

Militant

The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth 30p

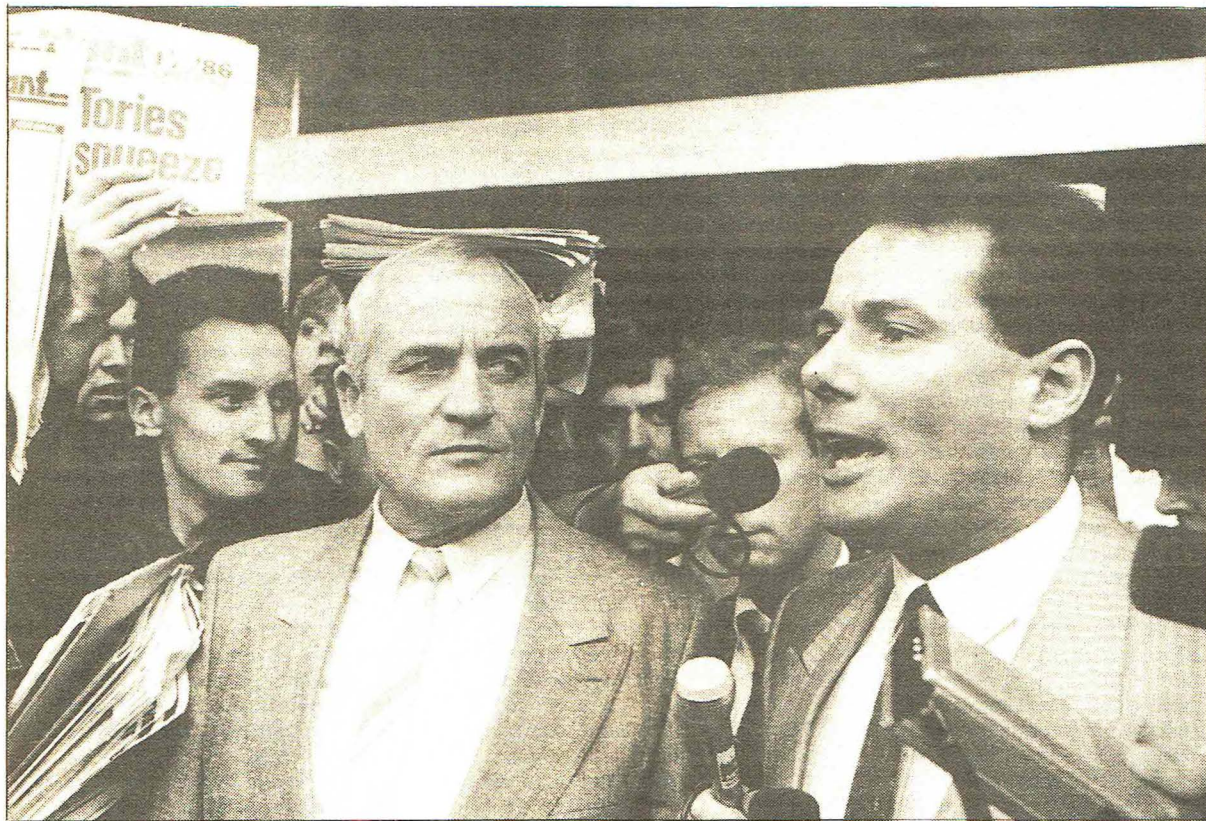
ISSUE 817 3 October 1986

Inside...

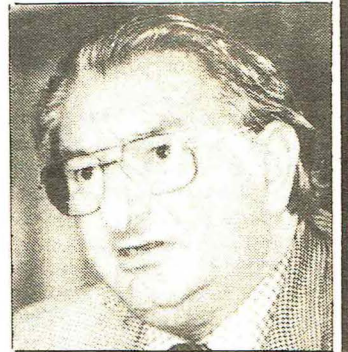
Cable Street 1936
pages 8, 9
Students
pages 6, 11

Why we walked out

By Derek Hatton and Tony Mulhearn



Heffer speaks out



LEFT MP Eric Heffer has become a victim of the Labour right's purge, losing his seat on the National Executive after an organised campaign against him.

He told *Militant*: "I was elected because of my principles, I have been removed because of those principles. I have not been removed because I was incompetent, but because I did too much to defend the rights of working class people."

Militant editor Peter Taaffe paid tribute to Eric: "The role he has played will not be forgotten. He was one of the very few

prepared to put his head above the parapet to defend *Militant*." Review of Heffer's book (see page 4).

OUR EXPULSION from the Labour Party was a travesty. What legitimacy can the vote have when we were prevented from properly defending ourselves? It would have been impossible to explain our case to a thousand delegates in a five minute appeal.

Tony Mulhearn's hearing before the NEC took fifteen hours. The right wing refused our demand for half an hour, because with a real hearing their arguments would have been publicly demolished one by one.

Derek Hatton was expelled by the NEC in his absence, while he was fulfilling his council commitments representing the workers of Liverpool. Now the Party leadership have managed to compel conference to rubber stamp it, again without a hearing. And this is democracy? Rather than lend this farce respectability, we walked out. What an insult to Tony Mulhearn, a Labour Party activist for 23 years. A *minute* to appeal for every *four and a half years* of leafletting, canvassing, meetings and fighting the Tories.

Not a shred of evidence was put before conference to justify our expulsion. All the allegations of malpractice and irregularities have been proven to be lies. The same 'irregular practices' Tony was accused of employing, the NEC have themselves adopted for the new

organisation established to take over the Party in Liverpool.

The majority report arising from the NEC's squalid inquiry into the Liverpool Labour Party was based on malicious gossip, distortion and character assassination. It was so transparent that eventually the NEC had to abandon this report as evidence. The truth is that the decision to expel us was taken first, and then the bogus charged concocted to justify it. The attack on us is a political one. How could we have dealt with these details, and our record in Liverpool in five minutes?

Block vote

What sort of appeal would it have been, when the big unions—AEU, EETPU and even the TGWU—decided on the *Sunday* how they would cast their block votes, before we had even gone through the following day's five minute formality. And they hold almost half the total conference votes.

The witch-hunters knew full well that this closed door show trial made a mockery of labour movement democracy. They refused our demand for the media to be allowed in, otherwise Party members and Labour voters around the country would have seen through their fabricated case.

But whatever they do the right wing cannot remove Marxist ideas from the Party. They had better enjoy their 'victory' now, for it will be very short-lived.

Fight back and build Militant

WITH THE press crowing about the alleged demise of *Militant*, the Editorial Board has issued a defiant call to all its supporters to raise finance to expand the paper. Editor Peter Taaffe and Political Editor Ted Grant, in a letter to all readers, are launching an appeal for a £250,000 Fighting Fund to enable the paper to go to a twice weekly and then later to a daily.

The past period has seen a torrent of slander and abuse from the press heaped on *Militant* supporters in the movement, without any serious attempt to argue or debate our ideas. Hiding

behind the Tory press, the right wing of the Party have been no less vehement in their attacks. But the voice of Marxism will not be silenced. On the contrary we must answer these attacks by increasing our capacity to explain our ideas, analyse events and argue for genuine socialist policies.

Week's wages

In the critical years ahead, in Britain and internationally, the labour movement will need more than ever a *daily* analysis of events and a *daily* commentary on political,

social and economic questions, from a Marxist standpoint. In order to help make that a reality, the Editorial Board are asking readers to donate a *week's income* to the fighting fund.

Our supporters have always raised their cash from the labour movement and the working class, through raffles, socials, jumble sales, paper 'extras' and occasional donations. These regular sources of income should remain, but special sacrifices are now necessary to develop the Marxist press.

The history of the labour movement shows time and

again that newspapers and publications written from the workers' standpoint are never built without the sacrifice and commitment of their readers and supporters. Every advance made by *Militant* has been based on these and it is no less true of the paper today.

Send your donations in to the paper urgently. Show the right wing of the Party and the Tory press that the support for Marxist ideas, far from declining, is on the contrary, poised to take a huge leap forward.

Militant

Editor: Peter Taaffe
Militant, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB.
Phone: (01) 533 3311.

Answer the attacks: build for a daily

THE MOST undemocratic Labour Party conference for years has been blatantly stage-managed by a leadership hell-bent on diluting Labour's programme to virtually nothing.

Determined to frame their policies within the limits of a rotting and declining capitalist system, the right wing leadership are already anticipating a Labour government of counter-reforms and cuts, rather than reforms and improvements. Hence their desire to pour cold water on all but the barest policy commitments. The right wing have played upon the fervent desire of working class people to see an end to the Thatcher government. This has been used to justify the attacks upon *Militant* supporters. The removal of Eric Heffer from the Labour Party National Executive Committee, however, shows that the attacks will not stop at *Militant* supporters. The comment of Denis Healey that US nuclear weapons could be retained on British soil under a Labour government shows the real reasons for the attacks. The right wing may even be prepared to ditch the commitment to unilateral nuclear disarmament.

To veil the wholesale shift to the right, the leadership have also engineered the expulsion of the best-known representatives of the Liverpool Labour Party, in the hope—as in 1983—that this will put paid to the support for Marxist ideas in the Party.

But we have news for our opponents. The temporary set-back of the undemocratic expulsions of eight Liverpool *Militant* supporters changes nothing. It only increases our resolve to build support for Marxism in Britain. Despite these expulsions, our support will continue to grow. The daily barrage of lies and abuse hurled against us is testimony to the growth and potential of our ideas and influence in the working class.

As an answer to all those prematurely celebrating our death the *Militant* Editorial Board has set a target of raising a quarter of million pounds for our Fighting Fund by the first week of December. The money raised will be used to prepare for the General Election campaign but above all to increase the size and frequency of our publications for the time when a Labour government is elected.

We need at least a twice-weekly paper to analyse and explain the situation, especially the enormous dangers that will face a Labour government. A daily *Militant* would become an even stronger focus for the left opposition that will develop within the unions and the working class when that government moves from reforms to counter-reforms.

We have no rich backers and no millionaires to give us large donations. We have no supporters earning tens of thousands from their publishing—as do Roy Hattersley and Robert Kilroy-Silk. We rely solely on the pennies and pounds of ordinary workers.

So to achieve a twice-weekly and then a daily paper will need enormous sums of money from our supporters. That is why we have launched this new fighting fund target.

Our supporters have always been prepared to make huge sacrifices. Ever since the founding of *Militant*, 22 years ago, our resources have been provided from workers digging deep into their pockets. In 1983, our building fund raised over £175,000 as supporters sacrificed holidays, furniture and even homes so that *Militant* could move into new premises. Now we have the premises. But we also need to expand our equipment and staff to make a more frequent publication a reality.

Therefore we are calling on our readers to rally behind *Militant* once again. We are appealing to readers to make a donation of at least *one week's income* to see us to our target. Only through making a sacrifice can we build the strength and influence of Marxist ideas.

Internationally, workers are sacrificing their lives to fight for a decent future. We can avoid some of the worst horrors of the struggle by contributing, financially, to the building of a genuine, fighting Marxist tendency within the British labour movement.

We ask all readers to rush in their donations straight away. But do not leave it there. Go to other workers and ask them for a similar donation. Tell them of the sacrifice you are making to encourage a similar response. Workers everywhere will support our ideas and help us to build our resources.

We have set ourselves a massive target to raise in a short period of time. But we are confident of a magnificent response from our readers. Show our opponents how determined we are to fight for our ideas. Forward to a quarter of million of pounds! Forward to a daily *Militant*!

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.
Published by Militant.
Printed by Militant Publications, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB. ISSN 0144-9275

LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE

Reports and comment

The red rose or the red flag?

DELEGATES AND Party members recognise this conference may be the last before a General Election—and a chance to rid of the Thatcherism. But this genuine mood has been abused by party leaders to expel *Militant* supporters. Indeed this year's conference has been the most unrepresentative and stage managed for many years. In the housing and economic debate, for example, only three rank and file speakers were allowed, while four MPs, seven prospective parliamentary candidates and four trade union full time officials spoke. The open and democratic debate of former years has been replaced by as bland and uncontroversial an assembly as possible—even the red flag has given way to . . . a red rose.



Expelled *Militant* supporters leaving conference. Photo: Militant.

The speech I would have made

By Tony Mulhearn

IF I had been allowed to address conference for half an hour, I would have been able to defend my actions as president of the District Labour Party.

Many Party members are unaware that no warning or indication was made to me that I was acting "irregularly" or "improperly." The regional officers who attended meetings of the DLP before its suspension, expressed complete satisfaction with my chairmanship and no criticism was made about procedures.

To the charge that there was "an unconstitutional concentration of power, within the Labour Party of Liverpool, in the DLP executive," I would have explained that I acted under the direction of the DLP at all times. In accordance with the rules and standing orders of the Party, the executive and DLP fully discussed all Party affairs. There was never any practice which deprived constituency parties or the DLP of their proper authority.

I was also charged with arrogating to the DLP the improper function of dictating strategy and action to the Labour group on the city council. But the relationship between the Party and the Group was conducted in accordance with party rules, custom and practice, long recognised by the regional officials and past full-time Liverpool Party agents.

I was prepared to explain to conference the absurdity of the charges relating to the local government panel. In every instance, the practice and procedure was one of long-standing—some for decades—and was done with the full consent of the Party and the regional office.

I was charged and found "guilty" of calling unauthorised, extended DLP meetings or "aggregates." Yet they also have been a feature in Liverpool for at least 30 years to my knowledge, the purpose being to keep the membership fully informed of events. Only delegates were allowed decision-making votes. Regional officials attended several of these meetings and never raised an objection or criticism of them.

The affairs of the Party were con-

ducted according to the best democratic practices enshrined in the rule book and constitution of both the Liverpool DLP and the national party. I totally reject the charge of procedural malpractices made against me.

The Temporary Co-ordinating Committee, set up by the national executive to replace the District Labour Party, has now adopted, with regional office's approval, all the procedures which had been described as "malpractice." The NEC's proposed new rules for the reconstituted DLP are almost identical to those I presided over.

I am charged with being a member of *Militant* Tendency, which I deny. I have been an active and loyal Labour Party member since 1963 I accept the constitution and rules of the Party, including the fundamental socialist aims expressed in Clause 4 Part 4.

I have never made any secret of the fact that I agree with many of the ideas expressed by the paper *Militant*, which I do without that being in any way inconsistent with Labour Party rules or constitution.

All the so-called proof against me is based on gossip, distortion and downright lies. In the last three years the Liverpool Labour Party councillors with the backing of the Liverpool Labour Party membership have struggled to carry out the promises they made to the electorate. We loyally adhered to national Party and TUC policy to defend jobs and services. For our pains, I and my colleagues have been surcharged and disqualified from office by a District Auditor acting as an agent of the Tory government.

It is a disgrace that, under the pressure of the enemies of the labour movement, and against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Party members, the NEC have expelled me from the Party. It is no less a disgrace that this act was carried out behind closed doors despite the open and unrelenting publicity given to the dirty allegations made against me, and others in Liverpool.

In the future, my stand will be vindicated and I am confident of my reinstatement into a more open, democratic Labour Party.

THE EXPULSION of eight Liverpool Labour Party members was endorsed by conference after they refused to participate in an undemocratic travesty of an appeal. They were being asked to defend their right to remain in the party after 131 years of membership, in five minutes in a closed session in which no discussion was to be allowed. After angrily walking out of the conference, *Derek Hatton*, deputy leader of Liverpool city council compared the procedure to that of a Stalinist show trial: "We are not prepared to give credibility to a farce" he said. "We have been convicted in a kangaroo court."

"We'll be back" warned *Richard Venton*. "I joined the Labour Party to change society. The same cannot be said for some of those who used the block vote to vote for our expulsion today."

Despite the withdrawal of their appeal to conference, the chair called a vote on the question. *Mick Morris*, Liverpool West Derby, protested from the rostrum but the "appeals" were rejected by 6,146,000 to 325,000. Two trade unions, the Bakers and Furniture workers and some 150 to 200 CLPs voted in support.

Concocted proposals

All discussion was stifled. Later, moving a resolution deploring the Liverpool expulsions, *Felicity Dowling*, Liverpool Walton, herself facing expulsion, backed up her Liverpool comrades' action.

She argued that the real issue was disagreement with their political ideas which had proved so popular with the electorate of Liverpool. There was no evidence of rule breaking and certainly the "political and literal" corruption that had been alleged.

