

**THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists are taking up the fight on behalf of all the unemployed, against Thatcher's latest proposal to hit the jobless.**

The Tories will be training over 900 snoopers whose job will be to humiliate and bully people, to 'voluntarily' leave the unemployment register. This was revealed by *Labour Weekly* last week.

These so-called claimant advisers will be conducting fraud drives on a much more regular basis, hoping that many people will sign off as soon as they receive a letter for an interview. They will also be making sweeps of target groups, of which young people are one of the main groups.

This is how the government intends to reduce unemployment, below three million before the next election so they say. Not by creating new jobs, but by cutting the numbers signing on. They have already changed eighteen times the way unemployment is counted, to reduce the total.

### Fiddled figures

Through different make work schemes such as YTS and now Restart, the Tories have massaged the unemployment figures. The Unemployment Unit claims that instead of the total unemployed being 3,279,600 it is actually 3,814,700, and that is not including married people who are not allowed to claim benefit if their partner works, and many others who do not qualify for different reasons.

"The LPYS is calling on the labour movement to picket the hotels where these snoopers will be trained" announced John Ellen, LPYS Chairman. The venues are:

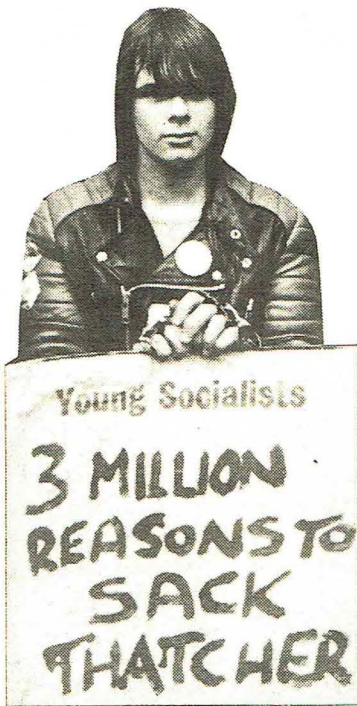
★ Hallam Tower Post House Hotel, Sheffield, 29 September, 3 October, 13-17 October, 10-14 November.

★ Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, 6-10 October, 27-31 October.

★ Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport, 20-24 October.

★ Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, 3-7 November and 17-21 November.

The LPYS will be supporting any strike action the CPSA takes to protest at the government's methods of intimidating claimants,



as has been done with fraud squads in the past.

It is no wonder then that over 60 per cent of first time voters prefer the policies of the Labour Party. Many realise through their own experience that Youth Training Schemes are just designed to cover up the real extent of youth unemployment. Only six per cent of youth can get jobs outside of YTS when they leave school.

The LPYS 'Tories out' demonstration on 18 October has captured the mood of young people. They are desperate for Thatcher and her crew to get out of office, but they want a real alternative to the misery the Tory government has caused them.

They will be looking to Labour Party conference to prove to them that Labour is really serious about tackling youth unemployment, and issues such as education and housing.

We have heard a lot from the Labour leadership about how crucial it is to win the youth vote. Yet at the same time attacks have been made on their own official youth section, that could hamper its ability to campaign effectively to win votes for Labour.

The Labour leaders should be helping to build the 18 October demonstration, when thousands of youth will be attracted to the LPYS, the labour movement and the fight for socialism.

# Tories squeeze jobless

## ...while rich get RICHER

ACCORDING TO the Tory government's own Inland Revenue latest official figures, the Thatcher years have made the rich wealthier still. Small steps towards more equality have been reversed by this government of the rich, for the rich. With tax cuts and larger than average wage rises, the top earners have been laughing all the way to the bank.

★ Since 1980 the richest one per cent have increased their share of total marketable wealth to 21 per cent.

★ The richest five per cent have held 39 per cent of all wealth since 1980, while in the seventies their share had fallen.

★ The poorest 50 per cent hold just seven per cent of total wealth.

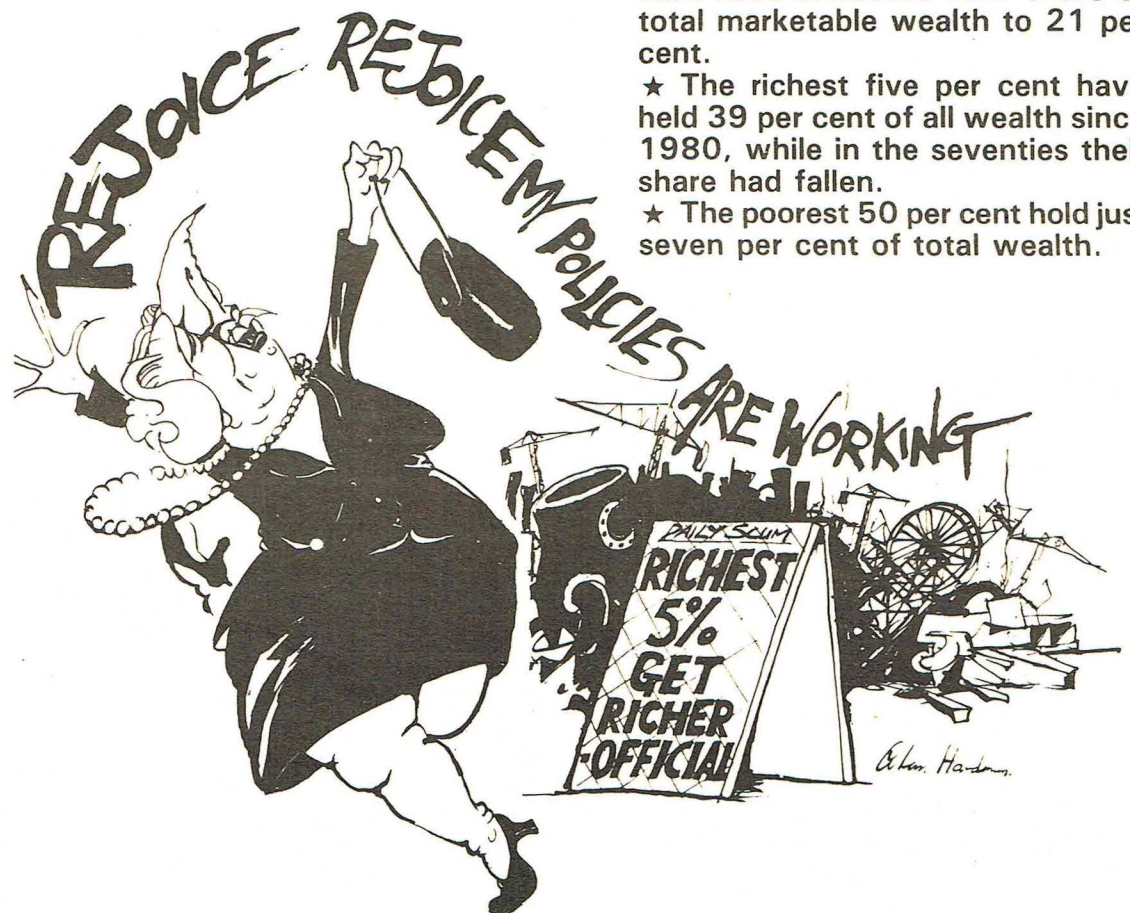
### Militant conference meeting

Tuesday 30 September 7.00pm at Assembly Hall, Devonshire Junior School, Blackpool. Speakers: Derek Hatton, Tony Mulhearn, Peter Taaffe and Ted Grant.

Below: Last year's conference meeting.



Lobby of conference in support of the appeals of those expelled. Monday 29 September from 8.00am outside Winter Gardens.





# Militant

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## Will Labour live up to its promises

THIS YEAR'S Labour Party conference will be completely dominated by the forthcoming general election. There is an overwhelming feeling for unity and for a Labour victory among the rank and file of the labour movement and among Labour supporters.

Party members and workers are haunted by the 1983 general election defeat and there is universal horror at the thought of five more years of Thatcherism.

This mood has been used by the Labour Party leadership to engineer a huge shift to the right in policy; committing an incoming Labour government to do as little as possible in the way of social reforms and improvements in the living standards and conditions of workers. As a smoke screen for this, the right wing have also initiated expulsions of *Militant* supporters and a purge of Liverpool Labour Party, which in turn have created a climate of McCarthyism inside the Labour Party not seen since the 1950s, when Bevan and the Bevanites were under attack.

The votes on the expulsions at conference are a foregone conclusion. The trade union barons have already lined up their millions of block votes, to smash the appeals of those Liverpool Labour Party members coming before conference.

No doubt the press will be celebrating at the huge numerical majority the Kinnockites have mobilised at the conference. The papers will cheer what they consider to be the death of *Militant*, and the right wing in the Labour Party will crow in harmony with the media and call for a more widescale purge.

But these expulsions will not end the growth of Marxist ideas in the Labour Party, any more than did the expulsions of the *Militant* Editorial Board in 1983. The real future of the Labour Party is not indicated in the stage management of one conference, but in the aspirations and sentiments of its rank and file.

Despite the temporary control of the NEC by the right wing and their attempts to organise a conference as uncontroversial as possible, the overwhelmingly left resolutions on the agenda show that Labour's grass roots will be expecting big changes from a Labour government. The National Union of Public Employees, a union whose leadership is in the forefront of the campaign against Marxists, is demanding reforms and improvements from the Labour government, in education, health, social services, benefits and in many other areas. The resolutions generally call for substantial reforms from a Labour government, way beyond the minimal commitments being offered at present by Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley.

No matter how much cold water is poured on them by the leaders, the grass roots in the labour movement and Labour voters will have great expectations of a Labour government and it is this that underlies the growing enthusiasm for a Labour government as indicated time and time again by public opinion polls.

Unless the Labour leaders throw it away, a Labour victory seems assured. The party will be swept to office but on a tide of anticipation and hopes. Workers will demand that the Thatcher policies of the last six years are rolled back. They will demand new job creation, the reversal of education, health and other cuts, and a general improvement in their conditions of life.

But how can the urgent reforms being demanded by conference be realised by Labour, with the desperate capitalist economic crisis that it will inherit? Marxists have argued that without fundamental social change, with a new Labour Government as a first step taking into public ownership the commanding heights of the economy in the industrial and financial spheres, then even the most modest reforms will quickly be turned into counter-reforms, under the pressure of big business and capital. The validity of this argument will be demonstrated by the experiences of the Labour government itself.

A fierce debate will open up within the labour movement about how Labour's plan can be implemented. For every one Labour Party member who now adheres to the ideas put forward by the *Militant*, there will be 5, 10, 20 or more in the future. Those expelled by the conferences engineered from above in 1983 and 1986 will be reinstated back into the Labour Party in the future, with honour.

This conference will not mark the end of Marxism or *Militant* and by no means indicates a final victory by the right wing. It is no more than a temporary pause in the march of the labour movement towards genuine socialist ideas.



"THE ANSWER TO ALL YOUR PROBLEMS FOLKS NO ENGINE SO NO DISAPPOINTING BREAKDOWNS AND VERY VERY ECONOMICAL!"

## Hatton and Mulhearn win support

CONTRARY TO the the confident predictions of Labour Party officials, the majority of Labour councillors in Liverpool remain united in their opposition to the expulsion of Derek Hatton and Tony Mulhearn. A meeting organised by the National Executive Committee (NEC) managed to muster just 14 councillors while 34 others held an official group meeting with their expelled comrades in attendance.

In an unprecedented constitutional hijack of the Labour Group's authority to call group meetings, national organiser Joyce Gould invited all 55 Labour councillors to a meeting to 'reconstitute' the Labour Group.

The real intention of the NEC is, as even the *Liverpool Echo* has said, to do what the Tories and media have failed to do—split the Liverpool Labour

Group before Labour Party conference. But they failed to appreciate the tremendous loyalty and solidarity among councillors who have campaigned together for three years with little or no support from the party leadership.

In some wards councillors were threatened with deselection by right wing members for continuing to attend meetings with Derek Hatton and Tony Mulhearn (see letter below). Had similar threats been issued by *Militant* supporters to sitting councillors, the *Liverpool Echo* would undoubtedly have carried banner headlines denouncing *Militant* blackmail and intimidation. There has been no such outcry over these threats to left wingers.

One sad postscript to the latest events was the decision of John Hamilton, the group leader, to attend the NEC arrang-

ed meeting. As someone who has, until now, been firm in his support for the council's stand, he must have been interested to see members of the 'Sensible Six' councillors, who broke with the Labour Group earlier in the fight with the Tories, attending the same meeting.

The attempts to ostracise Derek Hatton and Tony Mulhearn are not about the Labour Party constitution or personalities, but the desire of the Labour Party leadership to see a tame council installed in Liverpool.

A united Labour Group fighting on socialist policies is the best defence for working people in Liverpool and attempts to split the Group will not be forgiven easily by Party members.

By Martin Lee

## Expelled socialist gets backing from car workers

I USED to share membership of two organisations with Neil Kinnock, writes Richard Venton, expelled member of Liverpool Labour Party. They were the Labour Party and the TGWU.

If Neil Kinnock imagines bureaucratic expulsions from the Labour Party will isolate Liverpool's socialists from the working class, he should have attended last week's TGWU branch 6/763 in Vauxhall's car plant in Ellesmere Port.

I spoke there in 1983 on how to set up a workplace Labour Party branch and recruited several workers to the party. Three and a half years later I was invited back to speak on the Liverpool expulsions.

The meeting confirmed that the deeper we go into the working class the warmer is the embrace for *Militant* ideas. It was like returning to a long lost family.

### Redundancies

These workers face redundancies and a vicious tightening of the screw by management on the shop floor. Management recently declared the abandonment of previous national agreements at a "state of the nation" conference which was supposed to be a routine get-together, and gave the unions only 20 minutes to answer their outrageous

proposals.

Yet 6/763 branch set an hour aside to discuss *Militant's* policies and what to do about the expulsions.

As one member said, "The key question is where you go from here. The last thing I want to see is people like yourself in the wilderness." Another bloke said "It's like in our place. Management try to victimise us for being militants. But you couldn't do without the militant tendency on the shop floor."

### Optimist

Four workers applied for Labour Party membership as a result of the meeting. "You are a great optimist," one said to me. "I'd be a lot more bitter if I'd been expelled after what you've done for the party."

My optimism was justified by the support from this meeting of carworkers. Between speaker's expenses, donations, the petition against expulsions (collected by a branch officer) and extras on papers, they donated £35.60 to the *Militant* Fighting Fund.

Neil Kinnock take note: you might expel a few of us now but you'll have to answer the demands of organised workers under the future Labour government. There is no way you will wipe out "the militant tendency" on the shop floor.

## Right wing bully tactics in Liverpool

AN EXAMPLE of the 'fraternal' way the Liverpool Labour Party right wing conduct political discussions is revealed by the following letter sent to councillor Peter Owens by the acting secretary of the Pirrie Ward Labour Party:

"Councillor Peter Owens, A resolution was passed at the management meeting tonight that you attend the meeting of Labour councillors at the trade union centre, Hardman Street, being held by Peter Kilfoyle on Wednesday evening, the 17th September. This is a direct

political order.

Firstly Peter Owens, you must attend this meeting and report back to Pirrie.

Secondly you must reconise (sic) that Hatton and Mulhearn are no longer members of the Labour Party.

Thirdly you must fall in line with the wishes of the NEC.

Yours fraternally, Dorothy Gavin, Acting Secretary."

Added after 'thirdly' but then scored out was: "if Peter you do otherwise, the ward will deselect you."

## Women's committee victory

LIVERPOOL WOMENS' Council AGM was finally held after being postponed by the inquiry into the District Labour Party. Despite all the allegations and accusations about the women's council being run unconstitutionally no opposition was voiced and no delegations were questioned even with two regional of-

ficials present.

The chair, Sylvia Shaeffer, who at one time was under threat of expulsion, was re-elected unopposed. Lesley Holt re-elected as Vice-Chair by 33 votes to 11, Cathy Wilson re-elected secretary (unopposed), and Pam Evans as Treasurer (unopposed).

By Ann Bannister

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 Tickets £4  
 Sunday 16 November  
 Speakers: Ted Grant, Peter Taaffe, Tony Mulhearn, Derek Hatton, Nimrod Sejake  
 ★ Videos ★ Exhibitions  
 Order your ticket now! From *Militant* Rally, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.



# Thousand ways to die

## - SA miners protest

"A THOUSAND ways to die". This is the title of a safety manual just produced by the South African National Union of Mineworkers. Before it was released, its message was horribly underlined by the disaster at Kinross gold-mine on 16 September, in which 177 mineworkers died.

The disaster highlights the callous lack of concern of the profit-grabbing South African mine bosses for workers' safety: it was, as NUM General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said, "completely unnecessary."

A welding accident 1.6 kilometers underground started a fire—but there was no fire extinguisher to hand. The fire set alight polyurethane foam lining the tunnel—material known for more than 20 years to be a deadly hazard in mines and banned in Britain. It was the toxic fumes unleashed, and fanned 1.5 kilometres along the tunnel by the ventilation system, which caused all the deaths.

Gencor, who own the mine, are guilty of murder, and must be held responsible. Yet President Botha has attacked the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions for suggesting that lack of safety caused the tragedy.

### Strike

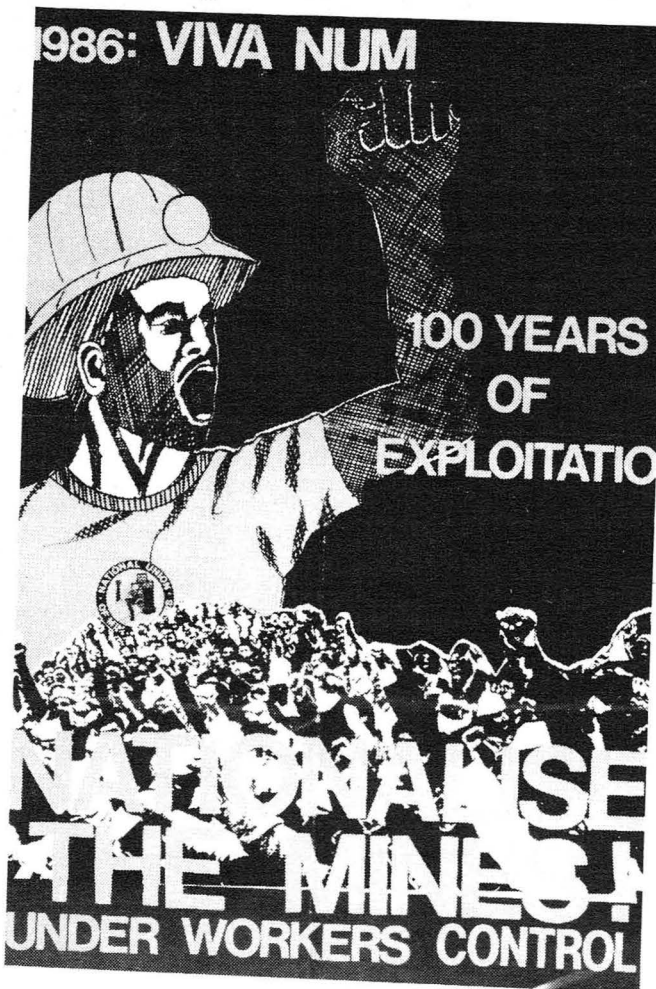
Workers everywhere will endorse the NUM's decision for a one-day mine strike on 1 October in protest.

