

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 25p

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BLOC
Liverpool Labour Party
Conference

All trade union and Labour Party branches, and Young Socialists are urged to send delegates. See Page 13.

Tories kill youth hopes

YOUNG WORKER Joseph Clarke committed suicide. The inquest was told that he was an unemployed roofer living on the 10th floor of a block of flats in Netherfield Brow, Liverpool. The flats were due for demolition and he could not afford to heat or light his flat.

A few months before his suicide Joseph Clarke had broken his ankle. A friend described how he had found him alone in his flat without gas, electricity or food. He'd put money in his meters and made him a meal.

His friend said: "I blame his problems on trouble he was having with the social security. After he broke his ankle he got less money than when he was getting unemployment pay—and he could not afford to live on it".

In his letter to his friends before taking 200 paracetamol, Joseph Clarke wrote of his love of Liverpool, of poetry and classical music. He ended by saying: "Mr Derek Hatton and John Hamilton are very brave men to take on this evil government".

To the Tory government Joseph Clarke is just another statistic, another name for them to wipe off the number of unemployed, another saving on social security.

To Labour councillors in Liverpool he represents the reason for their struggle. Due to the city council, thousands of Joseph Clarks are not condemned to live for ever in tower blocks, but in decent houses. Thousands of Joseph Clarks have found a job with the city council.

Every week the *Liverpool Echo* prints news of people who, in despair at the lives they are forced to lead, commit suicide. This latest one was tucked away on an inside page.

The coroner's verdict was suicide. The real epitaph of Joseph Clarke should be—killed by a ruthless, heartless system. Make sure there are not more epitaphs by fighting for socialism.

Labour Party Young Socialists meeting for their annual conference over Easter, will be recommitting themselves to replacing the Thatcher government, with a Labour administration, with socialist policies that can offer a real future to all young people.

By Richard Knights
(Liverpool Labour Party member, under threat of expulsion)



Left pressure ousts Graham

ALISTAIR GRAHAM has resigned as CPSA General Secretary. All trade unionists seriously fighting to defend living standards, jobs, working conditions, etc will be heartened by the news. Graham is to take a job as director of the Industrial Society, a body which is used by big business to train management.

At meetings up and down the country Graham had been severely taken to task by the left, and the members generally.

Because of his total inability to offer any leadership against the onslaught of the Tories, the last CPSA National Broad Left leaflet demanded that "Graham must go!". At last, he's gone, now will be the attitude of rank and file CPSA members. The left must now urgently unite for a mass campaign around the candidature of John McCreadie, who had already been selected by the left to fight

a general secretary campaign against Graham in the Autumn.

Unlike the Grahams of this world he is not using the CPSA as a stepping stone in a lucrative career. John McCreadie will face a barrage of attacks from the media who will throw their full weight behind the right-wing candidate in an attempt to make the CPSA safe for big business.

John can win. It is the pressure undoubtedly of the rank and file, led by *Militant* supporters that has led to Graham's resignation. At successive conferences, the CPSA has determined a fighting policy. Now members have a chance to elect in John McCreadie a leader who will turn that policy into action.

By Brian Ingham

Purge plans in ruins

THE LABOUR Party rank and file scored a magnificent victory last week when the witch-hunt was stopped in its tracks.

The attempt by the Labour Party NEC right wing to hold their show trial of twelve Liverpool party members was effectively stopped by a High Court ruling that the NEC was in breach of natural justice.

Eight NEC members who had taken part in the investigation of Liverpool DLP were not allowed to sit in the NEC hearing. When the remaining NEC members still insisted on going ahead with an unfair hearing seven left wingers walked out, leaving the meeting inquorate.

This is a complete vindication of *Militant's* assertion that the main weight of evidence rested on unsubstantiated gossip, lies and tittle tattle. The NEC had tried to use "confidentiality" as a smokescreen to cover the flimsiness of their evidence and charges.

The High Court had sat to hear an application on behalf of the Liverpool 12 to stop the NEC hearing from going ahead. The judge ruled that no evidence should be permitted if it was given in confidence. "It is contrary to the rules of natural justice in a case such as this," he said, "to find a man guilty of a charge on the basis of evidence not disclosed to him." The NEC's proposed procedure, he went on, was "manifestly dangerous" and unfair. The *entire* case of one of the twelve was based on such evidence.

The judge only found out himself on the second day of the court hearing that even the NEC members were not going to be given the evidence. Incredibly, Larry Whitty, Labour Party General Secretary, would have read out a summary of the evidence, telling the NEC that in his opinion it was against the twelve! It is an absolute disgrace that the NEC should even contemplate such a travesty as a "fair hearing". The judge even likened it to a "supergrass" system.

The judge further ruled that there would be reasonable suspicion that the eight investigation team members could have prejudged the issue before attending the NEC. They therefore should not be allowed to sit in the NEC hearing. It is against the principle of natural justice for the same people to be both prosecution and judges.

By John Pickard

Continued on page 2



Bad week for Tories

THE TORIES have found themselves in yet another embarrassing situation this week. Their close connections with big business were exposed once again when Thatcher's shares in the Australian company—"Broken Hill Proprietary" came to light.

Thatcher is alleged to have traded in 1,086 shares in the company through her constituency secretary Joy Robilliard in August 1983 and October 1985 and is said to have made a profit of £2,238 on them.

During question time (25 March 1986) Terry Fields MP (Broad Green) asked whether the

District Auditor would be opening an investigation into Thatcher's share dealings after they had finished the inquiry into the Liverpool councillors.

The declarations of Commons' Members' interests says that MP's should not have shareholdings which conflict with their public office. Unfortunately the declaration does not hold water, as it is left to a matter of 'honour' whether they declare their financial interests.

Thatcher has declared her interests as 'Nil' in the most recent edition of the "Register of Members' Interests" 7 February

1984. Given the track record of the Tories, there is little hope of honesty being uppermost in their minds.

Parliament is supposed to represent the interests of the people. Yet the number of directorships in big companies held by Tory MP's almost outnumbers the MP's themselves! (Geoffrey Rippon—or is it Ripoff—has 33 and is chairman of 32 companies).

It's quite clear that the Tory government directly represents the interests of big business. What workers need is a leadership equally committed to representing them and their class.

Tory agreement provokes more NI violence

THE FARCICAL court scenes in Dublin over the attempted extradition of Evelyn Glenholmes have focused media attention back on to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

It was supposed to increase co-operation between the two state forces on security and therefore repression. But the public bungling over the extradition warrant has led to suggestions from some sceptics that it was a deliberate attempt to sabotage the agreement.

For the Anglo-Irish agreement has inevitably led to a serious increase in sectarian tension and attacks, in the four months of its existence. For the Catholic minority there can be nothing to be gained from a deal between two Tory governments. The agreement dangerously inflames the fears of the protestant workers about being forcibly included in what they can only see as capitalist united Ireland. They are afraid they would be a persecuted minority. Hence the Protestant strikes and marches.

Some of the recent sectarian attacks have been quite horrific, reminiscent of the early, seventies when sectarian brutality was at its height.

John O'Neil, a 25-year old Catholic from Liagoniel in Belfast was found murdered in a stream beside a protestant estate in north Belfast. He had been abducted,



N Ireland labour movement must stop a return to sectarian violence of the '70s.

tortured and killed. His injuries were so bad, police thought he was about 50. Teenagers from the protestant Shankill area lured a seven year old boy from the Falls area and beat him up. The labour movement could suffer too. A *Militant* reader was attacked by a gang, receiving severe lacerations on his legs. Small groups of youth are beginning to try to terrorise the streets.

It is vital that the labour movement acts. In the North it must break its silence and put forward a class alternative to the agreement, and to the plans of capitalism in Britain and north and south of the Irish border.

Hattersley 'approach' to UDM

LABOUR DEPUTY leader Roy Hattersley was reportedly due to hold talks with the breakaway Union of Democratic Miners on Saturday 22 March. When the details of the meeting were leaked, it was apparently called off at the eleventh hour.

The meeting had been planned for a miners' welfare in Nottinghamshire, and UDM general secretary Roy Lynk was to have

attended.

Hattersley on Labour's NEC is one of those leading the campaign for the expulsion of the leaders of the Liverpool labour movement. Is he welcoming in the strikebreaking leaders of the UDM by one door, while expelling *Militant* by another?

He did speak in Notts on Saturday, at a local party dinner in Mansfield where *Militant* supporters have already been expelled. He

described UDM members still in the party as "loyal members" of the Labour Party. Workers fighting the witch-hunt will believe that implementing conference policy, standing up to Thatcher and her attacks on council spending and fighting to defend jobs and services is a more genuine sign of loyalty, to the labour movement and socialism.

By Jeremy Birch

Chairman defeated at Labour's Southern region conference

THE SOUTHERN Region Labour party conference last weekend saw long serving witch-hunter and regional chairman, Barry Clark, lose his seat on the regional executive.

back of Clark the conference witnessed a swing to the right on the executive and two *Militant* supporters lost their seats on the committee.

Printers

Clark's defeat has heartened many activists who remember his antagonism to *Militant* when he was national youth officer.

His continuing attacks on the left in the party stretched the patience of many delegates who voted him out.

But although seeing the

A resolution calling for a policy to defeat the attacks on local government along the lines of Liverpool was defeated by the strength of the trade union block vote. But a motion calling for changing the law retrospectively to reimburse SOGAT '82 for fines imposed in the present dispute was passed.

Only the EETPU voted against.

Many delegates were surprised to hear Larry Whitty say that: "I am not intending to unleash a witch-hunt in this party.... we want tolerance in this party". He went on to talk about "people operating in secret". When a delegate interrupted his speech to ask why he was expelling councillors who were being surcharged by the courts Whitty had no answer.

By Militant reporters

Purge in ruins

(Continued from page 1)

When the NEC's counsel gave assurances in court that the judge's rulings would be adhered to, the application for an injunction was withdrawn. But Larry Whitty made it clear that he would try to go ahead with the NEC hearing on the basis of "remaining evidence".

On the morning of the NEC hundreds of Labour Party members lobbied outside. They came from as far afield as Essex, Hampshire, Bristol, Leicestershire and Liverpool and made their opposition to witch-hunts clear with a long series of chants, and cheers for the left wingers.

When the NEC meeting started the left moved a motion that no action be taken until a transcript of the previous day's court proceedings was made available to all 29 members. This was lost by twenty votes to nine. A further motion that all charges and evidence be withdrawn was lost by the same margin.

The right wing were clear-

ly insisting on going ahead with their show trial: the eight investigation team withdrew and Felicity Dowling, Liverpool DLP Secretary and the first of the twelve, was called in.

It soon became clear, according to Eric Heffer afterwards, that she was to be given no clear written statement of the revised charges and evidence against her. Natural justice was still being denied.

At this point, seven NEC members walked out. They were Eric Heffer, Tony Benn, Dennis Skinner, Eric Clarke, Francis Curran, Jo Richardson and Joan Maynard.

Victory

In a joint statement Eric Heffer explained that they had walked out because of the denial of natural justice. "The actions of the NEC," he said, "are inflicting grave and wholly unnecessary damage to the Party."

This represents a tremendous victory for the rank and file of the Labour Party. If the right wing could have been allowed to get away with it, there would have been short summary hearings, of perhaps fifteen minutes each, for each of the twelve. On this basis twelve

good socialists, acknowledged by the judge as "longstanding" party members, would have been kicked out.

These farcical proceedings also make a mockery of the other forty-odd expulsions which have already taken place, with less publicity and even less natural justice.

The right wing have been defeated in political arguments and they have temporarily been defeated by the constitution and the natural rights of party members.

But the rank and file must remain vigilant. It is now likely that the right wing will seek to change the rules, and move the goal-posts again. There is already speculation that the NEC's standing orders will be changed by the right wing at a special meeting in April to reduce the quorum. Their motto is: "if the rules really don't bar Marxism, then we'll change the rules."

These events demonstrate quite clearly that the attack upon the twelve is a political witch-hunt and nothing to do with organisation or constitution. Whichever way the right wing may now change the rules, they will find that Marxist ideas cannot be expelled from the Labour Party.

Bosses cheat the workers as cut-price shops go bankrupt

ANGRY, WORKERS, pensioners and unemployed barracked and attacked Ian Fraser a company director of a furniture firm last week at a liquidators' meeting.

The Price Slasher shops throughout London sold cheap furniture. Many workers interviewed on BBC TV's Breakfast Time programme claimed they had bought furniture paying 100 per cent of the price as a down payment. In hundreds of cases the goods were never delivered.

Now the firm has gone into liquidation, owing at least £500,000 to customers and another half a million to

other creditors.

Price Slasher the trading name for Calmgrove was started three years ago by Lee Skinner, later named Young Business Brain of 1984 by the *Sun*. Its 19 stores sold furniture from Austinsuite, a firm saved from closure with public money from the Greater London Council. Austinsuite was taken into the hands of the receiver last month.

Prosecute

If an investigation proves fraudulent trading, Calmgrove directors may be prosecuted but the customers can not get their money back. They might get

recompense if they used a credit card for over £100 or had got a special payment from the DHSS. But the large houses the businessmen involved had built on the profits cannot be touched under the law.

Councillors in Liverpool and Lambeth who fought to house and furnish the working class can be bankrupted and lose everything. But failed businessmen, backed indirectly by public money and suspected of shady dealings, who have brought misery to many of the poorest people in London, can still live in luxury. This is Tory justice.

By Roger Shrivess

Giant Militant rallies defy right-wing purge

Birmingham

LABOUR LEADERS say *Militant* is unpopular. Derek Hatton and Tony Mulhearn among others are threatened with expulsion for 'bringing the party into disrepute.'

While Neil Kinnock remains the least popular leader of the main parties *Militant*

pulls in the crowds. 900 went to the rally in Birmingham and £1,300 was collected for the fighting fund.

Derek Hatton and Peter Taaffe spoke along with Ian Schofield, Rover shop steward and *Militant* supporter who has been witch-hunted out of his job.



Newcastle

A THOUSAND workers, housewives, unemployed, youngsters, YTS trainees and old-aged pensioners packed into Newcastle City Hall to hear Derek Hatton and Peter Taaffe.

Alan Mardghum, secretary of Wearmouth lodge NUM, brought the house down when he announced his lodge had voted for Derek Hatton to lead them at the head of the Durham Gala parade this year. Hatton beat SOGAT leader Brenda Dean in the poll.

The NUM member thanked *Militant* supporters for their marvellous support during the miners' strike.

One trade unionist commented: "I've heard Kinnock, Thatcher, Owen, Steel, Maxwell and Murdoch moaning on about this 'nasty Hatton character' and the so-called extremist loonies in Liverpool. Well, I came here tonight to hear the lad himself and as far as I am concerned I wish we had more of the likes of him in Newcastle. We'd get ourselves a lot more bloody jobs and housing for a start!"

Poverty

Peter Taaffe, one of the five editorial board of the *Militant* expelled in 1983, lambasted the Tories for their vicious anti-working class policies: "The poor have doubled from four to eight million in the last two years and unemployment has rocketed. Poverty, misery and atrocious conditions have increased vastly... Thatcher stands loyal to the ruling class, Labour should be loyal to the workers!"

To loud and prolonged applause Derek Hatton condemned the show trials being organised by the right wing on the NEC.

Other speakers included Theresa



Photo: Dave Pearson.

Carey of the LPYS and Daisy Rawling, a 'YS member in 1934', whose mother was expelled from the ILP at the beginning of the war for being a pacifist, and Bill Hopwood, expelled from Newcastle East CLP for being a *Militant* supporter.

Over £1,600 was raised and several hundred pounds more on tickets and book sales.

After the meeting Bill Dodds, a Newcastle councillor and train driver, had harsh words for Charlie Turnock, NUR representative on the NEC, saying "He should support the socialists and not amass evidence to expel." "We want decent jobs with decent wages" commented Connie Ferguson, a young YTS worker. "We want our bairns to grow up in a world of peace and prosperity. The *Militants* hold the key. They have the ideas and answers," she said.

By Bob Harker

Edinburgh

"THE BIGGEST and best meeting I've been to since Maxton and Gallagher spoke in Edinburgh." These were the comments of an old-aged pensioner from Musselburgh who attended the Edinburgh rally.

Even Scotland's main newspaper *The Scotsman* conceded that there were "twelve hundred plus standing in the aisles".

People came from Aberdeen, Arbroath, Peterhead and even Crail, a fishing village at the north east of Scotland to hear Derek Hatton and Peter Taaffe speak.

There was an electric mood at the meeting, with a very wide range of people from old age pensioners to school students attending. Derek Hatton was especially well-received when he gave Liverpool council's record on house-building and

creating new jobs.

The collection of £1000 came from miners in the pits, the Fife dockyard workers, CPSA members in the offices in Edinburgh, teachers and the unemployed. With the outstanding *Militant* meeting at Glasgow of 1300 and Edinburgh's meeting, the comment of the regional Labour Party officials, that "*Militant* is weak in Scotland", looks laughable.

The large number of rank and file Labour Party members present at the meeting reflected the growing mood against expulsions. Out of six CLP's in the city, five have passed resolutions against the expulsion and witch-hunts. The mother of a YS member at this meeting commented: "Now I know why Neil Kinnock wants you to go, he's scared of the impact and support you have amongst the youth and your commitment to the ideas of socialism."

