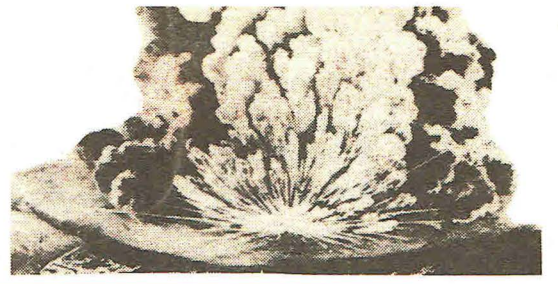


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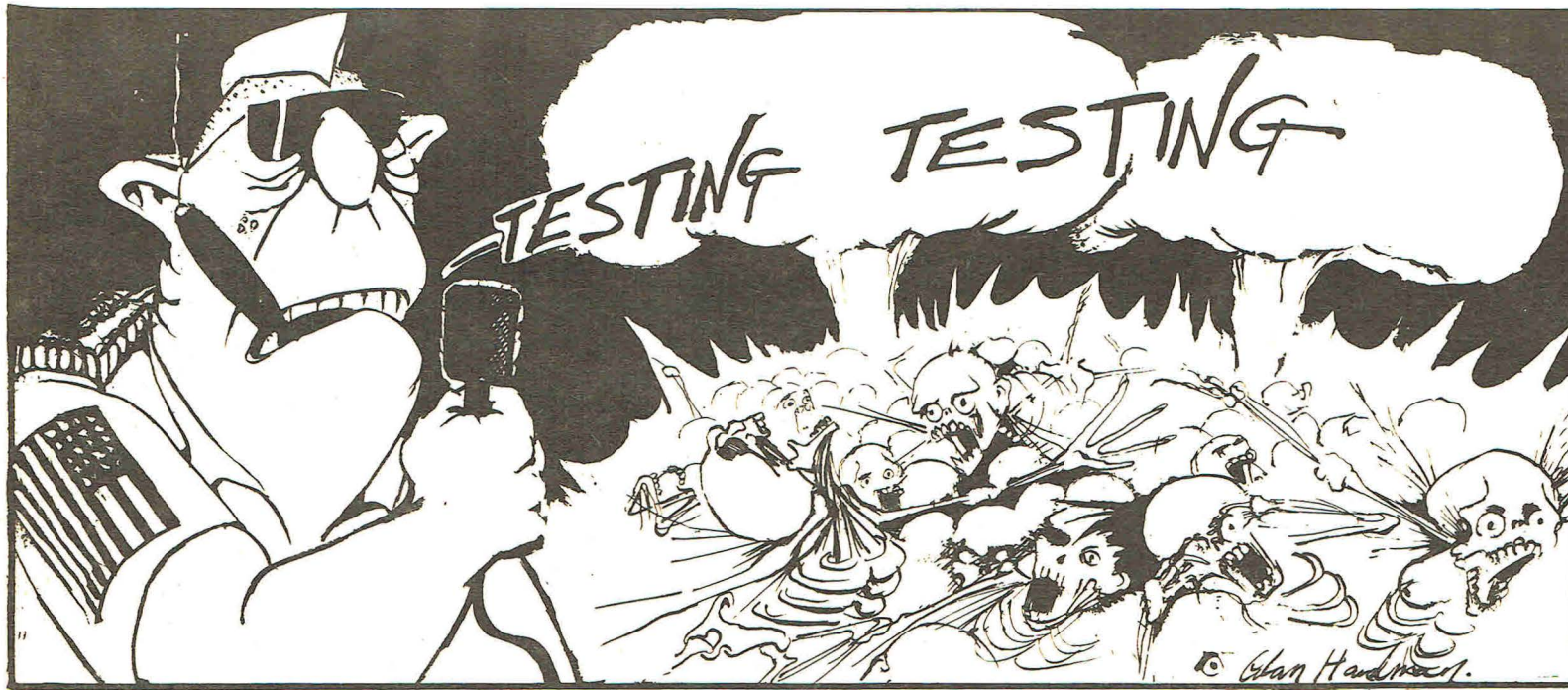


The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

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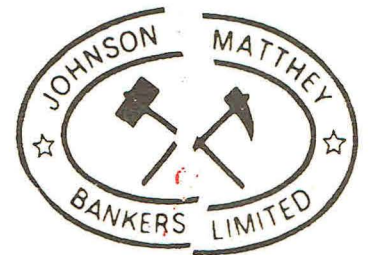
Hiroshima Nagasaki



The Bomb 40 years on

See centre pages

Bank scandal hushed up



THE CONTRAST between the Tories' indulgence towards the rich and their persecution of the poor is revealed starkly in the soft treatment of those responsible for the country's biggest financial scandal and the miseries inflicted on the unemployed.

On a rubbish tip in Birkenhead, Darren Smith, aged ten, was crushed under a skip wagon and seriously injured. He was one of 70 people scavenging on the tip for anything they could use or sell for a few pennies. In this area where unemployment affects one in three, being thrown on the scrapheap has a very real meaning for these desperate people.

Fraud squad

Contrast their life-style with that of those connected with the Johnson Matthey Bank. Most of the Birkenhead tip scavengers fled when Darren was injured for fear of being arrested when the police arrived. The scavengers responsible for the biggest financial scandal for decades can carry on living in style while the Fraud Squad

investigates the bank.

JMB was 'rescued' by the Bank of England, at a cost to the tax-payer of at least £100 million. It stood on the brink of collapse and threatened to bring other banks crashing down behind it. Dennis Skinner MP said in Parliament: "My guess is that we shall not be talking about £100 million from the taxpayer; the eventual sum may be double that."

Now if allegations made by Dennis Skinner and Brian Sedgmore MP are true, it seems that it is far more than just financial incompetence which is being financed by the tax-payer. Sedgmore has claimed in Parliament that JMB "has financed fraud and provided money for the purposes of criminals."

Of Mahmoud Sipra, "whose El Saeed empire was the basis of the collapse of

JMB", Sedgmore said: "throughout the whole period of the lending, (he) was, according to the judiciary, acting with callous indifference to the law in relation to fraud".

He refers to seven of Sipra's companies which "have been wound up or had a receiver put in by the governor of the Bank of England." "These have all failed to perform, and Johnson Matthey must have known that they would fail to perform. Many millions of pounds have been lost to Johnson Matthey as a result."

Misrepresentation

Of another JMB customer, Michael Hepker, Sedgmore said: "Mr Hepker goes to Johnson Matthey and says 'I want to borrow this money. Provincial properties will carry out a property development in Barry.' What he forgot to tell Johnson Matthey was that the Tesco property development fell through before he borrowed the

One law for the rich another for the poor

money. In other words, he borrowed the money by fraudulent misrepresentation and committed an extraordinarily serious crime—in effect, the theft from Johnson Matthey of £1.5 million."

JMB's directors are also accused. Of Ian Fraser Sedgmore said: "Either he has turned a blind eye to fraud or he is a party to fraud." "Why has not criminal action been taken against those directors who were responsible for the preparation of the accounts?"

Of the governor of the Bank of England, Sedgmore said: "His responsibility and culpability are awesome. He has presided over a fantasy so

(Continued on back page)

Cash never more necessary

AS WE go to print, the Fighting Fund total stands at £42,000. Cash is still coming in and we will announce the final amount next week.

But don't stop. A quick intake of breath is all we can afford before tackling the new quarter's target. With all the work facing *Militant*, cash has never been more necessary.

Thatcher has never let up in her attack on the working class. We must not let up in our campaign. *Militant* leads the struggle for socialism in Britain and needs your support to ensure success.

Make sure the money keeps rolling in. Remember every donation to *Militant* is another blow against capitalism.

Tories attack Labour councils

IN THE last five years the Tory government has taken £9 billion from local authorities. Patrick Jenkin, the government minister, has now announced further attacks.

The rules have been changed so that more government money goes to the better off, mainly Tory shires at the cost of the city areas.

Now a total of 32 authorities with a population of 20 million will have their budgets controlled from Whitehall.

The new list of rate-capped authorities means that next year's spending will be cut by £1 billion—the equivalent of 80,000 jobs.

Liverpool and Newcastle have been added to the list of rate-capped councils.

Both cities suffer major problems such as mass unemployment. But the approach of the Labour councils is different.

Jeremy Beecham, the leader of Newcastle argues strongly to keep within the law. This year rates increased 23 per cent. At the same time there were cuts in jobs and services.

The government cut for 1986 is £12 million and follows £80 million cuts since 1979. Beecham still argues that there can be no fight against the law.

He points out, correctly, that a campaign of opposition in words only, as practiced by the rate capped

councils this year, will end in collapse.

He points to the 'danger' that having roused the workforce they will fight on after the council has collapsed.

Alongside this he warns of the legal threats to the individual councillors and he is not prepared to sacrifice his nice house.

He concludes, and some of the former left councillors now agree, that the best policy is to comply and then to plead to the government.

Beecham has explained there are only two choices; his policy or *Militant's*.

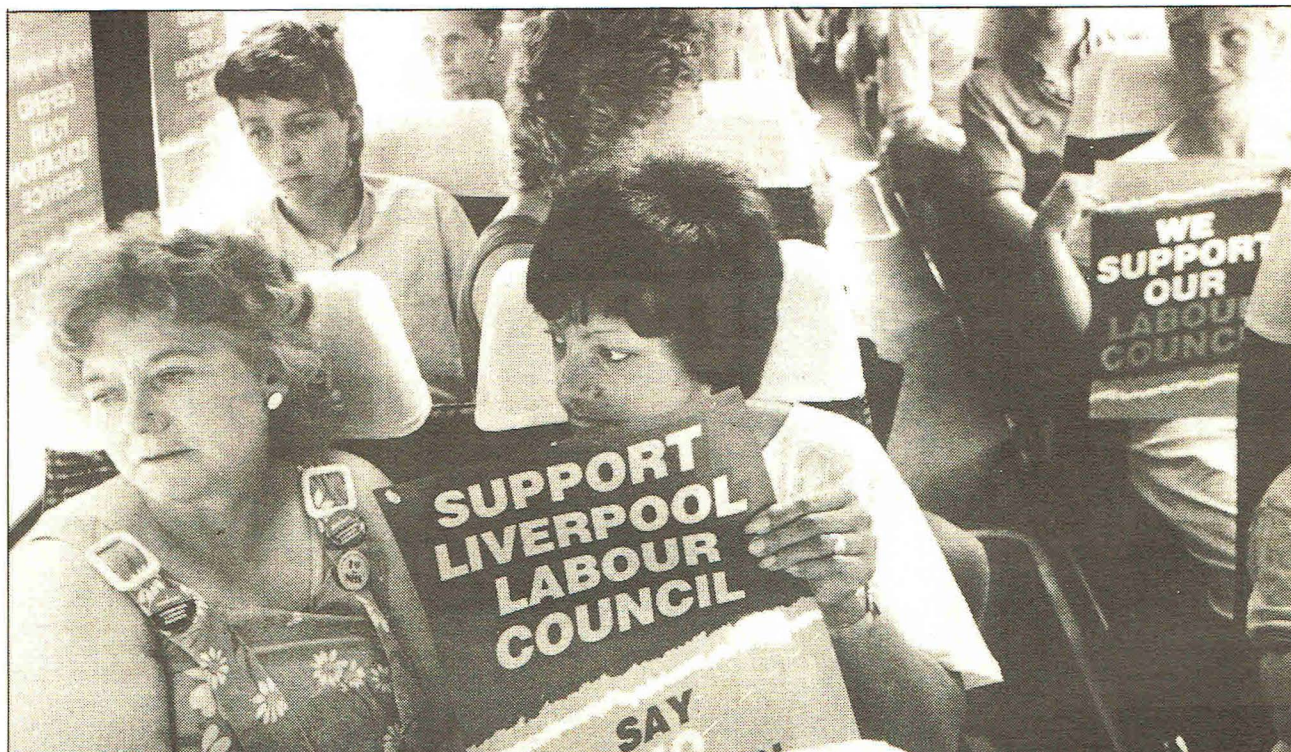
Liverpool shows the real alternative. The rate rise this year is only 9 per cent and jobs and services have been expanded.

After the council's victory last year the rate-capping is part of the Tories battle against Liverpool.

The key battle is being fought now. Liverpool is demanding the return of £30 million of the £350 million the Tories have stolen from the city.

The Labour council has announced it will oppose rate-capping. A victory now will be important for next year.

The crucial difference between the cities is that Liverpool has a Labour council prepared to fight and lead and build a mass campaign. Workers throughout Britain will turn to the Liverpool example. *Militant's* policies offer an alternative to Tory cuts.



A DELEGATION of over 50 members of the Liverpool Labour Council Family Support Group including babies, young children, partners and parents travelled to London to campaign for the council. At Downing Street a letter was handed in challenging Thatcher to come to Liverpool to meet the elected councillors, or the families of

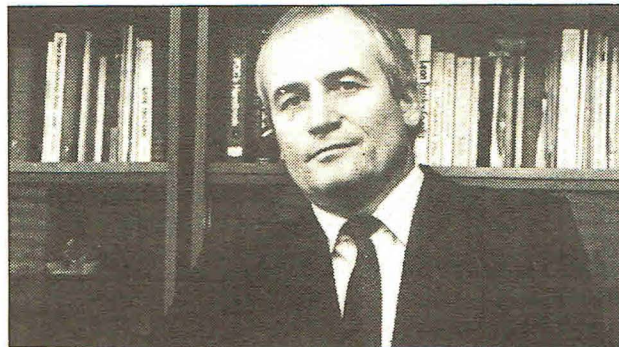
the councillors. Then singing as they went, they marched to the House of Commons with Labour MPs Terry Fields and Eric Heffer. Their challenge was repeated by Dave Nellist MP in the parliamentary question time to Mrs Thatcher later in the afternoon.

Liverpool fights on

"IF ONLY all Labour councils were like that," was the comment of one local authority worker at a Chesterfield Labour Party public meeting after Liverpool councillor Tony Mulhearn had spoken.

Tony explained Liverpool's achievements in jobs and housing and the Tory campaign against them, "brimming with spite and vengefulness".

One NUPE member discovering that Liverpool took on all workers full-time, commented bitterly that one third of Chesterfield's refuse department were on six month, three month, or six week contracts. He went on to ask about union/council consultation committees. "In Liverpool, do you ever



Tony Mulhearn, city councillor and president of the Liverpool District Labour Party.

get Labour councillors on such committees telling the workforce they are lucky to have a job?" "All hell would break loose" Tony replied if any councillor tried to speak in such a fashion in Liverpool. There the unions have real responsibility and power for nomination rights for all council vacancies.

Tony also commented on the fact that the local UCATT office have no unemployed joiners on their books, thanks largely to the council's stimulus to the local building industry.

By Roy Davies
(Chesterfield CLP)

Building workers relaunch charter

A MEETING to relaunch the *Building Workers' Charter* in Liverpool on 25 July brought together about 60 activists in TGWU and UCATT to discuss such issues as the pay claim, the lump etc. A national conference was arranged in Liverpool for 19 October.

Chris Hearn, the UCATT convenor in the Recreation and Open Spaces department said that if Liverpool councillors were attacked the

building workers would respond with the "old-fashioned method of downing tools" throughout Liverpool.

Hopefully UCATT will consider reaffiliating to the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee to increase the strength and unity against Thatcher and Jenkin.

By Jim Gregory
(Liverpool UCATT, personal capacity)

Scottish solidarity

TWO LIVERPOOL shop stewards, Vincent McGrain and Mark McManaman representing the National Local Authorities Coordinating Committee (NLACC), got an enthusiastic response on their recent speaking tour on the east coast of Scotland.

The two addressed meetings of Dundee cleansing TGWU, Dundee NALGO Housing department, Dundee District Labour Party, cleansing workers' shop stewards in Edinburgh and stewards at Fife naval yards.

On the final day of the visit both speakers addressed a meeting of over 40 Lothian sacked miners, outlining how their struggle had aided Liverpool last year.

At all the meetings and numerous individual discussions around various workplaces, the idea was raised about the possibility of holding a Scottish NLACC conference to rally support for Edinburgh and Liverpool councils and to forge links with other local authority Joint Shop Stewards Committees. Edinburgh cleansing workers Joint Shop Stewards Committee has already agreed to sponsor the event, which is going ahead on 31 August.

By Peter Luke
(Branch Sec. McDonald Road FBU Edinburgh)

Scottish NLACC Conference
Madisons Playhouse, Edinburgh
11am-4pm

5 delegates per TU branch, 2 per workplace.
Delegation Fee £1 per delegate to:
Peter Luke, 14 Rosslyn Crescent, Edinburgh

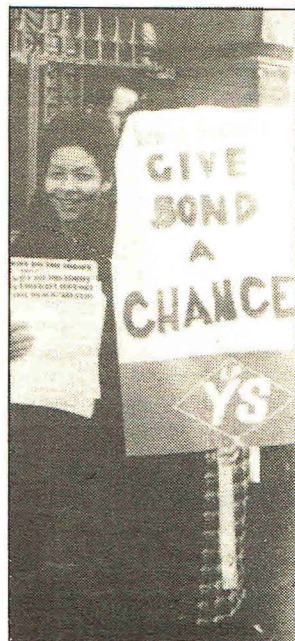
Thugs break up Toxteth meeting

A PUBLIC meeting called by Liverpool City Council was broken up by thugs from the Black Caucus on Tuesday night in the Toxteth area of the city.

Labour Party members were attacked and their papers and leaflets ripped up, a black female LPYS member assaulted and the speaker, councillor Felicity Dowling, spat at. Although local people had turned out to hear the council's case, the meeting had to be abandoned.

The attack was carried out by ten members of the Black Caucus, the group of 'race relations professionals' who have initiated a violence campaign of intimidation against the Liverpool council. They want one of their own members to be given the post of head of the Race Relations Unit instead of the appointed officer, Sam Bond.

