

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 25p

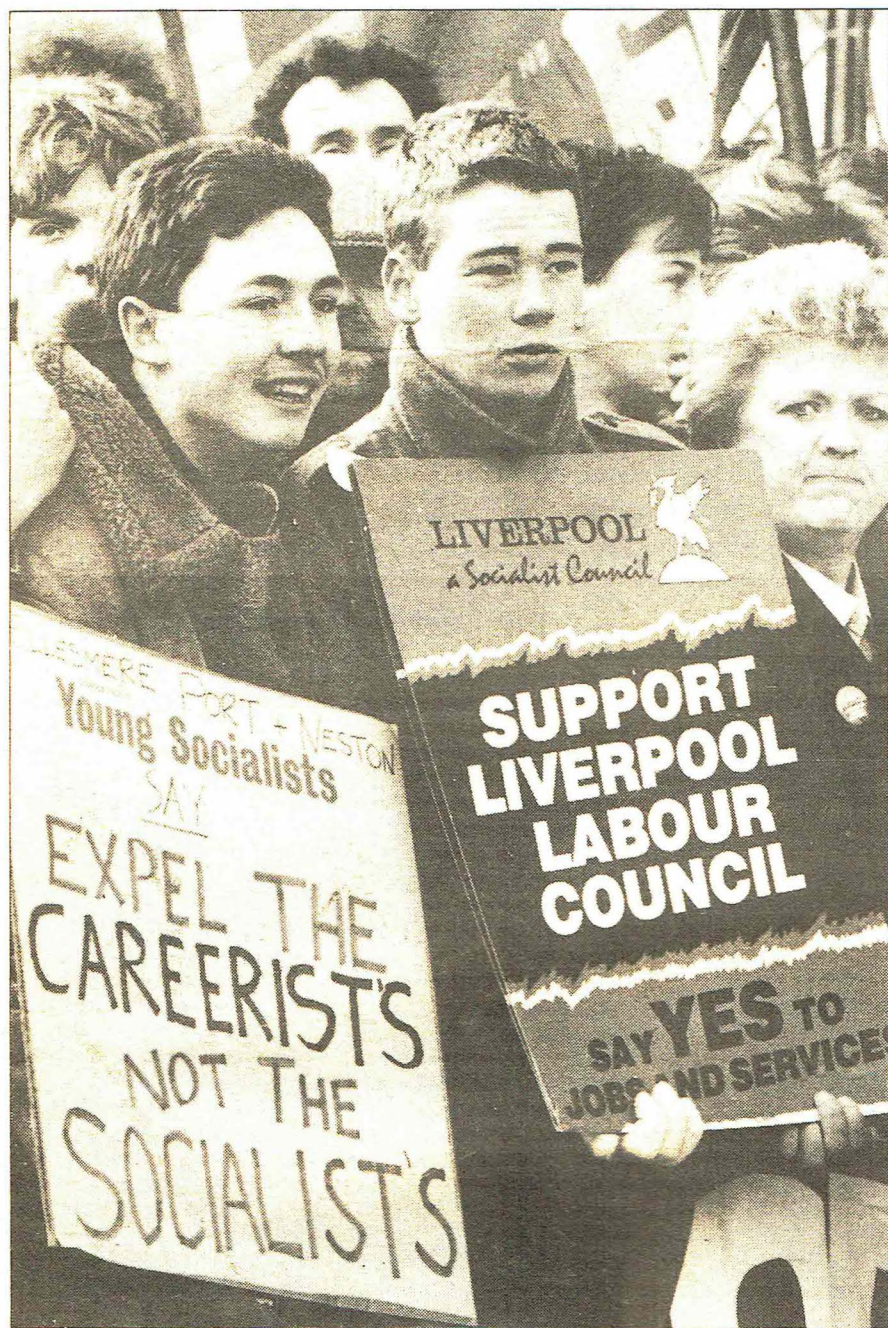
ISSUE 787 28 February 1986

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Stop Liverpool purge



A THOUSAND *Militant* supporters, Young Socialists and Labour Party members lobbied the NEC meeting on Wednesday protesting at the proposed expulsions. The crowd lined the pavements either side of Labour's HQ and was addressed by Terry Fields MP and Eric Heffer MP and some of those facing expulsion. Cheers went up for the left wing members of the executive opposed to the purge as they went into the meeting. The boos for right wingers like Gwyneth Dunwoody echoed down the street. Despite the cold many protestors, from as far as Liverpool and Manchester stayed for several hours. The lobby was a foretaste of what would come in the event of wholesale expulsions.

"I DEFY anyone to tell me how you can go to Liverpool and defeat *Militant* by argument," ex-left Tom Sawyer declared at Wednesday's NEC meeting where the most damaging internal battle in the party yet was launched. Sawyer, who has put so much work into attacking Liverpool leaders, exposed the entire basis of the witch-hunt in the Labour Party. The right have lost the political debate, and so 16 Liverpool Labour activists face expulsion.

The right will only be satisfied with the heads of Liverpool councillors. The NEC inquiry team was sent to Liverpool but as Eric Heffer reminded them they were not interested in the houses or nurseries only built because the council fought the Tories.

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All the complaints about the District Party procedure are just a smokescreen for a purge.

Audrey Wise challenged the NEC members that none of them except the miners delegate knew anything about running Labour organisations in the midst of a crisis such as Liverpool council faced in its budget campaign last year.

And the witch-hunt may not stop here. UCW representative Tony Clarke launched into Tony Benn for repeatedly criticising the party leadership.

FIGHT THE witch-hunt by selling this paper. Thousands of workers are outraged by the behaviour of the Labour leaders, they have to be reached this week with *Militant*. Sales for this issue can be doubled if every seller doubled their own activity—more street sales, more estate sales and more workplace sales.

Fightback—organise a public meeting on your estate now! (See page 3).

By the Circulation Manager

By *Militant* reporters

Yet earlier the meeting passed a resolution from David Blunkett urging tolerance in the party. What hypocrisy when the final decisions of that same meeting are such a blatant demonstration of intolerance.

By 19 votes to 10 the NEC instructed General Secretary Larry Whitty to draw up evidence against the 16 who will then be invited to another special witch-hunt NEC on March 12.

The NEC also agreed to call before them Welsh Regional Executive members Chris Peace and Tony Wedlake. However by just 15 votes to 14 the NEC referred back the recommendation to interview Pat Wall democratically selected as Labour candidate for Bradford North.

Interviewed after the meeting Neil Kinnock cast aside the damage being done to Labour saying "I'm not even considering the electoral costs and losses". But with Thatcher on the run and the Fulham by-election pending workers around the country will be stunned that the NEC has wasted another five hours attacking *Militant*.

Labour's "loony right" seem prepared to declare war on Liverpool and on Labour's rank and file, but ordinary party members and trade unionists will fight this attack every inch of the way because they are determined to defeat the Tory enemy with a united socialist Labour Party.

Full report next week.

Witch-hunt
fight back

Cardiff purge beaten

A VICTORY was won for *Militant* supporters Andrew Price, Dave Bartlett and Diane Mitchell on 21 February when the GMC of Cardiff South and Penarth Labour Party voted unanimously to reinstate all three following their expulsions.

The GMC was forced to retreat because it had failed to follow correct procedure in the expulsions of these members.

However, rank and file party members must remain vigilant, as the right wing are expected to raise the matter again.

New threat to Wales members

THE NEC is now looking for a new way to expel Chris Peace from the Wales Labour Party.

Peace was originally elected to the Wales Regional Executive with the highest poll in the constituency section. He had been barred from the executive by right-winger George Wright.

The Labour Party's agent David Hughes had actually ruled this action to be unconstitutional but the expulsion was still carried out. After consultation with Larry Whitty the Wales executive later decided to reinstate both Peace and

Tony Wedlake, the LPYS representative who was also debarred and threatened with expulsion.

However the NEC is now looking at the possibility of expelling the two on the basis of allegations in a report by Wright. Peace and Wedlake will be invited to a future NEC meeting to answer charges made on the basis of this evidence.

By Soraya Lawrence

Expulsion - for exposing city's slums

MICHAEL MARTIN, Labour MP for Glasgow Springburn, has called for the expulsion of prominent Scottish *Militant* supporter Bob Wylie.



Bob Wylie.

Wylie recently helped to produce a feature in *Militant* on life in Possil, a decaying housing scheme within the Springburn constituency. 300 copies of that issue of *Militant* were sold in the area. "The Possil article was a bombshell" said Wylie: "Martin's expulsion call was a direct response to the acclaim for that article, which fed his paranoid delusions about *Militant* conspiracies."

Martin informed the Springburn General Management Committee that he was writing to the National Executive Committee, with copies of the leaflet for a *Militant* meeting in Possil, demanding that Wylie, a member of Glasgow

Central Labour Party, be expelled. But no vote was taken at the meeting.

His call was condemned in an emergency resolution passed unanimously by the Scottish Labour Party Young Socialists conference last weekend. At the conference John Walker, chairman of the party in Scotland also insisted on no expulsions: "Party members should have the right to express their political views. Another spate of expulsions will threaten Labour unity and damage the party's chances of winning the general election".

Bob Wylie commented: "Mr Martin seems intent on making the Labour Party safe for hypocrisy. It seems that the strike-breaker Hammond and the union-buster Maxwell can be members of the Labour Party but not socialist fighters like Derek Hatton and myself".

Bob McTaggart, MP for Glasgow Central gave full support to his constituent, saying he was "totally opposed to witch-hunts". "Instead of trying to kick people out of the party we should be kicking the Tories out of government".

By Pat Craven

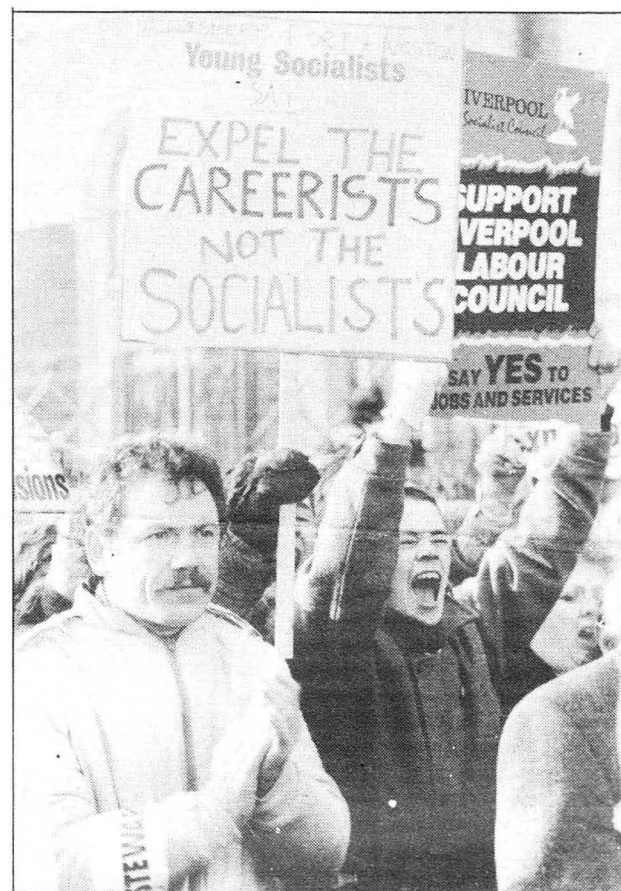
Right wing sect meets

THE RIGHT wing's secretive little group "Labour Solidarity" recently held a public meeting in Merseyside with Gwyneth Dunwoody MP speaking as well as Malcolm Kennedy from Liverpool Labour Left.

Only 35 attended and a pathetic £14 was raised for

Wirral Solidarity.

We look forward to *Militant* supporters being given the same rights, without the fear of expulsions for selling papers, organising or speaking at *Militant* public meetings or collecting for the fighting fund.



Young Socialists on lobby of Labour's executive against expulsions of Liverpool *Militant* supporters. Photo: Dave Sinclair.

Threat to GM branch

LIVERPOOL Council GMBATU Branch 5, which has stood firmly behind the city council's battle for jobs and services, is now under attack from the union officialdom.

Branch 5 has a long and proud history of struggle and democratic involvement of its 1,200 membership. Its refusal to toe the union leadership's "dented shield" line, and to accept the Stonefrost Report in November has earned the branch disfavour in the eyes of the union hierarchy.

Proposals are being made to divide the branch into three, along with similar moves against other branches. These 'decisions' have been made without any consultation.

In addition to this Branch 5's delegation to various CLPs has been suspended. Ian Lowes GMB convenor and District Labour Party executive member has the threat of expulsion from the Labour Party hanging over him. Other Branch 5 members have made clear

their opposition to any interference in the branch and will not accept high-handed intervention by the hierarchy.

As the result of a decision taken by Freda Westwood of West Midlands Reg. Labour Party, Jean Gilbert, an Earl's Court fashion designer is now entitled to represent a quarry workers' branch of the GMBATU on the General Committee of Dudley East CLP! The MP for the constituency is John Gilbert, Mrs Gilbert's husband! It is clear what sort of 'accountability' some of our trade union and Labour Party leaders want.

Lobby London Labour Party conference No witch-hunt—Expel the Tories

9am, Sunday 2 March Brixton Recreation Ground Station Road, Brixton Near Brixton Tube

Militant

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Electoral suicide

THOUSANDS OF the old risk death from the cold, as this hard-faced Tory government refuses to part with the cash they need for heating to stay alive. Never has Labour been presented with a clearer issue on which to attack this government of big business. Yet the National Executive Committee chooses this moment to throw the Party into an internal conflict.

Civil war within the Labour Party is the last thing party members want, but it will be the inevitable consequence of the NEC's decision to launch a purge of sixteen activists in Liverpool. The Party's ranks are outraged at this attack on comrades who have collectively given to the party 235 years of service.

The overwhelming majority of party and trade union activists will not rest until the NEC's decisions have been reversed. They will never forgive those who have plunged the party into internal strife at a time when unity to defeat the Tories was paramount. This will be especially so of those who claim to stand on the left.

The witch-hunt is an integral part of a campaign by the Tories and the ruling class to make Labour abandon the policy commitments fought for over decades. The strategists of the "Millionaire Tendency" are desperate to make sure that Labour will leave their power, privilege and wealth untouched. That is why it is so crucial for the active members of the Labour Party and the trade unions to fight back to defend their party's socialist policies and democratic structure.

The price of failure will be electoral defeat. Without the vision of a better life, without concrete promises of improvements in job prospects and living standards, voters will not be motivated to turn out to back Labour.

It is the policies of those threatened with expulsion which can attract workers to Labour, as the successes of the Liverpool Labour Party have proved. Their results over the past three years, if reflected nationally, would have produced a Labour landslide.

Every Labour and union member now needs to be mobilised in the fight to halt this purge. The NEC must be deluged with resolutions of protest, meetings called in every city, town and estate, papers sold in every shopping centre and on the doorsteps. Far from being a defeat for the ideas of Marxism, this attack can be turned into the opportunity to take socialist ideas into wider layers of the working population. The NEC majority will curse the day they embarked upon this attack.

Even if they manage to expel sixteen leading figures, the ideas they stand for will spread. Ideas can never be purged. For every member expelled ten will join the party to carry on the fight, as workers are forced to take the road of struggle. If the Tories are to be driven out, if a future is to be offered to the next generation, this purge has to be stopped.

Benn under attack

THE LABOUR Party's head of information, Peter Madelson, is reported by *The Guardian* to have contacted the BBC to try to get Tony Benn taken off the panel for Thursday's Question Time. It was feared that he would embarrass the party leadership by opposing the expulsion of Liverpool party members.

The right accuse *Militant* of being anti-democratic and supporting totalitarianism, a charge we utterly reject. They are now trying to gag a leading spokesman of the Labour left, the first time any such approach has been

made to Question Time's producers. This shows who are the real threat to democracy within the party and confirms that moves against *Militant* supporters will not stop there. Tony Benn is now in the firing line for his stand against witch-hunts by the right.

George Robertson MP has called for an investigation into Benn's opposition to NATO. Benn recently spoke in Spain in the referendum campaign against NATO membership. Robertson's compalin has been referred to the Chief Whip who said he will consult Neil Kinnock.

100 meet at Llanelli

RECENTLY LLANELLI saw one of its biggest meetings for a whole generation when Peter Taaffe (editor of the *Militant*) spoke to over 100 people at a *Militant* readers' meeting. £220 was raised for the fighting fund.

The sale of the *Militant* newspaper has been attacked by the local DLP and CLP (backed up by the *Llanelli Star*) on the basis that it is "unpopular" and a "malign influence". They would have done far better saving this venomous at-

tack for the Tories who have brought unemployment in Llanelli from 6 per cent in 1979 to 18 per cent today, transforming a thriving tinplate and manufacturing town into one of building societies and shoe-shops.

Far from being a "malign influence" Marxists in Llanelli are upholding the fighting traditions of socialism which forged the local party in the past.

By Neil Williams (Llanelli Labour Party)

Press goad Kinnock

THE TORY editors of Fleet Street are campaigning to get Marxists thrown out of the Labour Party as ruthlessly as they are trying to get their own workers thrown out of their jobs.

"Kick 'em out" screams the *Sunday Mirror* in its attack on *Militant*. The *Mirror's* boss, Maxwell threatened to do just that to 1,050 of his Scottish workforce.

All these enemies of the Labour party are demanding a purge. "Nothing less will persuade us that Mr Kinnock and his friends are determined to make Labour, at last, fit to govern", says the *Express*. When did the *Express* ever want Labour to govern?

These Tory rags are intent only on wrecking Labour's chances by fomenting civil

war within the party. They all insist that the expulsion of *Militant* supporters in Liverpool will not be enough—"He must attack the far left everywhere" (*Daily Express*), "A nationwide purge is needed" (*Daily Star*).

Morning Star promotion

A LETTER circulating through the Scottish labour movement, calling for support for the "Communist" *Morning Star* has been signed by two Labour MPs, and MEP and two dozen councillors. We hope all these supporters of the *Morning Star* will stand up for the rights of those facing expulsion for their support of *Militant*.

Action in every area

Estate meetings

THE COLOSSAL publicity about *Militant* provides a golden opportunity to get our ideas directly to tens of thousands. Every supporter must act immediately!

Public meetings must be organised in every small town, and on as many housing estates as possible. Small estate meetings of 20 which attract new people are vital in building the influence of Marxism.

From small acorns, big oaks will grow. If every supporter acts on this energetically, *Militant's* following can grow rapidly.

By Rob Sewell

Chorley

CHORLEY CONSTITUENCY Labour Party has decided on a two-to-one vote to begin expulsion proceedings against five Labour Party members. These include the chair of the miners' support group, a member of the regional women's committee and three health workers. But the shop stewards' committee at the BL bus and truck plant in Leyland, Lancs has passed a resolution opposing local witch-hunts in Chorley Labour Party.

The supposed 'crime' of the three is organising a *Militant* readers' meeting, the 'evidence' being notes of an informal discussion taken by an ex-party member three years ago. He is believed to have written to the CLP complaining about the taking and using of these notes without his permission and that they in no way represent a formal meeting as the right wing claim.