By Militant reporters

No purge say Torness workers

THE overwhelming majority of workers at Torness Power Station look towards the Labour Party winning the next general election and implementing policies in the interests of the working class.

"It is deplorable however that the expulsion and witch-hunt of Labour Party members is creating disunity at a time when the maximum unity of the Labour Party is needed to defeat the Tories.

"We therefore call on you to stop the expulsion and witch-hunt, and concentrate on fighting the Tories with the policies that will bring Labour to power at the next general election.

The resolution above was passed by the shop stewards at Torness in Scotland with only one abstention and sent to Labour's NEC signed by the stewards.

Tribune launch goes sour

COMPARED TO the thousands attending *Militant* rallies, the soft left *Tribune* attracted 80 to its Leeds meeting billed as a launch for the group.

The audience were shocked when David Blunkett, the main speaker, accused the *Militant* and Liverpool DLP of being no different to the Italian Mafia, after *Militant* supporters had asked what were the motivations behind the right's witch-hunt.

Most of Blunkett's remarks were made up of smears and outright lies about Liverpool DLP which could have been lifted straight from the *Sun* or *Mirror* (or perhaps a *Tribune* editorial).

Unfortunately for the organisers, most of those attending were not only incensed by Blunkett's remarks, (including the majority of local Labour parliamentary candidates who were also invited to speak) but also showed, by their financial contributions, that they were less than enthusiastic about the 'soft left' in general—the collection not even filling a pint glass that was passed around.

In contrast, £317 was raised from over a hundred people at a recent anti-witch hunt rally organised by Leeds *Militant* supporters. In addition formation of a local Campaign Group (as in the Campaign Group of MPs) has been set up after the attacks on Liverpool DLP and *Militant* and on Labour Party policy.

By Dave Worrall
(Central Leeds CLP)

Going for a million signatures

MILITANT HAS launched a petition against the witch-hunt with the target of getting one million signatures by Labour Party conference.

We call on all supporters of the paper to use this petition to gain support from workers, youth, and students to persuade the right wing to drop the suicidal approach they have taken.

Help to raise fighting fund for a more regular Marxist paper as the only answer to the right-wing's purge.

CONFERENCE '86

"I'll see you all in Bournemouth"

BENNY MOOHAN, a young miner from Monktonhall NUM and Musselburgh LPYS told *Militant* why he would be going to YS conference.

"I first came across the LPYS at the beginning of the miners' strike. Its members did more campaigning during the strike than any other section of the labour movement, they took the issues on to the streets.

"This won them a lot of respect in the mining communities. The young miners took to the YS straight away, the older ones would hold off at first until they saw the consistent hard work and commitment of its

members.

"Last year's YS conference was brilliant. It showed that socialism is a grass roots idea that young people can take to, not a heavy theoretical thing.

"I'm looking forward to the opening rally this year where Arthur Scargill will be speaking."

The *Socialist Youth* rally, "Stand down Margaret, general election now" will be held on Friday 28 March in the main theatre hall at 7.30pm. Speakers include: Arthur Scargill, Martin Smith YTURC, a Hull marcher, a printer and Liz French, jailed miner's wife.



What we're fighting for

- ★ For an end to unemployment—a guaranteed job for all school and college leavers
- ★ For an end to low pay—a minimum wage of £120 per week at 18, with 75% of the adult rate at 16
- ★ For educational opportunities for everyone—a £35 per week grant, 52 weeks a year, for all in education at 16; a mandatory full grant for all students at 18.

- ★ For YTS trainees immediately—trade union rates of pay, at least £55 for a 35 hour week, with a guaranteed job at the end of the scheme.
- ★ A majority Labour government committed to nationalising the 'commanding heights of the economy', using the nation's wealth in the interests of the majority, including the youth.

Interview with Linda Douglas

LINDA DOUGLAS is standing for the position of YS representative on Labour's NEC.

Militant: What are the problems in attracting black youth to the Labour Party?

LD: A lot of black youth are cynical as they have never seen Labour do anything for them. But when the YS explain what the Tories are doing with the cuts in public spending they realise that they have to do something about it.

Militant: What do you suggest to solve their problems?

LD: "Blacks are used as scapegoats for all the problems of capitalist society. But they are the ones hardest hit by unemployment, inadequate housing, education cuts and so on. They face police harassment and the problems of drugs even more than other working class youth.



Right: Black youth were attracted to the LPYS at the youth festival in Southwark last summer. Above: Linda Douglas.

"We say you have to go to the heart of the problem. Young workers should have a guaranteed job with a minimum wage of £115, that would give hope to young people and start to solve many of the problems of racism.

"But the bosses won't give us anything. The socialist programme we stand for can only be achieved by nationalising the economy under workers' control and



management.

The YS is involved in all campaigns against racism. In fact due to its record the YS has managed to attract more black youth than any other labour organisation".

Militant: What about women in the YS?

LD: "Well, we campaign on improving conditions for women (in spite of there being a female prime minister, conditions for women are

worse than ever before) and fight for women to join the fight for socialism."

Militant: What will you do if you are elected to the NEC?

LD: "I'll fight against the overturning of conference policies and for the implementation of a socialist programme. I'll also fight against the attacks on socialists in the Labour Party and YS."

Build

Mobile campaign for socialism

WHEN HULL marchers, Ray Duffill, Ian Clark, Jo Parker, Neil Ware and Dave Jennings the driver arrived in London, *Militant* asked them why they had decided to march from Hull to YS conference.

"The inspiration behind the idea was reading about the hunger marchers in the 1930's. Youth then faced similar conditions to us today, mass unemployment, social deprivation etc.

"What's really sickening though is that since the '30's massive leaps have been made in scientific knowledge. We're sending shuttles into space by the dozen and yet poverty amongst young people is actually growing. It's a real condemnation of this society that we have to fight for the same things as our grandfathers.

Links with the unions

"With so many young people out of work, youth could become isolated from the labour movement. One of our aims was to establish links between the YS and union branches.

"The first thing we did was to produce a youth charter and ask people to sponsor it. In this way we made contact with many dif-

ferent trade union bodies in Hull. For example, branch 10/155 of Hull bus-workers, who have been in dispute with the local council, sent a message of support while we were marching.

"We've used the march as a walking campaign to get young people fighting and raise the question of YS conference. In Goole, where there was previously no YS, we made contact with Youth CND. After our visit they were talking about establishing a YS branch.

"The trades council in Northampton and some Labour Party members there have invited us back to speak. We made links with striking printworkers on picket lines in Northampton who were eager to know why we were marching. The whole crowd applauded us as we set off.

"One sacked *Times* worker who signed our log book wrote, "Good luck, we know how you feel now."

"Clerical medical secretaries in Dunstable who have been on strike for a week wanted to sponsor our campaign."

This initiative should be a spur to every YS in the country to get campaigning. The spirit of the march is best summed up by this signature in the marchers' log book: "It is better for us to die on our feet than to live on our knees."

Who's 'top of the pops'



Neil Kinnock

DESPITE THE efforts of Labour's right wing to prevent Derek Hatton from speaking at the conference they apparently can not stop him being heard; his mouth was voted second biggest of the year in a poll in the *New Musical Express*.

"Most wonderful"

He left the Labour Party leaders standing in the "most wonderful human being" section and was also one of the year's best dressed. However, Mr Kinnock can take some consolation that his hair cut was voted ninth best of the year.

Unfortunately, in the poll-winners' poll Derek Hatton revealed his bad taste by voting Everton's *Here we go*



Derek Hatton

best single of the year.

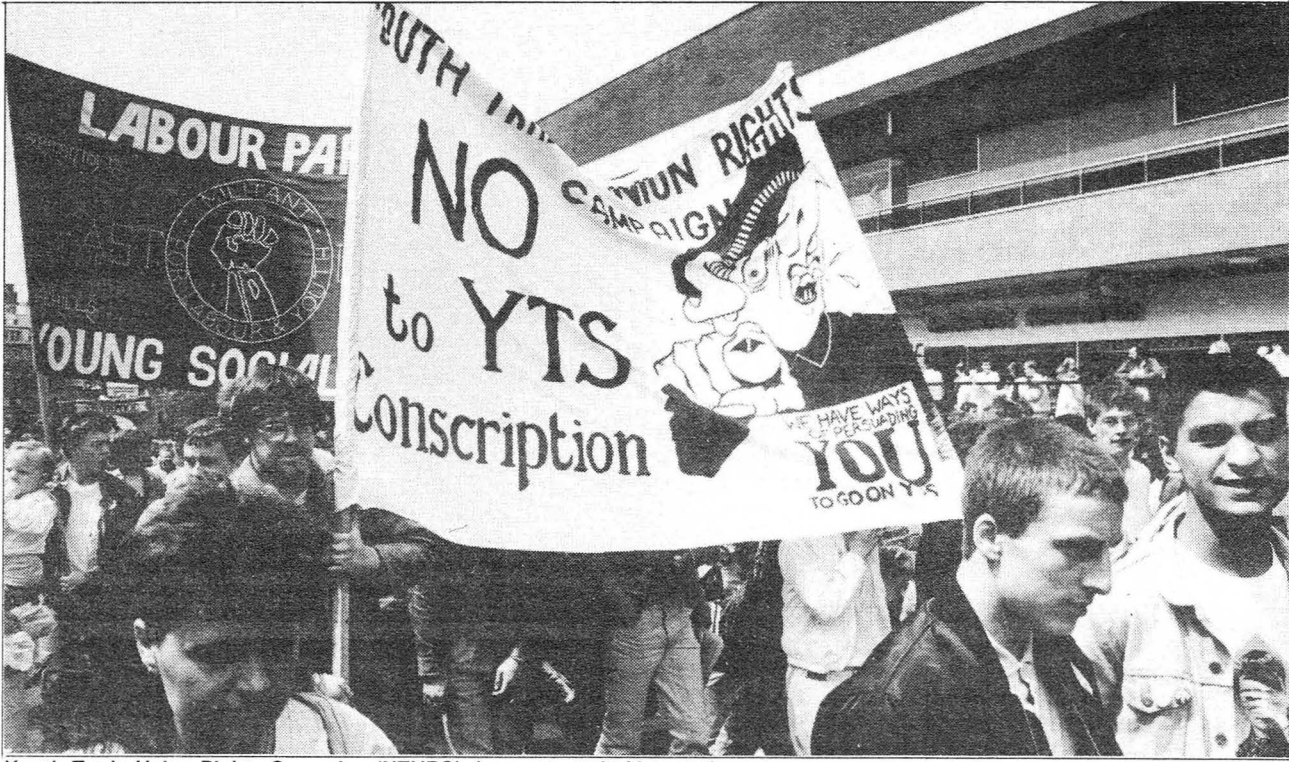
The Tories, on the other hand, should do something about their appearance. Despite the £1000s she spends on clothes and hair-dressers Thatcher ("creep of the year", closely followed by Tebbit) still managed to appear in both worst dressed and worst haircut categories.

Although this poll can't be taken too seriously, it shows the polarisation taking place amongst youth.

It is young people like these: fed up with the Tories and enthused by the stand of the Liverpool councillors that the YS will be winning to its ranks in the coming year.

By Neelam De Freitas

a mass LPYS



Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC) demonstrate in Liverpool.

Photo: Militant.

"You don't fool us, Thatcher"

RECENTLY A YTS advertisement has been featured on television, telling us of the endless, exciting opportunities on the Youth Training Schemes.

The advertisement would lead us to believe that whatever your particular interest or talent there is an opening for you. No matter how trendy the presentation, the Tories can't do anything to jazz up the realities of the schemes themselves.

Conditions on the schemes are often atrocious and sometimes downright dangerous. (So far over 30 people have been killed).

"A load of rubbish"

We can get the real facts from letters and comments that have been sent to YTURC from young people who have participated in these schemes.

Julie: "The training was very poor... it wasn't relevant to what we were doing... The money (£27.30) was only £10.80 more a week than on the dole, but was £10.80 worth a five day week? I'm only now (two years after leaving the YTS) earning £10 more!"

Jhonn: "When I asked for an Xmas job... I was turned down. I was told I'd cost the company too much money. I was better coming cheap on YTS. Yet I was good enough

to get positions of as much importance as regular staff. They even employed a full-time assistant while I was there, and got me to train her!"

Angela: "The new two year YTS... is a load of rubbish, all the government are doing is trying to keep the unemployment figures down. The YTS is in no way a guarantee of a job."

Jeanette: "I feel sorry for the younger children who will be leaving school in three or four years' time, they've got no future of employment to look forward to, have they?"

Dave: "I was shocked to read that the employer gets £160 for having a trainee... why can't we see some of the £160 topping up the wages of £27.30?.. Why can't the bloody stupid government spend one billion pounds in creating permanent jobs instead of two years and mostly dead end jobs?"

"...Thatcher and the government.. say the youth of today don't want to work, well all I can say to that is create more jobs that are not dead end and I will get on my bike and look for them, Mr Tebbit."

"They have created this extension of one year to keep the dole queue down, so she can look good at the elections (WELL MRS THATCHER YOU DON'T BLEEDING WELL FOOL ME)."

Pedigree chum for Andrew

IT'S SPRING and a young Prince's mind turns lightly to thoughts of romance. Prince Andrew was in love again.

Just one smile from the lovely Sarah, and a quick flick through Burke's Peerage to check on her pedigree and he was captured.

The Royal Family were delighted. "Well at least she's not a stripper" said the Queen radiantly: "And she's descended from Charles the Second. Though of course most people are."

"Yes, known them for years. Good stock, polo you know, should breed well" pointed out Prince Philip, blunt and outspoken but

always gracious.

"But has she got staying power, and what is she like at the fences?" asked the Queen Mother, one of the country's most ancient monuments. "I still prefer Dawn Run".

"Mother, put that *Sporting Life* down and concentrate" snapped the Queen. "This gal's a good investment. That Lawson has only given us a 4 per cent rise this year, one can't live on £5 million a year. Getting married will get him out of the gossip columns and get some money in. And it's a good job she kissed him—otherwise he'd have stayed a frog all his life."

She tapped on her dia-

mond encrusted calculator. "I make it an extra £30 thou a year, up to 67. And her father's estate's worth a couple of million."

Security

In came the happy couple, accompanied by the man from MI5 who had come to do the security check on the future Princess.

"Are you," he asked her "or have you ever been a supporter of *Militant*?" "Gosh, no," she gushed.

"Have you any Irish blood?" "I don't think so, but I've got a foxes' brush from my first hunt." The MI5 man smiled. This was the kind of intelligence the

Royal Family needed to survive.

"Are you an Argie?" he asked. "Well, Mummy ran off with one," she replied. But Prince Philip smoothed things over by pointing out that he was also a polo player. "No one could ever accuse us or the police of letting racial prejudice get in the way of true love—except for Asians," MI5 said.

"By the way" the Queen interposed: "Mrs Thatcher insists, if you have any children, make sure they come during a strike or just before a particularly bad set of dole figures."

By Millson Boone

South Africa

THOUSANDS OF youth in Britain have been stirred by the heroic struggle of blacks in South Africa. A new LPYS document on this subject will be launched at YS Conference.

The document traces the development of apartheid from the days of British imperialism and shows the extreme poverty and hardship it means for South African blacks.

"Every year in Durban 8,000 babies are dumped by parents who cannot afford to keep them. In rural areas 820,000 are dependent for food on charitable relief."

Blacks face the daily brutality of the SA police. Despite all this however, Botha's state has been unable to smash the spirit of revolt in the townships. None have fought harder against the regime than the black youth who have established important links with the workers in the factories.

The Transvaal general

Photo: Morris Zwi (Reflex)



Youth face police anti riot vehicles in Tsakane township, Johannesburg.

strike which involved 750,000 workers was actually organised at the initiative of youth and students. 50,000 activists are organised into COSAS, a youth and student body.

A Staffordshire striking miner who was invited to South Africa by the South African NUM commented "The inventiveness of the youth has to be seen to be believed."

"One magazine I saw was made on stolen paper. To print it they broke into an office at night to use the

photocopying machine. They are full of energy and revolutionary spirit...I am sure they could build a nation-wide youth movement similar to the LPYS."

Apartheid = capitalism

South African workers and youth understand that the apartheid system, which exists on the back of cheap black labour, is embedded in capitalism. 77% of black workers in South Africa declared their support for

socialism in opinion polls in 1985.

This feeling is summed up by a leader of the Transvaal stay away when he spoke in November 1984 about the society black workers are fighting for.

"It must be a workers' state based on the principles of the Freedom Charter which they call a set of minimum demands. The Freedom Charter is all about how the people shall govern and how the land shall belong to all those who work it."

Chile campaign success

THE MAPUCHES are the indigenous people of Chile; one of the most oppressed sections of the Chilean population living under Pinochet's dictatorship.

Following an appeal by the Mapuches, the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign (CSDC) organised a successful street collection in Newcastle.

Placards were placed in the street highlighting this people's plight and passers-by were asked if they would like to make a donation to help the struggle. £60 was raised by just a few comrades in a few hours.

Two days after this collection another was held at a concert of Bolivian music. In just one hour a further £60 was raised.

These two examples show the opportunities to aid the fight of workers in Chile who are suffering terrible repression and are in dire need of all the assistance they can get.