Tuesday night's attack follows a series of assaults on black and white Labour



Young Socialists demonstrate support for Sam Bond

Party members. A general alert has gone out to the labour movement for further possible assaults after one Labour Party member had his diary stolen during the

Photo: Militant

Tuesday night attack—this contains addresses and phone numbers of prominent council, Labour Party and trade union members.

The majority of Liverpool's black organisations support the council's battle against the Tories. It is clear that as the Black Caucus get more isolated and desperate, so they are turning to violence to compensate for their lack of support.

Tuesday's attack has created considerable anger and there is growing pressure for the council to break off all links with the Black Caucus, and also end its contact with the Merseyside Community Relations Council until this body publicly condemns the Black Caucus's use of violence. The council will not be intimidated however and are to go ahead with a further public meeting in Liverpool 8.

By a Militant reporter



Militant Third National Rally

21st Birthday celebration
Sunday 3 November, 1985

Royal Albert Hall

Speakers include: Jack Collins (Kent NUM)
Peter Taaffe Ted Grant Harry De Boer

All tickets £3 (Cheques to "Militant Rally")
(Crèche available, but places must be booked)

Booking Form:

We would like Tickets and enclose
(Payable to Militant rally)

Name

Organisation

Address

CRÈCHE: Places must be booked in advance. We will be bringing the following children

Name Age

Address

Please return to:
Militant Rally, 3-13 Hepscoth Rd, London E9



Gordon Bennett writes—

WHY ARE you loony lefts always whining about the state of the world? OK so there's a few million people on the dole; Reagan's off his trolley and wants to see a MacDonaldis in Red Square; half of Africa's starving; and the leaders of the western world are quite prepared to risk blowing us all to Kingdom come. But look on the bright side! It was the Queen Mother's eighty-fifth birthday a couple of days ago.

When things are really going badly it's always a good idea to celebrate a Royal Occasion. As there are no weddings, babies or jubilees coming up, you can hardly blame them for settling for a birthday. Especially after Princess Mike ballsed things up by having a Silesian Stormtrooper for an old man.

I think we were all expected to do somersaults in the streets when they wheeled the old bat out last week. The tabloids did their best. We were repeatedly told of how close Her Royal Motherness is to the common people. And to be fair you can't really argue with that. She's one of us. She likes a flutter on the gee gees, likes a drink and has a great sense of humour (those hats are a joke aren't they?).

Various opinion polls were produced to back up the claims that she's the most popular member of the Royal Family. And again who can really argue with that. There's not too much competition is there? Apart from foul-mouthed Phil the Greek, there's Randy Andy with the wandering hands and half an O-level, Diana the breeding machine, Charlie who wears street-cred Saville Row suits to Status Quo concerts, Margaret (nuff said) and about three thousand lesser Royal parasites.

Oh I forgot the Queen. But then what can you say about Her Maj apart from the fact that if you're a bit slow in getting to the TV she can really mess up your Christmas viewing.

I dread to think what the next Royal shindig will be—a live broadcast of Andy's stag night? Yet another royal prog? Who knows? Who cares?

The Greeks voted out their royals. The French and the Russians voted them out a bit more permanently. Cromwell had a good crack at it but ultimately to no avail. It's up to our generation to put the monarchy where they belong—next to the suits of armour, alchemy and witches' spellbooks of a bygone age.

HOUSING CHAIRMAN'S SHOCK REPORT



MEMBERS OF ONES OWN FAMILY ARE SLEEPING 8 AND 9 TO A CASTLE

Leak reveals plans for health privatisation

A LEAKED document from the Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority lifts the lid off plans to privatise domestic, catering and linen services.

The report confirms the fears of NUPE members in Guys Hospital for the future of many jobs (see last week's *Militant*)—230 WTE in catering, 100 WTE in laundry and 500 WTE in domestic services (1 WTE = 40 ours).

Referring to Domestic Services, the document points to "A potential saving at Guy's Hospital of between £250,000 and £500,000 per annum. The level of financial savings obtained will obviously depend on the standard of service specified." In other words the issues of health, safety and general cleanliness are purely secondary to how much money can be saved.

For anyone doubting that jobs will go as a result of tendering there is a special section on redundancy payments which says: "It would seem possible that even if the 'in house' services win the tender the staff concerned would still receive redundancy pay..." Jobs are threatened whoever wins the

Social workers made scapegoats for tragedies

THE TORIES and the press have tried to use the tragic deaths of young children in care—the Tyra Henry case being the latest—to blame and criticise social workers and Labour councils.

Exploiting our natural revulsion against cruelty to children, the Tories try to point the finger at those in an immediate position of responsibility.

Cutbacks

In reality it is the Tory cutbacks and policies that are at the root of such tragedies.

Social workers often find themselves in an impossible position, trying to cope with the social problems of a decaying system. Whether they try to take children away from parents without agreement, or leave them at risk and they end up battered, the book is thrown at them.

It is hardly surprising that in Lambeth, social workers walked out at the threat by Janet Boateng, chair of

social services, to discipline three of the staff involved in the Tyra Henry case, prior to an independent inquiry. "Heads will roll", she is reported to have said.

Walkout

The walkout in Lambeth was also an indication of the social workers' poor relationship with the council which goes back several years. In this case the council reacted to an issue without proper consultation and negotiation with the union.

Nothing can hide the fact that the Tories and the system they represent are to blame for these tragic deaths. While they make life harder for the poor, sick and unemployed, they are also kicking away the crutches that sustain the worst sufferers.

By Lynne Faulkes

Labour must learn lessons of French 'socialism'

FOLLOWING THE miners' strike there is growing confidence that Labour will win the next election. The debate on Labour's policy is increasing as workers consider the tasks of a future Labour government. The experience in France, which has a healthier economy than Britain, is a warning of the dangers of a socialist government compromising with big business.

THE FRENCH socialist government is planning yet more cuts. When the Socialist and Communist Parties won the 1981 elections, with 56 per cent of the vote, they fought on a radical programme. Now unemployment is over three million.

The government began with nationalisation and many reforms. However the laws of capitalism exist as much in France as elsewhere.

The reforms and improved living standards were not financed through a socialist plan of production. The government used deficit finance and this inevitably boosted inflation.

Under the pressure of French and world capitalism the government swung over to monetarism.

The budget proposals for Autumn 1985 will mean more cuts in jobs and spending. It means the first real cut in spending since the war. Law and order is one of

the few exceptions, perhaps to ensure the police can deal with workers like at the SKF occupation.

The nationalised sector faces cuts in subsidies of 25 per cent. Now if they need money they will have to borrow it from the private sector.

This is a complete turn round from four years ago, when nationalisation was seen as a means to plan production and therefore to benefit society.

Now the entire strategy of the government is how to get on with capitalism. The elections are less than a year away yet there is no plan to tackle the mass unemployment.

In fact the government intends to continue its 'restructuring' or job cutting policy. Renault alone, plans to slash 21,000 jobs.

The economy minister, Beregovoy, is reported to be gratified by economic progress, except that: "We have

tender—outside contractor or the Department itself.

On trade union rights it adds: "The Secretary of State has made it clear that Health Authorities cannot specify that potential contractors must apply Whitley conditions to their staff." Surprise, surprise.

And what about the motives of the would-be contractors trying to do their caring best for the Health Service. Discussing the option of closing Hither Green laundry the document says: "The Health Authority would then be at the mercy of a contractor... Therefore the contractor would be in a position to increase prices with the Authority unable to take alternative action."

All in all we have a picture painted of services going downhill, jobs going down the drain and the Health Authority at the mercy of contractors, while some cowboy contractor makes a fat profit.

Privatisation proposals such as these must be fought wherever they rear their ugly heads.



The Mitterrand government has not hesitated to use riot police against strikers and workers' protests.

two black spots: low growth and unemployment."

He obviously looks at the economy through the eyes of a banker not a socialist. The key economic concerns for the working class are living standards and jobs. To Beregovoy these are merely 'black spots'.

It is accepted that the third area for concern is investment. The *Financial Times* said investment recovery was "tentative".

In 1981 many of the middle class voted left; now they

are swinging right. There has also been a rise of the racist National Front.

It looks certain the right will win next year's elections. Obviously the socialist government's looking after capitalism isn't much of a vote winner.

Workers around the world celebrated the victory in 1981. Since then they have studied events, hoping for the best, but learning the lessons.

As *Militant* explained the government had a stark

Austrian wine scandal

THE SCANDAL of the chemical Diethylene-glycol being used in Austrian wine holds serious repercussions for the health of millions.

So far the authorities have arrested 14 wine producers. The scandal mainly concerns producers of high quality bottled wines who have added the chemical, normally used in anti-freeze, which acts as a sweetener to raise the grade of their product.

However, even if any of these manufacturers are charged, the maximum prison term they could face is only ten years. Yet the chemical itself can kill and cause brain and kidney damage.

However, it will be in Austrian big business's interests—and the government's—to sweep the issue under the carpet. Already 1.5 million gallons have been impounded and thousands of wine growers face bankruptcy. But the wine industry is worth £17 million annually to Austria. The government, which is holding an inquiry, will have a vested interest in putting their wine industry back on a firmer footing and quashing reports of illness or death from the poisoning.

This incident has only come to light because of the recent discovery of a means to trace this chemical. We will probably never hear how long manufacturers have been abusing safety regulations and to what extent the consumers of wine may be affected.

By Anne McKay
(Basildon LPYS)

choice. Either adopt a socialist programme or "if the government continues on the basis of capitalism the reforms will turn sour." (*Militant* 10 July 1981).

The roads of deficit and inflation or austerity and unemployment both lead nowhere for the working class whether in Britain or France.

Experience is a great teacher. In France and Britain workers will draw socialist conclusions from their experience.

Labour must exploit Tory splits

DESPITE THE Government's much-heralded 'triumph' over the miners earlier this year, the Tory Party is in disarray as Parliament breaks up for the long summer recess.

The by-election result at Brecon and Radnor showed the complete collapse of support for the Tory Party, pushing it—as opinion-polls have also confirmed—into third place behind Labour and the SDP/Liberal Alliance. The traditional electoral base of the Tory Party—the middle class and the skilled sections of the working class—is showing greater political volatility in the face of economic and social uncertainty.

Were it not for the Alliance, artificially built up by the media as 'third parties' always are when the Tories are in office, Labour would be well over fifty per cent in the polls, and preparing to emulate its sister parties in Europe in a sweeping victory.

The Tories' economic record still shows no fundamental improvement. All the sacrifices of the recession, of mass unemployment and public expenditure cuts have been to no avail, as the Tories' key economic indicator, inflation, begins to creep up again towards double figures.

The Government are even coming under pressure from the bosses' organisation, the Confederation of British Industry, which has announced that the weak economic recovery is 'petering out' because of high interest rates and the high value of the pound.

Adding to the climate of siege, the Tories are facing increasing industrial unrest, including a possible new autumn offensive by the teachers, many of whom are also former Tory supporters.

But it is the social divisions, created as a result of mass unemployment, and especially since the miners' strike, that have even Tory MPs beginning to panic. *The Times* survey of unemployment in parliamentary constituencies found that unemployment has risen in the last nine months against the national trend in 75 Tory-held seats. About half of these will be marginal at the next election.

This fact alone goes a long way to explaining the revolt of Tory Members of Parliament over the high pay awards to judges, officers and top civil servants—awards seen as particularly 'insensitive,' just when the Education Minister, Keith Joseph is insisting the teachers have 6 per cent. The Government were defeated in the House of Lords after only avoiding defeat in the commons by veiled threats of resignation.

So low has Margaret Thatcher's personal esteem sunk that even the intensely loyal *Daily Mail* ran a two-day feature on the decline of her support. In a survey of 1983 Tory voters, the *Daily Mail* discovered, less than a fifth thought Thatcher was 'compassionate' or could get on with 'ordinary people.' More than three-quarters were

'disappointed' over the Government's record on unemployment. As a result, a fifth of them will not be voting Tory in the next election.

The divisions are not merely a question of the personality of Margaret Thatcher, but are indications of a profound crisis in the Conservative Party which itself is a reflection of an equally deep-lying crisis in British capitalism. They are symptoms of the lack of certainty within the ruling class, faced on one side by the collapse of British capitalism in relation to its rivals and on the other by the power of the working class.

One wing of the Tory Party wishes to cut living standards despite any consequences and is prepared to ride rough-shod over the health service, education, and the established rights of the trade union movement. The other wing of the Party has the same economic policies, but is more sensitive to the chasm being created between the classes by the cuts, and is more fearful of the social explosions that could result.

In the long run these divisions will remain or will grow wider, because neither wing of Toryism can bring about any lasting recovery. Their system is in crisis, and they can do nothing to change it.

The Labour leaders should be prepared to exploit the Tory splits, to get the boot in, contrasting the decay, corruption and rottenness of Thatcher's Britain to the possibilities under a socialist economy. Rather than pursue the so-called 'middle ground' the Labour Party should advance bold socialist policies and a promise of fundamental social change.

Fight these expulsions

THE LABOUR Party officials are turning a blind eye to the expulsions of *Militant* supporters.

This is clear from the reply received by Falkirk Regional Labour councillor Gray Allan, after he wrote condemning these expulsions to National Agent David Hughes. Cllr Allan complained that Labour Party members were being expelled for merely selling *Militant*, while local Labour Parties were banning the sale of the paper generally and not just at Labour Party meetings as advised by the Labour Party national executive.

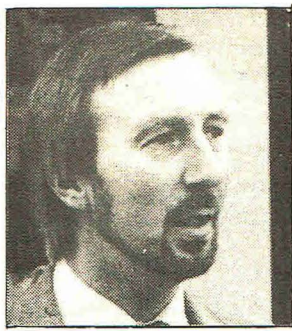
In a letter dated 18 July, Hughes replied: "I have no evidence of any CLP hounding any member out of the party on the grounds that they are socialists." He claims those parties and the NEC are merely following the 1983 conference decision against *Militant* which said it was an "organisation ineligible for membership of the Labour Party."

Yet no evidence that they have contravened this decision has been produced in the cases of Bill Mullins in Warley West, Dugald McKinnon in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Bill Hopwood in Newcastle East, Delia Hazratti in Havant, Brychan Davies in Rhondda, the five Labour Party members in Sheffield Attercliffe or Chris Peace who has been barred from the Wales Regional Executive.

The only charge against any of these is that they sell *Militant*. Hughes himself, in a letter to Finchley Labour Party has said he doubts if selling *Militant* would be sufficient evidence to justify expulsion.

In Mansfield the only evidence put forward for the expulsion of Paul Shawcroft and the suspension from office of Notts miner Graham Naylor was that their names appeared on a leaflet advertising a *Militant* Readers Meeting.

Photo: Militant



Chris Peace

The only case where substantial "written evidence" was produced was in the expulsion of six members of Blackburn Labour Party last year—and that was a pack of lies and innuendo concocted by a character who a few months later defected to the Liberal Party!

The ranks of the Labour Party are becoming increasingly angry, demanding that the Labour leadership, in the cause of party unity, calls a stop to these witch-hunts.

Schools campaign backed

NEWHAM SOUTH Labour Party in east London have passed a resolution condemning witch-hunts, calling on the national executive "to concentrate instead on defeating the Tory government". The same meeting also debated the school students' strike with a speaker from the School Students Union national committee.

Previously one ward branch had opposed April's school strike, saying it was "ill advised and open to misinterpretation".

However, after a full debate, a resolution calling on the national executive to "applaud and support the work of the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign" was passed overwhelmingly.

Wales fights the witch-hunt

Chris Peace

THE RIGHT wing in Wales, who have tried to bar *Militant* supporter Chris Peace from the Welsh regional executive of the Labour Party have been told they acted unconstitutionally by Labour headquarters.

Chris Peace, who received the top vote in the elections to the Welsh regional executive at the annual conference of Labour Party Wales was barred from the meeting by right-wingers, led by George Wright of the TGWU and Ray Powell, MP

Women's committee

THE LABOUR Women's Committee for Wales have added their opposition to the right wing's expulsion of Chris Peace from the party's Welsh executive committee.

A resolution was passed condemning the undemocratic and unconstitutional action of the right wing and demanding that Chris Peace be recognised as an executive member.

The issue was raised after the executive delegate gave her report omitting any reference to Chris Peace's expulsion. When questioned by members she said that she was not allowed to discuss it

Conference

A Wales Labour Unity Conference has been called for Saturday 5 October, at 11 am in the Temple of Peace, Cathays Road, Cardiff. Speakers will include

for Ogmore.

Yet incredibly, rather than go on to admonish Wright and Powell for breaking Labour Party rules, National Agent David Hughes instead outlines the 1983 'conference decision' against *Militant*, advising the right wing that if they have evidence of Peace being a "member of the Militant Tendency", they should bring it to the attention of his Labour Party! However, Chris Peace's constituency Labour Party—Cardiff North—have already condemned his debarment and are calling for his reinstatement to the regional executive.

with anyone until after the next executive committee meeting! "I'm not going to talk about it" she said.

This statement caused uproar, members pointing out that they were being denied a report, while Ray Powell MP and George Wright reported to the media straight after the meeting. An addendum to the resolution, questioning this stifling of the report-back was also passed. The women demanded to know how they were going to reply to their members when the committee was denied a full report.

By Muriel Browning

Terry Fields MP, Derek Hatton, Deputy Leader of Liverpool City Council, Chris Peace and Tony Wedlake, LPYS representative on the Welsh executive.

Delegates' credentials, £2, from Chris Peace, 21 Manor Street, Heath, Cardiff.



Labour Party demonstration in Cardiff. Photo: Militant

Cardiff threat

FOLLOWING THE attacks on *Militant* supporters in Cardiff South and Penarth Labour Party, reported last week, a warning was given that attempts could be made to begin expulsions. After the meeting of the July general management committee (GMC), Bill Tobbutt, a full time official of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said to *Militant* supporters: "It's about time something was done about you. I'll be bringing this up at the next ward meeting."