Conveniently for the right wing, the secretary did not deal with correspondence. Therefore the protests to the CLP about the expulsions were not read to the delegates. Nor did the CLP have time to discuss the situation at British Leyland, whose future is crucial to the working class in the Chorley area.

Cannock

CANNOCK AND Burntwood CLP in Staffordshire have moved to expel two members of the party. Maureen Brown and Dave Ireland were called before a special executive meeting on 7 February.

Nine applications for the party have also been blocked after party officials became 'suspicious that they were *Militant* supporters.'

But Littleton NUM and Littleton NUM Power Group have passed resolutions unanimously opposing the threatened expulsions. Ireland, who is chairman of the local branch of the bakers' union, also has the backing of the bakers' union nationally (union policy set down by conference). The union's solicitors have now taken up his case.

Brown and Ireland have issued a press statement pointing out that the local constituency officers are following advice from Labour's enemies. Only two weeks ago the local SDP called for a ban on *Militant* sales in the area.

The Labour controlled council is now refusing to allow council premises to be used by *Militant* supporters.

The CLP officers have accused *Militant* of being 'a party within a party' yet the officers are acting entirely without the backing of the CLP, none of their actions have yet been referred to the GMC.

Eddisbury

EDDISBURY Labour Party voted, by 20 votes to 16, last Friday to expel *Militant* supporter Peter Naylor for speaking at a public meeting in support of Liverpool City Council.

However, the party's general management committee, against its executive's recommendation, voted against expelling two other *Militant* supporters, Winnie and Karon Murphy.

Each of the three members accused was asked: "If you are not expelled, will you promise not to sell *Militant* or participate in *Militant* activities?"

Witch-hunt fight back



OVER A thousand *Militant* supporters crowded into Friends' House in London in defiance of the national executive's threat to expel supporters in Liverpool. The mood was far from downcast as MP Terry Fields opened the rally. He reminded those who have attacked the Liverpool party that he was elected on a socialist programme in the last election with one of the biggest swings for Labour. President of the Liverpool party, Tony Mulhearn told how the Labour Coordinating Committee, or 'careerist committee' were feeding the inquiry with allegations hoping to fill any vacant positions left after the expulsions of leading *Militant* supporters.

Jim Brookshaw, AUEW Father of the Chapel at *The Times* (Fleet St) criticised the leaders of the Labour Party and the TUC for failing to take any action in support of the sacked print

workers.

Both Ted Grant, political editor and Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant* spoke at the rally. Taaffe turned his invective towards the press tables saying it was the Tory press who were the real initiators of the witch-hunt. He warned the Labour leadership against their failure to hit at the Tories when they were down. "We will never forgive those people who are prepared to give a life-line to this Tory government".

Peter Jarvis enticed the rally to give £2,240 to *Militant's* fighting fund to boost the campaign against the attacks.

To loud cheers and applause Derek Hatton asked whether the NEC was going to support the people of Liverpool in their fight for jobs and services. "Constitutional changes cannot remove the ideas that are in Liverpool", he said.

Regional meetings

'MILITANT FIGHTS back' public meetings have attracted thousands from all over the country.

As well as the monster rallies held recently in Manchester and Edinburgh, which were attended by over 1,000 people, numerous smaller meetings have taken place like one in Southampton where 80 people heard print worker, Peter Jarvis and donated £200 to the fighting fund.

In spite of Arctic conditions 80 people attended a public meeting in Woolwich to hear Terry Fields MP and John Pickard speak on the part *Militant* supporters have played in building a campaign to fight the Tories in Liverpool. The meeting responded with a collection of £254 and many papers and pamphlets were sold.

In the build up to a recent public meeting in Merton, 14 papers were sold in an hour at Wimbledon High St. on the Saturday before the meeting. 30 people attended the meeting at which Gerry Lerner and Mark Douglas spoke and £54 was raised for the Fighting Fund (after expenses).

Further rallies are now planned for Newcastle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Bristol. Show your support for *Militant's* ideas and your opposition to witch-hunts. Look out for meetings in your area.

Glasgow—4 March, 7.30 at City Hall, Candleriggs, Glasgow. Speakers: Derek Hatton and Bob Wylie.

Edinburgh—19 March. Speakers: Derek Hatton and Peter Taaffe.

Newcastle—20 March. Speakers: Derek Hatton and Peter Taaffe.

Birmingham—12 March. Speaker: Derek Hatton.

Brighton—Friday 28 February, 7.30. Speakers: Pat Craven, at the Unemployed Centre, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton.

Cannock—2 March.

Labour movement response

AS THE NEC nears its decision on the Liverpool inquiry more and more labour movement organisations are passing resolutions condemning the threatened expulsions and attacks against Liverpool Labour Party and *Militant* supporters.

They express their surprise and outrage that the leadership of the party is dedicating its time to attacking its own members instead of fighting the real enemy - this Tory government.

Sutton NUM in Notts unanimously passed a resolution opposing the inquiry into Liverpool and the witchhunt

against *Militant*. It said "The Labour leadership should put all its efforts into attacking the Tories and not the socialists. Here's looking forward to socialism and a daily *Militant*."

This year's Suffolk Agricultural Group Conference of the TGWU unanimously passed an emergency resolution which said:

"This Conference congratulates the TGWU, who in their formal submission to the NEC on the inquiry into Liverpool DLP, repudiated the suggestions of intimidation and procedural irregularities within the DLP."

"We further congratulate the General Secretary, Ron Todd,

who reiterated that the TGWU would have no part in purges and witch-hunts which only obscured the real problems which Liverpool faced."

Delegates and members were disgusted to hear that union member Teresa MacKay and her husband had been under threat of expulsion from Ipswich Labour Party.

Hackney Women's Council also passed a resolution saying that instead of special meetings to inquire into Liverpool Labour Party: "Special meetings should be used to lay plans to gain a resounding victory in the May elections and force the Tories out."

THE FOLLOWING have passed resolutions opposing either the inquiry into Liverpool District Labour Party or the continued witch-hunt against *Militant*.

Constituency Labour Parties

Scotland: Glasgow Shettleston, Leith, Edinburgh West, Pentlands, Edinburgh Central, Clydebank, Falkirk West, Stirling, Clackmannan, Edinburgh East, Glasgow Central and Glasgow Pollok, Kelty CLPs.

North West: Garston, Mossley Hill, Withington, Blackley, Manchester Central, Rochdale, Preston, Littleboro' and Saddleworth, Bootle, Stockport, Macclesfield NW, Burnley.

North East: Sunderland North, Wallsend and executive of Blyth CLP, Gateshead East.

Yorkshire: Sheffield Hillsborough, Sheffield Heeley, Hemsworth, Pudsey, Leeds North West, Leeds North East, Barnsley West and Penistone, Bradford North, Leeds West, Wakefield, Keighley.

East Midlands: North West Leicestershire, Nottingham East, Chesterfield, Derby North, Nottingham North, Rushcliffe and Blaby CLPs.

West Midlands: Birmingham Ladywood, Birmingham Perry Barr, Coventry North West, Coventry North East, Coventry South East.

Eastern: Harlow, Hertford and Stortford, Bedford, Luton North, Hertsmere, Colchester and Basildon.

London: Bethnal Green and Stepney, Hammersmith, Hampstead, Brent East, Deptford, Feltham and Heston, Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Hackney South and Shoreditch, Vauxhall, Ealing Southall, Uxbridge, Greenwich, Hayes and Harlington, Islington, Holborn and St Pancras, Bermondsey, Westminster South, Westminster North, Norwood.

Wales: Cardiff Central.

Southern: Fareham, Poole.

District Labour Parties

Besides the obvious opposition of Liverpool DLP, also Manchester City, Basildon, Brighton, Thamesdown, Bristol and the executive of Greater London Labour Party.

Youth Sections

A total of 90 Labour Party Young Socialist branches and eight college Labour Clubs have already condemned the action.

Trade Union Organisations

NUM Lodges: Bold, Sutton Manor, Wearmouth, Darfield Main, Houghton Main, Allerton Bywater, Coventry, Linby, Wearmouth Mechanics, Seafield SCEB-TA, Markham Main (Yorks), South Kirkby, Kent NUM Area Council, Bates NUM.

TGWU: 6/612, 6/631, 6/51, 6/552, 1/552, 1/1347, 1/874, 6/171, 1/6, 9/8, Tilbury Docks and Riverside, Blackburn buses, 1/146, Pork Farm, 1/482 (London).

NUPE branches: Wirral District Health, Gateshead, Guy's hospital stewards, Paddington and Kensington, Tower Hamlets, Liverpool caretakers, Brighton local government, Dudley, Edinburgh southern hospitals, Northumberland, Camden, Hammersmith and Fulham Health.

AUEW: Cardiff No 9, Manchester South shop stewards, Blyth, Kilmhurst, Skipton, Keighley No 1, Tyne Junior Workers Committee, AUEW Pilton Edinburgh, AUEW Bradford District Committee, Hull No 12.

GMBATU: No 5, No 24, No 40, Glasgow Cleansing Workers, Rosyth Dockyard, Lanarkshire Gas, Cambridge, GMBATU Leven Boilermakers branch, Hull No 1, Cambridge No 2.

AUEW - TASS: No 11, Manchester East, Barnsley, Sheffield and Precision Metals.

NUR: Liverpool No. 5, East Ham, Willesden No 1, Bedford and Luton.

ASTMS: Liverpool Shipping, Royal Insurance, Manchester Community Workers, Bradford, Southampton Insurance.

NALGO: Liverpool, Southwark, Camden Housing, Haringey.

Trades Councils: Harlow, Coventry, Swansea, Newcastle, Bradford, Leicester.

Others: Bakers' Union National Executive, Bakers' Union North West region, CPSSA Longbenton, CPSSA South West Regional Committee, NCU London Centre GMO executive, East of Scotland USDAW, EET-PU Rosyth Dockyard, EETPU Hull plumbers, Edinburgh EETPU Plumbers, EETPU East Kilbride, Liverpool City Council JSSC, Rolls Royce Joint Staffs TU Committee, High Royds COHSE, Manchester Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers, USDAW (Capital Holdings), Poole and Swanage UCATT, Camden UCATT, Harrow UCATT, Camden DHSS CPSSA, Holloway Road UCW, Westminster NCU, FBU Scottish region, Newcastle USDAW.

Liverpool-new cash crisis



Liverpool City Councillors marching to the High Court in London to appeal against surcharge and disqualification by the district auditor.

LIVERPOOL COUNCIL'S financial problems, already acute, will be much worse in the new financial year. The overwhelming weight of opinion among economists and experts is that the city is grossly underfunded. Yet far from directing more cash into Liverpool to tackle the pressing social problems, the Tory government is taking more away.

By John Pickard

The Department of the Environment reckon that the city needs only £275m, but the council's figure is £311m—just to stand still. If the shortfall of £37m is not made up, the council is faced with massive cuts in expenditure, rent rises and a huge loss of jobs. A £2 a week rent rise for example, would only raise £6m, leaving a gap that could only be made up by shedding 7000 jobs.

Rate-capped

The council is also rate-capped so that even if it did want to raise rates by more than 16 per cent, it would not be allowed. The capitalisation of the housing fund, which would

be at the expense of building workers' jobs and tenants in run-down tenements would only raise £20m at maximum.

What has made a bad situation worse is the abolition of Merseyside County Council. Dozens of non-statutory services—like arts and theatres, sports, and voluntary organisations previously backed by the county have now been dumped in the lap of the district councils. The Merseyside Unemployed Centre, based in Liverpool, costs by itself half a million pounds a year to run. Yet no funding has been made available. Tony Byrne, chairman of Liverpool's

Finance Committee explained how the abolition will affect the City:

"Last year, for the police, fire-brigade, transport, plus the non-statutory services like the Liverpool Empire and the arts, we paid the county a total of £46m. This year, for the police, fire-brigade and transport alone, we are having to pay £49m."

Redundant

In addition, there are hundreds of county council employees, especially white collar workers being made redundant, who it has been argued, should be taken on by the district councils who haven't enough to employ "their own" workers.

"As we said at the time of the budget crisis last year," Tony Byrne pointed out: "Unless there was a fundamental solution, the problem would merely be transferred to next year. Last year's shortfall was £25m, this year's is £37m. Next year's will be £55m. There is

no short-term solution; it is a fundamental problem of underfunding a major city."

During the budget crisis, the trade union and Labour leadership refused to support the city council's fight for jobs and services but gave an undertaking that they would make representations on behalf of Liverpool for more cash.

It is clear that no amount of appeals will have any effect on Environment Minister Kenneth Baker. The leaders of the labour movement must take up the case of Liverpool and link it to the dire problems faced by all the other local authorities around the country, to launch a campaign against Tory cuts and the strangulation of services.

If the Labour and trade union leadership were to mount such a campaign, there would be overwhelming support among Labour councillors, local authority workers and workers as a whole.

Labour student conference Democracy stifled by 'Marcos tendency'

Photo: Dave Sinclair

THOUSANDS OF students demonstrated in London on 26 February against the Fowler review of social security spending, the most devastating attack on student living standards, which will force thousands of students out of higher and further education, paving the way for course and college closures.

But instead of meeting to formulate a strategy to unite with the trade unions to defeat Fowler, the 'democratic left' majority on the national committee of the National Organisation of Labour Students, have tried to stifle debate, stamp out all opposition and reduce this weekend's conference to a rubber stamp for their bankrupt ideas. Their inspiration must come from ex-president Marcos!

Backed by the Labour Party national executive committee, the NC has gone to ridiculous lengths to eradicate opposition. Cards have not been sent out to Labour Clubs and inaugural meetings have been sabotaged.

Yet a blind eye has been turned to allegations of malpractice in clubs led by the NC majority's own supporters. Cardiff University club has eight delegates, but

the president of the student union has initiated an investigation into the club's claimed membership of 200.

No Labour club will be allowed to appeal to the conference, under standing orders which have been imposed on the conference by the NEC, on which delegates cannot even vote.

Following the closure of the 1984 conference, when allegations of ballot rigging were left unanswered, the NEC gave themselves the power to take disciplinary action against Labour clubs, even though NOLS is only an affiliated organisation! Recently the national student organiser has threatened to disaffiliate clubs which have sponsored Further Education Labour Students and the Welsh Labour Student Conference has been suspended pending a meeting with party officers.

Now the inquiry into Liverpool District Labour Party has called for a head office inquiry into Liverpool Labour clubs.

There is massive discontent within NOLS, but despite the undemocratic methods of the 'democratic left', the opposition will not be stifled. Students will fight to transform NOLS into a fighting democratic organisation to lead the student movement.

By John Jennings



Students see the need to fight Fowler.

Lobby of NOLS conference, University of London Union, Malet Street, London WC1 (Nearest tube Goodge Street) 8.30pm. Rally afterwards at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square.

Left victory—right smear

IN THE elections to the executive of the Bradford University Labour Club, four of the five positions contested were won by left-wingers, two of them supporters of Militant.

This was followed, however, by articles in the local press containing false allegations and innuendo suggesting that Militant supporters used underhand tactics. The main instigator of these allegations was the Liberal student union president, but a few Labour club members, not happy with the democratic results, spoke out against the club and moves have been begun by NOLS to have the meeting declared unconstitutional.

Political debate and activity must be the priority of the Labour Club. We should not have to waste time responding to pathetic allegations made by people with a 'sour grapes' attitude.

By Jane Larkey and Nasima Patel
(Bradford University Labour Club)

Black caucus disruption

A MEETING last Friday at Liverpool University addressed by Derek Hatton, deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, was disrupted by members of the 'black caucus'.

Shouting "Derek is a fascist, Derek is a racist", they forced their way to the front of the meeting, threatening and punching stewards who tried to control them. Several Labour Club members were threatened that they would be 'done in' if they were seen again on campus.

Despite the obvious hostility of the 1,200 students present towards the black caucus, the organisers were unable to control the disrupters and were forced to call the police and cut the meeting short.

The Law Society, who had organised the meeting were determined to invite Derek back to a meeting with proper stewards and not to be intimidated by the black caucus.

By a student present at the meeting

Fight ALL Leyland sell-off schemes

THE PRIVATISATION of Leyland's bus and truck division and Land Rover has reopened the wounds in the Tory party's unity and morale, that Westland first made. Doubtless the large number of loyal Land Rover and Range Rover owners on the Tory backbenches are outraged that Americans could take over the old firm.

But there are significant numbers of leading Tories who are no longer prepared to see Thatcher casually allow Britain's independent manufacturing base to be undermined.

Discussions with General Motors have apparently been going on for months without the involvement of Land Rover management. Now a special Cabinet committee has been set up, chaired by Thatcher herself. It will investigate the GM offer, and will make the crucial decisions about who gets their hands on the sold-off assets.

Job cuts

GM has reportedly offered £230 million for Leyland Trucks and Land Rover, and has already set aside £40 million for redundancy pay. Every motor industry worker knows that takeovers always mean job cuts. But General Motors was already planning its own rival to the Land Rover

By Bill Mullins
(Former Senior Steward Rover Cars Solihull)

model for the British market. Is their offer to buy up Land Rover merely to eliminate competition? Could it lead to the closure of the Solihull plant?

Leyland workers, however, cannot expect any better guarantees if a British option is chosen. In the scramble for the company are Lonrho, which displays the "unacceptable face of capitalism", even according to Ted Heath, and Metro Cammell Weyman, which recently withdrew recognition from all union representatives at its Birmingham plant. Yet the main thrust of the campaign by trade union leaders is to "keep BL British."

Now Land Rover management are trying to put together a package for a management buy-out. But if anything their offer would



Land Rover Ltd
Rover-Triumph

Solihull assembly plant

Jaguar Rover Triumph Ltd

be the most under-funded of all. Managing Director David Andrews who is heading the management consortium, has a record of massive rationalisation, when he was in charge of bus and trucks.

But Neil Kinnock has declared his support, if privatisation goes through, for the management deal, and the Labour controlled West Midlands County Council's Enterprise Board has offered them £750,000.

Sacked

Management throughout Leyland have a record of anti-trade unionism to rival any private sector company. Michael Edwardes, appointed by the last Labour government sacked Longbridge convenor Derek Robinson to intimidate the rest of the workforce. Now

to soften up the Land Rover workers Militant supporter Ian Schofield has been witch-hunted out of his job. And it is to this management that the Labour and trade union leaders want to hand the company.

They should rather be heading a real fighting campaign against all privatisation. A threat should be issued now to anyone wanting to takeover Land Rover or bus and truck that a new Labour government will renationalise with compensation on the basis of need only. See if General Motors are so keen to put their money in then. No support should be given to British or American bosses, only a fully nationalised motor and components industry under workers' control and management can protect the livelihoods of car workers.

Students strike back at Fowler

PORTSMOUTH students are determined to defeat Fowler's proposals to destroy education and the welfare state.

The Polytechnic Students' Union is calling a 48-hour occupation followed by a half-day strike on 5-7 March. Other colleges and sixth form colleges are preparing to take similar action. The Sussex Area NUS are calling a 24-hour occupation and half-day strike on 6 and 7 March.