With very low incomes,



Dictator Pinochet

barely sufficient to buy bread, money is very hard to come by for Chilean workers, and the support the CSDC can give is of vital importance.

The CSDC is planning a nationwide collection for Chile on May Day. We urge all LPYS members and supporters of Militant to make this event a big success.

By CSDC members

LPYS Conference Rally "Chile on the brink" Pavilion Theatre. Saturday 29 March. 7.30pm. Speaker. Tony Sauniois.

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.

COMRADE seeks flat/house share any area of London. Ring Debbie 767-7472 (evenings).

EXCHANGE for one week. 1 May to 10 May. 3 bedroomed house in Ramsgate for flat or house in London for a couple. Contact 0303 43541.

A Charter for Women Workers: So much was the success of *The Charter* that thousands of additional copies had to be produced—Get your copy now! Bulk order available from A Bannister, 55 Lunt Road, Bootle, Merseyside L20 5EZ or single copies from World Socialist Books 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB. Price 40p & 15p p&p.

NEWBRIDGE Marxist Discussion Group, every Monday 7pm. Newbridge Miners Institute, High St, Newbridge.

MILITANT scarves made in colours of your choice. 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. Hats in two or three colours. £2.30 each from Mick Fallon 64 Woodbrook Avenue, Mixenden, Halifax, West Yorkshire, HX 8PZ.

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).

DOVER *Militant* Discussion Group: Wednesday 2 April—The World Crisis of Capitalism, Wednesday 9 April—Reform or Revolution? Wednesday 16 April—Is Russia Socialist? Wednesday 23 April—What is happening in the Labour Party? All meetings at 8pm. For further details (0303) 43541.

KIVETON Readers Meeting "Miners one year on" Friday 1 April. 7.30pm. The Forge, Kiveton. Speakers: Notts NUM member and John Dunn (Derbyshire NUM).

BRISTOL EAST Marxist Discussion Groups: Thursday 3 April Ireland—Agreement or Socialism? Wednesday 16 April Casino Economy—Will there be a crash? Further details ring Bristol 650318.

inqaba YA BASEBENZI

Journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress

OUT NOW. New edition of *Inqaba ya Basebenzi*, journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress. Price £1 plus 20p postage; Subscriptions £4 for four issues. Surface mail-all countries. £7.90 airmail-all countries. Orders from: Inqaba, BM Box 1719, London WC1N 3XX.

"Militant fights back" meetings

CARMARTHEN *Militant* Public Meeting. Monday 7 April 7pm Carmarthen Library: Speakers: Alec Thraves

ROTHERHAM: *Militant* Readers Meeting. WEA room, Corporation Street (opposite Turf Tavern) Friday 4 April 7.30pm.

VIDEO . . . VIDEO . . . VIDEO Teamster Rebellion—Minneapolis 1934. A proud page in American labour history. 35 minutes VHS video with archive footage and an exclusive interview with 1934 picket captain Harry DeBoer.

notes and booklist all in a wallet folder. Only £2.50 (plus £1 postage). 10 or more post free.

VIDEO . . . VIDEO . . . VIDEO 45 minutes highlights of the 25 February anti-witch-hunt rally and the lobby on the 26th. Wish you were there? Now see it as it really was, not the media lies!

VIDEO . . . VIDEO . . . VIDEO Liverpool fights the Tories—the truth about Liverpool Council's proud record. An excellent introduction to a meeting on the witch-hunt or on Liverpool. 35 minutes. £5 to hire plus £5 deposit. £10 to buy.

Available only on VHS. £3 to hire, plus £7 deposit or £10 to buy.

FIGHT the Tories, not the socialists—90 minutes cassette, highlights of the London anti-witch-hunt rally. Features: T Mulhearn, D Hatton, P Taaffe, T Grant, etc. £1.25 plus 25p postage.

INTRODUCTION to Marxism Study Pack: Updated. Includes: What we stand for: British perspectives, Northern Ireland: A Marxist analysis Ideals of October, Transitional programme, Communist Manifesto Today, and The State—A warning, plus study

ORDER all the above from World Socialist Books, 3-13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

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.

Doorstep road to socialism

THE SHAMEFUL attacks on socialists at the last NEC had one spin off Labour's right wing did not bargain for—sales of *Militant* shot up.

All sellers should be making detailed plans on how to make the best use of the free advertising the media have kindly been giving us.

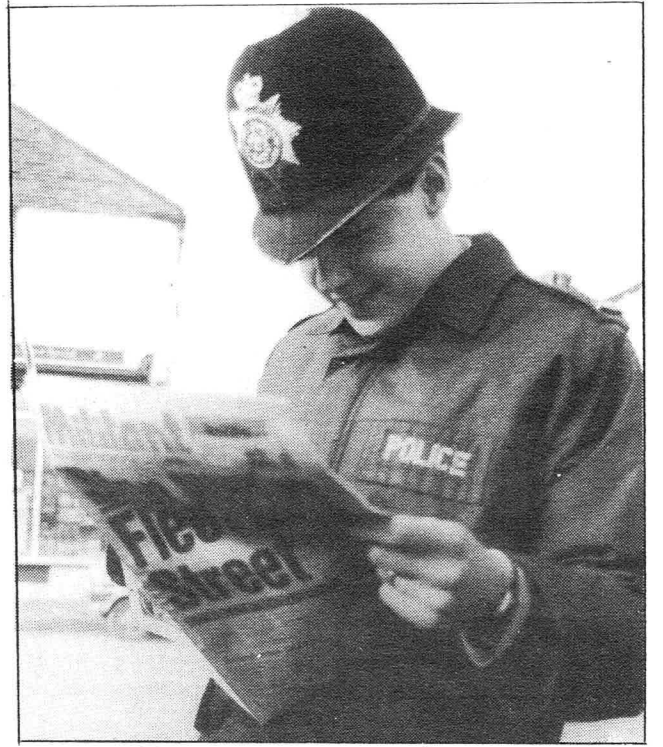
Sellers in Wirral showed how it should be done. Rather than concentrating on one big sale, they covered all the shopping centres and the estates were canvassed in preparation for a series of readers' meetings. As soon as the evening news on TV had finished, *Militant* sellers were on the doorsteps offering local people the chance to read the truth.

Birkenhead readers sold 24. Ten were sold outside Wallasey dole office and ten in Holywell; these are just some of their successes. Supporters in Broadgreen sold 200 in a week.

Local supporters reported that two days after the last readers meeting someone rang up the local radio station saying that somebody had put a copy of *Militant* under the windscreen of his car. "Are you going to complain?" the radio announcer asked. "No chance," came the reply: "I just wanted to know where I could get a copy of this week's—it's brilliant!"

Our aim of a daily Marxist paper will only be possible if it has a solid basis in the workplaces. Many sellers, even some who are quite experienced, are sometimes a bit pessimistic about getting their workmates to buy *Militant*.

But a new supporter in Middleton wrote to our office asking for 20 copies of the paper a week to sell. The first week he sold all 20 at the rail depot where he works. If he can do it at a first attempt, so can you!



On the Silentnight picket line. It's amazing who will buy *Militant* these days.

Money to beat the attacks

FIGHTING FUND

This week
£1752

Quarter ends
30 April

THE GATHERING of Labour's youth this weekend at the National LPYS annual conference will undoubtedly strongly oppose the continuing attacks on *Militant* supporters.

It now seems that some members of Labour's NEC have been planning for some time to charge the rules of the party in order to make new expulsions easier! Protest now! We need one million signatures on our petition.

Act now!

Have you signed yet, and have you sent us a donation to help us fight back? If not please do so today. Neil Kinnoch cannot expel one million people! A new LPYS member from Barking hasn't wasted any time in taking the petition around his 'bed and breakfast' lodgings obtaining nine signatures and collecting £8 for the fighting fund.

Hampstead and Highgate Labour Party this week sent us a £10 donation after passing a resolution against the

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 London East	1616		3500
2 London South West	584		1500
3 Manchester/Lancs	1624		4200
4 London West	979		2300
5 East Midlands	811		3050
6 Humberside	539		2350
7 London South East	491		2200
8 Southern	653		3100
9 South East	477		2400
10 Eastern	595		3450
11 Merseyside	1159		6900
12 West Midlands	753		4500
13 Scotland West	521		3850
14 Yorkshire	802		5600
15 Wales West	375		3150
16 Scotland East	360		3200
17 South West	222		2150
18 Wales East	141		1450
19 Northern	407		4550
Others	1049		5000
Total received	14160		70000

witch-hunt. Why not ask your Labour party, LPYS, Women's Section or Labour Club to follow suit? £55 was also collected from TUC Women's conference. Thanks to all those who contributed.

Rallying to our aid

At the huge rallies against witch-hunts and expulsions, opposition has taken a financial form. In Edinburgh £1,000 was raised while Newcastle collected £1,600 (and they're still counting). Other *Militant* readers

meetings sent in money: Burnley £36; Llanelli £50; Newport, Isle of Wight £27; Waltham Forest £24; Harringay £60; Fife £42.

A gold star this week to sellers in the Broadgreen area of Liverpool who collected £50 just in extras, using the rattling tins on their mammoth sales (see sales report). Well done to Manchester sellers who raised £28 selling stickers.

CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDE: David Oselton, Skipton, FTAT £2; K Jackson, Leics NUT £3.50; Chris and Barry Butterworth, Walthamstow £3; Ian

Ethrington, Chingford, EETPU £1.55; Martin Brook, Leyton £3.25; J Matthews, Kent 75p; Horace Taylor, unemployed from South Normanton £1; V Russel, expatriate Scot. £10; Robert Friel, Strathclyde, Nalgo £20; £50 from an unemployed AUEW Branch Treasurer's commission; Dave Watts, Hull, £10 Members of Hull AUEW No. 12 District Committee £4.50; Dennis Sullivan, Coventry North-East Labour Party £10; Jack Dempsey, Coventry North-West Labour Party £5.55. Many thanks to everyone who contributes to our funds.

By Ruth Campbell

Meetings oppose the witch-hunt

WALES

Islwyn: Thursday 17 April, 8pm. Speakers: Derek Hatton and Peter Taaffe. Venue: Newbridge Comprehensive School.

NORTH WEST

Macclesfield: Wednesday 2 April. Speaker: Terry Fields MP (Liverpool Broadgreen). Venue: Nag's Head pub.

YORKSHIRE/HUMBERSIDE

Halifax: Tuesday 15 April, 7.30pm, AUEW Club St James Street.

Doncaster: Monday 7 April. Speaker: Cheryl Varley.

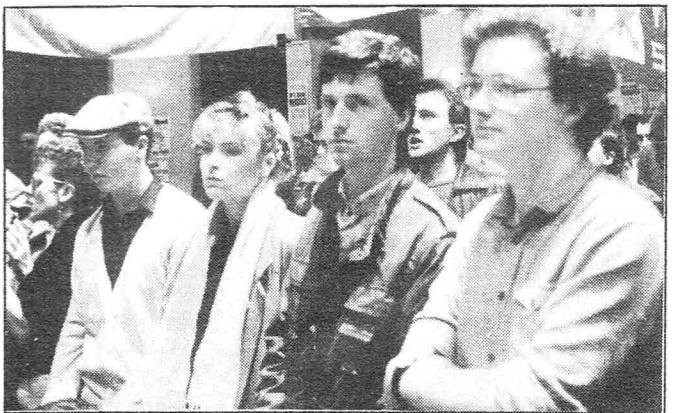
Leeds NW: Monday 7 April 7.30pm. Ralph Thoresby School, Holt Park centre, Leeds 16.

EASTERN

Colchester: Sunday 6 April, 7.30pm. Speaker: Bob Edwards. Colchester Labour Club.

LONDON

Peckham: Bells Garden Community Centre, Peckham Hill Street, SE15, Thursday 27 March, 7.30pm.
Dulwich: Dulwich Baths, East Dulwich Road, London SE22, Thursday 3 April, 7.30pm.



Part of the Birmingham rally on 24 March. Photo: Militant.



Demonstration against the Metropolitan Counties' abolition in January 1984. Livingstone rejected a militant campaign to save jobs and services in the GLC.



Ken Livingstone

KEN LIVINGSTONE, architect five years ago of the left's victory at the GLC, has now joined with the right in attacking Liverpool Labour Party and *Militant*.

His article in the right-wing moving *Tribune* set out to 'redefine' the left in his own terms.

Livingstone says he is against all expulsions and is in favour of open debate. This must be welcomed. But his method of debate is thoroughly dishonest. He even resorts to a snide comparison of Derek Hatton with Oswald Mosley—1930s Labour politician turned fascist.

Livingstone wants to rebuild his left wing credentials, but on new territory. He therefore shows no compunction in mimicking the right's accusations against Liverpool Labour Party and therefore providing support from the left for the witch-hunt.

He repeats the argument about "delegate meetings being replaced by aggregate meetings which are much easier to manipulate", and about the "predominance of trade union delegates".

As *Militant* has explained in detail previously, the DLP meetings were opened up in a period of crisis to keep the membership informed of the latest developments. Voting was restricted to delegates.

The trade unions are the mass base of the Labour Party and their widest involvement is to be welcomed.

He uses the smear about members of the static security force policing DLP meetings. But those individuals have only ever attended as trade unionists and Labour party members. Livingstone just repeats *Sun* smears about 'Hatton's private army'.

Worst of all is his accusation of "racism inside Liverpool council". Livingstone's only backing for this charge is the claim that only one per cent of the meals on wheels, home helps, homes for

the elderly and jobs are going to black people.

As Terry Fields MP has pointed out in parliament, since Labour took power in Liverpool the council has raised the percentage of meals on wheels going to blacks from 0.3 per cent to 13 per cent.

His remarks on job opportunities for blacks in the council are pure hypocrisy. In London the GLC did increase the number of blacks (and women) proportionally on the workforce, in the lower and upper grades.

'Nothing the Labour GLC does challenges the structure of society. It raises issues, promotes campaigns, makes small shifts in wealth—all things that a Thatcher government can live with.'

**Ken Livingstone
June 1983**

But to achieve this Livingstone first had to win a battle with the GLC staff association who were against vacancies being opened up to outside applicants. He denounced the staff association at the time.

Yet not a word is spoken here about the role of the Liverpool NALGO leadership who have taken a similarly obstructive position. He also fails to mention that it has been the council's policy to allocate 20 per cent of trainee places to young blacks and their setting up of an ethnic monitoring employment action team.

All these issues are merely incidental to Livingstone's strategy. The coalition of interests upon which he rode to power at County Hall is now in pieces

following the debacle of the rate-capping climb-down and abolition. His interests, now turned towards parliament and national positions, require a political justification and new alliances.

He defines his opponents, both on the right and the left as mutually reactionary. Black sections, positive discrimination for women, and the withdrawal of troops from Northern Ireland (as a liberal rather than a socialist demand) are elevated as decisive political yardsticks. Anyone who recognises the class struggle and the class nature of the state as the decisive questions for the future of the labour movement is condemned as authoritarian and 'macho'.

Livingstone himself has recognised that his own ideas are impotent: 'Nothing that the Labour GLC does challenges the structure of society. It raises issues, it promotes campaigns, it makes small shifts in wealth—they are all things that a Thatcher government can live with if the truth were told'. (June 1983) Three years on even that was an over-estimation.

The rejection of a militant campaign, in conjunction with the trade unions, to resist abolition in favour of a publicity and lobbying campaign did wonders for Livingstone's media image but left 3,000 GLC workers facing immediate redundancy. Up to 6,000 jobs could go through voluntary redundancies. The GLC leadership were critical of Liverpool's tactical use of redundancy notices issued to gain time in the campaign for jobs and services. But GLC workers now face real redundancies. And it is blacks and women on the GLC staff who are most vulnerable as the residuary bodies are adopting a last in, first out policy.

These are Livingstone's ideas tried and tested. They have failed, and are discredited in the eyes of many workers. But Livingstone's new alliances may yet take him further.

Changing shades of Red Ken

Ken Livingstone has attacked *Militant* in the pages of *Tribune*. John Bulaitis looks at what's left of the GLC leader as the council closes its doors for the last time.

Socialist view of boxing death

PROFESSIONAL boxing has claimed its eleventh British life since the war.

Scottish welterweight champion Steve Watt died last week after sustaining heavy damage in a British title eliminator with Rocky Kelly.

Like the last Briton to die as a result of ring activities, Welshman Johnny Owen in 1981, Watt was physically able for his trade. The unknown quantity in any boxer is whether his brain is able to absorb further punishment despite the recent introduction of mandatory brain-scans for professional fighters.

Records of human ability and endurance in athletic pursuits are constantly being broken and boxers are getting stronger, faster and more deadly.

Heavyweight Frank Bruno has had his best punch timed at 0-200 mph in less than a second: an opponent wouldn't even see it coming. Headguards offer no protection to this sort of barrage—in fact there is evidence to suggest that by containing the head, concussion is advanced.

Escape route

The damage boxers are prepared to do themselves to keep to the weight limits, such as Turkish baths and saunas, as well as cerebral damage is frowned upon by the British Medical Association who want professional boxing banned.

As the recession bites, more and more young men, attracted by the various successes, the publicity and riches, turn to pugilism as a means to escaping from the worst excesses of Thatcher's Britain with its mass unemployment and housing estate misery. This is exactly the pattern of the 1930s which had its own share of tragedies. The dangers of the sport are rarely played up.