At the GMC it was proposed that the September GMC should stage a debate. Regrettably issues such as 'policies for the next Labour government' or 'Tory attacks on local government' were not the issues in mind. Rather the GMC will be discussing *Militant*, the

LPYS and the Labour Party.

During the debate, veteran witch-hunters, former PM James Callaghan and his election agent Lord Brooks, want the meeting to 'seek assurances' from two delegates, Andrew Price and Dave Bartlett.

It is ten years since the first attempt to expel *Militant* supporters in this constituency and they will vigorously fight these attacks and campaign for party unity. Already, Penarth Labour Party have passed a resolution deploring the debarment of Chris Peace from the party's Welsh executive committee.

It is ironic that during his report to the July GMC, Callaghan felt that parts of the constituency were vulnerable to the SDP, which endangers the Labour majority. Presumably the right wing feel a reduction in the party membership is the best way to keep the seat!

Resigned and opposed Labour, yet reinstated

A MEMBER of Coventry South East Labour Party who resigned from the party and twice stood against official candidates has been allowed to rejoin.

Mervyn Williams, a former secretary of the constituency party, left in 1982 as a protest against Michael Foot's 'soft line against militants'. He then stood in council elections in 1983 and

1984 as a 'Labour Independent'.

Won appeal

Although his application to rejoin was turned down by his ward branch, he appealed to the constituency and won. Vice-chairman, councillor John Mutton, one of the official candidates opposed by Williams, said:

"We welcome anyone back into the party who has got a genuine desire to see socialist policies implemented. Mr Williams accepted that he had been completely out of order in what he had done and said, and he gave us assurances that he would not stand against democratically selected candidates or openly speak against them in the press."

This decision contrasts sharply with those by other Labour Parties to expel members who have broken no rule, but merely supported and sold *Militant*. Coventry South East Labour Party understands the need to build the membership.

Labour Party Conference

Class issues dominate agenda

THE ISSUES which will dominate this year's Labour Party conference are the welfare state (46 resolutions), miners' amnesty (29) and education and training (18).

By Willie Griffin

The debate on miners amnesty will be one of the most important. In contrast to recent speeches on this issue by Neil Kinnock every resolution calls for support for sacked and jailed miners.

The NUM resolution "calls on the next Labour government to immediately legislate to provide for:

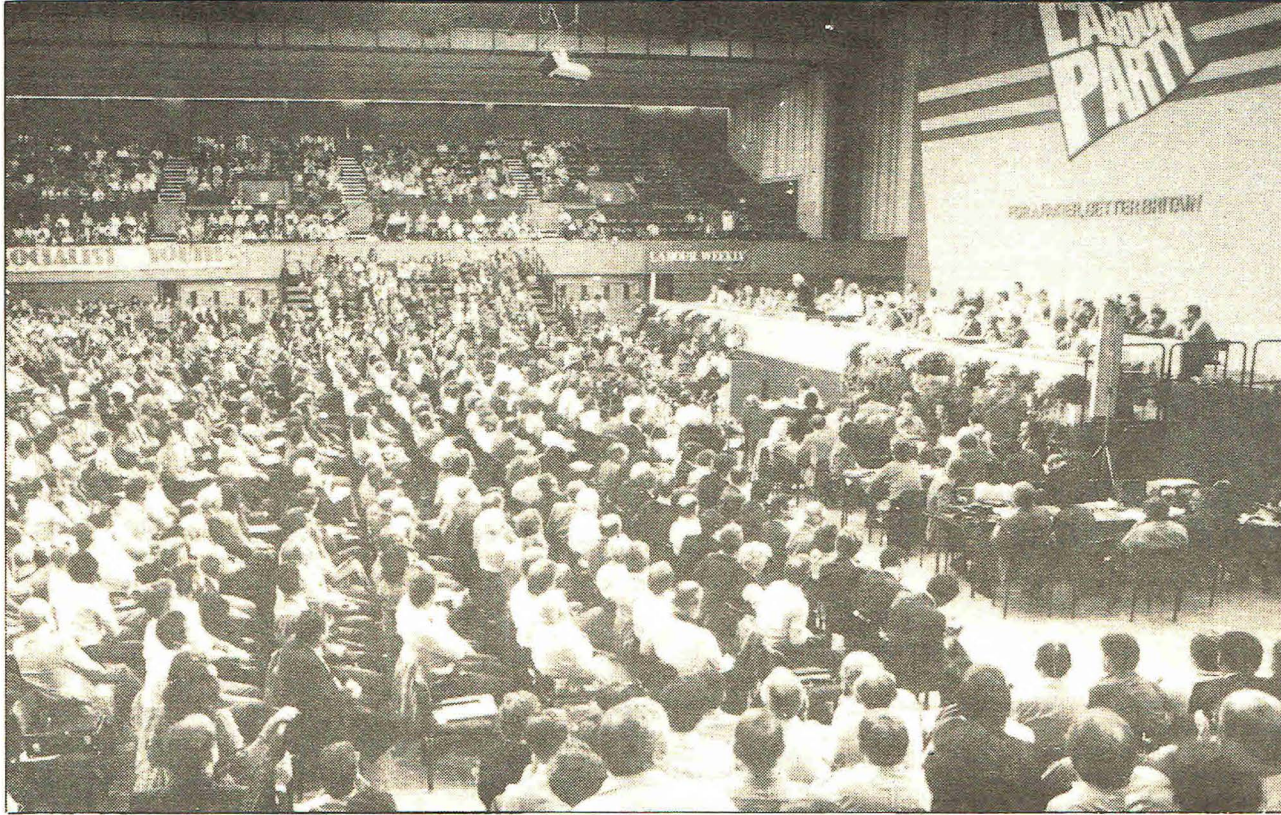
a) A complete review of all cases of miners jailed as a result of the dispute;

b) guarantee the reinstatement of all miners sacked for activities arising out of the dispute;

c) re-imburse the National Union of Mineworkers and all other unions with monies confiscated from it as a result of fines, sequestration, receivership, legal and other costs."

As well as supporting the NUM resolution, conference should support resolution 131 from Southampton Test, which says: "Conference calls upon the party to continue its levy of individual members, and become a supporter of the Miners' Amnesty Campaign."

The resolutions from constituency parties (CLPs) on



The 1983 Labour Party conference

public ownership are in sharp contrast to recent speeches of the leadership, particularly Roy Hattersley, who is campaigning for Labour to ditch its commitment to public ownership under the guise of 'modernising' the party policy.

Every one of the 25 resolutions calls for re-nationalisation of industries privatised under the Tories (in particular British Telecom) and for more nationalisation.

Resolution 175 from Bradford North states:

"Public ownership of the means of production has always been a cornerstone of Labour Party policy, and the only solution to the horrible existence that capitalism in crisis now offers millions of working people".

Rejecting the bureaucratic way in which nationalisation was carried out in the past, with lavish compensation to the former owners, the resolution calls for: "Nationalisation... under democratic control and management."

For the third year running

Photo: Militant

the debate on 'education and training' should be a major highlight of the conference.

YTURC support

Resolution 209 from Wallsend calls on conference to restate previous conference policy calling for "a) no industrial conscription—all 16 and 17 year olds to be able to claim supplementary benefit as of right; b) Full trade union rights and rates of pay on Youth Training Schemes; c) A grant of £30

a week for all 16 and 17 year olds at school or in further education; d) A guaranteed job for all trainees, school and college leavers".

Again the leadership of the party will be at odds with the rank and file who call for "the Labour Party nationally to re-affirm its support for the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign". This debate will undoubtedly bring to the fore the anger of many rank and file members of the party over the expulsion of YTURC from Walworth Road—in de-

finance of two previous conference decisions to support what has been the best youth campaign run by members of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

On constitutional issues the most contentious will be the debate on black sections. Of the 14 resolutions, 12 support black sections. Putting the issue in class terms, resolution 14 from Brighton Kempton says: "Black workers (as with all workers) will only be won to the Labour Party when they are convinced that it is committed to policies which will tackle the problems of mass unemployment, bad housing... which they bear the brunt of".

Against racism

The resolution opposes the idea of setting-up black sections arguing that they would change little: "For the mass of black workers outside the party, their lives would remain unchanged unless the Labour Party takes up socialist policies... and implements these when in government".

The resolution makes clear, however, the need for an urgent campaign against racism, urging the establishment of "anti-racism committees" involving both black and white members of the party to give full support to trade unions involved in action against racist bosses.

CLPs should note the closing dates for amendments (16 August) and delegates (6 September).

Attercliffe five win support

THE EXPULSION of five socialists from Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party, reported last week, has shocked party activists all over the country. The five were expelled by letter, not informed of any charges and given no chance to state their case.

The campaign of protest is gaining momentum. Four out of six Sheffield CLPs have condemned the expulsions, including Sheffield Heeley, which has also demanded that the National Executive overturn Sheffield Attercliffe's decision and reinstate the five. The Heeley party also donated £10 to the 'Defend Militant Supporters Campaign'. In particular the Sheffield parties are demanding that Paul Green, one of the expelled, is retained as a City Councillor.

The five do not consider themselves expelled and intend to go to their next ward meetings.

MPs Joan Maynard of Sheffield Brightside and Tony Benn of Chesterfield have pledged their support. The Sheffield and Chesterfield District Council of the National Union of Railwaymen have protested, pointing out that their vice president, Geoff Bright, who is amongst the five expelled, is an NUR delegate to Labour Party conference. They add that they are currently campaigning for a yes vote in the political levy ballot, and expulsions like this are not helping their case.

Supporting the expulsions

is the local MP, Pat Duffy, who has said that "the Party must deal with the enemy within". Three and a half years ago, Duffy was himself the centre of a political storm within the Sheffield labour movement.

Workers at Davy Instruments had been fighting a reorganisation which eventually led to 80 redundancies, when the company was merged with its parent Davy Loewy.

Fifteen days after the reorganisation was announced, a telephone conversation took place between Duffy and Brian McAteer, managing director of Davy Instruments. McAteer taped this conversation and the tape then came into the hands of the *Sheffield Morning Telegraph*.

Its contents enraged trade unionists. At one point Duffy told McAteer that his problem was getting through to some of the shop stewards "who are frankly more interested in confrontation than co-operation." Of the local MPs he said, "...there are a couple you see, the member for Brightside (Joan Maynard) and the member for Hillsborough (Martin Flannery) whom I can't depend upon, and I can't be



Joan Maynard MP

sure that they might not go along with some confrontational policy that would not achieve anything but give rise to maximum embarrassment all round and unfavourable publicity".

McAteer said that Davy were trying to save as many jobs as possible and save the business, but that "The Davy board are determined that this action is going through". "Yes, oh yes, of course", replied the MP, "you must". Later he told McAteer that, "People can't accuse you of not doing your best."

The conversation ended with Duffy wishing McAteer "the best of luck. I do know what you are up against," to which the managing director replied: "Well, it's very kind of you for your help."

Both the Sheffield Trades Council and the local Con-

federation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers (Confed) denounced Duffy's action. One union official referred to him as a "fifth-columnist". They accused him of condemning a factory which could have been viable, and compromising a dispute which could have been won.

The issue was resolved by Duffy agreeing to apologise to the Confed, but anger amongst trade unionists and Party members remained. This episode confirmed that the threat to the unity of the labour movement comes not from Marxists, who always stand four-square for the interests of workers in struggle, but from right wing MPs who have close links with big business managers.

The Defend Militant Supporters Campaign is to hold a Sheffield rally on Monday 16 September with speakers Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant*, and a Liverpool City Councillor, at the Memorial Hall, Barkers Pool (behind the city hall). Local *Militant* supporters are also canvassing every household in the constituency to explain that such expulsions will not aid party unity, and visiting workplaces, getting trade unions to affiliate to the party.

Send letters and resolutions of protest to Rob Murray, Secretary, Attercliffe CLP, 102 Handsworth Road, Sheffield 9.

CP expel union leader

THE EXPULSION of Ken Gill and other leading industrial figures from the Communist Party by the Eurocommunists has confirmed the decline of the Communist Party in the trade unions.

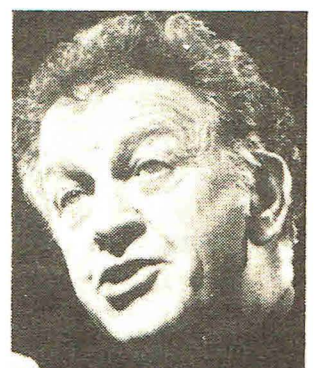
The 'Euros', mainly middle class 'trendies' have a complete contempt for the working class and have objected that the *Morning Star* concentrates on trade union issues.

The expelled hard liners, in order to finance the *Morning Star* are having to rely more and more on subsidies from the eastern block—hence the articles on holidays in Bulgaria.

Little effect

There is likely to be little change in the trade union movement because of the Communist split. The 'Euros', with only a declining influence in the Scottish NUM will continue their support for the middle class pessimism of Professor Hobsbawm. The hard liners, and their fellow travellers in the Labour Party are also in decline in the unions.

Ken Gill, is leading AUEW (TASS) in a series of



Ken Gill Photo: Militant

frantic mergers with smaller unions to try and build a powerful left alternative to the AUEW in the engineering industry. The links with the Stalinist Eastern Block and the opposition to the election of full time officials and to national pay bargaining, mean Gill and his supporters will not provide any attraction for workers striving to build a fighting trade union movement.

Only the ideas of *Militant*—the sale of which TASS leaders have banned in union meetings—can offer a way forward.

By Dave Campbell
AUEW (TASS)

FIGHTING FUND

Target date
31 July

So far
this week
£3,652

Outlook
fine for
Fighting
Fund

GET Militant

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 Eastern	1948		3200
2 London South West	587		1100
3 London East	1477		2850
4 London West	1317		2650
5 London South East	952		1950
6 Humberside	915		1900
7 West Midlands	2022		4350
8 East Midlands	1287		2900
9 Lancashire	478		1100
10 Southern	2167		5000
11 Wales West	768		2150
12 Northern	1584		4650
13 Scotland West	1304		3800
14 South West	715		2150
15 Merseyside	1895		6200
16 Yorkshire	1659		5950
17 Wales East	620		2450
18 Scotland East	691		3000
19 Manchester	594		2650
Others	16091		10,000
Total received	39071		70000

AS THE paper goes to press, we are still counting and waiting for the last amounts to be sent in for this quarter. We are expecting the usual last minute deluge and the final total will be announced in next week's paper. If all goes well we could beat last quarter's record of £50,400.

But there is no time for a break. Our resources are stretched in a hundred different directions. It may be holiday time but the situation in Liverpool could erupt at any minute. We need the cash to help with up-to-date reports, analysis and support in Liverpool and elsewhere.

The right-wing in particular will be keeping their malicious little eyes on us so we need the money to help fight off their witch-hunting antics too.

In every area supporters should already be planning how to reach the new targets.

Make sure every opportunity for raising money is grasped. Map out the work for the next three months and the money will come in easily.

When the ideas of Marxism are explained to workers they are prepared to donate to our funds. As well as collections and donations at meetings, make sure that fund raising events are

organised. Supporters at Leeds University raised £117 from a disco, while in Aire Valley, Yorkshire, a Greek barbecue to celebrate PASOK's victory raised £34. The Coventry experience (see article right) shows what can be achieved.

By Nick Wrack

THE WEATHER forecasters now predict a hot September and October. If they are right, it gives you a chance to make preparations to repeat the success of *Militant* sellers in Coventry, who have just held their annual picnic.

They raised nearly £40 from the sale of tickets. This provided the free spread, suitably washed down with beer, brought along on a sale or return basis. After the nosh up some people just sat around while others with more energy took part in, (you couldn't honestly say played) football, American football and baseball. The kids had a good time too.

Why doesn't your area organise a September picnic? Maybe in your local park. Or better still, do what Coventry did, go off to a Country Park and make a day of it. Have a great day out, and raise some fighting fund. You may even get a tan in the process!

TURN OUT to the estates, that has to be the message for the rest of the summer. Activity in the Labour Party and the unions always tails off a bit in August, when most organisations do not meet.

Prevent *Militant* sales slipping, by organising in every area one door to door sale each week.

The witch-hunt against *Militant* supporters in Sheffield Attercliffe spurred them to seek support and paper sales around the constituency's working-class estates. This weekend there will be a blitz on the Mosborough, Darrall, Binley and Handsworth estates.

Sellers in Oldham went out every Monday evening round one estate, and in a few weeks sold 60 papers. Out of these 15 now take the paper weekly, and two of them were so impressed with *Militant*, they have started selling it themselves.

Liverpool sellers put back

copies of *Militant* through doors in West Derby. A couple of days later they called back, and even though they only managed to do half the houses this time, twenty people asked to get the paper every week.

A letter from Deptford describes their sales. "A new *Militant* seller asked to be shown how to build up some regular sales on her own estate. The first block of flats we went door to door together. But after a while seeing how easy it was she decided to try it alone, and was very proud when she soon got her very first sale."

"Since then egged on by her, three or four sellers have been going round the estate each week. Up to 40 different households have bought it, and now we are trying to turn them into regular solid sales."

PS. 60 *Militants* were sold at a demonstration in the small Lancashire town of Barnoldswick. see report on page 14.

Thanks to

S.P. White Brentwood, £300; Nottingham Rail Unions £7; Council workers, Newport, Gwent £2.60; Tony Rainford, Knowsley £5; Epsom LPYS £20; C Leek, unemployed Swansea £10; J Stothard, Welwyn Garden City £2.50; Ashley Silver, Newham £5; Geoff Pine, Manchester ££.75; C Kitching, Manchester £5; H Bodalhai, BNOC Apex £100 (from redundancy pay); AUEW No3 Wakefield £10; Oldham Central and Royton LPYS £10; Mike Bell, Bristol AUEW £1; S Brody, Bristol £1; Uttiya Batachurya, North London £1; Notts Miners, Hucknall £5.