The 100-year history of the SA mining industry is written in blood and sweat—of black workers slaving at starvation wages, separated from their families in overcrowded hostels, forced to gamble with their lives.

Since the turn of the century, over 48,000 workers have died in the gold-mines alone.

The Chamber of Mines churns out propaganda on how its safety record "is second to none", and this is barely challenged by the British capitalist media. Yet the fatality and accident rate in SA mines is eight times that in Britain.

Reactionary white miners' 'leader' Arrie Paulus agrees with the Chamber on the safeness of the mines; this will be small comfort to the colleagues and families of the five white miners who



Poster produced by the South African National Union of Mineworkers—'Nationalise the Mines'.

THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists have organised a lobby outside Gencor's UK headquarters to coincide with the SA NUM day of action on 1 October. Ely Place, off Holborn Viaduct (Chancery Lane tube) at 12 noon.

In addition, last Saturday 120 delegates to the con-

died. White miners need to look to the SA NUM, not for the defence of their past privileges, but for a way forward as miners together.

With the rand falling and the gold-price rising, mine bosses have been making record profits: R1900 million (£600 million) in 1985, and more this year. Gencor's R458 million (£143 million) share in 1985 was up 56 per cent on the previous year.

Yet the bosses do not reinvest in adequate safety measures, and stand fiercely against black mineworkers' demands for a living wage.

This year they have conceded a 17-21 per cent increase (with inflation touching 20 per cent)—against the NUM's demand of 40 per cent, now reduced

ference of the British miners' Broad Left stood in silence as a tribute to the dead South African brothers and passed an emergency motion calling for the NUM to officially back the SA NUM with, among other things, a financial appeal based on pit-head collections.

to 26 per cent.

It is the current average wage for a black mineworker of £131 a month which will provide the basis for the miserly 'compensation' payments in the accident—two years' wages lump-sum, and 75 per cent of wages to dependants.

The NUM has put forward a Bill of Rights on safety, including the right to refuse dangerous work, to have access to management safety records, proper training, and worker representation on safety committees.

Acceptance of these by the mine bosses would be a step forward. But poverty, migrant labour, and unsafe conditions can be ended for mineworkers only when the mines are nationalised under workers' control and management. This is the goal of the SA NUM.

Even then, gold—unlike coal—is "useful" mainly as a store of wealth for capitalists and their governments. The risk inherent in deep-level gold-mining can be ended finally only through socialism worldwide—when gold's use will, in Lenin's words, become limited to 'decorating public lavatories' and goldminers can be redeployed in safe jobs.

Now, however, for SA mineworkers and their comrades internationally, it is the time to show anger, and determination to carry forward the struggle for safety and for an end to the chains of apartheid and capitalism that enslave them.

By Gerry Lerner

By Richard Monroe

# 'I hit him first' - Silk

AS LABOUR Party conference approaches the slanders against *Militant* and its supporters in Liverpool have poured down like a Niagara.

First fiddle in this cacophony which seeks to drown out Liverpool Council's achievements must surely go to Robert Kilroy-Silk in his book *Hard Labour*.

This renegade Labour MP seeks to "prove" on almost every page that *Militant* has engaged in "violence, intimidation, threatening behaviour" etc. And what evidence does he provide? Derek Hatton and *Militant* supporters glared at him at the last Labour Party conference!

*Militant* supporters are also accused of resorting to abusive language against him and his Knowsley North supporters! Absolutely no concrete evidence of this is given by Kilroy-Silk.

What he does provide is more than enough damning material which indicts him on precisely the charges he levels against his *Militant* opponents.

Thus Eric Heffer is described as "that bastard". He also boasts of how he hit a Labour Party member at last year's Labour Party conference (who in typically



Robert Kilroy-Silk

false fashion he describes as a "*Militant* supporter"). "There was no way I could back down, so I hit him first. Just a left. He went down backwards so fast that, unfortunately, he put an elbow through a plate glass window. I pulled him back by the throat, about to hit him again... I was irritated."

Imagine the headlines if a *Militant* supporter had resorted to similar action! But those same Fleet Street hacks who denounce, imaginary, "*Militant* violence" approved of Kilroy's resort to fisticuffs. Joe Ashton, Labour MP, said to him... "You put a *Militant* through a window?" When Silk seemed reluctant to

broadcast the facts, Ashton said: "Why, that'll do you no harm. Do you a power of good, that. Want me to tell the press?" He also comments that Don Concannon, right wing Labour MP, said: "Well done. Don't stand any bloody nonsense. Hit the buggers." (Page 31).

Another passage in the book describes Kilroy-Silk's relish in intimidating a fellow Labour MP, Jeremy Corbyn, who he describes as a "creep".

Ill-fated literary attempts to contrast idyllic rural scenes, of his home—full of woodpeckers, geese and hovering kestrels (a far cry from the slums of his constituency) with the grim reality of alleged persecutions at the hands of *Militant* doesn't come off. Out of his own mouth, or by his own hand, he is condemned as the real perpetrator of abuse and violence in the labour movement.

After one television programme with Tory Willie Whitelaw, Kilroy-Silk complains, "He made me look a shit." We have news for you, Robert, that takes no effort at all.

A more complete review of Kilroy-Silk's book *Hard Labour*, will be carried in a future issue.

## Labour women say 'no purge'

LAST SATURDAY the Eastern Region conference of Labour Women condemned the expulsion of Theresa and Roger Mackay from Ipswich Labour Party and demanded their reinstatement.

The successful emergency motion, moved by Barbara Clare, was previously passed unanimously at Luton Women's council. Barbara compared Theresa Mackay's tremendous 26 year record in the Party and activity in the women's organisations with Robert Maxwell's sacking of print workers, Frank Chaple's support for private health and Robert Kilroy-Silk's contribution to capitalist newspapers.

The resolution also pointed out that Theresa Mackay stood every chance of becoming the Eastern Region delegate to the national Labour women's conference this year. Nevertheless, as conference proved, while individual comrades can be removed temporarily, socialist ideas can't be silenced.

Conference, for example, also passed a resolution calling for an end to witch-hunts and attacks on Liverpool Labour Party and for the reinstatement of all expelled comrades.

The fact that Marxist ideas will remain with Labour women in the region, despite the expulsions, was underlined when conference decided to hold a demonstration and rally on low pay in Ipswich next May Day, a proposal first put to the Eastern Region women's committee by Theresa Mackay. See Ipswich report, page 7.

By Margaret Edwards

## Militant sales drive

THE CAMPAIGN for a more frequent *Militant* will be given a boost during this special sales drive week.

Throughout the country sellers will be taking advantage of the Labour Party conference publicity to build door to door sales, street sales in the main shopping centres as well as at the factories, dole offices and colleges.

In next week's issue we will be reporting many of the successes achieved in this drive, so write or phone sales news to us as soon as you can. This week should produce bumper sales but it is important that they are con-

solidated in the next few weeks into regulars. Our sellers must combine the flair of selling with the aim of building regular personal rounds. Even more readers should consider becoming sellers themselves.

You read *Militant* because it offers a unique service—facts you won't find elsewhere, international news second to none, an explanation of processes at work in society that assists you in the fight for a better world. Why not offer this service to a friend, a workmate or relative?



Theresa Mackay selling *Militant*—expelled by Ipswich Labour Party.



FELICITY DOWLING, the last of the Liverpool 12 to be proposed for expulsion, has had her hearing postponed by the NEC until October because her legal adviser was unable to attend the meeting.

The right wing were warned by their legal advisers that they would be unwise to proceed with expelling Felicity without giving her the proper opportunity to reply to their allegations.

This decision means that comrade Dowling will now be the delegate to Labour Party Conference from Walton CLP.



# LPYS

# under attack from the right



**LABOUR'S** conference will witness ex-left Tom Sawyer unveiling his proposals to drastically alter the existing structure of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

They are cloaked in the phrases like "everyone recognises that we need to improve things" and "the existing organisational structure is clearly inadequate to deal with the challenges which face the party in the area of youth politics." But the LPYS leadership are rightly suspicious.

A quick glance at Tom Sawyer's three year record as Chair of Labour's Youth Committee reveals:—two successive cuts in the LPYS budget, the abolition of the £3,000 subsidy to *Socialist Youth* and at the last youth committee allowing unsubstantiated allegations from the chairperson of Labour Students to be heard, in an attempt to close down the 500 strong annual summer camp. He also played a large part in preparing the ground work for the expulsion of Liverpool LPYS member Cheryl Varley.

The LPYS is willing to discuss how Labour can win the youth vote, and how to convince young people to join the party. But the starting point for such a discussion is political and not just about "structures".

Many of the party's older activists were inspired as children and teenagers by such organisations as the Socialist Sunday Schools. Young people were given a vision of the future free from poverty and toil, and educated in the need to change society.

Why doesn't the leadership make a similar commitment to change society? Why doesn't it appeal to the millions of young people whose talents are being crushed by the brutality of life under capitalism, to join our party and play their part in fighting for a new society?

## Condemned

Young people will join the party if it is prepared to fight for their rights and inspire them with the vision of a socialist future. Yet the party leadership condemned the school students' strike, and ignores the policy twice passed by conference of guaranteeing all young people a job at trade union rates of pay. In a recent MORI opinion poll 60 per cent of young people believed that youth should be guaranteed a job by the government. Labour would get massive support by campaigning on this policy.

In the experience of LPYS members young people agree with the policies campaigned on: they supported the miners, they want to get Thatcher and the Tories out. This is the most radical generation since the war, yet they are hesitant about joining the party. The NEC is unwilling to recognise or even discuss any of these issues, and seriously attempt a joint effort to build and

strengthen Labour's youth wing.

The LPYS are prepared to work with every other section of the party to build the youth membership. But Tom Sawyer's proposals fall short of this goal.

Take the ludicrous suggestion of lowering the age limit to 21. Apart from excluding most young trade unionists, including the entire NUPE Scottish youth committee and that of the AUEW-TASS national youth committee it would also cut the LPYS membership by one third, and oust some of the best and most experienced campaigners.

## TUC youth

For twelve years Labour's youth section has consistently argued for young trade unionists to get involved in the regional and national LPYS conferences. Although it is now being described as an original idea. One of the reasons it was rejected by the NEC, was the accompanying demands for the establishment of democratic youth conferences, electing delegates to a democratic TUC youth conference, allowing resolutions and the election of a national TUC youth committee. Nothing concrete along these lines has been organised and no campaign has been launched aimed at young trade unionists.

The new proposals threaten the existing democratic structures of the LPYS. At present every member has the right to take part in branch meetings, every branch is entitled to vote at regional and national conference. The annually elected leadership is immediately accountable to the membership.

Tom Sawyer says "that young people in the women's sections should have a say, suggesting that there are large numbers of young women in the party who are not members of the LPYS. But the majority of young women attending women's sections are there because they have joined the LPYS first.

The proposal to involve Labour Students would mean the complete restructuring of that organisation. Unlike the LPYS, not all members of NOLS are individual Party members, at present from a membership of 6,600 only 42 per cent are actually party members.

The LPYS does not believe that these proposals will benefit Labour's youth. But the consultative process has begun. We demand that the consultation goes further than the tops of the trade unions.

Tom Sawyer must ensure that the rank and file of the party, the constituencies, wards, and every individual member of the party receives his proposals for comment. The NEC was prepared to circulate every party member with a bulletin of the Liverpool District Labour Party report. We think this must be done again with these proposals.

**NATIONAL OFFICERS** of the Labour Party Young Socialists completely reject the charges made in a Fabian Society pamphlet, *The Missing Generation*, that the membership of the Young Socialists has declined.

Authors John Mann, a seasoned witch-hunter, and Phil Woolas have claimed that the membership was 7,223 according to a survey by the Party's youth committee in September 1985. But many LPYS branches, including several in Merseyside, refused to co-operate with the questionnaire because of fears that information such as names and addresses could be used in a purge.

The National Youth Officer, Andy Bevan puts the membership at over 10,000. The committee also revealed that the membership of the National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) has dropped from 7,126 to 6,600, of which only 1,000 are members of the Labour Party. Both Phil Woolas and

John Mann were members of NOLS, yet they argue in the pamphlet that "the party's student section has achieved sustained growth".

John Ellen, LPYS chair said: "We find it incredible that these allegations are being made at a time when we are organising a national demonstration on 18 October against the Tories which will attract at least 20,000 young people.

"We have continually answered these attacks. These people will never detract us from building a mass youth section both in terms of size and political influence".

The pamphlet has undoubtedly been produced to build support for Tom Sawyer's proposals, aimed to cripple the LPYS, which are being put to Party conference.

By Frances Curran

# ... but hitting back at the Tories



200 Young Socialists and local people turned out at the Cable Street anniversary rally against racism, organised by Tower Hamlets and Hackney LPYS. The rally was addressed by Tony Benn, John Bryan (PPC, Bermondsey); Abba Uddin, Tower Hamlets councillor; John Laing, sacked print worker; and Linda Douglas, LPYS rep on Labour's NEC. New LPYS slide show on Cable Street and the campaign against racist attacks was shown.

Photo: Mick Carroll

## Send us cash—make Crick sick

**THE MEDIA** are falling over themselves in the rush to attack *Militant* during Labour Party conference week. Michael Crick with his latest book *March of Militant* and Robert Kilroy-Silk, recently resigned from the Knowsley North seat and now Messrs John Mann and Phil Woolas in their pamphlet *Labour and Youth: The Missing Generation*, with its attacks on the LPYS, are all out to smear the ideas of Marxism.

Right wing Labour and trade union leaders will be only too happy to encourage the likes of Crick and Kilroy-Silk in order to mask their own inability to provide an answer to the needs of working class people.

Attacks on our paper confirm that our ideas are gaining more and more support from ordinary working people. Support for *Militant* doesn't just end with agreeing with the programme but with concrete financial assistance to build the paper, for the vital equipment and extra staff we need. It is the pennies and pounds of workers, unemployed, pensioners, students and school students that reflect the real support for *Militant*.

We make a special appeal to Labour

## Fighting Fund

This week £1986

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 Eastern	639		3450
2 London North East	659		3550
3 Southern	538		3100
4 London North West	474		2900
5 Wales West	545		3350
6 London South East	346		2250
7 Yorkshire	820		5600
8 East Midlands	429		3050
9 Scotland East	443		3200
10 London South West	184		1500
11 Humberside	264		2300
12 Merseyside	717		7000
13 Northern	409		4550
14 South East	220		2400
15 South West	177		2150
16 Manchester/Lancs	289		4150
17 Scotland West	259		3850
18 Wales East	154		2150
19 West Midlands	288		4500
National	1955		5000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9809</b>		<b>70000</b>

Party conference delegates to give as large a donation as possible. Attacks on *Militant* are just a precursor to attacks on the party programme itself.

*Militant* has fought the hardest for the reforms included in Labour's programme. Half measures are not

enough to answer the enormous problems facing workers in Britain. This year's conference could be the last before a general election. We need a stronger more frequent paper to fight for a Labour Party with genuine socialist policies.



# LPYS - what's going on

**LABOUR PARTY** Young Socialists in Cumbernauld raised nearly £300 in a total of 9 hours outside the tax collection centre in support of sacked trade unionists in BTR Sarmcol's plant in Natal.

They approached the tax union IRSF Broad Left, who have also been building support for South African workers, and the first collection raised £106 in three hours. It was agreed to hold further collections on or near the monthly pay day. Broad Left activists won the support of the union's branch committee and two further collections raised £92 and £67, with many giving fivers and pound coins.

The level of support shows that workers in Britain are prepared to support those in South Africa fighting the same enemy, the bosses.

It also shows that there is a basis in the IRSF for a successful broad left which could emulate the advances of the broad left in the civil service union CPSA.

*By Kevin McVey (Cumbernauld and Kilsyth LPYS)*

## Union youth

**YOUNG MEMBERS** of the Transport and General Workers' Union in Liverpool are setting up a youth section according to the guide lines issued by national official Bill Morris.

It will aim to recruit 16 to 25 year olds and the first meeting will discuss organising a trip to Labour Party conference to meet union leaders and listen to debates. A residential weekend school is planned where delegates can discuss how they want the youth section to be run.

The youth sections have to be in operation by November, so the active participation of the Labour Party Young Socialists to help in recruitment and to give a political edge is vital.

Young socialists who are themselves unemployed or on YTS schemes should join the union and help to build links with other young workers. They should apply to the unemployed branch, 6/612, TGWU, Transport House, Islington, Liverpool 3.

*By Carl Cole (Garston LPYS and TGWU 6/612)*

## Up Pompey

**SIX HUNDRED** Pompey youth attended a free festival at the polytechnic students union organised by the LPYS. Local bands played free and Portsmouth Labour Party's prospective parliamentary candidate, Keith Gardiner spoke, urging young people to vote Labour.

Liverpool councillor Harry Smith described the youth and education programme of Liverpool council. Striking shipyard workers, Bob Wallace and Tony Cridge, from Vosper Thornycroft strike committee also spoke. A mass meeting of shipyard workers had decided to walk out when redundancies were announced, with 80 per cent voting by ballot in favour of a strike.

A number of young people asked to join the LPYS and go on the national demonstration.

*By Paul Newbury (Portsmouth LPYS)*

# MARCH FOR JOBS



**Saturday 11**

March through Southall. Visit Golflinks estate. Evening reception in local temple.

**Friday 10**

March through Kilburn. Lunch time meeting at Northwick Park Hospital. Evening—Joint benefit with local Print Support Group, Harrow.

**Sunday 12**

Lunch time meeting at Heathrow Airport.

**Thursday 9**

Meeting at Broadwater Farm Estate. Lunch—Wood Green Civic Centre. Evening—Winchester Road Community Project.

**Monday 13**

Arrive Hammersmith Labour Party rooms, march through White City estate to reception at BBC. Evening rally and disco with local bands.

**Wednesday 8**

Reception and meeting at Tottenham Community Project

**Tuesday 14**

Lunchtime meeting at Charing Cross hospital, Fulham. March across Putney bridge to reception at Wandsworth bus garage. Evening rally—Battersea Town hall. Speakers John Bryan, local MPs. Plus disco.

**Friday 17**

Lunch time meeting and reception at Hackney Town Hall. March through Cable Street to Wapping. Evening—bumper disco in Hackney.

**Tuesday 7**

Lunch time reception—Ilford Town Hall. Evening—rally at Stratford Labour Party rooms

**Wednesday 15**

Arrive Brixton 1.00pm for reception with local council. Marchers accompanied by local trade unionists. Evening rally—Lambeth Town Hall. Free beer for the marchers!

**Thursday 16**

Lunchtime meeting and reception at Fleet Street. Visits to the Daily Mirror, ex-Sunday Times, Mount Pleasant sorting office. Evening rally—Camden Town Hall, Euston.

**Monday 6**

College gate meeting at East Ham Tech. Reception at Barking unemployed centre with councillors. Lunch time meeting at Fords Dagenham. Evening rally and disco at NE London Poly.

**Saturday 4 October**

10.00am. Big send off from Guys Hospital, Bermondsey. Speakers from Southwark Council and NUPE (Guys). March goes via

**Sunday 5 rest day**

Lewisham—2.30pm—assemble Cutty Sark Gardens, Greenwich. March to Woolwich Town Hall for rally with John Bryan (PPC-Bermondsey), John Austin-Walker (Leader Greenwich council), Eddie McParland (councillor). Evening—Disco.

