

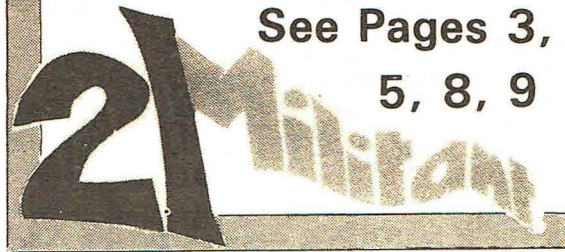
Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 25p

ISSUE 773 8 November 1985

Inside...

Rally reports:
See Pages 3,
5, 8, 9



Rally breaks all records

Photo: John Woulfe



FIVE THOUSAND people cheering for socialism in the Albert Hall. £26,587 raised in the fighting fund collection. Last Sunday's *Militant* rally broke all records.

The five thousand came from all over Britain and abroad. They were all ages from veterans like Harry De Boer, one of the leaders of the Minneapolis general strike over fifty years ago to the thousands of young socialists in the audience.

The rally, spectacular at times, answered the press lies about *Militant's* demise. As the morning's chairman Rob Sewell said this was one hell of a lively funeral.

The enthusiasm came across in the fighting fund collection. When the mammoth job of counting the pile of cheques and the 1,400 pound coins was over, £26,587 had been raised. That gave us a total for the quarter of £48,315, well up on last quarter.

We need socialism, we need a more frequent *Militant* and we're prepared to fight for it was the message of the rally.

Now for the full £70,000 in the next quarter and an even better, more regular paper.

A RELENTLESS barrage of propaganda from the press, the Tories, the Liberals and the right-wing leaders of the Labour Party and trade unions has failed to budge the Liverpool city councillors from their determination not to sacrifice the jobs, homes and vital services of the working class voters who elected them.

The ruling class is mobilising all its resources to try and force the council to sack workers, delay house building, raise rents and rates and cut back services.

But the councillors will not make workers pay for a crisis caused entirely by a Tory government which has robbed the city of £350 million since 1979.

Now the council's money is running out. The government's refusal to provide the £30 million which has been demanded has forced the council on to a financial drip-feed. The Tories are in effect imposing a lockout of the workers and the city of Liverpool.

Stonefrost report

As well as the open campaign of lies and abuse from the Tory tabloids, a more insidious pressure is being exerted by national and some local trade union leaders. They are peddling the idea that the council can painlessly escape from its crisis, by a package of measures based on the 'Stonefrost' report into the city's finances.

By Pat Craven

They have either not read or totally misunderstood the report and are seriously misleading the workers. As Finance Chairman Tony Byrne told *Militant*: "The Stonefrost report confirms absolutely all we said... that what would be necessary to balance the books would be a rates rise or cuts."

This would not be a small rates rise, says Byrne: "We would need an 80 percent rates rise if the books were to be balanced in rating terms alone, or a 15 per cent rate rise on top of £19 million worth of cuts."

These cuts would mean a combination of redundancies, rent rises, increased charges and delays in house building.

Because of big increases when the Tories and Liberals ran the authority, council house rents in Liverpool are the highest outside London. The rises suggested by Stonefrost would be between £3.21 and £6.50 a week, on top of the rates rise of an extra £5 a week for an average household between now and

Liverpool council crisis

Make the Tories pay

31 March.

There is nothing 'painless' about rises like that. Instead of promoting illusions in non-existent escape routes, trade union and labour movement leaders must stop attacking Liverpool councillors and throw the power of the movement behind the campaign to make the Tory government pay back the

money they owe Liverpool.

The government's retreat on its plans to abolish the state earnings related pensions scheme shows that a sustained national campaign of pressure can force even this reactionary government to back down. Liverpool City Council itself proved the same last year, when it forced Jenkin to provide extra

cash.

The Liverpool councillors have risked everything they own to place themselves at the head of this fight for the policy of their party and their class. National support from the whole movement is now needed to make sure that it is the Tories and not the working class of Liverpool who are forced to pay

for the city's crisis.

(See editorial on page four)

STOP PRESS: 200 GMBATU shop stewards, representing city council manual workers on Wednesday voted unanimously to reject the Stonefrost report.

Hatton sticks to election promises

LIVERPOOL COUNCIL deputy leader Derek Hatton rejected any financial deal to balance the council's books which involved breaking election promises on jobs, services and housing.

In a powerful speech at the weekend *Militant* rally at the Royal Albert Hall, which earned two prolonged standing ovations, he strongly urged trade union and Labour leaders to back the council in its battle to reclaim cash withheld by the government and defend the working class of Liverpool.

He said: "We weren't elected to sell out and we don't intend to renege on our promises."

"Yes, we'll be flexible and we will sit down and meet with anybody but we will certainly not renege on any promise we made on jobs, services and house building in Liverpool."

He said the enquiry into the city's finances had vindicated the council's stand.



Derek Hatton—'we will talk but not sell out'

Each of the four main options in the enquiry report required a 15 per cent rate rise backdated to April, in addition to the 9 per cent rise already levied.

This would mean an extra burden of about £5 a week for the average working class family in Liverpool, plus a council home rent rise, a jobs freeze and capitalisation.

He said that the trade union general secretaries who were behind the report must now "lead from the front to defend their members."

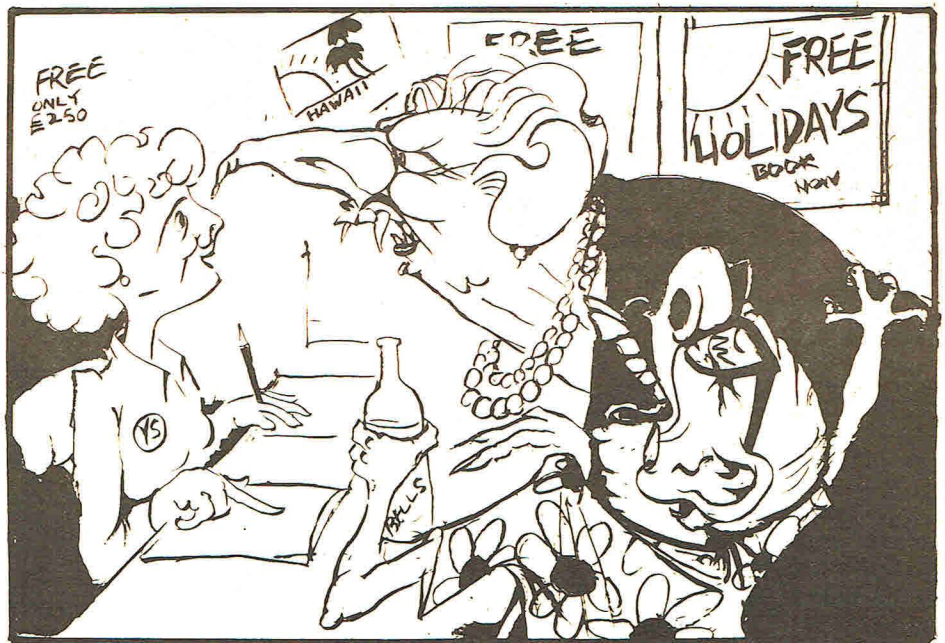
He made a strong appeal

to Labour leader Neil Kinnock to support the council. He described a meeting of 200 people he addressed in Islwyn, Neil Kinnock's constituency, where he heard the bitterness and anger of people in South Wales towards the leader for not giving support to the miners during their strike.

He said: "It reminded me of the anger and bitterness which is felt by many working class people in Liverpool who felt he has betrayed them as well."

"Neil," he said, "You have the responsibility to take note of what those people are saying. You must lead and represent your people in the same way as Thatcher leads and represents her people."

He dismissed press speculation about possible splits in the Liverpool labour movement: "They can pray all they like, but there is no chance whatsoever of the Liverpool Labour Group splitting on this issue. We will stand firm. We will not do Thatcher's dirty work for her and we will win."



JUST THE THING FOR MADAM—SIX MONTHS IN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE AND NOT A PENNY TO PAY.

CPSA splitters smear Militant

A Communist-backed minority split-off from the Broad Left in CPSA has falsely accused Militant of wanting to split the DHSS section away from the CPSA.

These reports are totally untrue. They have, however, been taken up by a number of newspapers, including the awfully "Communist" *Morning Star*.

It is claimed we aim to either form a new union or amalgamate with another union such as the TGWU or TASS.

The claims are based on a

letter allegedly circulated by "Militant sympathisers" in Liverpool DHSS. This letter has nothing to do with *Militant*, as could have been found out by any attempt to verify the claims.

They have done so in order to attack *Militant* and by implication the role of the paper's supporters on Liverpool council.

The *Morning Star* industrial reporter, in particular, must be either politically naive or has intentionally aimed to distort *Militant's* position. We wish to set the record straight.

Militant supporters will

fight not to break with the union but to change the leadership. We will again be supporting a Broad Left candidate to challenge Alistair Graham the right wing general secretary of CPSA.

This smear campaign is a symptom of the desperation of the small group of sectarians calling themselves Broad Left '84 who handed control of the union over to the right wing by splitting the CPSA Broad Left.

Nevertheless, we were against their split from the Broad Left and support the genuine left uniting.

New Labour grouping push for rates rise

THE NEWLY formed Liverpool Labour Left held its inaugural meeting on the same day as 400 Liverpool *Militant* supporters went to London for the paper's rally.

The Labour Left meeting was held under the auspices of the *Tribune* newspaper, and had been billed in the media as an anti-*Militant* meeting. It was described by the Liverpool *Daily Post* as a 'left-hook' to *Militant*. Other newspapers described it as an "historic realignment of left-wing politics in Liverpool."

The main speakers at the rally were David Blunkett, Labour National Executive member and leader of Sheffield Council, and Keva Coombes, leader of Merseyside County Council.

They and other speakers condemned the attempts by the Tories and Liberals to try and use the meeting and the formation of this new group as an attempt to split the labour movement.

But the main thrust of the platform speeches, and the speeches of the organisers was to accept the Stonefrost report on Liverpool City's finances, involving increases in rates and other charges.

One of the Liverpool



David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council, and below Keva Coombes, leader of Merseyside County Council, both pushing for 'compromise'.



Labour councillors has now come out openly with two Merseyside MP's, Bob Wareing and Alan Roberts, in saying that the rates should be put up.

But many of the 200 who attended the meeting supported the policy of the

Liverpool council, including a number of *Militant* supporters, and Tony Byrne, Chairman of the council Finance and Strategy Committee, who spoke from the floor against acceptance of the Stonefrost report.

The Liverpool Labour Left has begun recruiting members to its ranks as an organisation, and has even applied to join the Labour Party's register of non-affiliated groups, before the meeting itself was organised.

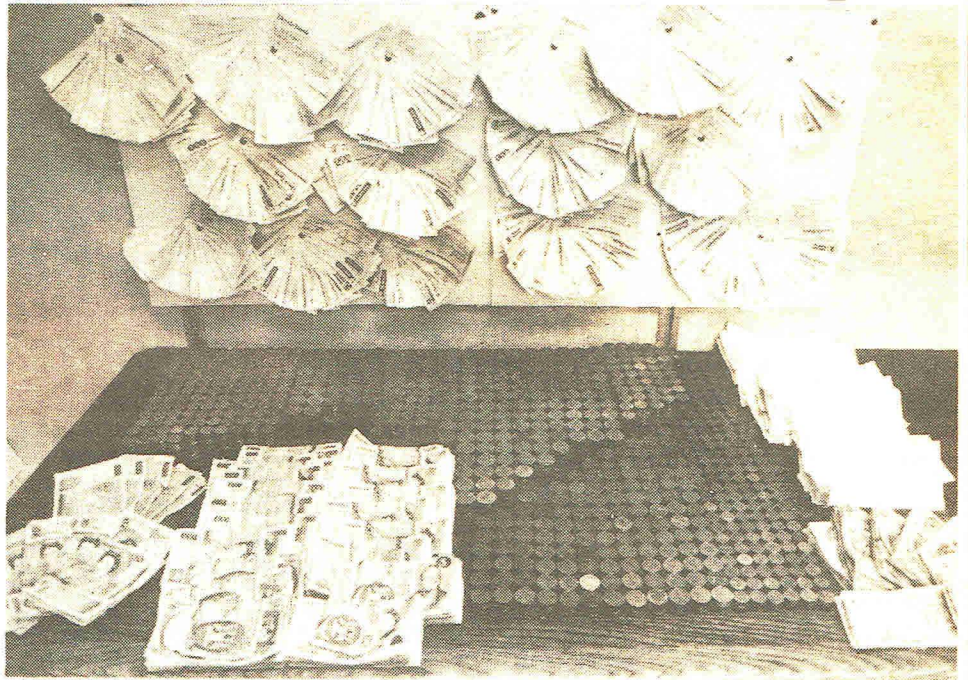
Militant supporters in Liverpool will welcome any increased debate on the general policy of the council and the financial problems of the city in particular. But they will vigorously oppose this new organisation politically, if it becomes merely a platform for cuts.

Unfortunately some of the organisers of the meeting also trotted out the old lies about alleged *Militant* "intimidation" at Labour Party meetings.

This was of course eagerly seized upon by the local press. Yet nothing was said at this meeting that could not have been said openly and freely at any Labour Party or District Labour Party meeting.

By a Militant reporter

Cash Record at rally



THE INCREDIBLE £26,587.44 raised at the *Militant* Royal Albert Hall rally is the biggest and best collection ever made in the history of the paper. We believe the total more than surpasses the present day value of the £900 collected in 1918 by the *Daily Herald* in the same hall.

Every pound reflected the real pride felt amongst our supporters and a sense of urgency for a daily *Militant*. In 1964 the first London *Militant* Readers' meeting raised £4-12s-6d. Compare that to £11,971 raised at Wembley Conference Centre, October, 1984. And now £26,587, Royal Albert Hall, November, 1985!

Yet according to the *Times*: "In recent months *Militant* has found it harder and harder to reach its fighting fund targets...!" We reiterate our challenge made to Fleet Street and TV to report the collection and the enthusiasm with which each and every pound was given.

As Peter Taaffe said: "If this is decline, let us have more of it." Our target of £21,000 (£1,000 for each year of publication) was swept aside as the money came pouring in at about £800 a minute! An anonymous donation of

£1,000 from Leeds got the collection off to a grand start but imagine our surprise when a brown envelope, casually thrown into a collecting bucket, was found to contain a cheque for £2,000 from a supporter in Sefton.

Of course not all the donations were that big but of equal value were the 100's and 100's of £21s given by school students and unemployed; the £210 donated by two unemployed supporters bearing the simple message: "Happy birthday *Militant*"; a week's wage pledged by a comrade from the NUM; £21 from a Silentsnight striker with a further £21 collected amongst other Silentsnight strikers attending the rally and many, many more!

Donations were shouted from the balcony and bunches of £21's were waved in the air for the 112 stewards to collect.

The announcement of the final total was greeted with thunderous applause, cheers and feet-stamping by comrades more confident than ever of building a socialist future.

By Ruth Campbell

Left optimistic in AUEW election

THE RESULTS of the first round of voting for the top job in the AUEW will be great encouragement to many members.