MILITANT SUMMER DRAW PRIZE WINNERS

- 1st—£500 Holiday: S. Bell, 19 Kilton Close, Worksop, Notts (006465)
- 2nd—£200 Portable Colour TV, G. Angel Southampton (056040)
- 3rd—£100 Camera A. Wynne, Merseyside (012488)
- 4th—£50 Cassette Recorder, Mary Delaney, 2 Keith House, Carlton Vale London, NW6 (036569).
—£50 Personal Stereo, D. McGarr, Newcastle (046479)
- 5th—£20 worth of socialist books, Robert Moore, 40 Croft Terrace, Jarrow, Tyne and Wear (067802) J. Ross, 1 Ravensdale, Basildon (095659) Theresa, Ripley Derbyshire (860547) Mrs J Lazenby, 81 Grasswood Rd. Woodchurch Est. Birkenhead (037153) Andy Sheridan, 72 Wingrove Road, Fenham, Newcastle (069986).

Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£		£
Eastern	2858	Scotland East	2238
East Midlands	3242	Scotland West	2546
Humberside	1654	Southern	3954
London NE	3306	South West	885
London NW	4055	Wales East	1946
London SE	2091	Wales West	1510
London SW	2184	West Midlands	2061
Lancashire	561	Yorkshire	1604
Manchester	2606	National	1302
Merseyside	5181		
Northern	3251	Total	49035

The 1985 building fund needs a total of £75,000 in its coffers by the end of August. This means we have to raise £25,965 in the next four weeks.

We need the money to pay off important outstanding debts. This concrete target should help areas to concentrate on asking those readers who have not yet participated in our campaign. If every one of the areas above raised £1,400 by August 31 we would exceed the amount needed. Some areas should be able to raise far more.

Readers should be asked to follow the example of the thousands who have already donated a week's income or more to our campaign. From better paid workers to the unemployed and school

students our supporters have shown a willingness to sacrifice to get a daily Marxist paper.

A further donation has come this week from Trevor Grewar, a building worker from Hull, taking his contribution to £170. Tasha Horsfield a school student from Hertfordshire, has sent in her week's income of £13.50. These donations can be repeated in every area by explaining what an asset a daily Marxist paper would be.

The labour movement is crying out for such a paper. We intend to provide it and you can help. Donate today. If you've already donated ask your mates and raise the money we need by the end of this month.

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.

MILITANT MINER POSTERS: 'Miners unite, no splits'. Bulk orders from Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB. Price 50p per dozen (post free).

MILITANT Liverpool Broad-sheet 'Defend our City' 25p (including postage) Orders of 10 or more 10p each. To Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscott Rd. London E9 5HB.

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

HARROW *Militant* Marxist Discussion Group. Monday 5 August, Northern Ireland; Monday 2 September, The Communist Manifesto.

MILITANT Marxist Discussion Group meetings held monthly in Swindon. Phone Martin on 24796 for details.

Militant Meetings

"BRISTOL EAST *Militant* Marxist Discussion Groups. 15/8/85 'Liverpool—Which Way Forward?'; 19/9/85 'Do We Need A Revolution?'; 17/10/85 'Marxism and the Labour Party'. Further Details ring (0272) 656591."

Conference greetings

GET YOUR LPYS, trade union or Labour Party to place a greetings ad in our Labour Party Conference edition. Hurry, the closing date for copy is 18 September.

Make cheques payable to *Militant* Publications and send with your greetings to 3-13 Hepscott Rd, London E9 5HB. Rates: 3 column centimetres £6; 6 col. cm. £12; sixteenth of a page £20.

BACK THE PAPER THAT BACKS YOU!

Southern Women's Weekend School
Saturday/Sunday 10/11 August

Clock House Community Centre, Defiance Walk, Woolwich, London (Nr Woolwich Arsenal Station)

The Agenda will be:

- Saturday—The Origins of the family Workshops—Gillick/Powell etc
- Fowler's review
- Violence against wives
- Transitional programme (demands for working women)
- Sunday—Internationalism Workshops—South Africa
- Central America
- Northern Ireland

A detailed agenda will be available on the day. Cost £2 waged/£1 unwaged. Bookings to Kim Waddington, c/o *Militant* 3/13 Hepscott Rd. For creche contact: Lynne Faulkes, 153B Amhurst Road, Hackney.

NORTHERN Womens Weekend School 31 August-1 September. Watch this space for announcements.

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 1920s 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 Hepscott 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 night(s).

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

Name

Address

South Wales Summer Camp 24-27 August 1985

ONLY THREE weeks left to book your place at the popular South Wales Summer Camp. This year's *Militant* Summer Camp has an international theme, with talks planned on Britain, Chile, South Africa, Northern Ireland and Marxism and the Labour Party.

What better way to spend your August Bank Holiday than at the Gower Peninsula. Price is still £12.50 per adult and £2.50 child (5-15). Because of the ever-increasing numbers attending the camp, we will be operating on a strict first-come, first-served basis. BE SURE to send your bookings early to Roy Davies, 191 Hanover Street, Swansea—telephone Swansea 463623.

WHY I Read *Militant*—Sales leaflet. Stocks available from Circulation Department 3-13 Hepscott Rd. London E9 5HB.

Change of address: Jon and Jane Ingham. Now 27 Gotts Park Crescent, Leeds 12. Tel: 635231

Benn exposes new police riot manual

MILITARY-STYLE manoeuvres, including the deliberate incapacitating of demonstrators with batons and offensive horses charges into crowds, are now a well established part of regular police training.

This is confirmed by pages from a new Training Manual which came to light during the recent Sheffield trial of striking miners facing riot charges.

The manual was obviously put to use during the strike, and the para-military methods it sets out show that the pitched battles with mass pickets arose from pre-planned police tactics.

Attempting on 22 July to get an adjournment debate in parliament, Tony Benn pointed out that this manual, drawn up by the Association of Chief Police Officers and implemented without public debate or parliamentary approval, disregards previous rules based on the use of minimum force by police, under which batons and horses were to be used as a last resort. It is clear, said Tony Benn, "that officers have been given instructions which laid them open to charges of assault."

The manual details manoeuvres with long shields, short shields, horses

By Lynn Walsh

and truncheons. Tactics with long shields emphasise the best way of making a massive "show of strength".

But the manoeuvres with short shields, which are much less cumbersome, mainly emphasise offensive tactics—"rapid action with very clear objectives"—as used by snatch squads.

Baton teams

Manoeuvre 6 involves "short shield baton carrying teams deployed into crowd." "On command they run forward...they disperse the crowd and incapacitate missile throwers and ringleaders by striking in a controlled manner with batons about the arms and legs or torso so as not to cause serious injury." Anyone who saw what happened at Orgreave and elsewhere will realise that, in practice, the police do not

pay much attention to the last part.

Manoeuvre 7 concerns short shield teams who "on command will run at the crowd in pairs to disperse and/or incapacitate."

On tactics for mounted officers, the manual says that horses may be used for a "display of strength to discourage riotous behaviour." But horses can also be used for "separating sections of the crowd by the measured use of the weight of horses."

If this is not sufficient, horses may be used for "dispersing a crowd using impetus to create fear and scatter effect." Some of the manoeuvres "provide for a more rapid dispersal based on fear created by the impetus of horses."

Manoeuvre 10... mounted officers advance on a crowd in a way indicating that they do not intend to stop." "Manoeuvre 11... identical to number 10 except that the advance is made towards the crowd at a canter."

Failing to get a debate in the Commons, Tony Benn obtained the speaker's permission to deposit the disclosed pages of the manual in the House of



Photo: Jake Sutton (Reflex)

April 1984. Miners arrested in Sheffield. The police deployment against the miners was the biggest ever and most well organised use of the police against a strike.

Commons library. For the first time this officially makes them public.

Paramilitary

Even these pages were revealed only through defence lawyers' cross-examination during the Sheffield riot trial. The deputy chief constable of Yorkshire, Mr Clements, who operated these paramilitary tactics against the miners during the strike, claimed at the start of

the trial that it was "the most serious case of public disorder that he was aware of this century."

Yet even before they had finished presenting their case the prosecution was forced to concede that its evidence had fallen apart and to drop all charges against the accused.

One aspect of this trial underlined not only the provocative role of the police but the biased—in some

cases deliberately misleading—reporting by the media: "Police videos were shown to the jury," Tony Benn reported. "They showed that it was a peaceful demonstration until the cavalry charges. The BBC itself had transposed the film to show the missiles were thrown before the charges, whereas the police videos showed that the charges took place before the missiles were thrown."

Sheffield riot prosecutions fail

THIRTEEN Yorkshire miners were recently found not guilty of riot.

The charges arose from when a thousand miners gathered to picket Coal House, the NCB's Yorkshire headquarters in June 1984. The pit dispute was four months old and the strike in Yorkshire was solid...apart from Coal House.

It was there, the strikers believed, that wages were being processed for the scabs in Nottinghamshire.

Only a very small number of the white-collar COSA union had come out at Coal House, and 26 June was the day when other members of the NUM chose to support them.

Police outnumbered

The coal-house scabs gathered at a pre-arranged point near the local police station and then filed to work behind a police cordon.

The prosecution said the staff ran a gauntlet of

missiles and violent abuse, with the pickets making repeated charges to break through the police lines. Policemen were knocked to the ground.

All this, the prosecution said, met the legal definition of riot. The pickets had a common purpose to stop staff getting into work—and used "terrifying force" to try to achieve it.

Not so, said the defence. They stressed that the pickets initially outnumbered police. If they had wanted to, they could have easily used physical force to stop the women going in. They didn't because that wasn't their intention.

As for terror, the defence played an ace, producing Coal House worker John Scutt, who told the court he felt "no fear" as pickets approached him. Mr Scutt was the "lone man" who was cited by the prosecution as a key example of intimidation.

The case against each man rested on police evidence, and in several instances, one

officer's word against a picket's. The pickets flatly contradicted police accounts.

One Sergeant admitted in court that he hit a picket twice in the face to restrain him, and there were claims of beatings in the police station.

It emerged during the trial that police statements were written at least in part under mass dictation by a senior officer who was not on duty at the picket.

**Trial cost
£250,000**

On Monday 15 July 1985 cheers went up from the dock and the public gallery as a jury passed not guilty verdicts on 13 South verdicts. The trial had lasted two months and had cost a quarter of a million pounds.

Defence Council Lord Gifford QC immediately

called for all similar charges against other pickets to be dropped.

"We were fighting not only for our jobs, but for our communities—the fight goes on," said Terry Lynskey, branch secretary NUM (COSA) afterwards.

Let us hope that this case in some way helps other miners on trial for similar alleged offences, if only by throwing some light on the ways in which the police operate. How many of those miners who have been sacked, or jailed were actually guilty?

The only 'crime' most of these men have committed was to be active during the strike, fighting for their jobs, their future and the future of the communities in which they live.

By R Sprakes

(Doncaster North Labour Party Young Socialists)

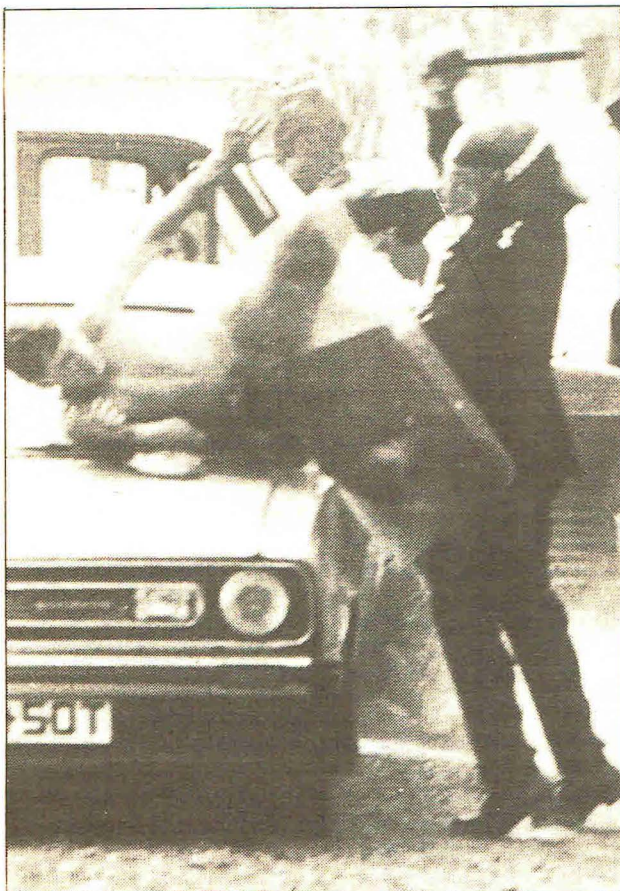


Photo: John Harris (IFL) III

Orgreave, July 1984. This is supposed to be what the police manual describe as "striking in a controlled manner with batons about the arms and legs or torso so as not to cause serious injury." In reality it is a policeman, in a frenzy, trying to do grievous bodily harm to an unarmed picket.

Police computers used more against labour movement—report

IN 1982 the police made 31 million requests for information from their national computer, which holds 43 million entries of names and car registration numbers.

This massive intelligence operation is evidently not reducing the crime rate, which is soaring, but is increasingly being directed against the labour movement.

These disturbing facts emerge from the report of an investigation recently

published by the GLC police committee; *Police computers and the Metropolitan police* by Dr Chris Pounder.

Special branch

The report points out that the heaviest use of the Police National Computer (PNC) at Hendon is made by the Special Branch, with officers from this section making 3 to 4 times the number of requests for information compared to the ordinary police. This follows the recent revelations in the Channel

Four programme "MI5's official secrets" of routine and widespread spying on the labour movement and CND by the security services.

Use of the PNC was central to the police operation to defeat the miners' strike, which is mentioned in the report. However, this area could have warranted a much more detailed investigation than is made, as the operation against the miners probably represents the most sophisticated operation, using computers, yet mounted by the state

against the labour movement.

Serious warning

Nevertheless, the report is a serious warning to the movement of the operations of the state to undermine our democratic rights, won over decades of struggle.

By Pete Dickenson

Police computers and the Metropolitan Police, published by GLC, County Hall, London SE17 P13.

"Mass frame-up"

TWO DAYS after the acquittals mentioned above, a further 14 pickets were cleared of riot charges arising from the mass picket at the Orgreave coal works in July 1984.

The second trial, also at Sheffield Crown Court, had lasted 48 days and cost £300,000. The police evidence prompted defence accusations of a "mass frame up."

Even the right wing *Sheffield Morning Telegraph* was moved to comment how "flimsy" the prosecution case was, a case that only progressed "at the expense of grave embarrassment to the police, whose methods of

preparing the case often seemed careless and sometimes improper."

The "methods" admitted by some police witnesses included having parts of their statements dictated to them by a South Yorkshire detective. In another dramatic incident, a Home Office forensic expert said that a policeman had probably forged another officer's signature on a statement.

Since the collapse of the first two riot trials in Sheffield, the other prosecutions on the same charges have either failed or been dropped.

HIROSHIMA! PEOPLE will never forget. Forty years after, the horror will be recalled by the media, and piously deplored. There will be no shortage of declarations by the spokesmen of capital that "it must never happen again"

Equally certain, the real motives behind the decision of Truman and Churchill to use the atomic bomb will be buried. The factors these leaders of the ruling class weighed up when pitilessly deciding whether it was in the interests of US and British imperialism will be glossed over.

But when a new generation is remembering the nuclear aftermath of World War Two, this is what socialists must bring to the fore. Anyone who wants to know what really happened would do well to begin by reading *Shadows of Hiroshima* (Verso, £3.95), the last of many informative books by the Australian journalist Wilfred Burchett.

The meaning of the Hiroshima bomb

Socialism or the destiny

Eyewitness at Hiroshima

BURCHETT WAS a correspondent with the US Pacific fleet, and reported on the American forces' "island-hopping" onslaught against Japan in the closing stages of the war. He was at the bloody battles to take islands like Iwo Jima and Okinawa—12,000 US troops killed on the latter alone. Given the high death toll of war correspondents, Burchett was lucky to come through it alive.

But the death and destruction of the Pacific islands was nothing compared to what was yet to come.

Queueing in a navy mess, Burchett heard news of a "new bomb" dropped on Hiroshima. Much more dogged than the journalists who were content to be spoon-fed by the military, Burchett courageously evaded all the restrictions and found a way of travelling to Hiroshima.

"In the first testing ground of the atomic bomb", he wrote in his article which amazingly appeared in the front of the *Daily Express*, "I have seen the most terrible and frightening desolation in four years of war. It makes a blitzed Pacific island seem like an Eden. The damage is far greater than photographs can show".

His dispatch was indeed "a warning to the world". Death and casualties from the brutal napalm and fire-bombing of Tokyo were, in immediate terms, far higher than Hiroshima. But the consequences and implications of the A-bomb were far more terrible.

"In Hiroshima, 30 days after the first atomic bomb destroyed the city and shook the world, people are still dying, mysteriously and horribly—people who were uninjured in the cataclysm—from an unknown something which I can only describe as the atomic plague".

Burchett was the first outside observer to see the terrible effects of radioactive fallout.

Burchett's scoop came from his exceptional tenacity. It was "a watershed in my life, decisively influencing my whole professional career and world outlook". Today it is still worth re-reading his story, particularly in view of the far-reaching conclusions Burchett draws.

Burchett rapidly grasped a number of aspects of Hiroshima. The appalling long-term effects of radiation were obvious to any observer. However, from the very beginning the authorities, from field commanders to the Pentagon, took extraordinary measures to conceal the facts from the world.

When the military found that this maverick had evaded their "news management" operation, they clamped down on him hard. Burchett experienced first hand the unprecedented cover-up about nuclear weapons and radiation effects, and saw the early development of systematic misinformation used to counter the critics.