**Come to the meetings and give your support. Join the march! Send to donations to: London Youth March, c/o 55 West Avenue, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2AP.**

## Catch the red train to London

**WEST MIDLANDS** young socialists are getting geared up for their kick-out-the Tories campaign, and have booked a train to the national demonstration on 18 October.

Stoke central LPYS plan to blitz the Further Education colleges with posters and leaflets in week one and then onto the polytechnic freshers in week two. They contacted the local radio station and the 'message of the LPYS' went out on the airwaves.

In Coventry collections for cash have raised £9 from the Inland Revenue Staff Federation branch committee and bus garage union representatives have given £5. Shop stewards in the garage have agreed to have a collection at the garage and the local working mens' club.

In Birmingham, Ladywood and Perry Barr young socialists have drawn up a young workers' questionnaire and plan to 'investigate conditions in the jewellery

quarter. Posters have already gone up in the area—young socialist members just escaped being copped by jumping a 15 foot wall. At Matthew Bolton Further Education college the LPYS stall attracted 20 people who signed up for the Labour Club and sold 13 copies of Socialist Youth.

Stafford LPYS plans to hold a debate with the Tories and a public meeting with John MacCreadie, general secretary-not-allowed of the CPSA. They also plan to

leaflet shops in the town centre and hold a street meeting for shop workers. They did the same thing on an estate previously and 22 local youth attended.

Tickets for the train have started coming in, but cash is urgently needed. The train will cost a total of £2,525. Stickers have been produced with Thatcher saying 'Damn the Demo on October 18'.

*By Mark Meredith*

## Backing for national march

**£128 WAS** collected for the LPYS national demonstration at the Campaign Group seminar last weekend at Chesterfield, by Dave Nellist MP.

In addition to the £25 from the Group itself, £10 donations came from Tony Benn and Euro MP's Bob Cryer and Mick Hindley. Amongst those donating £5 were Ernie Roberts, Jeremy Corbyn, Joan Maynard, Dennis Skinner and Gerry Birmingham. £5 donations also came from the NUM General Secretary, Peter Heathfield, and the union's research officer Roger Windsor. Prospective parliamentary candidates donating a fiver included John Hughes (Coventry North East), John Airey (Rugby and Kenilworth), and Martin Upham (Enfield North).

★ Money is also coming in from other parts: Whittle NUM and Allinton NUM lodges both gave £25 for the demonstration and Northumberland Health branch of NUPE gave £30.

## ...and from London Labour

**LONDON LABOUR** Party executive has unanimously passed a motion supporting the Young Socialists demonstration at its meeting last Monday.

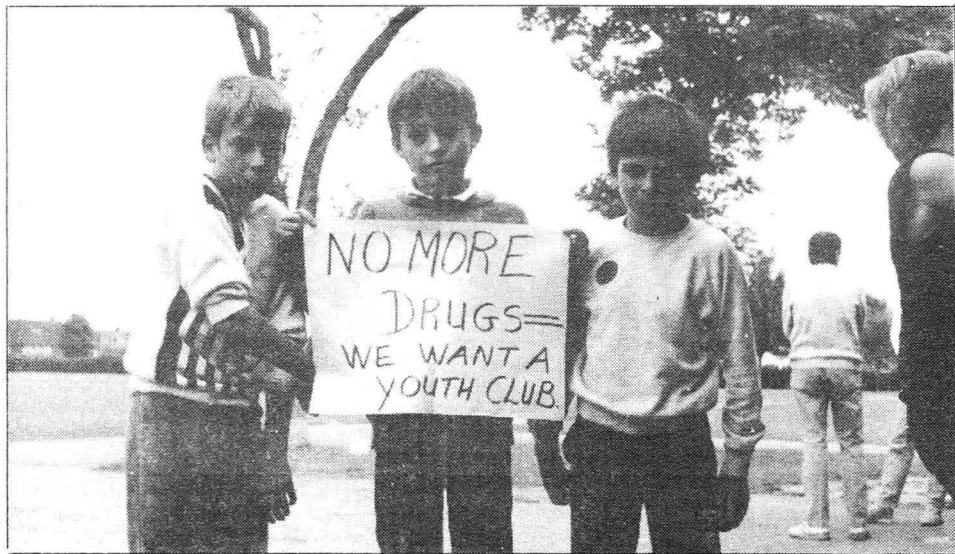
## Campaign success for youth club

**Young unemployed, school students and young socialists in Hayes have forced the local council to agree to build a new youth club.**

Young people in the area have few facilities after the previous Tory council closed two youth clubs and three unemployed centres.

After a week's intense activity a rally was held on 6 September in Hayes End Park attended by over 50 local youth. Campaign committee secretary Samantha Hodson spoke of the increase in glue and petrol sniffing which led to the death, last month, of one of her friends.

In the build up to the rally local estates were leafleted and 1500 signatures collected on a petition demanding a new youth club. On the day of the rally local shops were visited with the petition and money raised from passers by. Copies of *Socialist Youth* and *Militant* were sold. A march was organised through the estates near



Young supporters of the campaign for a youth club in Hayes Park.

the park to advertise the rally and many people gave money.

A meeting of the now hung council was lobbied and 50 people crammed into the public gallery. The petition was handed to the deputy leader of the Labour Group. Faced with this campaign and with support from

council trade unionists, the council had no choice but to agree to the demands to build a new youth club. A committee of 21 has been elected to run it.

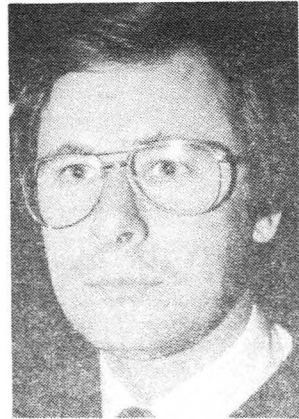
Two of the young girls involved in the campaign are going on the round London March for Jobs. Others are also involved in the build up

to the march and will be going on the national demonstration. The campaign has transformed the LPYS branch in Hayes with the new members who want to fight to get rid of the Tories and get better conditions for youth.





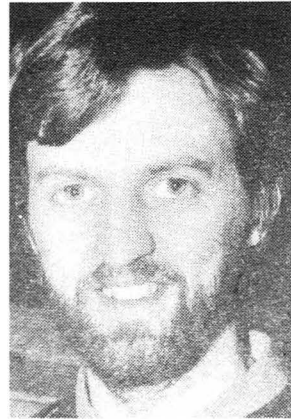
**DEREK HATTON** (15 years in the Labour Party) Deputy Leader Liverpool City Council



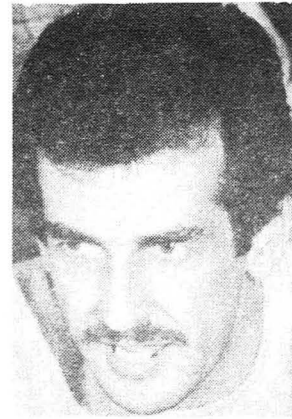
**ROGER BANNISTER** (15 years) Secretary Broadgreen Constituency Labour Party



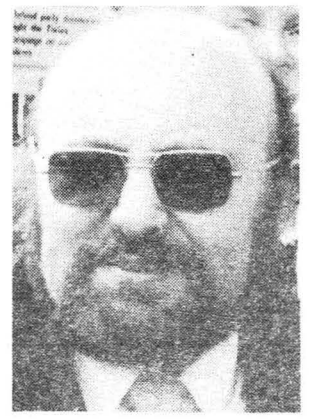
**TERRY HARRISON** (28 years) Vice-Chair Liverpool District Labour Party



**RICHARD VENTON** (15 years)



**IAN LOWES** (10 years) Chairman Joint Shop Stewards Committee



**TONY AITMAN** (22 years)

# Reinstate Liverpool

**EIGHT MEMBERS** of the Labour Party from Liverpool are appealing to the party conference against their expulsion. Their total membership is 131 years. All have played an outstanding role in the movement, fighting for workers and socialist ideals. Two are city councillors, who have played a leading role in implementing the programme to build houses and create jobs.

They have been expelled by the national executive committee in hearings which have been a travesty of justice. They are now appealing to conference delegates to give them a fair hearing and vote to reinstate them into the party.

"TROTSKYISTS OR not, the *Militants* were providing a form of leadership and inspiration that was not supplied by the national leadership."

This quote from the *Financial Times*, the sober journal of big business, sums up the real reason for the 12 month cascade of abuse, lies, and distortions aimed at *Militant* supporters in Liverpool from the jackals of Fleet Street and Labour's right wing. Since Labour's victory in Liverpool in 1983, the achievements of the Labour council have been a thorn in the side of the Tory government and a continual source of embarrassment to Labour Party leaders.

They took up the gauntlet thrown down by such enemies of the labour movement as Nor-

man Tebbit, who said: "We Conservatives wish the leader of the opposition well... in his forthcoming purge of the *Militant* tendency supporters from the Labour Party in Liverpool and in other cities."

At this year's conference the delegates will want unity in the run up to the next general election. But party activists will not forget last year's commitment to support those councillors in Liverpool and Lambeth faced with disqualification from office and possible bankruptcy at the hands of the unelected District Auditor. It is therefore incredible that just a year later the same councillors, persecuted by the state and its puppets, should now face censure for having committed the crime of defending Labour Party policy.

Whilst Thatcher has been stumbling from crisis to crisis, Labour's NEC have spent hour upon hour organising a purge of socialists. Indeed Neil Kinnock missed two prime ministers' question times to see through the expulsion of Liverpool party members.

The suspension of the District Labour Party, the subsequent inquiry and the NEC hearings have been a travesty of democracy and natural justice and a gift to the Tories. The purge has met with the overwhelming opposition of ward and constituency parties, trade union branches and the Labour group of councillors. The day after the NEC agreed to institute disciplinary hearings against some members, a meeting of party members in Liverpool voted 400 to 4 against any expulsions.

Even a High Court judge was forced to condemn the first NEC hearings as manifestly unfair and against natural justice. It took a walkout by 7 left wing members of the NEC to highlight this blatant injustice and force the right to abandon at least the more outrageous

denials of natural justice. It did not however stop the party leader from changing the NEC quorum to railroad through the expulsions.

With increasing disregard for the rights of ordinary party members in Liverpool and in order to police the Liverpool labour movement, the NEC appointed a commissioner to run party affairs. Peter Kilfoyle, unknown to party activists in Liverpool, made it abundantly clear the role he had been selected for when he said, "It is time to come off the fence and oust the infiltrators. They are not true Labour Party members."

The Labour Party bureaucracy was nevertheless powerless to prevent the election of Tony Mulhearn as chair of the Temporary Coordinating Committee (TCC). This body, set up by the NEC to wrest control from ordinary party members and including some appointed delegates, has singularly failed to reduce the influence of *Militant* supporters and the left. One third of the 90 strong panel of potential candidates selected by the TCC to replace the surcharged councillors support the ideas of

## Tony Mulhearn: My

"I APPEAL to every conference delegate to oppose the NEC's decision to expel me from the party. I have been a party member since 1963 and have been an active and loyal worker. I accept the party's constitution and rules, including the fundamental socialist aims of the party expressed in Clause IV Part 4. I have always abided by the democratic majority decisions of party

bodies and worked for Labour candidates in local and parliamentary elections.

Like all members of a democratic, socialist party, I have my own views. I have never made any secret of the fact that I agree with many of the ideas expressed by *Militant*, which I do not believe to be in any way inconsistent with Labour's policies and principles. I have the right to argue for

these policies while working for the implementation of the party's current policies as decided by annual conference.

### Defending jobs

The policies to defend jobs and services which I have been proud to help implement as a member of Liverpool City Council are a model for the party national-

## Building socialism

LIVERPOOL'S HOUSING record over the last three years is second to none. The scale is simply staggering:

3,625 families rehoused from tenements, flats and maisonettes; 1,500 tenement flats demolished and a further 2,300 to be demolished; 1,050 multi storey flats demolished or being demolished; 1,290 flats/maisonettes demolished or being demolished; 3,800 houses and bungalows built; 4,080 houses and flats improved; 350 houses and bungalows created by reducing 810 two-storey tenements to one storey.

Liverpool has shown in the language of bricks and mortar that a socialist housing policy can work, yet leaders of the council have been expelled.

The national leadership have even gone to the lengths of banning a stall explaining the achievements of Liverpool from the annual conference.

Could it be that a practical demonstration of the ideas of socialism does not easily reconcile with expulsions and denunciations of 'maggots' and 'lunatics'.

The party's proposals for future public expenditure are to be welcomed but what will a Labour government do about the colossal interest debt burden that hangs around the neck of all local councils. Labour councils cannot create jobs without having the necessary resources.

Liverpool's debt is now well over £700

million. Critics of the council's policy to borrow on the international money market assert that the city is being plunged into debt. But the Labour council inherited a colossal debt from previous administrations. In March 1985, well before the November settlement which involved £30 million being borrowed, the debt per head in Liverpool was £1,310 whilst in other Metropolitan District Councils it was £854.

Because of the failure to gain additional resources from the government, the council was faced with either the prospect of not building houses and sacking workers or borrowing.

Far from attacking Liverpool, the national Labour Party should be highlighting the parasitic role of the banks and finance houses and raising the demand for their nationalisation with compensation on the basis of proven need if this was linked to the nationalisation of the major building monopolies under democratic workers' control and management, a national plan could be easily established to build a million homes a year.

It seems inevitable that the councillors will be removed from office. Nevertheless they will leave behind a monument to socialism. Even though the capitalist courts may slam the door, the echo will be heard for many years.

By Dave Cotterill

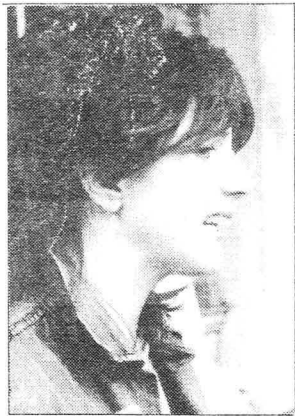


Labour Party and Young Socialist members protest outside the Party headquarters against the 'show-trials' of committed socialists. Photo: Dave Sinclair.





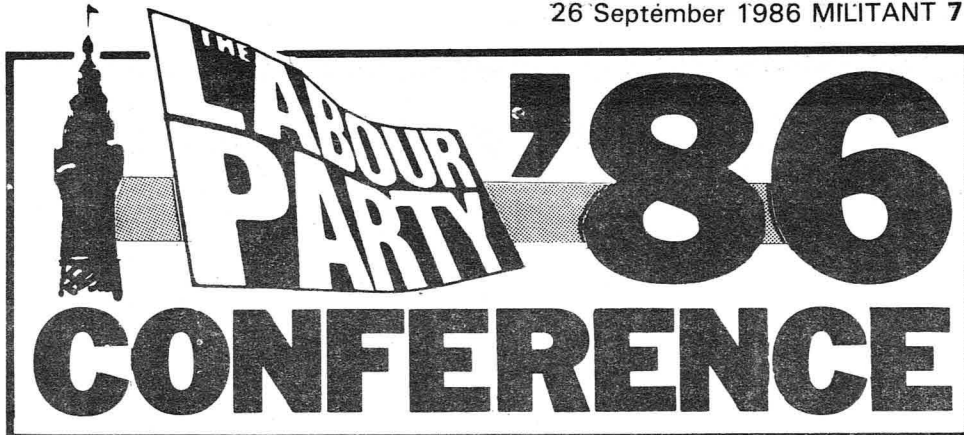
**TONY MULHEARN** (23 years) President Liverpool District Labour Party and councillor



**CHERYL VARLEY** (3 years) Student Sabbatical Officer



**FELICITY DOWLING** (19 years) Secretary District Labour Party and councillor still facing expulsion.



## Witch-hunt in Ipswich

# socialists

### Militant.

The workers of Liverpool gave a resounding vote of confidence in Labour on 9 May. Notwithstanding the attempt by some 'analysts', including Peter Kilfoyle in the pages of *Tribune*, to portray the election as a defeat for Labour, the *Liverpool Echo* was forced to concede that "However experts may analyse the votes there is not a shadow of doubt that Liverpool's Town Hall elections were a success for *Militant*... No scouser could have been under any illusion that a vote for Labour in this city was a vote for *Militant*."

Despite this overwhelming show of confidence by the Liverpool electorate, the right wing on the NEC expelled Tony Mulhearn 10 days later. Over the last few months, the NEC has pre-occupied itself with a series of meetings, visits, threats and expulsions to regularise party affairs in Liverpool. This attempt to browbeat party members into accepting expulsions has only hardened their resolve to defend party democracy.

The decision of Broadgreen and Garston

CLPs reluctantly to accept the expulsions under the threat of disbandment should not be taken as a sign of weakness. On the contrary, together with Walton and West Derby CLPs, Garston and Broadgreen have all elected Marxists to represent them at conference.

The hapless Peter Kilfoyle, now joined by his superior Phil Robinson, face an uphill struggle in their attempt to remove socialist ideas from the Liverpool labour movement. If and when the DLP is reconstituted, supporters of *Militant* and the left will still maintain a powerful influence, as in any new Labour group.

Despite this monstrous chapter in the history of the labour movement, the ideas of Marxism will continue to grow and party members in Liverpool will not rest until all those expelled have been re-instated.

By Martin Lee and Dave Read

## appeal to conference

ly. We have been prepared to sacrifice our money, our council positions and the houses we live in, to defend Liverpool workers from Tory attacks. I cannot believe that the party members you represent at this conference want to see people like us faced with the additional blow of expulsion from our party.

In a letter to the NEC, Jimmy Parry, chief whip on

Liverpool City Council, has said of me: "I have always found him to be a man of the utmost integrity and always helpful and above board in his dealings with colleagues. During his membership he has always fought fearlessly for socialism within the party, but this commitment has never prevented him from listening to other points of view. As chairman of the District Labour Party he has

been scrupulously fair to all speakers at these meetings."

He concluded: "Over the past three most difficult years the relationship between the party and the Labour group has never been better or more democratic. To expel Tony Mulhearn and other comrades would be a political disgrace and an act of utmost folly."



One of the many new council estates goes up in the shadow of "The Piggeries" a notorious high rise slum due for demolition shortly.

Liverpool Labour council has:

- ★ increased the workforce from 30,558 to 31,398
- ★ introduced a 35 hour week
- ★ increased holidays
- ★ provided 100 YTS trainees with trade union rates of pay
- ★ Consolidated bonus

payments in many areas

- ★ Provided better trade union facilities
- Day care centres charges have not been increased since 1982.

The council provides 500,000 meals every year for elderly people. Since 1982 the price has been frozen at 42p. Under the Liberals it

more than doubled in two years from 18p to 42p

Day nursery prices have been frozen (Under the Liberals charges doubled in two years)

Social services staff have been increased from 3,968 to 4,220

THE SATURDAY after the expulsions, *Militant* supporters sold 30 papers in Ipswich town centre and collected £7 for the fighting fund from passers-by. The same weekend, the Eastern Region Labour Womens' conference voted to protest against the expulsions of the Mackay's.

SINCE NEIL Kinnock became leader 44 supporters of *Militant* have been expelled from the Labour Party.

In the past 20 months, 75 local parties have attempted to take disciplinary action against the supporters of *Militant*, the majority of these cases were defeated. In fact only 28 individuals have been expelled—from less than 20 constituency Labour parties, 19 of whom still have appeals outstanding.