Countries such as Cuba and the Soviet Union do not permit professional boxing but encourage amateurs. Pro-boxers can expect to fight for a maximum of 45 minutes while for amateurs the limit is nine minutes.

Amateurs often use bigger gloves and the accent tends to be on self defence rather than aggression. In fact, in the pro-game, particularly in the USA, boxers are awarded points for aggression.

British professional boxing is reputed to be the safest in the world but a former referee of some 30 years standing, Harry Humphries, has recently claimed he was disciplined by the British Boxing Board of Control after promoters had complained he was "stopping fights too early" and "the fans were not getting their money's worth".



Boxing has always had its share of characters and glamour but in its turn contained sharks and criminals who manipulated individual fighters and preyed on the public to line their own pockets.

As an amateur boxer in my youth I, like many working class people, have enjoyed the sport and attended promotions. The question is, whether we can allow others of our class to suffer or even die for our entertainment in the future—and there's only one answer.

By Bob Stothard

Women fight low pay

of £116 a week. 60 per cent of women manual workers earn less than £100 with 27.4 per cent earning less than £75.

Not satisfied with these levels of poverty, the Tories are attacking the low paid by abolishing what little protection they have through the Wages Councils and by repealing the Truck Acts and parts of the Shop Act. Privatisation has also meant cuts in wages and conditions for contract cleaners, catering workers and many more.

31 May demonstration

The North West Regional Women's Committee has called a campaign on low pay and privatisation to demonstrate to the Tories that workers, especially women workers, will organise and fight any further attempts to return to Victorian sweatshop conditions and to rally support in the labour movement for a national minimum wage.

The campaign will centre on a demonstration and rally in Manchester on 31 May assembling at 11am at All Saints.

IN A recent fact sheet, the Low Pay Unit in Manchester gave examples of workers who had asked them for advice. These included:

Woman, full-time dental assistant—£32.50 for 39 hours—83p an hour.

Woman, part-time mother's help—£27 for 27 hours—£1 an hour.

Woman, full-time typist—£32.50 for 38 hours—85.5p an hour.

Man, butcher—£70 for 46 hours—£1.52 an hour.

Man, warehouse assistant—£65 for 42 hours—£1.55 an hour.

These cases are not unusual. Low pay is becoming an epidemic. 530,000 full-time workers in Greater Manchester earn less than the EEC 'decency threshold'

Council cash

SINCE THATCHER'S 1979 victory local authorities have been deprived of £16 billion in central government grants. Liverpool alone has lost over £500 million. This year's 'rate-capped 12' face desperate problems. Drastic shortfalls loom between the finances available to them, and the cost of maintaining jobs and services. Liverpool has a £37 million shortfall, Southwark £33 million and Islington £40 million.

A real united fight by Labour councils last year could have extracted the necessary cash out of the Tories. They might need the same unity to get relief out of the next Labour government.

Liverpool's legal budget

LIVERPOOL CITY Council, like the miners, have come in for all the concentrated fury of the Tory party and their kept press.

The weight of this barrage is precisely equal to their fear of the actions of a socialist council and the support that it can generate amongst working people.

What above all infuriated the opponents of the District Labour Party are the achievements of the City councillors and the fact that the councillors have been prepared to go the whole way. Even at the risk of rendering themselves penniless and homeless they have been prepared to stick to the policies they were elected on.

Together with the miners Liverpool have recreated the finest traditions of the Labour movement. Not since the days of the Poplar council in the 1920's has such a unity of purpose been seen. Unfortunately, much of this is now being obscured by the witch-hunt and investigation into the DLP and by some attempts to rewrite history.

David Blunkett writes in *Tribune* about the so-called 'Go it alone' decision of the Liverpool City party to make a 'deficit budget'. In 1984 it was David Blunkett who argued with Liverpool that they should wait until 1985 before taking on the Tory government—"If you have a number of authorities going together, there would be such a mass upsurge of feeling from people and such unity between authorities...the social, the economic and financial dislocation, the sheer rift and rupture of democracy would be so great...then you would be in a position to make a central government pull back" (*New Socialist* May/June 1984).

Sheffield backs down

In 1985, Liverpool, with 20 or so rate-capped authorities including Blunkett's Sheffield, went along with the tactic of deferring the setting of a rate. By June only Lambeth and Liverpool were still pursuing this tactic: all the other councils, including Sheffield, had abandoned their own self-proclaimed strategy.

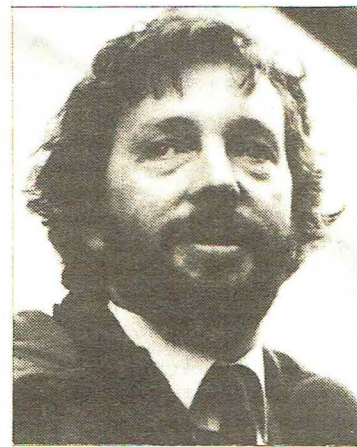
Liverpool did not decide to 'go it alone'. It was abandoned by Sheffield and other Labour councils. Because it was not rate-capped, it was left in isolation with two choices—cuts or a deficit budget. It chose the path decided upon by the party both locally and nationally—no cuts in jobs or services.

At the time of the Stonefrost report, in November last year, the national trade union leaders were advocating cuts, either in the form of rate increases, capitalisation or increased charges. Here there was the spectacle of councillors (supposedly the "managers") arguing against cuts and the trade union leaders arguing for cuts. Little wonder that every trade union involved has since attempted to distract attention from this "little" detail and instead have indulged in attacking the city council.

The Swiss loan package of November was far from an ideal solution, but due to the collapse of trade union support and the attacks of the Labour leaders, it was the best that could be achieved. Additional borrowing led to the releasing of funds for capitalisation without substantially cutting into the house building programme.

The trade union leaders reacted with fury to this deal—hypocritically accusing the council of plunging the city further into "hock". No such reaction has met the proposals of Islington council to borrow three times the amount (see article opposite). Neither is there much comment about Liverpool's current £700 million debt with an annual interest repayment of £70 million. What do the Labour leaders propose to do about the mountains of interest debt which hang around all councils?

The November settlement was a defeat for the Liverpool Labour movement. Nevertheless,



David Blunkett.

the councillors were seen to go as far as they could in defending party policy. As John Hamilton explained at a recent meeting of the Labour Party membership: "Councillors made promises and kept them. But promises made by other people were not kept in relation to action, over the issuing of surcharge certificates."

The ruling class is now pressing ahead with its advantage. Having secured the first round in the courts, by hammering Liverpool and Lambeth councillors, they are now threatening to surcharge and disqualify more councillors in several London Boroughs and in Sheffield.

Their confidence is reinforced by the spectacle of the Labour leaders attacking the City council and by the absence of any united action by the trade union movement to defend these councillors.

Unfortunately, even some of the lefts, such as David Blunkett did not seem to understand that by attacking *Militant* and Liverpool City Council, they were ultimately undermining their own positions. The trade union leaders who are so vociferous in attacking Liverpool will soon find that the Tories will be sacking their members in other councils throughout Britain.

The Tories clearly understand

that Liverpool represents the 'Brigade of guards' among Labour councils as the miners were among trade unionists. The Tories' strategy is the defeat of Liverpool and then a move against councils as a whole.

The judgement in the High Court to disqualify and surcharge was the "most political judgement" the barristers had witnessed. Councillors in Liverpool will appeal despite enormous costs—they are confident that right is on their side and that workers will respond to appeals for cash. Already a magnificent £120,000 has been raised.

The Court's decisions have in any case caused tremendous sympathy for the council. Many voters who had never voted Labour before have indicated that they will not have judges telling them who they can have as elected councillors. Many see the decisions as an attack on local democracy comparable to the actions of the government over GCHQ.

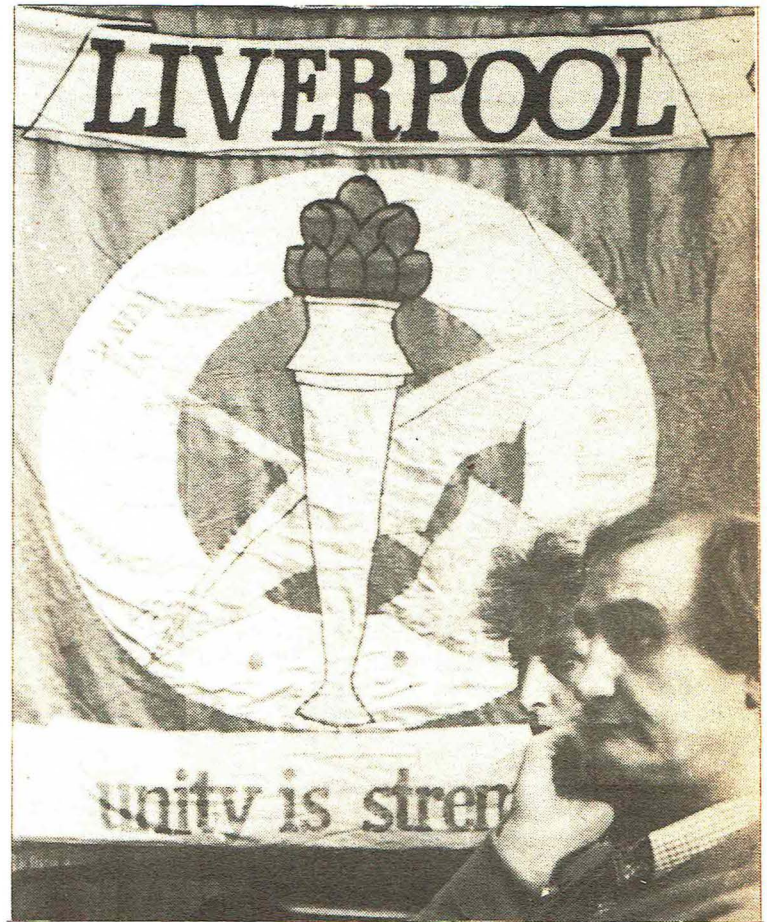
Mass movement

The uneasiness over the judgement is shown by the comments of the Liberals, the Archbishops of Liverpool and various editorial comments. The Liberals "pleaded" with the government to wipe out the financial penalties (although they want the disqualification to stand) and MP David Alton commented that: "The possibility of people like John Hamilton being thrown out of their homes and bankrupted, will not help matters at all. In some respects it could simply play into *Militant's* hands."

But at the end of the day the most important factor will be what mass movement the appeal judges see in support of the councillors. If it was left to the Labour leaders, they would see precisely nothing. They believe it is worthless proceeding with the appeal, without which the council would go quickly over to a Liberal/Tory coalition.

Moreover, the Labour leaders' view is completely at odds with the whole of the local movement. The local trade unions have renewed their efforts to raise cash. NALGO have donated £1,000 and asked the NEC to donate more. They are also calling on the TUC and the major trade unions to underwrite the cost of surcharge and to organise a national appeal, and are calling on the next Labour government to retrospectively indemnify the councillors in question. UCATT have instituted a levy of £5 a head for the next four weeks. The Joint Shop Stewards Committee have begun a levy of £1 per worker for an unlimited period.

All this contrasts with David Blunkett, writing in *Tribune* (14 March) who asserts that the rank and file as a whole "have hardly been forthcoming in their financial support". But if there is some confusion, it emanates from the tops of the movement. The NEC resolution of 16 June 1985 stated that the local government defence fund



At the District Labour Party rally in Liverpool last December.

Education under threat

THE LIVERPOOL City Council have been forced by the situation it is in to adopt a legal budget in which there are implicit but unallocated cuts of around £27 million. If there is no mass campaign by the labour movement, and the trade union movement in particular, there could be serious consequences for jobs.

A report by a council officer showing the position for education, for example, pointed out that the cash limits imposed by the Tories, if they were adhered to, would mean the loss of jobs for 200 school teachers, 20 home teachers, 65 residential school staff, 180 college lecturers, 120 nursery teachers and

120 nursery nurses.

The cash freeze would also mean a £1 million cut in discretionary grants, a 70 per cent cut in books and stationery, a £1.4 million cut in youth and community programmes and the closure of four residential schools and the loss of 28 posts in the Education department.

● The Labour authority of Newham in East London has already faced half-day strikes and protests against their decision to cut education spending by five per cent, with the loss of 122 teaching posts on top of 82 vacancies already unfilled.

"Will make funds available for councillors who may need legal advice and representation." It further stated: "We believe that any action taken by the District Auditor against Labour councillors must be contested by the courts".

But now the party leadership declares an appeal to be a waste of money. Any money raised, they say, should be used to pay the surcharge. At the same time, the party leadership is spending tens of thousands trying to expel some of the leading representatives of the City Council. No wonder some workers could be confused.

The policy of the Liverpool District Labour Party has always been to tell the workers the truth. Since November, the DLP has had to compromise on some of its programme because of the defeat in the budget battle. But Tory cutbacks are now preparing the way for an explosion.

Since 1979 Liverpool has lost an incredible £285 million in rate support grant, £30 million from Further Education, £98 million in the Housing Subsidy and £150 million in Housing Investment Programme—over half a billion pounds in grant reductions.

Added to this is the abolition of

the Merseyside County Council—many of its costs being passed on to the City Council.

County abolition

All of this has left the City council with a deficit this year of £37 million, without taking into account the cost of voluntary bodies, the arts, theatres, economic development or the host of other activities previously funded by the County Council. Without cash for these services up to 1,000 jobs could be at risk with the abolition of the County.

By using various financial devices—£5 million of new government cash and £5 million available from other cash transfers—the deficit can be reduced to £27 million. But at the moment the only way to cover this deficit would either be by massive rent increases or redundancies, neither of which the City council is proposing. The maximum rate increase is 16 per cent.

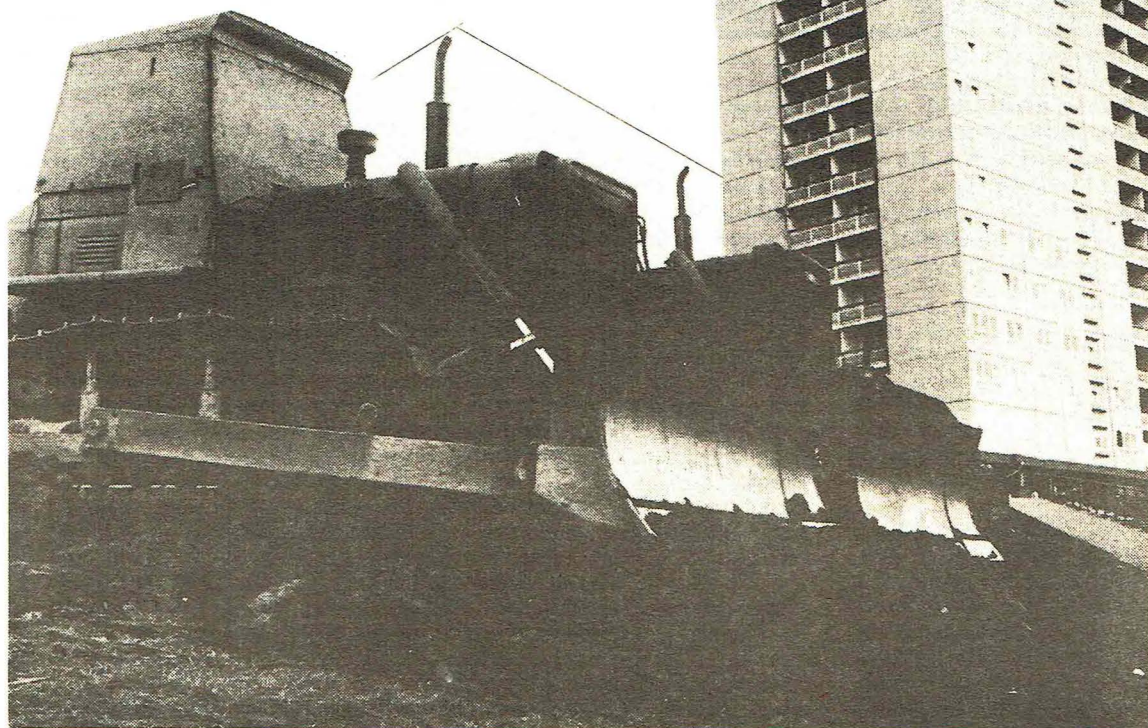
The city council has therefore introduced a legal budget with an expenditure of £274 million—although the *minimum* needed to run the council without cuts will be £311 million.

crisis



Photos: Militant

Southwark council workers fought last year—a massive campaign will be needed this year.



Liverpool City Council have bulldozed many old slums and tenements and are one of the few councils to have built entirely new parks. For their Herculean efforts to look after the people of the city they have been pilloried by the Tories and—shamefully—by the Labour leadership.

Witch-hunt is a political attack

Labour's right claim their attacks on Liverpool and *Militant* are purely organisational, nothing to do with political ideas.

Tom Sawyer in an interview in *The Guardian* (21 March 1986) where he debates with Audrey Wise lets the cat out of the bag.

He states that in "My practical experience *Militant* has always been in a minority... in the parties where I have belonged and in the unions that I'm a member of. In those circumstances you can deal with the situation by argument and persuasion".