Of the seven candidates in the Presidential election, the Broad Left candidate, John Tocher, polled 50,754 votes coming second to the 72,311

votes polled by the candidate of the right wing machine and the media, Bill Jordan.

John Tocher told *Militant*: "I am very pleased with the result. I hope, however, that far more members will be voting in the next round."

"As the election is now between not the right-wing

but the ultra right wing, and myself, I believe I can unite this union, and ensure as well that we are united with the TUC and the Labour Party and so help to ensure victory in the next General Election. I believe that is what is at stake here."

21

Militant is here to stay

MILITANT'S THIRD national rally, celebrating 21 years of publication, was an inspiration to the 5,000 supporters who filled the seats and packed into the boxes normally reserved for society's high and mighty.

They came from all over the country—and they came from Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, Denmark, Ireland, Sweden and the USA. By midday the roads outside the Albert Hall were jammed with cars and coaches, bedecked with *Militant* posters.

But the rally wasn't just a show and a good day out. It carried a serious message for the labour movement. *Militant* is here to stay and here to grow.

In a major speech, Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant*, said that millions

of working people wanted to see the return of a Labour government, but not one which would follow the sorry path of socialist governments in France and Spain.

Ted Grant, political editor of *Militant*, spoke of the international crisis threatening new wars, but generating a revolutionary mood around the world.

Veteran Trotskyist from the USA, Harry De Boer, recounted his part in the great teamsters' strike of Minneapolis in 1934. As he came on stage the whole audience rose to honour this life long fighter for socialism.

Other speakers included Jack Collins of Kent NUM, who warned against miners joining the breakaway scab outfit, Linda Douglas from the LPYS National

Committee who spoke on behalf of the Groce Family Support Group, and Frances Curran, LPYS representative on Labour's National Executive Committee, who castigated the Labour leadership for saying that "the youth must wait" until a Labour government is elected. Terry Bennet, from the Silentnight strike committee appealed for support for their strike.

Battle of Orgreave

The speeches were interspersed with video films: The Battle of Orgreave, archive film of the Teamsters' strike, and a short film on the battle of Liverpool council. The interludes were filled by the Cardiff Red Choir who sang

socialist songs.

But the strongest emotions of solidarity were reserved for the struggle of Liverpool council and those who spoke for it. Terry Fields, MP for Liverpool Broadgreen said that the people of Liverpool were fighting like never before.

Derek Hatton the deputy leader of the council spoke last and was greeted with a standing ovation before he started to speak. He appealed to Neil Kinnock to back the council and ended his speech to another standing ovation and prolonged applause. It was applause not only because of the incessant abuse he has suffered but also for the struggle of the city which he represented.

It was a tremendous ending to

the rally. The fighting fund collection was announced and the great hall resounded to the stamping of feet. The choir and the audience sang the Internationale and then broke in to the battle cry of the miners... 'here we go'. Beethoven's Ninth symphony reached a crescendo. Fireworks were spewing red smoke, red balloons descended from the ceiling and the whole thing went off with an almighty bang.

It was all too much for some people, used to meeting in grubby rooms with a few torn posters. But everyone went home feeling inspired and ready to fight tomorrow's battles.

By Ben Eastop

Message to Labour-Tories can be beaten

PETER TAAFFE editor of *Militant* gave a clear message to Neil Kinnock. Labour could win the next election with a big majority by following the example of Liverpool.

Despite all the filth thrown at the council, and at individuals like Derek Hatton, according to the capitalist press Labour had increased its support. 55 per cent would vote for Labour in council elections. If this was repeated nationally Labour would win a general election landslide.

The Tory government is on the skids, he said. Despite the false claims of ministers, the government presides over the worst economic disaster for decades.

Jeffrey Archer, he said to roars of approval, "a writer of cheap fiction, well suited to writing the speeches of Thatcher and Tebbit made a very revealing comment in the *Sunday Mirror*, 'What a bunch of wallies some of those cabinet ministers are'".

Debt to miners

But he warned that if Neil Kinnock came to power it would be on the backs of the mineworkers of Britain. Working people owe a great debt of gratitude to the miners. Their struggle has revealed to millions of people the nature of society.

Instead of attacking the miners and Liverpool the Labour leadership should wear the struggles of these workers as a badge of honour.

Millions of working people want to see the return of a Labour government. But that government must grasp



Peter Taaffe, *Militant* editor, for all its 21 years

the nettle and challenge the power of the big monopolies which dominate the economy. Otherwise it will follow the very sorry path of the socialist governments in France, Spain and Greece. Now the workers in Greece are having to prepare a general strike against the anti-working class measures of the socialist party government, he said.

"*Militant* wants the return of a Labour government. But we do not want socialism in the mists of time—we want it here and now".

He went on to say that twenty one years ago when *Militant* first started, most young people would get a job. Now only 18 per cent of young people are likely to

find one.

"Our programme is very modest. It is not to take over every fish and chip shop, but to bring the 200 major monopolies, run by an unrepresentative and tiny minority, under democratic control of the working people."

Realistic programme

If all the unemployed were put to work £ billions would be created boosting the wealth of the country. House building could be trebled. Investment could be doubled. Health spending could be vastly increased. "That is not utopian. That is the only realistic programme for working people in Britain."



Militant political editor Ted Grant speaking at the Rally.

Marxism explains the world wide crisis

"**IF TROTSKY** were alive to-day, he would be celebrating this rally of *Militant*," declared *Militant's* political editor Ted Grant. He explained the background to the crisis which was threatening new wars and building a revolutionary mood around the globe.

All the productive resources which had been built up through science and technique had outgrown the barriers of the nation state and private production. "Because the world can produce so much food, people starve, so many textiles that people's clothes are threadbare, so many cars that steel works close down," he said.

He showed the special crisis in British capitalism where despite Thatcher's

claim that production was at a record level, the real figures were 10 per cent below those of 1975.

After the post war boom ended, capitalist governments had ditched Keynesian economics, which had led to inflation, and gone back to the old orthodoxy which had led to two world wars and the depression of 1929-33. The Tories would find no way out through looting the state, or the impossible idea of creating millions of one-man businesses. Nor would they succeed through cheap labour.

The Tories want Victorian level wages. Why? Because capitalist production is for profit, the unpaid labour of the working class. In a crisis, the bosses stop investing. But if they try to escape by cutting workers' wages they

also cut the market, and create a vicious circle which hits at all industries, he said.

British capitalism is now falling behind even in the most modern industries, like computers and micro-electronics. This crisis is creating the biggest class cleavage in British history.

He stressed that *Militant* would back Labour whatever programme it fought the next election on, but we would explain that capitalism cannot solve any of the problems of the working class. If the Mitterrand government could not solve the crisis of the considerably richer French capitalism, initially through radical measures including taking over a number of banking institutions, how could Labour succeed by creating one new bank?

Deadline for defence fund

18 DECEMBER is the final deadline for payment of the huge legal fees which we have incurred by our defence of TGWU members in struggle with their employer, Labour MP for Glasgow Pollok, James White.

This means supporters have two months of Labour and trade union meetings from which to get donations and to take whip rounds which will ensure we are able

to pay the £10,000 legal fees. The following donation and letter from the Executive of the Durham NUM Mechanics shows how it should be done:

"I have sent out to my branches your appeal to miners which my Area Executive Committee readily agreed to on being told of the circumstances in which you find yourselves, and it is quite right that our funds are very depleted, but perhaps some of our kinder hearted

branches might be able to give you a pound or two, and I can say quite categorically that this Association did support you politically in your stance on this particular issue.

I also enclose a cheque for £15 which was a whip round we had within the Executive Committee to try to help a little..."

Send your donations now to, *Militant* Defence Fund, 5 Cremer House, Deptford Church Street, London SE8

Beware fascist infiltrators

MILITANT HAS evidence that a fascist has tried to involve himself in activity in support of our paper, by posing as a socialist. This is a warning to all working class activists to beware.

Last week a car bomb exploded close to the headquarters of the Workers' Revolutionary Party. A man who was injured in the explosion has been arrested and charged with causing it. He is Tony East, a member of the British National Party and a bodyguard to its leader John Tyndall. He is a trainee supervisor at Ford's Dagenham.

Having found no support for their arguments and reduced to a pitiful rump of

thugs, the fascists have increasingly resorted to violence. Especially in London, they have been responsible for beatings, stabbings and the fire-bombing of the homes of blacks and Asians.

The fascists use racism to divide workers; they fear those who expose their filthy ideas. *Militant* supporters have been in the frontline of the fight against the fascists since the early 70s. Fascism and racism have to be exposed and confronted wherever they raise their heads. The labour movement has a special responsibility to campaign for the socialist policies which will finish fascism once and for all.

Tories must pay for Liverpool's crisis

LIVERPOOL CITY Council has no alternative but to reject the 'Stonefrost Report' on the city's financial crisis. Its implementation would mean £5 a week extra on the rates until the end of March, plus rent rises as high as £6.50 a week for council tenats, or up to 5,000 sackings and freezing of recruitment or delays in the housing programme, involving up to 1,500 homes.

Contrary to Neil Kinnock's jibe that the money was always there for those who really wanted to look for it, the report spells out that no solution was possible without a 15 per cent rate rise, on top of the 9 per cent rise agreed in June, and it would be back-dated to 1 April. If the money was "always there" there would be no need to levy a penny more in rates.

Moreover this rise on its own would not bring the council's income to the level of its budgeted expenditure. The report makes clear that the 15 per cent rise would merely "make it possible to select reductions in staffing and capitalisation to an extent that bridges the gap with a low rent increase." To achieve the budget level of expenditure without these additional measures would require a rates increase of eighty per cent!

No amount of juggling with the report's options make

them any more acceptable. Making one less severe could only be done by making another worse. Lower rent rises would mean more housing delayed, fewer redundancies would mean steeper rent rises. All the options would involve increases in charges for council facilities. They would be a betrayal of the promises on which the Labour council was elected.

Instead of demanding that the council make the workers of Liverpool pay for the crisis, why does Kinnock not look at the part of the report that lays the blame squarely on the Tory government's rate support grant and penalty system and the inherited problems from the previous Liberal/Tory administration.

The root cause of the crisis is the £350 million taken by the government since 1979 in rate support and other grants. The Labour Party in Liverpool has insisted that it will not increase the rates to compensate for Tory cuts. That is precisely what this report demands, along with all its other ways to make the workers pay for the crisis.

The council's achievements—building far more council houses than any other authority, opening six new nurseries, saving and creating 2,000 jobs—have led to support for Labour rising from 46 per cent to 55 per cent according to opinion polls. Rather than undermining and deriding their efforts, the Labour leadership should be using Liverpool's example to campaign for the same policies nationally. A comparable rise in popularity for the party across the country would mean a landslide victory at the next election.

The councillors have risked surcharge, disqualification and even jail to defend the interests of the workers who elected them. They have always been prepared to be flexible, but will never renege on their pledges to protect jobs, houses and services.

The ranks of the Labour Party and the trade unions will be angry and astonished that their leaders have not thrown their full weight behind the Liverpool councillors. They have thrown away a chance to go on the offensive against the Tories and turned instead against their own party's best fighters. They have done the Tories' job for them.

It is now up to the ranks to press from below to force the movement to give its total support. Next year it will not only be Liverpool. Every Labour council faces a choice next year between doing the Tories' dirty work by imposing savage cuts in jobs and services on the workers or 'doing a Liverpool', taking on the power of the Tory government with the much mightier power of the organised labour movement.

Maxwell hypocrisy

USING ALL capitalism's typical bullying methods Robert Maxwell is demanding 2,000 redundancies at his *Daily Mirror*—one third of the workforce. This is the same Maxwell who through his paper lambasted Liverpool councillors when for purely tactical reasons, as part of their fight to protect jobs, they issued redundancy notices.

Of course not one real redundancy was threatened, but that did not bother Maxwell, nor unfortunately Neil Kinnock, whose disgraceful attack on Liverpool at Labour's Conference was lavishly praised by the *Mirror*.

Maxwell himself even spoke at a conference fringe meeting on a Charter for Jobs. Will the Labour leadership now condemn with equal vigour Maxwell's real attack on workers' jobs, and expose the hypocrisy of this millionaire still masquerading as a Labour Party member?

Vital conference for FE Labour Students

FELS second Annual Conference meets on 16 and 17 November, just over one week away! All LPYS members in the FE colleges must not miss this event.

By Louise James
 (FELS Organising Secretary)

The conference is in Cardiff, Wales, where FELS members are in the middle of a battle with the local Labour council on the right to control their own funds.

Rumney Tech Students' Union's £9,000 budget for this year has been frozen by the Board of Governors and Principal. They don't 'agree' with a democratic decision made by students at their general meeting to pay for a full-time president out of their OWN funds.

Funds frozen

The ruling Labour council has defied the decision made by the County Labour Party which overwhelmingly called for the Labour council to release the funds. Meanwhile in Rumney the students' common room is empty; no trips, discos, etc can be organised because of the lack of money.

This is not the only college which is fighting for Student Union autonomy. Telford College Students' Union are not even allowed to give out the NUS paper *National Student*—because it is too political! Yet principals such as Derek Fuller in Waltham Forest Tech are allowed to make racist remarks and still remain in a position of authority.

FELS is committed to campaign for colleges to be run by elected bodies of students, college trade unions and representatives from the local community, not by unelected bodies such as the Board of Governors



Labour supporters in Liverpool Further Education back the council's stand.

and the principal who are not accountable to the students and staff in the college. The issue of democratically run colleges will be discussed during one of the sessions at this year's FELS conference.

FELS was set up by FE students in the Labour Party who are committed to campaign to defend and expand further education so that it is available to all working class people.

The FELS conference is vital to co-ordinate that cam-

aign and to rally together all those students who are not prepared to let their education be destroyed by Tory cuts.

Make sure that your college, student union or Labour Club is represented so that this year's FELS conference is even bigger than the founding conference held last November.

The cost of credentials is £5 per person which includes meals on both days, crash accommodation (please bring sleeping bags), entry to the

disco, and entry to the conference.

The conference is open to ALL FE students. However only FELS members are eligible to be delegates, so make sure that YOU become a member and take part in the decisions made at this year's conference.

Membership is £1 per year and may be obtained from Louise James, FELS Organising Secretary, c/o 24 Higgins House, Whitmore Road, Shoreditch, London N1 5PA.

FELS CONFERENCE

Saturday 16,
 Sunday 17 November
 starts noon
 at: Joint Students Union,
 Park Place, Cardiff, Wales

Speakers:
 Derek Hatton
 (Deputy Leader,
 Liverpool Council),
 Ian Lowes, (Liverpool JSSC),
 Terry Fields MP.

Also speakers from:
 Justice for the
 Pryces Campaign,
 Groce Family Support Group,
 YTURC

Sessions on: Liverpool, Racism in FE Colleges,
 Young Workers, Work For The Future Campaign

Students meet to support Liverpool fight

THE CONFERENCE organised by the Merseyside Area Students Organisation to build support for Liverpool City Council, was an enormous success.

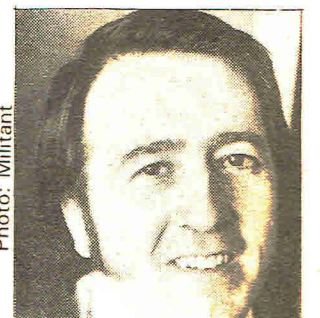
One hundred delegates representing over 100,000 students from all over England, Scotland and Wales gave enthusiastic support to speeches from the Liverpool Labour and student movements.