Not only that, but Burchett soon realised that the use of the atomic bomb was unnecessary from a strategic, military point of view. Japan was already devastated. Its imperial-fascist leadership was ready to surrender. In July 1945 they tried to open peace negotiations. These were brushed aside by the US leadership, and news of the moves were suppressed.

After the first successful test at Alamogordo, New Mexico, Truman was determined to use the bomb, not in order to defeat an already prostrate Japanese rival, but as a demonstration of strength aimed against the ruling bureaucracy of the Soviet Union.



All that was left of Hiroshima after the atomic bomb

Scientists protests

HIROSHIMA CHANGED, henceforward, the nature of total war. As a consequence, it transformed relations between the superpowers. This flowed from radical advances in physics which made it possible to trigger a cataclysmic release of the energy locked up in uranium atoms.

Science had handed a new weapon, qualitatively more powerful, to capitalist rulers who showed themselves ready—at Hiroshima as well as at Auschwitz—to resort to genocidal destruction if it was in their interests.

Some of the atomic scientists understood the implications, and were appalled. Very naive politically, they believed the allied powers would only use the bomb for a legitimate, "moral" purpose—the defeat of fascism. In passing, Burchett relates the ironic story of the atomic scientists and their bitter disillusionment.

The physicists themselves, with the support of Albert Einstein, first alerted President Roosevelt to the possibility of producing an A-bomb. They warned that Hitler could be developing such a weapon. The military leaders were at first sceptical. Once the US entered the war, however, the government launched the "Manhattan Project", based mainly at Los Alamos, New Mexico. All the best available nuclear physicists and engineers were recruited and given virtually unlimited resources.

Many of the key scientists were

Jewish refugees who had been forced to flee from Hitler's Germany or Nazi-occupied Europe. Most of them were averse to working on weapons of any kind. But they felt that, while there was any possibility of the Nazis arming themselves with nuclear weapons, they had no choice.

In the event, the first atomic device was ready only after the defeat of Germany. Moreover, a special military-scientific team, the ALSOS mission, found that nuclear research in Germany had not been given high priority. Hitler had been convinced that he would win the war long before the scientists could produce a viable A-bomb.

The scientists then attempted to persuade the President—Truman had by then replaced Roosevelt—that nuclear weapons should be embargoed. Some argued that there should be merely a "demonstration" explosion as a warning to Japan. There was a ferment among the Los Alamos scientists, with protests organised and many resigning from the project.

Some of the most prominent scientists were under the illusion that because of their key role in developing this new weapon, their views would be heeded. Their scruples were unceremoniously brushed aside. Inevitably, as soon as the first test proved that it was viable, US leaders determined to use the atomic bomb to strengthen their world position.

The fate of

FOR THE military tops and the scientists who shared their outlook, use of the bomb had a dual purpose. Not only would it "put the Russians in their place"; it would serve as a ghoulish experiment on the effects of a nuclear blast.

This aspect of Hiroshima, the cruel, calculated cynicism of the bombing, was only fully grasped by Burchett when he revisited Hiroshima in 1971.

The records confirm that the military had deliberately chosen Hiroshima and Nagasaki because they had previously been untouched by the "conventional" blanket-bombing which had devastated other Japanese cities. These were not major military or industrial targets; they were overwhelmingly human targets. The bomb was dropped by parachute and fused to explode well above the ground—to cause the maximum destruction.

The experiment could not have been more effective. The US then sent in teams of scientists and doctors. It was soon clear to Japanese people that their aim was not to treat the sick and wounded, or even to give advice to Japanese medical teams. They were there to record the effects of the nuclear explosion. Their data was for military use, and their findings were never made public.

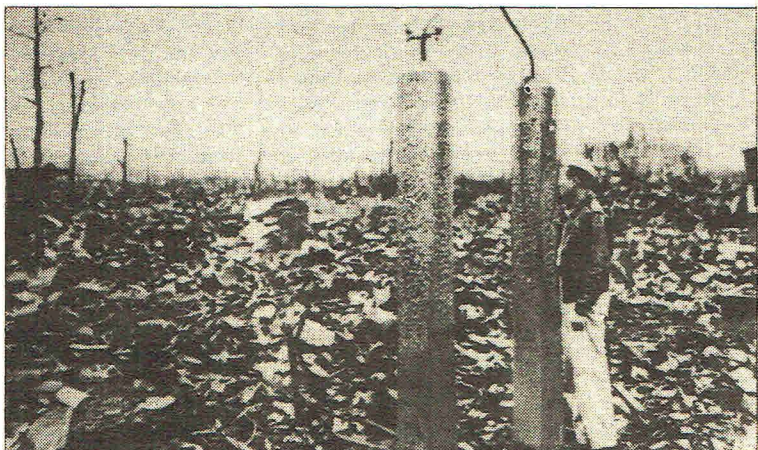
Bomb was w

"WAS IT all necessary?" In tl chett examines this fundamen

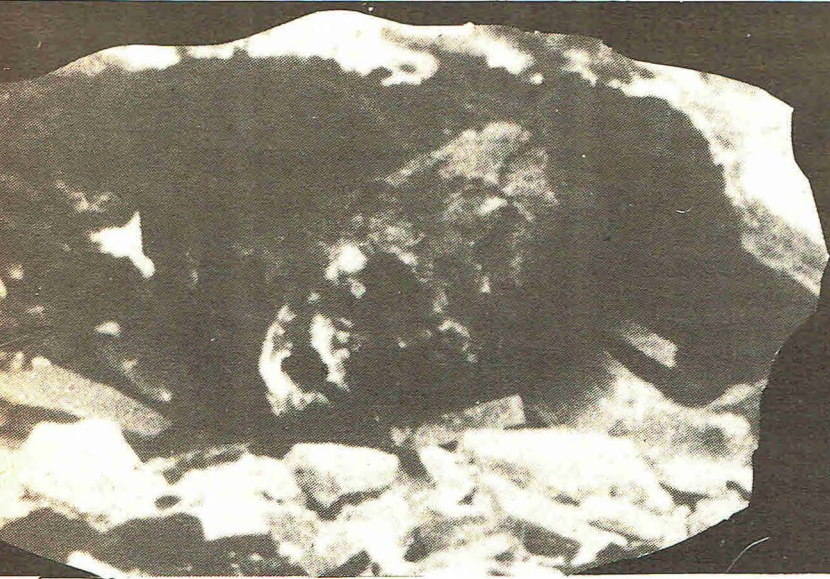
To defeat Japan and for "saving American lives", it was clearly not necessary. But from the wider, long-term standpoint of US imperialism's world interests, it was undoubtedly "necessary".

The first successful test of the A-bomb at Alamogordo on 16 June 1945 took place during the Potsdam conference. Roosevelt and Churchill were bargaining with Stalin over the division of the post-war world. Regardless of their own calculated delay in opening up a "second front" against Germany, the US was now asking Stalin to deploy Russian forces against Japan. This carried the risk that the Soviet Union would increase its influence in an American "sphere of influence".

So Truman could not wait to strengthen his hand with the A-bomb. "If it explodes, as I think it will, I'll certainly have to have a



An American sailor surveys the ruined city.



The charred remains of one of the victims.



The Hiroshima bomb

struction of humanity

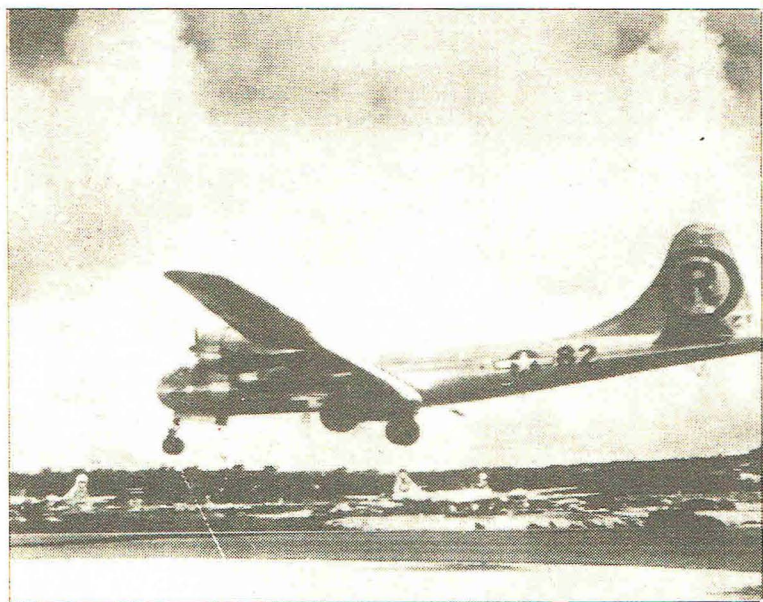
he victims

The US Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission (ABCC) which began work in 1947 did set up a hospital for serious casualties. Many became in-patients only under extreme pressure and none of them left alive. In a document released in the 1980s, one of the ABCC directors, perhaps unwittingly, revealed the US authorities' cynical, inhuman attitude to their patients.

"The base population for the pathology study", stated the document, "consists of a *sub-set of persons* in the Life-Span Study who reside in the Hiroshima-Nagasaki area and are *candidates for post-mortem studies* at the time of death. Autopsy rates as high as 45 per cent in the early 1960s has provided information of great value in confirmation of death certificate diagnosis and the histological description of radiation-induced tumours..."

As Burchett says, the ABCC had an insatiable appetite for "post-mortem" candidates; they were professional body-snatchers who picked up their victims while they were still alive. This was only possible, however, with the collaboration of Japan's own defeated ruling class.

"Shadows" describes the contemporary position of the A-bomb



'Enola Gay', the US bomber which dropped the A bomb.

victims, the *hibakusha*. Burchett became aware of their struggle through visits in the early 1970s. He found that, just as the *hibakusha* claimed, the Japanese government had made a systematic attempt to cover up their plight. The official line, backed by the emperor himself, was: "Let's forget and forgive about the bomb and the sufferings."

The officially recognised numbers of *hibakusha* remain shocking. A government survey came up with a minimum 366,523. However, this excludes numerous Japanese survivors, and leaves out an estimated 23,000 Korean vic-

tims, mostly semi-slave labourers sent home after the explosion.

There has still been no proper survey of the second-generation victims. Tens of thousands, possibly hundreds of thousands are affected. The medical effects are clear for some people, but in others they are not fully recognised. There are only 6,000 registered as suffering from radiation sickness. Many more fear discrimination in getting jobs or finding a marriage partner if they are marked out by "recognition".

The psychological illnesses are just as serious. The shock caused by the nuclear explosion was

unimaginable. Thousands are tormented by lucid, terrible memories. But they are also haunted by fear of the delayed effects, especially by possible genetic deformities affecting children of the second, third, and even later generations.

Sickness, premature death, psychological debility, and discrimination against victims has also led to many family break-ups. The syndrome, says Burchett, has been made much worse by the "ceaseless official attempts to instill national amnesia and to deny the continuing tragedy of *hibakusha*".

An international symposium on the plight of the *hibakusha* underlined yet another, profound reason for their suffering: "Their anguish has been increased by facts revealed by historical research into the decision to drop the bombs. The evidence seems to point the conclusion that the use of atomic bombs was not necessary to bring an end to the war and, rejecting a number of other options, a decision was made to use the atomic bombs on cities whose population density was high. Thus, it seems to many *hibakusha* that the atomic bombings were big demonstrations aimed at influencing Soviet behaviour, and the *hibakusha* feel that far from being sacrifices for peace, they were merely objects whose suffering and death were without meaning." (*A call from the hibakusha of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*, 1975).

Perspectives for peace?

BURCHETT'S ACCOUNT of Hiroshima and the plight of the victims is powerful. His style is simple and vivid, and he presents historical facts clearly and forcefully. His exposure of the motives behind the decision to drop the bomb adds up to a powerful indictment of Anglo-American imperialism.

Yet the analysis at the end of the book reflects the limitations of Burchett's outlook. While consistently anti-capitalist, he was implicitly pro-Stalinist, though he mostly avoided commenting on the role of the Russian leadership.

Burchett spent most of his long journalistic career exposing the policies of American imperialism in Vietnam, Southern Africa, and elsewhere. On the other hand, if he had criticisms of the regimes in Russia and Eastern Europe he never voiced them. In relation to nuclear weapons, he never asks why the Stalinist leaders have always relied on building up their own arsenals rather than on giving genuine support to workers' struggles internationally.

Shadows reflects this. He seems to regard Hiroshima and the development of the "Cold War" as the outcome of US belligerency rather than the inevitable product of antagonism between opposed social systems. It is the mad logic of the arms race itself, Burchett implies, rather than class relations, which given rise to the threat of a nuclear holocaust. He sees the "indestructibility of human resistance" symbolised by the *hibakusha* as representing the main hope of survival.

This intrepid journalist, who died in 1983, retained his admirable confidence in humanity. But he never grasped the key to a solution. This was undoubtedly connected to his acceptance of Stalinism and his inability to reject its ideology as counterfeited Marxism.

He did not see, therefore, that the only way to avert the ultimate threat of nuclear annihilation, is through the struggle of the working class and other exploited classes to sweep away capitalism and Stalinism, with the national limitations and antagonisms they both share, and to establish socialism internationally.

arning to Stalinist Russia

books's last section, **Bur-**
l question.

hammer on those boys (the Russians)," Truman told his advisors. After he read the report on the test, Churchill related, "He was a changed man. He told the Russians just where to get off and generally crossed the whole meeting."

Stalin's support against Japan was no longer required. The balance of forces had shifted. With its fascist-capitalist rivals smashed, US imperialism faced the real enemy, the Stalinist bureaucracy based on antagonistic, non-capitalist social relations.

This was in no way an accidental outcome, and Truman was prepared for it. While senator for Missouri, Truman had declared: "If we see that Germany is winning the war, we ought to help Russia and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany, and in that way kill as many as possible".

The war was set off by inter-capitalist rivalries, but rapidly developed into a conflict primarily between Stalinist Russia and fascist Germany. American leaders hoped that both sides would exhaust themselves and US capitalism would then step in to "mop up", establishing domination over Europe.

The appalling arithmetic of human sacrifice showed that the Soviet Union carried the main burden of the war. For every two US casualties there were three Britons, 14 Japanese, 31 Germans—and 137 Russians. Altogether, over 20 million Russians perished.

However, the Soviet Union demonstrated incredible resilience. This sprang from the people's determination to resist fascism and from the underlying strength of the nationalised, centrally planned economy.

Despite the fact that the Allies delayed engaging the retreating

German armies in the West, Russian forces swept across Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany before they were checked by the US-British forces.

The atomic bomb, therefore, arrived just in time for the US to stage, for Stalin's benefit, an earth-shattering demonstration of capitalism's new power.

US leaders believed that they would have a nuclear monopoly for a long time to come, which would enable them to contain Russian power. In Japan, Burchett heard US officers parroting Truman's arrogant boasting: "It's the American century, we've got the power and we'll goddam use it. We've dealt with the Germans and the Japs, now we show the Ruskies where they get off!"

They were mistaken. By 1949 the Soviet bureaucracy had tested its first viable atom bomb. The race between the super-powers to build-up nuclear arsenals was under way.

Every weapon development by the US would inevitably lead to a response from Russia.

Another world war would inevitably become a war of total destruction, of the annihilation of humanity and the wasting of the planet.

This meant, however, that under the existing world relationship of class forces, a world war was ruled out. Only a whole series of defeats of the working class internationally and the emergence of new Hitlers and and Hirohitos in the major capitalist states would open up the ultimate possibility of thermo-nuclear war.

The "Cold War" after 1945 showed that the super-powers would pursue their conflict by other means: through economic domination, political pressure, and the manipulation of "small" wars like the protracted struggle for Vietnam.

Greece

The crucial choice for PASOK



The Greek workers, peasants and youth have become radicalised, as shown by massive demonstrations like that above, against NATO.

TEN YEARS ago, supporters of *Xekinima* the paper of the Marxists in the Greek socialist party PASOK were undemocratically expelled by PASOK's leaders for refusing to close down their paper.

This year, before the elections on 2 June, leaders of PASOK invited *Xekinima* supporters to participate in the election campaign. This was not just to do the necessary routine tasks such as putting up posters but as local workers' leaders. In the words of one PASOK official as "the only ones who can fight the right wing".

In fact PASOK's leadership printed the election issue of *Xekinima* and paid for and printed their leaflets and posters!. The change has come about as a result of sharpening class conflict in Greece. This saw a stunning PASOK election victory in 1981 on a radical programme of 'Change'. Later came the threatened resurgence of the right because of the government's failure to take the offensive against capitalism.

Greek workers' militancy has been shown in innumerable strikes over the past few years. A radicalised working class has now given another resolute 'no' to the right wing with their dic-

The Greek Marxist paper *Xekinima* is obtainable from Militant 3/13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB or *Xekinima*, Odos Maisonos 1, Athens, Greece.



tatorial history.

Millions were involved for the first time, determined to pay back the right wing for 50 years of persecution, poverty and exploitation, for the right's threats before the elections and for the Fascists' cowardly attacks.

Despite a well financed campaign by the right, millions of workers, peasants and youth took part with slogans, songs and flags in enormous meetings and demonstrations. PASOK lost some votes in middle class areas, but its working class and peasant vote

held up and returned PASOK triumphantly to office.

Yet already the government is unsure of the direction to take. One right-wing cabinet minister, Arsenis, has been sacked. But Papandreou is himself talking of more austerity "We cannot go on consuming more than we produce".

The articles below, translated from *Xekinima* give the background to the elections and a perspective for the future.

The chaos of Greek capitalism

IN 1986 the capitalist world economy will go into a new deeper economic crisis. Leading economists forecast that by 1986 the recovery of private investment, which was at any rate anaemic, will have stopped worldwide.