Organisational measures

In other words, if *Militant* becomes a majority as in Liverpool, it requires methods other than argument and debate: organisational measures. Sawyer states that "You won't find anything in the inquiry report about ideology or political views", conveniently overlooking the fact that all those threatened with expulsions share a common political view.

Nevertheless, most of his remarks in the interview are con-

cerned with politics and ideology. He talks of "The end is some kind of socialism which they believe in". There "are many fellow travellers. There are many people in Liverpool who feel that the style of politics and if you like the ideology of *Militant* are OK. People who are not members or main line supporters go along with them".

He finds *Militant* guilty of "vanguardism". This apparently means winning votes and political majorities. At Liverpool District Labour Party meetings "the majority political line, ie the line taken by *Militant* tendency—was supported by their members and supporters to the extent that they were bound to win".

If members and supporters of the Labour Co-ordinating Committee were to hold the 'majority political line', would they face expulsion?

To explain away that "in Liverpool *Militant* has control," Tom Sawyer has to resort to the discredited accusations of intimidation and manipulation etc. But "it's pretty much of an insult" replies Audrey Wise, "to the perhaps 3,000 or so party members to suggest that a small minority can keep them terrorised".

To her the idea of expulsion of

party groupings with their own separate and distinct policies, should not cause any problems in Liverpool. For "the organisation which has had the greatest power, and exercised that power to pursue separate and distinct policies from those of the Labour Party has in the past been the Parliamentary Labour Party, which gloried in its independence from the party".

Sawyer opposes accountability

After all it was this that spurred the campaign for reselection of MP's and greater accountability to ordinary members. Tom Sawyer supported it at the time. Now one of his excuses for attacking Liverpool is the high degree of accountability over the Labour councillors.

All these charges about the running of the DLP are just a smokescreen. The twelve Liverpool Party members arbitrarily picked out for possible expulsion, have just one common thread, as Audrey Wise pointed out "that is they are all alleged to be supporters of *Militant*".

Clearly this is a political witch-hunt, and nothing less.

into office as a result of the May elections, or by the High Court judgement, they would keep the books in balance by merciless slashing of jobs and services.

More than words

The policy of the Labour Party remains the same. It will not do the dirty work of Thatcher and her government. It will not implement policies which mean job losses or drastic cuts in services. It remains confident that the people of Liverpool will continue to vote for these policies.

For the third year running Liverpool Labour Party has no other choice but to campaign jointly with the trade unions to gain additional

resources for the city. Given a united and determined campaign this can be won and the Labour Party can continue with its policies of creating jobs and building houses.

At a joint meeting of trade unions last Saturday the officials agreed to make representation to minister Kenneth Baker for extra resources. But it will require more than mere words to convince the Tories. Only by mounting a massive campaign of explanation, by conducting a united campaign to win re-election in May and "defending the 48" will the Tories respond.

By Dave Cotterill

Tory government hit out at Labour authorities

ISLINGTON COUNCIL, one of the 20 that backed off last year after initially making a stand against the government, has gone to the banks to borrow £200 million.

The "only option" available to protect jobs and services, according to council leader Margaret Hodge, "is to borrow against current spending and hence mortgage our future." We can survive, she added, "but the cost is phenomenal. We're using every device we can, including a £200 million facility with foreign banks."

Yet after Liverpool was left to fight alone last year and it was forced into a final settlement that included a £60 million loan from Swiss banks, this brought forward a chorus of complaints, including from the Labour leaders, about 'mortgaging the city'.

The Islington leader was also one of those who attacked Liverpool last year, urging the implementation of the damaging cuts recommended by the Stonefrost Report, while her authority had its own £15 million gap to contend with.

MANCHESTER CITY'S Labour council has passed a no-cuts budget, with a 7-7.5 per cent rate increase and programme to build 500 council houses this year and 500 each year following. There will be no rent rises and a small expansion in jobs.

Trade unionists and activists will welcome this budget especially the plan to build more council houses but it was only achieved by a deferred loan payment of some £40-£50 million pounds.

Some £400 million pounds has been robbed in rate support grant from our city since 1979. This year because of government penalties Manchester had to bridge a gap of some £200 million. By the government's crazy policies we can receive some £75 million back by negotiating a £40-50 million loan. However the Tories plan to close this particular loophole.

A campaign amongst the local council estates must be launched. Unless

But after all the condemnations of Liverpool, where are the Labour leaders' criticisms of Islington, where there has been no struggle and where current debt rescheduling is according to Margaret Hodge "like the Third World."?

The future will inevitably catch up, apparently by 1991-2. Who will get them off the hook? The strategy for Margaret Hodge is dependent on being able to "persuade the Labour front bench to bail us out," when they are returned to office. Labour environment spokesman Jack Cunningham, while ritually condemning Liverpool's settlement made it clear, "no government is going to bale out an authority which refuses consistently to balance its books."

The problem is that all Labour councils over the last few years have been operating under a state of siege. They have been under constant bombardment from the Tories, through restrictive spending targets, penalties for 'overspending', rate-capping and severe cut-backs in the government's grants to local authorities.

Unless the government relents and restores some of the grants it has taken away the council must prepare for a confrontation. It will not be an easy task especially given the official leadership of some of the unions who have argued for rent and rate increases and capitalisation. But there is no future if the Tories get their way.

Manchester's fight would be strengthened enormously if they linked up with the Liverpool City Council. The Labour Group of councillors in Manchester have collected £400-£500 in a whip-round for the Liverpool and Lambeth councillors and at last week's District Party meeting Liverpool councillor Tony Mulhearn was very well received by the delegates present with a further £1090 being raised in a collection.

By Michael Lee
(City LP Delegate)

James Connolly

Fighter for workers

unity and socialism

SEVENTY YEARS ago James Connolly, one of the world's greatest workers' leaders took part in the "Easter rising". After a summary trial he was executed in Dublin Castle by the British government. But his beliefs live on and inspire fresh generations with socialism and internationalism. DERMOT CONNOLLY of the Dublin Labour Party evaluates Connolly's life, his ideas and their relevance to Ireland's crisis today.

James Connolly was a great revolutionary leader of the Irish working class. Born in Edinburgh of Irish parents on 5 June 1868, and executed 12 May, 1916, his life of struggle and dedication to the ideas of socialism is an inspiration to workers in Ireland and the world over.

Connolly began his socialist activity in Edinburgh where he was secretary of the Scottish Socialist Federation. He came to Dublin in 1896 as a paid organiser of the Dublin Socialist Society. He transformed this loose grouping into the Irish Socialist Republican Party (ISRP).

The ISRP was established as a revolutionary party, committed to the overthrow of capitalism and to the establishment of a workers socialist republic.

Forced to emigrate for economic reasons to the USA for some years, Connolly was active in socialist politics there also. He was an organiser for the Industrial Workers of the World—the "Wobblies".

Brilliant pamphlet

It was during his activity in America that Connolly wrote *Socialism made Easy*, a brilliant introductory pamphlet for workers on the basic ideas of socialism.

On his return to Ireland in 1910, Connolly became the Belfast organiser of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. For the next two years, he played the decisive role, along with James Larkin, in the formation of the organised labour movement in Ireland.

The historic battle in Dublin in 1913, the great lock-out, laid down a tradition of revolutionary class struggle for the emerging working class in Ireland.

Connolly became the acting General Secretary of the ITGWU when Larkin was imprisoned during the lock-out. He was the Com-

mandant of the Irish Citizens Army, the first workers' militia in Europe, which arose out of the need to defend workers from attacks by scabs and the police.

He also moved the motion, supported by Larkin, at the Irish Trade Union Congress in 1912, which established the Labour Party as the political arm of the trade union movement.

Connolly was a class fighter, organiser, and day to day leader of the workers *par excellence*. But he was also much more than that.

He was a Marxist, who bequeathed to the workers of today, not only a great tradition of struggle and sacrifice, but a Marxist analysis of the tasks facing the working class which are as relevant today as they were in his lifetime.

The material reproduced in his pamphlet *Labour in Irish History*, Connolly's best work, shows clearly his understanding that the age long struggle in Ireland was essentially a social struggle for independence. But this struggle was always betrayed by the capitalist and middle class Catholic leaders who aspired to replace British imperialism as the exploiters of the mass of the population.

From his analysis of Irish history, and his understanding of how capitalism develops into imperialism, Connolly drew the same conclusions which Trotsky drew at the turn of the century in relation to Russia.

In backward colonial and semi-colonial countries, with a weak capitalist class, the tasks of winning national independence, of establishing the conditions for industrial development, of creating a free peasantry in the countryside, and of establishing a democratic state, fall to the working class.

For Connolly, the key question was to break the hold of British imperialism. But to achieve this, the working class must be foremost in this struggle. The task was to place labour at the head of all the forces

struggling for independence.

But as Trotsky explained in his Theory of Permanent Revolution, the workers, having carried out these tasks of the national democratic revolution, would go on uninterrupted to the tasks of socialism, not on a purely national level, but on an international level.

Connolly's ideas, formulated independently, strikingly point in the same direction: "If you remove the English Army tomorrow and hoist the green flag over Dublin Castle, unless you set about the organisation of the socialist republic, your efforts would be in vain. England would still rule you. She would rule through her capitalists, through her landlords, through her financiers, through the whole array of commercial and industrial institutions she has planted in this country..."

Workers' Republic

Connolly argues for a republic not as in France or the USA, but for a workers' republic which would be "a beacon-light to the oppressed of every land."

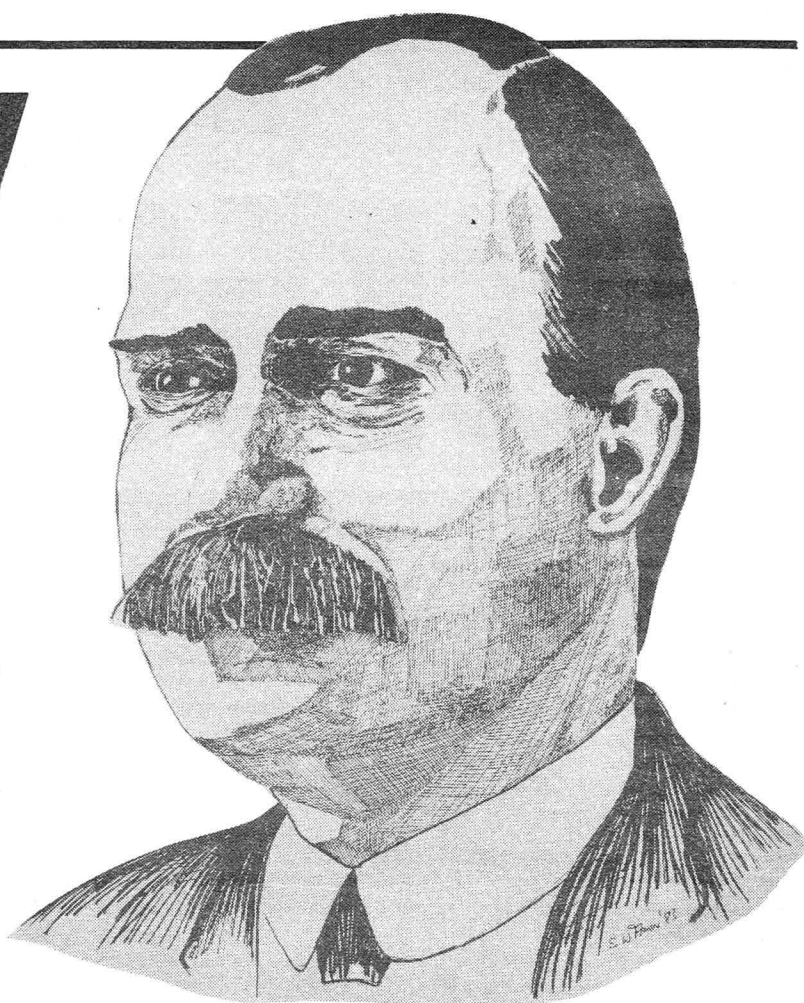
These ideas were brilliantly borne out in the successful October Revolution in Russia in 1917 under the leadership of Lenin and Trotsky.

All of Connolly's activity, including his involvement in the premature uprising in Dublin in 1916, flows from this class analysis of society.

In 1914, the onset of world imperialist war shattered the Socialist International. One after another the reformist leaders of the international social democracy betrayed their class by supporting their own capitalists in the war. Only a handful of socialists internationally stood firm against the tide of chauvinism and war mongering, among them Liebknecht and Luxemburg, Maclean, Lenin, Trotsky and to his credit Connolly.

Connolly was determined to strike a blow in Ireland against the war and all it stood for.

With a few thousand workers and middle class youth Connolly occupied the General Post Office in Dublin in 1916 knowing there was no chance of success, but hoping that this defiant action would spark a movement of the working



Divide and Rule—Peter Hadden's outstanding analysis of working class struggle in Ireland up to partition in 1921.

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class in Ireland and in Europe.

In Lenin's writings we see how he regarded not only the struggle in 1913, but also the attempted insurrection in 1916 as an inspiration to the workers throughout Europe. Lenin said: "it was the great misfortune of the Irish that they rose prematurely."

A great revolutionary movement developed in Ireland in the period from 1917 to 1921. But Connolly had been executed in 1916, at the insistence of the Irish bosses. In this period a leader such as Connolly would have been able to group around him the best layers of the working class and the youth in a revolutionary party.

The example of the Bolshevik revolution had a tremendous effect in Ireland during this period. To their shame, the leaders of Labour adopted the "Labour must wait" ideas of De Valera, and the petit bourgeois nationalists of Sinn Fein were handed the leadership of the struggle in Ireland.

With the class questions pushed into the background, petit-bourgeois nationalism could have no influence over the minds of the Protestant workers in the North. The working class was divided along sectarian lines, partition was imposed on the country, and a bloody civil war followed which saw the emergence of capitalism, in its green and orange varieties, triumphant in the establishment of two poverty-ridden sectarian states.

The same questions confront the labour movement in Ireland today. The signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement in November 1985 by the British and Southern Irish governments has plunged Northern Ireland into a crisis on the scale of the Anti-Home-Rule movement of 1912 to 1914. The Anglo-Irish agreement cannot work against the opposition of the protestants. Far from being a possible solution, it is a recipe for increased sectarianism leading possibly to civil war and a re-partition in Ireland.

The Protestant working class will never accept a capitalist united Ireland. On the other hand, the Catholic population have never, and will never, accept the sectarian state in the North. There is no solution to this question within the confines of capitalism.

The Anglo-Irish agreement is an attempt by capitalism in Britain and the South of Ireland to stabilise the North. But they will achieve the exact opposite.

Inevitably, unless the agreement is withdrawn, the stage is set for a bloody confrontation which will engulf the whole of Ireland.

A civil war in Ireland would lead not to a united Ireland but a re-partition of the country. Connolly could predict that partition would lead to "a carnival of reaction". Repartition now would have the same if not even more serious consequences than in 1922.

The trade unions would be split on sectarian lines. The Catholics, who make up 50 per cent of the population of Belfast, would be driven out. Protestants would be driven out of the border areas where they are now a minority.

A 'Lebanon' would be created in Ireland including pogroms, massacres, refugee camps on the border, and military right-wing governments, most likely in two new, even more sectarian states. The struggle for socialism would receive a decisive set-back. It is for these reasons that Marxists in Ireland oppose the campaign of individual terror of the Provisionals.

Only a united working class, struggling to end capitalism, can prevent such a scenario. Out of common struggle, on the common issues that face workers, unity can be forged.

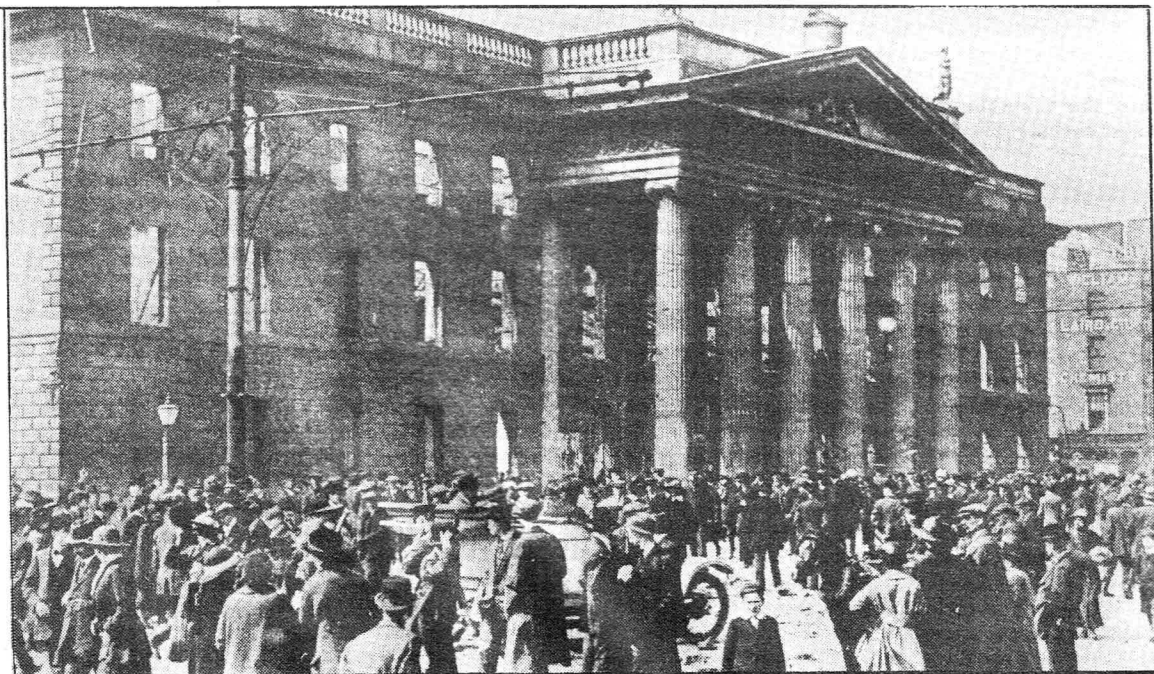
Labour leaders

The right-wing leaders of the Labour Parties in Britain and Southern Ireland have deserted a class standpoint, following tamely after Thatcher in Britain and Fitzgerald in the South.