In the case of *Kevin Scally* and *Amir Khan* expelled by Birmingham Sparkbrook, the vote was much closer. Conference rejected a composite calling for their reinstatement but they could still be reinstated as the NEC are reviewing the case against them.

Speaking on the NEC's proposal for a new disciplinary body, the National Constitutional Committee (NCC), *Eric Segal*, Folkestone, said that delegates should welcome a rank and file body that can deal with disputes that inevitably arise from time to time in the movement. "But" he warned, "the NCC as proposed today has been concocted to ease the path of expulsions from the party."



Photo: Dave Sinclair.

The architects of the new Labour Party: stage-managed debates, radical ideas ditched and Marxists expelled. Left to right: Larry Whitty, Roy Hattersley, Neil Kinnock.

Kinnock speech: 'not a single commitment'

NEIL KINNOCK'S conference address was heavy on rhetoric—on morality, patriotism—but exceptionally light on any details of the socialist strategy for an incoming Labour government. Any radicalism was reserved for Nicaragua and Chile, but was obviously avoided for problems closer to home.

Of course he won the obligatory standing ovation from delegates, who with an election in their sights want to rally round their leader, and give him the benefit of the doubt.

Ted Grant, *Militant* Political Editor, told the paper's packed conference meeting that there was not a single specific commitment in Kinnock's speech. Despite Kinnock's talk of 'policies for investment, production and growth,' 'the capitalists are not prepared to invest unless there is a profit. On a capitalist basis there in no way Labour can revive industry.'

Hattersley's capitalism

DEPUTY LEADER Roy Hattersley has been warning of the difficulties in meeting Labour's commitment to reduce unemployment by one million in two years. 'Do not expect too much too quickly,' was the theme of Neil Kinnock's speech too.

Well might they be cautious. Accepting as they seem to do, the continuation of capitalism, the economic position they will inherit will be dire. During the conference week the pound fell to a new low, following the record August trade deficit. The National Institute anticipates a £5.8 billion trade deficit for 1987.

Hattersley has rebutted criticisms from Tory Treasury Minister, John McGregor, that Labour's promises would cost £28 billion. Every pound has been carefully counted, says Roy.

The right-wing Institute for Fiscal Studies has come to his aid, calculating that the party's plans could be financed by just £3.5 billion in further taxation and £6 billion extra borrowing. Of

course they take the Labour leaders at their word, that anything except the minimum proposals will be put off, until the (capitalist) economy can afford them.

Even former left Michael Meacher said: "It is absurd to suggest that a 35 hour (working week) limit would be reached in a year, or even a few years." The idea of men and women both retiring at 60 "will cost large sums and take many years." As for taking all pensioners and claimants off supplementary benefit, it "is not and never will be party policy."

After seven years of Thatcherism, there will be millions in need still waiting for help for a good 'few years' under a Labour government.

In his conference speech Hattersley described how in the second half of a Labour administration, it would "rescue and revive industry." But with the prospect of another international downturn by the end of the decade, the special problems of

British capitalism, will be insurmountable.

In this light the argument about exchange controls is something of a diversion. Hattersley reassured American businessmen in New York that Labour would not impose controls over the export of capital. As Ian Mikardo pointed out, Hattersley intends to bribe big business to invest in Britain. But if exchange controls were tried instead, the capitalists would either find loopholes, or if they really did bite, go on a strike of capital, and undermine a new government.

To fund Labour's programme what is at issue is not exchange controls, but controlling exchange and production and distribution too. Nationalisation of the 200 largest companies and a socialist planned economy alone could provide the necessary resources. All the hopes and expectations vested in a return of Labour by millions of working people, will be disappointed if the strategy of Hattersley, Blunkett or Meacher is pursued.

Socialist alternative

THE *MILITANT* meeting on Tuesday was a refreshing antidote to the flat, staged debate in the conference. In an atmosphere of optimism and enthusiasm 500 people proved that Labour's Marxists are anything but depressed by the expulsion of eight Liverpool comrades.

Peter Taaffe, editor of *Militant*, referred to Neil Kinnock's surprising tribute to revolutionary struggles. "But these were the revolutionaries of 210 years ago in the United States of America.

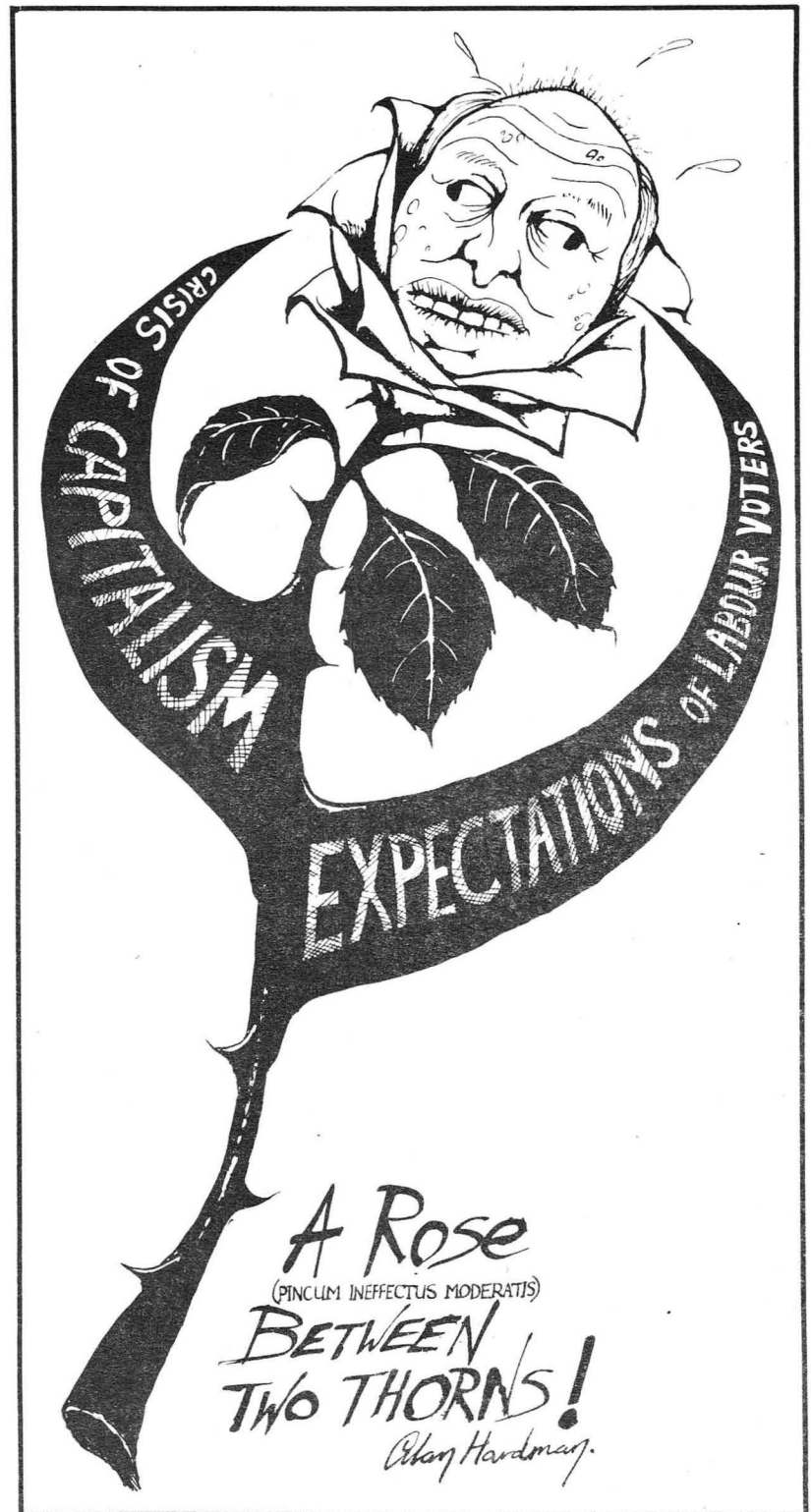
When a struggle today takes place in Liverpool we are told that the council leaders are 'utopian' and 'unrealistic.'" He warned the party leader that *Militant* will remain a force within the party. "We are the movement of the future within the movement of the present."

"The last thing the Labour leaders want," said deputy leader of Liverpool City Council Derek Hatton: "is the kind of expectations aroused amongst workers in Liverpool by the achievements of

the City Council, aroused nationally.

"People will expect homes, jobs, a health service, and a decent environment, but we know that Neil Kinnock won't be able to deliver these. Then, those same delegates who voted for our expulsion will be demanding to know why he has not kept his promises."

£1,275 was raised for the *Militant* Fighting Fund, including a donation from the Silentnight strikers.



First black woman elected to Labour NEC

THE FIRST black representative on Labour's NEC is Linda Douglas, elected as the representative of the Labour Party Young Socialists. LPYS representatives have emphasised, though, that Linda was elected by virtue of her abilities and record in the LPYS, and not because she is black.

Her immediate predecessor

on the NEC, Frances Curran, replied on behalf of the NEC to the debate on Black sections. In the brief five minutes allocated to her, Frances made it clear that the opposition of the LPYS to the black sections was based on completely different grounds to the opposition of right-wingers on the NEC.

"Black people want to know

what the Labour government is going to do to prevent attacks on their communities, defend their rights to work and have decent housing," she said.

She condemned previous Labour governments for their failures towards black workers, in housing, employment, in supporting racist immigration laws and pointed out that it was

this failure in policy, rather than the absence of special constitutional structures that kept many black workers out of the party.

"It is the obligation of the whole movement," she explained, "to put forward policies which will actively build and create jobs in areas like Brixton and Handsworth."

No kidding

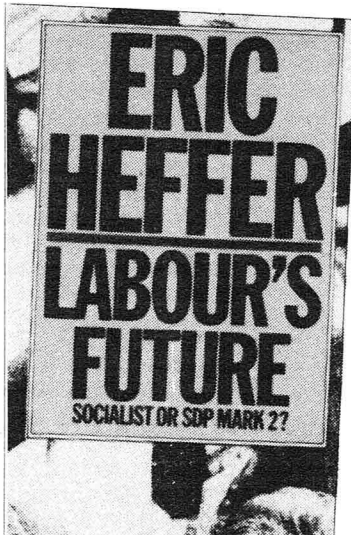
WHAT DEPTHS will they sink to next? When Richard Venton and Cheryl Varley returned from the closed session to collect their two-year old son, Jamie, from the conference crèche. They were refused admission. They were finally allowed in accompanied by a delegate, to find that Jamie had already been collected by a friend. On the door of the crèche is a notice: "No unauthorised children".

LABOUR PARTY '86 CONFERENCE

Two Books

Labour's future

Hard Labour for Silk's career but Eric Heffer asks what is Labour's future, socialist or SDP?



Kilroy

'I wrote it fast, by hand without a thought....'

For the sake of the country, one Tory told him at a small reception given by the American Ambassador. Kilroy understood his role: *Not for myself. I'm just a figurehead, for the Labour Party, for democracy.*

Kilroy put up a brave fight. He even punched one of the opposition through a hotel window. But in the end it was all too much and he was forced to throw in the towel.

The whole, *unpalatable truth* is related in *Hard Labour: The Political Diary of Robert Kilroy-Silk* (Chatto and Windus £9.95).

Kilroy once let it be known that he would like to be Prime Minister. Robert and his wife Jan, *are of the same age, from similar backgrounds as Neil and Glenys. We owe all our life to the post-war Labour government.*

More to the point, Kilroy owes his career to the Labour Party. He was doing all right until recently.

Kilroy loves the Commons and used to fit in very well. *Who wouldn't? I like its wide carpeted corridors, its elegant rooms, the massive lobbies. I enjoy mooching in the library... having dinner with friends and being at the centre of things.*

He diligently attended committees and spoke to all the right people. With Neil asserting his leadership Kilroy thought: *the good times are coming.*

But Kilroy didn't get a front-bench portfolio in 1983. *Hurt*, he felt *irrelevant and unwanted*. And when he did become a spokesman in 1985 it was only on minor issues, not at the *forefront*. Perhaps Neil was a little short-sighted here? Career politicians, as Frank Field says, need *political cuddling*, otherwise they lose heart.



Meanwhile, Labour MPs were obsessed with re-selection: *The dominant and often sole topic of conversation. They feel a threat exists... they may be forced by events, like the miners' strike, into a public position that will lose them the nomination.*

Personal predicament apart, Kilroy warns of the ominous portents for all of us. *It will be worse still if every action of the Labour government requiring the support and the votes of its MPs is subject to the approval of constituency parties who have the ultimate sanction of de-selection.*

UNLIKE THE book published by Robert Kilroy-Silk, Eric Heffer's book, *Labour's Future, Socialist or SDP Mark 2*, is a serious contribution to debates now going on inside the Party. Eric Heffer's book, in contrast to Silk's obsession with his creature comforts, is steeped in all the important economic and social issues vital to ordinary people.

What is important, as the Walton MP explains, is the Labour Party's attitude to unemployment, to control of the economy, nationalisation, and the general direction of its policies. As the title implies, he catalogues a dramatic shift to the right in policy in the last two or three years since the 1983 defeat. "What we are witnessing today is the transformation of the Party into another SDP, a party, which, although retaining a written socialist constitution, finds it is increasingly being ignored."

The democratic advances made in the 1970s are being rolled back and policy-making removed from the rank and file: "Increasingly, policy is being drawn up, not by Party conference decision, but by members of the Shadow Cabinet... The Campaign Strategy Committee... has Shadow Cabinet members, and co-opted trade unionists, usually General Secretaries, so that NEC members are in a minority."

Alongside the shift in policy, the book describes the growing climate of witch-hunting directed against the left and *Militant*, a witch-hunt to which Eric Heffer has now fallen victim. The atmosphere in the Par-

By John Pickard

ty, he says, is now reminiscent of the days of Hugh Gaitskell.

A whole chapter is devoted to a spirited defence of the stand taken by the councillors in Liverpool in fighting for jobs and services; indeed the book is dedicated, among others, to "the 49 Liverpool councillors who have shown great courage and determination in the struggle against the evils of the Tory capitalist system."

Eric explains that it was his revulsion against Neil Kinnock's speech at the 1985 Bournemouth conference, giving a "green light" for a witch-hunt, that led him to walk off the platform, and he makes it clear that in the same circumstances he would do the same again.

It has been under the present leadership, the book explains, that the party has moved to the right, and it has been made possible only because of Kinnock's former position as a left. "There is, however, one significant difference," he writes, "... Gaitskell was known to be on the right of the party, whereas the present leader was on the left when he entered parliament..."

Other former lefts in the party do not escape their due criticism for the role they have played: "An important element in the shift to the right has been the role of the Labour Coordinating Committee... (which) has been key in delivering support from sections of the left to the new right wing policies of the leadership..."

Although the book analyses

the move rightwards, it is not suggesting that an SDP Mark 2 is an inevitable result. If it was, it would mean a disaster for the Party and for the working class. But the grass roots of the party, its working class base, still have aspirations and hopes of real social change in a Labour government. "The move to the right is a feature of the Labour Party leadership, not of the party itself. The resolutions carried at conference this year (1985) show that there is a gulf between the rank and file and the leadership of policy issues. It is up to the rank and file to stop the drift to the right at the top."

There are many issues touched upon in the book: historical and theoretical questions included—really too many for a book of 159 pages—with which Marxists would disagree. But the general thrust of the argument is entirely correct.

There has been a profound and disturbing shift in the policies and priorities of the Labour leadership, which has been reflected temporarily in conference. The respectable grey image, tied up with respectable grey policies may just win the general election for Labour, but they will not answer the concrete social and economic questions of office. "If Labour is to win enthusiastic support it must have a vision of creating a new society, not of patching up what already exists... we need a socialist future not a half-baked capitalist one. The path the Party takes at the crossroads must be the one leading to socialism."

Eric Heffer: *Labour's Future, Socialist or SDP Mark 2?* (Verso, £4.95. 159pp).

Sadly Kilroy could no longer rely on a safe, loyal majority of ordinary, decent members, elderly ladies and nice men in his own constituency. Probably all sorts of political factors are involved. But he avoids any temptation to burden the reader with heavy analysis.

Perhaps unwisely, Kilroy concedes that in Merseyside *the Militants have actually achieved their main objective, to politicise, radicalise and mobilise more people in the struggle... they have now a strong base of mass support.*

He's quite candid. *It's not my party any more.* In Knowsley, the primordial battle between *the good guys and the bad guys* was lost.

Awaiting the call from BBC Television, Kilroy struggled to sublimate his frustrations through a political diary.