The right-wing hoped for the expulsion of hundreds if not thousands of Marxists. That this strategy has failed is a testament to the determination of the party rank and file who have resisted the witch-hunters.

It is this failure—and the injunctions saving 23 *Militant* supporters—that has resulted in the new procedures being rushed through the party conference. They involve more constitutional changes than were recommended by the 1980 commission of inquiry which produced a 51 page report and took some 2,460 pieces of evidence!

Party members will welcome a more democratic procedure and an end to arbitrary sharp practice. However they will also be concerned at the total lack of consultation on the new procedures, presented on a purely "take it or leave it" basis, with no opportunity to amend or improve the necessary reforms. Concern has already been expressed for instance about the method of election to the new National Constitutional Committee, and the watering down of its accountability to the National Conference, through three yearly instead of annual elections.

Of greatest concern however is the creation of the new offence "conduct prejudicial to the party," a McCarthyite constitutional device which will allow subjective dislikes to be turned into expellable offences. Such a device

Council group leader Jamie Cann typified the level of all the right-wing interventions: "How are we threatened by *Militant* in Ipswich?" some delegates ask. We are not, because some of us put in hundreds of hours into crushing them." If only the council leader had spent that time on a housebuilding programme!

### "We will be back"

In the six minute reply she was allowed, to retain 26 years of membership, Theresa Mackay condemned the real 'entryists'—the right wing who were forming the SDP when they were still in the Labour Party. There were no calls for inquiries when they were openly sabotaging the party. "Don't lose heart" she appealed to her supporters. Stay in and carry on the fight for socialist ideals. We will be back."

"It is a sad day" said EETPU delegate Don Edmonds afterwards: "Eleven years I have been active in

the Labour Party; the Mackays have been active all that time. In the trade union movement you get an oral warning, a caution, then a final warning; here it is instant dismissal after years of service."

Paul Capel, a prospective parliamentary candidate, said he nearly didn't come to the meeting: "Public executions are not to my liking. There are better things that we can do than putting comrades up against a wall and shooting them."

The final vote for expulsion by 55 to 19 showed a sizeable minority opposed to the witch-hunt, which will be built upon. After the meeting, Theresa and Roger vowed to begin the fightback immediately with the biggest *Militant* meeting ever in East Anglia. More paper sales are planned. Far from being the end of Marxism in Ipswich, the expulsions have inspired new determination among local readers to treble support for *Militant*.

By a Militant reporter

### Militant Readers Meeting

Tuesday 7 October  
Manor Ballroom,  
Ipswich  
"Reinstate expelled socialists. Expel the Tories."

Speakers include:  
Theresa Mackay and  
Peter Taaffe

strikes at the root of the commitment to openness, fairness and justice, let alone socialism. It is therefore somewhat hollow for Labour's National Executive Committee to claim that the new procedure provides the "moral and political credibility of its proceedings being seen to be fair, impartial between factions and groups within the party and in line with natural justice."

The NEC has its own powers strengthened by enabling it to make references to the NCC on the basis of complaints from the national or regional organisers (confirming their role as party policemen) or any affiliated organisation. This is to get around the current 'inconvenience' of recalcitrant local parties refusing to carry out expulsions. It was not accidental that the original provisions for party discipline were contained in the rules for Constituency Labour Parties (CLPs), which have always been the basic unit of the party since they were established in 1918. This new move takes the party further towards a centralised disciplinary system—"bureaucratic centralism."

These unprecedented changes are being rushed through the conference without any proper consultation or explanation of the all the implications to the ranks of the party. The proposals were circulated to CLPs during the second week of August! This is not acceptable! Conference must demand that the whole discussion is postponed for a year so that a full debate can be conducted throughout the whole party on the improvements that need to be made. This is the only way for a socialist party to proceed.

By Mike Waddington



# LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE GREETINGS

**Monkwearmouth NUM say: No witch-hunts, Labour to power on a socialist manifesto, reinstate all sacked and victimised miners.**

Chairman-H Dinning  
Secretary-A Mardghum

**ASTMS Shipping and Freight branch Liverpool 618 Support the 47 Liverpool councillors. Reinstatement the socialists and expel the Tories.**

"Fight low pay! Labour to power on a socialist programme" Perry Barr LPYS

**For workers MP's on workers wages Lower Stoke Labour Party**

They've altered all the policies, the flag has changed to grey, but as for stopping Marxism, Vauxhall YS says 'no way'

**Arun District Trades Council Sends greetings to all delegates. For a successful conference—progressive and socialist**

**Greetings from Pakistan's socialist paper—Struggle**

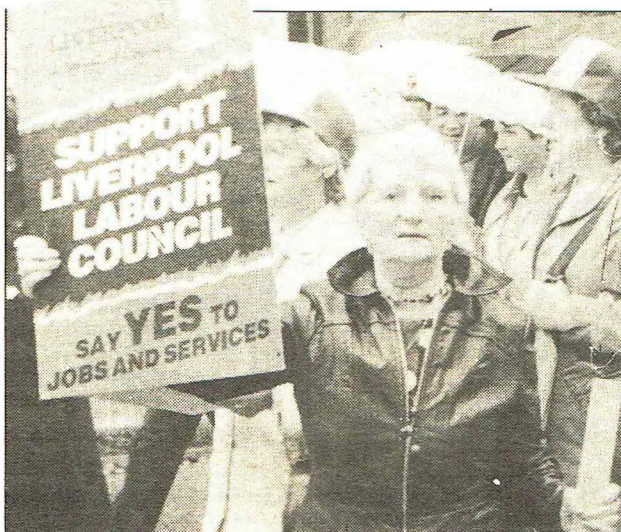
Walthamstow St James Street Labour Party says no to witch-hunts and forward to socialism

**NSSP (London branch) Greetings to Labour Party conference**

West Derby constituency *Militant* supporters say: "No expulsions, unite for a Labour victory"

West Derby North LPYS. Better to break the law than the poor. Defend Liverpool Labour council

**Knowsley North Militant supporters. Kilroy was here. Knowsley North needs a workers' MP on a worker's wage**



Picket of district auditors in Liverpool. Support a fighting Labour council.

Riverside (Liverpool) *Militant* supporters in the Labour Party, trade unions and LPYS call on all socialist delegates to stand by Liverpool city councillors, keep on supporting the reds and don't let the "realistic tendency" grind you down!" Stand and fight!

Polytechnic of North London Labour Club: Education as a right and not a privilege. A Labour government to implement a socialist education programme

Salford University Labour Club greet conference ★ for the Labour leadership of NUS to issue a vote Labour call to its members ★ for a Labour government to reverse all education cuts ★ for democracy in NOLS ★ and a socialist education system

Preston LPYS says Fight low pay Support £115 national minimum wage!

Rochdale Labour Womens Council: Labour to power on a socialist programme



Striking in support of Liverpool council 1985.

Greetings to Labour Party conference from Andover Labour Party, victory to the printers, the next Labour government must reinstate all sacked miners

For a socialist Labour government. Greetings from *Militant* supporters in Neath and Aberavon CLP's

**Wessex Co-op Party Support Silentnight strikers Scab beds out of all Co-op stores**

NALGO *Militants* in Swansea send fraternal greetings. No privatising of services—for the renationalisation of all public assets

"Forward to a socialist MP in Bermondsey" from Riverside Ward, Bermondsey CLP

Fraternal greetings from Moor branch Labour Party Chesterfield—Reinstate sacked miners

**Greetings from Coventry South East CLP Stop the witch-hunt now! Fight for a socialist Labour government!**

Netherley ward expresses its 100 per cent support for our councillor Derek Hatton, and will fight for his reinstatement

**Militant supporters in Coventry South East "For workers' MPs on workers' wages"**



Dave Nellist MP, Coventry SE



# LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE

**MILITANT EDITOR, Peter Taaffe examines the document which the National Executive of the Labour Party will present to the Party conference: "Social Ownership—Vision For the 1990's."**

## Labour's programme - Full social ownership needed



**"LABOUR'S COMMITMENT to public and common ownership is rooted deep in the Party's constitution. In this statement we set out our policies for the social ownership of industry for the next Labour government and beyond." Despite this ringing declaration and the restatement of Clause IV Part 4 in the preamble to the document, the proposals of the National Executive Committee represent an attempt to revise the basic socialist aspirations of the Labour Party.**

The experience and the lessons of the Labour government of 1974-79 is a book sealed with seven seals as far as the right wing majority on the NEC and the PLP are concerned. Moreover the real extent of the crisis of British capitalism, which allows little or no room for manoeuvre for an incoming Labour government, is not grasped fully by the authors of the document (see overleaf).

The bankruptcy of capitalism seems to be recognised in the document when it states "government can no longer afford to abandon responsibility for major economic decisions to uncontrolled 'market forces' ... the growing concentration of ownership and control of industry and finance in the hands of a minority, leads to vast inequalities of power, class and wealth. These are incompatible with democracy and individual freedoms for all."

Unfortunately the authors of the document refuse to draw all the necessary conclusions from their own statements. Their solutions do

not go beyond the framework of capitalism. Indeed it is a step backwards when compared to the programme put forward by the Labour Party in the 1970's and even that for the election of 1979. It does not even give a pledge for outright re-nationalisation of those firms privatised and looted by the Tories.

### Centralisation

There is an incredible and growing concentration of power in the hands of a handful of monopolists. The process which Karl Marx described as the "concentration and centralisation of capital," has been taken to an unimagined extent in Britain at the present time.

*Militant* has pointed out that roughly 200 monopolies control 80-85 per cent of the economy. An examination of their accounts, still shrouded in mystery by so-called 'business secrets', would reveal an even smaller number of companies and thereby their directors controlling the wealth, power and in effect

the political destiny of Britain. There is 'a dictatorship of capital' in Britain to an extent that Karl Marx never anticipated. This dictatorship will compel any government, Tory or Labour, to do its bidding, if that government remains within the confines of capitalism.

The idea that small firms were the lifeline for British capitalism, propounded by Thatcher and unfortunately echoed by the right wing of the Labour Party not so long ago, has been shattered by the recent take-over mania and development of the monopolies in Britain. Without the economies of scale and colossal runs in production only possible on the basis of big industry, British capitalism would be even more outstripped and reduced to impotence on the world market.

Thus James Prior, now safely installed as the GEC chairman, declared: "Britain has a very important decision to take. If it doesn't accept that there have to be a few large companies able to compete internationally, then there will be an inevitable decline in our manufacturing capacity." (*Financial Times* 21/7/86)

More recently ICL, seeking to justify its "joint venture" with the Japanese monopoly Fujitsu, declared "our investment levels

against IBM's are paltry, that's why collaboration is so important."

### Share ownership

The concept of 'wider share ownership' is a chimera, as is the perspective of small businesses to show a way out. The real choice is between private monopolies and 'real social ownership' of these monopolies.

From 1918 onwards the labour movement has recognised that this implies the nationalisation of 'the commanding heights of the economy'. The right wing have always opposed this idea and advanced the concept of 'the mixed economy', that is capitalism. Now, instead of a frontal assault on Clause IV Part 4, there is an attempt to undermine it by 'stealth'.

The justification for this is the unpopularity of the present nationalised industries. Without doubt the nationalised industries, hailed by the workers in them as salvation from the ruination of private ownership in 1948, are not as popular as in the past. They were used to provide cheap gas, coal, electricity to the capitalists. At the same time the undemocratic character of the management boards, the bureaucratic inefficiency and waste were used as a

scarecrow against the idea of a planned economy. More recently the nationalisation of an industry has often been synonymous with large scale redundancies as in ship building, steel and coal.

Not just in Britain but internationally, partial nationalisations, which are in effect measures of 'state capitalism' not socialist nationalisation, have become partly discredited. There has been an attempt to abandon the concept also in Spain, France and even Greece. Papandreou, the socialist prime minister of Greece told the *Wall Street Journal*: "It is a mid-summer night's dream to imagine that the public sector—as it stands today—is in a position to assume responsibilities which belong to the private sector. Models of state socialism are on the retreat."

The pendulum both in Britain and internationally appears to be swinging against the concept of nationalisation. However, the partial measures of the reformists will have the opposite effect to what they intend. At a certain stage there will be an even greater swing towards the left inside the workers' organisations internationally, towards the idea of socialist and democratic nationalisation and a planned economy.

Continued on page 10



# LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE

## Renationalisation no retreat

SINCE 1979 the Tories have denationalised industries with assets of £8.1 billion, and are planning in their last period of office for another £14.1 billion of assets to be handed out to their rich friends in private industry. The more far-sighted sections of the ruling class such as Harold MacMillan have compared this to "selling the family silver." He realises that the public sector has provided an important market for capitalism.

The document correctly points out it has not led to the vaunted 'people's capitalism' which Heseltine has been pressing for. The Tories claim that the proportion of the population owning shares has increased from 7 per cent to 14 to 16 per cent today. But the great bulk of these 'shareholders' hold a handful, sometimes one or two shares, in recently de-nationalised industries. The richest shareholders control the overwhelming bulk of industry, of wealth and of power in Britain.

But the document does not propose even outright renationalisation of British Telecom for example. "Labour will adopt a two stage strategy for bringing BT into social ownership! The first stage—using the government's existing share-holding—will commence as soon as we gain office; the second—legislating for full social ownership—will be undertaken as soon as parliamentary time permits."

Why the prevarication even before a Labour government takes office? After all a Tory government, Heath in 1972, did not hesitate to nationalise Rolls Royce 'overnight'. Enabling measures were put through the House of Commons to bring it into state ownership. Why should a Labour government not act with the same decisiveness with BT?

In the second stage it is promised that "BT will be brought back into full social ownership." The authors wrestle with the dilemma of

how to compensate BT shareholders, without benefiting those who have made massive speculative gains. BT shares were sold at 130p each at the time of denationalisation, but soon shot up to 278p. The document suggests compensation at 130p. But an economic crash at the time of a new government, could send share values plummeting. Would compensation still be at 130p? Other shareholders are offered the prospect of "reinvestment" back into BT.

Thus the principle of complete renationalisation has been abandoned by the NEC. The argument is that this is necessary in order to mollify the 1.6 million shareholders in BT. In so doing the principle of investment by private shareholders in the nationalised industries is conceded.

Experience has shown that the capitalists would not be averse to this. However, they would demand shares in the most profitable sections of the nationalised industries built up at a colossal public expenditure and investment, while the unprofitable sections could be carried by the state and by the taxpayers.

It is necessary to answer the charges of the Tories that Labour wants to "confiscate" all shareholders' assets. Any demand for nationalisation should be accompanied with the idea of compensation on the basis of proven need. Campaigned and explained in this fashion it would be able to meet the objections of the small shareholders.

However, all the signs are that a Labour government will be compelled to retreat even on the very mild and ever so moderate proposals on BT. Mercury, which has cornered a part of BT's market, is already boasting that it will take enormous amounts of parliamentary time in order to carry through the merger of Mercury with a nationalised BT.

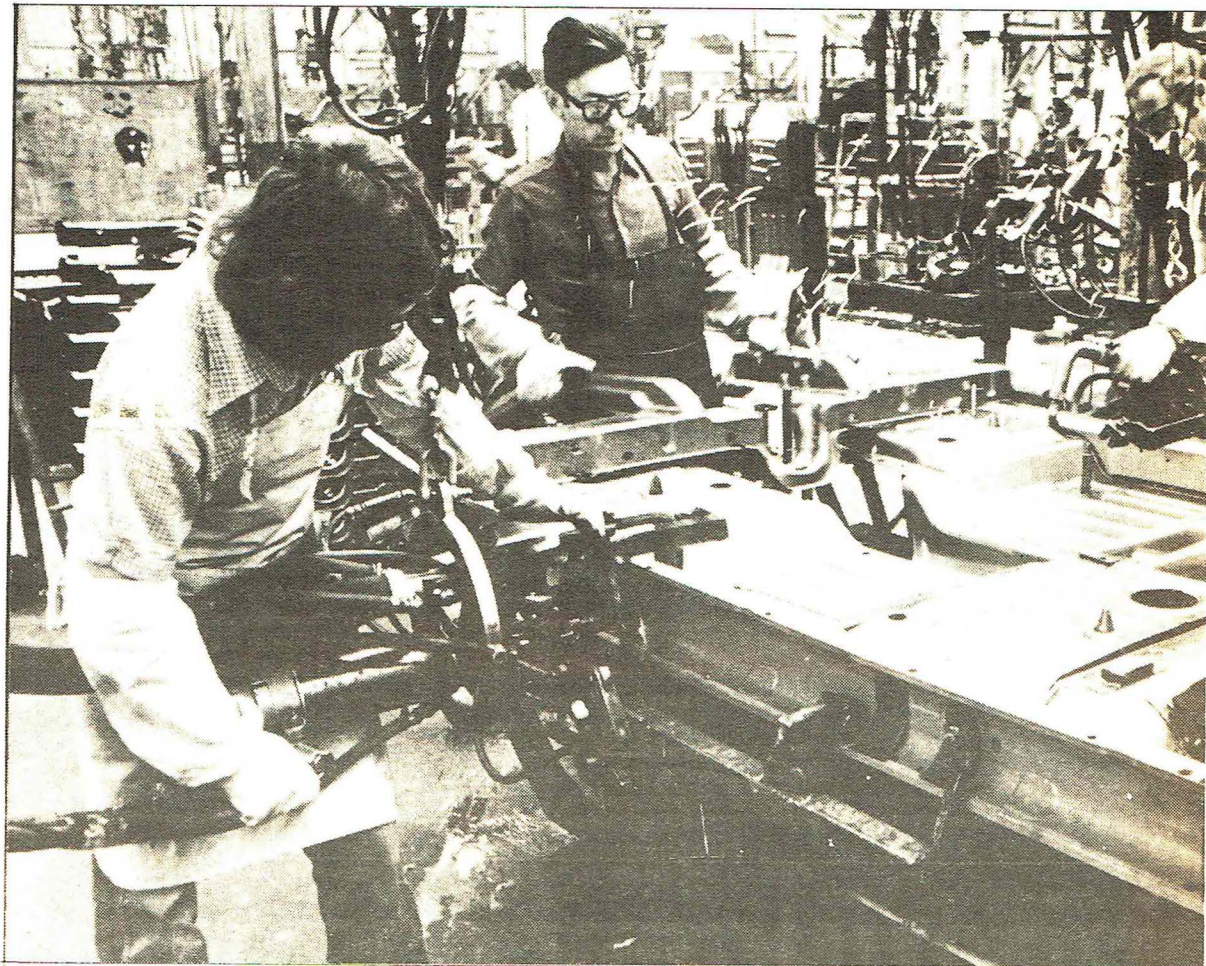
## Sweden—no solution

LABOUR'S NEW document points to Sweden where allegedly "wage earner funds raised by tax on excess profits, derive money for workers to invest collectively. Investments bring with them clear voting right. The funds have given workers a real opportunity to determine investment and priorities and share in the growth of capital."

But these funds have done nothing to alter the crushing power of the monopolies in Sweden. The five biggest companies increased their share of industrial production between 1977 and 1983 from 15 to 25 per cent.

When it was first launched in the 1970's, the leadership of the Swedish Socialist Party promoted the idea of co-ownership of industry through "wage earner funds" and announced there would be elections to the management of the funds.