At Highbury Technical College a leaflet explaining the effects of Fowler's White Paper on FE students and calling for occupations and strikes got tremendous support; at the general meeting, two Labour students topped the election to represent the college at NUS conference with only a handful of the 250 students not voting for them.

When the Fowler Review

By a Militant reporter

is clearly explained, students know they must fight. Unfortunately the amendment calling for a 48-hour occupation was attacked by the Area Convenor, a member of the Communist Party, who swore he would prevent the motion being passed area-wide (before the area had even discussed it!).

Campaigning

The Wessex Area General Meeting, was inquorate and the motion for a 48-hour occupation and half-day strike was not even allowed to be discussed, instead a series of workshops were arranged to prevent colleges from co-

ordinating their actions.

But the mood to fight the Fowler review is unprecedented. At the West Sussex Institute Student Council, the Fowler Review was explained to the representatives of Chichester College. In spite of their having dis-affiliated from the Sussex Area, they were eager to participate in the occupation and strike, and are considering re-affiliating. These students are taking to the streets to explain the issues to local people.

In Portsmouth Poly a campaign of explanation of Fowler is well underway—even in the bars and canteens.

We must now call upon the college trades unions to join the students and also talk to local NALGO and CPSA staff all of whom face massive job losses if Fowler's cuts go through. On a local level the Fowler cuts can unite the entire public sector in a campaign of joint action.

Union members back students

★ 3000-4000 students demonstrated against Fowler in Glasgow last week. GMBATU members at Glasgow College of Technology took industrial action in support of the students' fight and against privatisation of the refectories (canteens).

★ Students at Langside College in Glasgow are in occupation in protest at the use of police horses in the Fowler demonstration.

Hot air - or political action?

LAST YEAR was dubbed International Youth Year (IYY) by the United Nations. Young people were to be encouraged to "develop their awareness" around the three main themes of peace, participation and development.

In Britain, 1985 was one of the worst years for young workers. Youth unemployment increased, education and health provision was cut, YTS became a two year scheme, and the government introduced the board and lodging rules.

Many young people saw IYY as the chance they were looking for to make some sort of real change.

But the IYY committees started up throughout the country were stifled from day one. Local authorities

By Bob Pearce

(Castle Point LPYS)

gave large sums to the committees on condition that they dictated how the money was spent.

Sensible?

In one area the local IYY committee was made up of 7 young people and 8 adults who held 'responsible' positions in the community; the meetings even took place in the local police station,

chaired by the police commissioner.

The mood of the youth was for action. The Tories boycotted a press conference at the House of Commons, claiming that IYY had fallen into the hands of 'left wing agitators'.

But the sensible 'leaders' of IYY insisted that it should remain a non-political event, effectively making all their talk about 'peace, participation and development' a joke.

A national network was established with elected representatives. The second meeting decided to organise a demonstration in Liverpool over government plans to build the 'New Tate

Gallery' in a city where the priorities should have been tackling high youth unemployment and urban deprivation. This event was vetoed by the unelected IYY National Executive, because of their constant mad scramble for a 'nice' non-political image.

Labour movement

Contrast this with the successful work of the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) against YTS conscription. Direct political action with clear political aims and objectives, linked to the wider labour and trade union movement. That is the only way to tackle the great problems facing youth.

Youth Training Scheme

Putting the record straight

AS REPORTED in *Militant* (784), the England football manager Bobby Robson has appeared on TV ads for the "new" two-year YTS.

The Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) has written to Mr Robson "putting the record straight" about YTS. Below is part of the letter:

"WE CAN understand your concern about the dreadful levels of youth unemployment that exist in Britain and a desire to promote something, ie two year YTS, which appears to tackle this problem.

However, we would like you to consider these points. Since 1979, 38 young people have died on government training schemes (22 on YOP, 16 on YTS). An accident rate of one death every eight weeks, and in addition the parents of the trainees have received only £78 compensation.

We believe the YTS is a cheap labour scheme. How can anyone be expected to live on £26.25 (present YTS allowance) or £27.30 and £35 (the two-year YTS, year one and year two allowance). YTS is about 'training' young people to expect lower wages so the employer boosts his profits.

YTS does not lead to jobs. By the government's figures a third of trainees end up back on the dole. (That is of those who finish the scheme—many finish early).

The Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign is campaigning for decent rates of pay on YTS, proper health and safety, and a guaranteed job at the end of the scheme. We are informing you of these points because we think that someone like yourself who young people look up to should be aware of both sides of the YTS."

Seattle youth follow YTURC lead

UNLIKE THE vague woolly formulations of the UN International Youth Year, working class youth throughout the world have very concrete demands.

Militant on 7 February reported the initiative of the Youth Defense Campaign in Seattle, USA who have been raising money for young people arrested after a police attack on a rock gig last November.

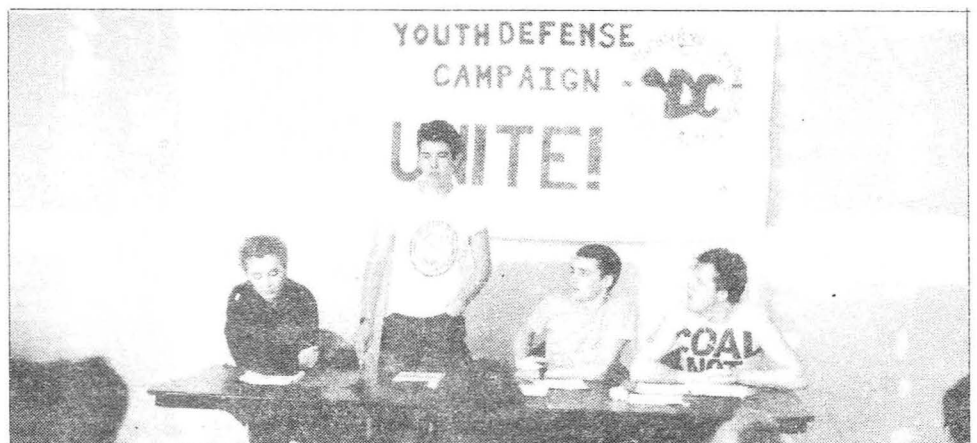
Lisa Hare the YDC Treasurer and Mary Corbin, another YDC member report on developments:

"At the first few meetings a programme of demands were democratically decided:

★ Drop the charges. The youth charged were only guilty of trying to defend themselves against police attacks.

★ For an independent inquiry. We call on trade unions, community groups, local small business and youth groups to elect committees to look into police methods. The police should be accountable to the taxpayers who pay their wages.

★ Decent inexpensive entertainment. Most youth

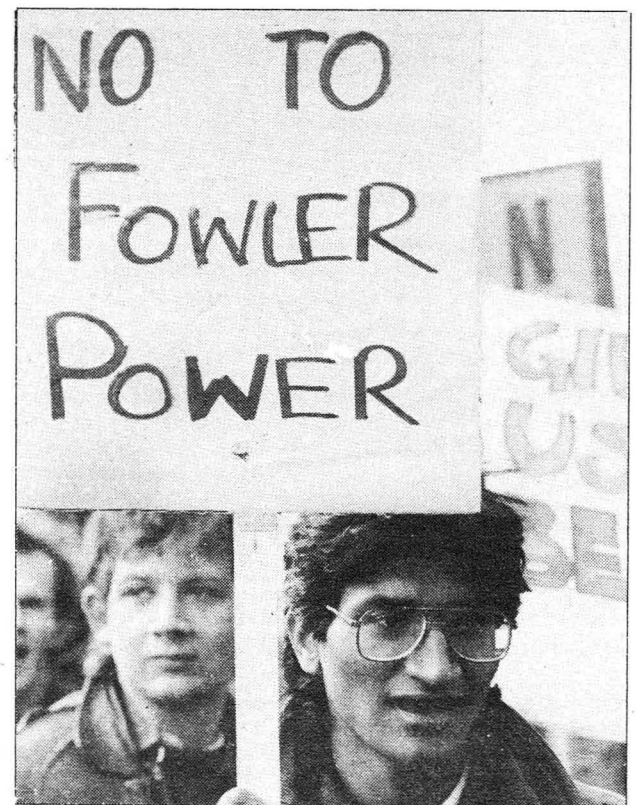


The successful Seattle meeting on 1 February

can not afford the shows big business provides at \$15 to \$20 a go.

★ Union rights and conditions for all youth, for real training and guaranteed jobs. Youth unemployment is three times the rate for adults. Black unemployment is 45 per cent.

Our first public meeting on 1 February attracted 60 people. A low-paid clerical worker spoke on the British school student strike and YTURC. A visiting shop steward from California talked about black



On the January march against Fowler

The high spot of the year



Fight for a future—come to YS conference

THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists national conference is the high spot of every year.

Thousands of young people come together to discuss the problems of Tory Britain; drug abuse, unemployment, YTS, racism and lots more.

Over the three days there will also be discos, theatre, bands and a chance to meet Young Socialists from all over Britain.

Conference takes place in Bournemouth from 28-31 March. Three nights in a hotel, meals, travel, a visitors' ticket which gets you free admission to all the events at conference will cost you about £50.

For more information contact: Andy Bevan, LPYS, 150 Walworth Road, London SE17 1JT.

unemployment. He also said he would approach his union branch and the local municipal workers' union about endorsing our aims and donating to the fund.

We passed a resolution in support of the YTURC. Another letter of support was sent to youth organised in the South African School Students' Union (COSAS). A financial appeal raised \$32.

We now have support from the Hotel Employees' local, radio stations, record stores and bands as well as

letters of international support including from a Wales NUM regional executive member. We are organising a mass picket for the court dates of the three youth together with gigs and other fund raising activities. With the right approach we can go from strength to strength."

Messages of support to: Labour and Trade Union Group, PO Box 9191, Seattle, Wa. 98109, USA.

By reporters in Seattle

Sell Militant and beat the Tories

SPOT THE difference. Labour's right wing are determined to get their way by expelling *Militant* supporters.

Meanwhile in Swansea last week, our readers and supporters sold 60 copies of *Militant* on the doorsteps and in the process recruited 14 new Labour Party members.

How can the Tories be beaten? By plunging the Labour Party into civil war—or by campaigning around socialist policies (no prizes)?

This week, thousands of *Militant* sellers are going out on to the doorsteps to cash in on the millions of pounds worth of free publicity generously donated by our friends in the media. Only through the pages of *Militant* will you find out what we really stand for. If you are a first-time

buyer and you agree with us then why don't you sell *Militant* too?

Publicity boost

Another way to get *Militant* seen by more people is to ask your local newsagent to take some. A newsagent in Ashington took ten and promptly sold out. They have now asked to take 25 a week.

At Rosyth, just outside the dockyard the



Photo: Militant

Militant fights for a Labour victory. Sell *Militant* and stop the witch-hunt.

newsagents took six and sold out; they have also asked to increase their order. Meanwhile sellers at the dockyard gates sold a further 16.

Use this week's publicity and extra sales as a

launching pad to boost *Militant's* sales, support and influence. That is the best way to defeat the Tories.

By Andy Beadle

Fighting Fund - A necessity

not a luxury

FIGHTING FUND This week: **£2,082**

Quarter ends 30 April

FEELING THE cold? Do icy shivers run through your bones after the first ten minutes of selling *Militant* in your local precinct?

Well, we've found the answer in *Debrett's*, the magazine for the gentry. For just under £17,000 you can buy a Lynx cat coat to keep out those winter draughts.

Good start

Maybe that would stretch your American Express account a little too much. However, you could bolster yourself against the adversities of life with a "scatter cushion" for a mere £30 delicately embroidered with "I am a luxury few can afford". How quaint!

Of course, if all this just makes you feel sick and

reminds you that thousands will die of hypothermia this winter for want of heating, never mind a fur coat, then send your money to us and

help us to fight back.

There won't be many readers who can afford £17,000 but perhaps some can afford to send us £30. You can't buy much out of *Debrett's* for £1, £5 or even £10 but it is precisely donations of this nature that will ensure the progress of *Militant*.

We need a good start if we are to reach 50 per cent of our target by half way. What about a collection at your workplace or amongst your friends? Every little bit helps. Send your donation in now!

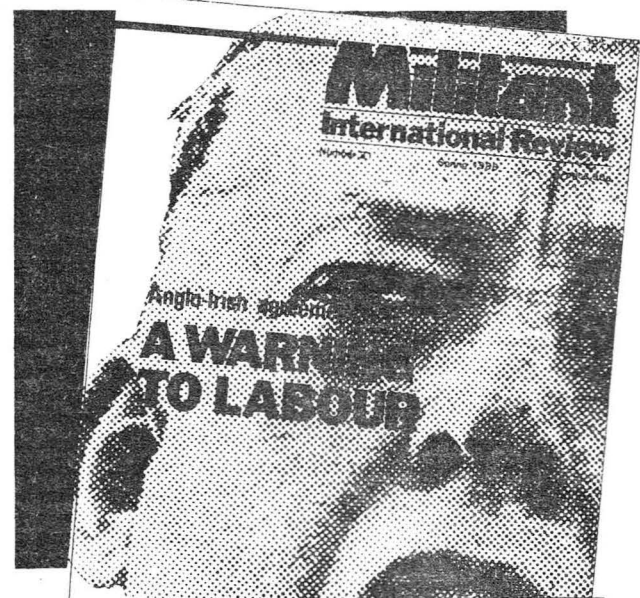
Donations

THANKS TO: Andy Farnese, Westminster UCW £6; Kath James, Enfield NALGO £10; Jenny Pearce, Islington £1; John Richardson, Leicester school student 75p; David Ostle, Silenight striker £1.20; D Tomson Ealing £20; Charlie Allom pen-

sioner, Ryde 75p; Cotgrave NUM reader £12.50; £4 collected outside Shiel Road council depot, Liverpool; £4.40 collected from members of Hull No 12 AUEW branch; collected at Mansfield Labour Party £7; Mrs Maclean, Mrs Saunders, Uxbridge Labour Party £10; Bernard Howgate, Birkenhead Labour Party £2.

Martha McCartney, Glasgow Central Labour Party £5; Jimmy Stevenson, also from Glasgow Central Labour Party £2; Bill Plews, Hull EET-PU £3.55; Burns Supper in Scotland raised £30; special mention to Gareth Ingham who collected £1.98 for the fighting fund in return for cleaning shoes! Readers' meetings last week raised £186 from Peckham; £50 from Nottingham, £81 from Newham and £55 from South Glamorgan (after expenses).

By Ruth Campbell



Militant International Review. New edition out now. Price 90p from local *Militant* sellers or plus 20p post and package from *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

Marxist Daily Building Fund

Don't forget to send in your tenners to the Marxist Daily Building Fund to produce all the material we need and bring a more frequent paper nearer.

ads

CLASSIFIED

15p per word, minimum 10 words.

SEMI-DISPLAY

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

All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

MILITANT scarfs: Two colours (red and yellow unless stated) writing lengthways. Two/three colours writing across width. Cost £5 each, £4 each if five or more brought from: Mick Fallon, 64 Woodbrook Avenue, Mixenden, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX2 8PZ.

MARXIST LPYS band need guitarist in London area (Clash style). Must be YS age and have your own guitar. For more details contact James Morbin on 582-8390 or Mark Bedford on 874-8420.

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.

MILITANT carrier bags—now reduced. 10 bags for only 50p. Please enclose 25p P&P. Send order to: Fighting Fund, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9.

THE CRICKLEWOOD disco for *Militant's* fighting fund on 1 March has been cancelled, to go to Wapping.

Militant Teacher Day School
Saturday 1 March, 11.00am - 5pm
At: Woolton Labour Club, Childwall Valley Road, Liverpool
Speakers include: Tony Mulhearn and leading member of JSSC
Sessions on: Liverpool, local authority workers fightback
Pay campaign
Creche/overnight accommodation if required
Phone: (01) 743 2993 for further details

MILITANT collecting tins—available from Fighting Fund department, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB. Cost £1 each or 75p each for order of 10 or more. Please send 25p post and packaging (50p for bulk orders).

PARTY for the printers. Disco and band. Amersham Arms, New Cross Road, Nr New Cross BR and Tube. 8pm Friday 7 March. £2 waged/£1 unwaged/striking printers with union card—free. Deptford LPYS. All proceeds to striking printers.

DOVER: Joint Dover LPYS/SOGAT '82 public meeting. "Stop Murdoch". Speakers: John Lange, SOGAT '82 and John Elland, LPYS National Committee. Tuesday 4 March, 7.30pm, Biggin Hall, Dover.

VAUXHALL Labour Party Young Socialists Party, Saturday 1 March 8-12pm, Florence Nightingale Pub, Westminster Bridge Road, SE1. £1.50, 75p Concessions. Nearest tube Waterloo.

May Day Greetings

We invite your organisation to place May Day greetings to the labour and trade union movement in *Militant*. *Militant* is read by thousands of labour movement activists in Britain and internationally.

Send your greetings of solidarity with the labour movement. Help build a paper that fights for socialism. The closing date for copy is 22 April.

Prices. Semi-display 3 column centimetres £6. 6 Column centimetres £12. Display 1/16th page £20. 1/8th page £30, 1/4th page £60. Cheques to *Militant* Publications, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

LIVERPOOL City Council benefit featuring *The Redskins*, *The Lloyd Collection*, *Hello Sunset*. Guest Speaker: Derek Hatton. 10 March at Pickwicks. Tickets £2.25 in advance, £2.75 on door. Contact Cathy, Linda, Sylvia on 051 709-4360.

PICKET against US interference in Philippines. Called by Philippines Support Group. Saturday 1 March 2-4pm outside the US Embassy, Grosvenor Square. For more information contact (01) 624-7819.

"Militant fights back" meetings

Midlands

Mansfield: Tuesday 4 March 7.15 pm. Speaker: Steve Morgan. The Lecture Theatre, Mansfield Library, Westgate.

North West

St Helens: Speakers Cathy Wilson (ex PPC Isle of Wight), Dave Moore (NUPE Rainhill Hospital) Lesley Holt (Liverpool Labour Party). St Helens Unemployment and Resources Centre, College Road, St Helens, Wednesday 5 March 7.30 pm.

Blackpool: Saturday 15 March 1.00pm Labour Party conference fringe meeting. Lecture Hall, Central Library, Queen Street, Blackpool.

Eccles: Speaker: Terry Fields MP, Wednesday 12 March, 7.30pm, AUEW Rooms, Eccles.

Withington: Friday 14 March, 7.45pm, Withington Town Hall, Lapwing Lane, Withington, Manchester. Speakers include: John Clegg, Labour councillor Burnage Ward, Phil Frampton.

London

All London meeting: Thursday 13 March, 'Northern Ireland—the socialist alternative', Conway Hall, Red Lion Square. Speakers—Joe Higgins (Irish Labour Party Administrative Council, personal capacity) and Peter Hadden (Labour and Trade Union Group secretary).

London Labour Party conference fringe meeting: Sunday 2 March, 12.45pm, Brixton Recreation Centre, SW2.