Unlike many student conferences, the MASO conference was like a labour movement event. The delegates and visitors heard Terry Harrison, vice-president of Liverpool District Labour Party, explain the background to the financial crisis, and why Liverpool had no option but to fight. Labour councillor Paul Lucock, vice-chair of Further Education, and Cheryl Varley, one of three Liverpool FE sabbatical officers, explained how the election of a Labour Council in 1983 had safeguarded education in Liverpool and led to reforms being won.

Closure threat

Before Labour was elected in 1983, Liverpool Polytechnic was under threat of closure.

The new academic plan drawn up by the Labour council and the new board of governors, removed the threat and invested an extra £2 million a year in the polytechnic. It prevented closure of 37 courses and provided an extra 800 places. Cheryl Varley explained future plans: "It is not enough just to reform education, we want to transform it—we need a socialist education system." The highlight of the conference was a speaker from Waltham Forest Tech who explained the struggle to remove a racist principal from her college. She announced to rapturous ap-



Terry Harrison, vice-president of Liverpool District Labour Party.

plause from the audience: "I wish I lived in Liverpool, that principal would have been kicked out weeks ago."

In the afternoon, Mick Hogan, spoke on behalf of the Liverpool Joint Shop Stewards Committee.

Pam Evans spoke on behalf of the Council Support Group. Alan Smart, president of NUS Scotland on behalf of the National Union of Students, once again reaffirmed NUS support for the struggle of Liverpool City Council.

But there was suspicion amongst conference delegates that NUS would only provide support in words not deeds.

Nimrod Sejake, a former leader of the Iron and Steel Workers Union in South Africa received a standing ovation from the conference, after explaining the struggle of South African workers, and calling for international direct links to fight apartheid.

A statement calling for NUS to organise a national demonstration in Liverpool in support of the council was passed unanimously. This success must now be built on by the campaigning work of rank and file student activists. The December NUS conference must be the focus for the next step in the campaign to ensure NUS carries out its commitment to support the council.

By John Jennings

21

Liverpool is fighting back

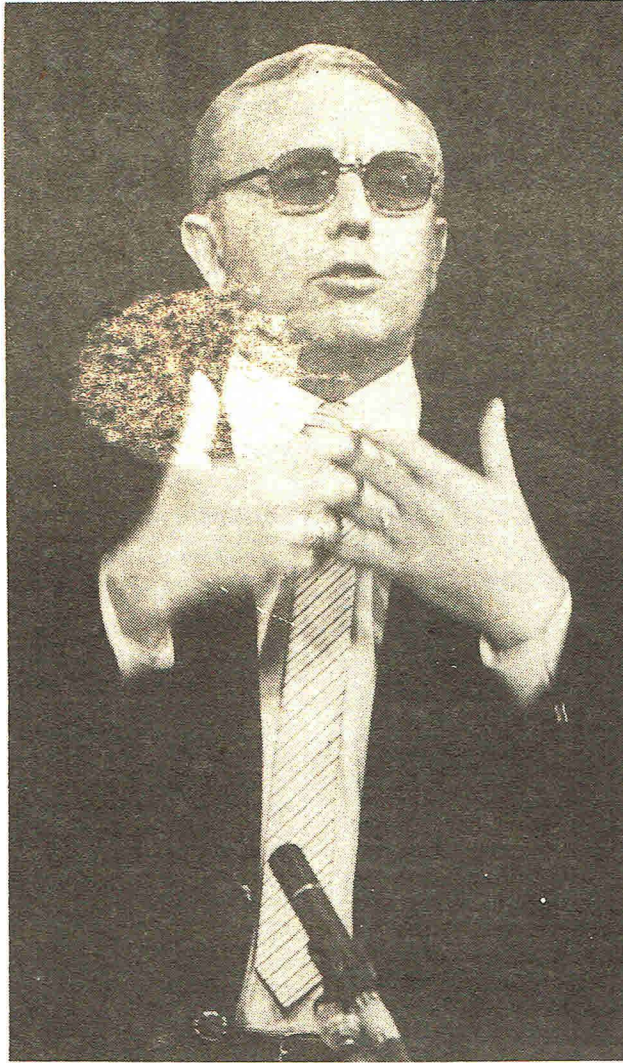
TERRY FIELDS MP spoke to the rally on the struggle in Liverpool: "The gloves are off. The people of Liverpool are fighting back as never before under the banner of Liverpool City Council. They are resisting the lies, filth and distortion of the press."

He asked those trade union and Labour leaders who are now attacking the councillors where they had been since 1978 while 65,000 jobs were destroyed in Liverpool. John Prescott was now demanding of Lord Young, the employment secretary, that he should start building houses in order to put building workers to work—"That is just what we are doing in Liverpool and being kicked around the street for it by these leaders," he said. "We are accused of being

out to destroy," he said, "The opposite is true—we are out to build. We are setting about creating conditions in society where youth can look forward to a future where families can live in homes filled with security and love and old people can live in decency."

He asked whether the next Labour government was going to nationalise just one bank, to lend money to big business at a lower rate of interest than the others, or "take over all of them, and the insurance companies and industrial monopolies, to put wealth into the hands of the workers".

He concluded: "We'll grow and we'll grow and we'll grow—we'll have Wembley stadium next year if necessary."



Terry Fields

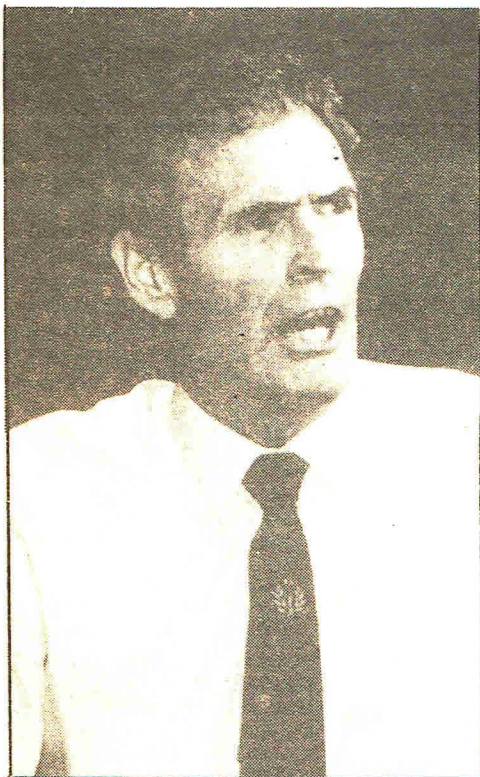
Collins warns against miners' break-away

THE FIGHTING spirit of the miners was brought to the rally by Jack Collins, general secretary of the Kent area of the National Union of Mineworkers. He warned those miners joining the break-away union that the Coal Board is no friend of the miners whether they are in the NUM or a scab outfit.

He warned too of the dangers of moves towards dictatorship: "The jackboots are being put on... We have seen them in Toxteth, in Brixton and Tottenham."

He predicted that in order to remain in power Thatcher would declare a state of emergency.

"We have got to project what socialism means" he concluded: "If we are to protect the interests of the working class, it means overthrowing this evil and warmongering society in which we live."



Jack Collins, Kent miners' leader

'Terrific' say Bold miners

"TERRIFIC"—THAT was the verdict on the rally of Gary Knowles and Stan Russell, two miners from the threatened Bold colliery in Lancashire.

"Militant has given me a new political outlook," said Stan. "Before the strike I was the only supporter of Militant and I was struggling to sell three papers, and I was also getting a lot of abuse. Since the strike finished, it has gone full circle. We have a paper sale every Friday and sell about 30 papers a week.

"Despite all the Coal Board's dirty tricks and the media lies, a lot of men at Bold will not forget the 12 month strike and will raise their heads and carry on the struggle for jobs. The Board have given a closure date in March, but have said that if there is any opposition they will bring that forward.

"In the initial stages, Bold had all the atmosphere of a sinking ship, but I spoke to



Stan Russell and Gary Knowles, miners from Bold colliery in Lancashire

some of the lads at the branch meeting where they voted to oppose the closure and they were saying 'why sacrifice those 12 months of struggle and surrender to the Coal Board?'"

Added Gary: "The ordinary miner at Bold is not fooled by the NCB and

media propaganda and the basic principle for fighting for jobs has not been forgotten. We are sick of MacGregor and the government saying that the miners have been defeated, when struggles like ours are just beginning."



Frances Curran, LPYS representative on Labour's NEC

Youth cannot wait

"NO-ONE NEEDS the ideas of Marxism more than the youth," the rally was told by Frances Curran, who represents the Labour Party Young Socialists on the party's national executive.

"The LPYS are privileged to have inherited the ideas of Marxism. They would not be 20,000 strong if the ideas of Marxism had not triumphed in the leadership.

"The Tory answer to the problems of young people is longer shields and bigger batons. Unfortunately the Labour leaders say to me and the youth: 'you must wait until we get a Labour government elected.' They were told not to demand anything and when the LPYS did demand, they were disowned, as when the school students' strike was condemned by the leadership the day before it was due to take place.

The idea of a guaranteed job for school leavers was condemned as 'preposterous' by the leader of the Labour Party. "But that is not a big demand to make; it would be easy to achieve if decisions on jobs were put into the hands of the workers themselves."

Francis ended with an appeal to young people to join the ranks of the Labour and trade union movement, reclaiming those organisations and guaranteeing youth a future.

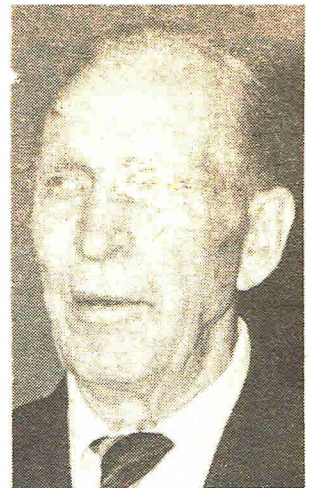
Teamsters strike veteran speaks

HARRY DEBOER got a standing ovation at the rally. After some archive film of the general strike and teamsters' battle in Minneapolis in 1934, where he had been in charge of the pickets, Harry showed how workers had won a great victory.

They won through the bravery of the workers who defied police bullets which killed two pickets and seriously injured Harry De Boer. They won through the ordinary American workers under the leadership of Marxists, who organised working class women, the unemployed and the whole community in the fight for unionisation.

Harry met Trotsky and his wife Natalya in 1940 and spoke of the warm welcome the great Marxist gave to young workers and the continuing concern Natalya had for their struggle after Trotsky's death.

At the age of 80, Harry still has great confidence in the working class internationally. "Trotsky told me 'a trade union movement alone cannot solve the problems of workers. You need a labour party controlled by a



Harry De Boer

democratic trade union movement.

"Lots of people are elected to office and then forget who put them there and why. We need the power to put people who won't fight for the workers back on the jobs they came from—and replace them.

"Our slogans in 1934 were 'every member an organiser' and 'make Minneapolis a union town'. The labour movement's slogans internationally should be 'organise the world's workers', and 'workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains'."

Justice demanded for Groce family



Silentnight strike leader Terry Bennett listens as Linda Douglas speaks to the rally

SPEAKING ON behalf of the Groce Family Support Group, Linda Douglas told the rally how the police in Brixton were openly carrying rubber bullets and CS gas.

"Riots, she said, "are an expression of blind anger and despair. The people really responsible for them are this Tory government and the police." She described

how the LPYS has intervened, explaining Marxists ideas and showing that riots were not the answer: "We demand justice, not just for the Groce family, but for all black and white workers. They need to join up in the labour movement and fight on the platform of Marxism."

Silentnight appeal

FROM THE Silentnight strike committee, Terry Bennett appealed to the rally for support for their fight, especially the rally planned for 30 November in Barnoldswick.

He told of their appeal to the local Tory MP John Lee who has 2000 shares in Silentnight. After Lee visited

Tom Clarke, the company chairman, all he came back with was: 'they walked out and they can walk back in again.'

Terry ended with his newly amended Christmas carol entitled, inevitably, 'Silent Night'.

FIGHTING FUND

This week
£22,932

MONEY IS still pouring in for the end of the Autumn quarter and a final league table will appear in next week's issue. Our total this week includes the magnificent collection taken at the Albert Hall Rally. (See page 2 and centre pages).

Our readers have kept up a steady flow of cash collected from meetings, 21st Birthday parties for our paper and donations from friends and relatives. We know that magnificent sums have been raised for the end of our quarter in addition to raising money to hire coaches to the Rally.

Supporters in the West of Scotland had to pay £2,000 to hire their coaches, Manchester supporters hired seven coaches at £300 a time!

Our supporters match socialist ideas with action. That is reflected in the donation of £50 which Abercynon lodge NUM gave to supporters in Hampshire, "in appreciation of work done by *Militant* Supporters during the strike". Why not ask your union branch to give a donation and don't forget your Labour Party ward branch, LPYS or Labour Club.

Plans should be made immediately in your area for the winter quarter. Make sure we get off to a good start. Our Winter Draw tickets have now been distributed and are available from most sellers. (See advert) Bumper sales of these could help your area reach its new target. Don't forget to order your *Militant* Calendar—half price for bulk orders provided you resell them for the Fighting Fund!

Reaching your target is easy if you plan in advance. Let us know any good ideas you have. Good luck for the new quarter!

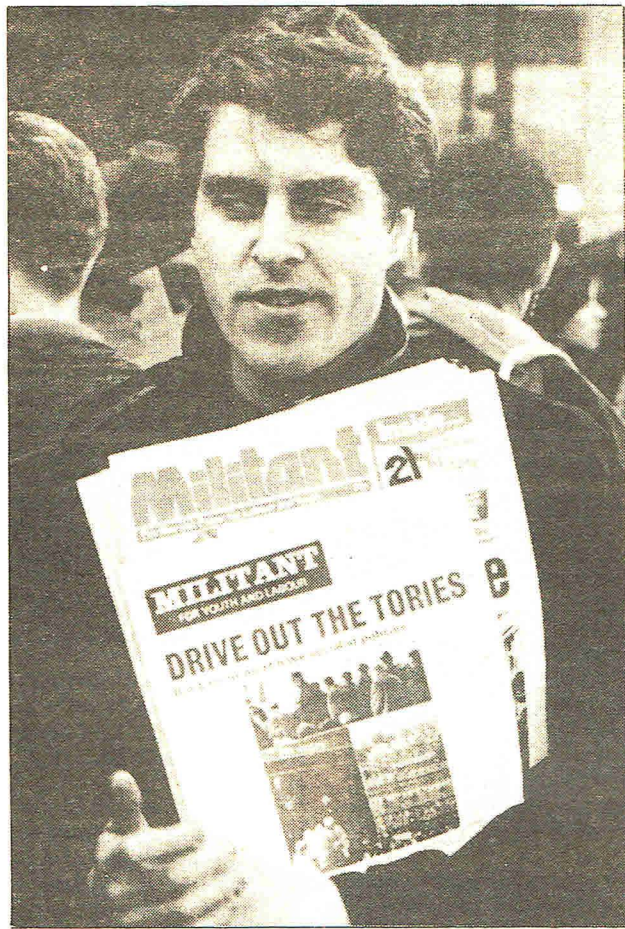


Photo: John Woulfe

Outside the Albert Hall rally. The first *Militant* and the latest on sale. Your cash can guarantee our future growth.