Left leaders like Tony Benn in Britain could do well to study the writings of James Connolly. To simply argue for a united Ireland is to adopt a non-class position, ignoring the real conditions.

There is only one demand which, if taken up and campaigned for by the labour movement throughout these islands, can pose a solution—for a Socialist United Ireland, linked to a Socialist Britain in a Socialist Federation of Britain and Ireland.

The powerful labour movement in Britain and Ireland today, with a leadership standing in the traditions of James Connolly, and armed with his Marxist ideas, would push aside the failed capitalist system, and open up the perspective for the socialist transformation of Europe and the planet as a whole.



The burnt out shell of the Dublin GPO after the Easter rising.

South Africa, Trinidad

IN THE WAKE of the Eastern Cape general strike and mass demonstrations in South Africa on 21 March, it is reported that the British Foreign Office is hosting talks between black and white South African leaders, including top capitalists of the Progressive Federal Party and leaders of the African National Congress.

Fearing the revolution which is smouldering in South Africa, the Tory government is desperately trying to protect the £11,000 million of British investment and £2,500 million of British exports to South Africa. They realise that no talks can

have credibility unless they include the ANC, the traditional movement of the black masses.

But once the ANC leaders sit down with the PFP and other mouthpieces of the bosses—what then?

We reprint extracts from the *Bulletin of UDF Militants*, published underground in South Africa, explaining the class demands which worker and youth activists place on those who speak in their name. (The United Democratic Front is an open mass organisation formed in 1983, basing itself on the Freedom Charter, the programme of the ANC).

BIG BUSINESS is in panic. The bosses see our mass struggle rising up on every front—despite the Emergency, despite the recession. They see their Botha government losing control of the struggle.

Suddenly we hear the big bosses shouting loud about the people's rights, calling for apartheid to go, calling for Mandela to be released. We see the top bosses running to Lusaka to talk to the ANC.

Nobody is fooled by the lies and tricks of these big bosses. They have grown rich through the blood and sweat of our class.

There can be no collaboration with big business. Our ANC leaders in exile must remember this when they talk to the big bosses. Our union leaders must remember this when they negotiate with the big bosses.

Buthelezi

The bosses themselves know that they have no chance of being accepted by our movement. They know that they must act through other forces. This is where the PFP comes in. This is where Buthelezi comes in. These are the forces which big business is funding.

But the PFP is not being successful. Van Zyl Slabbert (PFP leader, now resigned—*Editor*) runs around the country making speeches. The bosses' newspapers never stop praising him and the PFP. The PFP have even gone to Lusaka. But with all this work and money—still our movement is not interested in the plans of the PFP.

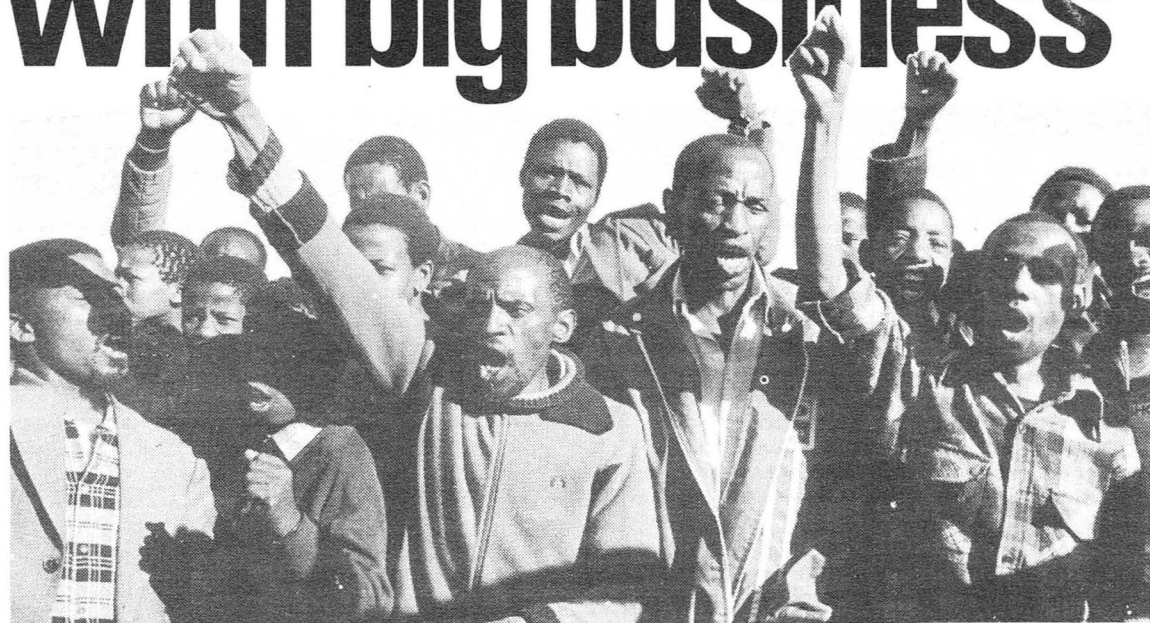
At the COSATU launching rally, comrade Dlamini declared to thousands of workers: "The time has run out for the employers and their collaborators." Comrade Kota of the UDF has attacked the PFP and big business for "moving into the gap left by Le Grange's casspirs and Inkatha's impis" (armoured police cars and 'tribal' gangs controlled by the regime—*Editor*).

These militant words of our leaders come from the militant spirit of our mass movement. Now we must make sure that there is no slipping backwards.

The PFP is putting great pressure on our leaders to compromise and form an alliance with liberalism. And the truth is that there are weak leaders in our movement who are open to this pressure.

We must be vigilant. Any sign of

South African militants: "No collaboration with big business"



Workers show their defiance at a trade unionist's funeral.

weakness from our leaders towards the PFP must be hammered and destroyed—before our organisations can be trapped into any kind of alliance with the party of big business.

The PFP would only accept a programme that protected "stability" and "free enterprise". We could never win liberation behind a programme that protects the interests of big business.

In the UDF, we have rejected the attempts of the PFP to win our confidence and form an alliance. But it seems that some UDF leaders are trying to leave the back door open. We have heard leading UDF people giving advice to the PFP, warning the PFP not to enter the Tri-racist parliament. Why do they want to advise the party of big business?

It is not your job to help the PFP build its "progressive" image. It is your job to speed up the destruction of the party of big business.

In Mamelodi a mass funeral was held on 3 December for the victims of the police/army massacre. Helen

Suzman of the PFP was allowed to make a speech to thousands of workers and youth. A comrade from the National Youth Organisation condemned the decision to allow Suzman to speak: "How can we share a platform with her when the PFP applauded the SADF raid to kill our ANC comrades in Matola?"

'Progressive' Businessmen

Some people keep telling us that we have to form an alliance with all anti-apartheid forces, including parts of the PFP, and even some "progressive" businessmen. The PFP is trying every trick in order to be accepted as part of our movement—and then these people come and try to help the PFP succeed!

It seems to us that some leaders do not have confidence in our class. Why else are they so concerned to bring liberals into our movement? Maybe some of them even think that our programme is too militant,

and needs to be replaced with a programme which the liberals will accept?

Our leaders say that we must deepen the divisions in the enemy. Yes, it is important that we weaken the enemy in every possible way. But then some leaders get confused. They start to think that we must win over the "progressive" bosses and liberals to our side!

No—we must protect our victory against big business and the PFP. We must deepen the political isolation of big business. It is not our job to change the exploiter—our job is to crush the exploiter and his system.

Within the PFP there are a handful of honest democrats who oppose some of the policies of the leadership. There is room in our ranks for these people—but they must first break with the PFP. The PFP has always been the party of big business, and it always will be—until we get rid of big business. Let no leader forget these basic truths.

Workers' leaders visit Britain

MOSES MAYEKISO, a leader of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, spoke to shop stewards at Dunlop in Leicester about the struggle of black workers at BTR's Sarmcol plant in South Africa.

Dunlop is also owned by BTR. The Leicester Dunlop workers, organised in TGWU 5/251 branch, recently donated £200 to the Sarmcol workers' relief fund.

Moses Mayekiso was recently detained, beaten and tortured by the South African security police. He was released after two weeks following protests from the labour movement internationally.

Brother Mayekiso made clear the need to build contact between workers internationally at factory and union level.

Dunlop and other BTR workers in Britain are calling for the building of a combine committee to unite the workers in all BTR plants. Such a committee, extended to BTR's overseas plants, could play a key role in developing international working-class contact and unity in action.

Report by Steve Score

Direct contacts needed

SPEAKING TO a meeting of GEC workers in Coventry, Charles Mkhabele, an Executive Committee member of the South African Metal and Allied Workers' Union, and a leader of COSATU, outlined the struggle of black workers against their employers BTR.

MAWU is trying to sustain the strikers through raising donations in South Africa and elsewhere. A constant theme during the remarks of Brother Mkhabele was the urgent need for British and South African workers to form "direct contacts" so that they could take on their common employer.

Workers have to organise internationally because the bosses will always try to find the cheapest source of labour, he explained. These contacts should be from "the shopfloor level" so that workers in different countries could discuss the plans of the bosses.

Report from Paul Sharry and Pete McNally
(Coventry South-East CLP)

Support for the BTR strikers to: MAWU, PO Box 9451, Johannesburg, South Africa.

From our cricket correspondent

REPORT BY MARK SARLL, formerly an active member of Mid-Kent LPYS.

After taking part in the anti-apartheid demonstration described here, Mark was arrested and imprisoned for five days before being deported from Trinidad.

THE ENGLAND cricket tour, including five players who have often played in South Africa has caused political uproar in the West Indies.

The government of Trinidad and Tobago has declared its opposition to apartheid, but did nothing to stop the rebel cricketers from entering the country. This led to a massive campaign to boycott the tour, involving many trade unions such as the Oil Workers' Union, the Public Services Association, the Sugar and General

Workers' Trade Union and others.

Support for the boycott has been tremendous. A rally in Port of Spain drew a huge crowd to listen to anti-apartheid speeches by trade unionists and politicians.

Hundreds of Trinidadians turned out to picket the Oval cricket ground in a disciplined and organised manner.

On the opening day of the series, the stands of the Oval, a capacity of 25,000, were nearly empty. Fewer than 100 people attended!

For the first three days, the police—outnumbering the pickets—used intimidatory behaviour. This turned into open violence on the day of the first one-day test match (4 March).

Protesters started arriving at 6am, and by 10am their number had grown to 400, including many school students.

At 10.30 the police blocked off all traffic and members of the 'Tactical Unit' broke into the crowd. Although their action was completely unprovoked, police proceeded to beat demonstrators with the full force of their batons.

Demonstrators were dragged across the street to police vans, some with blood streaming from their heads. A woman was mercilessly



Police attack demonstrators outside the Oval, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.

beaten to the ground, as more police attacked the fleeing protesters, swinging their batons wildly at the people.

Some photographers taking pictures of the police were arrested, and one was savagely beaten. Film was ripped from the cameras.

The police then tore down

all banners and placards, and confiscated all the demonstrators' bags, megaphones, etc. Sixteen people were arrested, including a 14-year-old boy and two women.

In spite of police brutality, the workers and youth of Trinidad and Tobago have demonstrated to the world

that they will not tolerate the inhuman and repressive system in South Africa. It is ironic that, as a result, they have suffered a taste of the same treatment which their class brothers and sisters in South Africa are enduring at the hands of the racist regime.

Arrestable offence

Dear Comrades,
My brother Ken was arrested at the Sunderland v Leeds match in January after a young supporter he was with was threatened with arrest. Ken told the policeman that the youth was a Labour supporter to which the reply came: "Well, what are you?" Ken said "I'm an Arthur Scargill fan." "Right, you're nicked."



Supporting Scargill a crime?

He got a lawyer and applied for Legal Aid and had two witnesses. But Legal Aid was turned down; "In the interest of justice".

Apparently this is normal for this type of case even though Ken is a low paid textile worker. The lawyer wanted £200 for one day in Sunderland so was dropped.

Three times Ken had to take a day off work and set off to Sunderland the night before the hearing.

He was found guilty and fined £120. This year Leeds away matches are all ticket and most are obtained through the supporters club, but because Ken was found guilty he will probably have his membership cancelled.

Yours fraternally
M Fallon
Halifax

Timely news as Royals get hitched

Dear Comrades,

Having greeted the latest round of media hysteria over the Royal engagement with the mixture of boredom and disgust I try to reserve for these occasions, an interesting thought has occurred to me:

Isn't it strange that the day after Nigel Lawson announced yet another budget which does nothing for the poor and unemployed, Buckingham Palace decides to release the 'good news' about Andy and Fergie.

Coincidence? No, just one section of the ruling class bailing out another.

Yours fraternally
Barry Thompson
London

'Wherever possibilism'

Dear Comrades,

The other day I received the agenda for my Labour Party ward meeting with the minutes of the previous meeting to shortlist candidates for the Nottingham East Parliamentary candidate, it read:

"The meeting decided that criteria for selection would be: women, black people and local candidates. It was felt that candidates, wherever possible should be socialists"

Yours fraternally
Chris Ridge
Nottingham

Pensioners out in the cold

Dear Comrades,
When Age Concern in Coventry announced that they had £2,500 to help pensioners with their winter fuel bills, they were swamped with requests for assistance.

The DHSS in Coventry has said that severe weather payments can be claimed from 6 February. In other words only the part of your bill incurred after that date will be eligible for consideration.

None of this is any help to a pensioner in Coventry who recently had a letter from West Midlands Gas saying that her supply was to be disconnected.

Bills are not the only pro-

blem. One old couple were told they could not have help to buy heaters because their property had under-floor heating.

The DHSS didn't seem to see the stupidity of this when the under-floor heating is out of order and the Electricity Board workman said it would cost a fortune to take up the whole floor to put it right.

As far as this system is concerned, if you are too old to work and make profits then you are to be forgotten.

Yours fraternally
Pete McNally
Coventry SE
Labour Party



Pensioners are regularly forced to demonstrate for pension increases. Every winter thousands of the elderly die of cold because they can't pay excessive fuel bills.

Letters

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

Letters to Militant

THE ATTACKS by the right-wing of the Labour Party on *Militant* have backfired. Each week we receive letters from readers and Labour Party members requesting more information about our ideas. We are printing a few extracts of some of the letters we have received:

Dear Editor,

Greetings from Osaka, Japan. I notice your activity in Liverpool. But all I have is a fragment of your newspaper.

Therefore, I would like to know more about your activity through the complete *Militant* paper. In Japan, I and my comrades are watching your struggle for freedom.

Yours sincerely
A Japanese socialist

Dear Comrades,

As I have only recently started to read your paper, which I enjoy very much, I would like as much information about Marxism as possible.

I would like to say that never before have I enjoyed politics until I first read the *Militant*.

Yours fraternally
Cathy Barr
Glasgow

Dear Sir/Madam,

Could you send me a copy of *Militant*? I have been in the Labour Party for some years and have heard many arguments for and against (but mainly against) *Militant*, and would appreciate any literature you may have which would explain *Militant's* aims and objectives.

Yours faithfully
Angela Hughes
Cheshire

Doing the Tories' dirty work

Dear Comrades,

I am a miner from Littleton Colliery in Staffordshire. I live in Brindley village, where the state of the council houses is appalling.

On my estate pensioners have roofs which leak into their homes. Virtually every house on the estate needs repairs. A child opening a door had the top pane drop out and smash at his feet.

Nearly all the windows need repairing.

There are example after example to be put, and the excuse of the Labour council is 'we've got no money to repair them'.

These are people who won't stand up for the working class and I think they should resign from the Labour Party and join the Tories.

These people are attempting to expel people from the Labour Party which was built for socialists whatever political thoughts they have. At least Derek Hatton and Liverpool council stand up for their class.

Yours fraternally
Chris Brown
Littleton NUM
Staffordshire

Struggle of Russian women

Dear Comrades,

I would like to thank Kim Waddington for her article (*Militant* 788): "Russia: Women's Movement born of class struggle."

I felt the section on 'feminism' was the most damning of present day 'trends' within the labour movement. Working women were leaving the feminists for the wider labour movement as a Marxist leadership developed which could both elucidate and fight for their real needs.

The jibe thrown at the



feminists at the first all-Russian Women's Congress could just as easily and just as accurately be thrown at Ann Pettifor and her acolytes in the Women's Action Committee.