Yorkshire

Bridlington: Saturday 1 March, Labour Party Regional Conference fringe meeting. Speaker—Brian Ingham.

South and West

Margate: Saturday 22 March, Southern Labour Party conference fringe meeting.

North East

Ashington: Saturday 1 March, LPYS Regional Conference fringe meeting.

N.Ireland-Labour must act

A DRAMATIC escalation in sectarianism has taken place in Northern Ireland. Should the talks between the Unionist leaders and Thatcher not revive, should Thatcher refuse to either scrap or suspend the Anglo-Irish agreement, massive escalation seems inevitable.

By our Northern Ireland correspondent

Plans are being laid for an all out loyalist stoppage. It now looks likely that a one day preparatory strike and day of action may take place on 3 March. Already dockers in Larne have voted to come out if called. At the key Ballylumford power station a "Ballylumford says no" banner has been erected. Workers there have stated their support for strike action.

This is part of the general heightening of sectarianism that has developed since last November when the Anglo Irish deal was struck. A whole series of sectarian incidents have taken place this year. Families, mainly Catholic, have been intimidated from their homes. There have been a few blatantly sectarian assassinations and attempted assassinations.

In the factories and the estates the loyalist paramilitaries have been openly leafleting and recruiting. The UDA have been holding large meetings in Protestant estates in Belfast.

The Ulster clubs, which involve the paramilitaries, politicians, especially from Paisley's DUP plus elements from the Orange Order claim 10,000 members. They are now talking in terms of open and all-out confrontation. Speaking at a meeting of 200 in Ballymena, their chief spokesman, Alan Wright said: "Force must be met with force. That force will be a controlled, disciplined effort. We must literal-



Unionists rally in Belfast in November.

ly stop this country in its tracks and temporarily take it for ourselves."

The so called 'moderate' unionists have been brought to heel. All the local councils controlled by unionists are in suspension and technically the councillors face surcharge if they do not set a rate by 26 February. Unionist MPs are warning of rate strikes, of refusing to pay car taxes etc.

Looming ahead over the next weeks and months are a number of potentially explosive situations.

On Easter weekend a loyalist parade in Portadown is to be rerouted away from a Catholic area. The parade organisers say they will not accept rerouting. A Nationalist counter demonstration has been threatened.

With uncertainty as to whether the RUC will be prepared to confront the Protestant marchers, the danger exists of a pogrom.

Even if the government should manage to defuse this situation they face the problem of the 12 July marches, a number of which they are threatening to reroute.

No change for workers

Meanwhile the agreement has changed nothing for the working class. Poverty remains. 22 per cent of the workforce are unemployed. A quarter of total household incomes comes from social security benefits, as opposed to 14 per cent in Britain as a whole. The real solution of the Tories is cuts and

more cuts. A drastic cut in the Housing Executive budget will mean that in the financial year '86-'87 a grand total of 15 new Executive homes will be built in the Western half of the province.

Nor has there been any let up in repression. On 18 February a 20 year old Catholic youth, Francis Bradley, was shot dead by an army undercover unit in South Derry. These soldiers were dressed in jeans, jumpers and light shoes. Despite cover up attempts it is clear that he was unarmed. The "shoot to kill" policy remains.

In fact the Anglo Irish agreement has led to an increase in repression. Since the beginning of this year there have been three

separate incidents in Tyrone and Fermanagh, where the UDR has opened fire on unarmed civilians. Miraculously only two people have been wounded.

TU leaders response

For the working class, both Catholic and Protestant the agreement, far from leading to a solution, will make things much worse. It means a continuation of poverty, added repression, and a huge increase in sectarianism.

Despite the obvious dangers the trade union leaders in the North have failed to respond. They maintain a position of silence on the question. This position is no longer tenable.

Loyalist strikes, which will divide the workforce, threaten a sectarian division of the trade unions.

Only the Labour and Trade Union Group has been alert to the dangers. They have demanded a special rank and file conference of the trade union movement to discuss how to prevent the further division of the working class, and also to present a socialist alternative to the Anglo Irish deal.

Unless Thatcher quickly retreats, such an initiative will become desperately urgent. The working class in Northern Ireland have the power to overcome sectarianism but the danger is that their leaders will not act until it is too late.

THE ALMOST weekly reports of radiation leaks and contamination of workers at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant have alarmed many ordinary families.

Recent medical reports have implicated the nuclear industry in abnormal incidence of cancers, especially leukaemia.

Now health and safety inspectors are to conduct an inquiry into Sellafield's safety.

What is nuclear radiation and what are its effects? Radiation—in the form of ionising particles and rays—is emitted when a nuclear reaction occurs as in the production of nuclear energy. They are virtually impossible to contain.

A chief characteristic of some radiation is its ability to cause mutation of the cellular structure of the human body. When this occurs, cancers and leukaemia results. Small children and embryos carried by pregnant women are particularly vulnerable.

Recent research has revealed that whereas high levels of radiation often kill the cell, low levels are more dangerous as they injure the

Sellafield safety-workers at risk

cell, leaving it free to reproduce and carry on the damage.

It is now well documented that levels well within the agreed 'safety limits' have produced a disturbingly high incidence of cancers of the pancreas and leukaemia.

Case studies of American nuclear workers—using figures obtained under the Freedom of Information Act—leaves the rate of leukaemia at an incredible 450 per cent higher than the general population. The incidence of lymph gland cancer was 125 per cent higher.

The same levels of cancers amongst nuclear workers and within the population in the vicinity of nuclear establishments have now been conclusively confirmed by four major studies.

A 'mole' has revealed that radioactive emissions are often reported to be a staggering 40 times less than they actually were.

In an attempt to stem these leaks the industry has issued warnings to its

workforce, that they would be in breach of the Official Secrets Act if they disclosed any information even though it might be vital in terms of health and safety.

This ruling would be in breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1976.

The Act, hailed as a landmark in trade union legislation, established for the first time the legal right of trade unionists to investigate hazardous occurrences and company policy in respect to health and safety. If successful, they could appeal to safety inspectors who could issue improvement and prohibition notices. Failure to comply could involve a maximum fine of £1,000.

Employers have consistently exploited every loophole in order to evade the duties placed on them.

Ambiguous terms and definitions such as "reasonably practicable" which is defined in terms of cost of improving health, means in the final analysis that only the courts have the power to authoritatively in-

terpret the phrases.

Finally, there is nothing in the regulations or codes of practise that commits the employer to divulge information however crucial. They do not need for instance to act upon reports submitted from safety reps and committees.

Labour inquiry

It is hardly surprising then, that there has been no successful prosecution of any company despite overwhelming proof of malpractice. The present situation in relation to compensation of nuclear victims demonstrates the ineffectiveness of this legislation. Workers have to prove through the courts that radiation has 'significantly' contributed to their cancers. Only a handful of cases have been successful.

It is now vitally important that the labour and trade union movement conducts its own inquiry into the nuclear industry. It must mobilise immediately to en-

sure that health and safety is a key issue in all nuclear establishments.

As part of this campaign it must insist on the full revelation of all company records and studies relating to the poisoning of workers and the community. They must recognise that there is no 'safe level' of radiation exposure.

They must demand stringent medical checks of all workers and the general population and the results must be made available.

A question mark now hangs over the nuclear industry—its appalling safety record together with the ever increasing threat of a major catastrophe, as occurred in Harrisburg in America.

Labour's spokesmen on the nuclear industry John Cunningham, is also MP for the constituency that includes Sellafield. Questions have been asked about his commitment to Labour's nuclear policy. He has raised the prospect of high unemployment in the in-

dustry if other fuels are developed instead.

Clearly the jobs of every worker must be protected, but this can only be done with the implementation of a well formulated socialist energy policy.

This would provide the necessary resources to develop alternative sources of energy such as wind, solar and geothermal which do not produce harmful waste products and are present in infinite quantities.

Such a plan will give priority to the development of nuclear fusion which has the great advantage of producing no nuclear waste. It uses as a fuel a form of hydrogen found in unlimited quantities in sea water.

In the mean time the labour movement should oppose the madness of uncontrolled completely irresponsible expansion of nuclear power plants and reprocessing facilities.

By Ronnie Sookhdeo

Liverpool inquiry

SIX OF the Labour Party NEC members elected onto the Liverpool DLP investigation team have produced a report which is a pretext for a purge of Marxists from the party. The six, Charles Turnock, Tom Sawyer, Betty Boothroyd, Tony Clarke, Eddie Haigh and Neville Hough, along with General Secretary, Larry Whitty, put their report to Wednesday's NEC. Two other members of the investigation, Margaret Beckett and Audrey Wise, dissented and produced their own minority report. Here JOHN PICKARD looks at the content of the reports and the implications.

MEMBERS OF Liverpool District Labour Party, meeting in defiance of the National Executive Committee, overwhelmingly rejected the recommendations of the rigged investigation into how the city party is run. The decisions of the investigation team are almost a carbon-copy of the speculation in the press, including expulsion of leading Militant supporters and the reorganisation of the District Labour Party in order to police the membership.

These actions of the NEC, according to the report, must have "The understanding and eventual support of the majority of the labour and trade union movement on Merseyside"—a clear indication that they will be highly unpopular.

The reorganisation of the DLP, expected to take months, with a recalled AGM in June, is justified only by alleged "misinterpretation" of the "flexibility" allowed in the rules and standing orders of District Labour Parties.

The main recommendations are:

Expulsions

16 party members are to be reinvited to answer questions. As far as the right wing are concerned, these 16 (see above right) are lined up for expulsion: after having decided the sentence, it is now a question of going through the motions of a trial.

After being interviewed by general secretary Larry Whitty, the report suggests that "where applicable" charges should be formulated against them. Apart from these 16, the door is left open for the expulsion of other Labour Party members in Liverpool. "There may be other members of the party who have to varying degrees been involved or supported Militant Tendency in the past", the report states: "However... it is neither provable or profitable to add to the above list". That is a veiled threat that the 16 expulsions could yet be followed by dozens more.

The investigation team, no doubt hoping for a quick and quiet "kill" recommends that the NEC takes decisions as to disciplinary action "as rapidly as possible".

Policing members

Two full-time organisers will be appointed to police the party in Liverpool. They will be responsible for the organisation and administration of the party and will be able to 'vet' campaigns, publications and propaganda. This particular decision was taken well before the end of the investigation because the posts were advertised in *Labour Weekly* as early as January.

It is believed that at least one of these unelected "commissioners" could be a member of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee, a group opposed to the policy of the DLP, but unable to win a significant influence by democratic debate and discussion.

Reduced democratic control

While the DLP is suspended and is being reorganised, a "Temporary Co-ordinating Committee" will be established. This body will have only two delegates from each constituency, two from each of the larger unions and a few other delegates as well as the full-time Labour Party regional and local officers. It will be a tiny, undemocratic body less than a tenth of the size of the DLP itself.

Yet this tiny circle, in which the full-time Labour Party officers will have almost as many votes as the Constituency Labour Parties, will be responsible for the local election panel, the selections and the elections themselves, once again in a blatant attempt at political vetting of the selections and the election campaign.

The reorganisation of the DLP also recommends that the "all member" (aggregate) meetings, should not be held more than once a quarter. Outside speakers would not be allowed, so that solidarity speakers from anti-apartheid, CND, trade unionists like miners and printers in struggle would not be allowed to speak.

The report further recommends that there should be a restriction on the influence of the District Labour Party over the Labour Group.

Vetting delegates

The report suggests that those unions who have a block affiliation to the DLP, particularly the GMBATU and the TGWU should be asked "to check rigorously their delegation to both DLP and CLP as against their branch membership and to check the method of appointment in consultation with the North West Regional office."

This is no less than a blatant invitation to these unions to politically vet the delegates who now go to the DLP. There is no suggestion that any such "rigorous" check be made on the right wing delegates, from NUPE, for example.

A similar check is suggested as far as Student Labour Clubs and the Women's Council is concerned. In all three cases until the process of negotiation is complete, "no delegate to the DLP or the individual CLPs should be accepted".

Minority Report

THE MINORITY Report, in the names of Margaret Beckett and Audrey Wise, differs substantially from the majority recommendations, but above all in its rejection of expulsions.

It makes a number of suggestions about reorganisation and improving the running of the DLP, for example by increasing the numbers of delegates from wards and CLPs, and restricting the use of aggregate meetings. But there is no suggestion of the employment of unelected full-time agents to run the party or delaying the resumption of the work and activity of the party.

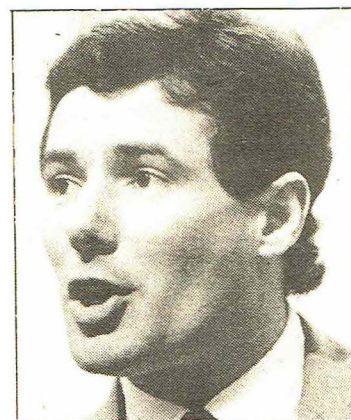
Most notably, the Minority Report points to the "terrible dangers" of expulsions based on unprovable assertions and notes that even many of those interviewees critical of the DLP were opposed to expulsions.

"If expulsions are contemplated", it says, "where doubt exists to the quality of the evidence... we are on a very slippery slope where such proposals might be made on more and more tenuous evidence and thus in reality on the grounds not even of real political conviction, though that would be dangerous enough, but even of personal likes and dislikes".

THE NUMBER of meetings held by the DLP in 1984 and 1985 corresponded to the critical political situation. No other DLP in Britain could have held as many meetings with as many delegates and party members in attendance. In 1983 there were 10 DLP meetings, no aggregates and 14 ECs. In 1984, the corresponding figures were 13, 5 and 27. Up to the suspension in November, the corresponding figures for 1985 were 9, 8 and 31. Liverpool DLP is being pilloried for refusing to allow councillors to take crucial decisions behind the backs of the movement.

EVEN THE rigged investigation showed a majority of the written and oral evidence—55 against 51—supported the Liverpool DLP.

THE LABOUR vote in Liverpool has gone up (according to the report) from 35.8 per cent in 1973 to 46.5 per cent in 1983 and 46.2 per cent in 1984. Over the same period, the Tories' vote slumped from 27.4 per cent to 19.0 per cent, and the Liberals from 35.4 per cent to 34.4 per cent.

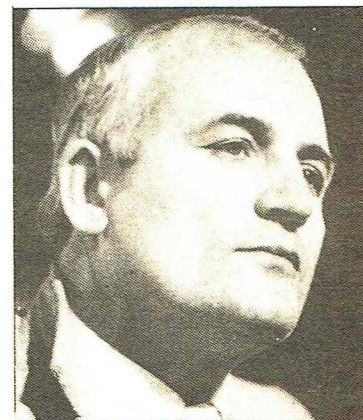


DEREK HATTON, 38, (15 years in the Labour Party), Deputy Leader, Liverpool Council.

★ HARRY SMITH, 36, (15 years), councillor.

★ ROGER BANNISTER, 34, (15 years), Secretary Broadgreen CLP.

★ SYLVIA SHARPEY-SHAEFER, 39, (18 years), chair Women's council.



TONY MULHEARN, 47 (23 years), President, Liverpool DLP, councillor.

★ PAUL ASTBURY, 29, (8 years), councillor.

★ CAROL DARTON, 36, (5 months), black activist.

IAN LOWES, 35, (10 years), Chairman Joint Shop Stewards.

TONY AITMAN, 37, (22 years).

The real reason for

THE INVESTIGATION into Liverpool DLP was launched at last November's NEC in a blaze of publicity.

Hair-raising allegations were made in the national and Liverpool press of "massive intimidation", "physical abuse", and, by Roy Hattersley, of "Political and literal corruption". It was stated that dossiers given to the investigation team would be handed over to the police, with the clear implication that members of the DLP and councillors were corrupt.

Yet the mountain has laboured and brought forth a mouse! After 60 hours of questioning 120 Labour Party members, after tens of thousands of pounds have been wasted on wages, hotel bills, fares including air flights to Liverpool, the investigation has not produced a single shred of evidence to back up the allegations of corruption, abuse or intimidation. At the very best, it repeats the old allegations, but in a roundabout, vague and nit-picking way.

pretext

The whole tone of the report is an expression of absolute terror on the part of the right wing of the Labour Party, of mass rank and file participation in the actual decision making of Labour Party policy and particularly of the growing support for Marxist ideas. Labour's right wing are using the flimsiest possible constitutional pretext to smash Liverpool Labour Party for its heroic—but to the right wing, embarrassing—struggle for the jobs and services of the City.

The purpose of the investigation to provide the basis for a witch-hunt against supporters of the *Militant*. Tucked away in the middle of the report is the revealing admission:

"The investigation team do not take seriously all allegations made of *Militant* activities in Liverpool. However, there are undoubtedly a large number of supporters of the broad line taken by the *Militant* in Liverpool, and others who are prepared to go along with most of the policies, particularly whilst

Militant has appeared to be the only credible focus of left-wing activity within the party in Merseyside". No other statement reveals so well the right's admission of their own political weakness in Liverpool.

The investigation team gave grudging recognition of the enormous social and economic problems facing the City Council. They were "extremely conscious of the deprivations of the city of Liverpool at the hands of the present Tory government and of the

"... there are undo the broad line taken who are prepared to ticularly whilst *Militant* focus of left wing ac

previous Liberal administration."

"We fully appreciate" the report says "the steps taken since 1983 by the Labour controlled council and the Labour Party in Liverpool to achieve a regeneration of the city"

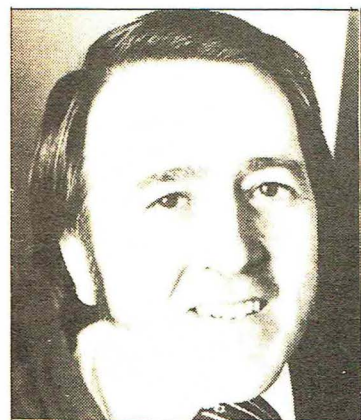
It also accepts that in the "dramatic events of the past few months" and the recent "tense and difficult", period, no one could expect a "100 per cent perfectly functioning party."

But the enormous struggles of the labour movement in Liverpool, the demonstration of tens of thousands of workers, the strikes in support of the City Council, the hundreds of thousands of leaflets, the dozens of estate meetings, the heroic stand of 48 councillors their livelihoods at stake: all this dismissed in a few paragraphs.

Then the report gets down to real business: manufacturing from thin air a series of tissue-thin arguments in order to reach its predetermined conclusion that "very serious and deep seated problems" exist in the party.

By the standards of any constituency or District Labour Party anywhere in the country, the procedures, methods and conduct of the Liverpool DLP are exemplary. By those same standards the minor complaints and breaches in procedure pointed to by the investiga-

Inquiry



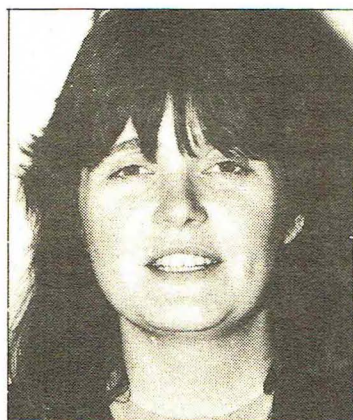
TERRY HARRISON, 47, (28 years), Vice-Chair DLP.