Now he can apply his Archaic style to great events of the day. Moments of revelation come as kestrels hover over the verandah. The natural purity of *immaculate white geese and honest, tiring work in the garden* contrasts with the *politics of the street and mob and the rabble of the Militant ranters.*

Key personalities appear without the tedium of political analysis, like *brave* Norman Willis, and *firm, honest* Jack Cunningham. Eschewing time wasting argument, Kilroy quickly disposes of the *big-mouth Fields, the shit, absolute shit Heffer, the creep Corbyn and Stalin's Granny, Joan Maynard.*

Despite his obsession with *Militant* and being *resigned to defeat and political oblivion*, Kilroy's innate joie de vivre shines through. He picks up a dinner guest in Terry Wogan's Rolls, chats with Captain Bob's daughter, Ghislane Maxwell, has Neil and Glenys over for supper, enjoys an idyllic Tuscan holiday,

visits fashionable restaurants for boisterous, boozy parties, hob-nobs with Adam Faith, Seb Coe, and many, many more.

Old pals at Westminster, to Kilroy's chagrin, turn out to be scheming rivals. But his media chums prove their worth: his *oldest and best friend*, Tony Bevin of The Times, the BBC's Michael Cockerell, his *old friend* Dave Montgomery, News of the World editor, who helps throw dirt at Hatton, and Maxwell's house politico, Joe Haines, *a good man who represents the real Labour Party.*

Kilroy appreciates their backing. He envies their exciting work and untroubled lives.

A diary offer from Time Out opens the door. Kilroy arrives at a party and all the gossip columnists, along with the *successful* Tory novelist, Jeffrey Archer, are there: Nigel Dempster, Peter Tory of the Star, *who I think is actually the best of them all...* William Hickey of the Express, while the *captivating* Angela Gordon represented The Times.

Kilroy wisely decides to chuck the Labour Party in. And then, as luck would have it, the BBC offers him a job on day-time television.

A wise decision! Kilroy has found his true vocation, his real milieu. Under the Silken influence the media could move in amazing new directions.

With *Hard Labour* under his belt Kilroy will no doubt improve his technique. But Jan and Natasha point out one real weakness of his diary style and he will surely take their criticism to heart: *They said there was too much of Kilroy in it.*

By Lynn Walsh



Union officials, with right-winger Bill Jordan (bottom centre), at the conference. The trade union bureaucracy ensured that the huge block vote was swung against Liverpool *Militant* supporters. Felicity Dowling (right) won a temporarily reprieve from expulsion at the last NEC, because her solicitor couldn't attend. She moved a composite motion against the witch-hunt as delegate from her Walton constituency.



"The campaign against us has been fought in full glare of publicity with a parallel campaign rubbishing us in the press. We needed time this morning to make our case. In the five minutes allowed, it would have been impossible to deal with all the individual charges, let alone answer all the issues raised publicly. "For this we wanted a public session. The eight expelled comrades had submitted a statement to conference but this was not read out so that you, the delegates, were not allowed to know what they were requesting."

Away from the carefully groomed conference image, with its chocolate-box rose, the right wing continue to put the boot in

Knowsley stitch-up

EMBATTLED Knowsley North party has been struck another blow by the Labour leadership. It has been suspended for the second time in 12 months.

There has also been speculation that the Party leadership may impose another parliamentary candidate—the first one was Robert Kilroy-Silk. His desertion of the Party has sharpened the right's keenness to prevent a left candidate being chosen at any cost.

The pretext for the suspension is complaints from right wing sections of Euro MP Les Huckfield's Merseyside East constituency. The left wing MEP has temporarily been blocked from standing in the Knowsley North parliamentary reselection while an inquiry looks into his eligibility.

Flopped

But there were no complaints at a meeting of the Euro-constituency party which agreed overwhelmingly, and in the presence of regional officials, to release Huckfield.

Right wingers allege that they didn't receive notices of the meeting but party officers insist that all notices were sent out. If there were any irregularities then the regional officials who monitored the whole proceedings should carry the can.

An MEP can seek nomination for parliament as long as an undertaking is given in writing to the NEC to resign the Euro seat on a date suitable for a by-election. This undertaking was given and the reselection process was virtually complete.

What is behind these complaints, and other complaints about TGWU sponsorship of candidates (the

union is not yet sponsoring any of its three candidates who are standing) is that no right wing or Kinnockite candidate is emerging as front runner. The left are way ahead—Les Huckfield has 30 nominations and Lesley Holt has six. Both are TGWU members. The favoured Kinnockite and third TGWU candidate has flopped badly. Interestingly a GMBATU official has recently thrown his hat into the ring, just as Huckfield's candidature is being looked into.

It's a case of one rule for the left and another for the right. The TGWU delegation in the selection conference had previously been questioned—a challenge to the union's regional office which decides on the number of affiliates—and the number was reduced. But queries over the validity of 11 or 12 EETPU delegates who appeared *after* the reselection process had started will merely be 'looked into', regional officials told party officers at a meeting two weeks ago.

Although they lived in the constituency these delegates came from branches in the West Midlands, the South East, Wigan, the union's London office, as well as from Merseyside branches. Some are housewives and others have had no previous connection with the union.

Many party members believe that if the reselection is allowed to proceed with these delegates it will amount to a right wing hijack. They are determined to have a fair and democratic selection conference and choose a socialist candidate in Knowsley North.

*The TGWU is to back a rally in the constituency at which Arthur Scargill will speak and is inviting all affiliated branches and delegates to attend.



Les Huckfield—candidate for Knowsley North blocked while an inquiry looks into his eligibility.

OFFICERS OF Knowsley North constituency Party have issued a statement, backed at a recent rally addressed by Tony Benn, which reads:

"We regard the suspension of our selection procedure as a blatant attempt by right wingers on the NEC to impose a candidate on Knowsley North.

The selection procedure has been carried out in a proper and constitutional way and was almost complete. There has not been a single complaint or allegation of irregularity by any of the candidates or by anyone else in the constituency.

We find the NEC's action on the eve of a by-election incredible and outrageous and will only confuse Labour supporters and assist the Tories and Liberals. While Liberal party members nationally

have been mobilising to defeat Labour in Knowsley the Labour leadership seems intent in putting obstacles in our path.

We demand, in the name of Party members everywhere, that Neil Kinnock and the national executive immediately restore to us the right to choose a candidate—a right we in Knowsley North have never had (in spite of a unanimous vote of protest in 1983) with the imposition of Robert Kilroy-Silk on the constituency.

We call on the Party leadership to carry out their responsibility by supporting the democratically elected candidate and ensure a Labour victory in the by-election. We further call on all who support the struggle for socialism and the democratic labour movement to join us in the party to achieve these aims."

Benn warns of Labour retreat

UP TO three hundred Knowsley North people came to hear Tony Benn at a Labour Party rally on Friday night.

The meeting aimed to build support for Labour and prepare to defeat the Tories and Liberals. The theme of the rally, in the light of the party's suspension, was 'defend party democracy!' Speakers from the Labour Party Young Socialists and Liverpool city council, both sections which have come under fire from the Labour leadership, also addressed the rally. Tony Benn gave a warning that unless the system was changed the next Labour government could end up repeating Thatcher's crimes against the working class.

Left wing MEP, Les Huckfield, whose candidature in Knowsley North is being investigated, said that it was not himself under attack but the right of constituency parties to elect their own candidate.

Lesley Holt, who is also seeking nomination in Knowsley North, said: "While the SDP and Liberals were split our leaders have given up an opportunity to show them up as second rate Tories, and have concentrated on suspending Merseyside Labour Parties". £200 was collected to fight the campaign.

Did you know that..

THE LABOUR Party invited various corporations—such as our brothers and sisters in British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, Plessey, British Telecoms and Allied Lyons—to set up stalls at this year's conference. But when Liverpool City Council applied for a stall to advertise its house building and job creation programmes there were questions to answer. Larry Whitty wanted assurances about who would run the stall—were they members of the Party? The stars of Tory privatisation policy such as British Telecom will, no doubt, be sending their best socialist representatives. Anyone want to take out some shares?

AT LAST week's national executive committee meeting no-one wanted to sum up on the black sections debate at conference putting the leadership's position opposing them. Jo Richardson declined because she said she disagreed with the executive's policy. Right winger Gwyneth Dunwoody piped up "If I only spoke on party policy which I agree with one hundred per cent I would hardly ever open my mouth." You said it Gwyneth.

THE LABOUR Party's conference guide was produced with no allocation in the seating plan for the delegate from Broadgreen Party. Nor was Broadgreen amongst the list of delegates. The guide must have been produced with great foresight because it came out a week and a half before the NEC meeting which decided to suspend the Broadgreen Party, thereby stopping its delegate.

FORMER GENERAL secretary of the GMBTU, David Basnett, has accepted a consultancy with British Nuclear Fuels Ltd to advise on trade union matters. In for a penny in for a pound.

Jarrow expulsion

LABOUR PARTY conference gave a standing ovation to the Jarrow March banner, unfurled in commemoration of the famous march fifty years ago. But in Jarrow Labour Party itself, the right wing are celebrating the anniversary by more sordid witch-hunts against Marxists.

Last Thursday, Mark Potter, a YS member and *Militant* supporter was expelled from the party without proper charges and without a hearing. The voting was 20 in favour and 10 against, although 10 abstained and as many as 15 delegates walked out in disgust at the way the affair was being handled. Already, one ward branch has passed a resolution deploring the expulsion.

17KNOWSLEY1 1st

Students against Tory cuts

Tories make education a luxury

DESPITE RESISTANCE from students and workers in further and higher education, many of the gains won by the labour movement in obtaining free higher education have been swept away in recent years.

Since 1979 60,000 places in higher education and 15,000 academic and ancillary jobs have disappeared, the student grant has been reduced by 21 per cent and over one sixth of all higher education funds now come from private sources. The 1982 Think Tank report called for privatisation of education.

Capitalism in crisis no longer 'needs' scientists, technicians, doctors, skilled workers or managers. They are surplus to requirements!

The Fowler Green Paper this summer showed that the Tories want to remove students entirely from the welfare benefits system. This would mean a reduction in income of £1,000 per year per student with only £36 in compensation. A further 15 per cent cut in higher education funding is due by 1990.

The Tories obviously want higher education restricted to the sons and daughters of the very rich. There's always the cheap labour YTS for the rest of us.

The overwhelming majority of students are now looking to the labour movement for a lead. At the recent NUS conference, 16 out of the 20 Executive positions were won by Labour Party members. Liberals, Tories and Social Democrats

were crushingly defeated. A future Labour government will be expected to reverse Tory cuts and end the dependence of higher education on big business.

Giles Radice has promised to restore the grant to its 1979 level and introduce a minimum grant for FE students. But FE students inside NUS will be concerned that Labour proposes a £27 grant rather than the NUS demand of £35, and, incredibly, that this is to be means tested. Students expect Labour to abolish the means test.

To open up higher education to the working class all students need a living grant equal to at least two thirds of the average wage and an enormous expansion of further and higher education with an end to the artificial divide between further education, polys and universities.

Take control of education out of the hands of big business. Bodies such as boards of governors and university senates should be replaced by democratically elected boards of students and workers in education as well as representatives of the local labour movement.

As part of a socialist election manifesto, such educational reforms would ensure that the skills within society could be fully used; that is something capitalism can never achieve.

By Dave Read
(Secretary Merseyside Area Student Organisation)



Photos: Above and below. London students demonstrate against the Fowler bill earlier this year.

Attacks boost Militant's sales

MILITANT'S circulation campaign got off to a flying start. Every time we are attacked by the Tory press or the Labour leaders, interest and sales shoot up.

From Glasgow city centre, where 60 papers were sold, to the Birmingham University freshers' fair, where supporters sold 30, the campaign has been a success.

In West Glamorgan over 20 were sold at an LPYS public meeting and a further 21 were sold on the Townhill Estate in just one Sunday morning. Swansea sellers were so encouraged they

decided to sell there every night this week!

In Sittingbourne, *Militant* sellers had to give up on their shopping precinct sale after just half an hour. They had sold out. Over 40 were sold on Cardiff's Queen Street on Saturday.

In Manchester one supporter sold 27 papers in the first three days of the campaign. An extra sale at Manchester University notched up 16 and a new sale was established on Moss Side estate where 12 copies were sold.

In Macclesfield, where our

sellers have been subjected to a witch-hunt, good advantage was taken of a front page story in the local paper to sell 20 *Militant's* in under 40 minutes on a Sunday street sale! One supporter from Macclesfield even managed to sell seven papers while waiting for a train.

As for Blackpool—100 papers sold in the shopping centre last Saturday, and over 200 sold on the first day of Labour Party conference. And the press think *Militant* is defeated.

Labour conference greetings

Glasgow Technical College Labour Club sends fraternal greetings to Labour Party conference.

★ Kick out the Tories now. For a socialist Labour government.

★ Democracy and socialism in NOLS. Defend the LPYS.

★ For NUS affiliation to TUC and the Labour Party.

Scottish Labour Students *Militant* Supporters.

No Labour Students compliance with attacks on LPYS. For the immediate reinstatement of Cheryl Varley, expelled Marxist convenor of 72,000 Merseyside students. For all part-time students in NUS to be allowed to join NOLS. NUS to campaign for the election of a socialist Labour government.

Left and Right

Aggro culture?

SOUTH EAST Cambridgeshire Conservatives have a resolution at Tory conference complaining that the BBC are biased against Mrs Thatcher's truly wonderful government. They single out for blame the news, Today, You and Yours (a pensioners' programme), Womens Hour and the Archers.

We can see how a backwoods Tory would object to Womens Hour's notoriously extreme feminism or to bolshie OAPs complaining about hypothermia. But as nobody at *Militant's* offices will own up to listening

to the Archers, what is making the Blues see red? Has it become a kind of 'Muckspredding Mutineer'?

Up-market forces

ROBERT JARMAN, managing director of Debetts is diversifying his firm's activities. They will now be providing hire purchase to help the rich people in this snob's bible buy luxury goods. But why isn't he offering this service more widely?

Well, by his reckoning 43,000 people own 84 per cent of Britain's wealth and 75 per cent of the land. That's where the money is.

Fight back with the LPYS

THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists' demonstration on 18 October gives a marvellous opportunity to win students to the LPYS.

In February this year 40,000 students marched in London against the Fowler Review of Social Security. Although the Tories have backed down on some aspects of the proposals affecting students, some will go ahead.

For example from December this year students will no longer be entitled to Unemployment and Supplementary Benefit during the short vacations.

Students living in Halls of Residence will not be entitled to Housing Benefit during the academic year and short vacation after

December. And more attacks will follow.

LPYS members should collect names and sell coach tickets at the "Freshers fairs". Approach the student unions for a YS stall. National Committee and Regional Committee members should approach Labour Clubs to speak to new students about the demonstration.

Many Student Unions will hold Union general meetings before the demonstration. Ask for backing for the demonstration and ask the students to send coaches.

By Julie Frost

Newham LPYS and NOLS NC (personal capacity).

Bankrupt system, bankrupt colleges

THE UNIVERSITY Grants Committee (UGC) has cut grants in real terms by about two per cent a year. But the cut is not equally across the board, it depends on overall research.

Warwick University gets an increase of 4 per cent (still a cut in real terms) whilst Swansea has received a cut in monetary terms of 0.5 per cent. It is now up to individual institutions to "balance the books", given the new level of funding.

At Aberystwyth (cuts 0.4 per cent) the plans involve the closure and merging of nearly a third of the departments and the loss of at least 200 non-academic jobs.

In Swansea, cleaning staff have already had their hours cut, while the administration of both Cardiff and Bristol Universities openly raise the possibility of going bankrupt. Some colleges are trying to increase income from other sources. Aberystwyth University is planning to "house" foreign



students and their families in a caravan site.

A successful campaign is needed in each institution to stop the most severe retraction ever in Higher Education.

Labour clubs should make sure the students unions approach local unions to see how the cuts affect them and what joint action could be taken to stop cuts.

Cuts can be defeated locally by forcing colleges not to implement cuts and going into deficit if necessary. But the NUS must campaign nationally jointly with the public sector unions to force the government to reverse its 2 per cent per annum cuts.

By David Richards

Kick out the Tories!

Currie's sauce

The Tories make us sick

THE REACTIONARY new Tory junior health minister, Edwina Currie, thinks the high rates of poor health in the North are due to "ignorance".