The Greek economy has been crisis-ridden and stagnant since 1979. Last year the GNP increased by two per cent, mainly due to the seasonal increase in agricultural production and this year, there is a forecast for a maximum increase of one to two per cent.

This meagre recovery has solved none of the deep structural problems of the Greek economy. Industry is already deep in debt, investment is down to the 1972 level and industrial production at the 1981 level. The decline in competitiveness is sharp and unemployment is rapidly increasing. Inflation is three and a half times the European average and the budget deficit is enormous.

The decline of industry is so threatening that the bourgeois paper *Kathimerini* exhorts the industrialists to have patience, since PASOK cannot last the full four years: "the private sector must not collapse because it is very doubtful whether it will ever recover if it does, at least under national control."

The new economic crisis will shake the weak Greek economy and expose the rotten nature of capitalism.

The ruling class' proposed solutions are: "Full freedom in hiring and firing of personnel and setting prices; abolition of the minimum wage and the minimum work hours system, a dramatic reduction of public spending, all to last several years." (Epitology—April '85)

Why then did Reagan congratulate Papandreou on this electoral victory? Similarly why did the industrialists and shipping magnates congratulate the left wing PASOK? What is the meaning of "New Democracy" leader Mitsotakis's claim that he does not challenge the legality of the government? That there is no longer a question mark over the presidency and that they will be a constructive opposition so that the government avoids any pitfalls?

It certainly does not mean that the bourgeois have fallen in love with PASOK's government. It

means that after their bitter defeat the capitalists are now terrified by the might of the workers' movement and by their own inability to check its progress.

The bourgeoisie now has to appear mild and responsible and ready to make "sacrifices" for the public benefit. It has to avoid all provocations which could spur the workers' movement into action. It wants to gain time to recover from the defeat. It has a tactic of putting pressure on the government, particularly on the more "realistic" ministers, so that there can be no "socialist setbacks".

But this change of tactic is far from painless. Already the landowners and the 'aristocracy' within New Democracy are condemning Mitsotakis' moderate policies as failures and demanding a return to their 'roots' by a hardening of policy.

At the same time, the 'moderates' accuse the leader of compromising with the 'aristos' and demand a clear break with the past, a full confession of mistakes made and the promise of concessions!

The right's bankruptcy forces ND on the 'moderate' road—for a while. This will take place with or without Mitsotakis. The ruling class hopes it can attract any subsequently disappointed PASOK voters who will have nothing to do with today's right. At the same time the capitalists must preserve their party so that it may regain the government at a later stage. However, the crisis is very deep and the disintegration of ND cannot be ruled out.

But the bourgeoisie will not give up the struggle to get rid of PASOK. The bosses will not peacefully recede into the annals of history. The capitalists only disagree on the best way to hit back at the movement.

Already they are discussing the possibility of working together after the elections so as to form a government even after a possible split in PASOK. There can be no room for complacency.



Millions participated in PASOK's election victory, hoping to crush the right wing misnamed 'New Democracy' and end the miseries of capitalism.

No room for retreat

PASOK AND the whole workers' movement are at a cross-roads. The road of private 'enterprise', leading to unemployment and destitution, would eventually result in the disappointment of the workers and the final victory of reaction.

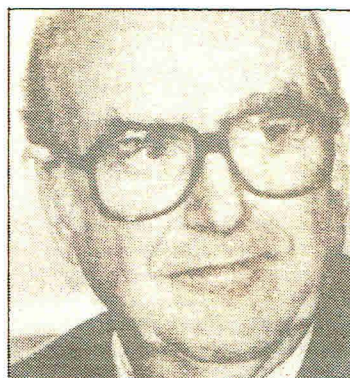
Workers and youth will be resolute not to let the capitalists turn the clock back. In Greece today, all the power is in our hands. We no longer have Karamanlis as President and PASOK hold the majority in Parliament. The unions, the workers', peasants' and students' organisations and local authorities are all on our side.

Such power the Greek workers never held in their hands before.

We must now go forward and seize the strategically important sectors of our economy, exports and imports and the whole credit system. This is necessary to defend ourselves from the sabotage of the oligarchy and to get the economy out of crisis. Papandreou rightly stressed the need for the above as the "only way to get out of the capitalist deadlock on to the road for socialism".

Foreign and domestic capital dominate the vital sectors of the economy. The power of capitalism must be tackled.

The 58 per cent share for the left and the 41 per cent for the right, and the spreading of left-wing and right-wing clubs and associations throughout the country reflect the enormous degree of polarisation



Andreas Papandreou.

and also workers' awareness that socialism is the only way out.

However, Papandreou has unfortunately said recently that his new government will follow the same path as the last one. This implies that he will once more attempt to reconcile irreconcilable class interests and maintain capitalism. He will try to satisfy both workers and industrialists. Our experience up to now has been that this is only a utopia.

Mitterand, Gonzalez, Soares and Craxi started with promises of change but ended up carrying out bourgeois policy against the workers. PASOK made important concessions to workers in 1982 but in 1983 clawed back some of them. For example PASOK made the automatic adjustment of workers' incomes for inflation applicable every other year rather than the original yearly.

This and other austerity measures reflected the impact of

the capitalist crisis. When it comes again to sharing out the scarce economic proceeds of the country we will again see confrontation with the bosses.

Papandreou says he "does not intend to proceed with nationalisations or other state ownership in the private sector". He aims for a central planning that will be no more than 'directional' and similar to the one 'followed in France'.

One minister Arsenis has said: "Any struggling enterprises that are socialised and do not belong to vital branches of the economy do not have to remain in the public sector and can be privatised".

But this policy does not appease the capitalists, on the contrary, by throwing the ranks of the movement for change into confusion, it encourages them to retaliate.

Despite all this the workers' movement will fight on. It will rise and crush every threat of the bourgeoisie and support every single one of PASOK's positive steps.

It will not however, accept any retreat or any anti-worker measures even if they come from a PASOK government. The five million working days of strikes in three and a half years are ample warning.

Every attempt by the 'realistic' ministers or the government to hinder the process of change will create enormous upheavals within the movement and within PASOK itself. Every activist or PASOK member must make a choice. Either on the side of the workers or on the side of capitalism.

South Africa, Chile, Sri Lanka, Yugoslavia, Hungary

Solidarity!

SA workers fight British bosses

ON 30 APRIL, a thousand black workers at BTR Sarmcol in South Africa, (a company owned by the British multi-national BTR), went on strike after a 10 year battle for recognition of their union, the Metal and Allied Workers Union.

By Norma Craven

After two days of the strike all 1000 were sacked, and management began employing scabs. Since the dismissals management have refused to meet MAWU officials saying, "it does not have any members at the company".

Although the refusal to recognise the union was the spark which started the strike, the workers' grievances run much deeper.

The wage levels at BTR, which management claim are based on the needs of a family of five, are below the poverty line.

The starting wage is Rand 336.26 (about £150 per



Sarmcol strikers march through Imbali township in Pietermaritzburg

month). This compares with the Household Effective level (poverty line) issued in April of R 438.68, (£195). Even the Grade 7 wage is only R 24 above this level. The HEL figure is also for a family of 5! This from a company which made a profit last year of R 12.7 million (about £5.5 m).

The workers' wages mean real suffering in Mpophomeni where most of the workers live. 20% of children between the ages of 2 and 9 suffer from severe malnutrition, 45% of children fall in the bottom 10% of weight distribution in a normal population.

No investment has been made in housing, health or recreation in this 'company town'. One mother who brought a dying child to the doctor was asked why she had not come earlier. She simply replied 'Asinimali' (we have no money).

The strikers however, have remained solid, holding regular meetings to discuss the strike tactics and to distribute basic food parcels to the families. They have also organised a boycott of traders in Howick where the

factory is situated.

The meetings, demonstrations and boycotts have been organised in the face of widespread police harassment. A demonstration on 23 June was dispersed by the use of tear-gas and sjamboks. In another demonstration in Pietermaritzburg, the nearest city to the plant, traffic came to a standstill while the workers handed out leaflets to drivers and pedestrians!

General strike

So successful were they that the government was forced to ban all meetings in the area from 26 June. This has not stopped the strikers and on 18 July, there was virtually a general strike in Pietermaritzburg. Workers also took sympathy action in other parts of Natal and in the Transvaal. In Durban 2000 Dunlop workers left their factory and held a two hour street meeting in support of the strike.

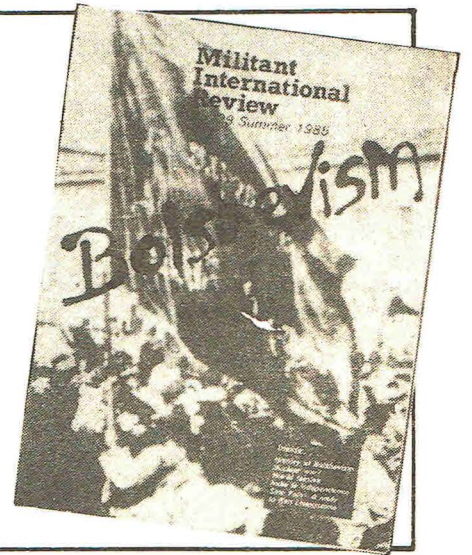
The MAWU is also appealing for international assistance in their struggle. BTR is a British based multi-national and despite

representations from trade unions in Britain, the British management have backed the local South African bosses 100 per cent. BTR own many companies which are household names in Britain, companies such as Pan books, Pretty Polly Tights, Cornhill Insurance and Dunlop and many rubber and polymer concerns such as PB Cow.

It is struggles like this which have forced the apartheid regime into the present State of Emergency. Both hopes to frighten the working class off the streets and defuse the movement as they did in the 1960's. This time they face a formidable opposition in the unionised black workers.

These workers look to their brothers and sisters internationally, to build links in a common struggle for common cause. Messages of support and financial assistance are needed urgently and should be sent to: The Metal and Allied Workers Union, Suite 106, 510 Church Street, 3201 Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa.

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



Solidarity! Collecting for Chilean workers

MEMBERS OF Oxford East LPYS raised £49 for Chilean workers in one day of activity.

A Chile Socialist Defence Campaign stall was set up in the town centre. Bulletins and stickers helped us to raise the cash.

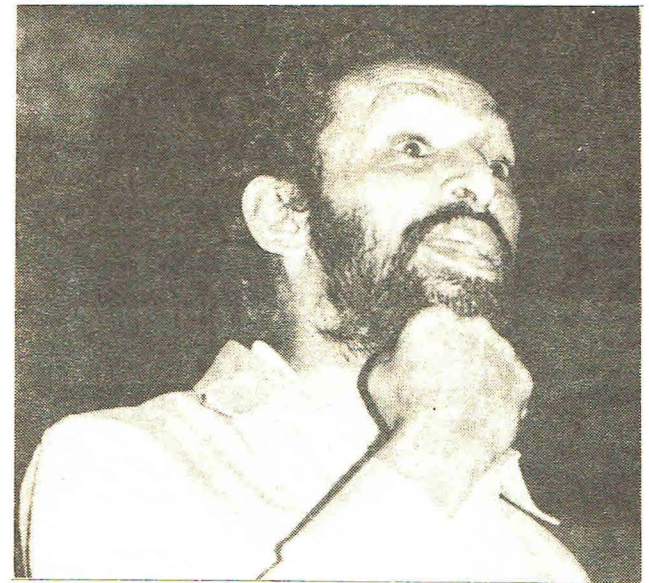
£23 of the total was in £1 coins, showing that workers will make sacrifices if the issues are explained. One argument that we found par-

ticularly effective was to point to the aid given by the Tories to Pinochet's regime—and the need for workers to match this with our own links.

We were surprised at how easily we could raise this cash—other YS branches should follow suit.

By P Brecker
(Chairman,
Oxford East LPYS)

Solidarity! Sri Lankan socialists in London



A joint meeting of *Militant* and the Sri Lankan Nava Sama Samaja Party (NSSP) in London on 26 July gave an excellent opportunity for around 250 people to hear of the national oppression of the Tamil population by Jayawardene's government and troops. Leading NSSP trade unionist Vasudeva Nannayakara and a Tamil NSSP member described how they were fighting back and fighting for class unity between Tamil and Sinhalese workers.

Stalinism wrecks the planned economy

Yugoslavia

THE YUGOSLAVIAN government have announced more massive price rises, 50% for bread and cooking oil, 20% for electricity and 18% for coal. Inflation is already running at about 80% a year and for the past three years there have been sudden and large price increases.

The more intelligent bureaucrats must have been worried about the political consequences. Not only did several of Poland's mass protest movements start over price rises, but in 1983 there

were strikes and shops were looted in Titograd (Montenegro) over high prices and shortages.

An average Yugoslav family is reported to spend about 70% of earnings on food. As in all Stalinist states, the enormous advantages of a planned economy are more and more being wasted by the total lack of democratic control.

The government has made experiments in "liberalisation." But the decentralisation of planning has merely added more chaos to the inefficiency caused by a 'plan' in the interests of a small privileged group of officials.

There is even mass unemployment with around a million people jobless, which is totally unnecessary

in a planned economy. Now, unable to draw on the brain of the Yugoslavian working class through workers' democracy, the government want to draw on their savings to regenerate the economy. They have made a plea for Yugoslavs who work abroad to invest funds or equipment from their earnings into state-owned companies, in order to provide themselves with jobs!

The government stress that this is not creating shareholders as the loan would just be repaid within three years, either with high interest or lower interest and a job thrown in. But the suggestion shows how desperate the bureaucracy are for new ideas.

Even Communist Party

officials admit to economic and social collapse, pointing to declining party membership, nationalistic feelings in the eight constituent parts of Yugoslavia, revived religious movements and oppositionist groupings.

No wonder many people consider Yugoslavia to be a prime candidate for explosive movements. An ailing capitalism will not come to Yugoslavia's rescue, while the Stalinist bureaucracy are impotent. Only the working class's voice has been unheard as yet.

Workers democracy could make the planned economy a source of enormous wealth in Eastern Europe, and there are few countries in more need of that than Yugoslavia.

Hungary

THE RESULTS of the Hungarian national Assembly elections, on 8 June show some interesting developments. Of the 386 contestable seats 43 were won by candidates not nominated by the People's Patriotic Front (Communist Party)

Considering that only one such candidate had ever been successful before (See *Militant* 7 June) this shows the willingness of Hungarian workers to participate in the running of their country.

Eye-witnesses report that in some constituencies—especially in Budapest—only administrative manoeuvres by Party officials stopped so-called 'undesirables' get-

ting onto the electoral lists. These constituencies saw massive nominating meetings supporting 'people's candidates'.

The genie is well and truly out of the bottle, and the bureaucracy finds itself in a total impasse. On one hand it has to make concessions to forestall a movement for workers's democracy, on the other hand those very concessions—by first raising then dashing workers' hopes—are fuelling discontent in the long term.

Those large nominating meetings were just a foretaste of the future. When the mighty Hungarian working class rediscovers its fighting traditions and moves to take its rightful place in running a workers' Hungary, no 'administrative manoeuvres' will stop it.

By Magda Szabo

LETTERS

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

Labour's youth broadcast

Dear Comrades,

How many of you saw the Labour Party political broadcast recently? I watched it twice and was, to say the least, dismayed by it. It was Mr Kinnock's attempt to catch the youth vote. What a poor attempt! The Labour Party Young Socialists were not even mentioned.

We saw youths giving us the usual doom and gloom: "Suicide is the only way out of this misery" etc. For our sakes let's not have any more of that. We know all about it, we don't want it ramming down our throats. Next time let's see something constructive, such as the YTURC, the march for jobs in Liverpool etc.

Give the LPYS a chance to speak. I don't want to know about T-shirts designed by Bodymap. Slogans on T-shirts will not win the next general election.

Yours faithfully
Richard Sparks
South Yorkshire



The YTURC lobby of parliament in February — no mention of the Young Socialists was made on Labour's youth broadcast. Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)

wages and have no comeback.

Later on I saw a Labour Party Political Broadcast aimed at young people. Would they, as you would expect, tell how YTURC and the YS had forced the Tories to abandon the plans for industrial conscription? Not at all. The youth section of the party did not get a mention. All that viewers got was a few bands including Billy Bragg (which is how I knew it was aimed at the youth) and Neil Kinnock muttering flowery phrases about what a waste unemployment is.

I'm sure that most people don't need Neil Kinnock to tell them what they already know. What people are

looking for is a lead and a programme to give them jobs and a decent standard of living.

I watched the broadcast again and it gave no idea of what Labour would do when it got back to power. But then maybe Neil Kinnock didn't know what he'd do if he got to number 10. Maybe if he'd let the LPYS do a broadcast aimed at attracting the youth they'd come up with some ideas.

Yours fraternally
Dugald McKinnon
Newcastle-Under-Lyme

Dear Comrades,

Did anybody else see the review of the GLC Jobs

Festival on TV recently. If you missed it (probably because it was advertised falsely in the papers as a Labour Party Youth Broadcast), it was great—ten minutes of Billy Bragg, Bronski Beat etc. The BBC should have their knuckles rapped though for displaying the Party Political Broadcast card before the review started. The only two things it could have been are 1: The review of the GLC jobs festival or 2: a complete failure.

I know what I thought it was.

Yours fraternally
Andy Divall
High Peak North LPYS

Pit bosses put the boot in

Dear Comrades,

Following our return to work after the strike, at our pit Littleton, management put most of the strikers in one area, now nick-named Little Moscow. On the face we made a democratic decision not to strip coal in overtime. Immediately the overtime was cut on essential face work resulting in us not producing much coal that week.

There were also strong rumours that we were to be split up as a team, which we did not want. We compromised with management by saying those who did not

want to strip coal in overtime would not be victimised, those who did want to could.

Not content with this management said we were not getting any bonus for that week as we were in dispute. We argued we should have at least 65 per cent fall back rate. There was also no dispute, we worked as hard that week as any.

It is now in the hands of our area secretary. If management is allowed to get away with this, it means they only have to say the word 'dispute' and you get a reduction in money.