★ **PAULINE LOWES**, 38, (14 years), councillor.

JOSE AITMAN, 30, (14 years) agent, Broadgreen CLP.

RICHARD VENTON, 33 (15 years).

CHERYL VARLEY, 25, (3 years) student sabbatical officer.



FELICITY DOWLING, 35, (19 years), Secretary DLP, councillor.

RICHARD KNIGHTS, 31, (15 years).

(Asterisk denotes those agreed by only four of the investigation team, otherwise the list is supported by all six signing the report).

r the witch-hunt

tion team are at best nit-picking and at worst mischievous tittle-tattle.

The inquiry team complained about the "scope" of the DLP, although acknowledging that the rules "differ little from the rules of other District Labour Parties of large conurbations". What particularly irked the right wing is the fact that the DLP was "involved in a number of situations which should be the prerogative of the Labour group".

should have a clearly established relationship with the normal DLP meetings. Once again, it is clear that what really terrifies the right wing is the fact that more meetings, and bigger meetings including the majority of DLP delegates and in some cases hundreds of Labour Party members—have taken place in the course of the last two years.

The real crime of Liverpool DLP is to have held regular aggregate meetings at every important turn of events in order that the DLP

ably a large number of supporters of by the Militant in Liverpool, and others go along with most of the policies, part has appeared to be the only credible activity within the party in Merseyside".

—Report paragraph 14.6

What is particularly disgraceful, and flies in the face of the accepted custom and practice in the entire labour movement, is the criticism that non-council issues are discussed at the DLP. How many Labour Party members would object in any circumstances to speakers seeking support on the issues of South Africa, Northern Ireland, Nicaragua, or for the strikes of miners or print workers?

No specific criticisms

Moreover, the majority of Labour Party members would think it perfectly correct that important questions of principle, even occasionally including crucial industrial disputes in the council, should be brought to the attention of the DLP.

Quite clearly the authors of the report do not like the situation where the "consultative and informational role of the DLP" appears to have developed to a position where "It appears the DLP has been regarding as binding on the Labour group decision".

When it comes to the section on aggregate (or "all member") DLP meetings, the investigation team find it extremely difficult to make any specific criticisms, the only recommendation being that they

delegates and Labour Party members could become acquainted with and have a direct influence on key decisions that had to be made on the council budget struggle last year. It is testimony to the Liverpool DLP that so many meetings and consultation took place. Unlike in many corners of the movement nothing was done behind the backs of the rank and file.

The general conduct of the DLP meetings has been the subject of an avalanche of lies, distortions and smears in the national and local press. But the inquiry team was forced to conclude "the general view—even of witnesses otherwise critical—was that the chairmanship was effective and in accordance with the Standing Orders and rules of debate".

In the end the investigation team were reduced to bleating about "indications" that there were complaints—but only over trivial questions like the right of reply, the time limits of speakers, and the fact that executive committee members and officers were having the "last word".

But having decided in advance the conclusion that "there seemed to have been some serious lapses" in the conduct of meetings, the



Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley run the gauntlet of the 2,000-strong lobby before the NEC meeting that voted to begin a new purge. (Photo: Dave Sinclair).



Liverpool Labour Party members lobbied the investigation team as it began its work last December. The local party will not accept the expulsion of any of its members. (Photo: Dave Sinclair).

report was bound to try at least to manufacture a case from somewhere.

Without stating how many or who, it says that "a significant number of members" claim there was "a general air of intimidation", that "verbal intimidation" was rife and that there were "threats and acts of physical violence".

In the absence of any evidence, the investigation team had no alternative but to express its difficulty in judging the "balance of truth". But they say, they were satisfied that "on at least one occasion" there was some physical violence. Without a single shred of evidence, without a time, a date, place or person involved, the best the investigation team can come up with is that there was "some" physical violence on "one" occasion. Held up to the light of an impartial scrutiny even that charge would be laughed out of court.

No voting irregularities

Likewise, there is no basis to the spurious claims that there were any "problems" checking delegates' credentials on the door of meetings or on voting procedures.

The investigation team's nit-picking did its best to come up with irregularities on voting, but failed miserably.

The vast majority of DLP delegates understand the voting procedures, yet the investigation team, apparently, found some stubborn difficulty in understanding them. All DLP delegates know that *consultative* votes of members are taken at aggregates, only *after* the delegates votes have taken place. But there were some mysterious "differences of recollection"—no doubt strange memory lapses of opponents of the DLP—giving the investigation team yet

another transparent excuse to imply some irregularity.

The same vagueness and lack of substance applied in all the sections critical of the DLP.

The report points out that of the DLP delegates there are 167 from trade unions, and only 73 from wards and Constituency Labour Parties. This is a smaller proportion of trade union delegates than there is at Labour Party conference, regional conferences and many other Constituency Labour Parties and DLPs.

What really worries the investigation team is the fact that delegates from trade unions—the GMBATU and TGWU come in for special attention—are made up of rank and file workers, and especially council workers. The right wing on the inquiry team would prefer that union delegates are hand-picked stooges of the union right wing. In Dudley East, quarry workers in GMBATU are represented by a London-based fashion designer, and in Wallsend, shipyard workers are represented by a retired headmistress. Liverpool's crime is for the GMBATU branches to be represented by workers.

Similar empty charges and accusations are made against the Student Labour Clubs, workplace branches and the women's council, making it clear that the investigation team were only concerned with those affiliated organisations and bodies where support for the ideas of *Militant* and the left are strongest.

Whenever the investigation team came anywhere near to direct accusations of malpractice of abuse, it was forced through reliance on disgruntled tittle-tattle to resort to insinuation and hints. The section dealing with the councils "employment policy" is the most obvious in this respect. No direct accusations are made.

They say, there is "a widespread

impression" that certain jobs are awarded or trade union "nomination" rights are abused on a political basis. Apart from this, this section of the report refers to "allegations" (seven times), "serious allegations", it was put to the enquiry team... (twice), "It was suggested to the enquiry team", "We received assertions..." "A number of accusations..." etc, etc. Not a single piece of evidence is mentioned: not a mouthful, not a crumb. Yet the investigation team are somehow "satisfied that there is some validity to the assertions".

The inquiry merely takes gossip, malicious rumour and tittle-tattle and elevates them to the level of "official" allegations.

Shameful report

This massive 44 page report is completely empty of any real substance to back up any of the assertions of malpractice. It succeeds only in highlighting one or two second or third-rate changes in the functioning of the DLP, of the sort which would be applicable to almost any Labour Party as closely examined as Liverpool.

The whole exercise is merely a *pretext*, to wheel in a new apparatus of expulsions. Although the sections on *Militant* occupies only four pages out of the whole report, this is the key section. The right wing are terrified that *Militant* has assumed such a widespread influence within the labour movement in Liverpool, and the whole charade of the investigation and report boil down to an attack upon the political influence of this newspaper.

But the authors of this shameful report are making a big mistake if they imagine they can emasculate a whole city Labour Party and expel some of its best activists without a long and bloody struggle.

Philippines, South Africa

The bell tolls for Marcos

THE MARCOS regime has fallen, hated by workers and peasants and deserted by crucial sectors of the army, of the capitalist class, the church, Filipino diplomats abroad, and in the end, by Marcos' protectors in Washington.

But Reagan wanted to bolster up his old ally for as long as he could get away with it.

'Mr Reagan says that the two US bases, Clark Field and Subic Bay are of paramount importance. In his news conference on Tuesday (11.2.86) he appeared to suggest that that would be a reason for accepting a Marcos victory, however engineered.'

With these words the Financial Times (15.2.86) cut through all the hypocritical verbiage that surrounds US foreign policy statements and got down to the nitty gritty - if US vital interests are threatened then democracy goes out the window.

Subsequent pressure on Reagan, because of the overwhelming evidence that the election was rigged, has broken his resolve to plug on with Marcos.

Strategic

But the cynical disregard for fair elections stands exposed. Reagan's statement about the Filipino people sorting this problem out for themselves is in blatant contrast to US policy of intervention in Nicaragua. There is one difference—in Nicaragua, the regime threatens US interests, and the existence of landlordism and capitalism. In the Philippines the regime attempted to protect them.

These islands, where 52% of investment is controlled by US companies, where 50% of US investment in S.E. Asia is concentrated, where the US pumps in more military aid than in any other Asian country (\$305m in 1980-84), could become, along with Nicaragua, the biggest foreign policy problem for US imperialism over the next five or ten years.

An 'archipelagic aircraft carrier' is the phrase *The Economist* used to sum up the strategic importance of the Philippines. The stakes are extremely high. Cam Ranh Bay the Vietnamese base used by the US is now used by Russian ships. If US imperialism is defeated in the Philippines, its main naval base, ship repair site and

By Phil Hutchinson

large aircraft bases in Asia will disappear. It will have to retreat to Honolulu, half way back across the Pacific. No wonder the US bourgeois are having nightmares about the Philippines.

The US bourgeois has been openly split between those around Reagan, who wanted to cling on to Marcos rather than open up the flood gates of change, and those who saw the need to switch support to Aquino. Her programme is essentially no different from that of Marcos when examined closely, but because of her reputation as widow of the martyred leader of the op-



Cardinal Sin. The church is part of the 'moderate' opposition.

position, she may yet have some authority amongst the masses to hold them back from the road of revolution.

Together with General Ramos who was responsible for butchering twenty workers on a picket line last year and other recent deserters from Marcos' camp, her government will disappoint the revolutionary hopes of the masses, driving them to the left.

A million workers and peasants demonstrated their support for Aquino, a huge strike movement is sweeping the country, she cannot hold back the floodgates of revolution indefinitely.

The more far sighted representatives of US imperialism understand that it is better to install her in office now, rather than let the opposition to Marcos build



Marcos.

up an explosive force over a period of months or years, which would then result in his replacement by a more left wing party, with the danger that the revolution would threaten landlordism and capitalism.

Yet Marcos served US imperialism well since he was first elected in 1965. His imposition of martial law in September 1972 was part of a savage onslaught against the revolutionary movement of the workers and peasants which had rocked the Philippines in the late sixties. Massacre, torture, murder, illegal arrest and rape have become established as the normal way of dealing with any movement of the workers or peasants against exploitation. The right to strike and picket has been effectively banned. Meanwhile the profits have flowed.

Road to revolution

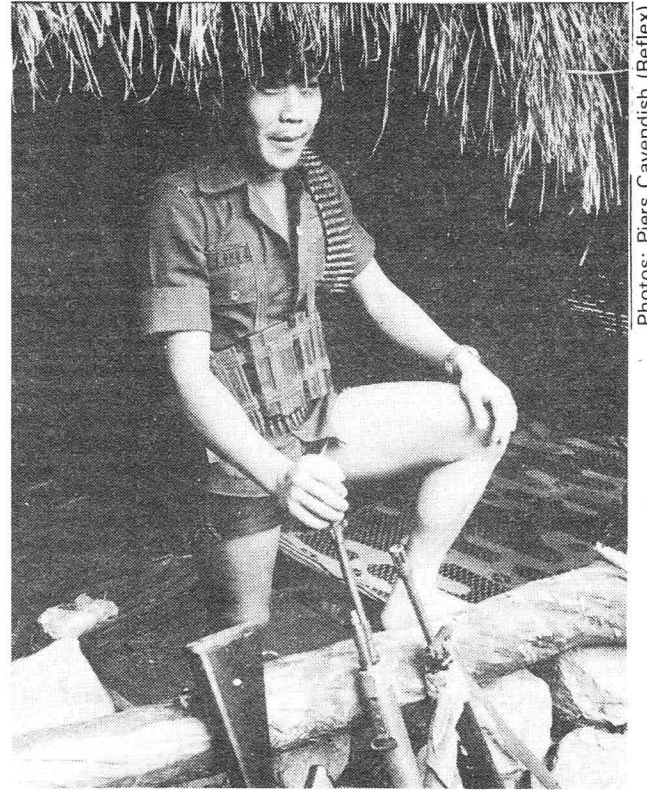
And yet, despite a decade of ruthless and savage oppression, the very calling of the election was a symptom of the defensive position that the Marcos regime has been thrown into. Over the last few years there has been a massive wave of strikes under conditions of illegali-

ty and terror.

The employers have been forced to grit their teeth and give concessions. There were 400 strikes (according to official figures) last year; a 45 per cent increase on the previous year. 2.44 million working days were lost. In the face of repression, workers responded by greater militancy and greater mobilisation. There was a 355 per cent increase in strike duration in 1985 compared to 1984 which indicates the emboldening of the working class and a hardening of the struggle.

There has been a combination of a strike movement with riots and popular demonstrations in the towns and a struggle of the peasants in the highlands. The unemployed, the slum dwellers and all oppressed sections of society are coming into struggle and seeking political ideas.

In the countryside, the guerilla movement based on the peasantry has scored victory after victory, throwing back the demoralised state forces despite their enormous US backing. There are shades of Vietnam, troops with US equipment, US training, harrasing the civilian population, strategic hamleting to try and isolate



More and more Filipinos are taking up arms.

the guerillas—yet still the guerillas go from strength to strength.

It is this relentless pressure from the downtrodden and exploited people rising to their feet and taking up weapons which forced Marcos to the polls in a last desperate bid to shore up his almost totally ruined credibility. But the polls have had the opposite effect.

Turning point

Yet the movement of the workers in the towns was in the end what removed Marcos. This reaffirms the basic idea of Marxism that the working class is the decisive force in the revolution even in the colonial world. It refutes those who argue for the guerilla struggle as the key to removing dictators.

Mirroring the splits amongst the US bourgeois, there are many warring fac-

tions in the Filipino ruling class. A section of the military, feeling the pressure of the masses removed Marcos through a coup when, with the same obstinacy as Pinochet, closeting himself from the realities of the situation, he refused to go.

Marcos himself hoped to ride out the storm of protest for a few weeks then revitalise the terror brigades and attempt to crack down.

Cory Aquino's party will be riven with splits and disagreements because of the pressure of the masses and their determination to find a way of changing society.

Thus whatever the options before the US bourgeois and their Filipino lackeys, Marcos' downfall will be seen as an historical turning point, opening up a new chapter in the tremendous history of struggle by the workers and peasants of the Philippines.

Release SA workers' leader

MOSES MAYEKISO, a leader of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union (MAWU) in South Africa, was arrested last week during the murderous operations of the security forces in Alexandra township, Johannesburg. His present whereabouts are unknown.

MAWU is one of the most militant trade unions in South Africa. Brother Mayekiso's position is reflected in his own words: "We must fight all kinds of exploitation by our strength... Workers as a class should fight their own problems as the enemy is only one—capitalism—and all other things like influx control are merely appendages..."

Moses Mayekiso had been due to visit Britain during the first weeks of March as part of a MAWU delegation, to raise support for the magnificent struggle by workers at BTR's Sarmcol plant in SA (see *Militant*, 21 February).

Rush protests and messages calling for his release to the South African Embassy, South Africa House, Trafalgar Square, London WC2, with copies and messages of support to: MAWU, PO Box 945, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa. Further information from: SALEP, 28 Martello Street, London E8 3PE. Telephone 01 241-0434.

TODAY, LESS than one per cent of the population controls 70 per cent of the economy. 349 companies are owned by Marcos himself. Vast profits are raked in by US companies. In mining and extracting for example, where there are virtually no environmental restrictions, ancient tribal lands can be freely devastated, there is an annual 20 per cent return on assets invested.

So much wealth is creamed out of the country that despite the potential prosperity, and the growth over the last two decades, the domestic economy is suffering a crisis. There was a 4.6% decline in production, in real terms, last year. The foreign debt stands at \$26 billion. Inflation is 23 per cent. Some 24 per cent of the budget goes on servicing the foreign debt.

Poverty line

Seventy per cent of the population of 54.7 million live below the poverty line. 43% of the labour force are either unemployed, semi-employed or not seeking



Village life in Luzon. Villagers have been fighting the destruction of their tribal lands.

work. In Manila alone there are 16000 child prostitutes between the ages of 9 and 16. There are 3 million landless workers in the countryside. 70 per cent of Filipinos suffer from malnutrition. Half of all deaths of under fives are due to malnutrition.

There is a pitiful lack of social services, welfare and health provisions. 53 per

cent of the rural population do not have safe drinking water. 86% of urban families live in congested slums.

There is a daily minimum wage of £2.21 but the government even allows employers exemption from this. Workers are subjected to forced overtime and very short rest periods. Women

shop workers, for example, are allowed three minutes to go to the toilet, they are sacked if they get married, they are the target of sexual harassment by managers.

Under Marcos there has been an horrific increase in the number of factory accidents. 86 per cent of companies do not comply with existing safety standards.

Oil glut leads to destitution

OVER THE past few weeks, the price of oil has crumbled, from \$28 to \$15. MICK BROOKS looks at the effects this will have throughout the world.

DURING THE long period of capitalist expansion after World War II, demand for all kinds of raw materials increased massively. This allowed the producer countries to band together to push up their prices.

The most famous and most successful example was the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

In the wake of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, the Arab oil embargo led to the quadrupling of oil prices almost overnight. A few Gulf sheikhs seemed to have the advanced capitalist countries by the throat.

OPEC's surplus went up from \$7 billion in 1973 to \$68 billion in 1974.

The world-wide recession now threatens the collapse of cartels and vicious price-cutting wars.

As the demand for oil falls, the producer countries respond to the oil glut—and their loss in revenue—by overproducing to increase their market shares.

Countries like Libya have been 'cheating' for years on the production quotas allotted to them by OPEC. For the last couple of years, world output has only been kept stable by Saudi Arabia acting as a 'swing producer', cutting its own production from 10 million to 2.5 million barrels per day.

Eventually this proved too much of a drain even on the legendary wealth of the kingdom. Saudi Arabia is now running the second biggest trade deficit in the world (second only to the USA), and has spent half of its seemingly inexhaustible foreign exchange reserves.

The grandiose \$550 billion development schemes undertaken since 1973-74, which are in the process of transforming the kingdom, have been running out of cash.

Reversed policy

The Saudis have abruptly reversed their policy. They have doubled the rate of oil extraction overnight.

Since Saudi oil is the cheapest in the world to produce, they can make as much money selling twice the petroleum at half its old price. Their big guns are aiming to blow the opposition out of the water.

During the stability of the post-war boom, most petroleum was sold on long-term contract, mainly tied up by the 'seven sisters' (the seven top oil-trading monopolies).

Recent years, however, have seen the development of the 'spot market'—a telephone market in rogue tankers with oil for sale. In all the speculative froth which this has created, one such cargo was bought and sold 52 times!

'Free market' oil prices now have to be found out by journalists ringing round the dealers at the close of the day's business. The instability of this market was

highlighted by *The Guardian* on 23 July, when it reported "brokers boasting about talking the market up or down by lying to reporters"!

It is reports such as these that have recently brought panic stations to the oil-producing countries, including Britain.