She would have us believe that the poverty created by this Tory government is irrelevant.

In reality people who live in poverty are more likely to be unfit than "well-off" people and many people live in poverty in the North.

It is no coincidence that there are high levels of bad health and unemployment of 20% + (80% in some areas) in the same places. Many people do live mainly on junk food and chips but that's all they can afford.

Typically the 'Question-Time' panel saw it as a North/South issue. Ian Wrigglesworth, a Teesside Social Democrat MP commented sarcastically on black pudding, tripe etc.

Mrs Currie spoke of Northerners' unhealthy habits of drinking and smoking. More people drink beer and lager in the North because you don't find so many 'gin and tonic' drinking upper-classes. As for smoking too much, people who don't smoke have died of cancer and respiratory diseases thanks to the pollution from two of the world's biggest chemical plants, situated on Tees-side, ICI Wilton and Billingham.

Pollution from these plants could be filtered, but this would cost money and cut into ICI's profits, so it is not done—even when the plants are near large cities. Unfortunately many peo-



Edwina Currie

ple living in poverty find smoking, drinking and drug-taking the only "escape" from the reality of Thatcher's Britain. A group of school-children in Middlesbrough have resorted to drug-taking, seeing nothing before them but a future on the dole.

Hospitals closed

If the Tory government recognise the level of poor health in the North isn't it strange that the South-Tees health authority area now only has two hospitals: the hospital in Hemlington has been closed—about the same time as Edwina Currie made her remarks.

A Newcastle councillor invited Currie to live the life of somebody on the dole in Tyneside for one week—she refused. We have no choice. We'll carry on fighting the Tories and their system which makes people sick.

By Janie and Jon Driscoll
(South Middlesbrough LPYS)

MARCH FOR JOBS

March around London

Saturday 11
March through Southall. Visit Gofflinks estate. Evening reception in local temple.

Friday 10
March through Kilburn. Evening—Joint benefit with local Print Support Group. Roxburgh pub, College Road, Harrow 8pm.

Thursday 9
Meeting at Broadwater Farm Estate. Lunch—Wood Green Civic Centre 1.00pm. Evening—Winchester Road Community Project.

Wednesday 8
Reception and meeting at Walthamstow unemployed centre 1.00pm. Rally All Saints Colleges, Tottenham.

Tuesday 7
Lunch time reception—Ilford Town Hall 1.00pm. Evening—rally at Stratford Labour Party rooms 7.30pm

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, Barking 7.30pm.

Sunday 5
rest day

Friday 17
Lunch time (1pm) meeting and reception at Hackney Town Hall. March through Cable Street to Wapping. Evening—bumper disco in Hackney.

Thursday 16
Lunchtime meeting and reception at Fleet Street 1.00pm. Visits to the Daily Mirror, ex-Sunday Times, Mount Pleasant sorting office. Evening rally—Camden Unemployed Centre, Camden Town.

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! Rally 7.30pm

Tuesday 14
Lunchtime meeting at Charing Cross hospital, Fulham. March across Putney bridge to reception at Wandsworth bus garage. Evening rally—York Road Library. Speakers John Bryan, local MPs. Plus disco.

Saturday 4 October
10.00am. Big send off from Nuffield Nurses sitting room, Guys Hospital, Bermondsey. Speakers from Southwark Council and NUPE (Guys) including Tony Ritchie (Southwark council leader) and John Bryan (Labour PPC, Bermondsey). March goes via 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 donations to: London Youth March, c/o 55 West Avenue, Southall, Middlesex UB1 2AP.

Fourteen days to shake London

A DAY in the life of Paul Lennox, a London fund raiser for the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign (YTURC):

9.00am meeting with a branch rep of the National Communications Union (NCU) to discuss the youth march. He agrees to appeal for £50 at his branch meeting, and promises that his branch will greet the marchers with their union banner, and join the march as it passes through the area. He also agrees to distribute material to publicise the march.

10.30am meeting with the

union secretary of Mount Pleasant sorting office—the largest postal complex in Europe. He very enthusiastically agrees to carry out a bucket collection throughout the site, and to greet the marchers, with their banner. Meeting with branch officers—they agree to sponsor a marcher (£150), take literature, and greet the marchers.

12.30pm mass meeting of Hackney council union members leafletted with publicity material.

2.00pm 2,000 leaflets distributed at mass meeting of sacked SOGAT printers. We stand shoulder to

shoulder with the sacked printers—if they have no jobs today, we will have no jobs tomorrow.

8.00pm Hampstead & Highgate labour Party agree to sponsor a marcher (£150). £30 is raised in a bucket collection.

All these meetings also pledged support for the LPYS demonstration on 18 October, by mobilising and turning up with union banners.

OTHER MONEY raised includes £5 Harry Keegans, OAP. Some of the unions sponsoring a marcher (£150)

are T&G 1/924, SOGAT'82 Machine Branch, NCU Shaftesbury, Lewisham NUPE General, NUPE schoolkeepers.

London Midland District Council NUR £10; 1/1339 TGWU £30, EMI Records (TGWU) £100; G&M—Wandsworth Local Authority £25; Tooting CLP, Wandsworth Joint Shop Stewards' Committee £50; Thames Poly SU £50; COHSE—Hackney Hospital £50.

Several bands including "Sharing the House with Mother" have offered to play benefit gigs for the London Youth March.

At the end of the bike ride...

NORMAN TEBBIT's advice to the young unemployed was to get on their bikes and seek out work.

This summer along with thousands of other youngsters from areas of high unemployment, Margi, a student at Kirkby College of Further Education, went down South with a friend for seasonal work in Bournemouth.

It was the peak of the summer season.

We needed accommodation so we went into a hotel advertising 'permanent accommodation'.

The first question the landlady asked was, 'is it DHSS?' Obviously, having just arrived in town we answered: 'Yes. We're signing on looking for work'

The landlady wanted £55 from each of us and while there were no cooking facilities we had to tell the dole that there were.

Having invented this, she would give us £15 back. Very generous! She even had the cheek to say, "I shouldn't really let you in because you're scousers!"

The room was about 10 foot by 2 foot. There was an old bed with a big dip in the middle, filthy sheets and musty bedclothes. The radiator was literally held up by a pickle jar. The bath had a rubber dinghy in it, full of mud! The toilet didn't flush and there was no light.

No trade union

In the morning there wasn't any hot water. The landlady told us it would be on at 5pm in the evening.

We had to pay £20 deposit each and although we only stayed the one day she kept back £10. Why don't the DHSS people go round to examine these places?

My first job was in Wimpy's where 14 year olds were working 12 hour shifts

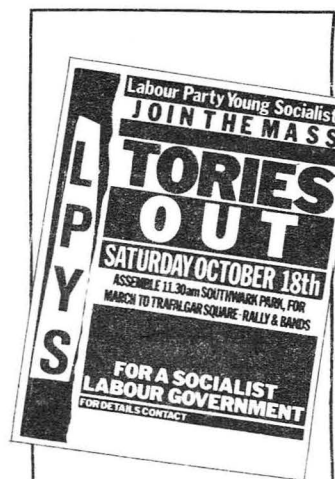
for £1.20 an hour. The ad in the job centre asked for a 'Counter Assistant' but in reality, I was having to scrub the place clean, including the men's toilets every 15 minutes. They gave me a scrubbing brush to clean two flights of stairs!

Payment was by cheque—if you wanted the company to cash it they charged you a pound.

One young lad forgot to bring his Wimpy hat one morning. There were plenty of hats around the place yet he was docked an hour's pay as punishment! A 16 year old after working a 60 hour week took home £57.

Many of these 'holiday' jobs are off the cards so to complain would certainly mean the sack. It goes without saying there was no union nor would one be tolerated.

My next job was better paid, working in a pub, but my net wage was £40 and taxi fares, to get home late at night cost £15 a week.



Labour Party Young Socialists Mass demo against the Tories

Saturday 18 October

11.30am Southwark Park

Southampton beats the Thatcher blues

500 PEOPLE attended the biggest Music festival Southampton has ever seen, on 20 September.

The "Youth Festival for a Future" was initiated by local LPYS members and the organisers' average age was 18—the youngest, an Asian girl, was just 15!

Nine local bands and four national bands played all day, groups included the local 'Mad Thatchers' who didn't mince words on the state of Britain under their namesake: 'Frank Chickens' and the 'Neurotics'.

'Porky the Poet' compered and introduced numerous speakers between the bands. April Ashley of 'Socialist Links with South African Youth' spoke of the struggle of black school students against apartheid and John Ellen, national chair of the LPYS encouraged people to go to the 18 October march.

As the 'Potato Five' closed the festival several hundred were still dancing. 190 people filled in sheets to find out more about the LPYS and 100 Socialist Youths and Militants were sold.

By Mark Ovenden

Bengalis battle against racism

THE BENGALI community of Tower Hamlets face the worst conditions in the East End of London. In housing and employment they have for years faced discrimination and ended up at the bottom of the pile. There is the permanent threat of racial violence—a horror which affects all other aspects of life. Like any people who wish to keep their dignity and self-respect however, the Bengalis have proved their ability to organise and fight back.

Bengalis were first attracted in large numbers to Britain during the post war boom of the 1950s and 60s. In East London most Bengali families came from Sylhet, a very poor region of Bangladesh, itself one of the poorest countries in the world following 200 years of colonial exploitation.

The prospect of jobs in a rich country like Britain was a major attraction. The first immigrant workers were overwhelmingly male, hoping to make enough money to provide for their families back home. It became obvious, however, that Britain was not the country of golden opportunity it had been painted.

By the early 70s more and more Bengali workers were bringing their families over to Britain, hoping to create a new home at least free from poverty. Like the Jewish immigrants to the same area in the early years of the 20th century, the Bengali workers mainly got jobs in the rag trade. This industry has traditionally been very difficult to organise and the Bengalis have faced the problems of very low pay, dangerous working conditions and the super-exploitation of homeworkers.

From those early days the Bengalis were not only exploited as workers—they also faced the added burden of racism, institutional and individual. The new community was neglected by the authorities—Bengalis have had to campaign for their rights in education, social services and housing.

There was also the threat of violence in the streets—the early 70s was the epoch of skinhead gangs and 'Paki-bashing'. Racial violence, or the threat of it, has come to affect every aspect of life, from the schools and estates which are considered safe or otherwise, even to the question of what jobs are applied for.

National Front

The mid-70s saw a Labour government presiding over mass unemployment and cuts in public spending. The disillusionment which resulted among the working class enabled the fascist groups such as the National Front to enjoy a certain amount of growth as they exploited and fostered racism, blaming blacks for problems such as unemployment.

In Tower Hamlets, the rise in the activities of the NF went along with increasing numbers of racial attacks. The NF were selling their papers (as they still do) every Sunday at the top of Brick Lane—right in the heart of the Bengali community. Large numbers of racist youth would congregate in the area, hoping for a punch-up, creating an atmosphere of tension. On a number of occasions these gangs, organised and encouraged by the Fascists, went on the rampage down Brick Lane, smashing Asian shop windows and chanting nazi and racist slogans.

The press played a major role in stoking the fires of racism. In 1976 the *Daily Express* published an article with the headline: "Asian influx will swamp us." Such scare

stories share the blame for the racial violence which has followed.

Throughout the mid-70s the Asian community organisations began to organise against the danger of racism. Mass meetings and demonstrations were held, particularly with the aim of getting the police to take firm action against the racists. Unfortunately the police have never seemed to take the question of racial attacks seriously and, for example, have always defended the right of the NF to churn out its racist filth in the middle of a largely Asian area.

On 4 May 1978 a 25 year old Bengali, Altab Ali, was murdered in Whitechapel. To many people this seemed the inevitable result of the rising tide of racist violence. At mass meetings the community expressed its outrage. On 14 May a demonstration of over 7,000 mainly East End Bengalis, marched to Hyde Park and Downing Street, demanding action against the racists.

Police inactivity

Then in June 1978 a 50 year old Asian, Ishaque Ali, was killed in Hackney. Again the authorities had seemed incapable or unwilling to do anything about racist violence. On 17 July the Bengali workers called a strike against racist attacks; 8,000 local Asian workers stayed away, school students took part and shops were closed. That evening there was a mass sit-down of 3,000 outside Bethnal Green Police Station to protest at police inactivity.

It had become increasingly obvious that the police were unwilling to take any real action against the racists. It fell to the Bengalis themselves, aided by labour movement activists to physically prevent the fascists rampaging down Brick Lane.

In the struggles of the 1970s it was the Bengali youth who led the way, determined to get organised and defend their community. In the past two or three years there has again been a rise in racial violence in Tower Hamlets which has the highest incidence of racist attacks anywhere in the country. Harassment on estates has included smashed windows, excrement pushed through letter boxes, verbal and physical abuse. Arson attacks are not uncommon.

Even the schools are not free from racism. At Daneford school last year there were razor attacks on Bengali students and hooded thugs rampaging through the school corridors. The students at Daneford got organised, held meetings, issued letters and leaflets and took part in demonstrations.

These few examples from the past few years show that the Bengali community is far from willing to sit there and take what comes. The labour movement, which alone has the power to stamp out racism must ensure that they do not fight alone. Already more Asian workers are joining the Labour Party. These links must be strengthened through consistent campaigning work by the unions and the Labour Party.

The Bengali youth, in particular, with all their enthusiasm to struggle and organise must be won to the labour movement. A mass fighting Labour Party in East London, of black and white workers and youth, could ensure the beginning of the end for the racists. The Cable Street demonstration on 4 October gives the movement an opportunity to take a step towards that.

The Battle o



FIFTY YEARS after the Battle of Cable Street on 4 October 1936, MATT WRACK of Bow and Poplar LPYS tells the story of this historic victory against Mosley's fascists in East London and, left, he looks at the Bengali community in the same area today who are fighting back against racist attacks.

THE WORLD economic slump which began at the end of 1929 upset political stability on an international scale. It was not just the working class who were being radicalised by the experience. The ruling class also began to look for a way out of the crisis. In Germany, big business began to pour money into Hitler's Nazi movement to develop it as a weapon against the workers' organisations.

In Britain, too, the ruling class began to look to the building of a fascist movement as a defence against the growth of Bolshevism and as a weapon with which to attack the organised working class. The self styled leader of British fascism, Oswald Mosley, had previously been a politician in both of the main parties and had many links with important members of the establishment.

He formed the British Union of Fascists in 1932, modelling his organisation on those of Hitler and Mussolini. In his blackshirt organisation, Mosley attempted to draw together the hard men of his movement who acted as stewards and as the leaders' own guard.

Finance flowed into the coffers of the BUF. Mosley organised the January Club where he would wine and dine the ladies and gents of society and win financial backing for his movement. Many individual establishment figures gave support and finance such as Lord Rothermere, the newspaper baron. Money was also received from such companies as ICI and Courtaulds.

However, the partial recovery of the economy by 1934 meant that many of the capitalists saw no need to back the BUF and began to withdraw support. Mosley increasingly turned his attention to building support amongst the lumpen elements in working class areas by exploiting the problems of the inner cities and particularly by racist campaigns and propaganda. From 1934 the main activity of the BUF was directed towards the East End of London.

East London in the 1930s, just like today, had enormous problems of housing and unemployment. In 1932, 18 per cent of the population of Shoreditch, 17.8 per cent of Bethnal Green and 15.5 per cent of

Stepney were living below the poverty line. In addition, the London borough of Stepney had the largest concentration of Jews in the country. The Jewish community provided a target for the fascists—a scapegoat for the problems of the area.

The BUF campaign exploited the conditions of the area and attempted to whip up anti semitism among the non-Jewish workers. A BUF pamphlet claimed:

"Not so long ago East London was the home of true British stock. The cabinet-maker, polisher and tailor were Englishmen. Today the Englishman in East London is the slave of the Jewish master."

William Joyce, a leading fascist (later the notorious Lord Haw-Haw who broadcast propaganda for Hitler) summed up the BUF position—"We pledge ourselves to rid the country of the Jews."

Racist abuse

The first blackshirt meeting in East London was called in Bow but the fascists had to retreat when attacked by local workers. However, the first BUF branch in the area was established in 1934 and from then on Mosley put more and more of his resources into his East End campaign.

The campaign of the fascists was designed to terrorise the Jewish population of the East End and at the same time disrupt the activities of the labour movement. Blackshirt public meetings, often open air and in sensitive areas, were an opportunity to pour out the vilest racist abuse. Mick Clarke, a Bethnal Green fascist referred to Jews as... "greasy scum, lice and un-touchables... rats and vermin from the gutters of Whitechapel." William Joyce declared at Bethnal Green, "Jews are... an incredible species of sub-humanity."