DONATIONS

DONATIONS: Kevin O'Connor £1.14; K Patel, Leics, £1; Readers' Meeting Islwyn constituency £70.98 after expenses, also £7.15 collected from supporters from Islwyn on the way to rally—one 21 year old gave £21.21 and £1 for the future; S Allen and L Massie, East Ham Labour Party £60; Pub collection, Sussex £8.44; T Gower, Hull AUEW branch treasurer sent his treasurer's salary £45.50 and collected £4.50 from branch members; BBQ in Taff Vale raised £18.50; Pat Dolan, Hanwell bus garage 75p; collected on London to Hull train £1.17; Broadgreen LPYS £5; AN Wallwork sent £30 with his subscription (see back page).

Another subscriber John Elliot sent an extra £11.25

with a message "Happy Birthday and keep fighting for a socialist society"; East Anglia supporter sent £38.02 proceeds of sticker sales at the Anti-Apartheid rally; A Wylie, NUM Biddulph, £5; Tony Maguire £2; AUEW, Lincs, Lil Murphy £1; NUPE; Andy Denard, Balham CLP £5; Kath James, Islington NALGO £10; Rob from Hampshire's sponsored non-smoke raised £19.50; Mary McCartney, Glasgow £2.50 and £2.50 from Jim Stevenson also Glasgow; Alan Wilks and Jeff Sharp, Notts £1.50 and £1.58 respectively; £30 sent by two comrades from Stirling who couldn't make the rally; B Roberts County Councillor, Leics 75p.

By Ruth Campbell

This week £952

THE PRESS never give up on the lies, distortions and personal attacks against the Liverpool councillors and council workers, both in the national papers and in the Merseyside press.

We urgently need to be able to answer and expose the interests behind every attack. How much we can do depends completely on the amount of cash we have available to produce leaflets, broadsheets and *Militant* on a more frequent basis. The *Mersey Militant* is a great step forward as it can concentrate on the fight facing workers in Liverpool. However, as the battle develops, a weekly *Mersey Militant* will be inadequate, as will a weekly national *Militant*. We must continue our appeal to all readers to donate a 'weeks income' to our Daily Paper Fund, or if you have given this, to donate £10 for Liverpool.

If we get a good response to this appeal we will be able

Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£		£
Eastern	4352	Scotland West	2840
East Midlands	4373	Southern	5797
London NE	5001	South West	1279
London NW	5217	Wales East	2496
London SE	2818	Wales West	1987
London SW	2287	West Midlands	3126
Lancashire	1037	Yorkshire	2899
Manchester	3167	Humberside	3410
Merseyside	6007	National	1327
Northern	4626		
Scotland East	2455	Total	66502

to arm workers with all the necessary information and explanation.

Some excellent £10 for Liverpool donations have been sent in this week, including £172 from readers in Strathclyde, £30 from readers in Mansfield, £43 from Liverpool, £70 from Southampton, £20 from Coventry and £20 from Ogmoo. Also thanks to the Coventry supporter who gave £23 'weeks income'.

If you haven't made a donation yet, please don't leave it any longer, but sent it off to us this week.

Become a 'best seller'—with *Militant*

PLEDGE YOURSELF to sell *Militant*! That was one of the most important messages to come out of the marvellous *Militant* Rally last weekend.

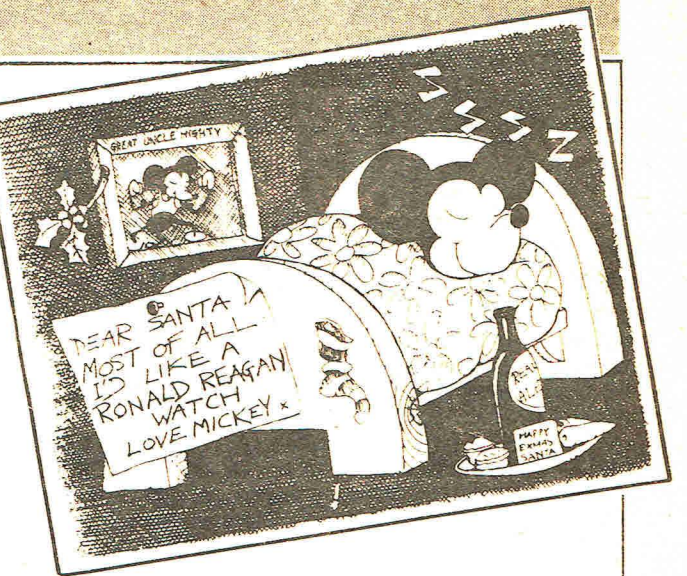
If you did not hand in a pledge at the rally or were unable to attend, get in touch with us now. Let us know how many you can start selling, or if you are already a regular seller how many extra you can sell each

week.

Perhaps sellers in a whole area could review their sales, think how many more could be sold, and make a pledge for the number extra for all the area.

Every extra commitment to sell, to help build *Militant's* circulation, brings closer the production of a more frequent paper.

Reports are coming in all the time of your outstanding



XMAS CARDS now available. Pack of four cards 75p/pack. Bulk orders of 10 packs £6.50 please enclose 25p P&P. Orders through Fighting Fund Department.

Militant Winter Draw

Registered Promoter: D. Smith, 14 Station Road, Brightlingsea, Essex. £1,000 worth of prizes to be won.

- 1st prize Video Equipment worth £500.
 - 2nd prize Stacking Hi-Fi worth £300.
 - 3rd prize Portable TV worth £100.
 - 4th prize—5 prizes of £20 worth of socialist books.
- The draw takes place on Saturday 4 January, 1986. Price of tickets: 10p (ten pence).

All counterfoils, cash and unsold tickets to be returned to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, Hackney, London E9 by first post Saturday 4 January, 1986.

EPTU BROAD Left/BLOC national conference "EETPU—fight for a democratic union" Saturday 30 November, 11.30 am to 4.30 Liverpool Maryland Street annexe, near Philharmonic Hall.

Speakers: Tony Benn MP (invited) Derek Hatton, (deputy leader Liverpool Council), Pat Weathers (Liverpool city council lighting convenor), Phil Holt (National Communications Union national executive, personal capacity and BLOC secretary), Jim Greer (Edinburgh Lodge EETPU).

All EETPU members welcome. Delegates and visitors £1; cheques payable BLOC c/o 197 Hinckley Road, St Helens, Merseyside.

ABERYSTWYTH: Weekly *Militant* discussion groups. Details, phone Alan Huyton on 615911.

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

LABOUR Federalist Group: Appropriate Levels of Government. Camden Town Hall. Saturday 9 November. 2pm. Dave Wetzel "Defending Local Democracy", Hugh McMahon MEP "Europe and the Regions."

ROCK for your rights. At the Neptune Theatre, Hanover Street. Commencing at 7.30pm each evening. Monday 11 November: Juke, Herbie Pops Out, The Touch, The Bingo Bros, Karl Terry and The Cruisers, The Undertakers. Tuesday 12 November: Phantasee, Some Party, East of Eden, Young Lions, Six, Animated Classics. Wednesday 13 November: Western Promise, The High Five, The Fire, Decemberists, Press Gang, Gone to Earth. Tickets: £2 waged*, £1 unwaged*. * 25p entrance fee. £1.75 donation waged. 75p donation unwaged. Available from Probe Records, Virgin Records, LCC Pro. Unemployed Centre, Hardman Street. All proceeds to Liverpool Labour Council Family Support Group.

ads

CLASSIFIED

15p per word, minimum 10 words.

SEMI-DISPLAY

£2 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* advertising free.

All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

EALING Borough LPYS Public Meeting "Is rioting the answer?" At Acton Town Hall on Monday 18 November, 7.30pm.

MAIDSTONE "Militant's socialist programme". Thursday 14 November, 8pm at the Wheeler's Arms, Perry Street, Maidstone.

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

A3 POSTERS for sale. "Stop the racist attacks". 50 for £3 + £1 P&P; 100 for £5 + £1.50 P&P. Post free on orders of 200 or over. Send orders to: Bow and Poplar LPYS, c/o 172 East India Dock Road, London E14, or phone 01-515 1718, or 01-515 6222.

LPYS 'Fighting for our future' T shirts (red, yellow and green on white). Available now from Lesley Phillips, 5 Alverstone House, Kennington Park Road, London SE11 5TS.

M, L, XXL for £4 or, for £4.50 get an enormous baggy one! Cheques to: 'London LPYS Campaign Fund' and add 25p P&P.

Marxist Study Tapes. Listen at your leisure to leading Marxists on theoretical and historical subjects.

C60, £1: Rise of Hitler—Jeremy Birch. Post War Boom—Bob McKee.

C90, £1.25: Spanish Revolution 1931-37—Alan Woods. The Early History of Bolshevism up to 1902 (question and answer)—Alan Woods. Permanent Revolution (Historical)—John Bulaitis. Chinese Revolution 1925-7—Peter Taaffe. Chinese Revolution 1944-49—Peter Taaffe. Trotsky Commemoration Rally (20 August 1985) Ted Grant and Dave Hemson.

Also, sessions from the Marxist Weekend School, (C90-£1.25).

Dialectical Materialism—John Pickard. Historical Materialism—Tony Cross. Is Marxism Relevant Today?—Ted Grant. The Origin of the State—Roger Silverman. Is Britain a Police State—Bob Edwards. Black Slavery—Phil Frampton. Black Nationalism—Bob Lee. South Africa: Closing Rally—Martin Legassick.

Add 10p per tape for postage. 10 for £12 post free. All cheques and PO's payable to World Socialist Books. Send to 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

Chile Day School

Organised by:

Peckham LPYS and Chile Socialist Defence Campaign

Saturday 9 November, 10.30am—5pm,

Peckham Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5.

10.30 Lessons of the Popular Unity government '70-73

2.00 Perspectives for Chile.

Followed by film and social in the evening.

Sponsored by Southwark Labour Party Trade Union Committee.

sales efforts. Recently the star *Militant* sellers have been Hamid Khayam of Bradford who sold 95 copies in one week, and Andy Dinknor from Bournemouth, seller of 52 of one issue. Also deserving a mention is Mark Carolan a 16 year old FE student from Birmingham who sold 35 on the recent CND march.

Let us know if anyone in your area can beat these. A

prize of a book voucher will be awarded to the individual with the best sale of any one issue, between now and the end of the year.

Tory Party propaganda boss Jeffrey Archer has produced low quality best-sellers for years now. You can become a high quality best seller—selling *Militant*.

By Jeremy Birch

Workers' unity only solution

THE CURRENT round of Anglo-Irish talks on the future of Northern Ireland sees the London and Dublin governments desperately seeking some form of agreement.

Predictably even the prospect of an agreement has already prompted a sectarian outcry from Northern Ireland politicians. The whole issue will be seized upon by unionists, and also by nationalist politicians to heighten sectarian tension.

When the ruling class in Britain today pleads for an end to the conflict, they conveniently forget that it was their forbears who created the problem. British Imperialism imposed partition on Ireland in 1920 to derail the growing revolutionary unity of the working class. They also wanted to retain control of industry concentrated in the North, and of the naval bases.

By the 1950s and 1960s however, partition no longer served any useful purpose for British capitalism.

This was a period of economic upswing and of a relative lull in the class struggle. The old methods of divide and rule were of no immediate purpose. Military decline plus the arrival of nuclear weapons made the naval importance of the North irrelevant.

In 1965 the British and Irish governments signed a free trade agreement which effectively opened the Southern market to domination by British capital. The South, no longer an underdeveloped agricultural country, became an important market. In 1968 it was the fifth largest importer of British goods. Two thirds of major British companies had subsidiaries there.

Economically, militarily and politically the sectarian statelet in the North which Britain had propped up for almost 50 years had become a hindrance. The border was an unnecessary destabilising factor in Ireland.

Troops deployed

For these reasons pressure was put on Unionist administrations in the North to change. Yet by 1969 they were deploying British troops on the streets of Belfast and Derry, and found they were forced to commit themselves ever more deeply.

What thwarted their every attempt to undo partition was the very sectarian monster they themselves had created. The northern statelet could never be peacefully dissolved and there existed no force which could coerce and then maintain one million hostile Protestants in a united capitalist Ireland.

Today the North has become an even greater drain on resources. In 1968 it cost £72 million to maintain. In 1984 it was £1,200 million. In addition the annual cost of retaining the troops is some £400 million per year.

Ruled out in the 1960s, capitalist reunification is a thousand times less possible today. In the interim almost 2,500 people have died and there has been enormous polarisation of the communities.

Living standards in the North have fallen drastically. Unemployment in 1967 was 8 per cent—today, the true figure is well over 20 per cent. In fact, GDP per head is now higher in the South than in the North.

Yet both are poverty-ridden and crisis-ridden. And poverty does not suddenly become attractive simply because those looking at it face poverty themselves.

Nominal GDP may be higher in the South but so are prices. State services are still much worse. 35 per



Photo: John Arthur (Reflex)

Loyalist marchers demanding the right to march through Catholic areas of Portadown in July, confront the RUC. The Protestant backlash is no bluff. While the Anglo-Irish talks will make nothing more than token concessions to the South, they will inflame Protestant feeling. The so-called Protestant veto on constitutional change is enforced by one million Protestants, with access to 100,000 guns. Irresponsibly some on the British Labour left merely call for the withdrawal of troops, even demanding a new Labour government

cent of people are dependent on the state for some or all of their income. 17 per cent of the workforce are out of work.

As with the Tories in Britain, the conservative Fine Gael-dominated government in the South is trying to solve these problems by cutting real wages and reducing services. Seeing this the fear of Protestants is that in a 32-county Ireland, ridden with economic crisis, they would be made scapegoats and would bear the brunt of attacks on living standards.

In truth, the Southern bosses have no interest in, and not the slightest desire for, reunification. For their political representatives in Fine Gael and also in the other major conservative party Fianna Fail, a united Ireland is a matter for speechifying and to divert the attention of workers away from the economic mess at home.

Even the document presented by the New Ireland Forum to show that unity would be possible, shows the opposite. It explains the amount of money spent by Britain on Northern Ireland is equivalent to 27 per cent of the North's Gross Domestic Product. It estimates that a federal Ireland which had to take on this payment would end up with 32 per cent unemployment by the 1990s on the assumption that the violence would end.

Southern capitalism could not afford a united Ireland. They accept partition. They have no wish to have to cope with half a million Catholics with high expectations of a better deal, let alone with a million hostile Protestants.

Given all this, nothing of any real substance can possibly emerge from these talks. The British government may grant a few concessions to the minority in the North like the repeal of the Flags and Emblems Act and some reform of the structure of the Ulster Defence Regiment (UDR). Possibly an Anglo-Irish commission of some type may be set up to deal with economic and security matters. Should the Tories attempt to go further they will get a bloody nose and be forced to retreat. From the South may come more cooperation on repression and perhaps a vague statement respecting the wishes of the majority in the North to remain with Britain, but also expressing the long-term aim of reconciliation and unity.