Yours fraternally
Nick Platek
Littleton NUM

Aiming for the top

Dear Comrades,

This appeared on the staff noticeboard of my school on the day after the top persons pay review:

"Dear Mrs Thacker, I want to apply for the job advertised on the news last night of Feild Marshall.

I am a Top person who is believe me high quality—noone higher. I think you are

a wonderful women and am write behind you.

These teachers are low quality let's face it. They don't deserve no more than they've got. I would be very good at driving a tank—right through my old school.

Yours sincerely
Keith Joseph
(aged 13 3/4)

Yours fraternally
Roy Davies
Chesterfield

Reagan's appealing?

Dear Comrades,

President Reagan is not feeling too good. Cheer him up. Let's all write for a photo of him. He would, in the words of John Block, who replies to his fans on behalf of Young Americans for Freedom: "Greatly appreciate a personal word of encouragement from you. Believe me, I know how hard it is to take the bitter attacks... From the Liberals and their allies in the news media. Now is the time for Young Americans for Freedom to take action. The

sad fact is while the Liberals and their myriad of leftist organisations are feeding at the public trough of your tax dollars, YAF are dependent on you and me for support. If you can send \$10,000 do it. Believe me the future of our nation is at stake.

"PS. Don't forget to let me know whether or not your full color photo of President Reagan arrived in good condition".

So comrades, help an old man out. If you can't afford \$10,000 they will go as low as \$15 (£11) or alternatively put it in the fighting fund. It's better value.

Yours Comradely
Gary Freeman

LEFT and RIGHT

Darling, did you pack the butler?

FORTNUM AND Mason are offering the ideal picnic. The hamper includes caviar, smoked salmon, lobster Parisienne and lashings of champagne. It's all served up in crystal and silver ware, complete with a Roller, chauffeur and butler to ferry you around. As it's aimed at rich Americans, two Concord tickets are thrown in, along with an overnight stay at Claridges. Price £21,500. F & M add "There will be fresh supplies of napkins and glasses because ladies don't wish to use one smelling of fish while eating their raspberries." Hope it rains.

The truth, the whole truth and nothing like the truth

THE *Leicester Mercury* on 22 June claimed the city was a "bolt hole" for Tony Benn between his Chesterfield seat and his home in "Hampstead", when things got "too much for him". He stays with a "close friend" in the city's Victoria Park they said and was often seen at Leicester's "posher eating houses", enjoying gourmet food and vintage wine. On 18 July they carried a grovelling apology pointing out that Benn had only occasionally been to the city and then only for political meetings, had never stayed overnight, had never been to Victoria Park, does not live in Hampstead and was a lifelong teetotaler. At least they spelt his name right.

Château anti-freeze

Dear Comrades,

There is a song called *The man who waters the workers' beer*. The words go: "When I make the workers' beer I puts in strychnine, a little methylated and a drop of paraffin". I always thought this was a humorous exaggeration until the Austrian anti-freeze scandal broke.

But in *The Times* of 19 July, tucked down at the bottom of page 19, under a large article on jam making, I came across an alarming piece of information. Apparently, under EEC regulations all wine may contain one hundred milligrams of ethylene glycol (anti-freeze) per litre. It is considered an

acceptable sweetener. The theory is that the alcohol in the wine is an anti-dote to the anti-freeze!

If you get too much anti-freeze in your wine the effects are nausea and vomiting. In case these symptoms are mistaken for drunkenness you will also have crystals forming in your kidneys which will cause acute renal failure. These may also be accompanied by respiratory distress, convulsions and coma.

So when you're having a glass of wine, no matter what the country of origin, the wine makers are prepared to kill you even quicker for the sake of a few pence.

Cheers,
Ken Aiken
Chairman
Ballymena Trades Council

Birmingham get their priorities right

Dear Comrades,

Nearly every time you read a local or national paper there's an article on an area vying for the most deprived area in Britain and competition is getting fiercer all the time under the Tories.

Sparkbrook in Birmingham (constituency of Roy Hattersley MP) was put forward by the local Tory rag recently, pointing out high unemployment, overcrowding, lack of basic amenities and single parent

households in the area.

While the Labour council in Liverpool are fighting to defend and improve conditions for working class people, the right wing Labour 'dignitaries' of Birmingham have concentrated on securing the nomination for the 1992 Olympics for Birmingham and a contract for a massive conference centre, whilst at the same time supporting a massive rate increase and cuts across the board in many services. That's priorities for you.

Yours fraternally
H Shields
Birmingham Ladywood



'Social refugees' in the USA—a soup kitchen in an American city.

Poverty in Philadelphia

Dear Comrades,

The horror of famine in the under-developed countries is well known, thanks to the enormous success of the recent Live Aid concerts. But less well-known is the poverty and suffering near the scenes of the American concert in Philadelphia.

On the streets of one of the biggest cities of 'the greatest nation on earth' people are homeless and starving, relying on hand-outs and eating scraps from garbage cans to survive.

Reagan can't help these social refugees, so in Philadelphia it is left to 13-year old Trevor Farrell,

who since December '83 has been helping the 'street people'.

He started by begging blankets and food from friends and relatives, and with his father Frank (who gave up his business to help) has now built an organisation of 300 volunteers, with a hostel and three vans, which tour the streets, helping about 170 people each night.

It is testimony to the bankruptcy of US politics that a 13-year old boy with an idea and willpower, can outdo the US state machine, with all the resources it commands.

Yours fraternally
Dave Ridley
Wearside
GMBATU

BRIXTON DHSS is housed in a building which was once a department store.

In the 1970s damage was seen in the roof. This damage was allowed to worsen despite local trade union pressure on management to fix the roof.

Finally as a result of water seepage through to the leaking roof the third floor of the building was declared unsafe in November 1984.

Now Brixton DHSS staff are housed in three different buildings over the Brixton area.

The public counter in the office is a disgrace. It is far too small to accommodate the number of cases we have to deal with.

People waiting to be seen often have to sit on the stairs outside. They often wait three to four hours to be seen in dreadful conditions.

This naturally leads to tension and violence and the counter area is in constant need of repair from the damage done to it.

The tensions and stress that staff endure day to day is intense. This leads to a large turnover of staff.

In the end staff prefer to leave work and go back to the other side of the counter.

Also due to stress, pressure is extremely high in the office. Many staff go sick with stress-related diseases.

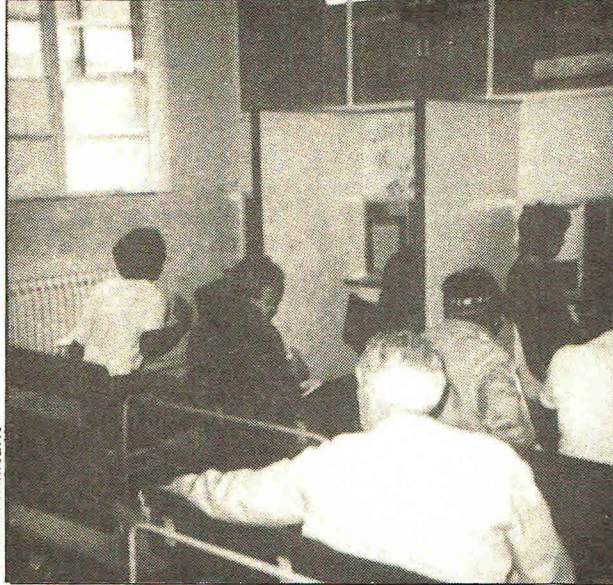


Photo: Militant

Two faces of the strike in Brixton: terrible conditions for staff and claimants in the DHSS office (left), the massive police operation during the summer of 1981

Morale is extremely low. We quite simply have not got the staff to do the work.

It is insane that in a period where more people are becoming more dependent on social security, in the local offices we are facing staff cuts.

Added to this is the low pay. In many cases staff dealing with people claiming social security are on some

form of benefit themselves.

We also face a management that is arrogant and blatantly anti-union.

Instead of giving the local offices adequate staff, management are pursuing the line of 'manpower substitutes' (their expression). They mean overtime.

They try their best to create splits in the staff. They seem to follow the in-



structions from their political masters.

However, despite all these conditions our unions, both CPSA and SCPS, do not have the national leadership to wage a co-ordinated fightback.

Nevertheless, the fightback seems to be started at local level.

In the last dispute at Brixton DHSS about overtime 11

other local offices also took industrial action. The whole dispute was conducted at local level.

When the SCPS refused their Brixton members strike pay we got the money ourselves by levies in other offices and even from the local bus garages.

Staff will only put up with these conditions for a limited time. There will be an explo-

sion in the inner-city offices.

And a word of warning to both unions' leaders: if they will not lead the strike-wave the local offices will do it themselves.

By a Brixton
DHSS worker

Walking home in the rain to build the union

I am one of those people who are lucky to have a job. My hours of work are four nights from 6.30 pm to 3.30 am and Sunday 9.00am until 6.00 pm.

It consists of picking orders for yoghurts etc loading them on vans to be distributed to local shops.

I'm married with a daughter and take home £84.

It is seasonal work and the busiest times are summer and Xmas.

In June we formed a union branch of the TGWU. When one of the leads went home at 3.30am and the work was not finished; he received a 'warning'.

We took this to mean that there was compulsory overtime, which none of us agreed with.

The management argued that the contract was worded so that overtime would be worked as and when necessary.

Delays

They also said that no one else could be set on because of the time taken to train them.

In July, through our union representative, we notified the company that we wanted time and a half for overtime and not the time and a quarter which they were paying us. Before then the lads were given time off in lieu.

A senior manager came up from Croydon to Bradford to see the union rep and said that he would do all he could to get time and a half.

He then promptly left everything in the air by going to Greece for two weeks leaving us to work for time and a quarter and walk three, four, and even five miles home after working our shift as they didn't lay transport on.

Nothing was done until three weeks ago. The local management informed us on the Monday that we would be changing to a three shift system.

When we went to work on Tuesday we were told that

By a Bradford TGWU member

this had been cancelled. We therefore decided on a meeting about overtime etc.

On the Tuesday however I went for a job interview for a car sales man. It was held in a plush suite at the Norfolk Gardens Hotel in Bradford. I passed a test at the first interview and was asked to wait for a second interview.

After a 40 minute wait the sales manager from the Polar Motor Group in Barnsley came and told me to follow him to a room along the corridor.

He talked for a while and then told me to sell him a hi-fi system. When I was trying to do this he told me to sing him a song.

Singing

I didn't know whether this was some sort of test so, jokingly I asked him to sing one and I would hum it.

He then broke into 'Hey Jude' by the Beatles. Luckily I didn't know the words so I thought I had got out of it.

He told me to carry on with the sale and again after a while told me to sing a song. But this time I had to dance.

After looking for a hidden camera thinking it was for something like Candid Camera I reminded him that I had gone for a car sales man's job and refused.

I didn't get the job. This left me back at my old job still waiting to see about time and a half.

We had a meeting with the senior manager later that week in which he said that it looked very favourable for the overtime.

The matter of a lift home was then raised. He told us



Photo: Militant

Supermarket shelves stocked by cheap labour from factory to the store but workers organise to defend themselves

he would order some anoraks and we should borrow a neighbour's car.

We had a meeting with our T&GWU rep on the Sunday morning. He told us the T&G would back us to the hilt.

We then notified management of the meeting and that we would be disrupting shifts in order to finish on time for first bus in the morning.

The manager came up the same day and told us again he would do all he could. We told him—total ban on overtime. Then the manager we had been dealing with rang to tell us we had two taxis to take us home starting from Monday.

Promises

And he said time and half would be paid starting in the new year as it was not in this year's budget.

He was told we would have to see him on the Monday to discuss matters.

He came to see us. All five of us who work the night shift agreed that there was still no overtime unless it was

time and half.

He threatened us with suspension. We couldn't get in touch with our T&G rep because of the short notice of the meeting and he was dealing with other disputes.

Not knowing exactly how we stood we grudgingly agreed to work overtime on agreement that there would be two taxis to take us home.

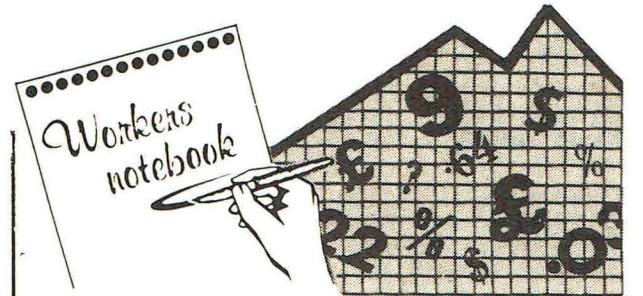
The supervisor was given a telephone number to ring two hours before we expected to finish.

He rang the number at 4.50 am only to be told that no taxis had been booked.

I have just written this after walking three and a half miles home in the pouring rain because none of us had any money to pay for a taxi.

We have left a note that no overtime at all will be worked no matter what the consequences.

After all we don't seem to warrant any respect at all from the management so what have we got to lose but our chains?



A RECENT report by the Institute of Fiscal Studies shows that 87 per cent of taxpayers are actually worse off under the Tories. While direct taxes are down slightly on 1978/79, this has been offset by the abolition of the reduced rate tax band, the rise in National Insurance from 6.5 to 9 per cent, and the doubling of VAT. The only people to benefit are those earning over £400 a week.
(Matt Wrack, Bow and Poplar LPYS)

DESPITE SHEDDING one-fifth of its workforce, ICI is still losing millions. Mass redundancies followed ICI's grand strategy in 1980 to make the company more competitive against German rivals. However, any gains made in the past five years have been wiped out by the recent rise in sterling against the Deutschmark. Their second quarter's profits were £19 million down on last year.
(The Times, 26 July)

A REPORT by the Mid-Wales Development Board shatters the Tory myth about 'phoenix' industries rising out of economic blackspots. Mid Wales has the highest ratio of business starts to closures, yet unemployment is still creeping up. And the area has the lowest average weekly earnings in the country. The new firms are less labour intensive (warehouses, high-tec industries, etc) and, with mass unemployment remaining, the bosses are driving down wages.
(FT, 22 July)

INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Bus leaders hide behind ballots



Photo: Militant

WEST MIDLANDS bus drivers have narrowly voted against strike action in their third ballot. The vote was 1,223 to 1,204.

By Bill Mullins

Coventry, which has voted heavily to strike in the previous two, is boycotting the third ballot.

These workers are disgusted at the way the whole issue has been handled and are calling for a national inquiry. Their abstention has finally swung the vote in management's favour.

The anger of drivers throughout the Executive is entirely justified and shows the need for a campaign for an accountable and fighting leadership. Such a shambles must never occur again.

The chaos really began when WPTE made a new offer after the workers voted three to one for strike action. The Central Committee, made up of two delegates from each garage, suspended the strike and called a new ballot.

Confusion

They were worried that members would resent losing money on strike whilst a ballot on the new offer was held. And there were fears of opening up divisions which exist as a result of differing wages and conditions carried into the WPTE by different areas upon its formation.

But workers had voted by a three to one majority for action for the first time in 26 years. That mandate should have been acted on. The Central Committee was wrong to recommend the offer and re-ballot. That was shown by the second vote for strike action—this time by a two to one majority.

The other mistake was also quickly brought home when the Central Negotiating Committee, which is responsible for

negotiating with management, used the excuse that the ballot did not name the date for the strike to ignore the vote. They argued that nothing more was on offer and voted to ballot yet again!

The CNC is a much smaller body made up of delegates from branches and the full-time official. Their action was nothing less than sabotage. They should be recalled and a new CNC elected.

Their actions have thrown the whole campaign into confusion. A mass meeting in the Black Country last Wednesday vented its anger against the leadership.

At the Birmingham mass meeting on Monday the leaders were getting so much stink that they used the presence of Black Country drivers as an excuse to walk out—even after the meeting voted to have them in.

In Coventry there is so much anger that the officials safety could not be guaranteed so the meeting did not even take place. They are planning to strike from 1 September anyway. The possibility exists of Coventry drivers picketing Birmingham garages.

The third ballot named 1 September for the strike to start. Whatever happens the Central Negotiating Committee should resign and make way for new elections.

The Central Committee should be recalled to hold an inquiry into the whole affair.

It would be a terrible mistake for workers to turn away in confusion and disgust at these events. It would leave the union in the hands of leaders who have displayed what at best can be interpreted as incompetence.

Militant supporters have produced a Militant Bus Worker leaflet and are helping organise a Bus Workers' Broad Left. The need for union democracy and a fighting leadership has been brought home sharply by these events and must be acted upon.

London bus workers' voted for action over pay but it now looks as though they will settle. Unity is vital throughout the industry to give workers the strength and solidarity to resist widespread attacks.

IN THE past fortnight West Midlands bus drivers' TGWU leaders and full-time officials have twice ignored members' overwhelming votes for strike action.

By Nigel Wheatley

Many drivers are so incensed by their union's actions that they are talking of resigning.

As Walsall drivers explained: "West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive have offered a 4.9 per cent increase in basic wages in return for ending of various bonus and extra payments for Sundays, One Man Operation, split shifts and unsocial hours.

"But the actual result is a nil increase in the take-home pay for the majority of drivers because what we gain on basic we will lose on extras and in worse working conditions."

Walsall maintenance staff said: "Drivers have learnt from the experience of maintenance workers who

accepted a similar offer earlier this year.

"Management have enforced the new agreement 100 per cent and there has been a crackdown on working conditions in preparation for de-regulation, privatisation and future redundancies".

In the big garages at Wolverhampton, Coventry and Walsall there have been overwhelming majorities in favour of strike action.

At Walsall garage (the biggest in WMPTE) drivers voted 9-1 to reject the offer and to strike from Monday 15 July.

Across the West Midlands the average vote was 75 per cent in favour of immediate strike action.

As Walsall drivers said: "We couldn't believe it when we found ourselves still working on the Monday morning because the union had called it off over the weekend".