The reality of the Swedish model is somewhat different to what the authors of the NEC document claim. There were 5 regional funds established and each could purchase no more than 8 to 10 per cent of shares. Theoretically if they voted together they could exercise some power but this has never happened and their sole purpose is to provide a supplement to the state pension funds. The funds are run by professional managers and work by a taxation on income and on profits. So these funds only exist to make profits for pensions; they wield no power and will not do so. They have been told even by the social democratic government that they can acquire no more shares. Thus the example of Sweden, put forward at one stage as the means of 'gradual', 'peaceful' expropriation of big business is an illusion.



British manufacturing industry, essential to the health of the economy, is falling dramatically behind its rivals.

## Full social ownership

Continued from page 9

One thing is certain, the partial measures outlined by the NEC of workers' co-ops, wider share ownership, partial renationalisation and the setting up of some new nationalised firms offer no way forward for the working class.

The document talks about "a productive partnership with the private sector." There is more possibility of getting milk from a bull than the labour movement cementing a "productive" partnership with capital. The only "partnership" that the capitalists believe in is that between the rider and the horse. The monopolies will seek to exert enormous pressure on the Labour government to abandon even the minimal reforms foreshadowed in this document.

It is necessary to restate some of the fundamentals. Where 80 per cent of industry is in the hands of the monopolies and 20 cent in the hands of the state, it will be the 80 per cent that will dictate to the 20 per cent not vice versa. Moreover with the colossal denationalisation the state sector now accounts for much less than 20 per cent of the wealth. Therefore the proposals of the NEC to carry through partial nationalisation, to take a strategic stake in some industries etc will not fundamentally alter the balance of power and wealth in Britain.

Another key element in the document is the proposal for the setting up of a British savings bank described as a "new major socially owned clearing bank." This is coupled with the proposal to establish a new state holding company, "British Enterprise."

These proposals merely repeat the ideas put forward before Labour came to power in 1974-79. The proposed "British Enterprise" is merely a reincarnation of the National Enterprise Board which as originally conceived was far more radical than what is outlined in this document. It was proposed that it should take the controlling interest in 20-25 companies, controlling about one third of the turnover of the top 100 manufacturing companies.

Such ideas dissipated in the first period of the Labour government. £25 million a day was doled out to big business, the net result being a doubling of unemployment and a catastrophic worsening of the con-

ditions of British capitalism. Would BE and one state bank be any more capable of carrying through the thoroughgoing modernisation and regeneration of British industry, promised by Labour spokesmen? Would a new Labour cabinet be any more able to stand up to pressure than during 74-79 when it capitulated to the IMF in 1976, and carried through cuts in government expenditure which paved the way for Thatcherism?

Dennis Healey was promising before that government to "squeeze the rich until the pips squeak." Yet Labour spokesmen like John Smith and Roy Hattersley are supine before the



John Smith—Labour's 'cautious' industry spokesman.

magnates of big business, even before they come to power. Not content with just being wined and dined in the City, Hattersley recently made a trip to Wall Street to "reassure" American bankers about the reliability, from their point of view, of a Labour government.

John Smith declared to a *Financial Times* reporter when pressed about a possible conflict with the city: "I think there has got to be a certain gradualism about this. We're not going for punch ups with the city but we'll be quietly insistent." The Wilson government introduced a capital transfer tax, a partial wealth tax on the rich, and as a result of the pressure of big business 131 amendments were introduced which cancelled out the effectiveness of the measure. John Smith behaves like Robbie Burns' "wee...cowrin, timorous beastie." When pressed further he said "but we shouldn't pretend that the would be government knows all

the answers... we're all very concerned not to repeat the pattern of previous Labour governments where they are sailing on and then bang, they're into a sort of IMF situation. I think we have to be more cautious."

In other words a right wing dominated majority Labour government will abandon any radical measures even before it is faced with an IMF-type situation.

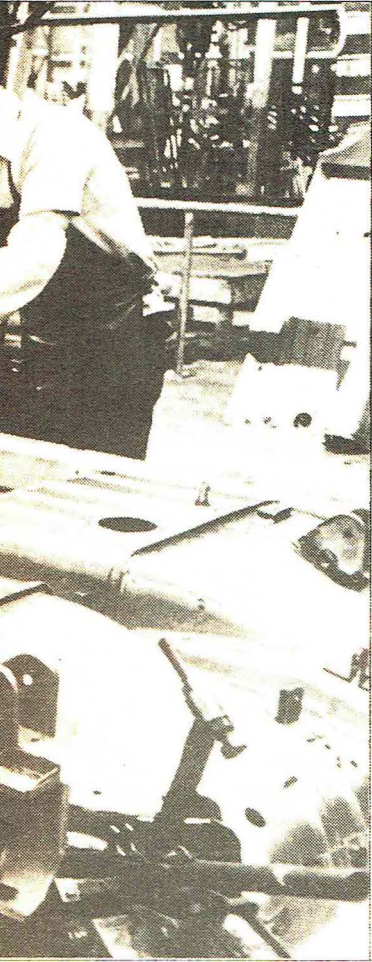
As for British Enterprise taking a "strategic stake" in a profitable industry this would meet with ferocious resistance from the ruling class. They would accept the nationalisation of ruined and bankrupt industries, but touch a profitable industry and a hue and cry would be set up that would make the campaign against the capital transfer tax seem tame by comparison. The NEB was confined to taking over or rationalising bankrupt or near bankrupt firms like British Leyland, Ferranti etc. Moreover its budget did not allow it to take over one really major profitable firm.

To carry through a programme, even if feasible, as sketched out in the document would require a vast budget for British Enterprise. Would it also involve massive loans to allegedly "new industries" such as De Lorean? A total of £85 million was given to De Lorean to set up a factory in Northern Ireland a large part of which was subsequently invested in drugs.

As to the 'radical' proposal to establish a new state bank, West Germany, France and Japan already have similar banks. France went much further than the authors of this document are proposing and nationalised the banks and insurance companies. But, because the main levers of economic power still remained in the hands of the capitalists, the Socialist/Communist government in France, from carrying through reforms, was compelled to carry through counter-reforms. This led to disillusionment, allowed the racist National Front to exploit the dissatisfaction of a layer of the middle class and working class, and laid the foundations for the recent defeat of the workers' parties. France was one third richer than Britain and yet the programme of piecemeal measures proved to be a disaster for the French workers.

In their ignorance, the right wing of the movement are not even aware of the fact that their 'new and modern' ideas are merely a regurgitation of ideas put forward in the infancy of the working class movement, by people like Robert





Exclusive photograph of Peter Taaffe appealing against his expulsion, in a closed session of the 1983 conference, from which the press were excluded.

## British economy in crisis

**THE BONANZA** of North Sea oil has masked the catastrophic collapse of British capitalism, which the Thatcher government has presided over and has aggravated enormously. But now with the collapse in the price of oil the stark facts of the situation are borne in on even the most 'optimistic' capitalist economist.

In 1985 Britain earned a surplus of £8.2 billion from its foreign trade in oil. In the first half of 1986 that surplus shrank to an annual rate of £5.5 billion. For this year as a whole oil's trade surplus is expected almost to halve to £4.5 billion, slipping further to maybe £3.5 billion next year. As the *Economist* said "that on its own would be enough to wipe out last year's current account surplus of £3.8 billion."

But things look even worse. The non-oil deficit widened to £11.4 billion (at an annual rate) in the first part of the year from £10 billion in 1985 as a whole. Imports of consumer goods continue to increase and have jumped by 12 per cent in volume during the past year.

### Foreign investment

The shortsighted British ruling class and its representatives in the Tory government, believed that the £80 billion worth of foreign investments would produce enough foreign earnings to cover any deficit in the current account or the balance of trade. Last year Britain's net 'invisible earnings' (i.e. profits from investment abroad, shipping, banking etc) was £5.7 billion. This was the most earned by any of the big industrial countries. But even the city economists expect that the earnings from 'invisibles' will not be able to cover the deficit in the current account, which could amount to £2 billion in 1987.

The collapse in the industrial base of British capitalism is shown in the fact that in the 1950's exports of manufactures were three times bigger than imports; but by the early 1970's the surplus had already virtually vanished. Import penetration of just finished manufacturing

goods was 21 per cent in 1979, 31 per cent this year and is expected to be 42 per cent in the year 2000 not to mention semi-finished.

The Cambridge Econometrics Group forecasts that there will be "no hope that growth in the service industries can create new jobs on the scale capable of bringing down unemployment." They estimate it will remain at 3 million until 1995 at least. The annual survey by the European Management Forum laments "Britain in further against economic rivals." Not just in the so-called smokestack industries but in the 'high tech' industries. British capitalism is falling further and further behind.

The NEC document correctly states "British industry barely exists. Control of the technology and skills of the future is passing over to foreign hands." Investment back into industry of the surplus extracted from the labour of the working class, which is the engine of capitalism, has slumped by 17 per cent since 1979. As a consequence, according to the annual survey by the European Management Forum, "the UK's major competitors are now the low wage, increasingly productive third world countries because of Britain's specialisation in low value products."

In high tech ICL has been held up as a shining example. Yet the US firm Compaq, after 4 years making personal computers has one third of the sales of ICL which has been established for 40 years. Apple, another American company, only established for 10 years, is larger.

An indication of the dramatic falling behind of British capitalism is shown in the car industry. In 1960 Mercedes Benz was the same size as Jaguar. Now Daimler Benz is fifteen times the size and as large as ICI, while ICI is smaller than two of the top three German chemical companies. Yet Jaguar and ICI are mentioned by *Management Today* as two of the "very few companies that measure up to the best on the continent." Once British companies dominated the top 500 companies outside the US, but now

Japan has a two to one advantage over Britain.

The reliance of the economy on oil is shown by the fact that four out of the top ten companies in Britain are oil companies. Moreover the oil monopolies account for seven out of the top fifteen exporters.

What future will face the British economy and the British people once North Sea oil begins to run out as it will in the early part of the next century?

### Collapsing infrastructure

The collapse of British capitalism has resulted in the delapidation, so evident, in the collapse of the infra-structure. The NatWest bank quarterly review estimates it will take from £3 to £4 billion per annum merely to prevent serious decay in the present infra-structure. Expenditure per capita on construction in Britain is only 30 per cent of that of Japan, 33 per cent of that of Germany, and only 51 per cent of formerly backward Italy. Only Portugal, the poorest country in Western Europe, spent proportionately less than Britain. Public housing expenditure would have to rise by £1 billion per annum from the 1986/87 levels if a massive crisis is to be prevented in the next decade.

The only 'industry' which can claim some success under the Thatcher government is the 'production' of millionaires. There are now 8,000 millionaires in Britain, 3,000 more (40 per cent increase) than when Thatcher came to power.

The richest 20 per cent of the population receive nearly half of the total income of the country. While the poorest 20 per cent of households receive less than the richest half per cent of households.

Under the stewardship of the capitalists the economy and thereby society has been brought to the brink of ruin. Only the most decisive measures can avoid a catastrophe in the future.

### Co-operatives

There are only 10,000 workers in registered co-ops in Britain. There are a quarter of a million as a whole in co-operatives of one kind or another, excluding the UK, throughout Europe. But this is a tiny percentage of the labour force. Undoubtedly faced with the collapse of an industry the labour movement should give critical support to attempts to take over individual enterprises and industries. The demand for a Labour government to take over or assist workers' co-ops will undoubtedly grow. But the example of Meriden and the cop in Kirkby show the impossibility of maintaining, for any length of time, a genuine co-op without succumbing to the inevitable laws of capitalism.

The same timidity is shown in the document in relation to accountability and control in industries that are taken over. It talks about the right to information, the right to consultation and even the right to representation on the management boards of the nationalised industries. But nowhere does it specify the form of control and management which would really make the nationalised industries socially owned. The only way to bring the nationalised industries under the control of the workers in the industry and the labour movement as a whole, is along the lines suggested by *Militant*; one third of the places on the boards to be from the unions within the industry, one third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole and one third from the government. All officials on the boards of these industries to be elected and subject to recall. No elected official to get more than the average wage of a skilled worker.

The greatest deficiency in the document is the lack of perception of the authors of the scale or depth of the crisis which could confront an incoming Labour government.

A world economic recession far deeper and maybe more protracted than that of 1979-80/81 could face it. If not in its first year, then certainly some time within its five year period of office, if it lasts that long, a Labour government would be faced with what Michael Foot called "an economic typhoon."

It will face remorseless pressure from two directions. From the capitalists to carry through further cuts and to hold down the living standards of the working class as a pre-condition to raising the profits of the ruling class. But it will also arouse great expectations amongst the labour and trade union movement. There is no way that the reforms promised by Labour spokesmen can be carried through without the most drastic measures to reorganise the economy on socialist foundations. Neither partial measures of nationalisation nor

workers co-ops, nor the other measures outlined in the document hold the key to answering the problems which will face an incoming Labour government.

### Planned economy

No more would the idea of 'planning agreements' with private industry. Only Chrysler signed an agreement with the last Labour government, as the price for being bailed out.

Writing more than 100 years ago in justification of a planned economy, Karl Marx pointed out: "that the same bourgeois mind denounces with equal vigour every conscious attempt to socially control and regulate the process of production, as an inroad upon such sacred things as the rights of property, freedom and unrestricted play for the benefit of the 'in-

dividualist capitalist'. It is very characteristic that the enthusiastic apologists of the factory system have nothing more damning to urge against a general organisation of the labour of society than it would turn all society into one immense factory." (*Capital Volume II*).

The right wing with their quack schemes accept the permanence of capitalist society—with its periodic crises, overproduction, slump, mass unemployment and poverty for millions. Even in the present 'boom' 20 per cent of industry is left idle because it does not pay the capitalists to utilise it.

Conscious control of industry and society in place of the blind play of productive forces would only be possible on the basis of the nationalisation of the 200 monopolies, banks and insurance companies, and the introduction of

a democratic socialist plan of production.

Merely by marrying together the "idle hands" with the "idle factories", would generate £40 billion of extra wealth.

This would allow the immediate introduction of a 35 hour week, a massive boost in public spending and £120 a week minimum wage. The health service could be given a big injection of resources instead of the present cuts, and a decent pension given to the old and disabled. And all this is without the other advantages which could flow from a planned economy.

A future of undreamed of plenty is possible but only if the NEC and trade unions, together with shop stewards, committees of small business people etc are drawn together to initiate a democratic socialist plan in place of the tame proposals of the NEC.



# LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE GREETINGS

## Garston CLP

Tony Mulhearn—a comrade whose views we continue to hold in the highest esteem. Garston CLP demands that those comrades expelled unjustly be reinstated

## Chile Socialist Defence Campaign

Smash Pinochet dictatorship!  
For a socialist Chile!

*Militant supporters in NOLS (Sussex University) Fraternal greetings to Labour Party conference. Forward to a socialist Labour government*

Militant supporters on the North West Region Labour Women's Committee. For a £120 national minimum wage.

Valley ward Labour Party send fraternal greetings to Labour Party conference. We call for an end to expulsions and the full reinstatement of Tony Mulhearn, over 20 years a class fighter for the Labour Party



LPYS back the printers' fight against Murdoch.

## Marxist supporters in Broadgreen CLP: Defend our MP. We need more socialists in parliament

Battersea LPYS say join the YS, batter the Tories

"They shall not pass" 1936-86 50th anniversary, Battle of Cable Street. Bow and Poplar LPYS say: "Black and white unite, Fight for a future" Support Cable Street demonstration 4 October

Militant supporters in Sittingbourne send fraternal greetings to the Labour Party. No Witch-hunts

Socialist policies will win votes and stop Thatcher  
Greetings to delegates from Arundel CLP  
Friends of Militant

Socialist greetings from Coventry South East Womens Section. End low pay. Fight for £120 a week.

Greetings to conference delegates from Tenantry branch of Brighton Labour Party: No policy compromises! No expulsions! For a socialist programme!

Binley and Willenhall Ward Labour Party  
No to witch-hunts!  
Unity to fight the Tories. Labour to power on a socialist programme

Stevenage branch TASS (Craft Metal Mechanics Sector) send greetings to all comrades at conference. No to witch-hunts, forward to a socialist Labour government

Liverpool University Militant supporters: Stop the witch-hunt, for a Marxist NOLS and a socialist NUS. NUS to campaign for a socialist Labour government to defend education

Littlehampton Branch 1/874 TGWU  
Greets fellow delegates

No nuclear power!  
No radiation leaks: guaranteed jobs for all displaced workers' with no loss of pay, through socialist policies

Moulsecombe ward, Brighton Kempton CLP  
No expulsions!  
Unity for a Labour victory

Broad Left Organising Committee (BLOC) say: The TUC and Labour Party must fight privatisation! No to capitalist trade union laws! Affiliate to BLOC for £10

Liverpool Broadgreen CLP

"Reinstate Hatton, Banister and Aitman." Lift the suspension of the DLP. Fight the Tories, not the socialists!"



## Greetings to conference edition of Militant from:—

Tony Mulhearn, Derek Hatton, John Nelson, Tony Byrne, Tony Rimmer, Frank Mills, Peter Owens, Alan Fogg, Jimmy Dillon, John Humphries, Harry Smith, George Alle, John Brazier, Jacky Crowley,

Jimmy Parry, John Linden, Paul Lucock, Steve Jenkins, Dot Matthews, Peter Ferguson, Paul Astbury, Felicity Dowling, Willie Harper, Harry Keidan, Len Naughalty, Tony Jennings, Dominic Brady

## No expulsions! Full support to Liverpool council!

Fraternal greetings to Labour Party conference

Support 18 October demo

Tories out!

Liberals out!

Forward to a socialist Labour government

For to a socialist MP for Bermondsey!

From Bermondsey LPYS

## Members of the Labour Party Young Socialists National Committee

"We can't wait till '88—Tories out now! For a socialist Labour government"

John Ellen (Chair), Janice Glennon (Vice-chair), Frances Curran (NEC rep), Linda Douglas (NEC elect), Andy Clachers, Tommy Sheridan, Andy Costello, Brian Thompson, Andy Divall, Gary Ironmonger, Mark Meredith, Richard Wheeldon, Paula Hanford, Mark Ovenden, Jess Beishon, Bev Woodburn, John Hird, Paul Ursell.

Stop expulsions! Smash the Tories! West Leeds LPYS

50 years on from the Stalin showtrials—Purge the Tories not the Marxists. Derby and South Derbyshire *Militant* supporters

Sheena McDonnell—Deputy President Portsmouth Poly Students Union and all *Militant* students say: £35 a week minimum grant! Students and workers need socialism!

Greetings to Labour Party conference from World Socialist Books—books service for the labour movement.

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Marxist study guides New improved service now available. Women and the struggle for socialism—40p; Russian Revolution—50p; Introduction to Marxist Economics—50p; Introduction to Marxist philosophy—40p; Marxism and the trade unions—30p; Northern Ireland—40p; Colonial revolution—40p. Please add 10p postage for each pamphlet.

A socialist programme for the left. *Capitalist crisis: 'Tribune's' alternative strategy or socialist plan* by Andrew Glyn £1 plus 20p p&tp.



Support the LPYS!