Any sudden movement in the price of such a major energy resource can have critical consequences for world trade, like loose cargo in the bilges of a ship punching holes in the side.

You have to know the likely prices of other energy equivalents for fifty years ahead when planning to invest hundreds of millions of pounds in a nuclear power plant or an ethylene 'cracker' to make plastics. Yet under capitalism you don't know what the price will be next week!

Prices collapse

The 1973-74 oil shock knocked energy-intensive projects, such as aluminium smelters, sideways. World oil consumption is now as low as in 1970, partly because of the recession, but partly because of energy saving induced by the rising oil price.

But when petroleum prices collapse, gas guzzling comes back in style. And as oil consumption goes up, and surplus oil stocks are eaten away, the price will edge back up too.

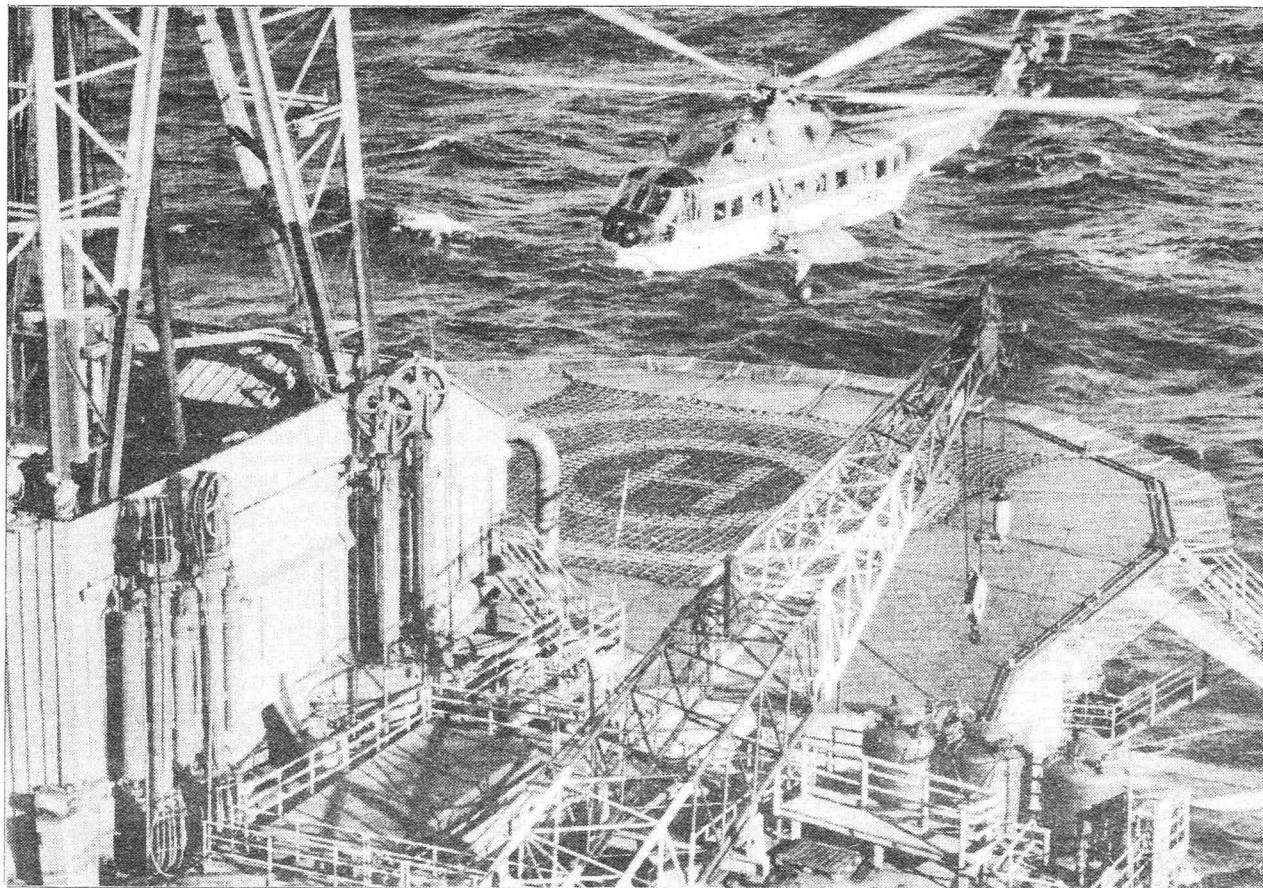
Capitalist commentators are crowing that OPEC's collapse gives the world economy a "free lunch", cutting costs and reducing inflation. Magic! But a 30 per cent fall in oil prices to \$15 a barrel does not 'save' the world \$50 billion. It just redistributes it from the oil-producing countries to the advanced capitalist countries.

At the present market price of around \$15 a barrel, Mexico will lose \$6.2 billion a year in export earnings, Venezuela \$6.3 billion, Nigeria \$5.7 billion, Algeria \$4 billion and Indonesia nearly \$4 billion.

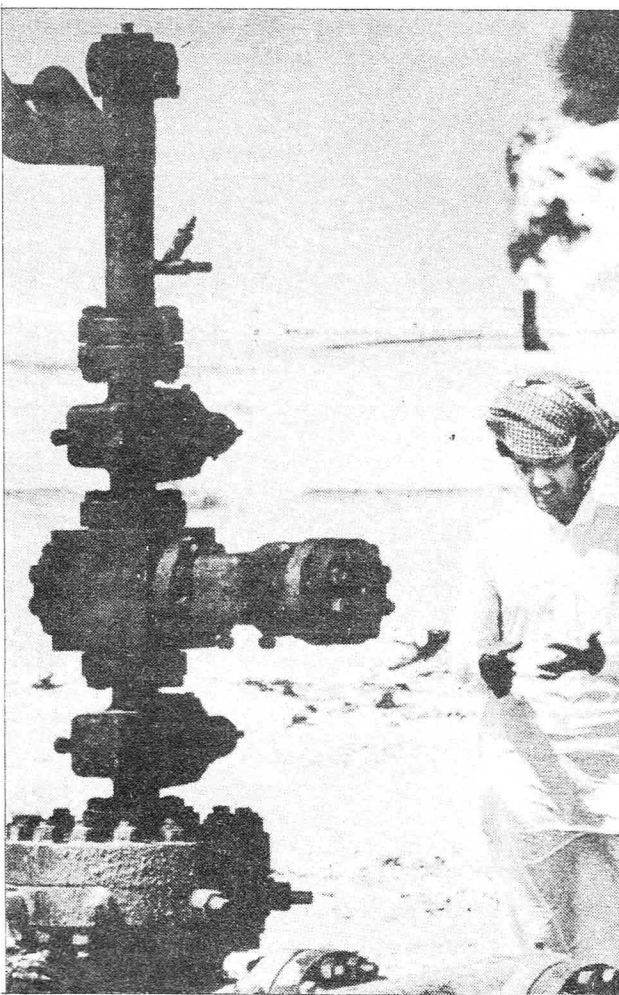
These countries face catastrophe. Nigeria, for instance, gets 95 per cent of its foreign earnings from oil, Mexico 70 per cent and Venezuela 90 per cent. Nigeria is due to run out of foreign exchange in a matter of weeks.

The 1973-74 oil price increase placed huge amounts of 'petrodollars' in the hands of the oil-exporting states. This provoked desperate moves to recycle OPEC's surplus through the world banking system, lending the money to a minority of underdeveloped capitalist countries that looked like a good bet at the time.

These 'petrodollars'



North Sea oil production is very expensive...



... while that in Saudi Arabia is much cheaper.

helped to pile up the huge debts which laid the basis for the present overhanging banking crisis.

Some countries among the biggest debtor nations, like Brazil and Argentina, will gain some benefit from the fall in the price of their oil imports. But that will be as nothing compared to the dislocations being prepared for the world banking system by the collapse in the price of Mexico's, Nigeria's and Venezuela's principal export earner (to name only the three countries reckoned most at risk).

Mexico already sends 59 per cent of its export earnings straight back to the big banks to service its monster debt. Nigeria's debt service is 40 per cent and Venezuela's 34 per cent. "Can't pay, won't pay" is

the cry that will well up from these countries, joining the chorus from Peru, which already seems to be heading into confrontation with its creditors.

Yet although they quarrel, the health of advanced and underdeveloped capitalist countries is equally bound up in the fate of the world economy. The big banks in Britain and the USA must be feeling like tapeworms in the intestines of a dying man.

If the 'big four' debtor states defaulted, seven of the nine biggest banks in the USA, and two of the big four in Britain, would go under unless they are bailed out by the state to the tune of billions of pounds.

The policy of the Thatcher government has been to pump out North Sea oil like there's no tomorrow. What

would the world's most famous grocer, Alderman Roberts of Grantham, say of a daughter who responded to a fall in the price of groceries by selling twice as much at half the price - rather than leaving them on the shelf for a better day?

What has in effect happened under the Tories is that a non-renewable resource, that took 300 million years or so to form under the North Sea, has been squandered to keep four million people on the dole when they'd rather have a job.

The oil price collapse has cost the exchequer £2.5 billion so far. The first thing that's gone for a burton is the Tory dream of tax cuts in time for the next election.

Capitalist control

Britain is in this precarious position because North Sea oil is not 'ours'—it has been sold off to capitalist consortia. If the Tories want them to keep on exploring for new fields, the only way they can do it as petroleum prices puncture is by waiving their tax dues.

How generous the Tories are to the 'hardships' of the rich and powerful!

Meanwhile the punter at the pumps has had a few fancy glasses, but not much of a price cut. Where has the difference gone?

The oil monopolies are lining their pockets. The profits of the biggest, Exxon, went up from \$143 million to \$404 million over the past twelve months.

A glut of oil, as of any other commodity, ought to mean benefits for all. It is typical of the madness of the capitalist system that it means destitution for millions in the producer countries, nothing for workers in the consumer countries and millions of pounds of profits for a handful of the biggest multinational monopolies in the world.



The role of Stalinism

THE THIRD "Communist" International—How did the party of world revolution become the 'border guard' of the Russian bureaucracy?

What role do the Stalinist leaders play today? Does the recent release of Soviet dissidents signal a fundamental change in East/West relations? Reading: *Rise and Fall of the Communist International* Ted Grant (60p), *The Third International after Lenin* by Trotsky (£3.50), *MIR No 27* (80p), *Politics by other means*, E Grant.

Haiti—What next after Duvalier?

THE FALL of the Duvalier dictatorship is an historic victory for the Caribbean workers and peasants. Can 'democratic' capitalism succeed where dynastic rule has failed? What are the prospects for the revolution in the Caribbean?

Reading: *Militant 784*: "Short reprieve for Haiti dictator, *Militant 698*: *The Dominican Republic*", *MIR No 24*, "Grenada invasion". Also useful for background information: *Haiti—Family Business*, £3.50 by Latin America Bureau.

All books and pamphlets available from: World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB. Orders under £5 add 25 per cent postage. £5 add 10 per cent—over £10 post free.

Surgery statistics

Dear Comrades,
Congratulations on the article about Wendy Savage (*Militant* 785).

Just to back up the points made in the article, last month a government report showed that in Scotland the caesarian section rate rose from 4.7 per cent in 1970 to 12.8 per cent in 1982. In some areas of Scotland the rate is as high as 15 per cent and for individual hospitals, the highest rate in 1982 was 19.6 per cent, one in five of new babies born.

As the report points out,

such variations can only be explained by differences in clinical practice. Available evidence does not support claims that premature and breech deliveries are more safely carried out by caesarian section. In any case only 3.6 per cent of babies were breech births in Scotland in 1982.

The report's authors call for an investigation of the reasons for and implications of the rapid rise in deliveries by section. This must be an issue for the labour movement to take up. It highlights



Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report II)

Wendy Savage once again the 'sausage factory' attitude which the health service and consultants in particular have to women's health issues.

Yours fraternally
Charlotte MacDonald
Stirling

Wendy Savage inquiry

Dear Comrades,

I work as a nurse at the London Hospital and would like to add some information to the article on Wendy Savage. I attended the first day of the inquiry into her competence and had to listen to the other consultants criticising her for not being in constant attendance in some of the cases under scrutiny.

The cheek of these people is incredible. They are rarely seen in the hospital, doing the bare minimum necessary to fulfill their NHS contracts. Their main priority is

their plush Harley St practices. I have seen NHS in-patients have their operations cancelled after they have been prepared for surgery because these consultants spent too long on their private cases.

One of them was threatened with disciplinary action by the Health Authority because he didn't hold an NHS antenatal clinic in a whole year.

If they were as committed to the NHS as Wendy Savage is, women in Tower Hamlets would not have to wait 40 weeks to get a

gynaecology out patient appointment. A nine month wait to a woman with suspected cervical cancer can vastly reduce her life expectancy.

Things are set to get worse with the opening up of a new private hospital in Tower Hamlets. I am sure that when this opens we will see these consultants even less, and we all know who'll be kept waiting for their return—NHS patients.

Yours fraternally
Anne S.
NUPE member London Hospital

Letters

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

A workers' MP on a worker's wage

Dear Comrades,

I noticed in *Labour Weekly* that the Parliamentary Labour Party has voted to pay one per cent of their salaries over to the Party. This will amount to £177 per annum. Perhaps the Labour Party NEC want to interview Pat Wall to see if he is willing to make this kind of sacrifice?

Seriously though, this £177 per MP will be welcome but hardly reaches the example set by our MP, Dave Nellist. In the figures provided to our CLP the total

donated to the movement as a whole between June 1983 and December 1985 is £10,608.

Such an amount donated by each Labour MP would have meant over two million pounds for the Labour and trade union movement in those two and a half years.

Or perhaps the Labour Party NEC want to make sure that people like Pat Wall are not going to follow this example?

Yours fraternally
Pete McNally
Coventry South-East CLP

—a sexist demand?

Dear Comrades,

At a recent meeting of Swansea University Labour Club, Peter Hain, leading light of the Labour Coordinating Committee and Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Putney was asked by *Militant* supporters if he was prepared, if elected, to follow the fine example of Dave Nellist and Terry Fields in taking only the average wage of a skilled worker.

Clearly rattled by the prospect of living on £115 a week he retorted:

"That's a sexist demand.



Photo: Militant
Terry Fields MP

How do you expect me to keep my wife on that? Quite frankly, my answer to that is no...I think the present salary is the right money for the job."

Yours fraternally
Dean Nelson
Swansea University Labour Club

Miles' Britain

Dear Comrades,

Did anyone see *My Britain* recently featuring Miles Copeland? This millionaire record producer portrayed his sorrow at discovering parts of Britain's inner cities comparable to the third world.

He then proceeded to accompany a group of unemployed lads from Liverpool on a tour of the city, where they showed him the appalling housing estates and compared them to the new council houses, complete with gardens, built by the current city council.

Whilst Mr Copeland was

desperately trying to uphold the capitalist system, the lads were strongly supporting the Labour council, exclaiming "This is *Militant*, and *Militant* works."

Miles concluded his show by grieving at the "depressed and misconceived views" that these lads had of the capitalist system.

I would rather believe the views of these lads, than this arrogant bloke who is totally divorced from the conditions working class people have to face.

Yours fraternally
Jess Beishon
South London

'Possil' conditions mirrored

Dear Comrades,

Bob Wylie's article on Possil Park in Glasgow was absolutely brilliant. It exposed the horrors of Tory Britain today and allowed the people of Possil to speak for themselves.

I work with voluntary groups in a housing estate in Lanarkshire and Possil could just as well have been Hillhouse. Every day I see people's houses with repairs that have been waiting to be done for years, black and green mould on the walls of bedrooms that children, pensioners and sick people have to sleep in.

The Labour council are viewed with at best, cynicism. Almost everyone I know in Hillhouse can relate stories of repairs needing done, dampness getting worse, all met with little or no sympathy from the council.

The council has recently announced rent rises of three pounds a week. Rates are set to soar and they intend to



Possil Park featured in *Militant* 784

Photo: Robert McKeown

sack 50 workers from the Direct Works Department which does the repairs.

When stories are told about the rents freeze, the number of jobs created and the houses built in Liverpool, people in Hillhouse

listen with envy.

As the chairman of the local tenants association said, "I don't know why Neil Kinnock is attacking the Liverpool council. At least they're doing something. He should attack Hamilton

District Council for doing nothing. At least Liverpool fought the government."

Yours fraternally
Stephen Smellie
East Kilbride

Psychiatric services

Dear Comrades,

As a student nurse in a medium sized, but run down psychiatric hospital I read with great interest your article (*Militant* 784) about the Tory cuts in psychiatric services.

In theory the rehabilitation of long

stay psychiatric patients, some have been in institutions for 40 or 50 years, is wonderful. Unfortunately, no provision has been made for those patients who will never be able to survive in the community—the young and middle-aged psychiatric patients

doomed to spend the rest of their days on geriatric wards.

I agree with David Curtis, the health workers should not be fighting the socialists, but fight for their jobs and the welfare of their patients.

Yours fraternally
G. Lloyd
Leicester

Sunday trading

Dear Comrades,

Last night I went to a public meeting organised by a group of businessmen against Sunday trading. All the speakers on the platform were bosses. No USDAW representative had been invited to speak.

The speakers concentrated on defending the moral issue of Sunday trading and barely touched on the loss of workers' rights.

As one speaker said, this legislation is about increasing profit and nothing else.

The next stage for the Tories is to move towards the sacking of full time shopworkers and their replacement by part-timers and YTS trainees.

Shopworkers must unite around a campaign against Sunday trading and vote for a Broad Left leadership of USDAW prepared to carry it out.

Yours fraternally
Nigel Sheahan
Vice-president Tonbridge and Malling Trades Council

Reasons behind the witch-hunt

Dear Comrades,

In the Pontypridd Constituency, we recently found out the real reason for the witch-hunt against *Militant* supporters.

Speaking against a resolution calling for 'Unity in the Party', at a local ward meeting, a prominent local councillor let the cat out of

the bag: "These people (*Militant* supporters) have no place in our party, they don't believe in what the Labour Party stands for; they don't even believe in our Royal Family."

So now you know.
Yours fraternally
David Jones
Pontypridd LPYS



Pollution warning

MEXICO CITY is now one of the largest cities in the world, it is now also one of the most polluted. A poisonous smog now fills the city, killing wild life and people. Death comes as a result of a mixture of lead and mercury poisoning. In response government ministers have advised workers to: "breathe lightly through the nose".

Trappings of office

Neil Kinnock and the right wing of the Labour Party waste no time running to the press to denounce what they call the "irresponsible" behaviour of Liverpool City Council. We wait for their condemnation of Barnsley Labour council who have just spent £5,000 for a car number plate—"The 2" to match "The 1" which they already have on the mayor's big Daimler.

Contributors include Phill Umpleby

American print strike

A Brand-new printing works, with windowless walls and barbed wire fences, patrolled by guards with dogs in an abandoned dockland location.

A fabulously wealthy media monopoly spearheading employer attacks on living standards by attacking print-workers' unions.

Scabbed on by the "black sheep" of the trade union "family", but gaining the support of rank and file unionists.