Some of the rank and file organised their own lobby of the next Central Committee.

TGWU leaders tried to sabotage this by stating that the pay issue was not on the committee agenda!

"Nevertheless", workers told me, "we had a good turnout from Walsall, West Brom and Wolves garages.

"The committee still recommended acceptance but this time by 21 votes to 19 (with two abstentions!). With a bigger lobby we could have swung a few more waverers".

The subsequent, second ballot (18 July) still voted to strike by a 2-1 majority.

But then the Central Negotiating Committee refused to call the strike!

"As drivers said: "If the T&G decide to hold a ballot then they should stick by its decision.

"As far as we are concerned the ballot decision sticks and strike action should be fully supported and declared official by the TGWU".

At the time of writing mass meetings are planned at the garages. The situation is totally confused and

disorganised.

It is possible that the big garages will take spontaneous unofficial action to try and force the union's hand. This could be all-out strike or overtime and Sunday bans. It is also possible that this cock-up could badly damage the T&Gs credibility and organisation in WMPTE.

Battles looming

It would be tragic if that happened at a time when unity and strength are needed to fight the privatising transport legislation.

We could have a miners-type situation with big garages coming out spontaneously and trying to bring out the others—only in this case the drivers will be backed by two ballots in their favour.

What would the Tories make of such an example of democracy!

No guarantees for Cardiff export credit jobs

OVER 90% of Civil Service trade unionists answered the call for strike action last week in Cardiff.

With a magnificent display in the fight to protect jobs, CPSA, SCPS and CSU

members from the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) took industrial action against the acceptance by Ministers of a management review which would destroy 500 jobs.

It would also entail abolition of the SEO and SP grades and merger of the CA and CO posts.

Outsiders would be seconded, with no knowledge or interest in ECGD and would oversee the eventual privatisation of the Cardiff head office.

London Staff would be reduced to mere cyphers servicing a multitude of consultants, and the Regional network would be destroyed.

The superb support that has just been given by members to the unions' leadership as they commence negotiations cannot be allowed to fritter away. The members are now waiting for a further lead.

The SCPS and CPSA Broad left in Cardiff have already met to plan a campaign to ensure awareness and opposition to the Review both within the Department and the District and Area Committees.

By SCPS Militant supporters

Silentnight solidarity

APPROXIMATELY 1,000 people marched and demonstrated in support of Silentnight strikers in Barnoldswick, Lancs on 27 July.

Fellow FTAT members came from as far away as Glasgow and High Wycombe.

Many other trade unionists showed support, including miners from Burnley representing the Lancashire NUM, and COHSE Group '81 (Broad Left) supporters.

Labour there

Labour Party members turned out in force from Skipton, Pendle and Rochdale Labour Parties and Skipton LPYS.

Militant sellers from along the Aire Valley and

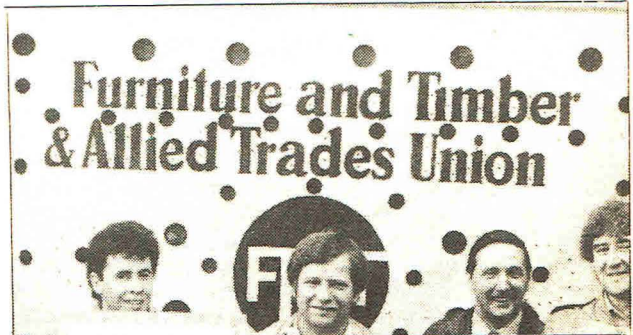


Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

from Pendle sold 60 papers to demonstrators and locals who lined the route to watch the long and colourful procession in this small Lancashire town.

All strikers have now got letters of dismissal from Silentnight management but spirits are high. National and regional FTAT officers recognise that the strikers are

prepared to fight. The strike is now in its eighth week and money is badly needed to help in hardship cases and to help workers win the struggle.

Please send donations to FTAT Cravendale branch No 92 Strike Fund, c/o Mrs Ann King, 10 Rainhall Crescent, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancs.

By Linda Stafford
(Skipton Labour Party)

Pay up—Pronto

WORKERS AT Prontaprint in Liverpool are entering the third week of their dispute.

Management asked for a meeting on Monday night (29 July). Before-hand one of the pickets, Steve Owen, thought he would be given the sack. Even so morale was still high. As Steve Owen said: "Even if we are sacked it changes nothing. The picket line stays and we fight on."

However, management said they would be prepared to enter into negotiations with the NGA on the proviso that picket lines were remov-

ed. They also said "maybe" they could phase in NGA rates of pay...over the next four to seven years!

Steve Owen gets £80 a week before tax, while the NGA rate for the job is £123—it's obvious why Prontaprint don't want a union.

The strikers believe management thought they were getting disillusioned. But it is clear the picket lines on the three shops are having an effect.

Messages of support to: Ray Williams, Graphic House, 107 Upper Duke Street, Liverpool 1.

National Communications Union

When a pay offer is an attack on jobs

PHIL HOLT, National Executive Committee of the NCU (formerly the POEU) and Broad Left candidate for general secretary of the union talks to Bill Boyle about the British Telecom pay offer and the union's preparation for industrial action.

THE 1985 pay 'offers' to National Communications Union members have produced a confrontation between the union and the employers.

In the Post Office the offer is 5 per cent for an engineer and 5.2 per cent for the clerical grades.

In British Telecom there are two offers, one for 6.75 per cent and another of 7 per cent if the union accepts timetabled talks on a number of the employers' proposals.

The pay offer is a direct cut in living standards which the union has answered with a recommendation to the members for industrial action.

This year all over the country branches have been in

disputes involving industrial action against management attacks. This is the case in BT, PO and Girobank.

Our members have responded positively against management and have been prepared to make sacrifices whether in overtime bans or strikes without pay. The 1985 pay offers faces us with yet another challenge. Pay and jobs are linked together in the one struggle.

The arbitrary cuts in manpower in Glasgow in 1984 which were brilliantly resisted by the members are being reintroduced again.

Clearly management are attempting to erode the spirit of one of our largest and strongest branches. If they succeed then other branches

will be picked off. However they have underestimated the willingness of our members to fight back.

Cutting costs

Management are determined to end the ability of the NCU to defend members interests. With the advent of BT plc the drive to cut costs and increase profits, at our expense, is much stronger.

From management's point of view a defeat for the union on pay will pave the way for a greater attack on jobs.

In pay negotiations management have always attempted to have the union agree the smooth introduction of new technology.

Now that BT are on the verge of mass computerisation (front office linked to System X) which is a huge threat to jobs, it is more urgent for them to eliminate any obstruction to the introduction of this technology

on their terms.

The situation is not dissimilar in the Post Office and Girobank.

The hawks in management have completely won out over the old syle. All NCU members need to draw the appropriate lessons.

The most important is that a fight to defend and improve our living standards is also a fight to defend jobs. A victory here will mean that the power of the union will have been used to check management's attacks.

Thatcher managers

If we are not prepared to resist management's attempts to undermine our conditions and standards then our jobs won't be worth defending. Everywhere that BT have felt they have defeated the union they have created an extremely harsh climate.

Like it or not we have a



Phil Holt

management which fully reflects the policies of this government and reflect their harsh attitudes as well.

They faithfully fought for privatisation. They were allowed to reward themselves with substantial wage increases even prior to the 'top people's' salary increases.

We must make a national stand. We need to defeat what is only the start of an onslaught to prepare the way for many job losses and reduction in skills to coincide with new technology. The de-skilling of our members is

tempt to bring about job flexibility, the ending of grade ratios and then further job cuts.

Campaign

Management have made this absolutely clear in their pay offer.

The 1985 pay offer is not just an attack on living standards but a direct attack on jobs. The NEC have launched a campaign leading to industrial action. We must ensure it is successful.

Bilston Glen management retreat



A picket at Bilston Glen during the national strike

ON THURSDAY afternoon last week, spontaneous strike action shook Bilston Glen colliery, Midlothian.

By Joe Owens
(Bilston Glen NUM)

A man who missed his works bus and got a taxi to work, was stopped at the pit gate by a security man and he was asked his name and number. He refused to give it, swore and then went down the pit on his night shift.

In the morning he was summoned to the manager's office and was sacked. The union was told: 'No negotiations,' that he was given a fair hearing and was to remain sacked. On hearing this the men on the afternoon shift on Thursday gave the management their reply.

By Friday the pit was idle. The union called a meeting of the men on the Saturday afternoon. That morning the NUM chairman received a letter which said there would be negotiations over the general position of the union at the pit including the question of the sacked man. They had backed down.

At the union meeting the men voted overwhelmingly to return to work on the Monday and refused any co-

operation with the management until full union rights were again established at the pit.

Over the course of the miners' strike, Bilston Glen was used by the Coal Board as a centre for their return to work campaign. Those Bilston men who crossed the picket line in their hundreds were praised for their 'moderation,' exalted as 'democrats' for refusing to be involved in a political strike. It was known as a scab pit.

Warwickshire against scab union

MINERS IN Coventry and Warwickshire are preparing to fight off any attempt to start a scab union here.

The NUM committee at Coventry Colliery have produced a leaflet explaining that the only people to gain from a split in the NUM will be MacGregor and Thatcher.

At Daw Mill pit in Warwickshire the rumour is that a breakaway will be discussed at the August branch meeting with the possibility of a ballot in September.

Bilston Glen is still surrounded by barbed wire, the security men have sentry boxes and a form of watch tower at the gate. All that gave it the title 'Belsen Glen' remains, except that now the 'prisoners' are fighting back.

The action here fits in with the general pattern of strike action taking place at pits up and down the country. These events prove that even in unfavourable conditions victories can be won.

Many who scabbed in the strike realise that a breakaway will be isolated and weak, and at the mercy of the management.

The scab leaders at the pit are not thought to be confident of getting a majority for a breakaway, but the outcome will be decided by the campaign organised by the NUM leaders.

Without a determined and fighting campaign the men will only be subjected to the pressure of the superscabs, press and management.

YTS inquiry call in Barnsley

A YTS scheme in Barnsley is the subject of demands for an enquiry.

Community Industry, a scheme based in Wombwell, employs 120 people at various sites throughout Barnsley.

Concern grew when a number of girls on the scheme were suspended after complaining about aspects of the scheme.

Girls working in sewing rooms had, for instance, suffered a number of accidents whilst working the machines.

Quite a few had had the needle of the machine go through their fingers. Only one had received proper medical treatment and that due to the needle breaking in

her finger.

Many told of doing minor repairs with a screwdriver and complained that the machines were old and in poor repair. The peddles were slow in responding and often when they removed their foot, the machines continued.

Shocking

Wires running across the floor and a faulty switch that gave off electric shocks added to their worries and although they felt they were at risk they weren't sure if they had any 'legal' grounds to complain.

Attempts to join a trade union were met with hostility

No incentives for East London DHSS

HACKNEY, LEYTONSTONE and Walthamstow are three DHSS offices chosen to take part in an experimental new 'incentive' scheme. It was due to start on 31 July but has been postponed following pressure from the union.

In the new merit pay scheme for 'productivity' individual workers would be awarded a cash prize subject to the position of their office in a league table which measures the success of their office in dealing with claims.

The scheme would set office against office, and worker against worker. An already stressful job will become worse. It has sinister implications.

It will tie in with the introduction of new technology, which threatens thousands of jobs in the DHSS, allowing 'rewards'

for its smooth introduction into the offices.

New technology should not be seen in isolation from the fundamental changes in the welfare state proposed by the Tory government's green paper on the social services.

A campaign should be initiated by the unions to inform the membership of the consequences of merit pay. They must launch an effective and united pay campaign for 1986 recognising the need to end low pay in the civil service.

Offices involved in the experiment must organise against the scheme, which should be co-ordinated by the CPSA Section Executive Committee and the General Executive of the Society.

By a DHSS worker

Keeping occupied in Neasden

A DEMONSTRATION against the closure of Neasden hospital last Sunday gave full support to the NUPE members decision to occupy.

Staff fear that once Neasden hospital goes then Shenley and Willesden hospitals will also be closed also on the pretext of centralising all services at the central Middlesex hospital.

Connington Park hospital was closed last year. There is no sign of any significant expansion of facilities at the Central Middlesex—just an upgrading programme of some wards to cater for geriatric patients.

Centralisation in this context, will inevitably mean drastic cuts in services all round.

Militant

Greece after the elections

Page 10

Dockyard piracy

WE WILL be missing one issue of *Militant* this month. We will publish issues dated 2 August, 9 August and 16 August, then miss one week to resume on 30 August, with the copy which covers TUC conference.

ON WEDNESDAY 24 July, 9,000 workers at Rosyth Naval base and 14,000 at Devonport struck in response to Heseltine's announcement that commercial management will be introduced in the yards.

This would entail huge job losses, attacks on conditions and union rights etc. At both yards the strike was virtually 100 per cent solid. At Rosyth 500 pickets manned the gates turning every lorry away from the yard.

The mood on the picket line was like the early days of the miners' strike. The already bitter mood had reached boiling point earlier in the week when it was announced that 36 engineering apprentices were to be sacked when their time was out, a foretaste of what will happen generally under agency management.

Overtime ban

This has hardened the workers' determination to fight Heseltine's plans tooth and nail. A shift-working and overtime ban has been imposed by the AUEW in response to the proposed sackings.

Jock Penman, chairman of the Joint Convenors Committee angrily commented: "if the management think that they can get away with these sackings they are not on, we'll fight it all the way. The next step must be for all unions to follow the example of the AUEW and extend the shiftwork and overtime ban throughout the yard."

By Bruce Wallace
(Dunfermline Labour Party)

He went on to map out what further action needed to be taken. "We will be calling on all workers in Fife and Scotland for physical and financial support.

"We must build support in the Fife pits, factories and communities because the working people of Fife would suffer a major blow if Heseltine's butchery plans go ahead."

The local LPYS branch was on the picket line showing their solidarity with the dockyard workers—they plan to hold a series of public meetings to publicise the issue and build support.

LPYS member Steve Arnott said: An attack on dockyard jobs is an attack on the whole local community. That's why we'll try and be on every picket line from now on"

- ★ Introduce an immediate overtime and shiftwork ban
- ★ No agency management/contractorisation/navalisation or privatisation
- ★ No redundancies
- ★ No wage cuts
- ★ 35 hour week with no loss of pay
- ★ Defend trade union rights



Pickets in action at Rosyth Naval Dockyard on the 24 July one day strike.

in the yard
★ A one day general strike in Fife should the Tories attempt to implement their plans

HESELTINE'S PROPOSALS give another opportunity for sticky capitalist fingers to dip into the defence pie.

Defence, one of Thatcher's only growth areas, has boosted many a firm's annual returns—at our expense. The MOD are feverishly trying to renegotiate a contract with

GEC Avionics over supplies for the Nimrod early warning aircraft.

Nimrod is already two years behind schedule, and the 1975 cost estimate of £247 million has shot up to £800 million. Experts are looking at the role in this of the new radar schemes supplied by GEC.

Huge profits

In another case the MOD have refused to compensate a former defence company employee sacked when he

told the government of his employer's £400,000 excess profits on a £2.6 million contract.

Regardless of this, Heseltine claims that leasing out to private firms will save taxpayers' money (through lost jobs) and MOD will pay at least £60 million to push it through. Unless the union campaign succeeds in stopping the plans, many major companies such as Plessey, STC and Trafalgar House are rumoured to be interested.

Solidarity

LABOUR MPs Terry Fields and Dave Nellist have each sent £25 to the South African Chemical Workers' Union. They had earlier sent a telegram of support for the strikers at AECI, a SA subsidiary of ICI. (See *Militant* 755 for details).

In reply the union said that they had passed on the message to the workers. What they needed most was finance and messages of international support.

The MPs hope that their lead will be followed by other sections of the British labour movement. While the Tories give aid and succour to Botha's apartheid regime and its state of emergency, the working class needs to build its own links.

Donations and messages should be sent to SACWU, PO Box 4990, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa. Tel: 010 27 11 29 8907/20.

See also BTR Sarmcol strike Pg11.

Bank scandal

(from page one)

bizarre that it is believable only because it is true."

Both MPs expressed their doubts that any of those responsible would be brought to justice. "There are enormous evidential problems", said Sedgemore, "and it is beginning to look as though no one will be brought to court because of these evidential problems. The governor of the Bank of England may bear some responsibility for that—for giving these people nine months in which to lose

documents, to sort out affairs with their accountants and get their alibis fixed up. It is an appalling state of affairs and the governor of the Bank of England is the man who should primarily answer for that."

The government's reply to all these allegations was a brief statement by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury who said: "I cannot of course, comment on the affairs of individual customers of JMB or any other bank."

While the BBC is hounded to drop an interview with Martin McGuinness, for nine

months the JMB scandal has been hushed up. It took nine months before the Fraud Squad was asked to investigate.

What starker evidence could there be of the kind of society the Tories preside over than the contrast between the unemployed running from the police for fear of being arrested for 'stealing' from a rubbish tip and the City spivs who spend and lose other people's money by the million.

As Dennis Skinner said: "There are now more than three million people unemployed lying on the

scrap heap. They are witnesses to the government's policy of making a profit or going under. Yet the crooks in the City can somehow or other launder their way from one fraud to the next, getting away with it, with tax avoidance schemes, and running to Johnson Matthey bankers and saying: 'Give us more money—at the end of the day the taxpayer will bail us out.'"

JMB is the tip of the iceberg of a system which is built on profiteering. Rewards go to the most ruthless in pursuit of the fat-

test profits. The needs of the mass of the population, least of all the workers whose labour creates their wealth, count for nothing.

It is not the unemployed who should be consigned to the rubbish tip but the capitalist system. Labour must be committed to nationalise the banks and all the other financial institutions so that, along with the manufacturing sector, the country's wealth can be developed for the needs of the workers who create it.

By Pat Craven



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