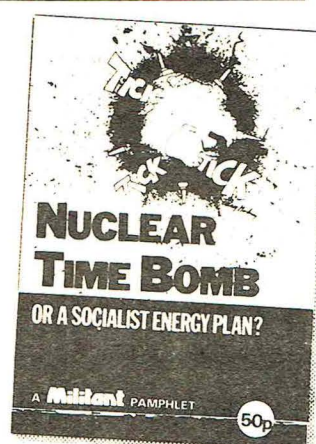
Liverpool Mossley Hill LPYS Support Liverpool City Council, Reinstate Ian Lowes, forward to a Marxist majority on Mossley Hill CLP

West Wales Militant supporters  
Fight the real enemy. Kick out the Tories now. Labour to power on a socialist programme

IRSF London Broad Left Fraternal greetings to all delegates. Inland Revenue delegates say, general election now, Thatcher must go! Political fund this year, Labour Party affiliation next year. No to witch-hunts

ASTMS Militant supporters send greetings to the ASTMS Labour Party delegation. Reminding them that they are attending a socialist party conference.

The Southern African Labour Education Project send fraternal greetings to the delegates and visitors to Labour Party conference. ★ Launch a campaign for workers sanctions, to end the importation of South African goods ★ Build COSATU and a mass ANC on a socialist programme



'Nuclear Time Bomb' 60p including postage. Cheques to World Socialist Books. From 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.



# Labour must enact a legal minimum wage

**THE LABOUR Party conference and the incoming Labour government must seriously address the growing problem of low pay.**

There are now some eight or nine million people living below the official poverty line in this country. Unemployment has played a central part in this process. But equally important has been the increase in the last decade of jobs in the very lowest paid, non unionised sectors of the economy, such as catering and the service industries, whilst the number employed in the well organised manufacturing sector have been reduced.

Contracting out and privatisation of various jobs and services, not only by the Tory government and local authorities, but by private employers, have also been aimed at fragmenting trade union organisation and driving down the rate for the job. Meanwhile, the Tories are stripping away what little protection unorganised workers have through the proposed abolition of the Wages Councils and the introduction of the Wages Bill.

Given this situation, there should have been no question about the recent TUC Congress adopting a policy in favour of committing the next Labour government to the introduction of a legally enforceable, statutory minimum wage as a major priority.

## TUC vote in favour

Millions of low paid workers will be encouraged to know that the TUC Congress voted in favour of such a policy, for: "increasing the number of Wages Council Inspectors to ensure effective enforcement of the law", including higher fines on employers and "renewed determination to prosecute all employers found to be in breach of the Wages Council Orders."

The TUC also "welcomed proposals for a positive framework of laws designed to strengthen union organisation at the workplace" and put forward a statutory national minimum wage as "an essential part of an effective strategy against poverty pay."

The minimum wage should be

By Martin Elvin

according to the resolution 1) phased in, rising from its initial level to reach its target level within a fixed period; 2) raised each year to ensure that its value is protected; 3) calculated at the pro-rata hourly rate for part-time, casual and home workers; 4) effectively enforced with penalties on employers who pay below the minimum.

The policy was carried, but not before several confused arguments were advanced, including some downright divisive and damaging views by the right wing. These issues need to be clarified in order to avoid conflict within the movement in the future.

The TGWU general secretary Ron Todd was concerned that a statutory minimum wage would come to be regarded by employers as a maximum. He was also concerned that trying to enforce a statutory minimum wage would undermine trade union organisation, that it was the task of the trade union movement to tackle low pay and that unions should follow the TGWU's example of conducting a campaign on the issue.

Ron Todd was also rightly concerned that the statutory minimum would lead to the introduction of wage restraint, possibly also statutory restrictions on free collective bargaining and a repetition of the previous bitter experiences which the trade union movement has suffered as a result of these policies under not just Tory, but even Labour governments.

These are issues which the entire labour movement needs to be absolutely clear about. A two fold approach needs to be adopted. Socialists should be prepared to use the law to enforce fair pay. As Rodney Bickerstaffe (Nupe) pointed out, if the Tories are prepared to use the law in the interests of their class then the movement has a right to expect the same from a Labour government. At the same time, however, there can be no illusions that merely passing the right laws can ever be sufficient. Previous laws on equal opportunities, health and safety, prove

the point.

However, such laws can be used to strengthen the position of organised labour and act as a lever, whilst at the same time, only effective trade union organisation and action can ensure that such laws are effective in most cases. There is no alternative or substitute to workers organising themselves through the trade unions and taking up precisely the type of campaigning against low pay, to which Ron Todd referred.

It is that dual approach to the question which the Labour Party TUC statement *Low Pay: Policies and Priorities* addresses itself. It states: "An effective fair wages strategy must be based on the twin pillars of collective bargaining and legislative support." The statement contains such points as: "Collective bargaining by itself will inevitably fail to reach many of those in poorly organised sectors where low pay so often prevails. That is why legislation is needed to underpin our strategy for fair wages. However, this legislation will need the active support of trade unions. For without this support those new rights will, for many workers, remain abstract and ineffective."

## Build up union strength

The Labour/TUC statement also, encouragingly, regards free collective bargaining as the main means to enforce the statutory minimum law and addresses itself to the question of building trade union organisation. "Trade unionists would also need to improve greatly their capacity to organise and represent workers," it says, "especially in small firm/low pay areas."

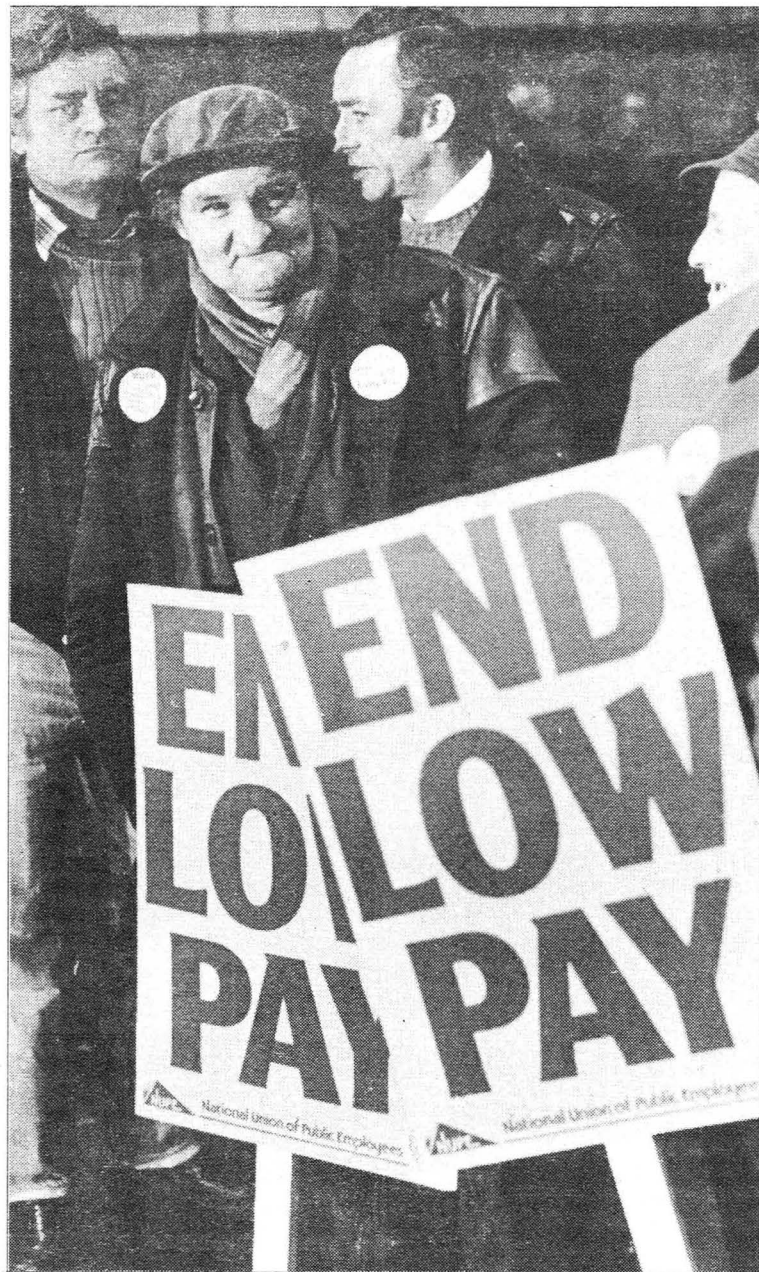
Whilst such statements are to be welcomed however, there are great dangers in the way in which some trade union leaders are becoming more and more dependent upon a future Labour government in order to extend trade union membership into all areas of low pay and poor organisation, rather than depending upon campaigning and collective strength to achieve these gains.

The section dealing with differentials is rather confused. The statement does reject the idea that: "a statutory minimum wage would be of little value because all other workers would move their pay up in line with it."

Indeed some of the worst conflicts over differentials have arisen in the past, during periods of pay restraint, with a general depressing of all pay and workers seeking a way round it. It is therefore good that the statement claims: "collective bargaining has always been at the forefront of the fight against low pay."

Unfortunately in the past that has not been the approach of Labour governments or indeed a number of trade union leaders. On the contrary wage restraint and restrictions on free collective bargaining have been sold to the membership on the basis that it will assist the low paid. In reality that is totally false.

It is therefore alarming indeed that the statement includes the following claim: "It is impossible to eradicate low pay without destructive inflationary consequences, unless there is redistribution of income in which high earners, including those outside the scope of collective bargaining receive smaller increases than the low paid."



Council workers in Harrow in the 1979 low pay campaign. Photo: Militant.

**A statutory minimum wage can strengthen organised labour and also act as a lever, but there is no alternative or substitute to workers organising themselves and campaigning against low pay.**

What is meant here by "high earners"? Many workers, well organised, are high earners compared to the lowest paid. Surely it is not being suggested that one group of workers suffers to assist others. Robbing Peter to pay Paul in this manner would be divisive and damaging. What this is suggesting would put us at the top of the slippery slope to wage restraint and incomes policy. Precisely the dangers that Ron Todd was referring to.

## Minimum of £120 a week

Besides, the point about "destructive inflationary consequences" flows from the utterly false and discredited idea that wage increases and wage levels are the cause of inflation. Or as Harold Wilson once crudely put it: "One man's pay rise is another man's price rise." Nothing is further from the truth.

For once, the EETPU in putting forward a resolution to the TUC Congress favoured the maintenance of free collective bargaining but only in an effort to confuse the issue of the minimum wage. But through that motion being carried, they may unwittingly have done the entire movement a favour.

Already the capitalist class and their loyal spokesmen in the trade unions, such as Eric Hammond, have warned of dire consequences in the implementation of a decent fair living wage for all.

In fact the Labour/TUC statement estimates that a minimum wage of £100 per week would mean in direct costs spread over the economy as a whole a mere 5 per cent.

Some critics have pointed out, introducing a minimum wage wouldn't help the unemployed and others not at work for various reasons and living in poverty. But the onus is on the labour movement to fight also for a pension equivalent to a decent living wage, for "work or full pay" for the unemployed and for other benefit increases.

A minimum wage, not of £80 per week as is being suggested, but of around £120 per week and pro rata on the hourly rate for part time workers would have a dramatic effect for millions of families.

In reality the debate on the question of a minimum wage shows the sickness and inadequacy of the capitalist system from every angle.

Its failure to guarantee a decent living wage, the fact that so many millions are rotting on the dole, and the poverty suffered by single parent non working families are all indications of the rottenness of the system.

The movement must commit itself unequivocally to the immediate implementation of a decent minimum wage of at least £120 per week but it must be linked to an overall socialist programme for the nationalisation of industry and finance and for a socialist planning of production.



"Now is the winter of our discontent." The 1979 low pay campaign involving some of the poorest-paid sections of workers, was opposed by the then Labour government—a position that largely contributed to its defeat a few months later. Photo: Militant.



## South Africa, Chile

# Labour-support SA workers' revolution

**DESPITE THE State of Emergency, the arrest of up to 15,000 activists and the threatening presence of troops in schools and townships, South African youth and workers remain defiant.**

Realising the strength of the state, they have taken new initiatives to try and undermine the regime. Police attacks have been answered with a spreading of the rent boycott, now operating in 48 townships, which has so far cost the government over R300 million.

Soweto Council, now on the verge of bankruptcy, is owed over R22 million. The boycott is continuing.

The youth have worked to strengthen the boycott and protect those threatened with eviction. Their attitude is expressed in a leaflet stating: "We are no longer prepared to finance our own oppression. We won't pay rent. We

By Sean Kelly

won't pay the salaries of our enemies, the puppet councillors and their police."

It was the rent boycott that led to at least 27 killings in White City, Jabavu, after eviction orders had been issued by the "liberal" bureaucrat Del Kevan, a member of the Progressive Federal Party. This battle underlined in blood the need to arm the workers and youth.

## "Fourteens"

At the killings the workers, displaying their solidarity against the state, supported a one-day

stayaway that was 78 per cent successful—the biggest stayaway in Soweto since 1976!

The regime has been shaken by the rent boycott, described by the SA Council of Churches as a "political time bomb which could explode in Soweto and other townships throughout South Africa..." But the only answer of big business is: "the sooner the townships are privatised the better." (*Business Day*, 28 August)

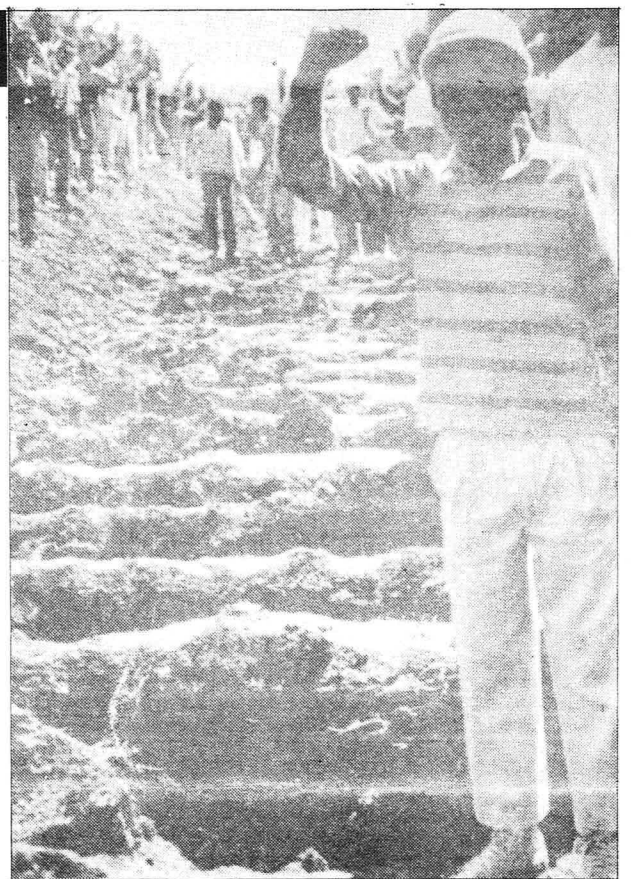
The determination of the youth is summed up by 12-year-old Gilly Nathela from Tumahole township, where the rent boycott began in mid-1984. Gilly is a member of the "Fourteens", a group of about 100 activists, all under 14, who split off from the Youth Congress because "they were all talk and no action". He has been

arrested four times by the Security Police and held in detention for over a month. But this "only makes him more stubborn"!

## Informers

The state is aware of this mood, and this has led them, together with big business, to establish "Reabsorption Camps" to provide "education" for youth released from detention. These camps are used by the authorities to try and recruit police informers.

What the events of the last weeks have shown is a crying need for the ANC to arm the workers and youth with a socialist lead and with weapons, enabling them to seriously challenge the state and prepare for the overthrow of apartheid and capitalism in South Africa.



Comrades salute 15 victims of the White City massacre buried on 4 September. The police responded with tear gas soon after the picture was taken.

**THE BRITISH** labour movement, and Dunlop workers especially, will want to show their solidarity with 600 workers on strike at Dunlop Industrial Products in Benoni, Transvaal. They are demanding a backdated 60c an hour pay increase and an annual bonus.

Management wants to close all wage negotiations until 1988. It refuses to negotiate on most working conditions, and threatens to close down part of the plant unless workers

return.

The strike, now in its sixth week, could spread to other chemical and plastic plants, as shop stewards of the Metal and Allied Workers' Union and the car workers' union, NAAWU, have decided to organise solidarity action with the Dunlop workers and their union.

Messages to: Chemical Workers' Industrial Union, Harrister House, 65 Harrison Street, Johannesburg, South Africa.

## Mass movement call for arms

**WEEK AFTER** week, new atrocities by Botha's regime remind British workers of the horrors of life under the apartheid dictatorship.

Since September 1984, over 2,000 people have been killed in struggle and thousands more injured. Since the State of Emergency was imposed in June, over 14,000 activists have been detained.

But black workers and youth continue to fight with heroic determination for majority rule and an end to capitalism.

British workers will be looking to the Labour Party, and a future Labour government, to give the strongest support to this struggle. There is the need to build direct links with workers and youth in South Africa; to campaign for workers' sanctions against the apartheid bosses; to support the building of a mass African National Congress on a socialist programme.

## Workers' sanctions

But more than this can be done. Who can forget the events in Soweto last month, when police gunned down 27 people to try and break a rent strike? Who can forget the shocking scenes on TV of state-organised black vigilantes murdering the young comrades of Crossroads, using automatic rifles while the youth had only sticks, stones and guns without bullets?

Black workers and youth desperately need arms to defend themselves and their organisations, in order to build the mass force that can smash the regime. It is time to turn Neil Kinnock's symbolic embrace of ANC President Oliver Tambo at last year's conference, into concrete help.



The youth of Crossroads—facing the armed vigilantes with sticks, stones and their bare hands.

Neil Kinnock and conference must pledge that the next Labour government will help to provide the South African workers with the arms that they are calling for to defend themselves.

All socialists would prefer a peaceful transformation of society. But it is plain that the South African ruling class will not give up their wealth and power, which rest on the enslavement of black workers, without a tremendous struggle—using the full force of the state.

South Africa spends over R6 billion a year on arming the state to the teeth. While it is the 20th largest economic power in the world, it is the 10th largest producer of arms.

In Crossroads, groups of armed youth, trained and disciplined, under the direction of the workers' movement, could have been organised to secure a victory over the reactionary vigilantes. Instead over 50 died, and a staggering 80,000 were made homeless.

In Soweto, the effective organisation of armed self-defence could have taught the trigger-happy state forces a lesson.

Over the last two years, at mass demonstrations and funerals, youth have organised and marched in military formations, often with wooden AK47s, calling desperately to be armed by the ANC. Workers internationally must respond to this call!

## Bombs

Unfortunately the ANC leadership encourage the youth to turn, instead, to guerilla methods—amounting, in practice, to bombs in supermarkets, Wimpy Bars, etc. Such methods provide no defence for the mass movement, and do not weaken the regime.

They merely cement white support for the government, and drive the state forces to new excesses. We must condemn these methods, and urge the ANC leaders to arm the workers and youth.

The huge general strikes on May Day and 16 June did more to frighten the bosses and the regime than 25 years of guerilla struggle, despite all the heroism and self-sacrifice of individual Umkhonto we Sizwe fighters.



South African riot police, armed to the teeth.

1986 is the 50th anniversary of another heroic working-class struggle—the Spanish Civil War, when workers internationally not only donated armaments but sacrificed their lives in joining the Spanish workers' fight against the fascists.

The next Labour government must act in this tradition. It must break with past practises of collaboration with the apartheid regime. It must end diplomatic relations with Pretoria and mobilise the whole labour movement to impose economic sanctions.

Equally vitally, it must respond to the need for material assistance, including arms, of the mass movement inside South Africa fighting for workers' rule, democracy and socialism.