Whatever the precise terms of a possible agreement, nothing fun-

damental will change. If an Anglo-Irish talking shop is set up, the South will be given only a consultative role. Full executive power will remain with Westminster. In terms of actual change in the constitutional position 'North or South' the entire affair will be sound and fury signifying nothing.

While further co-operation on 'security' will be welcomed by the British government, this is not the prime reason for the summit.

In 1983 the three main Southern Parties joined with the SDLP in the New Ireland Forum talks. Eventually they produced a report outlining three options for the future. Thatcher wasted no words in her response. "I have made it quite clear that a united Ireland was one thing that was out. A second solution was a confederate system; that was out. A third solution was joint authority; that is out." Eleven months of discussions, 317 submissions and eventually a 38 page document were publicly dealt with in the manner of a schoolmistress marking bad homework.



Northern Ireland workers marching in support of GCHQ trade unionists.

All the Forum options were obviously non-starters. But the Forum discussions were not held with any intent of coming up with any answer. Rather they were attempts by the Southern government to buy time for the SDLP in the North and counter the arguments of Sinn Fein and the Provos.

Sinn Fein and the Provisional IRA offer no solution to the workers of the North. Their tactics of individual terrorism—of bombings and assassinations—have only deepened the sectarian divide between Protestant and Catholic

workers' unity. For without it the carnage of a Lebanon would be the terrible prospect for Catholics and Protestants. 40,000 died in three months in the Lebanese civil war of 1975. Only a united labour movement with clear socialist aims could allay the fears of Protestant workers, compel the British troops to leave and solve the issue of a divided Ireland.

workers, driving the Protestants further into the arms of the Loyalist reactionaries, while at the same time giving the British capitalist state the excuse to reinforce their apparatus of repression. The nationalist 'solutions' of the Provos and Sinn Fein have no appeal to the Protestant workers and would bring about a sectarian civil war and repartition of Ireland.

But with no lead from the labour movement, the Provos have momentarily filled the vacuum left by failure of the constitutional politics of the 'parliamentary nationalists', the SDLP, to put forward any concrete solutions. This was shown by Sinn Fein successes in the recent local government elections. At present the 'radical' nationalism of the Provos goes too far for the Southern capitalists. In a blunder now typical of the Tory government, Thatcher, by giving a frosty response to the Forum talks, gave a boost to the arguments of the Provos.

No doubt after angry remonstrations from Southern big business to

such as health, housing and education. To take such a step they need to entice the SDLP back into the political fold. The few concessions which may be given through the Anglo-Irish talks are the carrot they are prepared to offer. These are the real reasons for the summit. *Militant* has consistently explained that the real divisions within society would only be papered over but never healed by agreements reached at the top, by the representatives of British and Irish capitalism.

The roots of the violence and of the continued sectarian polarisation lie in the poverty of the North. The Tories, while devising various fragile political structures to bring 'stability' are in reality destabilising the North, by cutting health care, attacking the unemployed and presiding over the capitalist system which has turned the North into an industrial desert.

The same party which 'destabilised' Brixton, Handsworth, Toxteth and Tottenham into riot areas, can do no better in Northern Ireland. These talks will not better the conditions of either Protestant or Catholic workers. Nor will a new version of the Assembly, or Convention, or of Stormont. In the end, later or sooner, these schemes will collapse. The military holding operation, the one consistent element in the policy of Imperialism since 1969 will continue.

The net result of this Anglo-Irish initiative will in the end be to make things worse. It will achieve nothing, but will have provoked a sectarian backlash from the loyalists in the process.

The crisis of capitalism internationally and in Ireland, will lead to a worsening of national tensions, which can only be cut across by the working class taking the road of socialist struggle. Capitalism means instability and violence in Ireland. It is no good looking to the bosses, to the Tories or to the sectarian parties North and South for an answer.

While the ruling class can produce 'agreements' and 'initiatives' which inevitably will lead to more violence, the working class has the power and the ability to solve the problem.

What is needed in Ireland is not more Tory schemes but independent united action by the working class around socialist policies and for a socialist solution.

their British counterparts, the current Anglo-Irish talks are an attempt to redress the balance, and cut support for Sinn Fein through throwing a lifeline to the SDLP.

Britain's last political initiative, the Assembly, is fast running out of steam. Next year Assembly elections are due. With both the SDLP and Sinn Fein boycotting this institution these elections would be a sham.

The British government are now considering some new political structure, possibly of advisory committees to the government ministers who run public services

Thousands cel

Photos by John Woulfe, Mick Carroll and Dave Sinclair



CLARE DOYLE, one of the five *Militant* editorial board members expelled from the Labour Party, brought the rally to a close with these rousing words:

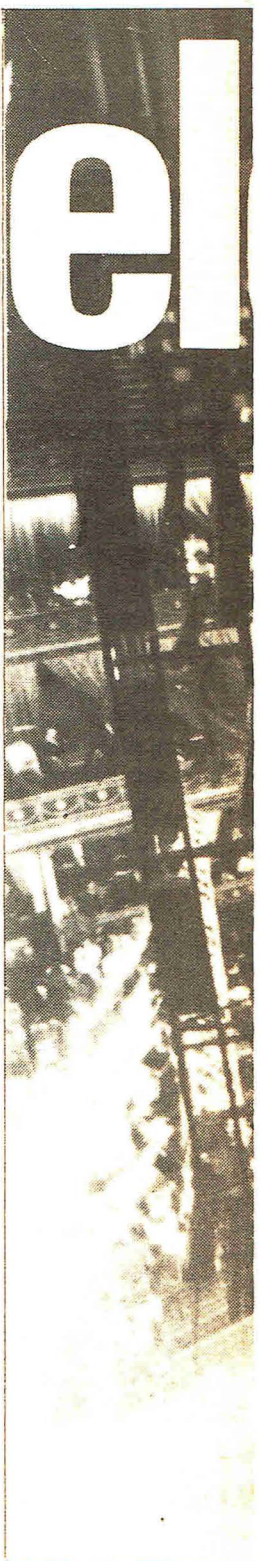
"If you were not sure before today, you know now who represents the real interests of the working class. Now it is clear that nothing less than the transformation of all the organisations of the labour movement will do—into fighting combat units in the class struggle, with a leadership that is fearless against the enemy, prepared to go to the end, to sacrifice and to inspire.

"The voice of the Marxists in Liverpool, the voice of *Militant*, is the authentic expression of all that's best in the traditions of the labour movement. It is the only voice of today that speaks with optimism about tomorrow.

"In 21 years we have multiplied the circulation of *Militant* 100 fold, our fund-raising from £150 in the first year to £250,000 in the past year.

"We know that with your help and that of millions of others in Britain and internationally the ideas and programme of Marxism will take on flesh and become a mass force on this planet. Within the next 21 years, we will be well into the 21st century. Before then, let us see.

- A resounding victory in Liverpool.
- A daily *Militant*.
- The Tories out of power for ever.
- Socialism in Britain and socialism throughout the world."



21



Top Left: Harry De Boer. Bot supporters outside the hall. Silentnight striker Terry. Above and below right: ir hall.

Militant Rally Royal Albert Hall 1985

celebrate



years of Militant



m Left:
Above:
ennett.
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Zimbabwe, Spain

Zimbabwe workers fight to save jobs

NINETY engineering workers in Zimbabwe are involved in a struggle to save their jobs as the UK parent company threatens to close Brockhouse Central Africa Ltd.

By Elma Louw

The firm has been in financial difficulty for some time as a result of gross mismanagement. The state-run Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) is prepared to buy the company and keep it going.

But the UK parent company has set very high terms for the sale, demanding for instance that they also take over the \$360,000 owed to creditors, although it has pocketed the profits! The IDC say they cannot meet the terms.

If the IDC does not take over Brockhouse, the UK parent company hopes to find another buyer. A local private firm, Bak Storage (a subsidiary of TSL Ltd) has already expressed an interest—in using Brockhouse's premises for storage! In other words, the engineering workers will lose their jobs.

If the UK parent company cannot sell Brockhouse, it will force the firm into liquidation.

Brockhouse is just an example. Unfortunately there are many more. The independence settlement gave

the people the right to vote, but it kept economic power in the hands of the capitalists. The 'socialist' Mugabe was proud to explain to US businessmen that Zimbabwe had not nationalised a single company since independence!

The politicians listen to IMF advice in the hope of attracting capitalists to invest in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile the workers suffer. Since the mid-1970s many jobs have been lost: 80,000 in agriculture, 4,000 in furniture, 10,000 in clothing, 10,000 in engineering. Most of these disappeared after independence.

Corrupt unions

Unfortunately, the workers at Brockhouse do not have an effective union. On the contrary! Their union is officially the National Engineering Workers' Union (NEWU), formerly GEMWU, whose corrupt officials were responsible for the ar-

rest of 14 union members and socialists earlier this year, and the torture and deportation of some. Their crime was campaigning for union democracy and socialist policies.

Last year an official of this union signed redundancy papers with Brockhouse management, without consulting the workers. The only representation the workers have at present is their workers' committee, elected by all workers in the factory.

The present NEWU 'leaders', like those of many other unions, are not trusted and often hated by the workers. They are corrupt, and are seen more often with management than workers.

At Treger Industries in Bulawayo, for example, the regional organising secretary of NEWU had to be rescued from 250 angry workers.

The workers were demonstrating because the union's general secretary, David Chimusoro, had signed an unsatisfactory agreement with management for a medical aid scheme without discussing it with the workers, who opposed it.

Mass democratic trade unions still have to be built in Zimbabwe to defend jobs, living standards and working conditions. At present most

workers are organised in their factories through workers' committees. By building these committees into fighting organs of the working class, and linking them together industry-wide, they will be able to take over and transform the unions.

Trade unionists in Britain can support their brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe. In the case of Brockhouse, workers in Britain could demand that the UK parent company drop all obstacles to an IDC takeover of the engineering firm in co-operation with the workers. Especially in engineering, workers could raise support for the Brockhouse workers in their union. They could take up contact with the Brockhouse workers to discuss joint action to save the company.

For information on how to support the Brockhouse workers, please write to: Southern African Labour Education Project, 28 Martello Street, London E8 3PE. Phone: (01) 241 0434.



Pre-independence demo in London. Most Zimbabweans voted for Mugabe to bring social change as well as independence.



Workers surround the regional organising secretary of the NEWU at Treger Industries in Bulawayo, after officials signed an unsatisfactory medical aid deal.

Repression in the Basque country

THREE YEARS after the Socialist Party (PSOE) gained its widely welcomed election victory in Spain, there have been no moves to resolve the problems of the country's Basque national minority.

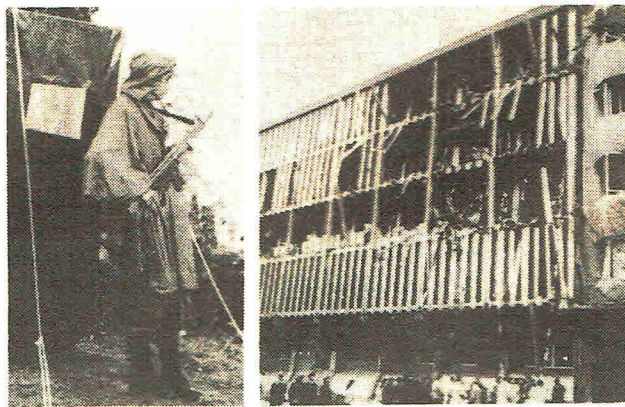
The Basques were savagely repressed during the decades of Franco's dictatorship forcibly denied the use of their language, and denied any measures of self-determination by the fascist regime.

The article below comments on the situation today where Felipe Gonzales' government continues to use methods of repression, and the separatist movement ETA(M) have taken to terrorist action. The article was translated from the Spanish Marxist paper *Nuevo Claridad*.

LAST MONTH four ETA activists were assassinated in France by members of the Marseilles mafia—hired hit men. The question is—"who paid them"?

Since the right wing vigilante organisation "The GAL" ("Armed Groups of Liberation") appeared in 1983, they have been linked on several occasions with the police, security and intelligence services. All evidence in the case of the killing of the respected Basque nationalist leader Santi Brouard points in the same direction.

An Italian judge claims to have proof of the connection between the GAL and the security forces. Spain's



A soldier stands guard near a telephone exchange bombed by ETA (M). Gonzales' only response to the Basque question is repression.

PSOE government however seem to welcome any action directed at the physical extermination of ETA.

Six years after the Spanish government granted "autonomy" to three Basque provinces of Northern Spain there is no end in sight to the violence which has claimed more than 500 lives since ETA launched its campaign for independence in the late 1950s. ETA has stepped up its activities this year, carrying out more than 30 killings.

The PSOE government has only strengthened repressive measures against ETA. But if they think that this will finish ETA they are very mistaken.

If ETA (Military) has problems it is not because of government repression but in spite of it. ETA (M) is in crisis because sections of Basque youth and workers more and more see individual terrorism as a dead end method of struggle for

national democratic and class demands. Increasingly, they see individual terrorism having opposite results from those it intends to achieve.

In this climate government policies of repression of the Basque movement, and a refusal to fight against GAL, give ETA a lifeline, enabling it to still claim substantial support. Instead of investigating the evidence implicating GAL and the security forces in the killing of Santi Brouard, government ministers seem intent on whitewashing the case.

If the PSOE government seriously want to isolate ETA(M) from the Basque people, the only way would be to implement policies in defence of the democratic rights of the Basque people. In particular this means the right to self determination and an end to unemployment which drives the Basque youth to terrorism and desperation.

REVIEW

The Spanish Revolution 1931-37

THE SPANISH revolution was one of the most important episodes in working class history. This pamphlet, written by Ted Grant and Peter Taaffe, explains the development of the revolution between 1931 and 1937.

The fundamental point of the pamphlet is to show how the ideas of popular frontism led to the destruction of a heroic and powerful working class striving for power. "Popular Frontism" basically meant that workers' parties, such as the Spanish Socialist Party should form a joint electoral block with 'liberal' capitalist parties.

The theoretical basis for this, which originated with the Stalinist Comintern in 1935, is that certain sectors of the bourgeoisie can play a "progressive role" within society, ie develop the economy, keep 'democracy' and provide better living standards. So the workers' parties should form a political alliance with these sectors against the so-called "reactionary" bourgeoisie. There was still, they implied, the basis for developing society within capitalism.

In effect this meant that the Spanish Radical Party, the main capitalist party in the Popular Front government was allowed to carry out its capitalist programme and use the workers' leaders to stop the working class movement striking.

None of the leaders of the workers' parties, from the mass Socialist Party, to the supposedly Marxist POUM and the Communist Party, who were the loudest proponents of popular frontism,

could provide an alternative to the popular front for the workers, and break from it. Each of them no matter how loud their leftist rhetoric in the end became apologists for the government.

The experience of the Spanish Popular Front is important because in one form or another these bankrupt ideas are being dug from the graves of the Spanish workers and put forward in many other countries, especially by the Communist Party.

In the opening part of the pamphlet, Peter Taaffe takes issue with an apologist of the Communist Party, Monty Johnstone, who tries to argue that Spain's popular front was "progressive" and wasn't the real cause for the defeat of the workers.