My only criticism is that Kim Waddington was asked to cover 50 years of women's

struggles in one and a half pages. There should be more articles like this in *Militant*, not only to attract women to Marxist ideas, but to further the education of our male readers.

Yours fraternally
Greg Moran
Huddersfield CLP



Homeworkers face massive exploitation due to the difficulty of organising them into unions.

Sweated Labour

Dear Comrades,

The other day I walked into my friend's living room and it was how I would picture a Victorian sweatshop.

There were two children and their mother busily engaged in assembling Xmas crackers. I was disgusted when I heard the rate of pay; £2.50 for 12 dozen boxes. The Xmas crackers are sold in the shops for £12 a box.

Yours fraternally
Amanda Dilley
Stevenage LPYS

Savage case part of wider attacks

Dear Comrades,

There was an article in *The Nursing Times* (26/2/86) dealing with the case against Wendy Savage who was suspended from her job as consultant obstetrician with Tower Hamlets Health Authority last April for alleged incompetence and professional malpractice.

In the article a midwifery sister from Tooting Hospital said that if the case goes against Savage then it will do enormous harm to women and also to midwives. She feels that if Savage loses, it will be a signal to get rid of anybody like her.

She sees Savage's struggle as one against the male medical establishment. What

has happened to Savage happens to women whenever they challenge the system.

Many midwives are behind Savage because she is letting women decide what sort of delivery they want.

Yours fraternally
A NUPE nurse
Swansea

LEFT and RIGHT

Counting the pennies

EVEN THE *Daily Express* voiced criticisms of the Chancellor's budget last week: "The Palace purse-strings are to be tightened once again...The Queen's state allowance goes up by only four per cent—considerably below the rate of inflation." Her increase? A miserly £160,000 bringing her state income alone up to £4,136,800.

Counting the cost

THE EFFECTS of the Mexican earthquake six months ago are still being felt. 200,000 remain homeless. The government states that all aid has already been allocated yet so far only 200 dwellings have been built. At that rate it will be another 100 years before all those affected have been rehoused.

More government scheming

LORD YOUNG the (un)Employment Secretary has just launched a new programme for the long-term unemployed. The idea is to pay them £20 a week for six months if they take a job paying under £80 a week. According to *The Guardian* (19/3/86) "In some cases they could be receiving more than people working next to them, but they will be told to say nothing."

The truth about NUPE in Liverpool

AS PART of their latest witch-hunting attack on Liverpool City Council, *Tribune* (14 March 1986) have seen fit to regurgitate NUPE's 'evidence' of alleged discrimination against their members in Liverpool to the Labour Party inquiry.

By Derek Hatton

This article appeared without any consultation with the Liverpool City Council. One look at the facts below shows clearly that this 'evidence' is nothing more than a tissue of misinformation and distortions.

The article states that NUPE was excluded from a new, improved disputes procedure in Liverpool City Council because they did not have a representative on the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee Executive.

Walked out

This is simply not true. NUPE did have a representative on the Joint Shop Stewards' Committee Executive when the new procedure was introduced in 1984. They only stopped having one when they decided to walk out of the stewards' committee in 1985, and Jane Kennedy (a local NUPE official) actually sat on the disputes panel as a trade union representative on at least six occasions.

The article says that NUPE were not consulted when nightwatchmen were upgraded to become part of the council's static security force. It is, of course, always difficult when there is only one member in a large workforce in a different trade union. It is not unreasonable that major changes should be negotiated with the majority union—in this case the overwhelming majority union.

In departments where



Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of NUPE and author of the NUPE circular upon which the *Tribune* article is based.

NUPE is a majority, for example social services, major changes are negotiated with NUPE. Unfortunately *Tribune's* article did not give the full background to the case of the nightwatchmen.

Prior to upgrading the NUPE member, who is a market constable, was on a substantially higher rate of pay and worked less hours than the GMBATU nightwatchmen. He was moved into this section, which had been previously 100 per cent GMBATU, by the Liberals, without any consultation. Undoubtedly this was to try and undermine GMBATU. Not sur-

prisingly, GMBATU members were not happy with this. Despite this the NUPE member was offered membership of GMBATU in the interests of trade union unity. He chose to decline. It is not the case that the council threatened him with losing his job. Under existing industrial relations law this would be illegal. It is difficult to see what NUPE is complaining about when this member has had improved hours and pay as a result of GMBATU negotiations.

The article claims that by the end of 1984 NUPE was being consulted on its members' wages and condi-

tions in the Social Services and Housing departments only. Again this is simply not the case.

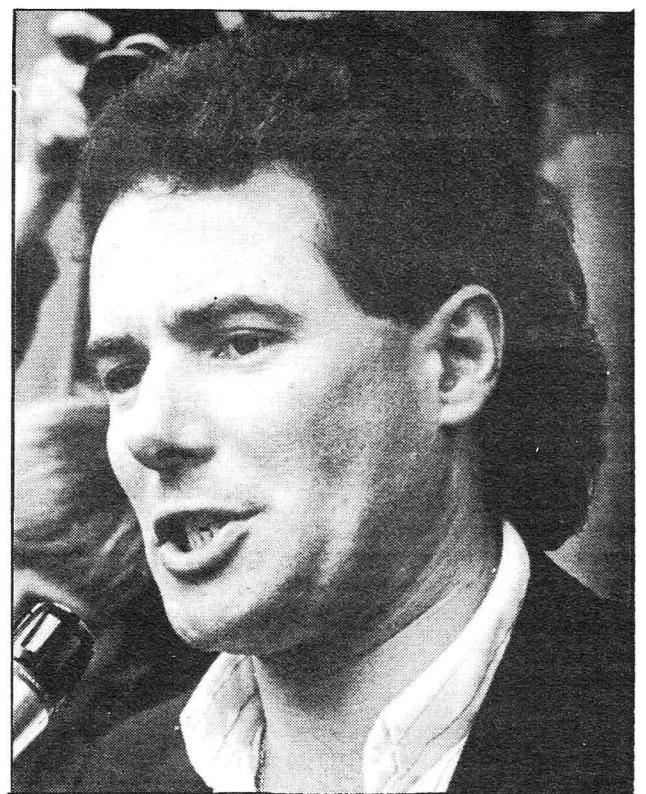
The facility for NUPE to discuss grievances has always existed in all departments. However, it is a fact that NUPE's membership is concentrated in Social Services and Housing. For example, in the Education department NUPE has only 2½ per cent of the workers. This is also the case in the Recreation and Open Spaces department. Major negotiations in all departments, as has been stated, take place with the majority union. In Social Services, where NUPE is the majority union, GMBATU has little say in policy.

If NUPE is unhappy about consultation or finds it is being discriminated against there is an official grievance procedure through the offices of the Director of Personnel and Management Services. **To this date they have not raised any objections through this channel.**

NUPE members in the Education Department have not been discriminated against over the introduction of the 35-hour week as the article implied. It is council policy to implement the 35-hour week for all its workers.

This began to be implemented in 1985. The council, unfortunately, cannot simply implement the 35-hour week across the board because agreements have had to be self financing and therefore reached in consultation with the individual unions.

The simple fact is that NUPE has not, to date, submitted its proposals for its members in the Education Department. When a suitable proposal is submitted the council will be only



Derek Hatton, deputy leader of the Liverpool City Council and chair of the Personnel and Management Services Committee.

too keen to implement it.

For the record, far from discriminating against NUPE, in some departments councillors have actually supported NUPE to the extent of over-turning management decisions against them.

Perhaps the most remarkable allegation of discrimination of all is that in departments where NUPE is the minority union, they get no nomination rights.

Nomination rights

On 7 May 1985 a meeting took place between Derek Hatton (Chair of personnel committee), Jane Kennedy (NUPE) and Frank Jones (NUPE). It was agreed, amongst other things, that in each department the majority union would have nomination rights.

This meant that NUPE would have nomination rights in the Social Services and City Estates departments. NUPE are protesting about something to which they were a party to agreeing!

No-one would claim that industrial relations in Liverpool City Council are perfect, but as NUPE themselves state in their

evidence, they welcomed the improvements that were made when Labour came to power in 1983.

Indeed, when you consider that since 1983 the Liverpool City Council has saved 1,000 jobs and created 1,500 new jobs as part of their magnificent campaign to defend jobs and improve services then their record stands second to none in the labour movement.

We are confident that when the full facts are brought to the attention of NUPE members and labour movement activists then Liverpool City Council will be fully vindicated.

Perhaps, as well, they will also ask themselves the questions as to why *Tribune* should devote so much space to attacking a socialist council like Liverpool, especially with the threat of surcharge and disbarment hanging over the heads of the councillors for the struggle they conducted.

Why has *Tribune* not exposed the disgraceful industrial relations records of all too many right wing Labour councils up and down the country? Why has *Tribune* not exposed those Labour councils that have made redundancies or privatised services?

Join Broad Left

The NUPE Broad Left met in Sheffield the weekend before last. Members were present from seven divisions.

There was a speaker from Addenbrookes hospital strikers in the morning session. In the afternoon there was a discussion on the situation facing the union, including the witch hunt and the move to the right by the NUPE leadership.

Three main decisions were taken:

1. Organise a national speaking tour by Addenbrookes strikers—which is already underway;
2. Continue the campaign over Liverpool, with a major mailing to all branches;
3. Establish divisional broad lefts in each division by the end of June. (A meeting has since taken place, last Thursday to establish the Scottish BL)

This was the first meeting of the national NUPE Broad Left in two years. It shows that the activities of the union leadership in the campaign against *Militant* has had its opposite effect, in-

- ★ A vigorous and concerted campaign to protect women part-time workers who have been particularly hard-hit by Tory employers.
- ★ A recruitment campaign amongst the non-unionists based on winning their confidence that the union will fight for them.
- ★ Total non-co-operation and opposition to in-house tenders involving cuts in jobs, wages, hours and conditions.
- ★ Special national delegate conference of the groups now under direct attack to discuss and plan tactics and strategy in launching the national fightback.
- ★ Mass membership rallies in every Division.
- ★ A real campaign to win physical, moral and financial support for the NUPE strikers in various parts of the country.
- ★ Workers cannot be left to fight battles alone and locally. To develop a NATIONAL response by linking together local issues and struggles.
- ★ To link the local fights to the broad political struggle against the Tory government.
- ★ Total opposition to witch-hunts in the labour movement. Unity is strength.

deed inspired NUPE activists to re-launch the Broad Left.

It is only a matter of time before the witch hunt is defeated and NUPE return-

ed to its left wing campaigning traditions.

Contact NUPE BL: 30 Whinchat Road, Thamesmead, London SE28.

BLOC

Liverpool Labour Party

conference

EVERY LEFT activist and *Militant* supporter must work flat out to make the joint BLOC/Labour unity conference the biggest and most representative gathering of rank and file workers so far. The conference will launch a campaign in every corner of the labour and trade union movement against the witch-hunt and the purges of left wing activists. Its aim is for a fighting socialist leadership with a programme to defeat the attacks of the Tories and big business.

The witch-hunt in the labour movement has encouraged the bosses to attempt the victimisation of some outstanding shop floor activists. For instance Ian Schofield a track worker at Land Rover Ltd Solihull, has lost his job, sacked for no other reason than being an active trade unionist and a supporter of *Militant*.

There has never been a greater need for the left to organise. The message of this conference must be taken to every shop stewards committee, trade union branch, district committee etc. and throughout the Labour Party. With hard meticulous work, this conference will fully live up to its promise.

★ Sheffield, Saturday 19 April. Speakers include Tony Benn, Phil Holt, Derek Hatton, Ian Lowes, Geoff Bright. Arthur Scargill and Ted Knight have been invited. Information and credentials from BLOC, PO Box 464, London E5 8PT.

BUILD THE LEFT

Travel from London

Reserved seats from St Pancras to Sheffield have been booked. £17.50 Return (£2.00 cheaper than a city saver)

Train Booking form I enclose... £17.50 per seat for... ticket(s) (Payable to BLOC London Organising Committee.)

Name

Org

Phone..... Age...

Address for tickets to be sent

Return to Jonas Crikietis, 25 Stirling House, Simmons Rd SE18 6UP. By no later than 12 April '86.

Industrial Reports

Copped at Wapping

Hitting TNT distribution in North East

ON SUNDAY morning at 1am pickets massed outside the TNT depot at Fence Houses near Houghton-le-spring in the North East to stop the arrival of Murdoch's scabby newspapers.

This picket has been one of many at this depot and was strengthened by a contingent of miners from Epleton colliery (now threatened with closure) and Murton colliery in addition to contingents of LPYS and Militant supporters.

Previous pickets at this depot had been fairly good natured. The first time we went every picket was armed with a polystyrene tile to keep their bum warm while they sat on the ground to block the entrance.

Changed mood

But during the last few pickets the mood was hardened, more police have turned up especially when miners have arrived, and on the last two occasions, pickets have been arrested for shouting the apparently unlawful word "scab".

The mood in the North East seems to be hardening but there is a need to tighten up the organisation of this dispute.

It is vital that the print unions build upon their support and use the opportunity provided by the forthcoming rally to increase its support.

Details of the rally are: march and rally in support of the printworkers, Saturday 5 April. Speakers: Brenda Dean, Tony Dubbins, Joe Mills. Assemble 8.30am, St James' Street, Newcastle, near Newcastle United football ground. Rally starts 11am, City Hall, Newcastle.

By Russell Dawson
(Newcastle NGA)

ON SATURDAY 22 March I and other pickets from Southampton went up to Wapping at about 2am. At the Glamis Road end we saw police horses close the Highway about 50 yards in front of us.

50-odd pickets went up to close the gate so the lorries would not be able to leave. As we were up there we were bombarded from behind with bricks and bottles (by other pickets).

I got half a brick on my shoulder which dislocated it. I was then twisted by the police and all my ligaments

By Steve Ward
(Southampton LPYS)

and muscles in the top of my left shoulder were ripped.

I was then charged by police horses and truncheoned across the thighs and I was hit in the face by a police officer.

We were driven back and

I was not allowed to have treatment for three-quarters of an hour. There were eight to ten other people with various injuries from a bottle in the face to broken legs.

I was then escorted by police officers back to the first aid centre. An ambulance was called. I was not allowed to go to hospital because two of the policemen were sitting in the ambulance. I had to wait another three-quarters of an hour before I could get to hospital.



Saturday night out at Wapping.

A whopping cheek

THE ATTEMPT by EETPU General Secretary Eric Hammond to interfere with the right of EETPU member Roy Davies to represent the branch of the union on the Swansea Labour Association (see report in *Militant* 790) is meeting fierce resistance.

The latest protest is from the Swansea EETPU branch. The following resolution was carried overwhelmingly in response to Hammond's letter:

"This branch is opposed to the action of Brother Hammond in informing Swansea Labour Association

that Bro. Davies was no longer a branch delegate. We would remind Bro Hammond that it is the branch's right to nominate and replace their delegates to the CLP, DLP and trades council.

"The only union rule that forbids any branch nomination regarding our members is with regard to members of the Communist Party, and we would remind you that Bro. Chapple advised the '83 Rules Revision Conference not to attempt to ban the *Militant* Tendency as they've broken no rules.

"Bro Davies is entirely ac-

ceptable to the branch as a delegate. You have produced no evidence to support your allegations against Bro. Davies. We therefore place the branch's opposition to Bro. Hammond's action on record and call for Bro. Davies's reinstatement as branch delegate.

Being the branch's quarter night the delegates to the local Labour Party were dealt with and Bro. Roy Davies was naturally amongst those nominated and endorsed by the branch.

By a Militant reporter



Silentnight pickets.

Silentnight tribunal

THE VICIOUSNESS of Tory anti-union legislation was brought home to Silentnight strikers last week, when an industrial tribunal rejected their case for unfair dismissal.

On behalf of strikers at the two Silentnight bedding factories at Barnoldswick, Lancashire and Sutton, West Yorkshire, Mr Eldred Tavachnik QC argued at the two-day preliminary hearing in Leeds that selective re-employment after their dismissal was in breach of Section 62 of the Employment Act.

On 17 July last year, letters had been sent out by Silentnight management informing strikers that if they did not go back to work on 22 July they would be dismissed *immediately*.

Re-employed

Only a handful of strikers were intimidated into returning to work that day, but during the next few days a small number crossed picket lines and were allowed their jobs back.

Management sent out formal letters of dismissal on 25 July, and at the Leeds tribunal they claimed that the earlier letters were merely a 'threat to dismiss', and that the word 'immediately' was used simply to add emphasis to the threat.

The 500 workers who were sacked for going on strike were certain that their dismissal too effect immediately on 22 July, and Silentnight chairman Tom Clarke's behaviour on that day confirmed this.

After emerging from the Barnoldswick factory to stare indignantly at the mass picket which so clearly demonstrated the strikers' intention to stay out, this millionaire company chairman gave a two-finger salute and told a couple of strikers: 'you are sacked'.

However, despite the obvious confusion in the way strikers were sacked, the Leeds tribunal rejected the case. An appeal is being considered by the union, who have meanwhile pledged that the strike will go on as before.

Strikers are now more furious than ever at the treatment they have received, not only at the hands of Tom Clarke and his henchmen, but also from the tribunal, which showed their willingness to defend the new Tory laws and the ruthless sacking of over 500 workers.

