left supporters were given a sympathetic hearing and meetings were well attended. During the week we were active distributing bulletins, selling 117 papers (over treble last year's total) and raising £456.70 for the fighting fund.

By Adrian O'Malley

Council union supports cuts struggle

NALGO conference voted to support the National Local Authority Co-ordinating Committee (which brings together joint shop stewards committees of Local Authorities), and to support councils forced to make deficit budgets.

It demanded that a future Labour government remove any financial penalties and restrictions on standing for office forced on councillors for fighting cuts.

Conference went on to declare that: "In the long term the best way to ensure that public services are not privatised is by the election of a Labour government and Labour local authorities."

Journalists from the Tory press were set buzzing about whether in the light of recent political levy ballots, NALGO would be affiliating to Labour. This is the way NALGO is moving and all the decisions mentioned represent the basis of a serious struggle to defend the conditions of, and services provided by NALGO members.

Roberts

We reported in a previous issue that there was a groundswell of support for



Photo: Paul Traynor

Southwark NALGO members on strike—Democracy Day, 5 March.

Jimmy Roberts, sacked on circumstantial evidence following the leak of a NALGO document to Liverpool City Council.

However conference was surprised to find that nearly all the resolutions submitted concerning Jim's sacking were deemed incompetent for discussion following legal advice that said conference could not interfere in NEC and Staff relations. However, after John Flynn (Norgas) showed that the

legal advice had come from the NEC or one of its employees—and since you get the advice you pay for—its value was questionable. The Agenda committee—normally independent of the NEC—were therefore compromised in the eyes of many delegates.

Fortunately an emergency policy resolution did manage to make the agenda. It stated that conference declares its policy not to support sackings on the grounds of cir-

cumstantial evidence alone.

The NEC were beaten and the resolution passed overwhelmingly. Although the conference was not allowed to vote directly on Jimmy's reinstatement, it is clear that the will of Conference was that he should get his job back.

At the end of this debate on Friday, many delegates were angry that General Secretary John Daly had not made a single speech to conference, indeed some only

stayed right till the end just to see whether he would!

The problems of the Liverpool and Lambeth councils also loomed across conference. At a Lambeth NALGO fringe meeting, Ted Knight from the platform and Liverpool councillor Paul Astbury from the floor received a warm response from delegates.

Confusion

While conference showed some confusion, there was a mood of determination to fight to defend services and conditions.

Things were not helped by the fact that the Communist Party found itself on a number of occasions lining up with the right-wing NEC. This confused many left activists.

But the Broad Left is now well-placed to give a fighting lead to NALGO members, providing the campaigning work is stepped up to build amongst the rank and file to challenge the right-wing who have scored successes in recent NEC elections.

Rail workers' Labour debate

THIS YEAR'S AGM of the National Union of Railworkers has so far failed to meet the challenges our members face in the coming months.

Far from preparing union members for action, the leadership have exuded pessimism and gloom.

Issues relating to the Labour Party have been high on the agenda. There is growing anger at the role played by the NUR representative on the Labour Party NEC, Charlie Turnock.

He has consistently flouted NUR policy in voting for the expulsion of socialists from the Party and has generally lined up with the right wing.

Anti-democratic

The resolution from Sheffield City calling for the NUR's Labour NEC candidate to be elected by the branches and not automatically be the senior assistant general secretary, was defeated after general secretary Knapp argued against the change on bureaucratic and basically anti-democratic grounds.

Nevertheless, the pressure to ensure that Turnock in future toes the NUR line must now be redoubled.

A resolution calling for a campaign by the NUR against witch-hunts in the Labour Party was also defeated. Again the general secretary intervened against it. He claimed that there was no witch-hunt in the Labour Party on the basis that "on-



Jimmy Knapp

ly" about fifteen people had been expelled in the last year!

Ballots

A motion from Newcastle (Staffs) branch supporting ballots before strikes was passed. It will be seen as a victory for the right wing and was supported by Jimmy Knapp. The AGM voted down an amendment from East Ham calling for a campaign to explain the dangers of the employment laws and for action in defence of those penalised under it.

The Euston No.1 resolution calling for provision for ballots before strikes, and seen by many activists as preparation for retreat before Tory anti-union laws, was also defeated despite support for it by the leadership.

By Bob Russell
(Willesden No.1 NUR
branch, personal
capacity)

Marine miners walk out

MARINE COLLIERY in South Wales came out on a 24 hour strike last Friday against management's attempts to force men who were on strike to work with scabs.

The scabs who tried to break the strike at the beginning of the year have never been forgiven. Some have left the industry the rest have been shunned. The manager has been trying for force us to work normally with them since the end of the strike.

He thought he could beat us after the lodge voted very narrowly not to come out at the beginning of the week. But

when he tried to force men on the night shift to work with two scabs (where they weren't needed) the night shift walked out and the morning and afternoon shifts voted to follow them.

The votes was so overwhelming that even the scabs didn't vote against.

By Mostyn Jones
(Marine NUM)

Stop Press: The strikers returned after three days as the strike was affecting production at nearby Six Bells Colliery. No agreement had been reached.

EETPU leaders undermine labour movement unity

THE EETPU biennial conference will consider resolutions covering every aspect of working life. Conference could produce a comprehensive programme to defend and extend the interests of all members.

Lack of leadership to translate such policies into action is a massive brake on the activity of the rank and file. Criticism of our extreme right-wing leadership is expressed in resolutions on the miners' strike, taking the Tories' money for secret ballots, and no-strike agreements.