Taaffe points out that the only measures of reform that the government sanctioned were those which the workers had already put into action, where the government had no choice but to

accept. This was the case with the takeover of the land. Landless peasants simply took the land they had worked on, without waiting for any government decree.

The Popular Front government played a totally reactionary role in Spain where they not only refused to implement social reforms, but held back the masses from moving instinctively to crush Franco's fascist uprising in 1936 when it was still weak.

Ted Grant describes how when news of the fascist uprising reached the workers they immediately moved to the defence of the towns and cities and demanded arms to defend themselves, only to be told by Quiroga, the Spanish Prime Minister: "Anyone who gives arms to the workers without permission will be shot".

Reviewed by
Manuel Gonzalez



★ **The Spanish Revolution (1931-37) by Ted Grant and Peter Taaffe. Price 70p (plus 20p post and package) from World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.**

Greece, South Africa, Youth unemployment

Greek workers strike back at austerity measures

GREECE IS going through a new stage of bitter conflict between the classes. After a series of major strikes, a one day general strike has been called for 14 November against austerity measures proposed by the Socialist Party (PASOK) government.

By a correspondent

Industry was at a standstill, small shops closed their doors, most transport was paralysed. This was followed by a series of one day strikes throughout Greece, with workers coming out sector by sector.

Enormous pressure was building up for a recall conference of the Greek TUC to discuss a one day general strike. But TUC President George Rastopolous used his casting vote on the TUC administrative council to block such a call; he backed the austerity measures, as did the secretary general. The majority of the administrative committee, both members of the Communist Party and expelled members of PASOK, then voted to remove the president and secretary.

The TUC was then presented with an injunction by pro-austerity union leaders. The government were using laws passed by the military junta of 1967-74 to reimpose the two right-wing leaders and in effect dismiss the other leaders!

Now those unions which backed Rastopolous' dismissal have called for the strike on 14 November. The implications of these developments are still rumbling through PASOK with more expulsions being forced through.

But thousands of PASOK members are looking for an alternative and demanding that PASOK implement a Marxist programme. On the 21 October demonstration, the Communist Party started the chant "down with capitalism, down with the monopolies"; many PASOK members took it up.

Marxists supporting the paper *Xekinima* had been expelled from PASOK a decade ago when the leadership had tried to close down the journal. During the election this summer they were

active in fighting for a PASOK victory. In fact the party officials had paid for the production of the paper and of *Xekinima* posters as the best propaganda against the right-wing New Democracy. Support for Marxism has already grown enormously.

Xekinima supporters were widely welcomed during the anti-austerity strikes, speaking at many mass meetings. At one factory, 400 workers gave a speaker four standing ovations. In recent elections at technical colleges, which are very widely attended by Greek workers, 98% of all candidates supporting *Xekinima* were elected, and Marxists are now the leaders of students at 10 technical colleges and effective leaders in ten others. Workers have been phoning *Xekinima* for advice, for bulk orders of papers and asking how to help the fight for a Marxist programme.

The bosses want the PASOK leaders to keep the working class 'calm' knowing that a New Democracy government would have fallen if it had tried such measures. But workers will resist.

After the election *Xekinima* warned that although workers would back every advance the government made: "it will not accept any anti-worker measures even if they come from a PASOK government. The 5 million days of strike action in 3 1/2 years are ample warning.

"Every attempt by the government to hinder the process of change will create an enormous upheaval within the movement and PASOK itself. Every activist or PASOK member must make a choice, on the side of the workers or on the side of capitalism." A few short months after, that day of decision is arriving; the demand for a Marxist alternative will grow.



The 21 October demonstration in Athens.



Xekinima supporters lobby PASOK leaders in Athens on 27 September to keep their election promises.

South Africa's backlash election

IN FIVE South African by-elections on 30 October, the white electorate slashed the majorities of the ruling National Party in four constituencies.

In the fifth, Sasolburg, the far right Herstigte Nasionale Party (HNP) won the election, the first NP defeat in the Orange Free State since 1953.

The revolutionary developments in South Africa are having a deep impact on the apartheid regime. The revolt of the youth in the black townships against the horrors of the system and the growth of independent unions and political organisations has forced the ruling class into fiercer repression—backed up by a handful of very minor concessions to try to stem the tide of revolution.

All attempts to involve the Asian and coloured communities and now the black majority in the system have failed abysmally. The sufferers from apartheid want to end the system—and increasingly see the enemy as capitalism as well as white

rule and discrimination.

The crisis of South African capitalism, which is dependent on the slave labour of apartheid, makes real reforms impossible. But the richest whites, the gold and diamond emperors and the top industrialists can consider without trembling dismantling some of the minor parts of apartheid, such as the prohibition of mixed marriages and the ban on black workers doing skilled work.

Reactionary

The poorer whites feel themselves most immediately threatened by the end of discrimination and have turned at first to reaction. The average white child has ten times the resources—in education, health care etc—as a black child. But the white workers and middle class have more to lose than the upper class whites in the short term.

Sasolburg was probably partly a protest vote. Living conditions for South Africa's less privileged whites have fallen. Some whites who fled Zimbabwe

after independence are now returning, seeing a better life there than in South Africa.

But the filthy racist propaganda of the HNP won the election by playing on whites' feeling of fear. The HNP voters probably mainly hope to pressurise Botha into reversing the reforms. The government cannot maintain apartheid in the old form, nor can it afford to alienate its political base among whites of all classes.

In spite of the viciousness of their treatment by white workers in supervisory posts in industry and their justified hatred of the police, many black workers instinctively realise the need to appeal to white workers, in order to split the apartheid enemy.

The cracks in the National Party monolith, even though they are first seen in a reactionary form, are a sign that sections of the white working class, themselves exploited by the bosses, can be split from support of apartheid. But only on the basis of a consistent class appeal and a clear fight against both apartheid and the capitalist system it was designed to uphold.

No boom for young workers

THE BOOM of the last two years has made little impact on unemployment throughout the major capitalist countries. This is particularly the case with youth unemployment.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reports that in the recession years between 1979 and 1982 youth unemployment rose by a half in the advanced capitalist countries of the OECD to an average level of 17.4 per cent. The lowest percentage was 4.4 per cent in Japan, the highest was 36.9 per cent in Spain.

The boom years have brought a slight improvement to job prospects in the

USA but Japan's youth unemployment has gone up to 4.9 per cent last year while the overall unemployment rate in the major European countries carried on rising. Despite a number of cosmetic youth schemes, it went up to 21.1 per cent in 1983, 22.2 per cent in 1984 and 22.7 per cent this year. Spain's youth unemployment has gone up even faster to over 46 per cent.

The report also shows that working class youth moving into their twenties found their employment prospects were not improving. The OECD say today's youth unemployment is tomorrow's adult unemployment problem.

Fighting privatisation

Dear Comrades,

I was interested to read the article on privatisation (*Militant* 771). We are having a public meeting in Grimsby on 21 November on Liverpool City Council.

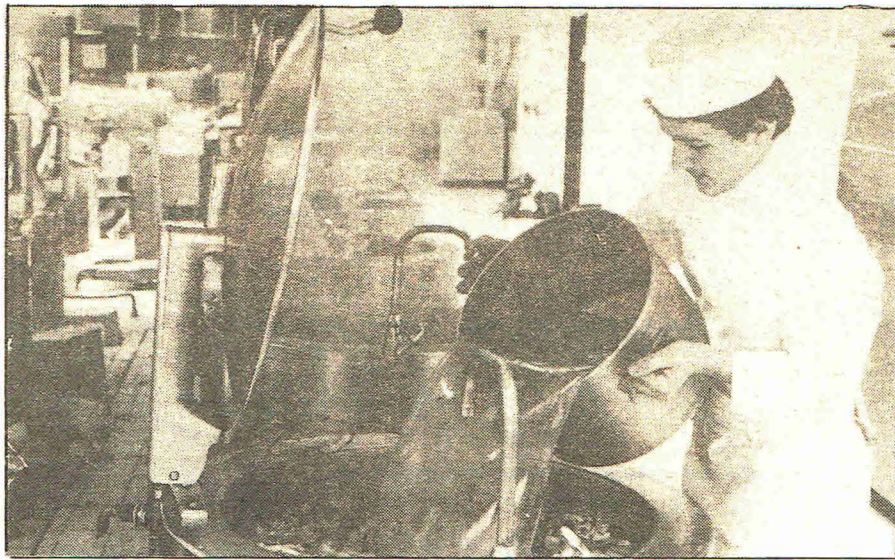
Humberside County Council have just announced cuts in school dinners. Of course dinner ladies are to be made redundant, school kitchens are going to close and yet the rates are going to rise by 30 per cent.

A comrade and myself have been going round some of the school kitchens to find out if the dinner ladies would like to come to our public

meeting. We were met with an enthusiastic response as working class people want to know exactly where they stand.

At one kitchen the cook said she had just received a letter from the shop steward, the first communication of any kind in three years. All I can say is the unions have to pull their socks up if we are to fight the Tories. The unions must come out in full support of no privatisation, no cuts in the workforce or their wages.

Yours fraternally
Pat McEwan
Cleethorpes



Public sector workers need a campaign to stop privatisation of potentially profitable sectors. Jobs and services before profits!

Abortion double-standards?

Dear *Militant*,

Your article (*Militant* 770) on the rejection by the Labour Party conference of the 'conscience clause' on matters relating to abortion or embryo experiments leaves the Labour Party open to charges of double standards.

Apparently we can safely leave matters such as capital punishment to our MPs, but not abortion etc. How can we be seen as the party which champions human rights, mainly under authoritarian regimes abroad, but when it comes to issues closer to home, we sweep aside certain people's rights because we fear the outcome of the exercise of those rights will not agree with our views?

How much longer are we going to permit a system whose injustices are paid for by innocent children?

The exponents of capitalism are well satisfied with this state of affairs—after all, if they can prevent the birth of so many of us, think how much money they will save on our health care, education and welfare benefits!

And women? After an abortion, their original problems remain, plus the additional one of coming to terms with the abortion. The rights of women can never be advanced while this convenient 'solution' to their problems is on offer.

Neither will our reputation as a caring party, champions of the weak, be furthered while we tolerate double-standards.

Yours in peace
Ann Farmer
Essex

Letters

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

A booming slump

Dear Comrades,

Manchester's Chamber of Commerce and Industry has issued its quarterly report which once again exposes the collapse in manufacturing industry that has taken place even during the Lawson 'boom'.

Latest figures show that domestic orders for the

North West region factories have fallen by 31 per cent! Export orders are down 21 per cent. Deliveries are down 31 per cent and companies working at almost full capacity, down 14 per cent.

No wonder our Lords have been shaken from their sleep. If Lawson says this is the recovery...

Yours fraternally
Phil Frampton
Chorlton Labour Party

First class *Militant*

Dear Comrades,

I would like to congratulate the editor Peter Taaffe, and all the other writers on *Militant* for making available to the general public such a first-class socialist newspaper.

I have only recently started buying *Militant*, but from now on in I'll be a regular reader of the paper. Other so-called socialist newspapers like *Labour Weekly*, *Tribune*, and *Labour Monthly* come a poor second when compared to *Militant*.

If only the Labour leadership would read *Militant* on a regular basis and don't bother too much with the Tory press, then I'm sure they would talk much more openly about implementing real socialist policies when the Labour Party wins the next general election.

I personally think that people like Kinnock and Hattersley and many others in the Labour Party should be very much more concerned about their image in papers like *Militant* than in the Tory-controlled press. Oh for a thousand Tony Benns!

Yours sincerely
John Milton
Glasgow

Bloodsport

Dear Comrades,

I thought you might be amused to hear of a conversation I overheard. One Tory to another in a non-union office: "How are you getting along these days?"

"Oh, not so good, I can't come to terms with the way I feel about myself, hating everyone and arguing all the time, I'm getting to hate myself".

"Well, why don't you join the police or play rugby; do something to get rid of the aggression...!"

When even well-heeled Tories casually refer to the police as thugs it seems that the demands for public accountability are not only essential but well overdue.

Yours fraternally
Terry Brown
Harlow

Media bosses demand witch-hunt



Labour MP Terry Fields joins protests against the expulsion of Labour Party members in Blackburn last year. Photo: John Chapman (ii)

Dear Comrades,

While I was sitting down for Sunday lunch with the TV on, I had the 'pleasure' of seeing two items about *Militant*, within a few minutes of each other.

First up was the *Agenda* programme on TVS, which is our regional 'independent' channel. This had a short item on *Militant*, mainly about the recent attempted witch-hunt in Faversham CLP of three *Militant* supporters.

Apparently, Kinnock's Bournemouth speech has "given renewed hope to CLPs who are trying to get rid of the extreme left". Further to that, TVS assert that membership of the Labour Party for those three *Militant* supporters is not secure. And "they understand that the three are being watched and that their activities will once more come under close scrutiny".

This statement was followed by an "analysis" of the chances of the (so-called) 'new left' of ousting *Militant* from Brighton Kempton. This is an attempt to stir up the confidence of the right to launch a new and widespread witch-hunt across the south, and would also seem to be a warning that, despite Kinnock's speech, these nasty *Militant* people haven't been got rid of, and that this somehow threatens the chances of a Labour government being elected.

Anyway, what I wanted to know after the programme was who is doing the 'close scrutiny' of *Militant* supporters. As it happened I didn't get much of a chance to mull this over, as I switched the set over to discover that the BBC were launching their own 'scoop' about events in Knowsley North CLP, which comrades reading this will doubtless already know about. Robert Kilroy Silk's allegations about a conspiracy to get rid of him as MP in that CLP were very interesting coming but seconds after the statements made by TVS.

Yours fraternally
K Blake
Folkestone

Badgered by the right-wing

Dear Comrades,

At Labour Party conference Tony Benn told a story about the pensioner in his constituency who said that he had "Labour against privatisation" badges and "Labour against the bomb" badges, "When are we going to get 'Labour against capitalism' badges?"

This story has been brought back to my mind by

some comments which have been directed at me in my local Labour Party. During the course of discussions I and other comrades have been attacked for wearing badges which read: "I support Liverpool Labour council".

Well, to me this badge represents the badge that the pensioner in Tony Benn's story was asking for. My

badge means "Labour against capitalism" as the struggle of Liverpool City Council is the struggle of the workers of that city against the system which dictates that they must suffer mass unemployment and horrific housing conditions.

So to those people who ask me why I don't wear a badge saying I support this Labour council and that

Labour council, I say, when those Labour councils stand up and fight to defend workers I will gladly wear a badge to support them.

Yours fraternally
Stephen Smellie
NUPE Youth
Advisory Committee
East Kilbride

LEFT and RIGHT

Tories' bankrupt policies

THE TORIES are still trying to tell us the economy is on the mend. Dave Nellist, Labour MP for Coventry South East is not convinced. Last week he asked the Tory government for figures on bankruptcies, in comparison with 1979. In England and Wales in 1979 there were 3,500 bankruptcies and 4,537 company liquidations. This year so far (up to September) there have been 5,033 bankruptcies and 10,753 company liquidations.