By Joe Weydemeyer
(AFSCME, Chicago)

It's the same story all right, and the battle is being fought for the same reasons. But this is the USA, the Chicago Tribune's "Freedom Center"—so named, presumably, with freedom from unionism in mind.

In the absence of a national daily paper, Chicago's only alternative to the Tribune is the smaller circulation Sun-Times, an increasingly trashy tabloid since it was purchased by...Rupert Murdoch.

The two papers bargain with the same unions, and although their contracts differ, there is an agreement whereby any monetary concession gained by one paper is automatically adopted by the other.

The striking workers' bulletin shows how they see their battle:

"Big business is determined to bring workers to their knees and this can be accomplished only when unions no longer exist in this country.

"All workers should be aware that a company can, and will, cut wages and benefits to suit their profit margins and, so far, the presence of union organisations has prevented this. However, this is beginning to change...

"...for the past several years, a plan has been underway to break the unions within the Tribune."

In fact, formal negotiations alone have dragged on for over three years, with one of the three locals involved having worked without a contract for 2½ years before all three were finally forced into strike action last July.

This is despite concessions made by the unions when the Tribune moved into its new works three years ago.

Management demands now are not very complicated: basically they are asking for the three production unions to commit suicide.

Management demands

★ A three-tier wage system—halving their wage bill

★ Abolition of all job classification—this in a highly skilled and differentiated industry. Permanent transfers anytime and anywhere management tells workers to go.

★ Abolition of the union shop (a post-entry closed shop at present). Management to be free to hire substitutes, low paid "apprentices" and also "supervisors" (who are legally ineligible for union membership) in unlimited quantities.



British printers now face the kind of attacks launched several years ago in the United States. It is time to learn the lessons of the American workers struggles. Only decisive action to defeat Murdoch now will stop the other print bosses going on the offensive. Photos: Dave Sinclair.

Chicago's Wapping

★ Abolition of seniority rights.

★ End to employer contributions to the pension fund.

★ "All past agreements...to be null and void".

The Tribune Company is a huge corporation. It owns eight newspapers; five TV stations (all in major cities); several nationally syndicated TV programs including a national news network; five radio stations; a Chicago baseball team; and a forest and papermill company in Canada.

It is also one of 170 newspapers which subscribe to an organisation called "Southern Production Programs Inc." which was set up to beat trade unions in the newspaper industry, and supplies its members with scabs recruited in southern states as well as legal advice, a manual on strikebreaking, etcetera.

This is therefore no insignificant strike. The major newspaper of one of the nation's three largest cities has taken on not just three locals, but through them, three international unions which are vital to trade unionism in the newspaper industry.

Some years ago the bosses emasculated the journalists' union: now they intend the same fate for the printers, the web pressmen and the mailers.

The 1,200 striking members of these unions have fought back with courage and determination, manning picket lines for seven months with no end in sight at present, and winning the admiration of every trade unionist who hears of their struggle. They recognise how important it is or they wouldn't be there.

Unfortunately the determination of the rank and file has yet to be matched either by officials at the International level or by the Chicago Federation of Labor (CFL).

The Federation, once a centre of the most militant, advanced trade unionism anywhere, now prides itself on pulling strings secretly, behind the scenes: so much so that few workers under the age of fifty have ever heard of it.

Yet it has completely fail-

ed to use its influence to close the Tribune. For example, the Mayor and City council were all, as in any big city, nominated and elected with the support of one section or another of organised labor.

But labor gets nothing for its money or its votes, while the City supplies the Tribune with enough police and judicial help to make picketing ineffective, and a city ordinance which outlaws the importation of scabs, which was passed in the days when the CFL did exert its influence, goes unenforced as busloads of scabs have rolled in from Southern "right-to-starve" states.

Backing Murdoch

International officials, meantime, have placed all their eggs in the basket of a consumer boycott against the Tribune. This is particularly ineffective when most readers of the Tribune, which aims for a middle-class readership, are not themselves union members and no alternative paper exists anyway.

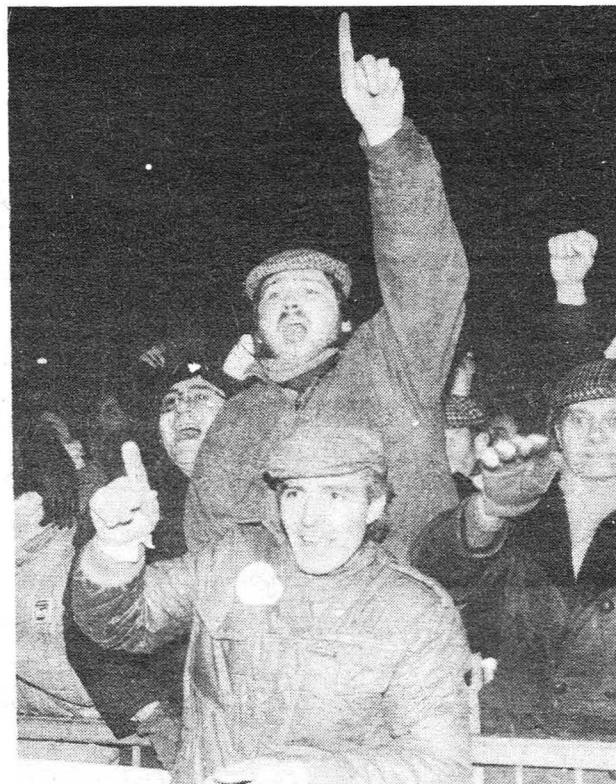
Supporters of the boycott have resorted to the slogan "make the Sun-Times (Murdoch's paper) the No. 1 newspaper in Chicago". This is tantamount to appealing to the readers of the Times to buy the Sun instead.

No one seriously expects the boycott to win the strike, and the campaign for it has been limited to a few posters, bumperstickers and word-of-mouth.

A serious boycott campaign would include picketing newstands, grocery stores and other outlets; nothing of the sort has been done.

But if the city and national union leaders seem to have a casual attitude to the potential destruction of these organisations, this pales beside the role of the leaders of the Teamsters.

In spite of scabs, cops, pro-company judges and all the power and wealth of the company itself, the Tribune would come to a halt tomorrow without its drivers—the dozens driving semis (ar-



Wapping picket line

ticulated lorries) who bring in supplies such as paper and ink, and the hundreds who drive the delivery vans.

When the strike began many of the drivers were prepared to honor the picket lines. They recognised that their contract would be next. Their union ordered them to cross the picket lines because they have a 3-year contract with a "no-strike" clause. (Most labor contracts in the US have such a clause.)

So for five months pickets, limited to six at a time, watched the company's trucks roll through the gates—all in the name of "responsible", law-abiding trade unionism.

In December a small conference of official and militant members of the local union level met in Chicago in an effort to found a national campaign against concessions.

As a fringe activity, some four or five hundred conferees marched down to the "Freedom Center" to show solidarity for the pickets.

Trucks were turned away for the first time in months. Then with a little pushing and shoving, police arrested two marchers and a deal was made with the officials: "go

company provocateurs and newsmen were not far behind.

By 8am, 20,000 people had gathered. They came from six states. Union officials, sizing up the situation, gabbled their message of solidarity and were gone by 9.00am, taking the sound truck with them. Workers who had travelled for hours to be there began to leave.

By noon, an individual in plain clothes joined the police line and using a bullhorn, stated that he represented the strikers' Unity Council and pronounced the rally "officially over."

In the meantime, as the crowd dwindled, a few trucks and a convoy of scabs' cars had escaped: the gate was closed from approximately 6.30 am until 11.00 am.

By Monday morning company lawyers had obtained a court order temporarily banning mass rallies. This was not made permanent and has since lapsed, but so far no further rallies have been called.

The 20,000 who attended show the willingness of workers to fight union-busting. A real campaign would have easily brought five or ten times as many, a number which would have had quite an effect on "public opinion".

The duration of the strike shows the determination of the rank and file to fight concessions. In the coming period workers in the US will create a fighting leadership worthy of them.

The strike at the Tribune is still winnable. Messages of support, please, to:

Chicago Newspaper Union Employees Unity Council
1015 W. Grand Ave
Chicago, IL 60622
and also to:
Chicago Mailers Union No. 2
1200 N. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60622
Chicago Web Printing Pressmen's Union No. 7
159 N. Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60602
Chicago Typographical Union No. 16
529 S. Wabash
Chicago, IL 60605

Wapping Fleet Street Out!

WHAT DOES sequestration mean to the ordinary union member?

As from Monday 17 February the entire assets of the union are frozen. Not just the money but the buildings and equipment such as typewriters and computers.

The union won't be able to pay wages to its employees and for the ordinary member all benefits are suspended, eg hardship grants, funeral and dispute benefits. Even the convalescent homes could be shut down if the sequestrators decide.

At the whim of the sequestrators, once the courts agree, any property of the union could be sold, for instance, any branch or national office could be sold. **Is this different from when the NGA was sequestrated?** This is the third time that sequestration has been forced on a union. The NGA found loopholes, the NUM was able to give them a chase but this time they've got their act together.

SOGAT wasn't given the chance to purge contempt or to pay the fine but was immediately sequestrated. It shows that the capitalist courts have learnt the lessons and this time they've got it right.

Every penny and every piece of property the union

Aileen Ingham interviewed Eddie Furey SOGAT NEC, personal capacity

owns has come out of workers' pockets. Because SOGAT is standing up for four and a half thousand of its members who have been sacked all that has been built up for over 200 years of previous struggle is now up for grabs by the capitalist lawyers.

How many workers have been sacked?

Six thousand altogether. They are the employees of Rupert Murdoch, some of which get good wages because of previous struggle but there are lots of low-paid workers, mainly women, such as cleaners and office workers who worked in the worst conditions in Fleet Street but helped him make £45 million profit last year just off the *Sun* and *News of the World*.

Some people argue that the print workers are holding back progress by opposing new technology?

We are not opposed to new technology. It shouldn't, however be about making greater profit for the likes of Murdoch but to benefit all workers and their families by

the introduction of a shorter working week, higher wages and the freedom that would bring. The question is not new technology but who controls and reaps the benefit.

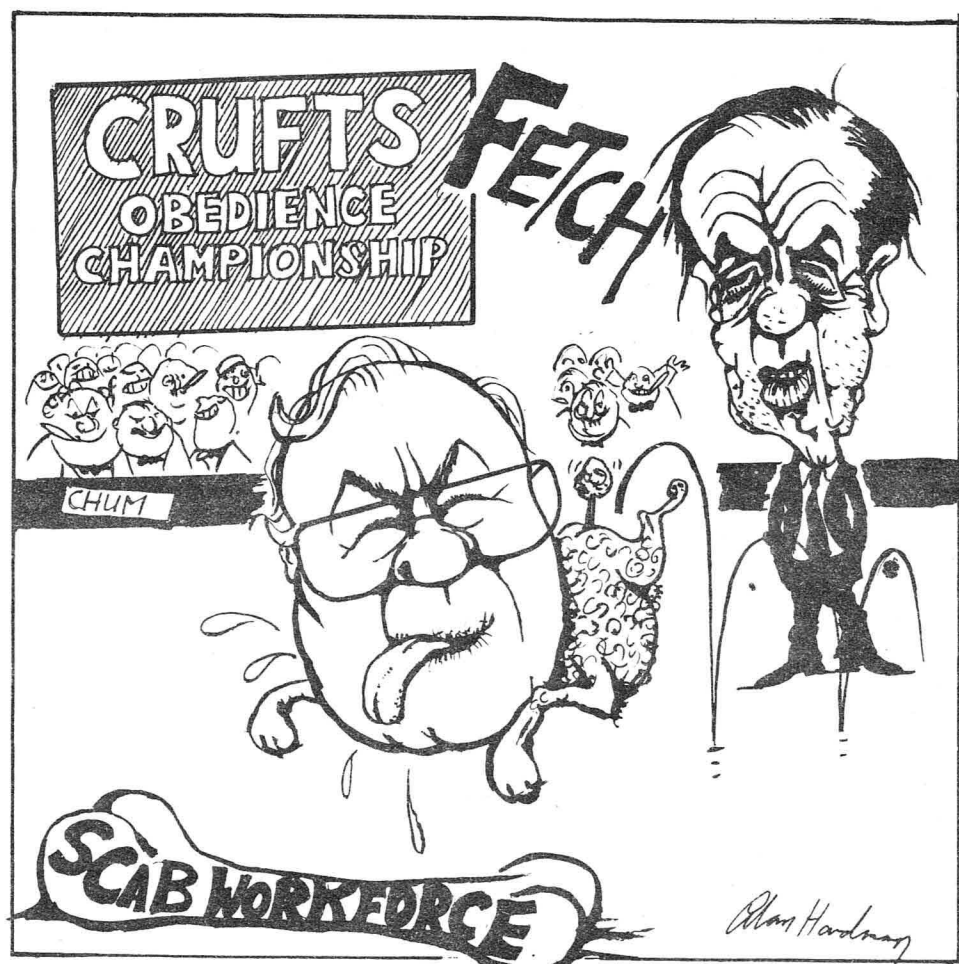
You see the answer as nationalisation then?

Yes—and not just to benefit print workers of course. When the establishment talk about Freedom of the Press what they are really defending is the freedom of the five capitalist millionaires such as Murdoch to dictate editorial policy in favour of the Tories and ridicule any ideas that might oppose their class.

The only way forward for working people is workers' control and management and not just the press but all the media. Through this, workers could ensure all sections of society have a fair share of the media.

How can the dispute be won? The only way is bring Fleet Street out now and concentrate all available forces on the mass picketing at Wapping.

Also, every SOGAT member should be informed what sequestration means to the union. Once the membership is fully informed we could bring out the general print workers to save the union, otherwise the union will be annihilated.



- ★ Oppose the Press Barons
- ★ Nationalise the Press printing facilities, Radio and TV.
- ★ Access to media facilities for political parties in proportion to votes received in elections.
- ★ Labour to power on socialist policies.

- ★ Workers' control of the media through a management board of one third elected from the unions in the industry, one third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole and one third from the government of the day.



Pickets at Mapstone's, Birmingham

John Harris (FL)

Campaign needed

ON 1 February Labour Party and LPYS members mounted a demonstration outside the local WH Smiths. We met with some success in requesting customers not to buy any of Murdoch's titles. We had previously been in contact with the local NGA shop steward who joined us on the picket.

The first-ever joint

meeting between SOGAT and the NGA in Scarborough ended with no decision on joint action but moral support was given. A SOGAT steward said that some of his members continued to buy Murdoch's titles despite their members at Wapping being in dispute.

This example graphically underlines the need for a concerted campaign by the print unions at every branch to educate and enlist the active support of their members.

By David Pollock

Cambridge success blocks NI titles

A successful picket of the WH Smith depot at Cambridge by local trade unionists, printworkers and strikers from the *Sun* occurred last weekend. A brazier and games of football kept spirits high and pickets warm.

The picket remained throughout the bitterly cold night forcing management to

decide against bringing in any Murdoch titles but diverting them instead to other distribution centres. Determined and strategic picketing could foil such moves in the future.

Martin Davies (Cambridge LPYS) spoke to Steve Clark (NGA)

Bank fees \$45 million

MURDOCH'S adventures in the USA where he is buying six TV stations will double his News Corporation's debts. However, the higher interest and depreciation will cut his tax bills. Even so, the move to Wapping is intended to save Murdoch \$70 million per annum.

In 1985 he brought 50 per cent of Twentieth Century Fox for \$250 million. Then he wrote a cheque for \$350 million for business magazines.

Most of that money, \$600 million, was borrowed. By September News Corporation was in debt to the tune of \$790 million—two hundred per cent more than in the previous year, and now 86 per cent of its net worth.

Since then, Murdoch has paid a further \$325 million for the rest of Twentieth Century Fox and arranged a loan of \$870 million to finance the six TV stations deal.

Bankers fees for this wheeling and dealing is estimated to come to \$44.7 million. Murdoch's salary in America is \$530,000 per annum.

Cannock TNT

ABOUT 300 people picketed the Wimblebury (Cannock) depot of TNT on 15 February on a bitterly cold evening and early morning.

The dominant force on the picket was miners and their wives from local pits, in particular Littleton, who brought a print worker to speak in their canteen on Friday morning where 400 men received their case well.

The lorries never turned up, presumably warned about the picket in advance.

EETPU in So'ton

I JOINED the EETPU in the autumn of 1984, while working at an electrical warehouse. I got the sack in January 1985, and then went on the EETPU unemployed register.

In the autumn of 1985, Mick Scanlon, the EETPU Area Secretary, phoned me up and asked me to go down to see him. I went to the union area office, and he offered me a job in London doing printing, saying his son was also going up there to work.

but the turnout at short notice late on a freezing Saturday night shows the tremendous potential support for the printers.

Many of the workers present also signed a petition protesting over the threatened expulsion of two local party members, and £12 was raised for the Fighting Fund in a rattling tin.

By Dave Griffiths (Stafford Labour Party)

He also said that you were supposed to be a qualified electrician or an apprentice. I was neither of these, but he told me he could say I was a JIB apprentice, and that he had an agreement with the employer whereby they would not see any of the qualifications of the people who were sent up there.

I subsequently heard nothing more.

Interview with an EETPU member in Southampton

Murdoch in the USA

RUPERT MURDOCH Known also as the 'Dirty Digger', has for ten years been attempting to establish himself as a major force in the US newspaper industry.

He has been trying to revive the fortunes of four papers in San Antonio, Boston, Chicago and New York. Operating losses for all four since 1983 amount to 50 million before interest charges. Murdoch's US magazines have subsidised these losses.

News publishing in the US is generally profitable thus it is believed by analysts that Murdoch's style is unacceptable to consumers.

Reaganite

In 1973 Murdoch combined two papers to form the San Antonio *Express-News* at a cost of \$19 million. Four years later he forked out \$32 million for the New York *Post* which was in poor condition. The *Post* soon lost a somewhat liberal tradition as Murdoch imported journalists from UK and Australian papers owned by himself. Headlines such as

'Headless Body in Topless Bar' and 'Leper Rapes Virgin' had readers retching then switching their allegiances. Last year circulation dropped by 14% after the price increased and the costly *Wingo* game dropped.

In 1982 he paid \$8 million for the Boston *Herald* which had been in the red for some time. In his latest acquisition he paid \$96 million for the Chicago *Sun-Times* which was profitable and doing well as indicated by the price. It's sports coverage was expanded and games introduced yet analysts say its earnings do not justify the heavy investment needed to compete in the long term.

In short, Murdoch's US empire is headed for trouble and battles with his workers are inevitable. He has, however, bought six TV stations which he hopes to develop as a fourth national channel.

The Federal Communications Commission rules mean he will have to relinquish his Chicago and New York papers but, as a committed Reaganite, it is suggested he might be allowed to waive this rule with "a word in the right Washington ear as few newspapers have been so supportive of the current administration as Murdoch's."

Fair News

Workers in the US, Britain and Australia deserve better newspapers than the likes of Murdoch and Maxwell can provide. With events worldwide occurring with rapidity as capitalism seeks to protect itself we do not need the daily lies and trivia belched out by the press barons. (see *Militant* 781). A nationalised press answerable to the working class and controlled by the workers who produce the papers is the only means of achieving fair and informative news.