By Julie Frost  
(NOLS National Committee, personal capacity)

## Solidarity with Chilean socialists

**THIS YEAR'S** Labour Party conference must again serve as a forum not only to expose the plight of workers around the world, but also to show the political way forward to the overthrow of dictators, such as Pinochet in Chile, and the socialist transformation of society.

As a means of solidarity with the Chilean workers in struggle the Labour Party Young Socialists have created the Chile Socialist Defence Campaign.

The CSDC has now come under attack from the right wing on the NEC as part of their generalised witch-hunt against rank-and-file socialists in the

party. Delegates and visitors are called on to support the work of the CSDC, and oppose the activities of those who are prepared to forego their internationalist responsibilities.

The CSDC stands for:  
\* building direct links between British and Chilean trade unionists;  
\* the immediate severing of diplomatic and commercial links with the Chilean regime as soon as Labour comes to power;  
\* a democratic, socialist Chile.

Donations and requests for speakers to: CSDC, PO Box 448, Emma Street, London E2.



# "Communist" defends Liberals, attacks Labour

Dear Comrades,  
In the *Militant v Marxism Today* at the *Militant* weekend school, Monty Johnstone of the Communist Party called for all Marxists (including CP members presumably) to work hard to bring about a Labour government.  
This has not filtered through to the local CP branch in Walsall, who last week stood against Labour

in a crucial council by-election in the Bloxwich East ward which Labour lost in May by only 37 votes!  
From 1982 to 1986 Walsall council was controlled by an "Anti-Socialist Coalition" of Tories, SDP/Liberal and Independents, even though Labour was always the biggest party with at least 24 councillors.  
In May Labour gained six

seats, so the council was split evenly with 30 Labour and 30 "anti-socialist". Labour gained control only by the casting vote of the Labour mayor. Then, an independent councillor died, if Labour won the by-election, they would have an overall majority.  
In his by-election campaign, the CP candidate concentrated his attack on

Labour rather than the Tories. Their election agent wrote to the local press (including the scab *Express and Star's* free sheet) to explain why they stood a candidate. Apparently the Communists were exposing the lack of democracy in our electoral system!  
What were these threats? The unelected directors of banks and industries? The unelected judges and senior civil servants who can disqualify elected councillors? No fear! What the CP "couldn't stomach" was that the Labour group used the mayor's casting vote to keep Liberal councillors off the main Policy Committee! They also tried to exploit

opposition to the £1 rent rise that the Labour group's right majority had forced through, even though it was against the suspended Borough Labour Party's policy. The CP ignored the fact that the Labour candidate was a left-winger who has always voted against rent rises in the Borough Labour Party meetings.  
Despite the Communist Party's adventure, Labour won the by-election by 334 votes... and the Communist Party? They got 18 votes.

Yours fraternally  
Nigel Wheatley  
Walsall

## Lesson for British Rail on fares

Dear Comrades,  
British Rail had a 'network day' in the South East last week. You could travel anywhere in the South East or London for £4.  
Trains into Waterloo were packed to capacity. Some comrades coming up for the Marxist Weekend School couldn't get on the trains.  
Perhaps BR bosses could learn a lesson. Cheap fares mean more customers even in the soft south!  
Yours fraternally  
Jacqui Mendoza  
Bracknell

# Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

Militant,  
3-13 Hepscoth Road,  
London E9 5HB

## The firm smack of royalty

Dear Comrades,  
Last month the *Daily Star* had an earth shattering story on all its front three pages. Under the headline "Prince hanky spanky", the *Star* told us how Princess Diana spanked her own son William for being a naughty prince.  
An expert Dr Vernon Coleman was wheeled on to explain just how right Diana was: "If young William is to grow up into a good caring responsible King then he needs to have his bottom smacked occasionally."  
What? Is that the only qualification you need? I always understood you had to be wise, kind, rich and directly descended from William the Conqueror. Is it true that all you need is a smacked bottom? The nation must be told.  
PS: Would it be cynical to suggest the *Star* ran this rubbish to distract attention from other news that day about Sellafield leaks, Northern Ireland and Tory splits?  
Yours fraternally  
Pete Naylor  
Winsford

## Private contractors demand council takeover

Dear Comrades,  
Tory Environment Secretary, Nicholas Ridley, is planning a bill in parliament to force local authorities to privatise sectors such as street cleaning. Some councils, such as Wirral when it had a Tory majority, have already privatised such services.  
But, at a recent council committee, Waste Management, the company which won the street cleaning contract said that they were no longer interested in running this service because they couldn't make any profits from it.  
However they also insisted that if they gave up this service they would want the council to run it again, as they didn't want any of their competitors to step in.  
Presumably, if the Ridley bill had already been in operation, and none of these private companies had wanted to take over the service, then the streets in the Wirral would have been left uncleaned, after Waste Management abandoned it.  
Yours fraternally  
Dave Clark  
ASTMS



Waste disposal—no brass in moving muck?

## Safe in her hands

Dear Comrades,  
The same day as Edwina Currie invited the TV cameras to film her receiving the news of her appointment as a minister for health, I also received an appointment—from the health service.  
My son James has eczema. His appointment at the hospital for treatment is on 23 January 1987. For six months he will suffer constant discomfort and irritation and there's nothing I can do about it.  
You can imagine how convinced I was when Edwina said on the BBC News, 'We are spending much more on the health service, it's getting better all the time.'  
Yours fraternally  
Cheryl Varley

## Classified ads

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 first post on Friday, the week before publication.

- CONGRATULATIONS to Judy and Dave on the birth of a baby daughter on 19 September.
- DAVE Milsom and Sharron McDermott wish to announce their marriage on Saturday 27 September.
- SALEP broadsheet *Workers and youth direct links campaign 1986*, 20p plus p&p from: PO Box 77, London E8 4TB.
- Militant Rally in the Albert Hall: Can all parents who will require crèche facilities during the rally on 16 November please contact the Rally crèche, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB for a crèche booking form.

- NUJ Broad Left presents Ragged Trousered Cabaret. Starring: Some like it Hot, Sheila Hyde, P.R. Murry, Ian Saville. Albany Pub, Great Portland St (opposite tube station), private room, bar, dance floor. Saturday 11 October, 8pm 'til 12. Tickets £3.50/£1.50 unwaged, £3 in advance from NUJ BL. Wapping strikers free.
- Edinburgh comrade seeks accommodation in London for September 28. Phone Kevin: 031-339 3097.
- CONGRATULATIONS to Jeff and Cath Cuthbert on the birth of their daughter.
- Brilliant social: Battle of Cable Street. 4 October. Free food, free wine, free beer, free crèche, all night. Very late bar disco, lounge. £3.50 (UB40) £5.50 (waged minimum) Donation to Fighting Fund. Contact Tommy Carroll or Phil Cooper, Broadgreen, Liverpool. Crash accommodation available
- Out now! Lenin and Trotsky on Rosa Luxemburg. 4 articles 25p (40p including post) 5 copies-£1.50. Read it before you see the film! Order from World Socialist Books, 3/13 Hepscoth Road, London E9 5HB.

### Militant Meetings

- Derby "Which way forward for Labour?" Speaker: Chris Fernandez, Labour Party youth officer, personal capacity. St Anne's Hall, Leaper Street, West End Estate. 7.30pm. Thursday 2 October.
- Sittingbourne Marxist discussion group. Every second Tuesday at 29 Waterloo Rd, Sittingbourne, Kent. For further details ring Sittingbourne 72632.
- Caerphilly Marxist discussion group. Working Mens Hall, Caerphilly, every Monday 7.30pm.
- Militant Public Meeting. Tuesday 30 September 7.30pm. Wakefield Labour Club. Tories Out! Labour to power on a socialist programme! Speakers: Keith Narey, Kevin Mullins (COHSE), Gary Ironmonger (LPYS National Committee).

## "Marriage" of convenience

Dear Comrades,  
I recently lost my job at the local bacon factory and obviously signed on and had to claim rent as I share the flat with my girlfriend.  
I hardly got any rent allowance because they took my girlfriend's student grant into account and classed us

as "common law" husband and wife.  
Anyway, on discovering I was married, I then went to the local tax office to claim a chunky tax rebate because while working I was classed as single.  
This was not to be as I was informed the DHSS work

things out different to the Inland Revenue. So it was "no money for you, you're single." A very short marriage. Very convenient, working people lose both times.  
Yours fraternally  
Andrew Barney  
Scarborough LPYS



Down at the race track, eating and drinking. Life gets tough at the top. Photo: Philip Gordon (Reflex)

## Champagne—opium of the bosses

Dear Comrades,  
An article in a local paper recently said that the UK was importing more champagne than any other country. In the first six months of 1986 Britain imported 4.6 per cent more than the same period last year. This worked out at 7.3 million bottles.  
The article said that it was the 'British' who were drinking 'record volumes of champagne' but failed to mention that the number of millionaires in Britain had increased from

4,000 to 20,000 in 4 years! Or that millions live on or beneath the poverty line.  
Of course, had they said this they would have had to tell us who was really swilling down the bubbly. Maybe the ruling class are just trying to stay continually drunk so they don't wake up to the fact that their system is in such a mess.  
Yours fraternally  
Mara Dale  
Isle of Wight

## Nuclear power doesn't figure

Dear Comrades,  
Nuclear energy is an ideal source of electricity... for the bosses. Its day-to-day costs are probably less than for coal fired stations, although the figures provided by the Electricity Board (CEGB) are unreliable.  
But the cost of building a nuclear power station is much greater than the alternatives. The CEGB use an accounting system which, by not allowing fully for inflation, discounts this. So the early and expensive years of a nuclear plant appear cheaper than they are, since they are calculated at lower prices.  
Closing down a nuclear power station is also expensive. Just how costly is uncertain, since no one has yet worked out how to dismantle a building, large parts of which are radioactive, and store those parts for hundreds of years.  
Costs such as these, and the costs of 'unforced' accidents all boost the cost of atomic power, but they are borne not by industry but the tax payer. So these nationalised industries are being run in the interests of big business. When the entire power industry is nationalised under workers' control, we can guarantee safe jobs and cheap energy for all.  
Yours fraternally  
Pat Bell  
Gower CLP  
personal capacity



## Northern Ireland

# Workers' defence against killers

**RAYMOND MOONEY, a 33 year old catholic was shot dead by the 'Protestant Action Force' on Tuesday 16 September in the North Belfast Ardoyne area.**

Just over 12 hours later another catholic, Joseph Webb aged 28, was shot dead by a loyalist gunman in Smithfield market near Belfast city centre.

Raymond Mooney was a member of the NI electrical branch of APEX. He was a trade unionist for 13 years, a shop steward for 9. These killings have been claimed by the UVF/PAF in retaliation for the killing of UVF leader John Bingham by the IRA. Bingham was alleged to be responsible for the killing of five catholics recently in the north Belfast area and the ultra extreme loyalist bigot George Seawright had called for revenge for Bingham's killing.

Other individuals have been shot, or had narrow escapes. In East Belfast a catholic was shot twice. In North Street near the city centre, loyalist gunmen fired six shots at two catholic shopworkers.

Behind these bloody

By a Belfast correspondent

headlines, sectarian violence, burnings and intimidation continue. The Tories and the Fine Gael dominated coalition government in the south of Ireland try to argue that the end of Northern Ireland's summer "marching season" has seen off the worst of the loyalist violence; this is a pipedream.

The Ulster Clubs and other loyalist organisations have raised the possibility of a week long stoppage to coincide with the first anniversary of the Anglo Irish Agreement. If this goes ahead it will undoubtedly spark off an even bloodier cycle of sectarian violence.

Ten months of the "agreement" has already produced a setback for the working class in the north. The threat of further widespread sectarian violence and killing is

a warning to the labour movement of the need to pose a socialist alternative to the failed agreement between the British and Irish Tories. The movement must also face the problem of physical defence of workers faced with sectarian attack.

These are concrete and immediate issues. The so-called security forces offer no protection to workers. Nor can the paramilitaries. The defence of workers' lives can only be carried out by the working class itself. Workers in Legoniel in north Belfast have already organised the defence of their area.

## Constant threat

Similar developments could provide for defence of all areas under attack. Trade union members and those at work are also under constant threat. Trade unionists must also establish defence committees in the workplaces.

The trade unions should then take the initiative of coordinating the community defence organisations with



Orangemen march in Portadown.

Photo: Martin Shakeshaft (IFL) II.

the workplace defence committees. A genuine non-sectarian workers' defence force could be built in this way. This sort of body is the only force which could gain the respect of all sections of the working class and thus have the power to stop the killings and defeat sectarianism.

But socialists need to combat not only sectarianism but the system which breeds it. Capitalism is the root of sectarianism; the bosses have used sectarianism in the past to divide workers. The unions must link the need for defence with the political struggle against capitalism, north and south of the border and in Britain.

For 17 years *Militant* has consistently explained that there is no capitalist solution

to the problems of Northern Ireland. For 60 years a capitalist Northern Ireland has meant poverty, unemployment, discrimination and repression. It can never be made "acceptable" to the catholics. As long as it remains it will be unstable.

For protestants, too, 60 years of unionism has also meant poverty and unemployment. For all this a capitalist united Ireland holds out no attraction for protestant workers. They see only a backward poverty ridden sectarian state where they would be a discriminated against minority.

If they were forced they would resist, and that resistance would not be based on an abstract constitutional veto but on the reality of 120,000 guns held in protestant hands, leading to civil war and the bloody repartition of the country.

## Class unity

The only alternative to this grim prospect is the unity of the working class in the fight for socialism. Capitalism can not solve the problems of poverty and unemployment. The labour and trade union movement grew up in Ireland, as throughout the world, precisely to do this. The workers' movement has tremendous potential strength, so we should put no trust in capitalist parties

to solve the general political questions. Sectarianism, repression and the national question are also only solvable by the organised working class. Our movement can only go forward when a clear independent class position is adopted. The alternative is to let the bosses use these issues to divide the workers.

The Labour Party needs to reject the Anglo Irish agreement and counterpose to it a socialist solution based on the workers' movement in these islands.

This presupposes implementing the decisions of the 1981 party conference with support and sponsorship for convening a conference of labour in Northern Ireland. The aim of the conference would be to establish a mass trade union-based Labour Party, which could unite all workers by taking a class approach and campaigning against unemployment, poverty, sectarianism and repression.

Instead of the bosses' Anglo-Irish agreement the labour movement should launch the struggle for a "socialist united Ireland and a socialist federation of Britain and Ireland." But time is not unlimited. The labour movement can intervene and cut across the bigots. But the longer it delays the more perilous the situation becomes for the working class.



N Ireland trade unionists demonstrate against 25 per cent unemployment

## Shadow elections dodge women's issues

THE SECTION of the agenda which should be dealing with the vital work of building a fighting Labour women's organisation is again dominated by the election of the five women's seats on the NEC.

### Shadow elections

The shadow elections conducted at the national women's conference were ignored by *Militant* supporters and although the union delegations picked up their ballot papers all but one

spoiled their papers in protest against the elections.

These elections are just one of the reasons why there are demands for reviewing women's conference and the national women's committee. There is a growing mood in the union delegations, shared by some women's sections delegates, that issues of importance to working class women have been neglected in favour of organisational issues.

This has been exacerbated by the under-representation of trade union women

delegates in relation to voting. Women's Action Committee (WAC) have submitted amendments suggesting areas of change. But the rank and file of both the Labour women's organisation and the unions need to discuss fully the political role and future of the LWO.

There needs to be a full consultation exercise to work out what democratic changes we need to ensure its real role is carried out as a mass force fighting for a socialist society.

## Scrap nuclear power now

LABOUR'S programme to phase out nuclear power 'over decades' is not enough. In that time many more Chernobyls could happen—and it could happen here.

According to *New Scientist*, engineers meeting in Vienna were told that Chernobyl came close to exploding like a nuclear bomb, when the chain reaction ran out of control. The result could have been far more devastating. Although British reactors are of different designs there is no guarantee that an equally serious accident could not happen here, as the right wing trade union leaders have claimed.

Nuclear power is inherently unsafe and must be scrapped. Greenpeace have recently published a report arguing that nuclear power could be ended within four years, a suggestion dismissed as "rubbish" by the CEGB.

But a labour movement inquiry into nuclear power which must be set up by a Labour government, could establish the quickest and safest means of ending nuclear power. Investment must be switched immediately into alternative methods of energy production such as the more efficient fluidised bed coal power stations, combined heat and power plants, and wind and wave power. Above all there must be guaranteed alternative work for displaced workers at the same rate of pay.

But capitalism won't let go of nuclear power unless the system is challenged. A socialist energy plan must be based on a fully nationalised and integrated industry under workers' control capable of planning investment and developing safe energy as part of a socialist planned economy.

### Labour and Trade Union Group Public Meeting

"The Future for Northern Ireland—socialism or civil war?"  
Monday 29 September, 7.30pm  
Hear: Terry Fields MP  
Kate O'Hanlon (LTUG)  
Venue: Carlton Hotel, North Promenade, Blackpool.

### Send donations

FINANCIAL SUPPORT for the Labour and Trade Union Group in Northern Ireland is still urgently needed. Please send donations to 4 Waring Street, Belfast and take out solidarity membership of the LTUG at £2 a year.



# Industrial Reports

## Union activists say— reject Murdoch's offer



NUJ members on Wapping demonstration on 13 September. Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report).

THE FOCs and MOCs (print union lay officers), sacked by Murdoch, have called unanimously for a 'No' vote against the latest proposals to solve the Wapping dispute.

This offer is no better than the earlier one which was correctly thrown out. The national leaders of Sogat want this dispute finished. They, it seems, are willing to sacrifice nearly everything to gain this end.

But Murdoch has conceded nothing—there will be no jobs or union

recognition. If Sogat's leadership are unwilling to effectively prosecute the strike which has been blatantly obvious for a long time, the strikers must take firm control.

Renewed calls are being made on the TUC, following the resolution at the recent congress, to take action against the EETPU. They should at least be immediately suspended. The example of the Norwegian union should be copied.

EETPU leader Hammond was due to be a fraternal speaker at Norway's electricians' union conference but the

meeting was lobbied by Norwegian printers and they withdrew the invitation.

But after eight months of struggle there is a burning necessity to escalate the action. There must be an extension of the dispute into the whole of the print industry.

Resting on the outcome of this battle will be the print bosses' attitude to starting further attempts to wreck the print unions.

By Peter Jarvis (INGA personal capacity).

## Silentnight strikers still want their jobs back

STRIKERS AT Silentnight Beds, sacked in July 1985 for taking industrial action, were surprised to read newspaper headlines last week, saying "Sacked workers want £1m pay off."

This was the message which emerged after six hours of talks organised by the 'conciliation' service ACAS, between Silentnight management and the Furniture Timber and Allied Trades Union (FTAT). They aimed to resolve the dispute, but ended in deadlock.

According to Colin Christopher, who will succeed Ben Rubner as FTAT general secretary next month, the issue of compensation for the strikers was raised during the talks. When Silentnight asked union leaders to set a figure, Ben Rubner mentioned £1m as a possibility.

Unfortunately, this gave the press the chance to tell the public that Silentnight strikers are willing to be bought off. A financial settlement of £1m was never put to the strikers themselves before the ACAS talks, and the union leadership say this was because no such offer was actually being made by them.