Then and now

THERE IS growing demand for a retrial of the six men imprisoned for life after being convicted of the horrific Birmingham pub bombings in 1974. There is damning new evidence that the six are innocent, and were found guilty through now disputed scientific evidence while it is alleged confessions were beaten out of them by the police (see last week's *Militant*). Amongst those demanding a retrial is Roy Jenkins of the SDP. Roy Jenkins was of course the Home Secretary in 1974 when the six were jailed.

Dying to help out

WARWICKSHIRE County Council met recently to discuss ways of encouraging more people to volunteer for the emergency services, to deal with the results of a nuclear holocaust. Tory councillor Gordon Jones told the meeting: "I am a bit concerned that the only volunteer we have is a local undertaker. I understand he's bought himself a second tape measure".

Why Scottish teachers have fought for a year

TERRI PATTERSON EIS Central Region Local Association Executive (personal capacity) looks at the teachers' dispute in Scotland where the work-to-contract began just over a year ago.

THE PRESENT dispute has its roots in the Houghton Commission on teachers' pay and conditions of 1974. Houghton gave teachers all over the UK the best increases they had ever had, but it created a faith in 'commissions of enquiry' as an answer to problems of teachers' pay.

The union, too, failed to sustain the impetus which had brought 'Houghton' into being, and from the very next year the erosion in pay levels began again.

The Clegg Commission was set up by an out-going Labour government and reported to the new Prime Minister, Thatcher. The findings offered a detailed assessment and an award just adequate enough to be accepted by English and Welsh teachers.

In a final paragraph, the report stated that Scottish teachers should 'adapt the findings' to their quite different situation.

The explosion of anger which followed such a contemptuous dismissal of the Scottish system with its radically different structure, enabled the EIS to wrest from the Scottish Office 'extra' money to remove the most serious discrepancies between salaries north and south of the border... and then next year the erosion began again.

In 1981, the EIS having examined the pattern of teachers' salaries wrote to George Younger, the Secretary of State for Scotland, asking him to discuss some better way of arriving at teachers' salary levels than steady erosion, broken by an upheaval every five years. The Secretary of State replied that "I can see no prospect of fruitful discussions along the lines suggested".

In the years since then the EIS has tried every possible way but one of obtaining a salary increase, and has seen salaries eroded further every year.

Independent Review

It began to seem to the leadership that only an independent review had yielded anything approaching a decent pay increase for teachers.

What this line of thinking ignores is that those fairly satisfactory reviews were the government response when the teachers' anger boiled over! They were never granted without a hard campaign and they had the effect of bringing the pressure for regular pay increases to a complete stop, usually for years.

In 1983, Scottish teachers were offered a miserly 4.9 per cent. The EIS Executive were split. In the end, they balloted on the offer, with no recommendation, and vague wording.

The vote to take action was narrowly lost 48-52. The rage and sense of betrayal which followed was clear to all. The Executive brought to the annual conference (quaintly called the Annual General Meeting) a programme for a campaign for an independent pay review.

Many on the left have criticised this campaign: it makes the teachers a 'special case' and so isolates them from the rest of the labour movement; it gives credence to the idea that any pay review in the present economic climate can be 'independent'; it encourages the belief that pay reviews rather than militancy bring success; it focuses on the pay campaign and ignores deteriorating conditions and the wider effect of the cuts.

Despite all these real drawbacks, however, the campaign has mobilised teachers as never before. The ban on curriculum development lifted a crushing burden and made many teachers aware just how the system has become dependent on teachers' unpaid labour.

The work-to-contract made clear to many teachers that, far from having 'short hours', they had been work-

the targeting of schools in the constituencies of government ministers has helped to make clear where the blame lies in this dispute.

Throughout this action support from most parents and even from the media has remained high. Teachers in targeted schools, often not in the strongest union areas, have come under intense pressure from small groups of organised and hostile parents, many of them managers in local industry.

These teachers have responded with courage, clear-sightedness and loyalty to their union that could not be bettered anywhere. They have been supported by the huge majority of parents who know where the blame lies. At parents meetings all over the country, the main question has been: "what can we do to help?"

From the outset this has been a fight in which the members have taken the lead. Since this is a clear campaign in which local union associations have a measure of control, local leadership has been important and time and again the membership has put pressure on the leadership to stand firm. The mood of militancy has also made it easier for local leaders to resist management abuses in other areas.

This pressure from the membership has been most crucial in terms of the aims of the campaign. It has been

Ten years ago John Mackay was a striking teacher at Oban High School. Now he is the local Tory MP and Junior Minister. He recently condemned striking teachers, and since the action started has removed his son from Oban High and sent him to a private school.

ing unpaid overtime for many years and the remedy was in their own hands.

All over Scotland, teachers were drawn into the fight. The first teachers to be disciplined were in the far north—primary teachers in Caithness. Again in the north, Inverness Town Hall was packed and an overflow meeting had to be arranged. Heavy handed provocation by the management in the Hebrides brought anger and clear support for the campaign—after an about-face by the management.

Even the other teaching unions were drawn into action while EIS membership, already the overwhelming mass of the work-force, has continued to grow.

The curriculum boycott and the work-to-contract have been the core of the campaign. Rota strikes in different areas and calling out sections at a time, have demonstrated how widespread support is for the campaign and held the attention of the media.

In a more sustained move,

clear from the beginning that this is about much more than teachers' pay. Such a long-term struggle has had advantages. There has been time for the members to discuss and to learn.

When the campaign began it was with the ban on curricular development. This struck a chord immediately among teachers. Education in Scotland was in crisis. For more than a decade schools had been starved of funds. Buildings had fallen into disrepair, in-service training was becoming a thing of the past, less and less was being spent on essential books and equipment.

All this would have been bad enough, but, in the middle of such decline, the government chose to introduce a sweeping programme to reform the entire system of education and exams.

Many teachers in pilot schools seized upon the new ideas. At last something was being done for the less able. A considerable amount of valuable material was pro-



Above and below: Scottish teachers on the march

Photos: Rick Matthews (IFL)

duced. Some excellent work was done.

The pupils responded well. The best of what was produced at that time was very good indeed. The warnings of those who saw that the momentum could not be kept up without a real increase in resources of staff, training and materials, were drowned in the euphoria of those who were responsible for the new ideas.

The EIS AGM of 1983 rejected a freeze on Munn and Dunning (the reforms) but, in the year that followed, the reality became clear. The reforms were to be implemented at the teachers' expense.

Government and local authorities' finance contribution was derisory. Teachers were to design the courses, test them, write the books, print the books, teach the courses, evaluate the pupils' achievement and mostly in their own time.

Teachers became disillusioned and demoralised. The mood, post Munn and Dunning, in secondary schools only matched what had been the case for some years in the primaries. Now, with the pay campaign, the mad merry-go-round was stopped. Teachers will not get back on that merry-go-round just for higher salaries.

This determination has been coupled with the ever-present fear that, in a settlement, a 'trade-off' might be attempted which would worsen conditions in exchange for higher salaries. Repeated denials by the General Secretary have failed to calm members' fears on this subject.

Special General Meeting

Finally, at the Special General Meeting, insisted upon by members, which took place during the AGM in June 1985, the following resolution was passed:

"That this SGM resolve that the curricular development boycott will continue until necessary improvements have been achieved in relation to conditions of service, staffing and provision of other resources. Current management overtures will have to be met in the light of this



resolution".

Now the campaign is well into its second year. The ballot on action against the 1986 exams has just produced an 87 per cent 'yes' vote.

Certainly teachers must demonstrate to the government that they have the stamina to outlast it, if necessary. The government may be prepared to sit out this dispute. But in the meantime, the Scottish education system is bleeding to death.

Socialists and trade unionists, cannot be surprised that a Tory government is willing to let this happen. Tories' children are at school in the private sector. Tory leaders today are too short-sighted to see the value of investing in an educated workforce for the future just as they are too stupid to invest in modern equipment and training for the present workforce.

Under capitalism, we cannot have a decent education service. Their crisis-ridden system cannot afford it—which is just another reason

why we cannot afford them.

They can be fought, however, and Thatcher can be turned. This campaign must be stepped up quickly. Ways must be found to involve many more members actively and directly in the fight.

Already this dispute has exposed the government to the public not only as uncaring, unprincipled and untruthful but also as incompetent. The Tories in Scotland are divided and despairing.

We in the EIS must increase the pressure now. We must take the fight into every community, every factory, every local authority depot. All the experience of the fight to date shows we will have massive support. Thousands of members are waiting to be called out. They must not be ignored.

Link up with our comrades in England, Ireland and Wales—a process already happening and which must be greatly accelerated—we teachers must teach this Tory Government a bitter lesson.

National Communications Union conference special

Telecom and postal jobs under attack

EVERY WORKER in our union feels some threat to their own job. During the discussions around the recent pay campaign the 'strings', rather than the actual amount, emerged as the most objectionable part of the offer.

The fact that British Telecom and the Post Office could be contemplating redundancies when both industries are making large profits was considered by many NCU members to be not only unreasonable but deeply offensive.

The communications industry is one of the few growth sectors of the economy. In the search for fast profits, many traditional industries have been underinvested and have therefore become unable to compete. However, as nationalised companies re-invested the bulk of their profits, communications in general, and especially Telecoms, enjoyed modernisation and expansion.

We have the potential not only to provide permanent employment for existing staff, but to start to reduce the appalling dole queue. Unfortunately, management

By Kevin Pattison
(Leeds Internal Branch
NCU Personal capacity)

in both industries seem obsessed with attacking jobs, not creating them. They have not even had the honesty to come clean and inform the national union of their real intentions. The manpower profiles repeatedly requested when the broad strategy was being prepared, have been suppressed at THQ level.

Militant response

BT's policy appears to be to single out individual branches and sections for attack. However, the strong and united response of the membership in defence of existing jobs and grading structures, I am sure, surprised and dismayed management.

The situation in the Post



Privatisation of British Telecom has proved a major rip-off of public assets and has opened the way to consistent attacks on jobs and conditions—a fighting national leadership is urgently needed.

Office is even more bizarre. After a leaked management document exposed the sham negotiations, the last plan of a 10 per cent cut in staff, appears to have been plucked out of thin air without any consideration to the effects on the service.

Wherever management have attempted to 'cut back', however small, the membership have responded.

Many branches have called industrial action—Glasgow, Swansea, Birmingham and Leeds, the list goes on and on! In the London area alone in this past year, Postal, International and City Area have been in dispute.

These supposedly isolated incidents are part of the management's overall plan, ie their very own broad

strategy.

The NCU 'Broad Strategy' for jobs is our response to these attacks. This detailed and thorough document should be used not as a block, but as a green light for a jobs fight.

Broad strategy

Its most meaningful role is in linking up individual

branches in a national campaign for shorter hours. It is vital therefore that this forthcoming conference endorses an implementation date for the Broad Strategy, so that one unified struggle on jobs can be undertaken. The members will respond if a lead is given. The National Executive Committee have a responsibility to give that lead.

Elect General Secretary who supports union policies

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE member, Phil Holt, is the Broad Left candidate for the forthcoming general secretary election.

Never has the need for strong, determined leadership of the union been greater.

In British Telecom we've seen the privatisation of the industry bringing in its wake the adoption of crude anti-union policies at all management levels designed to maximise profits at the expense of jobs and conditions.

In the Post Office the threat to the monopoly remains while management reorganises in preparation for privatisation.

In National Girobank the management has unleashed an unparalleled attack on the union organisation.

Overlaying all these moves is the continuing threat from new technology and the crucial need to win the broad strategy claim and achieve the 32 hour, four day week.

With a Broad Left NEC and Broad Left policies being consistently adopted by the annual conference it will be a setback for the union if the Broad Left candidate is not elected to the highest office in the union.

The general secretary election campaign is a crucial test for the Broad Left and all its supporters.

Phil Holt was the only nomination within the Broad Left and was overwhelmingly adopted as the BL candidate at a National BL meeting.

He has a proven track record on the left of the union and has been consistent in his support for conference policy and democracy in the union both as a branch secretary and on

the National Executive of the union.

The right wing in the union have only been consistent in their failure to carry out the instructions of the membership and support the conference policies. Any candidate of the right wing would undoubtedly undermine the NEC and frustrate the implementation of the union's policies.

Right-wing

So far Phil Holt is the only candidate who has declared publicly that he is standing in the election. It is understood though that at least two candidates of the right wing will be standing.

One is John Golding who manages to combine being member of parliament with his duties as the union's political officer.

John Golding is renowned for his witch-hunting activities against the left in the labour movement and was known as Mr Fixit during his period on the Labour Party NEC for his role in organising the ousting of left wingers from NEC sub-committees.

The other is David Norman, the union's General Treasurer. He is a one-time supporter of the right wing 'Solidarity' organisation, although we understand that he is less popular with the right wing these days because of the new radical image he has attempted to cultivate.

The election of either of these candidates would mean a General Secretary with no record of fighting for, or sympathy with, the union's Broad Left policies.

Their election would mean that the NEC would be at loggerheads with the General Secretary at the time when we need maximum unity around conference policies.

Too many leaders of the movement come, usually with impeccable academic qualifications, into high office without any experience of the workers they represent. They are then cushioned by high salaries from the

realities of the members' lives.

Phil Holt comes from the ranks of the union membership. As secretary of Liverpool Internal he played a leading role in the fight against privatisation. He states clearly that he is standing on the basis of taking his Technical Officer wage plus any legitimate expenses.

Left unity

With the fighting lead from the top that Phil Holt can provide, the enormous potential strength and resources of the union can be

NCU Conference Militant Meeting. Thursday 14 November 8.00pm. Wessex Hotel, Bournemouth. Speaker—Tony Rimmer Liverpool City Councillor and Liverpool Internal Branch NCU.

THE NCU Rules Revision Conference, meeting in Bournemouth from 10 November, gives ordinary members the opportunity to increase their control within a fully unified, democratic union.

Several motions calling for a fully integrated union at all levels have been tabled. The organisation of the recent pay ballot highlighted the problems of what is really a cosmetic amalgamation of the old POEU and the CPSA P&T Group.

Under the existing rules formulated by the union

leadership, five individual ballots were organised for the separate sections, causing untold confusion amongst the membership. When rank and file members asked why, if the unions had joined together, separate ballots were needed, they were told that the membership would not accept a full integration.

Elect officials

Yet with the rapid introduction of computerisation, management will use the fear of job losses to drive a wedge between the different groups. Only a fully

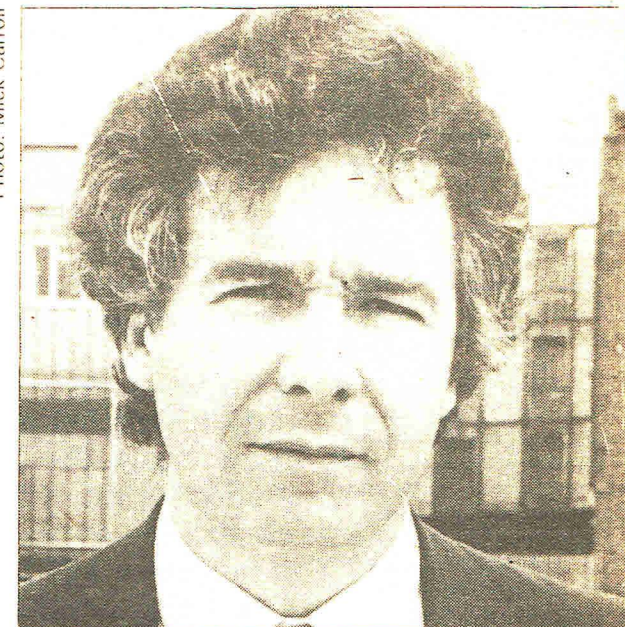


Photo: Mick Carroll

Phil Holt, NCU national executive member and Broad Left candidate for General Secretary.

galvanised in defence of jobs, pay and conditions.