Predictably, the police, who took notes at these speeches, took no action against the fascist incitement.

The BUF was able to establish a certain base, particularly in Bethnal Green, and they were able to open a headquarters in Duckett Street in Stepney. From here the blackshirt thugs would go out and rampage

through Jewish areas, painting slogans, shouting abuse, smashing windows and physically assaulting people.

The slogans Get rid of the Yids and PJ (Perish Judah) began to appear on the walls during these nightly attacks. The fascist campaign was designed to create an atmosphere of terror so that the BUF would be able to "control the streets".

From its very first meeting in East London the BUF was physically opposed by the various organisations of the working class. There was a very high level of political activity in the area during the years of the mid-30s. For example, in 1936, the police estimated that over 60 per cent of blackshirt meetings in East London faced organised disruption.

The local Stepney branch of the Communist Party played a major role in the anti-fascist campaigns and in doing so, built a strong base in the area, particularly among the Jewish youth. The CP and YCL activists adopted a very audacious approach to the question of anti-fascist agitation. On one occasion, to build for an anti-fascist mobilisation, banners were unfurled on public buildings such as the High Court in the Strand and the BBC building.

Following Hitler's coming to power in 1933, large sections of the Jewish community in Britain saw the need to organise actively and politically against fascism in Britain. They looked for organisations through which to direct their efforts and many, particularly the youth, became active in the CP and YCL. This large influx of Jewish youth in East London ensured that the local Communist Party was directed along the road of militant anti-fascism. By 1936, therefore, the Stepney CP was able to play a leading role in mobilising the labour movement against the fascists.

In the Jewish community a debate raged over the questions of fascism, communism and self-defence. The Board of Deputies, the official leadership of British Jews urged restraint and advised Jews to report all attacks to the authorities. Unfortunately, the authorities did not seem to be doing much to prevent fascist terror in East London and the Jewish workers of Stepney began to organise themselves against the fascists.

In July 1936 Jewish activists in the trade unions and ex-

f Cable Street 1936

When fascism was driven back



Police attack anti-fascist demonstrators.

servicemen's movement initiated the Jewish People's Council Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, which played a leading role in mobilising the Jewish community against the BUF.

Throughout 1936, in response to the fascist campaign of attacks, provocative meetings and street activity, a militant anti-fascist movement developed in East London. The CP, YCL, ILP, the rank and file of the Labour Party and the trade unions, the Jewish groups were just some of the organisations involved in the anti-fascist campaigns. Wherever the BUF appeared they faced the opposition of the labour movement. This campaign prevented the Mosleyites from extending their base in East London beyond the very limited areas where they already enjoyed some support.

On the 26 September 1936 the BUF paper, *Blackshirt*, announced that a march would take place on Sunday 4 October in the East End. The route was to be from Royal Mint Street (near Tower Hill) down Commercial Road, to Salmon Lane, Limehouse, to Bow and finally to a rally at Victoria Park Square, Bethnal Green. The route was right through the heart of Stepney's Jewish community.

Storm of protest

This was a direct challenge to the working class and the labour movement. Would the fascists be allowed to march unopposed?

The Labour leadership, as had become usual, issued advice to the workers to 'Stay Away'. But it soon became clear that the workers of East London were not prepared to allow the fascist march to pass through their streets. The slogan

They did not pass

"*They Shall Not Pass*" began to appear on the walls. A petition of 100,000 was organised that the march be banned.

The London leadership of the Communist Party initially decided to go ahead with a Rally for Spain, to be held in Trafalgar Square on the same day. This decision provoked a storm of protest from the Stepney CP. It also became clear that, with or without the Communist Party, a major turnout of London workers was likely on 4 October. Eventually, only three days before the fascist march the CP decided to change its plans and support the calls for an attempt to stop the fascists.

On Sunday 4 October red flags were out in hundreds of windows from Aldgate to Stepney Green and a huge crowd began to gather throughout the morning. The first fascists to turn up got a good hiding for their trouble before the police could save them. By noon, a demonstration, estimated at 250,000 had completely blocked the streets around Gardeners Corner, Leman Street and Cable Street. Six thousand foot police and the whole of the mounted division were on duty to protect the 2,500 BUF members who turned up.

The fascists, assembling in Royal Mint Street, were completely sur-

rounded and protected by the police ranks. Although a brick did smash the window of Mosley's car when he turned up, most of the battle that day was between the anti-fascists and the police, as the police attempted to clear away for the fascist march. This proved impossible as the demonstrators fought back against the police truncheons with fists, bottles and bricks.

Barricades

Eventually the police tried to clear a route through Cable Street, hoping to be able to control it more easily. They met a well organised defence. Barricades were thrown up and the police were pelted from upper floors and roofs with bottles, refuse and other weapons. Some of the police were even forced to surrender and hand over their truncheons to the crowd.

The Police Commissioner, Sir Philip Game, decided that it was impossible to clear a route for the fascists and guarantee their safety. He gave the order that Mosley must call off the march. The blackshirts retreated and marched back in the opposite direction through the deserted City of London. *They had not passed.*

The huge crowd of demonstrators was elated. A vic-

tory march was held to Bethnal Green where a rally took place at Victoria Park Square, where Mosley had intended to speak. The celebrations continued to the early hours.

In a press release the following day, the BUF stated:

"The decision (to ban the march) was immediately obeyed because the British Union obeys the law and order and does not fight the police. The leader of the British Union places on record the fact that this is the first time the British Government has openly surrendered to Red Terror."

The events of 4 October were undoubtedly a crushing defeat for the fascists. The blackshirts had boasted of their image as hard men and their ability to look after themselves. In the event, even seven thousand police could not guarantee their safety. This blow to the image of the BUF caused many leading members to resign and was a major setback to Mosley's attempt to build in East London around the question of racism.

It would be a mistake, however, to suggest that one march or demonstration can put an end to racism or fascism. Only one week after Cable Street, on 11 October, Mosley held a rally in Bethnal Green which was followed by blackshirts rampaging down Mile

End Road. A man and a child were thrown through a window and a car was set on fire.

One of the main lessons of Cable Street for socialists today is that on the basis of consistent and ongoing campaigning work, labour movement activists were able to prevent the spread of Mosley's ideas and when necessary ensure that the working class turned out in masses to defeat the fascists. An important factor in the success of the Cable Street events was that Mosley had not been able to gain any base among the local, largely Catholic, dock workers, who turned out on 4 October and fought side by side with their Jewish neighbours.

Mosley's BUF never succeeded in winning a base amongst the organised working class in the 1930s and today's tiny groups of fascist headcases have even less chance. Socialists today, nevertheless, must still struggle to ensure that the labour movement takes up the questions of racism and racist attacks. Only the working class and its organisations have the power to defeat racism. Above all, what is needed is the building of a strong, fighting socialist movement—particularly among the youth, that will answer the lies of the racists and build the unity of the working class. That is a major task for the LPYS today.

Greece, Sri Lanka

Marxist voice heard in Greek elections

THROUGHOUT GREECE local council elections will be held on 12 October. Already, the initial skirmishes have separated this from all other elections in recent Greek history.

From a correspondent in Greece

Both the Socialist Party, PASOK, and the main capitalist opposition party, New Democracy (ND), have attempted to limit the intensity of the political battle. Both have tried to give the impression that only local issues and personalities are on trial, not the record of the PASOK government nationally.

It is the deep class polarisation in Greek society—the enduring loyalty of the masses to PASOK and the workers' generalised fear and hatred of the right-wing parties—that has forced ND to follow this "softly softly" approach.

ND is afraid that if they challenge the record of the national government openly, they might incite workers to rally at the polling booths in support of PASOK. They hope to deaden the political atmosphere and win freak majorities through the abstention of PASOK voters.

Any ND victories will be used to try and demoralise the working class. Whatever they say now, ND victories will be proclaimed as a vote of no confidence in PASOK and a vote of confidence in ND.

Behind the scheming of the ND leaders, however, lies an acute and ongoing internal crisis, which has become worse following their defeat in the 1985 election. One of its leaders recently led a walk-out to form a new right-wing splinter party.

The PASOK leadership want these elections to be seen in purely parochial terms because it is unable to defend the government's record. Any setbacks, they will claim, are the fault of the local candidates and campaigns, not the government!

If PASOK took the political offensive against the ND with a programme that could inspire the masses, the forces of the right wing would be annihilated. Tragically, however—and here is a warning for workers in Britain striving to elect a Labour government—the PASOK government, despite fiery anti-capitalist rhetoric before it was elected, has failed to break with

capitalism. Instead it has piled all the problems of Greek capitalism onto the backs of the working class.

The working class has been forced to respond to government attacks with one wave of industrial action after another.

Workers at the Edoceter construction company have been fighting for twelve months, demanding the nationalisation of their firm. They occupied Athens Cathedral recently, and then organised a demonstration outside Papandreou's office. Tragically, one worker died after he was pushed down some stairs by the police.

Three thousand attended his funeral. They shouted: "Our money into Switzerland and the workers into the cemeteries!" "Fight the capitalists, not the workers!" (see box)

After the funeral a two-hour rally was held in the streets of Athens, stewarded by supporters of *Xekinima*, the Greek Marxist paper. This time the police were conspicuous by their absence.

The next day the battle resumed at another factory, the Perfil textile plant. This is one of the nationalised companies which the government wants to shut. While the workers were on holiday the police were sent in to take over the factory.

When the workers assembled to try to retake the plant, the police beat up one worker. This provoked a sense of outrage. Caution was thrown to the winds, and the factory was retaken.

General strikes

The Greek working class has already pushed its leaders into calling a series of partial general strikes against the government's measures. If these policies continue, a new wave of political and industrial upheavals is inevitable after the elections.

The capitalist class will bear down on the government screaming for yet more cuts. Workers will have no alternative but to fight back. The president of the PASOK-led trade union federation has already warned the government that the unions may be forced to lead a struggle against the austerity.

Another general strike, far more widespread than before, is entirely possible.

The Greek workers are looking for an alternative. They do not see it in the KKE (the Stalinist Communist Party). In the municipal



Perfil workers throw the police out of their factory.

TO SHOW their appreciation for the solidarity of *Xekinima* supporters, the executive committee of the Edoceter workers' union asked *Xekinima* to organise the stewarding of the funeral of their comrade, Angel Mauroidis, and of the march to Papandreou's office. A leading supporter of *Xekinima* was asked to lead the funeral alongside comrade Angel's wife and the President of the union.

elections the whole orientation of the KKE leadership is anti-PASOK. "PASOK and ND are the same!" That is the line of the KKE leaders. But, even if they capture the votes of some irate PASOK supporters, they will provoke conflict with the best workers in the KKE who understand that PASOK and ND are not the same—ND is a capitalist party; it is the real enemy.

Grudgingly, despite their misgivings, wide layers of workers will again vote for PASOK. But by Greek standards the election meetings so far have been low-key, with few youth participating. The possibility of a serious setback for PASOK—even in the second round of voting—is therefore real.

capitalism work.

PASOK has agreed to print all *Xekinima*'s campaigning material in all areas where *Xekinima* supporters are standing. In the PASOK and PASOK Youth festivals, after twelve years of suppression, *Xekinima* supporters have been able openly and freely to distribute their own material.

In recent years support for *Xekinima* has grown massively. It will attract a wide new layer of workers and youth in the elections as its supporters campaign to explain their ideas.

They are confident that, in the years ahead, *Xekinima* will become a focus for mass support in PASOK and the Greek labour movement.



Greece has by far the sickest economy in the whole of capitalist Europe. Inflation is running at 22-25 per cent. Between 1980 and 1984, Gross National Product grew by only one per cent, with private investment falling by 32 per cent in real terms!

Unemployment has begun to rise sharply. At the end of 1985, 300,000 were unemployed. Now the figure is around 350,000—about ten per cent of the working population.

The Greek capitalists have no confidence in their own future. Prudently, they prefer to export their money abroad, rather than risk investing in Greece. A capitalist newspaper estimated recently that \$20 billion has been spirited abroad.

Instead of acting against these

criminals, instead of taking over industry and organising a national plan of production under democratic working-class management, the PASOK government has resorted to vicious Thatcherite policies.

Wages have been cut by nine per cent. The Drachma has been devalued by 15 per cent. Prices and rents have been freed of restrictions.

Prime Minister Papandreou has said that the austerity measures must continue after the elections.

Now, under pressure of big business, no more bankrupt firms will be nationalised to prevent closure. Fifteen of the existing nationalised companies are to be closed, others will be sold, and only four are due to remain in public hands.

STOP PRESS: Sri Lanka strike

WORKERS AT Levers (a Unilever subsidiary) in Sri Lanka are facing their most serious dispute for six years. Management have sacked a leading union activist in order to provoke a strike.

Lever's manual workers are 100 per cent unionised, with a proud record of fighting for unity of Tamil, Sinhala and Muslim workers.

Management want to break this unity and smash the union. More information will be published next week. Meanwhile please rush donations and messages to: Commercial and Industrial Workers' Union, 143 (3rd floor) Kew Rd, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka.

"Vote PASOK! Fight for socialism!"

In these elections genuine socialist policies will be heard. For the first time, the PASOK leaders have agreed to include supporters of *Xekinima* on its list of candidates. All these candidates have in the past been expelled from PASOK!

The PASOK leaders have felt compelled to agree to their inclusion in order to try and harness the elan and campaigning drive of *Xekinima* supporters. They hope, by including *Xekinima* supporters, to retain the support of layers of PASOK members and voters who have become deeply alienated by the government's policies, and are determined to register some protest in the elections.

Among the PASOK ranks, great

interest and enthusiasm has greeted the announcement of the *Xekinima* candidates.

Xekinima will join in one unified campaign against ND. Its slogans are: "Vote PASOK! Fight for socialist policies!" "Transform the local councils into fighting weapons of the workers!"

Own material

Xekinima will not be supporting the PASOK government's policies, as its enemies in the Greek labour movement will claim. Far from it. *Xekinima* is bringing out its own election material, putting forward a socialist municipal policy and exposing the dangers for the working class in any attempt to make

Students join with workers' struggle

'THE LATE sixties and early seventies marked the high point in student protest.

These struggles crystallised around many different issues, such as the Vietnam war and academic freedom. Fundamentally, however, they signalled the end of the post-war period of boom and stability in the advanced capitalist countries, and gave notice of the workers' struggles to come.

Many conservative commentators explained away this period of protest as a symptom of the "permissiveness" of the times. They point complacently to later years, arguing that students were taking their studies "seriously" again.

This superficial analysis shows a complete misunderstanding of the role of students in society.

Most students in higher education come from the middle class. This layer in society, split into many sections and without an independent economic role, tends to follow the class which gives the most powerful lead at any particular moment.

This gives it, politically, the character of a barometer of developing class conflict. Students in particular, because of their freedom of commitments and the fact that they do not lose wages by taking strike action, will often move into action before all other sections.

Setbacks

This has led many ultra-left groups to reject the working class as "passive" or even "reactionary", and look to the students to lead revolutionary struggles. They did not understand the need to link the students' struggles to the workers' movement.

But despite the defeats of the militant students in the early seventies, the clock could no longer be turned back to a period when students lived mainly for study and pleasure. Struggles have flared up again and again. Today, student movements are taking place in many parts of the world.

Often these struggles are extremely intense, as a few examples will show. But their greatest significance lies in the clearer political understanding which they reflect.

No longer do students have the illusion that they can change society single-handedly; more and more they have learned the need to ally themselves to the workers' movement in order to bring serious pressure to bear on the state.

The roots of present-day student struggles lie in the long-term trend in the capitalist countries towards economic catastrophe. Higher education, its funding traditionally protected, is now also exposed to cuts.

In Nigeria the government has imposed a vicious

By Simon Kaplan

package of cuts over the last year. Universities have been faced with closure, and students' rights to organise have been further restricted.

A demonstration at Ahmadu Bello University was attacked by police last May, and at least 15 students shot dead. Unrest spread to the country's fourteen other universities, and was met with similar brutality.

Nigerian workers were outraged by these events, and responded to student appeals. A general strike was impending. It was only the role of the trade union leaders in calling off all action that prevented the development of a movement which could have toppled the military regime.

In South Korea, economic decline and lack of democracy have led to massive student protest.