In any case, the figure represents only £2,900 for each sacked worker—hardly adequate compensation for being thrown out of a job and spending 15 months in dispute.

Strikers feel that the union should not have mentioned a settlement figure at all but should have forced manage-

ment to make an offer. And strikers insist that they are still seeking reinstatement for all sacked workers.

Silentnight management have now made a new offer that is worse than their previous one. In May they proposed that, if the dispute was called off, strikers could apply for jobs in the Silentnight group though without any guarantee that they would get them.

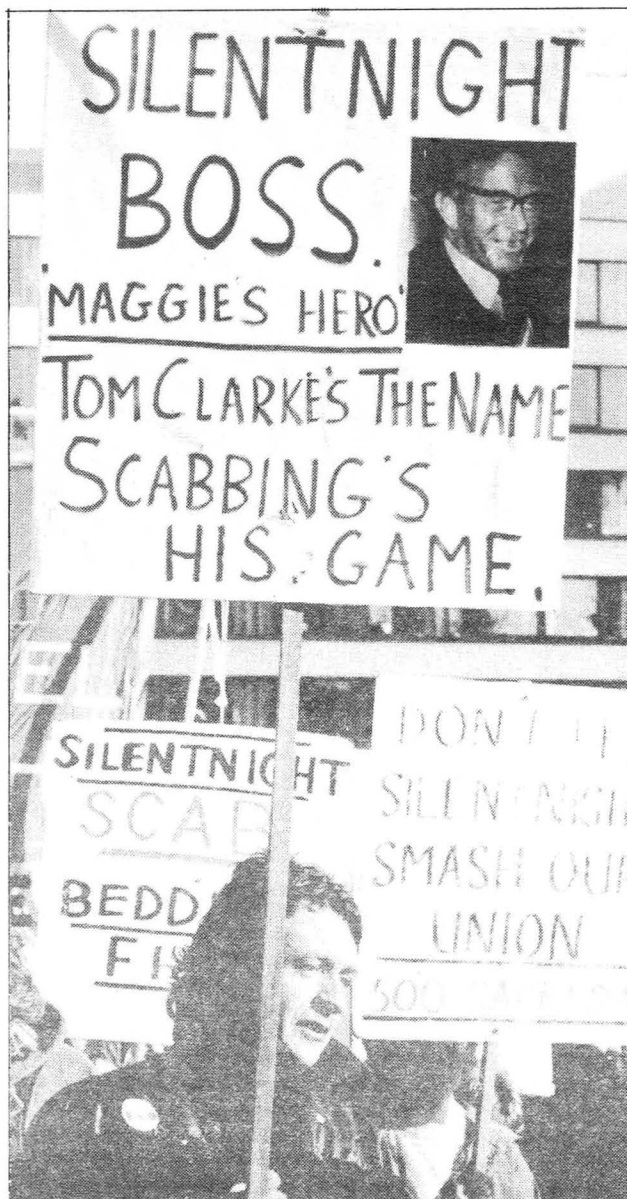
The new proposal is not only that the dispute should be called off, but that it should be followed by a three month "cooling-off" period. After then workers could apply for any vacancies that arose, but would still not have first refusal on future jobs.

According to Colin Christopher, Silentnight admitted during the talks that piece rates are, in fact, linked to pay rises under the terms of the national wage agreement—the issue over which the workers came out on strike in June 1985.

Such an admission by management should have spurred the union leadership into pressing forward with the demands agreed with the strikers—full reinstatement with compensation.

Next week strikers will be lobbying Labour's conference where a number of Labour Party constituencies have resolutions calling on the movement to pressurise the Coop to introduce national blacking of Silentnight products.

By Linden Stafford



Please send all donations to: Strike fund, Strike HQ, 9 Frank Street, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancashire BB8 5AE (Telephone: 0282 816709).

## Nove Leather injunction

NOVE LEATHER boss Ron Novelli has been granted the inevitable High Court injunction which every reactionary employer is certain of winning in the Tory courts.

The action was brought against Liverpool City Council, the owners of the factory unit housing the Nove Leather works. The injunction poses tremendous dangers for any other workers employed on council property. Incredibly the injunction restrained picketing not only from the fourth floor Nove premises but even on the ground floor loading bay.

After discussions between the TGWU and City Council it was agreed to withdraw pickets from the fourth floor and continue picketing out-

side the Canning Place premises. If picketing had continued on the fourth floor Nove stood to gain £91,000 in damages from the City Council.

In another attack on pickets, shop steward Janet Bowman and deputy steward Dave McFarlane were arrested by the police for alleged "harassment" of scabs, they were locked up for three hours before being released. No charges have so far been made.

However, two days after Nove's successful court injunction the smile froze on Ron Novelli's face. After weeks of pressure his main customers Littlewoods are now refusing to take any more products from Nove until the dispute is settled. So now the future is clear—either Nove negotiate with the union or go under.

## Walton Hospital strike

ON MONDAY all Walton Hospital ancillary staff took 24 hour strike action against the threat of privatisation of the domestic service. Three busloads travelled to Salford to picket the RCO contract cleaning firm that won the contract at the nearby Fazakerly hospital.

While the pickets waited outside, stewards met RCO management. Eileen Roberts, NUPE steward told me she had told the RCO management: "You won't walk straight into Walton hospital like you did in Fazakerly. We'll be outside fighting all the way to get back inside, RCO said they'd be prepared for that."

Eileen also spoke of the inhouse tender. "We're going to fight the Health Authorities as well as the

private contractors. If we agree to work to the Health Authority terms they'd have us working for nothing. Everything we've fought for over five years will be gone.

"But if we have a turnout like today and the unity of all the ancillary workers we'll show the health authority and private contractors what a fight is. We need to take action before they attempt to go in on 27 October.

"The next Labour government should condemn privatisation in any form. Authorities should employ direct labour to ensure that jobs are done properly."

By Ann Bannister  
(Labour Party North West  
Regional Women's  
Committee)

## Vauxhall, Luton

THREE TO four weeks ago, six workers at Vauxhall's plant in Luton were sacked following a walkout over a safety check.

On 24 September a mass meeting discussed the case of the sacked men. Although the mood of many at the meeting was for immediate action, the successful resolution called for the national officers to be brought in with the power to call for whatever action was necessary.

This comes at a time when General Motors are looking more closely at their European car operations, in particular with the proposed closure of their trucks division at Luton.

Workers at Vauxhall's need to defend their jobs against GM's heavy-handed tactics.

## CSEU's new unrealism

THE LOBBY of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) on 25 September must start the campaign to block their signing of a draft agreement with the Engineering Employers Federation.

Such an agreement would in effect set trade unionists' working conditions back 100 years. In exchange for an unspecified reduction in the working week, the "new realists" in some union leaderships are prepared to sign away:

a) Job descriptions.

This would allow employers to demand that workers do any job "within their capabilities" whether it is part of their normal work or not and regardless of whether it is normally done by a member of another union.

b) Working hours.

Employers would have the right to "dictate production hours" ie shift work and unpaid overtime. Theoretically engineers could be working 20 hours a week in slack periods and 60 in times of great demand. This could not only end overtime but mean a massive loss of jobs.

c) National bargaining. Individual employers would have the right to opt out of agreements cutting hours unless workers accept the flexibility agreement at factory level.

Rank and file engineering workers must be made aware of exactly what some of their union leaders are prepared to give away. We don't want engineering workers' conditions and negotiating strength to be reduced to those of unorganised seasonal workers.

By a TASS member



# Industrial Reports

## Miners start the fightback

### Broad Left a great success

**THE FIRST** national Miners' Broad Left conference was a great success with around 120 miners and miners' wives in attendance.

They came from Durham, Kent, Yorkshire, Scotland, Staffs, Warwickshire, North Derby, Notts, South Wales, Northumberland and Lancashire to work out a detailed programme for the left, after a lively discussion.

The central theme was the developing overtime ban. Conference voted to "work vigorously to maximise this action", to support the Durham Mechanics lightning strikes and spread them to other areas.

The rank and file are angry at Haslam's theft of £25 million from NUM members but even more angry at the continued butchery of our industry.

Ian Isaac (South Wales) moved the resolution on Broad Left aims (see below) on behalf of the steering committee drawing on the lessons of the recent struggles especially the successful fight to keep Darfield Main open.

He stressed the need for "continued agitation to build support for the idea of industrial action as the only way to defend the industry."

The miners were confident, determined and proud of their part in launching an open democratic Broad Left. The 'old left' which swept Arthur Scargill to power in Yorkshire and then nationally had very humble origins. The National Miners' Broad Left is *already* the largest political grouping in the NUM.

The 'new' right grouping around George Bolton and other Eurocommunists was roundly condemned for failing to even try to stem the tide of pit closures, even calling for miners to have a "positive attitude" about job losses in Scotland.

No doubt the rank and file of the NUM will be asking whether MacGregor's recent disclosures in his book are correct, particularly the claim that Mick McGahey let slip the NUM's plans for industrial action to a Coal Board senior official who



One delegate, Gary Knowles from Golbourne colliery, Lancashire described the BL conference as "a genuine basis to start building and organising the forces of the left."

### Fight every closure

★ NO PIT closures except on grounds of exhaustion or safety as determined by the NUM.

★ Expose the false financial accounting system of the NCB.

★ For the mining unions to conduct comprehensive economic and geological surveys of all units and known or suspected reserves to arm the membership with the data to tackle the Board on their own terms.

was allegedly a personal friend.

But as Joe Owens (Scottish Area) put it: "the old left is dead." The tragedy is that if the 'old left'/new right have their way a substantial part of the

coalfield may go into oblivion with them. The task of building a fighting democratic Broad Left must start now.

★ Full support at area and national level for all pits opposing the threats of closure.

★ Mobilise the community and labour movement in each battle to defend our industry, both locally and nationally.

★ Link up threatened pits/units in a national co-ordinated rank and file campaign in defence of jobs.

coalfield may go into oblivion with them. The task of building a fighting democratic Broad Left must start now.

By Chris Herriot  
(sacked miner)

### Hucknall must not be ghost town

**THE THREATENED** closure of the Hucknall Babington mine complex in Nottinghamshire by British Coal has not been left unanswered. A public meeting to plan the fightback has been organised for 25 September.

British Coal have given the 1,320 miners the ultimatum—move to North Notts pits or leave the industry. The pits are the largest employer of local men in the area. The choice would be unemployment in Hucknall or leaving the town if anyone could be found to buy the houses.

Either way Hucknall would become a ghost town. Youth unemployment would

shoot up and the area would become dependent on the low wages of textile workers and Linby pit which also has had rumours about its future. Shops would inevitably close with more job losses. Would Presto have opened up if the pit had not been open?

#### Large reserves

Yet there are 20 years reserves at Hucknall. British Coal claims there are unsurmountable geological problems. But only their figures have been heard. The NUM is not recognised and is not given facilities to organise a survey. It appears the UDM leadership knew about the

position in July but no report has been published.

If British Coal claim there is no future for the pit they should let the NUM survey the mine. If the government can spend £100 million bailing out Johnson Matthey bank then what is it worth to save a town?

British Coal look at balance sheets and columns of figures. The cost of closing Hucknall would be misery, heartache and the beginning of the end of the town. The meeting on 25 September can be the beginning of the community fightback.

By Gary Freeman

### Durham votes for action

**MINERS AND** colliery mechanics in the Durham coalfield have once again confounded the 'new realists' by voting for industrial action against British Coal's attacks.

Members of Durham area NUM voted by 4,106 to 1,961—more than two to one—for a midweek overtime ban to be imposed immediately if no satisfaction is received from the NEC's meeting with management on 23 September.

Durham NUM will be pushing for the action to be extended to national level at the national coalfields conference on Friday. Colliery mechanics in Durham, organised separately in the NUM's group Number 1 area, have also voted for action but opted for the tactic of one day lightning strikes pit by pit around the coalfield.

Pickets were on all day on Monday at Murton colliery, the first pit to strike, where an 80 per cent vote for strike action was recorded. The Durham mechanics were balloted in four separate

issues and on each issue a majority was won for strike action.

The first issue was the victimised miners and in particular Geoff Hartnell, a mechanic who won a recommendation for reinstatement from his industrial tribunal. This has been ignored by the Coal Board. 62.8 per cent voted in favour of striking on this issue.

#### "Red alert"

The other issues were pay (67.2 per cent in favour of action), the scrapping by the Board of the conciliation procedure (53.3 per cent) and closure of Seaham colliery (51.4 per cent). These votes reflect the growing frustration at the intransigence of British Coal locally and nationally, described by Durham Colliery Mechanics Association general secretary Billy Etherington as: "the worst management in Europe".

A mood of resistance has been building up, flaring into lightning action over various provocations by

management.

Last Monday at Westoe colliery, South Shields, two miners previously sacked for alleged intimidation picketed the whole pit for 24 hours.

It was reported that even about 70 of the pit's 200 UDM members joined the strike. As one NUM member at Westoe put it: "It's like being in the army here, you are always on red alert, you never know when you might need to go into action."

Significantly the Durham miners are leading the way nationally in action against the Board. In the past both Durham NUM and the DCMA were regarded as bastions of the union's right but both have been transformed through the work of their respective Broad Lefts.

The further growth and development of these Broad Lefts throughout the country holds the key to rebuilding the fight to defend the coal industry.

By Kevin Miles

## JE Hangers Ltd

### Bosses left out on a limb



On the Roehampton picket line. Photo: Stefano Cagnoni (Report).

**THE WHOLE** workforce at the JE Hangers Ltd group factory at Roehampton which supplies artificial limbs has been sacked.

Management demanded impossible times for the job. The limbs had to be built to suit each person's individual requirements.

There was a 'failure to agree' and the workers decided on a voluntary overtime ban. Four shop stewards, three FTAT and one TASS, were then sacked although they were only explaining the action agreed upon to workers who had missed the meetings.

The workforce decided to walk out in support of the sacked stewards when their appeals were rejected.

Management then sacked the entire workforce.

In a ballot, 234 out of 253 workers voted to fight for their jobs. There was an angry mood at the 22 September mass meeting. Impersonal letters headed "Dear Sir..." had been sent out to workers, some with 20 to 30 years loyal service.

#### Support needed

Management have not paid some employees their wages. One worker shouted: "Can we get interest on the money they are holding for us?" Another said "the police have said management are not happy with the number of pickets on the gates, but we are not

happy at being thrown out of our jobs."

Workers are determined to win and want FTAT and TASS to make the dispute official this week. Picketing is going ahead and support is being sought from other JE Hanger group factories at Harold Wood and Richmond. It is generally believed that management provoked a dispute to give them an excuse to close the factory. Hanger is part of a BTR group.

Messages of support and donations to Hangers' dispute, Wessex House, Mitcham, Surrey.

By Dave Gartrell



# Militant

## Liverpool acts on union claim

**IF THE TRADE union block votes at Labour Party Conference genuinely reflected their members' interests, only a small minority would vote to expel *Militant* supporters. In Liverpool alone, several thousand members of the General, Municipal and Boilermakers Union would back their council and its expelled leaders.**

Unfortunately, the general secretary of the GMBATU, John Edmonds, has chosen to ignore the interests of his own members and instead has made a political attack on the council. In a speech at the union congress, he raised once again the old distortion about the so-called "redundancy notices" issued last year and falsely accused the council of using the "weapon of chaos". He accused Liverpool City Council of setting out "impossible demands".

Yet a few weeks ago the local authorities in the North West—80 per cent Labour controlled—met to consider their manual workers' pay claim. *Only Liverpool City Council supported the claim.*

**Trade Union Claim:** Reduction in the working week without loss of pay.

**Liverpool City Council:** 35 hour week with no loss of pay implemented for all staff apart from residential staff and a few other groups.

**Trade union claim:** Increase in holiday entitlement.

**Liverpool City Council:** Additional day granted.

**Trade union claim:** Consolidation of bonus into basic pay.

**Liverpool City Council:**

**By Derek Hatton**

Policy of city council to consolidate all bonus payments.

**Trade union claim:** Paid paternity leave.

**Liverpool city council:** Five days paternity leave introduced seven years ago.

In other words, the Liverpool councillors' "impossible demands" are identical to those of the council unions. By its actions Liverpool city council has shown the benefits of a fighting socialist council. Not only has it built houses and increased its workforce, but it has also materially improved the conditions and wages of its workforce.

This should be used by the national trade union leaders as a model for other local authorities to follow.

Defending the principles they were elected on has led the councillors in Liverpool to be surcharged and disqualified from office. The record of the city council speaks for itself. Workers will judge between the words of John Edmonds and the deeds of Liverpool and its Labour leaders.



Derek Hatton, speaking at rally of Liverpool council workers.

### Broadgreen suspended

JUST AS the party's ranks are being mobilised for battle with the Tories, the National Executive Committee (NEC) has suspended all activity in the key marginal constituency of Liverpool Broadgreen.

Conference delegates will be appalled at the decision by 14 to 7 to declare invalid the constituency party's AGM, suspend all branches and other party units and threaten to disband the party if the suspension is broken.

Broadgreen was won by Terry Fields in 1983 with a 4.5 per cent swing to Labour. The Alliance are on the offensive and by disrupting Labour's fight to keep this seat the NEC's decision will assist

these enemies of the labour movement. Three years ago when the NEC expelled the *Militant* Editorial Board on the eve of the Bermondsey by-election, they handed the seat to the Liberals. Is this the right's intention for Broadgreen?

Under protest, Broadgreen CLP has accepted the expulsions of their members, Derek Hatton, Tony Aitman and Roger Bannister, yet the Executive has still taken this punitive action. All sections of the party are urged to send their protests to the NEC at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool and make sure their conference delegates back the protest.

### What we stand for

- The immediate introduction of a 35-hour week without loss in pay as a step towards the elimination of unemployment.
  - Reversal of all Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works on housing, education, the health service, etc.
  - A minimum wage of £120 a week for all, including pensioners, sick and disabled people.
  - Opposition to the Tory government's anti-union laws and the reversal of attacks on the trade unions.
  - Massive cuts in arms spending. Support for unilateral nuclear disarmament, but with the recognition that only a socialist change of society in Britain and internationally can eliminate the danger of a nuclear holocaust.
  - Workers' management of the nationalised industries. These should be run on the basis of one-third of the places on the management board coming from the unions in the industry, one-third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole, and one-third from the government.
  - Opposition to the dictatorship of the Fleet Street press who pour out their poison daily against the labour movement. We propose that a Labour government should nationalise the newspaper printing plant facilities, with access to these facilities being given to political parties in proportion to their votes at elections.
  - Nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, including the banks and insurance companies which control 80 per cent to 85 per cent of the economy. This should be through an Enabling Bill in Parliament with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need.
  - A socialist plan of production democratically drawn up and implemented by committees involving the trade unions, shop stewards, housewives and small businessmen.
  - Opposition to the capitalist Common Market, the EEC. For a socialist United States of Europe as a step towards a World Socialist Federation.
- If these policies were taken up and campaigned for by the Labour Party and the trade unions they would win overwhelming support.
- Mobilisation of the labour movement on these policies would bring down the Tory government and return a Labour government committed to the implementation of a thorough-going socialist programme in the interests of working people.

### Labour Party Young Socialists Conference Meeting:

Sunday 28 September 1.00pm. Spanish Hall, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Speakers: Andy Bevan, Terry Fields MP, Linda Douglas (NEC member-elect) John Bryan (PPC Bermondsey).

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