The executive's decision to take the Tories' money for ballots has undermined the unity of the trade union movement in opposition to anti-Tory legislation. Resolution 59 from Dundee is unequivocal in calling on the EC to rescind its decision and should be fully supported.

Support for continued affiliation to the Labour Party is shown in the large



Eric Hammond

number of resolutions on this issue. The EC's recent campaign, under the slogan 'Support democracy... and our union,' makes no mention of the Labour Party. This is a sham performance from an executive who never once rebuked former general secretary Frank Chapple when he gave open support to the SDP.

It is the active rank and file members who can win the vote to remain affiliated to the Labour Party, not the bogus 'democrats' of the EC.

The hypocrisy of the right-wing's talk about democracy

and unity is shown in resolutions 53 from Dunfermline and Newhouse electronic branches supporting a witch-hunt against Militant supporters both in the Labour Party and the union.

This is a diversion from the real job of fighting the Tories and replacing them with a Labour government committed to defending the interests of the working class with the same commitment Thatcher has shown to hers. It must be rejected.

This is Eric Hammond's first conference as leader. The honeymoon period was very brief. His comments during the miner's strike branded him 'another Chapple' in the eyes of many members.

Chapple, however, got out whilst the going was good. The many resolutions critical of the leadership point to the growing desire for a fighting leadership to reverse the damage done by the Tories and employers.

By a conference delegate

Militant

Stop Press

THE LABOUR Party NEC has voted unanimously to support Labour councillors in Liverpool, Lambeth and Edinburgh and call upon all sections of the party to offer maximum support to prevent their threatened disqualification and surcharge.

T&G must fight purge

NEIL KINNOCK has used the platform of the TGWU conference to attack "fringe elements" who indulge in politics as a hobby. In the guise of an appeal for unity to win the next election, he encouraged the union to join those calling for a purge of Marxists from the Labour Party.

Later in the week the conference will have had the opportunity to reject this attack on party members, and help to save Labour from an internal battle which would play into the hands of the Tories.

Working class activists

Already long-standing TGWU member Bill Mullins, formerly a convenor at Rover, Solihull, has been expelled from his local Labour Party, for selling and supporting *Militant* (see page 4). Six Welsh miners fighting to save their pit are under threat (see below). These are not 'fringe elements' but stalwart trade union and party activists.

The transport union and the miners can play a key

By Richard Knights

role in the fight to stop this witch-hunt. Retiring general secretary Moss Evans set the right tone when he called for no bans and proscriptions within the union. They must not be allowed in the party either.

In the conference, a resolution was passed rejecting incomes policy. Phil Forrester from Region 6 called for a future Labour government to legislate immediately on £100 minimum wage, but stressed that the key to raising low pay was through union organisation. "If we cannot afford to give workers a £100 minimum wage" he said, "we cannot afford the system."

In his speech, Neil Kinnock questioned whether the

next Labour government would ever be able to return to full employment. Under the capitalist system this will, like the £100 minimum, be impossible. The economic crisis will put the next Labour government in a straight-jacket unless it takes over the commanding heights of the economy, and plans production on a socialist basis.

Mobilise

Militant has been warning of the economic catastrophe awaiting the next Labour government and the hopelessness of trying to 'manage it' from within to provide jobs and decent wages. This is the crime for which its supporters now face expulsion.

It is vital now for every party and trade union activist to follow the example of the West Midlands and Lothians (see page 4) and mobilise the movement to prevent the purge of Marxists from the Labour Party.



Photo: Militant

Neil Kinnock, speaking at the Durham Miners' Gala in 1983. The placard below shows how LP members will fight if Labour's leaders start another purge.

Support South African ICI strikers

SOUTH AFRICAN trade unionists have asked British workers for support. More than 600 have been sacked by the South African associate company of ICI, for striking in pursuit of a pay claim.

Scab threat

The strikers were employed by the AECI chemical company in Newcastle, in which ICI have a 38 per cent stake.

The South African Chemical Workers' Union were demanding a R100 monthly increase across the board. Management's final offer was a R9.55 weekly wage increase. The strikers were given until 19 June to accept or face final dismissal.

Management were expected to attempt to employ over 600 scabs



Photo: John Arthur

Workers in Britain showed their solidarity with the black workers in Rowntree's SA subsidiaries. ICI workers and other trade unionists should back the SACWU strikers.

from 24 June with the likely consequence of bloody confrontations on the picket line.

Protests should be sent to: ICI Head Office Millbank London SW1P 3JF Urgent messages of support to:

South African Chemical Workers' Union (SACWU) PO Box 4990 Johannesburg 2000 South Africa Tel No 010 27 11 29 8907/20

THE CLEAREST evidence so far that a wholesale purge is planned in the Labour Party has come to light in Ogmore constituency.

The Constituency Labour Party has voted to expel those who support *Militant*, whether or not this is passed by national conference. Local MP Ray Powell has said, "We want the decision taken by the national executive carried out."

What decision? Does Ray

Powell, an opposition whip in Parliament, have inside knowledge denied to NEC members themselves? No decision to expel *Militant* supporters has been taken, nor is any such proposal known to be on the agenda. We demand to know what "decision" he is referring to.

Among those at risk are six members of the Lodge Committee at the threatened St John's colliery, Maesteg who support *Militant*. Neil

Kinnock has spoken in Maesteg in support of their campaign. Yet in the midst of struggle to save hundreds of jobs, they are proposing to expel from the Labour Party six key figures in the local miners' leadership.

Miners' conference Page 5



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