South Korea is often seen as one of the success stories of capitalism in the colonial world. But the profits of the monopolies have only been made on the basis of cheap labour and political repression.

Now the dictatorship is coming under increasing strain. The opposition has been spurred on by the fall of Marcos in the Philippines. Students have been at the centre of this movement.

Initially using traditional methods of protest, such as the occupation of the US Information Service last year, the students were unable to win reforms. More students are now seeing the necessity of turning to the working class to ensure any real chance of success.

These struggles, will be repeated in Western Europe as the present small economic upturn ends. It will be the task of Marxism to take part and to win students over to the side of the working class.

Because of their varied and often privileged backgrounds, students are influenced by many political ideas. Patient explanation, and at times sharp struggles, will be needed to build up support for Marxism.

If this is not done, there will be setbacks for the student movement, which will hold dangers for the working class also.

In Chile, for example, the left was poised for victory in elections at the University of Santiago. But, shrinking from the implications, the Communist Party withdrew in the name of 'unity', and allowed the bourgeois Christian Democracy to win.

It was these same 'Democrats' who had supported Pinochet's coup in 1973, and who are now opposing Pinochet for the same reason as the US administration—his increas-



1968: Students march through West Berlin. (Below) Renault workers occupy their factory in a movement sparked off by the French students' revolt.



South Korean students battling with police.

ingly isolated regime is less and less able to hold the masses in check. They hope to replace him with a more acceptable and hopefully more effective guardian of capitalist interests.

Alliances

It is a task of Marxism to expose the treachery of alliances with sections of the ruling class, no matter how "democratic" they might pretend to be. The student leaders, on the other hand, not only left the Christian Democrats in control at the university; they lost an important opportunity of building up the political clarity which the workers' movement will need in the struggles ahead.

There are dangers for students also when setbacks are suffered by the labour movement. The failure of the previous Socialist government in France to implement socialist policies,

and the failure of the left wing of the movement to mount a fighting alternative, has allowed the growth of parties of the far right such as the racist National Front.

Students are affected by the moods which sweep the middle class. It has been reported that a large number of law students now provide the organisational backbone of the National Front.

Only if the ideas of Marxism gain a strong foothold in the student movement will repetitions of such setbacks be prevented. In 1908, Lenin criticised a group of students for refusing to participate in a struggle for academic freedom in the Tsarist universities. Similarly, Marxists at universities and colleges today must involve themselves in all the struggles of students, linking them to the labour movement and the workers' programme of socialist transformation.

Letter from Chile

EXCLUSIVE REPORT, showing the revolutionary mood in the shantytowns and the precariousness of the regime's grip, which the capitalist media try to hide.

THE PROTESTS called for 4 and 5 September were leaderless. No clear calls were made, and the opposition radio was more or less silent.

After the recent arms find (by the regime), the Christian Democracy and the leaders of the Civil Assembly have washed their hands of everything for fear of being associated with any acts of violence. As a result, participation was lower than previously, but in the most militant shantytowns the mood was extremely explosive.

We went for a walk in ... Here the streets were no-go areas for the police. The previous night a boy had been shot in the head and died. As a result the youth in the area went mad. Armed with petrol bombs, they burned bus shelters and buses.

The police were terrified because of the number of armed confrontations recently involving sniper attacks on them. Also a new tactic of leaving bombs on burning barricades, which explode as the police clear them, has made their job more difficult.

Insurrection

Where we walked, the mood was nothing short of insurrectionary, even among older people. Demands for more coordination and bigger demonstrations were being discussed everywhere.

The Patriotic Front (military organisation of the Communist Party) has been recruiting quite a lot of youth, and the Young Communist League called a local march. It was overwhelmingly made up of youth between the ages of 12 and 16. We distributed leaflets and painted some slogans.

The 5th was quite a bit



Pinochet.

bigger than the 4th. In general the mood from below was determined, but from the leaders nothing.

Galvin, the US colonel who came here, apparently told the military in private that he thought the regime had two months. The US Embassy has denied he said it. However, he clearly came to put pressure on the regime and on Pinochet, who more or less gave him two fingers.

A move against the regime is quite possible this Summer (December-February). Things are, however, becoming very dangerous for the ruling class.

The repression has been very bad. Raids have been taking place in all the shantytowns again. As I write, news is coming through of five youths being killed and 12 policemen wounded by snipers.

In some shantytowns the military have only been able to enter in armoured cars. Last night raids took place everywhere. Helicopters used spotlights as they cut electricity supplies before entering the shantytowns.

The failed attempt on Pinochet's life has given the excuse for the introduction of another State of Siege. It is becoming like Central America. They are using death squads, and bodies of activists are appearing all over the place.

Cuts in NHS - 'emergencies only'

Dear Comrades,
London has lost more than 6,000 beds and 32 hospitals since 1980 as a result of government health cuts, the Association of London Authorities reported last week. Hospital waiting lists have increased by 10,000 since 1982 and staff are despondent. "Health care

now is little more than emergency service" it says. Resources have been cut by three per cent in real terms since 1982. So much for Edwina Currie's claim that the NHS has improved dramatically since 1979!
Yours fraternally
Steve Poole

Dear Comrades,
If the Tories are 'looking after' our Health Service, then why are we reading, almost daily about problems concerning health care. For example, Leeds Western Health Authority says that surgeons have been warned to cut down on the

number of life-saving pacemakers being fitted to heart patients. A budget of £100,000 has been set aside for pacemakers, but the current rate of activity is double that. The chairman said that spending had to stop

somewhere, "we could do hundreds and hundreds of heart transplants and open-heart surgery if we had the money."
Yours fraternally
Tony Gill
Leeds North East
Labour Party

Sold out

Dear Comrades,
The unemployment figures for the inner city of Derby have just been published. In five areas there is 20 per cent unemployment, in three of those five, over 30 per cent. One area has 37 per cent. Not satisfied with this Mrs Thatcher's added Rolls Royce to the ever increasing list of bargains for sale, along with British Telecom, British Gas, and British Airways which will threaten the jobs of many more in Derby.
Yours fraternally
Chris Bastow
Derby North
Labour Party

Letters

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

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

So that's it

Dear Comrades,
At a recent three-way debate between the local Young Liberals, Tories and Young Socialists, the reason

the Tory gave for unemployment and the economic crisis was "Demographic trends"! Answers on a postcard...
Yours fraternally
Steve Revins
Stafford Labour Party
Young Socialists

A cheap weekend?

Dear Comrades,
For those who aspire to slightly more luxury than the Militant camp for their weekend off, let me whet your appetite for the good life with details of some weekend breaks at the Five-star Gleneagles hotel in Scotland. For sports fans there's the International Rugby weekend or for ladies of leisure, there is a fashion

weekend with Zandra Rhodes, at £295. If you're feeling the pinch, there's a weekend with Captain Mark Phillips at £250. Only problem is, having to spend a whole weekend with the upper class twits and true-blue Tories who go to such events! They'd have to pay me to put up with them!
Yours fraternally
Kate Packham
Brighton

Immunity

Dear Comrades,
At our Labour Party General Committee recently, we had a resolution asking the National Executive Committee to deal with Robert Maxwell, either by expelling him, or at least disciplining him for the disgraceful treat-

ment of his print workers. The reply we had from the NEC was that this was a matter for Maxwell's local party and that the NEC could not interfere. There is one law for millionaires in the Labour Party and another for Liverpool Labour councillors.
Yours fraternally
Stan Natrass
Littlehampton

Communist ignores inner city housing crisis

Dear Comrades,
The other day I was having a discussion with someone I know. He defended a landlord's right to leave houses standing empty while thousands are homeless, claimed that people who leave home voluntarily make themselves homeless. I have always assumed that he is a Tory. Imagine my astonishment when I discovered that he is not a Tory at all, not a Liberal, or even Labour, but a Communist!
I know the Communist Party are somewhat conservative these days, but I didn't think I would ever mistake a so-called 'Communist' for a Tory.
Yours fraternally
Vincent Black
Hackney North Labour Party Young Socialists



Photo: Tim Belwell

Unscrupulous landlords leave houses standing empty, or turn desperately needed housing into luxury apartments while thousands of families are homeless or live in appalling conditions.

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.

○ Address books 60p, bookmarks 40p, plastic sleeves 20p, sew on badge 40p, pens 30p plus post to: Militant, 8 Woodside Court, Woodside Rd, Portwood, Southampton.

○ 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 Hepscoct Road, London E9 5HB for a crèche booking form.

○ MILITANT miners' badges. Cost £1.50 each including post and package. Cheques payable to Militant Miner. Available from Militant, 3/13 Hepscoct Road, London E9 5HB.

○ New video The Launch of COSATU. Available for hire from: PO Box 77, London E8 4TB.

○ Militant poster blanks (A2 size). Order yours now - cash in advance. £20 per 1,000 (inc p&p). Box 5, 3/13 Hepscoct Rd, London E9 5HB.

○ 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.

○ 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 Hepscoct Road, London E9 5HB.

○ 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 accomodation available

Militant Meetings

□ Jarrow Militant Readers Meeting. 9 October, 7.30pm. Viking pub. Jarrow town centre. Speakers: Terry Harrison and Bill Hopwood.

□ Sittingbourne Marxist discussion group. Every second Tuesday at 29 Waterloo Rd, Sittingbourne, Kent. For further details ring Sittingbourne 72632.

□ Wroxall Marxist discussion group. 2 Mountfield Rd, Wroxall, Isle of Wight. Every Wednesday. Phone Vic Dale on IOW 854759 for details.

□ Caerphilly Marxist discussion group. Working Mens Hall, Caerphilly, every Monday 7.30pm.

Jaguar boss on bread line

Dear Comrades,
As a Jaguar worker I am now going to set the record straight!
In the past few weeks leading up to our wage claim I have constantly seen the lie about my 'enormous' £200 wage shoved at me by the gutter press.
I am a grade three track worker, my basic wage is £142.25, not the reported £200. There is a bonus scheme in operation in which we can earn an extra £42.50, but as this is affected by production, track speeds and parts supply the

bonus is not a guaranteed figure. As for the £2,500 worth of shares, these were only given to workers who had been with the company for over a year. This did not include me, I got a £29 'gift'. Whilst Thatcher's government is telling employers to keep workers' pay claims down, Jaguar boss 'Sir' John Egan has just doubled his pay to a disgusting £173,000 a year.
Yours fraternally
P Gregory
Jaguar, Coventry

Defence against Chile's police



Young workers in Chile demonstrate their preparedness to take on the military police of Chile's dictatorship.

Dear Comrades,
A story related to my brother by a Chilean exile recently returned from a clandestine visit to his home, revealed the growing isolation of the Pinochet dictatorship. The exile visited a top university in Santiago used by students from rich families and, not surprisingly, formerly a bastion of support for the regime. Yet the visitor was surprised to find the building surrounded by strong iron fencing, barbed wire and spotlights. He discovered that the university had

become a hotbed of protest against Pinochet and presumed the state had gone so far as to fence the students in. However, he was even more surprised to learn that the sturdy fencing had actually been bought and installed by the students themselves as a permanent barricade to keep out rampaging government troops and riot police!
Yours fraternally
Bob Wade
East Ham, London

Effective exploitation of youth

Dear Militant,
Listening to Radio 4 recently I heard a short report on Young People and Advertising. Apparently some capitalists think that industry doesn't have enough adverts aimed at youth, it pointed out that the spending power of youth today is £26,000 million. "The question" the reporter said "is how to tap the market". He seemed surprised that young people were careful to get value for money. Throughout the whole report there was not one mention of the problems facing youth, about unemployment, education, housing and drugs. The purpose of the programme was to persuade capitalists to devote some of their profits to adverts for youth with the result, of course, of more profits.
Yours fraternally
Andrew Craig
Cambridge Labour Party
Young Socialists

Fighting programme for health workers

THE CONFEDERATION of Health Service Employees (COHSE), the only union organising solely for National Health Service staff, is balloting for its new General Secretary from 3 October. The COHSE Broad Left is supporting Kevin Mullins, a working charge nurse.

COHSE members are often located in the Cinderella end of the NHS, working with the old and mentally ill, understaffed and lacking the necessary resources. But all health workers know from their daily experience, of the declining standard of care in Tory Britain. They are not taken in by the government's bland statements of shorter waiting lists and increased expenditure. The evidence of Tory cuts is all around them.

Kevin Mullins said recently: "The last seven years under Thatcher, have been a nightmare in the NHS. There has been a constant shrinkage of resources, cut-backs, closures of hospitals and reduction in the amount of care given to patients. But it has to be said, this process was started back during the 74-79 Labour government. During that period there were hospital closures, not for planning reasons but for financial reasons. But since then it has gone from bad to

By Mick Barwood

worse. We see grandiose schemes being implemented like new district headquarters for administrators, while we are still working in Victorian buildings trying to care for the elderly.

Obviously working with the elderly we see many people dying. By its essence it is a terminal care type of job. But there was one particular case which sticks out in my mind of an elderly gentleman who basically died alone. We were working on that particular day with three staff caring for 35 patients, every one of them heavily dependant on us for everything that they needed, toileting, feeding, everything. I was unable to relieve a member of staff to sit with that man, just to hold his hand and give him some comfort in his last hours. I don't mind saying I went home in tears that night, frustrated with not being able to give the kind of

care that we should be able to give in the NHS. This is what the Tory cuts mean in human terms."

But not satisfied with keeping the NHS on a cash drip-feed, the Tories have taken a knife to cut out the profitable sections and transplant them into the private sector. It is butchery on a grand scale. Kevin Mullins has spoken of privatisation giving an excuse to NHS administrators to offload the financial burden of care. Instead of managers planning progressive NHS community hostels for the elderly or for the care of the long stay population of mental hospitals, they are taking the easy option of transferring people, on DHSS grants, into private nursing homes.

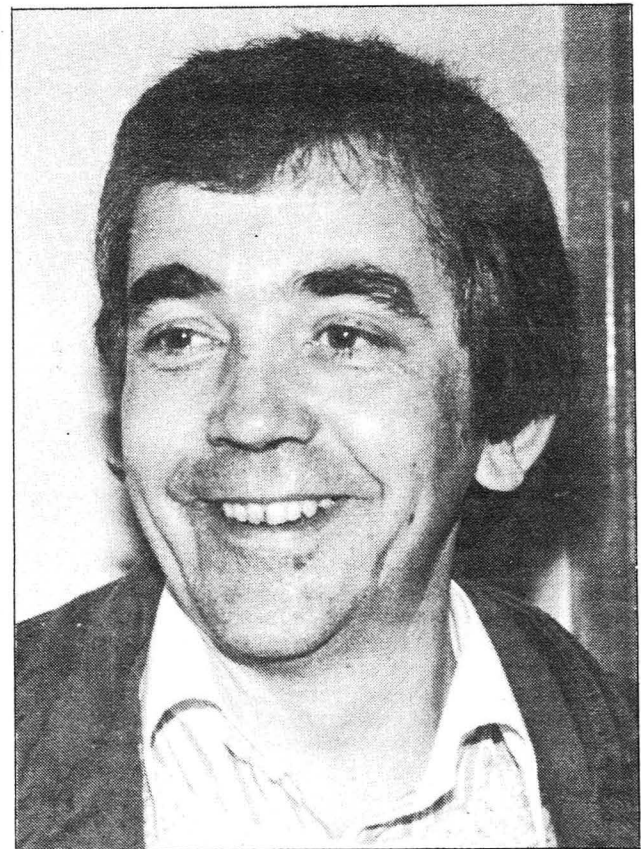
"I did a little bit of research on one private nursing home that houses some eight or more people. Apparently, from what I am told, the owner is an ex-Tory councillor. He is now independent, he has fallen out with his Tory friends. But this self same man also sits on the health authority which has the responsibility for overseeing the private nursing homes in that area."

But Kevin feels that while the Tories have had a clear-

ly marked out plan for dismantling the NHS, the health union leaders have had no such planned strategy of resistance.

"It was very clear after 1981 when the Tory government issued its dictat 'Caring for the Community' that the plans were to transfer the major burden of the health service, that is the elderly, the mentally ill, and the mentally handicapped, into the private sector. Following on from the 1982 dispute they instituted a programme of competitive tendering, where the most militant groups in the NHS, the ancillary staff, caterers, laundry workers, cleaners and porters, all had the threat of privatisation thrown over their heads. The leadership failed to recognise what was behind this—taking out the militant section of the workforce, switching the emphasis away from fighting for pay and conditions to fighting to retain jobs.