If the campaign to elect him is to succeed then all activists on the left of the union must join in the work. It is essential that we get across the reasons why the Broad Left is standing Phil Holt and the issues that are at stake.

We must get the campaign

material into every workplace and wherever possible to have Phil speaking in every area of the country.

All Broad Left supporters must unite around this campaign.

By Alan Beynon
York Clerical Group

For a united, democratic and fighting union

integrated union, uniting all the workers around a common policy can defeat these attacks.

Support must also be given to the amendments demanding election of officers. We have to ensure that no union official is merely seeking a comfortable career, more interested in defending their own interests. They must feel the need to fight to maintain the conditions of the rank and file. This is the aim of the amendments calling for officers to be paid no more than the highest grade the union represents.

Other amendments call for a widening of union democracy—the election by conference of the TUC General Council nominee, and of delegates to representative conferences.

Struggle

Nothing less than a fighting union with a leadership that realises the need to defend in struggle the jobs and wages of the members, will do.

Bernard Roome
(NCU Swansea Branch)

Maxwell ultimatum-Murdoch in the wings

ROBERT MAXWELL, owner of Mirror Group Newspapers, and well known Labour Party member, is again issuing threats and victimisations to the print unions.

He is threatening to sack 2000 of the 6000 employees who produce his newspapers.

He says he will employ two thirds of the workforce—if 'no disruption' guarantees are obtained.

Various members at the Holborn Circus site have refused to make up the short fall of the northern editions due to a dispute at the Thomson Organisation's soon-to-close Withey Grove plant.

In early September Maxwell managed to obtain agreement for the printing of the *Sporting Life* outside Fleet Street following similar intimidation.

He also claimed, at that time, assurances of unhindered production.

The *Sporting Life* agree-

By Peter Jarvis
(London Region NGA)

ment is just one of many conflicts in which he has pressured the print unions into concessions and some outright defeats.

The ruthless confrontation tactics he always adopts baffle the print union leaders. They have no common strategy. Maxwell is able to play on their divisions as he takes on one group at a time.

The obvious conclusion—that he should be fought by all his workers—has been rejected by the union leaders.

How much this is due to a fear of falling foul of Tory

trade union legislation can only be guessed.

But Maxwell's ruthless tactics must be combatted with action by all his employees, then he may listen to reason.

This is in no way the only attack against Fleet Street unions.

Rupert Murdoch, whose empire includes the *Sun*, *News of the World*, *Times*, and *Sunday Times* is using non-traditional printers at his new plant in Wapping in London's East End.

They are believed to come in from the Southampton area, organised by the EET-PU, who seem to have been promised a single-union agreement at the new plant to print his London daily which is expected to be launched in the new year.

The TUC should immediately investigate the EETPU involvement and if proved, action must be im-

mediately taken against them. Acting as a recruiting agent under such conditions is against every principle of trade unionism.

It is now an absolute priority for the print unions to come together and work out a common strategy to fight the press barons.

Wide effect

It is now beyond negotiation alone. The whole strength of the print unions and labour movement must be used in this battle.

This can no longer be seen as a battle with one individual boss but must be recognised as a fight to save basic trade union rights and conditions.

If the workers of Fleet Street lose this struggle it will have a serious effect in the rest of the trade and the wider movement.

It also raises another ques-



Photo: Dave Sinclair

About time print workers give Maxwell some pain

tion, the ownership of the newspapers under the present system.

There can be no justification in a democratic society for a few powerful men controlling the press, while such mass organisations as the Labour Party and trade unions have no significant voice.

The unions should demand press facilities be nationalised by the next Labour government and the newspaper industry be organised to reflect support for different political ideas and social interests not the bank accounts of a few individuals.

Fire fighters cure council's shortsight

INDUSTRIAL ACTION taken by fire fighters in the north west has proved to be a cure for the shortsightedness of Greater Manchester councillors who wanted Bernard Lees dismissed from the service for failing a pre-course eyesight test.

Immediate action by FBU members in Manchester, quickly followed by members in the rest of the region, has led to all the union's demands being met.

Bro. Lees will keep his job, and no further moves will be made until the results of a special report on the fitness of the firefighters has been released. It is expected that this report will take into account normal eyesight deterioration due to age. It was the lack of this factor in the application of eyesight standards, that was the cause



of the dispute.

Although the whole matter is now to be referred to the formal dispute's procedure, this will in no way prejudice the agreement on the maintenance of Bro. Lees' job.

His continued employ-

ment and the rejection of a dangerous precedent for the future of all firefighters is solely due to the unity in action of the Fire Brigades' Union membership.

Mick Eaves FBU Cheshire

Government.

"It is especially hoped that local authority trade union branches and joint shop stewards committees will take out bulk orders for distribution to their members. I'm sure it will be welcomed."

Council Worker costs 10p and copies together with bulk orders are available from Ian Lowes, NLACC Secretary, Grove Mount, Penny Lane, Liverpool 18.

Council worker

THE NATIONAL Local Authorities Co-ordinating Committee has this week launched a monthly news magazine called the *Council Worker*.

The magazine, which is being produced for distribution at shop steward and rank and file level, will feature different aspects of the struggles facing local authority workers. The first

edition, in particular, concentrates on the crisis in Liverpool and Lambeth.

Ian Lowes (Liverpool Joint Shop Stewards Committee and NLACC Secretary) told *Militant*: "Council Worker is a milestone in the development of links between local authority workers nationally in their battle against the attacks of this Tory

totally unacceptable and many on the shop floor are angry and disgusted. We are calling for a very substantial increase to restore our workers to the level of five years ago."

To add insult to injury Mr Bob Lutz, Ford's boss in Europe accused British workers of taking twice as long as the Europeans to

make a car and four times as long as the Japanese.

Understandably angry, men working on the Fiesta downed tools and walked out on hearing of Lutz's remarks. A winter of discontent has been forecast at the plant unless management change their ideas.

By Tim Harris

EETPU moves against Marxists

THE EXECUTIVE Council of the electricians' and plumbers' union, the EETPU have told branches that no Militant supporter can hold the office of delegate to the Labour Party.

They claim that decisions at the EETPU and Labour Party conference allow them to do this.

Members will be angry that the right-wing leadership are using a policy decision to change the constitution of the union. The EETPU rules are quite clear; any

Labour Party member can stand for election in their branch as a delegate to the party. There will undoubtedly be protests from branches and shop stewards committees to the executive condemning their decision and demanding that they uphold the constitution.

Unconstitutional

The Constituency Labour Parties will also not accept this unconstitutional manoeuvre.

Militant supporters are in the forefront of the struggle to transform the EETPU in-

to a fighting organisation accountable to the ordinary member. The right wing's witch-hunt is an attempt by organisational methods to prevent them putting forward the ideas of socialism and Marxism.

To plan the fightback against the right-wing, all *Militant* and left wing supporters should come to the first national broad left conference (See advert for details p6). The conference will help organise the left and arm the rank and file with a programme that will sweep the right wing out of power in the union.

Bus strikes Barnsley

IN BARNSELY, bus workers at Yorkshire Traction struck on 21 October, against threatened wage cuts, due to cuts in Sunday services in order to finance a new 'Nipper' service.

On Saturday 26th three other Yorkshire Traction depots came out in support. The company were forced to agree to the introduction of the new service, but with no cuts in wages. On that basis we recommended a return to work on Thursday 31 October.

The only sour note is that the Sunday service will still be reduced, which is bad news for the people of Barnsley.

But the mood of our TGWU members was solid. Coupled with the national day of action which saw thousands of bus workers up and down the country coming out on strike, it proves that workers are prepared to stand and fight for decent pay and conditions, and to protect services.

By Bill Denton
(TGWU Secretary Barnsley Bus Drivers)



Manchester bus workers on one day strike last Tuesday

Portsmouth

FOR THE first time since the 1926 General Strike, Portsmouth workers struck in defence of both services and conditions.

The strike, ostensibly about the threat to pensions from the Transport Bill and therefore privatisation, brought 100 per cent support from T&G members in the Portsmouth area. The militancy and mood to struggle was so high that at least one inspector refused to cross the picket line.

As Lou May TGWU

branch secretary for Eastney bus depot Portsmouth explained that with deregulation many services will be cut. While it costs £6,000 for the Portsmouth Sunday service, only half is actually recovered in fares, under private contracts only the so-called profitable services will remain.

A series of one-day stoppages will be characteristic of this campaign for the present time, but such grievances, linked to the looming pay and conditions battles, will necessitate further action. As Lou May stated, the TGWU are prepared to battle to the end.

Photo: John Smith (IFL)

Ford anger at pay offer

WORKERS AT Fords have received a miserable pay offer of 3 per cent. Their claim, for a 15 per cent rise plus a £20 a week extra for production line workers and better holidays, sick pay and pensions was ignored by management at last week's National Joint Negotiating Committee.

A Dagenham TGWU official said of the offer: "It is

Militant

Northern Ireland talks Page 7

National Communications Union conference Page 14

Defeat Coal Board threats

MINERS from Darfield Main (Yorkshire), St John's (South Wales) and Bold (Lancashire) and supporters in the community action groups have organised a conference against pit closures.

It takes place on Saturday 9 November at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham, starting at 12.30pm.

Pit after pit is threatened with possible closure. The two latest victims in Yorkshire are Kinsley Drift and Fryston. The first review meeting of the new North Yorkshire Area decided on 1 November to put the two pits into the review procedure. It also cast doubts about the future of Red-

By Andy Hodgkinson
(Darfield Main NUM)

brooke Colliery.

This follows the Board's plan to close North Gawber and Darfield Main collieries. At Houghton Main, local management told NUM branch officials that the pit had lost £10.7 million since

the strike, and unless there was an immediate improvement the pit may have to close.

The NCB has declared that any pit which does not mine coal at less than £39 a tonne is uneconomic.

But the miners are fighting back. At Darfield the men are enthusiastic for the campaign against closures, and the whole community has been drawn in. A campaign needs to be fought around all the threatened pits.

Come to the Birmingham conference, and build up support for those collieries in the immediate firing line.



Photo: Jacob Sutton (Reflex)

Miners at the threatened Horden colliery in Durham. Fight back against the Tory "plan for coal" — derelict pits and imports from their friends in apartheid South Africa and even Stalinist Poland.

South Wales NUM—for a campaigning president

SOUTH WALES miners vote on 29 November for a new area President. St John's lodge committee has unanimously nominated our lodge secretary and EC member, Ian Isaac.

Because of a dwindling membership in South Wales the area will not be entitled to a full-time President paid for by the national union. However, an area conference felt that this vital position should be financed out of area funds. The President's



Ian Isaac

salary will be £19,500 per year, plus expenses and fringe benefits.

Ian has informed our

lodge committee that if elected he will draw just the average wage of a South Wales faceworker, plus genuine expenses vetted by the membership. The substantial amount left over would be placed in a 'Presidents Fund' to be donated back to the union and needy causes within the movement.

Ian has an excellent track record. Throughout the strike he held regular meetings with the members, updating them on latest developments, was prominent on picket lines and

Fighting for justice

THIS MONDAY, the Groce Family Support and Community Defence campaign will be marching for justice for innocent black victims of police raids in London.

The police shooting of Cherry Groce and Cynthia Jarrett's death during a raid

have angered the black community, they are the culmination of a series of police provocations.

The black community will gain the sympathy of the entire labour movement in demands for the arrest and charging of officers involved in these cases and for an independent public enquiry.

This must be part of a ma-

jour campaign for the democratic control and accountability of the police to representatives elected by the local community. It is also part of a campaign to get rid of the Tories and capitalism, which breeds racism. Fight for a socialist society which provides for the interests of all working class people, black and white.



Photo: Jez Coulson (IFL) II

Members of Cherry Groce's family after the police shot and seriously injured their mother

★ **BLACK** working class youth are more and more looking to the strength and methods of the labour movement for support.

Edmonton Young Socialists joined a picket at Edmonton police station, North London, in protest at police harassment and arrests since the Broadwater Farm violence.

A friend of 17 year old Pete Gray, one of those arrested, asked for LPYS support at a Young Socialists' public meeting in Hackney. The youth's mother also telephoned Labour Headquarters to talk to the editors of the LPYS paper, *Socialist Youth*.

Chico, organiser of the picket explained its purpose: "This is against the way the police have been operating, randomly picking up young people from the age of 12 upwards."

Peter Gray was arrested on Monday morning at Tottenham Magistrates Court where he was watching a friend's case from the public gallery. It was Tuesday evening before his parents knew where he was. He was later released on bail.

★ **ANOTHER** trial involving racists in Newham has ended at the Old Bailey. The racist who stabbed to death Eustace Pryce, a 16 year old black youth, was found guilty of manslaughter.

Eustace's family and the Pryce Family Support Group believe he should have gone down for murder—but what else can you expect from a "justice" that found the Newham 8 and Newham 7 "guilty" for defending themselves against racial attack.

Gerald Pryce, Eustace's brother was found guilty at the same court of "causing an affray"—by defending his dying brother. All this has taken place in an area facing increasing racial attacks such as the burning to death of the Kassam family in Ilford.

★ Justice for the Kassams demonstration. Seven Kings BR station, Saturday 9 November 11am.

Militant Public Meetings: Cherry Groce/Cynthia Jarrett. Justice must be done! **TOTTENHAM** Saturday 16 November 2.30pm. Tottenham Community Project, 628 Tottenham High Road N7.

Speakers: Colin DeFreitas (Black activist and Militant supporter) Jarrett Family Public Enquiry Campaign representative, Emerson Webster (Groce Family Support Campaign).

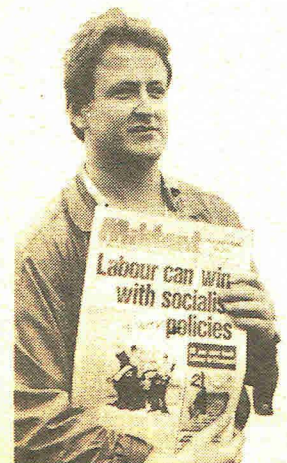
BRIXTON—Monday 18 November 7.30pm. St Matthews Meeting Place, Brixton Hill SW2 (near Brixton tube). **Speakers:** Lynn Walsh (Militant Editorial Board) Emerson Webster (Groce Family Support Campaign), Jarrett Family Public Enquiry Campaign representative.

All Welcome. Reports by Kevin Fernandez, Derek Richards (Edmonton LPYS) and Mark Avis.

Brixton march

Assemble Brockwell Park, Brixton at 11.30am. Monday 11 November. March to Hyde Park. Called by the Groce Family Support and Community Defence Campaign.

By Phil White
(Compensation Secretary, St John's NUM South Wales)



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