In addition to industrial action, funds are still needed to assist the campaign and keep hardship at bay. Please send your donations to: FTAT Cravendale No 92 Branch Strike Fund, c/o Ann King, 10 Rainhall Crescent, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancashire.

By Linden Stafford
(Skipton Labour Party)

Defending NUR democracy

OPPOSITION IS building up within the NUR to expulsion of a leading activist Geoff Bright of Tinsley Branch, from the Sheffield Attercliffe Constituency Labour Party.

Bright, who is also the vice-chair of the Sheffield and Chesterfield District Council of the NUR plans to appeal against his expulsion, along with other Attercliffe members of the Labour Party NEC.

Many NUR members will want to see the NUR's representative on the Labour Party NEC, Assistant General Secretary Charles Turnock, vote in favour of a member of his own union member as well as other victims of the right wing's

witch-hunt.

It is important that union members make these feelings heard. Turnock has played a particularly destructive role in spearheading the NEC enquiry into Liverpool DLP and in voting solidly with the right wing, often against the interests and wishes of NUR members.

He was among those who rejected fellow Attercliffe member and Sheffield councillor Paul Green's appeal against expulsion.

DESPITE THE flood of resolutions in Geoff Bright's favour, NUR members have been forced to resort to the rule book in order to put the issue before the NUR executive.

This stems from the fact that the union's general secretary, Jimmy Knapp

merely sent back standard replies to the branches.

When individual NEC members have been lobbied he gave the impression that, the general secretary and the Unity House machine have kept much of the goings on of the past few months well away from them.

That is beginning to be broken down. Rule 3, clause 4 of the NUR includes the following: "All appeals from the agenda must be placed before an executive committee meeting or executive committee special meeting within 28 days of arrival at head office."

Both Tinsley and Birmingham no 4 where he spoke several weeks ago, have moved resolutions under the appeal procedure.

As a result, Bright's case, together with the call for him to address the NUR NEC

and get them to mandate Turnock, finally came before the union's executive committee last week.

Regretably, the NUR National Executive, despite having a supposedly left majority voted to dodge the issue by referring to a future meeting of the Transport and Political sub-committee.

It is unclear when that will next meet.

THE PRESSURE of the membership must be brought to bear upon the members of that sub-committee and the NUR NEC as a whole.

There must be no return to Weighellism; uphold Geoff Bright's Labour Party membership, allow him to address the union's NEC. And mandate Turnock and other NUR representatives



Tom Sawyer (left) and Jimmy Knapp two trade union leaders elected as leftwingers. Sawyer is now leading the witch-hunt and Knapp is equivocating.

to reflect the members' wishes on this and all other issues.

Below is a list of branches and district councils which have carried resolutions in Geoff Bright's favour. These are only the ones we know about. There are reportedly others:

Tinsley, Rotherham, Sheffield and Chesterfield District Council, Nottingham and District Rail, Nottingham no 2, Liverpool no 5, Feltham no1, Willesden no1, Birmingham no4, twice

plus appeal, Southern District Council, Midland District Council, Streatham Hill, also, Sheffield No 1 ASLEF, Brookhouse NUM, Darfield Main NUM, Houghton Main NUM.

Invite Geoff Bright to put his case to your branch or district council. Contact him on 0742 472325.

By Mick Atherton
(President West Midlands District Council NUR, personal capacity)

T&G no witch-hunt

SOME SENIOR full-time officials of the TGWU are using the union's name and voting strength for a purge of Militant supporters in the labour movement, totally against the union's national policy.

Last year's biennial conference rejected witch-hunts and general secretary Ron Todd stated: "The General Executive Council wished to state its total opposition to bans, proscriptions and witch-hunts within our ranks against any officer or member because of their connection with organisations or factions with which we happen to disagree. Never again do we want to return to that period of the union's history when in-

By Dave Campbell

dividuals were banned from office not because they lacked ability, but because they were associated with particular political groups".

Yet TGWU Midland Regional Secretary Brian Mathers split the West Midlands Labour Party conference down the middle. During a health debate he demanded the suspension of standing orders to discuss a

witch-hunting resolution.

In Wales, right-wing Regional Secretary George Wright is pushing a resolution for regional party conference urging local parties to expel members who are 'ineligible'. He wants a wholesale attack on *Militant*.

London

At the London Regional Labour Party conference, the TGWU delegation failed to support a resolution "deploring the decision of the NEC to accept the majority report of the inquiry into Liverpool DLP," and calling on the NEC to concentrate on defeating the

Tory government. The TGWU delegation maintained they disagreed with some of the wording. But it meant that the London Labour Party did not back those under threat of expulsion.

Within the TGWU the only elected full-time official is the General Secretary. There is very limited accountability over the powerful regional secretaries, or over the delegations to regional party conferences who are usually elected by the regional committees.

TGWU members disturbed by this defiance of union policy, and opposed to witch-hunts should write to Ron Todd and to the General Executive.



Ron Todd, recently elected TGWU general secretary must resist pressure of right wing.

Harrow postal strike

POSTAL WORKERS in Harrow showed growing militancy, especially amongst younger workers, with a three day strike against victimisation of a union rep last week.

He was accused by management of calling a meeting outside procedure in defence of a driver who was refusing to take out an unsafe van.

The strike quickly spread to Wembley and forced the abandonment of action against the driver. Union officials cajoled the members into returning on the promise of sorting things out. But the union rep still has a 'serious reprimand' on his record. That means management are closer to being able to sack him.

A local Communications Workers' Broad Left meeting has been organised on 1 April 7.30pm at the Railway pub, Bridge St, Wealdstone, Harrow.

By Len Hockey

(Wembley Outdoor branch, personal capacity)

Civil Service Pay

THE CIVIL Service pay offer has just been announced. It will be very disappointing to the many hard-pressed, low-paid civil servants, especially to those aged between 16 and 17 who are offered £3 per week. The rest are offered 5 per cent or £4.

Is the choice theirs? To win a decent increase the programme of action agreed at the Special Pay conferences of the civil service unions must be acted upon immediately. The mistakes of past claims, when it has taken months for the leadership to implement strategy already agreed must be avoided..

By Bill Boyle

Yorks say no UDM

THE FIGHT against the UDM in Yorkshire is continuing and often involves industrial action. Although the UDM haven't made any real gains in Yorkshire, they have been able to 'recruit' the odd one or two.

Thurcroft is one such pit where the UDM managed to recruit two members.

One of these two worked in a heading with two other scabs and things were moving along with no problems.

But management decided to make the heading into a four-man heading and sent in a striker to work with this team.

Strike

When he refused he was threatened with being sent home. This meant the men went on strike on the Wednesday afternoon shift, being joined by the two scabs who worked with the UDM member.

At a mass meeting the men voted on a resolution which called for redeploy-

ment for all men not wishing to work with UDM members.

As a result of the strike, the UDM member working on the pit-top has requested to re-join the NUM thus leaving the headingman on his own. But he's not happy at Thurcroft and has requested a transfer to Notts. This is because men at Shirebrook and Manton, both of which had a 90 per cent return to work, would not accept him at their pits.

By a Thurcroft NUM member

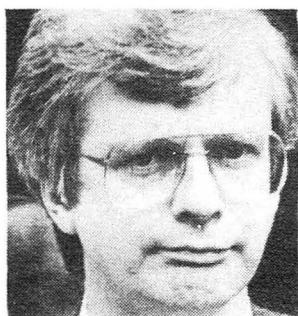
Home Office civil servants show why Graham has resigned

BITTERNESS tinged the atmosphere following the Home Office CPSA Section Committee's decision to concede defeat on passport members' efforts to retain their 'examiners' allowance.

All-out strike action was narrowly rejected in a members' vote, 173 to 212.

Two major errors lost the dispute. The first was the original motion passed by the section committee, defeating a Broad Left motion demanding a ballot on immediate strike action.

Instead members were confronted with a whinging preamble on their ballot paper, referring to "rolling programmes... leading up to indefinite strike".



Alistair Graham—CPSA Gen Sec has just resigned, reflecting the pressure of his dissatisfied members.

The proposal was vague and during meetings the section officer responsible was unable to answer questions such as: "What does this motion actually mean?"

Members voted yes, but with a reduced majority. The blame for this lies squarely with the Broad Left '84

group.

The second and more crucial error arose from this reduced majority, which allowed general secretary Alistair Graham and assistant secretary John Ellis to renege on promises and refuse union support for the indefinite strike.

Censured

Following a tirade of new realism they ordered a re-ballot. The section committee subsequently censured Graham and his pal. Much to their dismay, with elections pending, the censure motion is to be circulated to all Home Office members.

By Larry O'Callaghan (CPSA Home Office SEC)

(continued from back page)

SPREAD PRINT STRIKE

Hesitation and uncertainty not only affect print workers it is also the basis of Thatcher's strength.

If print leaders seriously threaten widespread action the TUC would be under increasing pressure to throw its weight behind them for wider solidarity action—possibly by calling a 24 hour general strike as a first step.

Thatcher and big business who she represents would be forced to re-examine their tactics—they would pressurise Murdoch to retreat.

The call for all out strike would also force the printers to turn outwards; for instance collecting the cash to sustain themselves outside the newsagents which would aid the boycott campaign.

More attacks

Express Newspapers deadline for shedding 50 per cent of their staff will expire this week. Every press baron will be trying to put the knife in, as Maxwell is attempting in Glasgow. Victory is important for more than just Mur-

doch's ex-employees.

The official NGA speakers' notes say: "This dispute has implications for everyone in the labour movement..." "Murdoch is setting the trend for the employers. The labour movement must show it is prepared to respond as a movement. Otherwise we will get picked off one at a time. Are you next?"

This dispute must be spread or otherwise—yes you will be next!!!

New London bus ballot must be won to defeat management attacks

REPRESENTATIVES of London busworkers were left with no illusions about management's real intentions after last week's negotiations failed to provide any new answers.

They made veiled threats about refusing to negotiate the annual wage offer if the planned strike took place. And their statements about our fellow workers at Potters Bar and Loughton garages concerning redundancy pay and re-location left our reps knowing that the new strike ballot must be won and the action go ahead.

Grim future

The attacks facing us are so serious that there is no choice but to fight. Scrapping of long-established agreements, garage closures, extension of one person operation and tendering out of routes threaten thousands of jobs.

Management are trying to force us to accept wage cuts of £50 per week coupled with longer hours so we can become 'competitive'. Already in some garages they have approached members, without union knowledge, trying to 'persuade' them to

accept wage cuts or lose their jobs.

Getting another yes vote, the bigger the better, is essential. Armed with that there must be no delay by our union officials. Only united strike action will defeat Beasley and the Broadway Tories. London-wide district and garage meetings must be held on a regular basis. Leaflets and news-sheets must be produced for information and campaign purposes. Strike committees and picket rosters must be organised as early as possible.

Support from other London Regional Transport workers will be vital. NUR, ASLEF and other trade union branches on the Underground must be approached for support. With a confident appeal we can win their support. Every section faces similar attacks.

The London Transport Trade Union Congress must be convened as early as possible to discuss all-out action all over London's transport system. LRT workers united can bring the capital to a standstill and ensure victory.

Baildon setback by AUEW leaders

DESPITE A further letter from management full of lies about a mass return to work and threatening victimisation of individuals the strike at IMI Baildon continues into its fifth week

Massive support is pouring in from the labour movement. Speakers from the strike are travelling around the country getting a good response.

However this enthusiasm is not matched by the union leadership. When the strike pay failed to arrive as promised on Friday afternoon four members of the strike committee went down to AUEW HQ in London only to be turned away empty handed.

This was a real kick in the stomach and for the rank and file in Baildon and resulted in a limited return to

work which was quenched by a mass picket on Monday morning.

By Keith Narey

Available from World Socialist Books 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London, E9 5HB. Price 50p plus 20p p&rp.



Militant

Spread print strike

FLEET STREET workers are fighting on behalf of the whole trade union movement. The ramifications of defeat would be felt not just by other print workers but by the entire working class.

This is why *Militant* has constantly advocated extending the action. Firstly by stopping Fleet Street; then calling upon the rest of the print industry to take solidarity action.

With the print workers setting the pace, rank and file pressure could force the TUC into action.

This idea has been stonewalled by the trade union tops. This makes the strike reliant for success on the boycott campaign and financial pressure on Murdoch's international empire.

The reasons for opposition to spreading the action are said to be 'practical'. But in reality it stems from an incorrect analysis of Labour's defeat in '83, the miners' strike and the battle against Shah by the NGA.

No lead

The right and even left union officials have no perspective. They have lost all confidence in the capacity of the working class to fight back. The right wing have turned to "New Realism" and the lefts, with no alternative to offer, have quietly fallen in behind.

It is only the employers' offensive that has forced some of them to half-heartedly take up the challenge. Many have preferred not to bother.

At the start of the print dispute the arguments against extending the dispute were basically on economic grounds. These have been answered in past issues of *Militant*.

What is crucial, however, in any dispute is maintaining the morale of the strikers, and other unionists' support.

This can only be achieved by proving you have the will and determination to win. This applies to other trade union members and print workers.

A major problem in the

By Peter Jarvis
(London Region NGA,
personal capacity)

Photo: Steve McTaggart (IFU)



Murdoch dispute is that not all the SOGAT members involved in distribution have blacked the scab papers. Outside London, Liverpool and Glasgow the response has been patchy. They are some of the lowest paid members in the union and point to SOGAT's lack of attention to their wages as the excuse for not giving support.

On the NGA side, after the initial blacking of the educational supplements, ballots were held, which, in all but one case, went against continuing the action.

The Sunday colour magazines were instructed to

keep working. Now some of the print officials are recognising these titles have to be stopped. But it is too late to ask all these workers to take action in isolation.

How then can you unite all print workers in this battle? The answer, once again, is by them all taking action.

Confidence

Many point to management intimidation to explain the lack of support. But only the naïve would not expect such behaviour.

A militant campaign strategy was essential to give them confidence they would

not lose their jobs—with the promise that no deal with Murdoch would be agreed until all had got their jobs back.

Now those being asked to put themselves in the front line over the blacking can point to others not making the same sacrifice.

It is also puzzles many workers that the SOGATs leaders' response to the sequestration of their funds was to take no action whatsoever. Other workers say in turn, well then we will take no action either.

(Continued on column two bottom page 15)

★SOGAT★NGA★AUEW★NUJ★
London District Council
Calls upon all supporters of the
Printworkers to attend a major
**DEMONSTRATION
AT WAPPING**
**EASTER SATURDAY
MARCH 29th**
Assemble Tower Hill 8-30pm.
NEAREST TUBE TOWER HILL
National Rally and demonstration
Sunday 6 April
Assemble Trafalgar Square 2.00pm
Followed by march to Wapping

'Rambo' Reagan attacks Libya

AMERICAN imperialism's bloody attack on Libyan vessels and military bases, has already cost the lives of up to 140 Libyans and sunk three of their ships. The three US 6th Fleet aircraft carriers, and twenty-seven other warships that are in the area, have a greater firepower than the entire Libyan navy.

Clearly Reagan consciously set out to provoke Gaddafi, to provide the pretext for attack. For the fourth time this year US warships have exercised within the Gulf of Sirte, claimed by Colonel Gaddafi as Libyan territorial waters. On this occasion it was with the maximum pre-publicity to goad Gaddafi to react. This he did with missiles, none of which apparently scored a hit. As yet there are no reported US casualties or damages.

Teach a lesson

The Americans are claiming (slavishly backed up by Thatcher in the Commons) that they are merely enforcing international law on the freedom of the seas. As if legal considerations ever restrained American presidents from blockading Cuba, invading Grenada or bombing Cambodia (without even the knowledge of Congress).

Reagan's precipitate attack was really designed, in his own terms, to teach Gaddafi a lesson. The White House has felt humiliated by its impotence to protect its citizens abroad or its military personnel, from terrorism. 250 US marines were killed in the bombing of the embassy in Beirut. Last year there was the Achille Lauro affair, and terrorist incidents at Rome and Vienna airports. The blame for these is being put on Gaddafi.

Reagan wants to demonstrate to the American people his determination to deal with terrorism. He also hopes to create a new patriotic mood, which will help ease through his defence budget, currently held up in Congress, and extract the 100m. dollars in aid for the counter revolutionary Contras in Nicaragua.

Now Defence Secretary Weinberger is already suggesting that the fleet's manoeuvres may end early. Presumably the mission is completed.

But whatever temporary boost Reagan may be looking for at home, longer term US interests could suffer. Moderate Arab regimes like Morocco and the United Arab Emirates have been forced to rally round Libya. Gaddafi is threatening further attacks against American targets around the world.

Some in the US administration may even be looking to the overthrow of Gaddafi, encouraging some form of military coup. The Libyan regime is a brutal dictatorship. It uses its oil money to finance its own and other organisations' terrorist campaigns, which Marxists would condemn. It ruthlessly hunts down opponents who have sought sanctuary abroad. But America, with its record of supporting every reactionary regime in the Middle East, would readily accept a new military dictatorship, providing it was sympathetic to US interests.

Workers in America and around the world must oppose 'Rambo' Reagan's adventures, and step up the struggle for socialism which alone can solve the problems of the Middle East.

By Jeremy Birch



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