By Pete Sherrett

Industrial Reports

Solidarity with victimised miners

JOIN THE march and rally on Sunday 2 March in support of sacked and jailed miners. Gather at Jubilee Gardens on the Thames embankment at 1.30pm. Then to Hyde Park and evening benefit concert at Albert Hall.

IN DURHAM the lessons of unity and organisation learnt in the miners' strike are being applied to today's problems. Sacked miners meet every month at Red Hill, the Area NUM headquarters.

Prior to each meeting, a sub-committee of two representatives from each lodge get together to report on the previous month's gains. The aim is to bring us together to find ways of building up funds for the solidarity campaign and to campaign for reinstatement.

Last week we took

By Rob Crute
(Sacked miner, Easington Lodge, Durham Area)

delivery of a 15-seat minibus to use for going to different pits in the region and collecting and for addressing meetings when and where they might crop up.

Plans are also under way to set up a lottery in the North East. We already have the permission of two local councils—Sunderland and Durham. All proceeds will go to the National Solidari-

ty Campaign in aid of victimised miners and their families.

Every week, until 2 March, we are sending two of our number down to London to help with the support and publicity of the 'Heroes' concert at the Albert Hall. Our message is getting across to the rest of the NUM membership and the rest of the labour movement simply by getting our heads together regularly.

It is absolutely essential that this example is followed in other areas. We must spearhead a campaign nationally to win reinstatement from a future Labour government.

The National Coal Board is attempting to polarise dif-



Photo: Jez Coulson (IFL)

Medway miners support group picket Maidstone jail calling for the release of jailed miners.

ferent areas of the NUM by their approach to reinstatement. Scotland, Wales and Yorkshire have seen some of their sacked members reinstated (in Wales even without loss of benefits) whilst in areas such as

Durham and Kent, the Coal Board remains intransigent.

In Durham, the union has, on several occasions, invited the Area NCB to discuss the question of re-instatement. The Coal Board however just don't want to know.

It is vitally important the sacked lads are involved in campaigning to make as many people as possible aware of the attitude of the NCB on this issue.

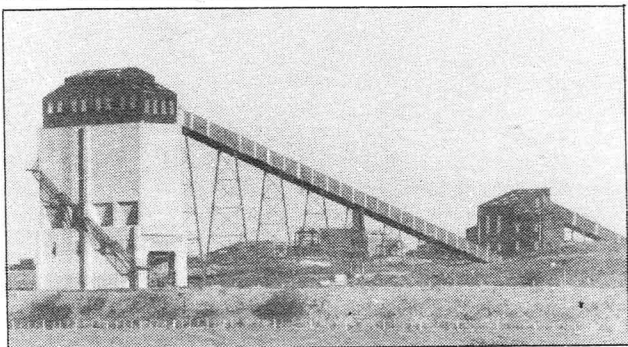
Kinsley Drift campaign

PAUL WILKINSON, Kinsley NUM member spoke (in a personal capacity) to Richard Clarkson of Wakefield LPYS about the campaign against closure of Kinsley Drift pit.

"Miners at other pits are beginning to catch up a bit after the strike. What people don't realise is that at Kinsley Drift the strike started in January. We were only two to three shifts a week during the overtime ban.

"Since the end of the strike, we don't even bother looking for the bonus sheet because we don't get any.

"I am a face worker, and I'm only taking £100 per week home, the button lads and surface workers are tak-



Kinsley Drift pit. Kinsley NUM member spoke to Richard Clarkson of Wakefield LPYS about the campaign against closure of Kinsley Drift pit.

"Finance is a problem at the moment, we spent 12 months raising money. As far as I am concerned the union should be paying for our campaign now.

"Sammy Thorapson said at the rally we held that 'Kinsley Drift could be the turning point'. If that's so let them pay for it".

We're having a video made on Monday (17 February). We're hoping to use it to further the campaign. And we are sending a delegation down to the march and rally in London

quarry were laid off for refusing to work normally. As a result, workers in the other two quarries walked out. There was a unanimous vote in favour of strike action. Management, a local family who make enormous profits, refused to discuss the issue and dismissal notices were issued.

Since then only a handful have returned to work after large financial inducements from the owners.

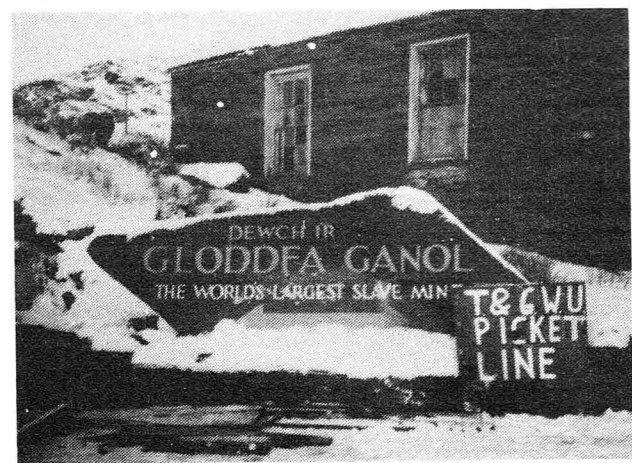
The strike is otherwise solid and messages of support and financial donations have flooded in. Support groups have been established in Blaenau itself, Aberystwyth, and many pit communities in South Wales.

Messages of support and donations urgently required: Ffestiniog Quarrymen's Dispute Fund, TGWU District Office, 17 Segontium Terrace, Caerwarfon. Tel: (0286) 2102.

Welsh slate strike

IN MAY 1985 workers at three slate quarries in Blaenau Ffestiniog, North Wales, were told that a new bonus scheme was being introduced. One quarry tried it out. The result was a 40 per cent increase in production—but a cut of £28.50 in bonus payments.

A work to rule was introduced in three quarries. On 19 August men at the Cwt Y Bugail



on March 2.

We will be leafletting the march to publicise our case. Publicity has been a problem.

We had a march with over 2,000 on it, probably the biggest thing in Hemsworth since sliced bread, yet we hardly got any coverage. But a report prepared for West Yorkshire council points out that Charlston could close in the 1990's and it makes front page news.

No doubt if we'd voted to close we could have had the publicity. They are still willing to fight, it is only

Defend Bradford convenor

300 AUEW members are on strike at IMI Marston Radiators in Baildon near Bradford in defence of sacked deputy convenor Bill Clarkson.

He was sacked for trying to negotiate on behalf of a group of his members who had refused to work with

Passport to pay

HOME OFFICE clerical workers in the six passport offices throughout the country have voted 221 to 149 for industrial action against government attempts to cut wages.

Several times the Home Office have tried to abolish our £550 per annum examiners allowance and been rebuffed by union resistance, including several one day strikes.

A recent CPSA section executive committee narrowly voted against a Broad Left motion for all-out strike but passed a weaker motion for a 'rolling strike' programme. This was supported by a ballot of the membership, even though there was con-

newspapers like *Militant* that are interested in our case.

This pit is only six years old, they have spent £70m on developing it, it has 12m tonnes of mineable reserves and they want to close it.

If it closes the coal will be mined by other pits and the jobs at Kinsley will be gone forever.

The fact that we are fighting against the closure despite all we have been through, hard management, no bonus etc, is a tribute to the men at the pit.

Kinsley gives hope to any other pit that faces closure. I realise that the review could mean closure for Kinsley Drift. But at least if we close, we will close with dignity.

Kinsley Drift's case is expected to go before the review body in the next couple of weeks, a lobby is being arranged.

Donations/messages of support can be sent to:

Margaret Dawson (Secretary), Kinsley Drift Community Action Group, c/o Kinsley Drift NUM, Kinsley Drift Mine, Fitzwilliam, West Yorkshire.

non-union labour.

Clarkson is not known for his militancy. Many members suspect the dispute was deliberately provoked by the company to escape penalty clauses on a Daimler Benz contract with which they are behind schedule.

Messages of support to Dave Laycock, c/o AUEW, 2 Claremont, Bradford 7.

fusion about what it involved.

At a subsequent special section executive meeting Broad Left members won unanimous support for a motion specifying the form of the action. It called for a rolling programme of one-week strikes leading to all-out strike from 24 March.

The Home Office CPSA Broad Left was formed last year. It has already shown the important role it can play in leading the fight against attacks on allowances and resisting the looming threat to jobs from new technology.

By Larry O'Callaghan
(Home Office CPSA)

United pit fight for Notts NUM

OVER HALF the 1,200 miners at Bevercotes colliery in Notts, including UDM members, took strike action on Monday 24 February after NUM branch secretary Paul Whetton was sacked for putting an NUM meeting poster on the noticeboard.

After Whetton was sacked last Friday the NUM branch decided to hold a canteen meeting on every shift to explain the issues to the miners (both NUM and UDM).

George Davison (NUM branch delegate) was

escorted off the premises by security men for speaking at the canteen meeting (on days) and has now been suspended.

The NUM is currently discussing the best tactics to take the dispute forward. It is possible the strike will be limited to one day at present and that it will aid the recruiting drive by the NUM.

The new heavy-handed approach by the NCB shows that they see the tide turning away from the UDM. But by their tactic they are more clearly exposing the UDM as a bosses' union.

By Paul Shawcroft



Picketing the British Library in defiance of Tory laws.

Building workers risk prison to beat bosses

OVER THE last five months six building workers locked out by Laing have been leading a principled fight against the lump and the employers, blacklist and now face possible imprisonment for contempt of court.

The six were locked out last October from Laing's Surbiton site and in response they extended their action to Laings' other sites.

Laing have since won a High Court injunction forbidding the six to take any further action which the workers are ignoring.

The campaign against the lump is continuing despite the fact that UCATT's leadership

has failed to give it support. Peter Kavanagh, from the TGWU Building Trades Group has also told TGWU drivers to cross picket lines.

Picketing is now being centred on Laing's prestige British Libraries site. All trade unionists concerned to defend union rights in the building industry should attend at Midland Rd, next to St Pancras Station, every day 7.30 onwards.

A demonstration has been called for Monday 3 March, at 7.30am, Midland Rd. Be there!

By Janice Fowler
(Dulwich Labour Party)

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report)

Militant

Philippines
See Page 10
Chicago print
See Page 13



Sacked printers call for support

PRINT WORKERS in London and Glasgow are keeping up their fight against Murdoch's bid to crush trade unionism within his plants. At the *Militant* rally in London on Tuesday, sacked *Times* worker Jim Brookshaw, AUEW FOC, made this appeal:

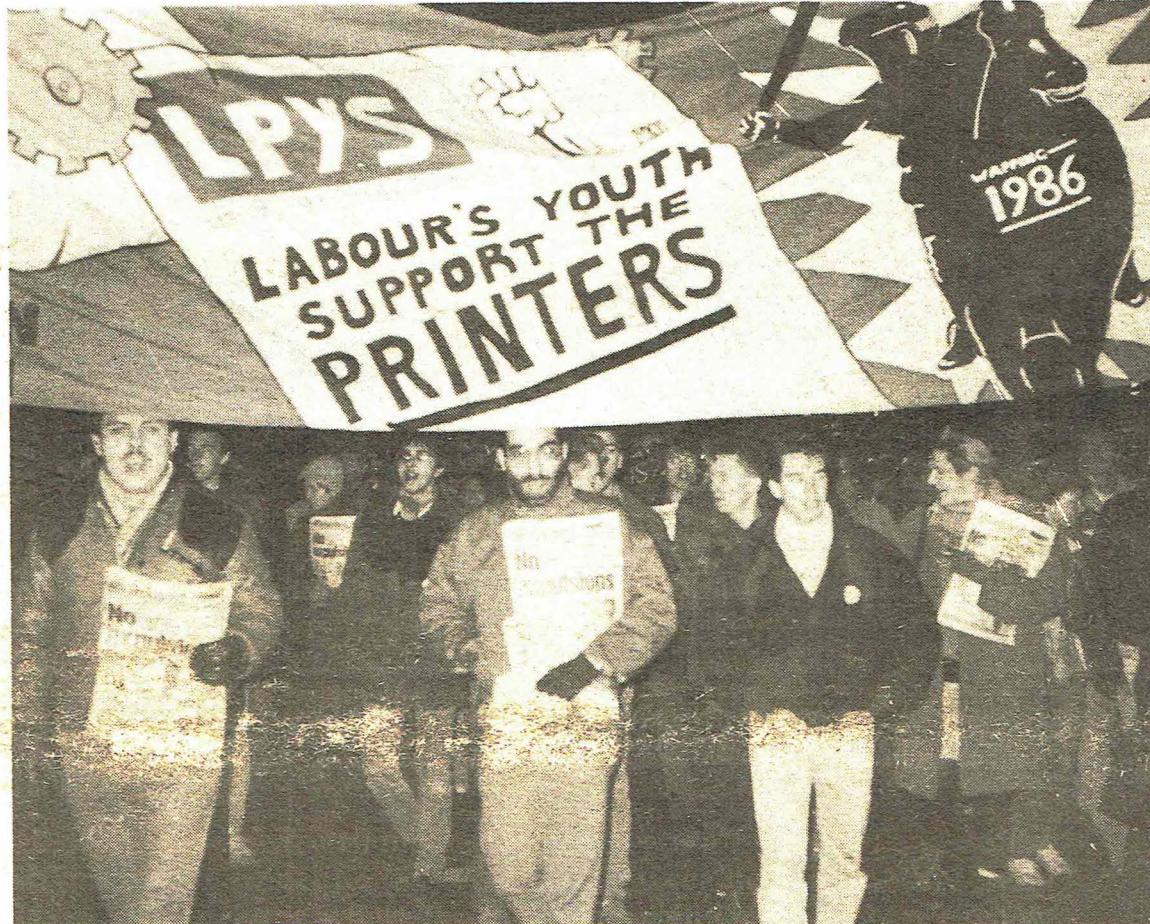
"Apparently we are a bunch of underworked and overpaid dinosaurs. Yet we made Murdoch enough millions to build his new factory. He had so-called 'new technology' at *The Times* in Grays Inn Road, far in advance of any other Fleet Street title and equally as advanced as the so-called 'high tech' plant at Wapping. The workers least of all are opposed to modernisation. We want an end to working underground, breathing in ink mist and paper dust, being deafened by noise, but is that what Wapping is?"

Super-exploit

Wapping is a new building equipped with tried and tested, traditional printing equipment—Goss presses built in 1970, exactly the same design as the ones in Grays Inn Road and Bouverie Street. The only really new thing about Wapping is as old as Methuselah—it's an attempt by the bosses to super-exploit the workers.

This dispute is teaching us all some very important lessons about the Tory and union laws. These laws are a blatant attempt by the bosses to put the workers on their knees where they think they belong.

The Labour leaders want to modify the law to give the workers some protection. But you tell the print workers how laws can protect them, when they see a factory surrounded with illegal razor-wire, overweight lorries crossing restricted bridges, breaking speed limits, jumping red lights and ignoring the tachometer regulations, under age drivers, complete disregard for health and safety regulations leading to over 40 accidents in four weeks. The question is whose laws? Administered by



Young Socialists supporting the Wapping picket.

Photo: Mike Carroll

whom and against whom?

"This fight is not just about us and Murdoch. It's not just about the print. It's about the right of workers to advance and protect their interests. It's a fight we must win, and we appeal to the whole labour and trade union movement to back us up in this battle. It's part of a bigger battle to sweep away the Murdoch's and to transform society completely so that we don't have to continually face these kind of problems."

'Mad Max'

MEANWHILE IN Glasgow the workers at the plant which prints the *Daily Record/Sunday Mail* have had the most bizarre week in their lives at the hands of Robert

Maxwell.

During negotiations on producing a colour North of England edition he changed his mind and demanded they produce a colour *Mirror* for Ireland, starting in three days. This was accompanied by his usual delicate negotiating skills of threats of mass sackings.

When the workers refused to print the colour *Mirror* until negotiations had been completed, the local managers stopped the production of the *Daily Record* at an hour's notice and declared that the thousands workers had dismissed themselves. Managers threw themselves across photographic machines to stop the plates being produced, cut the power, padlocked the substation and drained the machines of ink. They then disconnected most of the phones and

cancelled the insurance of the journalists' cars.

The workers turned up to work normally but were kept idle by the bosses. Maxwell then returned from a trip abroad and restarted negotiations which have resulted in a return of the *Daily Record* to the streets and further negotiations on the other issues.

'Mad Max' is typical of the graffiti which is now beginning to appear at Maxwell's plants. Nevertheless workers see a more serious side to the constant attacks they are under and are on their guard to defend their jobs, wages, conditions, and paper. And all this treatment is being meted out by a 'Labour socialist' press millionaire.

By Ronnie Stevenson

Marcos goes

THE TWENTY year dictatorship of President Marcos of the Philippines is over. Repression, murder of his opponents and blatant vote rigging, were his stock in trade. He has now been whisked away by his American friends, to retire on his still massive wealth in the USA.

By Jeremy Birch

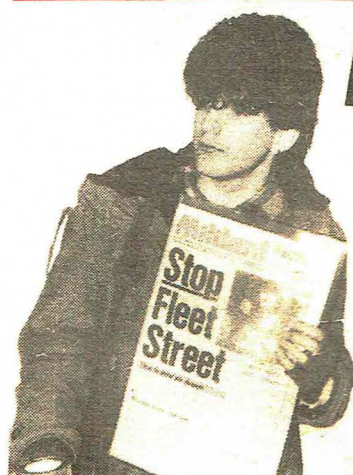
Marcos was ousted by a revolutionary mobilisation of the Filipino masses. They took to the streets in their millions. They blockaded the barracks where the rebel troops were encamped, heroically defying Marcos' tanks with their bare hands. The working class of Manila were no longer cowed. There were even reports of armed civilian groups. The rebellion in the army and reports of an armed forces reform movement claiming the allegiance of 70 per cent of the officers, showed the potential to disarm capitalism.

A clear socialist leadership basing itself on the clearly displayed power of the working class, could have finished capitalism in the Philippines for good.

No wonder American imperialism had to act fast. Their military bases, their investments and their interests throughout South East Asia were being jeopardized. They urged Marcos to stand down. When he hesitated they backed the ex-Marcos men Defence Secretary Enrile and acting chief of staff Ramos, who had recognised the game was up, and wanted to provide themselves with democratic credentials. Enrile had boasted earlier that in his home province, he had delivered Marcos with his biggest margin of victory.

Now Cory Aquino has assumed the Presidency. While the masses celebrate the new regime is urging a return to normality. The government have demanded that accredited officials must continue to run local administration, and that the idea of "people's committees", which has been raised in the struggle, has not been authorised.

But what kind of normality can return for capitalism in the Philippines, and for how long? Mrs Aquino, herself a wealthy landowner, can offer nothing to the poor, the slum dwellers or the land-starved. Yet the masses have felt their own strength and tasted success. With the guerilla campaign continuing as well in the countryside, new storms and social upheavals are inevitable in the Philippines.



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