We have seen the leaders of all major unions advising branch officials to negotiate the best deal that they can, retain as many jobs as possible, and win the announced tender at all costs. And what have been those costs? It has been the loss of jobs. For many it has been cuts in



Kevin Mullins

hours and therefore cuts in take-home pay. Bonus schemes have been scrapped in an effort to undercut the private contract, which has resulted in workers doing twice as much work for half as much pay. That's the reality for health workers.

Leadership

By now a big proportion of the membership have felt the effects of privatisation. Some will be working under contractors, some will be working under in-house tenders under reduced conditions. Some are still under threat of privatisation. What needs to be done now is for the leadership of the major unions to go out into the field and campaign amongst those members, explaining the issues, explaining how privatisation can be beaten, to put up united action across the whole of the NHS unions. There is no way that the Tories, at this stage especially, would want to enter into a dispute with NHS workers. When a general election is looming up in which the NHS will be in the centre of their election campaign. Privatisation can be beaten, it can be beaten now. We do not have to wait for a Labour government, if the leadership has got the will it will find the way."

Current disputes like Walton Hospital, as well as the heroic struggle of the Adenbrookes strikers, have demonstrated that COHSE members are prepared to fight. But "not surprisingly," Kevin Mullins has said: "the number of disputes against privatisation are not as numerous as they

were around '83-'84 and the first part of '85 because workers can clearly see that the leadership has failed those people who went into struggle. But it is very refreshing however to see that there are still pockets of resistance, that there are workers prepared to continue to go into struggle to defend their jobs and their service. However, even those members will be left isolated unless we have a fundamental change in the approach to privatisation. And that can only come about by a change in leadership of the major unions.

The struggle has to be led by people who are confident about taking the Tories on, who feel confident in the membership, that the membership will respond given the call, but they must stay in close touch with the members.

I have pledged to only receive the wage of a charge nurse in the NHS, that I am currently receiving. If I was to receive the income that is offered with the job then I would be immediately lifted to £27,000—£540 per week, which would be a trebling of my present wage. With the best will in the world no-one on £27,000 a year can understand the realities of the day to day struggle of a health worker on £5-6,000 a year.

But the income factor is not the only one that is essential for maintaining links. As far as I'm concerned the most important thing is to be constantly out and meeting the membership. That's the only true way that you can maintain the links with the membership.



COHSE members on the march against privatisation

Sheffield—Blunkett cuts services

SHEFFIELD CITY council is facing an unprecedented financial crisis. The Finance Committee Chair, Councillor Alan Billings, has resigned and the council is without a Treasurer because nobody can be found to take on the job.

As a rate-capped authority the government has set the budget for the City at £259m for 1987/88. Yet the City Treasury indicate that without further action, the expenditure level (after provision for pay and price increases etc) could be in the range of £330m to £340m. This leaves a gap of over £80m!!

It may be possible for the council to capitalise some £30m to £40m of revenue expenditure. But even this still only brings the revenue budget down to approximately £300m, still £40m more than the government's expenditure

limit. It of course also means lopping off the £30m to £40m from the 1988/89 capital programme. So even capitalisation only means spreading the huge gap of £80m over two years instead of one!

But rather than even considering a campaign against this government-imposed crisis, the current strategy of the council appears to be to pursue a "cap in hand" policy and submit an application to the Secretary of State by 5 October 1986 for "redetermination". This simply means begging the Tories for more money to make up the gap. But it gives the Tories the opportunity to impose, directly or indirectly, cuts in jobs and services, privatisation, rent rises etc!

David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield City Council, loud in his condemnation of the tactics of Liverpool Council and supporter of expulsions, has been totally silent in explaining the extent of this

crisis to the council workforce. No attempt has been made by the Labour leadership to mobilise trade union opposition to the catastrophic possibilities for jobs and services in the city.

There is already a dispute in the Recreation Department over non-filling of vacancies. And savings will shortly have to be made on heating for swimming pools and sports halls, and reductions in distances covered by Cleansing Department vehicles.

Unless the council takes up the mantle of militant opposition, the city will be at the total mercy of the Tories.

By Dave Milson

Sheffield NALGO Shop Steward and expelled member of Sheffield Attercliffe Labour Party.

What COHSE Broad Left stands for

- ★ For a General Secretary on a health worker's wage.
- ★ For five yearly elections of all full time union officials.
- ★ For democratic workers' control of the health service.
- ★ For a minimum wage of two-thirds national average, or £120 whichever is the greater.
- ★ For the implementation of a 35 hour week without loss of pay.
- ★ For a national campaign to stem the tide of creeping privatisation and in defence of the health service against cuts and closures.
- ★ For the nationalisation of all private health services.
- ★ For the nationalisation, under democratic workers' control, of the pharmaceutical industry and all the other major equipment manufacturers, who are at present making massive profits by leeching off the NHS.

Industrial Reports

Lothians pit threat

TWO WEEKS ago the newly named British Coal dealt another severe blow to the Scottish coal industry. In a series of so-called colliery 'reviews' McAlpine, the Scottish Area Director, announced 1,800 redundancies. Between Bilston Glen and Monktonhall pits in the Lothians over 1,000 jobs will be lost.

The plan, say the NCB, is to make Monktonhall a non-producing development pit and to drive tunnels to Bilston Glen. The Board claim that the Monktonhall coal can then be taken up to Bilston Glen allowing the use of a better washer which will give Monktonhall, with lower quality coal, a market.

No confidence

Miners in the area are, to say the least, dubious about the plans. Hobart House have granted £60 million capital investment over four years. The miners ask the simple question, would it not be simpler and cheaper to install a better washer at Monktonhall, which has a very good shaft system? Miners, after all they have experienced do not trust any representatives of so-called British Coal.

The intention of British Coal is to destroy the Scottish coalfield. However, large scale closures in

By Alex Shanks
(Monktonhall SCEBTA, youth delegate, personal capacity)

Scotland would help the already tiny Tory vote collapse and cause further splits in their party.

The recent South of Scotland Electricity Board report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission showed clearly the Tories' plans. The report states that the use of SSEB should reduce "the price of coal purchased... moving more closely into line with the longer term cost of obtaining coal from sources other than British Coal—which includes private suppliers as well as imports." and to explore and exploit the full potential of nuclear power."

The relevance of this in Scotland is clear with the commissioning of Torness but it also reflects a wider strategy of the Tories which will be continued up and down Britain's coalfields.



Bilston Glen during miners' strike.

The SSEB at present can produce electricity at 1,369 MW above maximum demand. Torness coming on stream will add a further 1,290 MW. Over-capacity of 2,700 MW means that two thirds of coal fired power stations could be scrapped.

The affect of these sort of job losses on Scotland's mining communities would be devastating. Craigmuller near Monktonhall has 90 per cent youth unemployment. The youth, despite horrible working conditions, would jump at the chance of a job in the mining industry.

However, the Scottish NUM area leadership have changed their position completely since the strike ended. The response to 1,800 job losses, according to George Bolton, vice-president NUM (Scottish area) is to adopt a "positive attitude" to redundancies because "there are great possibilities in the next three or four years." With this kind of leadership, the proposals were accepted. McAlpine, the area direc-

tor was: "heartened, encouraged and pleased by the union's response."

The leadership explained that the men wished to take redundancy and leave the industry. However, they should have put forward all the reasons against redundancy, stressing especially the need for pits to provide youth with a future. Many men think they are going to leave the industry and get another job. This is an illusion, after all there are around 5 million on the dole, and the leadership should have explained this.

Fight now

A campaign against the redundancies should have at least been attempted. Better to fight and lose and then not to fight at all. Darfield Main's Campaign involved the whole community and had valuable lessons which Monktonhall, Bilston Glen and the area officials could have taken up.

That campaign exposed the board and forced them to back down and keep the pit open. Monktonhall miners fought a similar campaign in 1983 and could have done the same again if a lead was given.

The miners still face many battles in the future. The leaders must prove their worth. In this case they certainly haven't. Many miners view the area leaders with suspicion and some think there have been behind the scenes deals. But it will take an organised rank and file opposition to force the leadership to conduct campaigns in defence of jobs and communities.

The recent national Miners' Broad Left conference was the start of that organised opposition to the method of merely agreeing with everything the board proposes. Miners in Scotland must get active in union branches and also the Broad Left to make the leadership accountable to the rank and file.

Sacked Hangar workers lobby Labour conference

SACKED WORKERS at artificial limb manufacturers JE Hangar Ltd, Roehampton, have been lobbying Labour's conference to win support for their fight for their jobs.

The firm, a subsidiary of BTR, is involved in battles with South African trade unionists. The management sacked four shop stewards after a dispute over faster times for the job. The entire workforce of 253, some of whom are themselves disabled then walked out and were all sacked.

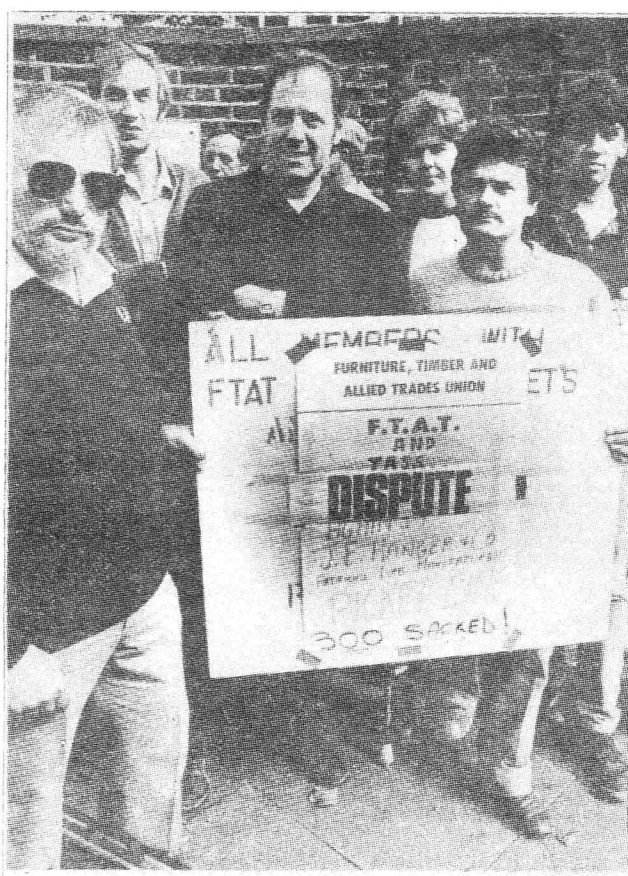
Since then, FTAT branch chair, Jim Flanagan told *Militant*: "Management have made no move to negotiate they even asked one of the sacked men, William Poole to come inside and to do some display work for them; he refused.

Apartheid

The patients are not being told of the strike and are being brought by ambulance only to be told their limbs have not been made. But they are not blaming the strikers and some have given money to the pickets.

Since BTR took over 3½ years ago, said Jim Flanagan, the management have gone slowly down hill. One official each from Fiat and Tass normally had 39 hours a week for union work, this has been cut to 24 hours or less.

One conference visitor with a particular interest is Cathy Wilson, of Liverpool Riverside who has a limb made by Hangers. She fears



that the sackings may be part of a rationalisation plan to cut the number of factories.

The McColl report revealed that although there are six firms contracted to the DHSS for artificial limbs. In reality there are two, both owned by the BTR subsidiary Intertal, which also is the main contractor for wheel chairs.

They have consistently earned more than their target rate of return of 7.6 per cent and for the last five years have made over ten per cent

and even had to repay the government a million pounds. Yet waiting lists are getting longer and these highly skilled workers are being given impossible times to do the job properly.

The dispute committee are making an urgent appeal for finances please send donations payable to Tass to:

Steve Elease (treasurer), Hangar Strike Appeal, c/o Tass, Wessex House, 520 London Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 4YQ. Telephone 01-646 0260.

Teachers say no deal

AT A meeting called by the Local Associations Pay Action Conference (LAPAC) last Saturday NUT delegates gathered to discuss strategies for fighting the Coventry Agreement, a local deal negotiated between NUT and the Coventry Local Education Authority with important implications for national negotiations.

The conference revealed widespread opposition with reports that Associations representing 50,000 members have already passed motions rejecting it. This figure is lower than the final national one since some areas have yet to meet and others were not represented.

The union's paper *The Teacher* has not reflected these views, having become one long advert for the Agreement. There have been no letters published in the union journal since the beginning of term because, it is claimed, priority has been given to editorial content!

In order to overcome this lack of information, conference agreed to circularise all Associations with a broadsheet, sponsored initially by the areas present, outlining the arguments against and seeking to mobilise a national campaign.

As part of that campaign there will be a lobby of the next Executive meeting on the 9 October from 4pm onwards outside Hamilton House and all areas are urged to attend.

It was also stressed that the Executive must be pressurised into calling a special conference as soon as possible to discuss the Salaries Agreement and the Interim Cover Agreement.

The central plank of the strategy agreed was to campaign for the maintenance of one day or immediate no-cover action to defend members' conditions of service and make the interim Agreement unworkable.

Any attempts by local authorities to dock pay or discipline members for refusal to cover must be fought, by strike action where necessary. The conference heard that, amongst other Labour councils, Liverpool was one of those authorities where the Chief Education Officer has issued warning letters to members on refusing to cover.

In spite of the appalling role played by the local NUT leadership against the city council we hope that this will not be endorsed by a full council meeting. We urge all socialist councillors to ensure that such letters are rescinded.

All NUT members are urged to get their local association to affiliate to LAPAC and sponsor its material and to pursue the strategy outlined above.

By Anita Dickinson
(Ealing NUT)

THE BIGGEST Association meeting held by West London NUT for several years heard deputy general secretary Doug McAvoy defend the local agreement negotiated with Coventry Local Education Authority and the subsequent interim agreement on cover for absent colleagues.

Mr McAvoy was spectacularly unconvincing. Member after member raised doubts about the deal and one by one he confirmed them. Coventry, and subsequent negotiations, were not a trade-off of pay for conditions of service we were assured. In fact, it represents a "package". Doubtless the distinction was clear to Doug.

He said of the Coventry deal: "Many things we wish would be different." Why, it was then asked, did the NUT sign the deal—and after only 25 minutes of discussion on the executive?

Out of a meeting of 110 all but four (who

abstained) voted to reject the deal, continue action (especially 'no cover') and demanded a special salaries conference.

The last part of the resolution is especially important since Doug McAvoy suggested that a ballot might be held after the final signing of the deal, instead of the customary special salaries conference the union should be calling now.

An amendment to the resolution called for one of the two Inner London executive members who voted in favour of the deal, Jane Fisher, to resign her seat. This was massively carried, for, as it was argued, if the deal is a "major step forward" her reelection on the basis of support for the deal should not be in question!

By Bob Sulatycki
(West London NUT)

Opposition grows to confed deal

ENGINEERING workers, primarily from Sheffield and London area lobbied the latest round of talks between the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) at the EEF's Headquarters on Friday 19 September.

They were there to make clear to union leaders, their total opposition to the kind of cut-backs and removal of important shop floor rights and conditions which it has been widely reported in the media that engineering unions leaders are prepared to concede in return for a supposed cut in working hours.

In fact if the type of concessions being offered by the CSEU were signed, engineering workers may well suffer an increase in hours and working conditions would be a lot harder.

It is noticeable that so far the trade union leaders have refused to spell out to the members exactly what they are preparing to sell.

Apart from articles in the big business press, only Tass nationally, have so far given any information, apart from local initiatives, such as in the AEU London North District who managed to obtain minutes from EEF/CSEU

By Martin Elvin

meetings, and circulated them.

The attitude of the CSEU leaders was summed up by their behaviour when approached at the lobby. Most, though not all, seemed reluctant to even stop.

New AEU President, Bill Jordan, was one reluctant to stop, although he did so long enough to state that most of what had appeared in the press and newspapers was incorrect.

He was followed by Alex Ferry, CSEU chief who when asked about the newspaper reports, said that most of them were correct!

Most worrying of all was the attitude and comments of AEU General Secretary, Gavin Laird: he refused to give a guarantee that an issue as important and fundamental as this would be put to the union's National Committee.

Instead, he said, it could well go first to the CSEU's General Council (a rare occurrence) and thence to a full CSEU meeting before going down to the individual unions.

It would then go down to factory level, where implementation would be on the basis of mutuality, and mutuality clauses would apply.

Laird seemed to be saying that any new deal would be worked out and pushed through by the trade union bureaucracy and top officials, thus keeping the issues away from the membership before any new deal was agreed. Only when the deal was signed would it come to the membership, at individual factory level.

This approach is utterly cynical and contemptuous of the membership. It also flies in the face of national unity.

In effect some of these union leaders seem to be saying it's up to you at shop floor, factory and shop steward level to get a good deal and oppose and/or accept the new national agreements.

But straight away it's going to leave every factory isolated and left to fight and stand or fall alone.

Meanwhile the employers are going to be united in favour of pushing through these attacks and will be able to point to the national union leaders' signatures as justification for demanding changes.

The bitter experience of engineering workers in the past seven years shows that shop floor power at each individual factory is often not enough today and that national unity and national action are vital.

Passing the buck

The union leaders' attitudes were best summed up by AEU executive member Bil Wyman, who when questioned on the lobby, replied: "Concessions? We're not going to make any concessions, the members will make them. You've said the members want to be involved, so we're going to involve them. We'll put the deal out down at factory level."

Only the TGWU representative offered any support to the lobbyists. He also revealed that there had been such uproar at the rumoured proposals within the

TGWU that they'd been under pressure to pull out of the talks.

It is vital that engineering workers everywhere mobilise now to prevent these proposals going any further. The Tass leadership, by alerting members to these proposals through their journal, appear to be voicing opposition.

Even they haven't revealed much more in terms of specific proposals discussed than the press, yet presumably the union has had representatives at CSEU meetings.

Tass now have a particular responsibility to swing their entire 250,000 members in a campaign to halt the proposals and give a clear lead to the rest of the CSEU membership.

Likewise the Broad Left in the AEU should now produce leaflets, and organise rallies in all areas of the country and at the biggest factories.

With the groundswell of opposition that exists, the Broad Left could galvanise this into a campaign that could not only halt Jordan and Co in their tracks, but really wrest the union from the control of the present rotten leadership.

Musgrove goes at Austin Rover but Day will bring no light

"WORK HARD, keep your noses clean and hope like hell you have a job tomorrow."—Graham Day, new boss of Rover Group.

"Enough is enough." "Like the miners we have to fight for our jobs now. By the time a Labour government gets in, there'll be nothing left to fight for"—Longbridge Shop steward.

38,000 jobs in the Rover group (that is BL) are threatened by the latest crisis to hit the company. Harold Musgrove £100,000 per year chairman and chief executive of Austin Rover (the group's car division) was sacked by Graham Day, ex-boss of British Shipbuilders.

Day is undoubtedly under the direct orders of Thatcher to prepare the way for the final dismembering of the last British-based car company. Musgrove and other sacked Austin Rover bosses made the fatal mistake earlier this year of publicly opposing the secret plans of the Tories to sell the car division to Ford.

He is being hailed by some in the labour movement as a champion of the car industry. Nothing could be further from the truth. Musgrove, like other car bosses, has overseen the axing of thousands of jobs and

a cut in real wages of those remaining.

His opposition to Thatcher's plans stemmed from the split between manufacturing and finance capital. Total losses of £200 billion are being forecast for the group but within that there are some very profitable bits.

Land Rover, for example, has increased its profits to £8.7 million, and the soon-to-be-privatised Unipart's profits shot up by 20 per cent to £5.3 million. Recently-privatised Jaguar is coining profits of over £120 million.

Musgrove and company are opposed to the artificial splitting up of BL. They believe it can compete with its international rivals with a combination of a little more government investment but mainly be demanning and speed-up.

The Thatcher wing of the capitalists, however, are not prepared to wait and see if his plans work. They want their profits now and if this costs the jobs of car workers, then tough.

Since 1979, 176,000 jobs have disappeared in the industry, 67,000 in BL alone. Even in super-profitable Ford 4,000 jobs are due to go this year alone. Ten years ago, BL had a dozen assembly plants. Now it's

down to two, Longbridge and Cowley.

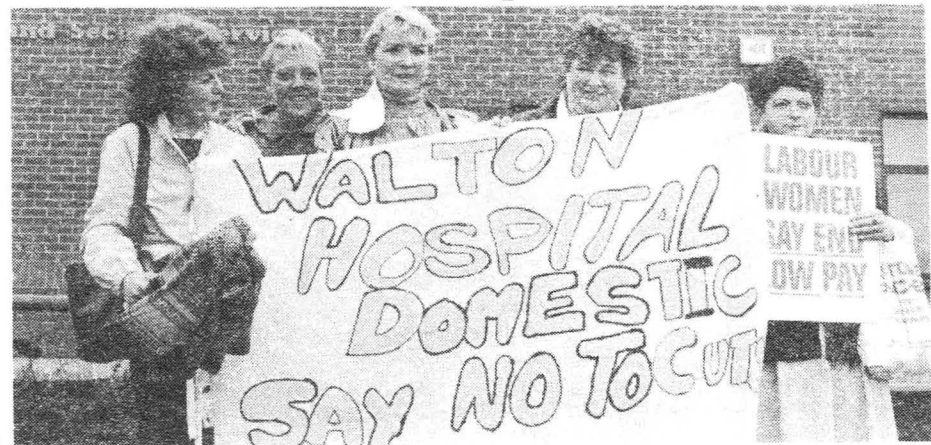
The latest crisis threatens the closure of Cowley South works with 4,000 jobs. A further 1,700 jobs could go at the Drews Lane plant in Birmingham, and 1,200 at the Llanelli pressings plant in South Wales.

Austin Rover Cars have seen their share of the home market fall below 17 per cent this year. Graham Day has said: "There is no prospect of increasing this above 17 per cent. Indeed, it will be a battle to keep it above 15 per cent." There is already 40 per cent unused capacity and sales are likely to fall on the basis of current government policies.

Propaganda is now mounting to split the Longbridge workers from the Cowley workers. There is talk about the Longbridge factory being the "core" factory, it is an attempt to lull the car workers. Instead of praising bosses like Musgrove, the labour and trade union leaders should prepare a fightback. Militant supporters in Longbridge are calling for a joint conference of all Austin Rover shop stewards.

By Bill Mullins (TGWU)

Walton fights privatisation



As well as staging a one day strike a week last Monday Walton Hospital Action Committee organised a demonstration in Manchester outside the headquarters of contract cleaners RCO. The company denied to a workers' delegation that they have not tendered for the cleansing contract at Walton in Liverpool. The campaign continued during the week with a public meeting organised by Bootle Labour Party.

Sealink

ABOUT 500 crew members in the South West sector of Sealink have been given three days notice of redundancy. It has transferred its Weymouth and Portsmouth services to Channel Island Ferries using a flag of convenience. They say any worker getting a job with the new firm will have to repay redundancy money. On hearing the news, the crew of the Earl Godwin immediately began an occupation. The National Union of Seamen must support the call for an all out stoppage.

Train drivers debate South Africa policy

DELEGATES TO the recalled Annual Assembly of Delegates (AAD) of the train drivers union Aslef on Tuesday 7 October face fundamental issues of international working class solidarity.

It is being argued by some Aslef leaders that the existing policy of severing all links with South Africa would cost the union too much financially.

They say that even though disinvestment would mean selling the shares for a far greater amount than they were originally purchased, the union will lose out, by being liable for Capital Gains Tax.

Profit

But by selling all its South African related interests the union could raise £700,000, making profits, after considering original outlay and payment of CGT of £332,000.

Furthermore, Aslef has total assets of around £21 million, which per member makes it one of the richest unions in the entire movement. That works out at something like £101 per head, compared to the EETPU for instance with £34 per member.

It's more also than the NUR, who have already severed their South African links. It is therefore difficult to see how following the NUR's example

will break Aslef and even threaten its existence as an independent union as some have suggested.

Even more worrying is the attitude Aslef head office reveals in a comprehensive document being presented to delegates.

It lists the enormous financial losses the union can expect to incur as a result of falling membership over the next three years. Some 55/56 members will be lost every single month, for the next three years making a total of 2,000 to go.

Instead of blithely trotting out these figures as part of the case against ending South African investment, the union leadership should be preparing for a campaign to defend every member and job.

Whilst the union has to take responsible steps to safeguard its assets and future the underlying issue is the attitude of the leadership to fighting to defend working class interests.

If they are so easily diverted from solidarity action with black workers making enormous sacrifices in South Africa to build trade unions they will have little appetite for the struggle here and now in Britain.

By Andy Viner

London bus workers oppose privatisation

LONDON REGIONAL Transport workers in bus depots all over London staged a two-hour lightning stoppage last Friday in protest at the introduction of private agency staff into depot canteens.

So far seven workers have been disciplined for refusing to work with the agency staff. Management at some depots, including Peckham, are threatening to introduce new contracts which will mean £30 wage cuts for the canteen staff.

Between 100 and 190 workers at Peckham will be affected by the new contract, they are being given 90 days' notice to sign, refusal to be punished by instant dismissal without redundancy pay.

A mass meeting of 2-300 bus drivers and conductors pledged full support for their colleagues' struggle against the imposition of the contracts. Stewards and union activists are worried that this new move by LRT management is privatisation by the backdoor.

Agency drivers?

Jimmy James, a shop steward at Peckham, is in no doubt as to what it means. "If agency staff are introduced, how far away are we from agency bus drivers?"

The response to the strike call along the road at Camberwell was even more complete. Dave Pugh, the workplace

rep at Camberwell told me: "By early afternoon nearly 400 of the depot staff were out on strike, with buses coming in all the time to join the strike."

A mass meeting in the morning at the depot had agreed to prolong the strike action to twelve hours in protest at the disciplining of three canteen staff at the depot.

Ian Dersley, a worker at Camberley pointed out: "Camberwell has always been known as a weak depot in the past, but management don't know what's hit them with the response the strike call got."

By Tony Cox (Lewisham West LPYS)

Militant

**LPYS national demonstration
Tories out!**

Saturday 18 October
Assemble 11.30am Southwark Park, London
March to Trafalgar Square.

Kick out the Tories

Wales backs the march

THE EXECUTIVE committee for the National Union of Students (NUS) Wales (UCMC) has given full backing to the 18 October demonstration.

A unanimous resolution at their last meeting sent a letter of support to the demo organisers and will ensure that transport is organised and publicity sent to all colleges.

Unfortunately a similar resolution to the NUS UK executive was defeated, because all NOLS members on the executive voted against the motion. The hypocrisy of the NOLS leadership is clearly shown.

Despite claiming to want to win the youth vote for Labour these NOLS members have refused to give tens of thousands of students the opportunity to voice their opposition to Tory education cuts. This action is even more incredible when you consider that the only local day of action against education cuts on 22 October has just been cancelled by the NUS executive.

LAST SATURDAY 27 September, LPYS members in Cardiff and Swansea held two marches followed by street meetings in the shopping centres.

About 100 people attended, attracted by the leaflets, posters and press releases, with many young people joining the LPYS on the spot. The names of 125 other young people interested in joining the LPYS and coming to the 18 October demonstration were gathered from petition sheets.

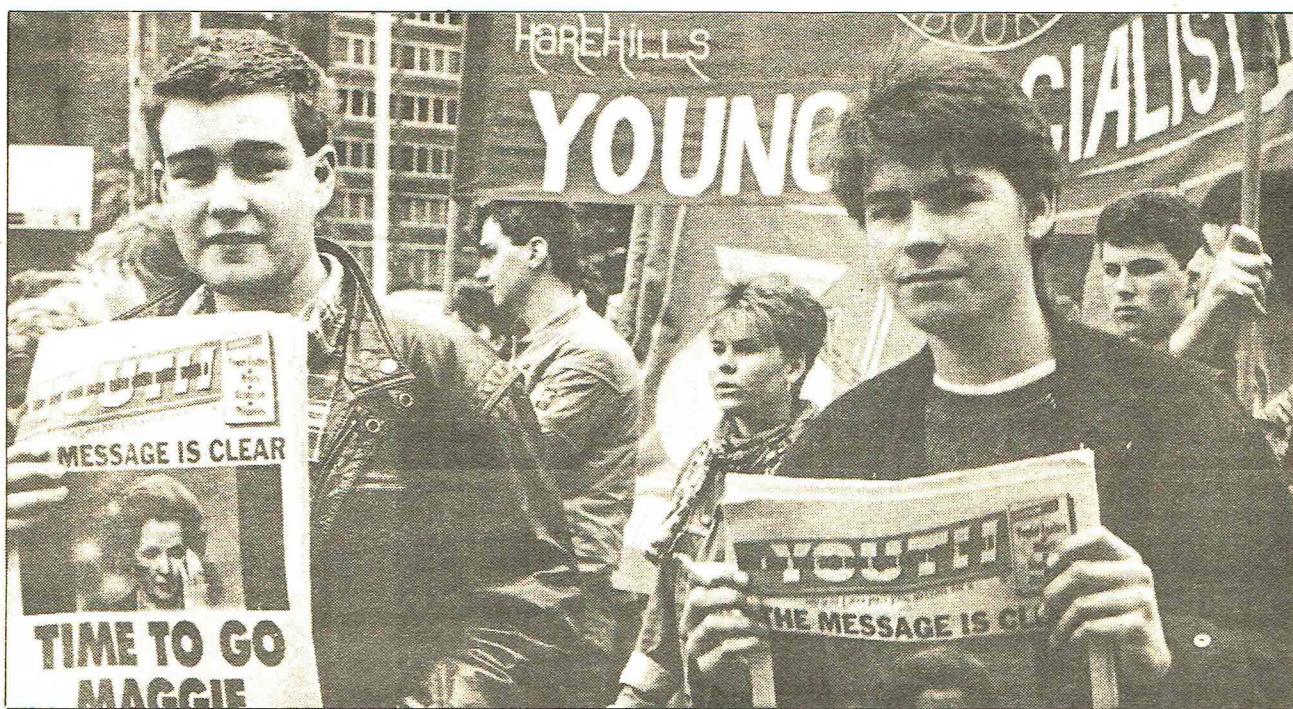
LPYS members collected money for the demonstration, sold *Socialist Youth and Militant* and organised a successful gig in the evening.

Blackpool rally

THE LABOUR Party Young Socialists launched its campaign to defeat the proposed damaging organisational changes with a rally before Labour Party conference attended by over 100. Full report next week.

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 capitalist Common Market, the EEC. For a socialist United States of Europe as a step towards a World Socialist Federation.
- A socialist plan of production democratically drawn up and implemented by committees involving the trade unions, shop stewards, housewives and small businessmen.
- 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.
- 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.



Join the LPYS demo on 18 October—and welcome the London march. See page 7.

"WE HAD schemes (like the YTS) in the 30s—work camps up at Brandon breaking rocks. Not sure there's much difference now. I reckon it's just cheap labour" ex Jarrow marcher quoted in Sunday's *Observer*.

FIFTY years ago, marchers from Jarrow the ship-building town ruined by the depression set out on their march to London. It was one of many protests against unemployment in the doleful 30s, but by far the best remembered.

Today Jarrow again has 30 per cent unemployment.

And again workers from Jarrow will be on the march to London to demand a decent future.

March for jobs

At the same time the Labour Party Young Socialists have organised a national demonstration for jobs and for an end to Thatcher's government. In the fortnight before this, young workers will be marching 100 miles around London for jobs. (Details page 7)

Bermondsey in South London sees the start of both the London march and the

national demo.

Local young socialists have spoken at 15 trade union branches and shop stewards' committees. They will be holding factory gate meetings and speaking to the workers inside local workplaces.

Already over a thousand posters are on display. In the London College of Printing we have nearly 40 young people interested in setting up a Labour Club.

Local young people will fight for a future and for a Labour government on a socialist programme. "We can't wait until '88."

"I demand a decent future"

JAMES MORBIN: an unemployed T&G member says: "I am joining the Youth March for Jobs because I am sick and tired of being trodden on by the Tories. I demand a decent future!"

"I have already spent one wasted year on a YTS scheme. Now I want a proper job. What chance is there of getting that under the Tories?"

Become a Militant supporter

Name
Address

Send to
3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB



Subscribe

BRITAIN & IRELAND	EUROPE (by air)	REST OF WORLD (by air)
13 issues . £5.50		
26 issues . £11.00	26 issues . £15.00	26 issues . £18.00
52 issues . £22.00	52 issues . £30.00	52 issues . £36.00

Name
Address

Make cheques payable to *Militant*, and return to the Circulation Department, *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB.

Donate

I would like to donate
£ p each week/
month to the fighting fund.

Sell

I would like to sell
papers per week (minimum
5) on a sale or return basis.